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THE MOTHER OF SOLIDARITY
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A BASEBALL CARD LEGEND • \$100K FOR THE 100TH A SUCCESS • RESTITUTION AND POLAND-US RELATIONS
JANIKOWSKI HANGS IT UP • TRENTON'S ST. STANISLAUS REVISITED • A DIFFERENT DYNGUS DAY TRADITION

NEWSMARK

DUDA TO VISIT WHITE HOUSE. President Andrzej Duda is meeting U.S. President Donald Trump for talks at the White House on June 12. He will be accompanied by First Lady Agata Kornhauser-Duda. The visit had long been in the works, but the exact date remained to be arranged. The two presidents are expected to discuss defense matters including bolstering America's military presence in Poland. Also, likely to be high on the agenda are energy issuers, chiefly America's LNG (liquid natural gas) lifeline to Poland to reduce its reliance on Russian supplies. Duda will likely raise the Three Seas Initiative, an East-Central European program, which Trump has personally endorsed.

Trump has been invited to attend ceremonies marking the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II in Poland this September, and Duda hopes to get a firm commitment on his participation. This will be the Dudas' second visit to the White House since last September. While in America, the Polish president will also visit Texas and the West Coast.

POLAND STIFFENS PENAL CODE TO CRACK DOWN ON PEDOPHILES. Poland's Sejm has amended the country's penal code to protect youngsters and adolescents from sexual predators. Under the legislative upgrade, the maximum prison term for child rape would be increased from 15 to 30 years, with the most serious offenders facing life imprisonment and. In addition, suspended sentences would be done away with. Up till now, two-year suspended prison sentences had been widespread with the offender back on the streets preying on under-age victims. Penalties for any form of sexual abuse gains minors would be increased if the offender was a teacher, gym instructor, priest, coach, physician, or other person to whom parents had entrusted their children in good faith. Moreover, the statute of limitations would no longer be applied to sex crimes. The measure was adopted by the Sejm in a 263-3 vote with three abstentions. True to form, most of Poland's liberal-leftist "total opposition" boycotted the vote following a stormy debate designed to discredit the conservative government.

KARCZEWICZ VIRTUALLY A WINNER. A Pole has been nominated for the European Inventor Award 2019 for her work in video compression.

Marta Karczewicz has come up with hundreds of inventions that have helped make it possible to stream high quality video, run video conferences, and use virtual reality technology on mobile devices, according to the European Patent Office.

The European Inventor Award was launched by the European Patent Office in 2006. Karczewicz has been nominated for a prize as one of three finalists in the lifetime achievement category.

Karczewicz moved to San Diego in the United States in 2006 to work at Qualcomm, where she is now vice president for technology at Qualcomm Technologies, the European Patent Office said in a statement.

This year's winners of the annual innovation awards will be announced at a ceremony in Vienna on June 20.

ARISE, FLEXITARIANS. Traditionally meat-loving Poles may be finally changing their eating habits, according to the *Rzeczpospolita* daily. The paper cited a study which found 43 percent of Poles say they do not eat meat or are making efforts to limit their consumption.

According to the publication, consumer research company IQS has pointed to a significant new market trend in Poland: flexitarianism, or a semi-vegetarian diet. The study by IQS found the main reason given by Poles for limiting meat intake was concern over antibiotics fed to animals. Avoiding meat for ethical reasons was also becoming more common in Poland.

Committed to Memory



Major General Cezary Wisniewski, commander of the Office of the Military Attaché for Defense, Military, Naval and Air at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, delivers remarks during Baltimore's 19th Annual Katyń Remembrance.

by Richard Poremski

BALTIMORE – On April 7, 2019, approximately 150 people gathered around the National Katyn Memorial for the 19th Annual Katyń Remembrance. They came to honor and solemnly remember the 22,000 Polish military officers, and the inclusive national leadership of Poland, murdered during 1940 in the Katyń Forest at the hands of the Soviet Union's (aka Russian) NKVD mili-

tarized political police. Besides Katyń, this genocide was also collectively carried out at other known locations in Russia, including Mednoe, Kharkov, Starobelsk, and Ostashkov during the second year of World War II.

The Remembrance was organized by the National Katyń Memorial Foundation in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland.

See "Katyn Memorial," page 4

Krakov-built Satellite Launches from Virginia

WALLOPS FLIGHT FACILITY — A unique satellite built by Kraków students was launched into orbit from a NASA-owned center in Wallops Island, Virginia. The KRAKsat is the world's first satellite with magnetic liquid orientation control.

Project team member Alicja Kubera said KRAKsat will be in orbit for about a year, after which it will burn up in the atmosphere. The students will monitor the equipment's work from Kraków using special computer systems.

KRAKsat was launched along with a microSD card with a special load, as a result of the "I fly in space" campaign organized by the students in January. The card with allow enthusiasts to post photographic or graphic material on the satellite.

The student satellite's task is to test an innovative solution — a ferrofluid flywheel.

See "Satellite," page 2

REMEMBERING DAD A Tribute to Polish American Fathers

Stanislaw Suchecki, the Archetypal Polish American

by Dalegor Wladyslaw Suchecki

Stanislaw Suchecki was born on June 11, 1887, in Myszyniec, Poland, the fifth of eight children of Wladyslaw D. and Antonina Kisiel. He landed in New York City in May 1902. Not yet 15 years old, he then went to the Rockville, Conn. home of his older brother, Stefan.

Throughout his teens, he earned his own living. Besides this, he served on the committee to organize St. Joseph's church, which is still in existence. Subsequently he was a bass soloist in its choir. He also played a cornet in a band, acted in a dramatic society, played on the local baseball team, served as president of the local nest of the Polish Falcons of America, and as secretary of St. Michael's Society.

At the age of 21, Suchecki returned to Poland, then under Russian domination, and was drafted into the Czarist Army. He served in the field artillery and later played the baritone horn in the army band. After his two

years and eight months of service were up, he spent some time as a band instructor, before returning to Connecticut.

Upon return to this country, he enrolled in night school, and except for service as president of Nest 552, he led 350 volunteers into the Polish Army then being organized in Canada. Accepted for officer training, he was commissioned a second lieutenant and sent overseas, where he saw combat against the Germans in France.

After Armistice Day 1918, he went with the Polish Army through Germany to Poland to take part in the war against the Ukrainians and Bolsheviks for Polish Independence. After seeing heavy combat duty as a company commander, and later as a battalion commander, he won three major decorations: The Cross of Valor (three times); the Medal of Merit of the Polish Volunteer Army; and the Medal of Merit of the Allied Forces.

Sent to staff officer's school, he remained in the army until the Treaty of Riga was signed.

See "Tribute ...," page 4

Holocaust survivor Edward Mosberg:

"I am here to say that Nazi Germany is responsible for the Holocaust"

reprinted from
Niezależna

"I am saved from the Holocaust and it is my duty to tell the world about the tragedy of the Holocaust," said Edward Mosberg during the commemoration of the sacrifice of the Shiva ceremony of the March of the Living, which took place in the former German camp Auschwitz II-Birkenau.

"I am here to say that I agree with what the Polish Prime Minister, Mateusz Morawiecki said — that Nazi Germany is responsible for the Holocaust," Mosberg said.

Mosberg was a prisoner of the German camps in Płaszów and Mauthausen. At the outbreak of World War II, he was 13 years old. Most of



Stanislaw Suchecki. Returned to Poland to fight for Polish independence.

ALMANAC

VIEWPOINTS

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June Czerwiec

"I cannot imagine a genuinely happy home without music in it." — Ignacy Jan Paderewski (Nov. 18, 1860 - June 29, 1941)

- 1 1434. Death of Polish King Władysław Jagiello (b. 1348), founder of the Jagiellonian dynasty of Polish kings.
2 1343. Treaty of Kalisz.
3 1890. Death of Oskar Kolberg, ethnographer who specialized in Polish folklore.
4 1960. Death of General Józef Haller, commander of Polish units under French Command in 1916 during World War I.
5 1674. Jan III Sobieski elected King of Poland.
6 1818. Death of Jan Henryk Dąbrowski (b. 1755), Polish general and military hero who organized the Polish Legion in Italy in 1797.
7 1982. President Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II meet in the Vatican.
8 1949. Emmanuel Ax, pianist, born in Lvov, Poland.
10 ST. MARGARET Ze świętą Małgorzatą zaczyna się lato. Summer begins on St. Margaret.
11 1741. Austria cedes most of Silesia to Prussia by Treaty of Breslau.
12 1887. Founding of the Polish Falcons of America.
13 1907. Stanley (Kiecal) Ketchel wins the middleweight boxing crown. He holds the title for three years.
14 FLAG DAY (U.S.)
15 HOLY HELPER ST. VITUS Gdy przychodzi Witus suchy, tedy wiedzie z sobą muchy. St. Vitus dry, here comes a fly.
16 FATHER'S DAY (U.S.) 1943. Death of Medal of Honor winner 2nd Lt. Joseph Sarnoski.
17 1966. Polish American leaders, along with Polish American Congress President Charles Rozmarek, join President Lyndon Johnson at the White House to unveil a painting of Our Lady of Częstochowa to mark the millennium Christianity in Poland.
18 1949. Birth of Lech Kaczyński, president of Poland from 2002 to 2010. Kaczyński died in a plane crash en route to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Katyń Forest Massacre in Russia on Saturday, April 10, 2010.
19 1793. Birth of Aleksander Fredro (d. 1876), Polish dramatist noted for his comedies.
20 CORPUS CHRISTI Boże Ciało, a free day in Poland, the religious feastday is marked by Eucharistic processions down city streets and country lanes. In addition to central processions in major cities, each parish also holds its own. It is still celebrated in larger Polish American parishes.
22 1940. Gen. Władysław Sikorski establishes Polish government-in-exile in London.
23 ST. JOHN'S EVE
25 1807. Napoleon sets up Polish "state" of the Duchy of Warsaw.
26 1295. White Eagle made symbol of Poland.
28 1941. German troops occupy Galicia, Poland.
29 1964. Most Rev. Stanislaus Brzana became bishop of Diocese of Buffalo. First Polish American to do so.
30 1911. Birth of Czesław Miłosz, Polish poet who received the 1980 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Tell Them You are Polish (or European, at least)

2020 Census Will Ask White People More About Their Ethnicities

Pinpointing their roots is going to get complicated for many people who identify as white on the U.S. census.

Since 1960, when U.S. residents were first allowed to self-report their race on the census, just answering "White" has been enough to complete the race question. But the federal government is now preparing to essentially ask non-Hispanic white people where they and their ancestors are from as part of the Census Bureau's inquiry into their racial identity.

The U.S. Census Bureau says it is adding a write-in area for the "White" category on the 2020 census questionnaire so that participants can provide their "origins." Instructions on the form the bureau is using in a practice run of the 2020 census suggest examples of origins including "German," "Irish," "English," "Italian," "Lebanese," and "Egyptian."

"Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc.," read the instruc-

tions on the form the bureau is using in a practice run of the 2020 census in Rhode Island's Providence County.

Those suggested answers are among the largest U.S. population groups descending from Europe, the Middle East and North Africa — regions with "original peoples" classified by the U.S. government as "White," according to the federal standards for race and ethnicity data.

Polish ancestry lines follow the maternal side, but the answer is not always easy.

Generations of pre-World War I immigrants considered Germany, Austria, or Russia — the partitioning powers of Poland — the land of their birth, even if Polish was the only language they knew. There are also those who understood the history and politics of the day, but did not identify themselves as Polish for (for example) fear of discrimination when seeking work in the United States.

Then there are those who lived in one country before World War I or World War II, but were either repopulated or repatriated after boundaries were redrawn. Toss in

Bojkos, Lemkos, and other inter-provincial ethnicities, Poles that belonged to the Greek or Russian Orthodox Church (and vice-versa), and it gets pretty complex.

It is even more complicated for children of mixed ethnicities.

"If you are not sure, write 'European,'" says Polish American Journal genealogy editor Steve Szabados.

It is not known how many lines the Census will have for ethnic roots. If you are unsure of ancestral birthplaces — and if the Census has the room — list all of the countries you know about, say Szabados.

"I want all of my ancestors counted," he says. "I am half Polish, but the other half is a mixture of German, Scotch-Irish, and English. I love to say 'I am Polish' because I feel closest to my Polish roots. However, it is difficult for me to pick just one country. Try to honor all your ancestors when you get the chance."

— Original by Hansi Lo Wang/NPR

FREEDOM OVERSTEPS. Elżbieta Podleśna, 51, an LGBT activist, was arrested more than two weeks after posters showing the icon of the Black Madonna of Częstochowa and her Son with LGBT rainbow halos were posted near St. Dominic's Church in the central Polish city of Płock during the Easter weekend, the holiest time of the Christian year.

Podleśna was charged, questioned, and released.

The LGBT version of Poland's most beloved icon was not the only slap to Catholic sensibilities in Płock.

"The profanation of the image of the Mother of God of Jasna Góra in Płock pains [us] greatly. We urge people, regardless of their beliefs and views, to respect the religious feelings of believers. Let's pray for the transformation of hearts and the conversion of unbelievers and enemies of the Church" appealed the prior of Jasna Góra, home to Black Madonna of Częstochowa icon.

BURNING EFFIGY MISUNDERSTOOD. Israel, the World Jewish Congress, and Poland's Jewish community have attacked what they misunderstand as anti-Semitic act.

The tradition of the burning of Judas in effigy — an ancient Holy Week custom — was revived by some residents of the southeastern Polish town of Pruchnik as part of its regional heritage.

Critics failed to realize that Judas was singled out because he was a traitor, not because he was Jewish (all the Apostles were Jews).

Satellite continued from cover

In orbit, the ferrofluid, or magnetic liquid, will be set into circular motion. If it causes a change in the speed and direction of the satellite's rotation, the system will be able to use it to provide orientation control of objects in orbit. Its low cost, simplicity, and reliability could make the ferrofluid flywheel a new standard of technology in the space industry.

"He who wants to get to the source must swim against the current." — Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

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This paper mailed on or before May 31, 2019. The July 2019 edition will be mailed on or before June 28, 2019

100 Years of Diplomatic Relations



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

THE 2019 CELEBRATION OF POLAND'S CONSTITUTION DAY coincided with the centennial of Poland-U.S. diplomatic relations. Pictured is guest speaker U.S. Senator Ron Johnson, chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, and also the Subcommittee on European and Regional Security Cooperation. His speech emphasized the strength of the Poland-U.S. friendship.

"Poland has played a pivotal role in opening up freedom for the rest of Eastern Europe," said Johnson, "and will play a role in opening up freedom for other people around the world."

by **Richard Poremski**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — At least 900 guests and dignitaries flooded the residence of Ambassador Piotr Wilczek on May 7, 2019 to co-celebrate Polish Constitution Day and the centennial of Poland-U.S. diplomatic relations.

The celebrants included the Washington diplomatic corps, military attaches, members of Congress and the U.S. Government, U.S. Armed Forces officers, notable persons, and many leaders and members of Polonia. Tomasz Szatkowski, deputy minister and undersecretary of state at Poland's Ministry of Defense was introduced and recognized by Ambassador Wilczek.

"After Poland regained its independence in 1918 after 128 years of political non-existence, the United States was the first major power to recognize Polish statehood in January 1919," said Ambassador Wilczek. "In this way, a century of close cooperation and friendship officially began, continuing the proud tradition going back to figures such as Kosciuszko and Pulaski."

To highlight the diplomatic centennial, there was the presentation of varied degrees of The Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland to 11 Americans who contributed to the development of Poland – U.S. bilateral relations.

"May 2019 marks another important milestone – 228 years since the adoption of the Polish Third of May Constitution," said Ambassador Wilczek. "This groundbreaking document, the first of its kind on the European continent, was adopted on May 3, 1791. It shares the princi-

pals of modern governance and the philosophy of liberty, democracy and tolerance with its American counterpart; these values permeate the pages of both documents and have been guideposts for our nations ever since."

As the evening progressed, entertainment was provided by the Kuba Cichocki Trio, which played jazz renditions of classic Polish songs. Guests were also treated to various Polish dishes and desserts, expertly prepared by the embassy's kitchen. Baltimore's Ojczyzna Polish Dancers, attired in authentic and colorful folk costumes, delighted many guests by posing for memorable photographs with them.

The significant dual celebrations concluded on a very high note for both Poland and the United States – two countries with their intertwined history, friendship and culture that began during the American Revolutionary War, and is still strong to this day.

Reflecting Pool Wianki Celebration, June 29

The **Polish American Arts Association of Washington, D.C.** will present "Wianki / Polish Summer Celebration," Sat., June 29, 2019, from 6:00-10:00 p.m. at the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool Steps. There will be a picnic and wreath-making workshop at 6:00 p.m. (wreath material and instructions will be available), followed by Polish folk-dance ensembles with performances of Polish music, song and dance.

Bring your picnic basket. The event is free and open to all. For information, visit <http://paaa.us/>.

Piast Institute Names New Executive Director

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. — The Piast Institute announces Malgorzata Tulecki as the new Executive Director. The Piast Institute Board of Directors approved the promotion at a recent board meeting.

Tulecki has been a member of the Piast Institute staff since 2008, beginning as an intern and taking part in the development of the Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition (HDFCC) as an AmeriCorps VISTA member from 2010-2015. Tulecki eventually took on the role of Media, Communications and Development Officer, using her skills to increase donations and grow the Piast Institute's presence in the Polish community and build relationships with leaders and residents of Hamtramck.

Tulecki has developed and organized several Piast Institute pro-



Tulecki

grams including lectures, publications, the Irene Sendler Art Contest, Polish Women's Hall of Fame, Polish consular visits, community breakfasts, and other events to en-

courage community involvement. The Board is pleased to recognize her past accomplishments with this promotion.

The Piast Institute is a national research center that has been devoted to Polish and Polish American affairs for 16 years. It is one of 48 United States Census Information Centers (CIC) and one of two in the state of Michigan. The Piast Institute is also certified by the Department of Homeland Security as an Immigration Assistance site to help with visa, documentation and status issues. The Institute's mission aims to celebrate Polish contributions to American and world culture, and to address and counter inaccurate or defamatory information about Poland, Poles and Polish Americans.

To learn more about the Institute, call (313) 733-4535.

We Need Your Help

As some readers may remember, last November the Polish American Journal's main computer crashed. At that time, we asked readers for donations to cover its cost. We received several, for which we are forever grateful.

However, we have yet to pay for the computer, and subsequent software upgrades, networking, and programs necessary to bring us up to date with currently technology. (The crashed computer and system — although a little over 10 years old — was described as "antique" by a technician). The cost of upgrades has almost doubled the initial price of the computer itself. Because we had no choice but to place the system on credit, we are now faced with additional interest charges.

With hat in hand, we appeal to our readers who may be able to help.

For accounting purposes, the new system is now an asset of the Polish American Journal Foundation, which means donations to cover its payment are now tax-deductible.

Again, is it embarrassing to ask for help, but this is the reality of producing a newspaper — and an ethnic one at that — in the 21st century.

Contributions to the PAJF can be mailed to:

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REMEMBERING DAD

A Tribute to Polish American Fathers

continued from cover

The year 1922 found him back in Rockville, where he continued his night school studies while working as a sample weaver.

In 1924, he met Miss Anna Midura in Hartford, Connecticut and she became his bride in St. Joseph's church in Rockville. In 1925 the young couple moved to South Boston, where their first son was born one month later on August 29.

Suhecki and his wife ran a grocery store in South Boston until 1927, when he entered the employ of the *Polish Daily Courier*, first as a Linotype operator and later as city editor.

Except for some breaks to do some weaving and run another bakery and grocery store in the early 1930s, he spent some ten years with the newspaper.

Following his employment with the newspaper, he again took up weaving and remained active as a weaver until about 1954. He also served as a shop steward in his local of the Textile Workers Union of America for a number of years.

Upon his retirement, he resumed his activity in Polish American circles in Boston. He served as president of Nest 140, Polish Falcons of America; as president of the Boston chapter, *Sarmatia Universal*, Inc.; and as chairman of the Polish Relief Committee of Boston.

Resuming his writing, he contributed many articles, covering the political, cultural, and social life of the Polish American community in the United States, to the *Polish Daily Courier* and to other Polish language publications. His writings have also appeared in Boston newspapers. Over this last decade he produced some six hundred different poems, articles, and songs.

His greatest hobby was gardening and the upkeep of the grounds around his home.

Suhecki was father to three children: Stanislaw R. J. Suhecki, who was an assistant U.S.

attorney in the District of Massachusetts of Boston; Irena S. Szewiola, a counselor in the Los Angeles School System of Sepulveda, Calif.; and Dalegor W. Suhecki, editor and publisher of the *Alpine Beacon*, where this article was first published Nov. 27, 1969.

— submitted by the author's sister, Irena Szewiola.

He Always Found Time for Us

by Bruno Mikos, Jr.



Bruno Mikos, Sr.

My father was a man who had great pride in his Polish heritage, and did all he could to teach his children the same values.

No matter how tired he was from working his two jobs, he always found time to take us to West Pullman Grove to see John-

nie Bomba, Steve Adamczyk, or Li'l Wally, or on Sundays to go the Chet Gullinski polka shows to see the Ampol Aires, Naturals, or Marion Lush. Later in the afternoon it was off to Club 505 or Li'l Wally's Club Carousel for more Polish music. He was known as "Mr. Wandziu Polka," his favorite song.

Dad, we miss you, we miss your voice, we miss your smile, we miss all the good times. We are proud to let the world know you were our father.

Rest in Peace. Love forever and ever.

— Bruno, Jr. and the Mikos Family

Eternal Love



by Edward Bonk, Jr.

I never knew my grandfather, Jozef Bąk (Bonk). He died of Black Lung after working in the anthracite coal mines of Olyphant and Throop, Pa. He was born in 1890 in Zborow, Poland, near Stopnica. My research found he had a brother, Peter Paul Bąk, who I could not find. My father, Edward Bonk, was his only son, whom I was named after. I'll always love my father and my grandfather.

Above is the only photo our family has of our grandfather, Joseph Bąk (1890-1949), and my dad, Edward Bonk, Sr. (1929-1997), with their wives, c. 1945.

Katyn Memorial

continued from cover

Guest speakers included: the Honorable Bernard C. "Jack" Young — acting mayor of Baltimore, and also president of the Baltimore City Council; Honorable Kurt L. Schmoke, University of Baltimore president and past mayor of Baltimore; Zeke Cohen, city councilman; U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen, Maryland; Brigadier General James F. Colman — U.S. Army (ret.); Major General Cezary Wisniewski — military attache, Embassy of Poland; Ambassador Piotr Wilczek — Embassy of Poland. Official pertinent correspondence was received, and read, from U.S. Representative John Sarbanes (Maryland), and Senator/Minister Anna Maria Anders, Republic of Poland.

"It's because of them that we can enjoy the blessings of a proud and free Poland."

— Ambassador Piotr Wilczek

Mayor Young said how proud he was to have such a magnificent and important monument as the centerpiece for the relatively new and vibrant Harbor East neighborhood. Former Mayor Schmoke recounted how motivated he was to secure the present prime location of the Katyn Memorial when the area was then mostly abandoned and derelict, after being approached by the exploratory National Katyn Memorial Committee. The Memorial was dedicated in 2000 and thus began the annual Katyn remembrances at its site. Referencing the Katyn genocide, Councilman Cohen spoke about his family's trials and tribulations during the Holocaust.

"In 2018 we celebrated one hundred years since Poland's restored independence, a milestone that wouldn't have been possible without the resistance put up by thousands of patriotic Poles, including the ones who died in Katyn for refusing to accept Soviet rule," said Wilczek. "It's because of them that we can enjoy the blessings of a proud and free Poland. We say without a doubt that their sacrifice was not in vain. As we mark seventy-nine years since the Katyn Massacre, let's recommit to forever preserving the memory of these heroes."

"That we cannot ever forget the past if we want to make sure to avoid it in the future — never forget, never again," said Senator Van Hollen. "Today we must maintain strong alliances between the democracies to stand up for our common defense," he said.

General Colman commented on the catastrophic loss of Poland's military leadership at Katyn, and reformation of Polish units that fought alongside the British. Major General Wisniewski reminded all the Katyn Forest Massacre was ordered under the hands of Stalin and the Soviet Union's high command.

Earlier that day, a Mass was celebrated at Holy Rosary Church in Polish and English. 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-Katyn airplane crash were honored with a ceremony and eulogy. It claimed the lives of Poland's President Lech Kaczynski, his wife Maria, the chiefs of the Polish Armed Forces, clergy, government officials, institutional leaders and citizens.

Mosberg: Attended March Despite Being Recently Diagnosed with Blood Cancer

continued from cover

his loved ones were killed in the Holocaust.

For Mosberg, attending the march while battling blood cancer is "not any sign of victory. It's just duty to name the perpetrators — the German nation. They and they alone bear responsibility, and certainly not the Poles," he said.

At a time when the Polish government is fighting a controversial battle against attempts to place blame on Poland for the genocide, Mosberg's message is music to the ears of officials in Warsaw.

PRESIDENT ANDRZEJ DUDA

awarded Mosberg the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland for outstanding achievements in the development of Polish-Jewish dialogue and dissemination of knowledge about the role of Poles in saving Jews.

"I am part of the March of the Living, Shoah Foundation, and From the Depths. These are three organizations that educate people around the world about the Holocaust. I was only 13 when the war broke out. Only I survived my family," said Mosberg.

He stressed the March of the Living is not only to tell his story.

Mosberg also agreed with the words of Deputy Prime Minister Jaroslaw Gowin that the Holocaust should not be used in the political game. He added his message is to build a better world for everyone.

ULMA FAMILY REMEMBERED.

In accepting the the Order of Merit Mosberg said he did so "on behalf of myself, my wife, my children and grandchildren, and — most importantly — in honor of my mother, fa-

ther, siblings, and six million Jews, brutally murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust."

He added that he was also dedicating the distinction "to those who



Edward Mosberg, a Holocaust survivor recently decorated with Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, says Nazi Germany alone is to blame for the genocide, "... and certainly not the Poles."

gave away and risked their lives to save Jews during the war, like the Ulma family from Markowa, and hoping for better relations between the Jewish and Polish people."

Itzhak Herzog, son of the sixth President of Israel, Chaim Herzog, former leader of the Labor Party, and currently the leader of the Jewish Agency for Israel, called on world leaders to fight anti-Semitism around the globe, "especially with shocking and dramatic crimes in Europe, in South America and United States."

"It cannot be that 74 years after the war, Jews are in danger again on European streets. They cannot be murdered — neither in Pittsburgh, nor in San Diego, nor anywhere," said Herzog. "Let's take a lesson from the Holocaust to heart; let it be a warning. World leaders must unite. Zero tolerance for crimes committed by hate."

Also in attendance at the March

was the Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians.

"Auschwitz is a symbol of radical evil," said the clergyman, who stressed "the future will not be better than the past, if people from all countries, religions, political views, do not learn from Shoah's lessons."

THE MAIN CEREMONY

took place on a platform set up behind the monument to the victims of the camp, which stands between the ruins of the two largest crema-

tories and gas chambers. March participants — over 10,000 young Jews and Poles — gathered in front of the monument.

During the ceremony, torches symbolized — among others — victims, survivors, and Righteous Among the Nations, people who put themselves at risk to save Jews.

March participants walked to the former Birkenau camp from former Auschwitz I. They passed the so-called *Judenrampe*, the track between the former camps. From spring 1942 to mid-May 1944, there were transports with hundreds of thousands of Jews, tens of thousands of Poles, thousands of Roma, and other deportees. Participants then entered the camp through the historic main gate.

This year's March fell on the 75th anniversary of the deportation of Jews from Hungary, and the liquidation of the Litzmannstadt (Łódź) ghetto.

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\$100k for the 100th Campaign a Success



Celebrated pianist Brian Ganz is seated at the new Steinway grand piano during its formal inaugural at the Residence of Polish Ambassador Piotr Wilczek (standing, left). The piano was generously gifted to the Embassy of the Republic of Poland after a private \$100,000 fund raising campaign.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Republic of Poland celebrated the 100th anniversary of its regained independence on November 11, 2018. The entire calendar year was declared to be the Centennial Jubilee Year of 2018. It encompassed the official “100 for 100” campaign — a kaleidoscope of celebrations, events, concerts and programs, enacted by Poland in league with the Polish diaspora, that were all generously imagined in conjunction with the seminal independence moment in time and the celebration of Poland’s reborn freedom.

Undoubtedly one of the most imaginative and unique of all of the undertakings was the \$100k for the 100th Committee to raise \$100,000 for the purchase of a Steinway grand piano to be gifted to the ambassador’s residence. The spacious residence was purchased by the Polish government in 2008 and underwent extensive and major renovations. Its grand salon accommodates 300 attendees for concerts, and it can also host many more guests when reconfigured for diplomatic events and large receptions.

The stage in the salon was bereft of a requisite piano, until now.

The \$100k for the 100th Committee, a small and independent group, led by Chairperson Wanda O’Brien-Trefil, Ph.D., undertook the daunting task of raising \$100,000 for the purchase of a Steinway grand piano to be gifted to the government of Poland, and housed in the residence of the ambassador in Washington.

The committee’s labor of love came to fruition after sponsoring fund raising concerts utilizing the said piano at the residence, and the solicitation of donations. A very clever funding tactic was to allow personal sponsorship of the piano’s keys and other components, which proved to be very successful. This resulted in the piano’s expense being fully funded by November, 2018.

A black-tie donor’s dinner, coupled with the inaugural concert of the Steinway, took place on March 22, 2019 at the residence of Ambassador Piotr Wilczek. The dinner was followed by a concert of Chopin melodies played by pianist Brian Ganz. The event began with both welcoming and thank you addresses by Ambassador Wilczek, and committee leader O’Brien-Trefil, and concluded with the piano’s deed being officially presented to Ambassador Wilczek by O’Brien-Trefil.

A highlight of the historic evening was the awarding of the prestigious *Americus Poloniae* (Friend of Poland) Award from the hand of Ambassador Wilczek to the members of the \$100k for the 100th Committee members as follows: Chairperson Dr. Wanda O’Brien-Trefil, Gregory Butler, Margret Butler, Brian Ganz, Thomas Pandolfi, David Slan, Dr. James Trefil, and Sasha Kay. It was some very well-deserved recognition for the accomplishment of an amazing achievement.

Stars and Crosses

Reviewed by Mary E. Lanham

STARS AND CROSSES

By Curtis Urness
iUniverse, 2018, 240 pgs.

Mourning the loss of his father, his marriage, and his job, Chic Lucas is spurred to acquaint himself with his family’s heritage by traveling to Poland to somehow connect with his father posthumously. Chic is driven to know what his father and grandfather were forced to endure during the World War II. In his journey he meets a woman with a similar family history. In their time in Poland, they learn how different they are from each other and just how alike they are.

Chic’s father and grandfather were prisoners of Auschwitz. His father was close-lipped about his experiences during this time, leaving Chic to wonder about the details of his father’s and grandfather’s past. Having heard misinformation from a teacher in high school, Chic was confused about exactly why his relatives were imprisoned as they were not Jewish.

On his way overseas, Chic meets a Jewish-American woman, Ruth, who is traveling with her parents to go to an annual Holocaust remembrance. Ruth invites Chic to come to the remembrance when she learns about his family’s past. Chic accepts and grows to understand the pain both their families have gone through. As similar as their backgrounds are, there are enough differences to cause disruptions in their budding relationship. They must figure out how or even if they can overcome them together.

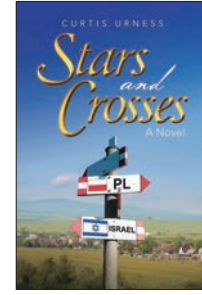
The author has a distinct descriptive writing style which can best be seen when Chic visits the Russian Market in Warsaw:

“Chic, Ruth, and David made their way through the crowded passageways—the primary one, lined with Persian rugs hanging from racks, reminded Chic of an avenue of sails—to the

main market...Hawkers negotiated their prices in a Babel of languages—Russian, Polish, Ukrainian, German, English, Vietnamese, and several African languages. Spread out across the concrete rows were imitation designer watches; intricate, multi-colored jewelry boxes; bottles of vodka and liqueurs; cheap tools; wooden pisanki Easter eggs; religious triptychs; and other icons. Smoke rose from small grills and booths that sold cabbage rolls, bagels, and Vietnamese fried rice.”

❖ ❖ ❖

Curtis Urness has an MA degree in professional writing from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He has written numerous pieces of fiction that have been published in *Monthly Short Stories*, *The Storyteller*, *Kansas City Voices*, *Mindprints*, and other journals. He was nominated for a Pushcart Award by *Kansas City Voices* in 2006 for his story *Turbulent Blue*. *Stars and Crosses* is his first published novel. Urness lives in Kansas City, Missouri.



NEW BOOKS

War Correspondent Fairweather Recounts Pilecki’s Mission

NEW YORK — In the Summer of 1940, after the Nazi occupation of Poland, Polish underground operative Witold Pilecki accepted a mission to uncover the fate of thousands of people being interred at a new concentration camp on the border of the Reich.

His mission was to report on Nazi crimes and raise a secret army to stage an uprising. The name of the detention center: Auschwitz.

It was only after arriving at the camp that he started to discover the Nazi’s designs. Over the next two and half years, Witold forged an underground army that smuggled evidence of Nazi atrocities out of Auschwitz. His reports from the camp were to shape the Allies response to the Holocaust — yet his story was all but forgotten for decades.

Pilecki’s own account, *The Auschwitz Volunteer: Beyond Bravery*, was published by Aquila Polonica in 2014. Now, former war reporter and author of *The Good War*, Jack Fairweather brings an expert’s un-

derstanding to the history of Pilecki. Fairweather’s account — *The Volunteer: One Man, an Underground Army, and the Secret Mission to Destroy Auschwitz* — draws on exclusive family papers and recently declassified files, as well as unpublished accounts from the camp’s fighters to show how he saved hundreds of thousands of lives.

Fairweather is a graduate of Oxford University and has been a correspondent for the *Washington Post* and the *Daily Telegraph*, where he was the paper’s Baghdad and Persian Gulf bureau chief. While living in Baghdad as the *Telegraph’s* bureau chief, he met his wife-to-be, and lived in the house of Saddam’s

former perfume supplier alongside other reporters. As the violence escalated in Iraq, Fairweather survived a suicide bomb attack, a kidnapping attempt, and almost daily mortar attacks around their house.

His reporting while an embedded reporter during the Iraq invasion won him the British Press Award (the British equivalent to the Pulitzer Prize.) He now lives a quieter life, writing history books while raising his three daughters in Vermont. He the author of *A War of Choice*, and *The Good War*.

The 400-page *The Volunteer* (ISBN: 9780753545164) is published by Ebury Publishing, and is available from Amazon.com.

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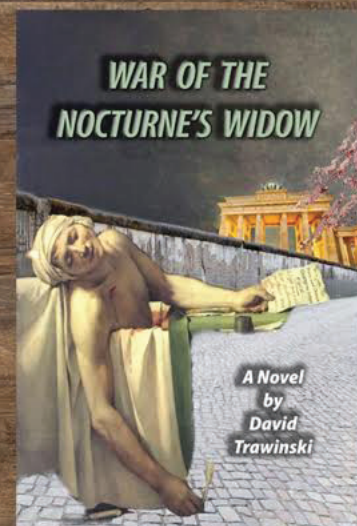
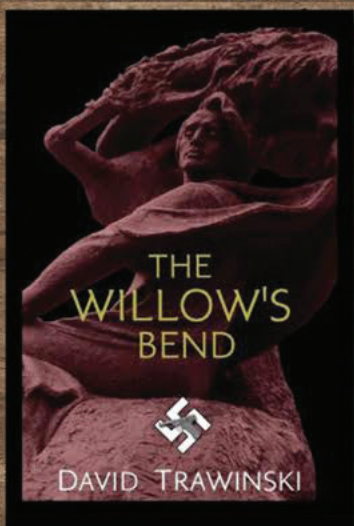
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Act on Restitution for Jews Not Key in Poland-US relations

WARSAW (Radio Poland) — Polish Foreign Minister Jacek Czaputowicz said a U.S. act on monitoring compensation for Holocaust survivors does not have a “fundamental significance” for “well-established” Polish-American relations.

“Poland is one of the U.S.’s closest and most valuable allies. The question of property restitution is one of very many issues raised by the American side in bilateral relations [...] and does not have a fundamental significance for Polish-American relations as a whole,” Czaputowicz told the state news agency PAP.

“This has recently been confirmed by the U.S. Ambassador to Warsaw, Georgette Mosbacher,” said Czaputowicz.

He was referring to the U.S. Justice for Uncompensated Survivors Today (JUST) Act, under which the U.S. State Department is expected to report to Congress on what steps countries in Europe have taken to compensate Holocaust survivors and their heirs for property seized under Nazi German occupation and communism.

“We assess the [JUST] act negatively, even though it does not entail any legal consequences,” said Czaputowicz.

Under Polish law, property without legal heirs belongs to the State Treasury. Poland’s government is readying a bill to protect the country against any claims for compensation over World War II, an official in Warsaw said earlier.

Most of Poland’s large Jewish population was murdered by the occupying Germans during World War II. After the war, a Moscow-backed communist government took power in Poland, confiscated large amounts of property and nationalized it.

Death Penalty Rejected

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Knoxville, Tenn.’s **Bishop Richard Stika** joined his fellow Tennessee bishops in a letter asking the governor to establish his legacy as governor by not presiding over any executions during his term. In their argument against the death penalty the bishops called attention to the data which show that many have been released from death row across the country after they have been found innocent of the crime. They also maintain that the death penalty is not necessary to protect society.

The bishops recalled St. John Paul II’s call for an end to the death penalty, which he saw as both cruel and unnecessary. The late pope said, “It is simply not necessary as the only means to protect society while still providing a just punishment for those who break civil laws. Rather than serving as a path to justice, the death penalty contributes to the growing disrespect for human life and continues a cycle of violence in society.

The bishops were particularly opposed to the previous governor’s program of “fast-track” executions.

UNCOUTH MARKETING REMOVED. Online retailer Redbubble was forced to remove several items from its site after the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum condemned it for allowing products — including a \$45 throw pillow and \$40 mini skirt — depicting scenes of the concentration camp.

“Do you really think that selling such products as pillows, miniskirts or tote bags with the images of Auschwitz — a place of enormous human tragedy where over 1.1 million people were murdered — is acceptable?” the Auschwitz Memorial wrote in a tweet, calling the casual

use of concentration camp photos “disturbing and disrespectful.”

Redbubble, which sells print-on-demand products of user-submitted artwork, responded promptly, and thanked the Memorial for alerting it about the products. It emphasized that users upload items to the site themselves and must take responsibility” for them.

The Auschwitz Memorial has also recently taken tourists to task for disrespectful behavior on its grounds, including those who took photos of themselves balancing on the train tracks.

PREACHING THE SEVEN LAST WORDS ON GOOD FRIDAY.

Breaking the tradition of having one priest offer reflections on all the Seven Last Words of Jesus on the Cross during the Good Friday devotions, the Jesuit Church of St. Michael’s in Buffalo, N.Y., invited seven Sisters of Mercy each to offer a reflection on one of the traditional seven sayings of the crucified Jesus. **Sr. Mary Priscilla Faltisko** and her six Sisters of Mercy companions offered reflections which were widely acclaimed by the congregation for their death and insight.

LIBERATION OF DACHAU MARKED.

On April 29 the Polish Church marked the anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi German concentration camp at Dachau, a place of imprisonment for many of the one-fifth of Polish clergy murdered by the German Nazis during the World War II occupation of Poland. Despite the terror unleashed against them during the Germans’ war — not just against the Polish state but also against the Catholic Church — about 1,000 priests in Poland saved Jews at the risk of their own lives, with some murdered for this help.

“The Second World War showed how the negation of God as the sole master of human life and the negation of the dignity of every human being brings tragic consequences,”

said **Fr. Pawel Rytel-Andrianik**, spokesman for the Polish Bishops Conference. “Where there is no respect for human life, totalitarianisms emerge that take the place of God and lead to such catastrophes as the Second World War.”

ARCHBISHOP WAS AGAINST FAKE PRIESTS.

Archbishop Thomas Wenski warned Miami Catholics against phony priests who have been scamming parishioners for money and gift cards, supposedly for good causes. He assured the faithful that “no Catholic clergyman will ask a parishioner for a gift card.” The scammers even went so far as to sign either Archbishop Wenski’s name or that of his auxiliary bishop to the begging letter. Similar scam letters have been received in the Scranton diocese, Philadelphia and Texas.

FOLLOWING BUFFALO’S LEAD.

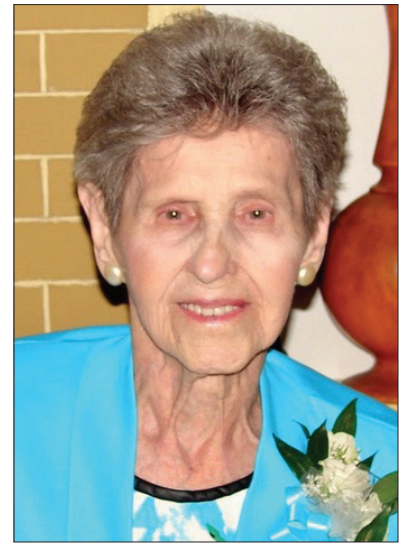
A court ruled against the Philadelphia Archdiocese in stating the state’s non-discrimination law requires all adoption/foster care agencies to place children with same-sex couples. The archdiocese argued that it had received no complaints from same-sex couples over exclusion for their adoption services. The court overlooked this fact, and thus has placed future Catholic adoption/foster care services in jeopardy.

The same requirement in Buffalo caused Catholic Charities director **Dennis Walczyk** to withdraw Catholic Charities from adoption/foster care services since they had found placements only in traditional families.

STO LAT TO ... Jesuits Christopher Grodecki and Adam Rosinski, on their ordination to the priesthood along with three companions in the chapel at Fordham University.

Aaron Kulczyk, Robert Owczarczak, and Patryk Sobczyk, on their ordination along with five companions in St. Joseph’s Cathedral, Buffalo, N.Y.

Birthday Blessings



PAULINE SOKOL (formerly Saklaczynski), a long-time PAJ subscriber, will celebrate her 106th birthday on June 25.

Pauline was born in Gary, Indiana in 1913, and moved to Chicago after marrying Stanley Sokol in May 1942. They lived on Chicago’s Northwest side, have three daughters, and were happily married until Stanley’s death in 1979.

Family has always been Pauline’s top priority, as has her pride in Polish heritage. She delighted in preparing kolacky, chrusciki, pierogi, gołabki and other mouthwatering delights for family and friends, as well as making holidays special by observing Polish holiday traditions.

Although Pauline, the oldest sibling, left her family of three brothers and five sisters in Gary, the Sokol / Saklaczynski family remained a close-knit group spending most Sundays in Gary.

One cannot imagine the changes Pauline witnessed in her life. She was born when Woodrow Wilson was president, before commercial aircraft came into being, and before automobiles were mass produced. Electricity and indoor plumbing were just futuristic ideas for the everyday family. She has lived through World War II, the Great Depression, Civil Rights riots, and many other national conflicts.

Today, Pauline continues to enjoy life, living at home, working jigsaw puzzles and listening to Polish music. Her secret to longevity is simple — trusting in the Lord and being with those you love.

Congratulations, Pauline, on this remarkable occasion.

Kielbasa Contest Names Winners

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Many contestants in this year’s Buffalo’s Best Kielbasa Contest believed they had what it took to be named the best.

The annual event, sponsored by Fillmore District Councilman **David Franczyk**, was held Dyngus Day, April 22, at Buffalo’s Broadway Market.

This year’s winners were: Best Fresh Homemade: David and Michael Pruski; Best Smoked Homemade: David and Michael Pruski; Best Non-Traditional Homemade: Mark and Keith Bednarz; Best Fresh Commercial: Melloni’s Meats & Catering; Best Smoked Commercial: Sahlen’s; Best Non-Traditional Commercial: Dickey’s BBQ Pit; and People’s Choice Award: Dickey’s BBQ Pit.

DID YOU KNOW? Although *wujek* is becoming the standard word for uncle, there are two words for “uncle” in Polish: *stryjek* is the father’s brother and *wujek* — the mother’s brother.

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, most recently, replacing a computer workstation. **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.

A sincere “THANK YOU” for your donation to the PAJ PRESS FUND: **John Cieniawski**, Posen, Ill.; **Joan Grzybala Hathaway**, Peabody, Mass.; **Richard Jagusiak**, Brooklyn, N.Y.; **John Kasper**, Lumberton, N.J.; **Elizabeth Klaczak**, Bethal Park, Pa.; **Dr. John Niziol**, Clifton, N.J.; **Kathy Obarski**, Newark, N.J.; **Dennis Piotrowski**, Torrance, Calif.; **Henry and Barbara Szwak**, Audubon, N.J.; **Rev. Carl Urban**, Schenectady, N.Y.; and three **Friends of the PAJ**. Dziękujemy wam wszystkim! The PAJ thanks all who donated.

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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.

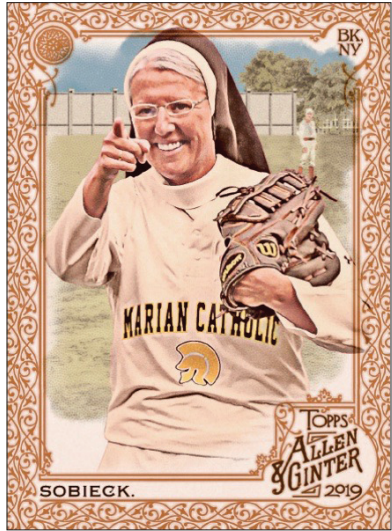
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HAPPENINGS CHICAGO SYLE

Sr. Mary Jo Sobieck Becomes a Baseball Card Legend

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — There is no debate that on August 18, 2018, **Sister Mary Jo Sobieck, OP**, and her epic perfect pitch at the beginning of the Kansas City Royals and Chicago White Sox game at Guaranteed



Sr. Mary Jo Sobieck Baseball Card

Rate Field (GRF) caught the attention of many. It is an undisputed fact that she stole the show, as she threw one of the most epic first pitches ever seen that season or any other season. It was Marion Catholic High School's night at GRF, where Sister Mary Jo is a theology teacher. As she took to the mound, calmly under the bright lights, she looked like a professional right-handed pitcher, and proceeded to throw a perfect curveball first pitch strike. The Royals may have won the game, 3-1, but Sr. Mary Jo was the main attraction.

This April, she was approached by Topps Allen and Ginters Baseball Card Company. It offered to produce a baseball card with her image that would fit perfectly in its baseball series. The card image

shows Sr. Mary Jo on the pitcher's mound pointing at Sox pitcher Lucas Giolito, who caught her pitch. Topps gave her \$1,000 which will be donated to the Sister Mary Jo Endowed Scholarship Fund. She is hoping for matching funds to support Catholic education. Her baseball card will be available this summer. She will be permanently etched in the history of baseball cards.

and the general audience to Poland's history, culture, tourist attractions, and its natural beauties. The two traveled to Warsaw, Malbork, Kraków, Wrocław, Gdynia, Hel, the wonders of the Wieliczka's salt mines, and the former German Nazi extermination camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Morawiecki admitted that his greatest regret was that he had only limited time and had to choose a few from among the



Morawiecki and Greenberg on stage at the Lyric Opera House.

POLAND - THE ROYAL TOUR. Mateusz Morawiecki, Poland's prime minister, was in Chicago on April 16 to host the Chicago premier of "Poland - The Royal Tour." This one-hour film documentary was produced by Peter Greenberg, well-known American journalist, travel expert, and friend the prime minister. A special presentation of this documentary took place on a large screen at Chicago's Civic Opera House, (Lyric Opera), with nearly 2,000 guests attending. To add to the excitement of the evening, many guests came dressed in the native costumes of the various regions of Poland. In the film, Morawiecki introduced Greenberg



Greenberg and Morawiecki on the cover of *Travel Weekly*, announcing Greenberg's documentary on Poland.

many interesting places in Poland. As he said "Poland is beautiful!"

The documentary, sponsored by the Polish National Foundation and



(l. to r.): Owsiany, Kot, Anna Sokółowski, Robaczewski, Kuśmierczak, and Bucki.

the Polish National Alliance, later aired on April 22 on Chicago's PBS Channel 11.

PMA VOLUNTEERS HONORED.

Every year, the Polish Museum of America (PMA) holds its annual **Volunteer Appreciation Day** to express its gratitude to all who volunteered the previous year. On April 11 approximately 150 volunteers were honored for their work in the Museum library, helping to organize PMA events, cataloging documents, assembling exhibits, helping with the PMA's Summer Gala and Pulaski Day celebrations, and working at the library's annual book sale. Special recognition was given to **Lucie Bucki, Jamie Kuśmierczak**, and, posthumously, **Mark Sokolowski** as Volunteers of the Year.

PMA President Richard Owsiany, Managing Director Małgorzata Kot, and PMA Chairman James Robaczewski expressed their gratitude to the volunteers.

PAA RECEIVES VANGUARD AWARD.

On April 10, the **Polish American Association (PAA)** received the Chicago Bar Association's 2019 Vanguard Award for its outstanding work in making the law accessible to PAA clients. Steve Rakowski, PAA board and Advocate Society member, nominated the PAA for this prestigious honor. **Magdalena Dolas**, PAA executive director, accepted the honor on behalf of the PAA.

HIGHLANDER ANNIVERSARY.

Kolo Nr. 1, the **Jan Sabala Society** of the Podhale Association of North America, held its 90th Jubilee, May 18, at the Podhalan House on S. Archer Ave. In addition to cocktails, dinner, and presentation, live gorale music was provided by the Mańcorz & Zubek Band, followed by Chicago's Music Company.

President of Kolo Nr. 1 is **Czesław Kowalkowski**, 80, who has been a member of the society his whole life.

PENNSYLVANIA

Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia Awards Six Scholarships

PHILADELPHIA — This year, six scholarships of \$1,000 dollars were given. The Wnukowski Family funded a scholarship in memory of Regina and Joseph Wnukowski. This was awarded to Emilia Rozbicka. Debbie and Henry F. Majka, through the Philadelphia Foundation, funded a scholarship which was awarded to Emma Szymanski. Out of over twenty applicants, these exceptional students were selected.

Julia Millie Tomczak is a senior at Central Bucks High School with dual enrollment at Bucks County Community College. She maintains a 4.0 Grade Point Average at both schools. Julia plans to use the scholarship to further her education at Delaware Valley University where she will study Food Science and Chemistry.

Kamil Karpiak is completing his senior year at Daniel Boone Area High School in Birdsboro, PA. Kamil excels academically while pursuing his passion: music. He is a member of the Tri-M Music Honors Society, the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra (Oboe Section Leader), the Reading Symphony and Youth Orchestra. He shares his talents by giving monthly piano and oboe recitals at the Keystone Villa Retirement Home. He hopes to one day perform with an orchestra.

Emma Szymanski is in her



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS AND POLISH HERITAGE SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS (l. to r.): PHSP President Jean Joka; Secretary Diana Blichasz; Vice-president Marie Hejnosz; students Julia Mille Tomczak, Kamil Karpiak, Emma Szymanski, Emilia Rozbicka, Matthew Ziarnik; Scholarship Committee Chair Dolores Szymanski; Treasurer and Hon. RP Consul Debbie Majka; and Peter J. Obst.

freshman year at Temple University where she is pursuing an undergraduate degree in psychology. She is in the process of applying to the Honors Program. Her GPA in the first semester was 3.85 and she received Dean's List recognition. While a student at Renaissance Academy Emma excelled in Honors Level and Advanced Placement courses. Her school activities included: National Honors Society,

Co-exist Club, a service trip to Costa Rica and dancing in the Nutcracker Ballet.

Emilia Rozbicka attended high school in Poland but decided to pursue her education in the United States. At the age of 19 she left her family and friends to search for wider opportunities. Emilia currently attends Camden County Community College where she majors in biology. She lives with her

grandmother, aunt, uncle and cousins. Her aunt is her model who provided reassurance and encouragement, as she is one generation away from Emilia's experience. Currently she shadows doctors at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Camden, NJ. Her goal is to become a physician's assistant.

Matthew Ziarnik is a freshman at Villanova University majoring in Civil Engineering. His current GPA

is 3.78 and illustrated a tremendous commitment to his studies and a well developed work ethic. He is continuing a pattern of academic achievement that began in high school where he completed a total of eight Advanced Placement courses. (This translates into an impressive 28 college credits!) In addition to his academic work at Villanova he is involved in campus life. He is co-president and founder of the Polish-American Cultural Society at the university; a member of the Villanova Singers and the Engineering Student Council. Matthew hopes to become a licensed professional.

Matthew Purcell was not able to attend the ceremony (his mom was there to represent him), because on May 5th he was attending the Connelly Foundation event at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia where as a Neuman Scholar he was asked to speak. He was ranked as number one in the class standings of his senior class at Father Judge High School. During his time there, Matt took part in a large number of Advanced Placement courses (4 this year alone) while involved in a rich volunteer life in his school, community and parish (St. Albert the Great. He earned a 1530 score on his SAT exam which positions him well for his future career in engineering.

THIS PAGE SPONSORED BY



POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 34th 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 seven hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok, Grajewo, and Ostroleka. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

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

MINNESOTA VOICE

Carp: Minnesota's Tale of Two Fish

by Mark Dillon

Minnesota offers two perspectives about carp: a Christmas time delicacy celebrated by more than just the Polish, and a fish that is despised, corralled and processed by the tens of thousands to become feed for wolves.

At Minnesota's 87th annual Festival of Nations the first weekend in May, the Czech and Slovak cultural booth offered an explanatory display about the relationship that people in the Czech Republic have with *Cyprinus carpio*, the common carp.

As in the days immediately preceding a Polish *wigilia*, Czechs shop for live carp to take home and store in bathtubs or buckets until the fish are ready to be beheaded, chopped into slices, soaked in milk, breaded and pan-fried or baked.

The St. Paul festival featured artificial fish covered in photos of carp crafted with the help of the Swedish Institute in Minneapolis last fall for



DR. PRZEMEK BAJER holds a large Minnesota *Cyprinus carpio*. The Polish American scientist is a leading expert on carp behavior. For the past four years, Bajer's company, Carp Solutions LLC, helps Minnesota's public watershed districts remove as many as 20,000 carp annually so they don't crowd out native species such as walleye and bass. Considered invasive in northern lakes, carp can live 60 years.

corns.

Each year the Festival of Nations lures dozens of schools from across Minnesota to an annual educational gathering of music, dance, multi-ethnic food, a gift boutique bazaar

of introduced fish become invasive in some geographic regions but not in others and how predation, disturbance and ecosystem productivity play a role in that,' Bajer says on his website.

Bajer's work includes adapting a device known as the "salmon cannon" in Washington State (it helps salmon overcome obstacles on upstream runs) into a carp vacuum cleaner.

Carp tend to gather in schools as Minnesota's tough winters approach, providing a late autumn opportunity to gather them with nets. But nets easily tear, get stuck on rocks and get clogged with weeds. Bajer's system, first used last year at a watershed north of St. Paul, relies on an electric fence-type system to guide fish through a sucking mechanism.

BAJER HAS STUDIED CARP for 13 years and discovered they migrate like salmon. Carp species represent four of the top five most-cultivated food fish on fish farms in the world, led by China, according to a 2018 report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Cyprinus carpio* accounts for 8% of all fish eaten annually across the world. Grass carp, silver, and bighead carp (also known as Asian carp), account for another 19%. Grass carp and bigheads are grown on fish farms in Poland.

Modern Slovakia, which has similar Christmas Eve carp dishes to those found in Poland, is the place where carp were first documented in Central Europe. A report by the Royal Ontario Museum in Canada in 1974 found that around 15 A.D. Romans encountered the fish while encamped at a Celtic village at the mouth of the Morava River.

Near the site of present-day Bratislava, archeologists then also discovered stone reliefs that showed that the XIVth and XVth Roman legions were fed on carp fished from the Danube River, the report said. It is speculated that as the Moravian Empire and Christianity later spread across the Carpathians into Poland, so followed carp-related traditions.

Carp are not native to North America, but began arriving from Europe after the U.S. Fish Commission and State of California is-

sued a permit in 1872 to German-born entrepreneur Julius Poppe to bring in six fish. He promoted carp aquaculture to immigrant communities across the country, and the fish multiplied. The bathtub storage tradition also emerged in the 19th century amid improvements in urban indoor plumbing at a time before refrigeration and freezers were widely available.

In the suburban Twin Cities, Carp Solutions remains sensitive to the fish's cultural roots even as it goes about its growing lake cleaning business, accommodating individuals and groups who request a small share in the annual harvest.

"Let us know ahead of time and we'll see what can do" says General Manager Jordan Wein.

Last fall, for example, Wein said the company shared part of its catch

along the tide-waters of Lake Minnetonka with a Jewish man to make gefilte, a dish made from a poached mixture of ground deboned carp traditionally served as an appetizer in balls. These are popular on Shabbat and Jewish holidays such as Passover.

In Poland, gefilte fish, referred to as *karp po żydowski* is a traditional dish also served in some Catholic homes (especially in the northern regions near the Baltic Sea) on Christmas Eve and Holy Saturday as a reminder of Christ's Jewish roots.

THERE'S PLENTY OF CARP to go around in Minnesota. Lake Minnetonka, the largest lake in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, is thought to

USDA Nutritional Information on Common Carp

(Based on 300 grams of raw fish or 10.5 ounces)

Protein 53 grams
Total lipids (fat) 16.8 grams
Phosphorus 1245 milligrams
Potassium 999 milligrams
Cholesterol 198 milligrams
Calcium 123 milligrams
Vitamin D 2964 nanograms/milliliter

Source: USDA National Nutrient Database, 1 April 2018

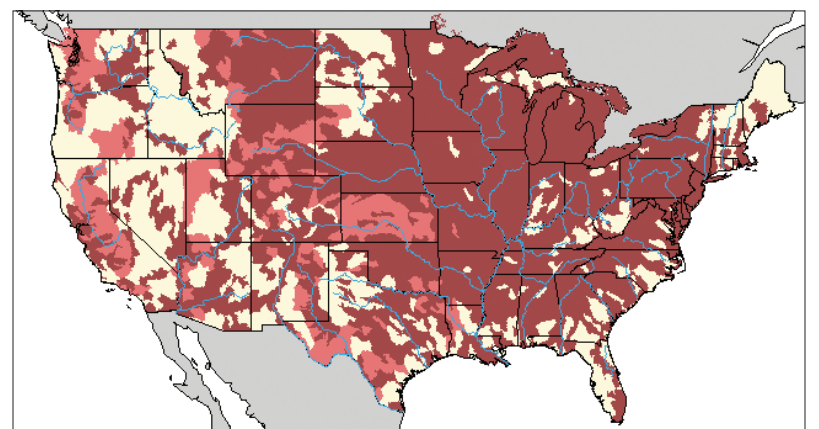
nutritious (see chart) like salmon. In fact, in 2017, Polish researchers Renata Pyz-Lukasik and Danuta Kowalczyk-Pecka documented the fatty acid profiles of grass and bighead carp in the *Journal of Food*



CZECH THAT CARP. A royal representative of the Miss Czech Slovak Minn. Pageant demonstrates the multicultural tradition of selling carp for Christmas at the Czech & Slovak cultural booth at the Minnesota Festival of Nations in St. Paul, May 5.

Quality. Common carp in Minnesota are also generally freer of pollutants than fish further downstream along the Mississippi River or lakes in southern states or many saltwater fish, according to the USDA.

In Minnesota, where the white, flaky walleye has been the official state fish since 1965, and a heavy Scandinavian influence favors had-



CARP CONCENTRATIONS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES. The darker the shading the heavier the concentration of *Cyprinus carpio*, or common carp. When Polish Americans first arrived in 1609, there were no carp in America. The fish first arrived in the 1870s from Germany.

Source: United States Geological Survey website.

be home to 60,000 carp, according to state regulators. Most of Carp Solutions' annual catch winds up at wildlife shelter and rehabilitation centers, fodder for endangered mammals such as wolves, as well as raptors.

While it has a reputation as a "rough fish," carp are actually quite

dock, cod, halibut, and herring, the lowly chicken yellow-fleshed carp has a tough time getting on mainstream menus. Even at the Polish American Culture Institute of Minnesota's annual Wigilia, typically held a few weeks before Christmas Even, carp hasn't been part of the meal in recent memory.



POLISH FOLK DANCER MIJA PETROS of Minneapolis takes a break to pose at the Polish Bazaar sales booth at the Minnesota Festival of Nations in St. Paul, May 5.

a Czech-themed holiday display. A mock bucket provided price options in krone for live whole, dressed filets and fish heads, which are used to make a milk-based soup with onions, carrot, celery and pepper-

and culture booths planned around a central theme – for 2019 "World Festivals and Celebrations."

Missing from the focus this year, however, was an effort to create an awareness of carp's global identity, the fish's 2000-year history, and the environment impact of carp in a modern Minnesota context, in most cases as an invasive species in the lakes and streams feeding into the state's 10,000 lakes.

ENTER POLISH AMERICAN SCIENTIST Dr. Przemek Bajer from the University of Minnesota's Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology, one of America's foremost researchers on carp. Bajer earned his master's degree at the University of Lodz before coming to the United States and earning his PhD at the University of Missouri.

For the past four years, Bajer's company, Carp Solutions LLC, helps Minnesota's public watershed districts remove as many as 20,000 carp annually so they don't crowd out native species such as walleye and bass.

"My current work focuses on understanding why some species

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POLAND IN BRIEF

POLAND'S AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL MAREK MAGIEROWSKI was verbally and physically assaulted by an Israeli architect outside Poland's Embassy in Tel Aviv. Arik Lederman, 65, hurled insults and spat on Magierowski before driving off in his car. The ambassador photographed the car's license plate and reported the incident to the police, who detained Lederman 90 minutes later. He apologized, claimed he didn't know Magierowski was ambassador, but has been charged and may face a jail term if convicted.

Lederman said he was going to the Polish Embassy to inquire about property restitution. Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki expressed outrage over the incident, and Israel's ambassador to Poland

was summoned by the Foreign Ministry to hear an official complaint.

POLAND'S FIRST RECORDED SEXTUPLETS BORN IN KRAKÓW.

Sextuplets were successfully delivered recently at Kraków University Hospital. Two boys and four girls, whose weight averaged 2.2 lbs, were placed in incubators, and their mother was reported in good condition. That information came to light at a special press conference held on the occasion. The doctors assisting the delivery said this was probably Poland's first sextuplet birth ever recorded. "Initially such infants require assistance breathing and their digestive tracts must be activated. One of the newborns had to be intubated," explained Profes-

sor Ryszard Lauterbach, the director of the hospital's Neonatology Clinic. "But that is usually only a temporary measure," he added.

THE BODIES OF TWO YOUNG POLISH SCIENTISTS

were found at the base of a mountain in Norway following an apparent fall of several hundred yards. After leaving the Polish Polar Station near Norway's Hornsund fjord they failed to show up at the base camp. Rescuers were immediately put on their trail and a short while later found their bodies at the bottom of a landslide in which they had apparently fallen to their death. There were no witnesses to the accident. They were part of an expedition organized by the Polish Academy's Geophysics Institute.

POLONIA PLACES

Trenton's St. Stanislaus**ST. STANISLAUS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

60 Randall Ave.
Trenton, New Jersey
Status: Inactive

by Gregory L. Witul

Central Jersey has long been home to its own Polonia, with the state capitol of Trenton as its epicenter. Distinct from the Polish enclaves of New York City and Philadelphia, these New Jersey Poles carved out their own distinct community. They published their own newspapers, formed unique social organizations, launched businesses, and started clubs. The genesis of it all was St. Stanislaus Church in Trenton.

In the 1870s, as Poles began moving to America *en masse*, a community quickly developed in Trenton. These first Poles began attending Our Lady of Lourdes parish, over-
seen by the

German-speaking Franciscan Friars of Immaculate Conception Province. To support their Polish parishioners, the Franciscans would invite Polish priests that would hold special missions, devotions, and hear confession. In the 1880s, Father Leopold Moczygemba, OMF Conv. was brought in for one such mission and from it the seeds of St. Stanislaus were planted. The leaders of the Polish community were so inspired by Reverend Moczygemba that they urged the Franciscans, led by Father Jachetti, to petition the bishop to start a Polish parish in Trenton.

Seeing that there was a need for such a church, the Bishop Farrell agreed to allow the formation of the parish. While the new congregation waited for its first pastor to arrive from Poland, Father Moczygemba began working on their behalf to secure the property on which the new church would be built. In the fall of 1890, newly ordained Fr. Stanislaus Czelusniak was greeted by his parishioners and fundraising for the church was soon underway. After three months, Father Czelusniak was confident he had the monies necessary to build a church and soon

informed the Chancery. On January 24, 1891 Bishop Farrell issued a letter establishing St. Stanislaus parish — that autumn, construction of the church began; it would be dedicated in 1893.

Shortly after the completion of the church, Father Felix Baran took over St. Stanislaus. Father Baran, a great lover of education began the parish's school. It would be under his guidance that Sister Colette Hilbert would begin her journey as an educator, leading to the organization of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph and eventually Hilbert College in Hamburg, N.Y.

St. Stanislaus would thrive for over a century, but by the start of the new millennium it had begun to suffer in much the same way as the city it called home. On July 1, 2005 St. Stanislaus was merged with the Church of the Holy Cross and Saints Peter & Paul Church to form Divine Mercy Parish. This new parish would only last a dozen years when it too was merged, now with Sacred Heart Parish. While the church is no longer an active worship site, the St. Stanislaus campus is home to the Ogniwo Polish Learning Center.

A Different Dyngus Day Tradition: Retro-Ski!

A woman takes part in the annual Easter Monday Retro Ski competition in Zakopane, Poland. The fun event always attracts a large crowd of onlookers.

by Matthew Stefanski

ZAKOPANE —Nobody is safe on Easter Monday — safe from water that is. The young and the young at heart douse their loved ones in water to celebrate what is fittingly called Wet Monday. This custom is common across Poland and has spread to cities in the United States where Dyngus Day celebrations are held.

In the resort town of Zakopane, nestled at the foot of the Tatra Mountains, Easter Monday also includes a more unique tradition: an annual ski competition "Zawody o Wielkanocne Jajo."

But there's a catch: all contestants have to compete on antique skies while dressed in period garb.

To get to the competition grounds, tourists and townsfolk alike take buses and jitneys to Kuznice and then hike about 30-40 minutes to the Dry Couloir "Suchy Żleb" just off to the side of the Katalowki Glade, right in the heart of the Tatra Mountain National Park.

With Easter this year being near the end of April, there was not much snow on the ground except in the high Tatras, however the organizers ensured that a section with enough snow was portioned off so that the competition could be held.

The several dozen competitors brave enough to take part in this year's showcase were immediately identifiable by their woolen pants, colorful dresses and wooden gear amidst the crowds of onlookers in contemporary winter wear. As the skiers made their way — by foot — to the starting line, onlookers jostled for a spot alongside the prepared course to cheer on the skiers.

One skier was dressed as an early member of TOPR, the Tatra Volunteer Search and Rescue. Identifiable by their iconic blue cross emblem, TOPR is one of the oldest mountain rescue associations in the world, celebrating their 110th anniversary this year. A lady in a long dress down to her ankles skied imposingly with a large bag on her back, as if on her way into town for the weekly market. Another man wore the old imperial Austrian military uniform, harking back to the time when this area of modern day Poland was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Several skiers wore traditional highlander clothing, which, while no longer a typical skiing outfit, can nevertheless still be seen worn regularly around the region, especially on Sundays. Some skiers wore tools

around their waists such as an ax, or tied ropes around their chest, recalling a time when skiing involved unpredictable conditions and un-groomed trails. Other skiers accessorized with binoculars, funky glasses, woolen sweaters, as well as hand woven mittens and knee-high socks.

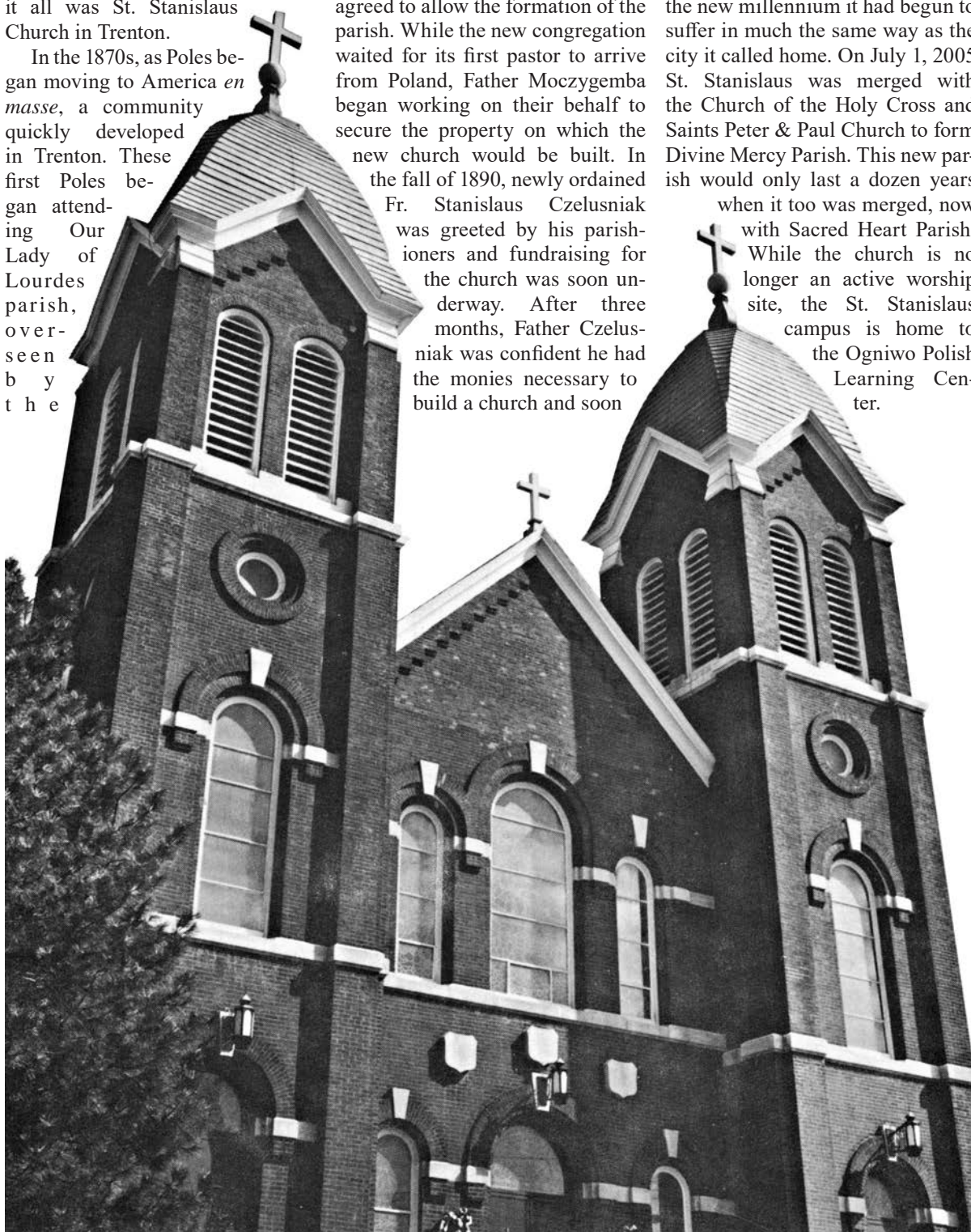
The retro-skiers helped conjure up an image of Zakopane from years past, a place that now mostly exists only on the pages of history books. A time before the commercialization and luxuries of modern comfort, when Zakopane served as a refuge to scores of artists and bohemians. Absurdist Stanislaw Ignacy Witkacy, composer Karol Szymanowski and writer Stefan Zeromski all called Zakopane home at some point in their lives, a testament to the spirit of this incredible place. The vintage skiing competition perhaps allowed onlookers to momentarily escape the here and now, to consider how the imposing mountains — unchanged around them — have offered inspiration, respite and enchantment to so many generations of skiers, past and present; and to reflect on how much has changed, but also how much has stayed the same.

ALTHOUGH THE EYE-CATCHING

CLOTHING drew the attention of many cameras, the unsung stars of the competition were undoubtedly the decades old ski equipment. Some of the wooden skies were hardly more than smoothed wooden planks, and a few skiers even used the old-fashioned method of skiing with a single long wooden rod for support. More than one competitor tried to fasten their skies to their boots with just rope, which resulted in many falling several times on their way down, but this, of course, was expected and part of the fun of this lively Easter Monday celebration. A jury selected a winner for best costume and best skiing style, but that was almost an afterthought, with all those assembled more interested in having a good time while enjoying the beautiful weather, fun spectacle, gorgeous surroundings and fresh air.

There was also something else in the air — the faint but unmistakable scent of alcohol. After forty days of Lent, the Easter Monday ski meet has become an event to which many come carrying a bottle of homemade lemon or cherry liquor to enjoy with friends and family. It is, after all, Wet Monday!

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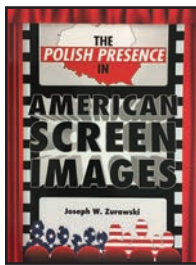
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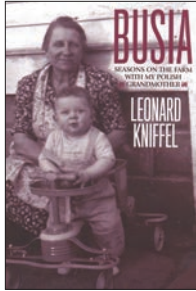
NEW! THE POLISH PRESENCE IN AMERICAN SCREEN IMAGES
by Joseph W. Zurawski
\$29.95
Item 2-682
Softcover, 355

pp., 6" x 9"; 2018

The most complete, objective and accurate analysis of the presentation of Polish Americans and their heritage as viewed on movie theaters and on television screens in America since 1894.

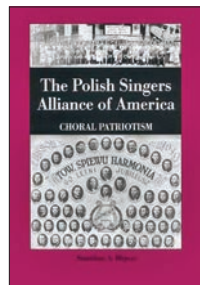
Prominent author, educator and Polish American activist Joseph W. Zurawski identifies and analyzes more than 1300 films shown in the United States that feature or identify a Polish American character or reference. Soft cover. Published by the Polish Museum of America.

BUSIA: SEASONS ON THE FARM WITH MY POLISH GRANDMOTHER



by Leonard Kniffel
\$15.00
hc. 59 pp.; 2017,
6.25" x 9.25"
Item 2-702

The book chronicles one year in the life of a young boy and his grandmother on a farm in Michigan in the 1950s, a time without telephones and televisions. Instead, they cook and garden and work together to keep the stoves supplied and the cupboards filled. They prepare for holidays while Busia tells stories about life in the old country, Poland. Kniffel is the author of "A Polish Son in the Motherland: An American's Journey Home." He is currently president of the Polish American Librarians Association, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Polish Museum of America in Chicago.

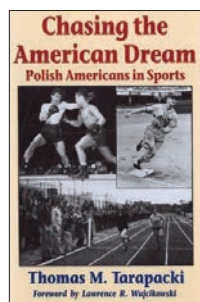


CHORAL PATRIOTISM: THE POLISH SINGERS ALLIANCE OF AMERICA, 1888-1998
by S. A. Blejwas
Item 1-660
Was \$22.50. Now \$14.95

Boydell & Brewer, 2005. 396 pp., ill. 6.20 x 9.30 x 1.20

This book examines the history of the Polish Singers Alliance of America as an ideological organization, documenting the extent to which the politics of the homeland engaged an immigrant and ethnic community over a century.

"A superb treatment of the formation and expansion of the oldest Polish-American cultural organization in North America." — Frances Gates



CHASING THE AMERICAN DREAM
by Tom Tarapacki
\$11.95 while supplies last
Item 1-701. h.c.; 151 pp.; 1995;
B&W ill.; 6.2 x 0.8 x 9.5 inches
New old stock.

"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, swim-

ming, 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.

Tarapacki is Sports Editor of the *Polish American Journal*.

FROM PADEREWSKI TO

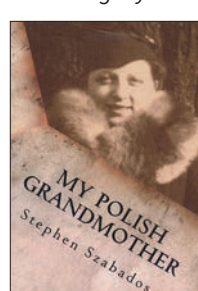


PENDERECKI The Polish Musician in Philadelphia
by Paul Krzywicki
\$24.95
Item 2-151
Lulu Pub. 2016;
pb. 396 pp., 6"x1"x9"

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

GENEALOGY

MY POLISH GRANDMOTHER: From Tragedy in Poland to Her Rose Garden in America



by Stephen Szabados
\$14.95 / Item 2-218
61 pp., b&w photos
2015

Anna was the youngest daughter of a Polish farmer and very small physically. However, she was always in command when she was in the room. This book describes the tragedies in her early life and the challenges she overcame to make a new life in America. It is different from many stories of immigrants because it is told from the perspective of a woman.

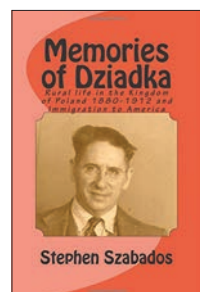
This book asks questions about her fears when growing up, immigrating to America, and making her new life. How did she face these fears? How did she overcome them? Szabados said by searching for answers, he found new insights about his grandmother.

As you read Anna's story, ask the same questions about your ancestors. If you do, your view of your family history will definitely change.



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

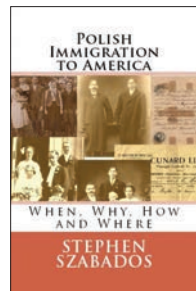
This book is designed to give the researcher the tools needed to research their Polish ancestors and find possible answers to the origins of their Polish heritage. The book outlines a simple process that will identify where your ancestors were born and where to find their Polish records. Traditional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



MEMORIES OF DZIADKA Rural life in the Kingdom of Poland 1880-1912 and Immigration to America / by Stephen Szabados \$14.95

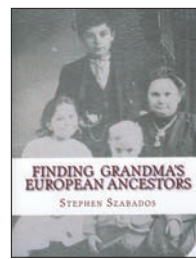
Item 2-670
pb. 134 pp.

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



POLISH IMMIGRATION TO AMERICA
by Stephen Szabados
Item 2-271
\$17.99

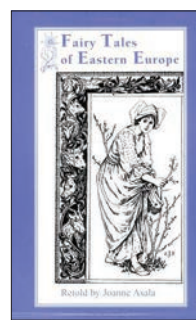
When did your Polish ancestors immigrate, where did they leave, why did they leave, how did they get here? This book discusses the history of Poland and gives some insights to possible answers to these about your ancestors' immigration. All three Polish partitions are covered and the material will hopefully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



FINDING GRANDMA'S EUROPEAN ANCESTORS
by Stephen Szabados
Item 2-653 / 210 pp., pb.
\$19.95

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.

FOLKLORE



FAIRY TALES OF EASTERN EUROPE
Retold by Joanne Asala
\$12.95
Item 2-636
6 x 9 inches
157 pp., pb.

Many of the plots, motifs, and structural elements in these Slavic tales are found in other stories told around the world.

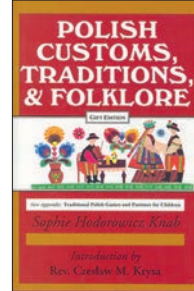
An apple tree in the Slavic tale, "The Fruit of Everlasting Youth," evokes the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden. The ages of man described by the Fate Sisters are quite similar to the ancient "Riddle of the Sphinx." A snake impedes the function of the Tree of Everlasting Youth, again reminiscent of the Garden of Eden.



SEASONS OF THE SLAVIC SOUL: A QUEST FOR AN AUTHENTIC POLISH SPIRITUALITY
by Claire M. Anderson
Item 1-675

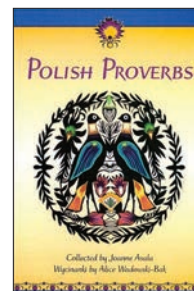
\$14.95
ACTA Publications
2017, p.b., 106 pp., 5x7 in.

What makes Slavic, and specifically Polish, spirituality unique and compelling today? The rich and long Slavic spiritual tradition holds that everyday holiness thrives on different seasons—through Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter and from consolation to desolation and everything in between. Claire Anderson, of Polish descent and currently the Director of Siena Retreat Center in Wisconsin, explores this tradition and expands it by connecting these seasons to the rhythms and practices in her own Polish cultural tradition and the physical world around her.



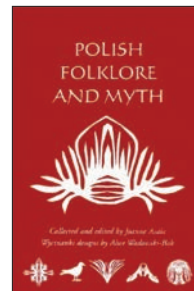
POLISH CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS & FOLKLORE
\$24.95
Item 2-643
by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab
340 pp., hc.

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



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

Poles are gregarious, cheerful, hard-working, and earnest—qualities reflected in their proverbs, collected here by author Joanne Asala. Some examples: "Love enters a man through his eyes and a woman through her ears." "Without work, there is no bread." "Do not push the river; it will flow on its own accord." The back and front covers feature stunning illustrations of paper cuts by the late Polish folk artist Alice Wadowsky-Bak, with more of her work throughout the book.



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

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

HISTORY



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

A substantially revised and updated edition

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

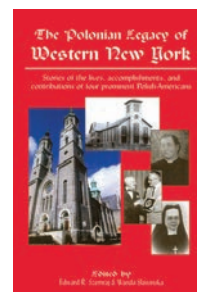
THE MAGNIFICENT 100



by Jaroslaw K. Radomski
\$24.50
2018, Buffalo Standard Printing
pb., 195pp., color illustrations.
Item 2-655

The Magnificent 100 presents — in an alphabetically organized lexicon — 97 illustrated vignettes popularizing the biographies and works of over 100 Polish artists and writers through the ages. It also contains numerous online links to galleries of the artworks of artists and books of writers described in it, so readers can significantly expand their knowledge through those sources. The idea of presenting artists and writers together shows the more complex picture of the connections and interactions among them that are often treated separately. The aspects of our Magnificent 100 are presented in this book to help understand the psychological "genesis" of their works.

THE POLONIAN LEGACY OF WESTERN NEW YORK



Item 1-605
\$12.95
156 pp., sc., ill., b&w photos.
5.5 x 8.5

Edited by Edward Szemraj and Wanda Slawinska, the book focuses on the lives of spiritual and community leader Rev. John Pitass; architect Joseph E. Fronczak; and Mother Mary Simplicita, whose dedication to vocation and superb leadership of the area's Felician Sisters spans generations. The book also examines the lasting friendship between Buffalo's renowned Dr. Francis E. Fronczak and the composer/diplomat Ignacy Jan Paderewski.



THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FR. JUSTIN FIGS, OFM CONV.
Famed originator of the "Fr. Justin Rosary Hour"
\$9.00, 82pp., pb., B&W photos

Fr. Justin's weekly message of spiritual guidance, encouragement, and hope was an influence on generations of Polish immigrants, their children, and grandchildren. His broadcasts, begun in 1931, continue today as the longest continually running religious radio program in the world.

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LITERATURE

POLISH PRINCESS



by Gail Engebretson pb., 334 pp., English 5.5 x 0.7 x 8.5 inches \$18.95 Item 2-620 Tragedy and mystery surround the life of 14-year-old Anna Wisniewski.

Anna Wisniewski. Ann is a gifted pianist growing up in middle America, yet her mother claims they are descended from Polish aristocracy.

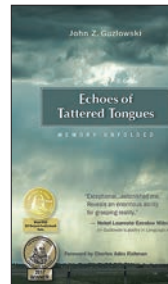
Gail Engebretson is a native of Wisconsin and the granddaughter of Polish immigrants.

AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY (Book 2) \$15.95 Item 2-610 369 pp.pb. Map & wycinanki illust. "You don't have to read Push Not the River to get the most from this sequel," says Suzanne Strempek Shea.

THE WARSAW CONSPIRACY (Book 3) \$17.99 508 pp., pb. Item 2-611 Portraying two brothers in love and war, The Warsaw Conspiracy completes the trilogy.

WORLD WAR II

ECHOES OF TATTERED TONGUES



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

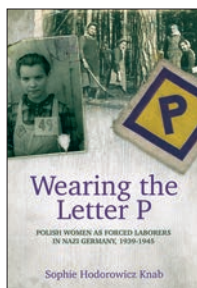
Guzowski born in a German refugee camp after WWII, recounts the horrible atrocities enacted upon his parents during the war.

TWO TRAINS FROM POLAND



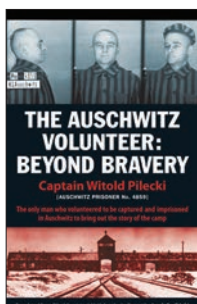
by Dr. Krystyna M. Sklenarz \$19.95 Item 2-604 183 pp., pb.

A midnight knock at her door changed everything for 6-year-old Krystyna Sklenarz. In the middle of the night, the KGB deported her family from Poland to Siberia.



WEARING THE LETTER "P" Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany, 1939-1945. by Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab \$19.95 Item 2-642 pb. 304 pages. 6 x 9 inches

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



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.

from inside the camp. His intelligence reports, smuggled out in 1941, were among the first eyewitness accounts of Auschwitz atrocities.

RECIPE BOOKS



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.

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

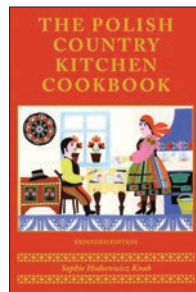
PLEASING POLISH RECIPES by Jacek and Malgorzata Nowakowski \$8.95 Item 2-678 5.5 x 3.5 inches / 160 pp., spiral bound

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.

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.

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.



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.

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 RESTAURANT COOKBOOK



\$10.00 Item 2-302 by Jonathan Becklar, 44 pp., sc.

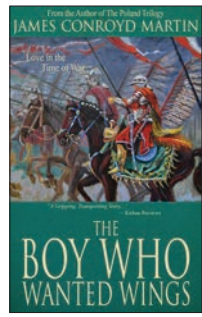
This unique cookbook actually replicates recipes taken from menus of Motor City and surrounding area restaurants. It shows you how to make an entire menu right that tastes and smells just like the restaurant.

POLISH PIEROGI \$10.00 Item 2-303 by Eva Gerweck, 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!

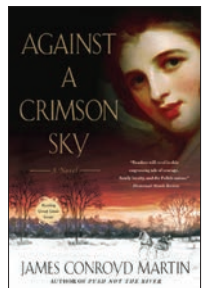
POLISH GIRL COOKBOOK \$10.00 Item 2-301 by Eva Gerweck, 44 pp., sc.

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



THE BOY WHO WANTED WINGS by James Conroyd Martin Author of "Don't Push the River" \$14.95 paperback / Item 2-612 pb \$25.95 hardcover / Item 2-612 hc 398 pp.

Aleksy, a Tatar raised by a Polish peasant family, holds in his heart the wish to become a hussar so that he could battle the Turks at Vienna (the first 9/11, in 1683).



PUSH NOT THE RIVER Book 1 of Martin's Poland Trilogy \$15.95 Item 2-609 496 pp.pb. Maps & wycinanki illust. This book club favorite is based on the real diary of a Polish countess who lived through the rise and fall of the Third of May Constitution years, a time of great turmoil.

Vivid, romantic, and thrillingly paced, the novel has been called "Poland's Gone with the Wind."



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.

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SPORTS

Janikowski Hangs it Up

by Tom Tarapacki

One of the NFL's greatest kickers is retiring 19 years after becoming just the third kicker to be drafted in the first round. **Sebastian Janikowski**, selected 17th overall by Oakland in 2000, called it quits after and long and productive career.



Sebastian Janikowski never looked like a kicker

At 6-foot-1 and 260 pounds, "Seabass" looked more like a football player than a football kicker. He had legendary power, and regularly attempted very long field goals. Over the course of his career, Janikowski attempted nine field goals of at least 60 yards, making two. His longest came in 2011 when he booted a 63-yarder against the Denver Broncos at Mile High to end the second half of a Raiders win. At the time, it tied the record of longest field goal in NFL history. He was sometimes call "The Polish Cannon" and "The Polish Powder Keg."

Sebastian was born in Wałbrzych, Poland and moved to the U.S. at age 15 with his famous soccer-playing father. After attending high school he played for Florida State, became an All-American, and achieved legendary status with his powerful leg and unique personality. "There was a different sound that came off his balls compared to everyone else," said Todd Frier, a former FSU defensive back and teammate of Janikowski's. "There was no doubt there was something different about him. As big as he is, you wouldn't think he could but he could really slam a basketball. That just shows much how much power he had in his legs. He was a great athlete."

The Raiders stunned the NFL by selecting Janikowski in the first round, a rarity for a kicker. He played all but his final season with the Raiders, finishing up with Seattle. He played in 284 regular-season games (16th all-time), attempted 542 field goals (10th) and made 436

of them (ninth). His 1,913 points scored are 10th most all-time.

Janikowski was known as a "wild child" during his early years in football, but later settled down with his wife and children. He told ESPN that he now "plans to turn into a cab driver, driving his three girls to school."

THE RETURN OF GRONK? Rob Gronkowski announced his retirement from the NFL after last season, but there are already rumors of a comeback. Even girlfriend Camille Kostek, the *Sports Illustrated Swimsuit* 2019 cover girl, isn't sure. She said, "He could be pulling this out of the woodwork at some time. I would love to see him out there, but I am also respecting him taking this time for himself, healing up his body, and enjoying the time off."

Gronk just turned 30 in May, but decided to leave the New England Patriots after nine seasons following a variety of injuries. Still, he had enjoyed perhaps the greatest career of any tight end in NFL history, setting numerous records and helping the Pats win three Super Bowls.



Stephen Gostkowski is still kicking.

GOSTKOWSKI IS BACK. Returning to New England is kicker **Stephen Gostkowski**. Drafted in 2006, Gostkowski hit free agency for the first time this offseason but ultimately decided to return to the Patriots for a two-year deal reportedly worth up to \$8.5 million with \$4.5 million in guarantees. "I'm so blessed to have a chance to play 15 years in one



Gostkowski

spot," he said. "We love it here. My family loves it here. It would have been a lot to leave."

The 36-year-old hit 27 of 32 field goals last season, though he missed more kicks of 40 yards or longer than any year of his career. Still, he was automatic on kicks inside of 40 yards and on 98 percent of his extra points. Gostkowski also continued to be a force on kickoffs.

DYNGUS DAY IN THE NBA. Once again, the popular TNT sports show "Inside the NBA," had a segment about Dyngus Day. The panel — **Ernie Johnson, Shaquille O'Neal, Charles Barkley, and Kenny Smith** — were given pussy willows and water guns as videos of Dyngus Day celebrations were shown.

Johnson said "it's the popular Polish holiday celebrated especially in Buffalo and Cleveland ... there's a lot of interesting traditions associated with it." Johnson explained that the Polish tradition is that "guys douse girls they have taken a liking to with water, and tap them gently on the legs with pussy willows."

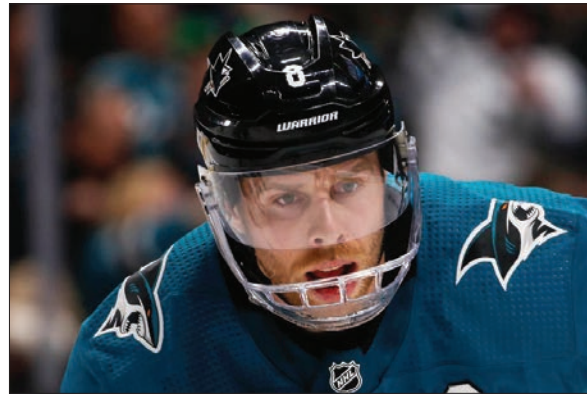
"Polish people," Barkley said, "that sounds kinda freaky."

Then a water fight broke out and Barkley got thoroughly soaked by Shaq.

TOUGH GUY. It's been a physically challenging NHL playoffs for **Joe Pavelski**, but the San Jose forward showed exactly why he is considered "a warrior."

It wasn't shocking that Pavelski scored the first goal in San Jose's play-off game against

Las Vegas. However, it was a bit of a surprise that it came off his face. Pavelski was in front of the net, as usual, when a shot hit him in the face and then went in to the goal. As the crowd cheered Pavelski, with his chin and lower lip bleeding and a few teeth missing, skated to the trainers room. After going through the NHL's concussion protocol and



Joe Pavelski returned to action shortly after taking a puck to the face

getting his wounds stitched up, Pavelski skated back out wearing a large, plastic chin guard on his helmet. His teammates weren't surprised. "We were pretty confident that he shakes off those kinds of things. He's a leader. He does everything for the team," Sharks forward Timo Meier said.

Then, in Game 7, the Sharks trailed 3-0 with 10:47 to play when Pavelski was cross-checked by Cody Eakin and bumped by Paul Stastny. He fell awkwardly and hard. Pavelski, who was out cold for a time, was taken off the ice bleeding from the head. The referees called a five-minute major penalty, and the Sharks scored four times to turn a 3-0 deficit into a 4-3 lead. They eventually won 5-4 in overtime to advance to the second round. The call was controversial, and even Pavelski didn't think it warranted a five-minute major but added, "Am I glad they called it that way? Heck, yes."

The injury kept the Wisconsin native out of the lineup for the first six games of the next series against Colorado, but Joe made an emotional return for Game 7. The Sharks captain opened the scoring in the first period and later added an assist, despite missing two weeks. The Sharks went on to win 3-2 and advance to the conference finals.

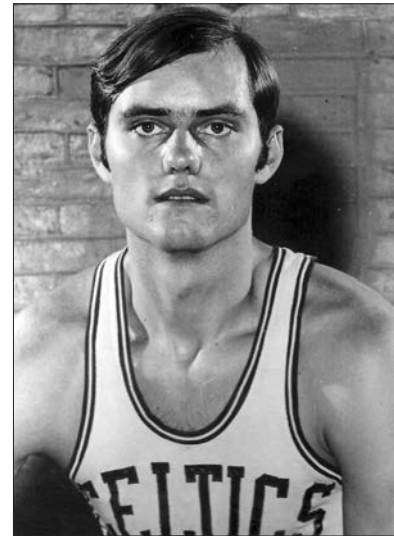
Sharks coach Peter DeBoer was amazed by Joe's effort. "You know, you're almost speechless. Many people in the building, a lot of them saw the injury. I don't think you saw the recovery and what he went through and how questionable it was whether he would even be able to be out there tonight. ... He's a special player, a special guy."

REMEMBERING STEVE KUBERSKI. Steve Kuberski is still remembered by Boston Celtics fans as a key part of their 1976 championship team. He starred in high school in Moline, Illinois, and then went to the University of Illinois. When it was discovered that he had a received a cash payment of \$35 a month from the athletic department

he was suspended for a year. In 1967 he decided to transfer to Bradley University. He averaged 23 points and 10 rebounds for the Bradley Braves, and earned All-Conference honors.

With a year of college eligibility left he opted to pass up his final season and enter

the NBA draft. In the 1969 NBA draft he was picked by the Boston Celtics in the fourth round. The Celtics had some terrific players and Steve had to become more of a role player, mostly coming off the bench. Kuberski was a saavy 6-8 forward with terrific ball skills, but Celtics coach Tommy Heinsohn pushed him to play a more physical style closer to the basket. In 1972, pleased with Kuberski's development, Heinsohn told reporters that "Steve's been playing like a Polish lineman from Notre Dame." Kuberski contributed to the Celtics 1974 NBA championship squad, but Boston lost him to then-New Orleans Jazz in the 1974 expansion draft. Steve never played for the Jazz, as he was soon traded to the Milwaukee Bucks.



Steve Kuberski is still remembered by Boston Celtics fans as a key part of their 1976 championship team.

After a year with the Bucks Steve was waived in October 1975, and that's when he was picked up by the Buffalo Braves. Then, after just over a month and having played in only 10 games, the Braves released him. Boston was struggling that year, so the Celtics jumped at the chance to bring back Kuberski. They put him in the starting lineup and went on to win 14 of their next 16 games. In the post season, Boston and Buffalo faced each other in the Eastern Conference semifinals. Kuberski started in for the injured John Havlicek in Game 2, and turned in a great performance with 12 points. In the series Boston knocked off the Braves, four games to two, and then went on to win the 1976 NBA title.

Steve played a total of nine NBA seasons, averaging 3.8 rebounds and 5.5 points per game before retiring from basketball in 1977. Now 71, Steve founded a company in Woburn, Mass. called ProQuip that specializes in storage products like lockers for schools and arenas.

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ACPC Awards \$5,000 Journalism Scholarship

WASHINGTON, D.C. —The American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) has awarded its first ever \$5,000 journalism scholarship to **Anastazja Kolodziej**, 20, an undergraduate student at the University of Maryland.

At a ceremony at the Polish American Arts Association in Washington's 2019 annual meeting on May 5, ACPC President Tom Payne presented a check to Kolodziej to continue her studies in multiplatform journalism and classics at the university's Philip Merrill School of Journalism.

Kolodziej, a resident of Bethesda, Md., is originally from Bytom in Upper Silesia in Poland. Part of her family emigrated to the United States during the Communist period, and she says she travels regularly back to her extended family in Poland.

Kolodziej's grandfather was a leader within a union supporting the Solidarity movement "and had to leave the country," Kolodziej said in a personal essay submitted for ACPC's merit-based scholarship program.

She is currently a member of the Polish American Congress and the recording secretary for its Washington, D.C. division. Kolodziej is also the youngest member of the Washington division's executive board. She writes articles weekly for the Polish American Congress'



Kolodziej

website regarding Polish affairs.

Asked to comment on journalism's strengths and weaknesses as part of the scholarship application process, Kolodziej said "many news outlets are becoming more polarized" but that quality and objectivity issues in American media "pale in comparison to problems journalism is facing around the globe." She singled out assassinations of reporters in Saudi Arabia last year and Russia in 2006 as examples.

ACPC's Eye of the Eagle Władysław Zachariasiewicz Memorial Journalism Scholarship was created last autumn to honor a longtime Polish community leader whose civic work helped thousands of Central European immigrants

following World War II.

The program aims to award \$5,000 annually toward college or graduate school tuition and school-related expenses other than room and board for students with a clearly demonstrated, defined interest in a career in enterprise journalism in the public interest. The ACPC's Awards are based solely on professional and academic merit with an appreciation for issues that affect Polish Americans.

"Ms. Kolodziej's thoughtful published writings, solid academic record and deep community involvement clearly show she has great potential as a journalist, one who has a strong, accurate understanding of Polish history and culture," said Mark Dillon, chair of the Eye of the Eagle Scholarship Committee and Minnesota Bureau Chief for the *Polish American Journal*.

Joining in congratulating Kolodziej were scholarship committee members Robert Synakowski, an English teacher in Syracuse, N.Y., and first vice president of ACPC and Mary Ellen Tyszka, an officer with the Friends of Polish Art in Berkley, Michigan, and past president of ACPC.

Born in Krakow, Zachariasiewicz served as a lieutenant in the Polish Army at the time of the German and Russian invasions in September 1939. He survived imprisonment by the Soviets and im-

migrated to the U.S. in 1948 to use the skills he learned in law school at Krakow's Jagiellonian University to assist the Polish American community in multiple ways for more than half a century.

Zachariasiewicz resided in Chevy Chase, Md. at the time of his death at age 104 in 2016. He authored *The Independence Ethos of American Polonia*, a detailed history of how Polish Americans both helped Poland achieve independence in November 1918, and supported Central Europe's struggle against Nazi fascism and communism until freedom was again achieved in 1989.

The American Council for Polish Culture, Inc. is a national non-profit, charitable, cultural and educational organization that promotes Polish culture, heritage and history, and intercultural understanding. It serves as a network and body of national leadership among affiliated Polish-American organizations throughout the United States.

Founded in 1948, the Council currently represents the interests of some 21 organizations in 15 states and the District of Columbia. Incorporated in Illinois, the Council holds tax-exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) charitable and educational entity. For more information, go to ACPC's website: <http://www.polishcultureacpc.org>.

Kudos for Silverman



BUFFALO, N.Y. — **Deborah Anders Silverman** (left), communications department chair and associate professor at Buffalo State University, accepts Caring Bengal Award from Buffalo State President Kate Conway-Turner. The award is given to faculty or staff who transform the work and personal lives of their colleagues by supporting them with compassion, care, respect, and collegiality.

A native of Dunkirk, N.Y., Silverman is the author of *Polish-American Folklore*. She is the recipient of many honors, including Polish American Historical Association's "Oskar Halecki" award, and the American Folklore Society's Bertrand H. Bronson Prize for Research and Analysis of a Folk Music Tradition.

POLISH CHEF

Comfort Foods Always at Hit at Summer Festivals

by Robert Strybel

Part I of II

A major attraction of our PolAm summer festivals and community picnics are the well-liked Polish comfort foods of our childhood like Mama or Babcia used to make. People are known to drive in from miles around, even from neighboring states and Canada, for a chance to savor those old Polonian favorites that they just can't get anymore. Some examples:

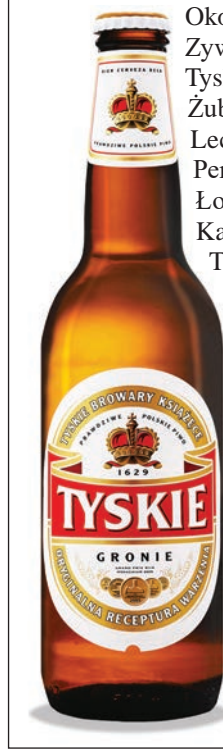
BAKED FRESH KIEŁBASA (biała kielbasa pieczona). Preheat oven to 375°. Place 2-3 lbs fresh (raw, uncooked) kielbasa in a wide pan in a single layer, add water to cover and bake until half the water evaporates. Turn sausage over and continue baking until all water is gone. Serve hot or allow to cool for later warming-up or cold as a lunch meat. Provide horseradish, ćwikła and brown Polish mustard (Sarepska, Stołowa, Chrzanowa, Staropolska) as well as good Polish rye bread.

KIEŁBASA & KAPUSTA (kielbasa z kapustą). Drain 2-3 qts sauerkraut reserving liquid. Rinse in pot of cold water, transfer to colander and press out moisture. Chop coarsely, place in pot scald with 3 c boiling water, bring to boil and cook uncovered 15 min. Add 2-3 bay leaves, cover and cook on med-low 30 min. If the kraut isn't as tart as you like, add some of the reserved sauerkraut liquid. Cut the cold baked kielbasa from the previous recipe into 2-4" servings and mix into sauerkraut. Add 1 mushroom bouillon cube, 2 t sugar, salt & pepper, 1 t bruised caraway seeds and 1 t marjoram. Bake in 350° oven 1 hr. Switch off heat and let stand

until cooled to room temp. It is best refrigerated overnight and reheated the next day.

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

IMPORTED POLISH BEER (piwo importowane z Polski)
The beer stand (*namiot piwny*) is a standard fixture at many Pol-Am summer festivals, and Polish beer is always a hit at such events. Favorite brands include:



Okocim
Zywiec
Tyskie
Żubr
Lech
Perła
Łomża
Kasztelan
Tatra
Warka
Leżajsk
Harnaś
Namysłów
Książęce
Dębowe
Królewskie
Hevelius
Brok
Bosman
Książ
Piast
and
Dojlidy

lard, vegetable shortening or oil until fully cooked, drain on paper towel. These can be kept warm until needed in an electric roaster. Serve as a main course with dilled new potatoes and cucumber salad.

CUCUMBERS & SOURCREAM (mizeria). Peel cucumbers and slice thin. Toss with thinly sliced onion (roughly 1 small onion to 2-3 cucumbers). Salt & pepper, sprinkle lightly with vinegar and sugar and toss. Since cucumbers and sour cream turn very soupy, at a food-fest venue it's best to dish out portions with slotted spoon (to drain off excess liquid) and spoon some liquefied sour cream over each portion as needed. (Fork-blend sour cream to liquefy!) Garnish with some fresh finely chopped dill if desired.

PORK-CUTLET SANDWICH (kanapka ze schaboszczakiem). The breaded pork cutlets, which can be served as a main course as above, also make great festival and street food. Prepare cutlets as above and serve in a crusty bun or between slices of rye bread with a dollop of brown Polish mustard.

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

3 c tomato juice (plain or containing 1/2 c spicy-style ketchup). Bake covered in preheated 360° oven 1 hr. Reduce heat to 325° and cook another 2 hrs. Switch off heat and leave in oven until cooled to room temp for flavors to blend. Tastes best refrigerated overnight and reheated the next day.

DILLED NEW POTATOES (młode kartofelki z koperkiem). If possible, try to get real, young, Polish-style walnut-sized new potatoes. If you get the real baby potatoes (młode kartofelki), rather than peeling the skin can be removed under running water with a nylon scrubber. If not, choose the smallish new potatoes, an immature Polish-style "młode ziemniaki" if they need not be peeled because their skin is thin enough to scrub away under running water with a nylon scrubber. Place 2-1/2 lbs. (more or less) scrubbed (or peeled) potatoes in pot, cover with boiling water, add 1

T salt and cook on med heat about 30 min or until fork-tender. Drain. Dot with butter (about 1-2 T) and garnish with finely chopped fresh dill. Toss gently to evenly coat potatoes with melting butter and dill.

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HISTORY

Poland's Postal Service

by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab

On the 18th of October in 1558, Polish king Zygmunt August II (1548-1572) initiated the first postal connection between Kraków and Venice. It is celebrated as the beginning of postal service on Polish land. But, according to Jan Byston (*Dzieje obyczajów w Dawnej Polsce*) Zygmunt II wasn't the first to try to institute a manageable system of delivering court letters. It began hundreds of years earlier with King Bolesław Chrobry (992-1025).

Letters were also sent via pilgrims traveling to sacred shrines in Italy and France, but those often took several months to arrive.

During those earliest times in Poland, both public and private letters were sent by private messengers, traveling when required. The monarch had messengers carry his correspondence much like the running messengers of the Greeks using relays of messengers throughout the provinces and countryside.

It was under Chrobry's reign that, in place of running couriers, horses and carts became available for use by the messengers in order to travel long distances across the country. Chrobry declared that certain towns and cities along particular trade and travel routes were to provide a horse and cart for the purpose carrying forward the king's mail. The money for the horses was to be raised by levying a fee on the individuals of the town. In addition, the town was required to keep the



Zygmunt August II by Lucas Cranach the Younger

roads in good condition to assist in the fast transfer of the king's dispatches.

Over time, the king was inundated with letters and complaints begging for exemption from the onerous required taxes and responsibilities. The situation wasn't cleared up until the time of Sigismund the Second (Zygmunt II).

During that year of 1558, Zygmunt II needed fast couriers to Venice to deal with his lawsuit for his mother's estate (Bona Szfara) after her death. The postal communication was set up much like those already functioning in the rest of Europe. Management of the post was assigned to Prosper Prowanna, a courier of Italian descent who was paid an annual salary to make sure all ran smoothly, collect the income and pass it on to the royal treasury. The king supervised the post, cov-

ering the cost of couriers and keeping horses. Postal employees were dressed in uniforms featuring the royal emblem and were covered by immunity. They were obliged to keep the royal correspondence confidential.

By 1562, it took 10 days to deliver post from Kraków to Venice and between 5 to 7 days from Kraków to Wilno. The papal nuncio Ruggeri, (officially known as an Apostolic nuncio), a permanent diplomatic representative of the Holy See in the king's court, writes that the couriers "ride indescribably fast ... so that in five days they are in Wilno from Kraków." That year the postal service was extended to private correspondence. For post-delivery from Kraków to Vienna private customers paid three groschen (equivalent to 60 eggs, two hens or 25 kilograms of wheat).

The postal system was furthered under the reign of King Stefan Batory (1576-1586).

"NEITHER SNOW, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these courageous couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds" was said about 2,500 years ago by the Greek historian, Herodotus. He said this adage during the war between the Greeks and Persians about 500 B.C. in reference to the Persian mounted postal couriers whom he observed and held in high esteem.

Art, music, and a rich cultural heritage celebrated at the Polish American Foundation

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. — The Polish American Foundation of Connecticut is filling weekends with cultural events, bringing together longtime members and all lovers of inspirational art and good company.

On Sat., April 27, the **Polish Society of Artists** and its president Jerzy Michalski, presented a program the Foundation established to support the work of Polish artists from across Connecticut. The special opening exhibition of "Galeria 27" at the Sloper-Wesoly Immigrant Heritage Center showed a variety of works from some of the most talented painters, photographers, and visual artists in the community, including: Marek Barczyk, Barbara Bierc, Jacek Borkowski, Magda Gosik, Justin Knapp, Jerry Malinka, Jerzy Michalski, Urszula and Bogdan Skierkowski, Zbigniew Sokolowski, Zofia Soto, and Jan Szewczyk.



On Sun., April 28, the **Fryderyk Chopin Society of Connecticut**, supported by the Polish American Foundation, organized a magnificent performance of Liszt, Schubert, and Chopin classical music by the world-renowned pianist **Ya-Fei Chuang** (inset, left) at the New Britain Museum of

American Art. The talented Chuang, who is an instructor in piano at the Boston Conservatory at the famous Berklee College of Music in Boston, filled the performance hall with her exquisite interpretation of Chopin, and afterwards she was honored with a special reception at the Sloper-Wesoly Immigrant Heritage Center in appreciation of her visit. Chuang's wonderful performance is one of a series of important events held every month by the Chopin Society to keep the works of the Polish genius and the other greats of classical music alive in our culture.

On Sun., May 26, the **Chopin Society** presented the internationally acclaimed Duo Gastesi-Bezerra, which has delighted audiences for over a decade with exciting programs of traditional and contemporary music for piano ensemble. Billed by *The American Record Guide* as "a strong combination, playing very well together — often indistinguishable," pianists Estibaliz Gastesi and Márcio Bezerra are staunch supporters of new music.

A native of the Basque Country, pianist Gastesi has performed throughout Europe and the United States. Brazilian pianist Bezerra has been performing often at several music halls in Brazil and the United States and is a distinguished Fulbright and CDMC scholar.

O zmarłych mówi się dobrze, albo wcale. Speak well of the dead or not at all.

THE PONDERING POLE

"Start with the positive things"

by Ed Poniewaz

That quote and advice comes from **Count Adam Zamoyski**, and to start with something positive, I want to wish my mom, Audrey Lamczyk Poniewaz Mueller a heartfelt "sto lat," as she is now 89 years young. What a life and what a great woman. I love you mother dear and thank you for everything you have done for me and our family. God bless you.



The name Adam Zamoyski is familiar to many if not most of us. There are famous doers and then there are chroniclers and he fits very nicely into the latter category. Zamoyski has written fifteen books and has been a contributor or author on other publications mostly on the subject of Poland. He is a passionate man of incredible intellect and insight and is one of a small number of writers or researchers who have made a specific and major impact by documenting our history and culture. His latest book is *Napoleon: The Man Behind the Myth* (2018, London, William Collins).

We read the books but what about the person writing them? I was overwhelmed watching a Youtube interview with him in a segment called "Heart of Poland," sponsored by Project Kazimierz, and produced and moderated by Patrick Ney. On this program, Zamoyski addresses a number of questions about his family, his personal background and development, how his interest in Poland began, his understanding of the Polish character, Polish-Jewish relations, and "the ways Poles talk and reflect on their difficult past."

One of the highlights of the talk should register for those of us of Polish ancestry that grew up in another culture, as did Zamoyski, a British citizen since the 1940s. What he says nicely encapsulates the approach to national identity for an immigrant family, by his immigrant family, and how that shaped his perspective as a historian.

"Our Polishness was not something spe-

cial and hidden, a kind of faith that one has to worship ... It was the natural part of the European heritage, and as a result, I think it has helped me enormously when I write about Polish subjects and Polish history ... so many people who write about Polish history — whether they are Poles or whether they are foreigners ... I mean look at Norman Davies — they get tremendously sentimental, emotional about the whole thing ... (and) they are either fighting in the Polish corner or they are saying the Poles are frightful."

This feeling is from someone who obviously loves being Polish and has great admiration for the people and country of Poland. Immigrants or refugees living in a foreign land often dismiss or hide their "difference" rather than, as Zamoyski explains, treat it as a natural part of a regional or world experience. I wish I had his words instilled in me as a young boy. I think I would have had a better understanding of my worth and a more comfortable relationship to the community around me. Historically, America has had such a pecking order when it comes to identity and we still are grappling with it today. Maybe this video will help you grapple with it as well. You can see it by searching "Adam Zamoyski Heart of Poland Youtube."

NOW ABOUT PATRICK NEY. Incredible! You will find a bio on him on the Project Kazimierz website. Like Zamoyski, Ney is a British citizen with a love affair with the country of Poland yet he had no Polish connection until a decade ago. Since 2010 he has been living in Poland and is a filmmaker and writer and "his films focus on Polish society and history ... have had more than 23 million views in the last 12 months."

"There's so much going on in Poland ... it's this cauldron of dynamism, hard work and opportunity. Living here has changed me..."

Imagine that. Two men of English nationality were impressed and hooked by this mys-

terious place set in the middle of the European continent. Those of us that also got the bug for things Polish understand this as well. Check out Project Kazimierz for an exciting look into the new Poland.

POLISH OR NOT? There is an article entitled "The 50 Sexiest Women You've Probably Never Heard Of," and of course I had to check to see how many of the "never heard of" are Polish. The one that is specifically identified as Polish is the lead singer for the American rock band *Yeah Yeah Yeahs*, Karen O. Her real name is **Karen Lee Orzolek** and she was born in South Korea to a Polish father and a Korean mother. Besides being a singer and performer, Karen is known for her fashion statements, her theatrics on stage, soundtrack work, and collaboration with filmmaker Spike Jonze. Beautiful and talented, half-Polish Karen "O" Orzolek. Now you've heard of her.

We have a lot of "movements" currently: "Antifa," "Me Too," "Descendants of Slavery Reparations," and "WalkAway." The Walk-Away Campaign encourages members of the Democrat party to "walk away" if they feel that the policies, positions, and mission of the party do not adequately represent them. The leader of this movement is **Brandon Straka**, who grew up in Nebraska. Is Stralka Polish or not?

Miss USA 2019 is **Cheslie Kryst** (inset, right), whose dad is white and mother is African American. When the ethnicity of the "white" parent is not specified, often times that is a good indication that the parent might be Polish. Add to that, is "Kryst" a shortened version of say, "Krystkowiak" (as in Larry



Krystkowiak, coach of the NCAA University of Utah men's basketball team)? Could Miss USA 2019 be Polish, or not?

WORTH KNOWING. We are a month past Polish Constitution Day so there is still a window to mention another Polish "stand" against overwhelming odds, *The Battle of Hodow*, known also as the Polish Thermopylae. Thermopylae is where the Greek 300 Spartans defended a narrow passage against a huge invading Persian army. *The Battle of Hodow* was "between the Kingdom of Poland and Crimean Khanate forces, fought in June 1694." Polish strength was around 400 soldiers led by General Konstanty Zaborowski and the Khanate army had a troop strength estimated to be 40,000. Polish losses were 100 and the Crimean Khanate lost between 1000-2000 men. Check out Wikipedia for more information about this historical Polish military event and if you haven't already, be sure to toast the Polish Sejm (parliament) of 1791 along with the Hodow 400!

Solareye is a communications company based in Irvine, California run by Leonard and Basia Myszynski. These "Image Makers and Story Tellers" are Polish-born emigrants that have produced a number of films. Their latest is the documentary *Bridging Urban America: The Story of Ralph Modjeski*. I saw this film and met Basia and Leonard. Modjeski, along with the Myszynskis are very impressive and I recommend you check out Solareye and watch this documentary.

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.

The Mother of Solidarity — In Memory of Her Life and Her Love for the Truth

by Catherine A. Hamilton

Part I

Over nine years ago, on April 10, 2010, Anna Walentynowicz, the woman known as the Mother of Solidarity, died in a tragic and mysterious plane crash along with the president of Poland and 94 other Polish dignitaries. Walentynowicz was part of a delegation of national leaders on their way to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the infamous Katyn Massacre.

Walentynowicz died as she had lived — full of faith that exposing the truth was the best path to freedom from communism.

Though scarcely heard of in the Western media, Walentynowicz was a woman whose relentless struggle for social justice was rooted in Polish tradition and a deep Christian faith. That struggle can be traced to Aug. 7, 1980, in Gdansk, Poland. On that day 30 years ago, Walentynowicz was unjustly fired from her job in the shipyard. That event touched off the union strikes and changed the fate of Poland forever.

The petite and bespectacled Anna Walentynowicz earned the affectionate nickname “little Ania.” She was destined to become a freedom icon in the Solidarity movement. But she was much more than that. She was a loving and loyal friend to her co-workers.

Walentynowicz’s journey of faith and her struggle toward the truth started 20 years before the Solidarity movement, after a near-fatal bout with cancer, when she decided that God had spared her life for a reason — “to do something worthwhile.” Despite a difficult in early life, she now felt she had a purpose.

EARLY YEARS. Growing up in Poland during World War II had a

tremendous impact on the life of little Ania. Born in Równe, Poland, in 1929, Anna Walentynowicz’s idyllic childhood turned nightmarish when she and her family were caught between the vise of invading Nazi Germany from the west and the Soviet Union from the east in September 1939. Anna’s father was killed in battle during the 27-day war in Poland. Her brother — whom she remembered as tall and handsome — was taken prisoner by the Soviet army and she never saw him again. During the first months of the Nazi occupation, suffering depression and illness after the loss of her husband, Anna’s mother died, leaving her a war orphan at age 10. Moved from place to place, from neighbor to stranger, Anna became a child victim of Nazi policy — she was no longer allowed to attend school because she was Polish.

The war dragged on and Anna ended up in Warsaw, where she worked in forced labor in farming and tending the fires at production factories. Finally, the war ended. But Poland was then in the grip of the Soviet Union.

As a young woman, she searched for a place to fit in. Most of the churches had been burned to the ground and the priests sent to prison ... and Walentynowicz was enticed by the Communist Party. In 1950, she took a job at the shipyard in Gdansk and received recognition for her exemplary performance on the job — first as a welder and then a crane operator. By her early 20s, though, Walentynowicz was unhappy, unmarried, and expecting a baby. Desperate to give her unborn child a better life than she’d had, she turned back to the church. Her disillusionment with communist corruption had been growing. But it was when she discovered that one of the “big bosses” had stolen money from the workers and spent



Lech Wałęsa (third from right) and Anna Walentynowicz (at Wałęsa’s right) during an August 1980 Holy Mass at Gdańsk’s Lenin Shipyard.

it on gambling — not to mention government control of the press, and its lack of concern for the poor and the rationing of food — that Walentynowicz joined the opposition. She gave birth to her son, Janusz and at age 30, she fell in love with Kazik Walentynowicz, her “one true love,” and the two were happily married.

ADVOCACY YEARS. After seven short years of marriage, the sudden death of her husband and a brush with a deadly cancer, the widowed Walentynowicz began her tireless advocacy for the rights of her co-workers. Walentynowicz became editor and distributor of the underground newspaper *Robotnik Wybrzeża (Coastal Worker)*, in direct opposition to the regime. She was fearless in her efforts; she dared to go face-to-face with shipyard management, calling for an end to government-controlled press and poverty-level wages. She even went so far as to deliver her opposition newspaper to the “big bosses” in person. For her bravery, she was later sentenced to 20 years in prison and off and on spent months at a time in jail before the fall of Moscow-led communism in Poland.

Walentynowicz had a heart of gold and a will of iron. And yes, she was relentless. But she offered a feminine touch to the opposition, often making her co-workers hot soup, tea or warm milk — she even did their dishes. Little Ania was the kind of woman who planted flowers outside the break room to cheer the hearts of others. And because of her kindness, “little Ania” was also simply called: “Mother,” according to Shana Penn’s book *Solidarity’s Secret*.

BIRTH OF SOLIDARITY. Indeed, it took a mother’s heart to give birth to the Solidarity movement. It took this outspoken defender of freedom, this little Ania, who was loved by her co-workers and despised by shipyard management, to inspire workers to strike. And that’s exactly what she did. On that fateful day in August 1980, Walentynowicz was suddenly dismissed from her job for producing and distributing an “illegal” newspaper — five months before she was to retire. She was told she would not receive her retirement pension, even after putting in 30 years at the Lenin shipyard. This action — taken by the government-controlled management

against beloved little Ania — created an enormous uproar among the Polish workers.

A day after Walentynowicz was unjustly fired, the Coastal Worker printed the following announcement: “... Anna Walentynowicz has been a thorn in their [the repressive regime’s] side because she is a model activist devoted to others. ... We appeal to you to defend the crane operator Walentynowicz.” The uproar at the shipyard that day became the first in a series of strikes across Poland, which in turn inspired the Solidarity movement and, in the end, toppled Soviet repression in Poland.

Walentynowicz — together with Lech Walesa, a shipyard engineer who had also been fired for his involvement in the opposition — made a list of demands, and when the strike was only three days old, an initial agreement was reached. On the surface, it looked good. But Walentynowicz took a closer look; the agreement would help only the workers at the Lenin shipyard. But many of the striking workers at Lenin were satisfied. They were putting down their signs and had begun to leave the shipyard. Walentynowicz wasn’t ready to give up so soon. She and a shipyard nurse named Alina Pienkowska saw the danger of signing a premature agreement. They picked up megaphones and shouted: “Stop! Come back! What about all the other workers in Poland!”

After 18 long days, the union of more than a million workers known as Solidarity won its hard-fought battle. Walentynowicz and Walesa resumed their work at the shipyard and the workers got pay raises, better working conditions, and more. This was the beginning of the end of Soviet-occupied Poland.

next month: Alliances, Unanswered Questions

IN MEMORIAM

Krystyna Balut, World War II Siberian Survivor

PUGET SOUND, Wash. — Krystyna Balut, a long time active Polish Home member died surrounded by her family on Good Friday, April 19, 2019. She was 88.

Balut was a familiar face to anybody attending area Polish festivals or bazaars, where she tirelessly shared the story of the Polish survivors of the Soviet World War II deportations to Siberia. Balut’s personal story and those of other local survivors were subject of the award-winning documentary film *A Trip To Nowhere* and its book companion, both created by Shannon Hart-Reed.

Balut was born in Pińsk, eastern Poland, November 23, 1930.

Her father was a train conductor. When the war broke out, he went into hiding to fight in the Polish underground, and Krystyna, her mother, and grandmother moved further east to get away

from the Nazi threat. However, in 1941 the NKVD arrested all three of them in the middle of the night, shoved them into a cattle car with 60 other people, and they were deported to Siberia. Krystyna was only 10 years old.

About year later, they escaped to Persia with Gen. Anders’ Army, then spent six years in displaced persons camps in India, and one year in Africa. Her father spent the war in the Polish underground, and fought in the 1944 Warsaw Uprising. When captured, he was taken to a train station to be sent to a concentration camp. Of the few possessions in his bag was his train conductor’s hat. He put it on, acted like he was working there, and escaped deportation.

When Krystyna was 18, the British DP camp in Uganda was being closed. She could return to Poland but, her mother refused to

return to a Soviet controlled country. Her grandmother did not want to learn another language, so she chose to return to Poland. Krystyna’s father did not want to leave Poland, so her parents were divorced. She was able to see her father on her first trip to Poland in 1966, a reunion after 27 years.

Krystyna and her mother emigrated to Montreal, Canada. There was a large Polish community there, and that’s where she met her husband, Przemyslaw Janusz Balut. He escaped from Poland in 1950 with his brother on a stolen plane. They were married in 1956 and had their first daughter Grazyna in 1958.

Krystyna’s professional career in Seattle included working for Virginia Mason hospital, Sundstrand, and Fiserv.

For refugees like the Baluts, friends from the closely-knit Polish

community became an extended family. The Polish Home was like a family home to them, and Krystyna was very involved in it. She was an active member of the Ladies Auxiliary Club, got her daughters involved in the Polish dance groups, and sewed costumes. She worked hard at the bazaars, and was most notably known for the handmade purses. She was a member of the Polish Home for 60 years.

◆ ◆ ◆

In her later years, Balut’s passion was to share the story of the Poles who were deported to Siberia. She was a key instigator and hero in the project “A Trip to Nowhere,” and would attend each bazaar and festival to share this story and to sell books and DVDs about it. She was also featured in Monika Melen’s Polish documentary “Kawalek Polski w Seattle (A Piece of Poland in Seattle).”

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GENEALOGY

Connect with More Researchers: Join a Genealogy Society

by Stephen M. Szabados

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

There are four types of genealogy societies – local, state, national and ethnic. I have found state, local and ethnic organizations have helped me the most with finding my Polish ancestors. Each group gave me access to different types of research material – more specific from the local group and the Polish organization and very broad at the state level. Each offered me access to speakers who gave programs on a variety of different helpful topics. Most importantly, personal contacts at meeting and conferences helped me exchange research tips and information with members from each different group.

Here are some reasons why joining a genealogy society will help you:

1. You will learn new skills and improve old skills from the guest speakers at monthly meetings and annual workshops. Speakers will cover new research techniques, new online databases and explain changes

accessing old sources. They will teach you how to evaluate evidence, and techniques to discover new sources.

2. Society meetings give a place for members to share their latest breakthrough or discovery. Some of the revelations may give you an idea to solve your brick wall.
3. Society members give you a network of local genealogists to explain necessary skills such as giving their tips on using basic online websites or hints on reading documents written in old German script.
4. Society meetings also give you a chance to share your information, discoveries and research tips. Do not be bashful about how valuable your tips are; explaining them will improve your skills. Learn to share your passion with others.
5. Be an active and involved member; volunteer and accept responsibilities. This is another activity which will improve and strengthen your skills. You may be surprised to find that working on service projects, society committees and at conferences provide another opportunity to learn. Projects and committees will expose you to other activities and topics that you might not be aware of if you only

concentrated on your research. Volunteering should make your efforts fun and rewarding.

6. When interacting with society members, you will develop friendships created from your shared interests. You will help each other make discoveries or discuss significant breakthroughs. This is a great way to grow your research skills and your passion for family history.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT TIP is to consider joining groups that have access to information that pertains to where your ancestors lived. If you live in Minnesota, but your Polish ancestors lived in Chicago after they immigrated, you should join the Polish Genealogical Society of America which is located in Chicago because they have access to information that will include your ancestors. There are also active Polish groups in Detroit, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Minnesota, Texas, New York, and California. Find the one that will include your Polish ancestors and consider joining.

My last thought, as always, is to enjoy the passion of finding your family history. Remember to have fun.



Stephen M. Szabados is a prominent genealogist, lecturer, and the author of five books.

TRAVEL

2020 Heritage Tour to visit Poland, Ukraine, and Czech Republic

by Helga Leonard

I'd like to announce that we are going to Poland, Ukraine, the Czech Republic, April 21-May 5, 2020. I'm calling our fantastic vacation our “P-U-CR Up Heritage Tour” because you will fall in love with all you see. So much to see, so much to do, so many of us have the same questions. Those questions can be answered by our multilingual tour guides. Additionally, we will have the time for adventure and to explore historic parts of the Old Town areas of the fascinating towns we'll be visiting and many places in between as many only dream about.

I'm bringing along Ron Dombrowski, host of the “Polka Buzz” TV Show on WBBZ in Buffalo, N.Y. and DJ on several polka radio shows, including “Drive Time Polkas” (www.drivetimepolkas.com). Whenever visiting Europe with my groups, we are always astonished at the culture, sights and history dat-

ing back to our parents, grandparents, great-grandparents and all those who have come before us.

Our tour has limited availability (one bus only), so don't wait to add your name to the “I'm going” list. I ask you to consider joining Ron and me for what we consider the vacation of a lifetime as we visit Warsaw, Czestochowa, Krakow, Zalipie, Rzeszow, Zakopane and Wroclaw in Poland; Lviv in Ukraine; Prague in the Czech Republic, and many places in between. Make it a multi-generational trip and bring the family. It's a great chance to do some genealogy or just enjoy the wonderful culture. Whatever you are looking to do, I'm sure we can find a way to fit it in – just ask me.

You'll receive accommodations



Helga Leonard

in top notch hotels within walking distance to Old Town areas, two meals a day, and all excursions are included (unless noted), or you want to do something not listed, which I would be happy to arrange for you. I can also arrange other things you'd like to do before or after our trip including a river or ocean cruise, or visiting other areas of Europe or other parts of the world.

I am also escorting a Christmas Market Riverboat Cruise (Dec. 14-22, 2019); a trip to the Passion Play and Oktoberfest (Sep. 18-Oct 1, 2020); and a trip to Phoenix, Ariz. with the Buffalo Concertina All-Stars for a live recording session, (Mar. 13-16, 2020).

Check out the full itinerary for all these trips at www.adream-trip4u.com, or call me at (724) 234-2033 or (724) 816-7888 (cell). A Dream Trip 4 U is a full-service travel agency and specializes in cruises of all types, European Heritage Tours, and groups of all sizes.

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Patriotic Pageantry in Parma



PARMA, Ohio — **Basia Betts** represented the *Polish American Journal* at this year's Constitution Day Parade, the 64th annual, sponsored by the Polish American Congress, Ohio Division.

The parade and afterparty on May 5, 2019, marked the 228th Anniversary of the 3rd of May, 1791, Polish Constitution. This constitution, patterned after the American constitution, was the first democratically oriented constitution in Europe and the second in the world. It lasted until the third partition of Poland occurred in 1795.

Dr. Mieczyslaw “Mitch” Bienia was the grand marshal. The Piast Polish folk Song and Dance Ensemble of Cleveland performed. Polish food was available, and Northcoast Mix provided music on the bright, sunny day.


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Archive: <https://www.mix-cloud.com/david-j-jackson/>

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DANCE TIME

Over 30 Venues Host Dyngus Day Activities

by Jennifer Pijanowski

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Polish pride swelled to record crowds this year as Buffalo proved itself once again to be the Dyngus Day Capital. With well over 30 venues offering some type of Dyngus festivities it was overwhelming to construct your plan of attack to celebrate. Beautiful weather coupled with the hype that is simultaneous with Dyngus in Buffalo, ensured that all records were broken as attendance soared for many venues this year.

I began my Dyngus Day journey by attending two Pre-Dyngus events on Easter Sunday evening. My husband and I immediately dropped our luggage off after spending Easter with family in West Virginia and headed to Potts Banquet Hall for music by **Phocus** and **Box On**



Alicia Iwanczuk and Chris Sikorski at Salvatore's Hospitality.



Kevin Kurdziel, Erika, and Bryan Kurdziel at Salvatore's Easter Sunday polka.

Weekend at Salvatore's Hospitality.

When we arrived, **The Boys** were on stage and their beautiful vocals were echoing into the hallway adjoining the hall. Hundreds of polka fans were in attendance enjoying the music and company of local and out of town longtime friends. Next up was fan favorite **Polka Country Musicians**, who never disappoint with their energetic take on great polka music. Salvatore's provides a breathtaking and classy backdrop for this iconic yearly event. After hosting Dyngus Day parties for 30 years it is clear to see that Val Bakowski knows how to put together an event. The moment you enter the venue, polka music is the center of this celebration — it is a must-attend for everyone in the polka world.

AFTER A FEW HOURS OF SLEEP, it was time to get up and get over to Polish Villa II for Bloody Marys and music by **Polka Country Musicians**. Music began at 10:00 and



Promoter Val Bakowski with Sharon Goldyn, Chris Tanski, Marcia Moscato, and John Fomenko, at Salvatore's Pre-Dyngus party.

featuring Hank Guzevich of Polka Family. Hank played the drums for a time then took his turn at the microphone belting out fan favorites. Hank's son Joey joined the band on stage playing bass for the first time in a polka band. Potts was packed to capacity as fans crowded the front of the stage cheering **Box On** for their favorite songs. I always enjoy these Easter Sunday events as it gives me a chance to see all of my fellow polka lovers before the Monday craziness begins. The high energy evening of music made it very hard to pull ourselves away in order to make our stop to Val's Dyngus

Dyngus Day was officially off to an extraordinary start with a crowd jammed in to hear the music. The band who had played late into the night didn't let their lack of sleep show as they powered through four hours of music and entertaining before heading off to play another event later Dyngus night at Pvt. Leonard Post with **Special Delivery**.

After a few hours of music at Polish Villa II, it was across the adjacent parking lot to Clinton Bar and Grill, as an all-star jam band featuring Eric Bakowski, Dave Walters, Mike Charney, Mike Ma-

tousek, Jackie Libera, and Frankie Lizska unite for a show stopping afternoon of polka favorites. The venue is crammed full of polka lovers taking in the captivating harmonies of Jackie and Frankie. This has become a bucket list stop for local and out of town polka followers before everyone disperses to the numerous events for the rest of the day. Although there are couples dancing throughout the bar, most are standing in front of the band taking in the seamless talent from this group of musicians. Polka hits, one after an-



Rochester's Dave and Genia Sychtysz made the rounds, including this stop at St. Gabriel's in Elma.

other, make it difficult to leave until the last note is played. I think most polka lovers who attend Dyngus Day will agree that this has become a highlight of their day's activities.

NEXT, I WAS OFF to Potts Banquet to watch a set of **John Stevens Band** before I'd have to jump on the shuttle to head to the Polonia District for the annual Dyngus Day Parade. It was early in the afternoon and Potts was already filling up with attendees making certain they have their table staked out for the day's events. I make it a point to stop by to hear the melodious two accordion sounds of John Stevens Band each year. The cheerfulness of the band is contagious and many were taking the opportunity to enjoy the dance floor before the commotion of later crowds takes over. While Stevens kept the music alive for the afternoon, **Concertina All**



Dave Morris, Jeff Yash, and Stacey Morris enjoyed Eric Bakowski's jam band.

Stars finished out the evening shift of music.

A short shuttle ride and I was greeting with an estimated 80,000 other East Side aficionados who were taking advantage of the gorgeous weather to enjoy the parade. The parade has continued to grow each year since its inception in 2007.

THE TRANSFORMATION of the East Side of Buffalo on the Monday after Easter is something that you cannot understand unless you actu-



Sisters Jill Rappold, Kathy Miesowicz, and Jenny Kurdziel taking in the music at Polish Villa II.

ally attend some the events there on Dyngus Day. The streets and businesses are full of life — the stark opposite of the rest of the year.

My annual stop to St. Stanislaus Social Hall did not disappoint this year as I delighted in **Stephanie** and her honky band. Her liveliness on stage, paired with the steady beat of drummer Bernie Gorak, make it hard not to get out and dance along. Randy Koslosky also offered his talents to Stephanie's band alternating between her and **Mon Valley Push** without much, if any break. Mon Valley Push quickly took to the stage playing to the party crowd that makes St. Stan's their first stop after the parade. Young drummer Stush Stetar grabs a bit of attention away from the more seasoned members of the band, as his enthusiasm exudes even from the back of the stage. My favorite song they played was a polka rendition of "Country

Roads."

It was time to make my way to Pussywillow Park to ensure a front row spot for **Jimmy Sturr Band** which, rarely performs in Western New York. Despite arriving over an hour early, the front spots were almost completely filled up by fans from late teens to an 88-year-old gentleman I met who had traveled from Altoona, Pa. for this performance by Sturr and his orchestra. The hour of waiting passed quickly as I people-watched and listened to a Polka Town Sounds recording which was blaring throughout the tent. The buildup began as the band took the stage and Keith Stras started the introduction for the 18-time Grammy Award winning orchestra. As Sturr took the stage, it is simple to see why he has maintained such popularity. A professional entertainer in every sense of the word, he had thousands of fans of all ages screaming as if they were attending a rock show. Playing "Splish Splash," "Devil Went Down to Georgia," and "Sweet Caroline" set the bar high for his entire performance. Showcasing each member of the band during the night, he especially highlighted local musician

Johnny Karas.

Lastly, I headed towards home and made a final stop to Polish Villa II where my day began to see the **Buffalo Touch**. The Touch draws a crowd each year as they play to the audience's request even if it wants to hear "Alice" every single set. This was the perfect spot to enjoy the spirit of Dyngus Day. I wish that time would allow me to visit more venues but it is completely impossible.

I cannot wait to see what Dyngus Day 2020 brings to the table.

OCEAN BEACH PARK Polka Days is being held on June 19-22, 2019 at Ocean Beach Park in New London, Conn., and will feature an all-star band, which will do a tribute to Happy Louie. For information, visit www.oceanbeachparkpolkadays.com or call (860) 598-4117.

POLKA CALENDAR

Compiled by John Ziobrowski

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

JUNE 1

- John Stevens / Tony's Polka Band Polish Community Club Utica, N.Y. 3-? (919) 252-9142
- The Boys / Polski Chix Falcons Grand Rapids, Mich. 6-11 (616) 813-1504
- Box On / Don Wojtla / Polka Family / Lenny Gomulka St. Mary's Johnstown, Pa. 2-10 (814) 535-4132
- Eddie Forman St. Stans Fall River, Mass. 5-9 (508) 647-6771

JUNE 2

- Special Delivery, Phocus, Touch. Riverworks Ganson St. Buffalo, N.Y. (844) 749-2267
- Lenny Gomulka Evergreen CC Fleetwood, Pa. 2-6 (610) 944-7501
- The Knewz / Box On St. Mary's Johnstown, Pa. 1-5 (814) 535-4132
- The Boys / The Project Mohawks Picnic Grove Hammond In. 12-6 (219) 677-3586

JUNE 7

- Rymanowki Bros. BMV Church Latham, N.Y. 5-9 (518) 453-2258
- John Stevens John Hopkins Park Edwardsville, Pa. 4-7 (570) 239-9594

JUNE 8

- Dennis Polisky WVIA TV Pittston, Pa. 4 & 6 (570) 826-6144
- Stephanie / Polka Family / Polka Country Musicians Independence Fire Hall Great Meadow NJ 3-12 (908) 209-9843
- Buffalo Concertina Allstars / Lil John's ATM Band St. Sava's Grove Parma, Ohio. 2-8 (216) 496-6223
- New Direction Firehouse Bar & Grill West Seneca, N.Y. 7-11 (716) 826-4259
- Tony's Polka Band Polish National Church Latham, N.Y. 5-9 (518) 453-2258

- John Stevens St. Paul Northampton, Pa. 12-3 (610) 261-2910
- The Boys WSKG TV Vestal, N.Y. 12 Noon (607) 729-0100

JUNE 9

- Dennis Polisky Evergreen CC Fleetwood, Pa. 2-6 (610) 94-7501
- Jimmy Sturr / The Boys Pulaski Park Three Rivers, Mass. 2-6 (800) 724-0727
- Buffalo Touch Clinton Bar & Grill Cheektowaga, N.Y. 5:30
- Polish Connection Man of Honor Wausau, Wisc. 12-5 (715) 241-6940
- Fritz's Polka Band BMV Church Latham, N.Y. 2-6 (518) 453-2258
- TKO Sacred Heart of Mary Baltimore, Md. 12-5 (410) 633-2828
- Joe Stanky VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 472-1152
- Northern Sounds Polish Club Bellevue, Fla. 2-5 (352) 854-6193
- Jody Maddie Tri-C Campus Parma, Ohio. 3-6 (216) 987-6000

JUNE 11

- Buffalo Touch River Bar & Grill Tonawanda, N.Y. 6:30

JUNE 13

- Polka Buzz. The Knewz. Potts Banquet Hall Buffalo, N.Y. 7-11 (716) 675-6588

JUNE 14

- Dennis Polisky St. Joseph Webster, Mass. 6-10 (508) 943-0467
- Steve Meisner / SqueezeBox / Norm Dombrowski / IPA Tribute Band / DynaBrass / Polka Country Musicians / The Knewz Henry Maier Park Milwaukee, Wisc. 12-12 info@polishfest.org

JUNE 15

- Dennis Polisky St. Joseph Webster, Mass. 5-8 (508) 943-0467
- John Gora / SqueezeBox / Tony Blazonczyk / Box On / The Boys / The Knewz / Polka Country Musicians / Polish Connection 12-12 Henry Maier Park Milwaukee, Wisc. info@polishfest.org

JUNE 16

- SqueezeBox / John Gora / Box On / The Boys / Polka Pak / Larry Lynne 12-8 Henry Maier Park Milwaukee, Wisc. info@polishfest.org

JUNE 19

- Polka Country Musicians Ocean Beach Park New London, Conn. 7-10 (860) 447-3031

JUNE 20

- Polka Method / Lenny Gomulka / Matt's All Stars / The Natural Talent / The Boys Ocean Beach Park New London, Conn. 10:00 a.m.-12:30 a.m.

JUNE 21

- Lenny Gomulka / Polish Connection / Eddie Forman / PCM / The Knewz Ocean Beach Park New London, Conn. 10:00 a.m.-12:30 a.m.
- John Stevens Clinton Square Syracuse, N.Y. 6-8

JUNE 22

- The Knewz / Natural Talent / Dennis Polisky / PCM / The Boys / Polish Connection Ocean Beach Park New London, Conn. 10:00 a.m.-12:30 a.m.
- John Stevens Clinton Square Syracuse, N.Y. 4-8
- Joe Stanky St. Faustina Naticoke, Pa. 4-7 (570) 735-4833

JUNE 23

- Dennis Polisky Franklin St. Norwich, Conn. 2-6
- John Stevens / Lenny Gomulka Christ the King Ludlow, Mass. 12-8 (413) 583-2630
- Melotones Pulaski Club Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5 (386) 258-7059

JUNE 26

- Special Delivery Band Leonard Post Cheektowaga, N.Y. (716) 684-4371
- Eddie Forman Bandstand West Brookfield, Mass. 7-9

JUNE 28

- Dennis Polisky OLOC Church Coventry RI 6-10 (401) 821-7991
- Jimmy Sturr Festival Square Middle-

town, N.Y. 7-9

- Tony's Polka Band Halfmoon Park Clifton Park, N.Y. 6:30-8:30
- June 29
- Eddie Forman OLOC Church Coventry, R.I. 6-10 (401) 821-7991
- Jimmy Sturr Nay Aug Park Scranton, Pa. 7:30-9:30

JUNE 30

- Dennis Polisky OLOC Church Coventry, R.I. 12-4 (401) 821-7991
- Box On St. Stans Bay City, Mich. 2-6 (989) 522-3846
- John Stevens St. Basil's Dushore, Pa. 12-2 (570) 928-8865
- New Brass Express Mohawks Picnic Ground Hammond, Ill. 2-6

JULY 3

- DynaBrass Seven Springs Champion, Pa. 7-11:30 (708) 594-5182

JULY 4

- Special Delivery Band Cheektowaga, N.Y. Parade.
- Tony Blazonczyk / Lenny Gomulka / The Knewz / Polka Family / The Boys Seven Springs Champion, Pa. 10:00 a.m.-1:00 a.m. (708) 594-5182

JULY 5

- Polka Method / Old School / Eddie Forman / Freeze Dried Seven Springs Champion, Pa. 10:00 a.m.-

1:00 a.m. (708) 594-5182

JULY 6

- DynaBrass / Ray Jay / Box On / The Beat / The Sounds Seven Springs Champion, Pa. 10:00 a.m.-1:00 a.m. (708) 594-5182

JULY 7

- Eddie Forman Evergreen CC Fleetwood, Pa. 2-6 (610) 944-7501

PULASKI POLKA DAYS July 18-21, 2019
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BAND SCHEDULE

Thursday

- New Generation
- Chad Przybylski / Polka Rhythms
- Maroszek Brothers
- Aaron Socha Livewire
- Polka Dynamics
- Nathan Neuman

Friday

- Norm Dombrowski & the Happy Notes
- New Generation
- Tekla Klebetnica (Direct from Poland)
- Michael Costa & The Beat
- Polish Connection
- Aaron Socha & Livewire
- Polka Country Musicians
- The Natural Talent (TNT)
- Stephanie
- Keith Stras & the Polka Confetti

- The Derrick Ziegenbein Band

Saturday

- Chad Przybylski / Polka Rythms
- Box On
- Polka Family
- Michael Costa & The Beat
- DynaVersaStickToneAires
- Steve Meisner
- Polka Country Musicians
- Tekla Klebetnica (Direct from Poland)
- Jerry Voelker & Jolly Gents
- Gary's Ridgeland Dutchmen
- Music Connection

Sunday

- Box On
- Polka Family
- The Natural Talent (TNT)
- Maroszek Brothers

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EVENTS

Community Events

- Community Night
- Fireworks
- Polish Food & Souvenirs

Saturday Events

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

Sunday Events

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

CONTACT

General Information

- Harold @ 920-822-3869 or 920-660-9126
- Mike @ 920-822-1290

Camping

- Nora: 920-619-5587
- Polkacamp@yahoo.com

Parade Information

- Wayne @ 920-822-5456



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- KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
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- VFW

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

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My Venerable Relative: Br. Alojzy Kosiba, The Holy Almoner

by Mark G. Dillon

It is summer of 1855 in Libusza, a small farming village on the road from Gorlice to Biecz once known as a linen weaving center. My great grandfather Walenty Dylag is a boy of 10, most likely working on the long narrow strip of farmland near the Ropa River the family had purchased few years earlier when the Austrian-Hungarian Empire brought serfdom to an end.

At Agnieszka Kosiba's log and straw home a short walk away, a boy is born on June 29. He will be baptized Piotr (Peter) by Fr. Alojzy Haas at the wooden Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, built in 1513. Agnieszka will die when Piotr is a toddler after giving birth to his second sister a few days before Christmas. His father Jan Kosiba, a farmer cultivating about seven acres, would then marry Apolonia Kosibow and Piotr will have seven more siblings, three of whom would die as infants.

Piotr grew to a humble man who would adopt the name Br. Alojzy

Kosiba as a member of the Franciscans (Order of Friars Minor founded by St. Francis of Assisi in 1209). He knew poverty first-hand as a child, and would earn the nickname "The Holy Almoner" for his persistence in seeking alms using a horse-drawn cart. Br. Kosiba dedicated his life to helping children who faced hunger in areas south and east of Krakow during and after World War I, according to the testimony of his fellow brothers.

"Br. Alojzy was a monk without a reproach. He prayed constantly, he respected the elderly, he loved the children. Above all, he highly valued and loved the poor," wrote colleague Br. Blazej Ranzosz in Polish in 1965.

Declared Venerable by Pope Francis two years ago, January 4th marked the 80th anniversary of Br. Kosiba's death just before the start of World War II in 1939. He is buried

in Wieliczka, a short walk from the famous salt mine at the Franciscan monastery grounds where he worked, within the monastery's 17th century baroque Church of the Stigmata.

Within the courtyard of the church surrounded by outdoor Stations of the Cross is also a memorial to Br. Kosiba while on the street that bears his name is a life-size sculpture in sandstone depicting Br. Kosiba with several children and baskets of food. (See photos).

WHO WAS BR. KOSIBA? He was someone who embraced a life of poverty to the point where some of his more worldly-focused fellow clergy questioned his self-sacrifice and humorous collection methods, and mocked him. Among the legends that surfaced was that an angry *babcia* once poured hot soup on him and chased him off her property after he asked for a donation. In the years after his death, the ranks of Kosiba's admirers — among them Karol Wojtyla when he was Archbishop of Krakow — grew. A Polish language movie based on Br. Kosiba's life created by film director Andrej Baranski called *Braciszek* was released in 2007.

"People in Jurków and Dobre very much appreciated Br. Alojzy," Br. Ranzosz wrote as eyewitness testimony was first gathered in the 1960s for a canonization petition. "When he was not there for a long time, they inquired when he would come. Usually he arrived in the winter, from mid-January. He was sometimes [there] a month or so, until he passed all the surrounding villages. He always brought souvenirs, gifts to churches, healing herbs, pictures, crosses, rosaries; he wrote to these people for Christmas. He prayed for people, because many asked for prayers. It was said that when Brother Alojzy prays for them and qualifies them, they avoid hail and thunderstorms and have better crops and harvests."

Addressing the Franciscan Seminary of St. Bonaventure in Krakow in January 2015, Holocaust survivor Ute Maria Frey attributed her renewed ability to walk after 16 years of paralysis to the intercession of Br. Kosiba. She had been a victim of Nazi medical experiments.

THE EARLY 1870S — when Br. Kosiba came of age — was a difficult time for many families in Libusza in the foothills of the Carpathians, even as a new oil refinery opened in the village in 1872. Large families were the norm, resulting in each succeeding generation of subsistence farmers trying to make ends meet on an ever smaller slice of family homestead.

My own family was an example. My great grandfather Walenty would grow up to marry Angieszka Kosiba's sister Tekla's daughter Agata in 1872, and have 12 children. One child was my grandfather Maciej Dylag, a blacksmith who emigrated to the United States in 1905. Two of Maciej's siblings would also marry relatives of Jan Kosiba's mother Katarzyna, whose maiden surname was Przybylowicz.

Br. Kosiba initially decided on cobbling shoes for people rather than horses for a living. Unable to further a high-school level education for financial reasons, he earned his shoemaker trade certificate in Biecz, and then for two years

worked at a shoe factory in Tarnow to support his brothers and sisters back in Libusza.

Working with "souls" rather than "soles" became a greater calling. Br. Kosiba first met the Franciscans while in Biecz, and eventually de-

Russian-occupied areas of Poland, cutting the supply available for civilians in half.

Meanwhile, at the Franciscan monastery, the task of answering the bishop's call was assigned to Br. Kosiba on Jan. 27, 1916. He



In the courtyard in front of the Church of the Stigmata in Wieliczka is Bro. Alojzy Kosiba's original burial site. His remains are now beneath an oratory inside the church.

ecided that religious life was a better fit after visiting the Wieliczka monastery. He formally joined the Franciscans in 1878, was initially stationed at Jaroslaw but then got transferred back to Wieliczka and assigned as the order's shoemaker, and repair man for monks' belts.

It was during the bleak winter of 1915-1916 that Br. Kosiba took on the role that would make him famous. On Christmas Day 1915, Archbishop of Krakow Adam Sapieha sent out a global call for aid to civilian Poles affected by World War I. Archbishop Sapieha's *Ksiazecznosci* and a supporting letter from then Pope Benedict XV became the catalyst for fundraising around the world, including many

embraced it wholeheartedly even as local resources were already stretched thin.

According to the monastery's website (franciszkaniewieliczka.pl) Br. Kosiba's ministering journeys, largely on horse drawn carts for months at a time, included Wieliczka, Dobczyce (20 km), Mszana Dolna (40 km), Myślenice (30 km), Rabka (55 km), Nowy Targ (80 km), Zakopane (100 km), Bochnia (25 km), Brzesko (38 km), Limanowa, Lipnica Murowana, Tymbark, Stary and Nowy Sącz (80 km)."

In May Br. Kosiba "went for poultry, chicken, duck, goose, but he did not collect, he only wrote what he promised and only in June and at the beginning of July he took and transported," the monastery's website says. The yield: 300 to 400 chickens and 50 to 60 ducks.

After World War I through the end of 1938, Br. Kosiba continued his ministry to the poor, becoming what today would be considered a home health aide. "To the best of his abilities, Br. Alojzy looked after the deserted and ill in the houses in Wieliczka, which he had previously invested in, and also brought a doctor who, at his request, provided the poor with free medical care," wrote colleague Br. Zefiryn Pyzik. "Drugs that the doctor prescribed for the poor, Br. Alojzy would deliver with the help of a Wieliczka pharmacist."

Shortly after Christmas 1938, after setting out on a trip to Niegowic eight miles away, Br. Kosiba, then 83, returned the next day and learned he had contracted pneumonia. He died Jan. 4, 1939. Coincidentally, Niegowic parish — Church of the Assumption of Our Lady — was the first pastoral assignment for a young Fr. Karol Wojtyla from July 1948 to August 1949.

SOURCES

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- *National Catholic Register*, May 14, 2017
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- bratalojzy.com.pl



In Wieliczka near the salt mine and across the street from the Franciscan monastery where he lived, is a statue of Bro. Alojzy Kosiba.

benefit events organized by the Polish diaspora in the United States.

The backdrop was that agriculture in Galicia and the Russian partition had been devastated, first by the invading Russians in the autumn of 1914, then in the Gorlice-Tarnow counterattack in May 1915 by Germany and Austria-Hungary and again by the retreating Russians whose scorched-earth policy including burning farms and barns.

Instead of assisting the reconquered Galicia and Russian partitions, the victorious Germans expropriated remaining resources. By mid-1916, for example, the German military was taking 40,000 tons of potatoes per month from former

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