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POLAND JÓZEF PIŁSUDSKI  
PAGE 12

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

AN INTERVIEW WITH MARZANNA OWIŃSKI • POLAND AND THE UNITED STATES: BEST FRIENDS IN DEMOCRACY

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL FOUNDATION ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2018-19 SCHOLARSHIP

THE FUTURE OF POLAM IDENTITY? • BLESSED CHRZANOWSKA'S RELICS • NEW YORK PREMIERE OF MASS IN F

## Newsmark

**DUDA CALLS FOR REFERENDUM.** Polish President Andrzej Duda has called for a referendum, November 10 and 11, to decide the future of Poland's current constitution. Duda said the Polish people deserve to discuss whether to retain or amend the present one or create an entirely new basic law of the land. The present constitution was adopted in 1997 during the presidency of ex-communist leader Aleksander Kwaśniewski. Duda is known to favor a constitution that gives more power to the presidency. But even some of his supporters fear that a low referendum turnout would be a major political setback for Duda and the current conservative Law and Justice administration.

**CRACKDOWN ON "RUSSIAN HYBRID WAR" CAMPAIGN.** Polish security services detained a Russian citizen and banned four people from entering the country after cracking down on a network waging a "hybrid and information war" masterminded by Moscow. A security services spokesman warned that Russia was trying to destabilise Polish society and politics.

The Russian citizen, a woman, was detained by Poland's Internal Security Agency (ABW), said Stanisław Żaryn, a spokesman for the country's security services chief. Named only as "Yekaterina C.," she had been living in Poland since 2013. Four other individuals were also given a five-year ban on entering Poland, according to IAR.

Żaryn said the suspects took part in "fueling Polish-Ukrainian animosities in the social and political arenas and questioning and undermining Polish policy [over historical issues] and replacing it with a Russian narrative."

**HOPES TO BOOST US MILITARY PRESENCE.** Following talks with officials in Washington, Polish Defense Minister Mariusz Błaszczak told Polish Radio there was a "real chance" of increasing America's military presence in Poland. He discussed the matter with U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and other top officials. Mattis thanked Błaszczak for Poland's contribution to the campaign against the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, and to the Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan. At present, there are about 4,500 U.S. troops on Polish soil. Warsaw is hoping that can be increased to a division (over 21,000). Polish-U.S. negotiations on future troop deployment continue.

**PENDULUM SWINGS TO THE RIGHT.** Poland — repeatedly attacked over the past three years about its reluctance to embrace EU-mandates about Third World migrants — is slowly gaining respect in light of unrest in France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Holland, and other Western European countries. Of recent frustration in Germany is a manpower shortage. While immigrants traditionally took on menial positions, many newcomers prefer to live on welfare in Muslim-only "no-go zones," into which even police are reluctant to venture. Terrorist acts have triggered growing anti-immigration attitudes and disrupted the political scene in Spain, the United Kingdom, and even pro-immigration France, which has begun deporting illegal aliens.

Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Austria have shared Poland's skepticism.

**POLANSKI CALLS #METOO MOVEMENT "COLLECTIVE HYSTERIA."** Oscar-winning filmmaker Roman Polanski says the #MeToo movement that sheds light on sexual misconduct of powerful men in Hollywood is "collective hysteria" and "total hypocrisy." He made the comment to *Newsweek Polska* just days before the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences stripped him of his nearly 50-year membership, citing a case in 1977 in which he pleaded guilty to unlawful sex with a minor.

Polanski directed many well-regarded films, including *Chinatown* and *Rosemary's Baby*, and won an Oscar in 2003 for directing *The Pianist*. There has been a warrant for his arrest for more than 40 years. He avoids visiting the U.S. and any countries that would extradite him.

Polanski said everyone is trying to sign up to #MeToo "chiefly out of fear."

## Display of Affection



Volunteer John Dickerson of Minneapolis mans the Polish cultural exhibit at this year's Festival of Nations in St. Paul, Minn., Fri., May 4. This year's festival theme was "Now & Then: Exploring Historical and Contemporary Cultural Traditions." The event began in 1932 and is sponsored by the International Institute of Minnesota. The Polish booth included photo montages and examples of Polish architecture, design, textiles, ceramics, and Polish art. The event also features food booths and performing arts demonstrations. The Polish Cafe crafted bigos, kielbasa, pierogi, and desserts.

## Accord Reached on Katyń Memorial

Opponents say statue should stay where it was built

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — An acrimonious battle in New Jersey over plans to move a waterfront statue commemorating the 1940 massacre of Poles has ended.

Jersey City Mayor Steve Fulop and local Polish groups announced May 12 that they have reached an agreement on relocating the Katyń Memorial.

Fulop, a Democrat, called the deal a "win-win" in a tweet announcing the agreement. He wrote that the goal was one that "respects/cares/keeps the monument in an extremely prominent location to honor sacrifices" while also giving the city "a chance to re-purpose our waterfront."

City officials wanted to remove the statue as part of a renovation of the plaza where it currently stands, on the waterfront across from downtown New York City. The head of the group organizing the renovation has called the statue "gruesome" and has said he prefers that it get a new home, according to published reports.

But the Polish groups opposed that and had sought a court order in recent days to block the move.

The bronze statue depicts a

See "Katyń ...," page 4

## Poland's First Couple in America

President Duda addresses UN, holds talks, meets Polonia

NEW YORK — Poland's First Couple, President Andrzej Duda and First Lady Agata Kornhauser-Duda, had a busy schedule during their recent three-day visit to the United States.

In New York, Duda addressed the UN Security Council emphasizing the importance of international law in ensuring world peace.

In Jersey City, the Dudas laid wreaths at the Smolensk Victims memorial and the local Katyń Monument, which the city's controversial mayor had wanted to put in storage to make way for a renovation project. Under strong combined Polish and PolAm pressure he agreed to relocate it to a prominent site nearby.

Business ties, including the establishment of a Chicago office of the Poland's Investment and Trade Agency, were discussed with the Illinois governor and Chicago mayor, and in the Windy City the Dudas also toured the Polish Museum of America. The president also visited an Illinois National Guard base in Kankakee, Ill., where he met soldiers who had fought alongside Polish

See "First Couple ...," page 4



**PRESIDENT ANDRZEJ DUDA** places a wreath on the Katyń Memorial at Exchange Place in Jersey City, N.J. during his recent visit to the United States. The Mayor of Jersey City, Steve Fulop, planned to mothball the statue, until he was met with international opposition, fueled by malicious Tweets from Fulop. An agreement to relocate the Memorial is not welcome by opponents in favor of keeping it in its current location.

## Almanac



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## June Czerwiec

"The very essence of  
success is practice."

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

1926. Ignacy Mocicki elected president of Poland.
1343. Signing of the Treaty of Kalisz, a peace treaty that concluded the Polish-Teutonic War (1326-1332).
1890. Death of Oskar Kolberg (b. 1814), ethnographer.
1989. First free elections in Poland since World War II.
1999. John Paul II begins his fourth trip to Poland.
1929. Birth of Bogusław Schaeffer, Polish composer, musicologist, and graphic artist.
1982. President Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II meet in the Vatican.
1949. Emmanuel Ax, pianist born in Lvov, Poland.
1815. Conclusion of the Congress of Vienna.
- Blessed Bogumil, Archbishop.
1857. Birth of Antoni Grabowski, Polish chemical engineer known for compiling the first chemistry dictionary in the Polish language.
1887. Founding of the Polish Falcons of America.
1982. Polish labor union Solidarity strikes in Wroclaw, Nowa Huta, and Gdansk, Poland, in protest of martial law.
- FLAG DAY (U.S.)  
1940. In German-occupied Poland, the first inmates arrive at the Auschwitz concentration camp. They are all Polish political prisoners.
1669. Election of Michael Korybut Wiśniowiecki.
- FATHER'S DAY (U.S.)  
1861. The first telegraph message is sent from an airborne balloon by Thaddeus Sobieski-Lowe.
1949. Birth of Lech Kaczyński, former president of Poland from 2002 to 2010. Kaczyński died in a plane crash en route to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Katyn Forest Massacre in Russia on Saturday, April 10, 2010.
1873. Death of Valerian Sulakowski, who served as Colonel of the 14th Louisiana Infantry.
1940. Gen. Władysław Sikorski establishes Polish government-in-exile in London.
- ST. JOHN'S EVE  
1892. Birth of Mieczysław Horszowski, internationally acclaimed pianist and music teacher.
1914. Birth of Jan Karski, Polish World War II resistance fighter and scholar.
2004. Dr. Thaddeus Gromada, the Executive Director of the Library of Congress, outlining the issues of Poland's entry into the European Union.
1295. White Eagle made symbol of Poland.
1959. Birth of Janusz Kaminiski, Academy Award winner for "Schindler's List" and "Saving Private Ryan."
1941. German troops occupy Galicia, Poland.
1941. Death of pianist and statesman Ignacy Jan Paderewski.
1911. Birth of Czesław Miłosz, Polish poet who received the 1980 Nobel Prize in Literature. In 1960, Miłosz immigrated to America and settled in California. He became an American citizen and was a teacher at the University of California, Berkeley.

This paper mailed on or before May 30, 2018. The July 2018 edition will be mailed on or before June 26, 2018

## Viewpoints

## The Future of PolAm Identity?

Study shows Polish involvement makes all the difference PolAm peer interaction and visiting Poland are key factors

by Robert Strybel

Two scholars at Ohio's Bowling Green University have used the demolition of Toledo's St. Anthony Church and the cancellation of a local Polish festival as an occasion to showcase their interesting study on Polish-American ethnicity. Political scientist David Jackson and senior lecturer in media and communication Lori Liggett saw those events as symptomatic of the decline of traditional ethnic neighborhoods across America.

They have explored what it means to be Polish-American today by surveying the political and cultural attitudes of PolAm college students at Bowling Green State University, the University of Toledo, Wright State University and Owens Community College. Jackson and Liggett found that 8.3 percent of their respondents self-identified as Polish-American. But simply admitting to Polish ancestry does not indicate what importance they attach to their heritage, so the researchers used organizational involvement as their base criterion.

Asked to identify basic PolAm values, the respondents indicated the importance of family (68%), their Catholic faith (38%), a sense of community (38%), honor (34%) and ethnic pride (28%). Twelve percent of the young PolAms surveyed belong to at least one Polish organization or took part in their events. Those might include Polish Saturday Schools, folk-dance groups, Polish scouting, high-school or college Polish Clubs or activities sponsored by PolAm fraternal societies such as Polish Falcons or PRCUA. As it turned out, such involvement made all the difference.

Such young PolAms are more sensitive to concepts such as group image, dignity and self-worth. Whereas 40% of the affiliated PolAms did not believe Americans of Polish ancestry receive the same respect as other ethnic communities, only 17.5% of the unaffiliated ones shared that view. Nearly four times as many of the "affiliates" had been to Poland at least once. While 40% of the involved PolAms could "speak some Polish," only 6.7% of the unaffiliated were able to do so.

The study has suggested that today Polish-American ethnic identity and cultural beliefs are not automatically handed down from one generation to the next, as they had been back in the tight-knit Polish neighborhoods of yesteryear. Instead they are mainly cultivated through participation in ethnic-specific community organizations, events, and activities.

The practical conclusion of this study seems obvious. In order to maintain a Polish-American identity well into the 21st century, opportunities must be created that expose our youngsters, teens and young adults to an attractively packaged version of their Polish heritage. But subtle encouragement is definitely preferable to any form of coercion. If young PolAms respond with "do I have to go?" and are pressured or forced against their will, they may end up resenting things Polish altogether.

On the basis of several decades of observing, writing up and interacting with the Polish-American community, I can offer two basic suggestions. "Old people's stuff" has only limited appeal to the young, and the peer factor is far more promising. Nothing more effectively consolidates a young person's cultural awareness than interacting with fellow-PolAms their own age. The second suggestion is: send them on a two-week tour of Poland. Most every young PolAm comes back a changed, more pro-Polish individual. That may indeed be the best possible investment in Polonia's future!

## Poland and the United States: Best friends in Democracy

by Pawel Dobrowolski  
and Matthew Tyrmand  
*The American Thinker*

Best friends aren't in the news much because they are reliable. Arguably, America's best friend in Europe is Poland because Poland sees the world as Americans do. The countries west of Poland are self-indulgent and plot against us with notions like the carbon tax, a war by proxy in Gaza, and non-tariff barriers to trade. The country east of Poland is a kleptocracy that would be as poor as Ukraine if it weren't for its 10 million barrels per day of oil production. For the countries north of Poland, self-loathing turned suicidal with the importation of people who have no intention of assimilating. Poland is different. As this *American Thinker* article notes, when communism fell in Eastern Europe, Poland came out of the blocks running and hasn't looked back.

It is said that if you are taking flak, you are over the target. So it is with Poland, which is getting hate from all the right people. Type "Why Poland Matters" into a search and you will get at least 14 articles with that title from the last two years from the likes of *The Washington Post*; *The Financial Times*; the *Carnegie Endowment for World Peace*; *Forbes*; and that ever reliable contra-indicator, *The Economist*. For the globalists, a free, independent Poland that controls its own destiny is a beacon of hope in Europe that they must extinguish.

Poland has had experience of democracy on and off for over 800 years, with its first parliament convened in 1182. The country is now at the stage where it is trying to get its judicial system right. At the moment, the judiciary are a self-perpetuating clique. Judges recruit judges into the judiciary. Judges then elevate judges to higher positions in the judiciary. And judges are supposed to hold other judges account-

able for their misdeeds. They tend to be too merciful in discharging this particular duty. Just this month, the Supreme Court decided that disrobing a judge caught shoplifting is too severe a penalty and has ordered a two-year pay cut instead. So it is not surprising that corruption hasn't been completely cleansed out of the Polish judicial system.

Poland has no impeachment procedures for judges. There exists no equivalent of the U.S. Judicial Conduct and Disability Act (1980). Polish judges and the parties aligned with the elites of the country tell us that politicians absolutely must not have any role in judicial nominations and oversight. This is in stark contrast with the American system, in which the president picks the candidates for the federal judiciary and the Senate advises and consents (or not) to these nominations. This has hardly led to an authoritarian America. The numerous checks and balances in the American system of government do a respectable job of keeping the specter of abuse of power and tyranny at bay.

The reform process, as part of a successful societal maturation, must proceed. Just as people in societies with a longer history of democracy

would not quietly tolerate a self-serving and self-appointed elite, the people of Poland increasingly yearn for an efficient, honest, and accountable judiciary. There is room for disagreement among reasonable people as to how best to achieve this goal. But keeping things as they were is not an option. We in Poland will either work out by trial and error how to get there or fail and drift from the semi-periphery to the periphery.

The current, pro-Poland government has nominated its loyalists to key positions in state-owned media – just as every other Polish government has done over the last three decades. As for the judiciary, the supposedly right-wing and authoritarian president vetoed two of the three bills passed by his party that were supposed to reform the judiciary but gave too much power over the judiciary to the overzealous justice minister.

Government for the people and by the people is always an unfinished task, with plenty of opportunity for error. Poland will get there.



*Pawel Dobrowolski is an economist and former investment banker. Matthew Tyrmand is a journalist. Reprinted with author's permission.*

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# Baltimore's 18th Remembrance of the Katyń Martyrs

by Richard Poremski

BALTIMORE — April 29, 2018's uncooperative weather did not deter over 150 people who came to memorialize the 22,000 Polish leaders murdered in 1940 in the Katyń Forest at the hands of the Soviet Union's militarized political police (NKVD).

Besides Katyń, this genocide was carried out at other locations, including Mednoe, Kharkov, Starobelsk and Ostashkov during the early years of World War II.

"The Katyń Massacre ... the planned elimination of Poland's leadership and to ensure that the Polish nation would never rise again."

The 18th Annual Katyń Remembrance was organized by the National Katyń Memorial Foundation in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland. The ceremonies included color guards, Christian and Jewish clergy, diplomats, guest speakers, politicians, military officers, folk groups, laying of wreaths, and "Taps" by a Maryland National Guard bugler.

"Katyń is an important part of history never to be forgotten," said Secretary of State John C. Wobensmith, representing Maryland Governor Lawrence "Larry" Hogan. Wobensmith recounted the history of Katyń, the suppression of its truth, and mentioned how the Katyń Memorial was eventually raised in Baltimore. He also complimented the Baltimore Polish community for its strength and unity in doing so. "We must give the victims the dignity they deserve," Wobensmith said. "We are very fortunate to have the Katyń Memorial here in Baltimore 4,000 miles away from Poland, and a place we can all gather together and say 'never again'."

Governor Hogan was then ceremoniously inducted into the National Katyń Memorial Foundation as



(l. to r.): Colonel Michal Sprengel and Minister/Counselor Piotr Erenfeicht – both representing the Embassy of the Republic of Poland; MC Thomas Rybczynski and Chairman Richard Poremski – both NKMF officers; and Fr. Ryszard Czerniak – Holy Rosary Church, assembled in front of the National Katyń Memorial for opening ceremonies of the 18th Annual Katyń Remembrance in Baltimore.

an Honorary Member by its Chairman Richard P. Poremski. Wobensmith accepted the framed certificate and Katyń armband on behalf of the governor.

Col. Michal Sprengel, deputy defense and military attache, representing Brigadier General Cezary Wisniewski, defense, military, Naval and air attache, Embassy of the Republic of Poland also spoke.

"Today we commemorate the

sacrifice of the Polish soldiers brutally murdered during the Katyń Massacre by the Soviets. We will never forget about them. We will never forget about their fight for a free and independent Poland," said Col. Sprengel. "We will never forget the words of their military oath – 'In time of need I will dedicate my blood and life for my homeland and countrymen, so help me God.'"

Minister/Counselor Piotr Eren-

feicht, head of the political section, read, the remarks of Ambassador Piotr Wilczek of the Polish Embassy, who was unable to attend.

"The Katyń Massacre was more than just the murder of 22,000 prisoners of war by the Soviet NKVD. It was the planned elimination of Poland's leadership and to ensure that the Polish nation would never rise again. The victims came from different regions, professions, different faiths, and different upbringings. But they were united in their love and dedication to Poland. They were officers called up to act in time of peril. They were singled out for slaughter based on their social background.

"This was the first generation who experienced a free Poland after more than 100 years of its partitioned non-existence. Their oppressors thought by killing them they would weaken the social fabric of the Polish nation. But they were so wrong! A free and independent Poland was for times suppressed – but it never died – it lived on in the minds of the people ... Our presence here today is a testament to the truth. We stand here before this eternal monument dedicated to Katyń and to all who dedicated their lives for the fight for truth. We will never forget them."

Earlier in the day, a Mass in Polish and English at Holy Rosary Church was dedicated to the Katyń victims. At the afternoon reception and dinner in the Great Hall of the Polish National Alliance, the 96 victims of the April 10, 2010 catastrophic Smolensk-Katyń airplane crash were honored in a candle-lighting ceremony. That tragedy claimed the lives of Poland's President Lech Kaczynski, his wife Maria, the chiefs of the Armed Forces, clergy, government officials, members of the parliament, institutional leaders and honored citizens. They were flying to the Katyń Forest to pay homage to the sons of Poland slain in 1940.

## Polish American Journal Foundation Accepting Applications for 2018-19 Scholarship

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Polish American Journal Foundation (PAJF) is currently accepting application for its 2018-19 scholarship for college students of Polish or Polish American descent. The \$1,000 scholarship is available to undergraduate and graduate students.

Applications will be accepted from May to July 31, 2018 with winners announced on August 31, 2018. Funds will be dispersed to the winners upon proof of full-time studies at an accredited institution.

To be eligible, the applicant must:

- be an American citizen, either by birth or naturalization.
- be of Polish or Polish American descent.
- be a full-time college student, currently enrolled at an accredited college/university in the United States, with confirmed future attendance at an institution in the Fall of 2018.
- describe his/her involvement with the Polish community — past, present, or future.

A complete application package — and \$15.00 application fee — must be received in its entirety no later than July 31, 2018.

The complete application package can be downloaded from Polish American Journal's website by following the links to the Polish American Journal Foundation and the Scholarship Application.

For more information, or to make a donation, call, write, or email: PAJF 2018-19 Scholarship, P.O. Box 271, North Boston, NY 14110-0271; email: editor@polamjournal.com; (716) 312-8088 or (800) 422-1275.

The PAJF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, established to promote Polish and Polish American culture and traditions among members of the public and other Polish and Polish American groups.

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## Katyn: Polish groups sought court order against mayor

continued from cover

Polish soldier bound, gagged and impaled by a bayonet. It sparked strong emotions in Poland, where Katyn is remembered as one of the worst tragedies to befall the nation in a long tragedy-filled history.

The plans to remove the statue have been a top news story in Poland for weeks, where many feel that it is revenge for the passage earlier this year of a Polish law that makes it a crime to blame Poland for any of the Holocaust crimes committed by Nazi Germany.

The Polish government said May 13 it's pleased an agreement has been reached that is satisfactory to all parties.

"Respect for the murdered Poles, Jews and Ukrainians demanded from both sides

a peaceful solution of this completely unnecessary dispute," said Andrzej Pawluszek, an adviser to Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki. "We are pleased that an agreement that is satisfactory to all parties has been reached."

Maciej Golubiewski, Consul General of Poland in New York, said Fulop showed "real leadership" to end a potentially drawn out and acrimonious confrontation that nobody wanted.

"The Polish-Americans 30 years ago put their hearts and souls into

erecting this statue," Golubiewski said. "They are happy that the monument will stay on the waterfront against the dramatic Manhattan skyline, which makes for its iconic appeal."

**NOT OVER YET?** "There is no agreement because he didn't ask anybody from the community," resident Jack Koczynski told CBS2's Marc Liverman. "I'm a Jersey City resident for 15 years. Nobody asked anyone that is a local resident."

"As far as I'm concerned, they're selling the people of Jersey City out," said City Council Member Richard Boggiano. "Every veteran in the country and all those overseas. This whole thing has blown up. You don't touch the statue because some rich developers want the statue

moved."

"This is about preserving history and that's it," said resident Laura Marchoff.

Not everyone feels the same way. "The people who actually built this monument, who actually put the blood and sweat into it, agreed to it," said Polish Consul General Maciej Golubiewski. "They think it's the best solution, the best compromise."

—Compiled from *Radio Poland, Jersey Journal, WABC, and CBS news stories.*

### INITIAL RELOCATION RESOLUTION REJECTED. A Jersey City Council resolution vote, held May 23, rejected plans to move the Katyn Memorial.

According to Slawomir Platka, a New York City attorney and activist against relocation, about two dozen members of the Polish community came out to protest the planned move.

Competing resolutions were for and against the statue's relocation to York Street, just 200 feet south of where it has stood since 1991.

A final vote will be taken on June 13.

## Recognition for Studying Polish: An Interview with Marzanna Owiński



**MARZANNA OWIŃSKI** teaches Polish at St. Mary's Preparatory and works for The Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools and has been an advocate of promoting the "Seal of Bilingualism" among Polish language junior high and high school programs. She conducts her own small Polish language school, the Father J. Dąbrowski School in Orchard Lake, which is 25 years old this year, and has been the organizer of "Bilingual Days" in the Detroit area. Ms. Owiński holds a Master of Arts in Polish from the University of Warsaw and a Master's in communications and public relations from Wayne State University. She spoke with the *Polish American Journal* about the "Seal."

### PAJ: What is the "Seal of Bilingualism"?

**Owiński:** The Seal of Bilingualism is a distinction that graduating high school seniors can receive, in conjunction with their diplomas, for having attained a high level of proficiency in a foreign language—including Polish. The Seal is the first such recognition on an almost national scale for advanced skills in a foreign language.

### How did it start?

"Californians Together," a coalition of parents, teachers, and community activists, launched the Seal of Bilingualism in 2008 to recognize students whose first language was not English, a group making up almost 1.3 million children, or 25% of California students in grades K-12. The group developed the Seal of Bilingualism, which was introduced in various school districts and, in 2011, came into existence statewide. By 2012, approximately 9,000 students across California earned the Seal. New York State followed California and, today, 33 states and the District of Columbia now recognize the Seal. One other state is in early stages of implementing it and nine more are considering it. Most states with large Polish populations—like Illinois, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Ohio, Michigan, Connecticut, Minnesota, and Rhode Island—all have the Seal.

### What does the Seal certify?

The Seal of Bilingualism is awarded by school districts in conjunction with the state department of education for students who demonstrate a good proficiency in two languages, including English. Proficiency in the foreign language is demonstrated by a standard measurement criteria, usually a standardized test. The latter include Advance Placement or International Baccalaureate Tests, the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Language's AAPPL Test, or the STAMP4S language test for elementary school pupils.

### Elementary?

Yes! It's never too early to start mastering a foreign language. And how many Polish American children begin studying Polish in supplementary schools already in grade school? The Seal will also hopefully give a boost to efforts to start learning languages earlier.

### What about Polish? It seems a lot of school systems would claim they can't measure Polish proficiency.

We've fixed that! Since April, Polish language students can be tested in that language on-line by the STAMP4S test. Students register and take the test under the supervision of a local teacher. The student then receives a grade in approximately two weeks. Since April 2, more than 350 students have been tested in Polish across the United States.

### Why is this test so important?

Many Polish American children spend years studying Polish in supplementary and Saturday schools. They put in a lot of work and gain proficiency in a hard language. Their schoolwork in these programs has often gone unrecognized in larger American society when, in fact, they have acquired skills and knowledge that are truly distinctive and sets them apart from other students, for example, when it comes to competing for college admission. Until now, their hard work has gone unnoticed. It's time that ends! The Seal of Bilingualism gives them a U.S.-developed and recognized academic credential attesting to the proficiencies they've achieved.

### How is the test structured?

Avant STAMP 4S measures proficiency in four domains: reading, listening, writing and speaking. It

is computer-adaptive, meaning that the difficulty of the questions presented to a student is adapted, based on the number of correct answers he or she has logged so far in the assessment. In reading and listening parts student gets approximately 30 multiple choice questions every time. In writing and speaking he or she receives three prompts. The testing engine automatically adapts to each student's level as the test progresses. Prompts for the productive skills (Writing and Speaking) are based on the proficiency level attained for the corresponding receptive skills (Reading and Listening). The test is not timed. Students may pause and resume Avant STAMP 4S at any point. On average, students take around 120 minutes to fully complete the assessment. Approximate time for each section is:

Reading: 35-40 minutes; Writing: 20-25 minutes; Listening: 35-40 minutes; Speaking: 20-25 minutes

All of this information and more details can be found on Avant Assessment's website: [avantassessment.com/](http://avantassessment.com/)

### So how does one take the test?

It's never too early for Polish American parents with children who could benefit from the Seal of Bilingualism to get in touch with their school counselor and/or local School Board to find out how to apply for the Seal where they live. If the Seal does not yet exist at their school but is authorized in their state, they should ask to adopt it.

Registration for the test usually is done by the school. The school or school district orders tests from Avant in many languages. In case of home-schooled students or private schools, they need to first verify whether the seal is offered for them and accepted by their state Board of Education. In some states it is only offered for students of public schools. The policy of the Seal of Bilingualism can be found on the state board of education website. To buy a test not through the school, please call (888) 731-7887 or send email to [sales@avantassessment.com](mailto:sales@avantassessment.com).

### We hear you will be making a presentation about the Seal for the First Lady of Poland!

The Polish Consulate in Chicago asked me to make a presentation about the Seal and Polish American language programs to Agata Duda-Kornhauser, the First Lady of Poland. I have also been active in making the Polish language case in professional American language teachers' circles. Right now, we're trying to bring Polish consuls in the United States and education officials from Poland together to discuss promotion of the Seal and other steps to promote Polish language study, especially at the elementary and secondary levels, in the United States. At the time of going to press, it will occur at the Polish Teachers Conference in Portland, Oregon May 25-28.

### If readers have questions, how can they contact you?

Send me an email to [mowinski@stmmarysprep.com](mailto:mowinski@stmmarysprep.com)

### Thank you.

For more information on the Seal of Bilingualism, see also [www.sealofbilingualism.org](http://www.sealofbilingualism.org).

For information on the Polish Teachers' Conference, see also [www.zjzdportland2018.com/](http://www.zjzdportland2018.com/)

## First Couple: Cheered by Polonians

continued from cover

troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. A separate program for the First Lady, a former high-school teacher, included her participation in the graduation ceremony at one of Chicago's Polish Saturday Schools.

A highpoint of the Dudas' state-side sojourn was their meeting with Polonia at Chicago's Millennium Park, where highlanders and other folk dancers provided the entertainment. Thousands of Polish Americans enthusiastically applauded the Polish head of state when he expressed his gratitude to Polonia for "keeping Poland and Polishness in your hearts." He also issued an appeal: "I ask you to stay together and create a force supporting Poland and Polishness here in the United

States."

Poland's First Couple was cheered and welcomed by Polonians wherever they went. Some held up signs saying "Duda - Our President, "Witamy!" ("We welcome you!"), and "Tak trzymać!" ("Hang in there!"). But a few government-bashing hecklers also turned up accusing Duda of violating the Polish constitution. In a sign that Polish/Polonian opinion is not only polarized but tri-divided, a handful of disgruntled right wingers criticized Duda for replacing three Law and Justice hardliners - Prime Minister Szydło, Defense Minister Macierewicz and Environment Minister Szyszko - with moderate conservatives during last year's cabinet shakeup.

## A Big Polish Weekend Planned in Western New York

**BUFFALO, N.Y.** —The third weekend of July will present a great opportunity to celebrate your Polish heritage, thanks to the General Pulaski Association of WNY and the Town of Cheektowaga. The Town of Cheektowaga announced that its 40th Annual Polish-American Arts Festival will take place the weekend of July 20-22 at the Town Park on Harlem Road. Poland's Secretary of State, Anna Maria Anders, will participate in the official opening of the "Trail of Hope" exhibit as part of the festival, July 20. The festival will feature music by Special Delivery, the original Krew Brothers, New Direction, Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push, The Boys, Buffalo Touch, and Jr. Poland.

On July 21, the Buffalo area will host the "60 Million Conference: Global Polonia Summit." The

conference is a series of international gatherings of entrepreneurs connected to the Polish diaspora designed to integrate and connect professionals, executives and business leaders from Poland and Polonia communities. The name of the conference is derived from the overall number of Poles and people of Polish descent across the globe. Keynote speakers will include Anna Maria Anders, Blanka Rosenstiel, and Krzysztof Przybyl, president of the Teraz Polska Foundation. The event will be held at the Cheektowaga Senior Center, 3349 Broadway. More information can be found at [www.60mln.pl](http://www.60mln.pl).

The General Pulaski Association will continue with the 100th Anniversary of Poland's Independence celebration on July 21 with a Gala Banquet at Samuel's Grande Manor

in Clarence. This event will be black tie optional and have guests from Poland and around the world, including Anna Maria Anders; Emmy Award winning actress Loretta Swit (who will receive the Polish American Icon Award); Emmy Award winning journalist Rita Cosby; Coleen Paderewski, a relative of Ignacy Paderewski; Adam "Babyface" Kownacki, the eighth ranked heavyweight boxer in the world; and Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in Miami Blanka Rosenstiel (who will be given the Polish Culture Lifetime Achievement Award).

The 80th Pulaski Association Parade on the 22nd will close the weekend's Polonia activities. As always, the parade will travel from Walden Avenue, down Harlem Road to the Cheektowaga Town Park.

—Michael Pietruszka

## Religion

## Blessed Chrzanowska's Relics

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

The Divine Mercy Center in Stockbridge, Mass. will be the center of devotion to Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska. Beatified in April, Bl. Chrzanowska's relics have been enshrined at the center. The Marian Press expects to publish books about her for the English reading public to promote her canonization. She is the first lay registered nurse to be beatified and, while alive, was a friend and co-worker of St. John Paul II.



**JOHN GRONDELSKI** delivers the Commencement Address at Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake, Mich., May 5. Grondelski, a graduate of St. Mary's College - Orchard Lake (1981) spoke on the role of the Orchard Lake Schools as Catholic, Polish, and American.

**PLANNED PARENTHOOD INCREASES ABORTION NUMBERS.** Charlotte Lozier Institute authors **James Studnicki, Sc.D.** and **John Fisher, Ph.D., J.D.** published studies in the online journal *Open Journal of Preventive Medicine* demonstrating that Planned Parenthood has inflated the abortion rate in the United States despite an overall decline in abortions for the last 30 years. Contrary to retiring Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards' claims that her organization did more to prevent unintended pregnancy and the need for abortion than any other organization, analysis of data shows that while non-Planned Parenthood abortions decreased by more than 50%, Planned Parenthood abortions increased by 142% while its share of the abortion "market" grew from 10% to 35%. At the same time, Planned Parenthood's women's health services have declined overall. Where patients are fully informed, as in other women's health centers throughout the country, and without financial incentives, the abortion rate has declined. With the support of public money, on the contrary, Planned Parenthood's business model has been to increase abortions to over 300,000 a year.

In another article, in the journal *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, Studnicki and Fisher proved conclusively that claims by Maryland Population Research Center author **Marian MacDorman** distorted statistics from Texas and California to falsely claim that pro-life laws in Texas increased abortions in that state. In fact, statistics from California detail a maternal death rate in California with liberal abortion laws that are more than twice those of in Texas in any year of the two-year study. The authors prove that the abortion industry and their media supporters distort the facts and at the same time that proper pregnancy care can help lessen maternal mortality rather than allow mothers to deliver healthy babies.

**PARISH HALL DEDICATED IN FORMER CATHOLIC MISSION.** RC Diocese of Jackson, Miss., **Bishop Joseph Kopacz** dedicated a new parish hall at St. Christopher's Parish in Pontotoc, Miss. The parish was founded as a storefront mission in 1965 by the Glenmary Fathers and is now one of the larger Christian congregations in the county.

**CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE.** Israeli politicians such as Deputy Speaker of the Knesset **Hilik Bar**; members of the Knesset **Yehudah Glick, Akram Hasson, Lea Fadida, and Yuval Rabin**; son of former Israeli Prime Minister **Yitzhak Rabin**; **U.S. Rabbi Shmuley Boteach**, Chief of Staff of the Polish Prime Minister **Poseł Marek Suski**, Polish parliamentarians and government ministers; and members of TSKZ — Poland's larg-

est Jewish organization — gathered in Poland to celebrate Israel's and Poland's anniversaries. Delegates also commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and visited the newly created "Smolensk Memorial" both in Warsaw. The group also visited Hitler's secret bunker "Wolf's Lair" in Northern Poland (site of a failed assassination attempt) as well as the birthplace of **Mordechai Anielewicz** (leader of the Ghetto Uprising) and that of former Israel Prime Minister **David Ben Gurion**; and visited the memorial stone erected by **Magda Lewkowicz**, a local history teacher, at the site of a former Jewish cemetery in Mragowo and also commemorated Jews buried in a Jewish cemetery, since destroyed, in Otróżka.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ...** **Corpus Christi RC Church** in Buffalo, N.Y. celebrating 120 years of service and **St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr RC Church** in Buffalo celebrating 145 years. Both parishes are served by the Pauline Fathers from Poland. The former convent of the Felician sisters at St. Stanislaus parish will become the residence of the Bishop of Buffalo. He is selling the current bishop's mansion and is leaving the exclusive neighborhood and moving to the formerly predominantly Polish American neighborhood (now a troubled inner-city area) near St. Stan's.

**STO LAT TO ...** Buffalo, N.Y. Diocese clergy **Rev. Msgr. Paul A. Liptwin** assigned as pastor to Christ the King Parish, Snyder; **Fr. Dawid Krzeszowski** appointed as administrator of Immaculate Conception Parish, Eden, and Holy Spirit Parish, North Collins; **Fr. Bartholomew Lipiec**, reappointed as pastor of St. Martha Parish, Depew.

**Fr. Czesław Krysa**, pastor of St. Casimir parish in Buffalo, N.Y., on accepting the post as chaplain to the Western New York Division of

the Polish American Congress. For his work on Polish ethnography **Fr. Krysa** was given the prestigious Oskar Kolberg Award by Poland's Ministry of Culture.

Newly elected officers of Buffalo Diocese's Association of Priest for Polish Affairs: **Fr. Mieczysław Nycz** (president); **Fr. Bryan Zielonecki** (vice-president); **Fr. Walter Grabowski** (treasurer); and **Fr. Cole Webster** (secretary).

**Sr. Marcella Marie Garus, CSSF** on her resignation from the post of president of Villa Maria College in Cheektowaga, N.Y., where she served for 50 years. She maintained the college's faith-based, student-centered bases while enhancing the college's programs in art, music and health science. She also modernized the college's administration and introduced new programs such as occupational therapy, digital film-making and digital media.

**Fr. Christopher E. Grodecki, S.J.**, a Jesuit in the Maryland Province, on his priestly ordination.

**Archbishop Stefan Soroka** of the Ukrainian Archeparchy of Philadelphia whose resignation for health reasons was accepted by Pope Francis and **Auxiliary Bishop Andriy Rabyi**, appointed apostolic administrator of the Archeparchy. Archbishop Soroka was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, the son of a Ukrainian father and a Polish mother. Bishop Rabyi was born in Lviv, Ukraine, studied at the Ivano-Krankivsk Seminary before moving to the US to study at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Seminary, Catholic University of America and the Dominican House of Studies in Washington.

**Fr. John Wronski, S.J.**, director of formation for the Jesuit Maryland and U.S. Northeast Provinces, on receiving the Raymond J. Callahan S.J. Service Award for his 10 years as president of Nativity Prep, a middle school serving at risk boys in Boston, Mass.

## New York Premiere of Mass in F to Benefit Hospital, Children's Center

NEW YORK — A charity gala — The New York premiere of a recently-discovered composition by Prince Joseph Poniatowski, *Mass in F*, and Henryk Wieniawski's *Violin Concerto No. 2* — will be presented Thurs., June 7, 2018, 7:00 p.m. at St. Bartholomew's Church, 325 Park Ave., New York.

The event is organized by Polish Association of the Knights of Malta, USA, and Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America (PIASA) to raise funds for the Knights of Malta's Hospital in Barczewo, Poland and its Center for Disabled Children in Grobniki, Poland.

Performing will be: Heather Buck, soprano; Raul Melo, tenor; Blythe Gaissert, mezzo soprano; Stephen Bryant, baritone; Arthur Kaganovskiy, violin; and the Spectrum Symphony of New York.

Prince Poniatowski was not only a soldier and known politician dur-

ing the reign of Napoleon III, but also a talented opera singer and composer of Bel Canto operas and a director of Theater Lyrique in Paris. According to experts, the quality of the discovered score of the *Mass in F* was on the level of the most known and loved musical works created by the XIX century Italian composers.

The gala is under the patronage of: His Excellency Piotr Wilczek, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in the United States; and Her Excellency Joanna Wronecka, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary - Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations in New York.

For tickets and information, visit <https://massinf.org/mass-in-f-new-york-premiere/> or contact: Polish Knights of Malta, Inc., 110 Chestnut Ridge Road 177, Montvale, NJ 07645; [info@massinf.org](mailto:info@massinf.org).

## On the Eighth Anniversary of the Smolensk-Katyn Catastrophe

by Richard P. Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Over 100 people assembled here in the theatre of the Saint John Paul II National Shrine on April 15, 2018 to commemorate the eighth anniversary of the tragic Smolensk-Katyn airplane crash. The event was held under the auspices of Ambassador Piotr Wilczek and organized by Jolanta

Chojecka — first counselor of the Culture, Science and Information Office, in collaboration with the Polish American Congress. Preceding the formal remembrance event was a dedicated mass in the integral Redemptory Hominis Church.

"Aboard the presidential aircraft there were 96 individuals: men and women, fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers. They came from across the political spectrum and represented different faith groups. They were members of civil society and distinguished military leaders. They all had a story, they were all filled with aspirations and accomplishments. Perhaps most importantly they were all united in their love of country, in their sense of mission and their dedication to the memory of our forefathers" said Ambassador Piotr Wilczek during his opening remarks in memory of the departed Polish patriots, and especially that

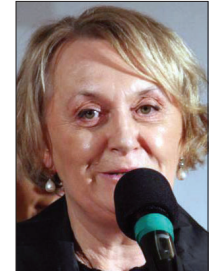
of President Lech Kaczynski and First Lady Maria Kaczynska.

On this occasion, everyone was intimately introduced to First Lady Maria Kaczynska with the presentation of the documentary film "A Lady" ('Dama' in Polish) by director Maria Dlużewska, with English voiceovers. The Dlużewska companion book "Dama" was also available for sale and signing by author Dlużewska, who was the guest of honor at the afternoon's event.

After the screening of "A Lady" she spoke in her native Polish with Georgetown University Professor Iwona B. Sadowski acting as her interpreter. A Q&A session concerning the many and varied aspects and topics of Maria Kaczynska's life and times, from her early childhood until her untimely death.

The dedicated Mass and program were a fitting tribute to all 96 souls who tragically died in Smolensk, Russia on April 10, 2010.

They were traveling to the Katyn Forest to honor the thousands of Polish victims murdered there during the spring of 1940 by the USSR/Russians during World War II.



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## Modlitwy

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**NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.** On my knees before the great multitude of heavenly witnesses I offer myself, soul and body, to You, Eternal Spirit of God. I adore the brightness of Your purity, the unerring keenness of Your justice and the might of Your love. You are the Strength and Light of my soul. In You I live and move and am. I desire never to grieve You by unfaithfulness to grace and I pray with all my heart to be kept from the smallest sin against You. Mercifully guard my every thought and grant that I may always watch for Your light and listen to Your voice and follow Your gracious inspirations. I cling to You and give myself to You and ask You by Your compassion to watch over me in my weakness. Holding the pierced Feet of Jesus and looking at His Five Wounds and trusting in His Precious Blood and adoring his opened Side and stricken Heart, I implore You, Adorable Spirit, Helper of my infirmity, so to keep me in Your grace that I may never sin against You. Give me grace, O Holy Ghost, Spirit of the Father and the Son to say to You always and everywhere, "Speak, Lord, for Your servant heareth." Amen. J.K.

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## Polonia Places

## Our Lady of Poland Church

by Gregory L. Witul

35 Maple St.,  
Southampton, New York  
Status: Open

This year marks a great achievement for the nation of Poland as it celebrates its 100th anniversary as an independent state. This year also marks a significant anniversary closer to home as Our Lady of Poland Church in Southampton, N.Y. celebrates its 100th anniversary this June 30th with a special Mass and dinner dance.

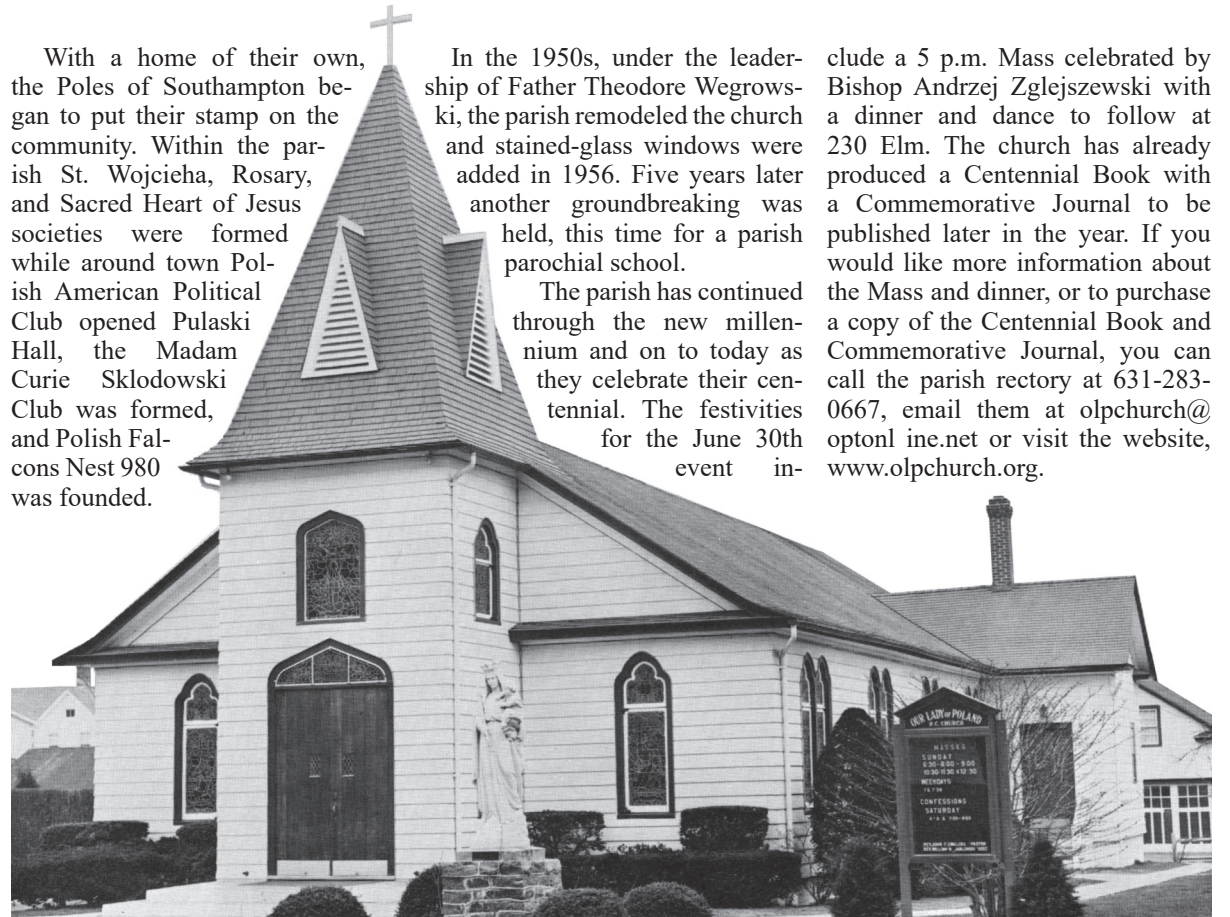
While the Church of Our Lady of Poland was established on June 30, 1918 at an inaugural Mass celebrated at Schwenk's Arcade in Southampton Village, the origin of the parish stretched even further back to the organization of the St. Anthony Benevolent Society. Formed in May of 1910 and led by John Andrzejewicz, Peter Balnis, Alexander Krzyzewski, Anthony Zelenski, and 15 other men, the St. Anthony Benevolent Society strived to form a parish near Southampton so Polish Catholics wouldn't have to make

the ten-mile trip to St. Isadore's in Riverhead.

In early 1918, the society gathered the 331 Polish families that lived in the area and appealed to Bishop McDonnell to establish a parish in Southampton. With the bishop's approval, Reverend Alexander Cizmowski transferred from Our Lady of Ostrabrama in Cutchogue to Southampton and established Our Lady of Poland Church.

Using first the arcade, then another building as a temporary home, the congregation began raising funds and scouting locations near the railroad tracks to build a church. By the autumn the parish found a lot for \$13,325. On October 21, 1918 ground was broken for the Our Lady of Poland Church and with help of the men of the parish, the building was done in time for a sunrise service on Christmas morning. Bishop McDonnell would bless the new building on June 29 of the following year. The first marriage in the parish was solemnized January 12, 1919, between Peter Kisiel and Bronislava Sokolovska

With a home of their own, the Poles of Southampton began to put their stamp on the community. Within the parish St. Wojciecha, Rosary, and Sacred Heart of Jesus societies were formed while around town Polish American Political Club opened Pulaski Hall, the Madam Curie Sklodowski Club was formed, and Polish Falcons Nest 980 was founded.



In the 1950s, under the leadership of Father Theodore Wegrowski, the parish remodeled the church and stained-glass windows were added in 1956. Five years later another groundbreaking was held, this time for a parish parochial school.

The parish has continued through the new millennium and on to today as they celebrate their centennial. The festivities for the June 30th event in-

clude a 5 p.m. Mass celebrated by Bishop Andrzej Zglejszewski with a dinner and dance to follow at 230 Elm. The church has already produced a Centennial Book with a Commemorative Journal to be published later in the year. If you would like more information about the Mass and dinner, or to purchase a copy of the Centennial Book and Commemorative Journal, you can call the parish rectory at 631-283-0667, email them at [olpchurch@optonline.net](mailto:olpchurch@optonline.net) or visit the website, [www.olpchurch.org](http://www.olpchurch.org).

## Chicago Polonians You Should Know

## Chicago's Southside Spitfire, Wanda Kurek

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

My series, "Chicago Polonians You Should Know," continues with 93-year-old Wanda Kurek, the long-time proprietor of Stanley's Tavern, Chicago's third-oldest bar. Stanley's has been owned by the Kurek family since 1924 and is located in what was once called Whiskey Row. Stanley's is now part of the Back-of-the-Yards neighborhood, part of Chicago's Southside industrial corridor and formerly home of the famed Chicago Stock Yards.

What can be said about Wanda? She is a strongly-opinionated spitfire who is not afraid of anyone, including the variety of important Chicago city officials, who visit Stanley's for lunch. With a fiery sense of humor she puts her patrons in stitches, often holding court at the end of the bar, sometimes sipping on an iceless Coke. She also wanders from table to table to say "hello" and to offer her words of wisdom. For those who



PHOTO: GERALDINE BALUT-COLEMAN

understand and/or speak Polish, she will create hilarious sentences that can be considered "Half na pol" or Anglicized Polish. No one, absolutely no one, leaves the tavern without saying "good-bye" or giving Wanda a hug.

She does not drink any type of alcoholic beverage because she says, "I get headaches. I learned

that when I was 21. You spend the whole next day giving it back." She doesn't like drunks either, and she makes sure that an over-served customer doesn't walk in or walk out of her establishment.

Wanda's parents, Josephine and Stanley, came from Poland in 1914. A decade later, her father, a worker at the nearby Wilson & Co., a meat-packing company, quit his job to open a bar with a friend in the 4100 block of South Ashland Avenue. In 1935, he opened his own place a couple of blocks south by expanding a corner building and knocking down a barbershop and restaurant to build the tavern with an apartment above it. Wanda, who grew up in the bar and the apartment upstairs, took over the business full-time after her brother Ted's death in 1983. He had run the bar after Stanley's death in 1957.

There are no signs on Stanley's — the only clues that this place exists are the three six-inch by 4-foot vertical iron rods that guard it from

the heavy semi-trucks turning the corner of 43rd and Ashland.

This throwback establishment may be one of the last of its type in Chicago. For only about \$6, customers can enjoy an absolutely wonderful meal while sipping an ice-cold beer. It doesn't make any difference which day you visit or what Wanda has for her home-cooked special on that day, everything is fresh and delicious. There is no formal menu; a small chalkboard tells you what is available. Wanda cooks whatever Wanda wants. Sometimes it might be meatloaf or goulash or *golabki* (stuffed cabbage) or breaded pork chops or her ever-popular Polish plate or any of Wanda's other specialties. Every lunch entrée comes with potatoes and vegetables. By the way, she also makes great coleslaw and soups. At Stanley's you can taste Polish American home-style cooking at its best.

On any given day, you can find

Cook County workers, City of Chicago officials, policemen, tradesmen, retirees, friends, and the occasional first-time visitor, all delighting in Wanda's unforgettable luncheons.

I travel to see Wanda as often as I can. One day there was a group of nearby University of Chicago students who had biked over to not only have a great meal, but to be part of the "Wanda experience."

Wanda does not advertise, and she likes it that way. She starts her workday around 4:30 a.m., preparing the day's specials using her antique 1953 O'Keefe & Merritt stove in her no-frills kitchen. Week-day luncheons go from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., and on Fridays the bar sometimes stays open after 8:00 p.m., because of the popularity of her famous perch fish fry. This is truly Wanda's World — a person to meet and a landmark place to visit on the Southside of Chicago.

## Science

**CLEANING UP THE ENVIRONMENT.** As the country ramps up smog-fighting efforts, Poland has passed a bill that will ban the sale of low-quality coal used for home heating. Violations will be steep: \$148,000 or up to three years in prison.

The World Health Organization reports that thirty-three out of the fifty European cities most affected by smog are in Poland. It is estimated that about 50,000 Poles die annually because of illnesses caused by air pollution.

The Polish government recently initiated a drive aimed at improving the thermal efficiency of homes. In December of last year, new Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said addressing air pollution would be one of his government's priorities.

"Clean air is a measure of a society's level of development, a measure of whether or not Poland is truly a mature country," said Morawiecki. "Air, water, and land belong not only to us, but they also belong to future generations, and the state in which we leave these

resources to our grandchildren will determine our legacy."

He also declared that the most affected cities would each get individualized programs dedicated to the reduction of smog's negative impact.

**ON A MISSION TO MARS.** A robot designed and built by Polish scientists will fly to Mars as part of a NASA mission. The overall goal of the undertaking, which is expected to last two Earth years, is to delve into the surface of the Red Planet to learn the make-up of the Martian soil, to study the thermal properties of the planet, and to afford scientists an increased understanding of the make-up and geological aspects of Mars.

The robot is described as a self-hammering instrument, and was developed the Warsaw-based company Astronika. The business was founded in 2013 by Polish engineers, specialists in space technology, and precision mechanics.

Vice-President of Astronika, Dr. Jerzy Grygorczuk, said that the

robot is the first complete system manufactured by Poland's space tech industry to participate in such a significant assignment. The NASA mission will launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California and is scheduled to land on Mars on November 26, 2018.

**TO EXPLORE MID-ATLANTIC SEABED.** The International Seabed Authority, a United Nations organization charged with managing the use of the seabed, has allotted the Lost City, along with 10,000 sq km<sup>2</sup> (3,861 miles<sup>2</sup>) of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, to Poland to explore the possibility of mining the mineral-rich deposits. The Lost City, some 2,300 miles east of Florida is a seabed area in the middle of the Atlantic where skyscraper-sized mineral pillars were first discovered in 2000.

Scientists believe life on earth may have begun in deep sea vents such as those discovered in the Lost City area. But scientists also fear deep-sea mining could destroy precious species and geological structures.

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### Happenings: Chicago Style

## PMA Salutes Its 2018 Volunteers

PHOTO: JULITA SIEGEL



l. to r: Kot, Judith and Joseph Drobot, Pałka, Jakacka, Owsiany

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — On April 19, The Polish Museum of America (PMA) hosted its annual Volunteer Recognition Day and Luncheon. This event honored almost 100 PMA volunteers who have dedicated their time and efforts to enhance the mission of the PMA. After welcoming remarks by PMA President Richard Owsiany and Museum Director Małgorzata Kot, they announced the PMA's 2018 Volunteers of the Year. Barbara Jakacka and Małgorzata Pałka received the honors for their weekly visits to the Museum to help in the library and offer their organizational and computer skills.

A special honor was awarded to PMA Chairman and president of the Polish Roman Catholic Union, Joseph A. Drobot, Jr. and his wife Judith Drobot, for being true ambassadors for the Museum, actively supporting and promoting the PMA wherever they go.

Włodek Zuterek enhanced this celebration, showing his musi-

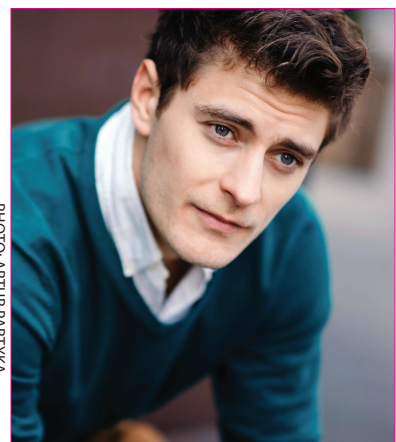
cal versatility by playing the piano, trumpet, and melodica, along with vocally serenading guests with American standards, jazz, and Polish favorites. Participating volunteers added to the celebration by joining Zuterek in an ad hoc chorus. Naturally, the event would not have been complete without an outstanding buffet luncheon provided by Alex's Deli and Laramie Bakery.

**POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY FESTIVITIES.** Chicago's 127th Annual Polish Constitution Day Parade festivities began the morning of May 5 with the presentation of a wreath at the Tadeusz Kościuszko monument located on the median of East Solidarity Drive, southeast of the Shedd Aquarium. This was followed by the Polish flag raising ceremony at the Daley Plaza and the pre-parade brunch hosted by the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance at the Hilton Chicago. Those attending the brunch had to hurry to be ready for the 11:30 a.m. start of the parade.



PHOTO: ARTUR PARTZYKA

Captain Buliński receiving his commission.



Jakub Orliński

#### COUNTERTENOR ORLIŃSKI IN CONCERT.

Chicagoans had the opportunity and pleasure to hear the unique voice of a countertenor on April 22 and April 23. Twenty-seven-year-old, Juilliard-educated, and Polish-born Jakub Józef Orliński's voice soared in a Music of Baroque Concert with conductor Paul Agnew and soprano Sherezade Panthaki. Together, they performed magnificent works by Handel and Vivaldi, along with Pergolesi's Stabat Mater. This April performance marked Jakub's first appearance in Chicago.

Warsaw-born Orliński has performed and will be performing upcoming engagements at Carnegie Hall, the Houston Symphony Orchestra, Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, Juilliard Opera, Oper Frankfurt, and Karlsruhe Handel Festival. Additionally, he has also performed in operatic roles in Poland, as well as major roles in Giesen and at the Leipzig Opera House.

When Jakub is not performing in concerts or operas, he enjoys breakdancing and acrobatics, and as a professional model, he has been featured in ads for Levi's, Nike, Samsung, Mercedes-Benz, and MAC Cosmetics. His world-class breakdancing and acrobatics skills have him travelling throughout Europe to engage in competitions.



PHOTO: ARTUR PARTZYKA

(l. to r): Edward Cyran, Tomasz Startek, and Henryk Janik.

The theme of this year's parade was "100 Years of Poland's Independence." The parade, up Columbus Drive, was comprised of 125 organizations with approximately 5,250 marchers. Thirty-five organizations were Polish language schools. The grand marshal was Tomasz Startek, Polonian businessman and philanthropist, and the deputy marshals were Edward Cyran and Henryk Janik. The celebration continued with a Constitution Day banquet at the Lone Tree Manor in Nilens, Illinois. Festivities formally ended with a May 6 Mass at Holy Trinity Polish Mission Church on Chicago's Northwest Side.

**CAPTAIN BULIŃSKI, CHAPLAIN, U.S. ARMY.** On May 19, 2007, the late Francis Cardinal George, the former Archbishop of Chicago, ordained 13 priests at Holy Name Cathedral. Among them was 26-year-old, Polish-born and educated Marcin Buliński, who began his ministry at St. Linus Church in

Oak Lawn, Illinois. From there, he was assigned to St. Francis Borgia on Chicago's Northwest Side. It was there in January of 2015 that Father Buliński announced his decision to enlist in the U. S. Army.

He began a five-year commitment as a chaplain by starting his 12-week military training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, South Carolina. Even with his military commitment, he will officially be the residential priest at St. Bernadette Parish in Evergreen Park, Illinois. In September 2016, 1st Lieutenant Buliński was commissioned captain. He is presently with the 101st Special Troops Battalion, stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. *Dziękuję bardzo,* Captain Buliński for your service.

**CELEBRATING JOHN PAUL II'S PONTIFICATE.** Approximately 100 guests gathered on April 13 at the Polish Museum of America (PMA) to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the John Paul II Pontificate. The guest speaker for this event was

**KASHUBIAN FISHERMEN** hold Poland's only boat pilgrimage on the feast of Ss. Peter & Paul. Their boats festooned with flowers and pennants sail across the Bay of Puck (pronounced: Pootsk) to Ss. Peter & Paul Church for religious devotions and a parish fair.

**POOR BUT NATURAL** is the way many Poles describe their country's "ściana wschodnia" (eastern wall), its territory bordering Ukraine, Belarus and Lithuania. The lack of industry means fewer well-paid jobs but also more fresh air, longer life expectancy and some of the Poland's most pristine nature.

**THE FIRST PRISONERS** sent to Auschwitz by the Nazi German oc-

cupation forces were Polish Catholics, and only later did the first Jewish prisoners begin arriving. Not many people are aware of the fact.

**THE BLESSING OF EASTER BASKETS** on Holy Saturday as well as the sharing of opłatek on Christmas Eve rank among the most popular Polish traditions both in Poland and across Polonia.

**POLAND'S MAJOR WATERWAY,** sometimes referred to as "the queen of Polish rivers," is the Vistula (Wisła), which starts as a mere trickle in the south, meanders across the land and empties into the Baltic. Other important rivers are the Odra, Warta, Bug, Narew and San.

**POLISH BREAKFAST FOODS** now include American-style flake-type cereals for youngsters and cheese and cold cuts for grown-ups. Also served are scrambled eggs as well as bread and rolls with butter, jam and honey. Porridge and hot milk soups (with rice or noodles) are enjoyed in the colder months.

**POLAND NEIGHBORS** have increased from three to seven following the collapse of the Soviet bloc. Its current neighbors are: Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania and Russia (Kaliningrad Obvod). Its nearest offshore neighbor is Denmark which owns the Baltic island of Bornholm. (RS).

## SUPPORT THE PAJ PRESS FUND

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

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

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

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Minnesota Voice

Conference to Offer a Pan-Slavic perspective on World War I and Polish Independence

by Mark Dillon

Was Poland's Marshal Jozef Pilsudski a more astute global politician than Woodrow Wilson? What diplomatic challenges did the founders of a newly independent Poland face a century ago and what relevance does it have for Poland today?

On the weekend of June 1 and 2, Polish scholars and Polish Ambassador to the United States Piotr Wilczek are slated to be among the speakers at a two-day conference entitled The Rebirth of Europe at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington, D.C.

Organized by the Maryland-based Wilsonian Club, the conference has a strong Midwest flavor as two Minnesotans, John Palka and Kenneth J. Janda, and Wisconsinite Anna Cookova will also speak on topics related to the formation of Czechoslovakia 100 year ago.

Mieczyslaw Biscupski, professor of history at Central Connecticut State University, will ask "Who understood the politics of 1918: Wilson or Pilsudski?" while Tomasz Pudłocki, professor of history at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, will discuss "World War I: Challenges of Polish Diplomacy 1914-1919."

Edward A. Turzanski, co-chair of the Center for the Study of Terrorism at LaSalle University in Philadelphia, will talk about "American Security Interests and Politics in Early 21st Century Europe".

Wilczek's address will be complemented by the perspectives of Peter Kmec, Ambassador of Slovakia, Hynek Kmonicek, Ambassador of the Czech Republic and George Maior, Ambassador of Romania.

"By bringing together leading experts from more than a dozen universities from Prague to Seattle, we seek to not just celebrate the transition from autocracy to democracy but create a learning environment to evaluate the lessons of European history and discuss

their relevance for regional and global contemporary challenges," says Frank Safertal, president of The Wilsonian Club.

One such Pan-Slavic perspective is Palka's talk, entitled "Seeing the Post World War I Restructuring of Central Europe as Part of a Long Intellectual Stream."

Founded in 1949 by Central and Eastern European emigrants to the U.S., The Wilsonian Club is an international society based in Bethesda, Md., that honors the legacy of former U.S. President and Nobel laureate Wilson.

Wilson's tenure is perhaps more positively viewed in Poland today than in the United States, where his diplomatic legacy has been overshadowed by a focus on Wilson's shortcomings. Last year the City of Warsaw declared 2017 to be the Year of Woodrow Wilson.

In popular literature, Wilson, the aloof former Princeton University president and author of the 14 Points for Peace, provided a diplomatic framework for ending the First World War. His academic personal demeanor contrasted sharply with that of Pilsudski, the salt-of-the-earth war hero who organized the Polish Legions in the Austrian-Hungarian Army and led Poland to victory against Soviet invasion in 1920.

Pilsudski saw Russia as a greatest threat to building an independent Poland while Wilson's advocacy of self-determination for Central Europe helped catalyze the breakup of the Austrian-Hungarian monarchy. With Wilson's support, the United States' Congress declared war against the empire on Dec. 7, 1917 after Wilson refused to recognize Polish noble Count Adam Tarnowski as the Austrian-Hungarian ambassador earlier that year.

In January, Polish President Andrzej Duda described Wilson's 14 Points was a "landmark event on the way to regaining our sovereignty."

Zielinski Seeks to Unseat Minnesota's Keith Ellison

MINNEAPOLIS — A third generation Polish American from Minneapolis is challenging one of the most powerful and outspoken Democrats for his seat in Congress.

Jennifer Zielinski, 35, a Republican health care worker who has not held public office before, is taking on Rep. Keith Ellison, 54, for Minnesota's 5th Congressional district slot.

Zielinski earned her party's endorsement at its district convention

in April.

She has lived in the Twin Cities her whole life.

Zielinski is a clinical specialist in mental health who has also managed security teams for a Minnesota health care provider. Ellison is deputy chair of the Democratic Na-



tional Committee.

Ellison's prior opponents have garnered less than 25% of the vote since he first won election in 2006. However, Zielinski says she is hoping that perceptions about Ellison's constituent service and voting record will bolster her prospects.

"He doesn't understand the people he is supposed to represent. His very progressive agenda is out of touch with Minnesota," Zielinski says.

PLEASE HELP US HELP OUR OWN COMMUNITY. JOIN THE...

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

As a national newspaper serving Polish immigrants and their descendents since 1911, the Polish American Journal has a unique perspective on the shortfalls — primarily funding — that have prevented many great projects from getting off the ground. We also have grown increasingly frustrated to see students — future leaders, who are passionate about Polonia — seek other areas of study because they could not secure something as simple as airfare to study in Poland or abroad. Likewise, we see so many talented academicians, scholars, artists, folk groups — the list goes on — whose special projects or areas of study have been dropped for lack of funds. In many cases, state or federal arts or cultural funding is available, but these groups cannot afford processing fees to meet

application requirements. It is time to start helping our own.

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;



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veteran's group; scholarship fund; dance group, etc. Our board reviews these suggestions and creates a ballot of the most-requested causes/recipients, which will then be voted on by current members. (Membership is yearly, starting with the date of your most recent

donation). All members reserve the right to abstain from being a voting member.

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

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U.S. World War One Centennial Commission launches Polish American Website

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Pursuant to the directives to the Polish American Congress World War One Centennial Committee, the Polish American Congress (PAC) has obtained official inclusion in the United States' federal government's commission's World War I Centennial Commission as a "Commemorative Partner" to "Co-ordinate, encourage and promote the participation of all Americans of Polish decent from across our great nation, to recognize and honor the great contribution of our Polish American forefathers during the Great War."

On May 4th, the Commission added the PAC website as part of its national United States World War I website. There are two web addresses that both go to the "Polish" home page.

The abbreviated short URL for the site is: http://ww1cc.org/polish which will take viewers directly to the longer form, and site at: https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/polish-american-congress-home.html

All Polish American organizations, nests, posts, lodges, parishes, schools, museums and individuals are invited to participate and utilize this site.

Once on the site's home page, beneath the Polish World War I Centennial logo, there are menu items on the left sidebar. The menu includes projects, stories, events, and monuments and museums. Beneath that there are participating organizations. Clicking on the logo will take you to the organizations web page. Currently, they are the Falcons, PNA, SWAP-Polish Army Veterans, and Polish Roman Catholic Union.

Stories of service are posted under the stories tab. All are invited to email a paragraph or so story es-

pecially with photo of a family or community ancestor that served in World War I.

There is a national events calendar listing all centennial events. The events calendar on the PAC site is included on the national calendar. On the PAC calendar, every group can post its organization's centennial events, specifically sorting out Polish American events of interest to Polish Americans commemorating the centennial.

The Monuments and Museum tab takes you to a map of the nation showing the known Polish American museums with addresses and links. The PAC asks all to post monuments, statues, honor roll plaques erected to our Polish American ancestors in their communities.

All information posted on the site will become part of the U.S. national archives.

Over 300,000 Polish Americans served in the armed forces of the United States during World War I, with an additional 24,000 volunteering to the Polish Army in France. Fighting valiantly throughout the battlefields of Europe alongside our allies, Americans brought with them the Blessings of Liberty and Poland re-emerged as a free nation.

Steve Flor, PAC National Director representing the Polish Falcons of America, introduced both a resolution, and a motion, unanimously approved by the PAC Council of National Directors in Chicago, Sept. 15-17, 2016.

Flor is acting National Chairman and has been designated the website's publishing partner by the Commission. He can be reached at stephenflor.pacwny@yahoo.com.

KING ZYGMUNT III WAZA moved Poland's capital from Kraków to Warsaw in 1596 to make it more central between major cities. as Wilno and Kraków.



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## Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes

## Parade Winners Announced

by Michael Pietruszka

BUFFALO, N.Y. — **Dyngus Day Buffalo** announced the following winners of the 2018 Dyngus Day Parade competition: Ironworkers Local #6 (Dyngus Day Capital of the World Award); Smokey's Mens Social Club (Best Use of Red and White Award); Lake Lucy Social Club (Best Use of Pussy Willows Award); Ukrainian Float (Best Musical Performance); Zawistowski Family (Best Family Float or Group Award); Polish Cadets of Buffalo (Russ Pawlak Award) and Crittenden Fire Co., "Teens in Progress" and "Elevation Drill Team" (Dyngus Darlings Awards).

Buffalo Police made an arrest in connection to a vandalized Virgin Mary statue at **St. John Kanty Church**. 18-year-old Kalil Colbert destroyed the statue with a baseball bat. The nearly four-foot statue had been sitting in a garden at the front of the church for the past four years.

The **Chopin Singing Society Auxiliary** held its annual Mothers' Day Dinner at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga, May 2nd ... On May 3rd, Polish-Canadian singer/songwriter **Iлона Anna Kowalik** performed with a ten-piece band at the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga, Ontario ... The Toronto Catholic District School Board declared May 3rd as "**Polish Heritage Day**" ... The **Syracuse Polish Home** hosted a "Polish Constitution Day Ceremony" marking the 100th anniversary of the PLAV, May 3rd, as well ... St. Leo the Great Parish in Amherst hosted a **Polish Heritage Night** featuring Hocus Polkas, May 4th ... The **Canada-Poland Chamber of Commerce** held its Annual Excellence Awards Gala at the Vue & Clubhouse Eventspaces in Toronto, May 4th. Anna Cyzon performed and Polish Consul General Krzysztof Grzelczyk, Ontario Housing Minister Peter Milczyn and Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie were in attendance.

OperaBuffs of WNY presented "**Straszny Dwor: Polish National Opera**" featuring the Rodzina Dancers, pianist Anthony Kunz and lecturer Jacqueline Ormsby, May 5th in Rockwell Hall on the Buffalo State College campus ... **Pope John Paul II Council**, Knights of Columbus, in Hamilton, Ontario hosted a "Pierogi and Kielbasa Dinner," May 10th ... The **Permanent Chair of Polish Culture** at Canisius College offered a Mass of Remembrance on the 10th anniversary of the death of Irena Krzyzanowska Sandler at St. Michael's Church, May 12th. The Mass was

followed by a viewing of Mary Skinner's film, "In the Name of Their Mothers" ... **Kinga Mitrowska** presented "Best of Broadway" featuring talented Polish Canadian youths at the Maja Prentice Theatre in Mississauga, Ontario on the 12th.

On May 13th, the **Skalny Lecture and Artist Series** at the University of Rochester presented "Reflections on Independence in the Music of Polish Composers" featuring pianist Katarzyna Musial in Hatch Hall at the Eastman School of Music in downtown Rochester. Polish Consul General Maciej Golubiewski attended the concert ... The **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** presented Anna Mattis, oboe and English horn player, who shared her photos and personal experiences of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra's trip to Poland, including Buffalo's Sister City of Rzeszow, at the group's May 16th meeting at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst ... Special Delivery performed at the **Buffalo Polka Boosters** meeting at the Depew Polish Falcons Hall on the 16th ... Also on the 16th, the **Dom Polski** in North Tonawanda hosted a Polish Platter Dinner ... The **Professional & Business Women of Polonia** held its Scholarship Dinner at Kloc's Banquet Facility in West Seneca, May 17th ... **St. John Kanty Parish** in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District, held a Polka Mass, featuring "Rare Vintage," and its Parish Fest on the 17th ... May 19th, the Buffalo Distillery held its "**Krupnik Polka Party II**" featuring Special Delivery at its Larkinville distillery ... The 74th anniversary of the Battle of Monte Cassino was marked by **SWAP Post 114** with a concert and picnic at Paderewski Park in Vaughn, Ontario, May 20th ... New Direction performed at the "**Polka Party at the Nook**" at Niagara Falls' Polish Nook Restaurant on the 20th ... "Caras-sauga," Mississauga's Festival of Cultures, was held from May 25th through 27th. The **Polish Pavilion** was located at the Mississauga Valley Community Centre Arena.

**UPCOMING.** **Andrzej Wajda's** film, "Pan Tadeusz: The Last Foray in Lithuania," will be shown at the Dryden Theatre in Downtown Rochester on June 2nd as part of the Skalny Lecture and Artist Spring Series ... The "**Buffalo Pints and Pierogi Fest**" will take place at Buffalo Riverworks on June 3rd ... On the 6th, **Konekt**, a new organization for young Polish Canadian pro-

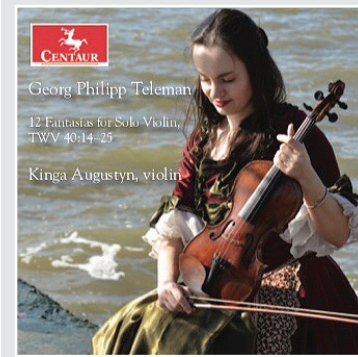
professionals, will sponsor a lecture on "Contemporary Polish Culture" at the Polish Consulate in Toronto ... The Mississauga **Polish Day** will be held in Celebration Square on June 9th ... The **101st Annual Pilgrimage** to the Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario historic military cemetery of General Haller's Blue Army recruits will be held on June 10th ... On June 16th, the **Polish Cadets of Buffalo** will host "Cruise, Blues and BBQ" at their Grant Street clubrooms ... The **64th Annual Syracuse Polish Festival** will be held in Clinton Square, June 22-24 ... On June 23, the **Polish Union of America** will hold its 14th Annual Polish Heritage Festival at Potts Banquet Hall in Buffalo. This year's theme is "Honoring Polka Lovers - Young and Young at Heart" and will include a performance by the Polka Brothers. Additional information can be viewed at www.polfunfest.com ... The **Polky Village Band** will release its new EP at the Small World Music Centre in Toronto on June 28th.

The Brantford, Ontario 45th **Annual International Villages Festival** will take place from July 4th through 7th. The festival will include events at the "Polish Warszawa" and "Polish Polonaise" Villages ... The Podhale Parents and Youth Association will host its **Podhale Picnic** at its Franklinville Camp on July 14th and 15th ... The **Buffalo Polka Boosters** is planning its Annual Picnic for July 15th at Fontana's Grove in Cheektowaga. Special Delivery will provide the entertainment ... The **Pulaski Police Association of Buffalo and WNY** will hold its Family Picnic at Como Park in Lancaster on August 1st ... The Buffalo Bisons Baseball team will hold its **Polish Festival Night** at Coca Cola Field in Downtown Buffalo on August 7th ... The **Roncesvalles Polish Festival** in Toronto will be held on September 15th and 16th ... The Daemen College **Center for Polish Studies** in Amherst will sponsor a conference entitled "For Your Freedom and Ours: Polonia and the Struggle for Polish Independence" on September 21st and 22nd ... The 100th Anniversary of the **Polonia Civic Centre** of Rochester will be marked by a Banquet and Ball in the St. Stanislaus Kostka Auditorium on October 27th.

❖ ❖ ❖

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 6th for the July issue) to pietruszka@verizon.net.

## New Solo Recording by Kinga Augustyn



**KINGA AUGUSTYN** has released her second unaccompanied album.

Her latest work on Centaur Records features *12 Fantasias for Solo Violin* by Georg Philipp Telemann.

"Baroque music has always been my passion and unaccompanied Telemann reminds me of my childhood when I first learned some of the 12 Fantasias," said Augustyn. "In Poland, we learn them before approaching the *Three Sonatas and Partitas* by Johann Sebastian Bach. In the United States, I hope that more people will play Telemann. It is awesome music."

Georg Philipp Telemann (1681-1767) was one of the most prolific composers that ever lived. He composed in different styles and is considered one of the creators of the German mixed style consisting of elements of German, Italian, French, and Polish styles. Structurally, the *12 Fantasias for Solo Violin* are on the improvisatory side.

Her first solo violin recording, *N. Paganini: 24 Caprices for Solo Violin, Op.1*, was released in 2016.

The new CD can be ordered from HBdirect or Amazon.com. It is also available on iTunes.

## The Pondering Pole

## The Story Behind the Story

by Edward Poniewaz

From an article on the Yahoo ticker:

Poland was occupied by and undoubtedly suffered greatly at the hands of Nazi Germany, of course. But it does not follow that Poles played no role in the Holocaust. Far from it. As Edna Friedberg, a historian at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, explained in *The Atlantic*: "There are well-documented incidents, particularly in the small towns of eastern Poland, where locals—acutely aware of the Nazis' presence and emboldened by their anti-Semitic policies—carried out violent riots and murdered their Jewish neighbors." Worse, Polish collaborators formed a police force of some 20,000 who actively assisted German forces in hunting down Jewish people and guarding ghettos where hundreds of thousands of Jews were detained before being sent to execution chambers.

**I HAD NEVER HEARD** of the police force that Friedberg refers to, so I began the search for more information. In the May 2018 *Catalyst*, the monthly newsletter of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, there appeared an article by Professor Ronald Rychlak.



Ronald Rychlak is on the Board of Advisors for the League and is a well-known expert on the Catholic Church and the Holocaust. His books, *Righteous Gentiles: How Pius XII and the Catholic Church saved Half a Million Jews from the Nazis* (Spence Publishing, 2005) and *Hitler, the War, and the Pope* (Genesis Press, 2000) are excellent histories and a must-read not only for every Catholic but also every Pole. I asked him if he was aware of the 20,000-man police force in Poland during the war.

He directed me to the "Blue Police" entry in Wikipedia, and I encourage you to read it.

The Wiki story points out a few things that might alter the impression by Friedberg, such as the officers at the time of the Polish defeat were dismissed when the Germans took over, regular enlisted men were ordered to report for duty or be shot, and a number (not precisely known, but possibly as high as or more than 50%), were members of the underground army or coordinating with them. Undoubtedly, some, either from fear or conviction, did what they were told to do by the Germans. Rychlak leaves open the

possibility that the "Blue Police" were as described at the Holocaust museum, or perhaps, not so much. Perhaps the record might need clarification.

There is, however, a story behind the story.

**RYCHLAK IS AN AMERICAN** lawyer, jurist, author, and political commentator. He is the associate dean for academic affairs and the Mississippi Defense Lawyers Association professor of law at the University of Mississippi School of Law. Besides a law degree, he has a Bachelor of Arts degree cum laude in economics from Wabash College. Along with *Righteous Gentiles* and *Hitler, the War, and the Pope*, he has written a number of other books and articles, belongs to a number of professional and religious associations, and is in demand as a speaker.

Rychlak is the son of Joseph Frank Rychlak, a professor and psychologist with a powerful body of work to his credit. Joseph Rychlak is known for the study of theoretical and philosophical psychology who, according to Wikipedia, "developed a theoretical stance known as 'Rigorous Humanism.' This term refers to Rychlak's argument that psychology with ecological validity should be directed toward issues that are relevant to our lives."

It is obvious Joseph was a noteworthy researcher and thinker. He

born December 17, 1928 in Cudahy, Wisc., the son of Joseph W. Rychlak and Helen (Bieniek) Rychlak. According to Ron, "my grandparents spoke Polish before English." After serving in the Air Force, he pursued a number of degrees culminating with a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Ohio State University, where he met his wife Lenora. Professor Rychlak authored 17 books and over 200 papers and served as a Fellow in the American Psychological Association as well as other esteemed professional bodies.

Joseph Rychlak passed away April 16, 2013. His entire life, career, and profession can be summed up by drive and a thirst for knowledge and like his son's, his life is an awesome story.

**POLISH OR NOT?** How about this Polish connection for Prince Harry and his American fiancée Meghan Markle for their wedding! **Alexi Lubomirski** (right) has a famous name and a Polish lineage and is an outstanding and famous photographer chosen to record their engagement picture. From *Town and Country* magazine he also is from a princely line:



Lubomirski was born in Eng-

land to a Peruvian/English mother and a Polish/French father, and when he was an 11-year-old growing up in Botswana, he learned about his royal lineage through the Polish House of Lubomirski, which stretches back 500 years.

Another youngster in the political mix is **Amy Chozick**, author of *Chasing Hilary: Ten Years, Two Presidential Campaigns*, and *One Intact Glass Ceiling* (Harper-Collins, 2018), about the two presidential campaigns of Hilary Clinton. Born in San Antonio, Texas, Amy uses her Slavic-looking name rather than her husband's. Polish or not?

Dziękuję bardzo to Dr. Susan Gromacki Lathrop for the kind words and the lead on Alexander Lubomirski. Thanks also to Professor Ronald Rychlak for the perspective on the "Blue Police" and information on his family.

❖ ❖ ❖

If you have a thought about this month's topic, 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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**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

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Traditions

Celebrating the Arrival of Summer



PHOTO: DOM KULTURY W CZESTOCHOWIE

by Marysia Zioncheck

St. John's festival—in Poland called *Sobotka*, from the ritual bonfires lighted on that night, or St. John's night (from John the Baptist) — is celebrated the night from June 23 to June 24. These traditions have survived from the ancient times, and are based on the Pagan rituals of the summer solstice. At that time, the predominant themes of the festivities were the elements of darkness and light. Huge bonfires were lit in the fields and along the rivers, ending the darkness of the shortest night of the year. Singing, dancing and other revelries continued until the morning hours. At night's end, the unmarried girls would toss their *wianki* (wreaths) on the river or stream in hopes of ensuring their future.

The word *wianki* refers to a beautiful wild flower wreath with candles attached. The wreaths were believed

to have magic powers, bringing an abundance of good luck, and the candles brought additional light to break the darkness of the night.

The arrival of Christianity introduced new elements to the customs, making the festival more folk-like. The observance of the feast of St. John the Baptist is now celebrated every year, masking the festival's Pagan origins.

To this day, Poles come together and celebrate this holiday. In Krakow there are numerous cultural and artistic events that accompany "Noc Swietojanska." Thousands gather on the Vistula Boulevards in the shadow of Wawel Hill and participate in great spectacles, performances, dancing and of tossing *wianki*. All of the night's festivities are capped off by a firework display, and the arrival of the summer is announced with great joy and fanfare.

Polish Chef

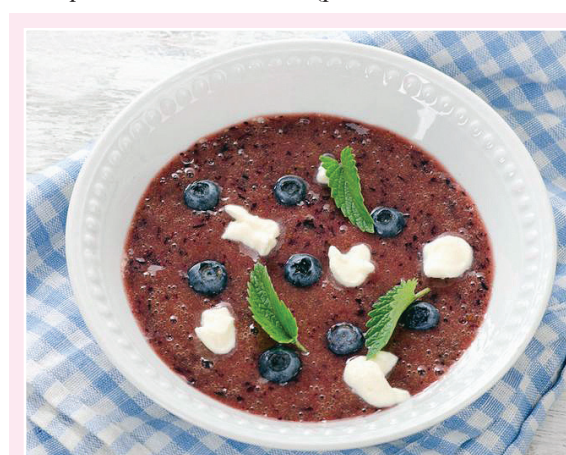
Traditional Polish Warm-Weather Treats

by Robert Strybel

**CREAM OF SORREL SOUP** (*zupa szczawiowa*). Wash a good handful of fresh sorrel (about 1/3 lb) very well in plenty of cold running water to remove all sand. Trim off and discard stems. Chop and simmer in 2 T butter in sauce pan about 5 min. Dissolve 2 T flour in 1 c meat stock or bouillon, add to sorrel and simmer several min longer. Add sorrel mixture to 5 c meat or vegetable stock and bring to boil. Remove from heat. Fork-blend 3/4 c sour cream, gradually adding 1 c soup 1 T at a time. Gradually stir into soup pot and simmer several min. Serve over halved hard-cooked eggs (1 egg per serving). Bottled sorrel is available at Polish markets and delis.

**SPRING VEGETABLE SOUP** (*zupa wiosenna*). This soup makes use of the season's first baby vegetables. To 5-6 c hot meat stock add a total of 3 c diced vegetables in any proportion, including green onions, baby carrots, small kohlrabi, cauliflower flowerlets, celery and peeled new potatoes. Cook until vegetables are tender but not overcooked (15-20 min.) Thicken with 2 heaping T flour dissolved in 1/2 - 3/4 c half & half or 1 1/2 c milk and simmer several min longer. Salt & pepper to taste and garnish with finely chopped fresh dill, and a little chopped parsley (optional). This soup can also be made with mature fresh vegetables or frozen vegetables. Serve plain or over egg-drop noodles or croutons.

**FRESH TOMATO SOUP** (*zupa ze swiezych pomidorow*). Wash, hull and quarter 1 1/4 lb fresh (prefer-



**COLD FRUIT SOUP** (*zupa owocowa/chlodnik owocowy*). Start with about 3 c of any of the following single fruits or any combination thereof: strawberries; blueberries; pitted sour cherries; peeled and sliced apples and/or pears; or halved, pitted plums. Place fruit in pot, add 5-6 c water, bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer 8-10 min or until fruit is fully cooked. Dissolve 1 T potato starch (or cornstarch) in 1/2 c water or milk and stir into hot soup. Sweeten to taste (with sugar or sweetener) and (optional) season with a pinch of cinnamon, ground cloves or ground nutmeg. Simmer 2-3 min. Serve over cooked egg noodles or croutons. A dollop of sour cream (or low-fat yogurt) may be added to each bowl. Note: This and other fruit soups may be served hot, warm, at room temp or chilled.

ably locally grown, vine-ripened) tomatoes and simmer covered on low heat with several T stock and 2 T butter 15-20 min. Sieve or purée in processor and add to 6 c meat or

vegetable stock and season to taste with salt & pepper. Cream with 1/2 c sour cream fork-blended with 1 heaping T flour. Simmer briefly and serve over egg noodles or rice. Variation: When fresh vine-ripened tomatoes are out of season, simply stir 4-5 T tomato concentrate directly into hot stock and proceed as above. Canned tomato juice cooked with an equal amt of stock is also good.

**SOUR MILK** (*zsiadło mleko*). Cold soured milk kefir (a liquid yogurt) or buttermilk (eaten in a bowl) with a plate of buttered, dilled boiled new potatoes is a great hot-weather treat. Zsiadło mleko (clabbered milk) is now commercially available at Polish delis in America. They also sell a liquid yogurt known as kefir which is likewise good for this purpose. Like buttermilk and kefir, zsiadło mleko is now commercially available at Polish groceries and delis.

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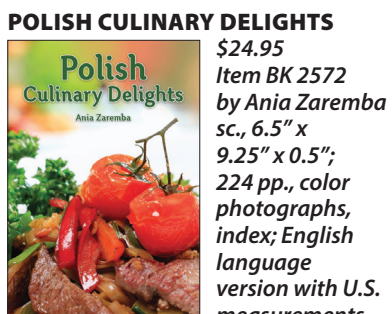


**TREASURED POLISH RECIPES FOR AMERICANS** \$19.95 Item BK2364 hc 5.5" x 8.7" x 0.50"; 172 pp.; English language version with U.S. measurements 475 Recipes

Edited by Marie Sokolowski and Irene Jasinski; Illustrated by Stanley Legun

First published in United States in 1948, this book was the first complete book of Polish cookery in the English language. Chapters on Appetizers, Soups, Meats, Poultry and Game, Fish, Vegetables, Mushrooms, Dairy Dishes, Pastries and Desserts. Recipes are included for famous Polish barszcz, for bigos, czarna, pierogi, naleśniki, paszteciki... and hundreds of other interesting Polish foods.

It contains brief stories of Polish festivities and customs such as Christmas Eve (Wigilia), Harvest Festival (Dożynki) and others.



**POLISH CULINARY DELIGHTS** \$24.95 Item BK 2572 by Ania Zaremba sc., 6.5" x 9.25" x 0.5"; 224 pp., color photographs, index; English language version with U.S. measurements.

Polish Culinary Delights was written to bring authentic Polish recipes of the past few generations to the North American kitchen. Besides finding the

usual "traditional Polish" fare, this book includes unique recipes created by Ania and others in her family (grandma, grandpa, uncle, etc.).

More than 175 recipes, from soups, appetizers, entrees and side dishes to desserts. Easy-to-follow instructions with helpful tips make it simple to prepare such traditional Polish favorites as pierogi, blintzes, sauerkraut, cabbage rolls, bigos, horseradish sauce, paczki, angel wings, mazurka cakes and many more.

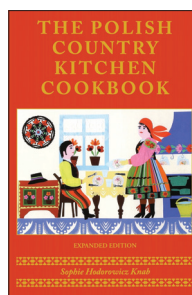
PLEASING POLISH RECIPES



by Jacek and Malgorzata Nowakowski \$8.95 Item 2-678

5.5 x 3.5 inches / 160 pp., spiral bound

This little cookbook features a great variety of regional foods, such as hot beer, vegetable soup, leek salad, graham bread, bigos, 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.



**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.

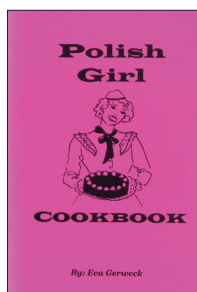
The Polish Country Kitchen Cookbook gives its readers priceless historical information such as the type of utensils used in Poland at the turn of the century, the meaning behind the Pascal butter lamb, and many other insightful answers to common questions asked by descendants of Polish immigrants.

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



**POLISH PIEROGI** \$10.00 by Eva Gerweck, Item 2-303 48 pp., sc.

A collection of "secret" recipes, tips, and more by Eva Gerwecki. Fillings, toppings, and a variety of dough recipes as well. Over 150 recipes with regional variations, from New York to California!



**POLISH GIRL COOKBOOK** \$10.00 by Eva Gerweck, Item 2-301 44 pp., sc.

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

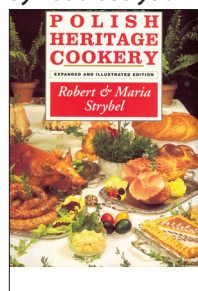
tries, potato salad, pastries, babka, breads, and more.



**POLISH RESTAURANT COOKBOOK** \$10.00 Item 2-302 by Jonathan Becklar, 44 pp., sc.

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

**POLISH HOLIDAY COOKERY** Published at \$16.95 WHILE SUPPLIES LAST: \$9.95 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

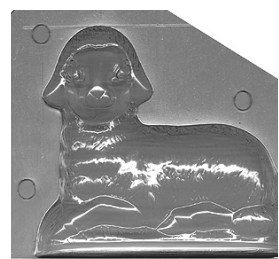
incorporation in the Polish American mainstream culture.

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.



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## Poland's Iconic Tall Ship Sails the Seas

Dar Młodzieży calling at 100 world ports to mark Centennial

Meeting Pope Francis in Panama is High Point

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW — This year marks the 100th anniversary of Poland's re-appearance on the world map following 123 years of foreign occupation. The centennial is being celebrated with historical re-enactments, documentaries, TV specials, concerts, exhibitions and 100 distinctive historical multi-media park benches to be constructed in parks around the country. Another unique anniversary project is a round-the-world cruise of the cadet-training sailing ship *Dar Młodzieży* (*Gift of Youth*).

Poland's Ministry of Maritime Economy together with the Maritime Academy felt that circling the globe and calling at some 100 ports would be the best way to publicize the anniversary worldwide. After all, the impressive three-mast frigate turns heads wherever it appears.

**ORIGINALLY** the organizers planned to invite 100 young Poles to take part in the round-the-world Independence Cruise. Candidates were interviewed on their knowledge of maritime history and current affairs as well as shipboard procedures. They had to be of stable personality, in good health, not prone to seasickness and prepared to deal with various hardships. They were told they would have to perform the same menial chores as the ship's crew — adjusting the rigging, swabbing the decks, kitchen duty, clean-up, minor repairs and whatever else is required. The interest was so great that the organizers upped the invite fourfold.

And it's no wonder. The prospect of sailing the high seas and visiting exotic ports was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The initial plan to take 100 volunteers aboard had to be modified with 400 now involved in the project. It was decided



**DAR MŁODZIEŻY** is a sail training ship designed by Zygmunt Choreń. A prototype of a class of six, her sister ships are *Mir*, *Druzhba*, *Pallada*, *Khersones*, and *Nadezhda*.

The ship was launched in November 1981 at the Gdańsk shipyard. The following month, the cradle of the Soviet-bloc's first independent union, Solidarity, was invaded by communist security troops after General Jaruzelski clamped Poland under martial law. She was commissioned for service in July 1982 at Gdynia, thus replacing her forerunner *Dar Pomorza* (*Gift of Pomerania*).

The *Dar Młodzieży* is the first Polish-built, ocean-going sailing vessel to circumnavigate the globe (1987–88), thus repeating the famous voyage of her predecessor (1934–35), the *Dar Pomorza*, which is now a floating museum in the Port of Gdynia.

that successive groups of volunteers would each sail for two months before being replaced the next group down the line. Prior to setting out from the Polish Port of Gdynia, the *Dar Młodzieży* was thoroughly overhauled and made seaworthy.

The Independence Cruise is heading for Lisbon. Portugal, thence to the Canary Islands and down along the ports of Africa's eastern coast to the Cape of Good Hope at the continent's southernmost tip. From there, the Polish frigate sails the Indian Ocean and calls at such Far Eastern ports as Singapore, Shanghai, China and Osaka, Japan. Crossing the Pacific Ocean, the three-master will call at the ports of western North America including Vancouver, San Francisco and Los Angeles, drawing ever closer to one of the highpoints of the cruise — Panama.

That is where Pope Francis is due to host World Youth Day in January

2019. It is still unknown whether the Holy Father will accept an invitation to visit and bless the ship, but the crew and volunteers are all looking forward to meeting him. From there, the *Dar Młodzieży* heads for New York and thence sails the Atlantic back to Europe.

**POLAND'S TALL SHIP**, which can cover up to 300 miles a day, is fitted with an auxiliary diesel engine in case of emergency. It can achieve a speed of 18 mph under sail and 14 mph using its engine. The *Dar Młodzieży* is on its first round-the-world cruise in 30 years. Thanks to advance publicity via the social media, local Polonians are expected to turn out and welcome the ship wherever it calls at port. The 400 young people chosen to take part in this project are likely to recall their adventure for many years to come.

## Father Figure, Dictator, Architect of Reborn Poland Józef Piłsudski

by Robert Strybel

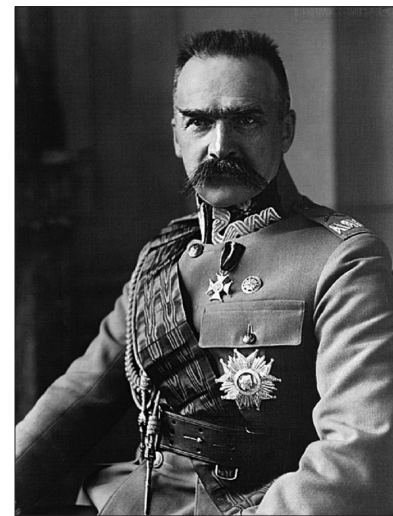
WARSAW — Poland's Józef Piłsudski was once a highly controversial figure, but time seems to have tipped the balance in his favor. He was born in Lithuania to a patriotic Polish family: his father had been an official of Poland's ill-fated 1863 insurrectionist government, while his mother introduced him to patriotic Polish literature. When in his teens, Józef got into trouble with the Russian authorities for setting up a secret society to smuggle banned Polish books to his classmates. Later, as a medical student, he was sent to Siberia for taking part in a revolutionary plot to assassinate the tsar.

He joined up with Polish socialists whose organization Piłsudski then saw as the best means to restore Poland's freedom. But, ultimately, his hallmark became the saying: "I got off the red tram (streetcar) at Independence Avenue!"

Although he never studied military science, he read a lot and was primarily regarded as a military leader, but one steeped in the 19th-century romanticism that equated Poland with "the Christ of Nations." Prior to World War I he established the Polish Legions and after war broke out — the Polish Military Organization (POW). His usual attire was a plain, gray legionnaire's uniform.

Known to family and friends as *Ziuk* (a pet name for Józef), Piłsudski was a man of basic tastes. A heavy cigarette smoker, he preferred *solitaire* to bridge, and his favorite snack was simple cinnamon-flavored hardtack and strong tea, but he disliked coffee. He enjoyed playing with his daughters Wanda and Jadwiga as well as his favorite canine, a German shepherd simply called *Pies* (Polish for dog). But his overriding love and life-long dream was a strong, independent Poland, ideally as the hub of a mighty multinational federation stretching from the Black Sea to the Baltic.

When Poland regained its independence in November 1918, Piłsudski was appointed command-



er in chief of its armed forces and chief of state. He became a national hero in 1920 after outmaneuvering and repelling the numerically superior invading Soviet hordes. Following that success, he thought Polish leaders would finally begin working together to build a strong, new Poland. Instead, all he saw was petty party politicking, mud-slinging, self-interest and repeated cabinet crises.

His long-held hopes for his beloved country evaporated when Poland's first President Gabriel Narutowicz was assassinated in 1922. Piłsudski himself came under increasing attack from National Democrats and other foes who abused him and his family in the vilest of terms. The following year, he withdrew from politics and "emigrated" with his family to a manor house in Sulejówek near Warsaw, a gift from the Polish nation.

When the political situation continued to deteriorate, Piłsudski believed the new Poland was plunging into anarchy and began considering a show of force to restore some semblance of order. In late 1925, a group of army officers pledged their undying support and that bolstered his resolve. On May 12th, 1926 he marched into Warsaw at the head of his loyal troops. After two days of clashes with government forces in which 379 soldiers and civilians were killed, the prime minister, his cabinet and the president resigned.

His declared political goal was "Sanitation" (*Sanacja*), the moral cleansing of a corrupt and inefficient political system and a halt to what we called "Sejmokracja," runaway parliamentarianism. He turned down the post of figurehead president, twice briefly served as prime minister and was defense minister in all 11 successive cabinets. He jailed political opponents whom he accused of trying to destabilize Poland and set up a detention camp for communist subversives, Ukrainian terrorists and others he accused of threatening national security. As a result, his political foes called him a fascist dictator.

But such heavy-handed measures mainly affected the unruly political scene, for Piłsudski enjoyed widespread popular support in Poland and Polonia. The dust of erstwhile controversy has long since settled, and today, when few people even remember his political detractors, Piłsudski is widely seen as the architect, founding father and guardian of the Second Polish Republic. His prestige and importance has grown significantly in Poland since the collapse of communist rule in 1989. During the 45 years of the Soviet puppet state known as "People's Poland," Piłsudski's achievements were either reviled or ignored due to his well-known anti-Russian and anti-communist orientation.

## May 3rd Constitution Celebrated at Ambassador's Residence

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The 227th Anniversary of Poland's historic and revolutionary May 3rd Constitution of 1791 — *Konstytucja Trzeciego Maja* — was celebrated in grand style on May 10, 2018 under the auspices of Ambassador Piotr Wilczek. Among the few hundred guests were members of the U.S. Administration and military services, the Washington diplomatic corps, NGO's, luminaries, friends of Poland, and the Polonia.

After welcoming guests, Ambassador Wilczek paid homage to the Constitution, saying: "The May 3rd Constitution is cherished by the Poles because of the values it represents and the spirit that it embodies. During the darkest days of communism and political oppression, when rights and freedoms were being suppressed, Poles looked back on this document for inspiration. Even though the Constitution was short lived, and the freedoms it promised were extinguished by foreign powers, its righteous ideals display that in the end that freedom and liberty do prevail."

Ambassador Wilczek commented on the excellent state of U.S.-Polish relations. "Poland and the United States share not only common goals and policies, but more importantly they share common values and a heritage of freedom as enshrined in the May 3rd Constitution."

Political, military and economic matters were also mentioned, highlighted by Poland's spending of 2% of its GDP on defense, and its agree-



As the national anthems of both Poland and the United States are sung, both U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Wess Mitchell (left) and Poland's Ambassador Piotr Wilczek stand at attention.

ments with the United States to purchase the Patriot Missile Defense System, and liquefied natural gas.

The Ambassador also commented on Jersey City plans to move the Katyn Memorial there.

"I was shocked when the mayor [Steven Fulop] suddenly announced his intention to remove

the monument. However, I have been heartened by the outpouring of support the monument has received and the great mobilization of the Polish-American community to defend their heritage and history. As long as Polonia remains united, I am confident that a positive resolution can be found."

Ambassador Wilczek thanked all for their attendance, and closed by saying "Witat Maj, 3 Maj — Long Live May, the 3rd of May."

Special guest U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Wess Mitchell was introduced as a champion of strong transatlantic ties between Poland and America. In his lengthy praise of Poland's May 3rd Constitution, he said Poland and the United States were always trailblazers in the efforts to secure freedom and democracy, which is why Poles and Americans were the authors of the first two written constitutions in the world.

Mitchell said Poland is an important ally and partner of the United States, most recently exemplified by President Trump's visit to Warsaw in 2017. "The triumph of the Polish nation over centuries of hardship gives us all hope and confidence that good conquers evil and that peace achieves victory over war," he said, quoting President Trump.

## Sports

## Two in a Row Under G.P. Gromacki's Leadership

by Tom Tarpacki

**G.P. Gromacki** led the Amherst College women's basketball team to a second consecutive national championship, as they beat Bowdoin College, 65-45. It was also Amherst's second straight undefeated season and ran its win streak to an incredible 66-0.



G.P. Gromacki

Final Four MVP Emma McCarthy praised the work of Gromacki, who is 328-24 since coming to Amherst. "Coach is super prepared, and he really gives us an opportunity to take the reins and come out and play. I think that's a testament to our team why everyone has such a powerful voice."

Gromacki also had high praise for his squad, which always found a way to win. "We didn't always blow teams out, and people thought we would lose a game, and every time this team stepped up and made a play," said Gromacki. "It's a special team. It's a team I'll treasure forever."

Gromacki is a South Deerfield, Mass. native who studied business at Ohio State before launching his coaching career in 1998 at Saint Lawrence. He enjoys coaching D III, where he has now won three national championships and made eight Final Four appearances in his 11 years as Amherst's head coach. "We're not on TV. It's not a big business. ESPN isn't doing stories on us," he said. After graduation, even the best players typically head straight to graduate school to study medicine, law, or business, Gromacki said. Despite having three national players of the year no one from the Amherst women's team has ever gone on to play professional basketball, either in the WNBA or overseas.

Still, Gromacki said it's not too early for the team to start thinking about next season and a third straight national title. However, he won't talk about the 66-game win streak. "We will talk about winning a national championship, and, hopefully, let the rest take care of itself."

**HE'S A WARRIOR.** The San Jose Sharks lost their second round playoff series against the Vegas Golden Knights, but **Joe Pavelski** turned in an impressive performance. Pavelski had to take over the top center position after Joe Thornton was knocked out of the lineup in January. Pavelski went on to lead the Sharks in points, plus-minus, faceoffs and faceoff wins. He led the Sharks on to the playoffs and a first round sweep on Anaheim, and had two goals and six assists in 10 play-off games.

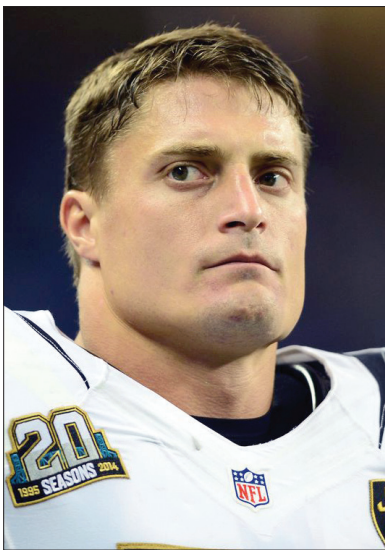
"He's a warrior," Sharks coach Pete DeBoer said during the play-offs. "He's the heartbeat of our team. Joe Thornton goes down and we put him as a first-line center even though he hasn't played center in years, basically. He's not really built to be a first-line center, but he doesn't ask any questions. He just jumps in and gets the job done and



Joe Pavelski

leads us into a playoff spot when nobody thought we could get there dealing with that type of injury. There's not much more to say about him and his character than that."

**POZ RETIRES.** Paul Posluszny,



Paul Posluszny

who was a second round draft pick of the Buffalo Bills in 2007, recently announced his retirement from the Jacksonville Jaguars, where he's played for the last six seasons.

At his retirement ceremony the highly respected Posluszny was told by teammate Telvin Smith that "I've never met a better man than you. I've never had a better teammate than you." A tearful Smith went on to dedicate the 2018 Jaguars season to the former teammate. "And I promise you — I promise you, I promise you — I won't let you down." Smith told Poz. Posluszny's final game turned out to be the Jaguars' 24-20 loss to New England in the AFC Championship Game. That was not only his first playoff appearance, but also the first time he had played on a team that finished with a winning record.

A tearful Posluszny said that he really didn't want to retire but decided that he'd rather leave a year early than hang on a year too long. The married father of two said he's not sure what he'll do next, and is considering going to graduate school to study something in the aerospace field.

**MOVING TO SEATTLE.** Kicker **Sebastian Janikowski** signed a one-year deal with Seattle after spending his first 18 seasons in Oakland. The 40-year-old native of Poland spent didn't play in 2017 because of a back injury and wasn't re-signed when his contract expired at season's end.

A surprise choice as the 17th overall pick in 2000, Janikowski was the Raiders' all-time leading scorer with 1,799 points, which ranks 11th in NFL history. He's 10th all-time in converted field goals with 414 and 12th in attempts with 515, according to Pro Football Reference. His powerful left leg has

booted an NFL-record 55 field goals of 50 yards or longer, including a 63-yarder in 2011.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR.** The National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame Annual Induction Banquet is taking place in Troy, Michigan on Thursday, June 21, 2018. Inductees are former NFL offensive guard **Conrad Dobler**, gold medal-winning swimmer **Rachel Komisarz-Baugh**, former basketball player and current University of Utah coach **Larry Krystkowiak** and national golf long drive champion **Evan "Big Cat" Williams**. Information on the banquet is available at [www.polishsportshof.com](http://www.polishsportshof.com). There's something else new at the Hall's website: a new line of swag. The Hall is now offering its own line of apparel with its distinctive logo. That includes hats, pullovers, t-shirts, jackets and polo shirts. Just go to the website and click on "NPASHF Apparel."

**WHERE ARE THEY NOW?** **Jack Jablonski** was a sophomore in high school at Benilde-St. Margaret's in St. Louis Park, Minn. in 2011 when the star athlete was slammed face-first into the boards, and suffered a "complete injury" to his C5 and C6 vertebrae. All feeling below the level of injury was lost. His devastating injury brought an outpouring of support, but doctors said that he would never walk again and was "very unlikely" to regain movement in his arms from the elbows down.

Today, Jablonski is a junior at USC, majoring in communication and minoring in sports media studies. He chose USC in part because his body can't regulate body temperature, so his muscles would tighten up in the cold Minnesota winter. He goes to class on a motorized wheelchair on his own. He's able to use his pinky finger to send texts, his hands to high-five or shake hands. A caretaker lives with him 24/7. He's very active with his Believe In Miracles Foundation, that raises money for spinal cord injury research.

**Isaiah Kacyvenski** rose from a life of poverty and homelessness to graduate from Harvard and play in the NFL. His inspiring story was even featured on Oprah.

Isaiah had a great football career at Harvard, finishing with a school career-record 395 tackles, 4.5 sacks, 11 interceptions, and eight fumble recoveries. In 2000, Kacyvenski was selected in the fourth round of the NFL draft by the Seattle Seahawks, becoming the highest draft pick in Harvard history. Kacyvenski played six-plus seasons with the Seattle Seahawks and helped lead the team to Super Bowl XL. He later played for the Rams and Raiders.

Today Isaiah, who earned his MBA from Harvard Business School in 2011, is a managing part-



Isaiah Kacyvenski

ner at Blue Star Innovation Partners, an investment capital fund. Among his activities, he sponsors a golf tournament to benefit the Johnson City, N.Y. Children's Home in honor of his late mother, Margaret Kulakowski. He is also on the advisory board of the Concussion Legacy Foundation, which is headed by former Harvard teammate **Dr. Chris Nowinski**. The pair was part of Harvard's "Polish Connection," that anchored the heart of the Crimson's football's defense for four years, including its 1997 Ivy League championship team.

Poland's **Przemek Karnowski** helped Gonzaga to 136 wins over the course of his career, making him the winningest player in NCAA Division I history. He was the 2017 winner of the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Award, awarded to the top center in college basketball. One of the most beloved Zag players ever, he

overcame a potential career-ending back injury his junior year to return for his senior year. In 2017 he led Gonzaga to the NCAA Tournament championship game.

Today Przemek is back in Europe. The 7', 300-lb. center played well in the NBA Summer League, but his old school low-post game does not translate well into today's NBA. Therefore, "Shep" signed a deal to play in Spain with B.C. Andora.

**PERKOSKI'S NOTEBOOK.** Penn State TE **Mike Gesicki** was drafted in the second round by Miami ... punter **Shane Tripucka** signed as an undrafted free agent with San Diego ... Polish contender **Maciej Sulęcki** lost on points to American former middleweight champion Daniel Jacobs in a world title eliminator for the WBA championship ... **Legia Warsaw** beat **Arka Gdynia** 2-1 to capture the Polish Cup for the 19th time ... Poland's national ice hockey squad has been relegated to a lower division after losing games to Hungary and Kazakhstan in its IIHF World Championship Division I Group ... Poland's 41-year-old former two-division world champion **Tomasz Adamek** knocked out U.S. heavyweight **Joey Abell** in Częstochowa ... 20-year-old defenseman **Dennis Cholowski**, the Red Wings' first-round pick in 2016, played for the Grand Rapids Griffins this year and could make his way onto Detroit's roster soon...The Blue Jays' **Troy Tulowitzki** began the season on the disabled list after suffering bone spurs in both heels.

## President Cup Tournament

by Al Koproski

**DZIALDOWO, Poland** — The 18th International Presidents Cup baseball tournament was held in Dzialdowo March 9-11, 2018. Teams from five countries sent their boys and girls to compete for the special Presidents Cup Trophy. All three-hundred came by bus and van from the Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Lithuania, and parts of Poland.

The games were played in two Olympic-size gymnasiums, and for many children this was the first time they were out of their native country. The schools where they played also served as their hotel and restaurant where a team of Polish ladies fed them three times a day at no cost to their teams.

The team winning the Presidents Cup Trophy was from Belarus. There were 11 teams coming from out of the country and eight teams from Poland competing in the tournament. The first place

winner among the Polish teams was Yankees Dzialdowo. Coach Andrzej Krzyowski did an excellent job with his team.

This annual tournament was first organized by Coach Zdzislaw Ziolkowski, who has continued the tournaments for 18 years with the help of many dedicated volunteers and sponsors. Since Coach Ziolkowski began coaching baseball, Poland now has a Senior group that many hope will qualify for Poland's Olympic team.

The Polish National Youth Baseball Foundation is looking for men and women who want to help promote baseball in Poland and Eastern Europe by collecting good used baseball equipment we can send to the children. It also asks for your financial support. Checks can be made out to PNYBF, 222 Ocean Drive East, Stamford, CT 06902.

— Al Koproski is president of the Polish National Youth Baseball Foundation

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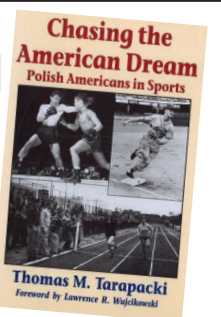
Chasing the American Dream provides an in-depth examination of the Polish American experience with sports: its impact upon their lives, the unprecedented economic and social opportunities it created, the enormous changes it brought to the Polish American community, and the athletes, coaches, and organizations involved.

350 Polish American athletes are noted from the worlds of baseball, football, hockey, basketball, track & field, boxing, wrestling, golf, swimming, bowling, auto racing, soccer and more. Included are some of the greatest figures in American sports such as Stan Ketchel; Stella Walsh; and Stan "The Man" Musial.

Tom Tarpacki is Sports Editor of the *Polish American Journal*.

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## Sybiracy

### Ready to go Back Home

"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 Kazakstan. 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 XXXI.** At the end of 1945, we were ready to return to Poland any time we would have a chance. We had our suitcases ready with a big supply of dry bread ready for travel.

On November 22, 1945, Union of Polish Patriots\* met in Moscow and they received a permission from Stalin to organize transport of Polish resettlers from Soviet Union

back to Poland. This decision was not known to us until Easter 1946. It was Maundy Thursday; I and Teresa were cleaning our earth house and the yard, as always during this time of the year, to make it ready for Easter. Then we saw the postman who was running towards us with the paper screaming to us: "you go back to Poland." He had a card addressed to me with the information that we need to leave to Kustanay (our province's capital) three days after Easter Sunday. There would be a gathering place with other Poles there. The train will be provided to take us to Poland. I am in charge of arranging the departure of all the Poles from here. The signature: NKVD (The People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs, Soviet FBI).

I sent Teresa to the village, she found Marysia and Jedrek first. They run from the house to the house spreading the news. People started preparing for the journey by doing laundry, baking goods and also by doing some packing. I discussed with the kolkhoz's manager how we were going to arrange the transportation. They offered us only one horse cart. This was better



Cupping therapy dates back to ancient Egyptian, Chinese, and Middle Eastern cultures. One of the oldest medical textbooks in the world, the *Ebers Papyrus*, describes how the ancient Egyptians used cupping therapy in 1,550 B.C.



Cupping therapy is an ancient form of alternative medicine in which a therapist puts special cups on your skin for a few minutes to create suction. People get it for many purposes, including to help with pain, inflammation, blood flow, relaxation and well-being, and as a type of deep-tissue massage.

than nothing. There were nine of us and the luggage. I imagined how we walked to Kustanay. We were so eager to go back home that we could even walk on our knees just to reach our dear Poland, our countryland.

Then we saw the postman who was running towards us with the paper screaming to us: "you go back to Poland."

On Friday we couldn't find Psootka (her name means "Prank" in English), our dog. We searched for her and called her but she was not coming back. After dinner, I pull out our suitcase from behind the cot. I look down and see something shiny. I pulled Psootka from under the bed holding to her paws. She looked terribly sad, poor, and teary. I took her on my knees, hold her and pet her.

I told her: "Psootka – you would come with us, with your hostess, with your mama, with Teresa and Jedrek to Poland." I repeated it several times. Suddenly, she understood. She was thrilled, she started licking me at the face and hands and she was spinning around mad. She jumped from my knees to Tereska's, then to

Marysia's, then she came back to me. Then she calmed down and she sat back on the suitcase and stayed like that until Tuesday.

There were more complications coming before the departure. On Good Friday Jedrek had a high fever, above 105 F. Mishka, his friend stopped by when he heard that Jedrek is ill, he became sick soon also. Mishka told us that they were playing the game of going back to Poland the whole morning. They imagined that they had to cross two rivers: Volga and Vistula. They found the substitutes of the rivers under the hill – where the water drained from the fields. Some of the water was still covered with the snow. The boys were not discouraged, they were wading through the waters until they got sick. I tried everything I could to heal Jedrek

before the travel: I cupped his back (cupping therapy), gave him aspirin, hot tea with dry strawberries – but there was no improvement.

\* Union of Polish Patriots (Society of Polish Patriots, Polish) was a political body created by Polish communists and Joseph Stalin in Soviet Union in 1943. This body, unofficially controlled and directed by Stalin, became a foundation of the Communist government created by the Soviets that eventually took power in the People's Republic of Poland. Between 1944-1946 it was involved in resettling Poles from the Soviet Union into Poland.

continued next month

— Reprinted courtesy of Jaga's Polish Culture Website at: [www.polish-site.us](http://www.polish-site.us)

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### Obituaries

#### Accident Takes Life of Investment Firm Founder

NEWPORT NEWS, Virg. — The founder of a successful Virginia financial company was killed, and his wife seriously injured in a motorcycle accident on Interstate 70.

John Pawlowski, 60, died when an out-of-control SUV crashed through a barrier into the eastbound lanes just past Interstate 435 in Kansas City and hit his motorcycle head-on. His wife, Tonya, who was on the motorcycle with him, is listed in serious condition.

Pawlowski was founder and Senior Advisor of the Norseman Advisory Group, Inc., which serves major corporations primarily with retirement plans.

Known as "Big John," he and his wife were recreational motorcyclists. Pawlowski has been riding since he was a teenager. He and Tonya had been married nearly 10 years, his brother Dan said.

#### Polka DJ Robert "Happy Bob" Pawlak

ALBANY, N.Y. — Robert T. "Happy Bob" Pawlak, 76, of Hagaman, N.Y. passed away peacefully with his family at his side May 14, 2018 at the Hospice Inn at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany, N.Y.

He was born March 14, 1942 in Amsterdam, N.Y., a son of the late Stanley J. and Sadie Brizco Pawlak. A lifelong area resident, he was a graduate of the Wilbur H. Lynch High School.

Pawlak was a well-known dairy farmer operating the "Twin Maple" family farm. For many years, he was a courier at the general Electric Company mail operation in Schenectady. Pawlak worked as a Sargent for the

NY Racing Association (NYRA) at the Saratoga Race Track. In addition to his regular duties, he was assigned to a special security details, which included assisting Jim McKay and Al Michaels of ABC Sports. Pawlak became a close friend of McKay. He was very well liked and respected during his employment at NYRA. Most recently, he was a bartender at Peckham's Place in Scotia, N.Y.

In 1983, Pawlak was instrumental in co-founding the award-winning *Polka Magic Radio Show*, which airs on WSPN FM 91.1 in Saratoga Springs, the Polka Magic Radio Network, and Polish New Castle Radio. Com. He also co-hosted polka radio shows on WMVQ 97.7, WCSS 1490AM, WKOL- 1570AM and WVTL 104.7FM, and 1570AM, all of Amsterdam, NY.

Pawlak was a member of St. Stephen's R.C. in Hagaman. He was a member and Past President of the Perth Volunteer Fire Department.

On Sept. 10, 2016, he was united in marriage to Theresa Rajter Pawlak, who survives. He is also survived by a son Joseph (Christy) Pawlak, Sutton; grandchildren; stepchildren; step grandchildren; nieces, and nephews.

Pawlak was predeceased by his wife Joan Januszewski Pawlak on August 14, 2009, his brother Martin S.



Radio entrepreneur Robert T. "Happy Bob" Pawlak.

Pawlak on August 15, 2017 and by his mother-in-law and father in law Millie & Julius Januszewski.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Perth Fire Company, 4080 State Highway 30, Amsterdam, NY 12010, or to the Community Hospice Inn (St. Peter's Hospital), 315 S. Manning Blvd., Albany, NY 12208.



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### Polish American Historical Association

The Polish American Historical Association was established in December 1942 as a special commission of the The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America to collect, compile and publish information about Polish Americans. In October 1944, it was reorganized as a national American society to promote study and research in the history and social background of Americans of Polish descent. The Association, which was incorporated under the laws of Illinois in 1972, strives to assist and cooperate with all individuals and organizations interested in Polish American life and history. Contributions in support of the work of the Association are tax-exempt.

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

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[www.polishamericanstudies.org](http://www.polishamericanstudies.org)

Genealogy

# Familysearch.org Makes Polish Genealogy Easier

by Stephen M. Szabados

Familysearch.org remains a major source of Polish genealogical records, but when they discontinued film distribution, I was afraid the change might handicap an important source for Polish research. However, after a few months of growing pains, FamilySearch's new system of viewing Family History

resolved quickly by the IT departments at Familysearch and the libraries.

**THE INITIAL STEP** of the new system remains the same as the old system. Utilize the catalog search page on Familysearch.org to find the list of films for the Polish records. At this point, the old system required us to select a film number to order

libraries can be done on their computers or your laptop. Since these are electronic images, they can be saved to a thumb (flash) drive or directly to your laptop hard-drive. This eliminates the need to print when viewing your film images. Save your images electronically.

**MOST FILMS ARE AVAILABLE** but there are a few exceptions. The images that are not available are images that the owners have not granted permission to show online. They are on the film numbers that have the roll of film to the far right in the catalog listing and can only be viewed using the films which are in Salt Lake City or were distributed to FHCs or libraries prior to the change.

I am excited by the tremendous growth in the number of Polish records that are now available online. Besides Familysearch.org, look for your ancestors at Geneteka, Metryki, the Polish State Archives, and many more.

Use what you find to begin writing the story of your ancestors lives in America and add to the story when you find their Polish records. Have fun and enjoy your heritage.

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

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and wait for delivery before we could view the image. However, the new system shows three possible icons to the far right of each film number: a roll of film, a camera, or a camera with a key over it. The roll of film indicates that the images can be view only from the film that is only available at the FHL in Salt Lake City. The camera with the key indicates that the images are available but you need to go to an FHC or an affiliated library. The camera indicates that the images are available for viewing from where you are. Click on the camera and start enjoying browsing the film for you record.

Please remember, the new system is not limited to films from Poland but can also be used to view films of U.S. records, such as church marriage records. Research at FHCs or affiliated li-

braries can be done on their computers or your laptop. Since these are electronic images, they can be saved to a thumb (flash) drive or directly to your laptop hard-drive. This eliminates the need to print when viewing your film images. Save your images electronically.



Library (FHL) films proved easier and faster to use than before the change. I now view the change as a major improvement for Polish genealogy research.

The only limitation for viewing the film images is that they can only be viewed at Family History Centers (FHCs) or affiliated libraries. This requirement is no change at viewing the films from the old system. We always had to go to a Family History Center (FHC) or affiliated library to view the films. However, the new system eliminates the film ordering step and this change speeds up the viewing process.

Familysearch must have prepped for the change, because digital images from most of the films were available online almost immediately after the change. The major problem was the WIFI connections at affiliated libraries but this problem was

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Also included is a useful genealogical contact chart putting root-seekers in touch with English-speaking Polish genealogical

researchers who can help track down vital Polish records, create family trees and photograph and/or videotape family graves and homesteads in Poland or possibly even turn up long-lost relations.

To order a custom-researched surname analysis, please airmail a \$19 personal or bank (cashier's) check or money order (adding a cut-rate \$13 for each additional surname to be researched) to Polonia's log-standing Warsaw correspondent and onomastician (name researcher): Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

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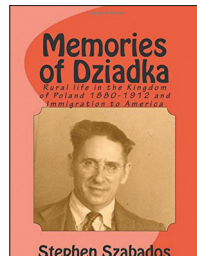
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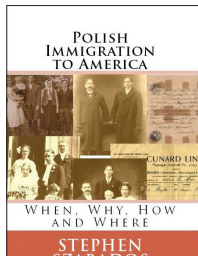
This book is designed to give the researcher the tools needed to research their Polish ancestors and find possible answers to

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.



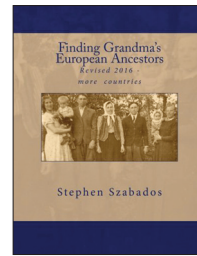
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This is a "must have" book for the family historian who wants to identify their European heritage. The author draws from his research experiences to describe how to find the resources available; first to find out where your ancestors were born in Europe, and then find the records. This revised edition covers genealogical research for most European countries and includes detailed steps that will help you find 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.

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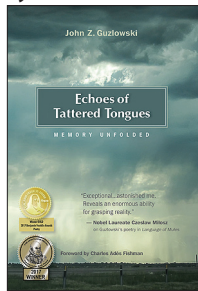
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ECHOES OF TATTERED TONGUES by John Guzłowski



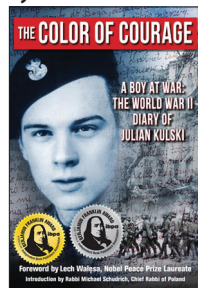
\$21.95 Item 2-667 hc., 6.2 x 0.8 x 9.4 inches 200 pp. Aquila Polonica / Language: English

Guzłowski born in a German refugee camp after WWII, recounts the horrible atrocities enacted upon his parents during the war in these straightforward, gut-wrenching narrative lyric poems. These snapshots of Nazi German rule illustrate that hardship didn't end with German surrender; the aftershocks radiated through successive generations. "Guzłowski's simple language highlights the violence without offering any comment or consolation." — Publishers Weekly.

When Katrina Shawver met the eighty-five-year-old Henry Zguda, he possessed an exceptional memory, a surprising cache of original documents and photos, and a knack for meeting the right people at the right time. He relates in his own voice a life as a champion swimmer, interrupted by three years imprisoned in Auschwitz and Buchenwald. Henry's path of resiliency and power of connection are as relevant today as they were in World War II.

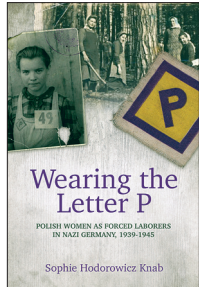
old Krystyna Sklenarz. In the middle of the night, the KGB deported her family from Poland to Siberia. She experienced two years there, and faced starvation, typhus, an opium den, being torpedoed, and living through the Nazi Blitz in the London subway. Through it all, Krystyna refused to give up. This 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. pb. 496 pp., 6" x 9"

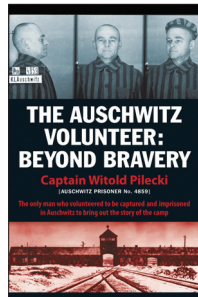
"If there is going to be a war, I do not want to miss it." So wrote Julian Kulski a few days before the outbreak of World War II, in this remarkable diary of a boy at war from ages 10 to 16. Kulski wages his own private war against the Germans with small acts of sabotage. At age 12, Kulski is recruited 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.



WEARING THE LETTER "P" Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany, 1939-1945 by Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab \$19.95 Item 2-642

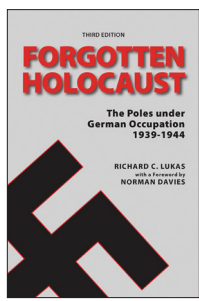
An unflinching, detailed portrait of a forgotten group of Nazi survivors. Written by the daughter of Polish forced laborers, Wearing the Letter P gives a voice to women who were taken from their homes as young as 12 years old and subjected to slave labor conditions, starvation, sexual exploitation, and 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.

THE AUSCHWITZ VOLUNTEER



by Witold Pilecki \$34.95 Item 2-673 Aquila Polonica Publ., 2014 460 pp., pb./ 6x9 in.

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.



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

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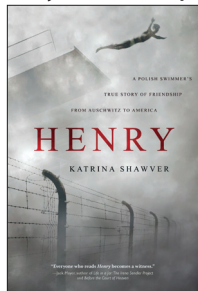
303 SQUADRON The Legendary Battle of Britain Fighter Squadron by Arkady Fiedler \$21.95 Item 2-603 pb. 6 x 9 inches 368 pp. Aquila Polonica English. Includes nearly 200

black and white photos, maps and illustrations.

The summer of 1940 and the Battle of Britain—the darkest days of World War II. France, Poland, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Norway had all been crushed by the powerful Nazi German war machine. Great Britain stood alone, fighting for its life.

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HENRY. A Polish Swimmer's True Story of Friendship from Auschwitz to



America by Katrina Shawver \$19.95 Item 2-678 Koehler Books, 2017 pb., 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches 324 pp. \$19.95

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**Dance Time**

## Good Food and Good Friends

by Jennifer Pijanowski

George Bernard Shaw said: “There is no sincerer love than the love of food.” That quote rang true as Buffalo Polka Boosters and Polka Variety celebrated Święconka. **John Gora & Gorale** entertained the crowd at Buffalo Polka Boosters as attendants feasted on a lovingly prepared Easter meal. Polish sausage, eggs, ham, salads, homemade pierogi made by club members Jennifer and Chester Dziadosz overfilled the plates of members. For dessert, placeks provided by several club members and traditional decorated lamb cakes baked by club member Elinor Pittner were served. Each year, John provides the music for this event and adds to the spirit of the evening. His love of entertaining and engaging the audience makes for a truly memorable evening.

Polka Variety club also splurged on a feast for its members while enlisting the talents of **Special Delivery** for their annual celebration. A plentiful meal and desserts were served before Special Delivery provided some excellent music to dance off those extra calories. Święconka has become a highly anticipated yearly event for both clubs. Much love and work goes into these events from club volunteers so it is wonderful to see so many polka fans attend this meeting.



Walter Matyjas

**WALTER AND SALLY MATYJAS** escorted a sold out bus trip once again to New York Mills to indulge in a day of camaraderie and polkas music by John Gora. Picking half of the passengers up in the Niagara Falls area then heading to Depew to pick up the rest, we were on the road before 10:00 a.m. for a day filled with fun and laughter. During our three-hour trip to Roselawn Ballroom, we watched video from last’s year’s event while Walter started the party early with his trademark shots. First blueberry liqueur, then krupnik, and next jezynowka — he spent much time filling up our glasses. Jim Kaminski also grabbed his concertina and played some music entertaining everyone in preparation of arriving at the venue. After what seemed like a short trip (I am guessing those shots had something to do with it) we arrived in New York Mills. We were greeted by the friendly folks at

the door and welcomed to the event hosted by The Polka League of Utica. Reserved tables were quickly filled with snacks as we all made our way in for an enjoyable day together. John and his band took the stage as dancers quickly made their way to the floor. During the dance, some guests joined the band for a few songs. Guests included Jim Kaminski on concertina, Johnny Matyjas on drums, and Zack Piatkowski on saxophone while Ricky Pijanowski provided entertaining vocals. John made his way through the crowd serenading, dedicating and making those in attendance feel very special. As many know, I have always been a huge fan of Gora but I never grow tired of witnessing his generous spirit and love of entertaining. It was wonderful to run into many longtime friends from the area including Patty & Gary Lekki, Frank Sergott, Jason Flynn and Ed Wysocki. Walter swears that this was his last time escorting a bus, but I am hopeful that he runs this again next year. It was a day filled with memories we will all treasure.



New York Mills. Zach Piatkowski and his uncle Robby Piatkowski with Gorale.

**SAD NEWS.** The polka world lost two of its biggest fans during the past month. Locally in Buffalo, **Jimmy “Shorts” Grochala** (inset, below) passed away suddenly on April 25, 2018. A regular at local polka dances, Jimmy wore his trademark khaki shorts and black t-shirt no matter what the weather. Consistently dancing almost every dance at any given event, Jimmy Shorts was quick to jump at the opportunity to dance with any willing participant.



Many years ago, I asked him why he chose to wear shorts even in the winter. He sheepishly joked that he did it just to get a rise out of the ladies who constantly tormented him about his choice in attire. My greatest memory will always be at the Polka Meets Country Dance held

last November when Jimmy showed up in jeans, a dress shirt, and boots. I broadcasted my bewilderment by yelling across the room “Where are your shorts? I didn’t even recognize you!” Jimmy laughed so hard and said he wanted to give us all the shock of a lifetime. He will be sorely missed by his polka family, but his memory will live on through his weekly appearances dancing on *Polka Buzz*.

A special tribute show was done in his honor and Special Delivery band also honored Jimmy by having fans dress in shorts for their May appearance at Clinton Bar & Grill. I know he is smiling down from up above as we all fondly remember him.

Cleveland has lost of the funniest, loving, and kind polka fans I have ever met. At my first dance in Seven Springs twenty years ago, I was asked by a tall gray haired man “Why are you wasting time with that guy, wouldn’t you rather waste it with me?” That gentleman, **Paul Kibelbek** turned out to be one of the greatest people I have ever met

through polka music.

His quick wit and hysterical sense of humor were the trademark of a man who left an impression on anyone lucky enough to know him. Paul and his wife Carol were among the first people who made me feel welcome in a sea of people who all knew one another and I knew no one. Paul had the ability to make you feel like you were a lifelong friend in a matter of minutes. He is the only man I know who possibly swore as much as my husband, yet possessed an extraordinary heart of gold.

I am deeply saddened that Paul passed away on April 26, 2018 leaving us heartbroken but no doubt adding much laughter to that polka party in heaven. I will hold dear the memories of Paul at my wed-



Jim Kaminski (left) joined Gorale’s Al Piatkowski for several songs in New York Mills. Guest drummer for the set was John Matyjas.



Longtime Utica area polka fans, Gary and Patty Lekki came out to dance to the music of John Gora.



Jason Flynn and Paulette Niedo at the Roselawn Ballroom.

ding and the many jam sessions in his room at polka events. I can’t begin to count the amount of times I was in the Kibelbek’s room and a hotel manager had to tell us to stop the music. It never rattled Paul, as he would just laugh it off and add a few choice words. My thoughts and prayers continue to be with his wife Carol and their entire family. I look forward to USPA weekend and hearing many outrageous stories about Paul as we remember an ex-

traordinary man.

**THE 64TH ANNUAL SYRACUSE POLISH FESTIVAL** will be celebrated June 22-24, 2018 in Clinton Square. This family-friendly event features three days of fun showcasing Polish heritage, culture, and economical potential for the entire community. There will be non-stop entertainment, Polish food, beer, arts, crafts, and many interactive activities for children.

The festival is run by The Polish Scholarship Fund, a not-for-profit which awards annual scholarships to talented students as well as honoring the “Pole of the Year,” an honoree who contributes to maintaining Polish culture in the community. If you have not attended the event in the past, the trip is worthwhile. The event is held in a town square right in the middle of downtown Syracuse. It is a beautiful backdrop for the sea of red and white which takes over the city for the weekend. This year, polkas will be provided by **Stephanie, Concertina All Stars, Buffalo Touch, John Stevens’ Doubleshot, Salt City Brass**, and more. You can visit [polishscholarship.org](http://polishscholarship.org) for more information.

**AND LAST** (but certainly not least): Polka Fireworks at Seven Springs Mountain Resort will be held July 4-8, 2018. This yearly celebration has been ongoing for 44 years in the beautiful mountains of Champion, Penn. The all-star lineup of bands is hard to beat, and includes **Lenny Gomulka, Box On, Polka Family, John Gora & Gorale, The Boys, Eddie Forman & EFO, Ampol-Aires, The Beat, Ray Jay & The Carousels, The Dynabass, Tony Blazonczyk & New Phaze, Polka Method, Henny & The Versa Js, and The Nu Tones**. Other highlights of the weekend include four poolside polka parties, jam sessions, and Catholic Polka Mass on Sunday.



**June Polka Birthdays**

Birthdays courtesy of John Nalevanko, host of Li'l John's Polka Show, WAVL Radio 910 AM and 98.7 FM, Saturday 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Live streaming at www.PA\_Talk.com. For information, write to: 121 Seminole Dr., Greensburg, PA 15601; (724) 834-7871; johnnalevanon@aol.com.

|    |                             |                |   |                 |
|----|-----------------------------|----------------|---|-----------------|
| 1  | Derryl Schmitz              | 1960           | Musician / Bandleader / Vocalist            | Mich.           |
| 3  | Steve Muchoney              | 1944           | Musician / Vocalist                         | Pa.             |
| 3  | Eddie Forman                |                | Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist            | Mass.           |
| 4  | Rich Sendra                 | 1942           | Musician (Original Versatones)-             | Chicago         |
| 5  | Ray Budzilek Sr.-           | 1929 6-21-82   | Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist            | Ohio            |
| 5  | Big Steve Krzeminski        | 1945 11-6-99   | Bandleader / musician / Vocalist / DJ       | Buffalo         |
| 5  | Rich Biela                  | 1952           | Musician (Drums)                            | Ohio            |
| 6  | Steve Gibala                | 1978           | Musician / Vocalist                         | Pa.             |
| 7  | Rich Benkowski              | 1955           | Musician (Original TBC)                     | Ohio            |
| 9  | Bob Earl                    | 1960           | Musician / Vocalist                         | Toledo          |
| 9  | Dave Smialowski             | 1970           | Polka D.J.                                  | New Castle, Pa. |
| 10 | Fred Brozek                 | 1934           | Lyricist / DJ WTCC                          | Mass.           |
| 11 | Ed Ostry                    |                | Polka D.J.                                  | Ohio            |
| 11 | Major Mel Himes             | 1957           | Polka D.J.-                                 | Erie, Pa.       |
| 12 | Chet Kowalkowski            | 1939           | Musician / Vocalist (Versatones)            | Chicago         |
| 14 | Don (Porter) Baptiste       | 1939           | Musician (Trumpet) / Ha-Lo Musician         | Mass.           |
| 14 | Henry langlois              |                | D.J. / Record Collector                     | Rhode Island    |
| 15 | Jeff Volek                  | 1976           | Musician / Vocalist                         | Pa.             |
| 17 | John Stevens                | 1976           | Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist            | Pa.             |
| 18 | Chester J. Jakoski          | 1933 10-16-07  | Polka D.J. / Promoter                       | Pittsburgh      |
| 18 | Eddie Madura                | 1939 12-25-16  | Musician (Casinos) Bel-Aire Studio Musician | Chicago         |
| 18 | Rick Gazda                  | 1952           | Musician / Bandleader                       | Philadelphia.   |
| 19 | Jimmy Homel                 |                | Musician                                    | Chicago         |
| 20 | Sil Martini                 | 1932 11-13-08  | Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist (Invictas) | Pa.             |
| 20 | Bob Bajek                   |                | Musician (Trumpet) Polka Dot-5 / Lush Band  | Chicago         |
| 20 | Bill Czerniak               | 1946 4-18-02   | Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist            | Minn.           |
| 20 | Steve Spidak                | 1964 2002      | Musician (Drums)                            | Pa.             |
| 21 | Dan Gury                    | 1931           | Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / Arranger | Mich.           |
| 21 | Peter Shalins               | 1946 3-31-2014 | Bandleader / Musician                       | N.Y.            |
| 23 | Rich Raclowski              | 1961           | Musician / Vocalist                         | Wisc.           |
| 23 | Jolly Joe Truszkowski       | 1944 4-23-09   | Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / DJ       | Pa.             |
| 24 | Molly Busta                 |                | Musician / Vocalist (Squeeze Box)           | Ohio            |
| 26 | Francis (Lefty) Lewandowski | 1932 1993      | Musician (Trumpet) Lush Band                | Chicago         |
| 27 | Bryant Gambu                | 1956           | Musician                                    | Chicago         |
| 28 | Julie (Julcia) Dusseault    |                | Vocalist / DJ / Promoter Happy Louie's Wife | Mass.           |
| 28 | Randy Krajewski             |                | Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist-Toledo     | Toledo          |
| 29 | Bob Frydryk                 | 1958           | Musician / Vocalist (EFO)                   | Mass.           |

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# Scholarship Brunch in Doylestown for Scholarship Winners, Officers



**POLISH HERITAGE SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS** (l. to r.): Julia Przybos, Tekla Simon, Natalia Dzietyczk, Grace Majkut, Olivia Shears, Zoe Allen, Dorota Dylinski, Meredith Musman, and Nicholas Zaborowski.



**NEW BOARD MEMBERS** (l. to r.): Barbara Nowicki, Teresa Wojcik, Diana Blichasz, Jean Joka, Marie Hejnosz, Debbie Majka, John Wisniewski, Liz Whitman, Peter Obst, and Dr. Dolores Szymanski. Missing: Margaret Zaleska, Dr. Frederick Brodzinski, and Eleanor Kirbyson.

PHILADELPHIA — On Sunday, May 6, 2018, the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia held its annual Scholarship Awards Presentation and brunch at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pa.

The day's activities started with a Mass, at which the readings were done by scholarship recipients, who also presented the Offering. After Mass, all adjourned to the cafeteria for a variety of Polish cuisine was served.

The Scholarship Program was conducted by Dr. Dolores Szymanski, Chair for the program. Committee members were: Diana Blichasz, Marie Hejnosz, Debbie Majka, and

Peter Obst. Each recipient received a \$1,000.00 Scholarship Award. Dr. Szymanski introduced each awardee and gave a brief synopsis of their interests.

Recipients were: Natalia Dzietyczak (Drexel University), president of the Polish Club at Drexel; Grace Majkut, Sr. (St. Basil Academy), Business; Zoe Allen (Hofstra); Olivia Shears, Construction Management; Nicholas Zaborowski (Temple University), Music; Dorota Dylinski (Rowan University); Meredith Musman (Conestoga High School); and Julia Przybos (University of Pittsburgh).

In addition, the Oath of office was given by Stanley Majkut

to the newly elected Officers/Directors for 2018-2020. They are: Jean Joka, president; Marie Hejnosz, vice-president; Debbie Majka, treasurer; Diana Blichasz, recording secretary; Teresa Wojcik, corresponding secretary. The Directors are: Dr. Frederick Brodzinski, Tiffany Loomis, Irene Musman, Barbara Nowicki, Peter Obst; Dr. Dolores Szymanski, John Wisniewski, and Margaret Zaleska. Appointed Committee Members are Liz Whitman (Membership), and Eleanor Kirbyson (Sunshine).

To learn more about the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia, visit [www.polishcultureacpc.org/orgs/PHSP.html](http://www.polishcultureacpc.org/orgs/PHSP.html).

## American Polonia at a Glance

### CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles County Assessor Jeffrey Prang joined Poland's Consul General in Los Angeles, Jarosław Łasiński in co-hosting the first ever **Kashubian Unity Day** celebration in Los Angeles.

Ethnic Kashubians descended from ancient Slavic peoples and live in what is now considered north-central Poland. Their culture continues to thrive in Poland, but also in areas of the United States and Canada.

Each year, people of Kashubian heritage join together in celebrating Kashubian Unity Day on March 19th, a date which commemorates

the first historical written mention of the Kashubian people in Pope Gregory IX's Bull of 19 March 1238.

In a recorded greeting, Mayor Hanna Pruchniewska of the Polish town of Puck welcomed guests, and expressed his gratitude for the celebration.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti also joined Polish Consul Prang, who descends from Kashubian great-grandparents, and Mayor Pruchniewska. The celebration included performances by opera singer Katarzyna Sądej and the folk dance group Krakusy.

"We certainly hope today's cel-

bration marks the beginning of a new tradition — one which promotes a deeper understanding and appreciation for the diverse cultures which comprise the County of Los Angeles," said Prang.

### CONNECTICUT

NEW BRITAIN — The **S. A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish Studies** and the **Consulate General** of the Republic of Poland in New York will present the Polish film *Hiszpanka (Influence)*, 7:00 p.m., Thurs., June 7, 2018, at CCSU's Vance Academic Center, Room 105. The 2014 film directed by Lukasz Barczyk is steeped in wonder and mystery. It tells the story of a group of clairvoyants committed to restoring the Polish state as World War I dwindles to an end. Polish with English subtitles. Admission is free and the public is cordially invited. For information, contact the Polish Studies program at (860) 832-3010 or [jacquesm@ccsu.edu](mailto:jacquesm@ccsu.edu). Public parking available in campus garages.

The Polish Studies program also announced a Centennial Conference on the one-hundredth anniversary of Polish independence, October 20-21, 2018. Details forthcoming.

### ILLINOIS

CHICAGO — The Polish Museum of America (984 N. Milwaukee Ave.), will hold its **Summer Ball** at Café La Cave in Des Plaines, June 8, 2018. PMA President Emeritus Maria Bronny Ciesla and the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union will be honored with the Polish Spirit Award at the event, which is the Museum's largest fund-raiser of the year. To make a donation or to become a member, visit [www.polishmuseumofamerica.org](http://www.polishmuseumofamerica.org).

### MASSACHUSETTS

NORTHAMPTON — **St. Valentine's Polish National Catholic Church**, 127 King St., will hold a Roast Pork and Turkey Dinner, Sun., June 3, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. in the parish hall. The cost is \$15 for adults; \$7 for children under 12. The menu consists of roast pork and roast turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, cabbage, mixed vegetables, cranberry sauce rolls/butter, coffee/tea/milk and dessert. For further information and reservations, please call the rec-

tory office at (413) 584-0133.

### NEW YORK

NEW YORK — The Kosciuszko Foundation has announced the jury for its **2018 Marcella Sembrich International Voice Competition**. Members will be: Joshua Wino- grade — associate artistic administrator, director, National Council Auditions, The Metropolitan Opera; Diane Zola — director of artistic administration, Houston Grand Opera; Gregory Henkel — managing director: artistic, San Francisco Opera; and Francesco Bottigliero — conductor and composer.

The Competition will take place on November 3-4, 2018 at Ida K. Lang Recital Hall at Hunter College, 695 Park Ave., New York. Singers of all voice types and all nationalities who are 20-32 years of age are invited to apply. Application deadline is September 1, 2018. Visit the Foundation's website for details.

### PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA — The **Pierogie Kitchen**, which has been making homemade pierogi for over a decade from its shop in the Roxborough neighborhood, will soon start shipping across the country.

Founded by Marie Thorpe, it now sells over 30 varieties of frozen and hot pierogi in its Roxborough market as well as its popular stacker sandwiches, and other items.

Visit [www.pierogiekitchen.com](http://www.pierogiekitchen.com) to see the full menu.

### VIRGINIA

WHITE STONE — **Music Publishers of America**, through its **Vitak-Elsnic Division (V-E)**, and artist Alex Meixner have teamed together to create the first recordings drawn from V-E's Polish Collection. The selections for the album are based on the Polish orchestra and dance music books from the 1920-1940 period. To date, the initial phase of recording some has begun. V-E hopes to have a completed album by the end of the year. Details regarding the distribution of this landmark production will be announced later. To learn more, visit [www.musicpublishersofamerica.com](http://www.musicpublishersofamerica.com) or [www.vitak-elsnic.com](http://www.vitak-elsnic.com).

### WASHINGTON

SEATTLE — The **Polish Choir**

**Vivat Musica** invites everyone to a Biesiada concert *Dla Polski* on Sat., June 9, 7:30 p.m. at the Polish Cultural Center *Dom Polski*. The choir will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of Poland regaining her freedom in November 1918. This will be another great sing-along evening with the choir and guest performers. The Polish Home restaurant will be open from 5:30 pm.

This event is in Polish. Make your reservations, as tickets are going fast. Tickets are \$30 per person, which includes a glass of wine and a dessert. For reservations call (206) 434-6106.

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**General Edward Rowny** will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery, June 13, 2018, following a short gravesite service with military honors. Rowny (April 3, 1917–December 17, 2017) was a United States Army lieutenant general. He was a commanding officer in World War II and Korea, a military advisor to five U.S. presidents and a negotiator on the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START).

Rowny was long active in Polish American affairs, and in 1992 fulfilled his fifty-year ambition to return the remains of Ignacy Jan Paderewski to Poland. In 2003, Ambassador Rowny became the vice president of the American Polish Advisory Council (APAC) an organization which promotes Polonia's agenda and encourages them to vote and become government officials. He became president of the APAC in 2007, and held that office until his death.



**The 2018 Summer Session of Polish Language and Culture** starts on Mon., June 18 and ends on Thurs., Aug. 9, 2018. Beginners I section meets Tuesdays (June 19-Aug. 7); Beginners I cont. Section meets on Wednesdays (June 20-Aug. 8); Beginners II section meets on Thursdays (June 21-Aug. 9); Intermediates meet on Mondays (June 18-Aug. 6). All Classes start at 6.30 p.m. and end at 8.20 p.m., and are held at the Kosciuszko Foundation, 2025 O St. NW. The cost is \$350 per person. To register, visit [www.learnpolishdc.com](http://www.learnpolishdc.com) or contact Barbara Bernhardt at [bernhardtbasia@gmail.com](mailto:bernhardtbasia@gmail.com).

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