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AN INTERVIEW WITH
POLISH CONSUL GENERAL
MACIEJ GOLUBIEWSKI
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PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, NEW YORK
AND ADDITIONAL ENTRY OFFICES

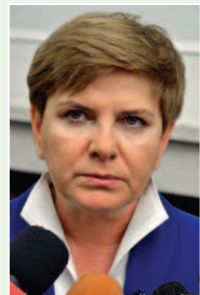
**RUSSIA REMAINS A THREAT • U.S. SOLDIER'S REMAINS FOUND IN POLAND • THE RETURN OF DANNY SZETELA
HARTFORD ARCHDIOCESE CLOSURE/MERGER PLAN AFFECTS EIGHT POLISH PARISHES • POLSKA HALA'S 100TH
GREEN BERET SLUGOCKI HONORED • NEW FILM FEATURES MAZOWSZE • UNCOVERING NAME CHANGES**

Newsmark

PRIME MINISTER: WE CANNOT ACCEPT MIGRANTS

(Radio Poland). Polish Prime Minister Beata Szydło said Poland cannot take on any migrants, despite an EU deadline to start admitting asylum seekers by June.

She told a May 16, 2017 press conference in Warsaw that “there was no agreement” of EU Member States to compulsory quotas related to accepting migrants.



Szydło (inset, left) added that thanks to Poland's tough attitude towards refugees, “a critical attitude towards the mechanism of migrant relocation is becoming increasingly widespread in the European Union.”

“Poland cannot accept refugees,” she added.

The European Union said that Poland and Hungary have until this month to start accepting refugees or face sanctions.

“I call on Poland and Hungary who have not relocated a single person ... to start doing so right now,” EU Migration Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos told reporters.

In September 2015, EU leaders agreed that each country would accept a number of asylum seekers over two years to alleviate the pressure on Greece and Italy, which have seen the arrival of tens of thousands of asylum seekers from the Middle East. Poland, which had been assigned 6,200 refugees, has not taken in any of them.

According to the European Commission, only Austria, Poland and Hungary have not accepted people from migrant camps in Italy and Greece, while Malta and Finland are the only countries to have fulfilled their obligations.

TWO POLES DEAD AFTER TERROR ATTACK. A couple from Poland in the Manchester attack were killed as they waited to collect their daughters from the concert, the country's foreign minister has said.

Angelika and Marcin Klis died when a suicide bomber detonated a device as crowds were leaving the arena where Ariana Grande had just finished her concert.

Polish Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski said the couple's two girls were safe after the explosion that left 22 dead and 64 injured.

Another Polish citizen was wounded in the attack and has undergone surgery in a hospital. He is a father, but no further details about his identity have been released.

Many Polish families live in the Manchester area, with some 20,000 Polish-language speakers in the region.

DIRECTOR HOLLAND HONORED IN WASHINGTON. Polish film director Agnieszka Holland was honored with the Visionary Award by the Washington Jewish Film Festival. The distinction recognizes “creativity and insight in presenting the full diversity of the Jewish experience through the moving image.”

Holland collected the award at a ceremony on May 27, after a screening of her 1985 Oscar-nominated film “Angry Harvest.”

The program of the festival also included “The Sandglass” by the Polish director Wojciech Has (1925-2000).

POPE FRANCIS: LONG LIVE POLAND! Pope Francis addressed Polish pilgrims to follow “the path of understanding and “compassion” during a general audience at the Vatican, May 3, 2017.

During his regular general audience, the Pope referred to that day's Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Poland and the anniversary of the 3rd May Constitution in the country.

“Long live Poland!” the Pope said, adding “applause for the Queen of Poland.”

“In your daily choices, follow the path of mutual understanding and compassion. Make important decisions while seeking truth, common good and peace. Be open and sensitive to the needs of your brothers,” said Pope Francis.

Valor and Service Acknowledged



Kosciuszko Foundation President Marek Skulimowski presents the organization's “Pioneer” award to Wincenty Knapczyk, a combat veteran of Monte Cassino, and commander of the Polish Army Veterans Association of America. The award, and others, were presented at the Foundation's 2017 Ball in New York. *Story on page 10.*

Ogrydziak Brothers Graduate from West Point

Excerpted from the Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Brothers Noah, Sumner and Cole Ogrydziak entered West Point's grueling world of 6:30 a.m. reveille, 60-pound packs and rigorous course loads on the same day four years ago. The three cadets got to fling their caps together at graduation last month, marking a rare fraternal trifecta at this storied academy.

The band of brothers from Nederland, Texas, graduated with the U.S. Military Academy's Class of 2017 on May 27. The first duty stations for the future Army officers are still being worked out, but it's clear to the brothers that their years of being just a short march from one another are numbered.

“It's kind of surreal to think that, ‘Hey, all three of us actu-

See “Ogrydziak,” page 2

Coal, Trains, and My Polish Grandfather in Bloomington:

Why our Immigrant Ancestors Should be in History Books

by Steve Szabados

PART I. My Polish grandfather was part of the wave of emigration that left Europe with the hope of finding work and a better life. His name is not in the history books, but I believe his life and the lives of his fellow immigrants were building blocks in the growth of their new country.

My grandfather, Steve Zuchowski, was born in 1893 in the Russian Partition of Poland. His ancestors were nobles, but the family lost their noble status when the subdivision of their lands into small farms forced family members to work in the fields. The rules of nobility in Poland prohibited nobles from working in the fields or being paid to manage for someone else. However, the subdivision of the noble lands over many generations caused many noble families to work in their small fields similar to the peasants who worked on farms in the surrounding area.

Polish inheritance rules were changed to allow the passing of the small farms only to the oldest son. Steve was the youngest of five children, and only his oldest brother Stanislaw would inherit the farm. After his parents had died and Steve had turned eighteen, it was time for him to leave home. The farms in the area were small, and most farm owners could not afford to

Steve Zuchowski was one of the over 1.5 million Poles to emigrate from the Russian Partition to America.

See “Immigrant Ancestors,” page 15

Katyn Victims Remembered



Ambassador Piotr Wilczek at the base of the National Katyn Memorial in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, addressing the large gathering of Polonia with its local and visiting organizations, Polish Army veterans, friends of Poland, and politicians on the city, state, and federal levels.

by Richard Poremski

BALTIMORE, Md. —Over 150 people assembled at the National Katyn Memorial in the center of Harbor East on April 30, 2017 to memorialize the 22,000 Polish Army officers slain in the greater crime of Katyn. The victims included reserve officers, leading citizens, and intelligentsia, all murdered in the infamous April 1940 Katyn Forest Massacre at the bloodied hands of the Soviet Union's NKVD — mili-

tarized political police. This genocide was also carried out at other locations during the early years of World War II.

The Remembrance Ceremony included color guards, Roman Catholic Church, Polish National Catholic Church, and Jewish clergy in prayer and commentary; the Embassy of Poland; guest speakers, politicians, military officers, politicians, the laying of wreaths, and “Taps” played

See “Katyn Memorial,” page 3

PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

Almanac

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June Czerwiec

"When sunbeams forth from Cancer pour, And sings the nightingale no more, In Czarny Las, Sobotka fires Were lighted, as the time requires." — from the *Prelude to "St. John's Eve,"* by Jan Kochanowski.

- 1 **CHILDREN'S DAY** (Poland) 1913. Birth of **Jerzy Pniewski**, physicist, who helped discover the elementary particle known as hypernuclear material.
- 2 1798. Polish playwright and author **Julian Niemcewicz** visits George Washington at Mt. Vernon.
- 4 1960. Death of **General Jozef Haller**, commander of Polish units under French Command in 1916 during World War I.
- 5 1999. **John Paul II** begins his fourth trip to Poland.
- 6 1997. Beatification of **Mother Maria Jablonska** and **Mother Maria Karlowska**.
- 8 **Queen Jadwiga** (1373-1399), canonized by St. John Paul II in Krakow in 1997.
- 10 **BLESSED BOGUMIL**
- 11 1741. Austria ceded most of **Silesia** to Prussia by Treaty of Breslau.
- 12 1887. Founding of the **Polish Falcons of America**, fraternal insurance benefit society headquartered in Pittsburgh.
- 13 1907. **Stanley Ketchel** wins the middleweight boxing crown. He holds the title for three years.
- 14 **FLAG DAY (U.S.)**
1940. In German-occupied Poland, the first inmates arrived at the Auschwitz concentration camp. They were all Polish political prisoners.
- 17 1696. Death of **Jan III Sobieski**, who defeated the Turks at the Battle of Chocom near Vienna, and is credited with saving Europe from being overrun by Muslims.
- 18 **FATHER'S DAY (U.S.)**
- 19 1926. The opera "**King Roger**" premieres in Warsaw.
- 21 1305. Death of **Wenceslaus II**
- 22 1940. Gen. Wladyslaw Sikorski establishes **Polish government-in-exile** in London.
- 23 **ST. JOHN'S EVE**
Sobótki. Traditional folk rituals include groups of young men and women singing ritual songs to each other. The young women may wear crowns fashioned from wild flowers, which are later thrown into a nearby pond or lake. Bonfires (and bonfire jumping) are also part of the proceedings.
1892. Birth of **Mieczyslaw Horszowski** (d. 1993), internationally acclaimed pianist and music teacher.
- 24 1914. Birth of **Jan Karski**, Polish World War II resistance fighter and scholar.
- 25 1941. Germans invaded Dubno, Poland, and encouraged the Ukrainians to do whatever they want to 12,000 Jews living there.
- 26 1295. **White Eagle** made symbol of Poland.
- 27 1697. Election of **August II the Strong**
- 28 1956. **Poznań Protests** begin, the first demonstration against the post World War II Soviet-imposed communist government.
- 29 1941. Death of pianist, composer, and statesman **Ignacy Jan Paderewski**, 80, in New York City.
- 30 1911. Birth of **Czeslaw Milosz**, Polish poet who received the 1980 Nobel Prize in Literature.

This paper mailed on or before **June 1, 2017**. The July 2017 edition will be mailed on or before **June 29, 2017**

Russia Remains a Threat

The head of the U.S. military in Europe said Russia poses an existential threat to the West's military and political influence around the world, prompting NATO to assume a more militant mission.

In his testimony to lawmakers, Army Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, who serves as both chief of U.S. European Command (EUCOM) and NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe, told the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies that Moscow was responsible for frustrating Western security goals in Europe during one of the tensest periods in the region since the Cold War. Both NATO and Russia have lined up troops and armaments along their mutual borders and have accused the other of provoking a potential conflict. Scaparrotti told legislators that Moscow's campaign to expand its own interests as a global player was damaging to the West's regional dominance.

"In the East, a resurgent Russia had turned from

partner to protagonist as it seeks to undermine the Western-led international order and reassert itself as a global power," Scaparrotti said, according to the Department of Defense.

The general cited Russia's involvement in conflicts in Ukraine and Georgia, as well as a deteriorating security situation in areas of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East due to conflict and jihadist activity, as contributing to NATO's shift in focus from "security cooperation and engagement to deterrence and defense."

Last year, the 28-member Western military alliance, to which the U.S. is by far the largest contributor, established four major battle groups in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. NATO has since deployed extensive resources to these countries as well as an extensive missile defense shield that the U.S. argues is necessary for countering perceived Russian aggressions, but Moscow contends is a ploy to contain the nation's military capabilities.

Adulation Well Deserved

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C.—It was 100 years and one day in the life of General/Ambassador Edward L. Rowny (ret.) at the residence of the ambassador on April 4, 2017. Ambassador Piotr Wilczek organized a birthday celebration to mark the auspicious occasion. Among the invitees were Rowny's extended family, many friends, and Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, the co-chair of the Congressional Poland Caucus.

In his welcoming address, Ambassador Wilczek noted Rowny's incredible accomplishments and many contributions to Poland, especially in critical moments such as Poland's entry into NATO. The Ambassador also recalled Rowny's critical influence on U.S. national security policy, especially in relations with the Soviet Union regarding nuclear arms reduction negotiations and treaties.

Rowny was born in Baltimore, Md. on April 3, 1917. His family's Polish beginnings are rooted in Nagoszewa, near Ostrow Mazowiecka, Poland. Rowny had a very successful military career in the U.S. Army after graduating in 1941 from the USMA at West Point. He retired in 1979 with the rank of Lieutenant General. His military service included World War II, the Korean and Vietnam wars, and as a military advisor to five U.S. presidential ad-



General/Ambassador Edward Rowny being applauded by Ambassador Piotr Wilczek and attendees after being awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland — by order of President Andrzej Duda — for his accomplishments and contributions to Poland and the American Polonia.

ministrations: Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan and Bush senior. In 1982, President Ronald Reagan appointed Rowny chief negotiator, with the rank of U.S. Ambassador to negotiate the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) with the Soviet Union. Subsequently, he became special advisor for arms control in the Reagan and Bush administrations until his retirement in 1990.

Rowny is credited with strengthening relations between Poland and the United States, establishing the Paderewski Scholarship Fund to support young Polish American musicians, and establishing the influential Polish American Advisory Council. He said that he attained a crowning achievement in 1992 when he fulfilled a fifty years-long ambition to return the remains of diplomat, statesman and patriot

extraordinaire Premier Ignacy Jan Paderewski from Arlington National Cemetery to the now-democratic Republic of Poland — where Paderewski received the full pomp and circumstance of a state funeral. Paderewski was stranded in the United States with the eruption of World War II and died here on June 29, 1941 in New York City. It was not possible to repatriate Paderewski's remains to Poland during the bitter and acrimonious communist domination of Poland (1945-1989) by the Soviet Union following the Second World War.

To top off the evening's festivities, a very special tribute — sponsored by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs — was paid to Rowny with the premier screening of "Ambassador of Peace" by director Wieslaw Dabrowski. The fascinating documentary chronicled the life of Rowny from his humble Baltimore beginnings to his rise to the highest circles in his military and diplomatic careers, and other subsequent remarkable achievements contained therein, including authorship of three relevant books: "It Takes One to Tango," "Smokey Joe and the General," and "West Point '41 — The Class that Went to War and Shaped America."

Editor's Note: An extensive and biography of Gen. Rowny appeared in the April 2017 issue of the *Polish American Journal*.

Ogrydziaks: Texans Got Used to Snowy Winters

continued from cover

ally made it here and we're kind of living our dreams, doing what we want to do," Sumner said. "And soon enough ... we'll be going off to our own separate duty stations."

Cole and Sumner are 21-year-old twins. They are not identical but share the steady posture, close-cropped hair and old-school courtesy common among cadets.

Older brother Noah just turned 23 and spent a year at West Point's prep school before entering the academy along with the twins on July 1, 2013.

Cole compares their West Point experience to having "automatic friends." They got used to snowy northeastern winters together,

learned how to stand in formation and maneuver in the field. They share the nickname "O.G.," which is easier for fellow cadets to say than Ogrydziak.

But the Ogrydziaks are in different regiments and take different classes. They are three in a sea of

4,400 gray-clad cadets walking briskly among the imposing stone buildings here. Brotherly connections come when Cole asks Noah for help with a computer course or they share a pizza on the weekend.

"Every so often I'll see them during the day. But we'll try to eat dinner at nights together, and especially on weekends we'll get together and watch a movie. That's always pretty fun," Noah said.

The last time three siblings graduated West Point together was 1985, when twins Rose and Anne Forrester became officers at the same time as their older brother, John. It's not clear how many other times three siblings have graduated together since the academy was established in 1802.



Twin Cadets Cole Ogrydziak (l.) and Sumner Ogrydziak (r.) and younger brother Cadet Noah Ogrydziak, pose at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. The three Texas brothers recently graduated together from the school.

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Katyn Memorial

continued from cover

by a Maryland National Guard bugler.

Earlier in the day, a dedicated mass with Polish military flourishes was celebrated in Polish and English at Holy Rosary Church.

At the afternoon reception/dinner in the Great Hall of the Polish National Alliance - Council 21, the 96 victims of the April 10, 2010 Smolensk-Katyn airplane crash were also remembered. This tragedy claimed the lives of President Lech Kaczynski, his wife Maria, the Chiefs of the Armed Forces, clergy, government officials, members of the parliament, institutional leaders, and honored citizens. Ambassador Piotr Wilczek and Brigadier General Cezary Wisniewski both took part in a special candle lighting ceremony honoring the deceased.

"Katyn is a very contentious issue between Poland and Russia, clouding our politics and relationship," said Ambassador Wilczek, who recounted how the crime was suppressed during the time of Poland's communist domination. "Other Katyns do exist, and much more has to be done to discover and document them in the future."

His remarks were echoed by Defense Attaché Brigadier General Wisniewski, who added the Katyn Forest Massacre "has served to make Poland's military even stronger because of the victims of this genocide who were sacrificed on the altar of freedom."

The memorial in Baltimore was unveiled in 2000, and is the tallest statue in Baltimore. The statue itself is 44 feet high, the whole monument, with base, is 56 feet.

"The Katyn Memorial has become a great symbol for Baltimore City and a place to share our memories and to never forget our past," said Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh. "This Memorial stands as a reminder of the sacrifice of so many."

Ambassador Wilczek said he was very impressed that the "monument

is proudly located in the center of the city."

"This monument is an important part of our city because it forces us to stare into the darkness and light," said Zeke Cohen, Baltimore city councilman. "It reminds me of the Holocaust in which my family members perished, and whose bodies were discarded like the men of Katyn were."

Cohen talked about a letter containing a survival gold coin memento that he treasures from his great grandmother, who suffered and did survive the Holocaust at the hands of the Nazi Germans. "My family members who perished in the Holocaust are up there in Heaven with the men of the Katyn Massacre staring down on us ... and so we say Never Again. Never Again to genocide wherever it exists in the world, to Sarin gas in Syria, to starvation in Somalia. We are all in this together."

Participating in the ceremonies were: Polish Legion of American Veterans, Maryland Department; Polish Army Veteran of America Post 36 and Post 81 from New Jersey; and Baltimore's folk dance groups Kakowiaki and Ojczyzna (adult). Maryland U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen were represented by their deputies.

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Justin's weekly message of spiritual guidance, encouragement, and hope was an influence on generations of Polish immigrants, their children, and grandchildren. His broadcasts, begun in 1931, continue today. **AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH OR POLISH. PLEASE SPECIFY.**

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Remains of World War II U.S. Soldier Found in French Cemetery in Poland

DeFUNIAK SPRINGS, Fla. — On September 8, 2016, after ten years of searching, the remains of a World War II hero were recovered from grave 908 in Wojskowy Cmentarz Francuski, a French military cemetery in Gdansk, Poland.

On April 5, 2017, the family of Lt. Ewart T. Sconiers learned that positive DNA analysis had been officially confirmed.

Sconiers' recovery is historic in that he was the only American POW unrecovered from Stalag Luft III (SLIII), the German prison camp made famous by the movie *The Great Escape*.

The journey to recover Sconiers was led by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and a selfless team of promise keepers from the United States, Belgium, and Poland. Sconiers' niece, Pamela Sconiers Whitelock, of New Albany, Ohio, serves as his official next-of-kin and the person authorized to direct disposition of his remains.

EARNs DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS. During an Aug. 21, 1942 mission over France, German fighters viciously and relentlessly attacked, crippling Sconiers' plane, *Johnny Reb*, and exploding the co-pilot's Plexiglas windscreen, mortally wounding him. The pilot, barely conscious and suffering from burned hands that could no longer control the plane, summoned the bombardier, Sconiers to the cockpit. Sconiers took over and flew the shattered, bullet-riddled plane across the English Channel and set it down in England. For this valiant deed and the lives saved, he was awarded the prestigious Distinguished Service Cross.

However, his luck ran out a few months later when he and his crew were shot down while bombing the Nazi submarine pens in France.

While imprisoned in SLIII, POW Sconiers worked security under the



1st Lt. Ewart Theodore Sconiers, U.S. Army Air Corps, 97th Bomb Group, 414th Bomb Squadron

supervision of POW Lt. Col. A.P. Clark for those digging the famous tunnel. Sconiers later died under mysterious circumstances, and on a frigid day in January 1944, six of his fellow POWs, under German guard, buried him in the municipal cemetery in what is now Lubin, Poland, an hour from the site of SLIII.

Officially notified of his death and spending decades unsuccessfully trying to find him, Sconiers' family was convinced they knew his fate — shot trying to escape and thrown in an unmarked mass grave. His mother, sister, and brother died before learning the truth. Sconiers' widow, the former Ina Bobelle Wright, also thought Ewart was shot trying to escape SLIII.

CASE REOPENED. Beginning in 2006, and without any family or political pressure, DPAA's Chief John Gray followed leads to Lubin, Poland and reopened Sconiers' case. DPAA records confirmed Sconiers had initially been buried in the POW section of a Lubin municipal cemetery (which became Allies Park),

next to five Frenchmen.

Sconiers died of dramatic complications from an untreated ear infection and was, indeed, ceremoniously buried by his fellow POWs in Allies Park.

DPAA conducted an exploratory mission in Lubin in 2011. Since the former cemetery hid hundreds of unmarked graves, scientific data was needed to identify Sconiers' likely burial site. Dr. Jarrod Burks of Ohio Valley Archaeology, Inc. was able to volunteer his professional time and expertise to conduct a geophysical survey of Allies Park. Dr. Burks presented his findings to DPAA in 2012. In August 2015, a newly reorganized DPAA offered its first third-party contract to Dr. Burks to excavate grave sites in the northeast corner of Allies Park where it was believed Sconiers was buried with other POWs.

SERENDIPITY STEPS IN. It was during that mission, a long-time volunteer — independent researcher Marilyn Walton of New Albany, Ohio — discovered a photo of a cross with Sconiers' name on it in the French military cemetery in Gdansk, Poland. The French spelling of Edward — "Edouard" — was written on the marker.

DPAA responded quickly to Sconiers' team's research. They learned that post-war, Russia gave France permission to recover its fallen in Poland, but barred the United States from doing so.

It was learned that the French — aware all markers would be erased from the Lubin cemetery — recovered their five fallen and took ally Sconiers' remains for reburial in Gdansk.

Sconiers will be reburied with full military honors in DeFuniak Springs, Florida next to his mother.

To learn more about 1st Lt. Sconiers, visit www.BringSconiersHome.com.



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Maciej Golubiewski was appointed head of the Polish Consulate General in New York. On January 16 of this year.

Born in Łódź, Poland, in 1976, Golubiewski graduated Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude from Washington and Lee University (1999) with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics and has a Master of Arts degree in Political Science from the Johns Hopkins University (2005). He also holds an International Baccalaureate Diploma from the United World College of the Atlantic in the UK. Golubiewski received academic scholarships from all three institutions.

After graduation, he moved to Washington D.C., where he spent three years in business consulting at Charles River Associates International (CRAI) before going on to graduate school. During his studies, Golubiewski interned with the office of Senator Richard Lugar, served as a summer fellow at the Heritage Foundation and was an associate scholar at the Center for European Policy Analysis. For close to five years, he was a teaching assistant and lecturer in political science and international relations at the Johns Hopkins University and spent two semesters as a visiting professor at Mannheim University in Germany.

In 2008, he joined, as an established official, the Directorate General for Development and Relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries at the European Commission in Brussels as a desk officer responsible for regional political and economic cooperation with the Horn, East and Southern Africa region. During that time he participated in the Economic Partnership Agreement free trade negotiations with the African regional blocks. In 2011, he was transferred to the newly created European External Action Service, where, since 2012, he had been responsible for preparing the EU's Foreign Affairs Council positions on the developing conflict in Syria. Most recently, between 2014 and 2016, Golubiewski served as the Deputy Chief of Mission and the Head of the Political Section at the EU Delegation to Lebanon in Beirut.

Golubiewski sits on an advisory board of the Integral Economic Development master programs at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and for almost ten years has been associated with the Sobieski Institute in Warsaw as an expert on the EU and foreign policy. He speaks Polish, English and French.

The Polish American Journal interviewed Consul General about his education in the United States, the role of the Consulate, ties with the Jewish community, and political changes in Poland and Europe. We thank him for his time.

Man on a Mission



AN INTERVIEW WITH Maciej Golubiewski

THE NEW POLISH CONSUL GENERAL IN NEW YORK

You represent a new and atypical Polish diplomat: you finished your education in the United States, and have experience in American government and business. What brought you to America in those terms, and how did you find your way into the Polish Foreign Ministry?

The answer is relatively simple. While I was lucky to receive scholarships to study and then worked in the United States, I was always technically an "expat" on student and work visas, respectively. With my whole family remaining in Poland, my ties with the homeland had remained naturally strong. For this reason, I was always a guest, albeit a rather long-term one, in the United States. That is why, I was all the more lucky to have had an opportunity to intern for Senator Lugar, for example. Given my interest in having a career in government and the fact that I was not American or a U.S. resident, it was, again, quite natural for me to first move to Brussels where as a Polish citizen I could serve in the EU diplomacy, and now to work for Poland's Foreign Ministry as the Consul General in New York. When the minister called me during my tour as an EU Delegation's Deputy Chief of Mission in Beirut and offered me this job, I did not think twice.

New York is certainly no insignificant posting for a diplomat. Is this your first posting? What are your goals as Polish Consul General in New York?

As I mentioned, I was posted as a Deputy at the EU Delegation Lebanon before coming to New York after spending time at EU's HQ in Brussels.

My goal apart from fulfilling my duty to serve Poles residing in my consular district is to intensify public diplomacy initiatives. Consuls have a duty to promote U.S.-Polish relations in many fields as well as

present and promote Poland's interests. The most important task is then to effectively reach local American elites, media and the public. This puts a premium on organizing public diplomacy events aimed at those audiences.

Just a few weeks ago, I organized a commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of T. Kosciuszko's death, which was an excuse to organize a panel to which I invited a Director from the Polish Ministry of Defense (on officer and a West Point graduate), a professor of politics at West Point, and the Director of Gen. Kuklinski's Museum in Poland. The goal was to use this anniversary to portray to the American audience the dynamism of the historical Polish-American military relations, its contemporary heroes such as Gen. Kuklinski (we hosted an exhibition about his life during the event), and to present current government and academic perspectives on our cooperation. Poland, after "Brexit" will emerge as the chief Atlanticist ally of the United States in the EU. This is real public diplomacy and my ambition is to hold a whole series of such initiatives that I hope would interest the local media and elites.

An important task here is to actively engage Polish-American or "Polonia" organizations. For too long, Polonia and the Consulate focused "preaching to the choir" in an echo chamber of sorts without actively engaging the American audience. I will do everything to change that. Part of these efforts would be organizing study trips to Poland for selected and influential non-Polish speaking Polish-Americans and other Americans.

An important part of my mission is ambitious economic diplomacy, which cannot be left to technical

bodies such as trade offices attached to the Consulate. These relations require a political approach, too. We are now embarking on an ambitious initiative to energize Poland's business relationship with the state of Ohio, and there will be more. Polish-Americans have also emerged as an important voting group, and I will try to capitalize on that. I hope to be able to organize briefings with U.S. politicians from the consular district on issues important to Polish-Americans in the United States in a form of "statements of community concerns," to which the politicians would then be asked to relate to in their presentations. There are many more, but presenting them would go beyond the limits of an interview.

New York is America's financial and, in some ways, cultural capital. But Americans at large really don't know much about Poland. What are your most important objectives to make the Polish Consulate a player on the New York scene?

One of the priorities I just mentioned was effective public diplomacy directed at the U.S. audience. Obviously, having the seat of the Consulate in New York City helps in that mission on the local market. The event I mentioned earlier took place at the Consulate, and many of these initiatives will then naturally focus on the New York City audience. The 100-year anniversary of Poland's Independence will be an excellent opportunity to engage even more with the New York City

"For too long, Polonia and the Consulate focused 'preaching to the choir'" in an echo chamber of sorts, without actively engaging the American audience. I will do everything to change that."

scene. I have already reached out to some New York borough presidents to discuss opportunities for promoting both the local Polish-American community and Poland in the city. President of Queens, Melinda Katz, already agreed to step up cooperation with us. Queens will host a Polish Heritage month event at the municipality, and we hope other boroughs will follow suit. We will be asking for commemorative resolutions and special proclamations for this occasion.

We must also remember that New York City and New York State are two very different animals. There are many opportunities for economic diplomacy and education initiatives in the state. I recently visited University of Rochester, which hosts a Polish Studies Center. I talked to the Dean and she would be interested in creating a conference of all Polish Studies centers in the geographic area of northern Pennsylvania, Ohio, etc – the famed "rustbelt" with big Polish-American presence.

Incidentally, these are also areas I am targeting for developing closer

economic ties with Poland due to similar legacies of heavy industry, agriculture and access to ports.

Going back to New York City proper, I'm in conversations with people with ties to the art world to organize a special exhibition of inter-war era Polish art, academics to showcase our scientific achievements (mainly the Lvov-Warsaw school of logic) and the like. I am planning this in close cooperation with the NYC Polish Institute.

I will be reaching out to the academic world in the city more. So far, I have focused on traveling outside New York City to seek out opportunities with academic centers in Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and Rochester, but I have ambitions to embark on some structured cooperation with both the SUNY and CUNY systems, which are the real academic lifeblood of the city and the state.

One traditional function of the Polish Consulate is outreach to American Polonia, and your Consulate's district, which spans New England, the Middle Atlantic, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, encompasses a large part of Polonia. On the other hand, American Polonia has often been an asset that Poland has not dealt with effectively. What do you see as the Consulate's role vis-à-vis Polonia?

As I said, I would like to change the optics of our relationship with Polonia. While it is crucial to promote maintaining links between Polonia and Poland, especially through Polish language education, which I

wholeheartedly support, I would like to promote more the principle of subsidiarity. In short, Polonia is a resource that often

understands best what its problems and issues are than the Consulate. Sometimes it is enough to give such local initiatives recognition or patronage.

On the other hand, there is a lot of pent up energy, especially among Polish-American entrepreneurs that start to see value in business cooperation with Polish companies. This is where a more active hand and guidance of the consulate is needed and where the Department of Investment and Trade Promotion is doing a good job. The capital gathered by Polonia is sizeable and needs to be put to use jointly with Polish assets. The current approach of Prime Minister Morawiecki encourages such cooperation. I was very happy to see many Polonia entrepreneurs in Rzeszow for the "590" Conference last December and part of my job of economic diplomacy is to build these connections; they are also promoting US-Poland economic cooperation via the diaspora.

Educational exchange is yet another way to do so. Polish-Americans realize that they can study medicine in English back in Poland and get certified here in the United States. This promotes stronger ties with Poland and often builds inter-institutional relationships just like the one between the Rochester Medical School and the Medical School at Jagiellonian University.

Finally, I would like to recruit, if I may use this word, Polonia organization in public diplomacy initiatives. The one on military cooperation benefitted greatly from the resources of Polonia groups active in "American Czestochowa" in Doylestown, Pa., which are very active when it comes to preserving the Polish historical memory among Polish-Americans.

continued next month

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Friends of John Paul II Foundation Welcome Fr. Wieliczko from Rome



Friends of John Paul II Foundation Chapter President Bozena Buda turns the microphone over to Reverend Father Krzysztof Wieliczko, Ph.D., at the Foundation's third annual lecture and luncheon in Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Third Annual Saint John Paul II Lecture and Luncheon, sponsored by the Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Chapter, took place on Saturday, May 6, 2017 at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington.

The Saint John Paul II National Shrine was previously known as the John Paul II Cultural Center.

The ceremonies began with Holy Mass in the beautiful and newly renovated Redeemer of Man Main Church, with Reverend Father Krzysztof Wieliczko, Ph.D., from Rome as the main celebrant. A special grandeur was lent by the procession of the Knights of Columbus Color Corps in purple capes and chapeaus, led by the assembly commander. Special solemnity was lent by the singing — in English, Latin and Polish — by the guest soprano singer Delia Zielinski, and the choir composed of seminarians and sister novitiates from IVE.

Following Holy Mass, Bozena Buda, president of the Friends Chapter, welcomed all guests, including his Excellency, the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, Professor Piotr Wilczek, to the next portion of the event, the lecture by Rev. Fr. Wieliczko. Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak introduced Fr. Wieliczko with highlights from his biography. She noted that Fr. Wieliczko, who was born in Poland, has been recog-

nized as a man of many talents in the various positions he held in the United States. Since 2010, he has been serving as the executive director of the John Paul II Foundation in Rome, the foundation begun by Pope John Paul II himself.

Fr. Wieliczko is not only a man of science and a doctor of philosophy but also a man of deep humility and deep humanity.

Fr. Wieliczko's presentation was entitled "Saint John Paul II and his lessons for us in the 21st century." His message to us — "be prayerful and be merciful" — is so simple and yet so profound, on how we can apply that to our own everyday lives. Following the lecture, everyone enjoyed a complimentary lunch featuring delicious Polish cuisine catered by Creative European Cooking. After lunch, guests could take a self-guided tour of the beautiful interactive exhibit, titled "A Gift of Love: the Life of Saint John Paul II."

The mission of the Foundation is to celebrate and perpetuate the legacy, ideals, and teachings of Saint John Paul II to all audiences, and to support the John Paul II Foundation in Rome.

"We are very grateful to the staff of the Saint John Paul II National Shrine, and the Knights of Columbus who administer the Shrine, for welcoming us and sharing this sacred space with us on this special occasion," said Buda.

Norway Picks up Tab for Lutheran Church Restoration in Poland

SWIDNICA, Poland — Restoration work for Europe's largest wooden church was completed in time for this year's 500th anniversary of the Reformation movement.

The Lutheran Church of Peace in Swidnica, was rehabilitated for \$4.4 million, which was financed by Norway.

Church bells rang on April 21, to mark the completion of the three-year work. Built in the mid-17th century, the 7,500-capacity church is considered as the largest timber-framed religious building in Europe. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared the church a World Heritage Site in 2001.

"It's a great day for our church and for the entire little protestant community in Swidnica, which wouldn't have been able to finance the work by itself," said Bozena Pytel, coordinator for the work.

The work involved restoring the organ, pulpit and altar "of what is an exceptional example of Baroque art," Pytel added.

In 1517, Martin Luther published his 95 theses or complaints against the Catholic Church, which

launched the Protestant Reformation. This religious revolution divided the Western church and created a Protestant branch of Christianity that rebelled against papal rule.

The construction of the building, along with two other Protestant churches, was allowed in Catholic areas after the 1648 Peace of Westphalia ended the Thirty Years' War between Catholics and Protestants. The builders used pioneering constructional and wooden architectural solutions of a scale and complexity unknown that time. (Christian Post).

Hartford Archdiocese Closure/Merger Plan Affects Eight Polish Parishes

by John M. Grondelski

HARTFORD, Conn. — The Catholic Archdiocese of Hartford announced a new "pastoral plan" May 7 that includes reducing the number of its parishes from 212 to 127. As a result, 26 parishes will close; 144 will be merged. The Archdiocese described the decision as "an effort to lead Connecticut Catholics into a vibrant future."

Seven Polish parishes in the Archdiocese remain untouched. The Polish parishes which survive include: Ss. Cyril & Methodius (Hartford); St. Joseph (Ansonia); St. Stanislaus (Bristol); St. Michael (Derby); Holy Cross (New Britain); Sacred Heart (New Britain); and St. Stanislaus (New Haven).

Three churches will remain open, although they are being merged with others into new parishes that will apparently have multiple churches. These include: St. Adalbert (Enfield), becoming St. Raymond of Peñafort; St. Stanislaus (Meriden), becoming St. Faustina; and St. Casimir (Terryville), becoming St. Maximilian Kolbe.

Four churches are being closed and merged into other parishes. These include: St. Joseph (Suffield), being merged into Sacred Heart; St. Mary (Torrington), being merged into St. John Paul the Great; St. Hedwig (Union City-Naugatuck), being merged into St. Francis of Assisi; and St. Stanislaus Kostka (Waterbury), being merged

into All Saints/Todos los Santos. One additional church, Immaculate Conception in Southington, will be closed and merged into St. Thomas upon the pastor's retirement.

As of this writing, the status of Ss. Peter & Paul in Wallingford is unclear.

The Archdiocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Transcript*, cited Father James Shanley, vicar of pastoral planning and architect of the downsizing, as claiming that closed churches may be repurposed for other parish ministries such as soup kitchens or sold, based on parish needs and the Archbishop's approval. Where buildings are sold, "assets follow the people" and will go to the parishes.

Religion

Resettling Christians in Northern Iraq

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Fr. Andrzej Haremba, head of the Middle East desk for the international Catholic Charity Aid to the Church in Need, applauded the rebuilding of 100 homes, the first of a planned 13,000 houses in the ancient Christian heartland on the Nineveh Plain in Northern Iraq. The area, recently freed from ISIS control is home to the Syriac Orthodox, Syriac Catholic and Chaldean Catholic Christians who have lived there since the 4th century. Some 40% of those driven from their homes by ISIS — about 12,000 people — have expressed a wish to return to their homes.

"The presence of Christians in this region is of vital importance, and not only historically but also politically and culturally," said Fr. Haremba. "Christians make a crucial contribution to the educational system and are respected by all moderate Muslims."

Aid to the Church in Need, a Vatican-run organization, helps the suffering and persecuted Church in more than 140 countries.

POPE ASSISTS FAMILY AFTER ATTACK. Pope Francis sent the director of his charities, Msgr. Konrad Krajewski, to assist the Halilovic family whose camper in suburban Rome was firebombed leading to the loss of three of the family's daughters.

NEW BISHOP FOR UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EPARCHY. Pope Francis appointed Bishop Venedykt (Valery) Aleksiychuk as the bishop of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Eparchy of Chicago. Born in Borschchivka, Ukraine, in January 1968, he graduated medical college in 1987 and worked as a physician's assistant for several years and served in the Ukrainian military for two years. A professed member of the Ukrainian Studite monks, he earned a master's

degree in theology at Lublin Catholic University in Poland, where he subsequently earned a licentiate and doctorate. He also received a master's degree in business administration from the Ukrainian Catholic University. He replaced the late Bishop Richard Stephen Semnack who died in August, 2016. The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church is in full communion with the Bishop of Rome.

NEW ST. JOHN PAUL II CHURCH. Kankakee, Ill. will soon become one of the first cities in America to have a Catholic parish named after St. John Paul II. It will be formed from the merger of St. Martin of Tours, St. Rose of Lima, and St. Teresa churches.

St. John Paul II Parish was established on May 18 of this year, the 97th anniversary of the birth of John Paul II, who served as pope from 1978 until his death in 2005.

To date, no final decision has been made regarding where the parish will be located. All three churches will remain open, and the new parish will form a pastoral council, finance council and staff to determine logistics and other matters.

John Paul II, born Karol Wojtyła in 1920, was the first native of Poland to serve as pope, and his tenure was the second-longest in modern history. He was declared a saint in 2014.

Few U.S. churches bear the name of John Paul II currently. There are at least three — Church of Blessed John Paul in Adams, Mass.; St. John Paul II Church in Mount Olive, Ill.; and St. John Paul II University Parish in Denton, Texas. There also are several worldwide.

THE GUN USED BY ALI AGCA to shoot Polish pope John Paul II in 1981 will remain on display in Poland for an extra five years. The Browning HP 9mm gun was used in the assassination attempt of the

pope on May 13, 1981 in St. Peter's Square.

It has been on display at the museum dedicated to John Paul II at his birthplace of Wadowice, southern Poland, since 2014.

A museum representative said that after the gun underwent cleaning and conservation, the Italian Justice Minister decided that the weapon could remain in Poland for another five years.

AWARDEES OF THE Am-Pol Eagle Citizen of the Year Awards, including: Sr. Christine Songin in the category of Religion, and **Christine Kibler** in the category of Individual In Organizations and **Przemyslaw Moskal** in the category of Education. The last two are members of the Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College which recently sponsored a staged reading of *Irena's Vow*, detailing the exploit of **Irena Gut Opdyke** who saved a dozen Jews in German occupied Poland in World War II.

Martin Boryszak on being named president and CEO of Sisters of Charity Hospital in Buffalo, N.Y.

Karen Paradowski, RN and **Amber Mazurek, RN, BSN, ONC** on being named among the six 2017 Nurses of Distinction by Buffalo, N.Y.'s Catholic Health Association.

Msgr. Thomas Robert Zinkula on his appointment by Pope Francis as bishop of Davenport, Iowa. Bishop Zinkula's ancestors came from Bohemia and on a recent trip back to his ancestral home he celebrated mass in the family's original church, served at that time by a Polish priest.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ... Sister Rosemary, O.P. on her silver jubilee. To celebrate she and a sister companion traveled to Poland, home of some of her ancestors.

Buffalo Diocese Priest Jubilarians: **Most Rev Edward U. Kmiec, Fr. Joseph G. Fifagowicz, Fr. Stanislaw Dudek** (55 years); **Fr. Henry Orzulak, Fr. Mark Wolski, Fr. Charles Zadora** (50 years); **Fr. Leon Biernat** (25 years).

St. John Gualbert Church and Diocesan Shrine in Cheektowaga, NY, celebrating 100 yrs. Pastor **Michael Burzynski** recently installed a large collection of relics in a shrine within the church. The shrine was blessed by Buffalo diocese's **Bishop Richard Malone**.

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PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN. (Never Known To Fail). Oh, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of

my heart and succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you. Grateful thanks, A.D.

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

promised. Thank you St. Jude and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. A.D.

THANKSGIVING NOVENA TO ST. JUDE. Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near the kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I thank from the depth of my heart for coming to my assistance. I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. (Say three Our Fathers, Three Hail Marys, Three Glory Be's). St. Jude pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Amen. Publication must be promised. This prayer is to be said for nine consecutive days. This novena has never been known to fail. My prayers have been answered. C.J.L.

Books in Brief

We Are One Family

WE ARE ONE FAMILY: JESTESMY JEDNA RODZINA: Polish Immigration to Sheridan County, Wyoming 1890-1920 by Karen Ballek and Leon Washut Ochodzita Printing LLC, 2015, 220 pps.

by Mary Lanham

When one thinks of Polonia, metropolises like Chicago, Detroit, New York, and Buffalo come to mind. While these have been important Polish enclaves in the United States, even small regions like Sheridan County, Wyoming have produced pockets of Polonia.

Authors Karen Ballek and Leon Washut examine not only the lives of the Polish immigrant families that settled in central Wyoming from 1890 to 1920, but the areas in the U.S. they first colonized and the regions in and around Poland from which they came.

Many of these new Americans came from regions like Podhale, Rzeszow, and Silesia and the authors describe each of these places in detail, noting what the traditional clothing looked like, its architectural styles, as well as a short history of the areas.

While they left Poland and some of their families behind to work in the mines of Sheridan County, the recent immigrants did not leave their culture. Passing their traditions down to the next generations was very important to these families. Offering good, hearty meals to guests is the foundation of Polish customs and culture. This tradition was carried on even in modest surroundings.

"Guests are not served one or two main dishes or side dishes.

Rather, the table is covered with a wide variety of food and drink. In small mining camp homes, guests often crowded around the table, and special meals were often two-phase events. If there was no room for a separate kids' table, the children were fed first and then the adults ate."

The excerpt below describes the types of food that was provided:

"Potatoes, cabbage, and sausage were staples in the Polish

diet, and many dishes featured potatoes and sauerkraut ... Breads and pastries were baked at home, and yeast dough pastries (*kolache*) were a traditional treat."

Augmenting the meticulously researched text, the book contains numerous photos of the original families — the brave

and hard-working individuals who chose to settle out west a hundred years ago. The socioeconomic issues that spurred this mass migration to seek a new life in America is thoroughly explained and punctuated with maps that illustrate historic borders and regions.

It took eight years of research to create *We Are One Family*. Ballek and Washut drew on oral histories, manifests, church records, and other government documents to create this essential history of the Poles in Sheridan County, Wyoming. The book contains a helpful guide to Polish villages and cities, footnotes with references, and an index. An abbreviated history of Poland is included which makes this book accessible to Poles and non-Poles alike

We Are One Family: Jestesmy Jedna Rodzina: Polish Immigration to Sheridan County, Wyoming 1890-

1920 by Karen Ballek and Leon Washut is available for purchase online at weareonefamily.us.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS. The descendants of Polish immigrants, Dr. Karen Ballek and Leon Washut are cousins who sought to document their family's history but their research grew into an eight-year, in-depth study of the ethnic Poles who settled in Sheridan County, Wyoming.

Wedding Bells for MSNBC Co-Hosts

NEW YORK — Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski, co-hosts of "Morning Joe" on MSNBC are now engaged.

"Over the past year and a half, I realized I had to face these feelings and that it was time to stop putting them in a box," Brzezinski told *Vanity Fair* magazine. "It was not an easy process and it was not an easy set of decisions for either of us. It was something I couldn't deny anymore."

Scarborough, 54, who has been married twice before, told *Vanity Fair* he thought he would "never, ever do this again in a million years."

Brzezinski, 50, is the daughter of Polish American diplomat and political scientist Zbigniew Brzezinski.



Polonian Places

Holy Trinity R.C. Church, Niagara Falls

Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church
1419 Falls St.
Niagara Falls, New York
Status: Closed

by Gregory L. Witul

It's June and that means newlyweds will be traveling this month to the honeymoon capitol of the world, Niagara Falls. For over two hundred years, couples have descended on the Cataract City, and for about half that time Poles have maintained a colony in the metropolis. By the end of the dawn of the twentieth century this community began to produce their own newlyweds with the establishment of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Niagara Falls East Side.

In the late 1800s Polish priests from the city of Buffalo would travel to Niagara Falls to minister to the Polish Catholics there. By October 1901 there were enough Poles in the Falls for Bishop Quigley to send Reverend Peter Pitass, the nephew of Buffalo's powerful founding Polish priest Dean John Pitass, to establish a parish. For two years Holy Trinity evolved from a back room to a small frame struc-

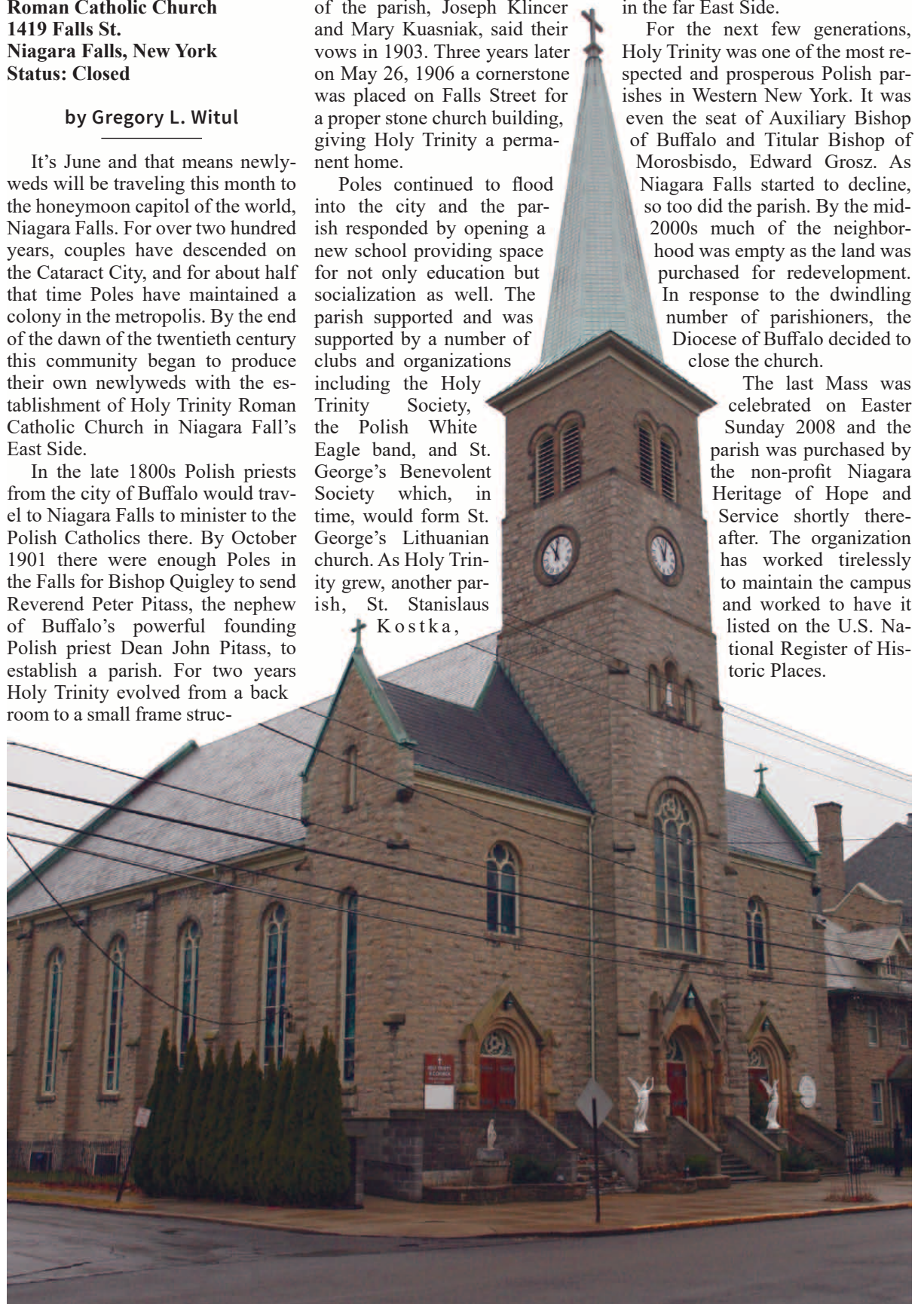
ture where the first married couple of the parish, Joseph Klincer and Mary Kuasniak, said their vows in 1903. Three years later on May 26, 1906 a cornerstone was placed on Falls Street for a proper stone church building, giving Holy Trinity a permanent home.

Poles continued to flood into the city and the parish responded by opening a new school providing space for not only education but socialization as well. The parish supported and was supported by a number of clubs and organizations including the Holy Trinity Society, the Polish White Eagle band, and St. George's Benevolent Society which, in time, would form St. George's Lithuanian church. As Holy Trinity grew, another parish, St. Stanislaus Kostka,

would be formed to serve the Poles in the far East Side.

For the next few generations, Holy Trinity was one of the most respected and prosperous Polish parishes in Western New York. It was even the seat of Auxiliary Bishop of Buffalo and Titular Bishop of Morosbisdo, Edward Grosz. As Niagara Falls started to decline, so too did the parish. By the mid-2000s much of the neighborhood was empty as the land was purchased for redevelopment. In response to the dwindling number of parishioners, the Diocese of Buffalo decided to close the church.

The last Mass was celebrated on Easter Sunday 2008 and the parish was purchased by the non-profit Niagara Heritage of Hope and Service shortly thereafter. The organization has worked tirelessly to maintain the campus and worked to have it listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places.



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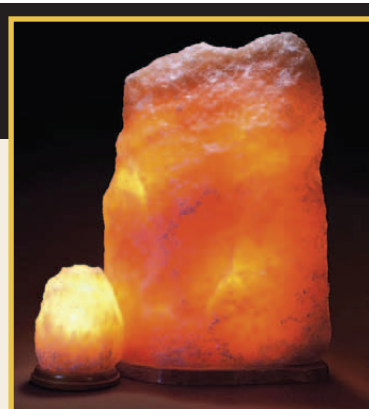
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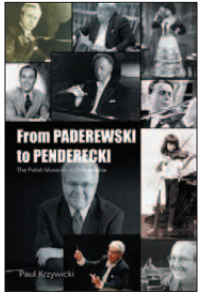
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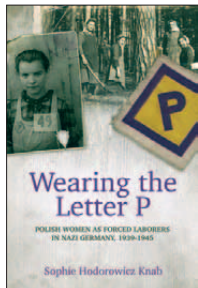


NEW! FROM PADEREWSKI TO PENDERECKI
The Polish Musician in Philadelphia
by Paul Krzywicki
\$24.95
Item 2-151
Lulu Publishing
2016; pb. 396 pp., 6"x1"x9"

Extraordinary stories and accomplishments of 170 Polish musicians whose presence in Philadelphia influenced music in America. Paul Krzywicki, a native of Philadelphia, was a member of the Philadelphia Orchestra for thirty-three years, performing in over four thousand concerts, more than 60 recordings and presenting master classes throughout the world. He is currently on the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music. A full biography is in Part I

WEARING THE LETTER "P"

Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany, 1939-1945



by Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab
\$19.95
Item 2-642
pb. 304 pages
6 x 9 inches

An unflinching, detailed portrait of a forgotten group of Nazi survivors. Written by the daughter of Polish forced laborers, *Wearing the Letter P* gives a voice to women who were taken from their homes as young as 12 years old and subjected to slave labor conditions, starvation, sexual exploitation, and forced abortions and child separation—all while Nazi propaganda depicted them as well-cared-for volunteers. Knab provides an important contribution to World War II history, based on archival and family records, war crime trials, and victim accounts.



TWO TRAINS FROM POLAND
by Dr. Krystyna M. Sklenarz
\$19.95
Item 2-604
183 pp., photos, pb.

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

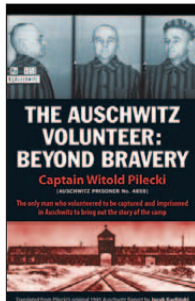
her entrance into medical school at only 17.



THE COLOR OF COURAGE
by Julian E. Kulski
\$19.95
Item 2-674
Aquila Polonica Publ., 2012
496 pp., 6"x9," pb.

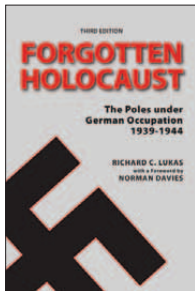
"If there is going to be a war, I do not want to miss it." So wrote Julian Kulski a few days before the outbreak of World War II, in this remarkable diary of a boy at war from ages 10 to 16. Kulski wages his own private war against the Germans with small acts of sabotage. At age 12, Kulski is recruited into the clandestine Underground Army by his Scoutmaster and begins training in military tactics and weapons handling. At age 13, he meets with leaders of the Jewish Resistance. Arrested by the Gestapo at 14, he is rescued and at 15 fights in the Warsaw Uprising of 1944.

THE AUSCHWITZ VOLUNTEER
by Witold Pilecki



Translated by Jarek Garlinski
\$34.95
Item 2-673
Aquila Polonica Publ., 2014
460 pp., 6" x 9" pb.

In 1940, the Polish Underground wanted to know what was happening inside the recently opened Auschwitz concentration camp. Polish army officer Witold Pilecki volunteered to be arrested by the Germans and report from inside the camp. His intelligence reports, smuggled out in 1941, were among the first eyewitness accounts of Auschwitz atrocities. Pilecki's story was suppressed for half a century after his 1948 arrest by the Polish Communist regime as a "Western spy."

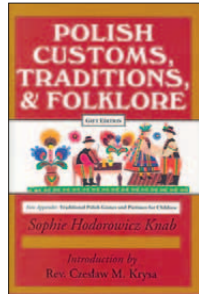


FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST: The Poles Under German Occupation, 1939-45. Third edition
\$19.95
Item 2-647
358 pp. pb.

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

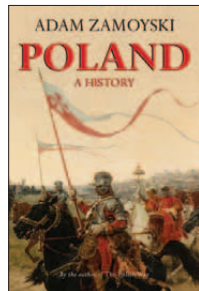
Holocaust is a powerful corrective." The third edition includes a new preface by the author, a new foreword by Norman Davies, a short history of ZEGOTA, the underground government organization working to save the Jews, and an annotated listing of many Poles executed by the Germans for trying to shelter and save Jews.

POLISH CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS & FOLKLORE



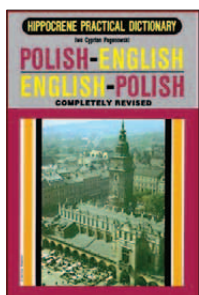
\$24.95
Item 2-643
by Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab
340 pp., hc.

Polish Customs, Traditions, & Folklore is organized by month, beginning with December and Advent, St. Nicholas Day, the Wigilia (Christmas Eve) nativity plays, caroling and the New Year celebrations. It proceeds from the Shrovetide period to Ash Wednesday, Lent, the celebration of spring, Holy Week customs and superstitions, beliefs and rituals associated with farming, Pentecost, Corpus Christi, midsummer celebrations, harvest festivities, wedding rites, name-day celebrations, and birth and death rituals. Line illustrations enhance this rich and varied treasury of folklore.



POLAND: A HISTORY
by Adam Zamoyski
\$19.95
Item 1-659
pb. 426 pp., 5.5 in. x 8.5 in.

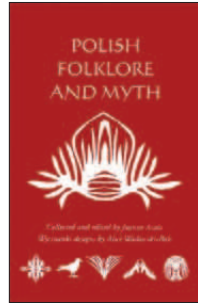
A substantially revised and updated edition of the author's classic 1987 book, *The Polish Way: A Thousand-Year History of the Poles and their Culture*, which has been out of print since 2001. No nation's history has been so distorted as that of Poland. "...excellent and authoritative"... "fresh, different,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



HIPPOCRENE PRACTICAL DICTIONARY POLISH-ENGLISH ENGLISH-POLISH
\$19.95
Item 1-881
by Iwo C. Pogonowski
682 pp., pb. 7x4.5 inches
15th edition

Over 31,000 entries for students and travelers; a phonetic guide to pronunciation in both languages; a glossary of the country's menu terms; a bilingual instruction on how-to-use the dictionary; and a bilingual list of

abbreviations.



POLISH FOLKLORE AND MYTH
by Joanne Asala
\$12.95
Item 2-679
6x9 in
118 pp., pb.

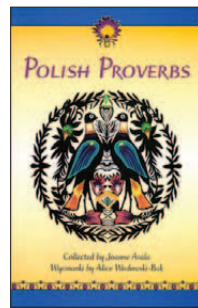
This book of engaging folk stories includes such tales as "The Violin," "The Headache Cure," "Midsummer's Eve," "The Flower Queen's Daughter," "The Legend of the North Wind," "The Flaming Castle," "The Village Dance," and "The Unfinished Tune." The stories were collected by Joanne Asala, with wycinanki (paper-cutting) illustrations by Polish-American artist Alice Wadowski-Bak.



POLISH WYGINANKI DESIGNS
by Frances Drwal
\$7.95
Item 2-680
8.5x11 in., 48 pp., pb.

In Poland, the art of creating beautiful designs by cutting paper into intricate shapes—called wycinanki—has been one of the national pastimes.

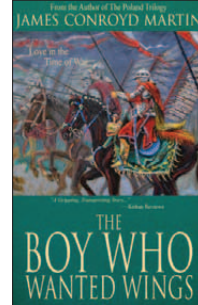
In this book, wycinanki is discussed and illustrated with patterns. The designs in this book can be used in many different ways, from applique to wallpaper.



POLISH PROVERBS
by Joanne Asala
\$14.95
Item 2-681
6x9 in., 64 pp., pb.

Poles are gregarious, cheerful, hard-working, and earnest—qualities reflected in their proverbs, collected here by author Joanne Asala. Some examples: "Love enters a man through his eyes and a woman through her ears." "Without work, there is no bread." "Do not push the river; it will flow on its own accord."

The back and front covers feature stunning illustrations of paper cuts by the late Polish folk artist Alice Wadowski-Bak, with more of her work throughout the book.



THE BOY WHO WANTED WINGS
by James Conroyd Martin
Author of "Don't Push the River"
\$14.95
paperback / Item 2-612 pb
\$25.95 hardcover / Item 2-612 hc

Aleksy, a Tatar raised by a Polish peasant family, holds in his heart the wish to become a hussar so that he could battle the Turks at Vienna (the first 9/11, in 1683). As a Tatar and a peasant, this is an unlikely quest. When he meets Krystyna, the daughter of a noble, winning her love seems just as unlikely a quest. Under the most harrowing and unlikely circumstances, one day Aleksy must choose between his dreams.

PUSH NOT THE RIVER
Book 1 of Martin's Poland Trilogy
by James Conroyd Martin

\$15.95
Item 2-609
Hussar Quill Press. 496 pp.pb. Maps & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

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

AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY
Book 2 of Martin's Poland Trilogy
by James Conroyd Martin

\$15.95
Item 2-610
St. Martin's Press
\$7.99 pb. Map & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

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

THE WARSAW CONSPIRACY
Book 3 of Martin's Poland Trilogy
by James Conroyd Martin

\$17.99 Hussar Quill Press
508 pp., pb.
Item 2-611

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

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on page 15
RECIPE BOOKS
on page 11**

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Happenings: Chicago Style

Green Beret Sgt. Maj. Albert Slugocki Honored



(Above): Slugocki as Green Beret
(Right): Slugocki and Nowak



PHOTO: CONRAD NOWAK

CHICAGO — On April 21, **Conrad Nowak** of the law firm Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, hosted a special reception to honor retired U.S. Army Special Forces Green Beret, **Sgt. Maj. Albert Slugocki**.

Within the Special Forces community Slugocki is a legend. He escaped Poland after World War II, joined the French Foreign Legion, and immigrated to the United States. He served in Korea, Vietnam, and on a few classified missions, serving in the 12th Special Forces Group for over 20 years. Slugocki's story highlights the contribution of immigrants to our nation's defense. Wounded several times, and after receiving medical treatment at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C., he was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

He then made a decision to travel to the Amazon jungles of Peru. It was there that he lived among the native Indians in the remote Amazon jungle villages and gave them medical aid. His newly published autobiography, "The Autumn Man," tells of Slugocki's amazing life and his work among the indigenous peoples of Amazonia.

Slugocki's latest project is to build and staff a clinic-hospital that will provide the only medical services available in these remote areas. Project Amazonas continues to actively recruit medical doctors, dentists, and other medical professionals to volunteer their services in Peru. He continues to support Project Amazonas and a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of his book will be donated to the Project.

At the reception, Sgt. Maj. Slugocki recalled his personal encounters with President Kennedy. He first met Kennedy in 1962 when the president presented his Green Beret to him in a special ceremony. His second meeting was through the request of the Kennedy family. He and 39 other Green Berets were asked to escort President Kennedy's funeral hearse, walking alongside Kennedy's casket. Today, he is one of only three surviving members of President Kennedy's funeral Honor Guard.

ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA CELEBRATES 150 YEARS. On April 23, over 1,500 worshippers filled St. Stanislaus Kostka Church on Chicago's Northwest Side while many others stood outside listening to mass via loudspeakers to celebrate the church's founding 150 years ago. **Cardinal Blasé Cupich** led the jubilee solemn mass, which was celebrated in Polish, Spanish, and English. The church was decorated in red and white banners. The two-hour mass ended with Cupich's special dedication of a sculpture of Polish-born **Mother Maria Teresa Dudzik**, nun and founder of

the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. Sister Dudzik was responsible for establishing homes for the sick and the elderly, as well as orphanages.

As Chicago's first Polish church, founded in 1867, St. Stanislaus Kostka survived the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, and the construction of the nearby Kennedy Expressway (Interstate 94) in the 1950s. To this day, drivers in the southbound lanes of the Kennedy pass within a few yards of the walls of St. Stanislaus as it curves around the church and its parish school.

According to Father Anthony Buś, C.R., pastor of St. Stanislaus, this parish was the largest and most popular church in the world, attracting over 40,000 parishioners. By 1899, 3849 students attended its elementary school.

St. Stanislaus Kostka is the only Catholic church in Chicago that is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It reaches out with its strong mission of mercy by having a soup kitchen operated by the Daughters of St. Mary of Divine Providence. Hundreds of Chicago's poor are fed and clothed there daily. At the ceremony, Cupich stated, "I am very happy to be here today with you, the day when the Polish community, as well as the Spanish-speaking community that is here now, is celebrating this legacy."

Stained glass windows featured at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair and the splendor of Tiffany chandeliers enhance the beauty of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church.



PHOTO: GERALDINE BALUT COLEMAN

Piotr Wolodkowicz and Jacqueline Moses.

POLISH ARTS CLUB HOLDS 80TH ART EXHIBIT. What a success! Over 225 art devotees attended the 80th Exhibition of Painting and Sculpture hosted by the Polish Arts Club of Chicago (PACC) at The Polish Museum of America. This exhibit showcased Polish American artists, gave emerging artists the opportunity to exhibit their artwork to the public, and, at the same time, gave established artists additional exposure to showcase their talents. The PACC held its donors' opening

reception on April 22, and its juried awards ceremony on April 30. The exhibit was available for viewing until May 20. Forty-four outstanding painters and sculptors participated. The first place winner was **Jacqueline Moses** for her painting, "Reconstruction Beijing." There were two second place winners: **Marta Nizolek** with her mixed-media sculpture, "Chicago at Night" and **Piotr Bialecki** with his painting, "Spring-2016." The third place winner was **Margaret Swiedzikowski** for her painting, "Wetlands." Judges for this event included **Agnieszka Ziemacka-Masters**, art historian and critic and owner of Thomas Master's Gallery; **Jan Sliwinski**, painter, artist, and international scenographer; and **Lidia Rozmus**, painter of sumi-e and oils and a writer of haiku poetry.



(Above) Agora.
(Right) Birds of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

ABAKANOWICZ REMEMBERED IN CHICAGO AND MILWAUKEE.

The international arts community was saddened with the report of **Magdalena Abakanowicz's** death. A world-renowned sculptress, her fascinating and sometimes disturbing works of art span the world. Both of her Midwest sculptures are magnificent and unusual. "Agora," unveiled in 2006, located at the very south end of Grant Park, Michigan Avenue and Roosevelt Road in Chicago, consists of 106, 9-foot tall



sculptures of headless human figures. In Milwaukee, across the street from the Woman's Club of Wisconsin (WCW), on East Kilbourn Avenue and N. Cass Street, facing Lake Michigan, one will find the "Birds of Knowledge of Good and Evil." This aluminum sculpture, commissioned by the WCW in 2001, consists of six pieces organized in column form. Each column is 13 to 20 feet in height with birds on top of the columns. Each bird is 3 to 5 feet in height, 6 to 8.5 feet in width, and



PHOTO: TERESA POTASIAK

RAUNER WELCOMES POLISH AMBASSADOR. On April 10, Illinois Governor **Bruce Rauner** (center) welcomed **Piotr Wilczek** (left), Polish Ambassador to the United States, along with **Piotr Janicki** (right), Chicago's Polish Consul General. They discussed the present and future economic partnerships between Poland and Illinois.

"It was a pleasure meeting with Ambassador Wilczek," said Rauner. "The Chicagoland area is home to more than one million Polish Americans and the largest concentration of people with Polish heritage outside of Warsaw. It is important we recognize this thriving community and the many contributions Polish Americans have made in the State of Illinois."

entists. It is filmed in the form of a dialogue between Maria and her daughter, Ewa. It touches on Maria's private life, her career choices and dilemmas, her family, her ties to Poland and France, and her attitude toward society in general. The site of the film is in Sancellemoz, a sanatorium in the Swiss Alps where



PHOTO: GERALDINE BALUT COLEMAN

4 to 4.5 feet in length. Three birds have two wings, but the other three have four wings. All of the birds are positioned at different angles and they are all headless. Abakanowicz's works, such as these, are considered world-class art as well as subjects for thoughtful meditation.

RADIATION - A FILM ABOUT MARIA SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of **Maria Skłodowska-Curie**. On May 19, The Polish Museum of America screened the film, "Promieniowanie - Radiation," in Polish with English subtitles.

The film is an extraordinary story about one of the world's great sci-

entists. It is filmed in the form of a dialogue between Maria and her daughter, Ewa. It touches on Maria's private life, her career choices and dilemmas, her family, her ties to Poland and France, and her attitude toward society in general. The site of the film is in Sancellemoz, a sanatorium in the Swiss Alps where

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Named United for Libraries Executive Director

CHICAGO — The American Library Association announced Beth Nawalinski as the new executive director of United for Libraries, effective July 31, 2017. She currently serves as the organization's deputy executive director.

Nawalinski has worked with a variety of ALA offices and divisions. She designed and implement-

ed statewide purchasing options for digital resources and membership. Nawalinski also created National Friends of Libraries Week, now in its 12th year.

She was also a director of marketing and communications for United for Libraries. Nawalinski has a BS from the University of Florida in nuclear engineering sciences.

Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes

Polish Jokes on Buffalo Radio

by Michael Pietruszka

In last month's PAJ, the editor-in-chief mentioned that I contacted a local radio station to register a complaint about their morning show soliciting and awarding prizes for the "Best Polish jokes" on Długos Day. Here is my original message:

This morning, while I was getting ready for work, I was listening to the Morning Bull Show on WGRF 97 Rock. They spent a good portion of their show soliciting and telling Polish jokes. Soliciting "non-offensive" Polish jokes does not make it better, as all Polish jokes are offensive by their very nature.

Funny, I don't recall them devoting their show to Irish jokes on St. Patrick's Day, Islamic jokes during Ramadan, blonde jokes on International Women's Day, Black jokes during Juneteenth, Jewish jokes at Hannukah, or LGBTQ jokes during Pride Week.

Why is it acceptable to ridicule people of Polish descent when the WGRF employees involved would not even think of treating other groups in the same way?

❖ ❖ ❖

I have since received the following response from the station's Program Director:

Thank you for taking time to share your thoughts. We take your feedback very seriously. Last week, our 97 Rock morning team used poor judgment when taking calls from listeners with Polish jokes, trying to bring humor to a day of celebration, and we sincerely apologize for offending you and others in our audience with this poor attempt at comedy. Our team apologized on air last Friday. We are here to support the Buffalo community, and have supported the Długos Day Parade and celebration, among many other community events, for several years. We will continue to support the parade and celebration in a more positive way in the future.

John Hager
Program Director

POLONIA TIDBITS. Eugene Golomb, president of the **Rochester Polonia Civic Center**, led the students of the St. Stanislaus Polish School in celebrating Polish Constitution Day with a "May 3rd Akademia" at the St. Stanislaus Auditorium ... Polish Constitution Day, May 3rd, was marked by a flag-raising ceremony in Syracuse's **Pulaski Park** ... Local attorney **Craig**

Bucki received the Liberty Bell Award from the Bar Association of Erie County for his work with high school students in the group's mock trial competitions ... On May 7th, the **Kalina Singing Society** hosted its 116th anniversary dinner and concert at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga. The group awarded its Goldman Scholarship to Grand Island High School junior Samantha Garcia ... May 9th through the 14th, the 25th **Toronto Jewish Film Festival** screened three films of Polish interest: Sergei Loznitsa's "Austerlitz," David Blumenfeld and Ami Drozd's "Scandal In Ivansk," and Alejandro Magnone's "Subte: Polska."

On May 11th, the **Polish Genealogical Society of New York State** presented author Dan Szczesny who lectured on "Polish Boy Abroad: Coming Home to Buffalo," a discussion held in the Villa Maria College cafeteria in Cheektowaga, on what it was like for a writer who makes his living writing about other cultures to come home to Buffalo to discover his own Polish roots. ... **Mansfield Press** sponsored a new book reading at the Monarch Tavern in Toronto on May 15th. The readings came from "Spit on the Devil" by Samantha Bernstein, "Glutton for Punishment" by Christopher Doda, "Whatever, Iceberg" by Tara-Michelle Ziniuk and "Lemons" by Kasia Jaronczyk.

Dr. Eileen Lyon of Fredonia College addressed the **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** on the topic "St. Maximilian Kolbe and the Nazi Assault on Catholic Clergy in Poland" at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst on May 17th ... On May 20th, Special Delivery performed at a Polka Mass at **Our Lady of Czestochowa Church** in North Tonawanda ... Also on the 20th, the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester hosted a **Polish Genealogical Society of America** webinar entitled "Beyond Births, Marriages, Deaths: Notary Records and Cadaster Maps in 19th Century Poland"; and the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga, Ontario presented the **Andrzej Rosiewicz Show** ... Polish Army veterans united to recall the **Battle of Monte Cassino** at Paderewski Park in Vaughan, Ontario on May 21st ... Also on the 21st, Compeer sponsored the **First Buffalo Pierogi Fest** at the Buffalo Outer Harbor. More information is available at buffalopierogifest.com.

WNY folklorist and author **Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab** discussed her latest book, "Wearing the Letter 'P': Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany" at the May 22nd meeting of the Niagara Polish

Cultural and Historical Society held at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in North Tonawanda ... The **Professional & Business Women of Polonia** held its Scholarship Dinner at Kloc's Banquet Facility in West Seneca on May 24th.

A **Tribute to Andrzej Zulawski**, one of Poland's great cinematic writers and directors, featuring screenings of three of his films, took place in the Dryden Theatre in Rochester on May 2nd ("Possession"), May 18th ("On the Silver Globe"), and May 26th ("Cosmos")... The Polish Consulate in Toronto sponsored the **Poland Pavilion** at this year's "Carassauga Festival" in Mississauga on May 26th through 28th ... **Kinga Mitrowska** and a group of Canada's most talented youth presented "Magical Broadway 2017" at the Maja Prentice Theatre in Mississauga; and the Salon of Poetry, Music and Theatre staged "Letnia Serenade 2017: Dawnych Wspomnien Czar" featuring Marek Probosz, Maria Nowotarska, Agata Pilitowska and Karolina Ingleton at the Polish Consulate in Toronto, on the 27th.

On May 28th, **St. John Gualbert Parish** in Cheektowaga marked its 100th anniversary with a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Buffalo Bishop Richard Malone, and a banquet at the Fr. Justin Council Knights of Columbus Hall; and Toronto's Novi Singers performed "Od Opery do Kabaretu" at the Jasinski Legacy Hall in Brampton, Ontario ... A photographic exhibition depicting the history of **Camp Kosciuszko** in Niagara-on-the-Lake entitled "Canada's Role in the Rebirth of Poland" was on display at the Mississauga Central Library until May 29th.

UPCOMING. The Polish Arts Club of Buffalo will honor **Hon. Carl Bucki**, chief judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of New York, and **Dr. Deborah Bruch Bucki**, at its "Biesiada 2017" to be held at Banchetti's Banquet Facility in Amherst on June 1st ... The Laureates' Concert of the Maria and Czeslaw Sadowski Poetry Competition will be held at the **W. Reymont Foundation** in Hamilton, Ontario on June 4th ... On June 9th, Ilona Kowalik, Kaja Cyganik, Anna Adamczewska-Niewulis, Jaroslaw Garbowski, Wojtek Stec, Agata Słazyk and Tomasz Kmiecik will present the **Power of Song** at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga.

Mississauga Polish Day 2017 will take place on June 10th at Celebration Square. Details are available at www.mississaugapolishday.ca ... The 13th Annual **Polish Heri-**



KATIE MAZUREK, a first year medical student at State University of New York in Buffalo, is shown on a recent medical mission to Pueblo Nuevo, Panama. Mazurek and her colleagues set up a medical clinic for a week to serve the Ngobe indigenous people, who have very limited access to medical care. The young lady in the picture is Estefani, who told Mazurek in Spanish "You have music in your heart" after the young medical student let the patient try her stethoscope.

Mazurek, who is pursuing her medical degree and a career in surgery, is the granddaughter of Ed "Whitey" and Stephanie Mazurek of Depew, N.Y., and is the daughter of Tom and Patricia Mazurek, of Dublin, Ohio.

tage Festival will be sponsored by the Polish Union of America in West Seneca on June 10th. This year's theme is "Honoring our Veterans - Polish and American." Entertainment will be provided by the Buffalo Touch, and John Gora & Gorale.

On June 11th, the **Polish Veterans Pilgrimage** honoring the deceased soldiers of Gen. Haller's Blue Army on the 100th Anniversary of the founding of Camp Kosciuszko will be held at noon in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario ... Buffalo Bishop Richard Malone will lead the congregations of St. Stanislaus and Corpus Christi Parishes in a procession through Buffalo's Historic Polonia District to mark the **Feast of Corpus Christi** on June 18th.

The 63rd Annual **Syracuse Polish Festival** will be held June 23-25, in Clinton Square in Downtown Syracuse. Find out more at www.polishscholarship.org ... On June 28th, the Syracuse Chiefs baseball team will host the Scranton/Wilkes Barre RailRiders at NBT Bank Stadium for the team's "Polish Night."

Spotlight on Long Island

June is a Month Full of Holidays

by Barbara Szydłowski

The month of June has many Polish holidays, traditions, and customs, as well the U.S. observations of Flag Day and Father's Day.

Zielone Świątki (Whitsuntide, June 4) is the festival of spring. At this time, farmers decorate their homes with decorative chains of greenery and flowers. Also on this day, the cattle and fields are blessed to ensure a good harvest.

This year June 15 is the Feast of **Boże Ciało** (Corpus Christi), an important feast day in Poland. All throughout Poland, there are religious processions, bearing baldachins and carrying gilded saints and banners.

The traditional colorful Łowicz costumes, made of multicolored striped wool and richly embroidered, are worn by people of this region as they slowly process around the church.

I experienced this wonderful event one year while in Kraków and it was quite an event. During the Corpus Christi procession there, Poles paid tribute to the memory of those lost fighting the Tartars at the city's gate in the 13th century. The marauders had come to Kraków while the ruling prince and his knights were waging war in Silesia. The people of the village armed themselves with various weapons in a mass attempt to defend the city. However, the Tatars rode in, killing

and beating the people with whips. Krakow never forgets their sacrifice.

St. John's Eve, or the night of June 23 (summer equinox), is the feast day of love which has been enshrined in European culture by Shakespeare's "Midnight Night's Dream." *Noc Świętojańska* is an ancient ritual of the cult of water and fire rooted in the pre-Christian era. The water cult (patron is St. John the Baptist) has survived in the custom of placing candle-lit wreaths on the water. According to tradition, fire protected one against misfortune, and fields enveloped by the smoke were thought to be safe from hail. Young men leaped over bonfires around which young ladies

danced and sang. This custom has been perpetuated by "The Song of St. John's Eve," written by Polish poet Jan Kochanowski.

Also there is the Polish folk belief that ferns blossom for a brief moment on this night alone, but only in the forest recesses. Whoever discovers the blossoming fern may expect to find wealth and happiness.

June 14 marks the 240th Birthday of the U.S. flag. In 1777, the Continental Congress adopted the stars and stripes pattern for the national flag, almost a year after the Declaration of Independence, and more than a decade before the U.S. Constitution was finalized. **Flag Day** was first celebrated in 1877 and

This year's 39th Annual **Cheektowaga Polish American Festival** will take place in the Town Park on Harlem Road from July 13th through the 16th. The musical groups scheduled to perform include the Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra, Special Delivery, Buffalo Touch, Rare Vintage, Villa Maria Chorale, Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push, The Boys, Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY, and The Beat ... The **General Pulaski Association Parade** will be held on Harlem Road in Cheektowaga on July 16th. Polish Secretary of State Anna Maria Anders, daughter of World War II hero General Wladyslaw Anders, will lead this year's parade.

The **Pulaski Police Association** of Buffalo and WNY will hold its Family Picnic at Como Park in Lancaster on August 2nd ... The **St. Stanislaus Polish Arts Festival** will be held on the parish grounds in Rochester on August 4-5.

The **American Council for Polish Culture** will hold its Annual Convention in Toronto from August 9th through the 13th ... The Buffalo Bisons Baseball team will honor **Rev. Daniel Palys** as its "Polish American of the Year," and **Ed Reska** with its Polish Community Leadership Award, at its "Polish Festival Night" at Coca Cola Field in Downtown Buffalo on August 15th. The Bisons will play the Indianapolis Indians and group tickets are available from Mark Gordon at (716) 846-2018 ... The 2017 **Roncesvalles Polish Festival**, North America's largest celebration of Polish culture in Toronto, will take place September 16-17. More information can be found at www.polishfestival.ca

The **Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY** will host their 20th Anniversary Gala at Kloc's Grove in West Seneca on October 14th ... The **Mmgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School** will host its Annual Banquet at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga on October 28th ... The Niagara Historical Society Museum in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario will present an exhibit "**Camp Kosciuszko: The Polish Army at Niagara Camp, 1917 - 1919**" from November 1, 2017 through November 15, 2018 ... **Casey Kliszak** will be inducted into the World Concertina Association Hall of Fame, which recognizes chemnitzer concertina musicians.

❖ ❖ ❖

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

Exhibits

Works of Chechliński at Angora Gallery



Armageddon by Wojciech Chechliński. Oil on canvas. 28" x 39.5"

NEW YORK —Chelsea's Agora Gallery is featuring the exhibition "Elemental Realms," which opened May 19, 2017 and runs through June 8, 2017.

Among the works on display are those of Wojciech Chechliński, who builds oil paintings from thickly laid paint and fragmented visions of the world.

"Every vibrant mark on the canvas gives his paintings energy," said the gallery. "Wide brush strokes and impasto combine with striking colors to convey Chechliński's uninhibited emotion when he paints. His work references cubism, placing figures into scenes where they are distorted into blurring shapes and sharp, substantial cells of pigment."

Chechliński lives and works in Warsaw. In his work, he spins the reflective nature of the human face into images that represent the psychology of subjects, both real and imagined.

Agora Gallery is at 530 West 25th St. in Chelsea. Hours are Tues.-Sat. 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Agora is a contemporary fine art gallery located in the heart of Chelsea's fine art district in New York. Established in 1984, Agora Gallery specializes in connecting art dealers and collectors with national and international artists. The art gallery's expert consultants are available to assist corporate and private clients in procuring original artwork to meet their organization's specific needs and budget requirements.

Beksinski Multi-Media at PMA, Chicago

CHICAGO —the Polish Museum of America (PMA) presents an exhibition of paintings, drawings, avant-garde photography and documentary films by one of the leading figures in Polish contemporary art. Zdzislaw Beksinski (1929–2005) is known for his nonconformity and the freedom with which he shaped and distorted reality in his painting. The painter, photographer and sculptor specialized in the field of dystopian surrealism.

The exhibit, which runs through Sept. 5 of this year, will have its opening reception on June 9, from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Through the exploration of his subconscious, Beksinski combined in his work surreal and abstract elements with expressionistic color. His work remains a manifestation of art in our time and impresses an emotional effect on its viewer.

Beksinski's paintings will also be presented in virtual reality allowing visitors to take a journey inside his painting. The exhibition at PMA in Chicago presents a unique opportunity to introduce Zdzislaw Beksinski's work to the American audience. Art presented at the exhibition is from the collection of the Historical Museum in Sanok, Poland.

More information and detailed exhibition schedule are available on the PMA website, www.PolishMuseumOfAmerica.org.

Artbeat

Pawlikowski's New Film Features Mazowsze

by Staś Kmieć

Polish-British filmmaker Paweł Pawlikowski's most recent film, *Ida*, won for best foreign-language film at the 2015 Academy Awards, as well as the British Academy of Film and Television Arts and three European Film Awards. His new film, *Zimna Wojna* (Cold War) began production in Poland and will feature the Polish Song and Dance Company *Mazowsze*.

The Cold War will take on a dual dimension: both political and personal. Pawlikowski delves to the heart of this period in this passionate love story between two people of different backgrounds and temperaments - who, despite their differences cannot live without each other.

Set in 1950s and 1960s Poland, a complicated romantic relationship between a woman and two men is set against the backdrop of the performances by the world-renowned folk song and dance company *Mazurek*, founded after World War II through a decree from the Ministry of Culture of the post-war commu-



Director Paweł Pawlikowski behind the camera on the set of *Cold War*.

nist powers. The company's director (played by Agata Kulesza) is a strong-willed woman, who was a famous actress before the war and is now at odds with government requests that restrict her artistry.

The film is a Polish/French/UK co-production, and is written by Pawlikowski in both Polish and French. Although fictional, the story parallels and mirrors many true circumstances regarding *Mazowsze*. The company will perform sections from their repertoire in the film, as

well as a little known piece, "Kantata o Stalinię," that they were once strongly "advised" to include in their performance.

The film stars Joanna Kulig who plays a vocal soloist in the ensemble. For the role, the actress lost weight, and learned the songs and dances of *Mazowsze*.

In addition to key scenes in Łódź and Wrocław, the shoot included a grand performance tour of *Mazowsze* in such locations as Croatia and Paris, and was filmed during the four seasons of the year. The film is due for completion in 2018.

Plans are underway for a United States tour of *Mazowsze* in November-December 2018 produced by 2Luck Concepts. No official schedule has been announced.

The 2017 Kosciuszko Foundation Ball

by Staś Kmieć

"Honoring Polish Heroes" was the theme of the 82nd Annual Kosciuszko Foundation Dinner & Ball, which was held on April 29th at the Plaza Hotel in New York City.

"While celebrating the Year of Thaddeus Kosciuszko, the organization paid tribute to those whose stories and actions exemplify and carry forward the legacy of one of the greatest Polish and American Heroes," said Marek Skulimowski, president and executive director.

The KF Medal of Recognition was presented to Gen. Edward L. Rowny, a military commander in World War II, Korea and Vietnam War and advisor to five U.S. Presidents. Darek Barcikowski, honorary consul in Hartford, Conn. accepted the Medal on behalf of Gen. Rowny.

The KF Pioneer Award was given to: Wincenty Knapczyk, a combat veteran of Monte Cassino, commander of the Polish Army Veterans Association of America; Zbigniew A. Kruszewski, a Warsaw Uprising



Zbigniew A. Kruszewski (right), recipient of the "Pioneer" award, and KF president Marek Skulimowski.

and the Anders Army soldier, political science scholar, Polish community leader; Wanda Lorenc, member of the National Armed Forces, Warsaw Uprising medical volunteer, war prisoner; and Mieczysław Madejski, a member of the Polish

Self-Defense Forces, Union for Armed Struggle and Home Army and Warsaw Uprising fighter.

The Ball was chaired by Dorota Andraka. A trumpet fanfare by the USMMA Squadron inaugurated the event. Mezzosoprano Monika Krajewska sang selections by Bizet, Saint-Saens, Niewiadomski, Lehar, and Cole Porter, in addition to the national anthems.

The American dance band, The Gerard Carelli Orchestra provided music, and the Polish American Folk Dance Company performed. Proceeds will support the Foundation to fulfill its mission.

Jagiellonian University Honors Cardiothoracic Chief

PHILADELPHIA — Thomas Spray, MD, chief of cardiothoracic surgery at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and a leader in the surgical treatment of congenital heart defects, was decorated with the *Plus ratio quam vis* (Reason before force) medal by Jagiellonian University in Poland.

Spray has served as a scientific consultant of the Department of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery at the Jagiellonian University (JU) for many years. The distinction bestowed upon him is a token of the University's appreciation of long-term collaboration and expresses its gratitude for his many years of kindness and assistance.

"Dr. Spray has provided training for cardiac surgeons from Krakow at CHOP, and has actively collaborated in organizing international workshops held in Krakow for many years now," said Prof. Janusz Skalski from JU. "Thanks to the involvement of Dr. Spray, Krakow has been visited by the most eminent specialists in management of congenital heart defects, and the



Prof. Janusz Skalski presents Dr. Thomas Spray with a medal in honor of his collaboration and assistance.

workshops and conferences have been recognized among the most prestigious events of this kind in Europe. Owing to the collaboration with Dr. Spray, we can use the most modern technologies and surgical techniques here, in Krakow."

Dr. Spray served as president of the American Association of Thoracic Surgeons and has authored more than 300 publications. He is a

member of most prestigious American, European and world scientific associations, and considered one of the best cardiac surgeons in the world.

Jagiellonian is the oldest university in Poland, the second oldest university in Europe and one of the oldest universities in the world.

The first *Plus ratio quam vis* medal, minted to commemorate the 600th anniversary of the University's revival by Queen Saint Jadwiga and King Władysław Jagiełło, was presented to Pope John Paul II, an alumnus and honorary doctor of the Jagiellonian University. Children's Hospital of Philadelphia was founded in 1855 as the nation's first pediatric hospital.

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Polish Chef

More Polish Father's Day and Festival Favorites

by Robert Strybel

PART II. What better way to honor Dad on his days than to treat him to a home-cooked Polish brunch or dinner. The recipes presented here also go over well at Polish festivals, and parish picnics. N.B. *Increase the quantities in the following recipes as required.*

GRILLED KIEŁBASA (kielbasa z rusztu). Cut smoked kielbasa into 3" to 4" servings and cook on grill, turning to brown evenly on all sides. This is can served as a main course with potatoes and the braised cabbage/sauerkraut (below), with bread and a splotch of horseradish or brown mustard and a dill pickle on the side or in a crusty bun. Note: Some PolAm butchers offer wiener-sized smoked kielbasa ideal for serving in a bun.

BRAISED CABBAGE & SAUER-

KRAUT (kapusta duszona). Drain 1 qt sauerkraut (reserving liquid) and cook in water to cover 60 min or until no longer crunchy. Shred 3 large heads of cabbage, place in pot, scald with boiling water to cover, bring to boil and cook uncovered 30 min. Drain. Combine drained sauerkraut and cabbage, add ¼ lb diced (thick-sliced) bacon browned with 2-3 onions, 1 mushroom bouillon cube, 2 peeled, diced cooking apples, 2 peeled diced tomatoes, toss ingredients and cook on med-low at least 60 min. If not tart enough, add the reserved sauerkraut juice and simmer a while longer. Season with salt, pepper, caraway seeds or fresh chopped dill. If too soupy, pour off some excess liquid, sprinkle kapusta with a little flour, stir in and cook a while longer.

SAUSAGE & KRAUT (kielbasa z kapustą). Proceed as in preceding recipe, but add 3lbs smoked

kielbasa and/or baked fresh kielbasa (cut into 2" pieces) when combining the cooked sauerkraut and cabbage. Omit the bacon and brown the onions in a little bacon drippings or oil. Bake covered in roaster at 350° 90 min.

FRIED KISZKA (kaszanka/kiszka smażona). Cut kiszka into 4"-5" portions and cook until browned and heated through on charcoal grill, in greased or vegetable-sprayed skillet or in oven. Kiszka can also be cut into 1/2-1" rounds and fried on both sides until browned in greased or vegetable-sprayed skillet. Serve plain or garnished with fried onions. Provide rye bread, mustard and/or horseradish and dill pickles.

BAKED CHICKEN (kurczaki pieczone). Season cut-up broiler-fryer (chicken) or parts of choice with salt, pepper, paprika and marjoram, rub all over lightly with salad

oil, place in large, shallow pan and bake in hot 450° oven 15 min, turning once. Sprinkle with water or stock, reduce heat to 350° and bake 60-90 min or until done. When pierced with fork, the juice coming out should no longer be pink! Baste with pan dripping during baking and turn chicken over when bottom has browned. Pan may be covered with aluminium foil during baking.

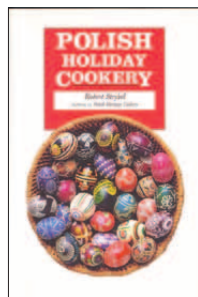
CALIFLOWER POLONAISE (kalfior z masłem i tartą bulką). Remove any green leaves from base of cauliflower and trim off core. Place cauliflower cored-side-down in a pot tall enough so the cauliflower is at least 3" from the top rim. Add cold water coming up 1/3 of the way up the cauliflower and 1 t salt, bring to boil, reduce heat and cook covered at a gentle rolling boiling about 20 - 30 min or until fork-tender. Meanwhile, in saucepan melt 1 stick (¼ lb) unsalted butter and when it

bubbles, stir in 4 heaping T plain dry breadcrumbs. Simmer, stirring frequently, until it is lightly browned. Remove cooked cauliflower from pot, drain well, place on serving platter and spoon the browned bread-crumbs topping over it.

BREADED PORK CUTLET (kotlet schabowy). Pound 3/4" thick slices of fresh boneless pork loin (or use pork chops with the bone removed) to 1/3 to 1/4 of their original thickness. Dredge in flour, dip in egg wash and roll in plain bread crumbs. Season with salt, pepper, marjoram and garlic powder and fry to a deep golden brown. Serve with potatoes and salad. or as a sandwich in a split Kaiser roll with a splotch of Polish-style brown mustard and/or dill pickle.

*Szczęśliwego dnia ojca!
Happy Father's Day!*

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POLISH HOLIDAY COOKERY \$16.95 by Robert Strybel Item 2-644 248 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.

ful and delectable desserts, and yes, meat and potato fare, this cuisine consists of a wide variety of dishes incorporating a broad selection of cultural and regional influences that will have you licking your lips.

Organized by course, this cookbook features more than one hundred recipes, including beet soup, cucumber salad, potato pancakes, Hunter's Stew, pork and rice stuffed cabbage leaves, traditional "babka" cake, and of course, pierogi! Numerous recipes for veal, chicken, kielbasa sausage, pork, and beef dishes make this a great and thorough cookbook that is a fantastic addition to any kitchen.

With easy-to-follow instructions for simple as well as more intricate dishes, a section on traditional holiday meals, estimated cooking times, and suggestions for healthy ingredient substitutions, this cookbook will teach anyone how to cook delicious Polish food. For those wishing to re-create their grandmother's favorite recipe, or those wanting to experience a new cuisine, Authentic Polish Cooking will bring a bit of Eastern Europe to your home.

PLEASING POLISH RECIPES by Jacek and Malgorzata Nowakowski \$8.95



Item 2-678 5-1/2 x 3-1/2 inches 160 pp., spiral bound

This cookbook features a great variety of flavorful regional foods, such as hot beer, vegetable soup, leek salad, graham bread, Polish hunter's stew, stuffed baked turkey, potato pancakes, dill pickles, nut roll, gingerbread, and royal mazurkas.

Readers also will find a table grace and information on dyeing traditional

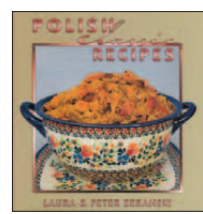
brown Easter eggs.



PIEROGI LOVE New Takes on an Old World Comfort Food By Casey Barber \$19.95 Item 2-675 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 pierog and fried apple pierogi to worldly fillings like falafel and Nutella, there's a pierog 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, photographer, and editor of the critically acclaimed website Good. Food. Stories.



POLISH CLASSIC RECIPES \$16.95 by Laura and Peter Zeranski Item 2-656 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 COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK by Sophie Knab \$19.95 Item 2-632 337 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.



POLISH CLASSIC DESSERTS \$16.95 By Laura and Peter Zeranski Item 2-654

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.

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 32nd year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

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

Sports

The Return of Danny Szetela

by Tom Tarapacki

After experiencing many struggles, **Danny Szetela** has fought back to emerge as one of the NASL's top players. The Clifton, N.J. native learned the game from his father, Julian, who played in Poland. A gifted young midfielder, Danny starred on the U.S. Under-17 team, and was named a Parade All-American. For a while, Szetela, who has a Polish passport and speaks Polish, considered playing for the country of his parents' birth, but was rebuffed by Polish coach Pawel Janas.

Szetela began his professional career in 2004 while still a teenager, and was first drafted by MLS's Columbus Crew. He then headed overseas before returning home to D.C. United in 2010. Danny then suffered a knee injury and was released by the team. What followed was a long and difficult ordeal. He had to have three surgeries on the knee, the third one being a procedure that implanted a meniscus into his right knee.

As he was rehabbing in 2011, Szetela was arrested. In an altercation at a bar, he jumped into a fight to help his brother who was being assaulted. The charges were later dropped, but Szetela wondered if it might hurt his chances for a return. "That gave me more motivation to work harder and do my rehab to get stronger and back on the field," he said.

Finally in 2013 Danny worked his way back and signed with the reborn New York Cosmos. Comfortable playing near his New Jersey home, he appeared in 13 games,



Danny Szetela proposed to his girlfriend Jessica Modzelewski on the field. She said yes.



making 11 starts, including the 2013 NASL Soccer Bowl. Szetela has been a regular starter in central midfield for the Cosmos since joining the team. He has been part of all three championship winning campaigns, most recently in 2016. Szetela, who turns 30 on June 17th, has shown that he still has a lot of soccer left.

Things are going well for Danny off the field as well. Last year, following the Cosmos' 4-0 win over Miami FC in the final regular season home game, Danny proposed to his girlfriend Jessica Modzelewski on the field. She said yes, and they are planning a July wedding.

THE PHENOM. Rick Ankiel (above) didn't turn out to be the great pitcher many had predicted, but he still had an amazing baseball career; in fact, he was the first player since Babe Ruth to have won at least 10 games as a pitcher and also hit at least 50 home runs. Ankiel is also the only player other than Ruth to both start a postseason game as a pitcher and hit a home run in the postseason as a position player.

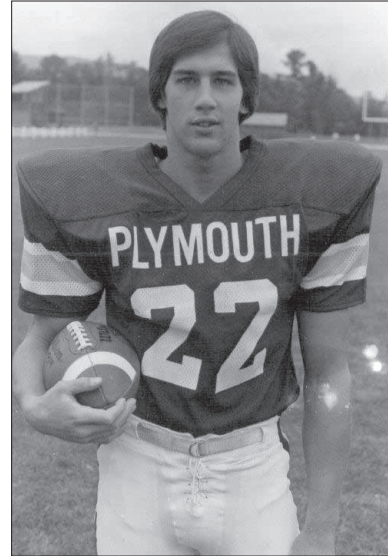
A phenomenal young pitcher, Rick was drafted by the Cardinals in the second round in 1997 out of Port St. Lucie High School in Florida. The teenage southpaw was called "The Can't Miss Kid" by *Sports Illustrated*, and, in 1997, *USA Today* named him the High School Player of the Year. He joined the Cardinals' rotation the following spring, and his 3.50 ERA and 194 strikeouts in 175 innings earned him runner-up in the NL Rookie of the Year voting. However, in the postseason it all blew up. In two starts and one relief appearance, first against the Braves and then against the Mets, he walked 11 batters in four innings and threw nine wild pitches, most of which sailed 10 feet over the batters' heads. He broke a record for wild pitches in an inning that had stood since 1890.

He went down to the minors, but suffered arm problems along with his control issues. But he was hitting well, so in 2005, the 25-year-old Ankiel announced his decision to convert to the outfield. After hitting 32 homers in 102 games at Triple-A Memphis in 2007, he earned a late-season recall and hit a three-run homer in his first game back.

In 2008 Ankiel became the Cards' starting centerfielder, and hit .264 with 25 homers. His swing had some holes but he had great power and was an exceptional outfielder—widely considered to have the best arm in the majors. The next year he left via free agency, and played for

Kansas City, Atlanta, Washington, Houston and the Mets. He batted just .228 during that time, but hit a memorable game-winning homer for the Braves in Game 2 of the 2010 NLDS. He retired in 2014. As a pitcher in the majors he went 13–10 with a 3.90 ERA; as a hitter he hit .240 with 76 HRs.

The term "the yips" refers to something in a pitcher's mind that makes him unable to throw the ball over the plate. Ankiel experienced the yips, like a number of major league pitchers over the years, including Herb Score in the 1950s, Steve Blass in the 1970s and another Polish American, Mark Wohlers, in the 1990s. They had a lot in common: intelligent, humble men with amazing talent, and sudden youthful success. Ankiel also had a troubled



childhood, as his father was obsessed with his son's baseball career, and was an alcoholic and drug abuser, and served jail time.

Rick is doing well now, married with two sons, and working as an analyst for Fox Midwest. He also wrote a book about his experiences titled *The Phenomenon: Pressure, the Yips, and the Pitch that Changed My Life* with Tim Brown. While he didn't live up to his promise as a pitcher, his conversion from pitcher to position player is the most successful one of the past half-century.

"WHAT THE HECK? WHY NOT DUDEK?" Remember Joe Dudek?

Back on December 2, 1985 he rose to national attention when he made the cover of *Sports Illustrated* as one of the top Heisman Trophy hopefuls, along with Bo Jackson and Chuck Long.

Dudek (above) was a little-known running back out of Division III Plymouth State College in New Hampshire. However, he emerged as a candidate for college's most prestigious football award after a remarkable career that saw him rush for 5,570 yards and break Walter Payton's career touchdown record

of 66 by finishing with 79.

The Massachusetts native initially played soccer in high school, and only started in football as a senior. The 6' 1" back with speed got the attention of a few colleges, but not scholarship offers. He opted to go to a nearby Division III school, Plymouth State.

Dudek came into his first game for the injured starter and his first carry was a simple dive play that turned into a 60-yard touchdown, and he kept going from there. His propensity for scoring touchdowns, in particular, was amazing. Rick Reilly of *SI* decided to push Dudek for the Heisman. It was not only a tribute to Dudek's talent, but also a recognition of the efforts of all Division III players. Reilly called a vote for Dudek "a civil protest against an otherwise forgettable, felonious season in college football: players raking in cash like bank tellers, tales of misdeeds by everybody from players to the NCAA itself, duplicity piled upon duplicity, fourth-and-long for sanity. Come to think of it, maybe we've got it wrong. Maybe Dudek doesn't deserve the Heisman. Maybe the Heisman deserves Dudek." Joe finished ninth in the voting, the only Division III player to ever finish that high, as Jackson finished first.

Surprisingly, Dudek was undrafted even though the draft went 15 rounds, but later signed with Denver. Dudek was with the Broncos for two seasons, getting his big break during the 1987 strike season. He played a key role in a 30-14 victory over the Raiders, running for 128 yards and two touchdowns.

Dudek, who was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1997, left football, went back to New England and got into the beer and wine industry, serving as a division VP for Southern Wine & Spirits. He and his wife had two children, one of whom was drafted by the New Jersey Devils.

Now 53, Dudek looks back fondly on his football career, saying: "I had my moment."

PERKOSKI'S NOTEBOOK. Former WBC light heavyweight champion **Tomasz Adamek**, 40, is returning to the ring for a fight with New Zealand's Solomon Haumono in Gdansk in June ... **Arka Gdynia** beat **Lech Poznań** 2-1 in the final of the Polish Cup in Warsaw ... Polish speedway racer **Tomasz Gollob** injured his spine in a crash in northern Poland ... Poland's **Adrian Tekliński** won gold in the men's scratch race at the Track Cycling World Championships in Hong Kong ... **Jan Flinik**, who played field hockey for Poland in the Olympics, died at 84.

Łódź, Minneapolis, and Buenos Aires Vying To Host 2022 International Expo

ŁÓDŹ, Poland — A delegation from the Paris-based International Expositions Bureau has visited the city of Łódź, which is competing against Minneapolis and Buenos Aires to host its 2022 specialized expo.

The multifaceted event aims to find solutions to a fundamental challenge of humanity.

To compete, a city must dem-

onstrate its preparedness to host the event and provide the proper funding. To be chosen, a city has to gain the support of more than 50% of the 169 member states of the Bureau International des Expositions.

Once a thriving textile center, Łódź experienced economic decline in the 1990s, but has moved ahead into a period of urban revitalization.

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Resistance

Witnessing Katyn

by Regina Szamborska-McIntyre

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 XV. The Cinema Warszawa served a full house for the showing of the film, *Soviet Massacre of Polish Officers*. The usual chatter of the crowd was absent. In its place was a somber silence as Warszawians settled into their seats prepared to witness the atrocities that the title implied.

The overall consensus of the after theatre group was not the vindictive tirade the Gestapo had hoped for. The citizens of Warsaw were resolute, not reactionary. They knew of the Soviets hostility toward their political position of an independent

Poland. They considered Russia as their second enemy. The prevailing reaction seemed to be, "What difference who? One enemy is just as bad as the other."

The Bednarek's lingered in the lobby. Irena was quite shaken by the experience. Michal held her close to him to ease her shivering.

A distinguished looking gentleman, sporting a small mustache and prince nez spectacles gave a respectful smile and a slight nod of his head as he walked by them.

Michal recognized a former judge of the Justice System of Poland, "Your Honor."

Judge Peter Butkowski turned and seemed to appreciate the recognition. "Pan Bednarek, wonderful to see you and your lovely wife."

"And this is my lovely daughter, Irena."

Butkowski kissed her hand, "You are indeed lovely, Irena."

Michal was sure that providence had intervened. "Professor, how fortuitous that we should meet you here."

He seemed a bit perplexed, "How so, Bednarek?"

"I have been reminiscing about the active pre-war court and the colleagues I no longer get to see. I so miss the excitement at court."

"Perhaps we can arrange to meet and discuss those old days."

Michal and he shook hands and the judge left the crowded lobby.

THE STATIONERY STORE was managed by Edward Potopski. His family had owned and operated the store for generations.

The overall consensus of the after theatre group was not the vindictive tirade the Gestapo had hoped for. The citizens of Warsaw were resolute, not reactionary.

Herr Gruffman, a wealthy Schindlerite, bought the property as an investment and had Potopski stay on to manage the shop. During negotiations for the sale, he was assured by the Gestapo that Potopski was a collaborator who had proved his ability to inform on persons of interest and could be trusted.

Potopski had only one reason to stay alive. He was dedicated to the eventual destruction of the occupiers. He worked in conjunction with the Civil Resistance. The Stationery Store became a refuge for traveling insurgents and offered a secure

hideout for covert meetings.

Kaminski supplied the merchandise that filled the shelves. On his most recent visit, he nodded a greeting to Edward and went directly to the basement.

Virski, a high ranking officer in Civil Resistance, sat drumming his fingers on the table. A man of average height and muscular physique, he appeared to be in his forties.

Kaminski dragged a stool to the table. "We have the cooperation of Niegorski, Chief of Paviak Police."

Virski narrowed his eyes. The Blue Police were under the edict of the Gestapo.

"Somehow or other, Niegorski has been able to walk a very tight rope. He maintains control over that traitorous force of his, while he continues to be available to us whenever we need him."

Virski shrugged his shoulders.

"Well we need him now. I have worked it out with Niegorski. Tavish is to feign a stroke."

"Will the old man be able to pull it off?"

"It's just a matter of slobbering and gibbering while he feigns an inability to use his right arm. He can do it."

"Who is in charge of the transport?"

"If it's alright with you, Dysthmus; unless you have someone else in mind."

"Dysthmus is perfect. I think he is in league with the devil; he never gets caught. It's worth the try. Where will you take the old man?"

"To a monastery, just two miles outside of Warsaw. I have spoken with the prelate who is only too pleased to accommodate Tavish."

"This must be a matter of complete secrecy."

"The only ones to be aware of this rescue mission are the principal players; Niegorski, Dysthmus, you, myself, and of course, Tavish."

"When is this to take place?"

"Wednesday at noon; it's payday for the staff, and during lunch there will be only one nurse on duty. Most of the staff will be focused on how they'll be spending their money. If the pieces fit together, without a disruption, we'll have him home safe."

continued next month

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."

Sybiracy

Early Spring 1943 – Burial in Kazakhstan

"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 Kazakhstan. 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.

PART XXV. Countess Burzynska looked like a saint with a halo over her head. I was captivated and I prayed for her soul. Her maid came home, all worried and crying that there is nobody to bury her lady. There was no coffin, there was nobody to dig the grave. I started arranging the funeral. I was able to secure four wooden boards, an old man put them together for a coffin. There were not any working age men in the region except a couple of elderly men. The ground was still

frozen, the only tools I had were in my disposal were a spade, jimmy and an old bucket with charcoal.

I was digging the burial site for three days. I kept burning charcoal in one corner of the burrow, to heat up and melt the ground, and in the same time I was digging at the other corner. In the evening I was returning to the home of a woman who used to live in our village a year ago. She was very kind, she always had a hot water for me to wash, a soup plate and a hot tea. The funeral was on the fourth day. Since we lived in exile and I did not want the grave to be forgotten in the future, I added an information with a name, date – a sort of necrology, I sealed it inside a bottle with a birch plug and glued it with a sheep oil and put inside the coffin. The coffin was carried to the cemetery on the cart sledge pulled by a cow. The cow was difficult to conduct since it had a hard time to pass through the snowdrifts. There were about ten

mourners. Some of them were helping to push the sledge. The sledge slid once but we were able to pull it back to the road after quite an effort. There was already a fresh snow in the new dig hole. We removed it and pulled down the coffin, afterwards we formed a small earth mound, so that countess Burzynska would have her peaceful place for eternity. After returning back home I was so tired that I fell to sleep while explaining what we were doing to the hostess.

I returned home to Krutoyarka. The ordinary and dark days came back. One time when we came back with a heating wood from the steppe, Jedrek had a high fever. He did not eat or drink anything but was holding his belly with his small hands in pain. I was terrified that he may have appendicitis. The night was not peaceful, Jedrek had still a fever. We were sowing and cutting the wood and checking Jedrek's condition frequently. We used hot suction caps on his back, they dark-

ened quickly due to his high fever. Marysia suggested we use suction caps on his belly, which is unheard off, but we did. They darkened like a coal, but the fever decreased. Jedrek was healthy in a week.

Our previous hostess, the one who lost her husband at the war, told us that there is a chance to buy an earth house in the very center of the village, just to the opposite side from the school and the store. The earth house was small and a bit damaged but its location was excellent. The earth house was owned by old people who were planning to move in to live with their daughter in a different village. In May, 1943 we moved to this house which we bought in exchange for a coat that was damaged by mice already, old dress and a bed sheet. Before we moved the previous owners let us to till the yard around to make it ready for the season. We planted potatoes, beets, turnip, cucumbers, pumpkin and tobacco. Our friends from Stan-

islawow sent us lots of seeds, some of them, although three years old, were able to grow and resurrect.

Before we were able to move there we went through a very difficult time. Since people were hungry, the kolkhoz distributed some food remains that almost killed us. Among them were the upper shells of millet (the parts of millet left after the grain is taking out). Unhulled millet is usually only eaten by the birds, since human system cannot digest it. I don't know its Polish name, in Russian it was called *sholucha*. This caused us all to suffer an extreme constipation that needed clinical treatment. More about it in next month's installment.

continued next month

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

Growing Up Polish American

Uncovering Strategic Name Changes

by Barbara Betlejewska

PART VI. Our original name, Betlejewski (Bet-leh-yef-ski), has a nice ring to it, if I have to say so myself! In Polish, "j" is pronounced as a "y" and "w" is sometimes pronounced as an "f." The Polish language is easy to pronounce once one learns the rules, as everything is phonetic. What you see is what you say. "Cz" equals "ch" and "sz" equals "sh" in English. A person can be taught to read fairly well in Polish in about an hour, although they will not understand what they are reading.

Anyway, my father got so tired of others ridiculing our Polish last name that he decided to shorten it to the first syllable, since many people already used that as his nickname. My grandfather had already omit-

ted the third of the original four syllables. Polish surnames ending in -ewski usually denote a place. Betlejewski is the Polish equivalent of Bethlehem, the village of Jesus' birth. Betlejewski today is a small village in northwest Poland near the Baltic coast not far from Gdańsk. Perhaps my grandfather had some connection to this village.

In shortening our name, my grandfather and father were following in the footsteps of such famous figures as Apollos Rivoire, Sr., a French Huguenot immigrant whose son with the same name is best known as Paul Revere. Another contemporary figure with a strategic name change is Donald Drumpf, better known as Donald Trump, an American businessman of German-Scottish descent

and current President of the United States. Angela Kaźmierczak (KazMIER-chahck), better known today as Angela Kasner Merkel, is current German Chancellor of German-Polish background. There's singer Bobby Wintuła (Vin-TOO-wah) the Polish Prince, better known as Bobby Vinton. Coach "K," head basketball coach at Duke, whose full last name is Krzyżewski (kshih-ZHEFF-ski), often uses his nickname. I know someone from Mumbai, India named George Thomas!

Many others marry into their Anglo name, such as Martha Kotyra, a Polish-American lady better known as Martha Stewart. Others, such as Steve Jobs, former Apple CEO, gain names via adoption. His Syrian biological father was named Abdulfattah Jandali. Most people of

the world have used strategic name changes at one time or another. And understandably, as there are many human bullies around.

Many people obfuscate their ethnic origin even to their own children and grandchildren. I'm acquainted with a Scottish-American with a very Scottish name who was raised "Scottish," got married in a kilt, and was quite proud of his so-called Scottish heritage until he had his DNA tested by ancestry.com. That's when he was shocked to find out he was only 16% Scottish! The rest was an admixture of Scandinavian, Jewish, Eastern European, Irish, and English. Unmasking the truth via DNA is apparently quite common. But it's sad that almost none of us feel safe enough to be who we really are... We all have different gifts and

talents, but we're really all humans, none better nor worse than any other on some imagined ladder of worth. Perhaps one day no one will feel the need to hide anymore.

continued next month

Barbara Betlejewska left her childhood farm in Ohio at age 18, and lived in many places throughout the United States and abroad for nearly 30 years. Her grandparents, who had emigrated from the partitioned areas of Poland in the 1910s, purchased the farm during the Great Depression to grow food to feed their family. Barbara gained enough emotional healing to come full cycle and return to the family farm 15 years ago.

American Polonia At A Glance

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO — The **Polish Museum of America (PMA)** will host its **37th Summer Gala** — its largest annual fundraiser — at Café La Cave, Des Plaines, Fri., June 2, 2017, with all proceeds benefiting the general operations of the PMA.

The evening begins with a 7:00 cocktail hour, followed by dinner at 8:00 p.m. and a short program acknowledging major PMA donors and celebrating the 2017 Polish Spirit Award recipient — the Copernicus Foundation. The night's Mistress of Ceremonies will be Jenny Milkowski of FOX 32 Chicago; Cook County treasurer, and longtime PMA member and friend, Maria Pappas serves as honorary chair of the Gala. The evening concludes with dancing to the Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra. Guests will also have the opportunity to bid in a silent auction.

For more information, please contact 2017 PMA Summer Gala Chair Sharon Orłowski at (847) 767-2757 or sharon2008@hotmail.com.

MASSACHUSETTS

NORTHAMPTON — **St. Valentine's Church**, 127 King St., will hold its **10th Annual Polish Dinner**, Sun., June 11, 2017 at noon in the Parish Hall. The cost is \$15 for adults; \$7 for children under 12. The menu consists of traditional Polish fare (golabki, pierogi, cabbage with spareribs, kielbasa, ham, chrusciki and more). For further information and reservations/tickets, please call the Rectory Office at (413) 584-0133 by June 8.

NEW YORK

PORT WASHINGTON — On Sun., June 4 at 2:00 p.m., the **Polish American Museum** will be featuring two new exhibits: the addition of an exhibit on the **Polish Commandos** during World War II and **The Trail of Hope**, a temporary exhib-

it on The Polish 2nd Corps under General Anders.

The Polish Commandos — led by Commander Major Smrokowski and executive officer Captain Zalewski — were the first Polish unit to see ground combat during the Italian Campaign. They were respected as among the best of the best, and highly valued for their expertise in mountain warfare.

Among the items featured will be the personal medals, documents, uniform items of two highly-decorated officers. Some weapons (demilitarized) pertaining to that unit will be featured. Among the guests will be family of the featured officers and a member of the unit, and the Polish Ambassador to the United Nations Boguslaw Winid.

In conjunction is the exhibit on the 2nd Corps, which covers their wartime travels across three continents during World War II under General Anders.

There will be a reception immediately following the opening of the exhibits and short presentations. The Museum is located at 16 Belleview Avenue, Port Washington. Additional information can be obtained by calling (516) 883-6542.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA — **St. Adalbert Parish** will hold its **Annual Festival** on June 22-24. The Festival will take place at the parish grounds, Thompson Street & Allegheny Avenue, Port Richmond section from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. each night (rain or shine). Entertainment includes: Thursday — music by Polish American String Band; Friday — music by DJ Patty Pat, and Alumni Night; and Saturday — Continental Polish Music. There will be games of chance, Polish food, refreshments, and much more. For info, call the rectory at (215) 739-3500.

“Sunday at Museum” Honors Three

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. Pays Tribute to a Trio of Distinguished Individuals

CHICOPEE, Mass. — On Sunday, April 30, the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. (PCCGH), in collaboration with the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning, hosted a “Sunday at the Museum” event to honor three prominent Polish individuals: **Stanisław “Stas” Radosz**, **Krystyna Slowikowska Farley**, and **Bernard Pajewski**. Eighty guests enjoyed two lectures, one presented by Stas Radosz on “Polish Folk Costumes — A Journey through the Regions of Poland,” and the second by Marek Czarniecki, noted iconographer and historian, on the Krakowska Szopka and Polish folk art.

Radosz, founder and executive director of the Polish Center, received the PCCGH’s “2017 Distinguished Service Award” in recognition of his work in preserving and perpetuating Polish history and culture.

In her remarks, PCCGH Co-President, Frances Pudlo, stated: “It is easy to dismiss objects which, at first glance, look ordinary. The belongings of poor or working class immigrants are worthless to auction houses and museums. This is exactly why this Polish Center for Learning and Discovery is so necessary. The objects in this collection are priceless because of their meaning, not because they were made by great artists. They convey true stories from real people’s lives and those lives are important. For understanding

this truth, we bow with gratitude to Stas Radosz and thank God for his mission.”

Slowikowska Farley of New Britain, Conn., a founding member of the PCCGH, was honored for the gift of her private collection of thirty-two Polish regional costumes to the Polish Center.

“In her memoirs, ‘So Far From Home,’ published in 2013, Farley tells us she was born in the best place in the world, at the worst possible time,” said Pudlo. “She fell in love with her homeland of Poland, only to have it ripped away. She was thrown into places no person should have to see or live through. She fought for it as a veteran of the Polish army and a patriot of two countries. She is a wife and mother who keeps a Polish kitchen. She is a poet, an author, a singer, an actress, and a dancer. This woman, who wore these folk costumes, is a testimony to the uncompromising dignity of a Pole. By leaving them to the world, she will never allow anyone, ever, to believe anything different.”

Bernard Pajewski, a resident of New Britain, Conn., who passed away in November 2016 at the age of 89, left a large collection of Polish folk art to the Polish Center. This collection is said to be the largest of its kind in private hands. For his foresight and generosity, Pajewski was remembered with a moment of silence.

The afternoon ended with a reception. For further information, visit the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning at polishcenter.net and the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. at polishculturalclub.org.

The Pondering Pole

Polska Hala, “Our Meeting Place,” Celebrates its 100th Anniversary

by Ed Poniewaz

An Italian friend told me how he gets together with the guys from the old neighborhood over the Christmas holidays. They meet at one of the most popular bars, play bocce ball, and drink a little wine. The old bar is just as important as the people and it has as much character. It is just the perfect venue to reconnect, catch up, and relive shared experiences growing up Italian and as a South Saint Louisian.

The *Polish American Journal* makes a point to highlight buildings, churches, and gathering places in every issue. There are a couple of perfect venues in the Saint Louis metro area where people get together and “Polish is spoken.” They are not in the suburbs. They are in older areas of the city, have history, character, and are the kind of places I love.

The first is the **Polish National Alliance Clubhouse** on 8201 Vulcan Street in the Lemay section of South Saint Louis. The second is the **Polish Hall** in Madison, Ill., across the river from downtown Saint Louis. Neither is very far from the Arch.

The PNA clubhouse in Lemay was originally called the Stone Bar. It is made of traditional stone masonry, in a ranch or hacienda style, and the defining feature is the covered “dugout” or porch spanning the front. It is a great place to sit in the fresh air during mild days in the spring or fall. When I walk up to the front entrance and see people outside, I imagine the similar faces and looks — only in a black and white photograph from sixty years ago.

Once or twice each month, the PNA sponsors dinners around American or Polish holidays or special occasions. Polish food is usually prepared for the Polish events and otherwise the meal usually includes pork steaks and they are excellent. If you are not from Saint Louis you might not know what a pork steak



Guests danced to the music of Dave Hylla’s band at the Anniversary Banquet of the Polish Hall in Madison, Ill.

is. Those grilled at The Stone Bar are thick, and the sauce is Saint Louis style. I’m drooling thinking about it. High praise to the PNA-ers for doing a great job of providing a relaxing and welcoming alternative bar and kawiarnia (café) for the Polish community and for anyone who wants to join in.

At the end of April, the Polish Hall in Madison, Ill. celebrated its 100-year anniversary. Historically, Madison is one of a small number of enclaves on the east side of the river, situated between two steel mills. It was an attractive and suitable spot for Southern and Eastern European immigrants to settle and to be close to their work. What grew from this was the standard initiative for each ethnic group to establish a “home” or a “halla” for members to spend time with countrymen and women of the same language and traditions.

Madison had a substantial Polish population, and in 1912 the Alton Diocese approved the building of Our Lady of Czestochowa Catholic Church. In 1917, the Polish Hall was established through the church as a social organization, and in the same year joined the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America,

Saint Stanislaus Lodge 1004. As the group grew, the new and current location, Annis’ Tavern, was purchased in 1935. The Tavern was expanded and improved and is the structure that is there today.

This is the structure that I love to this day. The bar is made of dark wood and the lighting is semi-dark. Nothing fancy as you might expect with a blue-collar look and feel. Off the bar is the door into the dance area and downstairs is seating for the countless dinners that were served at weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, and other events. From the history of the hall written by Henry Mulnik, “Polish Hall was indeed our meeting place for over these 100 years.”

My connection to Polish Hall began when I became a folk dancer in my twenties, and this is where we had our scheduled practice time. I’m not going to list all of the wonderful and interesting people that were part of our troupe “Slava,” as I might forget someone. I will acknowledge though, my “adopted” aunts — the Turski women — Hattie, Agnes, Clara, and Helen. It was their passion for their Polish heritage that encouraged the involvement of their

kids, their family, relatives, friends, and acquaintances. I learned about Poland’s Slask and Kurpiev region’s dance and music and I also learned about the Polish village in Madison.

One more thing: our accordion player was the unforgettable Wally Annis, the grandson of the man who started and owned Annis’ Tavern. The people in this group gave me so much happiness. It was my introduction to a new world, the Polish neighborhood and hall in Madison.

The 100th anniversary celebration was a testament to how much a building means to those connected to it in great or small ways. The bar and dance area were standing room only for five straight hours. There was food, drink, Dave Hylla’s polka band, and a special folk dance performance by Joe Mulnik and Natalie Ruesing. What a great homecoming. I did not see one sad face in the crowd and it was a great time to reconnect with family and friends. I sure did.

POLISH OR NOT? Another Polish scientist! I watched a cable presentation by **Helen Czernski**, British physicist and oceanographer, and she writes and talks in a way the average person can understand. Her only book — *Storm in a Teacup: The physics of everyday life* (Bantam Press, 2016) — is physics light. Get the book and check her out online. She is quite a character.

Remember Bob Ross, the giant afro’d painting instructor and host of *The Joy of Painting* show seen on public television? He hosted one of my favorite programs (“Let’s put some happy little trees over here...”). According to an article on MentalFloss.com, Ross was discovered by **Annette Kowalski**, who was his business partner and advisor, and a painter in her own right. You can find her book *The Joy of Painting Flowers* on Amazon. Annette’s husband’s name is Walt, so I

am pretty sure the Kowalski belongs to him, but is Annette, who has a Polish face, Polish or not?

DZIĘKUJĘ BARDZO TO ... Johnny Baras of the PNA; Nini Harris for information on The Stone Bar; and Joe and Henry Mulnik for the history of Polish Hall.

STO LAT TO ... Polish Hall, the many folks who kept it open all these years, and those who were touched in one way or another by it.

❖ ❖ ❖
If you have a hole in the wall clubhouse, bar, or tavern to tell about, please share and if you have a question or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; email alinabrig@yahoo.com.

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

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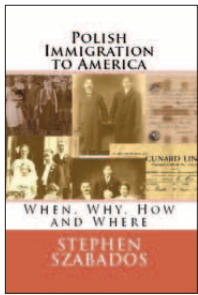
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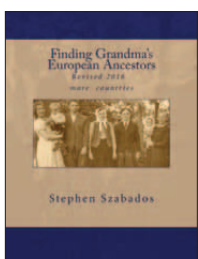
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POLISH IMMIGRATION TO AMERICA
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Item 2-271
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When did your Polish ancestors immigrate, where did they leave, why did they leave, how did they get here? This book discusses the history of Poland and gives some insights to possible answers to these about your ancestors' immigration. All three Polish partitions are covered and the material will hopefully clear up your confusion why your Polish ancestors listed that they were born in other countries on early U.S. documents. Brief histories of most of the ports that were used by Polish immigrants for departure and arrival; life in steerage; and the process of examination to gain admittance.



FINDING GRANDMA'S EUROPEAN ANCESTORS
by Stephen Szabados
Item 2-653
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210 pp., pb.

This is a "must have" book for the family historian who wants to identify their European heritage. The author draws from his research experiences to describe how to find the resources available; first to find out where your ancestors were born in Europe, and then find the records. This revised edition covers genealogical research for most European countries and includes detailed practical steps that will help you find the success and the records that you need. The author uses his experiences to give tips on what to avoid and what works; how to find and use critical records; and how to use translating guides to decipher the foreign-language records. This book gives you the tools to find your European family.

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

\$14.95
Item 2-670
pb. 134 pp.

This book is about the life of a Polish immigrant, from his birth in the Russian partition of Poland: the customs and traditions he grew up with; his decision to leave his family and the land of his birth; the trek across Poland to the port of Bremerhaven; his voyage across the North Atlantic Ocean; arrival in America; and his life in America. Through the story of one man, you will learn and understand the hardships of a typical Polish immigrant in the early 1900s.

POLISH GENEALOGY:
Four Easy Steps to Success
by Stephen Szabados
\$19.95 / Item 2-668
164 pp., pb.



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

Genealogy Research: Beyond the Basics

by Stephen M. Szabados

Popular online websites such as Ancestry.com and Familysearch.org are great places to start your family history research. However, finding your ancestors may be more challenging than what their commercials promise. Here are some hints that I use to reduce my frustration and produce better results.

SEARCH SPECIFIC DATABASES. My first tip is to refuse to use the global search boxes on the home pages of the major genealogy websites. Ancestry.com, Familysearch.org, and other genealogy websites invite you to enter the name of an ancestor in search boxes on their first page the results from this search will produce too many results. Also, most of the results shown will not be for your family and may cause you more confusion. When you start your research, you need to narrow your search and use facts that you know are correct to find documents for your family.

You can narrow your search parameters by starting your research on a specific database such as a specific year for census records or the death records for a specific state or county. The search pages for these databases will allow you to enter more criteria that you know are correct and the results should produce fewer results that are not your family. You will have a smaller number of results to analyze, and this should allow you to find documents for your family faster.

PROBLEMS WITH SURNAMES. My next tip is to use wild cards when you suspect there is a problem with the spelling of names of your ancestor. Online databases may allow two characters as wildcards. The question mark "?" can be substituted for one letter. The asterisk "*" can be substituted for zero or more than one letter. Also, to use wildcards in names, we need to include at least three legal letters in the name.

Using first names and no surnames is another method I use to overcome problems with the spelling of surnames. The surname may have been changed or has a very bad misspelling, so I do not use it. You may be thinking that eliminating the surname from the search criteria will produce too many results, but I include other accurate criteria such as birth year, birthplace, and any accurate piece of information. The additional information reduces the number of false results.

ORGANIZATION OF INFORMATION. Another important tool that I have found useful for my research is the creation of summaries for each of my ancestors. On my summary pages, I list all information that I find for each ancestor, and I use these pages as a quick reference for criteria that I use in my next search. Each document is a snapshot of my ancestors, and each detail is captured and analyzed. After I had started using this method, I was amazed at how much clearer and easier my research efforts became.

BENEFITS OF SUMMARIES:

- **Quick reference** of facts – speeds research by eliminating need to refer to multiple documents
- **Help researcher** organize facts and focus on what you have and what is missing
- Easier to **re-focus** on what is needed after time away from research
- **Easy to read** document to share with family
- Makes **exchange of information** with others easier
- Starts to show the "story" of ancestor's life

WHO WAS THE CAREGIVER? It is important to find the family papers that our immigrant ancestors brought from the Poland. If the papers were saved after the immigrants died, their caregivers should have the documents. If the immigrant's caregiver has died, the papers may have been saved by one of their children. Contact the children or grandchildren of the caregiver to see what was saved. Also, contact these relatives as soon as possible because people pass away and their caregivers may throw out old papers before recognizing their importance.



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."

Immigrant Ancestors

continued from cover

pay anyone to help them tend their fields. With the low level of industrial development in this area of the Russian Partition, non-farming jobs were rare. If Steve and the young men in the area could not own a farm, emigration was the only option.

Steve's brother Bolesław had emigrated to America in 1907. He had written that jobs were available in Bloomington, Illinois and encouraged Steve to join him. Bolesław also sent money for the tickets and Steve then became one of the over 1.5 million Poles to emigrate from the Russian Partition to America. Steve's voyage across the Atlantic to Philadelphia took thirteen days and then he was on a train for 36 hours that took him to Chicago and then to Bloomington where he joined his brother.

After his arrival in Bloomington, Steve began work at the McLean County Coal Company which was near their home. He lived with his brother until Bolesław returned to Poland in 1913 to buy a farm. His 1914 draft registration indicated Steve lived with another Polish family and he worked as a coal miner for next three years.

THE MCLEAN COUNTY MINE was a key factor in the growth of Bloomington because of the energy it supplied to the area's industry.

The Chicago & Alton Railroad was a major customer of the coal, and their main line track ran near the mine. The people and businesses in the region used the coal for heat,



Bolesław (l.) and Steve (r.) Zuchowski. 1913.

ish miners. The miners lived close to the mine which allowed them a short walk to work. My grandfather worked as a common laborer and earned between \$1.50 and \$2.00 per day clearing away the rock and loading the coal into cars that hauled the ore to the surface. Members of the Stevenson family erected a housing development for the miners on land south of the mine, and the neighborhood aptly became known as Stevensonville. However, my grandfather and most of the other Polish immigrants lived north of the mine in houses on Monroe, Market, Hinshaw, and Mulberry Streets.

The McLean County Coal Mine halted production in 1927. The shafts were sealed, and the buildings and equipment dismantled and sold for scrap. Today, there is no visible evidence of coal mining in Bloomington. One of the last evidences of the mine to be removed was the mountain of slag. I remembered seeing the red and orange hill in the 1960s, but today the area is level and occupied by a gravel storage yard.

but manufacturing also benefited from the ready supply of coal for fuel. The coal helped develop the city's foundry industry, and the steam engines that drove mechanical equipment in the factories also used the coal. Adlai Stevenson was a member of the group that formed the coal company in 1867. Before it closed in 1927, the mine accounted for 150,000 of 218,000 tons of coal hauled out of McLean County.

The mine employed over 350 men who came from many different backgrounds. There were African-Americans, English, French, Irish, Italian, Polish, Russian, and Swed-

Help with Your Root Searching

CHICAGO — Members of the Polish Genealogical Society of America (PGSA) are available on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the PMA library, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, to help with your research challenges. If you are unable to stop by, you can e-mail an inquiry to PGSAmerica@pgsa.org or visit the FAQs at the website www.PGSA.org.

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Fellowship, Soldier Songs and more

by Robert Strybel

A while ago I presented the original Polish lyrics to a number of folk songs, wrongly assuming that most readers would understand the Polish. The feedback proved otherwise. Today we are dealing with third-, fourth-, and fifth-generation Pol-Ams who know only a smattering of Polish words. Therefore English translations are provided. The songs have been translated to retain much of their original phrasing as well as the rhyme and rhythm needed to make them singable. Note: If you're not familiar with all the melodies, check them out on YouTube.

Sto lat

Sto lat, sto lat niech żyje, żyje nam,
Sto lat, sto lat niech żyje, żyje nam,
Jeszcze raz, jeszcze raz,
niech żyje, żyje nam,
Niech żyje nam!

A hundred years

Hundred years, hundred years,
may he live a hundred years.
Hundred years, hundred years,
may he live a hundred years.
Hundred years, hundred years,
may he live a hundred years.
One hundred years!

Niech mu gwiazda pomyślności

Traditional follow-up to "Sto lat"
Niech mu gwiazda pomyślności
nigdy nie zagaśnie.

Nigdy nie zagaśnie.
A kto zdrowia nie wypije
niech pod stołem zaśnie,
A kto zdrowia nie wypije
niech pod stołem zaśnie!

May the star of his good fortune

May the star of his good fortune
shine forever more,
Shine forever more.
And who won't drink to his health
should end up on the floor.
And who won't drink to his health
should end up on the floor..

Sto lat, sto lat, sto lat

Another follow-up to "Sto lat" to the
melody of the highlander song "Za
górami, za lasami, za dolinami"

Sto lat, sto lat, sto lat,
sto lat niechaj żyje nam.
Sto lat, sto lat, sto lat,
sto lat niechaj żyje nam.
Niech żyje nam, niech żyje nam
Sto lat, sto lat, sto lat,
sto lat niechaj żyje nam!

May He Live a Hundred Years

Hundred, hundred, hundred
may he live a hundred years.
Hundred, hundred, hundred
may he live a hundred years.
One hundred years,
one hundred years.
Hundred, hundred, hundred
may he live a hundred years.

continued next month

Adele Litwin, "Rosalinda Polka Dancer"

BINGHAMTON, N.Y. — Adele L. Litwin fought a brave and courageous battle and passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 6, 2017 at Wilson Memorial Hospital.

Adele graduated from Johnson City High School, then started working as a librarian for the *Binghamton Press*. She then retired from Security Mutual Co. with 25 plus years of service.

Adele, affectionately known as "Rosalinda Polka Dancer," had many interests, but especially loved polka dances and her many trips with her husband Steve, editor of the PAJ's *Polka Magazine*. The Litwins were the original hosts of the Concertina Jam Sessions at the Polka Fireworks Festival held at the Seven Springs Resort in Champion, Pa.

Adele loved figurines, and was known for her collection of cows. Each year, she and Steve set up elaborate Christmas displays and dioramas, which were often showcased on the internet.



Adele was predeceased by her parents, Walter and Anna Marie Jachimowicz and many brothers and sisters. She is survived by her husband of 44 years, Steven Litwin; two brothers and their wives: Alfred and JoEllen Jachimowicz of Virginia, and Stanley and Patricia Kobus/Jachimowicz; and one sister and brother-in-law, Joan and Joseph Pozzi. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews and a special niece and her husband, Anna Maria and Daniel Sigler.

Cards and letters of condolence may be sent to Steve Litwin at 39 Adams St., Binghamton, NY 13905.

Carl P. "Kaz" Nicsevic, Longtime Polka Fan

NORTH GREENBUSH, N.Y. — Carl P. "Kaz" Nicsevic, 80, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday May 4, 2017 after a short and courageous battle with what he called "the C."

He was born January 18, 1937 to the late Felix and Czeslowa Dlugowska Nicsevic in Troy.

Nicsevic worked most recently at

the R.P.I. fraternity, Alpha Epsilon Pi, where he made lifelong friends through the 22 years he was there; he called them his extended family. Nicsevic was genuine to the core, known for his quick wit, friendly smile, love of history and travel and never-ending supply of corny jokes. He was his daughter's biggest softball fan and continued his fandom

watching his grandchildren play sports.

His pride for his Polish heritage and love of polka music was known by all and he could be seen spinning and gliding across the floor at every weekend dance or festival he could get to.

In the mid-1980s, Nicsevic donated his archive of *Polish American Journals* to the newspaper. That collection makes up most of the paper's in-house archive, which dates back to the 1950s.

Nicsevic was the husband of the late Jacqueline Mancino Nicsevic. He is survived by two of his nine siblings. He has four daughters, five grandchildren, and is also survived by many nieces, nephews, sisters-in-law and a world full of friends.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Derek Murphy Fund; 4 South Colonial Heights, Troy, NY 12180.

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As a national newspaper serving Polish immigrants and their descendants 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.

MEMBERSHIP. Donations are accepted in any amount. All donations will be acknowledged and may be used as charitable contributions on your tax return. As a member, you can suggest any worthwhile cause: a donation to a local Polish American museum; veteran's group; scholarship fund; dance group, etc. Our board reviews these suggestions and creates a ballot of the most-request-

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

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There's More to Dyngus Day than Buffalo

Light-Hearted Easter Monday in Cleveland Draws 30,000

by Lynn Ischay

CLEVELAND (The Plain Dealer) — Detroit Avenue is packed with people dressed in red, many of the women wearing babushkas and carrying sprigs of pussy willow. Don Srnick strolls through the crowd like he's walking down a deserted forest path. The Willoughby Hills man is playing a tuba, oompah-ing along with the band on the Polka Stage. Srnic has been playing the tuba for more than 40 years, and he seems prepared to dot the "i" in pierogi if asked.

It's the seventh annual Dyngus Day in Cleveland, a celebration of spring, the end of the Lenten season and all things Polish. Justin Gorski, co-founder of the Cleveland event and master of ceremonies, has shifted to his alter ego, DJ Kishka. It seems every one of the 30,000 in attendance knows and loves Kishka. He climbs onstage, the crowd laughs and cheers, and Gorski takes the microphone, enunciating carefully through the hair of his long, gray, fake beard.

"First, I'd like everyone to raise a glass to the grandmas and grandpas, parents and friends who would have wanted to be here today." He turns and gestures toward a prop behind him. "Did you see this lovely cuckoo clock?" he says, pointing toward a plywood and cardboard facsimile made by artist and friend Mark Jenks. "It's almost beer-thirty, so na zdrowie!"

Hundreds of cups are held aloft and everyone takes a sip. Gorski introduces a reading of "Twas the Day Before Dyngus — a true story, a Polish Documentary!" he says.

With a nod to the famous poem "A Visit From St. Nicholas," "The Day Before Dyngus" tells the story of Dyngus Day coming to Cleveland.

"Searching for Dyngus, to Buffalo they roamed, and they thought 'This is stupid, we should do this at home,'" goes one of the lines from the poem.

After the reading, it's time to introduce the entrants in the Miss Dyngus Day 2017 pageant.

"Could you put a little polka music on in the background so I don't feel lonely and sad?" Gorski jokes, and the man at the sound board complies. Gorski calls the names of seven women, most dressed in what looks like something from their grandmother's closet. Each woman steps to the microphone and tells a bit about herself. Rebecca Roguzinski is the fifth to speak. "My whole family drove in from Pittsburgh," She barely gets the word out and the crowd drowns her in boos.

"Hey, now," Gorski says, trying to get the crowd to ease up a bit. But Roguzinski doesn't need the help. "I've been eating pierogies for the last 72 hours in preparation for this," she shouts. "And I'm ready to polka!" The boos stop, replaced by smiles.

The contestants are asked to

complete several tasks, and a panel of judges, made up of former Miss Dyngus Days and Pudge Golonka, a.k.a. artist Mark Jenks, ranks each of them. For the first task, each woman has to create a polka haiku. Anitra Hallisy of Bainbridge steps up to the mic. "Polish people rock.

have seven women here who are waiting to find out who will be Miss Dyngus Day."

He consults with the judges. "So, hey now, there might be a tie!" he says. "I didn't make this up just because the parade doesn't start until six."



PHOTO: EMANUEL WALLACE

Gorski and the judges gather at the back of the stage, figuring out what to do to break the tie between Patricia Karabowicz and Marlene Corrigan. They decide to make the two women face off, each naming a polka song until one can't remember another name. They go back and forth until Corrigan shrugs and says, "I don't know. I've got nothin'."

Next, it's another polka dance-off. The judges stand, watching feet, rhythm and enthusiasm. The judges sit back down, and as they make their final determination, Karabowicz and Corrigan dance together and hug. Gorski brings the women together for the big announcement, and when he says Karabowicz wins, Corrigan rockets her arms skyward and cheers for her competitor. Karabowicz

For the past several years, Easter Monday in Cleveland has come to mean Dyngus Day, also known as *lany poniedzialek*. This year was no different. The event included festivities at various bars and restaurants on the west side of Cleveland. Police estimated the crowd at 30,000. "Next year, we want 50,000!" said Councilman Matt Zone.

We are the best at everything. You bet your dupa," she recites. After each has her turn, it's time for the polka competition.

"Andrew the Mailman, come on up here for the polka dance-off," Gorski says, and a tan-faced, bearded man takes each woman for a twirl.

"I thought I was supposed to lead," he says to contestant Lauren Heuer as she spins them perilously toward the red and white cake, which will be awarded to pageant winner. The women are then asked to take five pierogies each, to see who can eat them the quickest. "No water to wash them down," Gorski says. "When you're finished, you have to turn around to the judges to show them you don't have any leftovers in your mouth."

As the judges tally up the scores, Councilman Matt Zone comes on stage to honor "DJ Kishka" for seven successful Dyngus Day celebrations.

"You can't imagine what it takes to close down a main street in Cleveland," Zone says, his arm around Gorski. "For this guy, we shut it down. There are 30,000 people here today," Zone continues. "Next year, we want 50,000! We want it to be even bigger. DJ Kishka for mayor!" The crowd begins chanting, "Kishka, Kishka, Kishka!"

"When I become mayor," Gorski begins, and Zone cuts him off. "I'll be your driver," Zone says, and they both laugh. "As much as I'd like this to be all about me," Gorski says, we

clamps her hand over her mouth, and has tears in her eyes. The women embrace. Gorski and the new Miss Dyngus Day 2017 pose for a few photos, then Gorski leads Karabowicz to her float, the crowd parting as she heads west down Detroit, leading the accordion parade.

Toledo Polonia

International Music Association Announces End of 35-Year Run

by Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

Where has the time gone? The International Music Association (IMA) marked the end of its 35-year run May 21, 2017 with a final dance held at the PRCUA Hall in Toledo. There is no better way to celebrate than with a blow-out celebration.

The IMA was formed in 1982 by Bob Earl, Sr. and the first band to perform at an IMA dance was the Imperials of Toledo. After its formation, the IMA soon grew to a membership in the hundreds.

The Imperials, by the way, came into existence when three cousins — Jerry Pacer, Al Perzynski, and Bob Earl, Sr., who had been in a previous band together — decided to create a group that played all styles of music popular at the time. Its styles included big band, square and round dances, and polkas. They sang in both English and Polish, and added saxophone, clarinet, and trumpet to create their sound. As the Imperials grew in popularity, they recorded, traveled across the country to polka dances and festivals, sponsored trips and cruises, in essence becoming one of the best-known polka bands of the time.

In the three-plus decades the

IMA existed, it enjoyed immense success, with monthly themed dances, golf outings, holiday dinner dances, and dance contests. Many of the nationally-known bands performed at IMA dances, including Henny & the Versa Js; John Gora & Gorale; and of course local bands Toledo PolkaMotion; Crusade; and A Touch of Brass.

So it is fitting that one of the most popular Toledo bands, A Touch of Brass, played for the IMA May 21. Although they members have "retired" a few times since their official final gig in November 2012, A Touch of Brass reunited one more time in May.

Members who helped to make the IMA what it was until the very end included: President Bob Earl, Jr.; Patty Muszynski; Danny "Lefty" Wozniak; Carol Zomkowski; and Don and the late Rose Kwiatkowski.

"A sincere 'thank you' goes out to everyone who helped support the IMA on its journey to promote polka music over the past 35 years, especially the past and present board members and the many musicians who performed at our dances. We appreciate all of you," said President Bobby Earl.

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<p>THURSDAY Admission: \$2.00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Generation • Chad Przybylski/ Polka Rhythms • Maroszek Brothers • Aaron Socha Livewire 	<p>FRIDAY Admission: \$15.00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Generation • Aaron Socha & Livewire • The DynaBrass • The Boys • Polka Dynamics • Polish Connection 	<p>SATURDAY Admission: \$15.00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chad Przybylski / Polka Rhythms • Box On • The Knewz • Versatones' Reunion Tour • IPA Tribute Band 	<p>SUNDAY Admission: Free</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mollie B & Ted Lange Squeezebox • The Boys • Polka Country Concertina Rich • Music Connection • Mark Jirikovec Band • Keith Stras & Polka Confetti 	<p>CONTACT INFO General Requests Harold 920-660-9126 Mike 920-822-1290</p> <p>Camping Nora 920-619-5587 Polkacamp@yahoo.com</p> <p>Parade Info Wayne 920-822-5456</p>
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www.PulaskiPolkaDays.com

Dance Time

A Dyngus Day Wrap-Up

by Jennifer Pijanowski

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Dyngus Day 2017 found the city of Buffalo bursting with pride, and celebration as attendees came from all around to celebrate Wet Monday. As Dyngus Day has grown in popularity over the past few decades, polka music has become the quintessential genre for this occasion. As a polka junkie, it is an exciting time for Western New York yet, it's frustrating to know that you cannot possibly attend every event that you would like. An array of talented musicians assembles in Buffalo boosting the image of polka music while fusing both Polish and American traditions.

My Dyngus celebration began by attending Val's 28th Annual Dyngus Day weekend at **Salvatore's Italian Gardens**. Anyone who attended can attest to the work and thoughtful approach taken when Val plans this event. My husband and I decided to spend the evening at the new Delavan Hotel, which was located inside the venue where the music would take place. The room was beautiful and elegant, with a staff that goes above and beyond.

After checking in, we made our way downstairs and just steps away to the hall where the music was playing. The **Boys and Polka Country Musicians** took turns throughout the night, forging that energy enthusiasm that epitomizes Dyngus Day. These bands — two of the nation's best — definitely drew the masses for this Pre-Dyngus kick off. The dance floor was ½ filled with on-lookers enjoying the music while the rest was flooded with dancers whirling about. The bar area was packed with folks chatting while enjoying the music. This venue adds a high-class ambience to this celebration without being pretentious. The work put in by Val and Salvatore's make this event more and more successful each year. I cannot wait to see what he has planned when his 30th year rolls around.

Monday with the Pijanowski's started off with a drenching of my husband as he was just waking up. It was a nice laugh for me and a shock for him. We headed out early to meet some friends on the East Side of Buffalo to take in the sights before the chaos of the day began. Old

corner taverns that remain in Buffalo's Polonia deliver the aura that you want from an ethnic celebration. The excitement as these watering holes prepare for this yearly infusion of cash fuels their passion for their long-standing family legacy in the area. Having these "gin mills" which have stood the test of time in the area lends hope that someday new life will surface in this cornerstone of Buffalo's Polish history.

Next up was a stop to a corner pub in Cheektowaga that hosts polka music with Special Delivery monthly, but has never hosted a Dyngus Day event. **Clinton Bar and Grill**, which is located right around the corner from well-known Polish Villa, was inundated with polka lovers to see the Dyngus Day Jam Band. This star studded group featured **Jackie Libera, Frank Liszka, Dave Walters, Eric Bakowski, Matt Lewandowski, and Chris Bukowski**. These musicians seamlessly played each and every song as if they had been practicing together for months. Seeing a group of musicians laugh, joke, and flawlessly piggyback on one another's talent was a delight for each of us there. I planned on just staying for one set however the music was so fantastic, I couldn't drag myself away to head to another venue. I found myself yearning for more of this band and of course the tremendous vocals of Jackie and Frankie. I can't even imagine what the staff and owner of this establishment were feeling as fans packed into this small bar. There is no doubt that Clinton Bar & Grill will be asking this star-studded group (or some form of it) to return again next year.

Next, I walked across the parking lot to **Polish Villa II**, where music had been going since 10:00 a.m. The Kutas family was on hand to cheerfully welcome patrons as they made their way into the packed bar and restaurant. Decorated with traditional Polish folk art, this restaurant lends itself beautifully to events of this nature. Krupnik, Polish beers and vodkas were being served one after another as the party was already in full swing. **Buffalo Touch** was on stage entertaining the hundreds who were happy to dance and sing along with the band. It was great to see the many children who



The Wisniewski Clan, enjoying music at The Clinton Bar & Grill.

were fully engaged with the peppy polka beat. Polish Villa is right on the Pussywillow Pass shuttle route so there is a constant stream of Dyngus devotees streaming in and out of the venue. I jumped on the shuttle and headed back to the East side.

My yearly stop to **St. Stan's Athletic Center** saw a venue filled with enthusiasm and Polish pride. Located across the street from the Mother Church of Polonia, I cannot imagine not partaking in their celebration. **Stephanie** continues to be one of my favorite entertainers, as she can win over any audience with her magnetic energy. Backed by talented musicians, Stephanie puts her best foot forward for the wall-to-wall crowd who make their annual Dyngus Day pilgrimage to St. Stan's. This year she alternated with **Mon Valley Push**, who traveled from Daisytown, Penn., near Pittsburgh. Although I have seen this band several times, I quickly noticed quite a difference in their sound. There are some new members of the band which seems to have added a new level of intensity to their style of polkas. **Randy Koslosky**, who is one of my favorite polka musicians both personally and musically, was at the forefront of the bandstand lending his high energy vocals and masterful accordion. The harmony of Frank and Randy's voices grabbed my attention at the very first song I heard. This group of men encompasses the true meaning of loving polka music — their affinity for polkas is apparent when you watch them play. As I

walked through the hall many people commented to me that they were really enjoying MVP's music. I am so happy that this talented group got the extra exposure at this landmark Dyngus Day venue. I hope that the parish council asks them back for 2018 and I will definitely be looking to see them in their travels throughout the year.

My last stop of the night was one that I had been anticipating since I heard this band would be coming to Buffalo. **Brave Combo** rarely makes the voyage from Denton, Texas, so I had to take advantage of this infrequent performance. The band graced the stage under a tent in Pussywillow Park where the beautiful Central Terminal provides a breathtaking backdrop. I pushed through the enormous crowd to the front of the stage as they began their show with "Down at the Friendly Tavern." Jumping and screaming fans stormed the stage as this group of musicians played this Buffalo polka favorite. The band leader **Carl Finch** wasted no time declaring Buffalo's own **Dynatoners** — and namely the late Dave "Scrubby" Seweryniak — has been one of his influences. He spoke of Scrubby's charisma and the polka shock wave that they Dynatone's created in the 1970s and 80s.

Whether you agree or disagree with their take on polka music, this band has proven they can captivate any audience their eclectic flare and range of polka stylings. The energy created in the tent was beyond what I ever expected and the band

left everyone with somewhat of an education about polka music. It is easy to see how Brave Combo has won multiple awards and charmed countless listeners and groupies. This was definitely a high point to end my night of Dyngus festivities.

Thanks to all of the venues who hosted successful events this year and showcased the love of polka music. If only for one day of the year, I love the fact that each person who looks to celebrate Dyngus Day yearns to hear polka music.

UPCOMING EVENTS. Summer polka season is now in full swing and I am sure many are headed to the beach this month. **Ocean Beach Park Polka Days** is back for its fourth year and promises to be the best year yet. Eleven of the nation's best polka bands will take center stage from June 21-24. It all kicks off on Wednesday with **Polka Country Musicians** on the boardwalk with gorgeous beachfront scenery. That's followed by three days of action-packed polka fun as the **NuTones, Stephanie, Maestro's Men, Matt's All Stars, Lenny Gomulka, Eddie Foreman, the Knewz, Polish Connection, The Boys, The Dynatoners, The Beat,** and more Polka Country Musicians, take turns entertaining at this polka lover's paradise. **Richie and Wally Dombrowski** know exactly what their fans want in a polka weekend and they have proven that Ocean Beach has the right combination for everyone. The comments and praises of those who have attended in the past offer proof you will enjoy every minute at this music-filled weekend.

This year, the **Cedar Polka Festival** (Cedar, Mich.) will be held from June 22-25 and feature **Box On, Diddle Styx, New Brass Express, New Generation, and Broad Brothers.** The massive 40' x 80' wooden dance floor gives you plenty of room to dance to your favorite bands under the huge tent. Enormous crowds descend on this northwestern Michigan town for this yearly event and it should definitely be on your list of events to attend. This quaint village, which is still highly identified as a Polish community, is dotted with a variety of shops and restaurants that encourage you to relax and enjoy the surroundings. There are a few other events held to coincide with the polka fest in the downtown area. Friday you can enjoy a sidewalk chalk art show and Saturday will be the yearly parade featuring the bands playing the festival. Don't miss Sunday polka Mass at 11:00 before the music starts again at noon. Located north of Traverse City and self-proclaimed "The Community that Cares," the folks in Cedar Michigan will make you feel right at home when you visit for polka fest.

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\$18. THUR, AUG. 10th
Polka Family ~ Ampol Aires
Box On (Vinecki Family) ~ Stephanie

\$20. FRI, AUG. 11th
Polka Country Musicians ~ Polka Family
Lenny Gomulka and His Chicago Push
New Brass Express

\$20. SAT, AUG. 12th
Polka Country Musicians ~ The Knewz
Lenny Gomulka and His Chicago Push
Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones Reunion

\$18. THUR, AUG. 17th
Eddie Rodiek ~ Steve Meisner
Squeezebox with Mollie B

\$14. Polka Only FRI, AUG 18th \$16. Polka & Hubcaps
Steve Meisner Squeezebox with Mollie B
50s '60s & '70s Rock-n-Roll
THE HUBCAPS
Featuring Magic Bus

\$14. Polka Only SAT, AUG 19th \$16. Polka & Hubcaps
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Polka Calendar

Compiled by John Ziobrowski
To list your event, please send date, band, location, times, and contact number to:
ziobrowskijohn@gmail.com

- JUNE 2**
- Polka Family / Don Wojtila. St. Mary's Church. Johnstown, Pa. 6-10. (814) 535-4132.
 - Eddie Forman. St. Stans Church. Fall River, Mass. 5-9 (508) 674-6771
- JUNE 3**
- Special Delivery Band. Polish Night. St. Johns Church. Kenmore, N.Y. 7-11 (716) 873-1122
 - Polka Quads / Lenny Gomulka / Polka Family / Alex Meixner. St. Marys Church. Johnstown, Pa. 1-10 (814) 535-4132
 - Jimmy Sturr. High School. Athens, Pa. 3-5. (570) 250-0552.
 - Tony's Polka Band. Polish National Church. Latham, N.Y. 5-9. (518) 453-2258
 - Shoreliners. White Rose Polka Dance, Emigsville Fire Co, Emigsville, Pa. 7-11. (717) 235-4667.
- JUNE 4**
- Dennis Polisky. Lions Pavilion. Hatfield, Mass. 2-6. (413) 695-4201
 - Polka Country Musicians / Eddie Rodick. 2:30-6:30. St. Mary's Church. Johnstown, Pa. (814) 535-4132
 - Swingmasters. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 694-5504
 - Northern Lites. Polish Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
 - Walt Groller. Holy Family Hall. Nazareth, Pa. 2-6 (610) 759-7887
 - TKO featuring Eddie Biegaj. Asso-

- ciated Polish Home, Philadelphia. 2:00-6:00 (215) 906-1825.
 - New Direction. Polish Nook, Niagara Falls, N.Y. 3-7. (716)
- JUNE 9**
- John Stevens. Pierogi Fest. Edwardsville, Pa. 4:00 p.m. (570) 239-9594
- JUNE 10**
- John Gora / Buffalo Touch. Gregor's Garden Grove. West Seneca NY. 4-10. (716) 998-2501
 - Golden Tones. Monaghan Fire Hall. Dillsburg, Pa. 7-11. (717) 458-5286
 - Walt Groller. Liederkrantz Club. Lancaster, Pa. 7-11 (717) 898-8451
 - John Stevens. St. Paul Church. Northampton, Pa. 12-4. (610) 261-2910.
- JUNE 11**
- Special Delivery Band. Clinton Bar & Grill. West Seneca, N.Y. 4:30-7:30. (716) 768-3246.
 - Stephanie. Slovenien Hall. Yukon, Pa. 3-7. (74) 722-9700.
 - Joe Stanky. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 694-5504.
 - Vagabonds. American Legion. Rositer, Pa. 2-6. (814) 765-2014.
 - Northern Sounds. Polish Club. Belview Fla. 2-5 (352) 245-9378.
- JUNE 13**
- Buffalo Touch. River Grill. Tonawanda NY. 6:30. (716) 873-2553.
- JUNE 15**
- Stephanie. Polka Buzz Taping. Potts Banquet Hall. Cheektowaga, N.Y. 7-10. (716) 826-6575
- JUNE 16**
- Dennis Polisky. St. Joseph Church. Webster, Mass. 6-10. (508) 943-0378
 - Jimmy Sturr. Holy Rosary Church.

- Passaic, N.J. 7-9 (973) 473-5111
 - John Stevens. Divine Redeemer Church. Mt. Carmel, Pa. 6-10 (570) 339-3450
 - Dynatones. Oak Shade Pavilion. Oregon Ohio. 5-8. (419) 420-5235
- JUNE 17**
- Dennis Polisky. St. Joseph Church. Webster, Mass. 6-10. (508) 943-0378
 - Lenny Gomulka. OLPH Church. New Bedford, Mass. 11:30-7:30 (508) 992-9378
 - The Boys, NewTones. Oak Shade Pavilion. Oregon Ohio. 2-11 (419) 420-5235
- JUNE 18**
- Eddie Forman. OLPH Church. New Bedford, Mass. 1-5 (508) 992-9378
 - Lenny Gomulka. Pulaski Park. Three Rivers, Mass. 2:30-6:30 (413) 592-0367
- JUNE 21**
- Polka Country Musicians. Ocean Beach Park. New London, Conn. 7-10 (860) 598-4117
- JUNE 22**
- Nutones / Stephanie / Matt's All Stars / Dennis Polisky / Lenny Gomulka. Ocean Beach Park. New London Conn. 10:00 a.m.-12:30 a.m. (860) 598-4117.
- JUNE 23**
- Dennis Polisky. Our Lady of Czenstochowa. Coventry. R.I. 6-10 (401) 821-7991
 - Stephanie. Polish Club. Connellsville, Pa. 5-9. (724) 550-3966.
 - Knewz / Eddie Forman / Polka Country Musicians / The Boys / Polish Connection. Ocean Beach Park. New

- London Ct. 10AM-12:30 AM (860) 598-4117
- JUNE 24**
- Knewz / Dynatones / Polish Connection / Polka Country Musicians / The Beat / The Boys. Ocean Beach Park. New London, Conn. 10:00 a.m.-1:00 a.m. (860) 598-4117
 - Eddie Forman. Our Lady of Czenstochowa. Coventry, R.I. 6-10 (401) 821-7991
 - New Direction. Syracuse N.Y. Polish Festival. 12-1, 2-3. Admission is free, Open to the public.
 - Jimmy Sturr. Naogaug Park. Scranton, Pa. 7:30-9:30.
 - Joe Stanky. St. Faustina. Nanticoke, Pa. 4-7. (570) 735-4833.
- JUNE 25**
- Dennis Polisky. Our Lady of Czenstochowa. Coventry, R.I. 12-4 (401) 821-7991.
 - Pa. Villagers. St. Benedict's Grove. Morgantown, Pa. 2-6. (724) 564-7436.
 - PA Express. American Legion. Rositer, Pa. 2-6 (814) 765-2014.
 - Eddie Forman. Stanley Park. Westfield Ma. 6-8.
 - Lenny Gomulka / John Stevens. Christ the King Church. Ludlow, Mass. 12-8. (413) 583-2630
 - Joe Stanky. Catholic War Vets. Trenton, N.J. 3-6. (609) 392-2303
- JUNE 26**
- Eastern Sound. Seashell Stage. Hampton Beach, N.H. 7-9:30

- JUNE 27**
- Special Delivery. Polish Falcons. Depew, N.Y. 8:00-11:00 p.m. (716) 684-2373.
 - Dennis Polisky, Naugatuck, Conn. Town Green. 7-9.
- JUNE 28**
- Eddie Forman. Town Common. West Brookfield, Mass. 7-9
 - Buffalo Touch. Leonard Post. Cheektowaga. N.Y. 8:00 p.m. (716) 684-4371
- JUNE 29**
- Special Delivery Band. Variety Night. Village of Depew, N.Y. 7-9.
- JUNE 30**
- Box On / New Phaze / Lenny Gomulka. Seven Springs Resort. Champion, Pa. 6-1 (708) 594-5182
 - Jimmy Sturr. Festival Square. Middletown, N.Y. 7-9
- JULY 1**
- NuTones / Concertina All Stars / Eddie Forman / Versatones. Seven Springs Resort. Champion, Pa. 3:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m. (708) 594-5182.
- JULY 2**
- Versa Js / Ampol-Aires / Lenny Gomulka / The Boys. Seven Springs Resort. Champion, Pa. 3 -1 (708) 594-5182.
- JULY 3**
- Dyna Brass / Ampol-Aires / Ray Jay / Polka Family. Seven Springs Resort. Champion, Pa. 2-12. (708) 594-5182.

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Saturday JULY 1

- Big Dan's Polka Party!
Live Music by: Nu Tones (PA), Buffalo Concertina All-Stars (NY), Eddie Forman Orchestra (MA), and Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones Reunion (IL)

Sunday JULY 2

- Catholic Polka Mass 10:30 am - Music by Henny & The Versa J's
- Steve Litwin Concertina Jam - Hosted by Concertina Legend Charlie Tansek
- Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push (MA), Henny & The Versa J's (PA), Ampol-Aires (IL), The Boys (MD)

Monday JULY 3

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Celebrating Polish Constitution Day

Chicago: Polonia Comes Out in Force

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — It was a perfect day for a parade: sunny with temperatures in the 50s. On Saturday, May 6, Chicago held its 126th annual Polish Constitution Day Parade. This year's theme, "Tadeusz Kościuszko, Hero of Poland and the United States," was most appropriately initiated with the Polish National Alliance's wreath ceremony at the Kościuszko Monument at Lake Shore and Solidarity Drives. Following this, the Polish Flag was raised in Daley Plaza, downtown.

Approximately 300 guests attended a special brunch at the Hilton Chicago hosted by the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450, of the Polish National Alliance. This provided an opportune time for the Chicago Society to award scholarships to three outstanding local students. The recipient of the \$3,000 scholarship was **Barbara Folga** of Niles, a junior at Loyola University Chicago, majoring in biology and chemistry. The \$2,000 scholarship was awarded to **Kristian Zadlo** of River Forest, a senior at Oak Park and River Forest High School who will be attending Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and majoring in computer engineering this fall. The \$1,000 scholarship went to **Malgorzata Medrecki** of Chicago, a sophomore at Loyola University Chicago majoring in chemistry.

After the brunch, everyone gathered on Columbus Drive to see the



Parade Queen Julia Szumny.

parade. Approximately 125 political, philanthropic, professional, educational, cultural, and musical groups or organizations provided entertainment for some 10,000 spectators. The parade began with the Illinois National Color Guard and Band, followed by this year's grand marshal, vice marshals, and various dignitaries.

Serving as this year's grand marshal was the Honorable **Diann Marsalek**, supervising judge of Cook County's Traffic Division, District 1. The vice marshals were **Father Pawel Kosiński, S.J.**, pastoral minister of the Jesuit Millennium Center, director of Radio Deon, and Chaplain for the Polish Scouting Organization, and **Bozyslaw Andersohn**, founder and director of the 29-year-old "Polish 13th" Theatre. This year's "Friend of Polonia" was **Ariel Reboyras**, Chicago's 30th Ward alderman, and an honorary guest of the parade was **Anna**

Maria Anders, Polish senator and daughter of the late Polish General Władysław Anders. Other dignitaries included **Paul W. Jones**, United States Ambassador to Poland and Polish Senator **Adam Bielan**, deputy speaker of the Polish Senate.

The Parade Queen was **Julia Szumny**, a 21-year-old, who currently is a student at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana majoring in advertising, public relations, and communications. Her First Lady was **Kasia Kolanko**, and Second Lady was **Alicja Kwiatkowska**. The Queen and her two ladies-in-waiting received scholarships: a \$2,000 scholarship to Julia provided by Montrose Deli; a \$1,500 scholarship to Kasia from the Polish-Slavic Federal Credit Union; and a \$1,000 scholarship for Alicja donated by Alicia Jonik of Dentpol.

After the parade, nearly 200 spectators ventured south in Grant Park to hear Polish American pianist and

composer, **Konrad Binienda**, perform a Chopin concert. This event was hosted by the Grant Park Conservancy and the Chicago Chopin Foundation. The celebration ended at the 226th Polish Constitution Day anniversary banquet held at the Jolly Inn Restaurant & Banquet Hall on Chicago's Northwest Side.

On Sunday May 7, many at-

the Polish flag at the top of Monte Cassino. This May 18, 1944 battle is recognized as one of the most decisive battles of World War II.

Many attending the dedication proceeded to a luncheon at Lone Tree Manor Banquet Hall, also in Niles, to enjoy Polish cuisine. Later that day, another Chopin concert was held at the Jesuit Millennium



Kosinski, Evans, Marsalek, Andersohn, and Reboyras.

tended a special mass at Holy Trinity Church on Chicago's Northwest Side. From there they traveled to Maryhill Cemetery in Niles, to witness the dedication of a portion of Milwaukee Avenue in honor of **General Wladyslaw Anders**, World War II hero.

It was Anders who commanded the Polish 2nd Corps, part of the Allied 8th Army offensive, at the Battle of Monte Cassino. This victory was won with Polish forces, and it was Polish soldiers who raised

Center on West Irving Park Road, performed, once again, by Konrad Binienda.

Chicago's 126th Polish Constitution Day celebrations ended with a meet and greet, open meeting, and discussion session with Anna Maria Anders at St. Ferdinand's Parish.

The Alliance of Polish Clubs, its president, **Jan Kopec**, and his committee are to be commended for organizing and coordinating the events of this special weekend.

Rochester, N.Y.: Veterans, Students Meet



Eugene Golomb, president of the Rochester Polonia Civic Centre, poses with the children of the St. Stanislaus Polish School as they presented their May 3rd Polish Constitution Day Akademia at Saint Stanislaus Auditorium in Rochester, on April 30, 2017.



American Legion Melvin Michalski Post 1328 members (l. to r.) Leon Wia-ter, Al Pawlowski (93, veteran of the Pacific with four battle stars from Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, to Okinawa), Gene Walters, Cmdr. Frank Krajciovic, and Eugene Golomb Adjutant pictured meeting with students from the Polish School of St. Stanislaus (r. to l.) from Albion, N.Y. Kenadie Patten, Reagan Flor, and aspiring student 4-year-old Mason Patten.

Washington: Dignitaries and Awardees Gathered at Ambassador's Residence

by Richard P. Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The 226th Anniversary of Poland's historic and revolutionary May 3rd Constitution of 1791 – Konstytucja Trzeciego Maja – was celebrated in grand style on May 3, 2017 under the auspices of **Ambassador Piotr Wilczek**.

Among the hundreds of invited guests were those pictured above, including Deputy Marshal of the Polish Senate **Adam Bielan**, U.S. Senator **Roy Blunt**, members of the U.S. Administration and Military Services, the Washington Diplomatic Corps, NGO's, many luminaries, friends of Poland, and the American Polonia.

Ambassador Wilczek welcomed the guests and described the historical context that gave rise to Europe's first constitution – a revolutionary one that championed the avant-garde concept of freedom and democracy for the common man. The Ambassador recalled that within two years Poland was wiped off the map of Europe for 123 years (until 1918).

"Although the Constitution did not prevent the final partition of Poland, it inspired Polish patriots to pass on to future generations the most precious values of old Poland: belief in democracy, religious tolerance and solidarity," said Wilczek.

"Poland's situation today is very different from the situation our country found itself in at the end of the 18th century," said Wilczek. "Over half my life was spent living behind the Iron Curtain, and never in my wildest imagination did I dream that there would come a time when American soldiers, our friends and allies, would be in Poland, training side-by-side with Polish soldiers. Today Poland is not alone. Today Poland is part of the effective NATO alliance. Today Poland has a friend and in the United States, the most



GARDEN PARTY. (l. to r.): Secretary of State for International Dialogue Senator Anna Marie Anders; Malta's Ambassador to the U.S. Pierre Agius (recipient of the Commanders Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland); Michael Hammond (recipient of the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland); Ambassador Piotr Wilczek; Professor David A. Lipton ("Amicus Poloniae" award recipient); and Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur.

powerful country in the world."

Secretary of State/Senator **Anna Marie Anders** said she was very pleased to celebrate May 3rd in the United States. She said she was very proud of her Polish, British, and American citizenships and connected heritages, especially as the daughter of Poland's General Władysław Anders, a national World War II hero.

Anna Marie Anders said her late husband was an officer in the U.S. Army, in which her officer son now serves.

"NATO and our partnership are absolute in support of Poland," said U.S. Senator Roy Blunt. "The Polish people never gave up in World War II. Their freedom was taken from them but they always insisted on taking their freedom back. Since 1791 to today, Poland has been willing to fight for its freedom."

Raising his glass, Blunt toasted "To Poland for the freedom it has earned."

"the Constitution ... inspired Polish patriots to pass on ... belief in democracy, religious tolerance, and solidarity."

— Ambassador Piotr Wilczek.

U.S. Congresswoman **Marcy Kaptur**, co-chair of the Congressional Polish Caucus, said she will continue to work in Congress "to guarantee that the freedom gene that exists in the hearts of Poles and Polish Americans will continue to exist.

"And thank you for the Constitution being celebrated here tonight that promotes freedom for all," said Kaptur.