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AN INTERVIEW WITH PAHA'S NEW PRESIDENT PAGE 5

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

MANY REASONS TO VISIT YOUR ANCESTRAL HOMELAND • TOLEDO POLISH CULTURAL CENTER'S CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COACH "K" LOVES POLAND AND YOU SHOULD TOO! • LEGENDARY SAUSAGE SHOPS CLOSE DOORS • VISA WAIVER SUMMIT WASHINGTON WIZARDS' PROUD POLE • WORDS AND PHRASES EVERY POLAM SHOULD KNOW • PGSA CONFERENCE SET

Newsmark

THE WORLD'S FIRST COMPOSITE TRANSPLANT of neck organs was carried out by a Polish team led by Prof. Adam Maciejewski of the Institute of Oncology in Gliwice.

The groundbreaking operation by the Silesian surgeons is their latest high-profile success story, following a life-saving face transplant completed in 2013.

A team of surgeons from Gliwice performed on a 37 year-old patient April 11, however news of its success has only now been made public. "This is the first ever complex organ transplant involving the larynx, trachea, throat, esophagus, thyroid and parathyroid, hyoid bone as well as short muscles on the front wall of the neck coating," said Maciejewski.

The patient, who earlier had to breathe through a tracheostomy tube and eat food through a tube connected to his stomach, can now eat and breathe independently. He also regained his voice merely three weeks after the operation.

AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE was held in Gdańsk as Poland marked 70 years since Nazi Germany's surrender in World War II. Noted historians, including Norman Davies and Timothy Snyder, were among those taking part in the two-day event, which is entitled "The Legacy of World War II Reconsidered After 70 Years," and hosted at the European Solidarity Center.

The sessions in Poland were attended by heads of state from across Europe, with most EU leaders declining to attend celebrations in Moscow on May 9.

Director of the Centre for Polish-Russian Dialogue Sławomir Dębski, who was one of the participants in the conference, told Polish Radio that "debate and discussion are necessary, as World War II was and is the subject of historical manipulation, and a series of myths have managed to take root and spread."

"Some of them are dangerous, because they shape social attitudes which are disastrous for the modern world," he added.

THE ISRAELI PARLIAMENT, the Knesset, held a special session in tribute to **Władysław Bartoszewski**, May 4, as Poland laid to rest one of the most important figures of its political and social life of the last seven decades.

In his address, the Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein described Bartoszewski as "a true friend of the Jewish nation," recalling that, during World War II, Bartoszewski had been a member of the Polish Underground State's Council to Aid Jews "Żegota" and received the title of the Righteous among the Nations from the Yad Vashem Institute in Jerusalem.

A former prisoner of the Nazi German concentration camp of Auschwitz, he devoted a large part of his life to Holocaust remembrance activities. He was one of the founders of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation, whose aim is to preserve and maintain the site of the former camp.

POLISH SHIP RESCUES SINKING AFRICAN REFUGEES, whose rubber boat had capsized in the Mediterranean. Most of those rescued were from Ethiopia. The Polish Ocean Lines ship Zeran, which was on route to Libya responded to a request for assistance from the Italian Navy. Sailors on board the Polish ship saved eighty-one men, eight women and two children, most of whom were struggling in the water after falling from their capsizing vessel. Italian Navy personnel then transferred another 103 refugee survivors to the Polish ship which transported all survivors to the Sicilian port of Catania.

U.S. GAME AND TOY MAKER MATTEL APOLOGIZED to the Polish government over the inclusion in one of its party games of a reference to "Nazi Poland." Mattel said of the words, which appeared on a card describing the 1993 Steven Spielberg film *Schindler's List* in an edition of the game Apples to Apples: "We discovered this inaccuracy back in 2013 and we immediately removed this card from the game. We apologize for the gross oversight."

Taps for Katyn's Martyrs



PHOTO: RICHARD FORREMAN

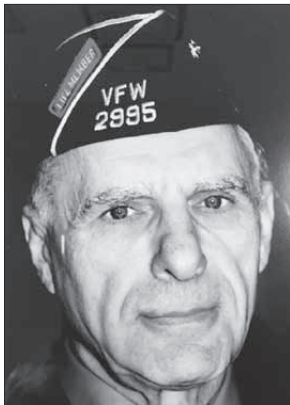
Maryland National Guard Sergeant Keith DeFontes sounds "Taps" in memory of the 22,000 Polish military officers criminally massacred in the Katyn Forest, Russia by the Soviet Union in 1940. Poland's Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf, with Brigadier General Jarosław Stroyk and Lieutenant Colonel Karol Sobczyk, observe the melancholy military ritual. *Story on page 4*

Portrait of Patriotism

With Help from Polish American Vet, Fallen Heroes Project to Honor Polish Allied Sacrifices

by Theresa Poalucci

EDMONDS, Wash. — Robert Michalak of Redmond is American born and raised. His grandparents emigrated from Poland in 1914 and his family has kept ties with Polish relatives ever since. Michalak has visited Poland more than a dozen times during his lifetime, and although he loves the country of his ancestors he never expected to be helping Polish war heroes.



Michalak

It was Michalak's service in the U.S. Army that ultimately led him down an unexpected path, one in which he would meet artist Michael Reagan of the Fallen Heroes Project.

The Fallen Heroes project provides, free to the family, a portrait of those who have given their life in the fight on terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan. Reagan draws each portrait from a photograph provided by the family. He then ships it to them, again at no charge. To date he has completed 4,200 portraits.

"I asked Mike to come and speak at a Trilogy Veterans Club meeting, explained Michalak, who first met Reagan at the Redmond VFW Post 2995. We were packing 100 care packages for our troops in Iraq when the artist delivered drawings to two mothers whose son's had died in the war on terrorism. The VFW had planted a tree along with a granite marker for each of the men who had given the ultimate sacrifice and Mike wanted to be there to support their families.

"I saw firsthand how Mike's drawings of the fallen heroes affects those who are left behind," he continued. "So when Reagan agreed to come and speak we turned the event into a fundraiser to help with the costs for shipping these portraits all over the country and even the world."

Michalak and Reagan became friends and at a lunch that was attended by a number of veterans, Michalak asked

See "Fallen Heroes," page 4

Putin Defends Secret Protocol

(PAP) President of Russia Vladimir Putin defended the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact that paved the way for the division of Poland during a press conference, May 3, with German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

"When the USSR realized that it was left facing Hitler's Germany alone, it took steps so as to not permit a direct collision and this Molotov-Ribbentrop pact was signed," Putin said in Moscow after being pressed on the matter by a German journalist.

"This pact had significance for ensuring the security of the USSR," Putin added.

The pact, which was signed in August 1939 on the eve of World War II, was ostensibly a non-aggression agreement, but a secret protocol envisaged the carve-up of Poland between Germany and Russia, and the latter's annexation of the Baltic States. The agreement took its name from the foreign ministers of both countries, Joachim von Ribbentrop

See "Putin ...," page 2

Duda Unexpectedly Beats Komorowski

Electoral upset surprises most everyone

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW—Andrzej Duda, backed by the conservative Law and Justice party (Prawo i Sprawiedliwość or PiS), surprised most everyone when the defeated incumbent Bronisław Komorowski in the first round of Poland's presidential election. Komorowski started his campaign with a robust 65% support as against a mere 12% for Duda, then a virtual unknown.

Support for Komorowski gradually dwindled, but the last pre-election survey showed that with 39% backing he still outpaced his chief rival. It wasn't surprising therefore that pollsters, pundits, mainstream media, betting firms and privately even some PiS supporters all expected a Komorowski win.

The first exit polls, based on spot interviews with voters leaving polling stations, showed that Duda, 42, had won 34.5% of the vote as against 32.6% for Komorowski, 20 years his senior. But the winner's lead had dropped to nine-tenths of one percent when the official results were announced two days later: Duda 34.76%, Komorowski 33.77%. The two front-runners are due to battle it out in the election's second round on May 24th. A second round is not held if any candidate wins more than 50% in the first.

Another surprise was the more than 20% backing received by dark horse rock musician Pawel Kukiz. He won wide support from younger voters and others fed up with the constant

See "Run-Off Election, May 24," page 2



Komorowski

ALMANAC



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June Czerwiec

"Venimus, Vidimus, Deus vicit."
("We came, We saw,
God conquered")

— **Jan Sobieski III** (died this month in 1696), alluding to Julius Caesar's famous military quote, but giving credit to God for the victory after Sobieski's hussars routed the Turks before Vienna on September 12, 1683.

- 1 1434. Death of **King Wladyslaw Jagiello** (b. 1348), founder of the Jagiellonian dynasty of Polish kings.
- 2 1343. Signing of the **Treaty of Kalisz**, a peace treaty signed by King Casimir III the Great of Poland and the Teutonic Knights in Kalisz. It concluded the Polish-Teutonic War (1326-1332).
- 3 1890. Death of **Oskar Kolberg** (b. 1814), ethnographer who specialized in Polish folklore.
- 4 **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.
- 5 1999. **John Paul II** begins his fourth trip to Poland.
- 6 1530. Birth of **Jan Kochanowski**, Poland's greatest humanist and writer of the Renaissance.
- 8 **SAINT JADWIGA D'ANJOU**
- 11 1675. France and Poland formed an alliance.
- 12 1887. Founding of the Polish Falcons of America, fraternal insurance benefit society headquartered in Pittsburgh.
- 14 **FLAG DAY (U.S.)**
1811. Birth of **Antoni Patek**, famous watchmaker and co-founder of one of the most famous Swiss watchmaking companies, Patek Philippe & Company.
- 15 1940. Nazi Germany establishes the Auschwitz death camp at Oswiecim, Poland.
- 17 1696. Death of **Jan III Sobieski**.
- 19 1926. The opera "**King Roger**," composed by composer Karol Szymanowski (1882-1937), premiered in Warsaw.
- 21 **FATHER'S DAY (U.S.)**
1305. Death of **Wenceslaus II**
- 22 1940. **Gen. Wladyslaw Sikorski** establishes Polish government-in-exile in London.
- 23 **FATHER'S DAY (Poland)**
Dzień Ojca, like Mothers' Day, this occasion is also celebrated on this fixed date rather than on the third Sunday of June.

ST. JOHN'S EVE

This Polish midsummer festival of pagan origin is celebrated with bonfires and with candlelit ureaths set afloat on rivers. It is believed that the forest comes to life this night.

- 25 1941. **Germans** invaded Dubno, Poland, and encouraged the Ukrainians to do whatever they want to 12,000 Jews living there.
- 26 1 2 9 5 .
White Eagle made symbol of Poland.
- 29 1941. Death of pianist, composer, and statesman **Ignacy Jan Paderewski**, 80, in New York City.
- 30 1911. Birth of poet **Czeslaw Milosz**.



Ignacy Jan Paderewski, 80, in New York City.

This paper mailed on or before **May 29, 2015**. The July edition will be mailed on or before **July 2, 2015**.

VIEWPOINTS / Robert Strybel

Many Reasons to Visit your Ancestral Homeland

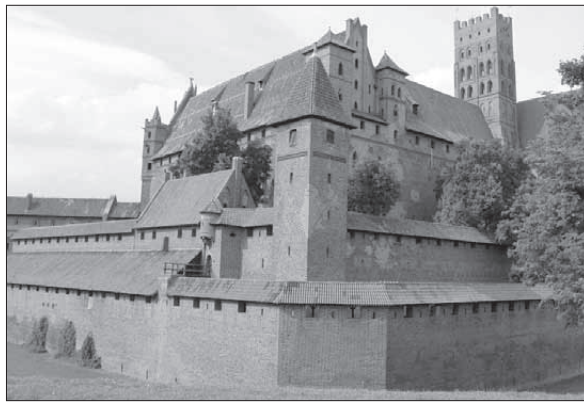
If you have never been to Poland, why put it off any longer? Most every PolAm comes away impressed and culturally enriched the first time he or she visits the land of our ancestors. Those who have already visited will surely be impressed by the progress the country has made since the last time they were there. Here are some things to consider and bear in mind:

MONEY AND PRICES. The good ol' American greenback has been doing rather well for itself in Poland this year, fetching even 3.90 zlotys and more per dollar. Even at the 3.80 zł = \$1 exchange rate a basic Warsaw bus, tram (streetcar) or subway ticket costs 90¢ and a pack of cigarettes is \$3.50, At McDonald's a small cheeseburger runs 92¢ and a Big Mac – \$4.68. Pierogi are from 20¢ to 35¢ apiece. A fifth of 80 proof vodka is under \$9 and beer runs from 65¢ to 85¢ for a 17 ounce bottle. Dinner at an average restaurant is \$7 and up. A movie ticket can cost \$6.50, but senior citizens can get in for \$4.20. In general, most prices are lower in small towns than in big cities.

WITH A TOUR OR ON YOUR OWN? First-timers are usually better off signing up for a tour, since the organizer (travel agency, parish or other sponsoring organization) will facilitate things and make the visit more carefree. Those who have already been to Poland and are on the adventurous side may prefer to go it alone, rent a car and take to the country's highways and byways.

ITINERARIES. The most popular, basic tours start in Warsaw and move south to Kraków and vicinity. Other options include the Warsaw to Gdańsk route, Wielkopolska (Poznań region), Białystok region (NE Poland), the Lublin area of eastern Poland and Wrocław in the country's SW corner. If undecided, why not Google those or other localities to find out more details and see some of the views.

WARSAW. Poland's capital (since 1596) is where most PolAms commence their visit. The city is a major cultural repository which includes the impressive Old Town district, rebuilt from the ashes and rubble of World War II, with its splendid old churches, palaces and townhouses. Also worth seeing is King Jan Sobieski's summer palace in Wilanów and Chopin's birthplace in Żelazowa Wola, the scene of free summer concerts. Folk art lovers might want to visit the town of Łowicz some 40 miles



The Castle of the Teutonic Order in Malbork is the largest castle in the world by surface area. It was built by the Teutonic Knights. It is one of Poland's official national Historic Monuments.

west of Warsaw.

KRAKÓW. Poland's old royal capital is even more impressive than Warsaw. Unscathed by the war, it features the Wawel Cathedral and Castle complex containing an impressive museum (crown jewels, regal finery, art works, knight's armor and weaponry). Poland's kings, national heroes and bards have been laid to rest in the Wawel Cathedral crypts. The unfinished Hejnal trumpet call issues forth from St Mary's Church (Kościół Mariacki), and nearby is the Renaissance Draper's Hall (Sukiennice), now a Polish folk-art emporium.

SIDE TRIPS FROM KRAKÓW. If your time is limited and you have to choose between Warsaw and Kraków, the latter is by far the better choice. Not only does the city boast more cultural assets, but it is an ideal base for side trips to interesting attractions in the general region. Most PolAms fall in love with Zakopane in the Tatra Mountains. A visit to the nearby Wieliczka Salt Mine and a raft ride down the Dunajec River rapids can be an unforgettable experience. The Shrine of the legendary Black Madonna at Częstochowa's Jasna Góra Monastery is an absolute must. A rather gruesome but eye-opening experience is a visit to Nazi Germany's former Auschwitz death camp.

VISITING RELATIVES. If you are in touch with relatives in Poland or at least have an address to go by, paying them a visit may provide a change of pace from the hotel and tour-bus circuit. Hearing Old World stories about your ancestors, viewing old family snapshots and graves and seeing how your relatives live and work can be an enriching experience. The hospitality (gościnnosc) of Polish families is proverbial and can even

become excessive at times when Old Country cousins try to smother you with kindness.

NOSTALGIA TRIP. PolAm visitors often find that being in Poland evokes long-forgotten memories. Especially those raised in an old Polish neighborhood experience sight, sounds, smells and tastes going back to their younger days. PolAms with four

Polish grandparents are often surprised to encounter people in Poland that remind them of their their Aunt Sophie, old Polonian pastor or other denizen of their distant childhood. After all – it's the same gene pool!

ROOT TRACING. Apart from pumping relatives for family information they may or may not have, more and more PolAms are interested exploring their ancestral connections while in Poland. Since time is usually at a premium, it's a good idea to touch base with English-speaking genealogists in Poland well ahead of departure time. They are experts at researching public records that can help create a family tree. Suggested contacts:

- office@polgenresearch.com
- genealogy@pro.onet.pl
- instytut@instytut-genealogii.com.pl;
- polishgenealogy@rubikon.pl

PLANNING YOUR TRIP. Thanks to th Internet, a prospective visitor can book hotel reservations, purchase airline tickets, rent a car in Poland and attend to other trip-related issues independently online. First-timers however usually find it more reassuring to link up with a tour group. Look around to see if a PolAm organization of parish in your area isn't organizing such a tour. For the name of a reputable PolAm travel agency check with th Society of Polish-American Travel Agents: Phone: (732) 390-1750; Website: <http://www.spata.org>.

RENT A CAR. If planning to drive yourself around Poland one rental firm to consider is Express Rent-A-Car. Prices start at around \$23 a day (the exact amount depends on the dollar exchange rate on a given day). For more information phone: (+48) 123 000 300.

Putin Defends Secret Protocol

continued from cover
and Vyacheslav Molotov.

Putin said that "Poland became a victim of its own policy," alluding to Warsaw's annexation of a part of Czechoslovakia in October 1938.

Merkel, however, condemned the pact.

"From my point of view, the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact is hard to understand unless you take into consideration the extra secret protocol," she said

"And from this point of view, I consider it was not right, it was done on an unlawful basis."

Run-Off Election

continued from cover

PiS leader Jarosław Kaczyński, emotionally scarred by his twin brother's death in a 2010 plane crash in Smolensk, Russia, is known for his abrasive manner and would probably not have garnered even half the votes his party's candidate did. By contrast, Duda came across as more moderate, conciliatory and open to dialogue.

The election has also shown that Polish voters largely reject leftists and extremists of every ilk. Eccentric hyper-capitalist Janusz Korwin-Mikke won only 3.26 % of the vote, and publicity-seeking militant anti-clerical Janusz Palikot – 2.38 percent. Magdalena Ogórek, 36, an attractive blonde with a PhD in history who was backed by post-communists, won a mere 1.42% support. Nationalist Marian Kowalski fared even worse with only one-half of one percent.

The ruling PO is mobilizing its electorate ahead of the final round. Since Komorowski had been favored to win, many PO backers didn't even bother to vote, but now they are being persuaded to cast their ballot for the incumbent. Duda has also stepped up his campaigning, traveling round the country, making speeches and shaking hands. "We must change Poland and we should start with the president" – is one of this favorite lines.

All told, 48% of those who voted on election day cast their ballots for someone other than the two main candidates. Many of them are disappointed their candidate didn't win and do not plan to vote in the second round. But those who do may largely determine who Poland's next president will be.

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OUR FRATERNALS / Dorothy Wiczerczak

Do I Need Life Insurance?

My financial adviser told me life insurance is a waste of money. I save enough to pay for my final needs and I don't have to have insurance. If I buy insurance, that means I am going to die.

Those of us who own a car have to buy car insurance. Most of us never need to call the insurance company to report a claim. Does that mean that the insurance company then returns the premium paid? No. Some of us may own a home and we need to pay for homeowner's insurance each year. That could amount to about \$1,000 a year. Does that mean that if you own the home for thirty years, when you sell it, the company returns the \$30,000 in premiums that you paid as you never needed to call them to report a claim? No.

The average American earns about \$45,000. When you consider all the deductions for taxes and social security, the amount of income actually brought home may be closer to \$34,000. So, how much of this is needed for food, clothing and shelter? If you use one-fourth of your earnings for housing, then you would need to pay about \$700 for an apartment or for mortgage and taxes. Is that possible?

THE DECISIONS YOU MAKE as you begin your adult life and contemplate your years of earning and being in the workforce will affect your future wealth. Let us now look at this scenario. You have finished your education and have landed your first job at the age of 22. You decide to purchase a twenty-payment life policy from a Fraternal Society. Using the statistics provided by one of our Fraternal Societies, the non-medical limit for you is \$20,000 and you want to pay the premiums annually. The premium is \$253.20. This is your investment for twenty years of payment. The total you will have paid through these years is \$5,064. The additional \$14,936 is available because you invested twenty years of an annual premium rather than working to save that amount. Now you are 44. You no longer need to make premium payments and your beneficiary may need to wait another fifty years but the benefit is there.

Your individual purchase of Life Insurance is a long-term investment that you need in addition to whatever type of investment you make throughout your lifetime. You can invest in stocks, bonds and real estate; you can receive benefits from your employer and you can save. But when you consider the cost of providing an existence for yourself and eventually a family, the best bet is to diversify all your investments and have a whole life Fraternal policy that will someday provide the security for whoever will be there for you to pay for your final needs. Call us at (215) 535-2626 and visit www.polishbeneficialassoc.com or call (201) 935-2807 and visit us at www.sonsofpoland.org.

Two Legendary Sausage Shops Close Doors

CHICAGO (GBC) — On March 31, 2015, **Stanley Bobak**, president and owner of the Bobak Sausage Company, announced that his Chicago Southwest Side flagship retail store and delicatessen on South Archer Avenue would close. On April 4, 2015, the Bobak Sausage Company officially closed its doors. Bobak clarified that the sausage company will continue to produce and sell its quality sausage products throughout most Chicago-area grocery chains.

Frank Bobak, Stanley's father, founded the company in 1967. In 1989, he moved to the South Archer location, where Bobak's "sausageologists" continued to make products, and where most of the distribution operations took place. Recently, however, the company moved its sausage-making production into a larger plant in Chicago's West Garfield Park area. This decision was made to meet its expanded production needs, leaving the Southwest Side building almost vacant. Bobak said it didn't make sense, under these circumstances, to continue a store that was originally intended as a factory outlet for its meat products.

Other suburban Bobak stores eventually closed after a power struggle between the three Bobak brothers, Stanley, John, and Joseph. Court fights over control of the company, its assets, and trademarks have been ongoing since 2006. Stanley Bobak indicated that the family's legal disputes have nothing to do with the decision to close the South Archer Avenue store.

Many customers were deeply disappointed and shocked that the retail deli-

catessen that they had patronized for years would no longer be available. All of this happened right before Easter.

Bobak's sausages and deli meats have been and will be available throughout metro-Chicago grocery stores, restaurants, and food concession stands. Its sausages are served at Soldier Field for Chicago Bears games and at U.S. Cellular Field for Chicago White Sox games.



MISSING LINKS. Stanley Bobak, president and owner of the **Bobak Sausage Company**, announced his Chicago Southwest Side flagship retail store and delicatessen (above) on South Archer Avenue would close. In New York's Greenpoint neighborhood, the iconic **Eagle Provisions**, long known for its homemade kielbasa, will close this month.

Eagle Provisions to Close June 4

BROOKLYN, New York — Eagle Provisions, which sells interesting foods from Poland and all over Europe including homemade hickory-smoked kielbasa, will be no more.

Shop owners **Richard and John Zawisny** sold the building the store occupies, 628 Fifth Ave., through their company R.S.V. Real Estate Corp.

The building was listed for sale last summer at a \$9 million asking price, the *Commercial Observer* reported at the time. It sold for \$7.5 million in March, city Finance Department records show.

Owner Richard Zawisny opened the shop in 1979 with his father and brother after the family emigrated from Poland.

"This was my father's dream, to own

a business in America," he said.

After the shutter, he plans to visit the Empire State Building and the Bronx Zoo, things says he's had on his bucket list since arriving in the States decades ago, he told *The Brooklyn Eater*.

He said he may open a smaller version of Eagle Provisions down the road.

Two LLCs jointly purchased the property, which is located on the corner of 18th Street. Developer George Malafis is a member of both, Finance Department records indicate.

A residential building will rise on the site. Internet reports say the building will likely have 26 or 28 units, with parking for six cars.

PAAA to Present "Wianki in Washington" at Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The **Polish American Arts Association** of Washington will present its annual "Wianki in Washington," (Festival of Wreaths), Sat., June 20 from 6:00-10:00 p.m. at the Reflecting Pool Steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

The festival is part of Polish Midsummer tradition, better known as *Sobótka*, which originated as a pagan feast celebrating the Sun as a source of light and

warmth. Traditionally, the ceremony takes place on the shortest night of the year, usually June 23.

The name *Sobótka* was not common all over Poland. In Mazowsze (near Warsaw) and in Eastern Poland, as well as in Ukraine, midsummer was known under a name of *Kupalnoka* or *Kupala*. The night of merrymaking—also known as *St. John's Night* or *Noc Świętojańska*.

The Washington Festival of Wreaths

begins with a wreath making workshop at 6:00 p.m. Wreath-making material and instructions will be available.

Following will be a demonstration of Polish music, song and dance provided by Polish folk dance ensembles, including a live band with dancing until 10:00 p.m.

To learn more, write to Polish American Arts Association, P.O. Box 9442, Washington, DC 20016.

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL FOUNDATION



We invite you to become a member of the Polish American Journal Foundation. Established this year, the PAJF is a non-profit 501c3 organization. Our mission is to promote Polish and Polish American culture and traditions among members of the public and other Polish and Polish American groups. This will be done by organizing special events, networking, consultation, and gatherings.

As a national newspaper serving Polish American communities, the Polish American Journal has a unique perspective on the shortfalls — primarily 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.

OUR INITIATIVE

In this, our initial year of operation, we will solicit funds for our first funding project. In June 2015, we will ask our members how the PAJF's proceeds should be used. As a member, you can suggest any worthwhile cause: a donation to a local Polish American museum; veteran's group; scholarship fund; dance group, etc. Our board will review these suggestions and cre-



ate a ballot of the most-requested causes/recipients, which will then be voted on by current members. (Membership is yearly, starting with the date of your most recent donation). All members reserve the right to abstain from being a voting member.

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— Saint John Paul II,
Gniezno, Poland, June 3, 1979.

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 30th 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 website: PolishChildrensHeartline.org

15th Annual Katyn Remembrance in Baltimore

Three Katyn Events Solemnized

by **Richard Poremski**

BALTIMORE, Md. — The National Katyn Memorial Foundation and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland joined to observe three major Katyn-related anniversaries here on April 19th that were harmonically converging in this year of 2015. They are listed in the following chronological order: **1940** – The Katyn Massacre (75 years ago); **2000** – Baltimore's First Katyn Remembrance (15 years ago); **2010** – Smolensk/Katyn Airplane Catastrophe (five years ago). In this landmark year they remain a most significant historical trio in our hearts and minds.

After the dedicated 10:30 a.m. Mass at Holy Rosary Church, two hundred people attended the 1:00 p.m. ceremonies at the National Katyn Memorial site in Harbor East. The participants included national, state and local politicians, the Embassy of Poland, numerous national and local Polonia organizations, and many other interested people. Catholic (R.C. and P.N.C.C.) and Jewish clergy offered up their appropriate prayers and religious traditions. Groups participating in the ceremonies were the Polish Legion of American Veterans – Department of Maryland, New Jersey Polish Army Veterans Association of America (Polish acronym "SWAP") Post 36 – Passaic, and Post 81 – Trenton, costumed folk dance groups Krakowiaki (youth) and Ojczyzna (adult).

All were assembled to memorialize the 22,000 Polish Army officers, including many of Poland's officialdom, leading citizens and intelligentsia, all murdered in the infamous 1940 Katyn Forest Massacre at the bloodied hands of the Soviet

Union's (aka Russian) militarized political police, and at other such horrid locations, during early World War II.

U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski abandoned her prepared speech in favor of "speaking from the heart." "The Katyn victims were the flowers of a new Polish nation resurrected during the interwar years 1918 to 1939 ... which that devil Stalin tried to destroy. But it didn't happen. The courage, tenacity and strong Catholic faith of the Polish people defeated him, and eventually established today's free and democratic Poland."

Mikulski's ample remarks also included references to the robust and stalwart political, military and familial ties between our two nations: Poland's successes in European affairs and alliances, and the Smolensk/Katyn tragedy.

Mikulski ended with the well-received promise that "the United States will always defend Poland."

U.S. Congressman John Sarbanes eloquently commented on the different aspects and ramifications of Katyn suffered by the Polish nation, the horrors of genocide and dangers of intolerance.

Poland's **Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf** emphasized that it was impossible to openly speak the truth about the Katyn Massacre in communist-dominated Poland. But the memory was kept alive by the families of the murdered and by the Polish diaspora abroad. He thanked Chairman Richard Poremski and the members of the National Katyn Memorial Foundation, and all of Baltimore's Polonia for also keeping the memory of Katyn alive.

He reminded everyone about the efforts of the post-World War II U.S. House of Representatives that fully investigated and disclosed the perpetrators of the massacre, as well as

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur who recently worked to declassify Katyn documents in the U.S. Archives.

Schnepf also remarked on this fifth anniversary of the Smolensk/Katyn Air Catastrophe which took the lives of 96 leading individuals of Poland, including President Lech Kaczynski and his wife. "This was not only a great national tragedy, but also a major challenge for the functioning of the state. Poland survived this difficult time without destabilization, indicating the maturity of its democratic system and governing structures."

Brigadier General Jaroslaw Strozyk, after speaking about the abject suffering of Poland under imposed Soviet/communist domination, went on to emphasize that Poland is currently undergoing a modernization and sizable expansion of its ground and air forces. He said "We are ready for any contingency — there should be no doubt about that ... the Polish Armed Forces are ready to fight for freedom." Strozyk concluded with the admonition that "Freedom is not granted by the oppressor, it must be demanded by the oppressed."

At the afternoon reception/dinner in the Great Hall of Polish National Alliance Council 21, Poland's President Lech Kaczynski and 95 other victims of the catastrophic April 10, 2010 Smolensk/Katyn airplane crash were honored in a special ceremony with participants Consul General Piotr Konowrocki and BG Strozyk. The lives cut short counted among many of Poland's top political, military and social strata elites.

Ironically, they were all on a pilgrimage to the Katyn Forest to observe the 70th Anniversary of the Katyn Massacre. As a consequence, they all are now justly enshrined in the Katyn Pantheon of Heroes.

Under State of Emergency, Katyn Memorial Guarded by Maryland National Guard

BALTIMORE, Md. — Rioting, violence, vandalism, looting and arson erupted here on Monday, April 27, 2015 right after the funeral services for Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old African American. Gray died in the hospital a week after being injured in police custody. A full investigation of the exact circumstances, and of the six police officers involved, is still underway. It will then be forwarded to the attorney general's office for any appropriate legal action.

Previous "mostly-peaceful" protests and rallies by the black community began in earnest, Saturday, April 25, but by Monday, all broke loose. It intensified when Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake ordered the police to stand-down and only offer passive/defensive resistance.

The established police lines were bombarded with large stones, chunks of concrete, bottles, etc., with injuries being incurred. These chaotic circumstances occurred mainly in the black areas of west and east Baltimore.

Late Monday afternoon, Governor Larry Hogan declared a "State of Emergency" (not to be confused with draconian martial law) in Baltimore City. By early Tuesday morning the 2,000 Maryland National Guard troops and 500 State Troopers he activated were arriving in Baltimore and taking up strategic positions. A daily city-wide curfew was imposed from 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. until further notice.

The key business and popular tourists' areas of Downtown, Harbor Place and Harbor East were flooded with armed and combat ready soldiers, state troopers, anti-riot formations, and SWAT teams. The National Katyn Memorial and Fountain — the center piece and focal point of Harbor East — was surrounded 360° in an obvious show of force, as also similarly happened in the aforementioned adjacent city areas.

One can only ponder what the Polish Army Officers are thinking as they gaze down upon on the strange scene below their dedicated Katyn Memorial ... American army soldiers are patrolling and protecting them from certain Baltimore City anarchists — comrades-in-arms as it were.

— *Richard Poremski*



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

Fallen Heroes Project to Honor Polish Allied Sacrifices

continued from cover

Reagan if he would ever consider drawing portraits of the Polish soldiers who died as part of the allied forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Two articles in the VFW magazine indicated that he had completed drawings of both Canadian and British soldiers," said Michalak. Reagan's response was yes, providing that Michalak did the footwork on finding the families. With the support of the Polish Home Assn. of Seattle, it took Michalak several months to get through to the right person at the Polish Embassy in Washington D.C. But eventually, with time and persistence, he prevailed.

"The Polish Embassy sent the request to the Polish Military and they approved the project," he said. "Now we are waiting to hear from the families of the men who gave their lives. I believe there are 42." An original portrait will be presented to each family and a digital copy will be made for the military museum in Warsaw.

ABOUT THE FALLEN HEROES PROJECT.

I met Reagan years ago when his project first started. He had a great job at the University of Washington in branding. He was known in the community for his generous donations of his sketches to charities to be sold at auction. His portraits hung in the homes of movie stars and famous politicians.

Reagan had served in the Marines during Vietnam and had been witness to some very tough sights. His homecoming, like many

from that war was not welcoming. Confused, he lost his wife and child in a divorce because of his depression and anger. He eventually found his way with his art, remarried, and was living a comfortable life in Edmonds, Washington.

Then one day the phone rang. A woman he had never met wanted to commission him to do a portrait. When he learned that the woman was a recent widow of a Marine killed in Iraq he told her he could not charge her.

When she received the drawing of her deceased husband it was life changing for her. It was as if he had come home, she said.

Word spread within the military community and soon Reagan was drawing more and more portraits. Each family reaching out to him, once they received their portrait, sharing how cathartic it was for them.

It wasn't long before Reagan felt compelled to take early retirement and devote himself to helping the families of the "Fallen Heroes."

"This project has never been about the politics of the war," said Reagan. "It has only been about one thing: thanking the families for their sacrifice and letting them know that we all care."

Reagan has given away 4,200 portraits. His 501c3, Fallen Heroes Project, exists to help pay for the framing and shipping charges that have to be covered. He has made no money from his drawings, but he has made a lot of friends.

"When I am drawing these service men and women I often feel they are in my studio

with me," explained Reagan.

According to the official casualty list there have been 6,739 Fallen Heroes in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. These figures do not include PTSD victims and those who come home physically broken in some way.

On March 25, Reagan was presented with the Congressional Medal Honor for his service in founding the non-profit Fallen Heroes Project. He made the trip to Washington DC for the ceremony which is held at Arlington National Cemetery.

IF THE POLISH GOVERNMENT decides on a ceremony for the presentation of the portraits, Michalak will make the trip to Poland on Reagan's behalf so the artist can continue to work in his studio. Michalak has already promised to escort the portraits to Poland to guarantee a safe delivery.

I recently asked Reagan if he will ever finish drawing the Fallen Heroes.

"Never and the war isn't over. I get requests almost every day," said Reagan. "Soon he will have 42 Polish soldiers to draw. "Terrorism will be here a long time, so will I."

To make a donation online, please visit: www.fallenheroesproject.org or mail a check to The Michael G. Reagan Portrait Foundation 7106 175th Place SW Edmonds, WA 98026

Please indicate on the check that you would like your funds to go to the Polish Fallen Heroes Project.

Katyn Scholar Decorated by Poland



PHOTO: ELIZA RADZIKOWSKA-BIALOBRZENSKA

Manhattan native, **Krystyna Piorkowska**, author of "English-Speaking Witnesses to Katyn," receives the Gold Cross of Merit of the Republic of Poland from President Bronislaw Komorowski on April 8, 2015. Piorkowska found testimony about the Katyn Massacre, confirming Stalin's Western allies helped cover up the truth about the murders.

Komorowski posthumously honored two U.S. officers who — as German POWs — witnessed the uncovering of the truth about the 1940 killing of Polish POWs in Katyn Forest. The officers, colonels John H. Van Vliet, Jr. and Donald B. Stewart, were awarded Officer's Crosses of the Order of Merit.

The American soldiers "did everything in their power to inform the world of this crime," President Komorowski said during the ceremony.

"That the world did not want to believe it or simply did not want to know, is another matter," the Polish president said. (GBC)

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Dr. Grażyna J. Kozaczka On the Future of the Polish American Historical Association Interview

with Dr. John Grondelski

Dr. Grażyna J. Kozaczka became the new president of the Polish American Historical Association (PAHA) in January 2015, succeeding Dr. Thomas Napierkowski. Kozaczka is professor of English and director of the All-College Honors Program at Cazenovia College, a school near Syracuse, New York, whose roots reach back to 1824, when it was founded under Methodist sponsorship. Dr. Kozaczka holds her doctorate from the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. She spoke about her upcoming presidency and PAHA's role in American Polonia with John Grondelski.

You have just begun your two year term as president of PAHA. What are your goals?

I feel honored to have been elected to serve a two-year term as the president of PAHA, following in the footsteps of such recent presidents and eminent scholars as Dr. Neal Pease and Dr. Thomas Napierkowski. As PAHA president, I am charged with the task of realizing the organization's mission, which identifies PAHA's main goals: promoting the study of Polish American history and culture and their European origins as well as encouraging scholarly publications and other ways of disseminating studies on the Polish past in America. These are worthy goals, yet as times change, all organizations must periodically reconsider and possibly readjust their missions and goals if they want to stay relevant to the changing reality. I believe that we have entered a new and exciting era in the history of Polonia and the Polish Diaspora, in general, and it might behoove PAHA to take another look at the organization's mission and its goals. It is hard not to notice the slow disappearance of old Polish American communities and parishes, as well as the drastic change in Polish migration patterns after the 2004 accession of Poland to the European Union. For this reason, one of the crucial agenda items for PAHA's midyear meeting this June, to be hosted at my institution, Cazenovia College, will be an in-depth discussion PAHA's goals and mission today.

What is PAHA's purpose today? Why does PAHA matter?

PAHA certainly matters. As a scholarly organization, it continuously legitimizes the Polish experience in America as a valid topic, worthy of research within the academy and becomes a forum to broadcast the results of this research. It also provides a space for a discussion of Polish American topics from a multidisciplinary point of view. Even though the word "historical" appears in our name, our membership is not limited to historians, but represents many disciplines, such as sociology, political science, musicology, literature, philosophy, the arts, etc. PAHA allows its members to disseminate their research through conference presentations and PAHA's peer-reviewed journal, Polish American Studies, long shepherded by Dr. James Pula and now edited by Dr. Anna D. Jaroszyńska-

Kirchmann. PAHA is an organization affiliated with and holding its annual meeting in conjunction with the American Historical Association, which gives our sessions the added prestige and impressive exposure to thousands of AHA members and conference attendees. PAHA's awards which every year are bestowed on outstanding scholars in recognition of their achievements in research and writing, further support their academic endeavors.

Speaking from personal experience of teaching at a small college, where I am the only scholar interested in Polish American literature, PAHA provides for me a crucial sounding board for research ideas. Collegial feedback is invaluable; scholarship may be solitary, but we all need the support of an intellectual community – and PAHA provides just that. It also provides outreach to Polish American organizations and clubs, supports the educational goals of many Polonian communities and, through its Skalny Civic Awards, honors the achievements of Polonia's leaders.

Some would say Polonia is more history than reality. Do you agree? Where will Polonia be in 2035?

Polonia is both or even all three: it is definitely, history but it also is the present reality and I firmly believe that it also the future (although, we may have to recalibrate and look somewhere else to find it). In many places that were once strong Polish American centers, Polish communities are not thriving; parishes and parochial schools are closing. Polish Americans, be they new immigrants, their children or the descendants of the old emigration, have been able to integrate well with the American society without necessarily abandoning their ethnic identification. The ethnic markers might be slightly different than they were a hundred years ago as evident from recent novels by Elizabeth Dembrowsky, Elaine Szewczyk, Dagmara Dominczyk or Karolina Waclawiak, but Americans of Polish descent do not necessarily abandon their Polishness. For young Polish Americans, meetings in a parish hall might be of little interest while meetings on Facebook or other social media might be quite attractive. So I think that even though we live during a time of transition, we should not despair. The history of Polonia in America has gone through many different stages from the early immigration "za chlebem" through the influx of the World War II émigrés and the last large wave of the Solidarity immigrants. Each time the face of Polonia altered but did not disappear. As any living culture, it has been the subject of constant change.

Our focus on Polish Americans notwithstanding, we should not disregard the important events in Europe, namely the large Polish migration, especially to the two English-speaking countries: the UK and Ireland, because in 2035 Polonia may be just as globalized as our society is.

All Polonian organizations are greying. What is PAHA doing to recruit young people to the organization and to the professoriate as Polonian scholars?

It is very true that many Polo-

nian organizations have difficulties in attracting young members. As I mentioned before, it is partially a problem of the format and possibly also of the content: young people socialize differently. They may not identify themselves with the Polish American identity constructed by their parents or grandparents. As I see on my college campus, students recognize overseas travel as an important element of their education. Travel to a free Poland and many other countries has a significant effect on the identity of young representatives of Polonia.



Dr. Grażyna J. Kozaczka

PAHA attempts to reach out to young scholars through their professors who are PAHA members, but also through the graduate student prize we award every year for an outstanding paper written by a graduate student. The obstacles we face in recruiting young scholars to the Polish/Polish American professoriate are very serious. Every graduate student has to tailor his or her doctoral dissertation to the existing job market. And here is the problem: there are not very many university-based programs in this country, which would hire young graduates with such a specialty. Over the many years, Polonia did a splendid job building and supporting excellent parochial schools but we did not manage to endow many chairs at major universities that would be devoted solely to Polish

and Polish American studies. Eminent professors holding such chairs would be in an excellent position to mentor a new generation of scholars interested in the Polish experience in America.

History needs documentation. With the demise of the parish network and the passing of the emigracja polityczna generation, what is PAHA doing to preserve that documentary record?

Unfortunately, PAHA cannot organize an archive and support vast collections of documents. PAHA is involved in one document gathering program, namely collecting memoirs of displaced persons. This project is organized in conjunction with the Immigration History Center at the University of Minnesota and Connecticut Polish American Archives at the Central Connecticut State University. More information is available on the PAHA website. PAHA also preserves these documents in a different way, through the research and publications of its members.

Hopefully there are other organizations such as institutes, museums, libraries, etc. whose mission is to preserve artifacts. It might be a worthy goal for Polonia to support financially such institutions and their mission to preserve original source materials.

Young people today learn little about Poland/Central Europe and what they learn is often wrong, e.g., "Polish concentration camps." What can PAHA do to address this? Apart from its academic role, how can PAHA fulfill a greater "public intellectual" outreach role, in Polonia and vis-a-vis larger American society?

Along with outreach to Polish American organizations, PAHA also promotes knowledge about Polish and Polish American topics to Americans of all ages and ethnic backgrounds through our members' work and publications. We have donated many copies of *The Polish American Encyclopedia*, a monumental work edited by Dr. James

Pula, to school libraries and public libraries throughout the country. Some of these donations were financially supported by a recent grant from the Polish government, a grant secured by Dr. Maja Trochimczyk. PAHA works closely with Polska Akademia Umiejętności (PAU) and its scholars interested in migration studies pursuing grant opportunities that could fund projects developing a media presence for Polish American and Polish topics. This cooperation with PAU, the Jagiellonian University and the University of Gdańsk supported by our PAHA Council members, Dr. Dorota Praszalowicz from Kraków and Dr. Anna Mazurkiewicz from Gdańsk, allows us also to bring information about Polonia back to the home country. Polish American Studies is available through the JSTOR database and, in 2014, over 15,000 people viewed articles published in it. Both PAHA's Facebook page (almost 2,000 friends) and PAHA's blog are frequently visited virtual spaces. We are currently organizing a speakers' bureau, which could serve as a go-to place for teachers and leaders of organizations in search of information on a variety of Polish American topics.

What are the three biggest challenges you expect PAHA to face in your presidency?

Ensuring that PAHA continues to be a relevant and supportive space for academics, especially when migration patterns change and scholarly interests move in the direction of comparative studies; fostering greater cooperation with migration scholars based in Poland; and increasing PAHA membership, its presence in virtual space, and fostering the interest in Polish American topics among young researchers.

In one of the past issues of the *Pol Am Journal*, I read a very interesting article by Staś Kmiec, "100 Things Every Polish American Should Do." I would like to add a 101st: every Polish American should subscribe to Polish American Studies (at polishamericanstudies.org) to learn more about his or her heritage.

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What about you?

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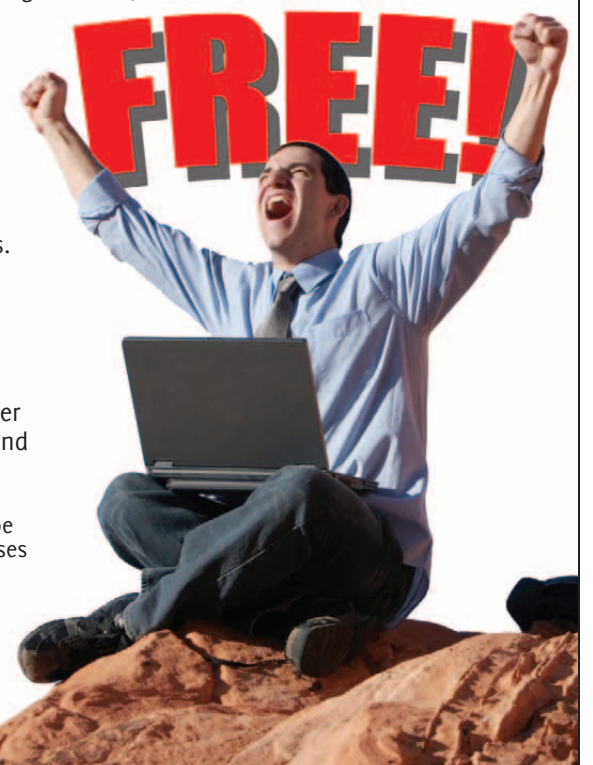
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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Supreme Court Stops ObamaCare Coverage Mandate

Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito used an order barring the federal government from enforcing the mandate against Catholic Charities affiliates, Catholic schools, and social service organizations in the dioceses of Erie and Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh's Bishop Zubik has won once again. Lori Wyndham, senior counsel for the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty declared, "For years now the government has been claiming that places like Catholic Charities and the Little Sisters of the Poor are not 'religious employers' worthy of an exemption. That argument has always been absurd. This is the fifth time that the ObamaCare mandate has been removed by the highest court. Ms. Wyndham continued, "The federal bureaucracy has lots of options for distributing contraceptives — they don't need to coerce nuns and priests to do it for them."

ANNUAL MARIAN CELEBRATION SET. Co-sponsored by the Polish Falcons of America and the Pittsburgh Polish Clergy, the Most Rev. David A. Zubik, Bishop-Ordinary of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has approved and encouraged the seventh consecutive **Grand Tribute to Our Lady of Czestochowa**. This liturgical celebration is set for Wed., Aug. 26 in St. Paul Cathedral, Oakland-Pittsburgh at 7:00 p.m.

Over a thousand participants in the past years have included priest concelebrates from the Diocese of Greensburg, Altoona-Johnstown, Pittsburgh, and beyond; religious women who read Scripture and Petitions in Polish and English, and youngsters, who presented Offertory gifts and roses to the famous icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa. The area's icon now has crowns for Mary and her Son, blessed and placed on it by Bishop Zubik in 2013.

Busloads of pilgrims have come from Uniontown, McKeesport, Portage, Polish Hill, and Aliquippa to this event, musically supported by five parish choirs and instrumentalists from the Pittsburgh Symphony.

Mary, under this title and image, is the crowned Queen of Poland and Patroness of all Polonia.

Light refreshments will be served afterward in the lower level of the Cathedral. The event is free and open to the public.

The original image icon is venerated in Jasna Gora, Poland, and guarded by the Pauline Fathers and Brothers. It has been visited by two Holy Fathers — Pope St. John the Great, and Pope Benedict XVI — and deeply venerated by Poles and Polish Americans.

For more information, contact Fr. Joseph Sredzinski, PFA Chaplain, at (412) 922-2244.

FRIENDS, FELLOW CLERGY CELEBRATE BIRTHDAY. The Reverend Anthony D. Iwuc, Pastor Emeritus of St. Joseph's Parish, Central Falls, R.I. celebrated his 87th birthday on February 25, 2015.

A concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving was offered at St. Adalbert Church, Providence, R.I. at 10 a.m., in the presence of the Most Reverend Robert C. Evans, Auxiliary Bishop and the Most Reverend Louis E. Gellman, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Providence. The concelebrants of the Mass were: the Reverend Marek Kupka, pastor of St. Adalbert's, Reverend James Hynes, Reverend Edward McGovern, Reverend Leon Kachel, and Reverend Ray-

mond Luft.

Following the Mass, a birthday luncheon was held at the Royal Buffet, Cranston.

Fr. Iwuc, a native of South Attleboro, Mass., received the sacraments of Baptism, First Penance, First Holy Communion and Confirmation in St. Joseph's Church, Central Falls, Rhode Island. He graduated from St. Joseph's Parochial School in 1942 and from St. Raphael Academy, Pawtucket, Rhode Island in 1945. Father attended Our Lady of Providence Seminary from 1945 to June 1947 and from September 1952 to June 1953.

Fr. Iwuc attended St. Mary's College, Orchard Lake, Michigan from September 1947 through May 1949 and SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary from September 1947 through May 1952.

Ordained a priest on Memorial Day, May 30, 1953. Fr. Iwuc offered his first Solemn High Mass at St. Joseph's Church in Central Falls the following day. He celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his Ordination there on May 31, 1978, his Golden Jubilee on May 31, 2003, his retirement Mass on August 13, 2005 and his 60th anniversary Mass on May 26, 2013.

Fr. Iwuc served as assistant, administrator *pro tem* and pastor at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish in Quidnick, Rhode Island from June 13, 1953 to March 3, 1972. He served as pastor of St. Joseph's Parish in Central Falls for 33 years.

"TRZECI MAJ" OBSERVANCE IN EVERSON. The annual Celebration of the Polish Constitution of May 3rd 1791, sponsored by the Polish Heritage Club in Uniontown, was held May 17 in St. Joseph Church, Everson. Officers, members of the club, and friends participated in this event as a means to identify and promote Polish Culture in the Fayette County area.

Polish Marian hymns, readings from Scripture, and a Reflection followed by the Rosary Walk and benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament concluded with refreshments in the parish hall.

Frank Cetera, president of the Club, thanked all who participated in this event.

STOLATTO ... Rev. Mr. Radoslaw Zablocki on his ordination to serve in the Archdiocese of Detroit ... **Mr. John Owczarczak** on his ordination as a permanent deacon for service in the Diocese of Buffalo. He is a senior design engineer working on the space mission systems, designing equipment to be used in space. With his wife Barbara he currently is an active parishioner of St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Lancaster, N.Y. ... **Hon. Henry S. Wick** on being awarded for his long-standing support of the Felician Sisters' Villa Maria College in Cheektowaga, N.Y. ... **Fr. Edward C. Malesic** of Harrisburg, Penn., on being nominated to lead the RC Diocese of Greensburg, Penn. Commenting on his forthcoming position, Bishop-elect Malesic said "In Short, as Pope Francis said of himself, 'I too am a fellow sinner.' But because I am a fellow believer I have also received the mercy of God." ... **Sr. M. Raymond Kasprzak, CSSF, Ph.D.** on receiving the Founders' Medal from Villa Maria College in recognition of her 20+ years of service in numerous administrative positions to the Felician College in Cheektowaga, N.Y. ... **Fr. John C. Wronski, S.J.** on pronouncing his final vows in the

Society of Jesus (Jesuits) at Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Mass.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ... Rev. Gerald J. Keller, who celebrated his fiftieth year as a priest in the Diocese of Cleveland. Fr. Keller had been the pastor of St. Adalbert Parish in Berea, Ohio for thirty-four years. St. Adalbert Parish is the first and oldest Polish parish in the state of Ohio, having been founded Dec. 4, 1873 and is still active and thriving. During his pastorate, he built a lobby connecting the school to the church, and later oversaw construction of a two million parish center.

Fr. Keller offer a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Adalbert's on Sat., May 23. The Sanctuary Guild hosted a reception in his honor following the Mass.

Sisters of the RC Diocese of Buffalo celebrating their jubilees: **75 years** — Sr. M. Joannette Rutkowski, FSSJ; **70 years** — Sr. M. Maxine Kaminski, CSSF, Sr. M. Marcia Klawon, OSFw, Sr. M. Louise Marecki, CSSF, Sr. M. Bronisia Muzalewski, CSSF, Sr. Teresa Marie Patora, CSSF; **65 years** — Sr. M. Josanne Buszek, CSSF, Sr. M. Thoas Frys, CSSF, Sr. M. Mark Janik, CSSF, Sr. M. John Lawicki, CSSF, Sr. M. Edwardine Machnica, CSSF, Sr. M. Michele Mazur, CSSF, Sr. M. Esther Odachowski, CSSF, Sr. M. David Rapnicki, CSSF, Sr. M. Regis Zboch, FSSJ; **60 years** — Sr. Joan Chachula, RSM, Sr. M. Charlene Nowak, CSSF, Sr. M. Patricia Tomasiuk, CSSF; **50 years** — Sr. Sharon M. Dombrowski, CSSF, Sr. M. Bernadette Okulicz, FSSJ, Sr. M. Rose Szymanski, CSSF, Sr. M. Jessica Terek, CSSF. Also Fr. Romulus Rosolowski, OFM Conv, **50 years** — Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters **Jan Brynda, OP and Marie Anna Stelmach, OP.**

Fr. John Kwiecien on 50 years of service to Camp Turner where he serves as chaplain. Fr. Kwiecien serves Most Precious Blood Parish in Angola, N.Y., near the camp.

A NEW BASILICA-SHRINE. The 79-year-old National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica in Royal Oak, in southeast Michigan, found itself designated a minor basilica by the Vatican's Congregation of Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments. The parish has 4,100 families, one of the largest in the Archdiocese of Detroit. **Fr. Timothy Pelc**, a priest-artist at St. Ambrose Parish in Grosse Pointe Park, is developing a coat of arms for the Shrine-Basilica.

CATHOLIC TEACHER REINSTAT-ED. Patricia Januzzi, removed from her job at Immaculata HS in the RC Diocese of Metuchen for strongly expressing Church teaching about sexual morality issues and saying, "We need healthy families with a mother and a father for the sake of the children and humanity" and "Children have a right to grow up in a family with a father and a mother capable of creating a suitable environment for the child's development and emotional maturity."

Actress Susan Sarandon's nephew alerted his aunt to Januzzi's posting on her private Facebook page and this led to an uproar against her violation of political correctness. Bishop Bootkoski and the school eventually reversed their position as supporters rushed to her defense and rehired her with the expectation that she will "teach in a spirit of truth and charity."

Our Essence Reaffirmed



DOYLESTOWN, Pa. — On May 3, the **National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa** celebrated an important day for Poles and the Polish community. This day is a day of enactment of the **Third of May Constitution**, which gave hope for changes in the Polish Kingdom, leading to the strengthening of our homeland.

As history shows, unfortunately, this opportunity was wasted, as Poland fell prey to the partitioning powers of Russia, Prussia and Austria. Observance of this day reminds us of our need for diligence to preserve our heritage and our ancestral lands, as Poland ceased to exist for 123 years.

May 3 is also a day dedicated to Mary, whom in 1656, King Jan Kazimierz chose as the **Queen of Poland**. Faith and love for God and the Mother of Our Savior allowed people to pass through more than 100 years of slavery. Mary became queen of the hearts of many Poles, and, venerated in the image of Jasna Gora, became a characteristic sign of God's presence in every Polish home.

Celebrating the feast of the Queen were Polish faithful, who came to the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa to participate in the Mass. It was celebrated by Fr. Michael Lukoszka, Vicar General of the Pauline Order, who came to Doylestown from Jasna Gora. In his homily, Father Michael, referring to the dignity of Mary as the Queen, said that the reign of the Mother of God is, above all, the love and concern for each person.

After Mass, the **Polish American Congress** of Philadelphia held an artistic program showing the beauty and unique character of Polish folk culture. Youth and children, through contact with the Polish traditions, maintain ties with their homeland, while cultivating the spirit of Polishness and fidelity to Christian values, on which the culture of our nation is based.

MODLITWY

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

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



Artsphere's "St. John Paul II and the Buffalo Connection"
A photo exhibit celebrating the first anniversary of his canonization, featuring the works of Roman Zabinski at the Vatican gifting a work by Joseph Slawinski to the Pope. Additional photos of Cardinal Wojtyla in Buffalo will be on display also. Opening Reception on Sunday, April 26th at Noon at Artsphere Studio, 447 Amherst Street (across from Assumption Church), Buffalo 14207. The exhibit will run April 26th through May 23rd.

Wednesday thru Friday: 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. & Saturday: 11:00 a.m. - 3 p.m.
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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Coach "K" Mike Krzyzewski: Grand Marshal, "I love Poland and you should too!"



(l. to r.): Kopec, Counsel Kapuscinska, Jan Jaworski, Mike Krzyzewski, and Ferdinand Leya.

CHICAGO - This year's motto, "I Love Poland and You Should Too!," certainly held true as the Polish Constitution Day Parade took place on Saturday, May 2, along Chicago's Dearborn Street from Lake Street south to Adams Street. For many years, it was held on Columbus Drive. However, this year, the location was changed because the NFL Draft events dominated Chicago's Grant Park and the streets nearby, including Columbus Drive. It was a perfect sunny day as Coach "K," Mike Krzyzewski, coach of Duke University's Blue Devils, this year's NCAA basketball champs, returned to his hometown of Chicago to serve as the grand marshal. Vice marshals were Ferdinand S. Leya, M.D., renowned cardiologist, and Dr. Jan Jaworski, historian and author.

This year, Chicago's 124th annual celebration of the Polish Constitution of 1791 began with the Raising of the Flag Ceremony on Daley Plaza. Prior to the parade, a sold-out brunch, hosted by the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance, was held at the Hotel Allegro. Mike Krzyzewski was on hand to meet brunch guests, including the Most Rev. Andrew P. Wypych, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, the Most Rev. Jan Wątroba, Bishop of Rzeszów, Poland, Illinois U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Mark Kirk, Timothy C. Evans, chief judge of the Cook County Circuit Court, Marlena Pierzchala, 2015 Parade Queen, and numerous state, city, and county officials, along with a multitude of members of Polish organizations.

The thousands of parade watchers viewing the parade along Dearborn Street were joined by thousands more who saw television coverage by Polvision, Chicago's Polish TV station. Polonia is indebted to Polvision for broadcasting the entire parade in both English and Polish. A special "dziękuję bardzo" goes out to English language commentator, Barbara Chalko, marketing representative for the Illinois State Treasurer's Office and president of the Polish Scouting Organization. Sylwester Skora of WP-NA-1490AM, Slawek Budzik of WNUI-1080AM, and Małgorzata Ptasynska of WNUR-1090AM provided the enthusiastic Polish language coverage. A special thank you to Anna Zolkowski Sobor, whose English language press release informed the news media of the event.

Once again, the parade showcased Polish values, history, traditions, and culture. There were 107 parade entries, three bands, 34 Polish language schools, and many Polish and Polish American organizations. Polish diplomats, societies,

clubs, universities, businesses, even motorcycle clubs represented Chicago's Polonia. Many participants represented Frédéric Chopin Polish language School, which has the



Piotr and Magdalena Wolodkiewicz.

distinction of having 1,400 students enrolled in its Palatine and Buffalo Grove schools, which may make it the largest Polish language school outside of Poland. According to Jan Kopec, President of the Alliance of Polish Clubs and chair of this year's Constitution Day Parade, the first parade was held in Chicago in 1892 in the Polish neighborhoods.

The three days of festivities ended with a Mass held at Holy Trinity Church celebrated by Bishop Jan Wątroba with special intentions for the people of Poland and in remembrance of the 224th anniversary of the Polish Constitution.

At the brunch, the Chicago Society scholarship recipients were announced. They are: Ewa Balutowska of Des Plaines, \$3,000; Damian Opiola of Burbank, Illinois, \$2,000; and Sarah Dembeck of Shelby Township, Michigan, \$1,000.

POLISH ARTS CLUB HOLDS 79TH ART EXHIBITION. The Polish Arts Club of Chicago opened its 79th Annual Fine Art Exhibition on April 26. The juried event drew over 200 art enthusiasts, who filled the Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall of The Polish Museum of America to view 112 works of art by 39 artists.

The jury was composed of Agnieszka Ziemacka-Masters, art historian and art critic, Barbara Mirecki, art critic and art curator, and Jan Sliwinski, painter and international scenographer. After much deliberation, the judges selected the winners: first place, Joanna Kapuscinska; second place, Piotr Wolodkiewicz; and third place, Irena Siwek. Honorable mention recipients included Richard J. Kryczka, Iwona Mosiolek, Izabela Jancze-



(l. to r.): Queen Pierzchala, Mary S. Anselmo, Coach "K", Lucja Mirowska-Kopec, and Bozenna Hasztrakiewicz.

wska, Oksana Hura, and Wacław Jagielski. In the sculpture plastic arts category, Marta Niziolek and Janusz Swidzinski were awarded first and second place, respectively.

SPANISH EYES, POLISH HEARTS.

Over 330 guests filled the Medinah Shrine Center in Addison, Illinois to attend the 16th Annual Spring Ball sponsored by the Gift From the Heart Foundation (GFHF), *Dar Serca*. The April 11th Ball was themed "Spanish Eyes, Polish Hearts." During the cocktail reception, the Xazz Band played

selections with Spanish rhythms. During dinner, the WICI Dance Ensemble entertained with a performance of Spanish and Polish dances including a waltz and a mazurka composed by Wojciech Kilar and Aleksander Fredro. Throughout the evening the Slowianie Band played to the delight of the guests who were there to support GFHF, in its mission of providing community services that promote health, wellness, and medical care for children with and without special needs.

This year, GFHF honored several individuals with its Golden Heart Award for their dedication to its mission. These honorees included Mary Sendra Anselmo, President of the Legion of Young Polish Women; Grzegorz Handzel, President of Handzel and Associates Insurance Agency; Highlander Riders Riding Club, represented by Edward Potempa, a not-for-profit family-oriented riding club for motorcycle enthusiasts; Agnieszka and Marek Kowalczyk, owners of Idea Furniture Boutique, The Michael A. Krawczyk Memorial Foundation, and Jolanta Konarski and Bogumiła Raszewska, both indispensable GFHF volunteers.

Kuba Luczkiewicz received a special thank you, for not only creating a very moving documentary short film about GFHF children, but also for presenting it at this year's Ball.

DURBIN MEETS WITH POL AM LEADERS. At an April 8th conference held at Chicago's Ukrainian Cultural Center, Senator Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) mentioned that the U.S. Senate would provide some form of assistance to the Ukraine if

Russia violates the Minsk ceasefire agreement. He stressed that a need for military preparedness and immediate intervention would be necessary in the event of an invasion by Russian troops. Representatives of the Ukrainian, Lithuanian, Latvian, and Polish community attended the meeting.

Later on April 13, Senator Durbin met with members of the Polish American community to discuss concerns of Chicago's Polish communities. Topics on that agenda were the Smolensk air tragedy, visa waiver prospects, and governmental representation by Polish Americans.

A controversial topic among some members of the Polish American community has been the Smolensk tragedy. Senator Durbin made it clear that the United States will not initiate any type of investigation without approval from the government of the Republic of Poland, since it is a NATO ally of the United States.

Senator Durbin also appeared to be a bit pessimistic about the possibility of Congress approving a comprehensive immigration bill. However, during this discussion, Frank Spula reminded everyone that the Polish American Congress has been trying for at least 10 years to include Polish citizens in the Visa Waiver Program. Durbin promised to look into this issue and find out if he could help.

Some participants also lamented that the Polish American community does not have adequate representation in the U.S. Congress. Referencing this issue, Durbin noted that the Polish American community is not alone with regards to this problem. Other ethnic groups, like Polonia, lost large clusters of electorates as they moved out of their city neighborhoods into scattered multi-ethnic city and suburban communities.

Meeting with Senator Durbin were Mary Sendra Anselmo, president of the Legion of Young Polish Women, Joseph A. Drobot, Jr., president of the Polish Roman Catholic Union, Richard Owsiany, president of the Polish Museum of America, Barbara Bilszta, director of the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra, Lucas Fuksa, attorney and president of the Polish American Leadership-Political Action Committee, Ewa Prokop, executive director of the Polish American Association (PAA), Daniel Pikarski, attorney and PAA board member, and Frank Spula, president of the Polish American Congress and Polish National Alliance. Hubert Cioromski, president of the Copernicus Center, and Gregg Kobelinski, its executive director, acted as moderators for this meeting.

FAMOUS POLONIAN BANQUET HALL SOLD.

Another Polonian banquet institution becomes history. As of April 17, 2015, the White Eagle Banquets and Restaurant of Niles, Ill., is owned by Victoria Banquets of Rosemont, Illinois. According to White Eagle co-owner Vivian Przybylo Kolpak, the 6.48-acre property that houses the 70,000-square-foot banquet facility was sold to Victoria Banquets, a banquet and catering establishment that has been around the Chicago area since 1937. It operates Victoria Beau Jolie in Schiller Park, Victoria Rosemont in Rose-



mont, and Victoria in the Park in Mount Prospect. Kolpak mentioned that Victoria Banquets has promised to keep the White Eagle name, its recipes, and its employees.

Ted Przybylo, father of six Przybylo siblings, founded the White Eagle in Chicago in 1947, then moved the facility to Niles in 1967. Ownership was passed down to Ted's six children after he passed away in 1992. Andrew Przybylo, one of Ted's sons and Mayor of Niles, stated that family members of his late sister, Althea Przybylo Kroger, who passed away in 2012, inherited her portion of the business, but want to liquidate their portion of the business rather than continuing the operation of the White Eagle. Also, according to Ms. Klopak, the decision to sell the business has as much to do with the economic struggles of the banquet business, as it does with settling her sister's estate.

Klopak said, "We've had a wonderful business and our customers have been loyal and supportive. We have had a very happy life here. That's the sadness, but we have to move on."

She went on to say that "The White Eagle is a symbol of Poland, and my father wanted it to be a home for the Polish people. But as the city has gentrified, we have had all nationalities' functions and we average around 3,000 patrons each week." Finally she ended by saying, "We are thankful and grateful for all of the loyal customers."

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POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Festival Time Starts this Month

POLONIA TIDBITS. The **Canadian Kashub Festival** was held in Wilno Heritage Park in the Madawaska Valley in eastern Ontario on May 2 ... **Polish Constitution Day** was marked by Polish veterans of World War II at St. Stanislaus Church in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District on May 3 ... The Polish Constitution of 1791, the oldest written constitution in Europe and the second oldest written constitution in the world, was read in Polish and English at the **Adam Mickiewicz Library and Dramatic Circle** in Buffalo as part of the group's Polish Constitution Day observance.... An exact replica of the Polish May 3rd Constitution, which was a gift to Erie County Judge Michael Pietruszka by a delegation from Rzeszow in the 1990s, is currently part of the collection of the **Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society**.

Also on the 3rd, the **Church of the Mother of God**, Queen of Poland in Scarborough, Ontario hosted a musical program entitled "Z Dawna Polski Tys Krolowa" featuring performances by the Toronto Sinfonietta Strings, Novi Singers, Chor Gloria Dei, sopranos Julia Debowska and Kasia Konstanty, tenor Krzysztof Bielus and Krzysztof Jaworski ... Polish rockers **Krzysztof, Piotr and Wojtek Cugowski** played at the Cawthra Park Theatre in Mis-

sisauga, Ontario on May 3 ... The **Syracuse Polish Home** hosted a Polish Constitution day event at Pulaski Park in Syracuse on May 4 ... On May 6, **Verlyn Klinkenberg** discussed his novel, "The Last Fine Time," which tells the story of George and Eddie's, a blue collar Polish American bar in Buffalo, at the Filling Station in Larkinville in Downtown Buffalo as part of the Larkin Square Author Series.

The music of the **John Gora Band** and **Special Delivery** was featured at the Third Annual Spring Polka Dance at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga on May 8 ... ZHP Baltyk hosted a Spring Zabawa, featuring "Polton" at Polish National Union of Canada Hall in Toronto on the 9th ... On May 9 and 10, **Kinga Mitrowska** presented "Magiczny Broadway" at the After Hours Club in Mississauga ... On May 10, Leszek Samborski and Danuta Lechowska-Czarnik performed at "**National Passions 2: Mama i Matka Ojczyzna**" at Failite in Mississauga.

The **Professional & Business Women of Polonia** held its Scholarship Dinner at Kloc's Grove in West Seneca on May 14 ... Hamburg Town Clerk **Cathy Rybczynski** announced that she will be seeking another term in that position in this year's elections ... The **Polish Ca-**

nadian Women's Federation held its Gala Banquet at the Solidarity Hall in Hamilton, Ontario on the 16th ... **Corpus Christi Church** on Buffalo's East Side participated in the New York Landmark Conservancy's Fifth Annual Sacred Sites Open House Weekend on May 16 and 17 ... The **Chopin Singing Society** performed at the May Crowning at St. Casimir Church in Buffalo's Kaisertown neighborhood on May 17 ... **SWAP Post 114** from Toronto marked the 71st anniversary of the Battle of Monte Cassino with a day-long program at Paderewski Park in Vaughn, Ontario on the 17th ... The **Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra** sponsored a VIP Tour of Poland, which included art and music tours of Krakow and Warsaw led by Maestro JoAnn Falletta and BPO Principal French Horn Jacek Muzyk, from May 17-24.

"**Trubadurzy**," a Polish vocal and instrumental group founded in Lodz in 1964, performed at the St. Stanislaus Social Center in Buffalo on May 21, at the Polish Hall in Burlington, Ontario on May 22 and the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga on the 23rd ... Also on May 21, the **Chopin Singing Society Men's Choir** serenaded the ladies at the Chopin Mothers' Day Celebration at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga.

THE POLISH SCHOLARSHIP FUND announced that its 61st Annual **Syracuse Polish Festival** will take place the weekend of June 19 through 21 in Clinton Square in Downtown Syracuse. Entertainment for this year's festival will be provided by Jimmy Sturr, Salt City Brass, Melody Lane, John Spilett Trio, Popshow Band, Billionaires Band from Syracuse N.Y., Lechowia Polish Folk Dancers from Canada, Rymanowski Brothers Orchestra, New Direction Band and the Henninger High School Band.

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE. The annual parade and mass in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada, which pays homage to the all-volunteer Polish Blue Army, will be held Sun., June 14. Starting at 12:15 p.m., the pilgrimage begins at Polish Military Cemetery (on Byron Street, across from St. Mark's Church, behind St. Vincent de Paul Church).

This is a yearly pilgrimage to this historic site and the cemetery where 26 volunteers are buried. They were training at the Tadeusz Kosciuszko Camp, for deployment to France in 1918. Due to an influenza epidemic they died before deployment to Europe but their souls are remembered each and every year by the Canadian Polish Congress and the Polish American Congress.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in this event.

For more information, contact Steve Flor at (315) 374-2404.

THE 37TH ANNUAL Polish American Festival will be held in Cheektowaga Town Park, July 16-19. The featured performers will include the Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra, Polka Family, John Gora, John Stevens' Doubleshot, Maestro's Men, Special Delivery, Rare Vintage and the Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY. The Pulaski Association Parade will travel down Harlem Road starting at 1:30 p.m. on the 19th.

TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE for the Buffalo Bisons baseball team's "**Polish Festival Night**" to be held at Coca Cola Field in Downtown Buffalo on August 11.

THE GENERAL PULASKI ASSOCIATION will honor educators of Polish descent at its dinner at the Creekside Banquet Facility in Cheektowaga on September 11.

❖ ❖ ❖

If you have an item for this column, please send the information by the 6th day of the month preceding publication month (i.e. June 6 for the July issue) to pietruszka@verizon.net.

Polmedia Has Become the Home to the Mother Lode of Polish Pottery

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Where can you find authentic Boleslawiec Polish Pottery in the United States?

Polmedia Polish Pottery, www.artisanimports.com, is a family run business located in Seguin, Texas. Artur, one of four brothers, drew his inspiration for what has become the largest Polish pottery outlet in the world from a business his family began in Poland right after "The Wall" collapsed and capitalism was allowed in the post-communist countries of Eastern Europe. A few years after the Papiez family began their first business, Artur immigrated to the United States to pursue his education. He earned a bachelor's degree from Purdue University and then an MBA from Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in Chicago.

Artur has always had a passion for business and Polish culture, so he opened Polmedia Polish Pottery in the United States in 2003. Since then, the handmade pottery business has grown tremendously. The main office is located within a 12,000 square foot warehouse just outside of San Antonio, Texas. In the front of the warehouse sits a quaint and beautiful retail store open six days a week. In addition to retail sales, Polmedia offers Polish Pottery wholesale opportunities. Today the entire family has a hand in running the business. Mom and Dad even come to help out in the store a few days a week. Polmedia is run by people who have a genuine love for pottery and a desire to preserve and pass on the ancient tradi-

tion of Boleslawiec pottery.

HISTORY OF POLISH POTTERY IN BOLESLAWIEC, POLAND. In the early 1500s, the ceramic artists of Boleslawiec began forming guilds and later became



popular amongst the region's nobility and upper class. The King of Prussia, Frederick the Great, was a patron of these vessels in the 1700s. The Professional School of Ceramics was founded in 1897 furthering the excellent reputation of Polish pottery. The school later formed the

"Bunzlauer Brannzeng," a cooperative consisting of six ceramic workshops in 1936. Sadly, the workshops were destroyed in World War II. However, in 1946, efforts to rebuild the ceramic tradition of Boleslawiec began and new cooperatives formed as a result. It is these cooperatives that carry on the high quality and reputation of this region today.

Boleslawiec is also famed for its naturally found stoneware that is still cultivated today. Unlike earthenware, stoneware is a very high quality clay fired between 2200°F and 3000°F and is comparable in many ways to porcelain. When the pottery is fired to such high temperatures, it becomes vitreous which allows them to become durable as well as dishwasher, microwave, freezer, and oven safe.

Polmedia has the largest variety of Boleslawiec Polish Pottery in the world offering over 67,800 pieces of pottery from which to choose. The Papiez family loves what they do and they love spending each day surrounded by the most beautiful pottery in the world. They would like to share the experience with you by inviting you to find them online or stop by the store. If you are ever in San Antonio, New Braunfels, or San Marcos, Texas, you are less than 30 minutes from Seguin.

To learn more, visit www.artisanimports.com.

Roots in Poland

Presidential hopeful **Bernie Sanders** was born on September 8, 1941, in Brooklyn, New York, the son of Eli and Dorothy (Glassberg) Sanders.

His father was a Jewish immigrant from Poland, while his mother was born to Jewish parents in New York.

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THE PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

And Then Comes the Joy

I heard a talk by a young woman in April. It was sponsored by my employer, SSM Health, for its annual "Mission Days," a mini-retreat and refresher on why and how we do our jobs.

Allison Massari is a motivational speaker and her inspiration for the various topics she presents comes from her life-altering experience of being nearly burned alive almost twenty years ago. Since SSM is a healthcare company, this presentation was specific to the pain she endured and the care she received during her recovery. Sister Kathleen Buchheit told us to have our tissues ready and I'm tearing up again recalling what happened to her while writing this.

The theme of this Mission Days was "The Great Reveal." What Allison revealed was, as she recovered, she began to realize that the pain actually became a source of joy for her, that it gave her the desire to keep going, and was an outcome for the goodness in her life and with life in general. I'm thinking of some of my more painful experiences and it is hard to recall too much good that came out of it but the basic premise, from pain or trauma or conflict produces happiness or awareness or something positive. Yeah, I get that and it led me to these two stories of a Polish nature.

At the start of my freshman year in college I decided that freedom from my parents and home gave me the perfect lazy and irresponsible option not to go to church, even though, mind you, I attended a Catholic university. It was during this time of newfound expression and

discovery that I also became more interested in my roots. I loved college and loved going to the library and I spent a considerable amount of time reading Polish history and culture (instead of economics). The thought occurred to me along the way that the Poles who were living under the Godless, communist oppression, maintained their adherence and devotion to their faith not only as an act of protest but also as an act of love, a love for God and a love of freedom. The hearts and minds of the Polish people defied the communists with their religion and yet I could practice mine, any time, no restriction, and no problem in the good ol' United States. At one point, lightning bolt, from their situation and conflict, I figured shame on me and found joy, so to speak, in going to Mass each week.

The other story is about a longtime parishioner at St. Stanislaus Kostka, **Stanley Kaminski**, who celebrated his 95th birthday this year. The story is during World War II. Stas' scrambled with his family out the back door of their home in Eastern Poland while the bad guys were waiting to get in the front. Many didn't make it and the villagers/village were raped and pillaged. Long story short, he eventually made it to America and to St. Louis to find hope, work, and start a new life. Considering the turmoil he endured and seeing a picture of the Kaminski clan today with all of the grand kids and great grandkids has to make him happy and feel at peace. I admire him very much and I wish him a heartfelt *sto lat!*



SEVIGNY. Her mom is a Malinowski from home.

THIS IS COOL. ...and gives me joy. **Chloe Sevigny** is accomplished at a lot of things including remaining cool according to the April 22, 2015 edition of the *New York Post*. The actress, designer, style icon, and now author, has a Polish mother Janine (nee Malinowski) and was proclaimed way back in 1994 by the *New Yorker* magazine as "the coolest girl in the world." The *Post* article acknowledges that status and lists nine reasons why she "really is that cool." I believe one of the main reasons is that she has a Polish mother! Check it out as it is a fun read and a nice prop for Chloe.

POLISH OR NOT? Follow up to the May 2015 Pondering Pole, **Dennis DeYoung** of the rock group *Styx*, is not Polish, at least on his mother's side. Here is an excerpt from an article in the *Huffington Post* regard-

ing Dennis' connection to the accordion:

Long before the rock band Styx broke through in the late 1970s with its showy, theatrical style, and decades before a solo career that still attracts hardcore fans of classics such as "Lady," and "Come Sail Away," there was a boy with an accordion on the south side of Chicago. Seven-year-old Dennis DeYoung heard a neighborhood kid play and, more importantly, saw how impressed his own mother was. Suddenly, young Dennis knew that this thing with bellows and buttons and shiny keys was the ticket to winning his mother's approval.

"She was Italian, and that was the law: if you're an Italian son, you must play the accordion," quipped DeYoung, who often uses humor to punctuate both life lessons and reflections on the grand illusion that is rock and roll.

First I have never heard of the Italian fondness for the accordion although as a side note, the accordion player for the Polka Mass at St. Stan's in St. Louis for many, many years was Italian. Now, can someone find out the ethnic background of Dennis' father?

Ethnicity update on **Elle Macpherson** who appeared on the Ethnicebs list in April as "Scottish, possibly other." Normally EC documents their findings with actual links to quotes by the person or some other verifiable reference but in this case their substantiation for her ancestry is "Elle's surname can

be of Scottish origin," which is very weak proof for this website. Additionally there is the "possibly other" part which could be 90% of her ethnicity. Pondering minds need to know, still, if her birth name Gow is short for McGowen or Gowronski.

Jen Psaki, Whitehouse Communications Director is Polish and Greek according to Wikipedia. The name Psaki reminds me of my folk dancing/singing days with the "ps" prefix prevalent in the Slask dialect. Jen is a very sharp gal who does a great job talking around some very tough situations coming from the current White House. Keep going, Jen.

Dinker's in Omaha, Nebraska is on the list, and so is **Wolski's**, of Wisconsin. The list is "The Most Iconic Bar in Every State (and D.C.)." Dinker's has a Polish connection, "opened by **Frank Synowiecki** in 1965," but is Wolski's, Polish or not? Should be an easy one to confirm simply from the name but also from asking all of the folks that have a tee-shirt that says, "I closed Wolski's." They had to be talking about something till closing!

IF YOU HAVE A THOUGHT about this month's topic, answers to the questions, a question of your own, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; email alinabrig@yahoo.com.

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

SPOTLIGHT ON LONG ISLAND / Barbara Szydowski

Have You Made Your Plans for St. John's Eve?

St. John's Eve or the night of June 23 (summer equinox) the feast of love which has been enshrined in European culture by Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream," an ancient ritual representing a combination of the cult of water and fire rooted in the pre-Christian era. The water cult (patron saint is St. John the Baptist) has survived in the custom of placing candle lit wreaths on the water.

According to tradition, fire protected one against misfortune, and fields enveloped by the smoke were thought to be safe from hail. Hence bonfires were lit, in which young men jumped over and around which young ladies danced and sang. This custom has been perpetuated by the "Song of St. John's Eve" written by the Polish poet Jan Kochanowski.

Today, the Slavonic folk rituals, festivities, bonfires and wreaths are reflected in a modern 20th century celebration known as "Wreaths on the Vistula."

from the town's ministers and members of the Spokane YMCA. The date suggested was June 5, as it was Dodd's father birthday, but moved back to the 19 as ministers claimed they needed extra time to prepare sermons on such a new subject as fathers.

However, Father's Day was not quickly accepted as Mother's Day. Members of the all-male Congress felt that a move to proclaim the day official might be interpreted as self-congratulatory.

In 1916 President Woodrow Wilson and his family observed the day. While in 1924 President Calvin Coolidge recommend that states should hold their own Father's Day observance, but in 1957 Senator Margaret Chase Smith wrote Congress that "Either we honor both our parents, mother and father, or let us desist from honoring either one. But to single out just one of our two par-

ents and omit the other is the most grievous insult imaginable."

In 1972, sixty two years after it was proposed Father's Day was permanently established by President Richard Nixon.

FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI.

The feast of Corpus Christi, **Boże Ciało**, is an important holiday day in Poland. Religious processions bearing large banners embroidered with the images of Saints, figures of saints carried by children, women and men dressed in costumes. In the ancient city of Krakow, during the procession, there can be seen a figure of a Tatar warrior with his legs thrust through a wooden horse. This is to commemorate a battle fought over seven centuries ago, when the marauding Tatars came to the very gates of Krakow while the ruling prince and his knights were waging war in Silesia. The citizens of the

town armed themselves with all sorts of weapons in an attempt to defend the city, however, the Tatars rode in killing and beating the people with whips. While in Poland on tour, an unforgettable experience as in Krakow for this feast day.

EVENTS. On Long Island, the **American Polish Council of Long Island** will hold their annual Father's Day Polish Picnic at Nassau County Eisenhower Park, East Meadow. The area reserved for the picnic is the Cherry Section, starting at 9:00 a.m. to dusk ... An evening of **Polish music, song and entertainment** will be held on Sunday, July 5 at the band shell located in Eisenhower Park, East Meadow starting at 7:00 p.m. The admission to the park is free, and for your comfort bring your lawn chair to enjoy the evening at the park.

April came to a close rather

quickly. There was the festive **Polish Night** at the Elks Club with friends and much laughter and dancing after the Lenten season, and in between preparing to meet the deadline for filing my income taxes. When this was done it was off to the movies to relax saw, "Child 44", which was interesting. I had the pleasure of meeting at our local public library on a Sunday afternoon Alyse Zwick, "Miss New York of 2009" who spoke of her participation with the various veterans organizations in the New York area. and how we can help the veterans, as well her participation in the Veterans Day Parade, in New York City.

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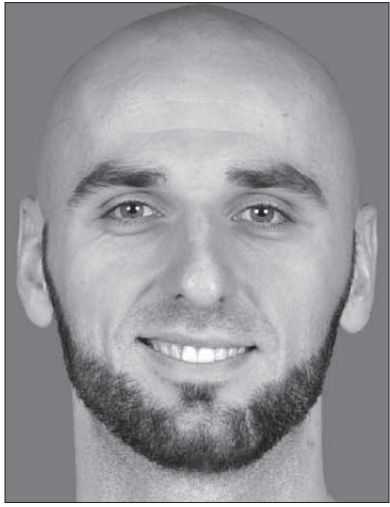
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TRIBUTE TO DAD. Father's Day, June 19, 1910 Spokane, Washington. During a church sermon in Spokane, Washington, Mrs. Sonora Smart Dodd realized the sacrifices made for her children by her father William Jackson Smart. A Civil War veteran, who sacrificed rising his daughter and five sons alone, following the early death of his wife in childbirth. For Dodd, the hardship her father had endured on their eastern Washington farm called to mind the unsung feats of fathers everywhere.

Dodd proposed local "Father's Day" celebration received support

SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Washington Wizards' Marcin Gortat is One Proud Pole



GORTAT

Washington Wizards' **Marcin Gortat** was the subject of a nice article in the *Washington Post* by Jorge Castillo. The piece pointed out that "Gortat has established himself as a Wizards fan favorite, a productive NBA center with a gregarious personality and a \$60 million contract." A Gortat action figure giveaway was one of the reasons for one of the few sellouts this season.

Marcin is especially loved in Poland. He is the son of a two-time Olympic boxing medalist who went on to become a four-star captain in the Polish army, so Marcin started "Respect for Polish Soldiers," an initiative to support military families and help change the Polish public's perception of its soldiers. "They hate them," Gortat said. "They think they are mercenaries, so they're posting a lot of different comments about them. They're talking bad about them, and they don't appreciate what soldiers do for us, for our country."

Gortat's biggest Polish supporter in this country is probably **Przemek Karnowski**. He is the starting center at Gonzaga, one of the top Division I college teams in the country. He is also Gortat's backup center on the Polish national team and hopes to join Gortat in the NBA at some point. "I see him in the NBA, an-

other Polish guy in the NBA with a big contract, and that personally gives me the confidence to fulfill my dream of getting to the NBA," said Karnowski, a junior who is averaging 10.8 points and 5.9 rebounds per game. "That's what I'm working for."

This year Gortat, who was the 57th pick in the 2005 draft, nearly was voted on to the NBA All-Star team. It's not only because of his improved play, but also due to the voting by Polish fans. "Poland pretty much extended my dream," Gortat said. "I made my dream of making it to the NBA, but they extended it by getting me almost on the all-star team. So I'm so proud of my country. You can't imagine. I'm one of the proudest Polish guys on Earth right now."

POLISH PIONEER PASSES. One of the few natives of Poland to play in the NFL — and a Harvard graduate to boot — recently passed away. **Rich Szaro** recently died in Warsaw at the age of 67.

Ryszard "Rich" Julian was born in Rzeszów, Poland, and was 14 when he moved from Poland to Brooklyn with his family in 1962. Even though he didn't touch a football until he came to America, Rich was an instant star for St. Francis Prep in Queens. A running back and kicker, the 5-foot-11, 185-pound senior broke the New York City single season scoring record with 164 points.

In St. Francis' famous undefeated season of 1966, Rich scored 164 points in eight games, a league record. (It broke the mark set by fellow St. Francis product **Ray Rattowski**). Szaro was named a Parade All-American. He later was eventually inducted in the school's Inaugural Ring of Honor, with other greats like Vince Lombardi and Joe Torre.

Szaro was the most highly recruited schoolboy in the country, but after getting a pitch from Senator Robert F. Kennedy he chose Har-



SZARO

vard. As a Crimson freshman Szaro broke the school record for season points (56), was second in rushing with 487 yards (averaging 6.3 yards a carry), and as the team's punter averaged 34.1 yards a kick and hit 14 of 14 extra points. Szaro went out for outdoor track that spring and broke the school and the New England javelin record with a toss of 246' 7". However, after a foot injury during his sophomore year, he was forced to give up running and he stuck to place kicking for the next three years. The left-footed, soccer-style kicker set two Harvard records for career points in place-kicking, led the team in scoring in 1969, and was selected All-Ivy his senior year.

After graduating with a degree in economics, Rich worked abroad. However, he saw a group of foreign-born, soccer-style kickers coming into the NFL and revolutionizing the kicking game. One was fellow Pole **Chester Marcol**, who was selected by Green Bay Packers in the second round of the 1972 NFL Draft. Marcol scored 128 points his rookie year, leading the league in scoring, and being named NFC Rookie of the Year and All-Pro. Longing to play football again, and perhaps influenced by Marcol's success, Szaro came back to the U.S. After a stint in the WFL, Szaro signed with New Orleans in 1975.

His best year was 1976, when he led the NFL in field goal accuracy, making 78 percent of his attempts. Szaro was a left-footed kicker, but could kick almost as well with his right foot. He once made a right-footed field goal in a game when an injury prevented him from swinging his left foot. He ended his career in 1979 with the New York Jets, bothered by persistent injuries with his foot and hamstring and eager for new challenges.

Szaro, who spoke six languages, then returned to international trade. He lived in New York but travelled extensively throughout South America, Europe, and the Far East. Szaro said one of the most rewarding times of his life was when he used his Harvard connections to link skilled Jewish professionals emigrating from Russia to American businesses.

Szaro settled back in Poland in the 1990s, where he continued to

work in wholesale trading and actively promoted American football in Poland. He enjoyed life, and remained a bachelor until his late 40s. Just before his death he was happy to hear that that **Babatunde Aiyegbusi** signed a contract with the *Minnesota Vikings*, becoming the first native Pole to join the NFL without having come up through the U.S. college system.

HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE?

One of the hottest tickets of the summer may be the U.S.-Poland volleyball match in Chicagoland. The U.S. Men's Volleyball Team, defending its FIVB World League championship, will face Poland in the Sears Centre Arena in Hoffman Estates near Chicago on June 12-13.

A large contingent supporting the Polish team is expected. "We enjoy going to Chicago," U.S. Head Coach John Speraw said. "We get great crowds. This time we hope it is more American than Polish. We need to battle the energy that the Polish fans bring no matter where they are in the world."

In 2014 the U.S. won the FIVB World League, an elite annual men's volleyball competition in which the best teams in the world compete in pool play. Also last year, Poland won the World Championship, a separate (and more prestigious) international FIVB event.

Poland's World League squad will not include, key members of Poland's championship team, **Mariusz Wlazly** and **Michal Winiarski**. (The 31-year-old Wlazly was recently presented the SportsMan of the Year Award at the SportAccord Euronews Awards Ceremony in Sochi, Russia.) However, **Bartosz Kurek**, one of the sport's best spikers, has returned to the squad.

PERKOSKI'S NOTEBOOK. Brad Keselowski passed Kurt Busch on the second green-white-checked finish to score a dramatic victory in the Auto Club 400 ... Canadian born **Jordan Bachynski**, led the nation in blocks (133) and blocks per game (4.03) in his senior season at Arizona State, now plays for Westchester in the NBA D-League ... Brigham Young receiver **Jake Ziolkowski** finished his high school career as Wauconda (IL) High School's record holder for receptions (86), receiving yards (1,806) and TDs (18) ... **leksander "Olek" Czyz**, who played basketball for Duke and Nevada, now plays professionally for PGE Turów Zgorzelec of the Polish Basketball League ... After leading West Virginia in tackles and tackles for loss last fall, **LB Nick Kwiatkowski** is being moved from middle to outside linebacker ... **Michael "The Count" Bisping** is looking for a shot at the UFC Middleweight title after his recent win at UFC 186

... Germany's **Angelique Kerber** upset Denmark's **Caroline Wozniacki** to win the Stuttgart claycourt title. Both have Polish-born parents ... **Janusz Kurczab**, a Polish fencer, mountaineer and expedition leader who competed in the individual and team épée events at the 1960 Summer Olympics, died at 77 ... **Bobby Hurley**, who led the University of Buffalo to its first ever NCAA basketball tournament appearance, took over as head coach at Arizona State.

THEY SAID IT

"Guys would come in and buy gloves and be like, 'Hey, you think this one's good for my kid?' I'd be like, 'I would personally take that one. They'd be like, 'Nah, I like this one anyway.' 'All right, I guess I don't know what I'm talking about.'"

Pitcher Drew Rucinski, about working at a sporting goods store about a year and a half ago, after being released by the Cleveland Indians. He was eventually picked up by the Angels, and was on their opening day roster this year.

❖ ❖ ❖

"Kaminsky is such a star that even though he has a Polish last name, Charles Barkley still manages to pronounce it correctly."

— **Mark Titus** in grantland.com, on college hoops star Frank Kaminsky III

❖ ❖ ❖

"Since the very beginning of organized football in Poland, Ryszard (Szaro) has been active in promoting and developing this sport in Poland. He was always eager to share his valuable football knowledge with Polish players. We will always remember his smile, optimism and sense of humor."

— **Jędrzej Stęszewski**, Commissioner of the American Football League in Poland (PLFA).

❖ ❖ ❖

"Americans will see that Poland can play football."

— **Babatunde Aiyegbusi**, the 6-9, 351-lb. 27-year-old football player from Poland, who recently was signed as an offensive lineman by Minnesota.

❖ ❖ ❖

"I told him to keep his shirt on," he said. "He asked me what would happen if he took it off. I said Secret Service probably wouldn't like it. He said, 'What could they do to me?'"

— **President Barack Obama**, talking about the visit to the White House by **Rob Gronkowski** and the *New England Patriots*.

❖ ❖ ❖

"Oh, I think it was phenomenal ... And I really liked that coming from Oklahoma, it kind of had the same big history, small-town feel organization. I really loved that. It's just a great organization. I can't wait to come here and help them out."

— **Oklahoma fullback Aaron Ripkowski**, on visiting Green Bay, who drafted him in the 6th round of the NFL draft.

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POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Polonian Warm-Weather Fun

For the past few months, we have given you dozens of Spring and Summer recipes. Since the warmer months have traditionally been the time for various Polish-American activities (festivals, fairs, fetes, parish picnics, parades, jamborees, Fourth of July doings and harvest fests), here are some ideas at which you can put those recipes to good use:

FATHER'S DAY (Dzień Ojca), celebrated this year on June 21st, is the occasion for a club or parish Father's Day Dinner or Picnic. In addition to a choice of any of the activities presented below, it might include a Father and Child Communion breakfast as well as various father and son or daughter games, contests and competitions of skill and chance.

ST JOHN'S EVE (Noc Świętojańska – June 23rd), this year falls on a Tuesday, so the preceding or following weekend might be the perfect occasion for a group picnic or festival featuring any of the activities presented below. The unique difference is the floating of candle-lit wreaths on a nearby river, creek, lake or pond after dusk and the building of blazing bonfires over which daring young men jump to show off their prowess. They are also good to sing around and have a kielbasa roast.

PARISH PATRON'S FAIR (odpust parafialny): The feastday of a parish's patron saint is the occasion of an indulgence fair which provides refreshment for body and soul. Receiving the sacraments and attending mass, which often includes an

outdoor procession, ensures the faithful of a Plenary Indulgence. Family fun is provided by the food, games and entertainment that follow. Activities could include many of the suggestions shown below.

FOURTH OF JULY (Święto Niepodległości USA): Polish twists and touches can help give this occasion a more ethnic and therefore truly American flavor. The Polish presence can be asserted in a Fourth of July parade through floats, marching units and folk-costumed marchers and at picnics and festivals with any of the activities outlined below.

FIELD MASS (msza polowa): Polish outdoor events often began with an open-air mass. Including some traditional Polish hymns and having folk-costumed faithful bring the

offerings to the altar are among the ways of enriching its ethnic flavor. Some PolAms also appreciate and identify with the polka-mass format.

POLISH KNOWLEDGE/LANGUAGE QUIZ (turniej wiedzy o Polsce): In addition to contests requiring brawn like those above, a war of wits should also be considered. Quizzes dealing with Polish history, famous personalities, culture and assorted trivia as well as the language (How do you say "thimble", "father-in-law" and "rhinoceros" in Polish?) may add appeal and variety to your event. The more so if attractive Polish prizes are awarded to the winners.

POLISH GOODS STAND (stoisko z polskimi towarami): Good sellers at such stands are books, record-

ings, folk souvenirs, holy pictures, Polish papal items, ethnic novelties (T-shirts, arm patches, flags, posters, etc.), folk costumes and accessories, folkcraft items such as dolls, wood carvings, wycinanki, pisanki and gift items including amber jewelry and crystalware.

BEER TENT (piwiarnia pod namiotem): Be sure you have genuine Polish tipples available, including such beers as Żywiec, Okocim, Tyskie, Lech, Leżajsk and Łomża, vodkas – Wyborowa, Chopin, Belvedere, Sobieski, Żytunia, Żubrówka, Polonaise and Luksusowa; for the ladies a nice, light, smooth drink is "miód pitny" (Polish honey wine), as is Cydr Lubelski (spiked Lublin Cider) which tastes almost like champagne.

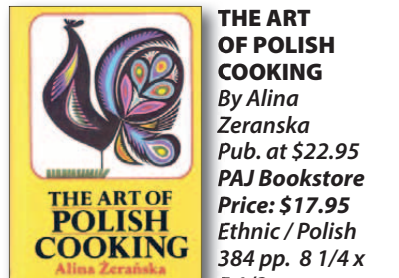
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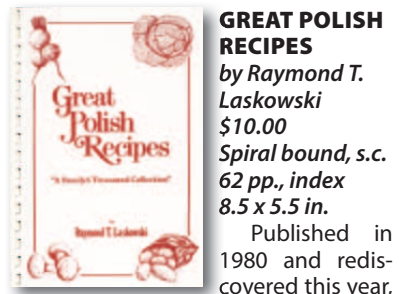
COOKBOOKS



THE ART OF POLISH COOKING
By Alina Zeranska
Pub. at \$22.95
PAJ Bookstore Price: \$17.95
Ethnic / Polish
384 pp. 8 1/4 x 5 1/2
12 b/w illus. Index 2nd ptg.

Reissued by Pelican Publ., The Art of Polish Cooking, contains 500 authentic recipes, complete with recipes for hors d'oeuvres, soups, entrees, vegetables, pastries, desserts, and beverages. Special holiday menus are also presented, along with charming descriptions of traditional Polish feasts and celebrations. Author Alina Zeranska provides easy-to-follow recipes for favorites like Cabbage Rolls, Chicken in Dill Sauce, Meat Pierogis, and Fruit Mazurka. Zeranska has translated these Polish recipes perfectly using exact American measurements.

easily available American ingredients and measurements. Modern Polish cuisine is a blend of hearty peasant dishes and more elegant gourmet fare, incorporating a broad cross-section of cultural influences. The book includes numerous cultural notes, historical accounts of Polish culinary traditions, and descriptive line drawings. Its expanded edition includes information on Polish products available in the United States, such as plum butter, honey mushrooms, and kielbasa, and their culinary uses.



GREAT POLISH RECIPES
by Raymond T. Laskowski
\$10.00
Spiral bound, s.c.
62 pp., index
8.5 x 5.5 in.

Published in 1980 and rediscovered this year, this is a collection of four generations of recipes from kitchens in Poland and the United States. Includes appetizers, soups, salads, vegetables, breads, noodles, sauces, stuffing, kielbasa, entrees, and desserts. Straight-forward, easy-to-follow recipes for beginners and experienced cooks alike.

servicing 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.

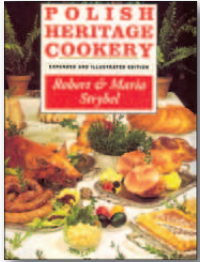
POLISH CLASSIC RECIPES
\$16.95
by Laura and Peter Zeranski
2011, 96 pp., h.c., index, 100 color photographs by Matthew Aron Roth

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.

POLISH HERITAGE COOKERY
by Robert Strybel
\$49.95
h.c. 900 pp.
7.25 x 9.50 in.
Expanded Edition, ill. and full color photographs

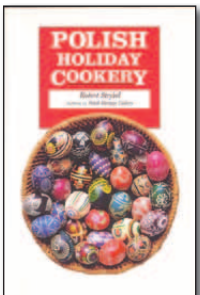
"Polish Heritage Cookery is the best Polish cookbook printed in English on the market." — *Polish Cultural News*

A perennial bestseller, *Polish Heritage Cookery* is the most extensive and varied Polish cookbook ever published. More than 2,200 recipes use



POLISH HOLIDAY COOKERY
\$24.95
by Robert Strybel
248 pp., h.c., Hippocrene Bks.

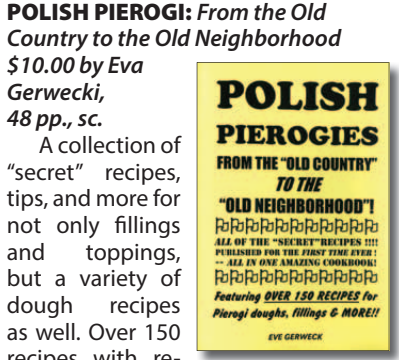
Polish Holiday Cookery acquaints readers with traditional Polish foods associated with various occasions and furnishes countless cooking tips and



POLISH CLASSIC DESSERTS
\$16.95
By Laura and Peter Zeranski
2013. 96 pp. 8 1/2 x 8 1/2. Index. 100 color photos

Organized by type and with titles in both Polish and English. From mazur-

kas 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 PIEROGI: From the Old Country to the Old Neighborhood
\$10.00 by Eva Gerweck, 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!

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.

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Who Stole The Kiszka? WHO STOLE THE KISZKA? 2-201	DRINKING TEAM 2-271

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I LOVE CZARNINA - 2-229	CIOCIA'S KITCHEN 2-228 I LOVE PIEROGI 2-210 I LOVE POLISH MUSIC 2-227

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<p>THE BEST OF CROATIAN COOKING Expanded Edition by Lilianna Pavicic and Gordana Pirker-Mosher Pb., 311 pp. was \$12.95 now \$8.95</p>	<p>FLAVORS OF SLOVENIA: The Food and Wine of Central Europe's Hidden Gem by Heike Milhench Hc., 220 pp. was \$15.95 now \$10.95</p>	<p>HUNGARIAN COOKBOOK: Old World Recipes for New World Cooks by Yolanda Nagy Fintor Pb., 230 pp. was \$11.95 now \$7.95</p>	<p>SPOONFULS OF GERMANY: German Regional Cuisine by Nadia Hassani Pb., 288 pp. was \$19.95 now \$13.95</p>	<p>CULINARY TREASURES OF NORTHERN ITALY: The Cooking of Emilia-Romagna Hardcover, 208 pp. was \$19.95 now \$13.95</p>	<p>TASTES FROM A TUSCAN KITCHEN by Madeline Armillotta & Diane Nocentini Hardcover, 188 pp. was \$15.95 now \$10.95</p>	<p>SEASONS AND CELEBRATIONS: Cooking Secrets of Italian Villages by Rosalie Fuscaldo Gaziano Paperback, 144 pp. was \$15.95 now \$10.95</p>	<p>A SIMPLY DELICIOUS IRISH CHRISTMAS by Darina Allen Paperback, 100 pp. was \$12.95 now \$8.95</p>	<p>TRADITIONAL IRISH RECIPES by George L. Thompson Paperback, 88 pp. was \$10.95 now \$6.95</p>
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BOOKS IN BRIEF / Mary Lanham

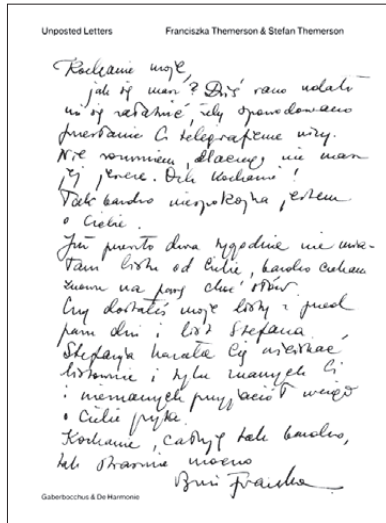
Unposted Letters *and* Armies of the Russo-Polish War

UNPOSTED LETTERS: CORRESPONDENCE, DIARIES, DRAWINGS, DOCUMENTS 1940-1942

By *Franciszka Themerson and Stefan Themerson*
Edited by *Jasia Reichardt*
Gaberbochus & De Harmonie, 2013, 405 pps.
Postbus 3547
1001 AH Amsterdam
Deharmonie.nl
Gaberbochus.nl

Unposted Letters is a collection of letters, diary entries, telegrams, drawings, and other documents of Franciszka Themerson and her husband Stefan during the period of 1940 to 1942. This assortment of ephemera from the Themerson archive was scanned, meticulously translated, and beautifully arranged to produce this gorgeous tome that is both a pleasure to the eye and the mind.

In 1938, Franciszka and Stefan Themerson, an illustrator and writer respectively, moved from Warsaw to Paris to be a part of that city's creative scene. When war broke out the following year, they volunteered for the Polish Army in France. Because of her skills as an illustrator, Franciszka was assigned to be a cartographer and illustrator by the Polish Government-in-Exile and ended up in England. Meanwhile, Stefan became a soldier and remained in France. For two years they remained separated, so they reached out to each other via hundreds of letters and telegrams. Their



correspondence as well as the works that remained unsent, document their feelings, hopes, and dreams as well as the events that kept them separated from each other. At times they lost touch, but they always found one another again. Franciszka's skills were not limited to her painting, she wrote eloquently as well. An excerpt from one of her letters to Stefan typifies her writing style:

"Now, at times, I stop as if on the edge of a precipice because I know that there is no hand that will help me, no words that will support me. Often, I have a strange feeling of wanting to throw myself, head first, into nonsense. But I stop because I am not sure of how to face that path, head first."

Over 20 plates of Franciszka's

works are included, ranging from simple sketches to fanciful watercolors. Some of the correspondence remains in the original French so some knowledge of the language is necessary. Most of the writings that were originally in Polish have been translated to English save a few of Stefan's poems.

Unposted Letters: Correspondence, Diaries, Drawings, Documents 1940-1942 is available at Amazon.com and BN.com.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS. Franciszka Themerson (née Weinles) was born in Warsaw in 1907. She graduated from the Warsaw Art Academy in 1931 and became a professional illustrator and graphic artist.

Stefan Themerson was born in Plock in 1910. He was a writer, poet, novelist, and filmmaker. In 1931, he and Franciszka married and later made five films using experimental photographic techniques. Following the war, they founded Gaberbochus Press which published books by Bertrand Russell, Alfred Jarry, and Kurt Schwitters, as well their own original works.

Franciszka and Stefan Themerson both passed away in 1988.

ARMIES OF THE RUSSO-POLISH WAR 1919-21
by *Nigel Thomas PhD*
Illustrated by *Adam Hook*
Osprey Publishing, 2014, 48 pps.
PO Box 3985
New York, NY 10185-3985
ospreypublishing.com



Following the end of the First World War, Soviet Russia and Soviet Ukraine battled against the Second Polish Republic and the Ukrainian People's Republic in a conflict that threatened the very being of the newborn Poland. This conflict, now known as the Polish-Soviet War or the Russo-Polish War of 1919-21, has had very few English texts for historians to indulge and *Armies of the Russo-Polish War 1919-21* is the first in almost 30 years.

This book packs a lot of information into a slim volume. It contains details about the organization of Polish, Russian, Ukrainian, and Belarusian respective militaries. The book also contains descriptions of battles, uniforms, and insignia.

Osprey publications are known for not only well-presented history texts but fantastic imagery and *Armies of the Russo-Polish War*

1919-21 is no different. It boasts not only more than 20 intricate color illustrations of the uniforms of those involved, but also many historic photographs of key players, such as Jozef Pilsudski and Leon Trotsky, as well as those who were on the front lines. One such image is that of the Women's Volunteer Legion. In it, the women are seen practicing with a Russian heavy machine gun, one behind the trigger with a second is feeding the ammunition. The rest of the female unit bears rifles acting as both guards and scouts. These Polish women volunteers, numbering about 2,500 fought in all branches except armor and air service.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR. Dr. Nigel Thomas is a freelance military author, translator, and military uniform consultant. He is a formerly a senior lecturer in charge of the Business Language Unit at the University of Northumbria, Newcastle. He is the author or co-author of more than 20 books on military history and uniforms. He currently resides in the United Kingdom.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR. Adam Hook studied graphic design and has been a professional illustrator for over 30 years. He has illustrated more than 70 military titles for Osprey publishing as well as Worldbook, Macmillan, and The University of Chicago Press, among many other publishers. Adam Hook currently lives in the United Kingdom.

POLONIA PLACES / Gregory L. Witul

St. Stanislaus Kostka School in Winona, Minnesota

St. Stanislaus Kostka School
602 East 5th Street, Winona, Minnesota
Status: Open

It's June, and schools across the country are letting out for summer recess. Kids are getting ready to go swimming, join a summer baseball team or hang out with friends at home. Of all these students, none are more excited than the ones attending St. Stanislaus Elementary in Winona, Minnesota. For over 125 years, this school, attached to the Basilica of Saint Stanislaus Kostka, has been building the foundation of young lives with a solid Catholic education, highlighted with Polish culture.

Saint Stanislaus church was established in 1871 in response to the great number of Kaszubian Poles settling in Winona. As more and more families moved into the area, Reverend Romuald Byzewski, that church's third pastor began laying the groundwork for a true parish school. In the mid 1880s, Father Byzewski sent a request to Mother Mary Caroline of the School Sisters of Notre Dame for teaching sisters and had his former rectory converted into a two-story, two-room school. While waiting for the Sisters, organist Dominic Hamerski served as the first teacher to the burgeoning school. The school was formally established on September 5, 1887 when four teaching Sisters arrived to relieve Mr. Hamerski. The sisters then quickly enrolled the rest of the children in the area, 290 in total, and began instruction in their small wooden school.

With the new Sisters living at the parish, a convent was erected for them and blessed in 1892. The school quickly grew as did the number of attending Sisters. By 1896 the attendance almost doubled to 504 students and when Mother General Mary Herman, head of the Sisters of Notre Dame visited the school in 1900, she stated how impressed she was with both the teachers and the students of St. Stanislaus. With



The former rectory that served as the first school of St. Stanislaus Kostka.

eight classrooms, for six grades and over 680 students, it became apparent to all, that a new school was needed. In late 1905, construction began on a new 12 classroom brick structure, but before they started in their new school, the students put on a program for Archbishop Albin Symon who visited Winona as part of his 1905 tour of the United States.

Over the next 40 years, the school would be remodeled, added on to, redecorated, and reconfigured. The year 1920 would see over 760 students enrolled and in 1944 the school raised \$43,000 for the war effort. In the late 1940s, 19 former students became ordained priests. To keep with Polish traditions the students would give a recital on May 3rd and singing Polish carols on KWNO during Christmas. In 1953, a major addition was added to the school that included an auditorium and gymnasium. In 1966, the 61 year-old brick part of the building was razed and a modern elementary school was built in its place.

Over 125 years after its first class, St. Stanislaus Kostka School is still teaching the youth of Winona, now as part of the Winona Area Catho-



The brick school building, which opened January 15, 1906. It was razed in 1966 and replaced with a modern school.



The school as it appears today, with the Basilica of St. Stanislaus Kostka behind it.

lic Schools. Even part of a greater school system, the students of St. Stanislaus Elementary are still connected to their Polish roots — so much so that, in 2013, they sent Easter baskets to the Chotomow Orphanage in Poland.

World War II Diary of Boy Soldier Takes Honors in Two Categories

LOS ANGELES — *The Color of Courage—A Boy at War: The World War II Diary of Julian Kulski* won the Gold Award for Interior Design (1-2 Color) and the Silver Award for Autobiography/Memoir in the 2015 Benjamin Franklin Awards.

Winners were announced at a ceremony held in Austin, Texas on April 10. Now in its 27th year, the Benjamin Franklin Award, sponsored by the Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA), is the premier awards competition in independent publishing, recognizing excellence in independent publishing. There were nearly 1,400 entries this year.

Julian Kulski was a 10-year-old boy scout living in Warsaw when the Germans invaded Poland in 1939. His diary follows his wartime experience from ages 10 to 16.

He quickly begins his own personal war against the Germans with small acts of sabotage but soon, at age 12, is recruited into the Underground Army by his Scoutmaster, where he is trained in weapons handling and military tactics. Kulski undertakes a secret mission into the Warsaw Ghetto, is captured by the Gestapo, beaten, sentenced to Auschwitz, rescued, fights in a commando unit during the vicious street fighting of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising, and ends as a 16-year-old German POW ... finally risking a dash for freedom onto an American truck instead of waiting for "liberation" by the Soviets.

Kulski's diary is enriched by more than 150 photos and illustrations and 13 maps.

The Color of Courage will be available from the *Polish American Journal* bookstore next month.

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NEW! MY WAGGING TAIL
by Stanley Bednarczyk
\$19.95
476 pp., p.b.

There comes a time in life when one begins to look backward instead of forward. The story of

growing up in Camden, N.J. as the son of Polish immigrants (and the youngest of five children) Bednarczyk, an 81-year-old Depression baby, recalls his life on the streets as a youth and as a letter carrier. "A member of the so-called Silent Generation, he has something worthwhile to say." (Mary Latham, *Polish American Journal*).

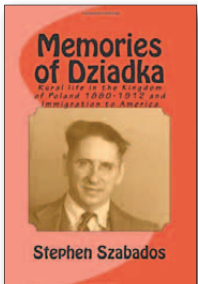


LOVE IS LOVE
List price \$25.95
PAJ Bookstore price \$19.95
By Maria Bello
240 pages, 5.5 x 0.8 x 7.2 inches
Dey Street Books, 2015

The daughter of a working-class Roman Catholic Italian American father and Polish American mother, Mario Bello majored in political science at Villanova University. Following graduation, she honed her acting skills in a number of New York theater productions before moving on to become one of today's most successful actresses. Bello speaks often and highly of the influence her Polish American grandmother had on her.

In 2013, Bello was recovering from a life-threatening illness when she made a discovery that changed her life: She was in love with her best friend, a woman named Clare. In her new book, she examines the myths that so many believe about partnerships. She explores how many different relationships helped define her life. She encourages women to realize that the "only labels we have are the ones we put on ourselves, and the best, happiest partnerships are the ones that make your life better, even if they don't fit the mold of typical."

MEMORIES OF DZIADKA
Rural life in the Kingdom of Poland 1880-1912 and Immigration to America



by Stephen Szabados
\$14.95
pb. 134 pp.
6 x 9 inches

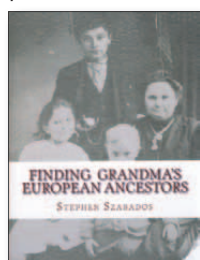
This book is about the life of a Polish immigrant, from his birth in the Russian partition of Poland:

the customs and traditions he grew up with; his decision to leave his family and the land of his birth; the trek

across Poland to the port of Bremerhaven; his voyage across the North Atlantic Ocean; arrival in America; and his life in America. Through the story of one man, you will learn and understand the hardships of a typical Polish immigrant in the early 1900s.

FINDING GRANDMA'S EUROPEAN ANCESTORS

by Stephen Szabados
\$14.95

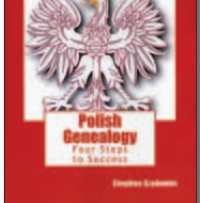


128 pp., pb.

This is a "must have" book to find your European ancestors. The author uses his experience to help you identify the available resources that you can use to find your own ancestors. The book includes many sample documents, current websites and books that will be useful for your genealogical search. Even if you are not a beginner, this book will give you helpful tips that may be the one you need to locate that missing relative.

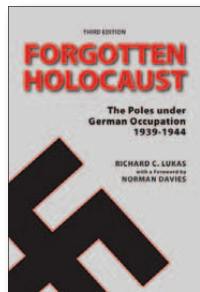
POLISH GENEALOGY: Four Easy Steps to Success

by Stephen Szabados
\$19.95
164 pp., pb.



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

FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST: The Poles Under German Occupation, 1939-45.



Third edition
\$19.95
358 pp. pb.
Hippocrene Books.

Forgotten Holocaust has become a classic of World War II literature. As Norman Davies noted, "Dr. Richard Lukas has rendered a valuable service, by showing that no one can properly analyze the fate of one ethnic community in occupied Poland without referring to the fates of others. In this sense, *The Forgotten Holocaust* is a powerful corrective." The third edition includes a

new preface by the author, a new foreword by Norman Davies, a short history of ZEGOTA, the underground government organization working to save the Jews, and an annotated listing of many Poles executed by the Germans for trying to shelter and save Jews.

LAROUSSE POCKET POLISH-ENGLISH/ENGLISH-POLISH DICTIONARY



by Larousse
Published at \$6.95
PAJ Bookstore Price: \$5.50
608 pp. pb.

For anyone speaking, reading, or studying, the Larousse Pocket Dictionary is the ideal dictionary for everyday use. With its handy, portable, paperback format, great price and clear, easy-to-use layout it's filled with up-to-date vocabulary in all subject areas.

55,000 words and phrases and more than 80,000 translations; hundreds of usage examples; abbreviations, acronyms, and proper nouns.

POLAND: A HISTORY

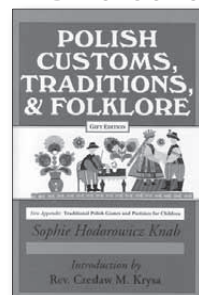
by Adam Zamoyski
\$19.95



pb. 426 pp. 5.5 in. x 8.5 in.

A substantially revised and updated edition of the author's classic 1987 book, *The Polish Way: A Thousand-Year History of the Poles and their Culture*, which has been out of print since 2001. No nation's history has been so distorted as that of Poland. "...excellent and authoritative" ... "fresh, different, and brilliantly readable"

POLISH CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS & FOLKLORE

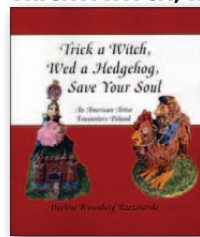


\$16.95
by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab
340 pp., pb.
Hippocrene Books

Polish Customs, Traditions, & Folklore is organized by month, beginning with December and Advent, St. Nicholas Day, the Wigilia (Christmas Eve) nativity plays, caroling and the New Year celebrations. It proceeds from the Shrovetide period to Ash Wednesday, Lent, the celebration of spring, Holy Week customs and superstitions, beliefs and rituals associated with farming, Pentecost, Corpus Chris-

ti, midsummer celebrations, harvest festivities, wedding rites, nameday celebrations, and birth and death rituals. Line illustrations enhance this rich and varied treasury of folklore.

TRICK A WITCH, WED A



HEDGEHOG, SAVE YOUR SOUL: An American Artist Encounters Poland by Darlene Wesenberg Rzezosarski.

Wecker Press, 2012. 88 pp., pb. \$19.95

After the fall of Communism, Rzezosarski's husband had an amazing first meeting with Polish cousins, introducing the couple to the rich world of Polish and familial history, so intertwined as to become a microcosm. Rzezosarski brings an outsider's appreciation and an artist's intuition through tales of family, of national identity, and of the enchanted world of fairy tale and myth. Profusely illustrated in color.

BE NOT AFRAID

by Heather Kirk
\$19.95

Borealis Press, 276 pp., pb.

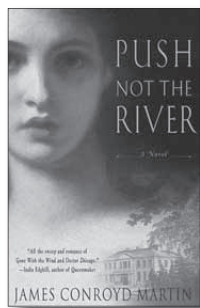
Want to learn something about Poland and the movement that started the end of the Cold War in an easy-to-read, well-written book? Be Not Afraid is an introduction to the Polish non-violent resistance movement, "Solidarity." It involved ten million people over a period of ten years, freed Poland from Soviet domination, and contributed to the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. It killed no one.

BOCHEK IN POLAND

\$11.95

54 pp., Polonie Publishing

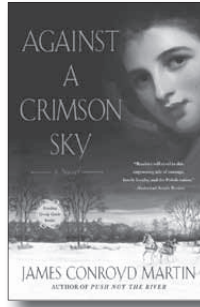
A First Prize winner in a literary contest sponsored by the American Council of Polish Cultural Clubs, this is a delightful, captivating children's story about the life of storks and many of the Polish customs they encounter. Beautifully illustrated and educational, it will be thoroughly enjoyed by adults as well as children.



PUSH NOT THE RIVER
\$15.95
St. Martin's Press. 496

pp.pb. *Maps & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide*

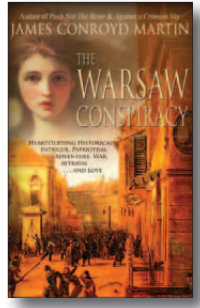
This book club favorite is based on the real diary of a Polish countess who lived through the rise and fall of the Third of May Constitution years, a time of great turmoil. Vivid, romantic, and thrillingly paced, the novel has been called "Poland's *Gone with the Wind*."



AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY
\$15.95

St. Martin's 369 pp.pb. *Map & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide*

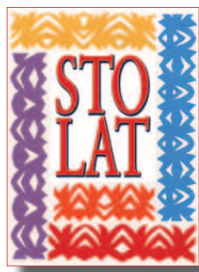
"You don't have to read *Push Not the River* to get the most from this sequel," says Suzanne Strempek Shea. The award-winning author picks up where *Push Not the River* leaves off, taking the characters 20 years into the fascinating Napoleonic era, highlighting the exploits of the glorious Polish lancers.



THE WARSAW CONSPIRACY
Hussar Quill Press, 508 pp., pb. \$17.99

Portraying two brothers in love and war, *The Warsaw Conspiracy* completes the trilogy. You need not have read the others to enjoy this family saga set against the November Rising (1830-1831). With Siberia or emigration heart-rending contingencies, matriarchs Anna and Zofia attempt to steer the clan through ever-muddying waters.

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ALL ABOUT POLAND'S NOBILITY / Robert Strybel

Various types of Heraldic Devices (Coats of Arms)

The term "family crest" used in other countries does not do justice to Polish coats of arms (herby). This needs a bit of explaining.

CLAN SYSTEM. The term "family crest" used in other countries does not do justice to Polish coats of arms (herby). Unlike many other countries — where all the noble bearers of a single surname shared the same coat of arms, thereby justifying the term "family crest" — in Poland the well-born belonged to noble clans. They emerged the moment someone was ennobled and received a coat of arms usually for some heroic act or exemplary service to the crown. Often the clan was named after the recipient of those honors. That clan-name (which was also the name of the coat of arms) indicated the clan someone belonged to through patrilineal inheritance (from one's

father's line), adoption or marriage, and many variously surnamed and unrelated individuals shared the same clan-name. For instance, The Łabędź (Swan) coat of arms was shared by 346 variously surnamed and mostly unrelated noble families with surnames ranging from Audycki to Żukowski. The term "Wójcicki herbu Łabędź" meant nothing more than "Wójcicki of the Łabędź clan."

INDIGENOUS OR IMPORTED?

Although the basic concept of coats of arms as a distinguishing feature of the well-born came to Poland from the vast, usually via Germany or Bohemia (land of the Czechs), most of the clans and their attendant heraldic devices were of indigenous Polish and subsequently also Lithuanian and Ruthenian origin. However, quite a few did come directly

from other countries by traveling foreign nobles who decided to put down roots in the Polish-Lithuanian soil. Besides Germany and Bohemia, they came from such countries as France, Hungary, Denmark and even England. (More on this in upcoming articles.)

OWN-NAME CLANS, ARMS. On occasion, the nobles belonging to a given clan decided to go off and set up a clan of their own and name it after their family surname. They also adopted a coat of arms by that name. Quite often it was a modified version of their original clan arms.

Since the nobility of the sprawling Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, once one of Europe's largest land empires, displayed various unique features, it is not surprising that their heraldic emblems (coats of arms) likewise were not always

just carbon-copies of Western designs. Here are some things to bear in mind:

COMPONENTS OF COATS OF ARMS.

The central feature of most coats of arms used in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was a shield (tarcza) upon which the main heraldic emblem (godło) was placed. Usually a crowned knight's helmet was found directly above it. In many coats of arms above the knight's helmet are ostrich plumes or peacock feathers with or without a crest (klejnot), a replication of the main shield element, or some other symbol. Mantling (labry), scrollwork resembling stylized leafy vines, on both sides of the shield rounded out the coat of arms. That was known as a full heraldic achievement. However, at times one may encounter abbreviated bare-

bones versions showing only the shield and its main emblem.

FIELDS, IMAGERY, MOTTOES.

Generally speaking, Polish coats of arms were more straightforward than their Western European counterparts. Although there are Polish herby divided into halves or, less frequently into quarters, that was not the most widespread practice. Most often a single emblem or image was displayed on a shield of a single color. Neither mottoes nor any other inscriptions were normally included in Polish heraldic devices; in a few rare instances a single letter of the alphabet may be seen. Compared to Western practices, animal imagery is far more common in Polish coats of arms, probably reflecting the heavily forested and largely rural nature of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

POLISH CAN BE FUN! / Robert Strybel

Words and Phrases Every PolAm Should Know

There may be some who want to describe the workings of an automobile engine, African flora and fauna or the characters of Greek mythology in Polish, but today we will focus on the most common, typical and useful daily expressions. These may come in handy when visiting Poland or to pleasantly surprise your Babcia, old Aunt Stella or Uncle Staś!

- **Cześć** (hi, hello); **serwus** (older form)
- **Dzień dobry** (good morning, good day; Note: there is no "good afternoon" in Polish, so use dzień dobry until evening)
- **Dobry wieczór** (good evening)
- **Dobranoc** (Good night)
- **Witam** (welcome or greetings) or **witamy** (we welcome you, we greet you); **witamy w niskich progach** (slightly humorous – We welcome you to our humble abode)
- **Bardzo mi miło** (pleased to meet you – during introductions)
- **Jak pańska godność?** or **jak się pan nazywa?** (what's your name to an unfamiliar male)
- **Jak pani godność?** or **jak się pani nazywa?** (what's your name to an unfamiliar female)
- **Jak się nazywasz?** (what's your name to a familiar person or child)
- **Jak się pan/pani ma** or **miewa?** (How are you?)
- **Jak idzie/jak leci?** (How's it going?)
- **Dobrze, nieźle, tak sobie, okropnie** (Fine, not bad, so so, horrible)
- **Kopę lat!** (Long time no see)
- **Co słyhać?** (What's new, what's up?)
- **Nic nowego, stara bieda** (Nothing much, same old

thing)

- **Skąd jesteście?** (Where are you /people/ from?)
- **Z Nowego Jorku, Z Chicago, Z Kalifornii, Z Toronto, Z Warszawy, Z Londynu, Z Paryża** (from New York, Chicago, California, Toronto, Warsaw, London, Paris)
- **Mówisz po polsku?** (Do you speak Polish?)
- **Trochę, ale jeszcze się uczę.** (A little, but I'm still learning.)
- **Na zdrowie** (Cheers; to your health – when raising a toast)
- **Dziękuję** (Thank you)
- **Proszę** (You're welcome)
- **Nie ma za co** (Don't mention it)
- **Do widzenia** (Goodbye)
- **Do zobaczenia** (Be seeing you)
- **Na razie** (Catch you later)
- **Powodzenia** (Good luck)
- **Szczęśliwej podróży** (Bon voyage)
- **Szerokiej drogi** (Have a safe trip – to a motorist)
- **Ile to kosztuje?** (How much does it cost?)
- **Poproszę kotlet schabowy z kapustą i zimne piwo** (I'll have the breaded pork cutlet with sauerkraut and a cold beer – when ordering in a restaurant)
- **Smacznego** (Bon appétit; enjoy your meal!)

WORDS OF WISDOM

Gdy kota nie ma, myszy harczą.

Please send all questions and comments to: strybel@interia or airmail them to: Robert Strybel, ul. Kanio-wska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

PGSA 2015 Conference

Here is another great opportunity to jump start your Polish genealogy research: The Polish Genealogy Society of America (PGSA) has scheduled its 2015 Conference for Sat., Sept. 26, and it will feature four great speakers. If your family lived on Chicago's south side, mark your calendar for Fri., Sept. 25 and join the PGSA bus tour of the Polish churches and neighborhoods where your ancestors lived.

The conference will be held at the Chicago Marriott Midway at 6520 S. Cicero Avenue in Chicago. On Saturday morning, Ginger Frere will discuss the golden nuggets that you can find in community and local government resources including NARA at Great Lakes. The second session in the morning will be led by Ellie Carlson, who will give you insights on dating your pictures by identifying period clothes you see.

The conference luncheon will feature entertainment by the Keith Stras and Rick Rzeszutko polka radio show and will be followed by the keynote speaker Dominic Pacyga. His talk is titled "Polish Chicago: From Fourth Partition to Suburbia" and will describe the emigration of four million Poles from the Russian, Austrian and German partitions to the United States between 1870 and 1920 in search of a better life. Their relocation is referred to as "the Fourth Partition."

Both afternoon sessions will be given by Ola Heska. In the first afternoon session learn how to obtain vital records from the Polish State

Archives website with step-by-step instruction. Free Wi-Fi is available to allow you to follow along on your laptop or tablet. The second session will cover two exciting new Polish websites Geneteka and Metryki. Learn how to search for ancestors in these databases that have been indexed by the Polish Genealogical Society (PTG). Learn how to obtain the digitized vital records that are now available online.

The bus tour on Friday will include stops and tours of the "original" Sears-Roebuck water tower, St. Adalbert Parish in the Pilsen neighborhood, St. Mary of Perpetual Help Parish in Bridgeport, the Pullman Railroad Car Company site and St. Michael the Archangel Parish in the South Shore neighborhood. More views along the bus route will include the Spiegel Warehouse, the 1893 Columbian Exposition Fair Grounds, Immaculate Conception Parish, over the Blues Brothers movie 'bridge,' the site of US Steel mills and more.

Plan to stay at the Chicago Marriott Midway. The hotel is conveniently located close to Midway Airport and a discounted room rate of \$99 per night has been arranged for a limited number of conference attendees.

Life is short. Your efforts in attending the PGSA conference will be rewarded with a wealth of new sources to find information for your family history.

Visit www.PGSA.org for registration information and more detail.

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Professor of History—Columbia College
"Polish Chicago: From Fourth Partition to Suburbia"

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CULTURAL TELEGRAM / Kasia Romanowska

Big Book Festival

Big Book Festival is a large reading festival that will take place June 12-14, in a former cheese factory Serwar, in 51 Hoża Str. in Warsaw. The festival will offer a chance to chat on Skype with favorite writers or listen to authors' discussions. A year ago, the Big Book Festival was held under the slogan "Drink milk, wash your ears, read books." This year's slogan is: "Men are not dogs, they must read." All festival events are free.

A Chopin of Jazz

Jazz stars, posters and movie screening. The Museum of Polish Music Festival in May. Komedo is not only a Polish "business card" in the world, but the composer, who — like Chopin — is romantic and refers to the European legacy, adding to it a new weight. Even during his lifetime Komedo was considered one of the greatest jazz musicians of his time.

His work since fascinated generation after generation. The festival is a space of confrontation of Komedo's achievements in contemporary jazz music.

Stunning Animation, one of the Directors is a Pole

Launched last year, a feature-length animated film *Kahlil Gibran's The Prophet* will be screened this summer in the United States. At the moment there is no information about the Polish premiere, yet in the English version, we can hear the voice of Salma Hayek and Liam Neeson and one of the directors, Michał Socha is a Pole. *The Prophet*, a collection of 26 short stories, written in English by the Lebanese artist, philosopher and writer, Kahlil Gibran, was published in 1923.

From Poland to New York — A Design Exhibition

In May, Culture.pl presented a unique exhibition entitled *Inside Out. Polish Graphic Design in the Making*. The program showcased works by Polish graphic designers and illustrators during the Wanted-Design festival in New York from May 15-18. What made the Polish exhibition stand out from the others is the fact that its organizers focused not just on the final product: a poster, a book, a dress, a plate or a package, but in a big part on the process of the product's development.

Pawlowski Announces Run for U.S. Senate

A L L E N - TOWN, Pa. — On April 30, Allentown Mayor Ed Pawlowski met with supporters at the West End Pulaski Club in Pittsburgh to announce his



candidacy for U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania in 2016. Pittsburgh was one of a number of stops the three-term mayor made in the last weeks across the state to greet supporters and announce his campaign.

Pawlowski has served with distinction as mayor since 2006.

When he was elected mayor, Allentown was a struggling city with an escalating crime rate, a shrinking police force, an \$8 million budget deficit and very little new economic development on the horizon.

Through Pawlowski's leadership, Allentown became an example in Pennsylvania of how to break the cycle of urban decay and overcome the country's worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

Pawlowski's grandmother emigrated from Poland in 1903. His parents were small business owners, who operated a Polish restaurant in Chicago, where he grew up and attended school before settling in Pennsylvania.

Visa Waiver Summit at Polish Embassy

Reenergized Effort for Poland Launched

by **Richard Poremksi**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Inclusion in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program (VWP) means that citizens from the included countries can travel to the U.S. without first securing a travel visa (limited legal permission) from a U.S. Embassy/Consulate abroad. To date, Poland has not been able to secure the coveted status despite being a staunch, dependable ally of America in every respect. Entry into the VWP has become a top priority of the Polish government in Warsaw in recent years. Poland has the full backing of President Barack Obama, but it is up to the U.S. Congress to pass the enabling legislation for Poland's inclusion. Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf and the Polish American Congress were — and are — very proactive in lobbying both houses of Congress regarding the VWP.

Not-So-Good-News: The 113th U.S. Congress ended on December 16, 2014 and all pending legislation died with it, including that pertaining to Poland's entry into the VWP (JOLT Act of 2013). Now the effort must be started anew. In the House of Representatives, H.R. 1354, had the backing of 166 co-sponsors (out of 435 members). A "yes" floor vote would have allowed Poland's membership prospects to advance considerably. On the other side of the U.S. Capitol edifice, Poland had the backing of the Senate Polish Caucus members and other friendly senators.

Encouraging News: The 114th Congress convened on January 3, 2015 and it will adjourn on January 3, 2017. The JOLT Act of 2015 (H.R. 1401 — "Jobs Originated through Launching Travel Act of 2015") was reintroduced in the House on March 17, 2015 and it now has 36 co-sponsors — a minimum of 218 is needed to move the Act to an up/down vote on the House floor. If eventually passed by both houses of



Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf (center) is shown addressing a national gathering of the various Polonia leaderships at the Polish Embassy on the critical matter of gaining Poland's entry into the U.S. Visa Waiver Program. To his right are Embassy officers First Counselor Monika Lipert, head of the political section, and Artur Orkisz, congressional affairs advisor. At left is General Edward Rowny (Ret.), president of the American-Polish Advisory Council.

Congress Poland will be finally be admitted into the VWP, thus ending the en masse visa denials and resulting hardships currently being visited upon the Polish people.

At the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, April 20, Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf convoked an imperative Visa Waiver Summit, with co-Chairman General/Ambassador Edward Rowny (Ret.), president of the American-Polish Advisory Council. Present at the hours-long meeting were 50 leaders/representatives of the multifaceted national Polish-American organizations, businessmen, politicians and news media, including Consul General Piotr Kornowrocki and 21 honorary consuls of Poland from across America.

The purpose of the conclave was to lay the exacting groundwork for passage of the Jolt Act starting with energizing the grass roots of Polonia and growing on to fruition in the Congress. The American-Polish Advisory Council (APAC) will coordi-

nate these efforts. Presentations by aforementioned Counselor Lipert and Advisor Orkisz, as well as from Margaret Lawrynowicz — American Polish Forum, all exhibited an excellent and in-depth command of the situation, dispensing expert recommendations and distributed an actual blueprints portfolio of effective actions to undertake.

The resulting Visa Waiver Action Group (VWAG) was established. Polonia was encouraged to hold nationwide focused VWAG meetings during the last week of May. It was also encouraged to use all forms of ubiquitous social media (Twitter, Facebook, etc.) in support of the issue, and by using the dedicated hashtag #VWP4PL as applicable. (Hashtag = "Visa Waiver Program for Poland.")

The legislative ship has sailed once again. Let's hope it reaches safe harbor in Washington with its critical JOLT cargo successfully delivered.

Poland deserves no less.

POLAND AND WORLD WAR I / Martin Nowak

Rule in the War Zone

By late 1915 the Germans had wrested all of Russian Poland from the czar's forces and Austria-Hungary had driven them back out of eastern Galicia. Most Polish territory ceased to be a battleground for the remainder of the war but had to endure wartime occupation.

In the southeast the Russians had invaded and occupied the eastern portion of Galicia, which was Austria's Polish province, causing much death and destruction. After a few months the Austrians, with the help of their German allies, drove the Russians out. This short period of occupation by the Russians did not allow them to establish any long term administration of the area. Yet they did attempt to russify the area and stole from and otherwise mistreated the citizens. The Austrians suspended home rule by the Poles, but the rights of the people were generally respected by them in Galicia.

However, the Germans occupied most of Russian Poland for three years (some parts were controlled by Austria) and were able to put in place rules to govern their newly acquired territory.

A succession of Polish cities fell to the Germans, culminating with the taking of Warsaw in August 1915. Most of the cities suffered little damage because the Russian

forces evacuated ahead of the superior German war machine, though they were stripped of industry and many residents were forced to flee. Those who were evacuated by the Russians were soon replaced by floods of destitute refugees who had fled the fighting in the countryside. Yet, enterprising Poles quickly put in place civic committees, which the German authorities met when they arrived.

The relatively good condition of the cities allowed the Germans to put into place governing rules and regulations in short order. They established a General Government in Warsaw to oversee Russian Poland. Although they put a benevolent face on their dictates, they in fact caused great hardships for the Polish population.

A SEVERE CENSORSHIP was imposed. Criticism of the authorities was not allowed, but a network of "Polish Clubs" advocating Polish independence managed to exist. Travel and trade between cities and towns was prohibited, which caused great hardship, since food and other necessities could not be delivered to the places they were needed.

In any case, the Germans took quick control of the farms, mines and factories still able to operate. Almost everything produced by

them was sent to Germany or used by German troops occupying the territory. Lack of proper nutrition and fuel for heat caused death and disease rates to soar among the general population.

The Germans' answer to this was to "suggest" to able-bodied men that they go to Germany to work. In reality, many were sent to Germany as forced laborers. Once there, the Polish workers were treated as little more than serfs, under police control, unable to send money to help their families back in Poland. Indeed, one German court ruled that these workers were a kind of civilian prisoners of war. As many as 400,000 Russian Poles worked as forced laborers in Germany to supply its war machine. Add to that another 200,000 Russian Poles who had been temporarily working in Germany at the war's outbreak and were compelled to stay there for the war's duration. Some put the total figure of Polish workers in Germany as high as 800,000. The Austrians only took 20,000 workers from their part of Russian Poland into Austria-Hungary.

International relief aid by and large failed to reach Polish civilians. The Germans said they would allow it, but Britain maintained a rather tight blockade of German ports and did not allow anything in. They

feared that any goods sent in would be siphoned off by the Germans to feed their war effort, and they were probably right. It was estimated that only about one percent of all relief aid sent to the European war zones managed to make it through to the Poles during the war. This was partly due to the ignorance and lack of interest on the part of the world public about the situation in the east.

In the west, relief of the Belgian population was freely allowed by both sides and their plight received extensive press coverage. By contrast, President Woodrow Wilson declared January 1, 1916 Polish Relief Day in the U.S. but an embarrassing amount of only \$5,000 was collected for the cause. The United States was the main source of food relief for the European continent.

POLES ORGANIZED THEIR OWN relief organizations in cities and towns in a self-help effort. The well-to-do freely gave what they could to help the more destitute, but there was just not enough to go round. Polish women performed admirably, maintaining public kitchens and orphanages, acting as nurses and even teachers, since the Germans allowed schools to reopen.

The Germans also allowed use of the Polish language and let the

Polish civic committees run police forces and the lower courts, and to handle mundane matters such as the post office and road maintenance. The Austrians in their area of occupation were even more accommodating of Polish participation.

One special area of occupation that the Germans called Ober Ost (Upper East) was a military zone that constituted what is today much of Lithuania, Latvia, northern Belarus and northeast Poland. Thirty percent of its population was Polish. This was a kind of colonial laboratory to test German military efficiency. The entire population was subject to forced labor to provide for German war aims. Rule was harsh with torture and corporal punishment freely used. People in the labor camps, including women and children, were put on starvation diets. This naturally led to famine and epidemic disease. Schools were opened to educate the people in German language and culture. The Ober Ost administration under General Erich Ludendorff, who ironically had a Polish grandmother, included efforts to break Polish influence over the population of the area. Though the Ober Ost policies can be seen as a kind of "practice run" for the later Third Reich, harsh Nazi racial and ethnic policy were not present.

continued next month

TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

Polish Cultural Center Capital Campaign

TOLEDO — Not so long ago, Polish American identity was tied to a neighborhood, an area, a side of town, or some other geographic location. Whether you grew up in a big city or a town, if you were Polish, you would likely be found at one of a number of places celebrating in your community. Who doesn't recall going to Mass at a Polish parish packed with parishioners, attending a dance, wedding, or some other celebration at a Dom Polski, or being a member of a Polish fraternal organization with its own hall or picnic grounds?

The places where we used to gather have mostly gone by the wayside over the years. Buildings have closed, been bought and remodeled for other uses, or been torn down.

There are, of course, notable exceptions. In towns such as Wyandotte, Mich., halls and churches continue to dot the blocks, and even there, the struggle is present to preserve these places in neighborhoods as they once were.

In a recent column, I discussed one such restoration effort in Toledo, the Ohio Theatre on LaGrange Street.

The Polish-American Community of Toledo (PACT) has announced a capital campaign intended for the creation of a Polish Cultural Center.

"The reason we feel this is so important is that, over the last couple generations, we believe many Polish Americans, especially younger people, have lost their cultural identity. And we strongly believe that preserving cultural heritage is as much about the present as it is about the past," PACT states on its web site.

PACT is a non-profit organization formed to perpetuate Polish traditions and to enrich the lives of Polish Americans. Below are only a few of the activities with which they

- are involved:
- Provision of annual scholarships to Polish American students;
- Sponsorship of many cultural and social events;
- Assistance to needy Polish Americans;
- Funding other Polish organizations that promote our culture.

The goal is to raise \$1 million dollars so that we can build and develop a Polish American Cultural Center. Plans for the Cultural Center are in the developing stages, but will likely include areas that can benefit all Polish organizations in town, including space for the Polish Genealogical Society to store important documents, and for events such as polka dances, Polish-themed concerts, and private events.

It's going to take a lot of work from the entire community, and PACT is working to get the input from all Polish organizations to determine what Toledo's Polish community wants in their cultural center.

In order to gather this input, an advisory committee has been formed. Toledo Councilman Tom Waniewski, whose family has ties to the Kufanc Polish neighborhood, is at the helm of this group. Along with leadership from several Toledo Polish organizations, I've been fortunate enough to sit in on the first meetings of this committee, and will keep readers updated as the process unfolds.

More information can be found at www.polishcommunity.org

LIVING ON IN MEMORY. Another year's congratulations goes out to Ron and Sue Biskup and all of their fabulous crew on a very successful Polka Benefit Dance. The **9th Annual Memorial "Gift of Life" Dance** in Honor of Lisa Marie Biskup was held Saturday April 25,

2015 in its home since the beginning in 2007, at the PRCUA Hall in Wyandotte. This being the penultimate year for the Gift of Life dance perhaps made it even more special. Three bands took to the stage, the Boys from Maryland, The Krew Brothers, and as an added attraction, Accordions-a-Go-Go, featuring Richie Bernier, Randy Krajewski, Eric Hite, Jim Mackiewicz Jr., Eddie Siwec, and Matt Gury. What a treat when lyric sheets were handed out for all to sing along to the original polka "The Gift of Life" written by Randy Krajewski and performed by Accordions-a-Go-Go.

This dance has attracted crowds from all over the Midwest, and this year was no exception. It was nice to see Detroit, Cleveland, and Chicago friends, as well as catch up on what's going on with the Lisa Biskup Organ and Tissue Donor Foundation.

Lisa's father Ron Biskup states on the website that the "sole purpose of The Lisa Biskup Organ & Tissue Donor Foundation is to be a major supporter of the University of Michigan Transplant Center's Camp Michitanki."

This camp, for kids who have had organ transplants, is currently held in Oscoda, Mich. at the YMCA camp Nissokone. It is a one-week experience to help foster relationships among kids who have possibly never been able to make friendships with others in similar circumstances outside of hospitals and medical settings.

Ron mentioned that a new, expanded camp is in the works to assist additional kids. This camp is going to be in the Ann Arbor, Michigan area. Details are forthcoming and I will be sure to include updated information in future columns.

Ron and Sue are excited to announce that in 2016, the last year for this dance, the line-up will be Polka Country Musicians, Pan Franek-Zosia Polka Towners, and a Hall of Famers band, with Al Piatkowski and Lenny Gomulka, Mitch Biskup on bass, "Ray Jay" Jarusinski on drums, and Billy Belina on piano.

This will take place Sat., April 23, 2016.

Obituaries

OL Medal Recipient Stanley Krajewski

Stanley Krajewski, 100, resident of White Lake, formerly of Southfield, Michigan and Sunny Hills, Florida, died May 10, 2015. He dedicated his life to the Polish community as Managing Editor of the *Dziennik Polski/Polish Daily News*.

Krajewski actively supported The Polish National Alliance, Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, Polish Falcons, and the Polish American Congress. He was a Regent for Orchard Lake Schools, which in 1988 awarded him its highest honor, the Fidelitas Medal.

He also served on the boards of New Detroit, The State Library of Michigan, and the American Lung Association. He was loved by many, and his positive outlook, sense of humor and kindness will always be remembered. Donations in his memory may be made to Orchard Lake Schools, 3535 Indian Trail, Orchard Lake, MI 48324.

Henry Bałdyga, Oldest Member of PACC

Henry B. "Hank" Baldyga, 97, of Oaklyn, N.J., was the oldest member of Camden's Polish American Citizens' Club, being a charter member of the organization. He was also a member of the Revelers, and in his spare time loved hunting and fishing.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Hospice of New Jersey Foundation, 400 Broadacre Dr., Bloomfield, NJ 07003.

Ret. Marine Colonel Alexander J. Lapinski, Esq.

Retired U.S. Marine Corps **Colonel Alexander J. Lapinski, Esq.**, passed away on November 19, 2014 in Queens, New York.

Lapinski was the eldest of five sons of Alexander and Maryanna Orzechowski Lapinski.

He was a member of the 1949 graduating class of Exeter High School (Pa.), where he excelled in basketball, football and baseball, earning a basketball scholarship to King's College, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

He subsequently transferred to

St. John's University, Brooklyn, N.Y., where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. He then served several years of active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps.

After his separation from active duty, he earned his law degree from Brooklyn Law School and embarked on a distinguished career in the practice of law for more than forty years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and a brother, Joseph.

He is survived by his life partner Nijole, brothers Frank (Julie), Paul, and John (Deborah).

Colonel Lapinski was laid to rest, with full military honors, in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va.

Caroline Zarski, Grammy Winner, Helped Create Tigers' Polish Night

Caroline (nee Lazarecki) Zarski, 92, was born and raised in Hamtramck, Mich. She was a retired schoolteacher who taught for many years at Our Lady Queen of Apostles School. After her retirement she was a substitute teacher in the Hamtramck Catholic Schools. She was a Grammy award-winning song writer, who wrote the lyrics for her late husband's (Leon) songs. Together they won two Grammy Awards. She was very active in Our Lady Queen of Apostles School and Church. Both she and her husband were also very active in the City of Hamtramck. Together they worked closely with the Hamtramck Police Department for many years in the 1950s and 1960s, creating the Quacky Walker series, a safety program cartoon series which was distributed to all of the schools in the city.

Leon and Caroline were the creators of Polish American Night at Tiger Stadium which is still one of the largest events for the Detroit Tigers, and the Polish Sports Hall of Fame.

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Polka MAGAZINE

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN MUSIC

Gomulka and Biskup Host 2016 Tour of Poland

NEW BRAINTREE, Mass. — Polka greets Lenny Gomulka and Mitch Biskup are hosting another premier tour to northern Poland in May, 2016. Plan to join this prestigious travel group to explore the northern region of Poland with its unique history, architecture and culture. Professional English-speaking guides will accompany the tour.

The 12-day escorted tour — with departures from New York, Chicago, and Toronto — will fly into Warsaw where guests will experience this beautiful city and enjoy the night life of the capital of Poland. The group will then travel by deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach to explore the northern Poland cit-

ies of Gdansk, Sopot, Gdynia, Torun, the Marzurian Lake area, the Kashubian region, and Bialystok. A two-night layover in every major city is planned which will allow ample free time for guests to explore on their own — perhaps visit with family or explore their ancestry — and will minimize packing and unpacking luggage.

As a special feature on this tour, Lenny and Mitch have included a relevant historic highlight: a two-night tour to Vilnius, Lithuania. Poland's history is interwoven with that of Lithuania; historic data reveal that Polish kings established and built Vilnius centuries ago. Today, this city is beautiful, vibrant,

young at heart and historically relevant to Poland.

A highlight of the trip is the musical entertainment provided: from spontaneous singalongs on the bus and in the hotels with Lenny and Mitch, to folklore performances by local entertainers.

Every detail has been planned for a maximum enjoyment, with premier hotels, sumptuous dinners, and visits to iconic sights which will surely provide memories to last a lifetime. Final itineraries and prices are expected by June 2015.

To book your reservation (small deposit required), call Lenny Gomulka at (413) 374-7096 or Mitch Biskup at (617) 899-5895.

2016 All-Star Polka Cruise



Jimmy Sturr, Molly B, and Keith Strass.

FLORIDA, N.Y. — Join Jimmy Sturr and Mollie B as they host the 2016 All-Star Polka Cruise II, aboard the Holland America luxury liner *The Westerdam*.

The cruise will sail from Fort Lauderdale on Sat., Jan. 23, 2016 to the Eastern Caribbean. The Ports of call will be Grand Turks, in Turks and Caicos, St. Thomas, San Juan and Great Stirrup Cay in the Bahamas.

An all-star lineup of polka entertainers include: Jimmy Sturr and his orchestra; Mollie B & Squeezebow; Kenny Brandt Band; Mark Halata & Texavia; Chris Caffery of

the Trans-Siberian Orchestra; dance instructors Matt and Elaine; and MC Keith Strass. Special guests will be the Four Aces, who will be singing many of their great hits including "Three Coins in the Fountain," "Love is many Splendor Thing," "Strangers in Paradise," "Tell Me Why," plus many others.

This cruise is non-stop entertainment throughout the week.

Prices start at \$879 per person based on double occupancy. Call (800) 724-0727 for a color brochure. Many good cabins are still available.

Polkapalooza II at Tioga Downs

NICHOLS, N.Y. — Polka fans arrived early and the crowd continued to grow as Polkapalooza II filled Tioga Downs Casino with polka music, dancers and polka fans, April 11, 2015.

Offering four polka bands alternating in two venues, this successful event featured Joe Stanky & the Cadets, Fritz's Polka Band, Jude's Polka Jets II, and John Stevens & Doubleshot.

Handling the MC work at this eight-hour event was Bill Flynn of Equinox Broadcasting and Barb Mack of Town Square Media.



Equinox Broadcaster Bill Flynn with Joe Stanky at the Tioga Downs Casino Polkapalooza.

POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

Bay City Says Goodbye to Pulaski Hall



Pulaski Hall was a regular stop for many of the nation's top polka bands.

BAY CITY, Mich. — Dom Polski, the Polish Cadets, the PNA, the Polish American Club, the Polish American Social Club. Almost every city with decent Polish American population had one — many had several. A great majority of us lived within a short distance of at least one such club or hall. For Bay City, Michigan it was their Pulaski Hall, but on April 30th of this year, that ended with its closing.

Pulaski Hall, like a Polish "Cheers," was a place where everyone knew everyone; where multiple generations gathered and felt like family.

Second generation musician Seth Drzewicki was introduced to Pulaski Hall shortly after entering this world. "My Mom and Dad would take me to dances when I was in a stroller," he says. His father, Steve Drzewicki, was barely a teenager when he played with his Uncle Stan's polka band for the first time at Pulaski Hall in Bay City, Michigan. Now, after 113 years of serving Bay City's Polonia and polka scene, this iconic location will be no more.

Over the years, many bands made

the music happen at the hall including, Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr., Ray Jay and the Carousels, Happy Louie, Lenny Gomulka and Chicago Push, the Dynatones, the Candian Fiddlestix, Polka Country Musicians, Frankie Liszka & The Brass Connection, Polka Family and more. Many regional bands played some of their first gigs at both Pulaski Hall and Pulaski Hall Bar including: Michigan State Polka Music Hall of Famers: Benny Prill, Gene Gwizdala, Floyd Grocholski, Jim Lepeak, Steve Drzewicki, Stan Kowalski, Floyd Woody, Richard Kowalski, Sr. and Roger Balcer.

"The younger generation hasn't embraced our traditions," says Steve Drzewicki. "When I was young, if I wasn't playing with the band, I was with family for a wedding or a party at Pulaski Hall. When people came to Pulaski, they came to dance."

The Pulaski bar and hall closed its doors on Thursday, April 30, and hosted one last polka party to wrap up more than a century's worth of memories. As the music echoes, it marks the end of another storied venue in polka history.

Gora to Tour Poland

BURLINGTON, Ontario, Canada — Everyone is invited to join John Gora and his wife Dianne for a summer tour of Poland, July 26 until August 7, 2015.

From the Tatra Mountains in the south to the Baltic Sea in the north, they will visit Krakow, Wieliczka, Zakopane, Chocholow, Wadowice, Czestochowa, Dunajec River Rafting, Wroclaw, Boleslawiec, Poznan, Gniezno, Bydgoszcz, Stare Jablonki, Ostroda, Olsztyn, Malbork, Gdynia, Sopot, Gdansk, and many other places in between. Guests may stay an additional two days in Warsaw.

For full itinerary, call John at (905) 336-3055 or (905) 902-1345, or Wanda from Chopin Tours 1-800-533-0369.

POLKA JUKEBOX / Steve Litwin

Alaska's Polka Dan Zantek Still Playing

Polka Dan Zantek was born and raised in Northeast Minneapolis to Polish immigrant parents. Though he began playing the concertina at an early age, his love for the instrument is as strong today as ever.

Moving to Alaska in 1957, he entertained at a variety of places, including the well-known Double Musky Inn, and the world-class Mount Alyeska Ski Resort. He squeezed out music at the Double Musky both as a solo act and with a group for about ten years. His 80th birthday celebration took place at "Chilkoot Charlie's" in Spenard, Alaska on May 3, 2015. Polka playing folks in Alaska joined in and it was professionally filmed in high definition DVD.

In the same time-frame a new CD entitled "Buttons & Strings" was released. This twenty-six track collection teams Polka Dan with Hermann the German (bass and zither) on an amazing variety of tunes with everything from "Julida" polka, to "Silver Lake" waltz, to "Rollercoaster" polka, to "Pytala Sie Pani," and others. Purchase this CD and enjoy two musicians that you might not expect to make music like this; the result is as unique as the instruments and their players themselves.

CONCERTINA ALL STARS. If there is one thing better than hear-



Polka Dan Zantek with his concertina at the Chalet Swiss, Seoul, South Korea.

ing The Concertina All Stars on CD it is hearing them "live" on CD as they performed on stage for RFD-TV. Their music makes you want to dance, drink, and become a "bandstander" directly stage-front.

Their formula is simple: play music the audience knows and likes. In these excellent 14 tracks, the band covers everything from their "Concertina Hero" polka, to "Idzie Lala," to "Iron Casket" oberek and more. Often times on the recording, it's evident that the musicians are enjoying the music as much as their audience.

The names are familiar to all: Art Gayler on accordion; Bryan Kurdziel on bass; Chris Bukowski on drums; Joe Ryndak and Bob Zielin-

ski on concertinas; Dale Wojdyla on trumpet; and Ray Barsukiewicz on trumpet, sax and clarinet.

Executive Producer is Mike Nowakowski with mixing by Gary Rhamy. It was recorded at RFD-TV's Polka Party.

Free Polka Classes

PINE ISLAND, N.Y. — The Hudson Valley Polonaise Society will again be offering free polka dance classes, starting June 17. The classes will take place at the PLAV Pavilion area in Pine Island.

This 10-week "summer session" will begin on Wed., June 17. Children's classes are from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., and adult classes are from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. Both classes will be for 10 weeks, through August 19.

For more information, call Richie at (845) 258-4721, or Hilda at 294-9254, or email austriangirl283@yahoo.com.

Jimmy K Polkas Updates Website

TOLEDO — Jimmy K Polkas, an on-line polka music sales outlet, has worked to implement exciting new changes to its website. The site now includes a shopping cart and other time-saving features. Visit them on the internet at: www.jimmykpolkas.com.

DANCE TIME / Jen Pijanowski

Friends Gather to Honor Trzepacz's Upcoming Hall of Fame Induction

BUFFALO, N.Y. — On April 26, it was time to make my way to once again to visit my favorite tavern for polkas, Dianeagains. **Special Delivery** took the stage for an afternoon of music, friends, and dancing. **Fred Bulinski**, who was in town visiting and to do a live remote internet radio show was in attendance, as was **Mark Trzepacz**. Fans got an unexpected treat when the band invited these two polka legends up to sing.

Fred, who is a Niagara Falls native, lit up the stage first singing his rendition of "Chocolate Soda" polka. Cheering and clapping erupted as he finished and Mark then made his way to the stage to showcase his vocal talents on one of my all-time favorite songs, "Bright Star." Tears ran down the eyes of a few ladies sitting at the table in front of me who said that, seeing those two sing reminded them of the "good old days," back when they would be out late at night on Friday, Saturdays, and Sundays dancing the night away. After chatting, we all agreed that, although their nights may end a little earlier, that same atmosphere is evident at Dianeagains during their monthly polka Sunday.

By the way, Dianeagain's is now known as the **Clinton Bar & Grill**; nothing else has changed.

THE NEXT DAY, the **Polish Villa II** hosted Fred Bulinski for a live broadcast of his show *Freddie's Fun House* for the Polka Jammer Network. Since it had just been an-



FUTURE HALL OF FAMER Mark Trzepacz (left) with Hall members Dave "Scrubby" Seweryniak and Fred Bulinski.

nounced that Mark Trzepacz will be inducted into the IPA Hall of Fame in September, the show was dedicated in his honor. Friends and polka fans began filing into the Villa early to enjoy appetizers and cocktails before the broadcast. The live remote broadcast was a perfect mix of Buffalo polka band members and congratulatory messages from fellow musicians to Mark on his big news.

Mark joined Freddie in talking about his dedication to the music and the joy that he feels being recognized by this elite organization. Several musicians then took turns congratulating Mark. Among those in attendance were former IPA inductees **Mike Nowakowski**, **David "Scrubby" Seweryniak**,

John Gora, and **Eddie Guca**. It was so wonderful to see members of so many bands and friends come to share in this event. Members of New Direction, Buffalo Touch, Special Delivery, Buffalo Concertina All-Stars, as well as IJs, kept the show flowing.

Thank you to Fred, for giving everyone this opportunity to express our best wishes to Mark. His dedication to polka music deserves to be rewarded and we look forward to celebrating his honor in September at the IPA Festival right here in Buffalo.

THE KUTAS FAMILY hosted a dinner dance featuring **Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push** at the

Valley of Buffalo Banquet Hall. The hall was set up with round tables reminiscent of a wedding, which gave an upscale feel to this fun event. The \$15 admission was a bargain considering it included a large Polish platter dinner served before the start of the dance. Lenny took the stage and, as always, sounded sensational. Performing many of his older style tunes drew repeated comments on how remarkable the band sounded. While standing towards the back chatting with friends, I could not help but notice a young man sitting alone at a table singing every word to each song. When I decided to invite him over to hang with us, I learned his name was **Jason Rafa** and he was from Chicago. He was here in Buffalo on business and saw that Lenny was in town so he decided to come and check it out. I am so pleased that we got the chance to meet this young man; we had a laughter-filled night getting to know him better. It is such a small world and my husband and I feel blessed that we got to spend some time with this fun loving young polka fan. We even made plans to get together before he headed back home and hopefully we will continue to see him along the

polka road. You never know what to expect when you go to a polka event but one thing that remains certain, it is always time that you cherish with dear polka friends and family.

UPCOMING

June 9. Buffalo Touch, River Grill, Aqua Lane, Tonawanda, N.Y. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Free

June 14. Phocus, Anchor Inn, 2437 William St., Cheektowaga, N.Y. 5:00-9:00 p.m. Free

June 16. Buffalo Polka Booster Meeting, New Direction, 8:00-10:30 p.m. \$7.00 members/\$10.00 guests.

June 19-21. Syracuse Polish Festival, Clinton Square, Syracuse, N.Y., Bands include Salt City Brass, New Direction, Melody Lane, Rymanowski Brothers Band, and Jimmy Sturr Band

June 21. The Knewz and Phocus, Our Lady of Czestochowa lawn fete, 23 Willowlawn Parkway, Cheektowaga, N.Y., noon-10:00 p.m. Free

June 21. New Direction, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Lawn Fete, 3144 Abbott Rd., Orchard Park, N.Y., 2:00-6:00 p.m. Free

June 24. Polka Variety Club Meeting, Ed Guca & the Polish Canadians, 7:00-10:30 p.m. \$8.00 members/\$10.00 guests.

June 28. Special Delivery, Lackawanna Ethnic Festival, Veteran's Stadium, South Park Ave., Lackawanna, N.Y. 1:00-4:00 p.m.



Eddie Kutas and Jason Rafa.



Allison, Trinity, and Darin Czaska.



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Polka Family
Eddie Forman Orchestra
The Boys
Polka Country Musicians (PCM)
The Knewz
The Dynasonics
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- Buffalo Concertina All Stars (NY)
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2015 - FRANKENMUTH Summer Music Fest

Daily Schedule

THUR, AUG 13th

Polka Family Box On
 Pan Franek Stephanie

FRI, AUG 14th

Polka Family The Boys
 Lenny Gomulka Polka Country

SAT, AUG 15th

The Knewz The Boys
 Lenny Gomulka Polka Country

THUR, AUG 20th

Squeezebox featuring Ted Lange and Mollie B from the Mollie B Polka Party on RFD-TV
 Fred Ziwich

FRI, AUG 21st

Squeezebox featuring Ted Lange and Mollie B from the Mollie B Polka Party on RFD-TV
 Fred Ziwich

'50s '60s & '70s Rock-n-Roll
THE FABULOUS HUBCAPS
 SHOW AND DANCE

SAT, AUG 22nd

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'50s '60s & '70s Rock-n-Roll
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 SHOW AND DANCE

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PULASKI POLKA DAYS

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PULASKI, WISCONSIN

BAND SCHEDULE

Thursday

- Chad Przybylski & Polka Rhythms
- TNT
- Maroszek Brothers
- New Generation

Friday

- Polka Dynamics
- New Generation
- Chad Przybylski
- TNT
- The Boys
- Lenny Gomulka
- The Knewz
- Polish Connection
- Roger Majeski
- DynaBrass
- Aaron Socha Livewire
- Polka Country Musicians

Saturday

- Box On
- Chad Przybylski
- Polka Family
- Lenny Gomulka
- The Knewz
- Dyversaco
- New Brass Express
- The Boys
- Polka Country Musicians

Sunday

- Box On
- Polka Family
- Keith Stras & Polka Confetti
- Maroszek Brothers

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EVENTS

Community Events

- Community Night
- Fireworks
- Polish Food & Souvenirs

Saturday Events

- Polka Trot 5K
- Arts & Crafts Fair
- Dance Contest

Sunday Events

- Worship Services
- Pancake & Porkie Breakfast
- Arts & Crafts Fair
- Polka Days Parade
- Raffle Drawing

CONTACT

General Information

- Harold @ 920-822-3869 or 920-660-9126
- Jim @ 920-680-3223

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- Randy @ 920-822-5702
 Email: wick6102@yahoo.com

Parade Information

- Wayne @ 920-822-5456

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- Velour collector's bag.
- Certificate of Authenticity

A colorful image of the Earth adorns the front of this beautiful 925pf Silver medal. The antique Greek sculpture of Atlas supports the heavens on the other side.

32 mm (1.26"), 14.14 g (0.5 oz)
#200301 - \$84

POLISH KINGS **PIAST DYNASTY**
960 - 1370

Free with Each Purchase:

- When you buy a complete set of Polish King medals, you will receive the PIASTOWIE Book (in Polish) and a Display Box (Gold shown).
- Individually purchased medals each come with an embroidered velour collector's bag.
- Certificate of Authenticity

Available in 900 Fine Gold, 24k Gold Plated, and 925 Proof Silver:

900 Fine Gold
966 minted, 50 for US
21 mm (0.8"), 8 g (0.28 oz)

24K Gold Plated
19500 minted, 1000 for US
32 mm (1.26"), 14.14 g (0.5 oz)

925 Proof Silver
19800 minted, 1000 for US
32 mm, (1.26") 14.14 g (0.5 oz)

Description	925 Proof Silver		24K Gold Plated		900 Fine Gold	
Entire Set	N/A	N/A	#200600	\$547	#201400	\$5,652
Mieszko I	#200101	\$82	#200601	\$92	#201401	\$950
Boleslaw I Chobry	#200102	\$82	#200602	\$92	#201402	\$950
Boleslaw II Smialy	#200103	\$82	#200603	\$92	#201403	\$950
Wladyslaw I Herman	#200104	\$82	#200604	\$92	#201404	\$950
Boleslaw III Krzywousty	#200105	\$82	#200605	\$92	#201405	\$950
Wladyslaw Lokietek	#200106	\$82	#200606	\$92	#201406	\$950
Kazimierz III Wielki	#200107	\$82	#200607	\$92	#201407	\$950