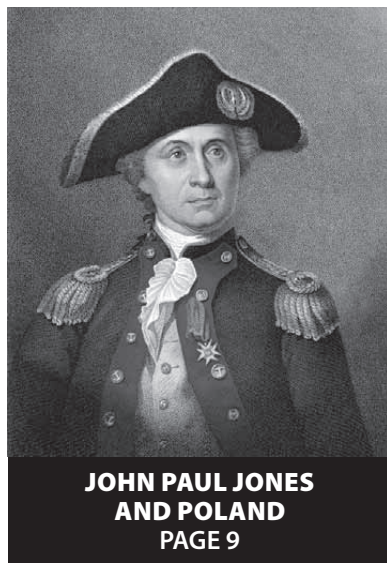


# POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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JOHN PAUL JONES AND POLAND  
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PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, NEW YORK AND ADDITIONAL ENTRY OFFICES

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**14TH ANNUAL KATYN REMEMBRANCE • COMMITTEE SEEKS ANSWERS TO AIR DISASTER • CLUB ORGANIZED AT GMU**  
**JOHN PAUL II'S INFLUENCE CONTINUES • KARSKI CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATED • THE KICK-OFF OF FESTIVAL SEASON**

## NEWSMARK

**MISSION ENDS IN GHAZNI.** Ceremonies held May 4 at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, marked the official act to recognize the end of mission for the Polish army in Ghazni province, Afghanistan.

The mission began in 2008, with soldiers of the 12th Polish Mechanized Division, and ended with soldiers of the 10th Polish Armored Cavalry Brigade. For more than six years, Polish soldiers of Task Force White Eagle have been patrolling the Ghazni province along with Afghan National Security Forces and coalition partners. At its peak, there were almost 3,000 Polish soldiers assigned to TF White Eagle.

During the ceremony, Townsend and Task Force White Eagle commander Polish army Brig. Gen. Cezary Podlaski recognized both U.S. and Polish troops with awards and certificates, symbolizing the six-year partnership between the two countries.

The Polish army recently relinquished their battle space in Ghazni, but they will continue their commitment to Afghanistan through Operation Resolute Support, that is expected to begin on Jan. 1, 2015.

**MICGIEL NEW KF PRESIDENT.** Dr. John S. Micgiel of Columbia University has been elected the seventh president of the Kosciuszko Foundation.

Micgiel taught for twenty-five years at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs, where, for many years, he directed the Institute on East Central Europe, the East European, Russian, and Eurasian National Resource Center, and several other Institutes and Centers. He is on the faculty of Warsaw University's Eastern Studies Center and the Estonian School of Diplomacy in Tallinn. Micgiel was instrumental in organizing the campaign to raise an endowment, now valued at \$5.2 million for a newly-filled Professorship in Polish Studies in Columbia University's History Department. (See next story).

Micgiel has been recognized by the governments of Poland and Romania for his work on behalf of educational exchange and cooperation, and has been the recipient of numerous fellowships and scholarships awarded by various institutions including the Kosciuszko Foundation.

**MAZUREK FIRST POLISH STUDIES PROFESSOR AT COLUMBIA.** Dr. Małgorzata Mazurek has been selected by Columbia University as the first incumbent of the Polish Studies Professorship in the university's Department of History. Mazurek will assume the position on July 1, 2014.

The task of establishing the professorship began in 2003, in talks between Kosciuszko Foundation then-President Joseph Gore, Chairman of the Board of Trustees Witold Sulimirski, and Professor John S. Micgiel of Columbia University's East Central European Center

The Polish Studies Professorship at Columbia University was subsequently established by donations from institutional, corporate, and academic organization, as well as individual donors.

**POPE FRANCIS MET WITH POLISH PM DONALD TUSK,** May 19, for a conversations ranging from the canonization of St. John Paul II and the plans for World Youth Day 2016 to current political tensions in eastern Europe.

In related news, the pope has appointed Bishop Wojciech Polak, who is currently serving as an auxiliary in the Gniezno archdiocese, to become Archbishop of Gniezno and Primate of Poland. He will replace Archbishop Jozef Kowalczyk, who is retiring at the age of 75.

The Archbishop of Gniezno has traditionally held the title of Primate of Poland. That tradition was interrupted for a short time, from 1992 until 2007, when Cardinal Jozef Glemp was Archbishop of Warsaw and Primate of Poland. Cardinal Glemp had inherited the latter title when he was appointed installed as Archbishop of both Gniezno and Warsaw. In 1992, when he approved a restructuring of the Polish hierarchy that separated the two archdioceses, Pope John Paul II stipulated that Cardinal Glemp would remain the Primate until his retirement from active ministry, which occurred in 2007. (CWN)

## 25 Years Ago Poles Voted for Freedom

Partially-free Elections got the Ball Rolling

OBAMA TO HELP POLES CELEBRATE THE OCCASION

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW – The silver anniversary of Poland's regained independence is being celebrated with heavy TV coverage including documentary footage and interviews with prominent figures who helped topple the communist regime. "Oaks of Freedom" have been planted in 25 different Polish localities, and the festivities will include exhibitions, concerts and patriotic programs. World media interest will be greatly heightened by President Barack Obama's participation in the observances. Ukraine is expected to dominate the agenda of Obama's talks with Polish leaders.

Since so much has occurred world-wide over the past 25 years, many people

See "25 Years ...," page 10

## "It's like winning the Oscar"



**SOKOLOWSKI SIBLINGS** Bernie, Mike, and Mary Balbier at the James Beard Foundation Awards Ceremony and Gala Reception, May 5, at the David H. Koch Theater at Lincoln Center in New York City.

CLEVELAND — Sokolowski's University Inn, Cleveland, was named a 2014 winner of the James Beard Foundation's "American Classics" Award.

"Every year, the American Classics Awards are a favorite part of the [Beard Awards] ceremony," said Susan Ungaro, president of the James Beard Foundation, in a press statement. "These honorees represent the unique American dream of people who have created enduring, quality restaurants and food establishments that reflect the character and hospitality of their cities and community."

"It's like winning the Oscar, you know?" said Mike

See "Sokolowski's," page 4

## Poland Comes to Aid of Future Leaders

New Scholarship Program Available For Undergraduate Students of Polish Origin

NEW YORK — The Kosciuszko Foundation announced the opening of the application process for a special tuition scholarship program for undergraduate students of Polish origin. A \$2,000 scholarship will be offered to 30 promising undergraduate students studying in the United States and pursuing degrees at the intersection of media, communication, political science, social studies, law, and administration. Students seeking careers in media, government, and public affairs are particularly encouraged to apply. Applications will be accepted through July 31, 2014 and scholarship awards will be distributed for the fall semester of the 2014-2015 academic year.

See "Scholarship ..." page 5

## SPOTLIGHT / Poles in Britain

### Britain's Polish Workers

An Interview with Dr. Anne White on Poles, Immigrants, and England



An expert on contemporary Polish migration trends to Great Britain, Dr. Anne White teaches sociology and politics of central and eastern Europe at the University of Bath. She has written a full-length study of recent Polish migration to the UK and Western Europe, *Polish Families and Migration Since EU Accession* (Bristol: Policy Press, 2011), contributed research on England-bound Polish migrants to three scholarly collections published in the UK and Poland, and published seven scholarly articles on the subject. Dr. White holds a bachelor's degree from the Oxford University and a doctorate from the London School of Economics.

She spoke with the *Polish American Journal* regarding recent controversial remarks by British Prime Minister David Cameron about "Polish workers" in the UK:

*At the beginning of the year, British Prime Minister Cameron ignited a controversy, on the eve of the UK opening its borders to workers from Bulgaria and Romania, by attacking "Polish workers" who immigrate to England but apply for child benefits for their children in Poland. Can you tell us the details of the controversy?*

BBC reporter Andrew Marr on January 5 asked Cameron whether it was "acceptable that Romanians or Bulgarians or anybody else working here who maybe have four or five

See "Britain's Polish Workers," page 4

### Poles That Have and Have Not In England

Dr. Michał Garapich of the University of Roehampton, UK

Dr. Michał Garapich, who holds his doctorate from the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, is a research fellow and social anthropologist, specializing in migration studies, at the University of Roehampton in London.

His research has also focused on the phenomenon of dispossession among immigrants, as well as comparative studies of Polish immigration to the UK and to Italy.

He spoke with Dr. John Grondelski:

*British PM Cameron ignited a controversy when, on the eve of the UK opening its borders to workers from Bulgaria and Romania, he attacked "Polish workers" who immigrate to England but apply for child benefits for their children in Poland. Can you tell us the particulars of the controversy, and what set it off?*

Well, as often happens, this incident had little to do with Polish migrants as such. Cameron knows well the statistics that in fact migrants from Poland are less likely to use government assistance than the native British. He used the Poles simply as an illustration of his, and much of his party's, discontent over the EU freedom of movement principle. His comments reflect also his party's worry about the UKIP [United King-



See "Have and Have Not," page 4

## ALMANAC



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## June Czerwiec

- 1 **CHILDREN'S DAY** (Poland)  
*Dzień Dziecka* is an occasion on which youngsters receive gifts and attend various picnics, programs and sporting events organized just for them in place of normal school lessons.
- 2 1979. First pilgrimage of Pope John Paul II to Poland, through June 10.
- 3 1890. Death of Oskar Kolberg (b. 1814), ethnographer.
- 4 1989. Election triumph of Solidarity in the first round to the parliament and the senate; second round June 18th. Solidarity seeps the first round 252 out of the possible 161 seats; in the second round 260 seats in the 560 seat parliament, a condition of the Round Table.
- 5 1674. Jan III Sobieski elected King of Poland.
- 6 1530. Birth of Jan Kochanowski, Poland's greatest humanist and writer of the Renaissance.
- 8 1980. St. John Kanty Prep in Erie, Pa. closes.
- 11 1857. Birth of Antoni Grabowski, Polish chemical engineer known for compiling the first chemistry dictionary in the Polish language.
- 13 1907. Stanley (Kiecal) Ketchel wins the middleweight boxing crown. He holds the title for three years.
- 14 **FLAG DAY** (U.S.)  
1940. The Nazis opened their concentration camp at Auschwitz. In German-occupied Poland the first inmates arrived at the Auschwitz concentration camp. They were all Polish political prisoners.
- 15 **FATHER'S DAY** (U.S.)  
1943. Death of U.S. Medal of Honor winner 2nd Lt. Joseph Sarnoski in Solomon Islands.
- 17 1696. Death of Jan III Sobieski, who defeated the Turks at the Battle of Chocom near Vienna, and is credited with saving Europe from being overrun.
- 18 1949. Birth of Lech Kaczyński, former president of Poland from 2002 to 2010.
- 19 **CORPUS CHRISTI**  
Boże Ciało, a free day in Poland, the religious feastday is marked by Eucharistic processions down city streets and country lanes. In addition to central processions in major cities, each parish also holds its own. It is still celebrated in larger Polish American parishes.
- 21 1918. Birth of Eddie Lopat (Lopatynski), New York Yankees star.
- 22 1940. Gen. Wladyslaw Sikorski establishes Polish government-in-exile in London.
- 23 **ST. JOHN'S EVE**  
This Polish midsummer festival of pagan origin is celebrated with bonfires and with candlelit wreaths set afloat on rivers. It is believed that the forest comes to life this night.
- 24 1914. Birth of Jan Karski, Polish World War II resistance fighter and scholar. In 1942 and 1943, He reported to the Polish, British, and American governments on the situation in Poland, the destruction of the Warsaw Ghetto and the Holocaust.
- 25 1447. Coronation of Kazimierz IV Jagiellon
- 26 1295. White Eagle made symbol of Poland.
- 28 1941. German troops occupy Galicia, Poland.  
1919. Treaty of Versailles, making Poland a free nation, signed by I.J. Paderewski today.

This paper mailed on or before  
May 29. The July edition will be  
mailed on or before  
July 2.

## VIEWPOINT / Christopher West

## 1938 – Revisited

On September 30, 1938 with the signing of the Munich Pact, Adolf Hitler began his reign of terror and conquest. On March 15, 1939 Hitler marched across Czechoslovakia without military resistance and over the borders into Bohemia and Moravia. Echoing those tactics, Russia has consumed the Crimea/Tauric Peninsula and has moved onto the borders of the Ukraine.

Hitler repeatedly crossed borders on the pretext of being a savior. The Third Reich promulgated racial persecution and instigated hatred. Not unlike a cancer destroying life while spreading into other parts Europe, his control of the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP/Nazi Party) from 1933 to 1945 was the death knoll for all of those who trusted him.

Russian political leaders took control years before the recent conquest of Crimea. Today they mimic the events and practices used to overtake countries fueling the flames of a United Soviet Socialist Republic. As with Hitler in his premise of protecting those in other nations, mother Russia is promoted.

Like a thief in the night taking other national resources by force or by scheme, they achieve nothing with economic impotency. The pillaging of nations has never resolved the most basic principles. Ukraini-

an citizens clamoring for a mother Russia seek more than economic aid. Russia did not provide for its member nations under the USSR and mother Russia never will until it has resolved its own economic system and implements democratic reform.

This "Frozen War" will be more destructive than its previous "Cold War." As death squads return again, civil wars will erupt echoing the cruelty and paranoia in unimaginable proportion.

Russia must stop and think before it considers invading Poland as Hitler did years ago.

Take some lessons in economics from your old friends at the Communist People's Republic of China. Everything we wear and use to prepare meals and repair and maintain our homes is made in "China." Not the People's Republic of China but "China" and they are "Communists," and Russia is technically not.

Turn those hammers and sickles into plowshares and personal computers. Moscow must not starve its people or its neighboring nations. It must not take from those it loves and crush their families in the streets. Adolf Hitler and his gang of killers did not have the ability to truly care for anyone but themselves.

If Putin really cares, he will bring financial aid and education and de-



**POLAND, BIALYSTOK, CIRCA 1992, LOCAL GROCERY.** Initially, there were not a lot of groceries after political changes from communism. Slowly more products came on the market and shelves were filled.

velop Russian heritage and skills.

What automobiles does Russia produce for the global market? At the point of a Kalashnikov will Russia force peace and prosperity or will it turn back time and force everyone to wear gray and live in homes never painted or repaired? Will the Kremlin educate its citizens or will they again sit at the side of roads watching horse-drawn wagons finding no hope?

I was in Poland from 1991 to 1994 to help as a volunteer business and economic development advisor. I witnessed a huge drab green locomotive with an unmistakable red star. I saw an emergency fire hose bar in a department store displaying the hose and nozzle in the shape of a hammer and sickle. Over the

years those symbols were removed and computer technology and a free market system transformed the streets and the people. I have returned since and the transformation is a miracle.

In 1992 I saw people standing in line waiting to get into a grocery store and in the grocery store I saw little more than potatoes in a bin. I saw women selling eggs by the handful to a line of grocery customers. I visited the temporary markets filled with newspapers used as flooring selling undergarments next to a sausage in the heat of day.

Russia's ideology is not welcome in the Ukraine, and certainly not in Poland. Demilitarization and economic policies open the door to jobs and productivity, not hatred.

## JUST BETWEEN US / Mark Kohan

## Time to Start Helping Our Own

**THE RESPONSE** to our special editions on the canonization of Pope John Paul II has been overwhelming. We thank all who made these editions possible, and all who ordered extra copies of the April and May papers.

**WE ARE ONCE AGAIN** reminding all to submit the email addresses of their elected representatives, especially those who have a vote on Polish American matters. We will send them a complimentary digital subscription of the PAJ to keep them abreast of events in our community and in Poland.

**ONE MORE REMINDER:** In July, we will be having our annual half-price subscription sale. This is for new subscribers only. We wish we could give everyone this fantastic deal, but we need money for ink, paper, and utilities! A subscription to the PAJ is a great way to reintroduce family members and friends to their

Polish heritage.

**STARTING THIS MONTH,** Greg Witul from Niagara Falls, N.Y., will present a series called "Polonia Places." This is a look at some famous buildings, parks and locations throughout American Polonia. Witul has a knack for digging up interesting and little-known facts, and we know you will enjoy his contributions.

**WE'VE ADDED TWO NEW** books in our Bookstore this month. "Hitler's Furies," by Wendy Lower, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. This is a long-overdue account of the women of Nazi Germany who worked as Hitler's killing fields. The 288-page, hardcover book earned high praise from the PAJ's Dr. John Grondelski.

**YOU ASKED.** We have been getting many requests for a new Polish-English / English-Polish diction-

ary, and we got a decent deal on the Larousse Pocket Dictionary (which we are passing on to you). This updated softcover book of 331 pages has over 40,000 words and phrases. We liked it because it was easy-to-read print, too.

**AND NOW, THE BEST FOR LAST:** After almost two years of paperwork, a lot of meetings, and a lot of money, we will soon launch the Polish American Journal Foundation. This will be a non-profit 501c3 organization. The principal activities of the PAJF will be the promoting of "Polish and Polish American culture and traditions among members of the public and other Polish and Polish American groups by organizing special events, networking opportunities, consultation and public and private gatherings."

In everyday terms, as a national newspaper serving Polish American communities, we have a unique perspective on the shortfalls — primar-

ily funding — that have prevented many great projects from getting off the ground. We also have grown increasingly frustrated to see students, future leaders who are passionate about Polonia, seek other areas of study because they could not secure something as simple as airfare to study in Poland or abroad. Likewise, we see so many talented academicians, scholars, artists, folk groups — the list goes on — whose special projects or areas of study have been dropped for lack of funds. In many cases, state or federal arts or cultural funding is available, but these groups cannot afford processing fees to meet application requirements. It is time to start helping our own.

We will cover this great news in more detail in upcoming editions. In the meantime, we ask you help spread the word about this, and please consider the PAJF when planning tax-deductible donations for 2014.

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## Crowley Backs Two Visa Waiver Bills

QUEENS, N.Y. — A proposed House of Representatives bill making Poland eligible for America's Visa Waiver program has now acquired an additional co-sponsor in the person of New York Congressman Joseph Crowley (center). Shown thanking him for his support of H.R. 1354 are officials of the Downstate N.Y. Division of the Polish American Congress Frank Milewski, president (left) and Chet Szarejko, chairman of that organization's Political Activities Committee.



PHOTO: DOWNSTATE NY PAC

Crowley's agreement to support H.R. 1354 helped push the count of Congressional co-sponsors to over 150. Polish Americans have already put in several years of dedicated effort to get Poland into the U.S. Visa Waiver Program. They are now conducting an intensive nationwide drive to have this bill voted on and approved by the end of the present session of Congress.

Every member nation of the European Union is in the program with only the exception of Poland, Bulgaria, Romania and Cyprus.

A comprehensive immigration reform bill containing the Visa Waiver provision has already passed in the Democratic-controlled Senate. The next action on immigration reform will be taking place in the House.

House Democrats had put together their own version

of a Comprehensive Immigration Bill (H.R. 15) several months ago also containing Visa Waiver support. It is almost exclusively a Democratic bill, which Crowley co-sponsored even before the Polish American Congress met with him to ask him to also co-sponsor H.R. 1354.

With the focus of H.R. 1354 concentrated on travel, tourism and Visa Waiver (The JOLT Act of 2013), it has thus far received bipartisan acceptance with almost even co-sponsorship from both Democrats and Republicans.

In case the House debate on comprehensive immigration reform reaches a stalemate, the PAC hopes the legislators could at least agree on the limited provisions of H.R. 1354 and pass it, according to Political Activities Chairman, Chet Szarejko, a former Democratic District Leader.

Crowley supported Poland's entry into NATO in 1999.

"With the current crisis Russia's Putin created in neighboring Ukraine, everyone sees why being a member of NATO is now so important to Poland," said Szarejko, who considers Crowley a good friend of the PAC.

He also noted that Poland has lived up to all its NATO obligations since joining the pact, and has contributed militarily to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

## 14th Annual Katyn Remembrance



PHOTO: ANDRZEJ TRZECIAK

Brigadier General Jaroslaw Strozzyk

### All Katyn Victims Remembered at Baltimore Ceremony

by Richard Poremski

BALTIMORE — Brigadier General Jaroslaw Strozzyk, commander of the Defense Attaché Office of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, delivered the keynote address on behalf of the Polish Armed Forces at the National Katyn Memorial. He was supported by his Army, Navy and Air Attachés. Consul Ewa Pietrasienska represented Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf and the people of Poland.

Three coordinated Katyn Remembrance events took place here on April 6, 2014 organized by the National Katyn Memorial Foundation (NKMF) under the auspices of Chairman Richard P. Poremski and its Board of Directors.

Approximately 200 people attended the ceremonies at the Katyn Memorial site. The participants included Baltimore, State of Maryland and U.S. Congressional speakers, or their representatives. Catholic, Christian and Jewish clergy offered prayers and religious traditions for the dearly departed. The victims were the 25,000 Polish Army officers, including many of Poland's officialdom, leading citizens and intelligentsia, slain in the now-inclusive 1940 Katyn Forest Massacre by Soviet Union's militarized NKVD political police, in Katyn, and at other locations, during early World War II.

The national colors of the United States and Poland were paraded and posted by the Polish Legion of American Veterans — Maryland Department, and the Polish Army Vet-

erans — Post 36, from Passaic, N.J. Folk-costumed local dance groups Krakowiaki (youth) and Ojczyzna (adult) led the mass singing of the respective national anthems. The invited speakers focused on remembrance of the martyrs, the horrors of genocide, and dangers of intolerance. Then followed a wreath laying ceremony. "Taps," played by an Army National Guard bugler in the shadow of the Memorial, provided a melancholy and fitting end to the event.

Earlier in the day, a dedicated Polish-English mass was celebrated at Holy Rosary Church at 10:30 a.m. The Polonia groups all participated in the mass.

At the afternoon reception and dinner held in the Great Hall of Polish National Alliance — Council 21, Poland's President Lech Kaczynski and the other 95 victims of the catastrophic April 10, 2010 Katyn/Smolensk airplane crash were honored in a candle lighting ceremony in front of their framed photo collage, flanked by bouquets of flowers. The lives cut short included many of Poland's political, military and social strata elites. In keeping with Polish custom and tradition, everyone rose and observed one minute of silence in their memory. Preceding the banquet, as is traditional, Honorary NKMF membership was bestowed upon notable and supportive persons.

On this reflective Sunday, all who perished at Katyn were commemorated ... in the past by the hand of Josef Stalin's Soviet Union ... and more recently by the hand of fate.

### SPEAK UP / Letters to the Editor

## Committee Seeks Answers to Air Disaster

Dear Editor:

We are gathered here April 12, 2014 at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pa., to commemorate the Fourth Anniversary of the Smolensk Disaster of April 10 2010. In that disaster, all 96 aboard Polish Air Force One perished. Among the victims were many of Poland's top governmental, military, church, and academic leaders, including President Lech Kaczynski. On this occasion, we issue this appeal to all of our fellow Poles and friends who love Poland.

From across the Atlantic, we see the sovereignty of Poland is once again threatened. From the moment of the Disaster to the present, we observe the attenuation of Poland's sovereignty, which unless stopped, will destroy our Motherland. One can ascertain it by the fact that the investigation of the Smolensk Disaster was subserviently and unconditionally handed over by the Tusk Government to a foreign power unfriendly to Poland — the Russian Federation.

We are deeply troubled by the stance, which demonstrates a disdainful and even contemptuous attitude towards the families of the victims. Independent academic researchers and journalists have been harassed and even defamed following their attempts to objectively analyze the causes of the disaster. This clearly demonstrates a threat to democratic principles and a return to what we recognize as well-known totalitarian methods of control and manipulation.

Revealing the truth about the Smolensk Disaster is the key to ensuring Poland's sovereignty. We will always regard this effort as our sacred obligation to those who perished that day.

*The Organizing Committee to Commemorate Fourth Anniversary of the Smolensk Disaster of April 10, 2010.*

*Tadeusz Antoniuk, Chairman*

**THE REAL JACK ARMSTRONG .** In my father's day, Frank Merriwell was the model of the All American boy in the books and for a while on the radio. Then came Jack Armstrong, the All American boy in the movies, on the radio and in the early days of the television. In the 1950's in real life came Tom Gola from the Port Richmond area of Philadelphia and his heroics on the basketball court made headlines while he was in Annunciation Catholic Grammar school where he dominated the CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) league and then went to La Salle High School, winning championships there and on to little La Salle college at 20th and Olney.

The college basketball world did not know about La Salle college until Tom Gola arrived where he led the team to a NIT championship when the National Invitational Tournament was the most prestigious of the past season clashes. He was a freshman at the time and also an All American, which he was in his four years at La Salle. His team under coach Ken Loeffler won the NCAA championship in 1954 and runner up to San Francisco University led by defensive standout, Bill Russell. A small incident portrayed the difference between personalities of these two great players. When they met for the

first time Russell greeted Tom with "So...you're the great Gola". There's no record of what Gola replied but I insert what I think he said: "A pleasure to meet you Mr. Russell. I'm not great."

This is real life. Tom Gola went onto a professional career after two years in the armed forces serving God and our country. He was a five-time all pro selection. After he retired from professional basketball he made a mistake (in my opinion) by entering politics as a Republican. He won a couple of elections as a state representative. After losing a race for mayor he disappeared from the public scene except for two years as a head coach at his alma mater where he had a record of 37-13.

The only time I heard about Tom Gola after the 1970s was when he made a brief comment about basketball in the old days in a documentary for television. The last ten years of his life were very difficult because he had a couple serious falls that confined him to St. Joseph's nursing home.

His character can be seen when he was still a young player in college. He was selected on the All-Italian team. His reply to this honor was typical of his humble attitude. "I thank everyone who selected me and will cherish this honor, but I have to tell you something; I'm Polish" He is a real All American and a member of the National Polish American Hall of Fame. Eternal rest grant unto him, O lord and may perpetual light shine on him and may his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

**Rev. Jerome C. Romanowski**  
*Hammonton, New Jersey*

**GRATEFUL.** Many were touched by St. John XXIII and St. John Paul II, transcending economic, ethnic, and even religious boundaries. My mother, Rita, and I were blessed to be at their dual Canonization. At St. Peter's Square, in front of us were people from the Congo; to our right, from Poland; to our left, from Italy; and behind us from Chile. We helped each other with cameras and traded stories. Beyond the canonization, we experienced the great impact of St. John Paul II on our pilgrimage spiritual leader Very Rev. Canon Miroslaw Król (New Jersey). After returning to Detroit, our merged parish hosted a priest celebrating mass on his 50th anniversary of being ordained by Bishop Karol Wojtyła.

June 13, The Detroit Tiger's 44th Annual Polish American Night will be celebrated adjacent to the area of Polish immigration after the U.S. Civil War. From the top of the ballpark, we not only see our newly restored St. Josaphat Church steeple, but we can see several places where Cardinal Wojtyła/Pope John Paul II celebrated mass and evangelized. St. John Paul II continues to enrich and heal our lives and why, in gratitude, we attended the Canonization.

We are also grateful to PAJ and all who helped Save Our Steeple and, as a result, St. Josaphat Church, Detroit.

**Dean T. Wisniewski**  
*4th generation (Detroit)*  
*Polish American*

### STERLING SILVER JEWELRY

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F	G	H	I	K

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**POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE** (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 28th year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

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

## Sokolowski's named a James Beard Foundation "American Classic" Award Winner

*continued from cover*

Sokolowski, co-owner of the restaurant with brother, Mike, and sister, Mary Balbier.

"You work your whole life, cleaning toilets and all the other kinds of work you do as a kid, working in your parents business and everything else, and ... eventually it pays off.

"We couldn't be happier. The whole family is so proud," he said.

Each year, five food establishments in different parts of the nation receive the honor. Businesses must be in existence for at least 10 years, and be locally owned to be considered for the recognition. According to the Foundation's Awards criteria, the American Classics prize is "given to restaurants that have timeless appeal and are beloved for quality food that reflects the character of their community."

In naming the Cleveland landmark, the

Foundation described the restaurant this way:

"In 1923 Victoria and Michael Sokolowski founded a Polish restaurant on a bank of the Cuyahoga in Cleveland. Today, Sokolowski's University Inn serves edible homages to the city's immigrant-driven industrial past, dishing sturdy comfort foods like cabbage rolls that once fueled the city's growth.

"Pierogis, stuffed with whipped potatoes, bathed in butter, and drenched in caramelized onions, are everyday specials. The Sokolowski family does right by Midwestern dishes, too. They beer-batter and fry Lake Erie perch. They craft their own bratwurst and smoked kielbasa.

"What began as a tavern when the Tremont neighborhood was flush with blue-collar steelworkers, expanded to cafeteria-style service in the 50s, and has evolved, more re-

cently into a touchstone restaurant for Polish families in search of their culinary roots."

Mike Sokolowski says that it's those customers, and tens of thousands of others over the year, who have made his family's restaurant a timeless Cleveland landmark.

"We know we can't please every person who walks through the line, though we try," he said.

"But we've been blessed by so many wonderful people who trudge through all the construction around us in Tremont and stand in line waiting for our food," he said.

"We view it as a huge honor," said Mike Sokolowski, emotion welling in his voice.

"I look at my Mom and Dad and all the hard work they put in — and the morals they taught us, to do the right thing. This is a great award for them, too. I know they're looking down and smiling."

## Karski Topic of Talk

FRANKLIN, Wisc. — The Polish Center of Wisconsin will hold a talk and concert in honor of Jan Karski, Sun., July 13, 2014, at 3:00 p.m. at the Center, 6941 S. 68th Street.

Professor Neal Pease of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee will talk about the courier from Warsaw who tried to tell the West of Nazi Germany's killing fields. His presentation will be followed by a recital by Igor Lipinski, concert pianist at Northwestern University.

Refreshments will be served.

The event is co-sponsored by: Polish Heritage Alliance, Polish American Congress-Wisconsin Division, Republic of Poland Consulate in Chicago, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Libraries, and through a generous grant from the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance.

For further information, call the Polish Center at (414) 529-2140 email [MarkPienkos2012@gmail.com](mailto:MarkPienkos2012@gmail.com).

## Have and Have Not

*continued from cover*

dom Independence Party—ed.], an openly anti-EU and anti-immigration party that is continuing to rise in the polls, at the expense of the Conservatives. So Cameron's comments are a mixture of ignorance and politics. Not that it makes it less serious. But it was less about Poles, more about the combination of British ambiguity towards the EU and domestic politics.

*How well are recent Polish emigrants to the UK doing? How settled are they? Do they see themselves as temporarily or permanently in the British Isles?*

Polish emigrants in Britain are a very diverse mix — there are some who settled permanently, some who continue to move back and forth and some who keep their options open. It is relatively easy to adapt your plans to changes in the labor market and life cycles — move back to Poland, move elsewhere or settle. The majority of the 700,000 or so Poles who moved here after the EU expansion in 2004 are probably long-term emigrants, and the growth of number of Polish children is a testimony to this process. But Britain remains a favorite destination for those who want to come just to save up for a year or two. So the picture is mixed, facilitated by ease and relative low costs of travel to Poland.

*Not all emigrants find El Dorado; some fall on hard times. About what percentage of Polish emigrants to the UK find themselves with problems, and what kinds of problems are they? Would these problems resolve if they "just went home?"*

Migration is a stress factor and there is a lot of research on that. But I would not exaggerate by putting the main blame for some problems on migration to another country. Moving to a larger town, having to find a job, getting used to unfamiliar settings are also stress factors that are not solely associated with migration. Having said this, the truth is that Polish migrants are disproportionately represented among the homeless population, particularly in London: one in three homeless in London is Polish. The reasons behind this are numerous — exclusion from welfare assistance (EU citizens can qualify only after a year of employment), precariousness of the labor market (Poles work predominantly in construction which is very unpredictable and unstable), gender (almost all Polish homeless

are men), previous history of exclusion or economic deprivation — they all play a part. What I found in my research was that most homeless Poles were victims of harsh capitalist market relations already in Poland. However, there are different reasons behind becoming homeless and different factors sustaining that situation.

In London for example, homeless people quickly adapt and find resources (scrap collecting, begging) that keep them in these circumstances for months, even years. There is a particular culture of self-reliance among groups of males that form closely knit communities of homeless, distrustful of any institutional engagement. Alcohol plays a role here too. As a bonding device, it obviously makes matters even worse. It is a difficult situation, not helped by the fact that the Polish government seems reluctant to face this issue head on.

*Tell us something about Polish London — its high points and its dark points.*

Polish London is rapidly changing. What we witness is in fact many communities, networks, groups composed of Poles from various migration waves, from various class backgrounds — from wealthy financial sectors employees to factory workers, from urbanites to rural folk, from Polish Roma to Polish students. We are now witnessing a political mobilization ahead of European Parliament elections and local elections, but along many political allegiances, from left-leaning trade unionists to right wing groups.

From this perspective it is difficult to see one representation of Polish diaspora here. Unlike the United States, or Chicago in particular, Poles here are rather fragmented, occupying various social and political niches. The question is whether this is a good or bad thing. Ethnic urban politics isn't so present in the UK as in the US and some groups — like Italians — are like Poles, not really forming political blocs. Poles aren't overtly discriminated against — although some formal organizations may disagree — and this may be the reason behind their low levels of formal associations. You get organized when there is threat to your interests. And so far, despite some political rhetoric, British society in large has been rather sympathetic to Polish migrations. There are some minor tensions, but nothing too serious.

## Britain's Polish Workers

*continued from cover*

children back home, not in Britain, can claim child benefit in Britain and remit the money straight back." Cameron said it was unacceptable. Explaining that EU rules would need to change, he used Poles as an example, not Bulgarians and Romanians. Cameron asserted that "there are other European countries who like me think it's wrong that someone from Poland who comes here, who works hard - and I am absolutely all in favor of that - but I don't think we should be paying child benefit to their family back at home in Poland."

Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski immediately complained that it would be unfair for Poles working and paying taxes in Britain not to be able to claim benefits for their children. Sikorski's sharp reaction should be seen not just as a response to Cameron's comments the previous day, but also to his developing habit of naming Poles as problems. Before Christmas Cameron had mentioned Poles specifically when criticizing the 2004 decision to open the UK job market to new EU member-states. It was a 'very bad decision' because 'Poland and those countries are much poorer than us' and too many migrants had come to the UK.

It's understandable that Cameron felt he needed to appear 'strong on immigration,' given that opinion polls show high levels of public concern about affording Romanians and Bulgarians free access to British jobs from January 2014. Anxiety about this prospect had been created by right-wingers in Cameron's own party, sections of the UK media, and, above all, the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) — which could steal many Conservative votes in the 2015 general election.

It's also understandable that Poles were offended on both occasions, and concerned that hardworking Poles were being stigmatized as "benefit tourists." There is little or no evidence that Poles move to the UK purely to subsist on benefits. However, Cameron probably didn't intend to be unpleasant about Poles in particular. British people often use "Poles" as shorthand for "East Europeans" (which is offensive in itself).

*PM Cameron does not seem to be objecting to Polish workers in the UK—or is he?—but to their use of UK social benefits.*

Cameron is trying to have it both ways. He says he is "absolutely in

favor" of hardworking Poles because he knows that British employers need migrant workers and that East Europeans' overall contribution to the UK economy is positive. On the other hand, he is aware that voters believe migrants 'steal jobs' and abuse the benefits system, and he has to watch how he as a leader is presented in the media. The benefits issue is also important in its own right: Cameron perceives it as one of those 'irrational' EU arrangements which need to be re-negotiated in Brussels. At the moment, EU citizens who move to work in another EU country can claim child benefits as soon as they arrive. Many French parents working in the UK, for example, do exactly the same as Poles.

*Britain assumed certain obligations towards other EU citizens as part of the Union. Do British taxpayers feel "put upon" by EU citizens?*

It's hard to generalize about "EU citizens." Hundreds of thousands of French, German and other West Europeans live in the UK, and they do not seem to be objects of hostility. It can be different for "East Europeans." The problem, however, is really less about taxes, and more about jobs. Scare-mongering about "benefit tourism" has a certain public resonance, but more significant is the fact that East European manual workers are believed to take jobs from British workers. There is evidence that some employers pay East Europeans below the minimum wage, depressing wage ranges in general for the lowest paid workers, and creating situations where British workers cannot afford to support their families on locally available wages.

*You've been studying Polish workers who came to England after Poland joined the EU. How many are there, and where are they?*

According to the 2011 census there were 500,000 Poles living in England, and Polish was the second most common language here. A striking aspect of recent East European migration is how migrants have scattered across the whole country. This is very different from normal migration patterns, and reflects the fact that Poles in the UK come from so many walks of life and do so many different types of jobs. London naturally has the largest number of Poles (137,000) but there are also individual towns with big Polish populations. Slough, near

Heathrow Airport, is over 5% Polish, according to the census.

*Poles who came to the British Isles after EU accession: do you see them as temporary or permanent? Are they staying in England and, if so, how are they assimilating?*

The evidence suggests that only a tiny minority of Poles come to the UK expecting to live here for the rest of their lives. In most cases they plan temporary stays. However, it's also clear that many Poles who arrived after 2004 have stayed longer than they expected. My research shows that families in particular experience many pressures to settle down. Children often do well at school in the UK and make local friends. Their parents are reluctant to uproot the family a second time by returning to Poland, especially since they fear the children wouldn't cope well in Polish schools. As for assimilation in general, Poles with good English have no problems assimilating into the UK labor market and many seem to feel comfortable living in the UK. It's harder for those with poor English, many of whom have gotten stuck in typical migrant sectors like cleaning. Many of them acutely need affordable English-language classes. What's interesting is that Polish people who do return to live in Poland sometimes find it hard to re-integrate and actually come back to live abroad. My research suggests that in such cases they often decide to stay in the UK at least until their children have grown up.

*How can Poles be helped to feel more welcome in the UK?*

It would be helpful if there were less ethnic labelling—less focus on "Poles" versus "English" — and more attempt at tackling the common problems of working people. Cameron, for example, mentioned the need to enforce the minimum wage. This would benefit workers in the UK whatever their national origin. In addition, making it easier and cheaper for Poles to acquire British citizenship, and encouraging them to be dual citizens, would also recognize the reality that for the foreseeable future hundreds of thousands will continue to live with a foot in both countries. As voters in UK general elections, they would be in a better position vis-à-vis politicians who were tempted to play the anti-immigrant card.

## Scholarships Available For Undergraduate Students

*continued from cover*

The key goal of the program is to identify and support highly motivated students of Polish descent who contribute or are likely to engage in community service or any initiatives that benefit or promote a positive image of Polish Americans.

"This groundbreaking program will increase opportunities for Polish American students enrolled in specific fields at universities throughout the United States. It is yet another example of the importance that the Polish government places on good relations with Polonia, and the confidence that it has in the Kosciuszko Foundation to implement this and other important projects," said Dr. John S. Micgiel, president of the Kosciuszko Foundation.

Full-time undergraduate students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents with a minimum GPA of 3.0 are eligible to apply. Scholarships are merit-based and are awarded for academic achievement, leadership qualities, motivation, interest in Polish subjects, and involvement in the Polish American community.

To learn more or to apply, visit [www.thekf.org/scholarships/Scholarships\\_for\\_Undergrads/](http://www.thekf.org/scholarships/Scholarships_for_Undergrads/)

The scholarship program was made possible thanks to a \$60,000 grant secured by the Kosciuszko Foundation in the national competition "Cooperation with Polish Diaspora and Poles Abroad in 2014," run by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland. An additional grant of over \$15,000 was awarded for an update of the New KF English-Polish, Polish-English Dictionary, last published over a decade ago. The project, co-sponsored by the KF and the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union, has begun and will result in a thoroughly updated Dictionary, with online and app-based versions ready in 2015.

### POLONIA PLACES / Greg Witul

## Transfiguration in Buffalo, New York

**TRANSFIGURATION ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Sycamore and Mills Sts.  
Buffalo, New York

Status: Closed

Buffalo, New York is a city of churches. It is home to Presbyterian, Protestant, Baptist, Polish National, and Catholic congregations. Of the Catholic parishes, few have as storied and tragic history as that of the city's sixth Polish church, Transfiguration.

Transfiguration parish was established July 23, 1893. The new church was spearheaded by the St. Joseph's Society of Saint Adalbert's Basilica and Father Wojcik of Assumption Parish, who together asked permission of Buffalo's Bishop Ryan to start a parish. Because of the high concentration of Poles on Buffalo's East-Side the Bishop quickly granted permission to the Society. The group found a suitable plot of land on Stanislaus Street and a church and school building was quickly raised. By the next year there were over 150 families enrolled in the parish and three Felician Sisters from Detroit, Michigan were brought in to teach at the school.

By 1896 the growth of the parish required a larger, more substantial church to be built. Architect Carl Schmill was hired to design a red brick, Gothic Revival church with a

180 ft. steeple and seating for 1,400 with a budget of \$70,000. The completed church was blessed July 5, 1897.

With this larger church the parish continued to grow. As the area just off Sycamore became more affluent, many of prominent members of Buffalo's Polonia began attending Transfiguration, including Health Commissioner Francis E. Fronczak and architect Wladyslaw H. Zawadzki. Through much of the twentieth century the church met the needs of the faithful and was well attended.

The end of Transfiguration began with the "white flight" of the 1980s. In 1985 the school closed and the church was clustered with another parish when its priest retired in 1990. At the same time the now under-maintained church



building was deemed structural deficient, and Masses were held in the former school. The parish held its Centennial and final Mass on August 22, 1993 at the Villa Maria Motherhouse chapel in Cheektowaga, New York. Twenty years later the structurally deficient church still stands defiantly on the corner of Sycamore and Mills.

❖ ❖ ❖

Have a Polonia Place you wish to know about? Email it to Gregory Witul at [stainedglassbuffalo@gmail.com](mailto:stainedglassbuffalo@gmail.com).

## PMA Seeks Managing Director

CHICAGO — The Polish Museum of America (PMA) is seeking a full-time Managing Director. The Museum houses exhibit space, an art gallery, archives, and a library, all of which contain materials pertaining to Poland, Poles, and Polish Americans. The Managing Director will work under the direction of the PMA Board of Directors in the areas of operations, budget and staff management, fundraising, marketing, and public relations.

Candidates require, at a minimum, an undergraduate degree in Fine Arts, History, Museum Studies, Finance or Business/Public Administration or an equivalent of five years related experience. Candidates require excellent organizational, communication, planning, and management skills; fluency in speaking and writing both English and Polish; along with good computer skills, that include word processing and accounting software proficiency. Marketing and project management skills are considered a plus.

Only qualified candidates will be considered.

Submit resume, employment history, education, and personal references to: [director-search@polishmuseumofamerica.org](mailto:director-search@polishmuseumofamerica.org), or write to The Polish Museum of America, Attn.: Richard Owsiany, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60642-4101, Details can be found at [polishmuseumofamerica.org](http://polishmuseumofamerica.org).

## Polish Club Organized at GMU

FAIRFAX, Virg. — The Polish Mason Club has been established on the campus of George Mason University. Members are reaching out to fellow Poles, Polish Americans, and anyone interested in Polish culture or language.

"We would love to meet you! If you know someone who might be interested in learning more about Poland, please share this message," said officer Aneta Radzikowski.

"We have many ideas and are very motivated to promote Poland and its culture among the GMU community. Our main interests are food, language, film and Polish culture in general. If these are things you enjoy as well, please don't hesitate to e-mail us at [mbienkow@gmu.edu](mailto:mbienkow@gmu.edu)."

## Ambassador Opens Home to Brzezinski and Guests



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

Charles Gati (left) interviews Professor Zbigniew Brzezinski during a discussion of past and present world events, and other intriguing matters, at the Residence of Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf.

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — With many thanks due the Republic of Poland's Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf, more than 200 Washington dignitaries, government officials, and Polonia, in attendance March 28, 2014 at the Residence of the Ambassador, learned just about everything there is to know and admire about Professor Zbigniew Kazimierz Brzezinski — a true renaissance man in our midst. He was accompanied by his wife Emilie (nee Benes), a sculptor in her own right, and a grandniece of Evard Benes — a former president of then-Czechoslovakia from 1935-48.

Brzezinski was born in Warsaw, Poland on March 28, 1928 and eventually became an American citizen in 1958, years after a fortunate familial safe haven stranding in Canada at the time of the joint Nazi German and Soviet Union coordinated west-east invasions of Poland in September, 1939. Brzezinski is a political scientist, geostrategic, and statesman who rose to serve as U.S. National Security Advisor to President Jimmy Carter from 1977 to 1981. Beginning in 1953, his foreign policy professorships include teaching at Harvard, Columbia and Johns Hopkins Universities, along with now being a scholar and fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He is a much-respected guest and astute commentator on many national news programs, and generously serves on many boards and councils.

The first part of the evening's program was an interview and conversation with Brzezinski conducted by Charles Gati, editor of "Zbig. The Strategy and State Craft of Zbigniew Brzezinski." The book is a collection of essays by former protégés and famous fellow colleagues who knew Brzezinski from his various posts in academia, and in public and government service. Gati's literary compilation also includes his extensive interview with "Zbig," which formed the basis of the 30-minute live interview and

conversation.

This vehicle effectively reminded the audience of the assertive "Brzezinski Brand of Realpolitik," its subsequent analyses, opinions and decisions — like them or not. Among the topics expounded upon were the rise of Russian expansionism under Vladimir Putin, present Russian aggression in Ukraine and annexation of Crimea, NATO, European Union, genesis and consequences of World War II, the cold war, etc. Many other important topics and situations of the political Brzezinski-Era, and beyond, were covered in the documentary that followed.

The second part of the program was a showing of the new 90-minute documentary "The Strategist" by Katarzyna Kolenda-Zaleska, which reflected on the life story and profound times of Brzezinski, during which we walk with him on the long journey from his boyhood in Warsaw to becoming a senior diplomat in Washington. It includes revealing and interviews with former U.S. Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and Madeline Albright, President Jimmy Carter, and former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. It is an entertaining and powerful film that immediately draws you in and keeps there. "It was a moving experience to watch a film about yourself during a very volatile historical period" Brzezinski said after the screening.

The atmosphere quickly shifted into a surprise party mode when Ambassador Schnepf smilingly announced that "today is Professor Brzezinski's 86th birthday!" Everyone joined in a robust singing of "Sto lat" in his honor. He then was invited to cut the huge, masterpiece of a birthday cake prepared by embassy chef Andrzej Bielak. A light buffet followed, and the evening closed on a high note in more ways than one.



PHOTO: DMEALIFE

## PLAV POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS AN AMERICAN VETERANS ORGANIZATION

Open to all Honorably Discharged American Veterans Organized in 1920 to serve American Veterans of Polish Descent

Chartered by and Act of Congress

Members and Posts in 14 States with large membership in many more. Contact Deputy Membership Director Fred Thomas on how you can become part of the largest ethnic veterans organization in the United States or how to form a Post in your area.

Visit the National website [www.plav.org](http://www.plav.org)

The PLAV, USA is among the leaders in service to the veteran and family.



RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

## John Paul II's Vision and Influence Continues

The documentary "Francis: 'The Pope of the New World'" was featured for the first time during the **John Paul II International Film Festival** in April in Miami. The Festival was founded in 2009, 10 years after John Paul II, himself a playwright, poet and actor, wrote a letter to the world's artists to urge them to use their talents to uplift society, to teach and preach human dignity, and to help the people of today to better understand the mysteries of both God and man. The Festival gives a home to filmmakers who have chosen to use their medium to express and share a message of hope, struggle, triumph, and love with the world.

John Paul II's enthusiasm for the vocation of marriage and family life is being carried forward today through an academic institute dedicated to studying his theology and related issues. The Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family was born after the synod on the family that John Paul II had desired from the beginning of his pontificate. Georgian scholar Eleonora Stefanya, who received her license degree in theology and is now pursuing her doctorate there, said, "For me personally, studying at the institute was a great gift in understanding myself, understanding what I'm called to."

### JOHN PAUL II STATUE BLESSED AND INSTALLED IN SANTIAGO, CHILE.

A statue of **St. John Paul II**, donated by the University of San Sebastian in Chile, has been moved to the Puente Alto neighborhood after an unsuccessful five-year effort to find a prominent place for it in the Chilean capital. Puente Alto is the largest poor neighborhood in Santiago. At the blessing and installation ceremony, Ricardo Cardinal Ezzati criticized those who prevented the statue from being placed in a trendy district for the "pride and self-sufficiency of those who think that art or beauty or truth depends on their own narrow point of view"

He saw their refusal as providential "because the Pope wants to be

among the simple, among the poor." He told the residents of the area: "Today, the Pope comes here to stay with you, to be a seed of justice, fraternity and peace, a seed that will bear fruit in a community in which everyone can feel that they are brothers and sisters and can share in the dignity of the children of God that we have been given through the Lord's resurrection."

### PILGRIMAGE TO CANONIZATION OF TWO PAPAL SAINTS.

**Fr. James Kurzynski**, pastor of Roncalli Newman parish in La Crosse, Wisc, journeyed to Rome for the canonization of its co-patron, Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, St. John XXIII. The 40-year-old pastor noted that both John XXIII and John Paul II were influential in his vocation to the priesthood.

**STO LAT TO...** Jubilarian Priests of the Buffalo Diocese: 55 years — **Rev. Msgr. Matthew S. Wendzikowski**, **Revs. Seweryn J. Koszyk**, **Marcel Sokalski**; 50 years — **Rev. Theodore Rog**, **Eugene Slomba**; 25 years — **Rev. Michael Burzynski**.

Jubilarian Religious of the Buffalo Diocese: 80 years — **Sr. M. Virginelle Burakowski**, **CSSF**; 75 years — **Sr. M. Angeline Bierut**, **CSSF**, **Sr. M. Agnes Czarnecki**, **CSSF**, **Sr. M. Ursuline Hilinski**, **CSSF**, **Sr. M. Felicity Wardzinski**, **CSSF**; 70 years — **Sr. M. Vincentia Jachimski**, **FSSJ**, **Sr. M. Francella Turajski**, **CSSF**, **Sr. M. Telesphore Wozniak**, **CSSF**; 65 years — **Sr. M. Francelita Machnica**, **CSSF**, **Sr. M. Janet Mazierski**, **CSSF**, **Sr. Joyce Martin Nalewjak**, **FSSJ**, **Sr. Helen Therese Pelc**, **FSSJ**, **Sr. M. Alisette Skotnicki**, **CSSF**; 60 years — **Sr. M. Marcelette Bogoniewski**, **CSSF**, **Sr. M. Eleanor Chorobik**, **FSSJ**, **Sr. Conrad Maria Glica**, **FSSJ**, **Sr. M. Francelette Smigielski**, **CSSF**; 50 years — **Sr. M. Barbara Amrozowicz**, **CSSF**, **Sr. Barbara Bartkowiak**, **OSFa**, **Sr. M. Michaelanne Galas**, **CSSF**, **Sr. Anne Marie Jablonicky**, **CSSF**, **Sr. Suzanne Marie Kush**, **CSSF**, **Sr.**

**Martha Marie Olszewski**, **CSSF**, **Sr. M. Catherine Raczowski**, **CSSF**, **Sr. M. Johnice Rzadkiewicz**, **CSSF**, **Sr. M. Georgette Zielinski**, **CSSF** ... **Mary Lou Wyrobek** on receiving an award from Buffalo's Polish American Congress for her efforts to advance Polish culture in Western New York. She is chair of Canisius College's Permanent Chair of Polish Culture and a leader in the Polish Singers Alliance as a member of Buffalo's Chopin Singing Society ... **Renato Cardinal Martino** papal nuncio to the United Nations, on receiving the Maximilian Kolbe Medal for bravery in carrying out the instruction of Saint John Paul II in defense of life, faith and family. The United Nations has fallen victim to pressure groups from the U.S. and Europe to advance abortion and other anti-life policies throughout the world. The same groups launch repeated attacks against the Church, including attempts to oust the Vatican from its seat as a member of the United Nations. The medal is given by the board of the Catholic Family organization.

### KANSAS PROSECUTOR LOSES LICENSE.

The U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the appeal of Kansas state prosecutor Phil Kline, who investigated late-term abortionist George Tiller and Planned Parenthood for violating the state's abortion law. **Tom Brejcha**, president of the Thomas More Society, which underwrote and assisted Kline's Supreme Court appeal, noted, "It is bad enough that the guilty go free, but now an innocent man has been punished for bringing their crimes to light."

As state attorney general and later Johnson County district attorney, Kline filed 107 charges against Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri's Comprehensive Health clinic, including 23 felony charges related to covering up an alleged failure to report child sexual abuse. Additional charges against abortion providers included falsifying records and conducting illegal late-term abortions. Kline was accused of violating 11 laws of professional conduct, including misleading others during the course of his investigations. State justices cited the prosecutor's "fervid" belief in the pro-life "cause" in their ruling against him.

Brejcha promised to carry on the fight to clear the prosecutor's name and to see that he is "fully vindicated — in the court of public opinion if not also in our courts."



**PMA HONORS SAINT JOHN PAUL II.** The Polish Museum of America (PMA) announced the completion of the renovation of its permanent **St. John Paul II Display**, located in the Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall. The display highlights Karol Wojtyła/Pope John Paul II's visit to Chicago. During the weekend of the canonization, the PMA held a special viewing of the documentary, "Big Poland, Little Poland. Visit of John Paul II to Chicago" produced by Robert Lewandowski, the late and well-known Polish American TV host and journalist.

Pictured above is just a small part of the exhibit. (GBC)

## Committee Formed to Save Philly's Historic St. Laurentius Church

**PHILADELPHIA** — A group of parishioners have a plan to save the Saint Laurentius Church in the Fishtown section of Philadelphia. This committee has hired a canon lawyer and intends to do everything it can to reopen Saint Laurentius Church for regular worship.

According to the Diocese of Philadelphia, the church is in imminent danger of collapse. It was closed on March 28 of this year.

The church has been used as a weekly worship site of Holy Name of Jesus Parish, with which St. Laurentius merged last year.

St. Laurentius has a thriving school and its students use the basement of the church for lunch.

The church is in need of repair, say committee members, but to close it and claim it in danger of collapse — and schedule its demolition — has not given the parishioners time to perform due diligence.

The Archdiocesan proposal to demolish the church would cost an estimated \$1,000,000. St.

Laurentius' convent was recently sold for approximately \$350,000. Despite reports to the press from the archdiocese claiming any parish can use funds generated from property sales, the archdiocese has earmarked the proceeds of the convent sale for demolition, not for repairs. The balance needed for demolition would place Holy Name of Jesus Parish in debt.

At the request of the committee, a conditions assessment of the masonry towers has been performed. A contractor specializing in the preservation of historic churches submitted a proposal to remedy the violations by restoring the masonry towers. The cost of the work would be \$691,000, pending the approval of a structural engineer commissioned by the parishioners. The contractor has stated that, although the towers need work, the notion that they are in imminent danger of collapse is not consistent with his observations.

To learn more, or to make a donation to help pay for repairs, visit [savestlaurentius.org](http://savestlaurentius.org).

## Artifact to be Permanently Displayed

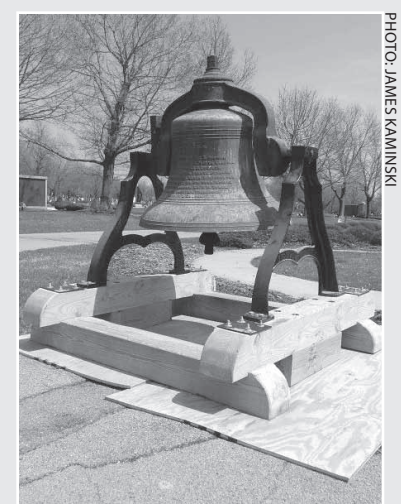
**LACKAWANNA, N.Y.** — The bell from the former St. Barbara's R.C. Parish was on display at Holy Cross Cemetery in the city, in preparation for its permanent exhibit at the burial ground.

The parish, was one of four Polish American churches to serve the Buffalo suburb, was founded in 1903. The church was constructed in 1930, and featured a 154 foot bell tower, which is one of the tallest structures in Lackawanna. The last Mass was celebrated there on Sun., Jan. 16, 2008.

The bell, cast in 1908, lists the parish founders. At that time, the city was part of West Seneca, N.Y. One year later, residents voted to split from West Seneca, and took the name Lackawanna in honor of the Lackawanna Steel Company, which opened its factory there in 1902.

In late 2009, lightning struck the tower of the shuttered church, an act some say was the result of its namesake's intervention, as St. Barbara — the patron saint of artillerymen, armory makers, military engineers, gunsmiths, miners, and anyone else who worked with cannon and explosives — is invoked against thunder and lightning.

The church was demolished in 2011, and while the bell and some of its significant paintings and statues have found homes in other Western New York parishes, much of St. Barbara's was relegated to a landfill.



### 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.

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

## Astronaut Pawelczyk Guest Speaker at PAA Brunch

CHICAGO — The Polish American Association (PAA) hosted its annual Chairman's Brunch on April 27 at Chicago's prestigious Standard Club. Chairman of the Board, Kenneth Berzewski, presented the PAA's Solidarity Award to **Arie and Bozenna Zweig**



The Zweigs and Dr. Pawelczyk

**Zweig** for their lifetime of giving. This year's speaker was **James "Jim" A. Pawelczyk, Ph.D.**, who shared the inspirational story of his distinguished career as an astronaut and academician, citing also his Polish pride and identity. As an American researcher of physiology and kinesiology who flew aboard the NASA STS-90 Neurolab Space Shuttle mission as a payload specialist, Pawelczyk was the first astronaut of full-blooded Polish descent to go into space. He recalled how he brought a Polish Flag, sent to him by Aleksander Kwaśniewski, President of Poland, via the Polish Embassy, on the mission. On May 3, 1999, he presented that same flag to Kwaśniewski in a ceremony in Warsaw. He also told of the crew's one-week isolation from everyone, including his family. Then he related to the audience his experience prior to the launching of the shuttle. Though isolated on Easter Sunday, the crew and NASA "brass" had planned a wonderful Easter dinner, baked ham, pineapple, and all. Pawelczyk commented that he requested kielbasa. Much to his wonderment, the chefs at NASA had heard of kielbasa, and would try to locate some. Jim said that he would order the best kielbasa from Redlinski's Meats in Buffalo, New York, his hometown. Once it arrived, he had to show the chefs how to prepare it. He was pleased that the Easter Sunday dinner with the NASA staff and crew had a touch of Polish and that he had introduced the crew to Polish cuisine. **Dr. Pawelczyk** is currently Associate Professor of Physiology, Kinesiology, and Medicine at Pennsylvania State University.

awarded the Gold Cross of Merit. Additionally, Kazimierz Malisz, son of **Bogusław Malisz**, accepted the Siberian Exile Cross on behalf of his late father. **Stefania Kubczek** was awarded a special medal from Poland's National Education Commission.

Four representatives of the Polish American community were honored with the Outstanding Pole Abroad Award. **Lucyna Migala**, co-founder, artistic director, and general manager of the Lira Ensemble, artist-in-residence at Loyola University Chicago, was honored for her many years of promoting Polish culture through music. Ms. Migala, an Emmy-award-winning television journalist, is vice president and program director of WCEV/1450 AM, one of Chicago's major multi-ethnic stations. Also receiving this award were **Tom Startek**, businessman, and **Jan Loryś**, former managing director of the Polish Museum. **Michael Traison**, a lawyer and advocate for Polish American-Jewish American dialogue, was named "The Friend of Poland and Polonia" and received the 2014 Outstanding Polish American Award.

The Outstanding Pole Award is sponsored by the Foundation for Polish Promotion in Warsaw, in cooperation with the Office of the President of the Republic of Poland, the Senate and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, which includes its embassies and consulates. Pangea Network USA is the national organizer of this award.

**POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY PARADE.** It was a great day for a parade, any parade. The weather was in the high 50s and the sunny sky was a perfect shade of blue.

The theme of Chicago's 123rd Annual Polish Constitution Day Parade was "John Paul II – a Polish Son for the World." The Parade, held on Saturday, May 3, included state, county, and Chicago dignitaries, along with representatives of Chicago, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan Polonia. This year's Grand Marshall was **Edward Mika**, former president of the Alliance of Polish Clubs. Vice Marshalls were **Anna Sokolowski**, vice president of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America and **Dorota Malachowska**, president of the Dar Serca (Gift from the Heart) Foundation. This year's parade queen was **Paula Soltys**, a student from DePaul University and an active member of Polonia.

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



U.S. Sen. Mark Kirk, U.S. Congressman Mike Quigley, and Judy Baar Topinka, Illinois State Treasurer.

outside of Poland and celebrates the anniversary of the ratification of the Polish Constitution on May 3, 1791. For 123 years, Polonia's various community organizations have come together to share in this traditional Chicago salute of Polish pride and tradition. An estimated 100 organizations including Polish language schools participated in this year's parade.

Polonia is indebted to **ART-VCHICAGO** for "live streaming" the entire Parade in both English and Polish. A special *dziękuję bardzo* goes out to **Barbara Chalko**, marketing representative for the Illinois State Treasurer's office and president of the Polish Scouting Organization, *Harcerstwo*, in Illinois, for her excellent English language commentary and to **Slawomir Budzik**, general manager of Radio Deon on WPNA/1490 AM, and **Sylwester Skora**, radio producer of WPNA/1490 AM, for their Polish commentary. Thanks to Polvision's **Eugeniusz Jarzabek** for his excellent camera work in broadcasting the Parade.

ABCTV Channel 7 did tape the parade, but it was delayed until 11:30 p.m., and ended abruptly without closing remarks. "Thank you" to news reporter and anchor **Alan Krashesky**, for his many years of enthusiastic commentary. And *dzięki*, to **Anna Ziolkowski Sobor** for her Polish history commentary.

**ED PASCHKE ART CENTER OPENS.** If you are an Ed Paschke fan, this may be of interest to you. In honor of the late Paschke's 75th birthday, the new Ed Paschke Art Center at 5415 W. Higgins Avenue in Chicago's Jefferson Park area will hold its grand opening on Sunday, June 22. The Center is being constructed inside the former Knoke the Stationer Building. It will feature a 2,800 square foot gallery along with 1,700 square feet of educational space. The Center is funded through the Rabb Family Foundation in partnership with the 3M Company, the Block Museum of Art, and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

The Chicago-born son of Polish immigrants, Paschke grew up on the northwest side. He became a nationally-known artist and belonged to a unique Chicago group known as the Imagists, whose art was considered by some to be grotesque and surreal. This style was influenced by the abstract and expressionist art and the pop movement of the 1960s. The Center offers free admission. For



Wreath-laying ceremony at the Kosciuszko Monument in the median of E. Solidarity Drive, southeast of Shedd Aquarium.

further information on the Paschke Art Center visit: [www.edpaschke.org](http://www.edpaschke.org).

**SPRING FILM FESTIVAL AT PNA.** For the next couple of months the Polish Arts Club of Chicago, the Chicago Society, and the Polish National Alliance will inaugurate a Polish Heritage Series to explore the beauty and richness of Polish heritage. Its Spring Film Festival began April 26 with the showing of *Smierć Prezydenta* (Death of the President). This film was directed by Jerzy Kawalorwicz, the director and writer of the film *Quo Vadis*. The drama is filled with political intrigue and tells of the rebirth of Po-

land after World War I, the turmoil leading to Gabriel Narutowicz's election by the Sejm, and his assassination.

The next film, *Stara Baśń* (When the Sun was God), directed by Jerzy Hoffman, tells the story of ninth-century Slavic tribes that existed while the Polish state was forming. King Popiel rules and his cruel wife, Ryksa, murders the entire ruling assembly. The peasants revolt, paving the way for the establishment of the Piast dynasty. This film was shown on May 31.

The third film in the festival is *Far From Poland*, a docudrama by Jill Godmilow. She was unable to gain entry into Poland during the early 1980s, in order to make a documentary about the Gdańsk strikes and the Solidarity Movement. She finally gained access. More importantly, her film tells the story of the woman who really started *Solidarność* – Anna Walentynowicz. This will be shown on June 28.

All films are screened at the Polish National Alliance, 6100 N. Cicero Avenue, Chicago, at 2:00 p.m.

The cost of viewing each film is a bargain at \$5.00 per ticket.

## Holocaust Opera Based on Radio Play and Novel Premieres at Lyric Opera



PHOTO: CATHERINE ASHMORE

Check out Chicago's Lyric Opera 2014-2015 season, even if opera is not part of your musical preferences. There is one opera that may be of interest. "**The Passenger**" by Polish composer **Mieczysław Weinberg** will have its Chicago premiere during the Lyric's 60th Anniversary Season. "The Passenger" is based on a 1968 adaptation of a 1959 Polish radio play and, later, a novel, by Zofia Posmycz, a Polish Catholic survivor of Auschwitz.

The printed synopsis of the opera is: "Aboard an ocean liner in the early 1960s, a West German diplomat, Walter, and his wife, Liese, are bound for a new posting in Brazil. But unbeknownst to her husband, Liese served as an SS officer in Auschwitz. Haunted by her past, she is stunned when she thinks she recognizes a fellow passenger; is it really Marta, her former prisoner? ... The action moves between two realms – from the pristine white deck of a luxury

liner above to the dark horrors of the death camp below ... Guilt and denial, lies and truth, fear and courage, and love — it's all here in an artistic and emotional experience you'll never forget."

"**The Passenger**" received its American premiere at the Houston Grand Opera, February 2014, but was staged for the first time in 2010 at Austria's Bregenz Festival, then again in Warsaw and London.

**Amanda Majeski**, internationally-renowned lyric soprano, a native of Gurnee, Illinois, and graduate of Carmel Catholic High School and Northwestern University, will have the role of Marta in the opera.

Naturally, as is the custom at the Lyric, English translations will be projected above the stage. This powerful Holocaust opera will be performed in multiple languages: Polish, Czech, German, Yiddish, Greek, French, and English. The opera runs from February 24 – March 25, 2015.



Lucyna Migala receiving award.

**CONSULATE'S PRESENTATION OF POLISH MEDALS AND AWARDS.** During Polish Constitution Day celebrations, the Consulate General of Poland held an award ceremony to honor distinguished members of the Polonian community. Robert Rusiecki, deputy consul general, presented **Arkadiusz Przio** with the Cavalier's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta. The Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of Poland was posthumously presented to **Władysław Lis**. Accepting this medal was his wife, Regina Lis. **Mieczysław Leopold Kukula** received the Cross of Freedom and Solidarity. **Cynthia Eugenia Mitchell** and **Emil Walat** were

## POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

## Polish American Congress Marks 70 Years

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The **Polish American Congress (PAC)** celebrated its 70th anniversary jubilee by holding its National Directors meeting in the city in which the organization was founded — Buffalo, NY. Entitled “From Proud Past to Dynamic Future,” the 70th anniversary weekend started off on May 29 with the PAC National Directors meeting. After that meeting, Buffalo Auxiliary Bishop Edward Grosz, Father Ted Bocianowski and other priests concelebrated a Mass at St. Stanislaus Church, the Mother Church of Buffalo’s Polonia. A reception at the St. Stan’s Social Center followed the Mass.

On May 30, a Jubilee Conference focusing on the issues of unity and cooperation within the Polish American community was held at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga. The conference was open to the public. Following the conference, a Gala Dinner was held at the hotel. Many Polish, Canadian and U.S. dignitaries were in attendance.

May 31st brought a trip across the border to Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario to visit the St. Vincent DePaul Cemetery. Members of the PAC visited their Canadian counterparts — representatives of the Canadian Polish Congress (KPK). This unprecedented meeting took place in the historic setting of a Polish veterans’ cemetery where they honored the memory of the Polish soldiers from the United States and Canada who volunteered to serve in General Haller’s “Blue Army” during World War I.

**OPPORTUNITY.** The **Skalny Center** for Polish and Central European Studies at the University of Rochester seeks an instructor in Polish language, who would teach one or two courses per term beginning Fall, 2014. A native speaker with teach-

ing experience is preferred. Submit a letter of application and curriculum vitae to the Skalny Center for Polish and Central European Studies, University of Rochester, Harkness Hall 101, Rochester, New York 14627-0147. Direct questions to Dr. Bozena Sobolewska, bozena.sobolewska@rochester.edu or 585-275-9898.

**POLONIA TIDBITS.** The winners of “**Buffalo’s Best Kielbasa**” Contest, held at the historic Broadway Market as part of its Easter festivities were: Dubel’s Sausage (Peoples’ Choice for Commercial, Best Overall Commercial, Best Smoked, Best Fresh, Best Smoked Holiday, Best Fresh Holliday); Hanzlian’s Homemade Sausage (Best Non-Traditional Commercial); and the Bednarz Family (Best Overall Homemade) ... Dyngus Day favorites, “Those Idiots,” headlined the “Euro Block Party” at Buffalo’s **Dnipro Ukrainian Center** on May 2 ... Former Erie County Executive **Dennis Gorski** has announced his candidacy for a seat on the Town of Cheektowaga Justice Court in this year’s election ... The **Dom Polski** in Perry has closed ... **Polish Constitution Day** was marked by observances by the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo (with the Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble), Adam Mickiewicz Library and Dramatic Circle, and St. Stanislaus Parish ... Artist **Destiny Rogowski**, a native of Gdansk, has been adding murals to the walls of the new Chrusciki Bakery Cafe in Kenmore .

Molly Poremski, the curator of the **Polish Room** of the Lockwood Library at the State University of New York at Buffalo North Campus recently announced that the library recently added two new digital collections: “Album Pamiatkowe - Buffalo’s Polonia History” and

“Polish Peace Posters” ... Talking Leaves Books in Buffalo presented **Tomek Jankowski**, author of “Eastern Europe: Everything You Need to Know about a Region That Shaped Our World and Still Does” on May 3, and **Marc Pietrzykowski**, author of “Raiders of Niagara” on May 8.

On May 4, the **Kalina Singing Society** celebrated its 113th anniversary with a banquet at the Millennium Hotel. Amanda Borowski received the groups’ 2014 scholarship at the dinner ... The **Polish Genealogical Society** of NYS presented a Research Workshop at Villa Maria College in Cheektowaga on the 8th ... On May 10, WKBW-TV, WNY’s ABC affiliate, presented **Fr. Michael Burzynski**, the pastor of St. John Gualbert Parish in Cheektowaga, speaking about his collection of religious relics on its “Our Daily Bread” television show ... Also on the 10th, the **Polish Yacht Club** of Toronto marked its 90th anniversary with a banquet at the Beverly Street SPK Hall.

The **Adam Mickiewicz Library and Dramatic Circle** elected the following leadership at its recent annual meeting: Gary Ptak (president), Amy Smardz (vice president), Greg Witul (secretary), Annette Junczewicz (treasurer) and Janice Swinnich (financial secretary). Bill Nowakowski, Louis Perfetto, Robert Sienkiewicz, John Killian, Aniela Baj Thant, Mark Jaskula, Doug Butler, Dan Shanahan, Yuri Hreshchysyn and Chip Campbell were elected to the group’s board .

Erie County Democrats endorsed Family Court Judge **Margaret Olszewski Szczur** for another term in that office ... On May 16, the Rochester Oratorio Society performed its “Liturgy and Legacy” concert at the Asbury First Methodist Church as a preview to its **performance in Krakow** as part of an Eastern European tour later this year ... The **Polish Heritage Society** of Rochester held its Annual Meeting at the Polska Chata Restaurant, and the ROC-MassMob descended upon St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Rochester, on May 18 ... The 12th Annual **Polish Heritage Festival** will be held on June 6 and 7 at the Fairgrounds in Hamburg. This year’s festival will offer performances by Special Delivery, John Gora & Gorale, Bob Uleck & Polka Relations, Buffalo Touch and the Ludowa Nuta Polish Choir. For more information, please visit polfunfest.com

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If you have an item for 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 (i.e. June 6 for the July edition) at pietruszka@verizon.net.

## Karski Centennial Commemorated



Pawel Stefanski, Chairman of the Jan Karski Institute for Tolerance and Dialogue, addresses the gathering at the gravesite of Jan Karski on the occasion of his 100th birthday. A photo of Karski is displayed on left. In the background, forming a graveside Guard of Honor is Polish Embassy Military Attachés Commander Dorota Stachura – Navy, and Major Norbert Czerbniak – Air Force, flanked by Polish and American flags.

by **Richard Poremski**

WASHINGTON, D.C. —A century ago, on April 24, 1914 — St. John’s Day — Jan (John) Romuald Kozielski was born in Lodz, Poland. He was serving as an artillery officer in the Polish Army Reserve when the Nazi Germans invaded Poland on September 1, 1939. During the long and brutal Nazi German occupation that ensued after Poland’s defeat, Kozielski joined the underground resistance Home Army (Armia Krajowa/AK) and adopted, from among others that he employed, the *nom de guerre* of Jan Karski. From that point onward he was known only as Jan Karski for the rest of his life, until his passing in July, 2000.

Karski was very active in the AK and became a secret courier to the Polish Government in Exile, eventually based in London until the end of World War II. Employing subterfuge and disguise, he witnessed the severe plight of the Jews imprisoned in the Nazi decreed Warsaw Ghetto, and the deadly Nazi concentration camp situation. He reported his tragic findings to the allied Polish, British, and U.S. governments, and various other high officials in the West — even meeting with President Roosevelt in the White House in 1943 — but he was met with incredulity at every turn. After World War II ended in 1945, the former incredulity became a monstrous fact of genocide — “The Holocaust” — with Karski being accorded a most sad and bittersweet vindication of his warnings and alarms.

At Mount Olivet Cemetery, on April 23, 2014, a graveside ceremony was held to commemorate Karski’s 100th Birthday. It was celebrated here one day early for recording by the Polish media, allowing that this ceremony could be broadcast the next day in Poland in league with the other official Karski

commemorations being conducted there on April 24th.

Pawel Stefanski, Chairman of the Jan Karski Institute for Tolerance and Dialogue, organized and led the event. Kaya Mirecka-Ploss, founder and honorary chairwoman of the Institute, was unavoidably absent due to her requested presence in Poland to participate in the Karski events there.

Stefanski reminded everyone that 2014 was officially declared as “The Year of Jan Karski” by the Polish Parliament to celebrate his “Sto Lat – 100 Years.” He reminded us that Karski was a husband, soldier, author, university professor, leading American citizen — and most importantly ... “an extremely inspirational human being.”

Poland’s Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf remarked that Professor Karski was a true Polish patriot and noted hero. He remembered that Karski used to say that he considered himself a failure because no one really believed his eyewitness and prescient Holocaust revelations. “But he was certainly not a failure,” spoke Schnepf, “and our very presence here today in his honor proves it.” Schnepf also gave extensive interviews to all the Polish news media present.

Jacek Nowakowski, a personal friend of Karski, and representing the U.S. National Holocaust Memorial Museum, recounted what an important role Karski played in the concept, planning and building of the museum. To much of their mutual amazement, it grew over the years from a modest concept into the all-encompassing edifice it eventually became.

Representing the Armed Forces of Poland — and rendering a military salute to 2nd Lieutenant Kozielski/Karski — was Brigadier General Jaroslaw Strozyk, Commander of the Defense Attaché Office of the Embassy of Poland. The melancholy military melody “Taps” was then played by a bugler in the background.

The ceremonies were a fitting tribute to Karski — now known as “The Man Who Tried to Stop the Holocaust” — in more ways than one. His self-deprecating concept of a personal failure was obviously unjustified ... it was, and still remains, our collective failure. But Karski’s valiant and then-futile efforts, in retrospect, gave rise to the humanitarian rallying cry of “Never Again!” for all time.

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TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

## Celebrating Summer Solstice

Toledo is finally, finally going to see some 80-degree temperatures, a number not marked around town since early October of last year. The grass, so recently laden with snow, is turning emerald green at last. It's time to rake the yard, plant flowers, and vegetables, and plan for the summer months that are upon us.

It's with great excitement that I look forward to spending some time at new events (for me, at least) this season. I have heard that **Polish American Night** at Comerica Park in Detroit is lots of fun, so the Jeep will be heading that way in a few weeks. (As I write this, the Tigers have won seven games in a row, let's hope that momentum stays with the team!)

Later in June, The West Side Detroit Polish American Historical Society is holding its **Sixth Annual Summer Social**, June 21, from 5:00-11:00 p.m. at the Monsignor Hunt K of C Hall. In Poland, the Summer Solstice is one of the biggest festivals, complete with bands, fireworks over the Wisla River, and the lighting of *wianki*, which are set on fire and floated on the river. PAHA's event will recreate the old fashioned Polish Park picnic parties of yesteryear with its own Summer Solstice Festival and Wianki. Ladies are encouraged to wear a *wianki* for a chance to be named Wianki Queen of 2014.

July brings the **34th Annual American-Polish Festival** held the 11- 13, at the American Polish

Century Club in Sterling Heights, Mich. This is Macomb County's largest festival. Just a few of the highlights of this event include a three-day craft show, the "Pierogi Challenge," PRCUA of Michigan Group Reunion day Sunday, a Polish Mass at noon on Sunday as well, plus authentic Polish food, beer, and non-stop music from no less than six polka bands over the three days. Whew!

Before I close, I can't help but think about the warm, rainy October day in 1978, when I heard that, for the first time in 400 years, the world's Catholics were going to have a non-Italian pope. Even though I was only a senior in high school at the time, I remember the thrill as I heard my father say that the new pope was Polish. I will never forget the smile on his face and the utter happiness that this news brought to us and to our little Polish community in Dayton, Ohio. As the years passed and it became evident that this pope was meant to change not only the Catholic Church but also world history, I still cherish the memory of that warm, rainy day so many Octobers ago, when the world was given John Paul II. And though I was not at any commemorative events in late April during his canonization, perhaps it was fitting that I was catching up with some of my best and oldest friends from Old North Dayton at our annual reunion. As the songs says, "how quickly time flies."

POLONIA ON FILM / Joseph W. Zurawski

## George White's Scandals (1935)

*Comedy, Music, Romance*  
**Distributor:** Fox Film Corporation  
**Director:** George White  
**Screenplay Writer:** Jack Yellen  
**Featuring:** Alice Faye, Lyda Roberti (as Manya)

Lyda Roberti was born in Warsaw, Poland, May 20, 1906. Her parents were circus performers. She toured with the circus leaving it in Shanghai, China. She learned English and became a café entertainer. Roberti emigrated to California in 1927 and was soon discovered by Broadway producer, Lou Holtz. She became an overnight success in his show, "You Said It" receiving rave reviews and numerous comments about her Polish accent.

She used that Polish accent to build her considerable fame and exploited it: O.O. McIntyre writing in his New York "Day by Day" column, February 27, 1931 commented: "The Paramount Theatre tower lights up only on Saturday night ... Lyda Roberti, the platinum haired Polish girl ... is the new toast of Broadway, and deservedly." When advised to lose her Polish accent, Roberti replied, "Many times they tell me to learn English. But I do not want to. I don't want to. I think better it eez to stay as I am."

Roberti starred in eight films between 1932 and 1935. In "George White's Scandals 1935," she accompanied George White to Florida after his smash 1934 review. During a stop in a small town in Georgia, White noticed that a local theater was using his name in promoting a



Lyda Roberti

show of local talent. White decided to stay for the show and was impressed with some of the local talent which he signed up for his show in 1935.

"George White's Scandals" are not very scandalous. They feature lavish costumes, extravagant sets and dancing sequences that are challenging, if not breathtaking. The shows are meant to dazzle and entertain the audience. They manage to accomplish this with regularity. Roberti was featured in several of the sets.

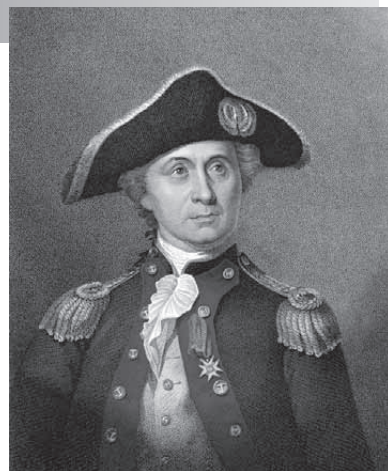
Roberti's stage name for this movie is Manya, the name of her real-life sister.

In 1935 Roberti was forced to withdraw from the filming of "Wives Never Know" due to illness. However, she was able to complete some Hal Roach short features and again returned to feature films. Three years later, Roberti died of a heart attack at the age of 31.

Note: Discrepancies exist about her birth date since each of her parents gave a different birth date. Her graveside marker at Forest Lawn Memorial Park reads: "Lyda Roberti Ernst 1912-1938."



Joseph Zurawski is author of Poland: The Captive Satellite; 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.



your services."

Admiral Jones had apparently asked Kościuszko to assist him in landing a military position in Europe or possibly, it has been conjectured, to become involved in an anti-Russian enterprise with Kościuszko. This was a few years before Kościuszko's unsuccessful 1794 uprising against the Russians in Poland.

Jones also corresponded with and met Lewis Littlepage in Warsaw, the American then serving as an aide to Polish King Stanisław August Poniatowski. Littlepage had also served in the Russian navy in 1788 and had been under the command of Admiral Jones.

It was when he was near death that Jones again found gainful employment. Living in Paris, he was appointed by President George Washington to act as U.S. consul with Algiers to secure the release of captive American sailors from its ruler. He never assumed his duties and died in his apartment in 1792 at the age of forty-five.



An interesting note: John Paul Jones was not his given name, it was simply John Paul, the same as the one that was adopted by the great Polish Pope St. John Paul, two centuries later. Jones was added in honor of a friend he admired.

CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin Nowak

## John Paul Jones and Poland

John Paul Jones is the quintessential American naval hero. Born in Scotland in 1747, he came to America in 1775 after a controversial career as a merchant ship captain.

Shortly after his arrival in the United States he offered his services to the newly formed Continental Navy. He performed admirably during the Revolutionary War against the British, and it was during a naval battle off the British Isles in 1779 that Captain Jones uttered his famous phrase, "I have not yet begun to fight."

Following the war, the United States military was drastically downsized and Jones found himself unemployed. His area of expertise being naval warfare, he began offering his services to other nations. Centuries ago this was a common practice that did not have the negative connotations that today's soldiers-for-hire, or mercenaries, have. For example, the great Polish generals Kościuszko and Pułaski basically hired themselves out to the United States during the Revolutionary War.

In 1788 the Russian Czarina Catherine was in need of experienced naval officers, and being impressed with his experience and credentials, she hired John Paul Jones with the rank of rear admiral to command a flagship on the Black Sea during the ongoing Russo-Turkish War. This war was an attempt by the Turkish Ottoman Empire to retake lands seized by the Russians after the previous Russo-Turkish War of 1768-1774, and the Russians also saw it as an opportunity to control the Black Sea.

That first war had been in part instigated because the Sultan of Turkey had sided with the Bar

Confederation of Poland (which included among its fighters Kazimierz Pułaski) against Russian occupation of Poland. The sultan demanded that Russia not interfere in the internal affairs of Poland and gave the Bar Confederates safe haven in Turkish territory. Russian Cossack pursuit of the Polish fighters into the Ottoman Empire was seen as an act of war by the Turks.

Admiral Jones was quite successful at repulsing the Turks in the Black Sea, but petty jealousies and false charges of rape from his envious Russian cohorts caused him to fall out of favor and be recalled from battle. Embittered, he left Russia in July 1789 after only a few months of active service at sea and little more than a year in Russia, to seek employment in another European country.

**IN SEPTEMBER OF 1789** John Paul Jones was in Warsaw, Poland where he managed to write memoirs of his American campaign and his activities in the Russo-Turkish War. He sent a copy to the czarina in whose employ he was still, but under leave of absence, hoping to be recalled to active service by her.

While in Warsaw, Jones became acquainted with Tadeusz Kościuszko. Upon leaving the Polish capital in November he sent General Kościuszko a letter in which he gave a forwarding address in Holland and wrote in part:

"As I shall be in relation with our friends in America, I shall not fail to mention on all occasions the honorable employment and the respect you have attained in your own country, and the great regard you retain for the natives of America, where your character is esteemed, and your name justly beloved for

## Kmieć Returns as Artistic Director

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio —Theatrical director, choreographer, performer, and PAJ Culture Editor Staś Kmieć returns to Ballet Western Reserve as Artistic Director, having assumed leadership in the dual role of Artistic Director and Executive Director during the Winter-Spring 2011 season.

During that period he took the organization to new areas of creativity, public awareness, visibility, and community involvement. The home facility in the Morley Center was given an interior renovation and exterior branding, the Board of Trustees began a year-long strategic planning process, groundwork for outreach and adjunct programs were established, and a series of "Let's Move Youngstown" programs were initiated.

Kmieć is accomplished in many areas of entertainment including dance, theater, and film and is a member of the professional unions: Actors' Equity, Screen Actors' Guild-AFTRA, The American Guild of Musical Artists, and The Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

Ballet Western Reserve, with its 50-plus year rich history provides pre-professional training in ballet and multiple areas of dance.

Kmieć has danced with the Boston Ballet, the Metropolitan Opera Ballet, toured and performed on Broadway with both Rudolf Nureyev and in the American Dancemachine. He traveled to the Soviet Union with Stars of American Ballet, and has performed in numerous Broadway and national touring theater productions. In New York City, he has been active in choreography and film work, and served as an instructor at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA) and Ballet Arts.

This summer, he will travel to Poland as an invited judge of the 35th International Dance Festival in Poznań, and will later choreograph the premiere of "The Mapmaker's Opera" at Off-Broadway's New York Musical Theater Festival.

Kmieć will balance his time with BWR and has established numerous collaborative opportunities for the 2014-15 season and innovative programs for the future.

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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: In Memory of Ted Lesniak from Helen Cooke, Brecksville, Ohio, Dr. John Niziol, Clifton, N.J.; Rev. Carl Urban, Schenectady, N.Y.; Regina Wnukowski, Philadelphia; one Friend of the PAJ. Dziękujemy wam wszystkim! The PAJ thanks all who donated to the Press Fund.

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## 25 Years Ago Poles Voted for Freedom

continued from cover

have forgotten that it was the partially free or semi-democratic elections of June 4, 1989, which led Poland to freedom and democracy after 45 years of Soviet-imposed communist rule. That raises the logical question: how could an election that was largely undemocratic lead to full democracy? The question and the answer reflect the convoluted meanders of Polish politics which had included the peaceful Solidarity revolution, the regime's martial-law crackdown and several intermittent stages leading to the June 4th parliamentary contest.

General Wojciech Jaruzelski's December 1981 martial-law clampdown had effectively quashed labor unrest, but the economy kept deteriorating until a new wave of strikes swept the country in the late 1980s. The communists decided to sit down to a roundtable in spring 1989 and negotiate rather than violently suppress the protests. The more liberal Soviet leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev was more conducive to such dialogue.

**AT THE ROUNDTABLE**, the Solidarity opposition surprisingly agreed that the election to the Sejm would be only 35% democratic, with 65% of the seats reserved for the ruling communists and their allies. As leading dissident Jacek Kuroń put it, "they (the regime - RS) have the army and police, control the state apparatus and the airwaves, so that counts for about 65%."

There were, of course, Solidarity radicals who said that anything less than 100% free elections were a sell-out and betrayal. But the tactical compromise of Solidarity's moderates carried the day and made Poland the first Soviet bloc country in which the opposition got a real say in the governing process. Solidarity scored a landslide by winning all the freely contested seats and 99 seats in the newly restored, democratically elected 100-member Senate.

Under a "your president our prime minister" proposal floated by dissident Adam Michnik, Jaruzelski became president of Poland by a single vote and Catholic journalist Tadeusz Mazowiecki headed up Poland's first post-communist government. But Mazowiecki agreed to include two communist generals in his cabinet as an interim arrangement to ease the transition. That evoked outrage in many Solidarity quarters, but the mod-

erates knew that the Polish ship of state was sailing in uncharted waters at a time when 70,000 Soviet troops were still based on Polish soil. Even two years Moscow later, witnessed a failed attempt to restore the Soviet order. In 1989, no-one knew how things would play out.

It was only after the eastern bloc's first non-communist government was in place that the Berlin wall came down, and one Soviet-style regime after another collapsed. The following year, in fully democratic elections Lech Wałęsa was chosen as Poland's first popularly elected president. But the country did not follow a smooth and straight road to freedom and prosperity - rather it was more like a bumpy, winding path strewn with pitfalls and obstacles.

The hardships caused by Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz's shock-therapy reforms, coupled with constant bickering in a parliament in which 29 different political parties were represented, caused a political backlash in which Poles returned former communists re-badged as social democrats to power. And ex-communist Aleksander Kwaśniewski narrowly defeated Wałęsa in 1995, quashing his bid for re-election.

**ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENTS** have come and gone, one cannot deny that overall the country has progressed over the past quarter-century. Cities have been modernized, motorways and highways have been built, home and car ownership has expanded and Poles are better educated than ever before.

Apart from the June '89 election, other milestones this year include the 15th anniversary of Poland's admission to NATO and the 10th anniversary of European Union membership. Although, like most everything else, those moves have had their downsides, all in all they have firmly anchored Poland on the side of the Free World. That development became all the more valuable in view of the recent Ukrainian turmoil east of the border. Unemployment still remains high at around 14%, while the country simultaneously suffers a shortage of specialists and skilled workers now earning a living in Western Europe. But, although one still can hear among the elderly and less educated that under communism "things were better," not many Poles would really want to go back.

## Poland in a 75-year nutshell: Timeline of Polish freedom

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW - June 4th, the anniversary of the partially free 1989 elections, is being celebrated as the silver anniversary of Poland's regained independence. In actuality, that event was but one of the stages leading to freedom. It could not have occurred were it not for Solidarity's peaceful revolution, the regime's 1981 martial-law crackdown and the resurgence of labor unrest in the late 1980s which finally brought the communists to the bargaining table.

But why did Solidarity emerge in the first place? What was it rebelling against and why? Answers to those questions go back many decades to World War II and its aftermath which turned Poland into a Soviet-controlled puppet state, satellite or captive nation. The following timeline will hopefully help put those events into sharper focus:

**1939:** On September 1st, Nazi Germany attacks Poland marking the start of World War II, the bloodiest conflict in the annals of mankind. On September 17, Soviet Russia invades eastern Poland and Hitler and Stalin divide up the country roughly in half.

**1944:** The Poles victory over the Germans at Monte Cassino, Italy, uplifts the nation's spirits. On August 1st, freedom-fighters launch the Warsaw Uprising against the German occupation forces. The two-month insurrection is crushed after the advancing Red Army, which in July had already set up a Soviet puppet regime in Lublin, refuses to aid the insurgents.

**1945:** At a February meeting at the Soviet Black Sea resort of Yalta, FDR and Winston Churchill consign Poland to the post-war "Soviet sphere of influence", inaugurating 45 years of the country's Soviet subjugation.

**1945-1955:** A decade of hard-line Stalinist rule attempts to Societies the Polish nation by killing and jailing Polish patriots, nationalizing private property, collectivizing agriculture, destroying the Church and breaking the will of the Polish people.

**1956:** June "bread and freedom" riots in Poznan usher in a period known as the "thaw": Stalinist abuses are exposed, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński is released from custody, forced collectivization is abandoned and attempts are made to create a "socialism with a human face."

**1968:** Polish nationalist communists win a power struggle against Jewish Stalinists, and most of Poland's Jews are forced to emigrate in the resultant anti-Semitic purge.

**1970:** Bloody worker riots on the Baltic coast topple the regime of strait-laced Wladyslaw Gomułka and usher in a decade of rule by the more pro-Western Edward Gierek who gets the country into debt by obtaining excessive Western credits.

**1976:** New price-hike protests erupt in Ursus and Radom; leftist dissidents set up the Worker Defense Committee (KOR) to assist sacked and jailed workers and their families.

**1978.** Polish Cardinal Karol Józef Wojtyła elected pope of the Roman Catholic Church.

**1980-1981:** A strike at the Gdansk

Shipyard spreads across the country and leads to the emergence of Solidarność, the Soviet bloc's first independent trade union. A 10-million-strong movement of Poles from all walks of life seeks to democratize the country but is crushed when martial law is declared in December 1981.

**1982-1988:** Troops and tanks patrol the streets, some 10,000 Solidarność activists are jailed and major industry is militarized as General Wojciech Jaruzelski's seeks to restore Soviet-style communist rule. But an underground opposition movement continues to defy the regime, a new strike wave erupts in 1988, forcing the authorities to negotiate with Solidarność.

**1989:** Roundtable negotiations between the communist regime and Solidarność lead to an agreement to hold partially democratic elections. Despite the restrictions, Solidarność scores a surprise victory at the polls in June, leading to the emergence of Poland's first non-communist post-war government several months later. The Polish example leads to the domino-like collapse of one communist regime after another across Europe.

**1990:** Over the next decade, joining European Union and NATO are Poland's top foreign-policy priorities. Lech Wałęsa becomes Poland's first popularly elected president.

**1993:** Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia sign an association treaty

with the EU which is expected to lead to full membership by 2000. The same year Soviet troops pull out of Poland. Former communists now calling themselves social democrats win the parliamentary election.

**1995:** Wałęsa loses his presidential re-election bid to former communist Aleksander Kwaśniewski. The surprise upset sends shock waves across Poland and Polonia.

**1997:** The Solidarity-led government of Jerzy Buzek carries out four major reforms; they include replacing the country's 49 tiny voivodships (provinces) with 16 big ones.

**1999:** Despite Moscow's opposition, Poland together with the Czech Republic and Hungary join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Polish troops set up joint forces with Ukrainians and Lithuanians which are still not NATO members.

**2003:** A high-powered pro-EU propaganda campaign tries to convince Poles that membership in the EU will mean freedom to travel, study and work throughout the community, economic and civilizational advancement and many other advantages. Poles approve their country's membership in a June referendum.

**2004:** Poland and nine other countries officially join the EU on May 1st. Celebrations marking the occasion cannot hide the fact that only three EU countries have opened their job markets to Poles. Passports and visas are no longer necessary and Poles can now travel across EU borders with only their ID cards, but their cars can still be searched.

**2005:** Pope John Paul II, regarded as the greatest Pole of all times, dies after a prolonged agony. His funeral at St Peter's Square is one of the largest such send-offs in history. The conservative Law and Justice party, headed by Jarosław Kaczyński, wins parliamentary elections, but lacks a majority and creates a coalition with two smaller parties. His twin brother Lech is elected President of Poland.

**2007:** Unable to govern with his two contentious coalition partner, Jarosław Kaczyński calls for new elections hoping to improve his party's showing. But his party loses to the liberal Civic Platform party of Donald Tusk which forms a coalition with the small Polish Peasant Party.

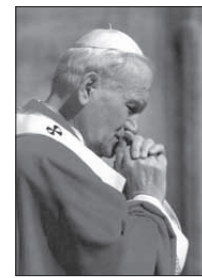
**2010:** A Polish presidential airliner crashes in Smolensk, Russia killing all 96 people on board including President Kaczyński and his wife and many leading political figures and military leaders. Bronisław Komorowski is elected president in earlier elections called to fill the vacancy.

**2011:** Pope John Paul II, regarded by his countrymen as the greatest Pole who ever lived, is beatified in Rome. Tusk's Civic Platform becomes the first party to get re-elected since Poland adopted democratic rule 1989. He is again joined by the Polish Peasant Party as junior coalition partner.

**2012:** For the first time ever, Poland plays host to European Championship Soccer Finals; the event is co-hosted by neighboring Ukraine. A train crash near Szczekociny kills 16 people and injures several dozen others.

**2013:** The new Pope Francis, who replaces the abdicating Benedict XVI, continues fast-track canonization proceedings for Poland's John Paul II.

**2014:** Turmoil in neighboring Ukraine dominates Poland's political scene, as Russia annexes Ukraine's Crimea peninsula and pro-Russian separatists destabilize the country. Pope John II is declared a saint of the Catholic church at a canonization ceremony attended by an estimated one million pilgrims; he is co-canonized with Pope John XXIII. Poland celebrates its 15th year in NATO and a decade in the European Union, the 25th anniversary of regained independence and the 70th anniversary of the 1944 Battle of Monte Cassino and the Warsaw Uprising.



**SOLIDARNOŚĆ**

## Festival Season Kicks Off this Month

### POLISH HERITAGE FESTIVAL JUNE 6-7

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The 12th annual Polish Heritage Festival will be held June 6-7, 2014 at "The Fairgrounds" Grange building, 5820 South Park Avenue in Hamburg, N.Y. The theme for this festival is "Honoring Saint John Paul II" at a Polish Folk Mass on Saturday, June 7:00 at 4:00 pm. It will be celebrated by Rev. Msgr. Matthew Kopacz, P.A. with folk music by John Gora & Gorale, accompanied by the Ludowa Nuta Polish-Canadian Folk Choir. The music at the Polish Folk Mass are selections loved by St. John Paul.

This will be a special Mass because Rev. Msgr. Kopacz has a special connection to St. John Paul. In 1976, he was the secretary of the welcoming committee when Pope John Paul was still a Cardinal. Just before the Pope's death, Msgr. Kopacz traveled to Italy to see him once again.

This year's festival entertainment on Friday will be Special Delivery, a popular local band. They will be alternating with Bob Uleck Polka Relations from Pennsylvania. On Saturday, John Gora & Gorale will be performing alternately with a favorite festival regular, The Buffalo Touch.

For competitive attendees, we offer the Pierogi Eating Contest, and also, the Festival Pageant.

You can also enjoy seeing unique exhibits and vendors, and try your luck at winning the huge prizes at the Theme Basket Auction valued at a minimum of \$50.00 each, with some worth much more!

To satisfy your hunger, a Polish platter, pork

chop dinner and Polish and American fast food will be available. To satisfy your thirst, you can choose from Polish and American beer, wine, soda pop or water. And to satisfy your sweet tooth, delicious, mouth-watering desserts will be available once again.

This is a family-friendly event. Admission is only \$10, with youth up to 16 years of age receiving free admission when accompanied by an adult. Admission includes Polish music, dancing, exhibits, vendors and more.

The Polish Heritage Festival is a 501(c)3 non profit charitable organization that serves to promote Polish and Polish American culture and traditions. Funds raised are used to support various charitable causes both locally and in Poland.

### WISCONSIN POLISH FEST JUNE 13-15

MILWAUKEE — America's largest annual Polish festival will be held June 13-15, 2014 at the Summerfest Grounds—Henry W. Maier Festival Park.

The 2014 Milwaukee ethnic festival season starts with the Polish Fest. Polish Fest, now in its 33rd season, features cultural exhibits, Polish music and entertainment, vodka tasting, Polish food, vodka bar, Polish beer and fireworks on Saturday night.

Enjoy "50 cent Friday" on June 13 when festival admission is only 50 cents from noon until 5:00 p.m. and \$5.00 from 5:01 p.m. until midnight. Guests will enjoy a weekend of great non-

stop cultural entertainment and a variety of Polish foods.

There will be an array of different musical performances by bands such as Grammy award winner Jimmy Sturr, Polka Country Musicians, Molly B & Squeezebox, Gary Christian's All Star Band, Cold Sweat & the Brew City Horns, Liverpool 64, John Gora & Gorale, Bobby Way & The Wayouts just to name a few.

As in years past, the festival will feature Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble, 16th Annual Chopin Competition, Sukiennice Marketplace, and the Cultural Village main tent will feature a collection of authentic Polish Costumes from many regions of Poland.

Celebrate Father's Day from 4:00-6:00 p.m. on Sun., June 15 when all dads get in free when accompanied by their child of any age. Children 15 and under are also free. Reduced admission is also available on Sun., June 15 when gates open to the public at 9:30 a.m. for the Mass and will close promptly at 11:00 a.m. Fr. Steve Malkiewicz will celebrate Sunday morning Mass at 10:15 a.m. at the cultural stage. You need not attend Mass to pay reduced admission, however ticket must be purchased before 11:59 a. m. At noon, prices revert to the regular \$12.00.

Ticket prices are \$10.00 in advance and for seniors and \$12.00 at the gate. Children 15 and under are free with an adult admission. For more information, call the Polish Fest office at (414) 529-2140, or visit online at www.polishfest.org.

POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

## Recipes for Your PolAm Summer Food Fest

Hotdogs, burgers, pizza and tacos are rarely in short supply, but at your PolAm fest, parish picnic or other Polonian summer doings it is the traditional Polish delicacies that are the main attraction for many. In fact, people are known to drive in from many miles away to sample some of the Polish comfort foods they get so little of these days. And if take-outs are available, many will stock and take ethnic treats “to go” home to their families. Here are some favorite festival foods to consider. Here are some traditional foods to consider.

**GOŁĄBKI / STUFFED CABBAGE ROLLS (gołąbki).** Combine 1 lb raw ground meat (pork, pork & beef, pork-veal-beef combination, or ground dark-meat turkey) with 4-6 c undercooked rice, 1-3 chopped butter-fried onions and 1 egg. Mix ingredients by hand and salt & pepper to taste. Other seasonings can include: 2-3 dashes of garlic powder and/or Tabasco, or a sprinkling of chopped fresh parsley or dill. Use meat-rice mixture to fill pre-wilted cabbage leaves. Before filling and rolling, cut out or shave down the thick central vein near the base of the cabbage leaves. Place gołąbki snugly in roaster no more than 2 layers and drench with 3 c tomato juice

(plain or containing 1/2 c spicy-style ketchup). Bake covered in preheated 350° oven 1 hr. Reduce heat to 325° and cook another 1-2 hrs. Switch off heat and leave in oven another 20 min or so for flavors to blend. These can be kept hot in the electric roaster in which they were cooked and served as needed. Serve with rye bread or as a complete meal with mashed potatoes and mizeria (cucumbers in sour cream, seasoned with salt, pepper, and dill).

**MUSHROOM GOŁĄBKI FOR VEGETARIANS (gołąbki postne z grzybami dla jaroszy).** Here is a delicious alternative to meat gołąbki that even non-vegetarians will enjoy. In 4 T butter, margarine or oil sauté 16 oz. fresh, washed and chopped portobello mushrooms with 2 medium chopped onions. Combine with 4 c preferably slightly undercooked rice or barley. Add 1 raw egg and mix to blend ingredients. Salt & pepper to taste and garnish with 1 T chopped fresh parsley and 2 T chopped dill. Fill pre-wilted cabbage leaves as above. Drench with a 10½ oz can cream of mushroom soup combined with 3 c boiling water in which 1 mushroom bouillon cube has been dissolved, and bake in preheated 350° oven at least 2 hrs.

**HOT KIEŁBASA (kielbasa na gorąco).** This is the most convenient way to serve kielbasa to a large crowd. Cut smoked kielbasa into 3”-5” serving-sized pieces, place in a large pot, cover with boiling water and cook until boiling resumes. Reduce heat to low, cover and remove portions as needed. Provide rye bread, horseradish, ćwikła (beetroot & horseradish) and brown Polish-style mustard.

**GRILLED KIEŁBASA (kielbasa z rusztu).** Cut smoked kielbasa into 3”-5” serving-sized pieces or use the smaller grillers (wiener-sized Polish sausage). 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. To ensure even cooking, score each piece of kielbasa by cutting halfway through at an angle on one side at 1/4” intervals. Provide rye bread, horseradish, ćwikła (beetroot & horseradish) and brown Polish-style mustard.

**KIEŁBASA ON A STICK (kielbasa na patyku).** Cut smoked kielbasa into 3”-5” serving-sized pieces or use the smaller grillers (wiener-sized Polish sausage). Run a wooden skewer up each piece of sausage

almost to the end. Grill as above.

**BATTERED KIEŁBASA ON A STICK (kielbasa w cieście na patyku).** Prepare sausage as in preceding recipe but dip kielbasa on a stick in crêpe (naleśnik) batter and deep-fry to a nice golden-brown.

**KIEŁBASA IN A ROLL (kielbaska w bułeczce).** Grillers (thin wiener-sized Polish sausage) or lengths of hot kielbasa served in a crusty split roll into which they are inserted are always popular and fairly easy to serve. Provide Polish-style brown mustard and horseradish.

**KIEŁBASA-KEBABS (szaszлык z kielbasą).** On a skewer alternate 1/2” - 3/4” pieces of smoked kielbasa with 1/2” thick onion slices, fresh mushroom caps, squares of thick-sliced bacon and bell pepper pieces of roughly equally size. Brush with oil, sprinkle with pepper, marjoram, garlic powder and paprika and cook on rotisserie or grill, making sure that all sides are evenly cooked. They are ready when the onion is tender.

**GRILLED PORK-NECK STEAKS (karczek z grilla).** This is now the Poles’ favorite char-grilled treat! Slice 2½ - 3 lbs pork neck into steaks

½ inch thick. Pound with meat mallet lightly and set aside. For the marinade, in a large bowl combine ¾ c salad oil with 3 buds crushed garlic, 1 large finely chopped onion, 2 crumbled bay leaves, 1 t salt, 1 t ground pepper, 1 t marjoram, 1 t sweet paprika, 1 t freshly squeezed lemon juice, 1 t brown mustard and several dashes of Tabasco or other hot pepper sauce. Mix well and place the meat in the marinade making sure all sides get coated. Cover and refrigerate at least 24 hrs. Cook on fairly hot charcoal grill several mins on each side until fully cooked inside. Serve with boiled dilled potatoes and a crispy green salad.

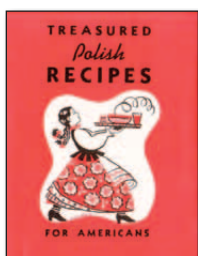
**KISZKA (kaszanka w bulce).** Kiszka (Polish groat sausage) in 4-5” lengths may be cooked on a grill or fried in a greased skillet until browned on the outside and heated through. It can be sliced (leaving the casing on) into 1” rounds and fried in a greased skillet until crusty-browned on both sides or it can be removed from casing and fried hash-style. Good accompaniments include fried onions, brown mustard, horseradish, dill pickles and sliced tomato slices. It can be served with potatoes and mizeria as a complete meal or on a crusty bun as a “kiszka-burger.”

## THE POLISH KITCHEN STORE

To order, use form on page 15, call (800) 422-1275, Mon.- Fri., 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., or shop on line at [www.polamjournal.com](http://www.polamjournal.com).

### COOKBOOKS

**TREASURED POLISH RECIPES FOR AMERICANS** \$14.95  
Polanie Publishing  
170 pp., h.c.



The first complete, hard cover collection of Polish cookery in the English language published in the United States. Researched from old Polish cookbooks and recipes collected from the best Polish American cooks, it also contains stories of Polish festivities and customs such as Christmas Eve wigilia, Harvest Festival dożynki and the foods to celebrate them. Perfect for home cooks or to give as a special gift.

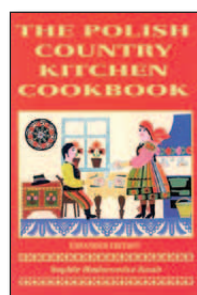
**POLISH CHICAGO: OUR HISTORY, OUR RECIPES** \$29.95

by Joseph W. Zurawski

240 pp., hc., 720 photographs  
G. Bradley Publishing



Since the 1830s millions of Poles have come to Chicago. This work recounts by vivid prose, rare photographs and poignant anecdote the amazing story of these indomitable people. The volume turns a spotlight on 36 Polish American restaurants and families who opened up their kitchens to share time-tested, delectable Polish recipes.



**THE POLISH COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK** \$16.95. by Sophie Knab. 337 pp., pb., ill.

This popular cookbook by beloved Polish American author Sophie Hodorowicz

Knab is now updated with a new section on Polish Feasts and Festivals! Knab combines recipes for favorite Polish foods with the history and cultural traditions that created them. Arranged according to the cycle of seasons, this cookbook explores life in the Polish

countryside through the year, giving readers priceless historical information to common questions asked by descendants of Polish immigrants. Lovely illustrations by Elliott Hutten and pearls of practical wisdom from the old Polish kitchen marvelously complement this book. This title includes over 100 easy-to-follow recipes, and a detailed bibliography and resource guide.



**POLISH CLASSIC DESSERTS** \$16.95

By Laura and Peter Zeranski  
2013. 96 pp. 8½

x 8½. Index. 100 color photos by Bob Rock

Organized by type and with titles in both Polish and English. From mazurkas and babas to pastries and beverages, these recipes are designed for the modern kitchen but retain their traditional roots. Each of the forty-five desserts are tested to perfection and paired with mouthwatering photographs and notes on Polish history and customs.

**POLISH CLASSIC RECIPES** \$16.95

by Laura and Peter Zeranski  
2011, 96 pp., h.c.,

index, 100 color photographs by Matthew Aron Roth

Designed for the modern kitchen yet retaining traditional roots, each heritage recipe in *Polish Classic Recipes* has been tested to perfection. Accompanied by notes on Polish holiday customs, history, and menu pairing suggestions, these dishes offer a flavorful sample of the Polish dining experience, as passed down from generation to generation.

**GIFT PACK 12 FAVORITE GLOSS-COAT POLISH RECIPE CARDS**

\$5.00. by Polanie Publishing.

Appealing red-ribbon cello packet of the most popular and treasured recipes, including Cabbage Rolls, Turkey Cutlets with Mushroom Sauce, Baked Apples in Red Wine and more. Handy

for your recipe box—perfect as party favors or hostess gifts!

**POLISH HOLIDAY COOKERY** \$24.95

by Robert Strybel  
248 pp., hc.

Hippocrene Bks.

Polish Holiday Cookery acquaints readers with traditional Polish foods associated with various occasions and furnishes countless cooking tips and serving suggestions. This “instruction manual for the culturally aware Polish American” offers more than 400 recipes, along with a lexicon of basic foods and culinary concepts, ingredients and procedures, and sample menus. The clearly-written recipes facilitate the preparation of the dishes and their incorporation in the Polish American mainstream culture.

Polish Holiday Cookery covers holidays such as Christmas and Easter, as well as celebrations year-round. Ideas for banquets, picnics, dinners, and family favorites abound throughout, ensuring that cooks have a selection of dishes for any occasion.

**THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD POLISH COOKBOOK:**

Hamtramck, Detroit and Beyond — \$10.00 by Elna Lavine, 44 pp., sc.

96 recipes from the famed Polonia of Detroit. Breakfast, lunch, dinner pastries, pierogi, kluski, cream chipped beef, soups, desserts and more.

**POLISH GIRL COOKBOOK**

\$10.00 by Eva Gerweck, 44 pp., sc.

Another cookbook full of recipes from Detroit’s Old Polish neighborhoods. Appetizers, entrees, breads, desserts, and more! Upper Peninsula style pastries, potato salad, pastries, babka, breads, and more.

**POLISH RESTAURANT COOKBOOK** \$10.00

by Jonathan Becklar, 44 pp., sc.

This unique cookbook actually rep-

licates recipes taken from menus of Motor City and surrounding area restaurants. It shows you how to make an entire menu right in your kitchen that tastes and smells just like the restaurant. Soups, salads, dressings, sandwiches, stuffed cabbage, and more.

**POLISH PIEROGI: From the Old Country to the Old Neighborhood** \$10.00 by Eva Gerwecki, 48 pp., sc.

A collection of “secret” recipes, tips, and more for not only fillings and toppings, but a variety of dough recipes as well. Over 150 recipes with regional variations, from California to New York!

### APRONS

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I LOVE CZARNINA 2-223



POLISH CHEF 2-220



WHO STOLE THE KISZKA? 2-201

CIOCIA'S KITCHEN 2-202

### HANDTOWELS

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Hanging towels. Machine embroidered designs. Useful and attractive. Red with white towel (cloth may vary).



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POLISH CHICK 2-213



I LOVE KISZKA 2-226



I LOVE POLISH MUSIC 2-227



CIOCIA'S KITCHEN 2-228



Top of “I Love Czarnina” towel features yellow duckies.



WESOLYCH SWIAT (Merry Christmas) 2-270



I LOVE PACZKI 2-274

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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

## Bednarski Came First



**FRED BEDNARSKI**, who learned to play soccer in a German labor camp, was introduced to American football in the United States.

Most people think that **Pete Gogolak** was the first person to kick a soccer-style field goal in American football, but it turns out that the very first was actually Polish native and Holocaust survivor **Fred Bednarski**.

Ferdynand and Wladyslawa Bednarski were living in Uscie Biskupie, Poland when World War II broke out. The town was invaded first by the Russians, and later by the Germans. Under Nazi occupation the Bednarskis, including Fred Jr., 5, Lucja, 3, and Jozef, 1, were sent to a German labor camp in Austria. It was a difficult existence, but they were grateful that they stayed together — and that they weren't sent to a concentration camp. After being liberated from the labor camp they went to a displaced persons camp for four years before coming to America. A welfare organization placed the family on a dairy farm near Austin, Texas, and they settled into their new life.

Fred Jr., who learned to play soccer in the camps, was introduced to American football in the United States. An outstanding athlete, he became an all-city fullback and kicker. As a kicker, he addressed the football from a 45-degree angle, the same way he booted a soccer ball. After high school he decided to walk-on at the University of Texas. He boomed kickoffs for the Longhorns but didn't try a field goal until his junior year. Field goals in college football were rare, and there were few kicking specialists at the time, and those that did used a straight-ahead style of kicking. Soccer-style kicking was unheard of; in fact, soccer itself was pretty rare in the United States.

Texas only attempted four field goals during the 1957 season — their opponents didn't try any. However, one of those attempts made history. In a game on October 19, 1957 first-year Longhorns coach Darrell Royal sent in Bednarski to try a kick from 38 yards out. Bednarski had missed a 55-yarder earlier in the season, but Royal told Fred, "If you miss, it'll be better than a punt, anyway." The attempt was good, with about 10 yards to spare, and Fred was mobbed by his teammates. The field goal gave Texas a 3-0 lead on route to a 17-0 upset win over the 10th-ranked Razorbacks. The news media made note of the unique kick, but didn't make a big deal of it.

Bednarski didn't even play enough to earn a letter in 1957,



Bednarski didn't try a field goal until his junior year at the University of Texas.

though he did the following season. He never did kick another field goal. Fred went on to join the Army after graduation, serving as a lieutenant.

It wasn't until 1961, that the Hungarian-born Gogolak, who later kicked in the NFL with the Bills and Giants, booted a 41-yard soccer-style field goal for Cornell. Soccer-style kicking eventually caught on, and there hasn't been a straight-on kicker in the NFL for over 25 years.

Despite his unique contribution to American sports, you probably never heard of Fred Bednarski. However, you may be more familiar with his little brother. Jozef Bednarski went on to become a professional wrestler, better known as **Ivan "Polish Power" Putski**.

**THEY'RE BACK!** The three Polish American NFL head coaches were all fired this past season but, as expected, all are back in the NFL.

Former Houston head coach **Gary Kubiak** was named the new offensive coordinator of the Baltimore Ravens.

**Mike Munchak**, who served as head coach of the Tennessee Titans for three seasons, agreed to become Pittsburgh's offensive line coach.

**Rob Chudzinski**, fired as head coach of the Cleveland Browns after just one season, was hired by the Indianapolis Colts to be head coach Chuck Pagano's special assistant.

**PODOLINSKI SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED.** **Jim Podolinski**, who co-founded the Epiphany Basketball Tournament, passed away in January after battling an extended illness for many years. In 1978, Podolinski founded and organized the tournament, which had a tremendous impact on thousands of youths in the Southern Tier of New York and the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania over the past 37 years.

In honor of his memory, a scholarship has been founded in Podolinski's name through the Epiphany Dad's Club. Donations to the Jim Podolinski Scholarship Fund can be sent to: First Citizens Community

Bank, Attn. Chris Lynch, 306 W. Lockhart St., Sayre, PA 18840

**THE POUGHKEEPSIE POPPER.** Connecticut's NCAA championship men's basketball win brought back memories of the great **Wes Bialosuknia**, who played at UConn in the mid-1960s and holds the single-season scoring record for points per game.

Bialosuknia, who died last year at age 68, was born in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. to Wes Sr. and Catherine (Tulacz) Bialosuknia. He was a three-sport athlete at Roosevelt High School in Hyde Park, N.Y., and went on to star at UConn.

Wes's nicknames included "Poughkeepsie Popper," "Wonderful Wes," "The Mad Bomber" and "The Typographical Terror." The 6-2 guard relied mostly on his jump shot to score 1,673 points in his three seasons with the Huskies. His former coach Fred Shabel said: "He was just a dominant offensive player. Had we had the three-point line, he would have been even better."

Bialosuknia's 1966-67 average of 28.0 PPG ranked fifth in the nation. He also holds school records for career scoring average of 23.6 pts. per game and consecutive foul shots made (43). Among his many honors, Wes was UConn's initial first team Academic All-American in 1967. The Huskies were 56-18 in Bialosuknia's three seasons and made the NCAA Tournament twice.

In his single pro season with the ABA Oakland Oaks, Wes ranked second in three-point field goal shooting percentage and his nine consecutive three-point field goals made tied him for the most in ABA history.

Bialosuknia was named a member of the UConn All-Century Team selected in 2001.

**NAMES IN THE NEWS.** Duke coach **Mike Krzyzewski** is one of the longest-tenured and most successful coaches in the history of men's college basketball and, according to *USA Today*, he's the best-paid as well. Krzyzewski earned \$9,682,032 from the Blue Devils during the 2013-14 season, putting him well ahead of Louisville's Rick Pitino, who made just under \$6 million.

**Lynette Krzyzewski Kentgen** was inducted into Girls Catholic Athletic Conference Hall of Fame in Illinois. The former River Grove (Ill.) Guerin College Prep star is the

## Fast Friends



**TED SZYMANSKI** (left) and **DAVE MIESOWICZ** show off their medals after competing in the University of Buffalo's Annual 5K "Run for Smiles." The event, sponsored by the school's Dental Department, is a fundraiser for the department, which donates services and offers discounts to area residents.

This year's race was held Sat., April 26 at UB's South Campus.

Szymanski finished first in his class (65-69) at 26:30 minutes. Miesowicz came second in the 55-59 class at 25:21 minutes.

Both runners are members of Buffalo's Special Delivery band. Szymanski plays accordion and keyboards, and Miesowicz is the group's reed player.

daughter of the late **Bill Krzyzewski**, brother of Coach K. She averaged 22 points as a Guerin senior and finished her high school career with 1,900 points before graduating in 1989. She later played at St. Louis University.

**Tara Lipinski**, who won the ladies' singles Olympic gold medal in figure skating at the 1998 Winter Olympics when she was just 15, continued her successful TV career as a fashion correspondent on NBC's Kentucky Derby telecast.

67-year-old **Aleksander "Olek" Doba** recently paddled into New Smyrna Beach Florida at the end of a 6,000-mile trans-Atlantic journey in a 21-foot kayak.

**POLISH NIGHTS.** Everyone is Polish at the **Detroit Tigers'** Comerica Park on June 13. That's because it's the 44th Annual Polish American Night. Enjoy polka music, traditional Polish dancing (weather permitting) by local dance troops and a special ceremony honoring Polish dignitaries. Each ticket package includes: upper box infield ticket; Detroit Tigers Polish American Night T-shirt; and a \$3.00 donation to the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America #1593 Scholarship Fund.

For groups of 15 or more, please contact Corey Bell at (313) 471-2361 or e-mail corey.bell@detroit-tigers.com.

The **Buffalo Bisons** (AAA) 2014 Ethnic Night Series continues with Polish Festival Night, August 12. There will be a pre-game Party in the centerfield pavilion beginning at 5:00 p.m. Enjoy live entertainment and great Polish menu options. Then, after the Bisons game, enjoy a post game Pyrotechnics Show. (Gates: 6:00 p.m.). Additional details will be forthcoming.

In the meantime, you can learn more about the Toronto Blue Jays-affiliated Bisons at Bisons.com.

### THEY SAID IT

"Playing sports has become very important today, since it can encourage young people to develop important values such as loyalty, perseverance, friendship, sharing and solidarity. Sports, in fact, can make an effective contribution to peaceful understanding between peoples and to establishing the new civilization of love. Sports contribute to the love of life, teaches sacrifice, respect and responsibility, leading to the full development of every human person"

— **St. John Paul II** in 2000

❖ ❖ ❖

"The only place this could have happened was in America. You can do all kinds of things in the United States if you're willing to try."

— **Fred Bednarski**, on kicking the first soccer-style field goal in American football.

## POLISH PROFESSIONALS!



We invite you to join other Polish-American doctors, dentists, and lawyers who make up the **National Medical and Dental Association** and the **National Advocates Society**. These organizations

present an annual conference in which you will find a warm and friendly atmosphere, stimulating presentations, and discussions on contemporary medical, legal, and cultural topics, with the opportunity to both relax and see the local sights on your own. This is a family-friendly event, and activities for children are available. Do yourself and your

family a favor while honoring your parents — join our organization and attend our summer meeting.

The 2014 conference will take place from July 30th-August 3rd at the Gaylord Resort & Convention Center at National Harbor, D.C., next to Washington, D.C., just off exit 2A of I-95 of Maryland, and a short drive from Reagan Airport.

We encourage you to contact us about attending the upcoming conference — you'll be glad you did. Please communicate with Dr. Leon M. Mielcarek, Jr., at 104 Juniper Court, Glen Milles, PA 19342, or call (484) 431-0111.

**THE OLD COUNTRY** / Richard Poremski



**NO REFRIGERATION NEEDED.** Krynica, Poland. May 21, 1976.

**GENEALOGY** / Stephen M. Szabados

**Should I Join a Genealogy Society?**

Should you join a genealogy society? Which one should you join? Should you join more than one genealogy society? The answer to these questions should be: "Yes, join all societies that can extend your genealogy research."

There are many different types of genealogy societies available today for the people seeking help with their family history can join. I would classify them into four groups – local, state, national and ethnic.

Join a genealogy society and get involved. These organizations will help you expand your genealogical skills as most schedule regular programs and conferences on a variety of topics that expand your knowledge. They will also give you the opportunity to meet fellow genealogists and by exchanging experiences become familiar with different research methods.

If you can, get involved by volunteering to help. You may be surprised to find that working on service projects, society committees and at conferences, provide another opportunity to learn. You will be exposed to other activities and topics that you might not be aware of if you concentrate only on your own research. Volunteering should make your efforts fun and rewarding.

My personal research has benefited from my memberships in local, Polish and state genealogy societies.

Each group gave me access to different types of research material – more specific from the local group and the Polish society and very broad at the state level. Each offered me access to speakers who gave programs on a variety of different helpful topics. Most importantly, personal contacts at meeting and conferences help me exchange research tips with each different group.

Another important tip is to consider joining groups that have access to information that pertain to where your ancestors lived. If you live in Minnesota but your Polish ancestors lived in Chicago after they immigrated, you should join the PGSA located in Chicago because they have access to information that will include your ancestors. There are also active Polish groups in Detroit, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Minnesota, Texas, New York and California. Find the one that will include your Polish ancestors and consider joining one.

*Stephen M. Szabados, a regular contributor to the Polish American Journal, is a prominent genealogist. In addition to numerous columns and papers, he is the author of three books, "Finding Grandma's European Ancestors," "Find Your Family History," and "Polish Genealogy."*

**Family and records research** in Poland by Kasia Rutkowska. ▶ Located in Warsaw but will travel. ▶ Also translations, photographing of ancestral villages; tour guide and interpreter. ▶ Bilingual. ▶ References available. email: k.rut@wp.pl ▶ www.polishgenius.net/genealogy-research/

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**SURNAME CORNER** / Robert Strybel

**Be Proud of Your Polish Name!**

Speech 101 was a required freshman course at Central Michigan University where I started college, and what struck me most about it was that first roll call. When the professor got to my name, he asked: "How do you pronounce it?" to which I replied "any way you like."

He gently chastised me saying: "A surname is you most precious possession, something that identifies who you are, so only you can say how it should be pronounced. If you spell your name Smythe and say it's pronounced Jones, then Jones it is!" Ever since then I have been pronouncing my last name the original Polish way: STRIH-bell, not STRY-bull, STRY-bell or whatever.

Of course, my two-syllable surname is not really a problem, but other Polish last names have proved to be real tongue-twisters for the average American. Some PolAms have tried to phonetically respell their names, for instance Yankoski instead of Jankowski. Other have shortened them from, let's say, Baranowski to Baran, while still others have translated them from Piekarski to Baker and from Tomczyk to Thomson. A minority of PolAms have entirely discarded the Polish surnames of their immigrant ancestors and chosen some random name that happened to strike their fancy. It has usually been an Anglo-sounding one like Johnson, Smith, Brown,

Summers, Ashton and the like.

Many years ago, the once-popular, syndicated personal-advice columnist Ann Landers received a letter (that was before e-mail!) that read: "I am going out with a wonderful man. We are talking seriously about getting married, but I have been thinking about asking him to shorten his name. I just can't see myself going through life with a name that is unpronounceable. But when I raised the subject, he flew into a rage and said he's change girls before he changed his name. What should I do? Mary Smith."

Ann Landers replied as follows: "Dear Miss Smith: How would you like to be Miss Smith forever? It could happen, and it would serve you right. No name is unpronounceable. Some names require a little more effort than others. This young man is proud of his name and so should be happy to have it."

**DISCOVER YOUR POLISH NAME.** For a custom-researched analysis of the meaning and derivation of your Polish last name, how many people share it, where they live, and whether a coat-of-arms goes with it, please airmail a \$16 check (adding \$7 for each additional surname) to: Robert Strybel, ulica Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

**SYMBOLS, GESTURES & SUPERSTITIONS** / Robert Strybel

Every nation has its own system of notions, beliefs, signs, symbols and ways of doing things, whose origin is usually buried in the distant past. The Polish people are no different in that regard. Some notions have been borrowed, other are indigenous. Pagan superstitions have intermingled with Christian customs, and often the justification for a certain practice is no longer widely known – it's just the way things are done. Many old habits have fallen by the wayside, whilst others are limited to a certain region or even a single town or village. Here are some that are encountered with varying frequency.

**THUMBS UP.** This universal gesture of success or achievement is well known not only in Poland. It originated in ancient Rome by the emperor to signify whether a fallen gladiator should be killed or spared.

**TAPPING ONE'S FOREHEAD.** Tapping one's forehead with an index finger or tracing a small circle on the forehead is the Polish equivalent of making a winding motion near the temple or around the ear to means that someone is "a bit screwy" or "of his/her rocker."

**TAPPING ONE'S NECK.** Tapping one's neck means libation or a booze-up. If someone winks at his brother-in-law and taps his neck without his wife seeing it and tells her "We're going for a little walk", the brother-in-law is fully informed that a round of drinking lies ahead.

**MARRYING IN A MONTH WITH "R."** An old belief is that the only happy and lasting marriages are those concluded in a month containing the letter "r". In Polish that is: marzec (March), czerwiec (June), sierpień (August), wrzesień (September), październik (October) and grudzień (December).

**BRUSH UP**

**More Menu Items**

Distributed by Polonian Media Network "ai" is alike the "a" in "say" a preposition is added to the next word

- pieczeń .....(PYEH-chain) roasted
- cielęca ..... (ch eh-LEHN-tsay) veal
- wieprzowa ....(vyeh-PSHOH-wah) pork
- wolowa..... (voh-WHO-vah) beef
- pierogi .....(pyeh-ROH-gee) stuffed dumplings made from noodle dough
- leniwe..... (leh-NEE-veh) with curd cheese
- ruskie.....(RUHS-kyeh) with soft, white cheese
- z jagodami. (zyah-goh-DAH-mee) with blueberries
- z kapustą i grzybami (zkah-PUHS-towhn) with sauerkraut and mushrooms
- z mięsem..... (zMYEHN-sehm) with minced meat
- z serem.....(zSEH-ehm) with cheese
- sól..... (suhl) salt
- pieprz.....(PYEH-psh) pepper

**DID YOU KNOW?** The at-sign @ in e-mail addresses in Poland is called a "małpa" (monkey), because it resembles a primate with its tail wrapped round. Animal names are also used for this mark in Germany (clinging monkey), Denmark (elephant's trunk), Italy (snail), Finland (sleeping cat), Russia (dog) and Greece (little duck). — R.S.

**POLISH-ENGLISH TRANSLATOR**

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## NEW BOOKS

## “This Is Paradise,” Newest Book by Suzanne Strempek Shea

GEORGETOWN, Mass. — Western Massachusetts author Suzanne Strempek Shea crossed the ocean to write and research her tenth book, *This Is Paradise: An Irish Mother's Grief, an African Village's Plight and the Medical Clinic That Brought Fresh Hope to Both*, published April 19 by PFP Publishing.

The story of Irish guidance counselor Mags Riordan and the clinic she founded in Malawi in honor of a son who drowned there is at once inspiring and transfixing.

“We hear about the triumph of the human spirit a lot,” says best-selling author Ann Hood. “But Mags Riordan personifies the idea. In *This Is Paradise*, Suzanne Strempek Shea takes on her extraordinary journey and shows us the power of a mother's love.”

The Billy Riordan Memorial Clinic, in Cape Maclear, Malawi, was founded in 1999 to serve an area where there previously was one doctor for a population of 800,000. To date, its all-volunteer international staff of doctors and nurses have tended to 275,000 people who previously would have had no choice but to make an eleven-mile journey to the nearest hospital — a near impossibility in a community having only five automobiles and a population of 15,000. Unable to make the journey, villagers died regularly, sometimes from complications that began with even a slight infection. Though her father had been a physician, Mags had no prior interest in medicine, she simply knew that

in a country with a life expectancy of 54, and with 14 percent of the population affected by AIDS/HIV, if she wanted to memorialize her son, healthcare would be the most transformative effort.

Billy actually was the third child Riordan lost over 26 years. Her first child — daughter Niamh — drowned at four months when the family car malfunctioned and rolled off a pier, and her second child, Luke, succumbed to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, also at four months.

“I thought Mags' story would make a strong magazine piece about motherhood, grief, healing, moving outside the comfort zone — how one person can change one part of our world,” says Shea, who met Riordan in 2004, as she was fundraising in the Irish vendors' area of the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Massachusetts.

A former reporter for *The Springfield Newspapers* and *The Providence Journal* who went on to write both fiction and nonfiction, Shea had her ears open as she helped a friend at a booth near where Riordan was selling jewelry and art from Cape Maclear, the proceeds going to then-new clinic.

“People would walk up to Mags' booth, look at the photos of the village and the kids playing outside the clinic, and they'd ask what the display was about. Mags would start to say something like, ‘I built a clinic in the village where my son died,’ and many of the people would

just walk away,” Shea remembers. “Others would approach, she'd repeat the same stark information. I wanted to know who this person was, what had happened to her son, and how does someone go about doing something like starting a clinic — how does one single person do something that? Apart from that, how does someone repeat a horrible truth like that, over and over, very often to disinterested ears? I got to know Mags well by asking a lot of questions over the years since, and feel everyone else needs to get to know her well, too. The first time he heard me talk about Mags, my husband, Tommy Shea, who always has the great idea, said, ‘That's a book.’ Thanks again, Tommy Shea.”

Shea followed Riordan on three continents, for more than 3½ years. The book is being published in the same year the clinic will celebrate its tenth anniversary.

“I'm delighted the story is getting out there, and I'm hoping that it will do some good for the Billy Riordan Memorial Trust, and might get others thinking about what they can do in this world,” Shea says. “It's not exaggerating to say Mags' story is very inspiring. After the losses she's endured, how does this woman get up every day, never mind get up and do what she does for others? It's a story of how you don't have to be a millionaire or an expert of some sort to start something that really can help.”

*This Is Paradise* will be the first of two PFP releases for Shea this



Shea is a member of the faculty at the University of Southern Maine's Stonecoast MFA program in creative writing and is writer-in-residence and director of the creative writing program at Bay Path College in Longmeadow, Mass. She has taught in the MFA program at Emerson College and in the creative writing program at the University of South Florida.

year. Her sixth novel and eleventh book, *Make a Wish But Not For Money*, the story of Rosie Pilch, a palm reader who plies her trade in a down-and-out shopping mall, will be published in October.

Shea's previous books are the novels *Selling the Lite of Heaven*; *Hoopi Shoopi Donna*; *Lily of the Valley*; *Around Again*; and *Becoming Finola*. Her memoirs are *Songs*

*From a Lead-lined Room: Notes - High and Low - From My Journey Through Breast Cancer and Radiation*; *Shelf Life: Romance, Mystery, Drama and Other Page-Turning Adventures From a Year in a Bookstore*; and *Sundays in America: A Yearlong Road Trip in Search of Christian Faith*. She co-wrote *140 Years of Providential Care: The Sisters of Providence of Holyoke, Massachusetts* with Tommy Shea, and with author/historian Michele P. Barker. Her essay *Crafty Critters*, about her lifelong love of knitting, a craft she learned in the “Crafty Critters” 4-H club of Palmer, Mass., back in childhood, is included in the recently released anthology *Knitting Yarns, Writers on Knitting*, edited by Ann Hood.

Winner of the 2000 New England Book Award, which recognizes a literary body of work's contribution to the region, Shea began writing fiction in her spare time while working as a reporter. Her freelance journalism and fiction has appeared in magazines and newspapers including *Yankee*, *The Bark*, *Golf World*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Organic Style* and *ESPN the Magazine*. She was a regular contributor to *Obit* magazine.

Shea lives in Bondsville, Mass., with Tommy Shea, most recently the senior foreign editor at *The National* newspaper in Abu Dhabi, and their dogs Tiny and Bisquick.

For additional information, please visit: [www.suzannestrempek Shea.com](http://www.suzannestrempek Shea.com).

## BOOK REVIEW / Tom Tarapacki

## Wojciechowski Remembers Great Game

“The Last Great Game: Duke vs. Kentucky and the 2.1 Seconds that Changed Basketball,” by award-winning sportswriter Gene Wojciechowski, is a captivating account of the game many consider the greatest in the history of college basketball. Its behind-the-scenes depiction of how the teams were put together and what led up to the 1992 NCAA East Regional Final

provides much insight into the great Duke team led by Mike Krzyzewski, Christian Laettner and Bob Hurley.

Laettner, who hit the game's dramatic winning shot, came from working class Polish roots.

He grew up in Angola N.Y., a rural community outside of Buffalo. His father, George, was a printer for the *Buffalo News*. His mother, Bonnie, was a teacher. Bonnie's maiden name was Turner, anglicized from Turkowski by her father, who was born in Poland. Her mother's maiden name was Maliniak. George's maternal grandmother, Katherine Boryta, was born in Poland. Here's what Wojciechowski wrote about the first time Duke Coach Mike Krzyzewski came to Laettner's home:

“Krzyzewski's visit was part White House State Dinner, part ‘Seinfeld’ episode, and part Salute to Poland. Though George Laettner's last name was German, his family was Polish. His grandparents had spoken and argued in Polish. George had attended a Polish American school. The dinner theme would be pure Polska: fresh Polish sausage, just-baked Polish rye bread, horseradish and butter, smoked sausage, handmade pierogies. Laettner's sister Leanne had made cabbage rolls the night before, but George deemed them too salty. They were tossed outside, where the raccoons gobbled them up.”

Hurley was the son of an Irish



LAETTNER, number 32, and HURLEY, number 11, celebrate Duke's victory over Kentucky in 1992.

father and Polish mother (Ledzion) from Jersey City. Bobby learned the game at an early age from his dad, one of the greatest high school basketball coaches ever, at the legendary St. Anthony's High School. The elder Hurley “set up his crib at courtside of the White Eagle Bingo Hall” where the team practiced.

Despite their shared Polish heritage, Laettner and Hurley didn't get along — actually they hated each other. They were very different personalities; Laettner was brash and outspoken, while Hurley was quiet and sensitive. It didn't help that Krzyzewski made Hurley his starting point guard before he ever practiced with the team, something that irked Laettner, who was a sophomore at the time. Krzyzewski broke with his past practice in doing so, but he saw Hurley as “a player who had more than talent: He had a gift.” In the end, they formed the core of a team that won two national championships.

Wojciechowski provides a fresh perspective on Duke's dramatic 1992 win over Kentucky in the NCAA tournament. More than that, it provides fascinating insight into the various personalities that were part of these two great teams.

## BOOKS IN BRIEF / Mary Lanham

## A Mosaic of Minds Journey

**BIPOLAR BUFFALO**  
*A Mosaic of Minds Journey*  
by Anthony Antek  
Bipolar Buffalo Publishing  
2012, 258 pps.  
[Bipolarbuffalo.com](http://Bipolarbuffalo.com)

*Bipolar Buffalo* takes the reader on the journey of a working-class Polish American as he grows up in Lackawanna, New York in the mid-20th century.

Each chapter reads almost like its own short story covering an aspect of Antek's life.

In one chapter Anthony recounts the time he was a migrant worker on his uncle's farm. As a child, he, his brother and his mother picked

strawberries and green beans. In a later section, Antek describes the onset of bipolar disorder as a college student; his breaks from reality, hospital stays, and therapy.

On his quest of self-discovery, Anthony attends college, goes on an extended road trip, holds various jobs and meets celebrities. Weaved deftly throughout are threads of Western New York history and popular culture which give this autobiography a sense of authenticity.

*Bipolar Buffalo: A Mosaic of Minds Journey* is available in both e-book and paperback editions through the author's website at [bipolarbuffalo.com](http://bipolarbuffalo.com).

Born and raised in Lackawanna, N.Y., Antek earned three degrees and had a lifelong career in education. He now lives in Lakeview, N.Y. with his wife. They have three daughters and three grandsons.

**POLA NEGRI: HOLLYWOOD'S FIRST FEMME FATALE**

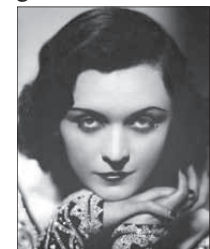
by Mariusz Kotowski

University Press of Kentucky, 2014

Born in Lipno, Poland at the end of the nineteenth century, Pola Negri knew that despite her humble beginnings she would be a star. As a girl she was accepted into the Imperial Ballet Academy of Warsaw, but was struck down by tuberculosis.

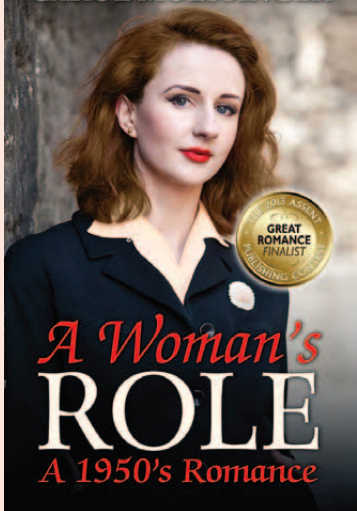
No longer able to dance, she and Valentino started acting on stage and in 1914 appeared in her first film. In 1922, Pola was signed to Paramount Pictures making her the first European actor to be imported to Hollywood. After acting in numerous silent films, Negri transitioned easily into talking movies. She became one of the most popular and well-paid actresses at the time. She loved wearing expensive clothes and jewels and was a trendsetter. Pola's personal life was as full as her professional life. She was married to a count and a prince and was romantically linked to Charlie Chaplin and Rudolph Valentino.

Kotowski's biography of Negri draws from various sources including newspapers, celebrity magazines, and letters. He paints a comprehensive picture of a woman was mysterious and who loved finery but was extremely generous and down to earth. This biography is complete with her filmography, discography, and stage works, a chronology and numerous images of the late, great Pola Negri.



### A WOMAN'S ROLE: A 1950's ROMANCE

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## PONDERRING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

## EULOGIUM / Lenny Gomulka

## A Movie, a Book, and a Play

## DELIVERY MAN

*DreamWorks SKG  
and Touchstone Pictures, 2013*

Okay, it wasn't just me who was anxious about the release of a new movie with Vince Vaughn, billed as a comedy, and with trailers showing obvious Polish accoutrements and symbols. Perhaps you will remember that Vince starred in a film with Jennifer Aniston called *The Break Up*, playing the main character Gary Grobowski ("Gro"), a loser who is crude and backwards with women and in life, and ends the story with no redeeming value or possibility for success. You know, the "same old" Hollywood Polish thing.

The new movie produced and distributed in 2013 is called *Delivery Man*, and stars Vince Vaughn as David Wozniak, a delivery truck driver for the family meat processing business who, we find out, is a former fertility clinic donor whose "donations" produced 533 children, 144 of which sue the clinic to find out the identity of their father. With a storyline like that, with Vince Vaughn, billed as a comedy, and plenty of Polish accoutrements and symbols, well you might say as I did, yep, "same old thing."

To my surprise though, it is not. I think the Hollywood bigots had the perfect outline but forgot to read the script! As the legal process works itself out, David learns about himself, life, and what it means to connect and care for someone, or in this case 144 someones, plus the woman he is having a baby with. I found myself watching and waiting and watching and waiting for the big one, the "same old" scene as in *The Break Up*, where David does something crude, backwards, or irreparably stupid. Instead, I watched scene after scene building to a grand denouement of encouragement and positivity.

David Wozniak finishes the movie as a credible and sensitive guy and someone I liked, a lot. Don't be fooled, he does play the "problem child" of the family and his behavior is not always top-notch. That is the backdrop but woven around this flawed man is his family seen as solid and decent people and I especially loved how the Polish dad was portrayed and acted. I do recommend you see this movie and let me know what you think.

## THE TRIPLE PACKAGE

*How Three Unlikely Traits  
Explain the Rise and Fall of  
Cultural Groups in America.  
Penguin Press, New York, 2014*

If you are interested in American ethnicity and cultures, this is a book you might want to read. The authors are Amy Chua and Jed Rubenfeld and they analyze why some American "groups" do better than others "as measured by income, occupational status, test scores, and so on" (page 2). "Groups" in this case can be religious like the Mormons or Jews, or as ethnic communities like Cubans or Nigerians.

So what is the "Triple Package?" According to Chua and Rubenfeld, success is measured by 1. A Superiority Complex, 2. Insecurity, and 3. Impulse Control. These three are the "rare and potent cultural constellation that drives disproportionate group success."

I'm not that far into the book but of the three, the one intriguing category is "A Superiority Complex." The authors describe it as a "deeply internalized belief in your group's specialness, exceptionality, or superiority" (page 8). Superiority is a

scary word from a Polish perspective so I prefer to summarize this complex as a feeling of confident resignation of one's ancestry and past. By any of these standards, do we have it or not?

For instance, why did we Poles (during our resurgent decades of the 70s and 80s) wear buttons that said "Proud to be Polish." The buttons were cute and harmless but were we subconsciously proving something to someone? Should we have just been who we are and have others recognize us for it? When I think about it, would a Jewish, Irish, or Chinese person wear a button that said "Proud to be?" I don't think they would even go there and would think it strange and unnecessary to advertise their worth on their shirt.

The book does not focus on Polonia so I am not sure where it is on the ladder of cultural success. Whatever our "position" there is nothing else I want to be but Polish. No matter what value you place on the author's formulas and theories, for comparison sake see what you think and let me know. It is an interesting read nonetheless.

## ONCE

*A musical stage adaptation based  
on the 2006 film by the same  
name. Music by Glen Hansard  
and Marketa Irglova. Book by  
Enda Walsh.*

Cultures collide but instead of the Sharks and the Jets, the sides are Irish and Czechoslovakian, the story takes place in Dublin, and there is a definite tension. The tension in this case is the good kind, sensitivity and love. What a great play/musical or however you want to describe it. If you are Polish it is easily relatable as the Czech "translations" (English to Czech on a ticker-tape) and accents are so closely pegged to our own.

This play will tug at your heart strings and the treatment of the Eastern Europeans is balanced and sincere. See it and enjoy.

**POLISH OR NOT? Robert Lamm**, original founder and performer in the rock band Chicago along with **Jason Scheff**, another Chicago alum, produced a CD for Polish singer/songwriter Zosia Karbowskiak. Zosia's work is modern and quite good. Are either Robert or Jason Polish, or was their relationship with Zosia the result of Windy City osmosis?

If you have a thought about this month's topics, have an answer to the questions, have a question of your own, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; email alinabrig@yahoo.com. N.B. If you send email, reference the Pondering Pole in the subject line. I will not open an email if I do not recognize the subject or the sender.

Don't forget to visit The Pondering Pole blog, ponderingpole.blogspot.com.

## On the Passing of Rich Tokarz

Musician Rich Tokarz passed away April 22, 2014. A friend to all, Rich performed with many bands and appeared on polka stages throughout the country. Most recently he was an integral part of the Chicago Push Band.

I first met Rich when we were both in our teens. He then played accordion with the Pala Brothers for a short time, filling Al Pala's slot, who was in the military. Rich went to high school with our friend Bob Bobin, who was also in the Pala Brothers at that time. The three of us, along with Rich's brother Jerry, of course, were good friends. At that time, I was playing in the Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones. In 1976, Junior Wozniak, who played violin with the Versatones, announced he had to leave the band for health reasons. It was in 1976 that we decided to add the new sound of the accordion/concertina combination to the Versatones in place of the violin.

The stories and memories that I have from those years are incredible. Rich and I played together, traveled and recorded with Eddie & the Versatones, and made still more memories together. In 1985, Bob Bobin had to leave my band, the Chicago Push because of health issues. It was then that Rich expressed an interest in becoming part of the band. He was then playing with Eddie B. and traveling extensively but he also just bought a bar in Hammond, Indiana which took away his extra time. Since my band wasn't traveling as much as Eddie's at that time, Rich thought the move into Chicago Push would be to his advantage. He was a part of Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push from then on and remained one of my musicians to this day.

Rich is missed by all of us in the band. He was the foundation upon which we built our style and actually he set the example for many bands out there today. He knew when to keep it simple and when to step on the gas. He played with a team effort and he exercised musical dynamics. His special technique with pretty full chords, tastefully filling in the gaps was every vocalist's dream. In our band, the winning combination of Richie Tokarz and John Mikos on accordion and concertina, both musically and personally, were a blessing to have as a



**MUSICIAN AND VOCALIST RICH TOKARZ** (right) passed away April 22, 2014. A friend to all, Tokarz performed with many bands and appeared on polka stages throughout the country. Most recently he was an integral part of the Chicago Push Band.

bandleader. Rich had all the ingredients of the perfect band member including talent, unconditional loyalty and dedication.

Rich was born in Whiting, Indiana to parents Stanley and Florence Tokarz (deceased). He was the older of two sons. His brother Jerry now resides in Las Vegas, Nevada. Uniquely, making a name for himself as a musical sideman, Rich was a popular and accomplished accordionist, singer and song writer. He performed with Chicago's Pala Brothers, Li'l Richard's All-Stars, Marion Lush, Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones, and Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push. With his party-like personality and obvious love for music he has made countless friendships throughout the United States and Canada. He has served as a major inspirational role model to hundreds of aspiring musicians. He has composed over 40 songs and has also recorded over 30 record albums and CDs. His dedication to polka music has earned him a place in the International Polka Music Hall of Fame, inducted by his peers in August, 2000.

Rich was a current member of the Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push. His last performance on stage was just a few weeks ago at the Oglebay

Resort Festival in Wheeling, W.V. Rich's accordion work is heard on the latest "Save the Music" CD with Chicago Push.

Condolences are offered to Rich's brother Jerry Tokarz. It has been announced that services are private. A Memorial Mass will be announced in time to come. Presently, prayers are most comforting. Rich is deeply missed and loved and will be remembered always. Thank you to the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration at St. Margaret's Hospital for your love and compassion in his final hours. Eternal rest grant unto Rich, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

I counted on Rich and I knew I could. May God Bless him with the happiness that he gave to us and so many others. We miss you Rich. Thank you for your loyalty, talent, and friendship.



*Lenny Gomulka is an award-winning musician, singer, bandleader, and composer. He currently leads his band, Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push, which specializes primarily in Polish-style and Chicago-style polkas.*

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# Polka MAGAZINE

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## Drummer John Fetkin Passes Polkapalooza



BRECKNOCK, Pa. — John Fetkin, 64, died unexpectedly April 24, 2014 in the Reading Hospital, where he was a patient since April.

Fetkin was a multi-talented musician. He played drums with the Musicaires. He also played concertina, accordion and guitar.

Fetkin is survived by his wife of 40 years, a son, daughter, and and three grandchildren.

He was a member of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, Reading. He loved to cook and was devoted and avid Steelers fan.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Disabled American Veterans (DAV), 4219 Trindle Rd., Camp Hill, PA 17011, Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, KS, 66675 or the Animal Rescue League, P.O. Box 69, Mohnton, PA 19540.



NICHOLS, N.Y. — Four bands and hundreds of fans packed Tioga Downs Casino for eight hours of polkas, food, fun and good times on April 12. Joe Stanky & the Cadets from Pennsylvania started things going at noon on the Coasters Stage with Fritz's Polka Band from New York, Jude's Polka Jets II from Pennsylvania and Tony's Polka Band from New York continuing until 8:00 p.m. DJs Bill Flynn and Barb Mack acted as MCs.

Free admission, great ethnic food, and plenty of room for dancing made for a great Sunday of polkas. People traveled in from Elmira, Corning, Binghamton, and Pennsylvania to enjoy the day.

## “Chainsaw” Cuts Ties with Polka Jammer Network

CHICAGO RIDGE, Ill. — Jim “Chainsaw” Kucharski has announced his retirement from the Polka Jammer Network ([www.polkajammernetwork.org](http://www.polkajammernetwork.org)) on May 31, 2014.

In a statement, Kucharski said had grown tired of “waging an uphill battle to gain acceptance of polka music on the Internet.” He said the stress of operating an Internet radio station resulted in burn-out, and he has decided to return to school to train for another career.

Kucharski started his first radio show on [www.247polkaheaven.com](http://www.247polkaheaven.com), which ran from October of 2000 until February of 2004. In January of 2003, he was asked by Polkaman Jack Baciewski along with Peter J. Danielczuk to help launch the Polka Jammer Network. Kucharski is credited with setting up the network for CD Quality stereo sound

As well as the establishment of live programming, an archive, a chat room, a Board of Directors to oversee all operations of the network, and finally the establishment of the Jammer as a 501C3 “Not-For-Profit” Corporation, which received approval from the IRS in September of 2013.

Polkaman Jack Baciewski left the Polka Jammer Network in Oc-

tober of 2008 and was succeeded by Todd Zaganiacz, who is now its president.

In addition to the Jammer, Kucharski be giving up his terrestrial AM and FM shows. He will continue to play upright bass with Bill Gula's Chicago Image.

Kucharski thanks all of his loyal listeners who tuned in during his 14½ year run on internet radio and 3 ½ years on terrestrial radio.

“It has been an honor to play the polkas, waltzes, and obereks we all love on my shows,” he said.

The final edition of “Chainsaw's Polka Madhouse” aired on the Polka Jammer May 31. His final terrestrial show will air Saturday, June 28, with the Mix Segment of “Polka Parade” from 12:00-1:00 p.m. Central Time on WJYI 1340AM, Milwaukee. The show can also be heard online at [www.joy1340.com](http://www.joy1340.com).

### Proper Credit Due

Thanks to mail from a few polka fans who pointed out the late Richie Tokarz has erroneously been credited for composing “Just Married” polka.

The song was originally a hit for Marty Robbins in 1958 and was written by Barry De Vorzon and Al Allen.

## Chet Kowalkowski and Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr.: Highlights of a Lifelong Friendship

To anyone who considers themselves a polka aficionado, the names Chet and Eddie (no surnames are necessary) are synonymous with vocal excellence. Their harmonies were legendary — think Everly Brothers, Righteous Brothers, Indigo Girls — and their pairing shaped the sound of the early Versatones, one of the most influential bands in modern-day polkas. The following recollection from Chet Kowalkowski, offers an insight into those early, formative years.

by Chet Kowalkowski  
Part II

### THE BEGINNING OF THE VERSATONES.

One night, when I was performing with Dick Billa at Joe & Jean's lounge, the late Eddie Nowak from Wheaton approached me when I was taking a break and asked me if I was playing steady with this band. I said, “No, I job around between this band and other groups.” He told me there was a three-piece young group called the Versatones that was looking for a steady horn-man and gave me the Sendra brothers' phone number. I called them and made an audition date—this was in the early spring of 1961. Bobby Sendra asked me if I knew any Polish songs to sing. I told him I knew of some my mother used to sing around the house, so we practiced and they came out pretty well. We became very popular around the Hegwisch and West Pullman areas and played a lot of gigs at Club 505, including the remote radio broadcasts on Sundays. I was

still booking many jobs with my own group, but finally, in 1961, I joined the Versatones, which was made up of Rich Sendra, Bob Sendra, Jerry Choholek, and myself. The four of us played for about two and a half years.

In 1963, Eddie told Donny Ptak he was looking for musicians to start a polka band. Later that year, we (the original Versatones) were performing at Club 505. Eddie just happened to be in town, so I asked him to go with me to Club 505 and he brought his bass and sat in. Between Eddie's singing and our duets, we sounded great. We liked Eddie and he liked us, so Eddie finally got his polka band and it was ready-made. At first we used a clarinet and sax player named Gus Chucla, who was Sendra's uncle, but, very shortly after that, in 1964, Jim Bagrowski joined the band. With this group and on the Bel-Aire label Eddie formed, we made our first album called *Polka Parade*. Within six months, we were recording our second album, Bel-Aire 3002 called *Here Come the Versatones*. One time, Wally Maduzia (who would also soon be a Versatone) stopped in to hear the band and asked: “Who's the guy on stage with the Buddy Holly glasses?”

**HITTING THE ROAD.** Each year, Eddie would produce two Versatones albums and in 1964, we started to travel. We sometimes played in Armstrong Creek, Wisconsin where, Eddie's sister, Louise, would make dinner for the band, putting out an amazing spread. Looking for attention at the table, I once ate a whole stick of butter on a slice of bread; the guys couldn't believe it. Is that why my cholesterol is so high today?

Each year the traveling seemed to double, and because I had to take Fridays and Mondays off, normal work-related jobs were hard to find. In early 1967, I started working for the Archdiocese of Chicago, but by 1968, the road trips tripled. Being



BLAZONCZYK JOINED THE VERSATONES in 1964. (l. to r.) Choholek, Kowalkowski, Rich Sendra, Blazonczyk, and Bob Sendra.

a new employee, there was a lot of Saturday work involved. I heard through the grapevine that I would be terminated because I was always taking Fridays and Mondays off. At the time, my lip was also giving me problems, so in 1969, I left the Versatones to save my job. About a year later, half the band left Eddie to form the Tones Orchestra. Eddie was desperate and called me back to play until he could find steady musicians to travel. He would fly me to and from out of town gigs so it wouldn't affect my job.

At the end of 1972, I left Eddie again. He continued to travel, but I just performed locally. Once in a while, I would travel with the local bands to Wisconsin or Michigan—performing with the Dial-A-Tones, Jimmy Mieszala's Music Explosion, Don Jodlowski's Vibrasounds, and the Paliga Polka Dots, as well as many one-nighters with other local bands. In the mid '80s the popularity of DJs cut our jobs tremendously, going from working six to seven jobs a month, to two. By the early '90s, my lip was really giving me problems and the band I was in at the time broke up.

**EDDIE CARRIES ON.** Eddie, on the other hand, continued with the band, winning many awards, including being inducted into the IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame in 1970. I remember telling him: “Congratulations to you Edziu, you made a wise decision to fol-

low your heritage and culture—and your mother's wishes to play polka music. Your parents and family are very proud of you.”

Eddie and the Versatones had 18 Grammy nominations throughout his career, and he was awarded a Grammy in 1986 for his album, *Polka Celebration*. He also received many awards and honors for his tremendous contributions to polka music, and received the prestigious National Heritage Fellowship Award, presented to him by First Lady Hillary Clinton in 1998.

Eddie was good-hearted, and would do anything for you. He was also a great songwriter, a super multi-instrument musician, singer, wonderful personality and a smart businessman. He had a computer-like mind, allowing him to remember people's first and last names and what state or town they were from.

I truly miss my friend.

Next month:  
*The Polish Carolers*



CHET AND EDDIE. International Polka Convention. Buffalo, N.Y. 1965. This festival was the forerunner of the IPA Festival and Convention.



THE ORIGINAL VERSATONES, (l. to r.): Jerry Choholek, Chet Kowalkowski, Robby Sendra, and Rich Sendra.

## DANCE TIME / Jen Pijanowski

## A Dyngus Day Like No Other

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Lori Urbanczyk, the New York state director for **International Polka Association (IPA)**, hosted a dance at Potts Banquet Hall the weekend before Easter. Buffalo welcomed the Boys from Baltimore with hometown band New Direction for this inaugural event. The hall was filled with not only local polka fans but many traveled miles to come to this Saturday evening of fun. It was a sea of people on the dance floor throughout the entire evening. Ron Urbanczyk took a few moments to recognize all of the “polka elite” that were in attendance. They ranged from Eddie Guca and Mike Nowakowski (both IPA Hall-of-Famers) to Chris Tanski our local Buffalo Polka Booster club president. It was nice to see everyone recognized for their commitment to the music.

**THE HIGHLIGHT** of the Buffalo polka world happens on Easter and Easter Monday. Polka fans have grown to anticipate both Easter and Dyngus Day affairs. Every single year, this celebration is growing beyond anyone’s expectations. Beautiful weather, plentiful venues, and polka fans descending on Buffalo from all over North America surpassed all past years’ events

Two venues hosted Easter Sunday dances. Millennium Hotel had **Polka Country Musicians** and Polka Family, while the Leonard Post had **Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push**, along with **Buffalo Touch**. The venues are only about 1/4 mile apart so it was easy for guests to take in both of these celebrations. Polka Country sounded amazing as always and constantly pushes the envelope when entertaining the crowd.

At the Leonard Post, where Lenny Gomulka has become a staple for Easter/Dyngus celebration, the crowd is always mesmerized by Lenny’s voice and charm. When he begins singing “Dyngus Day in Buffalo,” the insanity amongst the crowd is exhilarating. The dance

floor is packed and the crowd in front of the stage is awestruck, watching as the band plays. There is no doubt that Easter Sunday is not complete unless you get over to Leonard Post to hear a set of Lenny.

**THIS YEAR’S DYNGUS DAY** calendar provided non-stop entertainment from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 a.m. on Tuesday. I was able to make it to eight events on Dyngus Day, but still felt as though I missed quite a few great bands. Here is a breakdown of my Dyngus Day experience:

I started off at the Millennium where **Phocus** played the pool party. It is a great laid-back atmosphere, where some people were dressed in their Hawaiian gear. Phocus did a fantastic job delighting everyone in the courtyard and sitting on their balconies of the rooms. The guys in the band are always ready for a party and their style of music kept that courtyard jumping all afternoon.

Next stop was the Firehouse, which is a small bar in the Cheektowaga area. **Eric Bakowski** organized an All-Star band to perform this milestone event. The band was made up of Frank Liszka, Chris “Turtle” Bukowski, Jackie Libera, Steve Binkiewicz, Chris Hedrich, Brian Urbanczyk, and, of course, Eric Bakowski. The small tavern was filled with a mix of regular bar patrons, Buffalo polka fans, and many people from out of town who stopped over to hear this polka confection.

After a quick walk down the street, I arrived to Polish Villa II where the **Buffalo Touch** was playing. Polish Villa always draws a high energy crowd who cannot wait to dance and tap you unsuspectingly with a pussy willow. Buffalo Touch had the floor jammed when they did “Who the Hell is Alice” and “Dyngus Day in Buffalo.” The Touch is a staple on Dyngus at the Villa and always starts the party early and sets the mood for a day of fun and frivolity.

Potts Banquet Hall was my next stop for the day. **John Stevens’ Doubleshot** was playing when I walked into the hall. They are a fun, energetic band which plays both traditional polkas and a few of their own originals. The band has a superb, full sound showcasing double accordions in the band. Later in the day, **Polka Family** joined the escapade and alternated with Double Shot. Potts serves as the hub which connects all of the buses going to and from many of the venues for the day. It makes for a constantly changing conflux as people are making their way from area to area throughout the day.



DJ Mike Pasierb and Lisa Pazderski at the Millennium.

**AS EARLY EVENING** approached, my gang headed down to the East side, which is the birthplace of Buffalo’s Polonia. Although much has changed in this area, it is transformed back into a proud Polish community on Dyngus Day. In my opinion this is the most authentic area for a true Dyngus Day experience. Polish flags line the streets and Polish bars that still exist on the East Side are bursting with excitement. The parade route passes all of the Polish landmarks from this historic area including Central Terminal, Arty’s, Corpus Christi, Adam Mickiewicz Library, the Broadway Market, and St. Stanislaus. The sunny weather brought everyone out to participate in this unique celebration of heritage. The parade, which lasted about 90 minutes, was more



**THE BAKOWSKI FAMILY** pose for a family photo. Promoter Val Bakowski (left, with plaque), hosts one of the city’s most popular Dyngus Day parties, held at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga.

entertaining than any parade I have every attended. Red and white dominated the clothing for the day and the Polish flag was flown so very proud. The smiles, squirt guns, and pussy willows make this a parade that was sure to impress everyone who attended.

As the parade ended I made my way into one of my favorite Dyngus haunts, St. Stanislaus Church social hall. **Stephanie & her Honky Band**, along with Buffalo Concertina All Stars, provide the entertainment here every year. It is always fitting being here as **Fr. Ted Bocianowski** is dancing and sprinkling us with holy water as we were cavorting around the dance floor. Both of these bands kept this diverse crowd dancing, laughing, and singing along throughout the evening. The parishioners work hard to make homemade Polish food for sale and man the bar which is always packed five to six deep.

After my group of friends had our fill of dancing, singing and laughing until we cried, we headed over to Pussywillow Park. The park whose backdrop is the gorgeous Central Terminal was loaded with more people than I could have imagined. Food Trucks lined the perimeter of the entrance to the park including Polish food truck **Betty Crockski** and by 8:00 p.m. almost every single one of them had successfully run out of food. My friends and I made our way into the park to indulge in

a band who call themselves **Those Idiots**. Myron the leader of the band always makes quite an impression but this year topped them all. He made his way through the crowd of thousands and onto the stage to join his band dressed in a polka-inspired space suit. A large bubble placed over his head, he descended on the stage like a true entertainer. This band, which is packed with talented musicians, takes the likes of Madonna, Michael Jackson, and Kiss and converts their songs into polkas.

Last stop for me was back to Val’s Millennium Dyngus Event. **Freeze Dried and IPA Tribute Band** alternated for an action-packed celebration. While IPA is a more traditional polka band, Freeze Dried provided music with a hint of diversity from the old standards. Both bands gave praiseworthy performances as fans filed in and out of this gorgeous venue.

**FEELINGS OF PRIDE**, celebration, music, and friendship overwhelm me as I reflect back on this year’s revelry. It is a day to be proud of the Polish pride that Buffalo exudes. We are fortunate to be home to the largest Dyngus Day celebration in North America. If you haven’t come to Buffalo for this event, mark your calendar for next year. I don’t know how the promoters are going to top this year, but I have a sneaky suspicion they will not disappoint.



**Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push**

**Polka Family**

**Eddie Forman Orchestra**

**The Beat**

**The Boys**

**Polka Country Musicians (PCM)**

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**POLKA INSIDER**

**“The Springs”  
Just a Month Away**

With the 40th Polka Fireworks festival just months away, it makes me realize that we've been a part of that festival for 31 years now. After that first time in 1983, I wrote in my Polka Insider column, “Seven Springs is a resort to beat all resorts ... The polkas, on stage, off stage, in the halls, in the rooms, in the chalets and just about everywhere, are first rate, top notch and superb.”

Polkas and the Blazonczyk family remain the keys to making this festival work. However, it's more than just music.

It could be called one of the biggest family reunions with polkas being the connection, because you essentially live with everyone for multiple days. From the main lobby, to the restaurants, to the pool, to the game room, festival halls, the slopes, the jam sessions, this reunion is non-stop. You cannot walk down a hallway without stopping to greet friends you've known for decades.

This year will be our 32nd straight year at the Polka Fireworks and will also mark our 31st Concertina Jam. From that first party in our room, where a handful of musicians played some music, the jam graduated to a lounge where an audience of polka lovers enjoys a stage full of polka musicians. Over the past 30 years, close to 300 different musicians have taken part in this squeezing experience.

Our thanks to the Blazonczyk family for filling the Seven Springs Resort with Polka Fireworks. For more information visit [www.polkafireworks.com](http://www.polkafireworks.com) or call: (708) 594-5182. See you “At the Springs” July 2 through July 6, 2014.

**Sturr Releases New DVD/CD**

FLORIDA, N. Y. – Jimmy Sturr & his Orchestra have released a new DVD/CD entitled “Come on and Dance.” The DVD features over 90 minutes of entertainment and includes 35 new songs. The CD, which is included in the package, offers seventeen exciting tunes.

For more information contact: Sturr Productions, Box 1, Florida, NY 10921 or call: (800) 724-0727.

**Polka Lovers Call it Quits**

WITCHITA — The Polka Lovers Klub of America danced the last dance — as of March 2014, the club no longer exists. Formed in 1983, it once had 250 members, but has declined in recent years.

Club items were donated to the Barton County Historical Society, St. Francis of Assisi Church in Wichita and the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Wichita. The balance in the treasury was distributed to various charitable organizations.

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- Jeff Mleczek's DynaBrass (MI)
- The Buffalo Concertina All-Stars (NY)
- Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze (IL)
- The Nu-Tones (PA)
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**Congratulations to Eddie Biegaj and Kevin Adams**  
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**Sat., June 7** Church Festival, St. Stanislaus Church  
82 Akron St., Meriden, CT  
6:00-10:00 PM, Call Ada 203-235-6341

**Sat., June 21** Private

**Fri., June 27** Polish Night, Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre  
Eisenhower Park, East Meadow, LI, NY  
7:00-9:00 PM, Bring lawn chairs, Free admission,  
Call June 860-536-2452

**Sat., June 28** Live broadcast and taping, WVIA PA Public Media,  
Pennsylvania Polka, Ballroom,  
Hotel at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs, PA  
8:00 PM, call June 860-536-2452

**Sun., June 29** Private

**Fri., July 11** Lyon Park  
Putnam Ave. & King St., Port Chester, NY  
Summer Concert Series, 7:30-9:00 PM,  
Bring lawn chairs, Free admission  
Call Angelo 914-937-3550 or June 860-536-2452

**Sun., July 13** Family Picnic, Polish American Cultural Association,  
5 Pulaski Place, Port Washington, NY  
Music 3:00-7:00 PM, Call Irene 516-883-5553

**Sat., July 19** Private

**Sat., July 26** Park Concert, Gazebo on the Green  
St. Michael Church, 25 Maple Ave., Beacon Falls, CT  
6:00-8:00 PM, Bring lawn chairs, Free admission  
Food available, Call Bob 203-723-7470

**Tues., July 29** Park Concert, Coe Memorial Park, Torrington, CT,  
7:00-9:00 PM, Bring lawn chairs. Rain location inside  
auditorium on site, Free admission  
Call Donna 860-489-2274, June 860-536-2452

**Wed., July 30** Park Concert, Sherman Green Gazebo, Fairfield, CT  
7:00-8:30 PM, Bring lawn chairs  
Call Ken 203-259-7765

**Sat., Aug. 16** The Riverhead Polish Hall  
& Sun., Aug. 17  
214 Marcy Ave., Riverhead, NY  
Sat. Noon-5:00 PM, Sun. 1:00-6:00 PM  
in conjunction with The Polish Town Fair  
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**Sun., Aug. 31** 6th Annual Polka Fest 2014 with Polka Paul  
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2:00-6:00 PM, Bring lawn chairs, Food available  
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For more festival information, visit  
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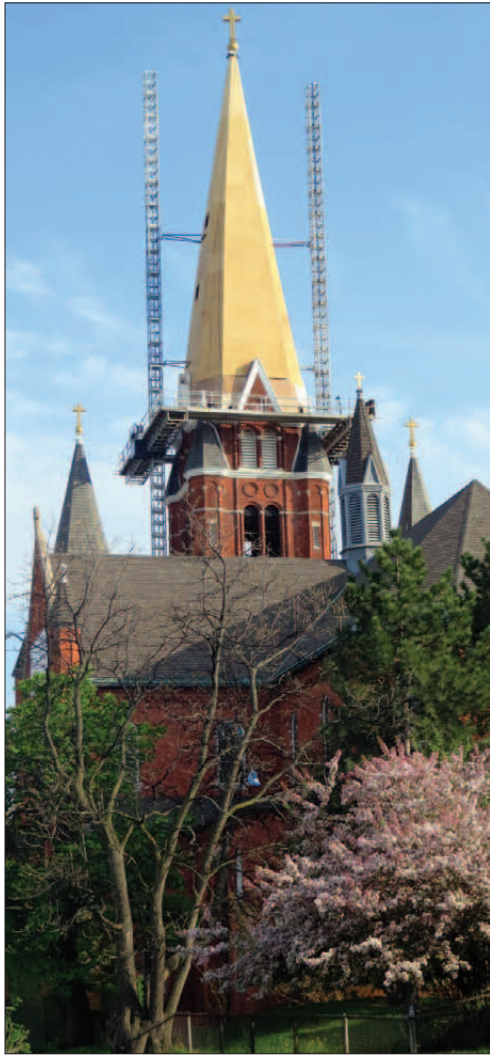
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## Clean Slate



DETROIT — Now that Detroit Cornice & Slate has reached the main steeple cross, it will begin covering **St. Josaphat's** reconstructed spire in new slate tiles.

The steeple was twisted and badly damaged during a severe wind storm last November. The city of Detroit ordered the church closed because of the danger it posed to worshippers and anyone walking or driving on Canfield. The doors to the church, which opened in 1901, have been shut since.

A successful fundraising campaign plus some insurance money allowed the repair and restoration work to begin. The total cost of the project will be approximately \$500,000.

This is a very good sign for the future of the historic church and its iconic steeple.

"We all wanted this but just didn't know if it was going to be a reality," said Kevin Piotrowski, parish council president of Mother of Divine Mercy parish, which includes St. Josaphat.

"We've heard from people all over Detroit, the state of Michigan, people from out of state. The Archdiocese of Detroit has been a tremendous help," Piotrowski told Detroit's *Action News*.

"We don't have it all but we are hopeful and our faith tells us that we will have the resources to take this project to completion and to have that beautiful steeple restored, really to its original state."

New slate shingles will be added as part of the project to replace those lost in the storm. Crates of the new steeple covering, mined from a quarry in Vermont, have already arrived at the church.

Piotrowski said the church is already planning for a grand re-opening sometime this month.

## Wyszynski Named 2014 Parade Grand Marshal

PHILADELPHIA — The Polish American Congress (PAC), Eastern PA District, has named Raymond "Ray" Wyszynski as Grand Marshal of the 2014 Pulaski Day Parade.

Wyszynski was selected in recognition of his many years of participation with the PAC, the Pulaski Day Parade in Philadelphia and his support of organizations in Polonia.

Wyszynski will lead the Pulaski Day Parade in Center City Philadelphia on Sun., Oct. 5, which is one of the many events in the Philadelphia area held in recognition of the National Celebration of Polish American Heritage Month.

For more information, visit [PolishAmericanCongress.com](http://PolishAmericanCongress.com) or [PulaskiDayParade.com](http://PulaskiDayParade.com), or call the PAC office at (215) 739-3408. Email address: [Info@PulaskiDayParade.com](mailto:Info@PulaskiDayParade.com).

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### "Honoring St. John Paul II at our Polish Folk Mass" June 7th at 4pm



#### Special Delivery

- Polish Heritage Festival Pageant
- Pierogi Eating Contest



#### Bob Uleck & Polka Relations

- Polish Platter
- Pork Chop Dinner
- Also Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Roast Beef, Polish Sausage, Pierogi, etc.!

- Polish Beer
- Canadian Beer
- American Beer
- Pop, Water & Wine



2,252 Dinners June 2008



#### Ludowa Nuta Polish Choir

## The Hamburg Fairgrounds

5820 So. Park Ave., Hamburg, NY

Plenty of free parking is available (including handicapped-accessible).



#### John Gora & the Gorale

"Honoring St. John Paul II at our Polish Folk Mass June 7th at 4pm" by Rev. Msgr. Matthew S. Kopacz P.A. with Polish folk music by John Gora and the Gorale.

## The Buffalo Touch



#### The Buffalo Touch

- Vendors
- Exhibitors
- Kids' Games
- Music & Dancing!

ADMISSION  
**\$10<sup>00</sup>**  
Each Day

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

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