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POLISH ROOTS
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AND ADDITIONAL ENTRY OFFICES

POLAND A SAFE HAVEN FOR TODAY'S JEWS • ST. JOHN PAUL II NATIONAL SHRINE: A RICH EXPERIENCE
EMBASSY COMMEMORATES WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING • A FAMILY'S MIND-BENDING ODYSSEY • THE DREADED EXAMS
KARSKI DOCUMENTARY TRULY HEARTWRENCHING • KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION HONORS MARTHA STEWART

Newsmark

CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS CONTINUES. Speaking on May 3, Constitution Day in Poland, President Andrzej Duda called for the country's constitution to be examined and a "new solution" drawn up.

Echoing an address a day earlier by Jaroslaw Kaczynski, the head of Poland's ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party, Duda said the country's current constitution was a "constitution of a time of transition" adding that it "should be examined, a thorough evaluation carried out and a new solution drawn up."

Kaczynski said his party aims to change the constitution, which was adopted in 1997. But thousands of protesters, critical of the Law and Justice government, took to the streets in the northern city of Gdansk in a "March of the Angry." Among them was Mateusz Kijowski, leader of the anti-government Committee for the Defense of Democracy, who said that the current constitution "is for us today really the only point of reference when we talk about the rights and freedoms of citizens."

KACZYNSKI SAYS NO TO REFUGEES. Poland will not accept refugees because they pose a threat to the country's security, the head of the ruling, conservative Law and Justice (PiS) Jaroslaw Kaczyński party said. He also said that Poland would oppose European Commission proposals that would see EU member states having to pay EUR 250,000 per refugee if they refuse to accept their share of asylum-seekers.

Answering questions from internet users, Kaczyński said: "After recent events connected with acts of terror, we will not accept refugees because there is no mechanism that would ensure security."

"This is the position of the prime minister and the whole of PiS."

CALL FOR OUSTER. Former Polish defense ministers have issued an open letter saying that Antoni Macierewicz, their successor, should resign from office. The letter was published on the website of *Gazeta Wyborcza*.

The officials wrote that "the Law and Justice (PiS) government has undermined Poland's position in Europe and NATO," and current Defense Minister Antoni Macierewicz "discredited the potential of the Polish Army" when he said in 2015 that "the Polish armed forces had no capacity to ensure national security."

Marek Magierowski, a spokesman for the president, told broadcaster Radio Zet: "I would not worry too much about this letter and these arguments, because these are people directly linked to today's opposition, mostly active politicians."

DUDA VISITS CANADA. Polish President Andrzej Duda opened a visit to Canada, May 9, by meeting members of the Polish diaspora and Canadian PM Justin Trudeau.

The program included wreath-laying ceremonies at the Katyn Memorial in Toronto, and at the cemetery of Polish soldiers, who trained for World War I in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. The President and the First Lady also met representatives of the Polish diaspora at the John Paul II Centre in Mississauga.

On May 10-11, Duda held talks with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Governor General David Johnson. He also met members of the Canadian-Polish Parliamentary Friendship Group and a group of Canadian soldiers, who have served in Poland on a NATO mission.

SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA SHOULD BE MAINTAINED over its annexation of Crimea, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said in Warsaw. He was speaking during a two-day visit to the Polish capital, during which he held talks with Polish Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski and aides to President Andrzej Duda.

Blinken said that there was no reason at the moment for the West to lift sanctions against Moscow, introduced in 2014 after Russia's annexation of Crimea.

Clinton Insults Poland, Hungary

Former President Claims Countries Seek "Putin-like Leadership"

PATERSON, N.J. — Campaigning for his wife, former U.S. President Bill Clinton accused Poland and Hungary of trying to abandon democracy for authoritarian rule.

"Poland and Hungary, two countries that would not be free but for the United States and the long Cold War, have now decided this democracy is too much trouble," Clinton said May 13 during a campaign stop in New Jersey on behalf of his wife, Hillary, the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination. "They want Putin-like leadership: Just give me an authoritarian dictatorship and keep the foreigners out."

Clinton was attempting to make a point about the danger of electing a populist — a shot at likely Republican candidate Donald Trump — and used Poland and Hungary as examples, as both oppose taking in refugees from the See "Clinton ...," page 3

"May He Keep All Your Riding Safe"



PHOTO: ANN SCAMERHORN

FR. MACIEJ GALLE, chaplain of Chicago-based Orzeł Biały Polish Motorcyclists Union, douses a motorcycle at the Blessing of the Motorcycles and Polish Mass, celebrated Sun., April 17, at the Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine in Merrillville, Indiana.

Nearly 1,000 motorcycle enthusiasts were in attendance. Joining Fr. Galle at the picnic following Mass was fellow motorcycle enthusiast Fr. Lukasz Kleczka of the Salvatorian Fathers.

"Riding brings me joy," said Fr. Galle. "On my days off, I like to take my rosary and breviary along and escape to the forest preserves, with God and my motorcycle."

Russia's Goal: Divide NATO

WARSAW (Polskie Radio) — U.S. Ambassador to Poland, Paul W. Jones, discussed the current tension between NATO and the Kremlin ahead of the start of construction of a missile-shield base in Poland.

The construction of a missile-shield base in Redziko-wo, northern Poland, began May 13.

The shield is designed to protect U.S. troops and NATO allies against ballistic missiles. The base is set to be ready for operation in 2018.

"It's a missile defense site which is the U.S. and Poland's contribution to NATO missile defense from outside of the Euro-Atlantic area, particularly the potentials of missiles coming from the Middle East," Ambassador Jones told Polish Radio.

"And what Poland will see over the next two years is that, as construction goes forward, we will put in place American soldiers to operate the missile defense site. [This figure will] probably be 150-200 soldiers over the next year-and-a-half to two years."

TARGETS OF RUSSIA. Ambassador Jones was asked to comment on Russian media See "NATO ...," page 3

Baltimore Remembers the Martyrs of Katyn

by Richard Poremski

BALTIMORE — Two hundred people assembled at the National Katyn Memorial in Harbor East on April 24, 2016 to memorialize the 22,000 Polish Army officers, including many of Poland's officialdom, leading citizens and intelligentsia, murdered in the infamous April, 1940 Katyn Forest Massacre at the bloodied hands of the then-Soviet Union's NKVD — militarized political police.

The 16th Annual Katyn Remembrance ceremonies included color guards, clergy, diplomats, guest speakers, politicians, military officers, the laying of wreaths, and "Taps" by a Maryland National Guard bugler.

"We must always remember and commemorate what happened 76 years ago in that terrible forest saturated with Polish blood, said U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski. "The elite of Poland was massacred by the Soviets ... Never again will Poland be invaded because it belongs to NATO and is closely allied with America ... Article 5 of the NATO Treaty says in effect that if you mess with Poland you take on the United States of America!"

The audience erupted with loud applause and shouts of approval.



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

Poland's Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf delivers his remarks at the 16th Annual Katyn Remembrance, at the base of the National Katyn Memorial. Seated at right are U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski and U.S. Congressman John Sarbanes.

"Today, if the slain officer corps could look down they would be proud of a free and independent Poland and would say God Bless Poland and God Bless the United States."

U.S. Congressman John Sarbanes

added that he was very proud and privileged to have attended these ceremonies over the years.

"It is very important to bear witness to what happened in the past and have an See "Martyrs of Katyn," page 3

ALMANAC




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June Czerwiec

"Times change, people change, thought and feeling take new shapes, put on fresh garments, sons bow their heads unwillingly to that which enraptured their fathers."

— **Ignacy Jan Paderewski**
(Nov. 18, 1860 - June 29, 1941)

- 1 1913. Birth of **Jerzy Pniewski**, physicist. In 1952, he helped discover the elementary particle known as hypernuclear material.
- 2 1798. Playwright and author **Julian Niemcewicz** visits George Washington at Mt. Vernon.
- 3 1890. Death of **Oskar Kolberg** (b. 1814), ethnographer who specialized in Polish folklore.
- 4 1989. First free elections in Poland since World War II.
- 5 1674. **Jan III Sobieski** elected King of Poland.
- 6 1818. Death of **Jan Henryk Dabrowski** (b. 1755), Polish general and military hero who organized the Polish Legion in Italy in 1797.
- 8 **SAINT JADWIGA D'ANJOU**
Queen Jadwiga (Hedwig) 1373-1399, canonized by St. John Paul II in Krakow in 1997.
- 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.)**
1651. **Kostka-Napierski Uprising** begins.
- 15 1940. Nazi Germany establishes the **Auschwitz** death camp at Oswiecim, Poland.
- 17 1025. Death of **Boleslaw I the Brave**
- 18 1949. Birth of **Lech Kaczynski**, former president of Poland from 2002 to 2010. Kaczynski died in a plane crash en route to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Katyn Forest Massacre in Russia, April 10, 2010.
- 19 1793. Birth of **Aleksander Fredro** (d. 1876), right, Polish dramatist noted for his comedies.
- 19 **FATHER'S DAY (U.S.)**
 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.
- 24 1886. Birth of **Fr. Justin Figas, OFM** (right), founder of the *Fr. Justin Rosary Hour*.
- 25 1807. **Napoleon** sets up Polish "state" of the Duchy of Warsaw.
- 27 1959. Birth of cinematographer **Janusz Kaminiski**.
- 28 1919. **Treaty of Versailles**, making Poland a free nation, signed by I.J. Paderewski today.
- 30 1911. Birth of **Czeslaw Milosz**, Polish poet who received the 1980 Nobel Prize in Literature.

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Auschwitz Must Not Be a Term for the Holocaust

BERLIN — Nikolaus Wachsmann, the author of the first complete history of German concentration camps, thinks that Auschwitz should not be associated solely with the Jewish Holocaust, since its primary purpose was to exterminate the Polish underground resistance movement, and then Soviet prisoners of war.

"Auschwitz has become a synonym for the Holocaust," remarked the German historian while promoting his book, *KL. The History of Sionationalist Concentration Camps*, at the Topography of Terror Museum in Berlin.

The 863-page book was published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux last year.

Wachsmann, a professor of mod-

ern European history in the Department of History, Classics and Archaeology at Birkbeck College, University of London, stated that Auschwitz must not be a substitute term for the Jewish Holocaust, as most Jews were killed away from concentration camps.

"They were killed in trenches and woods, in ghettos on occupied territories of Eastern Europe, and death camps such as Treblinka — which had a single purpose — to kill as many Jews as possible. Auschwitz was more than the Holocaust. It was



WACHSMANN. Author says Auschwitz was built to destroy Polish Underground and Soviet prisoners.

Wachsmann's history of the Nazi concentration camps won this year's *Jewish Quarterly* Wingate literary prize. Established

in 1940 in order to exterminate the Polish underground resistance movement, rather than European Jews."

From 1941, "Auschwitz was used to exploit and murder Soviet prisoners of war, and it was for that purpose, that the camp was expanded to Birkenau. Only later gas chambers were built there to kill Jews," said Wachsmann.

Wachsmann's history of the Nazi concentration camps won this year's *Jewish Quarterly* Wingate literary prize. Established

in 1977, the annual JQ Wingate prize is worth about \$5,700 USD, and is awarded to the best book — fiction or non-fiction — of Jewish interest for the general reader. It is the only UK literary prize of its kind and attracts nominations from all over the globe.

The book also won the Mark Lynton History Prize, given to a book "of history, on any subject, that best combines intellectual or scholarly distinction with felicity of expression"

The \$10,000 prize is one of three awards given as part of the J. Anthony Lukas Book Prize administered by the Nieman Foundation for Journalism and by the Columbia University School of Journalism.

— compiled from news sources

DEFAMATION WATCH

Another Cheap Shot at Poles and Polish Americans

On April 22, 2016, the "Food and Drink" page of MSN's website featured an article by Christian Kogler, titled "The Cheapest Ways to Feed Your Family Healthy Food Seven Nights a Week."

Page 12 of this otherwise informative article was about "Thighs and Other Cheap Cuts of Meat." It opened with this sentence:

"If the prospect of eating less meat fills you with more dread than watching people dance to Polish music on public access TV, then you should consider eating less expensive cuts of meat."

First, I think Kogler, the Healthy Eating Editor at *The Daily Meal*, confused "Polish music" with "polka music." I don't know of very many public access television shows today with people dancing to Polish music.

His comment is an insult to all Poles and Polish Americans who perform folk, ballet, tango, swing, and countless other dances. He also affronted Polish musicians.

Second, if he did mean polka music, he just offended an entire genre of dancers over a few people who are a lot braver than most of us.

If Kogler would have said "Asian," "Jewish" or "the music of People of Color," this insult would have made the nightly news.

And herein lies the problem: why is acceptable to take cheap shots at Poles and Polish Americans, but not other groups? To quote Shakespeare: "If you prick us, do we not bleed?"

Some may say comment from a food blog is nothing to get upset over, but in the case of Poles and

Polish Americans, it most certainly is. Poles have been the target of cheap jokes and easy laughs since World War II. Perpetuating this negative stereotype is — by lineage — the dissemination of Nazi propaganda.

Intentional or not, little comments go a long way in reaffirming the negative images Poles have had to endure.

If you think we are reaching too far, you are wrong. We all know too many people who have abandoned their Polish heritage for fear of being considered "dumb" or "stupid." We all cried when Bart Palosz, the

15-year-old Connecticut boy committed suicide after years of bullying for being heavier, having acne, a Polish accent, and being from Poland. We cringed when we caught our children laughing at the Polish jokes on television, at the movies, and on the internet. Is this what we want them to think being Polish is?

Kogler has no right to insult Poles or any other group. Intentional or not, little comments go a long way in reaffirming the negative images Poles have had to endure.

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ergroup.com); or Editorial Director Colman Andrews (candrews@thedailymeal.com).

POLISH STEAK? Subscriber Tony Hilinski told us about the Sugar Hill Sub Shop on Mays Landing-Somer Point Road in Mays Landing, N.J. On its menu? A bologna sub. In parenthesis after the title are the words "Polish steak." No other item descriptions refer to nationalities in a demeaning manner.

I would bet most people can tell the difference between steak and bologna — Polish or not.

If you come across something you consider insulting to Poles, please send an email to the PAJ at info@polamjournal.com.

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Clinton Insults Poland

continued from cover
Middle East.

His remarks brought sharp reaction from Jarosław Kaczyński, leader of ruling Law and Justice party and Poland's most powerful politician, who told reporters: "If someone feels that there is no democracy in Poland, they should be medically examined."



BILL CLINTON. Former U.S. president claims Poland's rejection of mass Muslim migration means it and Hungary reject democracy and want "Putin-like dictatorships."

Although Hungary has become used to criticism from the United States, thanks to the often controversial policies of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, this is a new situation for Poland, which is considered an example of a successful economic and political transformation.

Under the socially right-wing Law and Justice party government, in power for six months, Poland faces a constitutional crisis, poor relations with neighbors such as Germany, criticism from the EU, tighter government control of radio and television, and large anti-government street protests.

DEMOCRACY STILL RULE OF LAW. "Democracies periodically confront challenges from the 'tyranny of the majority'," said Janusz Bugajski in a policy analyst in Washington, who has published 20 books on Europe, Russia, and trans-Atlanticism.

"Poland under the Law and Justice (PiS) government is testing Polish democracy along these lines," he said. "The core danger is that PiS leaders believe they

have a mandate to create a 'new Poland' by imposing a conservative social agenda and a protectionist economic program."

Bugajski said PiS is not strong enough to end Polish democracy.

"In democracies, majority parties can rapidly become minority ones as voters switch allegiances. As this process unfolds in Poland, moves to make PiS policies permanent will increasingly be challenged by a more coherent opposition and a vibrant civil society that has already staged mass protests against the government."

BACKLASH. Prime Minister Beata Szydło called Clinton's words "unjustified and simply unfair."

"With all due respect, and without using coarse words (Clinton) exaggerated and should apologize to us," she told Polish state radio.

"The opinion of President Bill Clinton is unfair," said Rafał Sobczak, head of the Poland Foreign Ministry spokesman's office. "We understand, however, that it was voiced in the context of the internal electoral campaign in the U.S."

"We would like to stress, however, that this is not the official position of the American administration," Sobczak said in an email to The Associated Press.

In Washington, the Polish American Congress issued a statement about Clinton's remarks.

"His words about Poland rejecting democracy and favoring dictatorship are patently ludicrous and insulting to freedom-loving Poles. For centuries the Polish people have been proponents of principles of freedom and democracy," said the organization. "The comments made by President Clinton are grossly inappropriate as well as insulting not only to Poland but also to people of Polish heritage across the globe."

PAC President Frank Spula called the former president's statements "nonsense," and said he may urge Polish Americans not to support Hillary Clinton's campaign.

NATO: Summit in Warsaw Will be Turning Point

continued from cover

reports which said that with building such bases, Poland and Romania would become Russian targets.

"We've discussed this site and the site in Deveselu [in southern Romania] and the entire missile defense complex with the Russians for many years. We've discussed that it's a defensive site against missiles from the Middle East.

"I can only explain Russia's comments in terms of disinformation, [and] propaganda, because they know very clearly what the site is capable of, and what it's designed to do. But we certainly are fully prepared for all contingencies regarding these sites," Ambassador Jones, who took on the role in September 2015, said.

"I think Russia's goal is to divide the NATO alliance, and the Transatlantic community and introduce uncertainty into the relations among countries, and I don't think it's succeeding. Well, I think you're going to see that at the NATO summit in Warsaw, a very strong statement and actions that demonstrate NATO unity.

SUCCESS FOR POLAND? The NATO summit in Warsaw which will be held in July will be attended by U.S. President Barack Obama.

"We are completely confident that [the Summit] is going to be a very important success. These summits happen every two years, and are a real turning point for



PAUL W. JONES, U.S. Ambassador to Poland. Russia knows "very clearly what the site is capable of, and what it's designed to do."

NATO.

"NATO is the strongest alliance in history, and Europe and the Transatlantic community are confronting a wider range of more intense threats now than any time in a long time, so it's important that this summit is a success," the US Ambassador said.

Under a deal signed in 2010, the United States will station SM-3 ballistic missile interceptors in the village of Redzikowo, northern Poland, with the aim of

protecting NATO countries from the potential threat of ballistic missiles launched from "rogue states," namely Iran.

The SM-3 missile plan replaced a Bush administration proposal to develop a fully land-based missile defense system in Poland and the Czech Republic, which was cancelled by President Obama in September 2009.

Martyrs of Katyn

continued from cover

enlightened view as we go forward into the future ... The National Katyn Memorial is triumph over tragedy." He referenced the catastrophic 2010 Smolensk/Katyn air plane crash that deprived Poland of so many of its national leaders. Lastly, Sarbanes thanked the Polish community for having such an "intense success of identity," and for their contributions to our city, region and country.

Governor Larry Hogan was represented by Commissioner Joseph Zarachowicz, Sr. of the Maryland Department of Veteran's Affairs, who delivered and read a proclamation from the governor. It spoke of "Poland's abject suffering and losses during World War II," and the successful mission of the National Katyn Memorial to remember all victimized prisoners of war to which the proclamation is also dedicated.

Lieutenant Colonel Michal Sprengel, military attaché, Embassy of Poland, underscored the need to remember Katyn, saying: "Much has been said and written about what happened at Katyn, but there is never enough ... The Polish nation will never forget about the horrors and sacrifices of our countrymen who were martyred by the Soviets 76 years ago. Our remembrance is the basis of the Polish armed forces and Polish nation ... Never again will an invader set foot on Polish soil."

In his remarks, Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf illustrated the failure of the Soviets' goal at Katyn, saying: "The purpose of Katyn was to deprive Poland of its cul-

tural memory. Paradoxically, it was a strong factor in building a collective Polish identity in post-World War II Poland ... Those guilty of this crime have never been judged; no one has ever been held responsible or punished. The communists finally admitted their guilt upon the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989 ... Today we bow our heads before the victims of the Katyn crime, their graves in the East remind us of the price we paid for Poland's freedom."

Concluding his remarks, Schnepf said that "The National Katyn Memorial Foundation is one of the most important centers of preserving the Katyn Memory in the U.S. and keeping it alive," thanking Chairman Richard Poremski and its directors for their efforts.

Earlier in the day, a dedicated mass was celebrated at Holy Rosary Church. At the afternoon reception in the Great Hall of the PNA the victims of Katyn and the 2010 air crash tragedy at Smolensk were honored in a special candle lighting ceremony.

Groups participating in the ceremonies included: The Polish Legion of American Veterans, Maryland Department; Polish Army Veterans of America, accompanied by its Women's Auxiliary, hailing from New Jersey and Philadelphia; and Baltimore's costumed folk dance groups Krakowiaki (youth) and Ojczyzna (adult). Also present were representatives and members of many local and regional Polonia organizations.

Please help us help our own community. Join the ...

PAJF Polish American Journal Foundation

The PAJF is a non-profit 501c3 organization established to promote Polish and Polish American culture and traditions among members of the public and other Polish and Polish American groups. It does this by organizing and supporting special events, networking, and providing consultation to individuals and groups, which seek to learn more about the Polish community in the United States.

As a national newspaper serving Polish immigrants and their descendents since 1911, 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.



Your tax-deductible donation to the Polish American Journal Foundation supports our efforts to keep the Polish American community strong for generations to come.

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Since 1911, the Polish American Journal has been an advocate for Poles and their descendents in the United States. Help us utilize over 100 years of the Polish American experience to support those who share our core values of strong family, faith, and community.

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QUOTES / compiled from news sources

Poland, EU Battle Heats Up

“We don’t agree to that, we have to oppose that, because we are and we will be in charge in our own country. Such a decision would abolish the sovereignty of EU member states — of course, the weaker ones.”

— *Chairman of Poland’s ruling Law and Justice Party, Jarosław Kaczyński, on the recent European Commission proposal that could see EU member states face huge fines if they refuse to accept their share of asylum-seekers. Kaczyński said Poland will not accept refugees, as they are threat to national security.*

“It is hard to expect a breakthrough. To execute this plan, we need more time.”

— *Konrad Szymanski, Poland’s European affairs minister, calling for more time after the European Commission gave Poland five days to demonstrate “significant progress” in addressing Brussels’ concerns over controversial changes to the country’s constitutional court and its state media. If Warsaw fails to comply, the commission can issue a “Rule of Law Opinion,” which paves the way for more serious*

sanctions, such as stripping Poland of its right to vote on EU laws.

“All events marking the 71st Victory Day will take place in Poland.”

— *Poland’s Defense Minister Antoni Macierewicz, who did not send a Polish delegation to take part in Victory Day celebrations in Moscow. Poland’s Gazeta Polska Codziennie reported that the governments of the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Lithuania followed suit. Victory Day commemorates the defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945 through a series of parades that occur simultaneously in over 20 major Russian cities.*

“In reality, millions of German women and men should have been put on trial.”

— *Israeli Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked during an international symposium in Kraków, marking the 80th anniversary of the Nazi anti-Jewish Nuremberg Laws and the 70th anniversary of the Nuremberg Trials.*

“I want to challenge the widespread rhetoric ... that Polish and

other Eastern European communities come to the UK simply to take advantage of the country’s generous benefits system.”

— *London-born self-styled Polish prince Jan Żyliński, who ran as an independent candidate in London’s mayoral election. He received a small percentage of votes. Labor Party candidate Sadiq Khan won the election. London’s Polish community swelled to about 185,000 following Poland’s accession to the EU in 2004.*

“There’s an expectation even among women that other women are not donors. We’re still that much of an anomaly.”

— *Theresa Kostrzewa, a lobbyist in North Carolina, who has donated close to \$300,000 for Republicans in recent years, describing her arrival at a 2012 fundraiser for Mitt Romney. The woman who escorted her to her room asked her what she did on Romney’s staff. Forty-three percent of all reported contributions to federal candidate for this election have come from women.*

Radzilowski Named “Outstanding Pole”

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. — The Piast Institute together with Teraz Polska (Polish Promotional Emblem Foundation), and the Pangaea Foundation announced Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski was named “Outstanding Pole in America” on May 6, 2016 at the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago in the category of Scholarship (“Nauka”).

Radzilowski received his award from Norbert Barszczewski of Pangaea and Dr. Krzysztof Przybyl of the Polish Promotional Emblem Foundation, in conjunction with the Consul General of Poland in Chicago, Robert Rusiecki.

Radzilowski, the Midwestern winner of the award, shares the honor with two other scholars chosen to represent Polonia on the east and west coasts. Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf, in announcing the award, added his personal commendations for Radzilowski’s work in support of the Embassy’s efforts to promote a positive image of Poland in the United States.

Radzilowski was awarded for



Rusiecki, Skrzyniarz, and Radzilowski.

his lifelong scholarly work in telling the Polish story in America, and in promoting the study of Polish language and culture. He was also cited for co-founding (with Virginia Skrzyniarz) the Piast Institute in 2003, which is devoted to the study of Poland and Polonia.

The competition “Outstanding Pole” is an initiative of the Polish Promotional Emblem Foundation, whose main objective is to create a positive image of Poles by showing their achievements and distinctions, and to the promotion of people of Polish ancestry who are eminently successful in a variety of fields and endeavors beyond the borders of Poland.

Poland a Safe Haven for Today’s Jews

WARSAW — Poland is the safest place in Europe for Jews today, said Holocaust survivor and business leader Severyn Ashkenazy.

In an article in the *Jewish Journal*, Ashkenazy said Europe’s Jews have come under increasing attacks, most notably the recent one in Paris.

“If Western Europe’s Jews need to leave again, *en masse*, in what direction should they go?” he asked.

Although America has been a safe haven for Jewish immigrants, that may change as the Muslim population of America increases. “Jewish-Muslim conflict continues at a high level in the Mideast; if the American Muslim population increases over the course of time from 2-3 percent to 8-10 percent, on the order of France now; and if New York and Washington politically take on the coloration of Paris, will the favorable window to a new Jewish influx persist — or will that window close to a mass influx of Jewish refugees?” asked Ashkenazy.

“Poland, once again, could become a beacon for West European Jews wanting to start over in a safe family environment but not to abandon Europe,” he said. “Poland could even serve as a haven and headquarters country for European Jewish business elites whose interests are global. Some reasons are the hospitality of the Polish people, despite residual prejudices kept alive by a slow-to-reform Catholic Church; the openness of the Polish economy to Jewish entrepreneurship; and Poland’s receptivity to Jewish culture, as reflected in the concept enunciated by Polish intellectuals and journalists of the phantom limb.”

Ashkenazy also said Poland’s proximity to Germany is favorable to European Jews. “For generations now, Germany has taken upon itself the task to oppose anti-Semitism in Germany and beyond and has staunchly supported Israel and its right to exist. Germany has been a refuge for hundreds of thousands of Eastern European Jews, has encouraged further growth of its Jewish population and would have great allure were it not for its large and growing Muslim population that is not immune to radicalization.”

THE PONDERING POLE / Ed Poniewaz

The Chico Marx Effect and Popeye’s Polish Roots

It is estimated that only 10% of the evidence of the Mayan civilization has been uncovered on the Yucatan peninsula. In a similar study, only 20% of the most famous and important people in the world that are Polish have been identified.

Okay, that last one I made up.

I was given a special assignment to research how Italians felt about the character “Chico” (played by Leonard Marx) of the Marx Brothers comedy troupe, most popular in the 1930s in comedies like *Duck Soup*, *Animal Crackers*, and *A Night at the Opera*. While all of the brothers were wacky and clownish, their *shtick* was that they were a bunch of smarty-pants using funny digs and wise cracks to put down or show up or discombobulate the people and circumstances around them. They most-often played the same roles on film: Groucho was usually an authority figure with no respect for authority; Harpo was hyperactive child only tamed by music; and Chico was the “dumb like a fox” womanizing Italian immigrant.

Most of the internet searches I conducted did not turn up much. There is an interesting 2009 blog called *Toonzone* in which the author, Ed Liu, an Asian American, talks about the “The Chico Marx Effect.” Here is Ed’s definition of what it is:

“I love Chico Marx, despite the fact that fundamentally, he’s a not-Italian guy affecting an accent to depict ethnic people for the entertainment of other white people.

“I call this ‘The Chico Marx Effect,’ and it’s something that drives me nuts: I want to find an intellectually honest explanation that lets me continue to hate Charlie Chan and love Chico Marx, even though they’re both doing the exact same thing... Why is Chico Marx funny, but Rob Schneider faking a thick Asian accent for that Chuck and Larry movie isn’t?”

Ed Liu is saying depicting ethnic people in stereotypical, silly, or even demeaning ways is okay as long it is not your ethnic group.



Leonard Marx as “Chico.”

who “hates” *The Godfather* and another who told me he was embarrassed seeing *Saturday Night Fever*. At this point, it is easy to extrapolate from the anecdotal data that Italians are finished with the Chicos, the Chinese are finished with Charlie Chan, and the Polish are finished with Sophie Kuchinsky of *Two Broke Girls*. Let me take this a couple steps farther and expand on the Chico Effect.

The other side of the coin is the “there is always someone worse off than you” syndrome. They might be picking on us, but there were groups before us that got picked on, some much worse.

Finally, there is the “Do we always have to be politically correct?” What’s the matter with Jennifer Coolidge playing Sophie Kuchinsky? [She sounds more Russian than Polish. — editor]. All three of these are standard human reactions, we’ve all been there, and the truth is they are based on a need to divert attention from personal inadequacies or disadvantages and to feel good or feel part of the larger community.

SO HOW DO WE DEAL with The Chico Marx Effect now?

If the ethnic character that is not Polish is shown in a poor light and if you feel any sense of respect for your own ethnicity, it can’t be funny. Resist piling on.

Just because someone or somebody is suffering or has suffered does not mean you should endure insults and derision. There are no “even-stevens” in abuse. Don’t tell

me how the Irish were made fun of in 1830 and now it’s *our* turn. We want to celebrate the best in everyone.

When you hear someone say, “I guess I have to be politically correct,” the right response is, “no, you just have to be *correct*.” 99% of the time what a person does or says to reluctantly be politically correct simply means they need to be correct. Saying “Redskins” or “colored” or “Oriental” are not racist terms, however, they are not preferred and they certainly are not respectful or nice. Correct is the new nice.

POLISH POPEYE OR NOT? In the book, *Popeye, An Illustrated History of E.C. Segar’s Character in Print, Radio, Television and Film Appearances, 1929-1993*, by Fred Grandinetti (McFarland & Company, Inc., 1994), there is the history of what is believed to be the basis for the character we know as Popeye. That inspiration was a Polish man from Segar’s hometown of Chester, Illinois named **Frank “Rocky” Fiegel**.

The first appearance of Popeye as we know him, the “odd-looking, fat-forearmed, pipe-smoking sailor” began in 1929 but his development was born January 27, 1868. Frank Fiegel lived, worked, and fought his tormentors in Chester, Ill.. As Grandinetti tells it:

“The lore of Chester, Illinois, holds that the character of Popeye was inspired by town resident Frank ‘Rocky’ Fiegel. Lee Huffstutler, herself a Chester local, makes and well supports this argument. According to Huffstutler, Rocky Fiegel was of Polish descent and lived with his mother in a house near the Evergreen Cemetery. Huffstutler describes him as ‘tall, strong, always ready for a fight and always a winner.’”

The web site findagrave.com, shows his parents as being born in Poland. The story about this man and his life actually is a little sad. I am wondering if the mumbling that Popeye is noted for is actually

a mumbling that Fiegel did because he was an English-as-a-second-language person. I will confess and ask forgiveness, that as a kid, I was part of a cabal that made fun of a man that mumbled as part of his conversation. When my mom heard the mumbler, also a Polish man, did not speak English until he was eight years old. That hit a nerve at the time and still does. Forgive me Dear Lord.

POLISH OR NOT? I can’t remember how I found **Luisa Omielan**, a British comedian “born in Birmingham to parents of Polish descent.” Luisa is famous now for her “thigh gap” routine that went viral and amassed over 30 million views on Facebook. Her stuff is adult in nature so be forewarned but she presents well. You can judge the comedy level.

“Working for the Weekend” is the hit we hear on the radio often and it was the work of ‘80s rock band *Loverboy*. Mike Reno and Paul Dean are the leaders (the band is still doing gigs and Mike is still sporting the headband). Mike was born **Joseph Michael Rynoski**. *Ethniccelebs* shows his father as Polish. Chalk up another Polish rocker.

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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

St. John Paul II National Shrine: A Rich Experience

Two chapels at Washington D.C.'s St. John Paul II National Shrine are decorated with mosaics created by Slovak Jesuit artist Fr. Marko Rupnik. One chapel focuses on the Luminous Mysteries, the fourth set of mysteries that **St. John Paul II** added to the recitation of the rosary. Each of the mysteries is depicted along with a parallel biblical scene that gives depth to the meditation on the mysteries. The Redemptor Hominis Church, the main worship space, depicts the spiritual history of humanity from Adam and Eve to the birth of Jesus. In addition to the relic of the blood of St. John Paul II the Shrine also contained relics of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. John Nepomucene Neumann, St. Jose Maria Robles Hurtado, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, St. Francis de Laval, St. Junipero Sierra, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. (Bro.) albert Chmielowski, St. Faustina Kowalksa, and St. Gianna Beretta Molla. These saints are connected with the U.S. as U.S. saints, with indigenous peoples, with service to the poor, with the protection of life, and with Divine Mercy – all ministries to which St. John Paul II was particularly devoted.

NEW POLISH VENERABLE. Servant of God **Venantius Katarzyniec, OFM Conv.**, was a companion of **St. Maximilian Kolbe** and shared his love for Mary Immaculate. He died in 1921, after serving as novice master at the Polish Shrine Kalwaria Paclawska in Southeast Poland. His heroic virtues have just been approved moving his cause for canonization forward.

BISHOP ZUBIK CONSIDERS SUPREME COURT PROPOSAL. While the case *Zubik v. Burwell* goes forward with the Pittsburgh RC Diocese **Bishop David Zubik** and others argue that Obamacare imposes a burden on them to support contraception and abortifacient drugs in their health plans, he expressed willingness to join the Little Sisters of the Poor. The Sisters have been asked by the Supreme Court to offer an alternative to Obamacare which would preserve their religious freedom while offering employees who want these drugs a way to get them without the participation of Catholic employers.

STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ARGUED FOR ABUSE CASES, While the St. Paul-Minneapolis Archdiocese has filed for bankruptcy as its resources are depleted by sex-abuse victims, supporters of victims argue that the statute of limitations would be extended for claimants to come forward. In the meantime **Archbishop Bernard Hebda** declared

that the archdiocese is working with victim assistance and law enforcement professionals to ensure that the archdiocese is doing "all that is reasonably possible to prevent sexual abuse of minors." The effort to expand the statute of limitations in states across the country is being argued by organizations of sex abuse victims and legal experts. These claim that the church opposes the extension of the statutes of limitations for reasons of selfish greed and self-interest. Church opponents don't make clear, however, that in many cases these efforts to expand the statutes of limitations would apply only to the Catholic Church, exempting public schools, government supported organizations and other private entities.

BISHOP STIKA V. PLANNED PARENTHOOD. **Bishop Richard Stika** of Knoxville, Tenn., said "Evil without its makeup—that is the reality exposed in the unfolding series of videos revealing how the unborn life of a baby, deemed worthless by Planned Parenthood while in the womb, has blurs only in the sale of its dissected human parts." Calling the attitude of Planned Parenthood part of today's "throwaway mentality," he noted that the investigation by California-based Center for Medical Progress "shined alight into the areas of darkness" and exposed a "troubling indifference" and the "suppression of truth" about the most vulnerable. He advocated the redirection of the \$500 million tax-payer dollars from Planned Parenthood to pregnancy centers that offer "loving and compassionate options" and that affirm "the sanctity and the dignity of both mother and child." He also encouraged anyone involved in a past abortion to contact Project Rachel, and anyone who needs help with pregnancy to contact the local Catholic Charities.

At the same time, Planned Parenthood is suing the director of the Center for Medical Progress while at the same time enjoying uncritical support from highly placed politicians and office-holders.

STO LAT TO... Deacon Michael Brown, on his ordination to the RC priesthood in the Diocese of Buffalo. With his mother's Polish heritage, he worshipped at St. Stanislaus Church, mother church of Buffalo's Polonia, and attended school at Precious Blood Church, now closed. He joined the conventual Franciscans but left and married. When his wife died, the call to priesthood reasserted itself and he entered the seminary of the Buffalo diocese. While his marriage and having children will contribute to his ministry, he will "try not to preach about my

family and try to focus my preaching on the Scriptures." Reflecting on the course of his life he found that "God gave me enough rope to go out and do what I wanted to do, but He kept tugging at the rope and pulling me back."



PHOTO: ANN SCAMERHORN / PSCSNW

ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA CATHOLIC CHURCH in Michigan City, Ind., recently celebrated its 125th anniversary as a parish with a Mass and banquet, Sat., April 23.

The Ampol-Aires polka band was the featured entertainment at the banquet, which was held at the Blue Chip Casino in Michigan City. Band member **Eddie Sienkowski** is pictured playing a concertina once owned by the late Dick Kamont, who hosted his "Sunday Polka Party" program on local radio for over 40 years until his passing in June 2015. (Note Kamont's initials on the concertina.)

Kamont was a longtime, dedicated parishioner at St. Stan's, so it was special that he was attending the celebration in spirit through the music coming from his concertina.

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.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT. Father, as a Church Family, we are grateful to You for sealing us with the promise of Your Holy Spirit. We are thankful that the same power (Holy Spirit) that raised Jesus Christ from the dead is now working in us to do Your good will and pleasure. Holy Spirit, we thank You for being our Helper and living in us forever. We thank You for teaching us all things and bringing to our remembrance all things God, our Father, has said. Thank You, for leading us and guiding us into all truth. Thank You for freeing us from the bondages of our fleshly desires; for to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Holy Spirit, thank You, for producing in us the fruit of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control as we walk in You. Holy Spirit, because of You, we have the power to love unconditionally; power to perform miracles and healing; and the power to cast out demons. We can do all things through Jesus Christ because of You. J.K.

Embassy Commemorates 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The paralyzing blizzard of January 22-23 delayed, but could not stop the commemoration of the 73rd anniversary of the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. So on April 19, 2016, the program was presented at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland under the auspices of Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf and Maestro Jerome Barry – director of The Embassy Series, which has as its mission statement "Uniting People through Musical Diplomacy."

Upon entering the Embassy's foyer, each guest was presented with a paper yellow daffodil to wear – now a recognized symbol of the Ghetto Uprising. In attendance were many prominent guests, especially from the Jewish diaspora, and Deputy Foreign Minister Marek Ziolkowski.

In his welcoming address, Ambassador Schnepf stressed that "the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising is not an anniversary of death, but a celebration of life." He invoked the memory Marek Edelman, a true Polish patriot and national hero of the Uprising. He survived and defiantly elected to remain in Poland after World War II, in service to others as a doctor of cardiology. Edelman died in his beloved Poland on October 2, 2009. Schnepf recalled the extensive humanitarian and philosophical guidelines by which Edelman governed himself, "thereby leaving a valuable legacy for future generations."

With piety, the lighting of the seven menorah candles by the special guests followed. The *Kaddish* (Jewish prayer for the dead) was recited by Jerome Barry.

Cellist Dariusz Skoraczewski



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS IN ATTENDANCE. Zosia and Bolek Brodecki, ages 88 and 94 respectively, proudly sporting yellow daffodils on their lapels, were honored guests during the program to honor the Jewish victims of the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising at the hands of the occupying Nazi Germans. Not pictured is fellow Holocaust survivor Dr. Steven Kent, who was also in attendance.

and pianist Michael Sheppard presented an appropriate program consisting of: "From Jewish Life, No. 1," "Kol Nidrei," and Chopin's "Sonata for Cello and Piano." The "Jewish Prayer" encore evoked visible emotion among the audience. Both musicians deserved the standing ovation and floral tributes given them at the concert's end.

Witold Beres and Krzysztof Burnetko, are co-authors of the newly published book "Marek Edelman: Being on the Right Side." They introduced their book by alternately reading several interesting and poignant excerpts from the biography. They reflected Edelman's philosophical and humanitarian guide to life as mentioned earlier by Ambassador Schnepf. The authors excelled in their delivery of the excerpts, often playing off of each other's words.

And about those daffodils? They came from the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, in Warsaw. The museum distributes the daffodils on the streets of Warsaw each April 19 to mark the beginning of the Ghetto Uprising as an integral part of its "Memory Unites Us" campaign.

The daffodils united those in attendance as well.

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BOOKS IN BRIEF/ Mary Lanham

NEW BOOKS

A Family's Mind-bending Odyssey

GRACE REVEALED: A MEMOIR

By Greg Archer
NorLights Press, 2015, 257 pps.
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NorlightsPress.com



the forest for measly pieces of bread and watered down porridge.

"Few workers dared to step out of place or utter a word of defiance lest they be kicked or beaten. Or worse, locked up for days and left to starve, only to be tossed right back into the assembly line of the working dead."

Archer balances the darkness of the past with lightness of the present, often poking fun at himself. On his travels to Poland to visit his family's old home, his poor command of the Polish language makes for humorous misunderstandings.

Grace Revealed: A memoir by Greg Archer is available from Amazon.com.

About the author: Greg Archer has written for *The Huffington Post*, *Oprah Magazine*, *VIA Magazine*, *The Advocate*, *The San Francisco Examiner*, and other publications covering topics including, entertainment, history, travel, as well as under-reported issues in society. He also produces television shows as well as video segments on agents of change, arts, and culture. Archer holds a B.A. in Journalism from Arizona State University. He has won the Best Writer Award four times in a San Francisco Bay Area Readers' Poll, two feature writing awards from the California Newspaper Publishers Association, among others. He currently lives in both Palm Springs and Chicago.

vacuum, a completely homegrown organization sprung to life, the Polathec Club.

The Polathec Club's birth was spontaneous, due to the victory in a baseball game in the summer of 1921. In the jubilation of winning, the team of Polish Americans decided then and there that they should form a club so that they could further pursue athletic endeavors. To house the organization, a deal was struck to use the facilities at St. Casimir's church. This arrangement worked until 1928 when the Club decided to build their own home.

Completed at the end of January 1929, the clubhouse included a large room for dances and meetings on the first floor with a billiard room, radio room, and parlors on the second floor while the basement was set up for boxing matches. The club had borrowed a good sum of money when it built their home, but the '20s were roaring and the '30s promised to be even better. Unfortunately it wasn't. By October 1935, the Polathecs were in danger of

The Polish Musician in Philadelphia

FROM PADEREWSKI TO PENDERECKI

The Polish Musician in Philadelphia

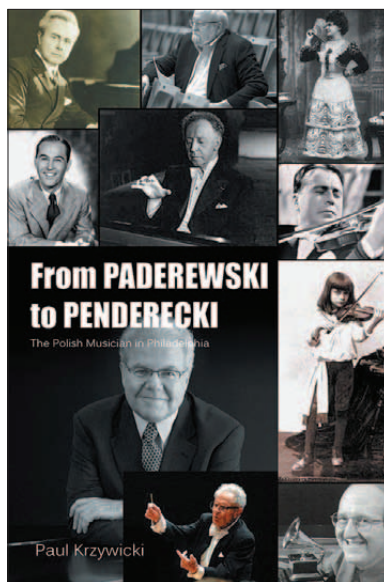
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In the 1870s, when Europe's most acclaimed Polish musicians began arriving in America to perform, no one could have predicted their historic impact on America as performers, teachers, and directors. Nowhere was the importance of the Polish artist more significant than in Philadelphia, where the foundation of two of the world's leading musical and educational institutions — the Curtis Institute of Music and the Philadelphia Orchestra — would be unthinkable without their inspiration.

Józef Hofmann ("arguably the greatest pianist of the twentieth century"), Marcella Sembrich Kochańska ("the best loved singer known to New York"), and Leopold Stokowski (who created "the finest orchestra the world has ever heard"), drew the world's attention to America, and put Philadelphia on the map. Soon Landowska, Rodzinski, Lambert, Rosenthal, and Mlynarski arrived. Artists and students now had Philadelphia as a destination.

Their friend, pianist Ignacy Jan Paderewski, became "the greatest drawing card in American musical history," and his relationship with America's twenty-eighth president, Woodrow Wilson, changed the map of Europe.



Audiences throughout this country clamored to hear these exotic musicians. They became America's favorites, and they performed for no less than nine U.S. presidents. Many made this new country their home. Some stayed in Philadelphia; many escaped the foreign occupation of their country; others endured and — sadly — others perished in the two

great World Wars and the horrors of the Holocaust.

Their influence stands today as a testament to their talent. Jean de Reszke (who appeared frequently in Philadelphia with his brother, the great basso Édouard) was called "the greatest operatic tenor of the last century." *The Opera News* declared a new "Golden Age of Polish Singing" with the worldwide emergence of Kwiecień, Szot, Beczała, Dobber, Kulczak, Pieczonka, Kurzak, and Majeski, all regulars in America. Two of the last four Gilmore Artist Awards, worth \$300,000 each, were given to pianists Piotr Anderszewski and Rafał Blechacz, and no pianist has had more appearances in Philadelphia than Emanuel Ax.

About the author: Paul Krzywicki was a principal player with the Philadelphia Orchestra for thirty-three years and presents one hundred and seventy biographies and photos intermingled with related historical information to fully appreciate these artists' accomplishments.

Tragedy Narrowly Averted

WARSAW, Poland — A railroad engineer in western Poland has been hailed as a hero for saving passengers from injuries as the train crashed into a truck, which was stranded on the tracks.

Footage from the railcar shows the engineer, Mateusz Szymanski, rushing through the car and warning passengers, who threw themselves on the floor, just seconds before the crash on April 19.

Another piece of footage shows

construction beams from the truck smash into emptied seats.

No one was injured. Szymanski told TVN24 he pulled the emergency brakes and rushed to warn passengers as the train travelled at a speed of 70 m.p.h. from Wagrowiec to Poznan.

"We can say he almost certainly saved passengers from injuries," said Krzysztof Ryfa, a director for the railway company.

POLONIA PLACES

GREGORY L. WITUL

White Eagle Club

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Status: Open

In the Twin Tiers of New York and Pennsylvania, where the Appalachian Mountains brush along the northern states, scores of small Polish American communities sprung up in late 19th and early 20th centuries. In New York State, the city of Elmira became an industrial focal point for Poles migrating out of the mines of Pennsylvania. There, the Poles established a church, school, library, and equally important, a social club that would in time evolve into the White Eagle Club.

Despite being a robust Polish community Elmira never had a Polish athletic organization like the Polish Falcons. Because of that



THEN AND NOW. The Polathec Club House being finished in early 1929, and the White Eagle Club today.

losing the building, but luckily for them, a society from Elmira Heights would be their saving grace.

The White Eagle Society was formed in Elmira Heights on October 20, 1907 with the main purpose of acting as a financial aid society. In 1909, it became part of the Polish National Alliance and was granted the lodge number of 1094. By the time the Polathec club was in serious trouble, the White Eagle Society was already looking at ways to consolidate many of the dysfunctional



clubs and organizations in the Polish community. With the opportunity to take over the Polathec Club and its home, the society jumped at the chance to create a Dom Polski. This merging of the two groups consolidated the nucleus of fraternal Polonia in Elmira, which still survives. Today the White Eagle Clubhouse functions as a meeting space, banquet hall, and bar and is home to

the regional Polish Sports Hall of Fame. It also hosts the last bastion of Polonia in the region, the Polish Arts Club of Elmira. Founded in January of 1973, and a member of the American Council of Polish Culture, the Polish Arts Club holds its meetings at the White Eagle. From there, its members sponsor Polish concerts and events in and around the Elmira area.

TWO TRAINS FROM POLAND

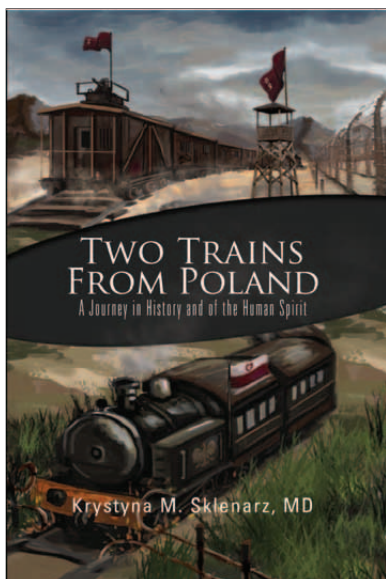
A Journey in History and of the Human Spirit

A midnight knock at her door changed everything for 6-year-old Krystyna Sklenarz. In the middle of the night, the KGB deported her family from Poland to Siberia. She experienced two years there, and faced starvation, typhus, an opium den, being torpedoed, and living through the Nazi Blitz in the London subway. Through it all, Krystyna refused to give up. This is her journey from Siberia to her entrance into medical school at only 17.

Dr. Krystyna M. Sklenarz was a psychiatrist trained at the University of Chicago, and later Director of the Lake County Mental Health Clinic, Indiana, before opening her own practice.

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The 1922 Polathec baseball team with president John Herchiskel on the far left, and Rev. Balcerak of St. Casimir's in the center.

HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Karski Documentary is Truly Heartwrenching.

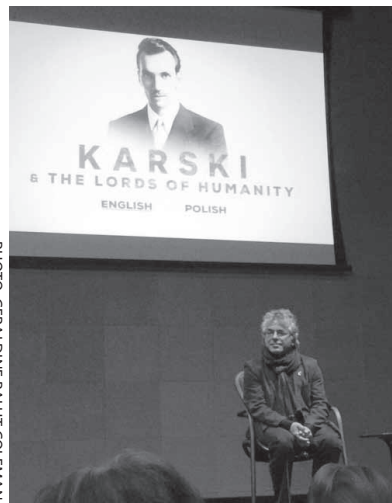


PHOTO: GERALDINE BALUT COLEMAN

Sławomir Grünberg

Karski & The Lords of Humanity is a partially animated documentary film created by filmmaker **Sławomir Grünberg** about Jan Karski, a Polish patriot, who risked his life to try to prevent the Holocaust.

Karski, serving as a Polish intelligence officer and underground courier during World War II, infiltrated the Warsaw Ghetto and carried his eyewitness report of Nazi atrocities against Jews to Great Britain and the United States. He tried to appeal to the consciences of the powerful leaders who he called the "Lords of Humanity," desperately attempting to persuade them to stop the Hitler's genocide. The film was shown at the Copernicus Center on April 8 to an audience of approximately 100. Then, on April 10, the documentary was viewed at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center (IHMEC) to a "standing-room only" crowd. The presentation at the Copernicus Center was followed by a panel discussion with Grünberg, E. Thomas Wood, author of "Jan Karski: How One Man Tried To Stop the Holocaust," Andrzej Rojek of the Jan Karski Educational Foundation, Bożena Nowicka McLees from Loyola University Chicago (LUC) Polish Studies Program, and Zbigniew Banas, film critic from LUC. After viewing the film at the IHMEC, Mr. Grünberg spent time answering questions.

Prior to viewing the documentary at the IHMEC, Polish Vice Consul Konrad Zielinski stated, "Jan Karski's story was strictly banned from official historiography in times

of communism. Now in free and democratic Poland his legacy is an integral part of the Holocaust education. And Holocaust education is an integral part of Polish history, as important as any other part of Polish history."

Using groundbreaking techniques that combined unique and, in some cases, never-before-seen archival footage and photos with animated sequences, Grünberg re-created Karski's death-defying mission. The presentation at the IHMEC was in partnership with the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago.



PHOTO: GERALDINE BALUT COLEMAN

1050 years of Poland.

CELEBRATING 225TH AND 125TH POLISH ANNIVERSARIES. On Saturday, May 7, Chicago's **125th Annual Polish Constitution Day Parade** festivities began with a pre-parade brunch hosted by the **Chicago Society PNA** at the Hotel Allegro, not too far from the parade's starting location at State and Lake Streets in Chicago's Loop. During the brunch, Robert Groszek, the Society's civic vice president announced the Chicago Society's 2016 scholarship recipients. The first place winner, **Daniela Kapusta** from Geneva, Illinois, was awarded \$3,000. Second place winner, **Jolanna Bajena** from Des Plaines, Illinois, was awarded \$2,000 and third place winner, **Jessie Jendzjec** from Smithfield, Rhode Island, received \$1,000. Following the brunch, the gathering walked over to State Street to watch the parade. This year, the parade commemorated the 225th anniversary of Poland's May 3rd Constitution, the second oldest constitution in the world – the United States Constitution being the oldest. The parade was organized by the **Alliance of Polish Clubs of America**, with the theme, "1050th Anniversary of Christianity in Poland."

White and red could be seen everywhere throughout downtown Chicago and in the neighborhoods. Among the 7,400 participants from approximately 100 organizations that marched in the parade, there were at least 37 Polish language schools, a multitude of Polish cultural clubs, numerous professional and not-for-profit organizations, along with Polish folk dance ensembles and a couple of bands. Several organizations were represented by interesting floats.

This year's Grand Marshall was **Jan F. Krawiec**, 96, member of **Armia Krajowa (AK)**, Polish resistance movement, an Auschwitz-Birkenau and Buchenwald concentration camp survivor, former editor-in-chief of Chicago's Polish Daily News, **Dziennik Zwiazkowy**, and a frequent speaker at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Educational Center. The vice-marshall was **Lucyna Migala**, co-founder, artistic director, and general man-

ager of the Lira Ensemble, artist-in-residence at Loyola University. **Ada Ezlakowska**, the 2016 Polish Constitution Day Parade Queen, was joined by **Gabriela Sokolowska** as First Lady of the Court, and **Aleksandra Kozakiewicz**, as Second Lady of the Court.

Since this is an election year, there was no shortage of politicians. Among them were U.S. Senator Mark Kirk of Illinois, Congressmen Robert "Bob" Dold (R), Mike Quigley (D), and Daniel Lipinski (D), along with many state, city, and county politicians. Poland's Ambassador to the United States, Ryszard Schnepf, and its Secretary of State Adam Kwiatkowski, spoke at the brunch and marched in the parade.



PHOTO: JIULIA SIEBEL

Voytek at PMA.

THE ART OF VOYTEK. The art exhibit, **Theater of Painting: The Art of Voytek**, an exhibit of paintings by well-known Chicago artist, **Voytek Glinkowski**, opened on April 29 at The Polish Museum of America (PMA). Approximately 200 guests were treated to a theatrical multi-media presentation and interpretation of Voytek's work. Many art enthusiasts find Voytek's paintings haunting, mysterious, and unique. The exhibit combined his finely-rendered surrealist oil and acrylic paintings with an interactive program of performance and art creation. Glinkowski gave visitors a "sneak peek" into what **Theater of Painting** is all about. But a full **Theater of Painting** program and art creation will be held at the PMA on Friday, June 17, 2016, from 6-9 p.m. PMA visitors will have the opportunity to view Voytek as he paints, and to experience his art while immersed in sound and video. At the final "Sharpen Your Eye" workshop at the PMA on Saturday, June 25, 2016, from 5-8 p.m., older children and adult participants will learn to understand art by immersing themselves in the art they've created. The exhibit closes July 7.

The PMA thanks the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union, Chicago Metal Supply, Troy Realty, and Idea Furniture for generously underwriting this event.

Voytek received a master's degree in fine arts painting from the Strzeminski Art Academy in Łódź, Poland. He has had over 30 individual and group shows in the United States and Europe. His early theater and stage production experience in set design is reflected in his work and performance.

CELEBRATING POLAND AT NAVY PIER. On April 10, Navy Pier's annual "Neighborhoods of the World" festival included "Celebrate Poland." Chicago's Navy Pier's Crystal Garden was transformed into an area filled with the beauty, rich color, and diversity of Polish culture. From music, costumes, dancing, cuisine, and handicrafts, to Polish American history, Polish culture was well represented. Organized by the Polish American



PHOTO: ARTUR PARYKA

Violinists from Paderewski Symphony Orchestra

Chamber of Commerce (PACC), a diverse audience had the opportunity to see and hear that which makes the Polish culture great.

"Celebrate Poland" had performances from several dance troupes, including Wici Song and Dance, Polonia Ensemble, Szepty, Wesoly Lud, Wyspa Dzieci, and Lajkonik. Soprano Mira Sojka-Topor and violinists and a choir from the Paderewski Academy of Music provided additional entertainment. The younger audience was treated to a short concert by the youth rock band, Caroline & The Priority.

Vendors, including Kasia's Deli, Biolo Izba, Qulinarnia, and European Beer Importers, provided food and drink tastings. Dozens of exhibitors, performers, and presenters showcased the diversity and richness of the Polish American arts and business communities. Guests also enjoyed the opportunity to mingle and take photos with the Legion of Young Polish Women debutantes of 2016, the queen of this year's Polish Constitution Day Parade, and the queen of the Highlanders Alliance. Mike Sieczkowski, visiting Chicago from Kansas, brought to life a bit of Polish history by walking through the crowd dressed as a Polish winged Hussar to honor Poland's 1,050th anniversary year.

Thanks goes out to all the PACC volunteers who made this event possible, transforming the botanical environment of the Crystal Gardens into a showcase of Polish culture. Special thanks to Yola Kaczmarek-Waltos, who helped organize and manage the participation of artists and performers; Jan Mlynarski, who worked on the decorative suggestions for the event; and Gosia Koscielak of MEK Design Studio, Inc., whose inspiration and designs created the Polish Facts series of educational banners for this event.

Overall, the event's success was made possible by the generosity of sponsors and numerous organizational partners who collaborated with PACC to make "Celebrate Poland" an outstanding "festival" of Polish pride.

SWINGING WITH CHOPIN.

Whenever music lovers have the opportunity to hear jazz vocalist **Grazyna Auguścik** perform in a setting other than Chicago's famous jazz haunts, they should take advantage of the opportunity. Wherever she entertains, Grazyna attracts serious jazz enthusiasts. In December 2016, with Chicago's Copernicus Center filled to capacity, Grazyna, along with world-renowned violin-

ist, Michał Urbaniak, performed sweet mellow tones for voice and violin. In July 2010, she performed at Chicago's Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park, paying tribute to Frederic Chopin during his bicentennial birthday anniversary. Her extraordinary voice, freely interpreting each song with refreshing clarity and creativity, delighted the enthusiastic audience of more than 8,500. The concert also featured a number of world-class Polish and Chicago-based musicians paying tribute to Chopin.

On April 10, 2016, Auguścik performed at the Logan Center for the Arts at the University of Chicago. As always, she wowed the crowd with her jazz interpretation of Chopin's short compositions. Everyone knows that Chopin stands as one of the greatest composers to have written for the piano, but Auguścik and her friends proved that Chopin's miniatures could flourish in a jazz environment.

Saturday evening, Grazyna appeared with the Contempo-Jazz Double Bill, consisting of pianist, **Jaroslav Kapuściński**, and electronicist, **Marek Choloniewski**. Polish accordionist, **Jarek Bester**, who performed with Grazyna at the Millennium Park Concert, Chicago bassist, **Matt Utery**, and the **Maniacal 4 Trombone Quartet**, completed the ensemble. The musicians created an exciting combination of sounds that surely would have pleased Chopin.

LORYS RECEIVES MOSAIC AWARD.

Congratulation to **Jan Lorys**, historian of The Polish Museum of America (PMA) and its former managing director. Mr. Lorys has partnered many PMA events with other ethnic museums and cultural centers.

On May 18, at Chicago's National Hellenic Museum, Jan, along with Dorothea Shah, founder and board member of the Indo-American Heritage Museum and Dr. Erku Yimer, retired executive director of the Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago, were recipients of the 7th Annual Mosaic Award from the Chicago Cultural Alliance, an association of ethnic museums and cultural institutions. This honor is bestowed on those who promote multiculturalism and integrate their culture with other ethnic institutions to promote cultural heritage throughout the community.

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POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Western New York's Polonia Heritage Trail

BUFFALO, N.Y. —James Lawicki, president of the WNY Division of the Polish American Congress, announced the division has been awarded a grant of \$3,000 for the WNY Polonia Heritage Trail by the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College. The funds will be utilized to expand the project to include 30 additional sites outside of Erie County.

The WNY Polonia Heritage Trail will serve as a way to highlight and disseminate information related to significant Polish American locations in WNY via the Internet. It is expected that the first phase of the project will be released to the public in June. Progress on the WNY Polonia Heritage Trail can be followed at <<http://airshipdesign.com/pht-brand>>.

POLONIA TIDBITS. **Dr. James Pula** of Purdue University is distributing a survey on behalf of the members of the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester, who are in the process of creating a Polonia archive for their community ... **Dr. Arthur Michalek**, a professor of Health Services Policy and Practice at the State University of New York at Buffalo and senior vice president emeritus of the Roswell Park Cancer Institute, was awarded a Fulbright grant to teach at the Wrocław University Medical School in order to assist Polish doctors and educators battle cancer ... The 1050th anniversary of the conversion of Poland to Christianity was marked, May 1st with a Polish Mass celebrated by **Fr. Marian Kowalski, SSPX**, at the Toronto Church of the Transfiguration; and a conference by Fr. Kowalski on "The Baptism of Poland" at the Lithuanian Anapilis Christian Centre in Mississauga ... Also, May 1st, WNY's Polish veterans marked **Polish Constitution Day** with a Mass at St. Stanislaus Church, the Mother Church of Buffalo's Polonia; and the New Direction Band performed at the "Polka Party in the Falls" at the Polish Nook Restaurant in Niagara Falls.

On May 6th, the Toronto District of the **Canadian Polish Congress** and the consulate general of the Republic of Poland in Toronto sponsored a concert featuring the Novi Singers and Maciej Jaskiewicz's Toronto Sinfonietta, entitled "Gaude Mater Polonia," marking the 1050th anniversary of Poland's conversion to Christianity at St. Paul's Basilica in Toronto ... May 7th, the **Ludowa Nuta Dancers** from Hamilton, Ontario participated in Kaszub Day in Wilno, Ontario ... May 10th, the consul general of the Republic of Poland in Toronto hosted an evening of poetry by **Teresa Maria Sorska** at the consulate. The program included performances by **Maria Nowatorska, Agata Pili-**

towska and Jerzy Boski ... Local opera impresario and performer **Valerian Ruminski** appeared as poet **Charles Bukowski** in "An Evening with Charles Bukowski: Love, Hate and Tears" at the newly renovated Varsity Theatre in Buffalo, May 13th ... The **Betty Crocowski** food truck, which provided WNY with a mobile Polish food source since 2013, has ceased operation and is for sale ... **Forgotten Buffalo** offered its "**Pride of Polonia Tour**" of Buffalo, May 14.

The **Chopin Singing Society** hosted a benefit for **St. Stanislaus Church**, featuring Toronto's White Eagle Dancers, in the Villa Maria College auditorium, May 15th ... The **Chopin Singing Society** elected Gary Bienkowski, Thomas Brucz, Adrienne Kusmierczyk, David McElroy, Thomas Pawlak, Geraldine Szemraj and Diana Kniazuk to its board at its annual meeting, May 17th at the Pvt. Leonard Post VFW in Cheektowaga ... **Barbara Strzepka** addressed the May 17 meeting of the **Niagara Polish Cultural and Historical Society** on "Painting on Porcelain" at the Niagara Arts and Cultural Center in Niagara Falls ... The **Professional and Business Women of Polonia** held its Scholarship Dinner at Kloc's Banquet Facility in West Seneca on the 19th ... **Holy Trinity Church** in Niagara Falls, founded by Poles in 1901, opened its doors as part of the Sacred Sites Open House during the May 20th weekend ... **Dr. James Pula** lectured on "Poland in World War II" as part of the Polish American Historical Association's board meeting, hosted by the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester, May 21st at St. John Fisher College's Skalny Welcome Center in Rochester ... Also on the 21st, the **Concordia Foundation** presented Peter Filim of "Tours of Buffalo" to speak on "Buffalo's East Side—A City Within a City" at Buffalo's Broadway Market; and **Kinga Mitrowska** presented Anna Wojcik, Anna Leszonska, Adriana Serra, Karolina Podolak, Adam Przyjemski, Jacob Skiba and Pawel Szczepanek in "Magical Broadway" at the Maja Prentice Theatre in Mississauga.... **SWAP Post 114** of Toronto hosted "Bitwy o Monte Cassino," May 22nd at Paderewski Park in Vaughn, Ontario.

On the 27th, **Corpus Christi Church** in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District, presented "A Slavic Soul Concert," featuring the Camerata Di Sant' Antonio, which included Henryk Gorecki's "Symphony of Sorrowful Songs (Movement 2)" ... The board of directors of the WNY Division of the **Polish American Congress** participated in a strategic planning retreat at the Scouthaven Boy Scout Camp in Freedom, May 28th ... Buffalo Bishop Richard Malone led the **Annual Corpus**

Christi procession from St. Stanislaus Church to Corpus Christi Church on Buffalo's East Side, May 29th.

UPCOMING. The literary and artistic work of State University of New York at Buffalo Theatre Professor Emeritus **Dr. Kazimierz Braun** will be the subject of a conference at the University of Rzeszow on June 1st and 2nd ... The International Joint Committee on Camp Kosciuszko, made up of representatives of the WNY Division of the Polish American Congress and the Niagara District of the Canadian Polish Congress, will host the **99th Annual Pilgrimage** honoring the North American volunteers to the Polish "Blue Army" under General Haller in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, June 12. Distinguished Polish veteran and current WNY resident Stanley Markut will serve as Grand Marshal of the Polish Veterans Pilgrimage Parade as part of the event ... **Polish Day in Mississauga** will take place at Celebration Square, June 25. Information is available at <http://mississaugapolishday.ca>.

The **Buffalo Bisons** baseball team will take on the Indianapolis Indians on "**Polish Festival Night**" at Coca-Cola Field in Downtown Buffalo on August 9th ... The Syracuse Chiefs will host the **Rochester Red Wings** at their "**Polish Night**" at NDT Bank Stadium in Syracuse on August 10th ... **Save the Date:** the WNY Division of the Polish American Congress is planning a "Polonia Picnic" for Aug. 21. Details to follow ... The **General Pulaski Association** will honor health care professionals of Polish descent at its September 11 banquet at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga. Proceeds will benefit the annual Pulaski Association Parade ... The **Jackie Schmid Memorial Scholarship Dance**, featuring a performance by PhoCus, will be held on October 1 at Potts Banquet Hall.

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

Steps in the Right Direction



PHOTO: JAMES SMOCK

MEMBERS OF THE WAWEL POLISH FOLK DANCE GROUP take audience participants on a spin around the dance floor, teaching them the basics of Polish dance at Houston's 10th Annual Polish Festival, May 6-8 on the grounds of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church.

In addition to Wawel, artists performing at this year's event included: concert pianist Adam Golka; Brave Combo; Brian Marshal & Polski Marshalek Texasu; Chris Rybak the Accordion Cowboy; Ed Winiarski & Friends band; presentations by OLC's Polish School students; the Slavic Heritage Band, and The Halny Band. An assortment of children's activities, a silent auction, and great homemade Polish food topped off the weekend.

To learn more, visit www.houstonpolishfestival.com/.

SPOTLIGHT ON LONG ISLAND / Barbara Szydowski

Influential Long Islanders

Sandy Jozefowski, who, for the past 15 years, has been a high school field hockey coach, has been inducted into the Nassau County Field Hockey Hall of Fame and named 2015 Nassau County Conference Coach of the Year. Jozefowski was instrumental in establishing the youth program through the Oak Neck Athletic Council and serves as president of the Nassau County Section VIII Field Hockey Coaches Association.

Did you know that in the 1990s, late Long Islander **Vincent Polimeni** built 3.5 million square feet of retail and residential space in Poland, becoming one of the first U.S. developers to pioneer retail investment in that country?

WHO WAS JOSEPH BARZYSKI? Born on March 13, 1884 in St. Paul, Neb., he was given an opportunity to attend West Point Military Academy and graduated from there in 1905. He was also a graduate of L'Ecole de L'Intendence of Paris, France and the General Staff School

at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Lt. Barzynski served in various posts in the United States and the Philippines. He participated in the Mexican Punitive Expedition, chasing the bandit Pancho Villa. While on this duty, the company he commanded acted as the guard company for Gen. Pershing. World War I followed shortly after the Mexican Expedition, and Major Barzynski served as quartermaster of the 32nd Division in Europe.

Following World War I, he was assigned to the American Legation in Warsaw, Poland. During that tour of duty, as a military attaché, he became friends with Ignace Paderewski, premier of Poland.

Col. Barzynski served on the Army General Staff in Washington, D.C. from 1926 to 1930, and was later assigned to duty as officer in charge of personnel in the quartermaster general's office.

Promoted in 1940 to the rank of brigadier general, Barzynski became the first American general officer of Polish descent since the Civil War. His decorations include the Legion of Merit and the Polonia Restituta. He retired in 1945.

After, he worked with an international refugee organization in Switzerland.

He died on August 8, 1972 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

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Celebrating History, Scholarship, and the “American Dream”

Kosciuszko Foundation honors Martha Stewart

by Staś Kmiec

The Kosciuszko Foundation Ball took place on April 30 at the Waldorf Astoria in Manhattan. It was an opportunity not only to celebrate the existence of this institution, but also pay homage to its history and activities.

In 1928, the Kosciuszko Foundation hosted a dinner honoring Ignacy Jan Paderewski at New York's Commodore Hotel. By 1933, the Foundation began holding an annual fundraising ball to support its operations. The ball moved to the legendary Waldorf Astoria in 1936 — where it has been held ever since. In 1941, debutantes were presented and young women aged 16 to 25, with a background of scholastic achievement were invited to participate and be “presented to society.”

Titled *The Amber Ball*, this year's formal “black tie” event with a \$300 priced ticket was held without the presence of debutantes. Approximately 390 guests were in attendance including: Ryszard Schnepf — ambassador of Poland to the United States, Urszula Gacek — Polish consul general in New York, and Consul Matthew Stasiek.

I was invited to attend as a member of the press. Dressed in tuxedo, black tie and teal-tipped patent leather shoes, I entered the legendary 85-year-old limestone hotel with the prestigious address. Walking through the main lobby with its vintage Art Deco fixtures, white-gloved bellmen, crystal chandelier, and the “Waldorf clock” with bronze relief figures, I had a distinct feeling of yesteryear. On the vintage elevator paneled in oak and elm, I traveling to the fourth floor *Grand Ballroom*. On further assessment, the décor, once magnificent, suggested a faded glory from days gone by.

At the check-in table, I was directed to the “West Wing,” when I asked how to get there, the accented staff member said “I don't know, you'll have to find it.” As the cocktail hour was taking place in *The Astor Room*, I decided to venture there to take some photographs, get a feel of the social atmosphere, and meet the evening's honorees. Before getting to the door, I was intercepted by another staff representative and told that all media would be relegated to the second-floor first tier section for the evening. Although I did not expect full complimentary status, this vantage point would limit my perspective.

Despite the theme, I did not view anything intrinsically “amber.” Unless I was missing something from my location, I did not see the exquisite painting by Karol Bąk used in promotions being prominently displayed, or any reference to the Baltic Sea Kaszuby region — where amber abounds.

Attendees took their assigned seats, as the Gerard Carelli Orchestra played a Strauss waltz. U.S. Merchant Marine Academy cadets from Kings Point, N.Y. — poised on the second tier balcony — played an inaugural fanfare. Following the *Presentation of Colors* by the squadron, mezzo-soprano Edyta Kulczak sang the national anthems. Kulczak was a former recipient of the Foundation's artistic scholarship and presently is on the guest roster at The Metro-

politan Opera — appearing in supporting roles.

The tables were set with fine china and a modest arrangement of roses, carnations and mini-marigolds. The dinner consisted of an appetizer of caramelized goat cheese and arugula salad, broccoli rabe with sausage and peppers, a main course of stuffed



Martha Stewart received the Kosciuszko Foundation Medal of Recognition from John S. Micgiel, president and executive director.



Kosciuszko Foundation Board of Trustees.

chicken, Italian *gnocchi* and spinach, with a chocolate mousse-graham cookie *S'more* dessert.

HISTORY. Founded in 1925, the Kosciuszko Foundation promotes closer ties between Poland and the United States through educational, scientific and cultural exchanges. It awards up to \$1 million annually in

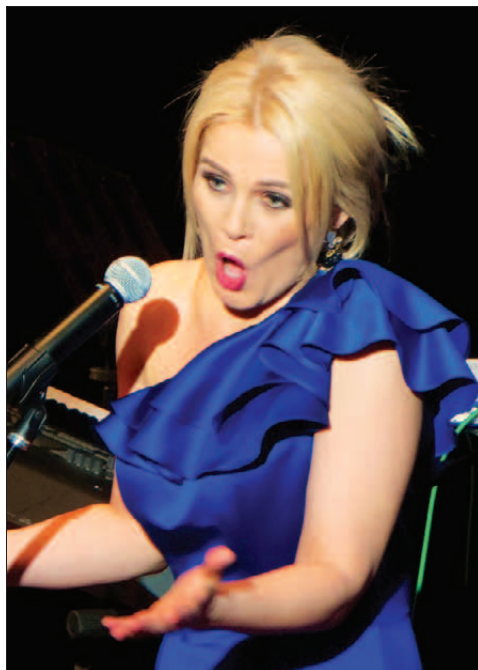
to Amherst College and later completed a master's degree at Harvard University. In 1922, Mizwa was named associate professor of economics at Drake University.

Based on an article he had read by the president of Vassar College, which praised Kraków's Jagiellonian University, Mizwa set out to organize a cultural exchange program between Poland and the Unit-

rozyński, chairman of the board joined by Kulczak, Samek Palmeriski and *The Polish American Folk Dance Company*, led an impromptu rendition of “Hej Sokoly” (“Hey Falcons”). This campfire classic was originally popular among Polish minority in Ukraine, and was adopted by Polish and Ukrainian soldiers fighting Soviet invasion.



Maria Bielski (center) dances the communal *Grand March Polonaise*



Edyta Kulczak performed the National Anthem and other selections.



The Polish American Folk Dance Company performed the *Polonez*

fellowships and grants to graduate students, scholars, scientists, professionals, and artists.

Stephen Mizwa was the visionary behind the formation of the organization. Born to a peasant family in the Rzeszów region village of Rakszawa (at that time occupied by Austria-Hungary), a 17-year-old Szczepan Mierzwa boarded a German steamship in 1910 in hopes of the “American dream.” With a new “American” name and from a humble start, he earned a scholarship



Mizwa Harvard, Yale and Columbia, and to send an American professor to Poland.

The lyrics sung in Polish or Ukrainian, are about a Ukrainian maiden saying farewell to her betrothed, a Cossack. It was penned in the first half of the 19th century by Tomasz Padura, a Ukrainian-Polish poet.

The guest of honor, Martha Stewart, received the Kosciuszko Foundation Medal of Recognition from John S. Micgiel, president and executive director. Stewart (nee Kostyra) has lived her own “American Dream.” As one of the most influential women in the United States, she

With the 150th anniversary of Kościuszko's arrival in America approaching, Mizwa sought to create “a living memorial to Tadeusz Kościuszko.” In 1925, The Kosciuszko Foundation, Inc. was incorporated in New York.

PROGRAM AND HONOREES.

Alex Sto-

created a media empire and brand with *Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia*.

A video montage was presented emphasizing Stewart's promotion of Polish cooking with her mother on her television program. They were shown making Polish mushroom soup from the “fragrant dried mushrooms sent from Poland,” *goląbki*, *chruściki*, *babka*, *pierogi*, *barszcz*, *kremówka*, and *kielbasa*.

“It is a great pleasure to be honored and I commend the Kosciuszko Foundation for all their programs... these cultural exchanges are so important to keep our heritage alive,” Stewart said accepting the award. She stressed the strong family values and a healthy work ethic that were instilled by her parents. “My mother and father were born here of Polish parents, who had come over in the early 1900s from Poland. Much like the Kosciuszko Foundation, my parents taught us the value of education — not only at school, but at home also. They taught us the importance of making things by hand. They wanted us to understand how things were made and the process of making these things was equally important — as important as the results.”

Stewart prepared a large screen presentation of photographs from the family home in Nutley, N.J., as well as her 2007 trip to Poland.

The “Spirit of the KF” Award was given to Piotr Chomczynski, a professor, biochemist, entrepreneur, and benefactor of the Foundation. The honor was dedicated to his contributions on behalf of the Foundation to the advancement of Science.

Edyta Kulczak returned to the stage to sing with bravado an operatic selection in Spanish, and “I Could Have Danced All Night” from the Broadway musical *My Fair Lady*.

Adding a flair of “Polish-ness” to the proceeding, *The Polish American Folk Dance Company* of New York performed the *Polonez* and *Biały Mazur*. Dressed in marabout feather-trimmed brocade *Kontusze* and gold-accented velvet *Kontusze*, the company was well-rehearsed in the lightly executed choreography. The dancers led the audience in a communal *Grand March Polonaise* to the stirring composition by Wojciech Kilar from the film *Pan Tadeusz*.

Touted as “The American Center of Polish Culture,” the accent of this event was perhaps more on the goal of “The American Dream” and assimilation. Guests continued to entertain themselves — dancing to swing, disco, and contemporary tunes, along with a single medley of the “Beer Barrel Polka” and “My Melody of Love.”

A silent auction for American sports and popular culture memorabilia, along with destination and spa packages, and a teardrop amber necklace and earring set was on display for bidding.

The Chairman of the Ball was Waldemar Priebe, president of the branch of the Kosciuszko Foundation in Texas.

Proceeds from the Ball will be donated to support educational and cultural programs of the Foundation and the renovation of the building. The 2016/2017 scholarships will benefit approximately 120 grant recipients.

POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

More Polish Classics for Your Summer Picnic Menu

continued from last month

Summer is the time many look forward to annual Polish festivals, parish picnics, harvest fests, and other meet-ups. One of their main attractions are the traditional Polish comfort foods many enjoy, but don't have that often. If your club, lodge, nest, veterans' post or parish is sponsoring or participating in some such event, consider some of the following dishes which are real winners!

POLISH MEAT PATTIES (kotlety mielone). Soak 2 stale bread rolls (app. 1/4 lb) in water or milk until soggy. Fry 2 sliced onions in a little fat until golden. Run drained soaked bread and onions through meat-grinder or process briefly. Combine with 2-1/4 lbs ground meat (pork, pork & beef, pork, beef & veal meatloaf mixture, ground turkey or any combination except ground beef alone), add 2 eggs, mix well by hand to blend ingredients and sea-

son with salt & pepper, a little garlic powder and marjoram to taste. If too wet and soggy, add a bit of bread crumbs. Form meatballs patties and brown to a nice golden-brown on both sides in hot fat, pressing down with spatula to flatten somewhat. Reduce heat, cover and simmer on low another 15 min or so until fully cooked. Serve as a main course with potatoes or buckwheat groats and a salad or as a "Polish burger" on a crusty bun with mustard, mayonnaise, dill pickle, or tomato slice.

BREADED PORK CUTLETS (kotlet schabowy). Cut bones away 6 center-cut pork chops or slice boneless center-cut pork loin 1" thick and pound with meat mallet pound on both sides until 1/4" - 1/3" thick. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and a pinch of marjoram and/or garlic powder if desired. Dredge in flour, dip in egg wash and roll in fine, plain bread crumbs. Gently press breading into cutlets so it

stays put during frying. Fry to a nice golden brown on both sides in hot lard, vegetable shortening or oil until fully cooked, drain on absorbent paper. These can be kept warm until needed in an electric roaster. Serve as a main course with dilled potatoes and mizeria (see below) or in a crusty bun or between slices of rye bread with mustard, mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato or sliced dill pickle as a pork-cutlet sandwich.

CUCUMBERS & SOUR CREAM (mizeria). In a food-concession setting it is best to serve this all-time favorite Polish salad as follows. Peel and thinly slice whatever amount of cucumbers is needed. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and fresh chopped dill and keep in salad bowl. Serve as needed by using slotted spoon to remove a portion of sliced cucumbers, letting excess liquid that forms drip away, and top each portion with a little liquefied sour cream. Storing the cucumbers with the sour cream

will make them limp, soupy and unappetizing. *Optional:* Thinly sliced onions may be added.

DILLED NEW POTATOES (młode kartofelki z koperkiem). Preparing these is admittedly time-consuming and labor-intensive but they are soooo good! Prepare walnut-sized new potatoes with a very thin skin by rubbing it off under running water with a nylon scrubber rather than peeling. Cook in lightly salted water to cover until done. Drain well, transfer to serving dish, dot with butter and garnish with fresh chopped dill.

POLISH HUNTER'S STEW. (bigos stew): Drain 2 qts sauerkraut well, reserving liquid. Chop coarsely. Place in pot with 1 bay leaf, cover with cold water and cook uncovered about 60 min, stirring occasionally. Shred 2 heads of fresh cabbage, place in pot, scald with plenty of boiling water to more than cover and

cook 30 min from the time boiling resumes. Drain the sauerkraut and cabbage, combine well and transfer to baking pan or electric roaster. Add about 2-3 qts various cooked cubed boneless meat (pork, veal, beef, ham, turkey, duck, venison or other game), 1 qt smoked Polish sausage cubed or in thin rounds, 1 mushroom bouillon cube, 1 c chopped stewed tomatoes, 1 c pitted prunes, chopped, 2 buds crushed garlic, 2 diced large cooking apples, peeled and diced. Mix ingredients and bake uncovered in 350° oven 30 min. Mix again, cover pan and bake another 2 hrs at 325°. After switching off heat, leave bigos covered in oven until it cools to room temp. Refrigerate over night. Before reheating add 1 c dry red wine, reheat at 350° for 90 min before serving. If too moist, pour off some of the liquid and stir in a T or more flour, mix well and bake another 15 min. Serve with rye bread or potatoes.

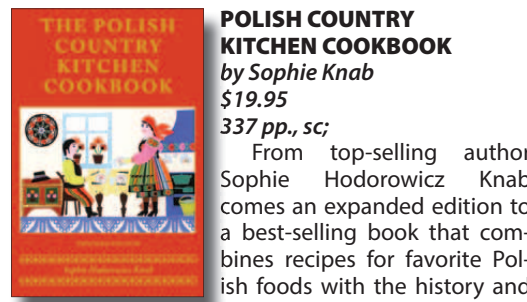
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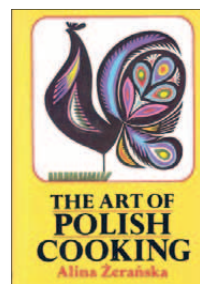


POLISH COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK
by Sophie Knab
\$19.95
337 pp., sc;

From top-selling author Sophie Hodorowicz Knab comes an expanded edition to a best-selling book that combines recipes for favorite Polish foods with the history and cultural traditions that created them. Arranged according to the cycle of seasons, this cookbook explores life in the Polish countryside through the year.

The Polish Country Kitchen Cookbook gives its readers priceless historical information such as the type of utensils used in Poland at the turn of the century, the meaning behind the Pascal butter lamb, and many other insightful answers to common questions asked by descendants of Polish immigrants.

The over 100 easy-to-follow recipes are all adapted for the modern North American kitchen. Lovely illustrations and pearls of practical wisdom ("Household Hints") from the old Polish kitchen marvelously complement this book.

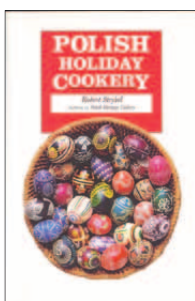


THE ART OF POLISH COOKING
By Alina Zeranska
Pub. at \$22.95
PAJ Bookstore Price: \$15.95
Ethnic / Polish
384 pp.
8 1/4 x 5 1/2
12 b/w illus. Index 2nd ptg.

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.

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

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

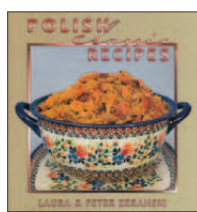


Polish Holiday Cookery covers holidays such as Christmas and Easter, as well as celebrations year-round. Ideas for banquets, picnics, dinners, and family favorites abound throughout, ensuring that cooks have a selection of dishes for any occasion.



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.



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



PIEROGI LOVE
New Takes on an Old World Comfort Food
By Casey Barber
\$19.95
Hc; 128 pp. / 8.3 x 8.1 inches
Full color photographs

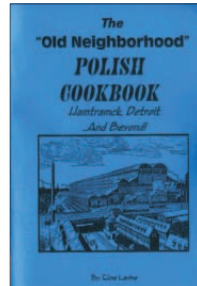
This tasty tribute to the pierogi takes a familiar wrapping and stuffs it with a host of unconventional, innovative, and decidedly non-traditional fillings. With 60 sweet and savory recipes that include everything from the classic Polish cheese and potato offerings to American-inspired Reuben pierogie and fried apple pierogies to worldly fillings like falafel and Nutella, there's a pierogi for every party and every palate! Each recipe comes with a charming story from Barber's extensive explorations in pierogi flavors.

Casey Barber is a freelance food writer, photog-

rapher, and editor of the critically acclaimed website Good Food Stories.

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

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

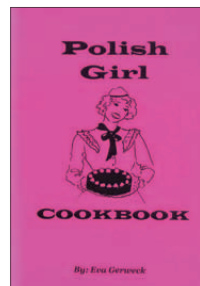
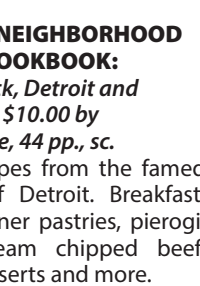
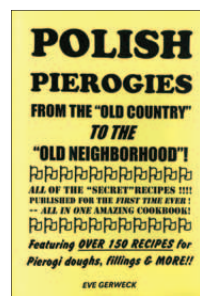


THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD POLISH COOKBOOK:
Hamtramck, Detroit and Beyond — \$10.00 by Elna Lavine, 44 pp., sc.

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 Gerwecki, 44 pp., sc.

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



POLISH RESTAURANT COOKBOOK
\$10.00
by Jonathan Becklar, 44 pp., sc.

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

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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Lewandowski Sets Records



Soccer legend Lewandowski is rightly regarded as one of the best strikers in the world.

Robert Lewandowski finished a spectacular 2015-16 Bundesliga campaign with 30 goals, becoming the league's top scorer. He was the first player to score that many since 1977, and the first foreign player to hit the 30-goal mark in Bundesliga history. Only four other players — all Germans — have scored that many. Lewandowski previously won the top-scorer award in 2014, his final season with Borussia Dortmund, when he scored 20 goals.

Lewandowski is also captain of the Polish national team, and looks to lead the "Biało-Czerwoni" to the European finals this summer. The 27-year-old star helped Poland earn its Euro berth with 13 goals in the qualifying campaign. He has scored 34 goals in 75 games internationally for Poland, and he is very likely to eclipse the all-time Polish record of 48 scored by Włodzimierz Lubanski in the 1960s and 70s.

POLE VS. POLE? There's been talk of a Pole vs. Pole matchup for the women's UFC strawweight title. (PAJ Feb. 2016) That possibility drew closer as **Karolina Kowalkiewicz** dominated Heather Jo Clark to earn a unanimous decision and raise her MMA record to 9-0 at UFC Fight Night event in Holland.

Fellow Pole **Joanna Jedrzejczyk** now holds the title, and she and

Kowalkiewicz could be heading for a collision. However, right now Jedrzejczyk is focused on a scheduled rematch against Brazilian contender Claudia Gadelha at The Ultimate Fighter 23 Finale on July 8.



SAMBORA GOES HOME. Musician, guitarist, singer, songwriter, and producer **Richie Sambora** (above) is best known as a member of the band Bon Jovi. However, before he made music his career he was a pretty good athlete.

Richard Stephen Sambora born in 1959 in Perth Amboy, N.J. His parents were both of Polish heritage, Adam Sambora and the former Joan Sienila (Yes, those are both Polish names). His father was a fac-

tory foreman in New Jersey.

Richie played sports while attending Woodbridge High School in New Jersey, where he graduated in 1977. Richie's former high school basketball coach, Tom Chmiel, said he was a solid player and "had a great sense of dedication to the team." As a sophomore Richie was a member of the Woodbridge High team that won the 1975 Group 4 State title.

Not surprisingly, Richie's first musical instrument was the accordion, which he began to play at the age of 6. However, when he was about 12 he was inspired by the music of guitar legend Jimi Hendrix and switched instruments. In 1985 he joined Bon Jovi, which became one of the best-selling rock bands in the world.

Sambora, who co-authored the hit song "Who Says You Can't Go Home," did return to Woodbridge. He set up a scholarship fund at his old high school and dedicated the Adam Sambora Weight Room, in honor of his late father.

STAR WRESTLER. North Carolina State's **Nick Gwiazdowski's** two-year reign as NCAA 285-lb. freestyle wrestling champion ended, as did his 88-straight victory streak, against Ohio State's Kyle Snyder. Gwiazdowski led most of the match, but refused to stall as he grew more tired. Snyder managed to send the match into overtime, where he emerged victorious.

Nick is hoping to compete in the Olympics, and maybe in MMA after that. He grew up in Delanson, outside of Albany, N.Y., and graduated from Duanesburg HS in 2011. He wrestled as a freshman at Binghamton, then transferred to NC State. Nick revitalized the wrestling program there, and is considered one of the most accomplished athletes in school history.

"When I look back, I can't be mad about anything," he said. "I'm not happy how it finished but I think I made the most of my four years, minus 20 seconds, maybe." With 140 wins, four All-American finishes, three trips to the finals and two NCAA titles, Nick has done that and more.

SON OF AN ELECTRICIAN FROM GDANSK. Former Rutgers standout **David Milewski** chose not to pursue a professional football career, but don't be surprised to see him involved in football in some capacity. An Academic All-America who earned his undergrad degree in finance with a 3.9 GPA, Milewski has no regrets about hanging up his cleats, but may get back involved in sports as an administrator.

When his college football career ended a couple just over a year ago Milewski decided not to pursue pro football. Instead his plans focused on earning his master's degree in business administration, then visiting family in Poland and traveling through Europe for a few months. "There's a lot of experiences and lots of culture to embrace and learn about," Milewski said. "Football just did not permit that."

David's parents, John and Dagmara, came to the United States with their two young daughters in 1989. David was born in 1992. They joined Dagmara's extended family in northern New Jersey, and John found work as an electrician. John eventually became a fan of pro football — and the Buffalo Bills in particular — and so did his son. In fact, football became a welcome distract-

tion for John during the upheaval that was taking place in Poland and John's native Gdansk during the country's Communist rule.

David came to Rutgers as a two-star recruit, but suffered three torn ACLs in his first three years. In his final two seasons he appeared in every game, including 13 starts at defensive end. He finished strong his senior season, with 57 tackles, nine tackles for loss and four sacks. The Sayreville native was a semifinalist for the Campbell Trophy (commonly referred to as the Academic Heisman) and was inducted into Rutgers' New Jersey Delta Chapter of Chi Alpha Sigma, The National College Athlete Honor Society.

David knows he owes his parents a lot. "They sacrificed some of their own dreams to make sure their kids could fulfill theirs. That's been one of my driving forces. Whenever I had obstacles to face, I always knew that I could never fail because I had a whole family that was supporting me and sacrificed so much for me."

SANDLOCK PASSES. For over a year **Mike Sandlock** was recognized as baseball's oldest living major leaguer (PAJ April 2015), but passed away on April 4th at age 100. The switch-hitting catcher played for the Braves, Dodgers and Pirates. Sandlock was born in 1915 in Old Greenwich, Conn. He was making \$200 a month working as an electrician during the Depression, when he quit to earn \$75 a month playing baseball. His parents, Polish immigrants, thought he was crazy. He was 26 when he came up to the majors with the Boston Braves in 1942. Mike wasn't a star, but played parts of five seasons in the big leagues.

Earlier this year the Connecticut Smoky Joe Wood Chapter of SABR (Society produced a book celebrating the life of Mike Sandlock, baseball's oldest living former major-leaguer, *100: The 100 Year Journey of a Baseball Journeyman, Mike Sandlock*, edited by Karl Cicitto. Chapter members were able to personally present Mike with a completed copy of the book before his death.

SOCIAL MEDIUM. Kathryn "Kat" Przybyla was recently featured in *At Buffalo*, the alumni magazine for the University at Buffalo. The 26-year-old is in her third season as the social media coordinator for the Nets and Barclays Center. It's a high-pressure job that involves constantly getting the latest images and information to fans. "This is not a 9-to-5 position," she told author Jennifer Kitses.

Przybyla is in her third season as the social media coordinator for the Nets and Barclays Center. Born and raised in Getzville outside of Buffalo, she grew up as a fan of the Bills and Sabres and was active in sports as well. She went to UB in 2008 as a communications major.

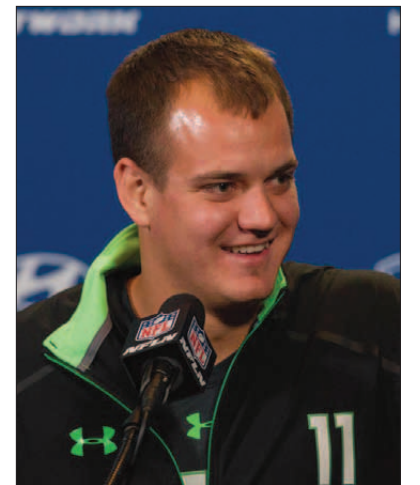
When CNN's Wolf Blitzer (the son of Polish immigrants) received a Distinguished Alumni Award from UB, Przybyla met him and he encouraged her to apply for CNN's internship program. She did, and the next summer she worked for one of the show's on-air correspondents in New York City. Przybyla interned for the Buffalo Sabres during her senior year, working in the hockey team's broadcast department. After graduation, she landed a job at *The Buffalo News'* website.

Two years later she got a job with the Nets through an online application. Kat transitioned from daily re-

porting to tweeting. "I still consider myself a writer," she says. "But now I write in 140-character tweets."

The hours are long and job is stressful, but she enjoys it. "... I'm a person who thrives in high-pressure environments. With live sports, you can have your notes, but you can never predict what's going to happen. That's where I'm best—in the heat of the moment. I love it."

WELCOME TO THE NFL. The Chicago Bears traded up four spots in the fourth round to select West Virginia inside linebacker **Nick Kwiatkoski** with the 113th overall pick of the NFL draft. The 6-2, 241-pound Kwiatkoski (he pronounces it Quit-COW-skee) was a three-year starter at West Virginia and a team captain last year. Draft evaluator Nolan Nawrocki called Kwiatkoski a "versatile, active, highly competitive 'backer who fits a throwback mold." ESPN draft guru Mel Kiper Jr. praised the move by the Bears, while reminding viewers that he is also of Polish heritage.



The Buffalo Bills signed local product **Glenn Gronkowski** (above) to a free agent contract. A fullback, "Goose" hopes to follow the footsteps of brother Chris (an undrafted free agent who played 35 games in the NFL), Dan (a seventh-round pick who played 21 NFL games) and Rob, an All-Pro tight end with New England. Another brother, Gordie, played professional baseball. Glenn played at Kansas State, where he earned All-Big 12 honors. Because of his versatility, he has often been compared to another Polish-American, Baltimore's versatile fourth-year fullback **Kyle Juszczyk**.

PERKOSKI'S NOTEBOOK. **Jonathan Jakubowicz**, whose parents fled Poland for Venezuela during the Nazi occupation, directed the boxing movie "Hands of Stone" ... **Brad Keselowski** won the accident-marred GEICO 500, the fourth time he's won at Talledega ... NY Islander **John Tavares** scored or assisted on nine of the 15 goals the Islanders tallied in their six-game playoff win over the Florida. John's father, Joe, is of Portuguese descent and his mother, Barbara (**Kowal**) is the daughter of Polish immigrants.

Duke's **Mike Krzyzewski** underwent a successful total knee replacement surgery, and intends to coach the U.S. national basketball team in Rio at the 2016 Olympics. He has coached the U.S. to Olympic gold in 2008 in Beijing and 2012 in London, and has had a 75-1 record since he was hired by USA Basketball in 2005. Krzyzewski said previously that this would be his last Olympics.

The Polish roots of basketball star **Rebecca Lobo** were explored on the genealogy TV series "Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr."

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SYBIRACY / Stefania Borstowa

Surviving the Spring of 1941

"Sibracy" (Poles exiled to Siberia during World War II) is written by Stefania Borstowa. Borstowa, her children and Marysia, a home servant, were deported from Lvov to Krutoyarka, a small village in Kazakistan. Soon after the Soviet Union invasion, her husband was sent to the labor camp in Eastern Siberia and died of dysentery, but she did not know about it until after World War II.

Excerpt from letter written March 31, 1941

"I have to interrupt writing this letter since I am turning (rolling) the quern on and off, when I get tired and I have to rest to continue writing ... For the last couple of days I have a pain in my back in the area of kidney, quite bad. The pain is constant, whether I sit, I lay or stand. I presume that this is how coming Spring affects us, since both of us, I and Marysia are feeling weak recently. Some days are warmer, the melted water is dropping down from the roofs, then the frost comes back and the temperature gets down to -10 C.

The wood which I was able to steal from the forest in the middle of March is almost gone. We are planning another risky trip to the forest soon.

How do we arrange it? It is simple. First, we go to the forest, cut down ten birch trees, after cutting the branches off we cover the trunks in the snow. Second, we plead with a representative of the kolkhoz to let us borrow a bull or ox. If he would lend us or not, one

never knows. If he doesn't, we ask local farmers for a cow. Third, we need to go around the village and ask for a yoke and for a sledge cart. Finally, after a couple of hours when we have everything we need, so we can make a "trip."

The trip for wood can only take place by night, the best time is when the clouds would cover the moon, so it is really dark and it is a time to go back to the village as fast as we can, since we don't want to be seen by anybody. This is when we use whip on a poor ox the most. When we are finally at home, the tree needs to be sowed, chopped and put away as soon as possible. Why? Since it is illegal to chop a fresh tree. You may ask, why we cannot take a dry wood from the forest, which is legal? The dry wood is covered under 2-3 meters of snow and there is no way to reach it.

If you have a bad luck and may be caught by a forester. There is a heavy punishment — either pay 500 ruble or three months in the Soviet labor camp. But all locals have to do it ... including the forester. We saw when his wife was taking fresh wood from the basement to use for heating.

Once the forester caught a local farmer with wood. The policeman came from the town for a court case, He took 500 ruble in



possessions; that means he took farmer's cow, sledge cart and lots of wheat. But on the way back to the town, the policeman couldn't resist and stopped by the forest and took some wood. He cleaned the trunk from the branches and carried it on his back while driving back to the town. In the town he was caught by the city policeman. He had to pay 500 ruble also.

According to the locals the current regime would be finished when there would be nobody left who did not plead as guilty for something. We counted the population of the village, 70% were already found guilty for something they did in the past.

Excerpt from letter written April 8, 1941

Holy Saturday we had an unexpected visit from a debt collector here in the village. He listed four Polish families for paying taxes by collecting their bed sheets, clothes, and kitchen pots. There was lots of fear and crying. I was also very concerned, although I pretended that I didn't care about it.

We hosted all the Polish families for breakfast this Easter Sunday. We had lots of food since I received two food packages with bacon, sausage, sugar, and candies on Holy Thursday. We baked the last piece of pork, we cooked a hard-boiled egg for everybody,

we shared some of the sweets from the packages and lots of bread. It was enough for 14 people. They were full, children were saying: "since summer I am full the second time, the first time for Christmas and the second time for Easter. My belly is like a bourgeoisie and my mother does not need to feed me for the next three days."

Your parcel with clothing for Polish boys who had almost no clothes, came on Easter Monday. Many thanks!

It is a pity that it came after Easter. On Easter Sunday, one of the boys was girded with the sack, since he did not have any pants. He wore a ripped blouse of his mother's instead of the shirt. Now at least they would have something to wear.

Immediately after Easter we went to the regional NKVD officer to do inquiry about the tax. The officer replied that he already wrote to Moscow regarding the tax on Polish resettlers but he did not receive any reply yet. Since there is still no reply, the tax collector order is not a valid order yet. The officer explained that if the answer will be positive we would have to pay 500 ruble annually either as a state or farm tax. This is really worrisome since we are not even close to this amount of money nor possession to give back to the Soviet government.

Reprinted courtesy of Jaga's Polish Culture Website at: www.polishsite.us.

RESISTANCE / Regina Szamborska-McIntyre

The Church Under Occupation

Resistance is a story about the conditions which led to the Warsaw Uprising during World War II, and how the courageous and tenacious people of Poland fought the Nazi occupation, only to be decimated by the political vagaries of war.

Three main characters drive the story: Zygmunt Kaminski, publisher of an underground newspaper; Marek Gudzinski, aka Dysthmus, delivery man of contraband items to underground units; and Michal Bednarek, attorney at law, who tries to remain neutral and uninvolved.

CHAPTER 3. A warm breeze ruffled the curtains in the little kitchen window. There was an early thaw; the birches and oaks were teased into exposing patches of green. Father Jan Lipinski stretched his long legs under the small table and spread out the latest edition of the *Nowy Kurier Warszawski*, a German propaganda sheet printed in Polish to keep the citizens informed of current edicts and restrictions.

There was a re-print of the article of the capture of Professor Jan Piekalkiewicz, the chief delegate of the underground Secret State.

"Recent Atrocities" featured the recent accounts of sabotage and disruption committed by the underground in retribution against the Nazis.

"Atrocity in Grojek: Olaf Ehrlick, manager of farm quotas, was murdered by unknown assailants. Penalty was enforced on seventy-four civilians who were shot in retribution."

He was interrupted by a soft knock, Father Pawil, rector of St. Basil, a church just outside of Warsaw entered the kitchen.

"Good morning, Jan; I see you have the news at hand."

"Good morning Henryk. Yes, seventy-four peasants murdered in reprisal for the death of one German."

Pawel nodded his head, "The Peasant Battalion had received an order from the Secret Court for his assassination. He was accused of setting fire to fields of farmers, who had not met their quota. As a barbarous act of reprisal, and to set an example to the other farmers in the area, the Wyzek family was burned alive in their barn."

Father Lipinski shuddered and bowed his head in silent prayer for the deceased and tortured. Father Pawil joined him.

Lipinski looked out the window and allowed his gaze to rest on the sprouting buds on the trees. Spring, the regeneration of life.

"Forgive me, Henryk, I forgot my manners. Have you had your breakfast yet?"

"This is a day of fasting for me." Father Jan looked at his friend's hollow cheeks and feverishly shining eyes; he breathed a long sigh. Pawel was a mystic, who fed off the Holy Spirit within him.

"May I pour you some coffee?" "Yes, please." He adjusted his cassock and sat in the seat opposite his friend and associate."

Father Jan opened a new topic, "The Cardinal once again has refused an invitation to meet with Governor General Frank. I must admit, I have my concerns regarding His Eminence's thwarting the advances made by the Governor."

Father Pawil poured some of his coffee into his saucer and sipped on the hot brew. "His Eminence has total trust in God; whatever the reprisals might be."

"Yes, but that is not Frank's way of operating. He has a short fuse and

a long memory. There are bound to be repercussions."

"Perhaps the Governor's faith delays any reprisals. He is Catholic."

"That's like saying the devil was baptized." He lifted his cup to his lips and looked over the rim into Pawil's eyes. "You may be right, Father, I hope so."

Pawel resumed the conversation, "The struggle against the Germans stiffens. The quotas on farm products leaves very little for the farmers to subsist on, the entire population within the General Government is on starvation rations. The transportation of contraband items becomes more difficult. Just the other night, Dysthmus, the main delivery man for the Home Army, was almost captured with a shipment of muni-

tions he picked up from a recent parachute drop."

Father Jan straightened his posture. "Was he able to deliver the munitions to the commander?"

"Yes, but he is lying low. The Home Army and Civil Resistance count on his deliveries. I don't know what they will do in the meantime."

Father Jan's church was centered in Warsaw and vital information from the underground was coded and issued from his pulpit to assist in the disturbance of the General Government. A relay operation was used to spread through the network. Each church was responsible for delivering the dispatch to its neighboring parish.

Father Jan reached for his bible and began to shuffle through the pages. "We need to alert the parish-

es about this recent development." He reached for pad and pencil. "In the homily this Sunday, we will deliver the message from Romans 8:25, "But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance." He made a note of the passage and then handed it to Father Pawil. "Spread the message, and have the priests present it within the agreed upon cue, and have the priests use the phrase, 'Father deliver us our daily bread', before the cue, so as to reinforce the meaning."

Regina Szamborska-McIntyre is a retired Speech Pathologist who currently facilitates memoir workshops at her local library. She is the author of two books of historic fiction, "An Altar of Sod" and "Yesterday's Pupils."

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OBITUARIES

Msgr. Gocłowski, Led Gdansk During Martial Law

Msgr. Tadeusz Gocłowski, 84, the archbishop of the Diocese of Gdansk from 1984 to 2008, died on May 3, 2016 in a Gdansk hospital, following a severe stroke.

He guided the Polish Province through the dark period of Martial Law in Poland (1981-83).

Gocłowski was ordained a priest on June 24, 1956, in the seminary church in Krakow by Bishop Stanislaw Rospond. After ordination he was sent for graduate studies in Canon Law in Rome and at Catholic University of Lublin (KUL). Subsequently, he was appointed lecturer in the Vincentian Theological Institute (ITKM) in Krakow and diocesan seminary in Gdansk-Oliwa. The seminary was administered by Vincentians from 1957 to 1998. From 1971 to 1973 and as well as 1982-

1983 he served as rector in the bishop's seminary in Gdansk-Oliwa. From 1973 to 1982, Fr. Gocłowski was a Visitor of the Province of Poland.

While serving as rector of the Gdansk seminary for the second time, he was appointed auxiliary bishop for the diocese of Gdansk and a titular bishop of Benevento (Carthage, Northern Africa) on March 22, 1983. Gocłowski was consecrated bishop April 17, 1983 by Cardinal Jozef Glemp, the Primate of Poland, in the Our Lady Basilica in Gdansk.

A year later, on December 31, 1984, he was appointed the fifth bishop of Gdansk upon the death of his predecessor, Bishop Kazimierz. On March 22, 1992, due to introduction of new administrative

organization of the Church in Poland, he was elevated to the dignity of archbishop and first metropolitan of Gdansk. In September 2006, after reaching Canonical retirement age, he forwarded the Holy See his formal resignation from the office of bishop of Gdansk. Pope Benedict XVI did not accept the resignation and asked the archbishop to remain in his post until April 17, 2008, the 25th anniversary of his episcopal ordinations.

In 2011, he received the Order of the White Eagle, the highest Polish state distinction.

In April 2016, Gocłowski was made an honorary citizen of Gdansk. The city authorities noted that he had strong links to the history of Gdansk over the past several decades.

Michael Szporer, International Academician

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Michael Szporer, 69, a Professor of Communications, Arts and Humanities at University of Maryland University College, died April 30. An author, publicist and translator from several languages, his English translation of Ryszard Bugajski's *Interrogation* led to the first open publication of this much censored work of the Solidarity era.

A child of a Ravensbruck camp complex survivor, he immigrated to United State when his father asked for political asylum. His personal family history brought him close to members of Poland's "forgotten army," especially Jan Karski. "Mitek," as he was known to friends and close colleagues, was a product of Washington, D.C. and New York City public schools, a graduate of Hunter College of the City University of New York and a student of American poet James Wright. He was the last graduate [with poet John Logan] of the Indiana University School of Letters, where he studied with Roman Jacobson and Rene Wellek. He held a Ph.D. in English from Indiana University and a certificate in French from University of Paris V (Sorbonne), studying with the late Michel Foucault at the College de France.

A Member of the Board of Directors of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation in Washington, D.C., he was past president of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Fulbright Association [1999]. As Washington director of Foundation for Free Speech, he advised Solidarity Union leadership (1995-2000) and for a time formally repre-



sented the union in Washington, coordinating activities with AFL-CIO's Solidarity Center and NED. He served the American Polish Advisory Council as a vice president, specializing as a consultant for external affairs.

Szporer had lectured and written widely. Before coming to Maryland he was briefly associated with the Library of Congress, and taught for many years at the Ohio State University in both the Department of English and the Center for Slavic and East European Studies in Columbus, beginning his academic career at SUNY College at Buffalo.

A three-time Fulbright scholar to France, former Yugoslavia (Macedonia), and to the Soviet Union (year of collapse) returning from the Republic of Lithuania, he received two IREX fellowships, and an NEH grant. He may have been the first American to lecture in front of the Verhovni Soviet of Lenin University of Kazan which at the time was in a zone closed off to foreigners; his proudest personal achievement was to have been the first professor of Polish descent to lecture at Vilnius University since World War II. More recent presentations included the Heritage Foundation, Harvard University and the Katyn Reconciliation Conference at the Library of Congress in May 2010. He was visiting professor teaching political marketing at Marie Curie Skłodowska University in Lublin,

Poland.

An editor and author of several publications, Szporer had more than fifty refereed publications, including books, on Central and East European history and cultural studies. He authored the essays that constitute the national exhibit of Poland in the Global Museum on Communism. He was the author of "Solidarity: The Great Workers Strike in the Harvard Cold War Studies Series" published by Lexington Books (Rowen and Littlefield, 2012).

Joseph F. Borkowski, Veteran, Former P.O.W.

TRUMBULL, Conn. — Joseph F. Borkowski, 100, passed away April 11, 2016 at St. Vincent's Medical Center.

Borkowski was born in Poland, Feb. 10, 1916. He served in the Polish Army during World War II, was captured and spent five years in a German prisoner of war camp.

He worked as a machinist for several area companies and retired from Ivan Sorvall in Newtown. Borkowski took great pleasure in his vegetable and flower gardens. He also loved to play chess. He was very proud of his Polish heritage and was a member of the Polish Army Veterans Association.

He was predeceased by his parents, three brothers and four sisters in Poland.

Donations may be made to St. Michael the Archangel Church, Bridgeport, in his memory.

OUR POLISH SAINTS / Martin Nowak

Sainted Polish Women

Part VI

Only six women are recognized as Polish saints, including Edith Stein, who was born in Wrocław. St. Hedwig of Silesia, who was canonized in 1267, was the lone female Polish saint for 730 years, until Pope John Paul II canonized her namesake, St. Hedwig, Queen of Poland, in 1997.

ST. RAPHAEL KALINOWSKI

Rafal Kalinowski

1835-1907

Canonized: 1991

Feast Day: November 19 or 20

Grave: Monastery of Discalced Carmelites, Czerna, Poland

Born into a Polish noble family in Wilno in Russian occupied Polish Lithuania, Raphael enlisted in the Russian army but resigned to fight against the Russians during the 1863 Polish Insurrection. Captured by the Russians, he was exiled to Siberia for nine years, then exiled to Paris where he became tutor to Blessed August Czartoryski, who was a member of one of the most famous Polish noble families. At age forty-two Raphael became a Carmelite monk in Austria and was later ordained. He returned to Poland and founded monasteries there and in Ukraine, including one in Wadowice, birthplace of St. John Paul II, where he died. He promoted unity between the eastern and western branches of Christianity.

Raphael is the patron saint of the Third Republic of Poland (1989-present) and of difficult times.

ST. HEDWIG QUEEN OF POLAND

Jadwiga

Andegaweńska

1373-1399

Canonized: 1997

Feast Day: July 17

Grave: Wawel Cathedral,

Kraków, beneath the cross before which she often prayed

In a complicated arrangement, Hedwig became monarch of Poland at age ten, and two years later married Jagiełło of Lithuania, who became king of Poland. This united the two countries in the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth.

Hedwig was pious from childhood, gave most of her fortune to charity and was a champion of the poor. She rejuvenated Jagiellonian University and helped spread Christianity in Lithuania. Miracles were

attributed to her during her life.

ST. MELCHIOR GRODZIECKI

1582-1619

Canonized: 1995

Feast Day: September 7

Grave: Ursuline Church, Trnava, Slovakia

One of the three martyrs of Kosice, Slovakia along with St. Marko Krizin of Croatia and St. Stefan Pongracz of Transylvania. A Jesuit priest born in Silesia, Melchior was a teacher who managed a home for his poor students in Prague. During the Thirty Years War between Catholics and Protestants, he was in Kosice with Marko and Stefan ministering to local Catholics.

When Transylvanian soldiers stormed the castle where they were staying, Melchior and his two companions were arrested, tortured and slain when they refused to convert to Calvinism. Patron saint of Katowice and Bielsko-Żywiec.

ST. JOHN SARKANDER

Jan Sarkander

1576-1620

Canonized: 1995

Feast day: March 17

Grave: Cathedral of St. Wenceslaus, Olomouc, Czech Republic

Born in Silesia to Polish-Bohemian parents, he was a doctor of philosophy who was ordained a priest at age thirty-two. He worked to convert Protestants back to Catholicism in Bohemia. He was accused of conspiring to bring Catholic Polish troops into the heavily Protestant area where he preached and was arrested, tortured and killed, partly for refusing to reveal what was said to him in a confession.

Jan is the patron saint of Moravia, Silesia and confessions.

ST. JOHN OF DUKLA

Jan z Dukli

1414-1484

Canonized: 1997

Feast Day: July 8 or September 28

Grave: Bernardine Church in Dukla, Poland

Raised in a pious manner, John became a Franciscan monk and lived a life of poverty and humility. Through his sermons, he was credited with bringing many people back to the church. John served mainly in Lwów but also in Poznań and Krosno. Although he went blind late in life, he continued his work with the help of an aide. A miracle is attributed to him that saved the city of Lwów from a Cossack raid. Patron saint of Poland, Lithuania, Ukraine, Lwów, and Polish knights.



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GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

Immigration of our Ancestors — the Dreaded Exams

The most emotional and traumatic part of their journey

As the immigrants left their ship, they were greeted with a strange language and fingers that would point sharply to where they should go. They were exhausted by the hardships of their voyage and bewildered by the sounds and sights of their new land. Tags with the numbers were pinned to the clothing of the immigrants, and they lined up to go through the admittance process. For most immigrants, these hours would be the most emotional and traumatic part of their journey. They knew some might be rejected, and they feared that family members could be separated if some were accepted and others rejected. If one of their family were rejected, the remaining family members had to make a decision on the spot to return with their loved one or stay. The time spent in the immigration station could feel like an eternity due to this fear.

The first obstacle for Polish immigrants

to enter the United States was the restrictions that were enacted in 1882 that eliminated the entry of “undesirables.” This law meant that steerage passengers were subjected to detailed examinations that were designed to identify those who could be excluded and deported back to Europe.

THE FIRST STEP was the medical exam which began as soon as the immigrants were formed into lines. As they entered the immigration station, the doctors scanned the moving lines. They had only seconds to examine each immigrant for symptoms that indicated diseases, disabilities, and physical conditions. They also looked for cases of cholera, scalp and nail fungus, insanity, and mental impairments. In 1907, those with tuberculosis and epilepsy, as well as the physically disabled were added to the list. If the doctors suspected a problem, they placed a tell-tale chalk mark on the right shoulder of the immigrant’s normally dark clothing. People thus marked were

held back for further examination. Passengers with these illnesses or physical problems were deported. All other immigrants who were ill when they arrived were placed in a hospital until their symptoms are improved.

The legal step in the process tried to determine the social, economic, and moral fitness of the immigrant. The clerks asked questions to confirm the identity of the immigrant; they asked questions to verify that the immigrants could support themselves, and they tried to assess that the immigrants were of sound character. The questions were designed to keep out paupers, the insane, criminals and contract workers. The questions were based on the information from the passenger manifests which had been filled out by ship’s officers when the passengers boarded. Criminals and undesirables were not allowed entry, and they were deported at the expense of the shipping company.

Officials also detained unescorted women and children until the arrival of a relative, a

telegram, a letter, or a prepaid ticket from a relative that assured their safety. Immigration officials were especially careful with the admittance of single women until a male relative arrived to claim them. The women could not leave with a man who was not related to them. Engaged women were usually married on the spot when their intended husbands arrived for them.

When our ancestors completed their exams and were admitted, there usually were smiles and tears of joy. This step allowed them to begin their new life. Now they had to travel to the home of a relative or a friend and to find a job to earn money to have their home. This step was the beginning of our family roots in America.

❖ ❖ ❖

Stephen M. Szabados is a prominent genealogist, and the author of four books, “Finding Grandma’s European Ancestors,” “Find Your Family History,” “Polish Genealogy,” and “Memories of Dziadka.”

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There are also 227K indexes and records added to the BillionGraves database.

Also included is a new index to United States World War II Prisoners of War (1941–1945).

Visit : <https://familysearch.org/>

POLISH CAN BE FUN / Robert Strybel

Laugh time: Half-na-Pół, False Friends, and More

THE LONGEST WORD in the Polish language is “**konstantynopolitńczykowiec**.” It means the unmarried daughter of a resident of Constantinople (now Istanbul). The term was never really used but expressly created as a joke-word to become the longest Polish word.

The joke-word above contains 32 letters, the exact same number as there are letters in the **Polish alphabet**. It comprises 23 letters of the English alphabet (minus q, v and x), plus nine accented letters: **ą, ć, ę, ł, ń, ó, ś, ź and ż**.

JAK PANA/PANI GODNOŚĆ? often draws a blank stare from many PolAms. It is only a fancy way of asking: **Jak Pan/Pani się nazywa?** (What’s your name?)

THERE ARE SEVERAL WORDS for potatoes in Polish: **kartofle** (northern and eastern Poland), **ziemniaki** (Kraków region and southeast), **pyrki** (Poznań region) and **grule** (Góral country). In parts of the Polish-Czech border area the term **bandurki** and **bamburki** is sometimes encountered.

ONE OF THE HANDIEST expressions in the Polish language is **proszę**. It can mean please, you’re welcome, come in (when there’s a knock on the door), please have a seat (when pointing to a chair), you first (when pointing to a doorway) and here you are (when handing something to someone). With the right inflection **proszę, proszę** can indicate surprise as in the English “well, I’ll be!” or “look who’s here!”

THE OFFICIAL NAME of today’s Poland is **Rzeczpospolita Polska** (Republic of Poland). The Soviet-controlled puppet state (1945-1989) was officially known as **Polska Rzeczpospolita Ludowa** (People’s Republic of Poland). Before the late-18th-century partitions the **Rzeczpospolita Obojga Narodów** (liter-

ally Republic of Both Nations) is translated into English as the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

THE SLANG TERM frajer in Polish means sucker, dupe, fall guy, gullible fool or someone easily conned. It originally came from the German word **Freiherr** (literally: free lord), a noble rank in the Germany-speaking countries of yesteryear. It went into Czech to mean a dashing lover, suitor come courting.

THE NAME OF POLAND’S legendary founder **Lech** has survived in the slang Ukrainian term for Poles “**Lachy**” and in the normal word for Poland in Lithuanian (**Lenkija**) and Hungarian (**Lengyelország**). Also in the linguistic term “**Lechitic language**.” The Turks once referred to Poland as **Lechistan**.

MANY POLISH LAST NAMES were derived from different occupations: These include: **Kowal** (blacksmith); **Młynarz** (miller); **Kolodziej** (wheelwright); **Wójt** (village mayor); **Bednarz** (cooper); **Szewe** (shoemaker); **Krawiec** (tailor) and **Kmieć** (peasant farmer). To ask what your Polish surname means check out: research60@gmail.com

[gmail.com](mailto:research60@gmail.com)

POLISH HAS MORE than one word for uncle and aunt. One’s father’s brother is referred to as **stryj** and his wife is called **stryjenka**. The mother’s brother is **wuj** and in olden times his wife was called **wujenka**. Now the term **ciotka** has largely replaced it and to some extent – also **stryjenka**.

POLISH IS A LANGUAGE that loves diminutives, a grammatical form that makes something sound smaller, daintier or gentler than the original. The word **pies** (dog) has an especially large number of variations including: **piesek, pieseczek, psiak, psiaczek, psina, psunia, piesuś** and **piesula**. In English the only diminutive of dog is **doggy**.

THE NAME FOR THE coniferous tree species known as the spruce is believed to have come into English from Polish. Old Poland’s Baltic regions — known as **Prusy** — were a major timber exporter and when a shipload of logs arrived in England the English wanted to know what kind. But the seamen thought they were being asked where they were from and answered “**z Prus**” (from

Prussia), and it has been spruce in English ever since,

POLISH HAS TWO SEPARATE words for first name – **imię** and last name – **nazwisko**. The sentences **Mam na imię Janek** (my first name is Johnny) and **Nazywam się Adamski** or **Andrzej Adamski** illustrates the difference.

POLES LEARNING ENGLISH find it funny when someone says: “I’m brushing my teeth” – and their gut reaction is: “Who else’s teeth could you be brushing?” In Polish the possessive pronoun is usually assumed but not stated: “**Myję włosy**” (I am washing my hair); “**Obcinam paznokcie**” (I’m clipping my nails); **Brat nas odwiedził** (My brother paid us a visit); **Wczoraj byłem z żoną w kinie** (Yesterday I went to the cinema with my wife).

WORDS OF WISDOM Ciekawostki wzbogacają!

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

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TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

Final Gift of Life Dance ... A Brief Reminiscence

All good things must come to an end. This saying is usually uttered when we find ourselves missing something of great value, (a good relationship, a respected boss, a prized possession) that is gone as a result of circumstances beyond our control. Often there are feelings of regret that somehow, if we could turn back time, the thing we miss will return. Maybe those feelings are already welling up in the countless polka fans who have made the trip one year or every year to Wyandotte for the



Mitch Biskup presenting Ron and Sue Biskup with an appreciation plaque.

students had their lessons," she said. "He did that for about ten years straight — he just loved his music."

His students always pointed out his patience and attention to detail as reasons he was such an excellent instructor. Joe's arrangements of polka and waltz music for concertina were continually in high demand, as were his copyrighted scale and chord transposition charts for the instrument. For many years, Joe sponsored concertina displays or informal concertina get-togethers. He saw these as not just a way to promote exposure and sales of the instrument he loved, but, more importantly, to provide an audience for aspiring polka musicians.

Over the years, as bands became increasingly amplified, Joe was acknowledged as one of the most innovative craftsmen with respect to making the concertina adapt to this new environment. He is, in fact, often cited by many nationally prominent concertina players as being the single, most-important person responsible for the growing acceptance of stereo wiring for concertinas. His ability to help the performer obtain a "true" concertina sound, despite the amplification, was unsurpassed. Joe was equally sought out for his skill in tuning and repairing concertinas, gaining the trust of players from throughout the U.S. and Canada who regularly sent him their instruments for work.

It was a great final ending for the event. It was a total sellout — hall capacity is 400 — we had at least 415 people in attendance. I thank all of those who came up to me and told me that they are registered as organ donors. If you are not registered, please do



Paul and Charlene Rzeppa giving testimony about their son at the Biskup Memorial Gift of Life Dance.

Lisa Biskup Memorial Gift of Life Dance.

In 2007, Ron and Sue Biskup started this event as a tribute to their daughter, a way to honor her struggle with an illness that eventu-

ally took her life.

As the Gift of Life Dance has now come to its conclusion, it's hard to believe that a decade has passed so quickly. After ten successful years, many thousands of dollars, hundreds of guests, dozens of musi-

so. You never know whose life you might save, it could be your spouse, child, best friend, sister, brother."

Words well spoken — congratulations on your success, Ron and Sue!



Chris and Eric Bogdon of Polka Country Musicians play for the final Biskup Memorial Gift of Life Dance.

Edward "Eddie D" Dmuchowski, Dead at 76

by Basia Szykowski

RIDGE, Long Island — Edward "Eddie D" Dmuchowski, 76, of Ridge, Long Island died April 17. He was the owner of EJD Graphics in Wantagh, N.Y., and leader of the Eddie "D" Dmuchowski Orchestra, which released several recordings.

Dmuchowski was a DJ for the *Polka Country* show on WUSB radio, editor of *PolAm World* newspaper, and former president of the American-Polish Council. He was awarded the "Citizen of the Year" by the *Polish American World*, and an awardee from The Gift of Life.

Dmuchowski received a Lifetime Achievement of the American Polish Council of Long Island, and had been a chairperson of multiple fundraisers on behalf of the March of Dimes. Donations in his memory may be made to the March of Dimes.

POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

Confessions of a Polka Packrat

The time has come for me to reveal something that has plagued me for over four decades. I am sure some are aware of my situation, but I needed to get it off my chest, so to speak.

Starting when I was seven years old, my life changed and I was struck with a driving force that set the direction for my future years. Doctors couldn't quite explain it, but yet my family knew it would be with me forever. Now, I reveal it to you all.

I am a Polka Packrat. How else can I explain having three large boxes filled with over 900 cassette polka tapes and five shelves of compact discs? I constructed a five-foot long, four shelf high unit to hold the stacks of polka 45s, 78s and LPs. Two rooms — one, my "polka office" — are jammed



with boxes of polka newspapers, photo albums, computer drives filled with over 10,000 polka photos and piles of polka shirts, buttons, data, letters from a variety of polka band leaders and musicians.

Speaking of my polka office, the three desks, file cabinets, boxes and corners are over-flowing with collections of polka memories, documents and more. Of course, I can't forget the attic and boxes filled with polka shirts, caps and some things I have forgotten.

I am sure there is a cure for all of this, but I don't want to hear it. Being a "Polka Packrat" has given my life a special meaning.

It is how I met my one and only when she asked me to dance at a polka dance in Syracuse, New York.

But that is a story for another day.

Joe Czerniak: Polka Hall of Famer, Minnesota Icon

by Larry Trojak

The polka world — particularly polka lovers in the Upper Midwest — recently lost a great friend, musician and musical ambassador with the passing of Joe Czerniak on February 15, 2016 in Duluth, Minnesota. Joe epitomized Polish style polka music throughout the region and was active in bringing it to the people until succumbing to the grip of Alzheimer's Disease.

Born in West Duluth on Dec. 30, 1923, Joe was a 1941 graduate of Duluth's Denfeld High School. He started playing concertina at a very young age and by age seven was already performing with area groups. He formed The Polka Dots band while still in high school, a band that featured concertina, banjo and drums and played Polish, Scandinavian, Slovenian, and German styles of "old time" music. Popular in the area, The Polka Dots played every weekend until Joe was drafted into the Air Force in 1942.

At war's end in 1945, Joe married "the love of his life," Martha Berlik, a marriage that lasted 71 years until his passing. He worked at inside sales at Westinghouse for a number of years before retiring early to dedicate himself full time to his music business which, in addition to playing, also included concertina instruction and repair. For more than half a century, The Polka Dots, which had by then grown in number of musicians and, for a time, included sons Bill and Greg, performed for weddings, parties, and polka festivals throughout the Upper Midwest.

In 1989, Joe was elected to the International Polka Association Hall of Fame in its Pioneer category — an ideal fit, given the more than 35 albums he recorded and the role he assumed raising the profile of Polish-style polkas in the area throughout the '60s, '70s and '80s. And, according to granddaughter Jill Czerniak, his love of the music went far beyond that of simply being a great player.

"He was also a concertina teacher, a repair technician and salesman, as well as a promoter sponsoring many festivals and concertina events," she said. "In addition, he provided opportunities for hundreds of concertina students to perform throughout the region over the years. Many of those talented students went on to form their own bands including his late son Bill who, along with his wife Mary Lou, brought the unique sound of 'Polka Soul' to thousands in their 25 years of performing; and Renata Romanek who was hugely popular with her band 'Girls, Girls, Girls.'"

Other notable students of Joe's include Jim Dobosenski from Dr. Kielbasa, Dennis Zuk of the Jolly Zuks, Jeff and Todd Dobosenski of the Dobosenski Brothers band, and Danny Fabek, also a Dobosenski Brothers alum and current president of the Midwest Polka Association. Joe also inspired the establishment of numerous local polka groups throughout the Northland — the most recent of these being the Silver Bay (Minn.) Concertina Club.

Many of Joe's concertina students traveled long distances to take lessons from him — testimony to his popularity as a teacher. In addition, according to his daughter-in-law Mary Lou Czerniak, Joe also went to great lengths (literally) for his music, travelling 300 miles round-trip once a month from Duluth to the Twin Cities to teach students in that area. "He would arrive at 6:00 a.m. and stay at our house until all



the students had their lessons," she said. "He did that for about ten years straight — he just loved his music."

Over the years, as bands became increasingly amplified, Joe was acknowledged as one of the most innovative craftsmen with respect to making the concertina adapt to this new environment. He is, in fact, often cited by many nationally prominent concertina players as being the single, most-important person responsible for the growing acceptance of stereo wiring for concertinas. His ability to help the performer obtain a "true" concertina sound, despite the amplification, was unsurpassed. Joe was equally sought out for his skill in tuning and repairing concertinas, gaining the trust of players from throughout the U.S. and Canada who regularly sent him their instruments for work.

In addition to the IPA honors, Joe was also inducted into the World Concertina Congress Hall of Fame in 1991 and the Ironworld Polka Hall of Fame in 2000. A very active volunteer, Joe performed at nearly a dozen senior facilities throughout the Twin Ports and North Shore regions of northern Minnesota until well into his late eighties. He was a lifetime member of the Duluth Musician's Union, a member of West Duluth Post 71 American Legion, Friars of St. Francis, Knights of Columbus and a member of St. Benedict's Church.

Joe is survived and will be dearly missed by his devoted wife Martha; son Greg (Julianne) of Houma, La., daughter Annette (Bob) Meyers of Anoka, Minn., and daughter-in-law Mary Lou Czerniak of Shoreview, Minn., as well as nine grandchildren, two great grandchildren, many close nieces, nephews, and all those students who always considered Joe a second father.

It's only fitting that Joe's funeral gathering was truly a celebration of his life and the music which was such a large part of it. Not surprisingly, the funeral service itself was preceded by an hour-long viewing — accompanied by polka music courtesy of former concertina students Renata Romanek and Todd Jurek. Then, after brunch, polkas filled the room once again, with Renata and Todd playing the music that was such a major part of Joe's life.

Cliché as it sounds, it's just as he would have wanted it.

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Jimmy Weber and Jeff Mleczek Join "Polka Dreams @ Sea" All-Star Band

"A Dream Trip 4 U" announced the details about its next polka cruise. "Polka Dreams @ Sea 3" will set sail April 2-9, 2017. The cruise will leave from Baltimore and sail to the Bahamas, visiting the islands of Grand Turk, Freeport, and Half Moon Cay, a private island owned by Holland America Lines, which recently underwent a multi-million dollar renovation.

The ship for this cruise adventure will be the Carnival Pride, which also just went thru a major multi-million dollar refurbishment.

Featured bands include some of the best on the polka scene: Buffalo Concertina All-Stars from New York and Ray Jay & the Carousels from Pennsylvania. There will also be a Polka Dreams All-Star Band, made up of award-winning musicians Jimmy Weber from The Sounds, Jeff Mleczek of the DynaBrass, Mike

Matousek of the Boys; Dave Morris of The Boys; Lenny Gomulka's Rich Zebrowski, and USPA Female Vocalist of the Year Stacey Morris.

For those of you who may be wondering, Jeff Mleczek has requested to be part of the Polka Dreams All-Star Band and will be on the cruise if he is able to do so. He is making great progress after a debilitating stroke.

There will also be a Polkajam session, where guests can be the stars, and many theme nights, including "Hawaiian Night," "Red & White / Pre-Dyngus Day," and more.

As usual, Polka Dreams @ Sea DJ Kenny Olowin will spin some of your favorite polka tunes.

In between polkas and the islands, guests will have lots of time to enjoy the amenities of the ship, which features a number of restaurants, clubs, pools (including an onboard waterpark), shops and more.

There will be a welcome dance the night before the cruise in Baltimore, which will be open to both those booked on the cruise and the general public.

Busses are being planned to leave from Buffalo and Pittsburgh areas and other areas as needed.

"As anyone who has sailed with us on one of our previous Polka Cruises can attest, you'll be treated like royalty on this fabulous trip," said Leonard.

For more information contact Helga Leonard at (724) 234-2033 or email her at helga@adreamtrip4u.com. You can also download a brochure at www.polka-cruise.com.

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PULASKI POLKA DAYS

July 21-24, 2016

www.pulaskipolkadays.com

PULASKI, WISCONSIN

BAND SCHEDULE

Thursday

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

Friday

- New Generation
- Aaron Socha & Livewire
- The Boys
- The Knewz
- Polka Dynamics
- Polish Connection
- Dr. Kielbasa
- Polka Country
- John Gora
- Hauser's Hot Shots
- Molly B

Saturday

- Chad Przybylski & Polka Rythms
- Box On
- Polka Family
- The Knewz
- IPA Tribute Band
- John Gora
- Polka Country Musicians
- The Boys
- Concertina Rich
- Music Connection
- Jeff Winard
- Molly B & Ted Lange Squeezebox

Sunday

- Box On
- Polka Family
- Stephanie
- Maroszek Brothers

FUN FOR ALL AGES!

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

Camping

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

Parade Information

- Wayne @ 920-822-5456



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- KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
- PULASKI FFA ALUMNI & FFA
- VFW

DANCE TIME / Jen Pijanowski

TBC Reunion is a Feather in the Cap for the Cleveland Polka Association



Chris Tanski, Sharon Goldyn, Jim Lacki, Barb Bakowski, and Paula Adkins.



TBC fans Ron Swideski, Laura Blaszc-Schmitz, and Greg Russo.



Albert Bakowski, Jennifer Sikorski, TBC's Dave Walters, Rayanne Bakowski, and Barb Bakowski.

Polka Generations, Box On, and Polka Family. Visit polishfest.org for more information on attending this amazing event.

June 22-25, 2016 marks the third year for the successful rebirth of **Ocean Beach Park Polka Days** in New London, Conn. Rated one of the best beaches by *National Geographic* magazine, Ocean

I vividly remember attending the last performance of Frankie Lizska's TBC many years ago at German Central Farms in Cleveland. For me, it was one of my fondest memories up until a few weeks ago when this band reconvened. The long anticipation of **The Brass Connection** reunion came to fruition on April 23rd at Agostino's Event Center in Cleveland. The successful affair was organized and hosted by the Cleveland Polka Association.

Lewandowski, Steve Binkiewicz, and Peter Dardzinski were joined by seasoned bass player Richie Kois to completely immerse the audience in high energy polkas. With only a few practices together, they sounded exactly like they did so many years ago.

As the night progressed, I heard plenty of TBC stories, including the many weddings they played throughout the years. Amanda Lekki who traveled from Utica, N.Y., told

falo Concertina All Stars and **The Knewz** joined forces for a night of true Buffalo polka musicianship. The All Stars served up their spirited honky style music while The Knewz complimented them, showcasing their ability to be innovative yet traditional. Each band puts their heart and soul into the music and it is obvious that they enjoy playing for their local polka fans. We are proud to be home to so many talented musicians right here in Western New York.

RIVER REDUX. It is time again for polka music to return to the River Grill. The **Buffalo Touch** is once again playing at this unique Buffalo venue located on the Niagara River. The second Tuesday of each month from May until September is polka night at this music lovers' hub in Western New York. The band, joined by Tommy Wanderlich, made the first job of the year a very successful one. Playing their crowd favorites, the dance floor remained packed as onlookers tapped their feet and sang along. If you are looking for an unconventional spot to enjoy polkas or perhaps take a first timer to a dance, this is the venue for you. It is extraordinary to see a local business owner take a chance on hosting new musical groups. Jimmy, the owner of River Grill has certainly welcomed polka music and fans at his summertime paradise.

FESTIVAL TIME! The summer polka calendar is in full swing with several festivals in June. The kick-off begins in the quaint, reinvented steel community of Johnstown, Pa., located just 67 miles west of Pittsburgh. The **Johnstown Polkafest** is being held from June 3-5, 2016 in the historic Cambria section

of downtown. This free-admission festival is held under a gigantic pavilion and is hosted by St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church. Each year they host some of the best polka bands and this year is no exception. Bands performing including Don Wojtila, Polka Family, Lenny Gomulka, The Rhinelanders, Alex Meixner, Johnstown Button Box, and The Autobahn Band with Karl Lukitsch. It is a rare combination of both Slovenian and Polish polka bands under one roof. The entire community joins in this celebration and the pride of the area is evident. You can contact the Johnstown Visitor's Bureau at 1 (800) 237-8590 or visit www.visitjohnstwnpa.com/polkafest for more information.

Polish Fest in Milwaukee Wisconsin will celebrate its 35th year as America's largest Polish festival on June 17-19, 2016. Located on the picturesque Lake Michigan shoreline, Henry Maier Festival Park has ample space and five stages to celebrate all of the facets of the Polish culture. Not only do the nation's premiere polka bands provide non-stop entertainment for the weekend, but there are three additional stages for other performances. Chopin Youth Piano Competition, Polish Fest Pageants, Chopin vodka tastings, Polonez Polish Canadian Folk Ensemble, Radosc Vocal Dance Company, Polish Marketplace, and hours worth of entertainment are available for your \$10 advance/\$12 at the door admission. I was lucky enough to attend this event last year and I am looking forward to returning again in a few weeks. Polka bands performing this year include John Gora & Gorale, The Knewz, Buffalo Touch, Polka Country Musicians, Squeezebox, IPA Tribute Band, Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze,

Beach's sugar sand beach provides the perfect backdrop for basking in the sun with polkas taking center stage. A free welcome party will be held Wednesday on the boardwalk from 7:00-10:00 p.m. On Thursday



CPA President Jill Krzeszewski, and Keeper of the TBC Archives, Jim "Wigs" Weglicki.

the festival kicks off with Matt's All Star Jam Band under the covered pavilion located on the beach. As the weekend continues, Maestro's Men, Polka Family, Eddie Forman Orchestra, Larry Trojak, Polka Country Musicians, Freeze Dried, The Knewz, IPA Tribute Band, and The Boys will provide non-stop entertainment in the ballroom. There will also be the ability to enjoy music at the pavilion with the bands during morning to afternoon hours. Much love, work and commitment has gone into reviving polka music at this venue and recapturing the memories that polka lovers have of events held here years ago.

You can visit www.oceanbeachparkpolkadays.com for info or contact Ernie and Patty Daigle (413) 519-3365. Everyone who has attended this event has gushed about everything from the venue to the music to the hospitality of the area. This is definitely an event that every polka fan is going to want to attend.



Dave and Dennis Miesowicz.

As news spread of this reunion several months ago, it became apparent that this was going to be a "must attend" event for polka lovers. Doors opened at 5:00 with a live broadcast on Polish New Castle Radio. When we arrived at 6:00, an hour before the band was starting; it was already standing room only. Fans traveled from miles away to witness this event and enjoy the music of a much-loved polka band. As the musicians took the stage, the front was 15-deep with onlookers. From the first note, it was obvious that these musicians had not missed a beat since playing together more than a decade ago. Band members Frank Lizska, Dave Walters, Matt



Joe Sr. and Joe Jr. Oginsky.

me that TBC was the first band that really ignited the fire in her becoming a polka fan. It was evident as the exhilaration grew that everyone in attendance was grateful that they were there to witness this event. If you weren't able to make this reunion, be sure to catch them as they will be playing a limited number of engagements this year.

AMVETS MEDALLION POST in Buffalo hosted its 3rd annual spring dance at the end of April. The venue is the ideal location for a polka dance with a raised stage and beautiful wooden dance floor. Two bands provided non-stop entertainment for this fundraiser for our troops. **Buf-**

Join us for the 3rd Annual **Ocean Beach Park Polka Days**
Featuring 10 of the nation's finest Polka Bands!
June 22, 23, 24, 25, 2016

SCHEDULE OF BANDS

<p>Wednesday, June 22 7 pm – 10 pm On The Boardwalk</p> <p>Polka Country Musicians Open To The Public FREE Admission \$6.00 Parking Fee</p> <p>Thursday, June 23 11 am – 3 pm In The Pavilion</p> <p>Matt's All Star Jam Band 5:30 pm – 12:30 am In The Ballroom</p> <p>Maestro's Men Larry Trojak With PCM Polka Family \$20.00 Adults Kids 16 & Under FREE When Accompanied By An Adult</p>	<p>Friday, June 24 10 am – 3 pm In The Pavilion</p> <p>The Boys IPA Tribute Band 5:00 pm – 1:00 am In The Ballroom</p> <p>Eddie Forman The Knewz Polka Country Musicians Larry Trojak With PCM Freeze Dried \$20.00 Adults Kids 16 & Under FREE When Accompanied By An Adult</p>	<p>Saturday, June 25 10 am – 3 pm In The Pavilion</p> <p>Freeze Dried The Knewz IPA Tribute Band Polka Country Musicians The Boys \$22.00 Adults Kids 16 & Under FREE When Accompanied By An Adult</p>
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Band Line-Up Subject To Change. By state law, you may not bring your own food or beverages into the ballroom.

Ticket Information

Thursday, June 23: \$20 pp
Friday, June 24: \$20 pp
Saturday, June 25: \$22 pp
Three Day Ticket Package: \$55 pp

SAVE \$7.00 WITH THREE DAY TICKET PACKAGE

NOTE: All tickets are non-refundable. Make checks payable to: Rich Dombrowski
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For tickets in MA you can call: Ernie & Patty Daigle - 413-592-0367
Please Note: Admission ticket includes parking on the day of the event at the Ocean Beach parking lot. (You MUST show your ticket at the gate.)

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POLKA CALENDAR / John Ziobrowski

To list your event, please send date, band, location, times, and contact number to johnzz@cox.net.

JUNE 3

- Polka Family. St. Mary Church. Johnstown. Pa. 7 p.m. (800) 237-8590
- Eddie Forman. St. Stanislaus. Fall River. Mass. 5-9. (508) 672-0423

JUNE 4

- Dennis Polisky/Polka Country Musicians. PACC. Webster. Mass. 5-11. (860) 537-3539
- Lenny Gomulka/Polka Family/Alex Meisner. St. Mary Church. Johnstown. Pa. 2 p.m. (800) 237-8590
- John Stevens. PLAV. Pine Island N.Y. 7-11. (845) 629-7477

JUNE 5

- Special Delivery Band. Clinton Bar & Grill. West Seneca. N.Y. 4:30-7:30. (716) 768-3246
- Polka Family. Evergreen Country Club. Fleetwood. Pa. 2-6. (610) 944-7501
- New Direction. Club Lorelei. Hamburg. N.Y. 3-7. (716) 648-1283
- Dennis Polisky. Warsaw Park. Ansonia. Conn. 12-4
- John Stevens. VFW. Dupont. Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- Lenny Gomulka/Golden Tones. Pinewick Acres. Pottsville. Pa. 2-7. (570) 436-2322
- Continentals. Old Stein inn. Edgewater. Md. 4-8. (410) 798-6807

JUNE 10

- John Stevens. Main Street. Edwardsville. Pa. 4-7. (570) 239-9594
- Chris & Ronnie Polka Band. St. Stan's. Meriden. Conn. 6-10. (203) 237-1005

JUNE 11

- Jimmy Sturr. Clinton Square. Syracuse. N.Y. 3-7. (315) 687-1076
- Eddie Forman. St. Mary's. Ware. Mass. 6:30-10:30. (413) 967-9728

JUNE 12

- Maestro's Men. St. Mary's. Ware. Mass. 2:30-6:30 (413) 967-9728
- Eddie Derwin. VFW. Dupont. Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- John Gora. Clinton Square. Syracuse. N.Y. 12-5. (315) 473-4330

JUNE 14

- Buffalo Touch. River Grill. Tonawa-

- nda. N.Y. 6:30. (716) 873-2553
- Fritz Polka Band. Finger Lakes Race-track. Farmington. N.Y. 11-2. (585) 742-7301

JUNE 17

- Dennis Polisky. St. Joseph Church. Webster. Mass. 6-10. (508) 943-0378
- Lenny Gomulka. Heritage Woods. Agawam. Mass. TBA. (413) 786-9704
- Polka Family/Alex Meisner. Liederkranz Club. Reading. Pa. 6-11. (610) 373-3982

JUNE 18

- Lenny Gomulka. Our Lady of Perpetual Help. New Bedford. Mass. TBA. (508) 992-9378
- Dennis Polisky. St. Joseph Church. Webster. Mass. 6-10. (508) 843-0378
- Rich Bobinski Orch. WVIA TV taping at Mohegan Sun. Wilkes-Barre. Pa. (570) 602-1124

JUNE 19

- Lenny Gomulka. Pulaski Park. Three Rivers. Mass. 2:30-6:30
- Mike Surratt. Old Stein Inn. Edgewater. Md. 4-8. (410) 798-6807

JUNE 22

- Polka Country Musicians. Ocean Beach Park. New London. Conn. 7-10. (860) 598-4117
- Ed Guca Polish Canadians. Leonard Post. Cheektowaga. N.Y. 7:30-10. (716) 684-4371

JUNE 23

- Dennis Polisky/Polka Family//Matt's All Star Band/Larry Trojak. Ocean Beach Park. New London. Conn. 11:00 a.m.-12:30 a.m. (860) 598-4117

JUNE 24

- The Knewz/Polka Country Musicians/The Boys/Eddie Forman/IPA Tribute Band/Freeze Dried. Ocean Beach Park. New London. Conn. 10AM-1AM. (860) 598-4117
- Dennis Polisky. Our Lady of Czestochowa. Coventry. RI. 6-10. (401) 821-3804

JUNE 25

- Freeze Dried/The Knewz/IPA Tribute Band/Polka Country Musicians/The Boys. Ocean Beach Park. New London. Conn. 10 a.m.-12:30 a.m. (860) 598-4117
- Eddie Forman. Our Lady of Czestochowa. Coventry. RI. 6-10. (401) 821-3804

- chowa. Coventry. RI. 6-10. (401) 821-3804
- Eddie Derwin. Holy Child Grove. Nanticoke. Pa. 7-11. (570) 735-4833
- Jimmy Sturr. Nay Aug Park. Scranton Pa. 7 p.m. (570) 348-4186
- The Eastern Sound. Polish Club. Amesbury. Mass. 2-6. (978) 388-9921

JUNE 26

- Dennis Polisky. Our Lady of Czestochowa. Coventry. RI. 1-4. (401) 821-3804
- John Stevens. Christ the King Church. Ludlow. Mass. 12-4. (413) 583-2630
- Lenny Gomulka. Christ the King Church. Ludlow. Mass. 5-9. (413) 583-2630
- Golden Tones. Holy Ghost Church. West Easton. Pa. 3-7. (610) 252-4266

JUNE 28

- Dennis Polisky. Naugatuck Green. Naugatuck. Conn. 7-9. (203) 720-7000
- Rich Bobinski Orch. Coe Park. Torrington. Conn. 7-9
- Concertina All Stars. Polish Falcons. Depew. N.Y. 8-10:30. (716) 684-2373

JUNE 30

- Lenny Gomulka/Nu-tones. Seven Springs. Champion. Pa. TBA. (708) 594-5182

JULY 1

- Jimmy K/Bufalo Concertina All Stars/Dyna Brass/Eddie Forman/Polka Family/Mon Valley Push. Seven Springs. Champion Pa. TBA. (708) 594-5182

JULY 2

- John Gora/Steve Futa/Lenny Gomulka/Tony Blazonczyk/Ray Jay/The Boys. Seven Springs. Champion. Pa. TBA. (708) 594-5182

JULY 3

- The Knewz/Box On/The Boys/Henny Versa J's. Seven Springs. Champion Pa. TBA. (708) 594-5182

JULY 4

- The Special Delivery Band. Town Park Pavilion, Cheektowaga N.Y. 1-5. (716) 668-9101.

Onion Festival

PINE ISLAND, N.Y. — The annual Onion Festival will take place, Sunday, September 4, 2016 at the PLAV Pavilion, Pine Island, N.Y., featuring Jimmy Sturr & his Orchestra. Also on the schedule are the Pokolenie Dancers and the annual onion eating contest. For more information call (800) 724-0727.

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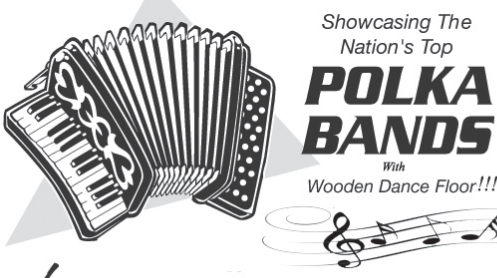


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| | Frankenmuth Jellystone Park 989-652-6668 |
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| | Sheraton Four Points Hotel 989-790-5050 |

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Daily Schedule

\$18. THUR, AUG 11th
Polka Family Box On
Ampol Aires Stephanie

\$20. FRI, AUG 12th
Polka Family The Boys
Lenny Gomulka PCM
New Brass Express

\$20. SAT, AUG 13th
Tony Blazonczyk The Boys
Lenny Gomulka PCM

\$16. THUR, AUG 18th
Squeezebox featuring Ted Lange and Mollie B
from the Mollie B Polka Party on RFD-TV
Fred Ziwich Leon Olsen

\$14. FRI, AUG 19th **\$16. -Polka & Hubcaps**
Squeezebox featuring Ted Lange and Mollie B from the Mollie B Polka Party on RFD-TV
Leon Olsen

\$14. SAT, AUG 20th **\$16. -Polka & Hubcaps**
Squeezebox featuring Ted Lange and Mollie B from the Mollie B Polka Party on RFD-TV
Frank Moravcik
The Fabulous HUBCAPS
Jesse Aron as Elvis & Roy

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AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO — Polish products were highlighted at **BookExpo America**, the largest book fair in the United States. Sam/Flickr.com Poland was the guest of honor at the three-day event, where twenty-seven Polish publishers participated. Visitors had the opportunity to learn about the publishing market in Poland, discover investment opportunities and find out about Polish products that have proved a hit on foreign markets.

One panel at the exposition centered on multimedia projects that have garnered worldwide praise such as the Polish video game "The Witcher" which has won three awards, including "Game of the Year" at the Game Awards last year in Los Angeles. That fantasy series depicts the adventures of monster slayer Geralt, based on Andrzej Sapkowski's bestselling novels.

NEW YORK

BUFFALO — The Cheektowaga Patriotic Commission is looking for individuals, businesses, groups, organizations or anyone interested in marching in the annual Town of Cheektowaga 4th of July parade. The parade will be held Monday, July 4, 2016, and will begin at noon. Assembly will be at the Thruway Mall. Anyone interested in marching or wanting more information contact **Chris Tanski**, coordinator, at (716) 771-1076 or email parade@patrioticcommission.com.

BUFFALO — The **General Pulaski Association, Inc.** will honor 15 health care professionals of Polish descent in hospitals, nursing homes, private medical groups, education, business, Veterans' agencies, social services and in religious settings, announced Brian D. Rusk, president of the General Pulaski Association, Inc.

This banquet will take place Sunday, Sept. 11, 2016 at the Millenni-



SONIC'S POLISH PAIR. Improv comedians **T.J. Jagodowski** (left) and **Peter Grosz** have played the two quirky Sonic Drive-In guys since 2002. New Yorker Grosz, 39, has appeared on TV's "The Weather Man," "Curb Your Enthusiasm" and "Veep." He received two Emmy Awards for his writing on "The Colbert Report" and frequently may be heard on NPR's "Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me!" Jagodowski, 41, a native of Holyoke, Mass., has been an improvising on stage in Chicago for more than 15 years with the groups Second City, Improv Olympic and Annoyance. His movie credits include "Oz the Great and Powerful," "Prison Break," "The Ice Harvest" and "Stranger Than Fiction."

um Hotel in Cheektowaga.

Each honoree will be a guest, receive a health care professional award, and be asked to provide brief remarks. All proceeds for this dinner honoring health care professionals will go towards expenses of the Pulaski Day Parade, which will be held this year on July 17.

Nominations with bios and head photos should be sent to Pulaski Association, Inc. Director Sandi Schmid, 101 Reo Ave., Cheektowaga, NY 14211. Schmid may be called at (716) 894-6304.

SYRACUSE — The **Polish Scholarship Fund** will host the 62nd Annual Syracuse Polish Festival, June 10-12, in Clinton Square, located in Downtown Syracuse. The entertainment for this year's festival will include performances by the John Spillet Quartet, Melody Lane, Salt City Brass, Rymanowski Brothers Orchestra, Jimmy Sturr, Popshow Band, Lechowia Polish Canadian Dance Company, Mans-

field Ave., Blues Brothers, Billionaires Band, John Gora & Gorale, and the Noisy Boys. The festivities will include the announcement of the Pole of the Year and Miss Polonia, a pierogi eating contest, and the awarding of scholarships. Polish food and libations will be available, as well as a children's area with magicians, clowns, a bounce house and face painting.

For more information, visit <http://polishscholarship.org/>

NEW YORK — The Annual **Jan Karski Humanitarian Awards Night**, May 9, honored Brooklyn Diocese Auxiliary Bishop Witold Mroziowski; celebrated television and radio host Rita Cosby; and humanitarian and philanthropist Sigumunt Rolat. The Uma Family — Polish Righteous Christians, who harbored Jewish neighbors at the cost of their own lives — were also recognized.

The event was held at the Consulate General on Madison Avenue.

The Jan Karski Humanitarian Award was established by The Polish-Jewish Dialogue Committee.

PORT WASHINGTON — On June 5, the **Polish American Museum** will host the inaugural public

viewing of a unique exhibit dedicated to the plight of Polish orphans rescued from the Soviet gulags and an unexpected benefactor. The Polish ambassador to the United Nations, Doctor Boguslaw Winid will be among the honored guests to open the exhibit.

This is a temporary exhibit; "Passage to India," will be open for two months. The exhibition, prepared by the Polish History Museum, depicts a touching story of more than 1,000 children — mostly orphans — deported from the Soviet occupied portion of Poland to the gulags in Siberia. After their liberation from the Soviet camps in 1941-42, they traveled to India, where Maharaja Jam Saheb Digvijaysinhji Ranjitsinhji of Nawangar created a new home for them, where they could again learn and play. The Polish camp in Balachadi and small Polish town Valvade flourished until the end of World War II. The last Polish families left India in 1948.

Hours for viewing: Wed., Thur. and Fri., 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.; Sat. 1:00-4:00 p.m.

The Polish American Museum is located at 16 Belleview Ave.; tel. (516) 883-6542.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA — "Carpe Diem" Benefit Concert. Sun., June 5. Polish coloratura opera singer **Marika Szczepek** and friends in concert at the Associated Polish Home of Philadelphia, 9150 Academy Rd. Cocktail hour 5:00 p.m., concert 5:30 p.m. Tickets \$30 at the door or at Polish stores in the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia. All proceeds benefit music education. For more information, visit www.polishhome.com or call (215) 624-9954

Also in June at the Polish Home: "Poezja Śpiewana / Sung Poetry" Sat., June 11. Polish-language blues/rock concert hosted by Piwnica u Dziadka, Polish Musician's Club. 8:00 p.m. \$15 at the door.

Noc Świętojańska Piknik / St. John's Eve Picnic. Sun., June 26. 2:00 p.m. Polish foods, cash bar; activities for kids; traditional Polish summer activities; live music and

dancing. Tickets at the door: \$10/adults; \$5/students; kids under age 14 free.

PHILADELPHIA — **St. Adalbert Summer Festival**, Thompson St. and Allegheny Ave., Port Richmond section. June 23-25. 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Polish American String Band (Thurs.); DJ Patty Pat and Alumni Night (Fri.); and Continental Polish Music (Sat.). Games of chance, Polish and American food, refreshments, and more. Info call rectory (215) 739-3500. Rain or shine.

PHILADELPHIA — Philadelphia premiere of "Bridging Urban America: **The Story of Ralph Modjeski**, Bridge Engineer. Sun., July 10, 2016. Drexel University, Mandell Theatre, 3201 Chestnut Str. Tickets: \$20.00; students \$10.00 Buy tickets: www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2548038

DOYLESTOWN — 2016 **Adam Styka Art Competition and Sale.** Hosted by the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia. Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa. Exhibition dates: Sept. 3, 4, 5 and 10-11. Preview Reception: Sun., Aug. 28, 2016 at 2:30 p.m. For more information contact: Marie Hejnosz, director at (215) 487-0221 or email: hejnoszm@gmail.com.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The **Kosciuszko Foundation** invites all to the 2016 Fundraising Gala Dinner, Sat., Nov. 12, which will be a tribute to **Maestro Piotr Gajewski**.

A student and disciple of the late Leonard Bernstein, Gajewski is a conductor who continues to thrill audiences all over the world. He will receive the Foundation's 2016 "Pioneer" award. A native of Poland, Gajewski is the founder, music director and conductor of the National Philharmonic, currently in residence at the Music Center at Strathmore in North Bethesda, Md.

The event will be held in the State Ballroom of the Mayflower Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Ave, NW.

Tickets: \$150 (by Oct. 12); \$175 (after); students: \$100.

For more information, call (202) 785-2320.

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Blessing of Dance Troupes

DETROIT — On April 10, St. Hyacinth Parish held its 14th annual **Blessing of the Polish American Dance Ensembles Mass**. The Mass was dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the death of St. Maximilian Kolbe.

Fr. Janusz Iwan, pastor of St. Hyacinth, was the celebrant. Nearly 500 people attended this mass of celebration. Additionally, over 180 dancers from 17 dance troupes of the metropolitan Detroit area participated in every aspect of this special Mass — carrying paintings of St. John Paul II and Our Lady of Czestochowa; symbols that represent Polish cuisine culture, such as bread and salt; pisanki, pączki, and chrusciki, along with poppies; a peacock-feathered hat; and a symbolic star. Finally, they carried a scroll that contained the signatures of each and every dancer that participated.

The dance troupes participating were Czarny Dunajec Dance Ensemble from Sterling Heights and Wawel Folk Ensemble from Roseville. Representing the Polish Women's Alliance were the Łowicz Dancers and the Zamek Dance Troupe, both from Troy. Representing the Polish National Alliance were Centennial Danc-



PRCUA dancers with Father Janusz.

ers from Westland, Polanie Song and Dance Ensemble from Sterling Heights, Polish Alliance Dancers of Dearborn, and the Radomian Dance Group from Livonia. Participating on behalf of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA) were Gwiazda Dance School from Hamtramck, Halka Dancers from Detroit, Opole Dancers and the Polskie Maki Dancers, both from Warren, Rogalin Dancers from Wyandotte, the Syrena Dance Ensemble and Wieliczka Dancers, both from Dearborn Heights, and the Zajączek Dance Ensemble and Zakopane Polish Folk Dance

Ensemble, both from Sterling Heights. This unique Mass was held to honor the folk dancers, their teachers, and their choreographers for all their efforts as they keep the culture of Polish folk dancing alive.

Each year, the Blessing Mass has a different theme, such as Pope John Paul II, St. Casimir's Feast Day, and the History and Legend of the Polish White Eagle, to name a few.

Groups attending expressed their gratitude to Joe Jaczkowski, the events coordinator at St. Hyacinth, for putting this special event together. (G.B.C.)