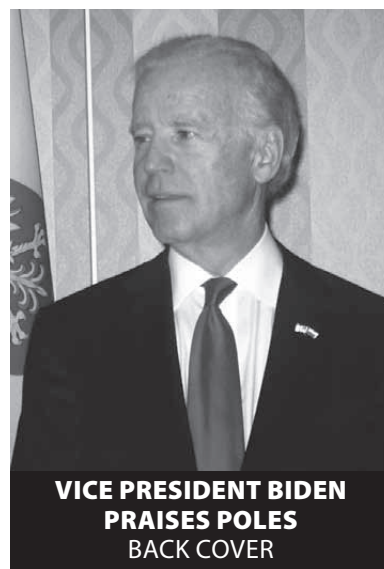


# POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN CULTURE



VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN  
PRAISES POLES  
BACK COVER

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

A REMINDER FROM READER'S DIGEST • A DAY DEVOTED TO KOŚCIUSZKO • OPENING OF JAN KARSKI EXHIBIT  
ACPC AWARDS FIVE \$5K PULASKI SCHOLARSHIPS • USING GAZETTEERS AND MAPS TO FIND YOUR ANCESTORS  
FOLK WISDOM OF THE POLISH PEOPLE • JUST SAY JUSZCZYK • DEBICKI TRANSFORMS IN "THE GREAT GATSBY"

## NEWSMARK

**POLAND TO REDUCE MILITARY PRESENCE IN AFGHANISTAN.** The 13th rotation of Polish soldiers in Afghanistan, begun last month, featured a reduced number of troops compared to those that came before it, as Poland gradually prepares to withdraw from the country and shifts more responsibilities to the Afghan side.

Overall, 1,600 soldiers and personnel are stationed in Afghanistan and an additional 400 troops will be waiting in Poland, ready for immediate deployment. The previous rotation consisted of 1,800 troops, and the one before it included 2,500.

The May rotation is the Polish army's last large contingent serving in Afghanistan. The next rotation, set to deploy in the fall, will be Poland's last, and will include far fewer troops. Poland plans to withdraw all of its troops from Afghanistan in 2014.

**VATICAN DOCTORS APPROVE MIRACLE.** The canonization of Blessed John Paul II is getting closer quickly, and it could be celebrated next October.

The Medical Council of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints has recognized as inexplicable one healing attributed to the Pope Wojtyła. If it is also approved by theologians and the cardinals, it will bring the Polish Pope, who died in 2005, the halo of sainthood in record time, just eight years after his death.

Two doctors of the Vatican council had previously examined this new case, and both gave a favorable opinion.

It is still premature to talk about dates for the canonization, but the rapidity with which the examination of the miracle process is happening, still leaves open the possibility of celebrating it on Sun., Oct. 20, very close to the liturgical holiday assigned to the Blessed Wojtyła, which is Oct. 22.

**AMONG THE "MOST INFLUENTIAL."** Poland's prime minister and foreign minister are listed in the May/June edition of the prestigious Foreign Policy magazine as two of the 500 most influential people in the world.

The editors describe Foreign Policy's inaugural "Power Map" as a "list of lists," collating rankings from *Forbes* magazine, *Wall Street Journal*, and other publications.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk and Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski are virtually the only representatives from Central and Eastern Europe outside of Russia.

The list of the 500 most influential people is presented alphabetically, so no one individual is ranked more powerful than another, although Foreign Policy magazine writes, with an apology to "declinists" that "Americans are still No. 1 in pretty much everything that matters. For now."

The list begins with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and includes European Commission President Jose Barroso, European Council president Herman Van Rompuy and EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton.

**GRIMM NAMED TO CAUCUS.** Rep. Michael Grimm (R-Staten Island/Brooklyn) has been chosen as one of the four co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Poland.

Grimm, who represents large Polish populations on both sides of the district, said he welcomed the opportunity to work on their behalf in Congress.

"Poland has been a longtime ally of the United States, going above and beyond the call of duty with its shared commitment to democracy and its willingness to send troops to fight alongside American soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Grimm.

As a co-chair of the committee, Grimm said he would lead efforts to support issues important to the Polish community, including fighting for Poland's "long-overdue" entry into the visa waiver program.

The waiver program allows foreign workers and travelers of participating countries up to 90 days of visa-free travel to the United States. Thirty-seven countries are currently eligible for the designation.

## New Report Finds Far Greater Nazi Cruelty

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Researchers at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum have discovered a far greater number of Nazi Germany's ghettos, slave labor sites, concentration camps, and killing factories than previously believed.

The researchers cataloged some 42,500 Nazi ghettos and camps throughout Europe, spanning German-controlled areas from France to Russia and Germany itself, during Hitler's reign of brutality from 1933 to 1945.

"The numbers are so much higher than what we originally thought," said Hartmut Berghoff, director of the institute, said after learning of the new data.

"We knew before how horrible life in the camps and ghettos was," he said, "but the numbers are unbelievable."

The documented camps include not only "killing centers" but also thousands of forced labor camps, where prisoners manufactured war supplies; prisoner-of-war camps; sites euphemistically named "care" centers, where pregnant women were forced to have abortions or their babies were killed after birth; and brothels, where women were coerced into having sex with German military personnel.

See "Report ...," page 3

## Kmieć Presents Theater Award in Warsaw



**POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL CULTURE EDITOR STAŚ KMIEĆ** (left) presented the award for "Best Choreographer" at the 7th Annual Jan Kiepura Musical Theater Awards (Teatralna Nagroda Muzyczna im. Jana Kiepury), held in Warsaw, May 16.

The Kiepura awards include twelve categories: best musical, singers, dancers, director and conductor, and stage designers, among others. The winner in the category of "best choreographer" was Artur Żymelka of the Music Theatre in Łódź for the production of Leonard Bernstein's American musical "Wonderful Town."

The awards are named in honor of the acclaimed Polish tenor and actor, Jan Wiktor Kiepura (1902-1966).

Kmieć has directed and choreographed musicals, ballet, opera, and film in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, Ireland, and for national tours in the United States, and has performed on Broadway, with star Rudolf Nureyev, Metropolitan Opera Ballet, and Boston Ballet. He is on the voting committee for Broadway's Tony Awards and is on the National Council of Actors' Equity.

Kmieć is a graduate of Tufts University and the school of Polish dance at the University of Marie Curie-Skłodowska in Lublin.

## An Interview with Fr. Zygmunt Zieliński

Professor Emeritus of Church History at the Catholic University of Lublin

by John Grondelski

The abdication of Pope Benedict XVI and the election of Argentine Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio as Pope Francis once again brought the papacy to world attention in the early months of 2013. We spoke with Fr. Zygmunt Zieliński, professor emeritus of Church history at the Catholic University of Lublin and expert in the history of the modern papacy, about recent events in the Vatican. Fr. Zieliński served in 1986/87 at St. Stanislaus Parish in Rochester, New York, as well as a visiting scholar (1994, 1995) at Seton Hall University in New Jersey.



Europe is losing its Christian identity, said Fr. Zieliński. "What that means anybody with an elementary understanding of history should grasp."

Your book, *Papieżstwo i papieżowie w nowym wydaniu. Dlaczego jest to interesujące w papieżu?*

*Two ostatnich wieków, stała się standardową pracą w Polsce o historii papieża od 1775, i jest*

My book has had a career which I would never have dared imagine when I first wrote it in the early 1980s. There

of the liberal, leftist Marxist, and atheist offensives at work in the world. John XXIII sought successfully to open up a

See "An Interview ...," page 3

## Polish Literature and Me

by Dr. John Guzłowski

Polish Literature and I have had a stormy relationship. For much of my writing and reading life, I wanted nothing to do with it or any other aspect of Poland's culture or history. I didn't want to know anything about Cyprian Kamil Norwid or Henryk Sienkiewicz or Adam Mickiewicz or Władysław Reymont or Czesław Miłosz or Wisława Szymborska. What those names represented and what those writers had written meant less than nothing to me. They and the Poland they wrote about represented everything that I wanted to get as far away from as possible. I wanted to say to Poland and its literature what Jesus said to the devil, "Get thee hence, Satan."

How did I come to feel this way?

Well, let me explain.

I was born in a refugee camp in Germany in 1948. My parents were both Polish Catholics who were taken to Germany as slave laborers. My father spent four years there in Buchenwald concentration camp, my mother two and a half in an agricultural camp. After the war, my parents felt they couldn't return to Poland, and so they spent six years living in Displaced Persons (DP) camps in Germany.

continued on page 4



## ALMANAC



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## June Czerwiec

Wszędzie dobrze,  
lecz najlepiej w domu.  
It's fine everywhere,  
but best at home.

- 1 1434. Death of King **Władysław Jagiello** (b. 1348), founder of the Jagiellonian dynasty of Polish kings.
- 2 1798. Polish playwright and author **Julian Niemcewicz** visits George Washington at Mt. Vernon.
- 3 1890. Death of **Oskar Kolberg** (b. 1814), ethnographer who specialized in Polish folklore.
- 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.
- 8 1983. Birth of Polish soccer star from Katowice, **Grzegorz Fofara**.
- 10 **BLESSED BOGUMIL**, Archbishop of Gniezno.
- 11 1741. Austria ceded most of Silesia to Prussia by Treaty of Breslau.
- 12 1915. Death of **Jozef Brandt**, painter of portraits and Bible scenes.
- 14 **FLAG DAY (U.S.)**  
1811. Birth of **Antoni Patek** (right), famous watchmaker and co-founder of one of the most famous Swiss watchmaking companies, Patek Philippe & Company.
- 15 1940. Nazi Germany establishes the **Auschwitz** death camp at Oswiecim, Poland.
- 18 **FATHER'S DAY (U.S.)**  
1025. Death of **Bolesław I the Brave**
- 18 1949. Birth of **Lech Kaczyński**, former president of Poland from 2002 to 2010. Kaczyński died in a plane crash en route to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Katyn Forest Massacre in Russia on Saturday, April 10, 2010.
- 19 1873. Death of **Valerian Sulakowski**, who served as Colonel of the 14th Louisiana Infantry and later as chief engineer to Major General Magruder of the Confederate Army during the American Civil War.
- 22 1940. **Gen. Władysław Sikorski** establishes Polish government-in-exile in London.
- 23 **SOBOTKA. ST. JOHN'S EVE**. This Polish midsummer festival of pagan origin is celebrated with bonfires and with candlelit ureaths 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.
- 25 Coronation of **Kazimierz Jagiello**, son of Władysław Jagiello.
- 26 1295. White Eagle made symbol of Poland.
- 27 1959. Birth of **Janusz Kamiński**, Academy Award-winning cinematographer.
- 28 1941. German troops occupy Galicia, Poland.
- 29 1964. **Most Rev. Stanisław Brzana** became bishop of Diocese of Buffalo. First Polish American to do so.



Antoni Patek (right), famous watchmaker and co-founder of one of the most famous Swiss watchmaking companies, Patek Philippe & Company.

## VIEWPOINTS / Mark Kohan

## It Reminds Me, Too

When is a joke not a joke? If you are Polish, it seems never.

*Reader's Digest* has a column called "That Reminds Me of a Joke." It takes an article from the news, which is then paired with a similar joke. For the most part, it is a harmless look at circumstances when life imitates art.

The May 2013 edition printed a story about a man in Poland, who — not paying attention to what he was doing — burned the side of his head with a hot iron, thinking it was a telephone.

The story is true: Tomasz Paczkowski from Elblag, was asked by his wife to help with the housework while he enjoyed a few days off work.

"My wife had gone to work and asked me to help with the housework," the 32-year old told the Polish newspaper *Fakt*. "After breakfast I started to work. I turned on the boxing channel on the TV, opened a beer and started ironing.

"I was really getting involved in the boxing and was not really thinking about what I was doing," he continued. "Suddenly the phone rang and I mucked things up: instead of grabbing the receiver I picked up the iron and put it to my ear."

Paczkowski soon realized his mistake. To compound his misfortune a dash to the bathroom to cool his burn with water resulted in his head hitting a door frame, causing an injury just above the left eye.

We have all made mistakes, and we are sure this is one Paczkowski won't make again.

But why did it remind *Reader's Digest* editors of a joke?

Responding to a call from Frank Milewski of the Polish American Congress' Anti-Bigotry Committee, *Reader's Digest* editor Liz Vaccariello said the magazine takes all reader feedback "very seriously."

"In hindsight, we understand how the pairing could come off as insensitive to the Polish community and are truly sorry for the misunderstanding," said Vaccariello.

She said an explanation would be printed in the July issue.

"For our jokes, we typically name a state or country to place a person in a specific location. For example, we would say, 'A New York man ...' or 'A Canadian woman ...' In this case, the news story that inspired the joke read, 'A 32-year-old Polish man ...' But considering the history of negative Polish jokes, we should have left out the reference."

I don't know about you, but I have never heard the one about the

guy who irons his ear.

"Sure the joke was funny by itself," said Milewski. "But turning it into an ethnic joke was completely unnecessary. It made it just plain nasty."

We agree.

I would bet Irish, German, Italian, and other folks have injured themselves in similar fashion. Maybe not with a hot iron, but by getting lost in the moment of something other than what they were doing. Is it a joke when it happens to them?

Simply, at one point, an editor at *Reader's Digest* decided (quotes ours) "this sounds like something only a Polish guy would do." And so did his editor, and on up the line.

We all know why they think this way. It is just a shame that they do. We are not asking for special treatment.

Ironically, the same issue contained an article about an individual who became a hero by saving the lives of two 12-year old boys by jumping into San Francisco Bay and bringing them back to shore. He accomplished all this swimming with one arm and holding them with the other. His name is Nick Tumilowicz, a distinctively Polish name.

It was a true story about a true event. "If The Digest was so interested in our ethnic identity, it should have noted Mr. Tumilowicz was Polish. No such mention was made. It seems everyone there was intent on making their joke a Polish one and bashing us with it," said Milewski.

Paczkowski's story could have been printed in *Reader's Digest*, as a reminder about what happens when one does not pay attention.

Instead, it printed as a joke.

Thanks, *Reader's Digest*, for reminding us.

**BOOKSTORE SALE.** This month only, we are offering up to 25% off prices on selected books in our Bookstore. This sale is limited to paid subscribers only, and discounted prices will not be posted on the internet. Take advantage of this great offer to line up your summer reading.

**LEND A HAND.** Do you know someone who may be interested in their Polish heritage, but does not know where to start? A gift subscription to the Polish American Journal makes a wonderful introduction to all things Polish. In July, we will be having our annual Independence Day Sale, which entitles new subscribers to a 50% discount

on subscriptions. If you want to take advantage of that offer before July, call our office at (800) 422-1275 and mention that you want to buy a half-off gift subscription.

**NEW CARDS.** Stacy Olexy, an art teacher from Reading, Pennsylvania, has just completed five new Christmas cards for the Polish American Journal. The cards feature full-color drawings by Olexy, including: Św. Mikołaj; an Angel at the wigilia table; Jasełka characters (Św. Mikołaj, an angel, and the devil); a Goral with his dog; and the Nativity with an angel watching over the Holy Family.

The cards will be released in late Fall.

**NEW PRICES.** Longtime PAJ advertisers Golden Lion Jewelry has entered into a new contract with a new caster, which now enables them to lower their prices for sterling silver jewelry. To learn more, see their ad on page 3, or visit them at [www.GoldenLionJewelry.com](http://www.GoldenLionJewelry.com).

**SEARCH CONTINUES.** The Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. continues its search for non-Jewish Poles who would be willing to talk about surviving the atrocities of World War II. Veterans, slave laborers, displaced people, and all who lived through the Nazi Germany aggression are urged to participate.

Because many seniors do not use email or the Internet, the Museum

asks those who know of survivors to help them contact the Museum at: Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center; Registry of Holocaust Survivors; United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW, Washington, DC 20024-2126; E-mail [registry@ushmm.org](mailto:registry@ushmm.org); (202) 488-6130.

**IN SYMPATHY.** We express condolences to the family of Dan Tomaka, Sr., owner of Frosty Valley Beverages in Lackawanna, N.Y. Dan was an ardent supporter of the PAJ, and very proud of his Polish heritage. The labels for his soft drink products carried a Polish eagle on their labels. Cześć jego pamięci!

**HATS OFF TO ... Ewa and Stefan Komar**, for keeping us informed on *The Washington Post's* errant accounts of Poland during World War II, specifically Justin's Moyers story on how Bulgarians Jews were spared from Nazi Germany's cruelty ... **Christina Kanabrodzki**, who for years supplied us with clippings filled with Polish and Polish American news. She's decided to take a break, and we are more than grateful for her years of service ... **Troy Gawlak**, a Kent State college student and member of The Honky Express polka band, who will be travelling to Poland this summer as part of the Kosciuszko Foundation's scholarship program to study in Poland this summer at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow.

## SPEAK UP / Letters to the Editor

## The Other Way Around

Dear Editor:

In his article, "Anti-Gay Remarks Cost Walesa \$70,000," published in the May 2013 issue of Polish American Journal, Rob Strybel remarked that the cancellation of Walesa's U.S. lectures over his offensive remarks about gays and lesbians is evidence that the "small but vociferous gay lobby and its mainstream-media backers are able 'to persecute and punish the majority'."

Since 2010, a majority of Americans have not only supported equal treatment for gays and lesbians, but gay marriage, with support inching up each year. Walesa and Strybel may be in the majority in Poland, but they are a decidedly shrinking minority in the United States.

**Karen Majewski, Ph.D.**  
*Hamtramck, Michigan*

**LAPSUS CALAMI.** On page 18 of the April edition is an article about Jan Karski. Timothy Snyder's book is titled "Bloodlands..." not "Badlands..."

And an addendum: when Karski was in Washington to meet with Roosevelt, he also met with Felix Frankfurter, a Jewish-American U.S. Supreme Court justice. Frankfurter did not believe Karski's account of the wholesale slaughter of European Jews in an attempt to exterminate them. That omission may be justified in your article since I don't recall that Karski wrote about his meeting with Frankfurter in his book, "Story of a Secret State."

Karski's achievements are worthy of publicity.

**Gene Numsen**  
*via e-mail*

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QUOTES / compiled from news sources

## Outrageous and Inflammatory

“When Nazi Germany began murdering Europe’s Jews during World War II, the public did little to stop it. Citizens of France, Italy, Holland and Poland, for example, did not flood the streets in outrage when their neighbors were shipped to concentration camps.

“But 70 years ago, one nation protested: Bulgaria, the only Eastern European country that kept much of its Jewish population from the gas chambers and crematoria.”

— Justin Moyer in *The Washington Post*, May 08, 2013, on “*The Optimists*,” a 2001 documentary by Jacky Comforty, about “how Bulgaria foiled Adolf Hitler’s minions.”

Comforty screened the film in select American cities this spring to commemorate the 70th anniversary of rallies across Bulgaria in March 1943 that helped persuade the government to prevent the mass killing of the country’s 48,000 Jews, despite its alliance with the Third Reich.

The comparison between Bulgaria and Poland during World War II is ridiculous. Bulgaria was an ally of Nazi Germany, and therefore had its own government Bulgarians could demonstrate against. Being an ally of Nazi Germany gave Bulgaria some leverage in intervening on behalf of their Jews.

Poland, on the other hand was defeated by Germany and the Soviet Union combined, and lost 3 million ethnic Poles, in addition to 3 million Polish Jews, at the hands of the German Nazis. Flooding the streets, for Poles, was not an option. The author makes it sound that all the Poles had to do was greet the Nazis as Bulgarians did, and the Jews of Poland would have been saved.

“The image of Poland and Polish people in the United States is changing for the better ... Negative stereotypes are slowly disappearing. Simply tune in to radio stations in New York and hear more and more Americans, for example, able to pronounce the name of Tadeusz Kosciuszko

—Professor John Micgiel, a political scientist and historian at Columbia University in New York. Prof. Micgiel, who is director of the East Central Europe Centre, also told Poland’s PAP news agency that “... Poles are no longer seen as anti-Semites, due to a number of factors, such as the reaction in Poland to revelations about the [World War II-era] Jedwabne Pogrom and the construction of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw.”

❖ ❖ ❖  
[The new results] “are giving astronomers a treasure trove of spectacular data, and bring forth a deeper understanding of the properties and history of the universe.”

— Krzysztof Gorski, a Planck scientist at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Lab, on new findings on how the universe was formed, and that it is 80 million years older than previously detected.

❖ ❖ ❖  
“I think people should feel proud of their heritage. I love the fact that I am 100 percent Polish, and I am very proud of that.”

— Mark Janik of Hamburg, N.Y., who was featured in the article “Preserving Our Ethnic Past” in March 2013 edition of *Buffalo Magazine*. Janik’s wife is of Irish descent, and they plan to teach their children about both cultures.

## An Interview with Fr. Zygmunt Zieliński “John Paul II discovered the way into the heart and the conscience.”

continued from cover  
dialogue with the USSR. The Church found itself in a kind of no-man’s land between two enemy camps divided from each other by the Iron Curtain. With difficulty, Paul VI tried to maintain a balance between these two mutually-hostile systems, sometimes manifesting his initiative regarding purely secular matters, which had reference to transcendental values, especially in the ethical field. John Paul II went further. He proclaimed the Gospel as the solution to problems that had been previously treated ostensibly as progress but which, in reality, hurt the weak and threatened people in ways their advocates never envisioned. These factors led me to look at the papacy from a different perspective than others had before. The papacy’s role and place in the world cannot be properly understood without reference, in proper measure, to what we call world history. Neither the Church nor the papacy is an island isolated from the rest of the world, seemingly safe but in reality vegetating. I looked at traditional books about the papacy, which talked about the Pope and the offices that support him, but which devoted minimal attention to what was happening on the outside. My book filled that gap by situating the papacy in world history. That’s why it’s now in its fifth edition.

Three popes in a row have now come from outside Italy. What do you think of this phenomenon, and how do you see the significance of the first Pope from outside Europe in almost 15 centuries?

The break with practice by picking a Pope from outside Italy is

closely connected with what I just said. The papacy ceased to be an Italian preserve. John Paul II came from a region that John XXIII had “favored,” not as a matter of political concessions but in order to save the Church under communism. Where Communist indoctrination did not find an effective counter-argument from the Church, it led to dechristianization, which the situation of the Church in East Germany and Czechoslovakia best illustrates. To address that, you needed a Pope who knew the communist system from the inside out. The fact that now a Pope has come from outside of Europe, after 1,500 years, was unavoidable, although very late. Europe is losing its Christian identity. What that means anybody with an elementary understanding of history should grasp.

What are your first impressions of Pope Francis? What do you think are the major issues facing his pontificate?

My first impression of the choice of Pope Francis was a feeling that the feudal practices that had overgrown the papacy over the course of centuries would be further reduced. I also detected a search for nearness to people, neither affected nor limited out of fear of losing one’s authority (which can impede growing

## A Day Devoted to Kościuszko

WEST POINT MILITARY ACADEMY — A large group of Tadeusz Kościuszko devotees gathered Sat., April 27 to honor man whose democratic principles and compassion for the downtrodden has never been surpassed.

The day began, as is the custom, with Mass at the Catholic Chapel of the Holy Trinity. Reverend Carl Urban of Schenectady, assisted by Army Chaplain Brian Donahue, was the celebrant. He instilled a sense of pride and respect for the hero of the day and for the two nations which meant so much to Kościuszko, his native Poland and the United States. U. S. Military Academy cadets, members of the Kosciuszko Squadron, acted as altar servers and ushers, and Aria of Wallington, N.J. — a member chorus of the Polish Singers Alliance of America — enhanced the liturgy. Dawid Perkowski directed the choir, and served as organist and cantor.

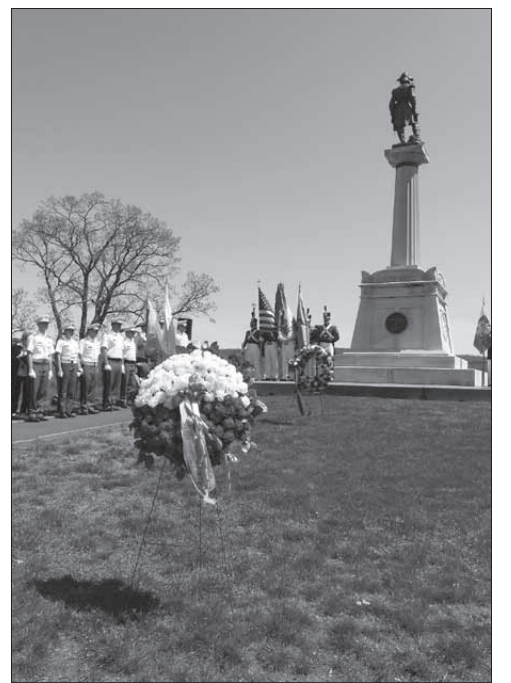
After Mass, uniformed contingents led the congregation, at first, to The Plain to witness the Cadet Review, and then to the Kościuszko monument for the observance in a ceremony, which has been ongoing since 1828. The navy blue and white of Liga Morska, the khaki of the Polish Army Veterans, the blue-gray of the Harcerze contrasted with the gray and white uniforms of the West Point cadets, just as they had in the chapel.

Fr. Urban’s invocation, James M.

Johnson’s remarks, and Staś Radosz’s salutation were greeted by an audience of pre-schoolers, young men and women of all ages, their parents and grandparents, and academics and military people (besides those from the academy), from almost all the Northeastern states and as far south as the District of Columbia.

Johnson is a retired Colonel of the U. S. Army and is Professor of History at Marist College, and the Executive Director of the Hudson River Institute. His knowledge of the relationship between Kościuszko and West Point is unmatched.

Following the speeches, Lt. Col. Michael E. Nowatowski, Professor Johnson and Mr. Jarosz laid a wreath at the base of the Kościuszko Statue. Representatives of many organizations attending the ceremony followed suit. Immediately after, the U. S. Military Academy’s Firing Party followed with the Volley Firing of Honors, the Academy’s bugler played Taps, and a replica of Kościuszko’s sword was presented by Anthony J. Bajdek to graduating cadet Nicholas K. Burton of the Kosciuszko Squadron. Aria sang “Marsz, Marsz, Polonia” and fi-



The ceremony at West Point’s Kosciuszko Monument was moving, as always. From the posting and retiring of the colors, and singing of the Polish and American anthems, each moment was emotional.

nally, all participants joined them in singing “God Bless America.”

Bajdek, who is president of the American Association of Friends of Kosciuszko at West Point, spoke a few words of thanks, and extended the invitation for all to return on May 3, 2014 for next year’s ceremony.

A luncheon at the Thayer Hotel followed.

## Report “The numbers are so much higher ...”

continued from cover

The lead editors on the project, Geoffrey Megargee and Martin Dean, estimate that 15 million to 20 million people died or were imprisoned in the sites that they have identified as part of a multivolume ency-

clopedia. (The Holocaust museum has published the first two, with five more planned by 2025.)

The existence of many individual camps and ghettos was previously known only on a fragmented, region-by-region basis. But the re-

searchers, using data from some 400 contributors, have been documenting the entire scale for the first time, studying where they were located, how they were run, and what their purpose was.

— New York Times



“It is difficult to believe the insinuations that he [Pope Benedict XVI] was unable to deal with the demands for straightening out the Curia and decided to resign instead. People always look for the interesting, the sensational.”

No Pope has abdicated since the 15th century, and Bl. John Paul II insisted that a “father cannot resign.” How do you evaluate the significance of Pope Benedict XVI’s abdication?

The abdication was the result of various factors. One of them, stressed by John Paul II, was the duty to serve, from which neither weakness nor suffering dispenses, at least to the degree that he himself bore it. Because we respected that Pope we regarded that argument as indisputable. But reality is different. Benedict XVI felt certain that his health prevented him from functioning normally and he made a pragmatic decision. It is difficult to believe the insinuations that he was unable to deal with the demands for straightening out the Curia and decided to resign instead. People always look for the interesting, the sensational. Many current books about the papacy—including those that are often

praised—are filled with gossip.

As a historian, what are your preliminary thoughts about the seven year pontificate of Benedict XVI?

That’s a tough question, because my new book on Benedict XVI (*Benedykt XVI. Nauczyciel i pielgrzym*) will be on Polish bookshelves in April. To summarize: Benedict continued the path of John Paul II, but through different methods. The whole of his teaching, apart from his encyclicals, is found in his texts during his 24 pilgrimages abroad. It concentrates on how to build life, in all its dimensions, on Christ. Faith and fidelity are the basis both of individual and social life, thus, his focus on problems related to the family, education, and youth. Benedict’s appearances lacked the drama, the theater, that one observed in John Paul II. Instead, there dominated the precision of the theologian who knew how to connect his work in the study with the demands of a pastor. His manner of being a pastor would be hard to imitate. He himself didn’t imitate his predecessor, although he was deeply dedicated to him.

As more time passes, how do you evaluate the significance of John Paul II’s quarter century pontificate?

John Paul II discovered the way into the heart and the conscience. There is often talk about the temporariness of those “conversions” that were sometimes unduly motivated by feelings and the atmosphere. But things are always like that, because a person cannot permanently remain in a state of euphoria, which sometimes emerged from meetings

with John Paul II. Undoubtedly, that Pope found a common language with many different cultures and traditions, which found him credible. Although he provided theology with a new personalist foundation, he was generally not an innovator in that field. He consummately felt the mood of the audience, which often led to his digressions from official texts. But these are all superficial criteria which are, in the end, not most important in judging that Pope. They were, after all, just tools of which he made masterful use, with but one essential goal: to awaken peoples’ consciences and protect them from the nihilism of modernity. John Paul ruled out what many expected: adapting the Church to alien ideologies and moral ideas. He also devoted much energy to ecumenism, although it did not bring the results he hoped for.

As you look at the Popes of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, whom do you judge to be the most historically significant, and why?

From an historian’s viewpoint, what is most important is what brings about a breakthrough and, from that perspective, John XXIII occupies a unique position among the Popes of the 20th and 21st centuries. That doesn’t mean his pontificate resulted in the most initiatives—it was, after all, rather short and was taken up in a special way by Vatican II. But the courage to call a Council—that is an element that differentiates John XXIII from other popes. Another is his new formulation of the Church’s social teaching, giving it (in the encyclical *Mater et magistra*), offering it as a path forward.



## Polish Literature and Me



In 1959, the Jesuits of Canisius College joined by leaders of the Polish community undertook the establishment of a Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College. While the initial financial goal of \$150,000 was not achieved, the goal of recognizing Poland's cultural contributions to the world has been promoted over these past 50+ years. Though a formal academic Chair was not established, an endowment fund under the auspices of Canisius College with advisement from a Board made up of College personnel and leaders of the Polish American community in Western New York has sought to achieve the original mission. One of the activities the initiators hoped to establish was "a quarterly publication in the English language. This publication will present Poland past and present, together with little known but stimulating facts about the contributions of Poles to the building of the United States. It will serve to acquaint better an ever growing number of our neighbors with the stream of Polish life." It was, therefore, the decision of the recent Board of Directors to commit to utilizing our available Polish American press to implement this mission. The preceding installment initiates our efforts.

If you appreciate the work of The Permanent Chair of Polish Culture and would like to continue its mission to preserve and further Polish culture and heritage in Western New York, donations may be made to Canisius College, Permanent Chair of Polish Culture, 2001 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14208. For information email or call Mary Lou Wyrobek at wyrobekm@canisius.edu or (716) 888-5970.



*continued from cover*

many. That's where my sister and I were born. We finally were able to come here to America in 1951.

When we landed at Ellis Island, we were unmistakably foreign. We didn't speak English. We dressed in black and brown wool that had been given to us by a UN relief agency. My mother wore a babushka on her head, my father a cloth wool cap with a broken brim. They both wore their best shoes, leather boots that came to their knees. My mother's brother stitched and hammered those boots by hand. All our belonging were gathered together in a small steamer trunk my dad built.

Our lives were hard: America then – like now – didn't much want to see a lot of immigrants coming over and taking American jobs, sharing apartments with two or three other immigrant families, getting into the kinds of trouble immigrants get into. We were regarded as Polacks — as dirty, dumb, lazy, dishonest, immoral, licentious, and drunken Polacks.

I felt hobbled by being a Polack and a DP. It was hard karma.

### I STARTED RUNNING AWAY

from my Polishness as soon as I could, and for much of my life I continued to run. As I started moving into my early teens, I didn't want anything to do with my Polish parents and their past. I thought of it as all of that "Polack" or immigrant past. It was so old world, so old-fashioned. I had parents who couldn't speak English, couldn't talk about baseball or movies, didn't know anything about Elvis Presley or Marilyn Monroe or James Dean, couldn't spend a night without arguing with each other in Polish, the language of misery, poverty, and alienation. I wanted to spend as little time as possible thinking about my parents and their Polishness and what my mother sometimes called "that camp shit."

Literature helped me run away from my Polishness and our past. But it was American literature.

In high school, I started reading and studying American literature: Emerson, Whitman, Melville, and Thoreau. What I learned was that the mass of men (all of those Americans out there who thought of me as a Polack) lead "lives of quiet desperation." I learned if I stayed true to the essential and existential meanness of me, Walt Whitman promised me that not only would I be okay, but I would also be downright successful as a human being despite what all those Americans living their desperate lives thought. I could both shrug off the people who called me a Polack, and I could shrug off my parents' desire and need for me to be "a good Polish boy."

I could and would be free.

This was great news for me.

This was in the early 1960s, and the writers I started discovering on my own confirmed all of this. They

were the Beat writers: The French-Canadian-American Jack Kerouac and the Jewish-American Allen Ginsberg and the Italian-American Lawrence Ferlinghetti. Like me, these Beats were mainly immigrants or the children of immigrants. They were writers who had also read their Thoreau and Emerson and Whitman and figured out how to be free of their ethnicity and free of all those Americans who wouldn't allow them to be free of their ethnicity.

**IN ALL OF THAT TIME**, as I read American Literature and worked my way toward that Ph.D. that I would eventually receive, I never read Czesław Miłosz or Zbigniew Herbert or Tadeusz Rozewicz or Wisława Szymborska, the great Polish writers of the 20th century. And I definitely didn't read anything by Polish American writers like John Minczeski, Anthony Bukoski, Helen Degen Cohen, or Margaret Szumowski. And don't even mention Henryk Sienkiewicz. They were all part of that Polish world I wanted to leave behind with my parents and their immigrant sorrows.

Get thee hence, Satan.

So why am I here writing an article about Polish and Polish American writers and how much they mean to me?

The answer is easy.

A funny thing happened after I got my doctorate in American Literature, and after I started teaching American literature in an American university in the middle of the heart of the heart of America.

I was thirty-three years old then, and I got homesick for Poland, a country I had never seen, never lived in except through my parents and their homesickness. I'm not kidding.

I developed this need, a hunger to know about Poland and Polishness and the way they manifested themselves in me and other Polish Americans here in America. I had gotten so far away from my roots that they were becoming unreal to me. I lived among people who for the most part didn't know where Poland was, or what it was, or what it had suffered in the war. I remember one day introducing myself to a new class and having a student ask me if my name was Italian or Spanish. When I said it was Polish, he seemed confused as if I had said I was a parrot or a prairie dog.

**OF COURSE**, I could never know the Poland my parents knew and had to leave because of the Nazis, but I could know the Poland of words and literature, the Poland of sounds and verbal images. And the writers who captured this were readily available in the mid 1980s when my homesickness first developed. So I started reading Henryk Sienkiewicz's Trilogy and Władysław Reymont's tetralogy *Peasants* and Isaac Bashevis Singer's fiction and Ryszard Karpucinski's journalistic

writings and masses of 20th-century Polish poetry.

These writers and others like them gave me a taste of what the country my parents came from was like. Henryk Sienkiewicz's epic Trilogy (*With Fire and Sword*, *The Deluge*, and *Fire in the Steppe*) opened my eyes to Poland's rich history during the 17th and 18th centuries. These three novels told me of the patriotism of the Poles, their sacrifices to keep Poland whole as a nation, their heroism and devotion to honor. Reading these novels, I remembered what my father told me about Poland when I was a child, his stories of kings and wars and the importance of standing by your word and protecting the ones you love. Reymont's *Peasants* (*Chłopi*), a four-volume novel that follows the lives of Polish farmers and villagers across the seasons during one year, told me about the lives my parents' parents may have lived. Set in the late 19th century, the work not only introduced me to the kinds of struggles, passions, and dreams people like my grandparents experienced, it taught me about the day-to-day life of people like my people; and it taught me about the traditions and rituals Polish farm people wove into the fabric of their lives, many of which were traditions my parents brought into our home here in America. In Reymont's book, I read about midnight mass on Christmas Eve, sharing Christmas wafers, the blessing of Easter baskets on Holy Saturday, the cutting of a bride's hair, pickling cabbage, Smigus-Dyngus (wet Monday) and so much more. It took me back to a world and a life that might have been mine if there had been no World War II.

### BUT THERE WAS A WORLD

**WAR**, and the Polish poets that came of age during that war helped me understand the events that shaped my parents' lives. Tadeusz Borowski's *This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen* told me of the life Poles experienced in the death camps and the concentration camps. Anna Swir's *Building the Barricade* carried me into the rubble of a Warsaw besieged by the Germans and introduced me to the Poles who fought and died in the rubble. Tadeusz Rozewicz's poems about the war (poems like "Survivor") taught me how one can live without bread or hope, how one can keep going despite the weight of history and despair.

And the poets who came after – Czesław Miłosz, Wisława Szymborska, and Zbigniew Herbert – showed me what came after the hope lost in the ruins, the suffering and hunger, the millions of war deaths. These writers wrote about how a person can live when one's dreams came up against the reality of a Communist takeover and generations of lives spent waiting. These are the poets who spoke for my parents, people who came to America only

after leaving behind so many of their friends and family, lost in the cataclysm of war and the shadow of Communism. Szymborska captures for me this moment of despair and hope in her poem the "The End and the Beginning":

traveling in ever since. He and those writers have not only given me Poland, but they have also given me America, a Polish America. They have given me the words and images, the ideas and emotions, that have allowed me to feel at home in

## The End and the Beginning

After every war  
someone has to clean up.  
Things won't  
straighten themselves up, after all.

Someone has to push the rubble  
to the sides of the road,  
so the corpse-laden wagons  
can pass.

Someone has to get mired  
in scum and ashes,  
sofa springs,  
splintered glass,  
and bloody rags.

Someone must drag in a girder  
to prop up a wall.  
Someone must glaze a window,  
rehang a door.

Photogenic it's not,  
and takes years.  
All the cameras have left  
for another war.

Again we'll need bridges  
and new railway stations.  
Sleeves will go ragged  
from rolling them up.

Someone, broom in hand,  
still recalls how it was.  
Someone listens  
and nods with unsevered head.  
Yet others milling about  
already find it dull.

From behind the bush  
sometimes someone still unearths  
rust-eaten arguments  
and carries them to the garbage  
pile.

Those who knew  
what was going on here  
must give way to  
those who know little.  
And less than little.  
And finally as little as nothing.

In the grass which has overgrown  
causes and effects,  
someone must be stretched out,  
blade of grass in his mouth,  
gazing at the clouds.

—Wisława Szymborska  
translated from the Polish  
by Joanna Trzeciak

These Polish writers helped me with my homesickness. They gave me back a past and a homeland I had never personally known, but they weren't the only ones I reached out to. I came to realize that there must be other immigrant kids like me with a homesickness that was only lessened by listening to the voices left behind in the old country, the stary świat as my father would say. But it wasn't easy to find them back in 1980. When I turned to Polish American writing to read about how the immigrant children of Poland shaped this American world into words, I drew a blank. I searched for these Polish American writers and couldn't find them. They weren't listed in the card catalogues of the libraries I searched; they weren't on the shelves of those libraries either.

I asked my colleagues who I taught American Lit with if they knew of any Polish American writers.

And what did they say?

Nothing.

For all their considerable knowledge, they couldn't tell me about any books about the Polish American experience.

And what did they do then?

They shrugged.

As far as my colleagues knew, there was no Polish American writing.

Of course, I wasn't the only one who noticed this. In 1988, the great Polish American scholar Stanislaus A. Blejwas wrote an impassioned essay for Polish American Studies called "Voiceless Immigrants" in which he deplored the absolute lack of Polish American writers and discussed why this literature "does not exist."

But it did exist.

**SOMEHOW I HEARD** about a young poet named John Minczeski up in Minnesota who was putting together a collection of Polish American writers. It was to be called *Concert at Chopin's House*, and it changed the way I looked at literature and the way I saw myself as a writer and as a Polish American. The collection he edited and the writers he chose for that collection pointed me in a direction I've been

Poland and in the United States. I no longer feel hobbled being an immigrant.

*Concert at Chopin's House* led me to Anthony Bukoski's *Twelve Below Zero* and his other great collections of stories about Polish Americans, to Linda Nemecek Foster's deeply felt and joyful search for her Polish roots in *Amber Necklace from Gdansk*, to Leonard Kress's translations of the great Polish poets, to John Minczeski's *A Letter to Serafin*, his verse memoir of the life of his Polish immigrant family, to Mark Pawlak's book about growing up in Buffalo, New York (Buffalo Sequence), and on and on and on.

What I discovered was that I had so many brother and sister writers writing and singing about Poland and what it means to them that there was no time to listen to the voice of homesickness.

**DR. JOHN GUZLOWSKI** received his Ph.D. in English at Purdue University and taught American Literature and poetry writing at Eastern Illinois University. He has three publications of poetry: *Language of Mules*, *Third Winter of War: Buchenwald*, and *Lighting and Ashes*. Nobel-lau-



reate Czesław Miłosz wrote that Dr. Guzowski has an "enormous ability for grasping reality." His poems have been published internationally in publications such as *Atlantic Review*, *Manhattan Review*, *Crab Orchard Review*, and *Nimrod International Journal of Prose and Poetry*. Additionally, his essays have been published in *Modern Fiction Studies*, *Shofar*, *Critique Studies of Contemporary Fiction*, *Journal of Evolutionary Psychology*, *Studies in Jewish Literature* and *Polish Review*. He received the Illinois Arts Council Award in 2001 and the Polish American Historical Association's Creative Arts Award in 2012. He recently presented at Canisius College in Buffalo and The Permanent Chair of Polish Culture/Polish Legacy Project Book Fair.



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REVIEW / Staś Kmieć

## Debicki Transforms in "The Great Gatsby"

Not too long ago, **Elizabeth Debicki** was an unknown drama student — now she's starring alongside Leonardo DiCaprio, Tobey Maguire and Carey Mulligan in Baz Luhrmann's hotly anticipated adaptation of *The Great Gatsby*. She plays Jordan Baker, a golfer who becomes the love interest of Nick Carraway. With the assistance of hair and makeup the wispy, fair blonde has been transformed into a sultry painted brunette.

Unknown in the States, she is a rising star in her home country of Australia. The 22-year-old is of Polish and Irish descent, and was born in Paris to parents who were both dancers. She arrived in Australia at the age of five and was raised in Melbourne. She became interested in ballet at an early age and trained as a dancer until deciding to switch to theater.

Her diet as a kid was purely golden-era Hollywood films, the type of big screen song numbers that inform Luhrmann's *Gatsby*. The upbringing helped when it came to the role — in which she dances The Charleston.

Every few decades, Hollywood is entranced anew by F. Scott Fitzgerald's 1925 novel of high living and low morals in the Jazz Age. The story of the love between self-made millionaire Jay Gatsby and flighty aristocrat Daisy Buchanan has been filmed in 1926, 1949 and, most famously, in 1974 with Robert Redford and Mia Farrow.

Jazzy, fizzy and often quite fun, the film takes F. Scott Fitzgerald's Great American novel out for a sometimes dazzling, always irreverent spin. The gauzy picture-postcard 3-D production design and superb leading players breathe new life into the Jazz Age novel.

When it came to casting *Gatsby*'s elegant, wry, professional golfer Jordan Baker, Luhrmann deviated from the recognizable talent pool to give Debicki a breakout role. Straight out of the Victorian College of Arts, she was handpicked by Luhrmann, won over by her chemistry with Tobey Maguire. As Debicki told Interview Magazine, stardom isn't one of her goals, she simply wants great parts.

**COUNTDOWN TO BROADWAY'S TONY AWARDS.** Director-choreographer **Jerry Mitchell**. Tony-winning director-choreographer **Jerry Mitchell** was nominated

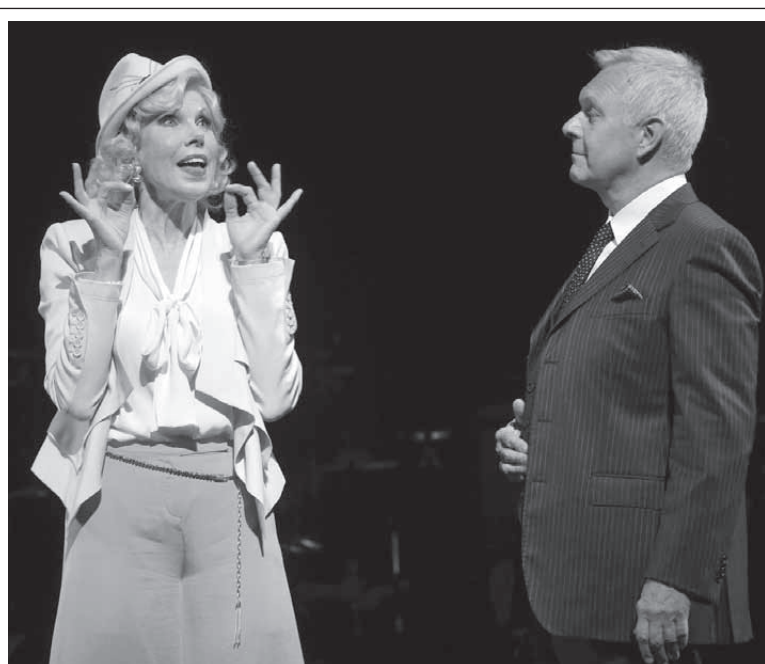


Debicki for the 2013 Tony Awards for "Best Choreography" and "Best Direction" of *Kinky Boots*. Born in Paw Paw, Michigan, Mitchell is proud of his half-Polish lineage.



Mitchell The Broadway production of *Kinky Boots*, which received a nomination for "Best Musical," is a new musical with a book by Harvey Fierstein and a score by Cyndi Lauper. Based on the true story behind the 2005 film, the musical tells the story of a conservative but failing British men's footwear factory that switches gears and starts producing fabulously kinky boots.

On May 13, Mitchell was honored by the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation with the 2013 "Mr. Abbott" Award for his "outstanding artistry and creativity and breadth of his 30-year career. The Award, is bestowed by a com-



Christine Baranski and Walter Bobbie.

**ON YOUR TOES WITH BARANSKI, BOBBIE AND ZIEMBA.** New York City Center's production of Rodgers and Hart's *On Your Toes* — part of its *Encores!* presentation series featured three prominent Polish American theater performers — Christine Baranski, Walter Bobbie (Władysław Babij) and Karen Ziemba. All have received Tony Awards for excellence in Broadway Theater.

Directed and choreographed by Warren Carlyle, the production included George Balanchine's original choreography to the "Slaughter on Tenth Avenue" ballet. Karen Ziemba was part of the sweet opening of the show which began with the sound of six feet tapping in a vaudeville act.

*The New York Times* remarked that some cast

members were better at summoning the style of the show's era. Chief among these are Walter Bobbie (best known as a director), having a high old time playing a Diaghilev-esque impresario, and the wondrous Christine Baranski as Peggy Porterfield, a filthy rich patron of the arts. Ms. Baranski slyly combines her well-honed musical-comedy skills with the icy take-charge air she has perfected as a predatory lawyer on television's *Good Wife*.

*On Your Toes* is credited as the first musical to integrate classical dance into a Broadway musical. It centers on a vaudeville hooper who gets mixed up with a Russian ballet troupe, and its fiery prima ballerina. It opened on April 11, 1936, at Broadway's Imperial Theatre and ran for 315 performances.



Karen Ziemba.



Pasek

mittee of directors and choreographers to one of their peers, is named in honor of the late legendary director George Abbott and is presented to a director or choreographer in recognition of lifetime achievement.

"It is a joy to be this year's recipient of the 'Mr. Abbott' Award. I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Abbott, as well as collaborating with eight other Abbott award winners," said Mitchell. "This community, the Broadway community, is everything I have ever dreamed. To receive the 'Mr. Abbott' Award and join the distinguished list of past honorees makes it all a bit more than a dream. I am truly honored."

Jerry Mitchell received Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle awards for choreographing the 2005 Tony Award-winning revival of *La Cage aux Folles*, and was nominated for the Tony as choreographer of *Legally Blonde* and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. He is currently working on *The Honey-*

*mooners*, a new musical based on the iconic Jackie Gleason television series. Mitchell received Olivier, Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and Astaire Award nominations for choreographing *Hairspray* and Tony, Drama Desk and Astaire Award nominations for choreographing *The Full Monty* and *Never Gonna Dance*.

He conceived and created *Broadway Bares*, a comedy burlesque show performed annually for *Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS*. The fundraising efforts have brought more than ten million dollars to Broadway Cares.

**Music Composer-Lyricist Benj Pasek.** Tony nominees Benj Pasek and Justin Paul (known as Pasek and Paul) are an award winning musical theatre composing team and are 2013 Tony Award nominees for their original score of *A Christmas Story, The Musical*, which played on Broadway during the holiday season.

They were brought in to write the music and lyrics for the show after the original composer was replaced. This work-for-hire opportunity resulted a few years later in this unexpected Tony Award nominations for the duo, who have been touted as theater wonder boys since graduating from the University of Michigan in 2007.

Their works include *Dogfight*, *Edges* and *James and the Giant Peach*, and their original songs have been featured on the NBC series *Smash*. They are winners of the 2007 Jonathan Larson Award named after the late *Rent* composer that honors achievement by composers, lyricists and librettists.



**POLISH AMERICAN ACTRESS IN NEW FILM.** Anna Lakomy (above, with Gerard Depardieu), an up-and-coming Polish American actress recently completed shooting on a new film directed by Abel Ferrara. She played the role of a young female aide opposite French film star Gerard Depardieu. This was her first principal speaking role in a major motion picture. Born and raised in New York City to Polish parents, Lakomy attended the prestigious "Fame" high school in Manhattan and began pursuing acting professionally over a year ago. She is a member of Screen Actors Guild and has worked on over 30 independent and student projects. Lakomy directed and starred in her own short film, *Brave Little Soldier*, about an elite female soldier coming back from Afghanistan with a dark secret.

*Welcome to New York* looks at the rise and controversial fall of French economist and former head of the International Monetary Fund, Dominique Strauss-Kahn. The film should be in theaters by next year, perhaps sooner.

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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

## New Confessional Attracts Sinners

Fr. Janusz Kukulka, pastor of St. Mary the Immaculate Conception RC Parish in Derby, Conn., credits a newly installed confessional with increased participation in the sacrament of reconciliation, especially among “people who haven’t been to confession in many years.”

The confessional was purchased on eBay from a Lutheran parish in Dubuque, Iowa, which recently moved into a former Roman Catholic church. St. Mary’s replaced its original confessionals with a reconciliation room during renovation in the 1970s. One parishioner finds it more comfortable than a reconciliation room because of the separation and privacy of the confessional grill. Fr. Kukulka is a native of Poland, where confessions are more frequent, especially before receiving communion. He notes that in sacramental confession the penitent is “receiving forgiveness of sins, and graces to be a better person for the future.” He added that this spiritual emphasis on God’s mercy is more important than an antique confessional.

### SAINTHOOD CAUSE ADVANCES FOR FR. CISZEK.

The inquiry into the sainthood cause of Fr. Walter Ciszek, S.J. (inset) received a boost with the declaration of the Vatican’s Congregation for the Causes of Saints that the investigation is valid. This acceptance of



the documentation collected by the diocese of Allentown, as well as the testimony of 45 witnesses and Fr. Ciszek’s published and unpublished writings, means that the Vatican will now take over the inquiry from the Allentown diocese. The formal application will now be supervised by a Roman official who will oversee the publication of a biography and the compilation of materials proving Fr. Ciszek’s heroic virtue. Once approved by the nine theologians assigned to evaluate the application,

Fr. Ciszek will be on the way to being declared “Venerable” by the pope. Any claims of miracles done through his intercession will then be investigated.

Fr. Ciszek, born in Shenandoah, Penn., entered Russia as a Jesuit priest during World War II to minister to Catholics under communist persecution. He was arrested as a spy in 1941 and sentenced to hard labor in Siberian prison camps. There he offered priestly ministry to fellow inmates, and continued the work in several Siberian parishes when he was released from the camps. He was released from Russian captivity in a spy exchange in 1963 and worked in the U.S. as a retreat director and spiritual guide. His two books “He Leadeth Me” and “With God in Russia” detail his experiences. He died in New York in 1984.

### PRIESTS MEET IN POLISH HILL.

A festive closing Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Pittsburgh’s Polish Hill neighborhood highlighted the 24th convention of the Polish American Priests Association.

Concelebrants and honored guests for the April 11 liturgy were Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, personal secretary to Pope John Paul II for 39 years; Cardinal Adam Maida, retired archbishop of Detroit and a native priest of the Diocese of Pittsburgh; and Bishop Emeritus John Yanta of San Antonio, who founded PAPA in 1990.

They were joined by Bishop David Zubik.

“I was honored that they chose this church for the celebration,” said Father Joseph Swierczynski, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The liturgy featured traditional Polish clothing and hymns. Cardinal Dziwisz recognized the choir.

“It sounds beautiful in this special place on the Polish Hill,” he said through an interpreter.

Cardinal Maida spoke of his many years of friendship with Cardinal Dziwisz, stating that they are like brothers. He thanked Cardi-

nal Dziwisz for his support of the church, the people of Poland and those of Polish descent.

As part of the celebration, Cardinal Dziwisz presented the parish with a first-class relic of Blessed Pope John Paul II. It is a spot of blood on a cassock worn by the Holy Father when he was shot in a 1981.

In his homily, Bishop Zubik said that, as a successor to St. Stanislaus, Cardinal Dziwisz’s presence was a call to reflect on the legacy of Blessed John Paul II (who as Cardinal Karol Wojtyla visited Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1969).

Some 70 clergy attended the April 8-12 convention.

The Polish American Priests Association seeks to strengthen fraternal bonds and affirm the church through networking and national conventions. It fulfills the hope of Blessed Pope John Paul II, who advocated “a constant fidelity and new responsiveness to the needs of today’s church and of Polonia as it exists in the world today.”

It assists faith communities served by Polish-American clergy and responds to issues that affect not only the well-being of the Polish-American community, but the entire church as well.

Cardinal Maida now travels the United States to strengthen ties with Polish people throughout the country. He welcomed the opportunity to attend the convention in his home diocese. He was joined by his brother, Father Ted Maida, former longtime pastor of St. Teresa of Avila in Perrysville, who serves as his aide.

### BISHOP ZUBIK PROTESTS NUDE MOCKERY OF THE POPE.

A Carnegie Mellon University art student dressed as the pope, nude from the waist down and mocking the cross, distributed condoms in an art department event causing outrage among Pennsylvania’s Catholic community. Bishop David A. Zubik, RC bishop of Pittsburgh, protested the prejudice and bigotry of this display but the university decided to “review the incident” to see if “our community standards” were violated. Bishop Zubik explained “It’s not a matter of pointing to one young lady. We have to ask what could cause things in our society that would make her think it’s acceptable to do something like this. I hope that this gives every one of us the opportunity to pause and think about what it is that we say to one another, and how it is that we say what we say.”

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## John Paul II Relic Gifted to Holy Rosary

by Richard Poremski

BALTIMORE — One thousand faithful worshippers filled Holy Rosary Church — the designated Archdiocesan Shrine of The Di-

vine Mercy

— Sun., April

7, 2012 for a

religious con-

vergence of

Divine Mercy

celebration, and

the welcoming

of the relic of

Blessed John

Paul II. The

Most Reverend

William E. Lori,

Archbishop of

Baltimore, and

Pastor Andrzej

Totzke cele-

brated Mass

and conducted

the interrelated

religious cer-

emonies during

the hours-long

services.

The relic is

of a drop of the

blood of Blessed

John Paul II. It

was obtained

and gifted to

Holy Rosary by

Cardinal

Stanislaw Dziwisz,

Archbishop of

Krakow, Poland.

Cardinal Dziwisz

was a friend,

influential aide

and papal secre-

tary to John Paul

II for 40 years

until the Pontiff’s

death in 2005.

The heavyweight silver-coated brass reliquary stands 14.5 inches tall and was crafted by the Popiel Company in Kielce, Poland. The relic itself is contained in a circ-

ular glass capsule on the reliquary’s lower left quadrant.

The John Paul II Reliquary was a gift from the parish corporators, presented at the church’s 125th Jubilee Celebration Mass on December 9, 2012. The Jubilee received full coverage in the PAJ’s February, 2013 issue.

The sacred relic is indeed a priceless and paramount treasure that will inspire and comfort the faithful now and until the end of time.

Poland stands tall and proud as Saint Faustina Kowalska, Divine Mercy Patroness, and destined-saint John Paul II are counted among the daughters and sons of Poland.



A Blessed John Paul II Relic, contained in its matching reliquary, is shown above being venerated at Holy Rosary Church in Baltimore.

### POPE FRANCIS APPOINTS NEW BISHOP FOR GRAND RAPIDS.

Fr. David J. Walkowiak of the Cleveland diocese has been appointed Bishop of Grand Rapids, Mich., to replace Bishop Walter Hurley on his retirement. Bishop Walkowiak was raised in Ohio, served in various parishes in the Cleveland archdiocese, worked in the diocesan chancery and taught at St. Mary seminary.

### WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING COMMEMORATED.

On the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, sirens wailed and church bells tolled throughout the city to commemorate the Jews’ “last stand” against their Nazi persecutors. In the year before the uprising, the Nazis deported about 300,000 Jews from the ghetto to be exterminated in the Treblinka camp gas chambers. Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski and Israel’s Education Minister Shai Piron spoke at the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes, on the site of the former ghetto in central Warsaw.

“This was the last stand of peo-

ple deprived of dignity and hope ... Hundreds of insurgents stood to defend the last remnants of human freed,” Komorowski said.

The Museum of the History of Polish Jews, which will chronicle the 1,000-year presence of Jews in Poland, is set to open in commemoration of the uprising anniversary.

### ARCHBISHOP WENSKI ON IMMIGRATION REFORM.

“Our immigration laws need to be changed,” Archbishop Thomas Wenski said at an interdenominational rally and walk in Miami. He spoke in favor of legalizing the status of hardworking immigrants who are too often demonized as lawbreakers and terrorists. He expressed support for immigration reform which includes a legal guest worker program, an “earned” path to legalization for the 10 million workers already in the country, reducing the backlog in processing family reunification visas, as well maintaining national security and secure borders. Archbishop Wenski is noted for his work with Haitian refugees in Florida.

## MODLITWY

**PUBLICATION OF PRAYERS.** The Polish American Journal gladly accepts prayers ads for publication. They must be received by the 10th of each month, prior to the month of publication, and must be pre-paid at the cost of \$15.00 each, which can be paid by check or charge. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please call 1 (800) 422-1275 or (716) 312-8088. Send to: Polish American Journal, P.O. Box 271, N. Boston, NY 14110.

**PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN.** (Never Known To Fail). Oh, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart and succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you. Grateful thanks, G.M.K.

**PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.** Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems, who light all roads so I can attain my goal. You who give me the Divine gift to forgive and to forget all evil against me and that in all instances of my life you are with me. I want this short prayer to thank you for all things and to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you, even and in spite of all material illusion. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. Thank you Holy Spirit. That person must say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the favor requested will be granted, even if it may appear difficult. This prayer must be published immediately after the favor is granted, without mentioning the favor. Your initials should appear after the thank you. Thank You Holy Spirit. G.M.K.

**A PRAYER FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY.** In gratitude for favor received. O gentle Heart of Jesus, ever present in the Blessed Sacrament, ever consumed with burning love for the poor captive souls in Purgatory, have mercy on them. Be not severe in Your judgments, but let some drops of Your Precious Blood fall upon the devouring flames. And, Merciful Savior, send Your angels to conduct them to a place of refreshment, light and peace. Amen. M.K.

## SUPPORT THE PAJ PRESS FUND

In 1978, a voluntary fund-raising campaign was launched by a group of loyal readers of the Polish American Journal entitled “We Love the PAJ Press Fund” in order to help cover rising postage, material and production costs.

Donations to the PAJ Press Fund are also used to support our reader services (postage, telephone, research, etc.), provide newsclippers with stamps and envelopes, and cover extraordinary expenses in producing the paper. The Polish American Journal is not a profit-making venture. Thanks to its dedicated staff, the PAJ is published as a “public service” for American Polonia.

Donations to the PAJ Press Fund will be acknowledged in the paper unless otherwise directed by the contributor.

A sincere “THANK YOU” for their donations to the PAJ PRESS FUND: Mr. & Mrs. C.D. Czyznik, Brooksville, Fla.; Stephen Domagala, Leicester, N.C.; Richard Grzybowski, Toledo, Ohio; Charles and Angeliki Keil, Lakeville, Conn.; Ralph & Wanda Klims, Rochester Hills, Mich.; Dennis Piotrowski, Torrance, Calif.; Thaddeus Piwowar, Allegan, Mich.; Richard and Pearl Wilgosz, Hollywood, Fla.; Regina Wnukowski, Philadelphia; and one Friend of the PAJ. Dziękujemy wam wszystkim! The PAJ thanks all who donated to the Press Fund.

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CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin S. Nowak

## Buchanan and Poland in the Age of Jackson

James Buchanan rose through the political ranks to become the fifteenth president of the United States in 1857. He had become a supporter of Andrew Jackson in the 1820s. Jackson was president during the Polish Insurrection of 1830-31. At the time, the United States maintained a strict neutrality and hands-off policy toward European affairs. In addition, thirty-five years after the partitions of Poland and its disappearance as an independent country, affairs in the "Polish provinces" of the occupying countries were considered mostly an internal matter not subject to international interference. But President Jackson is said to have at least privately criticized the Russian brutalities against the Poles as they suppressed the rebellion.

The situation of the Poles evinced a great deal of sympathy from the people of America, based on their hatred of tyranny and sense of justice. Such prominent citizens as James Fenimore Cooper, Edgar Allan Poe, and Samuel F.B. Morse voiced their support for the Polish people and attended meetings and rallies in their favor.

After the Russians had put down the insurrection, Jackson appointed James Buchanan as U.S. Minister to Russia in 1832. His main task was to secure a trade treaty with the Rus-



"I yield to no man in abhorrence for the different partitions of Poland, and in a desire to see the independence of that brave and gallant people re-established."

sians, but the Polish situation would also occupy some of his time.

Buchanan took an overland coach from Hamburg, Germany to St. Petersburg, Russia, passing through Polish territory then occupied by Prussia and Russia.

Based on the treaty of the Congress of Vienna of 1815, Russian Poland had been granted semi-autonomy as the Congress Kingdom of Poland, while fully under control

of the Russian czar. But Czar Nicholas violated that treaty both during and after the uprising. Despite strong French and English objections, those nations were not willing to intervene in any way to help the Poles.

But the czar was also concerned about the vehement pro-Polish, anti-Russian stance of the American press and he expressed his concerns about this to Minister Buchanan. The Russians particularly objected to the anti-Russian tone of the *Washington Globe*, a newspaper controlled by Jackson supporters that the Russians erroneously believed the president could censor. A minor flap occurred when the Russian charge in Washington accused Jackson of attacking the czar through the *Globe*, with the American administration countering that it was a lie and a grave insult to the United States.

Minister Buchanan was caught in the middle. It was his job to foster good relations between the two countries, yet he also had to express American displeasure to the Russians about the diplomatic insult, something he did reluctantly. At the same time, he suggested to the U.S. Secretary of State that the *Globe* be advised to abstain from severe criticisms of the czar.

Buchanan seems to have had an ambivalent attitude toward Polish

affairs. In private letters he called Poland a "gallant nation" and referred to the "brave and unfortunate Poles." He wrote that Poland's "people have suffered much unnecessary severity ... I cannot be mistaken in this respect," but based on information provided by the St. Petersburg Journal (fully controlled by the czar) he then said it was "equally certain" that the acts of barbarity by the Russians upon the Poles were greatly exaggerated.

Buchanan particularly came to the defense of Czar Nicholas, claiming that the czar was unjustly personally blamed for cruelties perpetrated on the Poles and blamed them instead on the Russian system and ethnic hatred, as if Nicholas had no control over his minions who were ransacking Poland. Buchanan even justified the despotic Russian system by saying the people of Eastern Europe were "not fit for political freedom." He also defended Russia's rape of Poland by writing that a possible Europe-wide war could have erupted if the Poles had successfully thrown off Russian rule.

Buchanan further portrayed the czar as a sympathetic figure because he learned that a few exiled Poles were conspiring to assassinate Nicholas, and by pointing out that the sons of some Polish men killed in the uprising by the czar's soldiers

were being educated at Nicholas' expense.

But again, on a visit to the Kremlin treasury, Buchanan observed with some consternation a display of items taken from Warsaw: flags, thrones, portraits of all the Polish kings, even a copy of the Polish Constitution at the foot of a statue of Czar Alexander. He expressed his hope that the Polish Eagle would again soar. And in a letter to the Secretary of State he declared, "I yield to no man in abhorrence for the different partitions of Poland, and in a desire to see the independence of that brave and gallant people re-established."

Buchanan stayed in Russia only fourteen months. He later served in the U.S. Senate where he argued in favor of the annexation of Texas by pointing out that the Texans were choosing to join the U.S., unlike the situation in Poland, a country dismembered and occupied "against the consent of the brave and patriotic Polish nation."

As president, Buchanan did not deal with any affairs concerning Poland. He left behind a decidedly mixed record in his opinions and dealings with the Polish situation, apparently the result of being a pragmatic politician and his personal admiration for the Russian czar, tempered by a deep love of liberty.

THE PONDERING POLE / Ed Poniewaz

## "Used-ta"

I heard an interesting take on the hometown: St. Louis is a "used-ta" city.

As you drive around, natives frequently point to places or talk about things that "used-ta" be there, or something they "used-ta" do. The awareness for preserving, documenting, and cherishing our American heritage and traditions unfortunately became popular in many cases a little too late. At one time, those who were nostalgic were seen as boring or even backwards. "Kinda" a shame if you think about it.

Not all "used-ta" is bad of course. If you say I "used-ta" be a failure, troublemaker, or drug addict, that is a good thing. And while we have a soft spot in our hearts for the old times or old things, not all of us want to live in museums and progress must go on. If you've ever owned an old house (as I do), it can practically kill you physically and financially trying to keep it maintained. If you're constantly sitting around talking about what you "used-ta" do in high school or college thirty years ago, you might want to consider getting out more. "Used-ta" — in one sense — is the real and the material and in another is within the metaphysical realm, more of a state-of-mind or condition rather than a physical object or historical event. Though it pains me to say it, perhaps a balanced "used-ta" approach is the best one sometimes.

Not long ago the courts ruled that St. Stanislaus Kostka Polish Church in St. Louis is the property of the congregation and not the archdiocese, and therefore is no longer a Catholic Church. In other words, St. Stan's "used-ta" be Catholic. That is a problem for some of the Polish people in our city who remain members of and subscribe to the teachings of Roman Catholicism.

This has created a split in opinion and a rift among friends. For me, the church had three perfect and wonderful qualities: first, it was a place and a building that was distinctly Polish; second, it was a cultural center and Polish was spoken there; and finally it was a church, the house of God. There were the persons, sights, and sounds and then the other-worldly character as a place of worship.

Of those three qualities, it is primarily the theology that is different now. The place is still the same, beautiful and grand. There is still an element of the culture as many of the old guard are still running the show and working to sustain it. My understanding is the doors will always be open to friends, guests, and pilgrims. My hope is that there always will be a number from the Polish community that will continue to associate with and support the church in its current form. Those individuals, at least in their hearts, will never say that St. Stan's "used-ta" be my parish.

**CHOPIN JAZZ.** Rich Kowalewski writes: "Dear Ed, I enjoy reading 'Pondering Pole' every month in the PAJ, and thought you might enjoy my jazzy reworking of themes by Frederick Chopin."

Rich, yes! I really enjoyed it and (as Keith Urban would say) loved the reworking. It is a great example of revised Polish sounds and match to Chris Botti's *Prelude in C Minor* (Pondering Pole "Linkage" April 2013).

According to the press release on The Swingin' Chopin Jazz Band, the newest CD is called *Chopin Jazz*, and is "led by prominent Detroit area bassist and arranger Rich Kowalewski."

The disc features some of the

most beloved classical melodies of Frederick Chopin performed in American and Latin American styles. His well-known "B-flat Mazurka," for example is arranged in American swing; "Fantasy Impromptu" becomes a sultry samba; and his ever popular "C Sharp Waltz" as a funky blues.

Even if you are not familiar with Chopin or cannot pick out the melodic connection, Chopin Jazz is excellent music and would be an excellent CD for someone of the Polish or jazz persuasion. It can be purchased on the website [www.cd-baby.com/swingin Chopin](http://www.cd-baby.com/swingin Chopin). For more information contact Rich at [rich-kowalewski@gmail.com](mailto:rich-kowalewski@gmail.com). Buy one for yourself and a bunch of them for

family and friends.

### THE BLOGGING POLE ONLINE.

Now you can tell me if you have a "thought about this month's topic, an answer to the question, a question of your own, or have interesting facts to share" immediately and online! Visit The Pondering Pole blog at [www.ponderingpole.blogspot.com](http://www.ponderingpole.blogspot.com). Eventually I will have all of the Pondering Pole articles listed on the site. Please let me know what you are thinking as I love a good discussion and enjoy debating just about anything.

*Dziękuję bardzo* to Rich Kowalewski and the other Swingin' Chopin band members for the great work, sound, and interpretation of

our beloved classical Polish artist, doing it in a jazzy style. Also, thank you Frank Adamiak for the card and kind words. I'm going to frame the costumed dancer card cover and hang it on the wall. I love it that much.

If you have a thought about this month's topic, an answer to the question, a question of your own, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; eMail [alinabrig@yahoo.com](mailto:alinabrig@yahoo.com).

N.B. If you send eMail, reference the Polish American Journal or the Pondering Pole in the subject line. I will not open an eMail if I do not recognize the subject or the sender.

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## HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

## Opening of Jan Karski Exhibit



Jan Karski exhibit.

CHICAGO — The Polish Museum of America opened the exhibit on April 26 honoring Jan Karski, entitled “The World Knew: Jan Karski’s Mission for Humanity.” Well over 200 guests viewed an outstanding exhibit hosted by the PMA. Welcoming remarks were made by Maria Ciesla, president of the PMA, with introductory remarks by Bożena Nowicka McLees of the Jan Karski Educational Foundation, Victoria Granacki, PMA Board member and Chair of the PMA Exhibit, along with Konrad Zielinski, Polish Vice Consul, Robert Kostro, director of the Museum of Polish History in Warsaw, and Dr. Martin Moe, director of Social Science of the Chicago Public Schools. After their remarks, a film strip which included an extensive interview with Jan Karski was presented.

“The World Knew” exhibit illustrates the dangerous mission that Jan Karski undertook during the Nazi occupation of Poland in World War II. Having twice been smuggled into the Warsaw Ghetto, and later entering a Nazi transit camp disguised as a guard, Karski embarked on a mission to inform Europe and the U.S., with the hopes of stopping the genocide. But sadly his efforts were ignored by President Roosevelt and other world leaders. A new, authorized U.S. edition of Karski’s 1944 eyewitness account, *Story of a Secret State*, has just been published by Georgetown University with a foreword by former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. Karski served as a distinguished professor in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown for 40 years where his students included Illinois Governor Pat Quinn and Senator Dick Durbin.

The exhibit, especially presented by the PMA Staff, includes several panels with photographs and documents relating to the major events and achievements in the life of its hero. It was created by the Polish History Museum of Warsaw with assistance from the Jan Karski Educational Foundation and was under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland. The exhibit closes on May 19, then travels to Orchard Lake Mission in Orchard Lake, Michigan.

**COMMEMORATING THE WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING.** On April 18, the Polish Consulate hosted a solemn event: the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Warsaw Ghetto and Holocaust survivors, Righteous Among the Nations recipients, leaders of Chicago’s Jewish American and Polish American communities, Polish and Jewish religious leaders, representatives of the Illinois and Chicago political scene, and the Chicago Consular Corps were among the 150 guests

portage and Ethics or Fading the Tyranny of the Narrative.”

Kapuściński was not only an adventurer who had direct witness of the creation and collapse of numerous independent African states, guerrilla movements in South America, the 1974 revolution in Ethiopia, the anti-Shah revolt in Iran, and the Gdansk Shipyard strike in 1980, just to name a few events in history, but he was also a prolific writer, having written several books and articles

After Kosmala’s presentation, the Foundation elected its new Board: Lidia Filus, president; Anna Kordylewska, vice president; Jolanta Pawlikowska, sec.; Witold J. Pawlikowski, treas.; and Maria



Lipinski, Turska, Gilad, and Mizrahi.

attending.

The program featured performances by world-famous Cantor Hazzan Alberto Mizrahi, violinist Avigal Gilad and three Polish artists: soprano Mira Sojka-Topór, flutist Joanna Turska, and pianist Igor Lipiński. Sojka-Topór sang the Polish and the American national anthems and welcoming remarks were made by Paulina Kapuścińska and Roey Gilad, Consul General of Israel. Avigal Gilad began the program by playing John Williams’ theme from “Schindler’s List.” This was followed by Cantor Mizrahi singing and Lipinski playing Abraham Ellstein’s Yiddish song, “*Vos Iz Gevor’n Fun Mayn Shtetele*.” Turska played Aleksander Tansman’s “Sonatine” II. Intermezzo V. Finale. Cantor Mirzahi sang the traditional *Eyl Maley Rachamin*. The program concluded with Mirzahi and Lipinski singing and playing a special Kaddish composed by Mizrahi’s long-time friend Krzysztof Penderecki.

Speaking to the guests, Consul General Kapuścińska underscored the importance of the events that happened 70 years ago. In his address to the guests, Israel’s Consul General Roey Gilad thanked Kapuścińska for organizing the commemoration of this anniversary. He emphasized how important it is to remember the victims of the Ghetto Uprising and to honor their bravery.

**KOSMALA ON KAPUŚCIŃSKI.**

Spending an afternoon at the Polonia Book Store, enjoying the art of lively conversation, and then listening to a lecture given by Kinga Kosmala, Ph.D., was an afternoon well spent. On April 20, the Chicago Chapter of the **Kościuszko Foundation** held its annual meeting and a soirée. Dr. Kosmala, a professor from the Department Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Chicago, spoke on the works of Ryszard Kapuściński, as they were revealed in her publication, “Ryszard Kapuściński: Re-



Kapuścińska and Uzarowicz.

and *Prelude in E Minor*, along with Witold Lutoslawski’s *Triptych No. 2* and the Polish folk song *Matulu* were unbelievable. She was accompanied by Ben Lewis on piano and Patrick Mulcahy on bass to add to the wonderful jazz repertoire.

Following Auguścik’s performance, the “Outstanding Pole Abroad 2013” Awards were presented. Sponsored by the Teraz Polska Foundation, these awards were given to those of Polish descents who live permanently outside of Poland who have significantly contributed in various areas of endeavor. For her many years of devotion and her artistic and chronographic talents, Magdalena Solarz, artistic director of the Wici Song and Dance Ensemble, was awarded the Cultural Award. The Science Award was presented to Dr. Marek Dollár, Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Miami University, Oxford Ohio. The Personality Award was given to Carla Knorowski, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, IL. The “Young Pole” Award was presented to Piotr Uzarowicz, film maker, producer, and director of the Katyń documentary “The Officer’s Wife.”

**RARE POLISH RENAISSANCE MUSIC PERFORMED.**

The Newberry Consort, ensemble-in-residence at both the University of Chicago and Northwestern University, presented rare and beautiful music from Poland’s Golden Age by performing masterworks of **Polish Renaissance music**. The Consort “kicked off” the Copernicus Center’s Mayfest of May 3. Internationally-renowned instrumentalist, Tom Zajac, researched Poland’s musical archives and rediscovered some of its most notable composers and their masterpieces. As a second generation Polish American, Zajac wanted



Pawlikowski, Kosmala, and Filus.

Zakrzewska, Czesława Kolak, and Kinga Kosmala, directors.

**CONSTITUTION CELEBRATION AT CONSULATE.**

May 3 is set aside as an important national holiday in Poland to celebrate the world’s second oldest constitution. Within Chicago’s Polonia, a multitude of celebrations took place to commemorate this historic achievement. On the eve of this holiday, **Consul General Paulina Kapuścińska** held a special soirée at the Polish Consulate. Over 150 guests attended, among them many Polonia dignitaries, along with special guest, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn.

It was during this evening that the Polish Consulate, on behalf of the President of Poland, held a special program to honor five individuals with the Cavalier Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland. They were Danuta Inglot, Krystyna Zielonka, Sefania Jarosz, Maria Waksmindzka, and Bogdan Łańko, being cited for their service and dedication to Poland and Polonia. The Gold Cross of Merit was presented to Grażyna Maksimowicz, a retired teacher from the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński Polish Language School.

The evening continued with an outstanding performance by Grażyna Auguścik, one of America’s best jazz chanteuses. Her renditions of Chopin’s *Etude in B minor*

to bring this music to the Polish community, thus enabling Polonia to be better acquainted with its musical heritage.

The program featured motets by Waclaw z Szamotuł, Poland’s greatest composer of the mid-16th century, including selections from the *Melodie na Psaltery polski* of 1580. Also featured were Mass movements from the *Missa Pulcherrima* by the 17th c. master Bartłomiej Pękiel, which included settings by Mikołaj Gomolka and 16th c. poet Jan Kochanowski. The Newberry Consort consisted of David Douglass on violin and viola, John Lenti on Renaissance lute, Brandi Berry on violin, Jeremy Ward on bass violin, as well as a consort of voices featuring soprano Ellen Hargis, tenor Matthew Dean, bass Eric Miranda, soprano Kayleen Sanchez, and alto Angela Young Smucker, along with Tom Zajac playing the recorder, flute, sackbut, bagpipe, pipe, and tabor.

**Gura Named Distinguished Scholar**

CHAPELL HILL, N.C. — Philip Gura, Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, has been named Distinguished Scholar for the 2013 joint convocation of Collegium and the Unitarian Universalist Historical Society.

Collegium is an association for liberal religious studies, established to encourage collaboration among scholarly members of clergy and laity who share similar interests.

The well-published Gura is preparing “Jonathan Edwards: The Evangelical Writings for the Library of America.” Farrar, Straus and Giroux will publish Gura’s “Truth’s Ragged Edge: The Rise of the American Novel, a revisionary history of the emergence of the American novel from 1789 to 1870.” Last year, Centerstream Publishing published a paperback edition of his book, “C.F. Martin and His Guitars” (2003).

Gura’s book, “American Transcendentalism: A History,” was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in non-fiction. Some of his essays, which number over fifty, have been collected in *The Crossroads of American History and Literature* (1996).



Become a member today

**Polish American Historical Association**

The Polish American Historical Association was established in December 1942 as a special commission of the The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America to collect, compile and publish information about

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

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

PAHA, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT 06050

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POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

## PAHA Comes to Buffalo

On May 16, the **Polish American Historical Association Board**, which includes PAJ editor Mark Kohan, held its midyear meeting at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

In anticipation of this meeting, the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo sponsored a lecture by Dr. James Pula, entitled "Kosciuszko's Return to America" on May 15 at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst.

After the board meeting at the university, John Bukowczyk chaired an academic session on "Ethnic and Not Quite White: Poles and Others in Urban America," and Dr. Anna Jaroszynska-Kirchmann chaired a roundtable discussion on "Polish American Studies Today - Challenges and Opportunities" in which representatives of the WNY Division of the Polish American Congress, Polish Arts Club of Buffalo, Buffalo-Rzeszow Sister Cities Committee, Polish Legacy Project and Niagara Polish Cultural and Historical Association, among others, participated.

**POLONIA TIDBITS.** On the April 14, the **Skalny Center** for Polish and Central European Studies at the University of Rochester presented "Penderecki: The Avant-garde, or Romanticist?" featuring pianist Eunmi Ko, violinist Sini Virtanen and double bassist Julia Shulman at the Strong Auditorium on the university's River Campus ... **Rita Cosby**, author of "Quiet Hero: Secrets From My Father's Past," spoke at Daemen College in Amherst on April 16 ... **Barbara Strzepka** spoke about porcelain paintings at the April 17 meeting of the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo ... The Greater Niagara Frontier Council of the Boy Scouts of America awarded the Silver Beaver Award to **Mitch Banas, James Pasek** and **Judge Michael Pietruszka** at the organization's Volunteer Recognition Dinner at the Millennium Hotel on April 18.

The **Kalina Singing Society** marked its 112th anniversary with a dinner at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga, and **Kabaret Moralnego Niepokoju** presented "Pogoda Na Suma" at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga on the 21st ... The **Polish Heritage Society of Rochester** convened its Annual Meeting at St. John Fisher College on April 25 ... **St. Adalbert Basilica**, in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District, hosted a special Mass celebrating the Feast of St. Adalbert and honoring the 2012 Am-Pol Eagle Citizens of the Year, featuring a performance by soprano Brittany Mruczek, on April 27 ... Also on the 27th, **Dr. Andrew Rozbicki's** Celebrity symphony Orchestra presented "Golden Voices," featuring Polish mezzo-soprano superstar Malgorzata Walewska and bass Maciej Miecznikowski, at the Toronto Centre for the Arts.

On the 28th, the **Skalny Center** for Polish and Central European Studies joined with the JCC Ames Amzalak Rochester Jewish Film Festival to screen Jolanta Dylewska's film, "Chronicle of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising According to Marek Edelman," at the Little Theatre in Downtown Rochester, and the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga presented a recital by Jan Jakub Nalezy ... **Dorothy Malczewski**, known to many WNYers as the "Butter Lamb Lady," passed away at the end of April ... The **Polish Cadets** of Buffalo are seeking volunteers to assist them in cataloging their collection of Polish books, paintings, photographs and posters ...

The **Professional & Business Women of Polonia** held their scholarship fundraiser, featuring the "Diva by Diva" cabaret show, at Erie Community College on May 1 and its scholarship dinner, featuring Mari McNeil, at Kloc's Banquet Facility in West Seneca on May 29 ... On May 3, the **Syracuse Polish Home** hosted a Polish Constitution Day Ceremony which attracted NYS Senator John DeFrancisco and Onondaga County Legislator Chris Ryan. A video of the event was posted on "youtube" by Robert Johnson WNY native and former Lancaster Opera House director **Tom Kazmierczak** has returned to the Empire State to accept the position of executive director of the historic Landmark Theatre in Syracuse ... The Polish Army Veterans of WNY (SPK), Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School, St. Stanislaus Parish and the WNY Division of the Polish American Congress sponsored the Second Annual **May Day Celebration**, marking the beatification of Blessed John Paul II, Polish Flag Day, Polish Constitution Day and Polish Veterans Day, at St. Stanislaus Church on May 5.

**Leszek Dlugosz** performed at the Beverley Street SPK Hall in Toronto on May 5 ... The "hotdocs" Canadian International Documentary Festival featured documentaries "Made in Poland" at theaters across Toronto until May 5. Information about the films included in the festival can be found at [www.hotdocs.ca/film/search/search&film\\_programcategories=Made in Poland](http://www.hotdocs.ca/film/search/search&film_programcategories=Made%20in%20Poland) ... **Sister Johnice Rzadkiewicz, CSSF**, founder of the Response to Love Center in Buffalo,

was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Canisius College Chapter of Alpha Sigma Nu ... The **Chopin Singing Society** held its annual Mothers' Day Concert at the Millennium Hotel on May 8 ... **Corpus Christi Parish** in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District hosted the display of a reliquary containing a relic of Blessed John Paul II on May 8 and 9.

The **Polish Heritage Society of Rochester** showed its support for the Krakow-Rochester Sister City relationship by marching in the Lilac Festival Parade on May 11 ... On May 11 and 12, Buffalo's Historic Broadway Market and the WNY Division of the Polish American Congress hosted a visit by **Beata Zatorska** and **Simon Target**, authors of "Rose Petal Jam — Recipes and Stories from a Summer in Poland"; and **Kabaret Pod Banka** presented "Piosenka jest cobra na wszystko" at the After Hours Club in Mississauga ... **Tadeusz Bradecki**, resident director of the National Theatre in Warsaw and artistic director of the Slaski Theatre in Katowice, directs this year's production of the musical "Guys and Dolls" at the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario from May 11 through October 12.

**Jan Maklakiewicz's** "Polish Mass" was performed by the St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish Agnus Dei Choir and the Cantabile Choir at St. Ignatius Loyola Church in Mississauga, Ontario on May 12 ... On May 19, **Assumption Parish** in Buffalo's Black Rock neighborhood continued its 125th anniversary celebration with a Marian Concert featuring

soprano Brittany Mruczek, and the Echo Society of Niagara Falls held a general membership meeting at Frenchy's Restaurant ... Niagara Falls City Historian **Chris Stoianoff** spoke to the members of the Niagara Polish Cultural and Historical Society on "Scanning Your Old Photographs for Preservation in the City Archives" at the Niagara Hub on May 21 ... The Patricia Ross O'Keefe Gallery at St. John Fisher College in Rochester is hosting an exhibit featuring the artworks of **Mary Ann Richard Skalny** and **Frederic J. Skalny**, entitled "Parallel Universe & Figurations," until June 28.

The International Joint Committee on Camp Kosciuszko will mark the 96th annual pilgrimage honoring the Polish and Polish American soldiers of **Haller's Blue Army** in Niagara-on-the-Lake on June 9 ... **Corpus Christi Parish** announced that its **34th Annual "Dozynki" Harvest Festival** will be held the weekend of August 16 through 18, and will feature performances by Melody Lane, Al Kania's Polka Smile Eastern Style, Buffalo Concertina All-Stars, New Direction and the Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble; and Buffalo's Best Pierogi Contest.

If you have any item that you would like to have included in future installments of this column, please send the information to me by the 6th day of the month preceding the month in which you would like the item to appear (ie. June 6 for the July edition) at [pietruska@verizon.net](mailto:pietruska@verizon.net).



Dr. Anna Mazurkiewicz, who was awarded the Kosciuszko Foundation Teaching Fellowship at SUNY Buffalo's Polish Studies Program for Fall 2012 and Spring 2013, organized PAHA's mid-year meeting. Dr. Mazurkiewicz is Assistant Professor at the History Institute of the University of Gdansk. PAHA's board held a roundtable with organizations from Western New York's Polonia, and were impressed with the area's vitality.



# 11th Annual Polish Heritage Festival



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For more information go online to: [www.polfunfest.com](http://www.polfunfest.com) We look forward to seeing you there!



BABA JAGA'S CORNER / Jagoda Urban-Klaehn

## Marie Curie's Mission During the Great War: "Little Curies"

On August 3, 1914, Germany declared war on France. While wars cause awful damage to people and properties, they also bring out the best in many. Marie emerged from her mental and physical collapse ready for her heroic mission in which she also involved her daughter Irene. Thanks to Marie Curie, over one million X-ray examinations were done on wounded soldiers which helped medical personnel find the exact place where the shrapnel/bone break was located.

Just before the Great War, Irene and Eve spent the summer with their governess and maid in a little villa in Brittany; Marie stayed in Paris. The Radium Institute was almost empty since all able men were mobilized. In September, with the Germans approaching the French capital, the French government relocated from Paris to Bordeaux. Marie Curie decided to protect the radium and took a train to Bordeaux with a heavy 40 lb. suitcase carrying one gram of the material in the form of tubes of radium bromide encapsulated in a lead. She wanted to make sure the German army would never capture this "national treasure of great value." The next day she took the train back home; one of the very few civilians among many soldiers going towards the war.

Although Marie hated the war and believed that a perfect society can only be achieved through the peace, she was not sitting idle. She decided to donate her service to France, her adopted country. With the help of the Union of Women of France, she organized twenty mobile radiological (X-ray) car units, so called "Little Curies," to go to the army zones. The first mobile units operated thanks to the limousines donated by other women families. Each mobile unit contained a small generator (dynamo) that could be hooked to a car battery when there was no electricity available. An X-ray tube was installed on a movable stand so that it could easily reach the injured body area or limb. It also contained a folding table for a patient, photographic plates, screen, heavy curtains to eliminate outside light and ampoules filled with radon (a gaseous product of radium). For protection there were cotton gloves and a lead apron. Marie's usual dress also included an alpaca hat and a Red Cross armband.

X-ray equipment was still a novelty, so some doctors were skeptical at first. But they were often amazed how the radiographic picture, with help of some mathematical analysis, could help to identify the right place where surgical intervention was needed. Since there were more and more war casualties, Marie desperately needed more personnel and found a great help in Irene. After Irene and Eve came back to Paris in the Fall of 1914, they started school again. Irene graduated with perfect grades in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry from the Sorbonne University. She also took her course

for a nurse's diploma and started working with her mother when she turned 18 in 1915. Irene, Marie, and Mlle Klein organized a course for about 150 women nurses/technicians needed to operate the X-ray units. These women/nurses/radiol-



With the help of the Union of Women of France, Curie (at the wheel, above) organized twenty mobile radiological (X-ray) car units, so called "Little Curies," to go to the army zones. The first mobile units operated thanks to the limousines donated by other women families. Each mobile unit contained a small generator (dynamo) that could be hooked to a car battery when there was no electricity available.

ogy technicians were needed not only in the mobile units but also in radiological stations, which were set up mainly in the field hospitals.

During the war, Marie traveled constantly with the X-ray to the battlefields in her flat-nosed Renault. She went several times to Belgium and worked near the famous Marne battle. At this time, there was a shortage of good roads, so the maximum speed of the X-ray mobile car was about 20 miles per hour. She lived through many accidents and flat tires. One time in 1915, the automobile was completely overturned into a ditch when the chauffeur tried to turn wheels too quickly. Marie ended up underneath the cases of apparatus, badly bruised. At first she could not move, then she has heard the chauffeur calling her: "Madame! Madame! Are you dead?" Luckily her injuries were not too bad, but the equipment had to be replaced. Marie passed the driving exam and sometimes drove just by herself, a rarity for a woman at that time.

Marie was called on to help not only in Belgian hospitals, but also went on the mission to Italy in 1918 to study Italy's resources for radioactive materials. In addition, she welcomed about twenty soldiers from the American Expeditionary Forces to teach them about radioactivity. Marie heard the guns of armistice (1918) while she was in the laboratory. Together with her co-worker, Mlle Klein, they had to sew some three-colored French flags and hang them around the Institute, since one could not buy any in Paris.

After the World War I, Poland became a free country, a longtime dream of Sklodowski's family. In the letter to Joseph Sklodowski (Marie's brother), Marie expressed her joy about the independence of Poland: "We have seen the resurrection of our country which has been our dream. We did not hope to live to this moment ourselves; we thought it might not even be given to our children to see it – and it is here!"

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Visit Jaga's Polish Culture website at [www.polishsite.us](http://www.polishsite.us).

### REFERENCES

- Eve Curie: "Madame Curie"
- Barbara Goldschmidt: "Obsessive Genius"

POLONIA ON FILM / Joseph W. Zurawski

## Year of the Dragon (1985)

*Action, Crime, Drama*  
 Distributor: MGM/UA  
 Entertainment Company  
 Director: Micheal Cimino  
 Screenplay Writer: Oliver Stone  
 Featuring: Mickey Rourke (as Stanley White, Stanley Luszinski), Caroline Kava (Connie White), Raymond J. Berry (as Lew Bukowski)

*Editor's note: This column uses direct quotes from the film that we consider offensive. They are printed solely for academic purposes, and to aid in defining the characters and the tone of film.*

In looking for films with a Polish American characters, one can easily miss "Year of the Dragon." It featured the most decorated cop in New York, Stanley White (nee Stanley Luszinski), taking down the notorious Chinese gang triad in New York. The film uses derogatory terms that stereotype Chinese Americans and others unfairly.

A few reviewers acknowledged that Stanley White was Polish American but there were also comments such as that of Dragan Antulov, who wrote there were "unnecessary and too direct allusions to Stanley's own immigrant background."

Nevertheless, Polish Americans should be aware of the Polish presence in this film.

Even though Stanley's wife Connie fills their home with Polish Catholic icons, little else of substance is mentioned about Connie's "Polishness." Her devotion to maintaining their home, her interest in having a family, her position in the community, her relationship with the church and her faith are evident, but few reviewers make note of these traits. In Stanley's neighborhood, Polish is spoken openly on the streets, and was heard several times in the movie, as when Stanley was returning home from work. People worship in Polish, eat at Polish restaurants, and drink at Polish bars.

White has a bizarre "romance" of sorts with Tracy Tzu, a television reporter. Most Polish Americans, and reasonable individuals, would probably think: "Stanley will come to his senses. Once he realizes the successful marriage he has with his wife Connie, he'll regret all this foolishness with Tracy." Stanley does just that (almost) as he tries to reconcile with Connie: "I care more about you than anyone in the world." However, when Connie asks, "What do you want, Stanley?" he replies, "I don't know what I want." He needs some time to think. But Connie responds she doesn't have time. She's 35. After explaining the extent of her commitment to the marriage, she concludes, "It's over." She begins to cry. Stanley leaves to drink



Mickey Rourke plays a Polish American detective who changes his last name to "White," but nonetheless identifies with his ethnicity, albeit in a less than flattering fashion.

a beer on the doorstep. When he returns, intruders are attacking Connie. They kill her and escape.

Connie's funeral — in a Polish church in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, with very audible prayers in Polish being recited in the background — is one of the most reverent Polish funerals ever filmed. It is one of the longest and most poignant scenes in the film as friends express their sympathies to Stanley.

The following day, Stanley goes to a Polish bar. In what I'll call a delicate scene, there is no suggestion that Stanley will drink to excess but he seems to be in some turmoil as to what his future will be.

Stanley has numerous tempestuous dealings with his own superiors and the Chinese triad gang. The New York mayor, who gets campaign cash from the Chinese gangs, tries, but is unable, to get Stanley to go slowly with the investigation. After hearing how other ethnic groups have made unlawful accommodations with the Chinese triad, Stanley exclaims, "I'm not Italian. I'm a Polak. And I can't be bought." One gets the strong impression that this aspect of what he considers his "Polishness" will continue to influence and dominate his thoughts not only for the remainder of the investigation but for the rest of his life.

In the movie, Stanley never hesitates to identify himself as Polish American. In fact, he seems anxious to do so and relishes it especially when he could throw it into the face of the "refined" Chinese crime boss. After a heated exchange, Stanley, with apparent pride, blurts out — in less than flattering fashion, that he is Polish and of peasant stock. He makes it very clear: he is going to take down the Chinese boss. It is significant that Stanley does not wave a gun, claim he's the top cop in New York, or say how the law or police are going to stop the Chinese triad; it will be Stanley, a peasant.

In a serious moment, when Tracy

asks Stanley, "Who are you?" he responds simply: "I'm Polish."

So why did Stanley change his name if he is so proud and determined to be judged as a Polish? It comes up when there is a heated discussion about how Stanley is handling his job in cleaning up the gangs in Chinatown. Lew (is) Bukowski, Stanley's superior in the police department, reminds Stanley that he changed his name from "Luszinski" to White. Stanley gives Bukowski a long, silent look that suggests that maybe the name change was not worth it. It helped Stanley (did it really?) move up in the department but would he have made faster advancement (like his Polish buddy who kept his Polish name and now is his superior) if he kept his Polish name? This was an intriguing scene and had me wondering if White was thinking of changing his name back to Luszinski even though the final scene in the movie shows Stanley, wounded in the street, in the arms of Tracy. White's final line is "You were right and I was wrong. I'd like to be a nice guy. But I just don't know how to be nice."

According to Michael Cimino, director of the film, the final line of White was supposed to be "Well, I guess if you fight a war long enough, you end up marrying the enemy." That line was deleted, suggesting Stanley will remain as Polish as he ever was.

The film was not a major commercial success. It opened on 982 screens and had total gross U.S. revenues of \$18,707,466. Voters for the Internet Movie Data Base cast 7,060 for it as the best Polish American movie.

Caroline Kava, who played Connie, and Mickey Rourke, who played Stanley, received mostly positive reviews for their portrayals. Both appeared in other films cast as distinctly Polish American characters. I will review some of these in future columns.

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Joseph W. Zurawski is author of Poland: The Captive Satellite: A Study in National Psychology; Polish American History and Culture: A Classified Bibliography; Polish Chicago: Our History, Our Recipes; six regional histories (Niles, Illinois, Door County, Sister Bay, Keweenaw County, Liberty Grove, Saukville) and Sturgeon Bay Shipbuilding. He has also developed educational materials for several publishers on the Polish American experience and taught Polish American history and culture at Wright College and Triton College. His article "Out of Focus: The Polish American Image in Film" appears in the Spring 2013 Polish American Studies.

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# Polka MAGAZINE

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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## Positively Beneficial

### Benefit for Scrubby is Truly One for the Ages

by Larry Trojak

At a time when the headlines are filled with news of bombings, rogue states with growing nuclear aspirations and our own economic uncertainty, it's refreshing to know that people can put that all aside and still come together for a good cause. On Saturday April 20, more than 600 people descended upon the Harvey D. Moran VFW Post in West Seneca, N.Y. for an evening that was billed as "Show Some Love for Scrubby." And from the moment the doors opened, show some love they did.

The evening was intended as a much-needed fundraiser to help defray some of Scrubby's cancer-related medical costs, so all proceeds from that night—from ticket sales, to CD sales, to 50-50 raffles, to proceeds from the silent auction—went to that effort. Just a cursory look around the hall at any point in the evening said that every aspect of the effort was a huge success and Scrubby's financial burden would now be somewhat easier to bear.

As to the event as a polka happening, it was a night like few others in recent memory. In polkas, it seems there are dances and there are *events* and this was definitely the latter. Nothing, including electrical circuits that continually overloaded, leaving the bands repeatedly playing "unplugged," could have put a damper on this evening. Because, quite frankly, it was a night that didn't need power—the electricity that filled the room was palpable. The crowd was an eclectic mix of regular Buffalo polka-goers, Broadway Grill long-time patrons, polka fans (and musicians) who traveled from points throughout the United States and Canada, representatives from both local and national polka organizations, and hundreds of others who've simply been lucky enough to have known Scrubby. It was obvious that, in addition to helping the financial cause, they all came with one common goal in mind: to honor, through their presence, one of the most influential polka personalities to ever hail from the Nickel City.

It's unfortunate that we, as a society, tend to

wait until people have left this earth to reflect upon their contributions and discuss the impact they made while they were here. So it was amazing to have so many people whose lives Scrubby has touched in his 40+ years in polkas—both locals who have seen him play at intimate settings like the Broadway Grill, Town Edge, Chopin's,

the music he loves so much and his ability to connect with fans wherever he performed. This was, in a roundabout way, payback for all that effort and it was a treat to behold.

It's impossible to overstate the selfless efforts of all the people who helped make that evening possible: the Seweryniak/Maziarz family; Danny



FAST FRIENDS: Seweryniak and Trojak.

PHOTO: ROB PIATKOWSKI

Potts Catering; the Harvey Moran Post; the folks who worked throughout the evening selling tickets, bartending, and making sure things stayed reasonably orderly; the bands who dedicated their time and efforts, even the bands who offered to play but, because of time constraints, couldn't. This was a massive undertaking that, despite some minor "hiccups," went off flawlessly. Maybe it was just divine intervention.

Of course, given what he's gone through in his recovery, everyone in attendance wondered if Scrubby was going to be up to singing that evening and, in true form, he did not disappoint. Hearing him belt out the familiar strains of "She Likes Kielbasa," was positively therapeutic for those crowding the front of the stage and extending back more than half the length of the hall. This was what they'd been missing for so long; this was what they needed to hear—and they

responded in kind. The crowd reaction was deafening; the adulation could not have been more well-placed.

It's been said that dealing with cancer is as much a mental battle as it is a physical one; face it with the right mindset and you gain a distinct advantage. If that truly is the case, then the roughly 600 people in attendance that evening—and the scores of others who could not make it but still purchased tickets—gave Scrubby a much-needed, much-deserved shot of confidence as he moves forward. And that's really the best love anyone could have shown that evening.

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Larry Trojak, founder of the Dyna-Tones, is the owner of Trojak Communications in Minneapolis.

## Polka Fireworks 39th Annual Festival

CHICAGO — Fourteen of the nation's top polka bands will be featured at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Pennsylvania, Wed., July 3 thru Sun. July 7, 2013.

Bands scheduled to perform include: The Polka Family, The Knewz, Jimmy K & Ethnic Jazz, The Nu-Tones, Ray Jay & the Carousels, Stas Golonka & The Chi-

cago Masters, Jeff Mleczo & The Dynabass, Darrell Weltin's New Brass Express, Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze, The Eddie Forman Orchestra, Henny & the Versa Js, The Buffalo Concertina All-Stars, The Diddlestyx, Mon Valley Push, and DJ Ken Olowin.

Outdoor pool parties with DJ Kenny Olowin will take place Wednesday through Friday. Saturday will feature Big Dan's Poolside Extravaganza. Saturday night will feature an after hours "Jam Session" hosted by Mon Valley Push. Steve Litwin's 30th Anniversary Concertina Jam will take place on Friday, July 5.

**TEEN MIXER.** As a way for the younger generation to foster these polka friendships, Polka Fireworks will be hosting a Teen Mixer and Tween Party. There will be games and contests, refreshments, fun, prizes, and the chance to build the friendships that make those who travel to polka festivals into one big polka family. This will be held Friday, July 5th and promises to be a great time for all who attend.

For more information or room reservations contact: Bel-Aire Enterprises at (708) 594-5182, email BelAire7208@aol.com or visit polkafireworks.com.

## IPA Awards Announced

The International Polka Association has announced the 2013 inductees of the Polka Music Hall of Fame and the Music Awards for last year's song, vocalists, band and album.

They will be honored at a banquet on August 3, 2013, during the IPA Festival and Convention in Independence, Ohio.

### Hall of Fame Living Category:

John Furmaniak, Sr. (Illinois)  
Frank Borzymowski (Maryland)

### Deceased Category

Jan Cyman (Florida)

### Pioneer Category

Tony Petkovsek (Ohio)

### Song of the Year

"For the Love of Music" by  
Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze

### Album of the Year

"Yesterday's Songs"  
by the IPA Tribute Band

### Best Male Vocalist

Lenny Gomulka

### Best Female Vocalist

Mollie Busta Lange

### Best Band/Instrumental Group

Dennis Polisky & the  
Maestro's Men

## POLKA MEMORIES / Steve Litwin



(l. to r.) Alphonse Joseph "Al" Sojka, accordion and leader; Edwin "Sam" Sojka, lead tenor sax and 3rd clarinet; Stanley Sierakowski, bass; Jimmy "Camp" Campagna, 2nd clarinet/alto sax; Edmund Sojka, 2nd tenor sax and violin; Edwin Bambuch, lead clarinet/alto sax; Mieczyslaw "Stanley" Sojka, drums; Glen Taft, 2nd trumpet and music arranger; Steve Ziembra, 1st trumpet; and Raymond Sojka, piano and vocals.

Last month, the Polka industry lost the great Eastern-style band leader Al (Sojka) Soyka. Thanks to Joan Martin-Przepiora for sharing these photos with us. If you have a special Polka Memory photograph to publish in the Polish American Journal, email: pajpolka@verizon.net.



NOTES / Barbara Pinkowski

## Homage to Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr.



**DANNY POTTS** and Tony Blazonczyk, the leader of New Phaze from Chicago.

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Hi everyone. I hope you're all enjoying our beautiful weather. It's been a long wait and it's finally here!

The official summer season starts later this month and we eagerly look forward to many outdoor doings.

On April 13, Gregor's Grove in West Seneca was the place for a great polka night with **Tony Blazonczyk & New Phaze**, and the **New Direction Band**. There was lots of fantastic music put out by Tony B., Trent Arbaitis, C.J. Lackowski, John Furmaniak, Tim Jagodzinski, and Brian Kapka. Their arrangements are very similar to the late and great Eddie B., Tony's dad,

the Harvey Moran Post in West Seneca, N.Y. The hall was packed and love was in the air for our local polka musician, **David "Scrubby" Seweryniak**, who is famous in the polka industry. People came from near and far to support him in raising funds for his medical bills in his bout with bile duct cancer. It was more crowded than some Dyingus day events, which you know are always packed. There was lots of great polka music played by **Phocus, The Touch, and The Piatkowski Brothers** (and Friends).

Scrubby said he felt good enough to sing a song or two, but a reoccurring power outage put a damper on



**SCRUBBY SEWERYNIAK** and his sister, Jennifer. The polka legend said he felt good enough to sing a few songs.

and Tony does resemble his dad, bringing back many memories. The highlight of the evening was a tribute to his dad when they played a medley of songs Eddie B. recorded accompanied by a slide show of photos of the band from early times to the most recent. It ended appropriately with a photo of Eddie B. in a tux and the band playing "Polka Celebration" — very touching. The New Direction band did a great job. **Billy Barnas** retired from the band recently to spend more time with his family. **Al Krupski** is the new member and adds his pizzazz to the band.

**GET WELL WISHES ...** go out to **Judy Lukowski, Flo Jaskier, and Ron Handzlik**. Hope they all get better quickly—your prayers will help.

**BOOSTER BLAST.** I have to mention the April 18 meeting of the Buffalo Polka Boosters Club: a delicious swięconka was served; **John Gora** provided the entertainment; and the hall was filled with lots of people, which made for a fabulous party. John sure knows how to please the audience. Chris Tanski, her officers, and the board helped prepare and serve the food, and many members brought in placeks and other fine baked goods.

**LOVE SHOWN.** It was advertised as "Showing Some Love for Scrubby" — a benefit dance April 20 at



**AL KRUPSKI** (left), the newest member of New Direction, with Dennis Raczkowski, and Ron Urbanczyk.

p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$13 at the door. and include a hot dog. Also, a cash bar and other food will be available. Call Sandy at (716) 837-2684 for information.

**June 7-8.** Polish Heritage Festival at the Fairgrounds in Hamburg, N.Y. Music by the Polka Family and Chardon Polka Band (Fri.), and by the Buffalo Touch and John Stevens & Doubleshot (Sat.). There are also many other activities, including contests, displays, food, raffles, vendors and a performance by the Ludowa Nuta, the Polish-Canadian Folk Choir. Check the festival website for more info.

**June 11.** The Buffalo Touch play



**LENNY GOMULKA** performed with the The Piatkowski Brother Band (with guest drummer Larry Trojak) at the benefit for Scrubby.

that. Making the best of it, Scrubby and Larry sang a *cappella*, which touched the hearts of everyone in the hall.

It was nice to see Lenny Gomulka and Mitch Biskup there, and also many local musicians showing their support for Scrubby. It made my day when Larry Trojak sang "Red Shoes" polka. The fans did go wild with this one. Fans were very generous, as there were many donations of food, refreshments, baskets for the auction, and raffle prizes. This was one huge, successful night of everyone supporting and showing their love for Scrubby. We hope and pray his treatments will help him to recover and return to good health.

**CONGRATULATIONS ...** to **Chris Tanski** on her purchase of a lovely home. It was christened with a big Kentucky Derby party, where many pretty ladies wearing magnificent hats had a wonderful time.

**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY ...** goes out to all the dads out there. Enjoy your special day with those who are so dear to you. It's nice to get cards and gifts, too.

### UPCOMING

**June 1.** Opening of the Lamm Post Grove. 962 Wehrle Dr., Williamsville, N.Y. with music by the Polka Country Musicians and Special Delivery, Buffalo's newest polka band. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Music is from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00

at the River Grill in Tonawanda, N.Y. starting at 7:00 p.m.

**June 14.** The Buffalo Touch play at the Strawberry Festival/Street Dance in Angola, N.Y.

**June 18.** Polka Boosters Meeting at the Polish Falcons Hall, 445 Columbia Ave. in Depew, N.Y. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Everyone welcome to attend. Refreshments and music. For more information, call Chris at (716) 771-1076.

**June 22.** Summer Polka Jam at the new Potts Banquet Hall, 41 S. Rossler Ave., Buffalo. Music by The Boys and The New Direction Band from 7:00 p.m.-midnight. Danny will welcome summer by serving free hot dogs and offer beer specials.

**June 23.** The Buffalo Touch play at Houghton Park in Kaisertown at 5:00 p.m.

**June 23.** Polka Dance at Potts Hall, 41 S. Rossler, Cheektowaga. Stephanie & her Honky Band along with special guest star Eddie Guca. Music from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Admission \$10.00 Free buffet for all.

**June 26.** The Polka Variety Club Meeting at the Leonard Post, 2540 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Music starts at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome and refreshments are served. Call Bill at (716) 759-8194

**June 30.** The New Direction Band play in the beer tent from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Lackawanna Festival at Lackawanna's Veteran Stadium

## Veteran Musicians Form Band

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Five seasoned area musicians have united to form Special Delivery, Buffalo's newest band offering everything from ethnic to alternative music.

Special Delivery — Tom Goldyn, Mark Kohan, David Miesowicz, Jay Skiba, and Ted Szymanski — collectively have over two-hundred years of playing experience, and have performed with each other over the years.

Goldyn and Skiba were most recently members of Miesowicz's Bedrock Boys, a band that earned honors as one of Buffalo's "Best Oldies" bands. Szymanski was leader of the Cityside band for over twenty-five years. Kohan, a member of the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame, was leader of the Steel City Brass for 30 years.

"We have been working with each other recently as fill-ins," said Miesowicz. "We liked what we heard and decided we should form the new band."

"We have the best of both worlds," said Szymanski, referring to the member's ability to switch between ethnic and variety-dance music.

Special Delivery will be one of the area's most versatile bands. "Besides playing several instruments each, all members of the group sing, which allows us to play everything from Old World polkas to Top 40

hits," said Szymanski.

The band's first public appearance will be Saturday, June 1, 2013, at the George F. Lamm Post, American Legion #622, 962 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville, for the "Opening of the Grove" party. Special Delivery will play alongside the award-winning Polka Country Musicians from Connecticut. For ticket information, contact Bob Krawczyk at (716) 633-9242 or 837-3582.

Other upcoming performances include:

June 9. Resurrection Church Lawn Fete, Batavia, N.Y. 2-5.

June 18. Polka Boosters' Meeting, Polish Falcons, Depew 8-10:30.

July 4. 4th of July Parade, Harlem Road, Cheektowaga

July 4. Bandshell, Cheektowaga Town Park, 1:30-5:30

July 21. Bandshell, Dartwood Park, Cheektowaga, 7-9

July 28. St. Martha's Lawnfete, 20 French Rd., Depew

To hire the band, or to learn more, contact Teddy Szymanski at (716) 668-9101 or Dave Miesowicz at 684-7336.

Special Delivery will launch its website this summer, which will include information about public appearances, member biographies, song catalog, and more.

## CPA Summer Picnic, July 21

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Polka Association's Summer Picnic will take place Sunday July 21, 2013 at St. Sava's Picnic Grove, 2300 W. Ridgewood Drive Parma. The gate opens at 2:00 p.m. with polka music from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. by Randy Krajewski's Badinov from Toledo.

The entrance donation is \$11.00, with 18 and under free. No BYOB. Food and beverages will be available.

For more information or table reservations, call (216) 228-1134.

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TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

# Sister Cities Fest and Spring Concert

There were several noteworthy events in April and May in and around Toledo worked well for my schedule:

April 13 was a double play. First up was the **Toledo Sister Cities International Festival**, held at the University of Toledo in the afternoon hours. Toledo Sister Cities International is partnered with approximately a dozen cities worldwide, one of which is Poznan, Poland, and the Toledo-Poznan Alliance has been a member of TSCI for the past 23 years. As noted in the festival booklet, Poznan, which is located in one of the most commercially active regions of Eastern Europe, was the departure point for the majority of Toledo's Polish immigrants.

Polish heritage was well represented at the Festival. The **Polish-American Concert Band** performed an hour-long set of Polish favorites and other musical selections, followed by **The Echoes of Poland Folk Song and Dance Ensemble**. The Echoes dancers took to the center stage and performed a half hour set of dances, with both the adult and children's groups involved.

The evening brought the monthly Toledo Area Polka Society dance, held as always at the Conn-Weissenberger Hall. The **Steve Drzewicki Band** from Bay City made its first appearance in the Toledo area to an appreciative if modest crowd. There is just one more dance until the summer hiatus for TAPS.

April 21 brought in wonderful spring weather and also the Saints Adalbert & Hedwig Parish Polish Day festival and dinner. This event was held in the basement of St. Adalbert, and after a Polish style dinner at noon, **Randy Krajewski & the Czelusta Park All Stars** entertained the crowd until 6:00 p.m.

Moving on to a big event for April, the **Lisa Biskup Annual Memorial Gift of Life Dance** took place April 27 at the PRCU Hall in Wyandotte, which is where it has been held since its inception. The

enthusiastic crowd was entertained from 6:30-midnight by **Badinov** alternating with **Freeze Dried**, with a special guest appearance by Mitch Biskup. Ron and Sue Biskup once again made certain that fans got their money's worth as the music lasted past the midnight hour. Raffles and testimonials also took place throughout the evening with the top raffle prize of one thousand dollars being won by none other than clarinet man Jim Mackiewicz Jr. of Badinov. All of this was done to raise funds and awareness for organ and tissue donation, in honor of Ron's daughter Lisa.

Moving into early May, the IMA held its last dance of the spring season May 6 with **Jeff Mieczko & Dynabass**. Jeff and the fellows are always a solid bet and it was especially nice to see some new, younger fans enjoying the music at IMA. It will be only a few brief summer months before both of the Toledo polka clubs will be back into the swing of monthly dances.

Looking ahead, if you happen to be around Toledo on June 2, the Polka Zone is holding a Father's Day Dance from 3:00-7:00 pm at a local bar, Club Soda, located at 3900 Secor Road near the I 475 exit. TAPS, IMA, and Polish American Commu-

nity of Toledo "PACT" members get in for a reduced price of \$6.00, all others \$8.00.

The **Echoes of Poland Spring Concert** takes place June 9th at the Notre Dame Academy, which is just a few blocks away from Club Soda in west Toledo. If your tastes that day run to a church festival, be sure to check out Blessed Sacrament Parish, where **Randy Krajewski & Badinov** perform from 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Enjoy the summer!

## Jimmy Sturr Autobiography Released

DALLAS — Benbella publishing released Jimmy Sturr's autobiography called *Polka King, The Life and Times of Polka Music's Living Legend*.

Sturr shares stories chronicling everything from his upbringing in the one-stoplight village of Florida, N.Y., to how he became a bandleader, entrepreneur, and Grammy winner.

The book is available at \$24.95 plus \$4.50 shipping & handling.

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Sat., June 8. **St. Stanislaus Church**, 82 Akron St., Meriden, CT. Church Festival, 6:00-10:00 p.m. Call St. Stanislaus 203-235-6341, June 860-536-2452

Sat., June 29. **Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs**, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Live TV broadcast & taping for WVIA PA Public Media, Pennsylvania Polka. 8:00-9:00 p.m. For info, call Ginny Fredmanski 570-602-1134 or June 860-536-2452.

Sun., June 30. **Our Lady of Czestochowa Church Festival**, 222 MacArthur Blvd. & Rt. 117, Coventry, RI. RBO plays Noon-4:00 p.m., Food, Rides, Booths, Cow Chip Bingo. Call Louise 401-821-7409, 401-323-0255

Sun., July 14. **The Polish American Cultural Association**, 5 Pulaski Pl., Port Washington, NY. Annual Family Picnic, Dancing 3:00-7:00 p.m. Call Irene 516-883-5553

Sat., July 20. Private Engagement (Long Island, NY)

Sun., July 21. **Middletown Lodge of Elks #1097**, 48 Prospect St., Middletown, NY. Fund Raising Dance sponsored by General Pulaski Memorial Committee of Orange County, NY. Dance 2:00-6:00 PM, Food available. Call Kathy 845-386-5199, 845-649-6328

Fri., July 26. **Lyons Park**, Putnam Blvd., Port Chester, NY. Summer Concert Series, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Bring lawn chairs. Call Angelo 914-937-3550 or June 860-536-2452

Sat., July 27. **The Gazebo on the Green** at St. Michael Church, 25 Maple Ave., Beacon Falls, CT. 6:00-8:00 p.m. Park Concert, Food available, Bring lawn chairs. Call Bob 203-723-7470

Sun., Aug. 4. **Pulaski Park**, 40 Belchertown Rd., Three Rivers, MA. 2:30-6:30 p.m. Food available. Call Paul 413-323-8236.

Wed., Aug. 7. **Sherman Green Gazebo**, Corner of Reef and Post Rds., Fairfield, CT. 7:00-8:30 p.m. Park Concert, Bring lawn chairs. Call Ken 203-259-7765.

Tues., Aug. 13. **Coe Memorial Park**, Torrington, CT. 7:00-9:00 p.m. Park Concert, Bring lawn chairs, Rain location inside auditorium on site. Call Donna 860-489-2274, June 860-536-2452

Sat., Aug. 17 & Sun., Aug. 18. **The Riverhead Polish Hall**, 214 Marcy Ave., Riverhead, NY. Sat. Noon-5:00 p.m.; Sun. 1:00-6:00 p.m. in conjunction with The Polish Town Fair. Under the tent in the picnic area, Polish food available in The Hall. Call Mike 631-727-7696.

Sun., Aug. 25. **The Four Seasons Country Fair**, St. Michael Church, 25 Maple Ave., Beacon Falls, CT. fternoon (time to be announced), Food, Booths, Crafts, Bring lawn chairs. Call Paul 203-747-4641.

June Sherry Ingram, 352 Packer Rd., Mystic CT 06355-1124, 860-536-2452  
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## THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



MAKING IT RAIN. Old Town Warsaw. May 16, 1976.

## OBITUARIES

## Ray Manzarek, Founding Member of the Doors



PHOTO: THE DOORS

Ray Manzarek (nee Raymond Daniel Manzarek, Jr.), a founding member with the Doors whose keyboard work was a touchstone of hits like "Break On Through to the Other Side" and "Light My Fire," died at the age of 74 after a battle with cancer.

The musician died at a clinic in Rosenheim, Germany, surrounded by members of his family, said his publicist.

Manzarek formed the Doors after a chance meeting in July 1965 on Venice Beach, Los Angeles, with Jim Morrison, a fellow alumni from the film school who was to become

the band's vocalist.

After they were joined by Robby Krieger on guitar and John Densmore on drums, the band released six albums, all of which were successful. After Morrison's death in 1971, the band continued on as a trio, releasing two more albums.

Manzarek, who was born and raised in Chicago and studied at the Department of Cinematography at UCLA, Manzarek occasionally sang for the Doors, and was portrayed by Kyle MacLachlan in the 1991 film biopic about the band.

"I was deeply saddened to hear about the passing of my friend and bandmate Ray Manzarek today," Krieger said in a statement.

"I'm just glad to have been able to have played Doors songs with him for the last decade. Ray was a huge part of my life and I will always miss him."

Manzarek played in several other bands after the Doors, including Nite City, a rock group which released a number of albums in the 1970s.

In 1998 he wrote a best-selling memoir about his experiences, *Light My Fire: My Life with the Doors*. He is survived by his wife Dorothy, a son, and three grandchildren.

## Daniel Tomaka, Sr., Owner of Frosty Valley Beverages

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Daniel J. Tomaka Sr., who owned and operated a beverage distribution company and several other businesses, died in his home after a battle with cancer.



He was 75. Born in Lackawanna, he was a graduate of Lackawanna High School. After working for many years in beverage wholesaling, in 1980 he founded Frosty Valley Beverages of Lackawanna, which provides soft drink and juice dispensing systems for restaurants, schools and day care and senior citizens centers in Western New York and Southern Ontario.

Tomaka also owned and operated Tomaka Auto Sales, Hydro Spray Car Wash and Oil Change Alley, all in Lackawanna, and assisted in Tomaka Technology, a firm started by his son, Daniel, Jr.

He was a parishioner at Our Lady

of Victory Basilica.

Tomaka was very proud of his Polish heritage. Labels for his products carried a Polish eagle. Tomaka was a fan polka music, and supported local Polish and polka radio shows with advertising for his Frosty Valley line. He was a long-time patron of the *Polish American Journal*.

Surviving are his wife of 54 years, the former Claudette M. Kedge; a son, Daniel Jr.; two daughters, Cheryl Wojcik and Tracy Robel; a brother, Richard; and a sister, Lucille Evoy.

## ACPC Awards Five \$5K Pulaski Scholarships

by Marion Winters, Chairman

Five winners of the \$5,000 Brig. Gen. Casimir Pulaski Scholarships were announced by Marion Winters, Chairman Pulaski Scholarship Committee, American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC). A record number of applications were received this year. The scholarship program was initiated 13 years ago as a result of a sizeable endowment by the Conrad R. Walas family with continuing support from the Polonia.

Serving with Winters on the Pulaski Scholarship Committee for 2013 are Deborah M. Majka, MS; Carolyn Meleski, MS; Carol J. Surma, Esq.; and Peter J. Obst, MA.

The exceptional qualities of school work and research plus dedicated community services performed by the applicants made the final selection process quite difficult. The Committee felt that most of the applicants deserved recognition for their outstanding achievements and honestly wished that funding was available that could have allowed for several more awards.

The Committee selected the following students for the 2013 Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies grants of \$5,000 each:

**Aleksandra M. Babiarz** of Baltimore, Md., who earned an AB degree in Chemistry and Physics, Magna Cum Laude, at Harvard University three years ago, is presently a medical student at the Univ. of Maryland School of Medicine, where her Grade Point Average is 4.0.

Aleksandra's considerable research experience includes serving as the Neurology Research Program Coordinator at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Currently, she serves as a member of the Applications Review Committee in the "Droga na Harvard" (Way to Harvard), a scholarship based competition, which was created to raise the awareness of the possibility of studying at Harvard and other premier American schools among students in Poland. In the past few years she had served as president of the Harvard Polish Society; taught Polish to school-aged children; and served as a Polish Lector at a Catholic church.

**Marta Krajniak** is a Ph.D. candidate in Clinical Psychology at



Fairleigh Dickinson Univ. in New Jersey, anticipating the doctoral degree in May, 2016. She has been serving as a

Psychology Extern in the Neurology Dept., Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York City, since last June. There she not only administers comprehensive neuropsychological assessment batteries to a diverse child, adult, and geriatric clinical and research population, but also performs bilingual and monolingual Polish intake in-

terviews. Additionally, she is a volunteer in the Emotion Regulation Clinic, a therapist in the Child Anxiety Disorder Program, and an Adjunct Instructor/Freshman Seminar preparing curricula to aid students in transition to college and holding two individual mentoring sessions with each student.



**Krzysztof Lukasik**, born in Poland, is working on a Master of Science degree in Transportation Engineering at the State University of New Jersey, which he expects to earn in Jan. 2014. His work experience over the past three years has had him working in transportation departments in Krakow, Poland and New York State. Since March of last year, he has been employed at the Rutgers Intelligent Transportation Systems Laboratory.

Krzysztof's awards include Dean's List at Rutgers, the Skalny Scholarships for Polish Studies in 2012 and a scholarship from the Polish American Engineers Assoc. in 2011. He has served as Secretary in the Rutgers Polish Club for three years, wherein he planned and led a 37-day road trip around the U.S. and represented the Club at the Polish Student Organization's Intercollegiate Conference at Yale University. A Rutgers University professor who oversees Krzysztof's thesis project (graded A) finds that this student excels in homework assignments, presentations, and group projects, and has "tremendous confidence in Krzysztof's ability to succeed."

**Natalie Misteravich** received a BA degree in Slavic Studies with a Polish Concentration in 2008, and then gained a



Master's Degree in Polish Studies three years later. She is currently working on a doctorate in Polish Literature and Culture with a Czech Language & Literature minor at Indiana University. Next January she will be conducting dissertation research in Krakow and Warsaw, Poland for six months. Natalie's academic advisor professor views her dissertation proposal *Nowa Huta* as Subject and as Author: A Cultural Study of Agency, "as innovative in that it bridges various disciplines while retaining a clear focus on a single urban development that has attained the status of infamous Stalinist experiment in redefining Polish lifestyle."

With respect to community activities before her move to Indiana Univ. in Bloomington, Ind., she had been extremely active in promoting Polish culture in metro Detroit. She was a choreographer and instructor for the Polish Alliance Dancers and Polanie Song & Dance Ensemble. She was a delegate to the PNA Council as well as Vice President of Youth for a PNA Lodge. Natalie won a \$1,500 scholarship when she was an undergraduate student from

an ACPC Affiliate, Friends of Polish Art (FPA), Detroit, of which she is a member.

Natalia's extensive Polish studies include three weeks at Jagiellonian Univ. in Krakow; 10 years as a student in Saturday Polish Language Classes at the Pulaski Language School; three week-four summers Choreographers Course in Poland; and eleven trips to Poland.

**Ann Hardt Williams**, the married mother of three teenage children, has completed the Master's



Degree coursework at Harvard University with a GPA of 3.74 and is currently researching and writing an approved thesis proposal.

In 2012, she conducted archival research in Poland and Ukraine. A Harvard Divinity School professor finds Williams to be a "profound historical thinker whose Master's thesis grew out of the final research paper in his course. He awarded her an A+ for the paper and an A (highest grade possible) for the course.

Williams based her thesis on her discovery of an interesting, under-interpreted, almost unknown 80-page manuscript diary of Adela Poest Hardt (1891-1977). It is the professor's conviction that "this diary can be used to augment our knowledge of the social and cultural history of World War II in Poland. It is an invaluable contribution, and in my view, potentially publishable".

Williams' professional experiences cover a period from 1979 to 2001. She had served various firms in the capacities of Engineering Placement Consultant; Director of Marketing; Senior Account Manager; Sales Rep. for Money Magazine; Sales Supervisor; and Managing Editor for the American Board of Internal Medicine. Her immediate academic goal is to complete her Master's degree by writing a compelling thesis that will be used for academic journal articles and test and extend key hypotheses from the thesis for a book project. Her career goal is to combine academic interests with her background in marketing to bring Polish culture and history to a wider audience.

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## Biegasiewicz Honored



Erie County (N.Y.) Sheriff Tim Howard (left) and Chief Scott Joslyn (right) congratulate Deputy Simon Biegasiewicz, following a ceremony honoring Biegasiewicz at the annual Erie County Stop-DWI breakfast, May 7. Biegasiewicz has made approximately 300 DWI (Driving While Intoxicated) arrests over the past three years. Ever vigilant, he spotted and arrested an intoxicated driver before the morning ceremony, making it the 116th DWI arrest this year by the Erie County Sheriff's Office.

## PBS Genealogy Roadshow

The American Public Broadcasting System (PBS) is planning a new program, *Genealogy Roadshow*, and has issued a casting call for people who want to participate either as professional genealogists or as subjects with family history problems. The producers are looking for local on-camera genealogists in the following cities: Nashville, Tennessee; San Francisco, California; Austin, Texas; and Detroit, Michigan. Interested persons should write to the producer at [grshowcasting1@gmail.com](mailto:grshowcasting1@gmail.com).

No doubt the idea came from the popular *Antiques Roadshow* that has existed for a number of years. A comparable program already exists in Ireland.

## Sredzienski Gives Folk Music Presentation

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. — On April 14, 2013 the Polish Heritage Committee of Northampton presented to the friends of Polonia an afternoon of Polish Folk Music narrated by Gary Sredzienski, an accomplished musician.

Sredzienski has committed himself to preserving the old style Polish music using his accordion as a vehicle to express this musical heritage. He demonstrated how the Polish music the early immigrants introduced to the Connecticut River Valley changed and evolved over each generation to the Polish music heard at today's gatherings.

The Poles who arrived here one hundred years ago worked hard during the week on the tobacco farms and in the factories located in the Valley. When friends and relatives gathered for weekend house parties, they sang, dance, and listened to the graceful folk music of the Old Country. Musicians played the accordion or fiddle or both to provide this Polish American folk music, referred to by the old timers as *po starem krajsku* meaning "from the old country."

Sredzienski's presentation was to last two hours, but the interest of the gathering kept him for two extra hours. The program was truly appreciated by all in attendance.



## BRUSH UP / Polonia Media Network

## Emergencies

Jestem turystą .....(Yehs-tehm tuh-RIHS-tohwn) m  
Jestem turystką.....(Yehs-tehm tuh-RIHS-kohwn) f  
**I am a tourist.**

Przykro mi ale nie mówię po polsku ...  
(PSHIH-kroh mee ah-leh nyeh MUH-vyeh poh POHL-skuh)  
**Forgive me, but I do not speak Polish.**

Nie rozumiem.....(Nyh roh-ZUH-myehm)  
**I do not understand.**

Czy ktoś tu mówi po angielsku? ...  
(Chih ktosh tuh MUH-vee poh ahn-GYEH-LSKUH)  
**Does anyone here speak English?**

Obrabowano mnie.....(Oh-brah-boh-VAH-noh mnyeh)  
**I have been robbed.**

Włamano się do mojego samochodu ...  
(Vwah-MAH-noh sheh moh-YEH-goh Sah-moh-HOH-duh)  
**My car has been broken into.**

Moje rzeczy są ubezpieczone  
(MOH-yeh ZHEH-chih soh uh-behs-pyeh-CHOH-neh)  
**My possessions [things] are insured.**

Potrzebuję tłumacza..... (Poht-sheh-BUH-yeh tuh-MAH-chah)  
**I need an interpreter.**

Jestem niewinny..... (Yehs-tehm nyeh-VEEN-nih) m  
Jestem niewinna .....(Yehs-tehm nyeh-VEEN-nah) f  
**I am innocent.**

Nie zrobiłem tego.....(Nyh zroh-BEE-wehm TEH-goh) m  
Nie zrobiłam tego.....(Nyh zroh-BEE-wehm TEH-goh) f  
**I did not do it.**

## GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

## Using Gazetteers and Maps to Find Your Ancestors

When I was young, I used an atlas to find places on a map. However, books of maps were rare in the 1800s and early 1900s, and gazetteers were used to locate places.

Gazetteers are dictionaries of place names that describe towns, villages, and states. They include only the names of places that existed at the time the gazetteer was published. They can also provide interesting facts about the community and help you to know where to look for additional records.

Published from 1880 to 1902, the *Slownik Geograficzny* is the commonly used gazetteer for Polish towns. Coverage includes all localities in the former Polish provinces of Russia and most localities in the former Austrian province of Galicia. It also covers the German provinces of Poznan, West Prussia, East Prussia, Silesia, and Pomerania but not as comprehensively. The towns are listed alphabetically and the *powiat* (county administration) and *gmina* are listed for each town. Copies of the book are hard to find but CDs are available at [PGSA.org](http://PGSA.org). You can also view the gazetteer online at: [http://dir.icm.edu.pl/pl/Slownik\\_geograficzny/](http://dir.icm.edu.pl/pl/Slownik_geograficzny/)

Recently, I have found that *Wikipedia* can also be used as a quick refer-

ence in finding villages. After finding one of my names on *Wikipedia*, I use the GPS address on their page to quickly find the location on a map. Here, I look for other town names from my list and make sure the location shown is in the correct area. All town names are not listed and many times the spelling has changed but it has proven to be a useful tool if the names are listed.

Another useful tool can be found at [ATNotes.com](http://ATNotes.com), which has an index of German and Polish town names that is very helpful in determining the spelling of town names for the areas of Poznan, East Prussia, West Prussia, Pomerania and Silesia. ([www.atsnotes.com/other/gerpol.html](http://www.atsnotes.com/other/gerpol.html))

I have been able to find many Polish town locations using present day maps. However, many town names that I found on older documents are not shown on current maps. This becomes difficult because the spellings were changed, the names were changed to something very different, the town was merged with a nearby town, the town no longer exists or the town is too small to show on the map.

To find towns not found on current maps, I had to find maps that were created about the time my ancestors lived.

Sources of older maps that I found useful are:

- Austrian Military Maps from about 1910 at <http://lazarus.elte.hu/hun/digkonyv/topo/3felmeres.htm>.
- 1907 Kingdom of Poland maps at Internet Polish Genealogical Source ([www.ipgs.us](http://www.ipgs.us))
- The Map Library of the Federation of East European Family History also has some older detailed Polish maps (<http://www.feefhs.org/maplibrary.html>)

Remember the main purpose of this exercise is to identify the exact location of our ancestors' birthplace. Once found, we will be able to determine where to look for the Polish records that we seek.



*Stephen M. Szabados, a regular contributor to this newspaper, is the author of Finding Grandma's European Ancestors and Find Your Family History.*

**When contacting advertisers, be sure to say you saw their ad in the Polish American Journal!**

## SURNAME CORNER

### Names by Occupation

by Robert Strybel

Many Polish last names originated many centuries ago to describe people on the basis of their occupation. In addition to the basic form (given first), numerous derivatives emerged to indicate the person's son or helper. Here are some of the more common:

<b>Akuszka</b> .....	midwife
<b>Chalupnik</b> .....	farmer with a small cottage but no land
<b>Dziedzic</b> .....	heir (this is seen as an occupation for a nobleman)
<b>Dzierżawca</b> .....	tenant, lease-holder
<b>Garncarz</b> .....	potter
<b>Gospodarz</b> .....	farmer
<b>Kątnik</b> .....	laborer, a poor person who lived in someone else's cottage
<b>Kmieć</b> .....	a self-supporting farmer
<b>Komornik, Kumornik</b> .....	a farmer who owned no land or cottage and lived in someone else's house

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## PROVERBS, SAYINGS, AND NOTIONS / Robert Strybel

### Folk Wisdom of the Polish People

Various sayings have long been known to reflect the common knowledge, folk wisdom, values and feelings of the Polish people. They have taken the form of proverbs, aphorisms, mottos and slogans. Many embody profound truths; others are light-hearted, even comical.

Many proverbs and concepts are shared with other nations, although their phrasing may differ. Others are more unique and difficult to translate, let alone find equivalents for. The following compilation barely scratches the surface of Poland's extensive treasure trove of maxims and adages, but even these few may help show what Polish people believe in, what they consider important and – in a word – what makes them tick:

#### Tylko pod krzyżem, tylko pod tym znakiem Polska jest Polską, a Polak Polakiem.

Equivalent: Below the cross alone, this sign of the soul, can Poland be Poland, and a Pole be a Pole.

*Note: This short verse coined by Adam Mickiewicz, Poland's great 19th-century romantic bard, emphasized the Poles' unfailing attachment to their Catholic faith.*

#### Gość w dom, Bóg w dom.

(When a guest enters the house, God enters the house.)

*Note: This self-explanatory saying reflects the Poles' traditional "gościnność" (hospitality).*

#### Czym chata bogata

Equivalent: The home is pre-

pared to share (with guests) whatever it contains.

*Literally: Whatever the cottage is rich in.*

#### Kto rano wstaje, temu Pan Bóg daje.

Equivalents: Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise or The early bird gets the worm..

*Literally: God gives to early risers.*

#### Bóg Honor Ojczyzna

Equivalent: God and Country (is common in English-speaking countries).

*Literally: God Honor Homeland (Fatherland)*

*Note: This motto first appeared on the banners of 19th-century Polish insurgents.*

#### Za wolność Waszą i naszą

Equivalent: For your freedom and ours.

*Note: This 19th-century saying was born of the conviction that the struggle for freedom anywhere is a struggle for a free Poland, then under occupation by three aggressive partitioning powers.*

#### Za chlebem

Meaning: For bread.

*Note: A reply to the question why someone left his native Poland and traveled to America or other countries.*

*Continued next month*



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## BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes MLIS

## The Daily Struggles of Jewish Resistance Fighters

### ISAAC'S ARMY

*A Story of Courage and Survival in Nazi-Occupied Poland*  
by Matthew Brzezinski  
Random House, 2013  
notes, index, 472 pp., \$30.00.

Brzezinski has provided a fascinating narrative history of several Jewish resistance fighters, their families and their experiences throughout World War II. The novel concentrates on the Warsaw Ghetto and the Jewish resistance during the Second World War.

At one time over three million people were crammed into the Ghetto, an area that formerly housed Poles and Jews. Poles were forced to move out and the Jews required to move in. In a short period of time the area was fenced off and rations cut. Jewish police, who aided the Germans, were forced to come up with a set number of "volunteer evacuees" each day who were transported to a new settlement, but were, in fact, transported to Treblinka or the forests, to be killed.

Jewish resistance fighters banded together, one of the leaders of the Jewish Fighting Organization was Isaac Zuckerman, who is depicted in the title of this book.

It is a difficult book to review, deserving a read from every Pole, Jewish or Polish. Brzezinski focuses on four families in this book, writing captivating accounts of their daily struggles, fears and courage throughout the war. These families, the resistance fighters and others fought in the two largest rebellions and citywide uprisings of Warsaw during the war. Though many survived Gestapo brutality and torture chambers, often escaping through the sewers, over 100,000 died in the Warsaw Uprising. Yet few history books provide in-

formation of any depth. This book provides details unseen before.

**A LIFE WORTH LIVING**  
by Sofia Synos  
Taylor & Seales Publishing  
2012, 258 pp., \$19.98

This memoir is a combined historical romance and personal diary. Written in the first person, Sofia develops a positive attitude toward life at a young age, continually striving to control her own destiny. Sophia's family is affected by World War II: her father and brother are killed but she and her mother, made prisoners of war, manage to survive. She is determined to live a normal life and receives a degree in Economics. She meets Arthur, who is a graduate of Polytechnic Institute and they soon marry. Sofia finds that, under Communist rule, she is unable to practice in her profession. The economy is getting worse and the couple realizes they can't get ahead in that situation. Arthur decides to go to America, alone, for work.

It is five years before Sophia is able to join him, only to learn Arthur has a girlfriend. She threatens to leave him, but Arthur begs off. They raise their two sons to be achievers and they obtain full scholarships to college. Sophia is continually critical of herself, striving to become a better person, ignoring the discrimination, worrying about her sons and the choices they make. The couple becomes successful, purchasing a home in Florida, travel to visit their children and their families, living the American dream.

Her personal ambition to better herself and her family continue to plague her. It takes a long time for Zofia to realize she and her fam-

ily have become successful.

**ZAREMBA**  
or *Love and the Rule of Law*  
by Michelle Granas  
Create Space, 517 pp.

Cordelia, a polio victim who needs a crutch to walk, has lived a secluded life in Warsaw. She is humble and resigned to her fate, taking care of her aging parents and a brother who seldom leaves his room. She supports the family by her translations.

The house is a shambles, her father constantly putting off repairing things. When she and her father go to visit a relative in the Polish countryside, their car breaks down. Of course, they have no jack or ability to repair the car. Cornelia struggles to walk to a distant house, where a stranger reluctantly agrees to help them.

Zaremba is a stranger, yet he seems to know about Cordelia's father's heart condition. Zaremba is a successful business man but a fugitive sought by the police, and when he finally delivers the couple safely to their door, it is in the middle of the night and he asks if he can stay. He stays for days, shopping for breakfast and returning with soft fresh bread, an unusual find, and other surprises, bringing some happiness to the family.

The book is a funny, aggravating story of these two characters, one shy and humble and the other bold, wealthy, hunted by the police and falling in love with Cordelia. When Cordelia discovers the reason Zaremba is sought by the police she overcomes her shyness and decides to help clear his name. Cordelia is attracted to Zaremba and can't believe that he would love her. The remainder of

the novel has many twists and turns as these two learn to overcome corruption and love each other.

**INVISIBLE COUNTRY**  
*Four Polish Plays*  
by Teresa Murjas  
Intellect / University of Chicago Press  
2012, 295 pp., \$30.00.

Murjas has translated into English, four plays which were written at the turn of the century when Poland did not exist. This book is part of a long-time project on late nineteenth and early twentieth century Polish naturalistic drama. She had previously edited and translated two other plays. The book is divided into five sections. The translation project itself, an overview of partitioned Poland, synopses of the plots, and the Polish naturalism and short biographies, with black and white photographs of the authors. There are several photographs of the actors in one or more of the plays.

All four of the plays carry themes of despair, conflict and uncertainty. The family relationships are intervened by boarders or lovers who add to the sorry state of affairs. The characters are hopelessly entangled with each other and cannot find a way to improve their situation, often ending up killing themselves or other members.

Murjas says the authors injected the psychological and socio-political views that were prominent in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century in their characters, as one way to express the frustration of the people. In Russian-controlled Poland, the Polish language was only allowed in the theater.

## Philadelphia's Classical Musicians are Subject of Book and Lecture

PHILADELPHIA — On April 6, 2013, friends and guests of the Curtis Institute gathered to hear about the contributions of generations of Polish musicians who helped raise the musical level of both Philadelphia and the country, making the city's musical life amongst the most admired and respected in the world.

Marie Hejnosz, president of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia, welcomed everyone. Dr. Teresa Wojcik, Ph.D., president of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation, introduced Paul Krzywicki, a faculty member of the Curtis Institute of Music and former member of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

His lecture served to introduce a book he is writing, "Polish Musicians in the History of Classical Music in Philadelphia." Presently no publication exists that brings attention to the exceptional Polish musicians who were so important in Philadelphia's cultural history, and at the same time considers these musicians within a history of classical music in America. Krzywicki gave the audience a brief overview



Marie Hejnosz, president of the Polish Heritage Society and Paul Krzywicki.

of the first draft, reading from completed excerpts. He also gave a brief history of the Curtis Institute of Music, which helped develop this book.

Following the lecture, Piotr Filochowski, originally from Warsaw but now studying at Curtis, gave a violin recital. He was accompanied by faculty member Susan Nowicki, on piano.

## Martha's Advice on Aging

In her new book, *Living the Good Long Life: A Practical Guide to Caring for Yourself and Others*, Martha Stewart arms herself with a team of specialists, including several of the nation's best geriatricians, to reshape a more somber landscape. The entertaining and home decorating maven, self-made entrepreneur, philanthropist and recent grandmother of two insists "successful aging" be gracefully performed in the intrepid manner undertaken by her mother and grandparents, all of 100% Polish ancestry.

"They all lived into their 90s and were healthy and vital people until shortly before they died," says Stewart, 71. "I've always been interested in their longevity and in other parts of the world where people are healthy. I always wonder what they're doing to stay healthy."

She sought the counsel of many experts for the comprehensive book, including her personal trainer, yoga instructor, chiropractor and doctors

at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, where she established a center for geriatric health, The Martha Stewart Center for Living, in 2008, a year after her mother died.

True to her passion for minutiae, tons of charts, tips and recipes adorn the pages. At the book's core: her "10 Golden Rules" for staying physically, mentally and socially fit. They range from eating well and staying fit to connecting with others and "staying curious."

"When you're through changing, you're through," she says.

Stewart compares aging to a bonsai tree, which is revered in Japan and, with proper care, flourishes as it ages. Her "10 Golden Rules" for growing old beautifully, like the bonsai:

- Eat well
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Stay physically active
- Get quality sleep
- Wear sunscreen
- Collaborate with a good primary

- care doctor regularly
- Find your passion
- Connect with others
- Stop complaining — change what you can, and accept what you cannot
- Stay curious

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## Maciuszko Manuscript Available

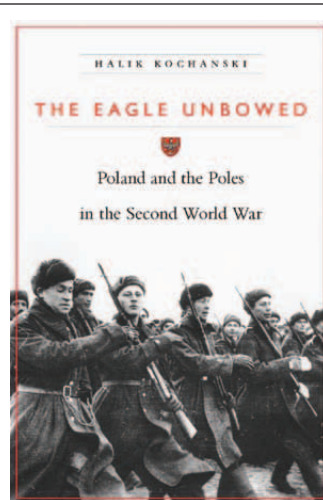
CLEVELAND — Dr. Jerzy J. Maciuszko passed away on March 3, 2011 at the age of 97. Prior to his retirement he enjoyed a distinguished career as a library director, scholar, professor at Alliance College, writer, lecturer, and advocate of Polish culture.

In March of 2013 his wife of 35 years, Dr. Kathleen Maciuszko, announced the release of his book entitled *Poles Apart: the Tragic Fate of Poles During World War II*, published by ThoughtWorks, Ltd. (384 pages)

Born in Warsaw, Maciuszko served on the front lines during

Hitler's invasion of Poland in 1939. He spent over five years as a prisoner-of-war in German camps. His book documents his and his family's stories as well as those of other Cleveland Poles.

At the time of his death, the basic manuscript had been completed. His wife spent the next two years preparing it for publication. The book is available in paperback (\$18.00) from: Kathleen L. Maciuszko, Ph.D., 20201 Lorain Road, Apt. 118, Fairview Park, OH 44126-3403; eMail kmaciuszko@netzero.net.



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"2014 will mark the 75th anniversary of the World War that started in and began over Poland. With Halik Kochanski's 'Eagle Unbowed,' we have an authoritative, magisterial and up-to-date history of those years from the perspective of Polish experience. Buy this book!" — John Grondelski, PAJ, May 2013

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Most histories of the European war focus on the Allies' determination to liberate the continent from the fascist onslaught. Yet the "good war" looks quite different when viewed from Lodz or Krakow than from London or Washington, D.C. *The Eagle Unbowed* provides in a single volume the first truly comprehensive account of one of the most harrowing periods in modern history.

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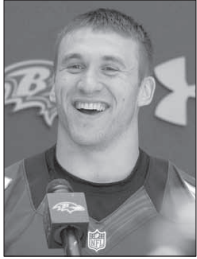
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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

## Just Say Juszczyk, Majkowski Would Do it All Again

Kevin Cowherd of the *Baltimore Sun* started his column this way: "Let's get the last name out of the way first. It's Juszczyk. Somehow, from that lonely vowel and thicket of consonants, comes a pronunciation of YOOZ-check. Don't feel bad if you don't say it right the first time. No one ever does."

Well, actually someone did. "We had a Polish card-swiper at our dining hall" at Harvard, said the football player he was talking about, **Kyle Juszczyk** (inset). The rookie fullback the Ravens selected in the fourth round (130th overall) of the NFL draft reveal that the Polish card-swiper "actually nailed it on the first try. But he's the only one."



Of course, Kyle quickly got a nickname. "My freshman year," Juszczyk recalled, "the senior tight end there, he looked at my name and he was like: 'No, I'm not even gonna try. I'm just gonna call you Juice.' And it stuck."

The Medina, Ohio native will try to catch on as a hybrid fullback/tight end/H-back. As Cowherd put it: "At 6-foot-1 and a solid 248 pounds, Juszczyk comes at you in interviews like a friendly bridge pylon with legs.

Juszczyk was a two-time All-American at tight end and H-back who caught 125 passes for 1,576 yards and 22 touchdowns for the Crimson. He was tough and smart and versatile, the kind of player the Ravens value.

"We had a draft party in Medina," Juszczyk remembered. "There were about 30 friends and family there. Three minutes before the 129th pick comes up, I get a ring (on his cell phone.) I look at it and

it's got a Maryland area code." It was Ravens' general manager Ozzie Newsome, who quickly got to the point: "On September 5, we're at Denver, you're running down on the kickoff. Can I count on you for two special-teams tackles that game?" And I said: 'Yeah, you can count on me for three.' So I got a lot to live up to for that game." About a week later Kyle had signed with the Ravens.

Juszczyk's signing brings back memories of Isaiah Kacyvenski, the highest drafted Harvard player ever. A linebacker, he was selected 119th overall by the Seattle Seahawks in 2000. It also calls to mind Henry Hynoski, a fullback out of Temple. Known as "Hank the Tank," "Hynoceros," "Polish Hammer," or "Polish Plow," Hynoski was signed as a free agent fullback by the New York Giants in 2011. He later went on to become a Super Bowl Champion in Super Bowl XLVI.

**STILL MAJIK.** In the late 1980s and early 1990s **Don Majkowski** was the NFL's "Majik Man." He was a unique combination of ability and charisma, and finished second in the 1989 NFL MVP voting to Joe Montana. It appeared that he had a great future in the league, but injuries took a toll. According to Paul Imig of *Fox Sports Wisconsin*, the 49 year-old, Majkowski had been in significant pain and agony even before leaving the game.

The list of Majkowski's physical problems is long—everything from degenerative disk disease in his neck and back to post-concussion syndrome. But his issues started with his left ankle. He's had 11 surgeries on it, including back-to-back fusions after the first attempt didn't work.

The Buffalo native was drafted by the Green Bay Packers out of Virginia in the 10th round in 1987.

Majkowski won the starting job in 1989, and enjoyed a great season. He completed 353 passes in 599 attempts, with 4,318 passing yards and 27 TDs. The season ended with a 10-6 record for the Packers, and a Pro Bowl selection for Majkowski.

The following year Majkowski's season ended when he suffered a torn rotator cuff in game ten. In 1991 Majkowski was benched in favor of Mike Tomczak, but again started at the beginning of the 1992 season. On a play on September 20, 1992 against the Cincinnati Bengals, Majkowski tore a ligament in his ankle. He was replaced after the play by Brett Favre. Favre led the Packers to a comeback win that day and started his next 297 NFL games. Majkowski never took another snap in Green Bay.

Majkowski left Green Bay after the 1992 season, playing mostly back-up with Indianapolis and Detroit. The ankle caused him a lot of pain, but it was the 1990 shoulder injury that "killed my career," Majkowski said. "I played six more years, but it was through incredible pain in that shoulder." Doctors discovered a couple years ago that Majkowski also had degenerative disk disease in his back. A few months ago, he had fusion surgery in hopes of easing the discomfort.

Regarding the NFL Workers Compensation Program, he said "It's absolutely ridiculous what former players have to go through to get workers comp paid for to win your case."

Although Majkowski is now ready to return to some form of normalcy, "I can't even come close to playing golf." He also can no longer coach his eighth-grade son Bo's football team. Majkowski sold his real estate investment company a couple years ago and is now retired. "Fortunately, I've been smart with the money I made."

Despite all the physical problems that have drastically affected his life, Majkowski wouldn't do a single thing differently. "I don't regret it," Majkowski said. "That's the sickening part of it. Of course I'd do it all again. It was my childhood dream and I worked extremely hard to achieve that and be in the NFL. It was a privilege and a dream that only a small percentage of guys ever get to do."



**A M A Z I N G PROGRESS.** A little over a year ago, Minnesota high school hockey player **Jack Jablonski** (inset) was told he would never

walk again. He had been checked head-first into the boards, suffering a serious spinal cord injury and breaking two vertebrae that caused paralysis. Since that day, Jablonski has made incredible progress through his hard work and positive attitude.

He was recently feted at the "BEL13VE in Miracles Gala" at the Xcel Energy Center in Minnesota, with over 30 current and former NHLers in attendance. San Jose Sharks assistant coach Jim Johnson, a Minnesota native, drove two and a half hours to attend the event.

"His injury is heart-wrenching," said Johnson, "and it tugs at your heart as a parent. It's hard to see a young athlete go through something like this."

When he first got injured, doctors told him that he wouldn't be able to use his arms. Now with the help of the MN Courage Center's ABLE therapy program, he can now move his arms and touch his face, proving that miracles can happen.

Back in January when the Sharks played the Wild, Joe Pavelski

and other Sharks players visited Jablonski in the hospital to bring him a team-autographed jersey. "There wasn't one NHL team that wasn't represented in his hospital room," said Johnson. "It speaks volume about the character of the NHL."

According to *MyFox9*, a local Minnesota television station, over \$120,000 was raised from ticket sales and a silent auction for the event. For more information go to [www.jabby13.com](http://www.jabby13.com).

**SUPER POLES.** Although "Super Mariusz" is no longer competing, Poles are still doing well in the World's Strongest Man competition.

Created in 1977, the World's Strongest Man has become the premier event in strength athletics. Poles **Krzysztof Radzikowski**, and **Mateusz Baron**, were among the 30 athletes who qualified for the 35th edition of the competition. Radzikowski made it to the finals, and finished sixth, and is considered an up-and-coming strongman. This past March, he won the first event of the strongman season, the SCL Lapland event in Finland—better known as the Iceman IV—in a snow white arena with a temperature of 18 below zero!

Of course, the world's most famous strongman competitor has turned to mixed martial arts.

**Mariusz Pudzianowski**, a native of Biala Rawska, won five World's Strongest Man titles—more than any other athlete—as well as two runner-up titles before pursuing MMA in 2009. Quite the renaissance man, Pudzianowski often appears as a guest singer in his brother's musical group, the Pudzian Band, and in 2008 took part in the Poland's version of *Dancing with the Stars*. The 340-lb. strongman eventually finished second to actress Magdalena Walach.

COMMENTARY / Boston Marathon Bombing

## Polonia Can Lead Healing in Boston

by Dr. Julie H. Grocki

Such a time is this! The world and our nation seem to be spinning out of control. Yet somehow the miracle of life continues to keep things in enough balance for the planet to not fall off its axis.

That is a good thing. In my opinion, it is because the love and kindness of some outweighs the hatred and antipathy of others. Gandhi once said that, "When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall. Think of it—always."

When I try to get a glimpse of the big picture, that statement seems to be quite legitimate. Hatred never wins. To carry on that wave of goodness please send your love, compassionate thoughts, and prayers for all those in the Boston Marathon tragedy on a daily basis at least.

For me, the saga hit home. I did some running in Boston. It was New Year's morning 1984. I was in that

region because I was the drummer in the opening act for Aerosmith.

The tour was called "Back in the Saddle." The gig was at the Boston Orpheum. The first night of the engagement was on New Year's Eve 1983.

Aerosmith recorded the concert we opened for that night. The name of the album is "Aerosmith Classics Live Two." I found out 30 years after the performance that it was put on vinyl.

While Boston is Aerosmith's home town, it is also a municipality rich with cultural heritage. There was something about the city that touched a chord in me. Maybe it was the trace of Polonia in the fine metropolitan area.

Polonia is indeed in Boston's midst. For instance, the oldest parish in Boston is Polish: Our Lady of Czestochowa. One notable Polish American affiliated with sports and Boston is Carl Yastrzemski. As many know, he was a left fielder for the Boston Red Sox who was voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in

1989. Another notable Polish American linked with Boston is William Filene. He was born in Poznan and later emigrated to America where he founded Boston's Filene department store. In fact there are an ample amount of Polish Americans in Boston for the Boston Public Library to acknowledge it. This it has done by housing an extensive Polish language collection.

Obviously Polonia is alive in Boston. However, I do not know if any of the persons I met there were of Polish descent, save for Steve Tyler. What I do know is that the people I encountered were incredibly friendly. I never met persons in a city who were so kind.

I have very fond memories of Boston and its populace. The Boston Marathon calamity, as with any other critical and abrupt misfortune, causes a sudden cessation of all activity. As a whole, it has propelled our nation to slow down, take a step back, and reflect.

We Americans are in a "pause mode" so to speak. An untold num-

ber of people have given support in the Boston tragedy. Without a doubt strength increases with numbers.

It is far easier to move a large mountain with a group of people than it is to try to push it aside alone. Solidarność has proven that. In relation to the Boston marathon bombing, the mountain that must be removed is that of hatred. What needs to replace it is an amassment of love. Only love can bring peace.

This century seems to warrant a global and national "call for compassion" individually and collectively. It is time to make a much-needed and long-awaited overhaul. It is time to be strong mentally, physically, ethically and spiritually. It is time to replace the thread of acrimony so prevalent in America with goodness and kindness.

Things can return to a safer America. However, effort is required. I know those who have no harmful intentions can outnumber those who have. We can win this battle. Will you unite with me?

Let us begin by daily wishing all

sentient beings heartfelt peace, love, and joy. Let us love when it is easier to hate. Let us offer assistance when it is simpler to walk by. Come and join me on this path of philanthropy. This is a good beginning—Polish philanthropists!

❖ ❖ ❖

*Dr. Julie Grocki has a Ph.D. in social work and specializes in gerontology, mental health, and health-care. She is known for her eloquence as an orator. Dr. Grocki is currently an active contributing columnist for a national paper and composes articles on health, mental health, and aging. An adept drummer, she is known for her speed, agility, flexibility, strength, and endurance on the drum set and in athletic track events. Dr. Grocki has performed since her teenage years with many jazz legends. She was on tour with Aerosmith in 1984 where she was singled out by Steven Tyler and others for her percussive skills.*

You may contact her [DrJPoLAM@gmail.com](mailto:DrJPoLAM@gmail.com).



## POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

## More Menu Ideas for a Polish Picnic

## Part II

Here are some more of the familiar old favorites for your next Polish festival or Polonian picnic. Also included are a few suggestions which your group may not have tried so far.

**GRILLED KIEŁBASA (kielbasa z rusztu).** Cut smoked kielbasa into 3 - 4" serving-sized pieces. 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. They can also be kept warm and ready to serve in an electric roaster. Provide horseradish, ćwikła (beets & horseradish) and/or brown Polish-style mustard (for instance the Sarepska variety). Rye bread and Polish dill pickles are good go-togethers.

**KIEŁBASA IN A ROLL (kielbaska w buleczce).** Grillers (wiener-sized Polish sausage) or pieces of baked or grilled kielbasa the size of the crusty split roll into which they are inserted are a convenient festival fast food. Prepare as above but serve in crusty rye or French-bread type rolls with Polish-style brown mustard or horseradish.

**KIEŁBASA & SAUERKRAUT (kielbasa z kapustą):** Drain well (if very sour - rinse and drain) 4 qts sauerkraut, chop coarsely, place in pot cover with cold water, add 1 bayleaf and several grains allspice, bring to boil and simmer on med-low 45 min, stirring occasionally. Separately shred 1 large or 2 smaller trimmed heads of cabbage. Cover with water in pot and cook 30 min, Drain cabbage and stir into sauerkraut. Cut 5-6 lbs smoked kielbasa into 4-5" servings, smother with sauerkraut. Season with salt & pep-

per to taste and 1-2 t bruised caraway seeds. Cook on med-low in oven or electric roaster 60-90 min. Thicken with a sprinkle of flour and keep hot in electric roaster at festival site. Note: Feel free to reverse proportion of sauerkraut and fresh in-season cabbage, for instance 3-4 large heads cabbage and 1-2 quarts sauerkraut.

**SUMMER BIGOS (letni bigos).** Drain well (if very sour - rinse and drain) 3 qts sauerkraut, chop coarsely, place in pot cover with cold water, add 1 bayleaf, bring to boil and simmer on med-low 45 min, stirring occasionally. Separately shred 1 large or 2 smaller trimmed heads of cabbage. Cover with water in pot and cook 30 min, Drain cabbage and stir into sauerkraut. Add 3-4 lbs chopped smoked kielbasa, 5 slices of uncooked, thick-sliced bacon, diced, and 1-2 qts cooked diced meat (pork, beef, dark-meat turkey and/or game). Add 1 c diced pitted prunes and cook on stove-top, in oven or electric roaster at least 60-90 min. Thicken with a little flour. Season with pepper, marjoram, several buds crushed garlic, a bit of bruised caraway and 2 t liquid Maggi seasoning. Keep hot at festival site in electric roaster. Serve up with slotted spoon allow excess liquid to drip away.

**BAKED CHICKEN (kurczaki pieczone).** Season cut-up chicken (or just preferred parts such as drumsticks and/or thighs) with salt, pepper, paprika and a little marjoram, rub all over with oil, place in pan and bake in 450° oven 15 min, turning once. Baste with water or stock, reduce heat to 350° and bake 60-80 min or until done, basting every 15 min and turning when bottom has browned. The drippings may be used as a gravy base.

**BREADED PORK CUTLET (kotlet schabowy).** Pound 5 lbs boneless, center-cut pork chops with meat mallet on both sides until ¼" thin. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and a pinch of marjoram and garlic. Dredge in flour, dip in egg wash and roll in fine, plain bread crumbs. Gently press breading into cutlets so it stays put during frying. Fry to a nice golden brown on both sides in oil or lard until fully cooked, drain on absorbent paper. The fried cutlets can be microwaved as needed or kept warm in an electric roaster. Serve as a complete dinner with dilled potatoes and cucumber salad (below).

**PORK CUTLET SANDWICH (kotlet schabowy w bulce).** Prepare breaded pork cutlets as in previous recipe, but serve in a crusty bun or between slices of rye bread with mustard, mayonnaise, lettuce or sliced dill pickle.

**DILLED POTATOES (kartofle z koperkiem).** The ideal go-together with bigos, pork cutlets and other summer meals are boiled, dilled new potatoes. Cook peeled potatoes in lgithyl salted water until fork-tender. Drain well, return pot to heat to steam away moisture. Turn out onto serving dish and garnish generously with fresh, finely chopped dill.

**CUCUMBERS & SOUR CREAM (mizeria).** Peel 10 cucumbers and slice into thin rounds. Season with salt & pepper, 2-3 pinches sugar and 1 T lemon juice or cider vinegar. Lace with about 1 qt fork-blended sour cream and serve immediately. Mizeria turns soupy when stored, so over a longer period its better to serve up the cucumbers prepared as above with slotted spoon (to eliminate excess liquid) and garnish each



Cucumbers and sour cream.

portion with a dollop of sour cream. Portions may be garnished with finely chopped chives or dill.

**POLISH POTATO SALAD (salatka kartoflana).** Cook 5 lbs potatoes until fully cooked but still firm, and set aside to cool. Dice potatoes. Add 3-4 finely chopped onions and 5-6 diced dill pickles. Drench with 2 c sour cream fork-blended with 2 c mayonnaise and 1 heaping T sharp brown mustard. Toss gently to coat ingredients and salt & pepper to taste.

**GROUND POLISH CUTLET (kotlet mielony).** Soak 5-6 stale, crumbled up bread rolls (kaiser rolls, hamburger buns, French bread) in milk to cover until soggy. Fry 5 sliced onions in a little fat until golden. Run soggy bread and any leftover milk and onions through meat-grinder or process briefly. Combine with 5-6 lbs raw ground meat (preferably pork, pork & beef or pork-beef-veal meatloaf mixture) add 4-5 eggs, mix well by hand to blend ingredients. Season with salt, pepper, marjoram and a little garlic powder to taste. Form thick oval patties and brown to a nice golden-brown on both sides in hot fat, then reduce heat, cover and simmer on low another 10 min or so until fully cooked. Keep hot in electric roaster or reheat as needed in microwave.

Dilled potatoes and ćwikła (beets & horseradish) go together nicely with this as a main course. Or serve fast-food style (next recipe).

**POLISH BURGER (kotlet mielony w bulce).** Prepare ground cutlets as above but, while frying, flatten with spatula burger-style. Serve in a crusty bun or between slices of rye bread with mustard, mayonnaise, lettuce and/or sliced dill pickle.

**FRIED KISZKA (kaszanka smażona).** Slice kiszka into rounds or slices (if using the larger, bladder-stuffed variety) and fry on both sides until nicely crusty-browned. Or, remove from casing and fry up hash-style. This can be served as a main course with potatoes and salad. Some like their kiszka garnished with fried onions. Provide horseradish and brown mustard.

**KISZKA-BURGER (kaszanka w bulce).** The fried kiszka can also be served fast-food style in a crusty bone. Provide choice of go-togethers like horseradish, mustard or fried onions.

**POTATO PANCAKES (placki kartoflane).** Grate 5 lbs peeled potatoes by hand or in processor. Transfer to sieve and allow drippings collect in bowl. When liquid has settled, pour off dark liquid from top and stir the remaining white starchy sediment at bottom into grated-potato mixture. Add 2-3 grated onions, about 4 T flour, 4 eggs and salt & pepper. Mix well and spoon batter into hot fat. With spatula flatten pancakes slightly, since thin ones cook better. Fry to a nice crispy, golden brown on both sides and drain on absorbent paper. Serve immediately, providing sour cream, sugar and salt on the side.

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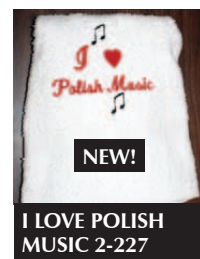
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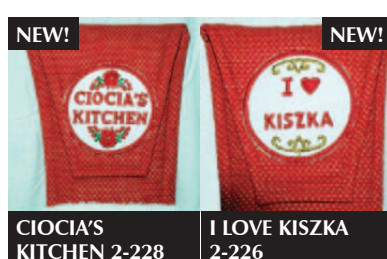
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# May 3rd Constitution Celebrations Across American Polonia

## Cleveland Had a Lot to Offer

Parish Hall.

Following lunch, you had your choice of two events to attend at 2:00 p.m.. The first was the 65th Annual Constitution Day Parade, held in the western suburb of Parma. The parade featured the new Cleveland Browns football coach, Rob Chudzinski, plus local Polish groups, ethnic dancers, high school bands and polka bands.

Your second choice was to attend the rededication of the Kosciuszko Monument, located to the left of the Cleveland Art Museum, which is situated in Cleveland's Cultural Center. The monument was originally erected in 1905 and is one of the oldest in the United States to honor Kosciuszko. It had been in storage in recent years due to the Museum and its grounds being refurbished. It has been returned to its original luster. Prior to the unveiling, a program was presented in honor of the May 3rd Constitution and Kosciuszko's role in American and Polish history. After the formal program, which included various speakers, Polish dancers and singers, the crowd paraded to the Monument for its unveiling.

The Kosciuszko Monument rededication was very nostalgic for me. This is where I use to attend the May 3rd celebration with my grandparents in the 1940's and 50's. I can still visualize all the Haller's Blue Army veterans who marched in those parades and are now long gone.



PHOTO: JOHN F. SZUCH

Ceremony on May 5, 2013 for the rededication of the Kosciuszko monument in Cleveland. Pictured are Eugene Bak, the event's organizer and to his right, Ben S. Stefanski II, the events master of ceremonies.

by John F. Szuch

CLEVELAND — Some cities might have one or two events scheduled for their Polish Constitution Day celebrations, but not Cleveland, Ohio! They started on Friday night, May 3rd with the downtown Terminal Tower being lit in red and white to resemble the Polish flag. At one point in time the Tower was the second tallest building in the United States.

Also on Friday night, you had a choice of the Cleveland Indians/Minnesota Twins baseball game which was designated as the "Kosciuszko Observance 2013 Game." The other option was a reception and artistic program held at the Polish American Cultural Center in the Slavic Village area of Cleveland.

Sunday was a full day, starting with the laying of a wreath at the Casimir Pulaski monument, located to the left of the City Hall, followed by a breakfast at St. Casimir's Church. The breakfast was followed by a Mass in Polish and English inside the beautiful church. After Mass a Polish food lunch was served in the

## Chicago Comes Out in Force

by Geraldine Balut-Coleman

CHICAGO — It was a great day for a parade, any parade. The weather was in the 60s and the sunny sky was a perfect blue. The theme of Chicago's 122nd Annual Polish Constitution Day Parade was "Youth is Good for Both Polonia and Poland."

The Parade, held on Sat., May 4, began with the singing of the Polish and American National anthems by Aleksandra Kurzydowski, a senior from Loyola Academy. Marching front and center were the Illinois National Guard and the Illinois National Guard Band, followed by state, county, and city dignitaries, and representatives of Chicago and Illinois Polonia. Dr. Bronislaw Orawiec, a cardiologist, was this year's Parade Grand Marshal.

The Polish Constitution Day Parade proceeded up Columbus Drive in the heart of downtown Chicago. Chicago's Polish Constitution Day Parade is the largest Polish parade outside of Poland and celebrates the anniversary of the ratification of the Polish Constitution on May 3, 1791. For 122 years, Polonia's various community organizations have come together to organize this traditional Chicago salute of Polish pride and tradition. An estimated

100 organizations including Polish language schools participated in this year's parade.

Dr. Orawiec was honored for establishing the Orawiec Cardiac Fund of the Polish American Medical Society. Its mission is to help people better understand their personal risk from cardiovascular disease and to help those with no

insurance and no resources for testing. Since 1996, Dr. Orawiec started free screening for cholesterol, blood pressure, glucose, body mass index and overall health risk, as well as each year conducting free, two to four day-long screenings within the Polish community.

Polonia is indebted to ABCTV Channel 7 for telecasting the Parade and for Chicago's Emmy-award winning new reporter and anchor Alan Krashesky for his many years as host and commentator along with Anna Ziolkowski Sobor. Additionally, a *bardzo dziękuje* goes out to ARTVCHICAGO for live streaming the entire Parade in both English and Polish.



The Windy City's Constitution Day Parade was led off by young Polish Americans.

## Vice President Biden is Guest of Honor

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Several hundred invited guests celebrated the "Konstytucja Trzeciego Maja," May 7, 2013 at the Washington residence of Ambassador Ryszard and Mrs. Dorata Wysocka-Schnepf.

Among them were members of the Obama Administration, U.S. government, Congress and military officials; Washington diplomatic and military attaché corps; businessmen, and members of Polonia. All were treated to a Polish/Continental buffet and entertained by jazz vocalist Grazyna Auguscik and ensemble.

Following his welcoming remarks, Ambassador Schnepf paid homage to Poland's 1791 Constitution, inspired by the earlier U.S. Constitution, both which championed the concept of freedom and democracy for the common man.

Poland and the United States have labored to advance these noble goals around the world. "We had to wait 200 years longer than the U.S. for our freedom," the ambassador said, "but now we are masters of our own fate."

Schnepf commented on the close military and political alliance Poland and United States shared in Iraq and Afghanistan, saying "in together, out together." He also discussed the importance of bilateral and international trade agreements. Special attention was given to the necessity of Poland's inclusion in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program. He called on the president and Congress to attain this justified and fraternal goal.

To thunderous applause, Schnepf introduced the vice president, saying "there is no better evidence of friendship, trust and bonds between Poland and the United States than the presence of the vice-president of the United States, Joe Biden."

The vice president spoke for over 30 minutes, barely glancing at his few note cards.

"When I first ran for Congress in 1972, I won the close race with the critical help from two Polish precincts in Delaware, where I'm still introduced as 'Joe Bidenski'," said Biden.

"And even though I'm not from Poland my heart is Polish," he said.

The vice president said no country knows more about fighting for freedom than Poland. He praised the May 3rd Constitution. "During its trying history, the courageous Polish people, though often defeated, never bent."



PHOTO BY RICHARD POREMSKI

EXTOLLING THE VIRTUES OF POLAND and U.S. Polish relations, U.S. Vice President Joe Biden addresses guests at the Washington, D.C. home of the Ryszard Schnepf, Poland's ambassador to the United States. Standing with Ambassador Schnepf is his daughter, Antonia.

He said America owes Poland much, citing the assistance of Polish Generals Pulaski and Kosciuszko. He praised Poland's World War II Home Army resistance movement, and gave credit to Poland in ridding itself of the imposed communist rule. "It lit the spark that brought down the Wall. Polish courage brought it down for all of Eastern Europe. Though suffering many trials and tribulations, Poland never, never, let the dream die."

Biden said he was one of the strongest promoters of NATO membership for Poland, facing opposition from members of Congress, who thought the timing was not right, or who did not want to antagonize objecting-Russia.

"A free Poland is our best and most secure ally, and under Article 5 of the NATO Treaty, America is solemnly pledged to standby Poland," Biden said. He noted that American soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan want to stand next to the Polish troops because "the Poles are not just soldiers, they are warriors."

In closing, Biden reflected on the Polish well-wish of "sto lat," saying "May you all live 100 years, and the May 3rd Constitution live 1,000 years. Thank you all and may God protect our troops."

## Beautiful Weather Complements Stamford Tribute

by Pat Koproski

STAMFORD, Conn. — The Polish American community was blessed with a beautiful sunny day to celebrate the 222nd anniversary of Poland's May 3 Constitution, the second-oldest democratic Constitution in the world.

After a Mass of Thanksgiving at Holy Name of Jesus Church, celebrated by Father Mariusz Olbrys, the congregation walked to Kosciuszko Park for the ceremonies and flag raising.

Proclamations from Mayor Pavia and the Stamford Board of Representatives were read.

The main speaker, Mateusz Sta-

siek, vice consul of the Republic of Poland, spoke on the importance of the Polish Constitution to the Polish community throughout the United States and the world.

The audience was entertained by recitations from children of the Polish Saturday School, and the Slowianie Polish Dancers. A reception followed at the Holy Name Athletic Club.

Pictured at right are (l. to r.): Jerzy Karwowski, president of the Polish American Cultural Society; Al Koproski, trustee of the Kosciuszko Foundation; and Vice Consul Mateusz Stasiak of the Republic of Poland.



## Observances at Historic Courthouse, National Shrine

PHILADELPHIA — The Council of United Polish Societies of Chester, Pa., held its Annual Observance of the Polish Constitution at the 1724 Court House in Chester, Fri., May 3, 2013.

This event is held every year with members of the Polish community of Delaware County along with political representatives from the City of Chester and Delaware County.

Teresa G. Wojcik, PhD. was the guest speaker for the event. Dr. Wojcik teaches in the Department of Education and Counseling at Villanova University. She also currently serves as the president of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation and as a member of the board of directors of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America.

This summer, she will be the American staff leader and director of a Kosciuszko Foundation Teach-

ing English in Poland camp near Przemyśl, Poland.

DOYLESTOWN — A community-wide Polish Constitution Day 222nd Commemoration was held at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pa., sponsored by the Polish American Congress Eastern Pennsylvania District, Sun., May 5.

A Mass at 12:30 p.m. was followed by a Youth Program in Visitors Center. There were performances by Adam Mickiewicz Polish Language School, Our Lady of Czestochowa Polish Language School, Sloneczniki Children's Folk Dance Group, St. Adalbert Polish Language School, and the P.K.M. Polish Folk Dancers.

UNIONTOWN — For the past 22 years, the Polish Heritage Club has prepared and conducted the Observance of the Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791. This year's event was held at the Madonna of Czestochowa Church in Cardale.

Starting at 3:00 p.m., officers, members, and friends gathered for a para-liturgical service with hymns, prayers, readings from the Scripture, a special address, and a Rosary Walk and Benediction. Newly-elected President Frank Cetera said guests enjoyed a social with refreshments in the parish hall following the event. Rev. Joseph L. Sredzinski served as Master of Ceremonies.

## Western New York

ROCHESTER — On April 30, Polonia celebrated Constitution Day with a Mass at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church followed by an "Akademia" presented by the students of Rochester's Polish School.

BUFFALO — On May 3, the Adam Mickiewicz Library and Dramatic Circle on Fillmore Ave., hosted its annual "Toast to the Polish Constitution" event.