

# POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

ESTABLISHED 1911

www.polamjournal.com

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN CULTURE

**WHAT'S MISSING FROM THE MOVIE "DEFIANCE" • SAINTLY BANK STAYS SOLVENT • AN AMERICAN LEGEND  
FOODS OF A POLISH LENT • TOLEDO'S POLONIA IN PHOTOS • A RAY OF SUNSHINE • THE YEAR OF GROTOWSKI  
MUSEUM HONORS FOUNDER • AGE-OLD SUPERSTITIONS • SOONER SAINTHOOD FOR SOLIDARITY PRIEST?**

## NEWSMARK

**MARK BRZEZINSKI NEXT U.S. AMBASSADOR?** The term in office of the current United States ambassador to Poland, Victor Ashe, who was appointed by George Bush in 2004, will end this spring.

According to numerous sources quoted by GAZETA WYBORCZA, he will very probably be replaced by Mark Brzezinski, a 43 year-old lawyer and international affairs expert.

Brzezinski is the son of Zbigniew Brzezinski, the former adviser to Jimmy Carter.

Mark Brzezinski received the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland two years ago from the Polish Ambassador in Washington, Janusz Reiter.

**U.N. OFFICIAL KIDNAPPED.** Gunmen kidnapped an American who is a senior United Nations refugee official in Islamabad, Pakistan and killed his driver in the southwestern city of Quetta, Feb. 2. In response, Pakistani security officials locked down routes leading out of the city.

The American official, John Solecki, the head of the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Quetta, was abducted about 8:00 a.m. as he and his driver, Syed Hashim, an 18-year employee of the agency, were on their way to the UN's local offices in Quetta. Hashim was shot and later died at a local hospital.

No group claimed responsibility for the kidnapping, which the Pakistani government called a "dastardly terrorist act." Solecki has been in Pakistan for about two years. He has long been active in working to ease the plight of refugees, and sought to expand women's rights.

### PAC ASKS IPN TO STUDY AGENTS.

Frank Spula, president of the Polish American Congress, has written to Janusz Kurtyka, president of Poland's Institute of National Remembrance (IPN), asking the organization to study the role of former agents and collaborators with the secret services of the Polish People's Republic (PRL), who operated, and, possibly, continue to operate, within American Polonia.



SPULA

In his letter, Spula said the "information about these matters is, at present, selective and incomplete. That creates the possibility of varying interpretations, aggressive speculation, mutual accusations and personal conflicts. This could have a negative impact both on American Polonia and on its cooperation with Poland."

He offered the PAC's assistance in revealing the turncoats.

**RUSSIAN COURT ENDS KATYN APPEALS.** Russia's Supreme Court has rejected appeals to re-open the investigation into the World War II-era massacre of Polish military officers and intellectuals by Soviet secret police.

The decision announced January 29 ends years of efforts by Polish families to get Russian authorities to re-examine the 1940 killings in forest near the city of Katyn.

An estimated 20,000 Polish officers, intellectuals and priests were killed by Soviet agents in the spring of 1940 near Katyn, in western Russia.

The Soviet Union in 1990 acknowledged that dictator Josef Stalin ordered the killings.

In 2004, Russia's top military prosecutor closed the investigation after concluding that the massacre did not constitute genocide.

**THE MAJORITY OF POLES** love the United States, according to a ranking commissioned by POLISH RADIO, and more so than any other European country. The poll run by the Ipsos Agency found that fifty-three per cent of Poles have a very positive opinion of the United States. Out of the twenty-two nations surveyed Poland ranked third behind India and the United States itself in positive attitudes toward the United States.

## Captured Polish Engineer Murdered by Taliban

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—A Polish engineer who was kidnapped by the Taliban last September was killed by his captors Feb. 7, 2009 after negotiations with the government for his release collapsed, a Taliban spokesman said.

Piotr Stanczak, who was shown in a video on Pakistani television in October pleading for his release, was one of several foreigners captured by the Taliban in recent months, evidence of the increasingly grim security situation in the country.

He appears to be the first Western captive killed by Islamic militants in Pakistan since the murder of Daniel Pearl, a WALL STREET JOURNAL correspondent, in January 2002.

Stanczak worked for a Polish firm under contract with a Pakistani state enterprise, the Oil and Gas Development company, and was kidnapped in an ambush on his way to work in Attock, 70 miles northeast of the capital.

A Taliban spokesman told See "Engineer," page 4

## Obama Fever Hits Embassy



PHOTO: RICHARD FOREMSKI

**EMBASSY SHOWCASES OBAMA BOOK IN POLISH.** The only Barack Obama biography currently available in Polish, "Barack Obama—Czarnoskory Kennedy," was recently featured at the Embassy of Poland. Author Christoph von Marschall is pictured above (right) displaying the book. He is assisted by Cultural Counselor Mariusz Brymora (left) who is holding editions of the book in Japanese and German. Story on page 4.

## Six Chicago Polonians Killed in West Virginia Plane Crash



PHOTOGRAPH: COURTESY OF ROMAN GLUCH

**Monika Niemiec** and her father, Stanley, both lost their lives in the crash. Ms. Niemiec was a journalist and reporter for "Panorama," a Polish Radio Program on WNWI-AM. She was writing a story about the Club. Her father decided to go along for the ride.

by Geraldine Balut-Coleman

CHICAGO—A team led by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is investigating the wreckage of a twin-engine Piper Seneca PA-34 in an area less than two miles from the Tri-State Airport near Huntington, W.V. This team is looking for clues as to why a twin-engine plane with six souls aboard tragically went down at approximately 2:00 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 31.

The plane left the Lake in the Hills Airport in McHenry County, Ill. just northwest of the Chicago metro area en route to Clearwater, Fla. by way of Charlotte, N.C. Four persons aboard the plane were pilots and members of the American Polish Aero Club of Chicago, a club whose membership included 60 glider and plane enthusiasts. Also aboard were a reporter/journalist and her father.

See "Plane Crash," page 4

## Kosciuszko Foundation Ball to Honor PSFCU CEO Chmielewski

NEW YORK—Kosciuszko Foundation Chairman Witold Sulimirski announced that the chair of this year's ball at the Waldorf Astoria will be Bogdan Chmielewski, Chief Executive Officer of the Polish and Slavic Federal Credit Union. With more than \$1 billion in assets and 70,000 members, the PSFCU is the largest ethnic credit union in the United States.

The theme of this year's ball on April 25 will be "High Finance and Higher Education."

Tickets for this prestigious black tie event are \$275 before April 1, or \$300 after. Students pay \$200. The ball is the Foundation's annual fundraising event which brings together the most successful Poles in America and the Polish diplomatic community for a night of dining, dancing and

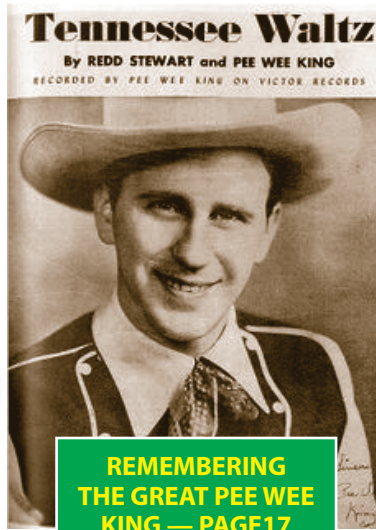
networking. Proceeds support the educational and cultural mission of the Foundation.

"The PSFCU started out small, giving loans to immigrants who could not get mortgages from American banks," said Sulimirski. "But now, it has more than \$1 billion in assets, and while many American banks are struggling due to the subprime mortgage



CHMIELEWSKI

See "Kosciuszko Foundation Annual Ball," page 2



REMEMBERING THE GREAT PEE WEE KING — PAGE 17

## Kosciuszko Foundation Annual Ball

*continued from cover*  
mess, the PSFCU is going strong and has not had a single foreclosure. That is very impressive and deserves to be recognized. Mr. Chmielewski has done a fantastic job running the credit union and helping Polish Americans build their credit ratings and their net worth."

The KF and PSFCU were also major supporters of the new permanent Chair of Polish Studies at Columbia University.

The PSFCU has helped tens of thousands of Polish immigrants to establish themselves and achieve financial success issues in America. It is also the most generous supporter of Polish charities in the United States. Except for the Kosciuszko Foundation, the PSFCU's scholarship fund for Polish Americans is the largest in America. The Kosciuszko Foundation awards about \$1 million in scholarships annually, and the PSFCU awards \$300,000 to students each year.

"That's why the theme of this year's ball will be High Finance and Higher Education" said Kosciuszko Foundation President Alex Storzynski. "Thaddeus Kosciuszko wrote, 'By nature, we are all equals. Riches and education constitute the

only difference.' The PSFCU and the KF help Polish Americans to achieve financial stability and educate their children. These go issues go hand in hand."

In addition to the PSFCU, the ball will honor several members that have made legacy gifts to support the foundation's educational and cultural programs.

For more information on the Ball, e-mail [development@thekf.org](mailto:development@thekf.org) or call (212) 734-2130.



## ALMANAC

### March • Marzec

"Youth is the gift of nature, but age is a work of art."  
—Stanislaw Lec

- 3 1996. Death of **Cardinal John Krol**, Archbishop of Philadelphia, first Polish American Cardinal.
- 4 **ST. CASIMIR**  
1484. Death of **St. Casimir**, Prince, Patron of Poland.  
1904. First issue of the **DZIENNIK POLSKI**, Detroit.
- 5 1813. Birth of **Kazimierz Gzowski**, Polish engineer and bridge builder who emigrated to Canada.
- 6 1745. Birth, in Mazowia, Poland, of **Casimir Pulaski**, American Revolutionary War hero, general, and father of the American Cavalry.
- 7 966. **Mieszko I**, Duke of Poland, accepts Christianity.
- 11 1913. Birth in Paris of American fashion designer Paris as **Oleg Cassini Lojewski**. Raised in Italy, he came to the United States in 1936.
- 12 **ST. GREGORY**
- 13 1995. Death of **Franciszek Gajowniczek**, Auschwitz prisoner saved from death by Fr. Maximilian Kolbe, who later became a saint.
- 17 **ST. PATRICK**.  
1956. Death of **Irene Joliet-Curie**, Polish-French scientist, daughter of Pierre and Madame Curie, and Nobel Prize in Chemistry recipient. (b. 1897)
- 18 1895. Riots erupt when **Rev. Flaczek** is appointed to St. Adalbert's Church, Buffalo, N.Y. His controversial tenure led to the establishment of the Holy Mother of the Rosary Polish Catholic Church by parishioners upset with perceived authoritarian rule by the bishop.
- 19 **ST. JOSEPH**  
*Gdy na święty Józef bociek przybędzie, to już śnieg nie będzie. If storks arrive on St Joseph, the snows shall melt.*
- 20 1673. Death of **Fr. Augustyn Kordecki** (b. 1603), led the defense of Czestochowa against Swedish invaders.  
1842. First Polish immigrant society formed in New York City, **Towarzystwo Polakow w Ameryce**, Association of Poles in America.
- 21 1822. Death of **Jozef Wybicki**, wrote the Polish National Anthem.  
1980. Seventy year old **Antoni Baylak** sets himself on fire at the old town Square in Krakow to protest silence about the Katyn massacre.
- 22 1839. Town of **Chictowauga** (now Cheektowaga) in Erie County, New York, is formed from the southern portion of the town of Amherst. It would eventually become a haven for Polish Americans in Western New York.
- 23 1891. Death of **Fr. Leopold Moczygamba** in Detroit, Franciscan who founded the first Polish Church in the United States in Panna Maria, Texas. Also founder of Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary at the Orchard Lake Schools in Orchard Lake, Michigan.
- 24 1794. **Tadeusz Kosciuszko**, recently returned from the United States, assumes the title of Supreme Commander of the Polish Insurrection of 1794 in defense of the Constitution of May 3. His oath is sworn in the Krakow marketplace.
- 28 1928. Birth of **Zbigniew Brzezinski**.

This paper was mailed on or before **February 28, 2009**. The April 2009 edition of the paper will be mailed on or before **March 28, 2009**.

## JUST BETWEEN US / Mark Kohan

### Saint's Martyrdom Echoed

**THE 133-YEAR OLD** St. Stanislaus Church in Perham, Minn.—perhaps the smallest town in the state with the distinction of having two Catholic churches—will close this year, the St. Cloud Diocese announced. Bishop John F. Kinney wrote a letter to parishioners, announcing that the church will merge with Perham's St. Henry's Catholic Church.

St. Stanislaus dates to 1876, in the midst of a large influx of Polish immigrants, when a mission for the Polish was established as the St. Stanislaus Society. The present brick church, built in 1922, replaced an earlier structure. From about 1918 to the 1940s, there was a parochial church school, with a distinctively Polish American student body.

Like the martyred saint they honor, it seems parishes named St. Stanislaus are taken before their time. St. Stanislaus in **Wilmington, Del.** closed Feb. 15. The parish was founded in 1912 to accommodate an overflow of Polish-speaking immigrants. No longer surrounded by a Polish neighborhood, the parish suffered from poor attendance.

"It was long overdue and probably should have happened ten years ago," said Robert Krebs, a Catholic Diocese of Wilmington spokesman.

There are others. But not all the news is sad. At press time, the vigil to keep St. Stan's in **Adams, Mass.** was still underway. And St. Stanislaus in **Hazleton, Pa.**, will remain open, as the Diocese of Scranton undergoes a restructuring that will cut in half the number of churches in Luzerne County.

Six months ago, the church's fate wasn't as secure. Preliminary recommendations suggested St. Stanislaus would remain open for two years as a secondary worship site for a larger consolidated parish.

"We're all happy about it," said the Rev. Louis S. Garbacik, who retired as pastor nearly three years ago, but still lives in the rectory and serves the parish, regularly saying Mass and staying busy, just as always.

"It is a place of worship and we enjoy it. I also thank the bishop that he allows me to stay here."

**WE RECEIVED SEVERAL** letters and e-mails about comments made about Poles by liberal activist Roger Ray's that Poland and Germany are responsible for the Holocaust. Two readers suggested the PAJ respond to Ray. While we are flattered with the authority our readers place in the newspaper, the bottom line is: correspondence to Ray is just fuel for his twisted beliefs. In coming up with nonsense like "Poles are responsible for Holocaust," Ray seeks to gain more attention for himself.

We printed his comment to let all know the ridiculous nature of his ideas. Some lunatics work subtly, others scream. Be aware of them, but not fall for their goading.

**EASTER IS NEXT MONTH.** Please send in information about your Easter and Dyngus Day events ASAP. To guarantee placement by deadline (March 4), send to [info@polamjournal.com](mailto:info@polamjournal.com).

## QUOTES / compiled from news sources

### No Risky Business Here

"We just use our head. We do not lend to people who can't afford it. We have not invested in the riskier types loans and investments that many of the larger banks have invested their depositors money in."

—**Ronald Jason**, president of *Baltimore's St. Casimir Savings & Loan, on the bank's success. Established in 1911, it currently boasts \$102.5 million in assets.*

"We are happy here, and lucky also. But probably we will have to go back."

—**Polish immigrant Piotr** (last name withheld), who with his wife *Aneta, plan on returning to Poland because of the U.S. job market. That—coupled with Poland's membership in the EU, the country's robust economy, and U.S. immigration laws—is resulting in fewer Poles making the United States their home. No precise figures exist, but one reliable estimate puts the number of returnees at 50,000 since 2004.*

"There will be no fight to keep it open or anything like that. The parish has served its purpose. We understand that it's time for it to go. What makes it easier is that everything you look back at is good. There is not a bad memory."

—**Parishioner Bernadette Drozd**, 63, on the closing of *St. Stanislaus Parish in Wilmington, Del., last month.*

"A day like this reminds you of what you lost."

—**New York City Fireman Eugene Stolowski**, 37, at a *Black Sunday Mass in memory of two deceased firefighters, who died in a 2005 Bronx tenement fire. The*

*building's owner, manager, and two tenants are facing manslaughter charges, accused of creating the deadly firetrap. Stolowski and three other firemen were also seriously injured in the blaze.*

"In fairness, these kids are younger teens and have never faced this before."


—**Jack Kosakowski**, president of *Junior Achievement USA, on the teaching youth how to survive the recession. A recent study shows more than 57 percent of today's teenagers lack financial literacy.*

"We're always upbeat around here. We're doing pretty good. And donations have been coming in from around the country."


—**One of St. Stanislaus, Adams, Mass., organizers, Francis Hajdas.** *Former parishioners are holding a vigil at the site while they await word from Rome on the fate of the church, which was closed by the diocese December 28, 2008. Roughly 140 people are taking part in occupying the church in shifts that cover every hour of every day to prevent the diocese from locking up the building.*

"... and Jimmy Sturr won the Jimmy Sturr award—oops, I mean best polka album award—for the 18th time."

—**Showbiz journalist and television critic Tom O'Neil**, in his *Los Angeles Times blog page "Gold Derby," Monday, Feb. 9, 2009, on the overwhelming success Sturr has enjoyed in the "Best Polka Recording" category of the Grammy Awards.*




# YOUR FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS



**INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNT (IRA)** Is a great way to save for your retirement and save on your taxes. **ATLAS SAVINGS** offers high yielding retirement accounts.


*Individual Retirement Account offers you the flexibility to plan a stress free retirement.*

- ▣ Traditional IRA
- ▣ Roth IRA
- ▣ ESA
- ▣ SEP IRA
- ▣ Simple IRA



## Atlas Savings and Loan Association

FOUNDED 1900




For more details call **718.768.4800** or visit [www.atlasbank.com](http://www.atlasbank.com)

Copyright © 2009 Atlas Savings and Loan Association. Member FDIC.

[www.atlasbank.com](http://www.atlasbank.com)

689 5th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215  
Call Today (718) 768-4800



## FORUM

## Missing from the film "Defiance": the Bielski Brothers and the Poles

Polish American Congress  
Holocaust Documentation  
Committee

The World War II events shown in the motion picture "Defiance" took place on territory that was part of Poland at the time. Consequently, Charles Chotkowski, Director of Research for the Holocaust Documentation Committee of the Polish American Congress, reviews the film and calls attention to other aspects of those events vital to the context.

The Jewish partisans depicted in the new film "Defiance" became part of Holocaust history by welcoming fugitive Jews into their hideouts in the forests of what is now western Belarus, preserving some 1200 lives from Nazi genocide. Director Edward Zwick has brought to the screen their true story, based on the book *Defiance: The Bielski Partisans* by Nechama Tec (Oxford University Press, 1993).

These partisans were organized and led by three Jewish brothers from the former Polish province of Nowogrodek: Tuvia, Zus, and Asael Bielski. Tuvia, who had served in the Polish army, became the commander. He insisted that his partisans, although formed to fight the German occupation, would also take under their protection women, children, and the elderly who escaped from the Nowogrodek and Lida ghettos.

The film shows how the Bielski brothers met the challenges of escaping from the Nazis, arming partisan combatants, saving non-com-

batant refugees, providing food and shelter, and establishing discipline, all while moving from forest to forest to evade the pursuing Germans. Their affiliation with the Soviet partisans provided limited protection.

The cast, which includes Daniel Craig as Tuvia, Liev Schreiber as Zus, and Jamie Bell as Asael, ably gives straightforward performances that present the Bielski story largely as told by Tec. While liberties have been taken with some incidents and the chronology, the overall effect is faithful to the book. If there are no great cinematographic achievements, there is no Hollywood glamorizing either.

**AFTER 129 MINUTES** running time, the film ends about halfway through the Bielski partisans' story, after they have found a secure forest hideout in the depths of the Puszcza Nalibocka (puszcza is the Polish word for primeval forest or wilderness). Although all the action takes place on prewar Polish territory partly inhabited by Poles, where the Polish partisan Home Army (Armia Krajowa or AK) also operated, no Polish partisan or any other Polish character appears in the film.

This omission is consistent with the chronology. Interactions with the Poles came later in the Bielski partisans' existence, after the film ends. Thus "Defiance" does not address controversial aspects of the Bielski's relations with the Poles that recently have drawn some attention, particularly in Jewish publications and in Poland.

One contentious issue involves an ongoing Polish government investigation into an attack by Soviet partisans on the Polish town of Naliboki, near the Puszcza Nalibocka, in which the Bielski partisans, who were under overall Soviet command, are alleged to have participated.

For protection against banditry, Naliboki had a small self defense force commanded by Eugeniusz Klimowicz, a member of the Home Army (AK).

Soviet partisans in the Puszcza Nalibocka demanded that this force leave the town and join them in the forest.

Klimowicz refused, but the two sides reached an agreement that each would respect the other's area of control. On the morning of May 8, 1943 the Soviets broke the agreement by attacking Naliboki, killing some 128 residents including women and children, and burning down the church, school, court house, and post office.

There were some Jews among the Soviet attackers, but they are unlikely to have been from the Bielski group. Most likely they were partisans led by Simcha Zorin from Minsk, or a group led by Israel Kesler, who was himself from Naliboki and recruited other Jews from there.

**WHEN THE POLISH** investigation into Naliboki and the accusations against the Bielskis were reported in this country, some admirers of the Bielskis blamed "anti-Semitic tendencies" and "the distortion of

history," and questioned the moral right of Poles to judge Jewish partisans. But allegations against Jewish partisans are as legitimate a subject of inquiry as those against Poles or Soviets.

Up to mid-1943 relations between Polish partisans and the Bielskis and other Jewish partisans were generally good. Tuvia was friendly with the commander of the nearby Kosciuszko detachment of the AK, Lieut. Kacper Milaszewski. He and Milaszewski used to visit each other's camps to play chess. When the Germans mounted an anti-partisan action, Operation Hermann, Milaszewski's men fought a delaying action that enabled the Bielski group to escape.

Later in 1943 relations began to deteriorate, for which the Poles are blamed in the memoirs of Jewish partisans. In fact, the blame rests with Soviet policy, which called for the suppression of Polish partisans and Polish village self defense in this disputed area of eastern Poland which the Soviets had annexed in 1939 and intended to keep after the war.

On June 22, 1943 Pantelemon Ponomarenko, chief of staff of the Soviet partisans, issued a directive that "In those regions that are under the influence of our partisan units and party centers do not allow activities of Polish groups formed by the reactionary nationalist circles. The leaders are to be eliminated in a manner that is not noticeable. The units are to be disbanded ... or, if it is possible ... attach them to large

[Soviet] units, after which you are to carry out quietly an appropriate cleansing of hostile elements."

"Reactionary nationalist circles" was Soviet speak for the Polish government-in-exile in London and its Home Army (AK). On December 1, 1943 this policy was applied to the Stolpce Group of the AK under Maj. Wacław Pelka, which included the Kosciuszko detachment of Lieut. Milaszewski. The top officers were invited to a meeting with Soviet officers. When they arrived, the Poles were arrested, while the Soviets attacked the Polish bases.

The Bielski partisans contributed fifty men to this operation to capture and disarm the Polish partisans, their erstwhile allies. Ten Poles were killed resisting capture. Of the Polish officers, five were executed and five, including Pelka and Milaszewski, were flown to Moscow (Milaszewski survived the war). The remaining captured Polish partisans were inducted into the Soviet partisans, but more than thirty were executed when they attempted to leave.

**JEWISH PARTISANS** needed Soviet support, and obedience to anti-Polish orders was part of the price of Jewish survival. One might accept that Jews from the Bielski and Zorin groups had no other choice than to participate in operations against the Poles. What is unacceptable are their partisan memoirs, subsequently published, that denigrate Polish partisans as reactionary fascists and Nazi collaborators.

### SPEAK UP / Letters to the Editor

#### Leaning to the Right?

Dear Editor:

I've highly recommended the POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL and will continue to do so.

However, it's clear that when it comes to political and social commentary, the journal is decidedly biased to the right.

A case in point would be a collection of quotes in the February 2009 issue regarding the Bielski Brothers and the film, "Defiance." Included is a quote from Polish "historian," Jerzy Robert Nowak, which was also published several months ago by another Polish American publication, the AM-POL EAGLE:

"It is a scandal that anyone would make a film casting the murderers who massacred Polish villagers as heroes. They were

murderers and bandits."

This statement by Nowak is sensationalistic and without evidence. "Historian" Jerzy Robert Nowak is essentially a pamphleteer who specializes in anti-Semitic and Zydokomunistic materials. You will not find his writings in any credible publication on Polish-Jewish relations. Asking Nowak about the Bielskis is like asking Vladimir Lenin about capitalism or Bill Clinton about marital fidelity.

Polish American newspapers reveal their bias by presenting such writers as Nowak and Robert Strybel as authorities.

The Polish American Journal, which advertises itself as featuring articles by "Polonia's finest academicians and historians," would bet-

ter serve its readership by doing so. Please consider taking a moderate approach to political and social issues.

Tom Kiseleski  
via e-mail

*Editor's note:* The PAJ is neither "right" nor "left." We strive to present unbiased reports. However, there are instances when we feel it is our obligation to present opposing views, whether or not we agree with them. Thus, as in the case of the movie "Defiance," we found it necessary to let our readers know the movie — and thus the "history" of the Bielski brothers — is not without flaws.

For more on "Defiance," we ask subscribers to read this month's

"Forum" feature issued by the Holocaust Documentation Committee of the Polish American Congress.

**POLISH GIFT OF LIFE SAYS THANK YOU.** The Polish Gift of Life, Inc. takes this opportunity to say "thank you" to all of our supporters and benefactors for a very successful 2008! To those who attended our annual Fundraiser on November 23, 2008, chaired by Eva Kozakiewicz and Jola Jacques, donated prizes for raffles, bought raffles, and assisted us financially. Gratitude to our newest member, Eva Matuszak, who ran in the NY Marathon on Nov. 2, and who donated her sponsor funds \$1,110 to the Polish Gift of Life. All of us working together, means we can continue the vital work of this

organization.

The children sponsored by the Polish Gift of Life, Inc. are operated on in Munich Germany by Polish Pediatric Surgical Cardiologist, Edward Malec, M.D. Due to problems that arose in Poland with the Ministry of Health, Dr. Malec relocated to Munich and continues to save the lives of Polish children. In 2008 the Polish Gift of Life, Inc. sponsored thirteen Polish children, the first being operated on by Dr. Malec on February 26, 2008.

Our Board of Trustees—President Caroline Kowalczyk, Vice-President Yvonne Polak, Treasurer Priscilla Szachacz and our membership—express to each of you our heartfelt appreciation and wish for you and your family a happy, healthy New Year! God bless you all!

Caroline Kowalczyk  
Polish Gift of Life  
Albertson, New York

## POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

Dedicated to the Promotion and Continuance of Polish American Culture • Established 1911

USPS 437-220 / ISSN 0032-2792

The Polish American Journal is published monthly in five editions (Buffalo, Polish Beneficial Association, Association of Sons of Poland, The Union of Poles in America and National editions) by:

PANAGRAPHICS, INC., P.O. BOX 328, BOSTON, NY 14025-0328

PHONE: (716) 312-8088 / E-MAIL: info@polamjournal.com

INTERNET: www.polamjournal.com

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

POSTMASTER—Send address changes to:

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL, P.O. BOX 328, BOSTON, NY 14025-0328

TO ADVERTISE IN THE PAJ CALL 1 (800) 422-1275

National editions: \$12.50 per column inch • Non-profit rate: \$10.00 per column inch  
The Polish American Journal does not assume responsibility for advertisements beyond the cost of the advertisement itself. We are responsible only for the first incorrect insertion of an advertisement. Advertisers are advised to check their advertisement immediately upon publication and report at once any errors. Claims for error adjustment must be made immediately after an advertisement is published.

**Art Director** Christopher F. Misztal  
**Proofreader** Larry Trojak  
**Circulation Manager** Scott Ozimek  
**Advertising Manager** Arlene Stamer

**DISCOUNTS.** For non-profit and organization subscription discounts, call 1 (800) 422-1275.

**REFUNDS and CANCELLATIONS.** Request for subscription cancellations must be made by calling (800) 422-1275. Refunds will be prorated based on one-half of the remaining subscription balance plus a \$5.00 cancellation fee. There is no charge for transferring remaining subscription balances to new or existing accounts.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

UNITED STATES		
	Regular Mail	First Class
1-year	\$20.00	\$33.00
2-year	\$37.00	\$63.00
3-year	\$51.00	\$90.00
FOREIGN (except Canada)		
1-year	\$27.00	\$45.00
2-year	\$51.00	\$87.00
3-year	\$72.00	\$129.00
CANADA		
1-year	NA	\$45.00
2-year	NA	\$87.00
3-year	NA	\$129.00

We welcome letters. Letters should be brief and to the point, and are subject to editing. Because of space limitations, we cannot print all letters received. All letters must contain signature, address, and daytime phone number for verification. Send letters to the editor to: editor@polamjournal.com, re: Speak Up; or the PAJ at P.O. Box 328, Boston, NY 14025-0328.

Letters asking for researching or other information must contain a self-addressed stamped envelope, and are answered on a as-time-permits basis.

**LAPSUS CALAMI.** In last month's Viewpoint, "Polonia in Ashes," which listed prominent legislators of Polish descent, members of Congress Marcy Kaptur, (Ohio, 9th) and Paul Kanjorski (Pa. 11th), were not mentioned.

IGNATIUS HAJDUK • Founder 1911-1920  
JOHN DENDE • Publisher 1920-1944  
HENRY J. DENDE • Publisher 1944-1983

**Editor in Chief** Mark A. Kohan  
editor@polamjournal.com  
**Senior Associate Editor** Larry Wroblewski  
**Assistant Editor** Denice Szafran  
**Associate Editors** Florence Waszkelewicz-Clowes, Benjamin Fiore, S.J., Michael Pietruszka, Stas Kmiec, Steve Litwin, Jennifer Moskal, Walter J. Mysliwicz, Thomas Tarapacki  
**Contributing Editors** Stan Z. Biernacki, Thad Cooke, Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab, Eugene Obidinski, Edward Pinkowski, Ed Piwowarczyk, John Radzilowski

**BUREAUS.** Binghamton Steve Litwin; Chicago T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert; Miami Lydia Kordalewski; Milwaukee John Przybylski; Warsaw Robert Strybel; Washington Richard Poremski  
**Columnists** Stan Bednarczyk, Geraldine Balut-Coleman, Basia Frackiewicz, Michelle Odrobina-Jiompkowski, Jadwiga Urban-Klaehn, Mary Ann Marko, Martin Nowak, Barbara Pinkowski, Ed Poniewaz, Bobby J. Sulecki, Ellye Slusarczyk  
**Newsclippers** Edward Dybicz, Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Dvornicky, C. Kanabrodzki, Henry J. Kensicki, Jerry Mazuchowski, Walter Piatek, Edward H. Pietraszek, Leopold A. Potsiadlo, John A. Riggs, Donald F. Samull, John Yesh  
**Agents** Joseph Brozeski, Robert Czubakowski, Donald Samull

TOLL-FREE SUBSCRIPTION LINE 1 (800) 422-1275 www.polamjournal.com

For information about our Fraternal, its history, and the kinds of plans that we offer, visit our website at

www.SonsofPoland.com

or call us at (201) 935-2807

Celebrating Our 2nd Century of Fraternalism

THIS PAGE IS SPONSORED BY

The Association of the Sons of Poland

333  
HACKENSACK  
STREET



CARLSTADT  
NEW JERSEY  
07072

Our plans of insurance include Endowments; Single Payment Life; Three-, Five-, and Twenty-Payment Life; and Children's and Adult Term... Our benefits include a subscription to this paper; scholarships for all high school seniors entering college, who have been insured members for at least two years; a prescription plan, and now ... Long Term Care and Annuities

## Plane Crash Takes Lives of Polish Aviators



(Circled) front row, l. to r.: Stanley Matras, Kazimierz Adamski, Stanley Niemiec; back row, l. to r.: Wesely Dodrzancki, Moinka Niemiec, Ireneusz Michalowski;

*continued from cover*

According to the Club's president, Chester Wojnicki, the pilots were on their way to Charlotte and Clearwater to check out planes for possible purchase. The plane was to have been used to pull gliders.

The plane's passengers have been identified as: pilot-owner Wiesław (Wesley) Dobrzanski, 60 of Niles; Kazimierz Adamski, 65, of Morton Grove; Ireneusz Michalowski, 44, of Des Plaines; Stanisław (Stanley) Matras, 65, of Chicago; along with Stanley Niemiec, 65, and his daughter Monika Niemiec, 26, both of Harwood Heights.

Adamski, Michalowski and Matras were also identified as pilots.

Ms. Niemiec was a journalist and reporter for Panorama, a Polish Radio Program on WNWI-AM (1080), who decided to take the flight as she had been doing a story about the Club. Her father Stanley went along for the ride.

The Club's president, Chester Wojnicki, indicated that the four pilots had a total of 45 years of flying experience.

According to Tri-State Airport sources, there was snow in the area, and visibility at the time of the crash was approximately a half mile. The pilot made "May Day" calls based on low fuel.

Airport tower personnel indicated that more than two attempts were made to reach the airport. The airplane, which struck a power line, was found in a wooded area with substantial amount of power line cable entangled around it, was in an inverted position and fragmented. Its cabin area and cockpit were extensively damaged. Federal investigators indicated that the official cause of the crash would not be released for approximately one year.

This tragedy hit the Chicago's close-knit Polish community hard with news travelling fast throughout Polonia as well as Poland. According to Fr. Ted Dzieszko, pastor of St. Constance Church in Chicago, almost 1,000 mourners attended a memorial service for the victims on the Sunday immediately following the crash. However, he indicated that the names of the six souls were not announced at the time of the service, because the victims were not officially identified by authorities.

Radio Panorama and the American Polish Aero Club are asking for financial support to help three of the victims' families. They are having difficulty in transporting their loved ones back to Chicago and in securing funding for their burials. Mr. Roman Gluch of Radio Panorama is requesting that anyone wishing to help contact him: (847) 521-3966 or email: studio@radiopanorama.com.

A fund at one of the Chicago banks has been set up to help the victims' families.

## Engineer Murdered by Taliban

*continued from cover*

Fakhar Kakakhel, the Peshawar bureau chief of the AAJ television network, the body of Stanczak would be released only if the government met the militants' demands. The demands included releasing Taliban prisoners and ending military operations against the Taliban in the area of Darra Adamkhel, a Taliban-controlled town on the edge of the tribal region in the North-West Frontier Province.

The major sticking point in the negotiations, according to Mr. Kakakhel and intelligence officials involved in the talks, was the refusal of the militants to settle for a ransom offered by the Polish and the Pakistani governments rather than the release of the prisoners.

Visit our On-line Bookstore at [WWW.POLAMJOURNAL.COM](http://WWW.POLAMJOURNAL.COM).

## Tragedy in Buffalo

Less than a month after the disaster in West Virginia, Continental Flight 3407 crashed outside Buffalo, N.Y., taking the lives of 50 people. The plane landed on the home of Karen and Douglas Wielinski, 61, in Clarence Center, N.Y.

Karen Wielinski, 57, was watching TV in the family room when the impact occurred.

"Planes do go over our house, but this one just sounded different, louder," Wielinski told Buffalo's WBEN-AM radio.

"I thought to myself, 'If that's a plane, it's going to hit something' — and next thing I knew, the ceiling was on me."

The crash killed all 49 people aboard the plane, along with Wielinski's husband, who was in the dining room at the time.

Karen Wielinski said that after the impact, she fought to control her panic and noticed a little light to her right.

"I shouted first in case anybody was out there, and then just pushed what was on me — part of that — off and crawled out the hole," she said. "When I came out of the hole, the back of the house was gone."

She saw the downed aircraft's wing — and her crying daughter, Jill, 22, who had managed to escape an upstairs bedroom through a gap in the burning debris.

A fund has been established for those wishing to help the family. Donations can be made to:

The Wielinski Family Fund  
Clarence Community and Schools Federal Credit Union  
9145 Sheridan Drive  
Clarence, NY 14031

The flight's operator, Colgan Air, identified 30 of the 44 passengers and all 5 crew members on board the plane. Among them were:

**Nicole Korczykowski** of Eden, N.Y., a '01 Wharton and Pennsylvania College graduate, who was traveling with her boyfriend Johnathan Perry, to visit with her family in Eden over the long holiday weekend.

**Jerome "Jerry" Krasuski**, 53, who was returning home to Cheektowaga, N.Y. from a one-day business trip. He was a program manager for Northrop Grumman Amherst Systems, a defense contractor, where he was employed for more than 20 years.

**Brian Kuklewicz**, a Cheektowaga, N.Y. native that grew up on the east side of Buffalo. He leaves behind his wife Karen. They were married for 14 years. Kuklewicz was a father of 8-year-old twins. He worked for Burns Cascade as an engineer.

**Lorin Maurer**, 30, of Princeton, N.J., who was traveling to Buffalo to attend the wedding of her boyfriend's brother. Her boyfriend, Kevin Kuwik, is the son of former Erie County Legislator Edward Kuwik. Maurer worked at Princeton University.

## Obama Fever Hits Embassy

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C.—At the Embassy of the Republic of Poland on January 16, 2009—just four days before the historic inauguration of President Barack Obama—the Embassy embraced the spirit of the occasion by featuring the only Obama biography now available in Polish. The book is titled "Barack Obama – Czarnoskory Kennedy," which translates into English as "Barack Obama – The Black Kennedy."

Cultural Counselor and host Mariusz Brymora introduced author Christoph von Marschall, U.S. Correspondent and Washington Bureau Chief of the German daily newspaper DER TAGESSPIEGEL (DAILY MIRROR), who was accompanied by his wife Zofia (nee Wojna, formerly from Tarnow, Poland). An early association with Poland occurred 1983/84 when von Marschall had studied at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow.

The book was first published in Germany in December 2007. During the summer of 2008 updated versions of the original German language edition became available in Polish and Japanese at book stores in the respective countries. Presently, there is no English edition. The publication is much more than just a simple biography. Von Marschall has been observing Obama since mid-February 2007, when he first announced his presidential candidacy. His experiences, observations and predictions are documented in the book.

The evening's lecture by von Marschall, "Barack Obama—As I Know Him," mirrored what was expressed in his book. It was followed by a presentation of slides, with personal narration, that he snapped during Obama's campaign, as well as a Q&A period. The evening's experiences were well received by the audience.

As a foreign journalist living in the United States for the past three and a half years, von Marschall has some special perspectives on Obama; the following is a sampling of them:

... **A Welcome Message to the World:** Obama was not high born and knows America from top to bottom, from the poorest citizens to the millionaires. Atypically for American politicians, he has lived abroad. And he knows more than the average person about Islam. The world

looks to him for enlightened leadership and joint cooperation in many critical areas.

... **Multicultural Experience:** He knows about the world, which does not work according to American rules, values and political mechanisms. His will be a different perspective.

... **Social Justice:** Barack has a high drive for it, having twice sacrificed prestigious careers, with high



"Czarnoskory Kennedy" was first published in Germany in December 2007. Updated versions of the original became available in Polish and Japanese in the summer of 2008.

salaries, to improve the living conditions of poorer citizens.

... **Strategic Thinker:** He had planned long ago for this time, he was and is prepared.

And he is not a gambler and rather risk adverse.

... **Main U.S. Priorities:** Create jobs, jobs, jobs. Deal with the financial crisis. Obtain health insurance for all Americans.

... **Main World Priorities:** Iraq – Obama will not pull out completely, just reduce forces there. Afghanistan – His promised new strategy remains a riddle for now. Fight against climate change. Negotiate with Iran. Work from the first moment on a Middle East peace.

... **Poland:** Obama shows less affection to Poland and more understanding for Russia than President Bush did, and he will not press for the Missile Defense Plan. As Polish soldiers prepare to leave Iraq, Poland will become less critical to the White House. Poland could not get admitted into the Visa Waiver Program under the Bush presidency, and it is difficult to imagine quick progress under the Obama administration.

... **Conclusion:** Change is coming to Washington, but Europe should not expect too much change. Obama is an American, he will be president of the United States and not become Europe's counter-president. He will not change directions by 180 degrees. U.S. foreign policy will not shift a lot. President Obama understands, and will protect, the national interests of the United States.



Andzia's Amber

Jewelry

P.O. Box 468  
Chincilla, PA 18410  
877-586-6599

ALWAYS TOLL FREE  
International callers  
570-346-4568

INTERNATIONAL AMBER  
ASSOCIATION CERTIFIED  
MEMBER

[amberjewelry.com](http://amberjewelry.com)



**POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE** - An ALL VOLUNTEER non-profit organization sending medical and surgical supplies to hospitals in Poland having Pediatric units enabling children to benefit from surgery performed while remaining in Poland. In 2008 among specialized equipment requested by the hospitals included infusion pumps, monitors and a fully equipped cardiac ambulance.. Generous donations from Polonia and American supporters make this possible and much is still needed. Contributions may be made in memory of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support. For information call (732) 680-0680 or (732) 341-5044.  
"What one does for others, Lives forever"

**POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE, INC.**  
A Non-Profit Corporation—State of NJ  
177 Broadway  
Clark, NJ 07066

THIS PAGE SPONSORED BY

## AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

## ARIZONA

Arizona State University offers an eight-week, eight-credit intensive **summer language course** in beginning Polish through its Critical Languages Institute. The CLI runs June 8-July 31, 2009 on ASU's main campus in Tempe.

The course is tuition-free. The only cost is a \$500 non-refundable processing fee.

Following the program in Tempe, students have the option to continue their Polish studies at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan from August 3-21, 2009. ASU also offers courses and study abroad programs for Albanian, Armenian, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Macedonian, Russian, Tajik-Persian, Tatar and Uzbek at the same time the Polish program is offered.

For more information and to apply to the CLI, please visit our website <http://asu.edu/cli> or contact us at [cli@asu.edu](mailto:cli@asu.edu).

## MARYLAND

**NORTH BETHESDA**—A solo piano concert by a child prodigy, Olivia Ly, age 12, a student of Dr. Bella E. Oster from European Academy of Music and Art, Inc., will be held April 10 at Strathmore Mansion (10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda, MD 20852) at 7:00 p.m. The concert is dedicated to "160 years Memory of F. Chopin."

Admission is free.

For reservations, please e-Mail [Alexoster@comcast.net](mailto:Alexoster@comcast.net) with the number of seats you want to reserve; full names of people who will attend the concert; and indicate the age of the children. Children from age five and up are welcome, and must be accompanied by an adult. Seating is limited. Please book your reservation as soon as possible.

For additional information, call (301) 421-0960 or (301) 362-3633.

## MINNESOTA

**MINNEAPOLIS**—The Twin Cities Polish Festival is looking for quality vendors for its **Polish Festival**, August 15-16, to be held along Old Main Street which runs along the Mississippi River in Minneapolis. Merchandise vendors, food vendors, artists and organizations associated with Polish culture and heritage are invited to apply.

Examples include vendors selling traditional Polish food, products from Poland, Polish American and Polish artists showcasing and selling their arts and crafts, Polish American or Polish business owners seeking to expand their recognition within the Polish community or organizations desiring to promote their mission to the community.

Please go to [www.TCPolishFestival.org](http://www.TCPolishFestival.org) for information on vendor policies and requirements and to print an application.

## NEW JERSEY

**RUNNEMEDE**—Sunday, March 15. Polish American Citizens Club of Camden County **St. Joe/St. Pat Social**, VFW Post 3324, 6th Avenue. 2:00-6:00 p.m. Music by the Music Box Band. Ticket price includes beer, soda and food. No BYOB. No tickets will be sold at the door. For tickets/information call Larry Gasperone (856) 854-4610 or Dan Steiner (856) 468-1215.

## Kaminski, Mattera and Goldsmith to Represent New York at International Pageant

**ALTOONA, Pa.**—ALTO Associates LLC has announced the selection of the New York state representatives to the Mrs., Miss, and Miss Teen International Pageants to be held in Chicago, July 2009. The ceremony was held at the Villa Roma Resort & Conference Center in Callicoon, N.Y.

**Ariana Kaminski** of Hurlerlyville, N.Y. was crowned Miss Teen New York International during a ceremony on January 24, 2009. She is a freshman at Tri-Valley High School in Grahamsville, N.Y.

Crowning of the new Miss New York International also took place at the Villa Roma. Stephanie Mattera, a graduate student representing New York University, will wear the crown as Miss New York International 2009.

Crowned as the new Mrs. New York International at the ceremony was **Lidia Szczepanowski Goldsmith** of Dix Hills, N.Y. Lidia is a practicing attorney and will cross the state during the coming year speaking in support of women's safety issues.

All three new titleholders will represent the Empire State in the Miss Teen, Miss, and Mrs. International Pageants at the North Shore Center For The Performing Arts in Chicago in July 2009.

Contact the pageant office or visit us at [www.nypageants.com](http://www.nypageants.com) for more information.



**Lidia Szczepanowski-Goldsmith** is Mrs. New York International 2009. Arianna Kaminski is Miss Teen New York International 2009.

## NEW YORK

**BUFFALO**—Corpus Christi parish will be hosting a dinner in honor of **St. Patrick**, Sun., March 8 from 12:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. The dinner will take place upstairs in the Sears Street Hall, located at 165 Sears St. (adjacent to Corpus Christi Church) in Buffalo. The corned beef and cabbage dinner, which will be catered by Chef John, includes coffee, tea and dessert. Dine-in and take-out will be available.

Presale tickets are \$9 for adults and \$5 for children age 12 and under. Presale tickets are available after all Sunday Masses or by contacting the parish at (716) 896-1050. Tickets may also be purchased at the door at \$10 for adults and \$6 for children.

For additional information, visit the parish website at [www.corpuschristibuffalo.org](http://www.corpuschristibuffalo.org). All are welcome to attend.

## PENNSYLVANIA

**OIL CITY, Pa.**—**Assumption Parish** continues to hold Lenten Devotions in Polish.

Droga Krzyzowa (Stations of the

Cross), will be held Friday evenings at 7:00 p.m., March 6, 13, 20, 27, and April 3 and 10. The March 6 and April 3 services will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Gorzkie Zale (Bitter Lamentations) will be held Sunday afternoons at 3:00 p.m., beginning March 1, and continuing March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 15, which will be the date for a complete service (all three parts).

The Polish Heritage Project has available recordings of each devotion for those who wish to hear these traditional Polish Lenten services.

Assumption BVM Church is located at 7 Pulaski Street. If you have questions or require additional information, write Polish Heritage Project, 15 Spring Street, Oil City, PA 16301 or call Joseph Brozeski at (814) 677-4090.

**PHILADELPHIA**—Sunday, March 8. **National Migration Week Mass**, Cathedral Basilica of Ss. Peter & Paul, 18th & Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Center City Philadelphia, Procession of ethnic groups 1:30 p.m.; Mass 2:00 p.m. Info call (215) 587-3540.

**PHILADELPHIA**—Sunday, March 8. **Polski Uniwersytet Ludowy Lecture** in the Polish language, Associated Polish Home, 9150 Academy Rd., Northeast Philadelphia. 3:00 p.m. Speaker: Romuald Roman. Topic: "Wieczor Autorski." Info call (610) 532-2422 or (215) 624-9954. All are invited to attend. Free.

On Sunday, April 19, the Polish Home will feature Franciszek Herzog, Jagoda Rojek, and Stanislaw Rzeznik, who will discuss "Polskie Harcerstwo i Amerykanski Scouting."

**PHILADELPHIA**—Thursday, April 2. **Memorial Tribute Mass**, Fourth Anniversary of the death of Pope John Paul The Great. St. Adalbert Church, Thompson Street and Allegheny Ave. Port Richmond section of Philadelphia. 7:00 p.m. Info call Polish American Congress (215) 739-3408.

**EXETER**—Sunday, April 19. Berks County **Polish American Board of Education Scholarship Banquet**, Reading Country Club. Cocktails 4:00 p.m., dinner 5:00 p.m. Music by Janet and John O'Such of Rhythm & Music Band.

**PHILADELPHIA**—On Sat., Feb. 7, 2009, people gathered to recognize the accomplishments of **General Thaddeus Kosciuszko**. The noon Ceremony took place in the Betsy Ross Ballroom of the Holiday Inn Hotel, 4th and Arch Streets in Philadelphia. Michael Blichasz, president of the Polish American Congress, Eastern Pennsylvania District, conducted the program welcoming elected officials, representatives from Polish American organizations, Polish & American army veterans, Frankford

High School JROTC, Archbishop Ryan High School Band, General Thaddeus Kosciuszko (portrayed by Richard Klimek) and Irene Darlak, who sang the Polish and American national anthems.

Special guests for the ceremony included Pennsylvania 7th District Congressman Joseph Sestak; Philadelphia City Controller Alan Butkowitz; and Councilman at large Bill Greenlee; as well as former Controller Jonathan Saidel; and William Piszek, president of the Copernicus Foundation. Children from St. Adalbert Polish Language School, under the direction of Maria Koleda, performed during the ceremony and luncheon.

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Chopin's birthday** will be celebrated with a concert sponsored by the Polish American Arts Association and the Embassy of the Repub-

lic of Poland. Artist Krystian Tkaczewski, concert pianist, will perform Sat., March 14, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland. Tickets are \$45 each. The proceeds benefit the PAAA Scholarship Fund

Tkaczewski has performed around the world in festivals and as soloist with several orchestras. Born in Tarnow, Poland, she studied at the Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw as well as the Academy of Music in Wroclaw. Tkaczewski has received numerous scholarships including a Chopin Scholarship in 1995 and a Polish Minister of Culture Creative Scholarship for 2002 and 2005. Among his many awards was the first place prize in the 2001 European Piano Competition in Bari, Italy.

Since 2004, Tkaczewski has been an active member of the Society of Polish Musical Artists.

Easter Sunday is April 12, 2009

Ad Deadline is March 17, 2009

## Wesołego Alleluja!

Reserve Your Space in Our Easter 2009 Edition

### Send Easter Greetings to Friends and Family Across the Miles!

We cordially invite our readers to participate in the time-honored tradition of sending Happy Easter wishes across the miles with a holiday greeting ad. All messages will be printed in the Easter 2009 Edition of the Polish American Journal. Your support, in the form of a holiday greeting, helps us continue our mission to serve American Polonia. Furthermore, it is a demonstration of the solidarity that exists between Polish Americans from all corners of our country.

Can we count on you?  
If you have any questions, please call 1 (800) 422-1275, M-F, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
**Don't be left out!**

**YES! I wish to support the PAJ by placing an ad in the EASTER 2009 EDITION. Please find a contribution in the amount of:**

\$250  \$100  \$75  \$50  \$25  \$20  Other \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (for our records only unless checked below) \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR MESSAGE (Use additional sheet if necessary) \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT ADDRESS IN AD?  YES  NO

PRINT TELEPHONE NUMBER IN AD  YES  NO

RETURN BY **MARCH 17, 2009** to:

**POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL, P.O. BOX 328, BOSTON, NY 14025**

We thank you in advance for your support of our efforts to promote our traditions.

THIS PAGE OF NEWS BROUGHT TO YOU BY



**POLISH GIFT OF LIFE, INC.**  
P.O. BOX 273  
ALBERTSON, NY 11507-0273  
www.polishgiftoflife.org

The Polish Gift of Life, Inc. thanks our generous supporters, who, for over 30 years have made it possible for us to help sick Polish children. We are able to bring many children who needed life-saving surgery or procedures to the United States. This past year, 14 children have been operated on by Dr. Edward Malec, who has relocated to Munich, Germany, from Poland. We purchased needed equipment requested by Pediatric Hospitals in Poland. Once again, thank to you, we were able to fill some of these heart-rendering requests received from orphanages throughout Poland. This list for aid is long, but with your continued support, we will be able to provide Polish children with the precious "Gift of Life." For more information, please call (516) 746-1532.

RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

## Father Popieluszko Beatification Process Speeds Up

The beatification process of Father **Jerzy Popieluszko**—murdered by communist secret services in 1984—has been accelerated by Pope Benedict XVI.

Documents of the "martyr's case" are now being closely analyzed by appropriate commissions. If the process ends positively, thanks to the pope's decision the period of awaiting for beatification is likely to shorten considerably.

"Positio for martyrdom of Father Popieluszko is already in the theological commission of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints," revealed Rev. Hieronim Fokcinski, who works at the Vatican.

Fokcinski admitted that the case of Popieluszko, who was murdered for his active support of the Solidarity trade union, has been in a long list among hundreds of others.

"I can confirm that Pope Benedict XVI acceded to the request of Polish bishops and agreed to speed up the case of Father Jerzy Popieluszko's martyrdom," said Rev. Tomasz Kaczmarek, the postulator of the process.

Dubbed the "Solidarity priest," Popieluszko was abducted on October 19, 1984 by communist security officials (SB) and murdered. His body was dumped into the Wistula River north of Warsaw. The murder was the inspiration for the 1988 feature film by Polish director Agnieszka Holland, "To Kill a Priest."

**CHURCHES FOR SALE.** Two churches recently closed in the R.C. Diocese of Buffalo appear to have attracted an interested buyer, the Polish National Catholic Church's Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese. Neither were traditional Polish parishes. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Brant, N.Y., was a small parish that served Italian farmers, while Our Lady of Grace Church in Woodlawn, N.Y. served a mixed congregation of steelworker families in Lackawanna, N.Y. The latter has been leased by Holy Trinity PNCC parish since a lightning fire damaged its church in August. The pastor, **Rev. Gary J. Spencer** is grateful to **Fr. John Kasprzak**, the pastor who offered the congregation the use of his former church. He is

now hoping to buy the church.

There is a "For Sale" sign in front of Holy Trinity on Pulaski St. in Lackawanna.

The rural church in Brant also has a fair number of PNCC parishioners along with some Roman Catholics who prefer to worship in the town rather than go to the next town to the church with which their parish has been merged.

While Sacred Heart R.C. Parish in Clifton Heights, Pa., is struggling to attract new members as it plans its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010, the school, social center and convent buildings have all been listed for sale. The formerly Polish parish now boasts Italian, Irish, Philippine, and Vietnamese parishioners.

**CORPUS CHRISTI DEBUTS DYNAMIC NEW WEBSITE.** Since 1898, Corpus Christi parish on the East Side of Buffalo has been a guiding light for thousands of Eastern European immigrants who struggled to build new lives far from their native land. More recently, Western New Yorkers of all faiths have been drawn to this magnificent landmark for the hope, comfort and peace it extends in the midst of a turbulent world.

Now, Corpus Christi is using a brand new, state-of-the-art website to extend its message of spiritual renewal to a worldwide audience. The website, [www.corpuschristibuffalo.org](http://www.corpuschristibuffalo.org), informs readers of the latest news and information from the East Side parish, along with access to an archive of past bulletins. Among the site's many features, visitors can listen to audio from selected Masses, watch video highlights from past events, send online prayer requests, and view a gallery of both recent and historic photographs. It is also possible to sign up to receive e-mail notices for upcoming events.

The website invites a global audience to become active participants in the Corpus Christi parish through prayer, and invites people of all religions to visit the awe-inspiring church. Corpus Christi is open daily for prayer and reflection. All are welcome.

**PRE-WAR KRAKÓW DISPLAY IN JERUSALEM.** An exhibit of photos, old recordings and memoirs that portray the life of the thriving Jewish community in Kraków before World War II has been prepared by Kraków's International Cultural Center and is now on display at the Menachem Begin Heritage Center in Jerusalem. The exhibit allows visitors a glance into the social, cultural and religious lives of Kraków's Jews. The Jewish market, a Jewish bookshop, a cemetery, and Talmud Torah students are among the things to be seen. Over 60,000 Jews, one fifth of the city's population, were killed by the Nazis.

**ISRAELI MUSICIANS TOUR POLAND.** The Ra'anana Symphony Orchestra recently toured Poland in tribute to **Irena Sendler**, the Polish woman who saved 2,500 Jewish children from extermination by the Nazis in World War II. The highlight of the tour was the performance of a piece by Israeli composer **Kobi Oshrat** entitled *Irena's Song: a Ray of Light through the Darkness*, for orchestra, violin and voice. Two thousand five hundred Jewish students wrote letters and placed them in jars, recalling Irena Sendler's jar which held the names of her rescued children. Each letter was placed in an envelope with special commemorative stamps designed by Polish artist **Rafal Olbinski**.

**AN ALTAR FOR THE WAY OF THE CROSS.** The Polish association "Queen of Peace Community" recently presented pope Benedict XVI with an altar which features a monsternace decorated with an image of Our Lady of Częstochowa. After a pilgrimage tour of Marian shrines of Poland and Germany, the altar will be placed in the Armenian Chapel of the Fourth Station of the Cross in Jerusalem.

**STO LAT TO... Fr. Michael Woroniewicz** of the Detroit archdiocese

on his appointment as pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Ida, Mich. These duties are added to his current responsibilities as pastor of St. Irene Parish in Dundee.

**Louise Borucki** of St. John Fisher R.C. Parish in Auburn Hills, Mich., on being awarded the Detroit Archdiocese's Keep the Dream Alive award for exemplifying the commitment to service for which the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., was known.

**Msgr. Richard F. Stika**, pastor of the Church of the Annunziata in Ladue, Mo., on being named the next bishop of the diocese of Knoxville, Tenn. Msgr. Stika served as secretary to then St. Louis Archbishop Justin Rigali in 1994-97, coordinator of the papal visit to the archdiocese in 1998-99, and episcopal vicar for child and youth protection in 2004-09.

**WALL OF FAME.** Fr. **Nicholas Zukowski**, pastor of St. Mary Queen of Creation RC Parish in New Baltimore, Mich., and the members of the parish vocations committee have dedicated a "Wall of Fame" to honor priests, seminarians, religious, deacons, those discerning a vocation, and lay ministers of the parish. "All throughout the Church, we all have a vocation and should be living that vocation," said committee member **Dan Chisholm**.

### MODLITWY

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

**PRAYERTO THE BLESSED VIRGIN.** (Never Known To Fail). Oh, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart and succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you. Thank you for your help. E.D.

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

**ST. JUDE NOVENA.** May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the helpless, pray for us. Recite nine times a day. By the 8th day, your prayer

will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. B.J.W.

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

**PRAYERTO THE BLESSED VIRGIN.** (Never Known To Fail). Oh, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart and succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you. Grateful thanks, J.K.

**PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.** Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems, who light all roads so I can attain my goal. You who give me the Divine gift to forgive and to forget all evil against me and that in all instances of my life you are with me. I want this short prayer to thank you for all things and to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you, even and in spite of all material illusion. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. Thank you Holy Spirit. That person must say this prayer for 3

consecutive days. After 3 days, the favor requested will be granted, even if it may appear difficult. This prayer must be published immediately after the favor is granted, without mentioning the favor. Your initials should appear after the thank you. Thank You Holy Spirit. J.K.

**PRAYERTO THE BLESSED VIRGIN.** (Never Known To Fail). Oh, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart and succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you. Thank you for your help. A.D.

**PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.** Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems, who light all roads so I can attain my goal. You who give me the Divine gift to forgive and to forget all evil against me and that in all instances of my life you are with me. I want this short prayer to thank you for all things and to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you, even and in spite of all material illusion. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. Thank you Holy Spirit. That person must say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the favor requested will be granted, even if it may appear difficult. This prayer must be published immediately after the favor is granted, without mentioning the favor. Your initials should appear after the thank you. Thank You Holy Spirit. A.D.

## Saintly Bank Stays Solvent



**St. Casimir's Savings & Loan**, a Baltimore mutual savings bank, has been weathering the current financial storm with the same dedication as it had other financial storms since its founding in 1911 by Polish businessmen. The bank started as a Building and Loan Association to help Polish immigrants and soon became a functional bank in 1920. Sticking to the philosophy of its founders, the bank's officers steered clear of risky investments and loans.

"Wise business practices and common sense have helped us weather the Great Depression, a few recessions and the [savings and loan] crisis of the 1980s," explained bank president **Ronald Jasion**. "Our customers know they can trust us."

St. Casimir, patron of young people and of Poland, also seems to be keeping an eye on the bank that bears his name.

Pictured above is the bank's Erdman Avenue branch.

**ARCHBISHOP CRITICIZES GOVERNOR.** Portland Archbishop **John Vlazny** denounced Oregon's Democratic Governor **Ted Kulongoski** for hosting an abortion fundraiser. The Catholic governor and his wife served as honorary hosts of the event to raise funds for NARAL (National Abortion Rights League) Pro-Choice Oregon. The archbishop noted that this was particularly disturbing since the event was held two days before the annual archdiocesan Respect Life Mass.

"I call upon our Catholic people to express their displeasure to the governor and to remind him of the demands of personal integrity as a member of our faith community in the exercise of his office and public activities," said the archbishop.

**Philip Best Optician**

**Personal Service  
Custom Fitted Eyewear**

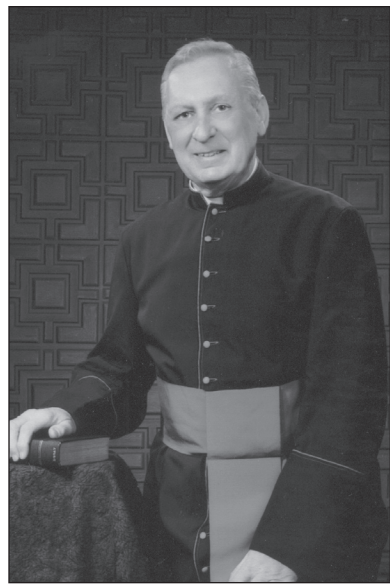
**Two Locations**

**183 Buffalo St - Hamburg Village 646-6223**  
**6 Winspear at Main St. - Buffalo 832-0704**

- ☞ Eyes examined by appointment
- ☞ 1 Hour service in many cases
- ☞ Large selection of stylish frames
- ☞ Most insurances accepted

[www.philbestoptical.com](http://www.philbestoptical.com)

## Pope Elevates Monsignor Kopacz



BUFFALO, N.Y.—At the request of Bishop Edward U. Kmieć, Bishop of Buffalo, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI has bestowed Rev. Msgr. Matthew S. Kopacz the Papal Honor of Prothonotary Apostolic.

Family, friends, former parishioners and civic leaders will gather for a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 26, 2009 in St. Casimir's Church, Casimir and Weimar Streets. Following the Mass there will be a testimonial banquet.

There are three ranks of Monsignori: Chaplain to His Holiness, Prelate of Honor and the highest rank, Prothonotary Apostolic. Upon appointment, all receive a certificate from the Vatican Secretariat of State designating the title and rank in recognition of service to the Church. Each of the monsignori has designated clerical garb.

Prothonotary Apostolic has its origin in the early days of Christianity when several men were named to "note" or record the sufferings and deaths of martyrs.

Msgr. Kopacz was ordained on March 9, 1963. He served throughout Western New York. He was pastor of Saint Barbara's, Lackawanna, from 1982 until 1995. Later, he returned to Saint Casimir's as pastor, serving there for a total of twenty-two years.

In 1985, Bishop Edward D. Head appointed Msgr. Kopacz as Diocesan Coordinator of the Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland, also known as "Liga Katolicka." He continues in that capacity.

After serving as vice-president, he was elected to two terms as president of the Association of Priests for Polish Affairs (Stowarzyszenie Polskich Kapłanów). He was a Board Member of the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College.

In past years he assisted as Chaplain of the Polish American Heritage Committee, Polish Union of America and Board member for the Saint Stanislaus Scholarship Committee.

For twenty-five years Msgr. Kopacz was chaplain of the General Pulaski Association of the Niagara Frontier proudly participating in the annual parades and fund-raisers to sponsor the event.

At the request of Rev. Msgr. Stanley Milewski, former Chancellor of the Orchard Lake Schools, Msgr. Kopacz re-organized a committee of friends and alumni to have the support of Western New York's Polonia especially for the seminary of Saints Cyril & Methodius. Msgr. Kopacz began the "Farewell to Summer" benefit, having chaired it twice. The fund-raiser takes place each fall.

Pope John Paul II named Fr. Kopacz a "Monsignor" with the title Prelate of Honor, August, 1993.

Msgr. Kopacz retired as pastor of St. Casimir parish, March 1, 2007 but still remains active assisting in parishes when need arises.

## KULTURA / Staś Kmieć

# Travelogue – Adventures in Poland

### Part III

Early morning packing prepared me for my departure from Karolin to my next stop – Lublin. During this visit for the 65th Jubilee celebration, *Mazowsze* had arranged the use of a private apartment flat on the premises. Renovations and construction were taking place on the complex, but the scene was a picture of tranquility as the morning fog nestled the old structures, monuments and wooded paths. A short distance away I ventured to the site of the European Center for the Promotion of Regional and National Culture – *Matecznik Mazowsze*. Much progress has been made on the structure and the opening is much anticipated.

As a method of travel, it was suggested that I reassess plans to travel via *Polski Express* bus for the faster minibus/van service of *ContBus*. Every day, between the cities of Lublin and the larger regions, this private carrier runs a few dozen buses (with ~15 seats) at cheaper prices. The one-way fare to Lublin is ~\$9.00. Leaving my suitcase with Krzysiek, I took my carry-on sized luggage, shoulder/camera bag, along with a garment bag containing my suit.

My last trip to Poland was to attend the 55th Jubilee celebration of *Zespół Pieśni i Tańca – Lublin* (formerly known as *Ziemi Lubelskiej*). Having also attended the 50th, I was prepared for the ceremonies, events and concerts with the appropriate formal attire. Traveling then on *LOT Airlines*, I was surprised to open my luggage in Warsaw to find that it had been opened for security purposes and my suit was now missing the pants. With my friend from the company, Grzegorz Drelich we traveled from store to store to find a suitable replacement. This trip I was not going to leave any situation to chance, so I hand carried my attire on the plane.

The trip on *Contbus* was indeed quick, with the only distraction being the beautiful young woman seated next to me. All dressed in leather

she displayed incredibly distasteful cell phone etiquette with a complete disregard to her fellow passengers. No one chose to say anything and despite my glare, it finally took a curt "cicho" to silence her.

I arrived in Lublin ahead of schedule and was left at the foot of the castle; however I had been told the location would be ul. Ruska. With a few inquiries and luggage in tow, I made my way to meet Grzegorz.

We had initially met in Connecticut when the dance company was touring the United States in 1986. At the conclusion of the performance, I went to meet my instructor and later colleague — the director Ignacy Wachowiak, who introduced this young man, who he called "your twin." Grzegorz and I have been friends ever since, although with the passage of time, we now bear a lesser resemblance.

We stopped at *Café Vanilla* (ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 12), housed in a XVII century antique apartment house, for a lunch of spinach *naleśniki* and *szarlotka* with ice cream.

I was to have private use of the rarely used family apartment near the castle. With keys, taxi service contact, and an iron, I prepared for the evening's festivities. A phone call nearer to my departure time informed me that I was to have the honor of leading the communal *Polonez* at the Ball.

**A BALL IN LUBLIN.** This past year I received invitations to attend the Jubilee festivities of four dance companies: *Mazowsze*, the *Folk Dance Ensemble of UMCS*, *Zespół Góral*



The communal *Polonez* at the *Bal Seniora* in Lublin.

*ski Hamernik*, and *Ziemi Lubelskiej*.

I prepared commemorative tokens to present each group during this visit. Unfortunately, my choreography schedule did not allow me to return for another ZZZ anniversary. At the *Mazowsze* performance I was told by director Jan Twardowski and chief choreographer Bożena Baranowska that I missed a once-in-a-lifetime event, as the concert was held outdoors at the foot of the castle steps.

I was pleasantly surprised to find out that if I advanced my visit to Lublin by one day I would be able to attend the company's *Bal Seniora*. This was a special reunion occasion of senior members of the ensemble.

As former members, the *seniorów* are now situated all over Poland and a contingent still meets to rehearse as a sub-group of the main ensemble. Their verve, speed and spirit remain true to the quality and character of their leaders, now since deceased.

Despite the passage of time and a new generation of membership the masterful works of the late Ignacy Wachowiak and founder Wanda Kaniorowa provide the foundation of the repertoire and continue to enchant audiences. Polonia dance troupes and American audiences alike have greatly benefitted from their contributions.

I arrived at the beautiful **Grand Hotel Lublinianka** (ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 56), a hundred-year-old renovated building with meticulously restored architectural details and the noble interior design of the Belle Époque.

With each meeting I was re-

ceived by gasps of surprise. I have known these friends in various associations over the years, rehearsals, performances, tours, all-night meetings, or when I taught guest classes in technique. Darek, Jarek, Jurek, Maciek, Iwonka, Robert, Basia, Andrzej, and Ania, among others, were all in attendance.

Every aspect of the Ball was rooted in elegant old-world tradition. Following the cocktail hour it was time to formally open the Ball. In the welcome remarks I was introduced and everyone took a partner to dance the *Polonez*. The oldest

national dance, *Polonez* originated from the peasant form *Chodzony* (walking dance) and initiates festive occasions and weddings.

I chose Grzegorz's wife Małgosia as my partner. They had met in the ensemble—there have been many marriages within its ranks. With the strains of Wojciech Kilar's composition from *Pan Tadeusz*, I led the guests through a series of ascending processional patterns, *bramki* (bridges), and circles. With the end of the dance the mood switched to the swirl of a Viennese waltz.

The guests retreated to the upstairs chambers where a feast was laid out. The four interconnecting rooms each had a long seated banquet table. Prepared trays of salads, meats, and appetizers adorned the table embellished with a flowing silk cloth... and the *wódka* flowed. The dinner began with the first of three soups — a creamed broccoli, followed by the *Sakiewki schabowe* with a cheese and mushroom center, vegetables and delicious mashed potatoes. A hearty goulash/stew — *forszmak staropolski* followed later in the evening, along with an array of desserts, and at 1:00 a.m. beet *barszczyk* with a meat-filled pastry was served.

The evening was not yet finished as the members all gathered around one table with former vocal director Jadzia Gąska to sing. Some of the songs they had not sung together in 15 years. *Krakowskie Wesele*, *Kurpie* and *Góralskie* mountain songs, *Hej z góry jadą Mazury*, and yes — *Szła Dzieweczka and Góralu czy ci nie żal* bellowed and echoed

through the establishment. Midway through the revelry, a call was made — an accordion was delivered — and there was accompaniment. It was a magical evening taking me back to another time. We reminisced until morning and I was not bed until 5:30 a.m.

The next morning I attended 11:00 Sunday mass, as the Drelich's daughter Kasia was singing with a youth choir.

*continued next month*

### Vacation in

# POLAND

Largest Selection of Escorted Tours • Pilgrimages  
Polka Tours • Family Reunions • Unique Cultural Tours  
Airline tickets • Discount hotel rates • Car rentals

Visit our website: [www.pattours.com](http://www.pattours.com)



For brochures call:  
1-800-388-0988

Operators of Quality Tours for over 37 years

## Brittany Mruczek - The Hymns of Mary

A CD featuring Polish, English and Latin songs  
honoring Mary, the Mother of Jesus



*Czarna Madonna, O Matko Boska, Immaculate Mary,  
Serdeczna Matko, O Santissima, Ave Maria plus 8 additional songs*

CD Available for only \$11 at the  
Am-Pol Eagle Office, 3620 Harlem Rd., Cheektowaga

or \$15 to order by mail: Am-Pol Eagle - The Hymns of Mary CD, 3620 Harlem Rd.,  
Cheektowaga, NY 14215 • Make checks payable for \$15 to: Am-Pol Eagle  
(Please include return address and phone number)



## Visit POLAND in 2009

- Experience its rich history and culture
- Enjoy its art and old world charms
- Embrace its indomitable spirit

### Treasures of Eastern Poland

- depart JFK Int'l via LOT Boeing 767 jet
- English speaking guides throughout tour
- Visit major cities and historical sites
- Space limited to 25 participants

**September 6th - 19th, 2009**

For complete itinerary or more info, contact

PAT TOURS

1-800-388-0988 or

Jane Shuback 845-343-6198

## Treasures of Eastern Poland

NEW YORK—Discover the exciting “Treasures of Eastern Poland” for 14 sensational days, scheduled for September 6-19, 2009, departing from JFK International Airport via LOT Polish Airlines. The trip includes flights, comprehensive sight-seeing tours, and accommodations in first class hotels, two meals daily, transportation between cities by deluxe motor coach and all taxes.

“This is an experience of a lifetime, packed full of history, culture and all the old world charms of Poland,” according to Tour Escort Jane Shuback.

Some highlights of the trip—accompanied throughout by a registered professional English-speaking guide—include visits to:

- Warsaw, Poland’s capital, 95% destroyed in World War II;
- Kazimierz, renaissance town popular with artists and art lovers;
- Historic 13 century city of Lublin;
- Majdanek, former Nazi concentration camp;
- Open-air museum of 18th century Polish village;
- Zakopane in the Tatra Mountains, raft down the Dunajec River;
- Krakow’s Wawel Castle and the Coronation Cathedral.

The tour is open to the general public and limited to the first 25 participants. For a complete itinerary, contact Pat Tours (800) 388-0988 or Jane Shuback (845) 343-6198.

**DELL COMPUTER** is moving from Ireland to Poland, adding a second Dell production plant in Poland. The first facility began production in the Polish city of Lodz in 2005. The new facility will employ three thousand. The relocation from Limerick, Ireland to Poland will proceed gradually throughout 2009. Dell expects to save three billion dollars by the move. Dell is a global supplier of computers and is 34th on the fortune 500 list.

Unique Polish Folk Art and Crafts  
[www.polishpeddler.net](http://www.polishpeddler.net)

## SUPPORT THE PAJ PRESS FUND

In 1971, a voluntary fund-raising campaign was launched by a group of loyal readers of the Polish American Journal entitled “We Love the PAJ Press Fund” in order to help cover rising postage, material and production costs.

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

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

A sincere “THANK YOU” for their donations to the **PAJ PRESS FUND**: Laura Andres, Coopersburg, Pa.; Stanley Borowski, Wallington, N.J.; Kenneth Francis, Avoca, Pa.; Robert Gancarz, Fountain, Mich.; Irene Krzywinski, Shadow Hills, Calif.; Walter and Martha Piatek, Berlin, N.J.; Virginia Senftleben, Chesterfield, Mich.; Walter Sieja, Hollywood, Fla.; Walter Tomsic, Warren, Mich.; Edward Yaskowiak, Cleveland, Ohio; and three “Friends of the PAJ.” Dziękujemy! The PAJ thanks all who donated to the Press Fund.

MAIL TO: PAJ PRESS FUND  
POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL  
P.O. BOX 328, BOSTON, NY 14025-0328

I want to make sure the POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL continues its service to American Polonia. Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Please [ ] include [ ] do not include my name in your list of contributors.

## HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

### Polish Museum Honors Mieczyslaw Haiman

CHICAGO—January 15 marked the sixtieth anniversary of the death of the first curator of The Polish Museum of America (PMA), Mieczysław Haiman. However, on January 23, a memorial program was held in the Great Hall of the Museum to honor Haiman. The evening’s event was organized by both Julita Siegel, the PMA’s photography collection specialist, and Halina Misterka, its archivist.

Excerpts from Haiman’s correspondence with his family were read in Polish by Stanisław Wojciech Malec. Mr. Malec is a professional actor from Chicago Polonia’s acting committee and is a member of Cabaret Bocian. Teresa Kaczorowska, PhD, having spent a considerable amount of time at the Museum Library doing research on Haiman, gave a Polish language power-point presentation on the life and works of Haiman. She also reviewed excerpts from her doctoral dissertation; a book entitled “Herodotus of American Polonia.” Dr. Kaczorowska is a professor at the Humanistic Academy in Pułtusk, Poland.

Haiman was not only the Museum’s first curator, but a noted educator, writer, journalist, historian, translator, traveler, poet, librarian, archivist, and collector. Multi-talented Polish-born Haiman was the first historian to document Polish community life in America. He wrote a multitude of publications including books both in English and in Polish.



Monika Nowak (left), Teresa Kaczorowska, Julita Siegel

Over 100 guests enjoyed these presentations and had the opportunity to view memorabilia, photographs, and official documents from the PMA’s extensive Haiman collection. A hero to the Polish community in America, Haiman was the Museum’s curator until his death in 1949.

**MUSEUM HOLDS A SERIES OF EVENTS.** On Thursday, Feb. 12, the Museum in conjunction with the University of Illinois at Chicago hosted the American Writers’ Conference. The evening event included four Polish American authors: Linda Neme Foster, Anthony Bukoski, Joan Minczeski, and Johan Guzowski. Each read, shared and discussed how they have been shaped by the culture of the Midwest and Poland.

On Feb 21, the Museum paid tribute to Abraham Lincoln and Tadeusz Kosciuszko as America celebrates the bicentennial birth of Lincoln. James Pula, Ph.D., of Purdue University was guest lecturer and Robert Dutka, DDS, provided musical selections from the Kosciuszko and Lincoln eras. At this soirée, archival memorabilia from past events was on display. Later in the month, the Museum hosted an exhibit of memorabilia and documents from the private family collection of the late Chicago Polonia leader, U.S. Congressman, and Chicago Alderman Roman Pucinski.

**“PRESSING MATTER: A GLIMPSE AT THE POLISH PRINT CONTINUUM.”** The Polish Museum of America (PMA) has announced to all interested in printmaking a rare opportunity to visit the Museum as it presents “Pressing Matter: A Glimpse at the Polish Print Continuum” in conjunction with the 2009 Southern Graphics Council Conference (SGC). The exhibition, to be held from March 20–April 19 offers a context for understanding contemporary printmaking in Poland by presenting the work of three generations of Polish printmaking.

As a survey exhibition, the show offers a brief look into the ways Polish print media has evolved over five decades, maintaining strong traditions in graphic materials and processes, while also expanding the visual language of printmaking.

An opening reception will be held in conjunction with the SGC conference on March 26.

This Council is the largest organization of printmakers in North America with nearly 2,000 members. The 2009 conference will be held at Columbia College in Chicago March 25 -28 and will be attended by over 1,000 delegates. Exhibiting artists will include established Polish printmakers such



**CHICAGO SOCIETY’S INAUGURAL BALL.** The Chicago Society held its 97th Annual Inaugural Ball on Saturday, January 24, at the Café LaCave in Des Plaines, Ill. With 120 guests enjoying this black-tie dinner dance, the Chicago Society PNA presented its new officers. State Representative Sara Feigenholtz officiated at the installation of its officers.

Picture are (l. to r.): State Representative Sara Feigenholtz, Conrad Miczko, Charles Komosa, Mark Orwat, T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert, Romuald Matuszczak, Robert Groszek, (kneeling) Mario Mikoda, Richard Ciesla, John Wojciechowski, Frank Czaja.

as Stanisław Wejman, Anna Sobol-Wejman, Krzysztof Skórczewski, Henryk Ożóg, Mirosław Pawlowski and Jerzy Jędrzsiak.

The PMA’s exhibit will include works of notable Polish graph artists from the Museum’s permanent collection. The exhibition will be co-curated by Monika Nowak, PMA’s Graphic Art Collection Curator, and Beauvais Lyons, Professor of Art, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

The Museum is pleased to note that the exhibit is organized under the patronage of Poland’s Minister of Culture and National Heritage, Bogdan Zdrojewski, and the Polish Consul General in Chicago, Zygmunt Matynia, as well as Maciej Płażyński, President of *Wspólna Polska*. For further information on this PMA event contact Monika Nowak: [Monika.Nowak@prcu.org](mailto:Monika.Nowak@prcu.org) or Jenny Crissey: [Jennifer.Crissey@prcu.org](mailto:Jennifer.Crissey@prcu.org).

**LIRA ENSEMBLE BEGINS ITS 2009 SEASON.** Chicago’s ever-popular Lira Ensemble will begin its concert series with several free concerts. On Feb. 8, the Lira along with the DuSable Museum of Afro-American History presented a concert of Afro-American and Polish-American music. The following

day, Feb. 9, the Polish Consul General, Zygmunt Matynia, hosted the Lira Ensemble, the Lira Woodwind Quartet, and pianist, Pawel Chęcinski, in a concert at the Art Institute of Chicago. The program: “Polish Music from Folk Tunes to Chopin” was a crowd pleaser.

The Lira Ensemble will continue with its free concert series by performing at Chicago’s Navy Pier at the “Celebrate Poland” event honoring Casimir Pulaski.

**MATYNIA PAYS VISIT.** Consul General Zygmunt Matynia of the Polish Consulate in Chicago and others visited the Twin Cities to participate in a Polish economic and trade conference sponsored by the Minnesota Trade Office and the Polish Embassy in Washington, D.C., February 18-19.

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota planned a reception to welcome Consul Matynia and other consulate and embassy staff to the Twin Cities, Feb. 18, at the Gasthaus zur Gemutlichkeit Restaurant.



#### Description

- A. Polish Princess
- B. #1 Babcia (Script)
- C. #1 Babcia (Block)
- D. Small Eagle
- E. Medium Eagle
- F. Large Eagle
- G. Large Heavy Eagle
- H. Extra Heavy Eagle
- I. #1 Mamusia (Block)
- J. #1 Tatus (Block)
- K. #1 Ciocia (Block)
- L. Tie Tacks of D, E, F, G

Some items available in sterling silver. Please write or call for pricing.

Golden Lion Jewelry  
P.O. Box 199  
Port Reading, NJ 07064  
(908) 862-1927

(Add \$6.00 Postage & Handling for each item)  
Prices subject to change

Please allow 10-14 days for delivery. If not satisfied, return for refund within 15 days.

New Jersey residents must add 7% sales tax.  
New York & Mass. residents add appropriate sales tax.



POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

# Citizens of the Year Announced

BUFFALO, N.Y.—The AM-POL EAGLE, WNY's Polish American weekly newspaper, announced the local recipients of its 2008 "Citizen of the Year" awards. This year's recipients are: Mazurek Bakery (Business), Mary Holland (Non-Pole Community Leader), Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble (Community Organization), Andrzej Golebiowski (Culture), Rev. Charles Jagodzinski (Education), Hon. Catherine Rybczynski (Government), Dr. Kevin Cichocki (Health/Medicine), Chopin Singing Society's Production of "Flis" (Heritage), Florence Oleszak (Individual in Organization), Hon. Michael Pietruszka (Law), Chris Byrd (Media), Jerry Darlak & the "Touch" (Music), Hon. Scott Bylewski (Politics), Rev. Anzelm Chalupka (Religion), Jenn Stuczynski (Sports) and Corrine Lasek (Youth).



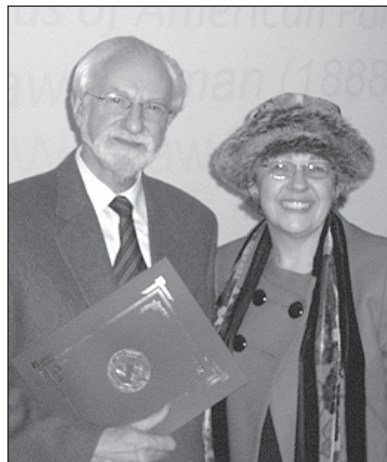
**Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** President Stan Nowak, Buffalo State College Dr. Fronczak Room Curator Wanda Slawinska, Polish Cultural Foundation President Michael Pietruszka, Dr. Teresa Kaczorowska and Polish Cultural Foundation Vice-President Dr. Kazimierz Braun at Dr. Kaczorowska's lecture, "Mieczyslaw Haiman - American Polonia's Historian," at Buffalo State College, January 30.

**POLONIA TIDBITS.** On February 1, the **Permanent Chair of Polish Culture** at Buffalo's Canisius College hosted Rabbi David Novak of Toronto who spoke on "Jewish - Catholic Dialogue and the Legacy of John Paul II" ... The **Polish Arts**

**Club of Buffalo** installed first vice president Cindy Baumgartner, treasurer Thomas Zawadzki, membership secretary Wanda Bolanowska and board members Elzbieta Grabowska, Krystyna Pienkowska and Wanda Slawinska at Gregor's Garden Grove on February 1 ... Attorney **Thomas Kawalec** was elected to the board of directors of the Defense Trial Lawyers Association of WNY ... The **Polish Cultural Foundation** re-elected vice president Dr. Kazimierz Braun, secretary Jennifer Pawlak - Eodice and directors Krystyna Drzewieniecki, John Medwid, Wanda Slawinska and John Zawadzki at its annual meeting ... The **Penderecki String Quartet** performed in Slee Hall on the SUNYaB North Campus in Amherst on the 6th ... Pianist **Janina Fialkowska** performed at the Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts and soprano **Amanda Majeski** sang in SUNYaB's Slee Hall on February 13 ... Performances by the **Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY** and the Henry Chimes Band were the highlights of the Alden Winterfest on Valentine's Day ... "**Walentynki**" or Valentine's Day dances were hosted by the Polish Cadets of Buffalo, Holy Mother of the Rosary Ca-

thedral in Lancaster, ZPK Group 29 in Oakville, Ontario and the Polish School in St. Catharines, Ontario.

The **Chopin Singing Society** honored the musical genius of its patron at the Pvt. Leonard Post in Cheektowaga on the 17th ... Attorney **Gary Wojtan** was elected chairman of the Orchard Park Democratic Committee ... Pol-Am artist and photographer **Anna Gabryszak** addressed the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo on the 18th ... "**Paczki Day**" celebrations were hosted by the Adam Mickiewicz Library and Dramatic Circle, Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble and Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY ... On March 6, the **General Pulaski Association** will hold its annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Pulaski statue in Downtown Buffalo and its installation dinner at the Protocol Restaurant in Williamsville ... Good news for WNY Pol-Am genealogists. The **Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo** has just published its 2009 directory which includes a listing of where the records from the parishes closed or merged during the Journey



**Dr. Kazimierz Braun** accepts a proclamation from the Erie County Legislature marking the U.S. Polish-language premiere of Dr. Braun's new play, "Tales of Pola Negri" at the American University's Greenberg Theatre in Washington, D.C. The proclamation was presented by Dorothy Furtney of the legislature staff.

in Faith and Grace are being kept ... The Buffalo Bisons Baseball team announced that this year's "Polish Americans of the Year" will be **Renee Harzewski** and **Roger Puchalski** of the AM-POL EAGLE. The Bisons will recognize the honorees at their "Polish Festival Night" to be held on Tuesday, August 11. More information is available from Mark Gordon at (716) 846-2018.

If you have any item for this column, please send the information to me by the 6th day of the month preceding publication month (i.e. March 6 for the April edition) at: POLEGL, P.O. Box 223, Niagara Square Station, Buffalo, NY 14201-0223; pietruszka@verizon.net.

For more information on what's going on in the Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes, visit my website at: www.polegl.org.

## New CD Release by Brittany Mruzek

BUFFALO, N.Y.—Batavia, N.Y. native, Brittany Mruzek has released her first CD titled "The Hymns of Mary."

The CD contains 12 songs dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, sung in Polish, English and Latin, including. Also included are two new songs never before recorded; "Matko, Ja Wielbi Cie" and "Mary, Mother of Love." The CD also contains two bonus tracks: "Pan Kiedys" (sung in Polish and English) and

"Panis Angelicus" (Latin) for a total of 14 songs.

Mruzek is a sophomore at the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam University studying vocal performance and education.

To order, send a check for \$15 (s&h included) to: Buffalo Standard Printing / Hymns of Mary CD, 3620 Harlem Rd., Cheektowaga, NY 14215 Make checks payable to: Buffalo Standard Printing.

## Polish History at Elmira College

ELMIRA, N.Y.—Poland has been a pivotal nation between East and West throughout its history, and yet it is frequently overlooked for its importance. Consequently, students learn of Poland indirectly through studying the history of wars, Communism, etc., but not independently as a separate topic. Elmira College sought to change that by offering a course on Poland's history, culture, and civilization entitled "Poland: Culture and Identity." The course involved in-class lecture and discussion from these topics, but to fully appreciate and understand Poland, the College brought students to Poland for a first hand look at the country.

More than your typical sightseeing tour, this in depth journey of the major cities and regions of Poland brought to life times of prosperity and struggle of the Polish people to students. Even though few of the students were of Polish descent, all learned about and came to admire the indomitable spirit of Poles.

"Many things surprised our students including Poland's investment in its infrastructure as a member of the EU," said assistant professor Dr. Todd P. Egan. "They were further surprised to see that alongside this rapid development the Poles maintained a strong identity to their Catholic faith and a unique and rich Polish heritage. Conversely, students were also pleased to see that Poles maintained a Western outlook by welcoming contemporary trends in technology, fashion, art and music with entertainers including Eric Clapton, Elton John, and Tina Turner."

By visiting Westerplatte, Auschwitz/Birkenau, and a recreated Soviet concentration camp in Szymbark, the students were sobered by the sacrifices made by Poles and were inspired by their heroism. However, some of the more enjoyable cultural activities included watching amber being carved into jewelry, visiting medieval cities and universities, and viewing the world's largest plank of wood.

"We had a great deal of fun dining with a Kashubian family and a river ride down the Dunajec River," said Anne Bizub, a college assistant professor who took part in the trip. "Who says learning can't be fun?"

"Learning about Poland in the classroom and through travel as we did made earning their European history credit a lifelong memory," said Bizub. "We look forward to offering this course again to Elmira College students; it was a truly wonderful experience."

We invite you to join the **American Council for Polish Culture** and help preserve an environment that contributes to the development of our Polish culture.

**Support Polish Culture**

Please enroll me as an individual member in the American Council for Polish Culture! Membership includes a subscription to the quarterly publication **Polish Heritage**.

\_\_\_ \$10 One Year Membership  
\_\_\_ \$18 Two Year Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to ACPC:  
C/O Anna-Mae Maglaty, Membership Chair  
35 Fernridge Road, West Hartford, CT 06107

**The Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College**  
celebrating the inaugural event of their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
- presents -

**The Ars Nova Musicians Chamber Orchestra**  
Marylouise Nanna, Music Director and Conductor

with featured soloists:  
**Jacek Muzyk**  
French horn

and **Emily Tworek-Helenbrook**  
soprano

in a concert of works by  
Chopin, Moniuszko, Bacewicz, Nowak, and Haydn.

**Friday, March 27, 2009**  
7:30 pm • Montante Cultural Center, 2021 Main Street - Buffalo

Tickets are \$10, students free,  
send checks payable to:  
Canisius College, 2001 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14208,  
Attn: Polish Chair/Mary Lou Wyrubek.  
e-mail questions to: wyrubekm@canisius.edu

Polish Union of America's  
**Vacation Getaway!**

June 7-11, 2009

**Highlights Include:**

- 5 days and 4 nights deluxe accommodations
- Deluxe motorcoach transportation
- 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 4 dinners
- National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa
- Longwood Gardens
- Atlantic City • Wildwood
- Cape May • Smithville

**Polish Union of America**  
745 Center Road  
West Seneca, NY 14224  
Call: (716) 677-0220 for more info.

**All for only \$51900\***  
\*Non-members pay \$529

Seating is limited! Don't miss out ~ a \$100 deposit will confirm your reservation!  
(Full payment is due on May 29, 2009)

## HAMTRAMCK BEAT /Michelle Odrobina-Jiompkowski

## Special Events Get a Boost with Coordinator

HAMTRAMCK, Mich.—Hamtramck is known throughout Michigan for its festivals and other special events such as Paczki Day, the St. Florian Strawberry Festival, the Labor Day Festival capped by the Polish Day Parade. Add to this mix more celebrations like the Hamtramck Blowout, and committees have plenty of work on their hands. Toward that end, City Manager William Cooper recommended that a new part-time position of special events coordinator for Hamtramck be established and the city council agreed. Eve Doster Knepp, a Hamtramck resident, has been given the post after serving as the interim downtown development manager.

In an interview, Knepp gave her views and background:

**TOP EVENTS.** When asked what are the top events in Hamtramck that the city needs to have promoted or further renewed, she said, "There's going to be an assessment of what exactly constitutes a 'city event,' but at this point, it's safe to assume that major events such as Paczki Day, the Blowout, Spring Clean Up, The Strawberry Festival and the Labor Day Festival will get my full and undivided attention. These festivities are Hamtramck traditions; all of which I plan to help grow and promote - nationally and internationally, not just locally. I really see many of Hamtramck's events as capable of garnering the same worldwide acclaim as, say, New Orleans' Jazzfest."

**NEW EVENTS.** When asked about any new groups planning any new events, she said, "There's always a ton of DIY (do-it-yourselfers) upstarts putting together social groups and artist collectives. Our art community is clamoring for some sort of event that spotlights Hamtramck's burgeoning artist community; a crawl of all galleries and studios is definitely something I've heard about. I am 100% behind a project like that. There's also great events like the International Bazaar that I'm going to help and the 2010 Census is going to be a huge citywide initiative."

**HAMTRAMCK RESIDENT.** When asked how long has she lived in Hamtramck, she said, "I moved here in 2001 from Cass Corridor in Detroit. I grew up in Royal Oak, Michigan."

**PROMOTIONSEXPERIENCE.** Regarding her background in promo-

tions, she related, "I own my own events planning/PR business and I have been producing events since I was in high school. I've worked for/with local events such as the Blowout, Cityfest, Hamtramck Labor Day Festival and have organized many other events such as flu shot drives, beer tastings, pub crawls, car shows and awards shows." (This year's Blowout 12 will be showcased from March 4-7).

**"METRO TIMES" CONNECTION.** When asked to expand on her connection with the "Metro Times," she said, "I worked as the events editor at the 'Metro Times' from 2001-2007. I wrote the weekly column 'Night & Day' which was an overview of the tri-county area's goings-on."

**CIVIC AFFILIATION.** When asked if she is a member of any specific organization around town, she said, "Before I got the job with the City, I was a member of the Hamtramck Downtown Development Authority's Marketing Subcommittee."

**PACZKI DAY.** When asked about her plans to promote Paczki Day, she replied, "Yes! Lots! In addition to the traditional polka music and Polish dancers, we are having a Paczki bake-off, games for the whole family, and a bus tour of the local bakeries called 'The Paczki Express.'" (Countdown to Paczki Day kicked off February 21 at the Hamtramck Town Center with Paczki Day celebrated February 24.)

**LABOR DAY FESTIVAL.** When asked about promoting the Labor Day Festival, she said, "The first change that comes to mind when it comes to the Labor Day Festival is that we need bigger ticket entertainment. We are already competing with two other festivals that weekend, so having the sort of programming that draws throngs of people is a must."

**VISION EXPRESSED.** When asked if she would like to add anything, else she said, "Just that I am a lover of Hamtramck and I see this job as much more than the throwing together of some events. I see the events coordinator position as an opportunity to introduce the 'real' Hamtramck to the entire world and to give a town with such a fabulous history the proper appreciation it so deserves. We are uniquely poised to make some waves."

**NEW DDA HEAD.** The new down-

town development manager is Darren Grow, an attorney and local business owner who assumes the post previously held by Knepp.

**HISTORY PROGRAM.** Greg Kowalski, chairman for the Hamtramck Historical Commission will give a presentation on "Poles in Detroit" at the 2009 Michigan in Perspective Local History Conference during the hours of 3:30-5:00 p.m., Friday, April 17, at the McGregor Center at Wayne State University. His talk will look at how Poles came to Detroit in the 19th century and settled on the west side and the old Poletown neighborhood on the east side. There will be a special emphasis on Hamtramck, which became the second largest Polish community in America. Dr. Mary C. Sengstock will also discuss Chaldeans in Michigan.

In addition, the local historian has to his credit the writing of five books. With co-writer Alex Lundberg, Kowalski's last book was "Detroit's Masonic Temple," published by Arcadia Publishing. Arcadia Publishing is the leading publisher of local and regional history in the United States. Among his work, Kowalski has authored the books: "Hamtramck: The War II Years," and "Hamtramck: The Driven City," and co-authored "Art Deco in Detroit," with Rebecca Binno-Savage. To contact Kowalski, e-mail gkowsalski@ameritech.net.

**PAC-MI ELECTIONS.** The Polish American Congress, Michigan Division will hold its elections meeting, Saturday, March 7, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Polish National Alliance Hall, 10211 Conant. To find out more, call the PAC office at (313) 365-9400.

**LANDMARK CLOSING.** Henry The Hatter closed its Hamtramck store permanently Jan. 31, due to declining sales, according to manager Stanley Szuminski and owner Paul Wasserman. Two stores remain: one in downtown Detroit and the other in Southfield. The haberdashery was one of the most striking businesses in the city and will be missed.

**CONDOLENCES.** Sympathy is expressed to the families of Clarence Ledwon and Walter Kaminski. Ledwon, who was active with the Central Citizens Committee, died Dec. 16, 2008. Kaminski was dedicated to the Hamtramck Knights of Columbus Cardinal Mercier Council; he passed away Dec. 29, 2008.

## PERSPECTIVES

## An American Legend

by Cynthia Zawatski

ASHLAND, Ore.—I am a longtime subscriber to the PAJ. I wait for each new edition. I am seldom disappointed. But in the January edition, a piece out of Los Angeles was reprinted. The subject was the new movie "Grand Torino."

The reporter presented what was a simplistic, uninspired critic of a film about which he or she had little understanding. He called it a story about the Hmong immigrants. He reported that Clint Eastwood played a Polish American man and that the film was made in Detroit. Perhaps the journalist has no familiarity with Detroit or the industrial Midwest, the human drama that is taking place there, the heartache of those who built the great city of Detroit, the great union — that gave them prosperity — the churches, the fine schools, the sense of place, the dignity and the pride they earned for themselves and their offspring.

It must be told, that as in the case of the film's main character, Walt Kowalski, many, a majority, in fact, were Polish. They built—my father was one—a new life after being driven out of Poland early in the century.

Clint Eastwood's character is, as the actor said himself, an "urban legend" born of truth and no small amount of agony as Detroit and its people see their beloved city vanish before their very eyes. These brave people, who generations ago came themselves as immigrants, have seen many challenges and have overcome them as a people bound together by a sense of oneness. But over the last decade an obstacle named "globalization" has presented a chain of events that even they cannot seem to overcome, no matter how hard they struggle, and as those who built this good life watch nearly helplessly as all they have known seems to fall into chaos—a new people arrive—a people from far away, they have come to find hope for a better life.

In "Grand Torino" these two cultures come together—clash at first

and then join together to defend their honor.

Walt Kowalski is not only a legend. He is a Polish American hero and this film should be in every Polish American home, to be viewed by generations to come, in remembrance of those who came before, a generation whose time, as with Walt Kowalski, is perhaps coming to an end as we have known it, but also to honor those new immigrants who must find a way to build a new beginning even as our people did.

**Clint Eastwood has given us more than he may know ... a time to pause and remember our fathers and mothers ... and to honor them ...**

It is a beautiful aspect of the film that these new immigrants, the Hmong people, that Walt Kowalski came to love, were helped, protected and taught by a Polish American, who has his own private darkness caused by a terrible war that could have been the First or Second World Wars or Vietnam. There are generations now of Walt Kowalskis. But his is the definitive moment in our history. We perhaps shall not see the likes of him again.

Clint Eastwood has given us here more than he may know. He has given us as Polish Americans—but truly all Americans—a time to pause and remember our fathers and mothers and to honor them as this film—even in its sometimes hard-edged humor—does, and as we pray history will.

❖ ❖ ❖

*Cynthia Zawatski was raised in Detroit in a family of ardent Polish American activists. In the 1930's her father, Thaddeus Przylybski, was prominent in labor circles as a founder and organizer of the United Auto Workers in that city. After moving to Ashland, Oregon where she now resides, she became an outreach director for the United Farmworkers Union. She is now retired.*

## POLISH AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

308 WALNUT STREET

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106

(215) 922-1700

When You're in Philadelphia's Historic District, Visit The Polish American Cultural Center Museum Exhibit Hall

Featuring Polish History and Culture

OPEN 10:00 a.m. TO 4:00 p.m. • FREE ADMISSION

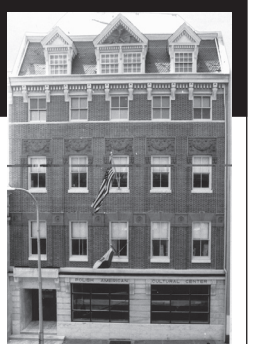
January through April • Monday to Friday

May through December • Monday to Saturday

Gift Shop is Open During Regular Exhibit Hall Hours

Closed on Holidays

Visit Us on the Internet: [www.polishamericancenter.org](http://www.polishamericancenter.org)



## PAHA

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

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 \$30.00.



**PASS IT ON!** When you finish reading your copy of the Polish American Journal, please pass it on, and ask that person to subscribe.



## How Will You Be Remembered?

Many people talk about leaving gifts to worthy causes, but don't have a will, and do not realize it requires a will to do so. The laws of most states make it quite clear that personal property goes automatically, by law, to your nearest relatives, even if they are quite distant ones, unless you have a legal will that says otherwise. If you have no relatives, it goes to the state. More than half of all adult Americans die without having made their wills. Most of them undoubtedly planned to do so, but never got around to it. Some had wills but didn't keep them current. When you have a will, you should update it every few years as conditions change. Also, always name an executor who will carry out your wishes. Besides money, non-cash possessions can also be used as contributions and various donation plans can be carried out. Be a philanthropist: leave your stocks, bonds, real estate, art, valuable collections or insurance to continue the Polish American traditions. Your will is the most important way of giving. When you are gone, it is a legacy that is not forgotten. In your will, you can specify what you would like your donation to be used for. For help in making your will, contact a competent lawyer. **The National Polish Center, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that needs your help and legacy.**

**The National Polish Center, Inc.**

2025 "O" Street NW • Washington, DC 20036

Tel.: (202) 785-2320 • Fax: (202) 785 2159 • [www.polishcenterdc.org](http://www.polishcenterdc.org)

I am interested in becoming a member of PAHA. Enclosed is a check or money order for \$30.00 made payable to the Polish American Historical Association.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

MAIL TO: PAHA, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT 06501

# Polka MAGAZINE

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN MUSIC

## Polka World Loses Mr. Polka

ELMIRA, N.Y.—Eugene “Gene” Martin, 83 of Elmira died Thursday, January 29, 2009.

The main force behind the Polka Holiday Festival, which began in 1981, Martin, his wife Sophie, and a dedicated group organized the first even in 1981 in Elmira. It later moved to Watkins Glen and ran for several years.

Known as “Mr. Polka,” Martin hosted a polka radio show on WELM in Elmira for years, and

became well-known throughout the entire New York State polka scene.

Martin is survived by his wife of 60 years, Sophie Rybak Martin; daughter, Jean Ann Moreau, Annapolis, Md.; son, Thomas John Martin, Suffolk, Virg.; several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was a veteran of the US Navy, World War II and a member of the American Legion.

Burial services took place at St. Casimir’s Church with interment to Ss. Peter & Paul’s Cemetery.

## May 3 Gala Set at Sunnybrook Ballroom

POTTSTOWN, Pa.—The Sunnybrook Foundation presents the return of polka music to Sunnybrook Ballroom, E. High St. and Sunnybrook Road in Pottstown.

A Polka Gala will be held at Sunnybrook Ballroom May 3, 2009. There will be eight hours of continuous music from noon to 8:00 p.m. Rhythm & Music and Janet & John O’Such will start things off from noon until 2:00 p.m. Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push and Polka Family will continue music from 2:00-8:00 p.m. Doors open at 11:30 a.m.

Sunnybrook Ballroom is a National Historic Site and has been beautifully refurbished to its original condition. Many successful polka events were held there in the seventies and eighties.

Advance Tickets are \$15; Tickets @ the door \$17 and children 15 and under are free. Special discount Sunnybrook Room rates at Best Western, Pottstown, Pa.

For tickets call Tom Oehme (717) 626-1204 or Janet O’Such (610) 326-2915.

## It’s Polka Time! has New Time Slot on “The Mighty 920”

MINNEAPOLIS—Starting Sunday, March 1, “It’s Polka Time!” with Craig Ebel will be heard from 5 to 6 p.m. over “The Mighty 920” KDHL in Faribault, Minnesota.

Since 1994, IPT has been affiliated with KDHL Radio starting out with a three-hour program on Sunday afternoons, two hours of variety polka music and a third hour of spinning just the old time 78-rpm shellac discs. For the past ten years, Craig’s show has aired on Sunday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.. He welcomes this brand new time slot and hopes to gain some new listeners.

It’s Polka Time! is produced

from the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, and is heard on 21 radio stations across the United States and over the Internet on [www.polkajammernetwork.org](http://www.polkajammernetwork.org)

Information regarding It’s Polka Time! radio shows can be found on the Internet at [www.itspolkatime.com](http://www.itspolkatime.com). Radio stations interested in broadcasting the show can request a demo of the show by sending an e-mail to [itspolkatime@hotmail.com](mailto:itspolkatime@hotmail.com). Polka bands and record labels interested in having their recordings considered for airplay on the show can send their material to P.O. Box 32757, Minneapolis, MN 55432-0757.

JUKEBOX / Steve Litwin

## Loses Hit the Polka World



“MR. POLKA,” Gene Martin, with wife Sophie.



JUDY SPITAK, former USPA president.



ED VANCA dancing with wife Amy.

BINGHAMTON, N.Y.—In the span of two weeks we lost three dynamic friends of polka music. Each brought something unique to our lives and our friendship with each spanned decades.

Locally a true polka fan, polka videographer, teacher, and long-time friend, Ed Vanca, passed away Sunday morning, January 25, 2009. Many in the polka world knew Ed—and Amy, his wife of almost 60 years—by sight. They traveled many miles with their “home on wheels” to dances and festivals and were easily recognized by their dancing style. Ed loved the music and the bands and often took videos at events. For several years he became the official videographer at our Concertina Jam.

Ed was a teacher for 32 years,

teaching cabinet making and had a passion for golf. We often sat together at dances and festivals and conversations with Ed covered a variety of subjects. His was a friendship that added much to our lives.

**FOUR DAYS LATER**, a phone call notified us of the death of Gene Martin of Elmira, NY. Polka fans throughout the northeast knew Gene as the originator of the Polka Holiday fest, which began in 1981 in Elmira and then took up home in Watkins Glen, N.Y. Gene and his wife of 60 years, Sophie, were the driving force behind polkas in the Elmira/Corning area of New York State and brought many polka bands to stages in that area. The Polka Holiday introduced thousands of polka fans from throughout the country

to Elmira and Watkins Glen and it was the endless work by Gene and his crew that made these festivals special events along the southern shores of Seneca Lake.

A musician and promoter he became known as “Mr. Polka” to most in the region. We had the pleasure of spending many hours with Gene and Sophie, not only at polka events and on his polka radio show, but away from the polka scene. His smile and his “Jak się masz” became his trademark.

**ON FEBRUARY 5**, the polka world lost Judy Spidak, and we lost a friend of almost 40 years. Judy, of Daisytown, Pa., faced her share of difficult times with the loss of her husband, Allen, and her son, Steven. She was a fighter, however, and never gave

## Broken Record

FLORIDA, N.Y.—Jimmy Sturr has broken another record.

The polka king won his 18th Grammy music award. This one was a best polka album award for “Let the Whole World Sing.”

He now holds the record for the most consecutive Grammy awards for the same category.

## Jolly Joe at TK Club

CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa.—On Sun., March 8, the Thaddeus Kosciuszko Club (East Hector and Apple Streets) will present Jolly Joe & The Bavarians from 3:00-7:00 p.m. Free parking. For info call (610) 828-9352.

## Western Pennsylvania’s Polka Fun Spot

STANTON, Pa.—The Yukon Slovenian Hall will feature a series of polka dances starting with a 2009 Spring Polka Blast with Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, Sunday, March 22, 2009.

Sunday, April 5 it will be the annual Lenten Celebration with Henny & the Versa Js. Come and enjoy some great Lenten Food including fish, pierogi and haluski.

A Mother’s Day Polka Celebration will take place Sunday, May 10 with the great honky music of Andy Fenus & the Treltones.

## Dates Set for Seven Springs Festival

BRIDGEVIEW, Ill.—The 35th annual Polka Fireworks Festival will take Wednesday through Sunday, July 1-5, 2009 at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort. For more information contact: Eddie Blazonczyk’s Versatones, 7208 S. Harlem Ave., Bridgeview, IL 60455; phone: (815) 254.7624

## Dyngus Day Buffalo Seeks Participants

BUFFALO—Organizers of Buffalo’s annual Dyngus Day Parade invite social groups, ethnic organizations, schools, marching bands, dancers and performers to participation in the 3rd Annual Dyngus Day Parade. The parade will take place at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 13.

Buffalo’s Dyngus Day Parade, the first of its kind in the world, will march through the Historic Polonia District passing numerous Dyngus Day celebrations including those at St. Stanislaus Church, Corpus Christi Church, The Adam Plewacki American Legion Post 799 and the Adam Mickewicz Library and Dramatic Circle. Parade organizers anticipate more than 100 parade entries and over 35,000 spectators this year.

The parade is sponsored by Dyngus Day Buffalo, the coordinator of more than 25 festival sites.

Parade entry applications are available on-line at [DyngusDay- Buffalo.com](http://DyngusDay- Buffalo.com). The deadline for parade entries is 5:00 p.m. on April 8, 2009.

A Polish American tradition, Dyngus Day celebrates the end of the restrictive observance of Lent and the joy of Easter. Over the decades, Buffalo, New York has become the Dyngus Day Capital of the World attracting thousands of people from across the northeast United States. Although celebrated in Buffalo’s Polonia neighborhood since the arrival of the first Poles in the 1870s, the city’s first modern Dyngus Day celebration was held 50 years ago by the Chopin’s Singing Society, a tradition that continues today.

Dyngus Day 2009 will take place on Monday, April 13.

## Versa Js Ready Release New CD

IRWIN, Pa.—Henny & the Versa Js is pleased to announce the release of “Don’t Stop,” the group’s eighth recording.

The new CD is comprised of fourteen tunes (six English vocals, seven Polish vocals and one instrumental).

Featured on the project are the current members of the Versa Js: Henny Jasiewicz (trumpet, vocals), Frank Gibala (clarinet, tenor sax), Butch Jasiewicz (drums), Randy Koslosky (accordion, piano, and vocals), Chris Bogdon (concertina), Steve Gibala (clarinet, alto sax, and vocals) and Erik Bogdon (bass and vocals).

As was the case with the band’s Grammy-nominated “Come On Over” CD, the Versa Js once again called upon Hank Guzevich of the Polka Family band, to engineer the recording session.

For information about the new CD, band bookings, or additional information, contact Butch Jasiewicz at 613 Bucktown Road, Irwin, PA 15642; phone: (724) 522-1274.

## Slomkowski is Back on the Airwaves

THREE OAKS, Mich.—Ed Slomkowski is back behind the microphone, as host of “The Polka Carousel,” broadcast every Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. to noon on WRCH, 106.7FM. The show can also be heard on the internet at those times, and is repeated on Fridays from 8:00-9:00 a.m. Tune into [www.radioharbor-country.org](http://www.radioharbor-country.org).

If you’d like Slomkowski to play your releases, drop him a line at [polkawrh@aol.com](mailto:polkawrh@aol.com), and he will supply the mailing information.

up. When we last talked in person, Judy had that same fire and love for all that were part of her life.

Polkas were more than just part of her life, they were her life for many years. She and Allen promoted dances, worked for the USPA, supported the bands, the events and everything involved with the polka industry. Everyone knew her and she knew everyone.

As a friend, she always made time for you. If you were in the crowd, across a hall filled with a thousand people, she would find you. Usually that developed into a long conversation about polkas, life and about friendship.

Now, Judy is with Allen and Steven, and if I know Judy, a polka is playing!

May they all rest in peace.

## POLKA PARADE / distributed by the Polonia Media Network

We believe the following information to be correct, but it should always be verified before traveling long distances or expending funds.

### Every Tuesday

- Illinois. The Major Pensionaires at Major Hall, 5660 W. Grand Ave., Chicago, Ill., 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

### Every Wednesday

- Illinois. **Tony Paliga's Morning Stars** at the Stardust, 5688 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Ill., 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., \$4.
- Illinois. The Midway Cavaliers at Ma-benka's Restaurant, 7840 S. Cicero Ave., Chicago, Ill., 7:00-10:00 p.m., free admission.

### Every Friday

- Illinois. Joe Walega & the Happy Hearts at the New Warsaw Restaurant and Banquets, 6250 W. 63rd St., Chicago, Ill., 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., \$5.

### Friday, March 6

- Florida. Polka Family at Mazaryk-town Hall, Mazaryktown, Fla. Check locally for details.
- Pennsylvania. Jolly Joe (Alex Truszkowski) & the Bavarians at the VFW Hall, Sunbury, Pa., 7:00-11:00 p.m.
- Pennsylvania. John Stevens & Doubleshot at the Dupont VFW, 403 Main St., Dupont, Pa., 7:00-11:00 p.m.

### Saturday, March 7

- Connecticut. Eddie Forman Orchestra at the Polish Home, Windsor Locks, Conn., dinner 6:00 p.m., music 7:00-11:00 p.m.
- Ohio. Polka Tones with Irish Dancers at the American Czech-Slovak Club, 922 Valley St., Dayton, Ohio, 7:30-11:30 p.m.
- Ohio. DynaBrass at joint dance of the United States Polka Association (USPA) and Cleveland Polka Association (CPA). Doubletree Hotel Cleveland South, 6200 Quarry Ln., Independence, Ohio, 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m., \$10.
- Wisconsin. Stas Golonka & the Chicago Masters, The New Polish Sources and Polish Connection at Dales Weston Lanes, 5902 Schofield Ave., Weston, Wis., 3:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m., \$10.

### Sunday, March 8

- Arizona. John Filipczak & the Classics at the Pulaski Club, 4331 E. McDowell Rd., Phoenix, Ariz., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- Florida. Tony Blazonczyk & New Phaze at the Polish American Social Club, 7500 N. US 1, Vero Beach, Fla., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- Florida. B-Sharps at the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, 1343 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 2:30, music 4:00-7:00 p.m., members \$5, non-members \$7.
- Michigan. Duane Malinowski at the Ida American Legion Hall, Hickory Park, 11601 Lewis Ave., Ida, Mich., 3:00-7:00 p.m.
- New York. Eddie Forman Orchestra at the Polish Community Center, 225 Washington Ave. Ext., Albany, N.Y., 3:00-7:00 p.m.
- Pennsylvania. George Tarasek & Polka Partners at the Dupont VFW, 403 Main St., Dupont, Pa., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- Pennsylvania. Jolly Joe (Alex Truszkowski) & the Bavarians at the Thaddeus Kosciuszko Club, Conshohocken, Pa., 3:00-7:00 p.m.
- Wisconsin. Family Tradition at Bullshooters, 7802 Meadow Rock Dr., County X and Weston Ave., Weston, Wis., 2:00-6:00 p.m.

### Friday, March 13

- Florida. Dan Gury & the Dyna Dukes at the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, 1343 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, Fla., 7:00-11:00 p.m.
- Ohio. Jimmy K & Ethnic Jazz at a Cleveland Polka Association dance, Ampol Hall, 4737 Pearl Rd., Cleveland, Ohio, 7:00-11:00 p.m., \$7.

### Friday-Saturday, March 14-15

- Wisconsin. WDEZ Anniversary Festival. Bands include Polka Family (3-14, 3-15), DynaBrass (3-14) and Craig Ebel & DyVersaCo (3-15). Rothschild

Pavilion, Rothschild, Wis. Sat. 5:00-12:00 a.m.; Sat. 1:00-7:00 p.m. Tickets \$10 advance daily.

### Saturday, March 14

- Michigan. Polka Family at Ubyl Hills Country Club, Ubyl, Mich., 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.

### Sunday, March 15

- Florida. Dyna Dukes at the Polish American Social Club, 7500 N. US 1, Vero Beach, Fla., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- Florida. Florida Honky Polka Band at the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, 1343 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 2:30, music 4:00-7:00 p.m., members \$5, non-members \$7.
- Illinois. Jeff Mleczo & DynaBrass and the Polka Party All-Stars at Glendora Banquets, 10225 S. Harlem Ave., Chicago Ridge, Ill., 1:00-5:00 p.m.
- Massachusetts. Polka Country Musicians at the Polish American Citizens Club, 335 east St., Ludlow, Mass., 3:00-7:00 p.m.
- Michigan. Polka Family at the K of C Hall, Utica, Mich., 2:00-7:00 p.m.
- Michigan. Fred Ziwich at a Polka Boosters of America dance, Msgr. Hunt K of C Hall, 7080 Garling Rd., Sterling Heights, Ill., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- New Jersey. Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men at a dinner-dance, Bayway Polish Home, Elizabeth, N.J., dinner 2:00 p.m., music 4:00-8:00 p.m.
- Pennsylvania. Matty Rock/Johnny Jay Polka Band at a St. Patrick and St. Joseph Dance, Dupont VFW, 403 Main St., Dupont, Pa., 2:00-6:00 p.m.

### Tuesday, March 17

- Arizona. Bob Doszak at the Pulaski Club, 4331 E. McDowell Rd., Phoenix, Ariz., 5:00-9:00 p.m.

### Friday, March 20

- Arizona. Fred Zwick & his Band at the Pulaski Club, 4331 E. McDowell Rd., Phoenix, Ariz., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- New York. Jimmy Sturr & his Orchestra at the Grandview, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., 7:00 p.m.
- Pennsylvania. John Stevens & Doubleshot at the Disabled American Veterans Hall, Dickson City, Pa., 7:00-11:00 p.m.

### Saturday, March 21

- Arizona. Bob Doszak featuring Fred Zwick at Superstition Buttes, 301 S. Signal Butte Rd., Apache Junction, Ariz., 7:00-11:00 p.m.
- Connecticut. Eddie Forman Orchestra at a dinner-dance, St. Joseph Polish Society, Colchester, Conn., 395 S. Main St., Colchester, Conn., 6:00-11:00 p.m.
- Florida. Northern Sounds at a dinner-dance, Shriners Hall, Sarasota, Fla., 7:00-10:00 p.m.
- Pennsylvania. Jolly Joe (Alex Truszkowski) & the Bavarians at the American Legion Hall, Milford, Pa., 8:00-11:00 p.m.
- Ohio. Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push at the Spring Dance of the United States Polka Association (USPA), Doubletree Hotel Cleveland South, 6200 Quarry Ln., Independence, Ohio, 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m., \$13.

### Sunday, March 22

- California. Roger & the Villagers at the Lake Elsinore Elks Lodge #2045, 912 E. 6th St., Corona, Calif., 1:00-5:00 p.m.
- Florida. Frank Moravcik at the Polish American Social Club, 7500 N. US 1, Vero Beach, Fla., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- Florida. Northern Sounds at the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, 1343 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 2:30, music 4:00-7:00 p.m., members \$5, non-members \$7.
- Michigan. Rob Deblander at a Warren Polka Boosters dance, Utica K of C Hall, 4425 Utica Rd., Sterling Heights, Mich., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- New Jersey. Jimmy Sturr & his Orchestra with the Gee Bees at the Bayway Polish Home, Elizabeth, N.J., 2:00 p.m.
- Ohio. Stas Golonka & the Chicago Masters at a dance of the International Music Association (IMA),

Conn-Weissenberger American Legion Hall, 2020 W. Alexis Rd., Toledo, Ohio, lunch 2:00 p.m., music 3:00-7:00 p.m.

- Pennsylvania. Shoreliners at the Dupont VFW, 403 Main St., 403 Main St., Dupont, Pa., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania Villagers at a St. Patrick Dance of the Lebanon Polka Pals, Sacred Heart Parish Center, 2596 Cornwall Rd., Cornwall, Pa., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- Rhode Island. Eddie Forman Orchestra at the German Hall, 78 Carter Ave., Pawtucket, R.I., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- Wisconsin. Prime Time at Bullshooters, 7802 Meadow Rock Dr., County X and Weston Ave., Weston, Wis., 2:00-6:00 p.m.

### Thursday, March 26

- Florida. Tony Blazonczyk & New Phaze at the Villages Market Square, The Villages, Fla., 5:30-9:30 p.m.

### Friday-Sunday, March 27-29

- Minnesota. The Minnesota State Polka Festival. Bands include Full Circle (3-27, 3-28), Craig Ebel & DyVersaCo (3-27), Bill Koncar Band (3-28), Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones (3-28, 3-29), and Stephanie & Her Honky Band (3-29). Entertainment by Dolina Polish Folk Dancers (3-29), State Polka Dance Championships (3-28, 3-29). Medina Entertainment Center, 500 Hwy. 55, Medina, Minn. Fri. 7:30 p.m.-12:00 a.m.; Sat. 1:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.; Sun. 1:00-7:30 p.m. Tickets at door Fri. \$12, Sat. \$16, Sun. \$15; children under 13 free; 3-Day Pass \$35 advance, \$38 at door. For details visit <<http://www.mnstatepolkafestival.com>>.

### Friday, March 27

- Florida. Tony Blazonczyk & New Phaze at the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, 1343 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, Fla., 7:30-11:30 p.m.

### Saturday, March 28

- Ohio. Polka Family at Kuzman's Lounge, Youngstown, Ohio, 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.

### Sunday, March 29

- Florida. Tony Blazonczyk & New Phaze at the Polish American Social Club, 7500 N. US 1, Vero Beach, Fla., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- Florida. Sounds of the South at the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, 1343 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 2:30, music 4:00-7:00 p.m., members \$5, non-members \$7.
- Pennsylvania. Jolly Joe (Alex Truszkowski) & the Bavarians at the Dupont VFW, 403 Main St., 403 Main St., Dupont, Pa., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- Ohio. New Brass Express at a Toledo Area Polka Society dance, Conn-Weissenberger American Legion Hall, 2020 W. Alexis Rd., Toledo, Ohio, 2:00-7:00 p.m.
- Ohio. Casuals with Irish Dancers at the American Czechoslovakian Club, 922 Valley St., Dayton, Ohio, 3:00-7:00 p.m.
- Wisconsin. Roger Majeski & the Harmony Kings at Bullshooters, 7802 Meadow Rock Dr., County X and Weston Ave., Weston, Wis., 2:00-6:00 p.m.

## Buffalo Broadcaster Chwojdak Ends 33-Year Radio Career



BUFFALO, N.Y.—Polka broadcaster, concert promoter and musician Greg Chwojdak, announced that he will be leaving his popular “Polkamotion” radio program. His last show was broadcast February 15. The weekly, three-hour program has aired in Buffalo on radio station WXRL, 1300 AM for 23 years.

“Deciding to leave the radio was one of the hardest decisions I have ever had to make in my life,” said Chwojdak on his Sunday radio program. “It has been an unbelievable ride.”

Chwojdak cites an anticipated move out of the region as reason for his departure. He and his wife and

show co-host Lynn will take up residence in northern Ohio.

Chwojdak began broadcasting in 1976, spinning records on International Cable. Over the past 33 years, Chwojdak hosted programs on WWOL-AM, WECK-AM and WXRL-AM. For many years, he was joined on-air by his late father, “Big Al” Chwojdak. The program has also including appearances by his mother, Bea Chwojdak, and comic relief was provided by local pundit “Accordion Bill.”

In addition to his radio program, Chwojdak has performed as a member of the Buffalo Concertina All Stars polka band.

## Dance to Benefit MS, April 3

OCONOMOWOC, Wisc.—(PMN)—The 4th annual “Dance For Multiple Sclerosis” is scheduled for Friday, April 3, 7:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m., at the Ixonia Firemen’s Hall, located midway between Oconomowoc and Watertown in Ixonia on Park Street.

There will be continuous music with The Julida Boys and the Ed Haus Band. The final hour of the event will be a chance for musicians and singers to participate in the open microphone or jam session.

During the course of the evening, there will be a certified raffle for three grand prizes, as well as the opportunity to win numerous door

prizes.

The Hall features a modern bar upstairs with a spectacular wooden dance floor. The lower level also features a bar and a huge eating area, where the Ixonia Firemen’s volunteers and the ladies’ auxiliary will be selling refreshments and home cooked style food.

The admission is \$7 for adults; children 12 and under are admitted free. All proceeds go the National MS Society, Wisconsin Chapter, located in Hartland.

For more information about the dance call (262) 567-8692 or e-mail [djhal2@wi.rr.com](mailto:djhal2@wi.rr.com).

**ROCKIN' POLKAS**  
with  
**MIKE & GEORGE PASIERB**

**WXRL**  
**1300 AM**  
LANCASTER-BUFFALO  
SAT. 2:00-3:00 p.m.  
SUN. 9:00-10:00 p.m.

**POLKA MUSIC UNLIMITED**

*Polka Stony and Polka Happiness Mary Ann*

*is now on the internet!*

**polkasonline.com**

POLKA MUSIC UNLIMITED  
(315) 374-7148  
POLKA MUSIC UNLIMITED  
P.O. BOX 1994  
CICERO, NY 13039  
A “Friend of the Family”

**DON'T MISS THIS LIFE-TIME EVENT!**

**OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY TOUR**

**SEPTEMBER 11 - 19, 2010**

FOR A FREE BROCHURE CALL (716) 681-6167  
or (716) 683-4357 or TOLL FREE 1 (800) 678-3450 EXT. 3232  
escorted with Ron Dombrowski of WECK & WXRL's DRIVETIME POLKAS

Listen to the

**BIG TONY POLKA SHOW**

**WJJI 1440 AM**  
Niagara Falls / Buffalo, NY  
SUNDAY AFTERNOON  
4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Send all promotional material to  
**Tony Rozek**  
78 Cochrane St.  
Buffalo, NY 14206

For advertising information, call  
**(716) 824-6092**  
[www.wjji.com](http://www.wjji.com)

### Jaworski Records Village Style CD

CHICAGO — The Chicago Polkas label is in the process of releasing a new CD featuring John Jaworski recorded in December, 2008, at Bel-Aire Studios entitled "John Jaworski and the Polish Village Musicians."

The songs on the album are in the old country village style with Bobby Piven on concertina, Bogdan Pawlikowski on violin, Jimmy Kucharowski on bass and John Jaworski on clarinet and vocals.

Many of the sixteen tunes on the album are fresh Polish folk material, which Jaworski collected from various sources. The goal of recording the album was to keep alive the Polish folk tradition and to expose listeners to some new melodies. There are also several songs included which many will recognize. Also included are short liner notes about each song.

The song titles on the CD are: "Przez Litewski lan," "Niedaleko od Cieszyna" (Slovak melody with Polish lyrics), "Siadla Pszczolka," "Wczora deszcz padal," "Na Krakowskim polu," "Pierwsza godzina," "A Marysia Data Medley," "Kied mi przyszla karta" (sung in Lemko), "Siedzi cesarz," "Sowa na gaju siada," "Wyszedi raz myśliwy," "Kalina, w tym gaiku," "Zaszlo slonko," "Mosteczek zielony" and "Nie chciala Jasienska."

Persons wanting lyrics can e-mail Jaworski at <jasiemek@hotmail.com>.

(See advertisement below).

**Just Released...**  
**JOHN JAWORSKI AND THE POLISH VILLAGE MUSICIANS**



**16 Polish Vocals AUTHENTIC FOLK MUSIC Songs You'll Hear for the First Time**  
**CD-2801 - \$17 postpaid**  
 Send check, cash or money order to **Chet Schafer Productions**  
 PO Box 410452, Chicago, IL 60641

**NEW RELEASE**  
**BACK TO BACK HALL OF FAME POLKAS**  
 Walter Ostanek and Jerry Darlak

SEND FOR A FREE CATALOG  
 SUNSHINE  
 PO BOX 652  
 W. SENECA, NY 14224  
 CDs \$12 each  
 \$2.00 SHIPPING & HANDLING

### POLKA PATTERN / Distributed by the Polonia Media Network

The Mike Surratt & the Continentals received five "Wammie" nominations from members of the Washington Area Music Association (WAMA). The awards ceremony was set for February 15, 2009 at the State Theatre in Falls Church, Virginia.

Richie Gomulka has been added to the Polka Jammer lineup. His program, simply called "The Richie Gomulka Show," and will air on Wednesday afternoons from 12:00-1:00 p.m. (CDT) with a repeat on Friday nights from 10:00-11:00 p.m. (CDT). The Jammer Network can be found at <http://www.polka-jammernetwork.org>.

Happy Louie's "Steelers Polka"

was featured on ESPN radio on January 27, 2009, at about 1:15 a.m. on "All night with Jason Smith." It was broadcast for about a minute after a rapper fight song about the Bucs.

**Polkas! Free Catalog**

Visit our new website today!

• CDs  
 • DVDs

**PolkaConnection.com**

Come to the experts for the music you love!  
 Call Toll Free (866) 901-6138

Join Us For Buffalo's Best **DYNGUS DAY** Celebration at: "Mother Church of Polonia" **St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr Church**  
**Mon., April 13, 2009**

Music... **5:00 PM TO 11:00 PM**  
**MSGR. ADAMSKI SOCIAL CENTER**  
 389 Peckham Street  
**Buffalo Concertina All-Stars & Stephanie & Her Honky Band**  
 Doors open at 4:30PM

\$10.00 At The Door • Drinks Available  
 Free Kielbasa Sandwich with Ticket  
 For More Information Call: Theresa Gonciarz 893-3627 or Jackie Janusz, Rectory Office 854-5510


**Lenny Gomulka and Mitch Biskup invite you to POLAND**

May 28 - June 7, 2009  
 departing from New York and Chicago

Join Lenny and Mitch for their third unforgettable 10-Day Tour to Poland

**Included Features:**  
 • Air transportation from New York & Chicago via LOT Polish Airlines  
 • Accommodations in first class hotels in twin bedded rooms  
 • Two meals daily: buffet breakfast, lunch or dinner  
 • Comprehensive sightseeing tours with professional guides  
 • Transfers between hotels and airport  
 • English-speaking escorts throughout the tour  
 • All U.S. and foreign departure taxes and fees  
 • Special evenings and attractions especially arranged for you plus...  
 • Polka Jams with Lenny & Mitch and their musicians!

**ALL INCLUSIVE COST:**  
 From New York: \$3,450  
 From Chicago: \$3,580  
 Single room supplement: \$640



**OUR HOTELS:**  
 WARSAW - Novotel Centrum  
 LUBLIN - Unia or similar  
 RZESZOW - Ambassador  
 ZAKOPANE - Kasprowy  
 KRAKOW - Ibis Krakow Centrum  
 WARSAW - Novotel Airport

<b>LENNY GOMULKA</b> 30 WOODLAND PL. LUDLOW, MA 01056 (413) 583-4544 lennygomulka@aol.com www.chicagopush.com	<b>MITCH BISKUP</b> 24 BEACH ROAD WARE, MA 01082 (413) 967-6684 m.biskup@comcast.net	<b>PAT TOURS</b> 1285 RIVERDALE ST. WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA 01089 (800) 388-0988 info@pattours.com
--	--	---

**SALT LAMPS ETC.**  
 5274 Broadway, Lancaster, NY 14086 • (716) 564-9286

Now available beautiful Polish salt lamps that clean and ionize air for your health and well-being.

We also carry bath/foot salts, magnetic jewelry, Biopro Chips to counteract cell phone radiation and Miracle II Soap and Neutralizer.

Will ship anywhere in the USA.

For information and flyers call:  
 Joyce (716) 860-0828 • divineintent@adelphia.net  
 Arlene (716) 649-3188 • PAJadlady@aol.com



**THE ALLIANCE**  
 (NEW Polka Band led by Matt Lewandowski)

**Polka Band Debut & CD Release Party**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2009**  
 Lily of the Valley Banquet Hall  
 2379 Union Road / Cheektowaga, NY  
 Music from 8:00 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.  
 Doors Open at 7:00 p.m.  
 Admission only \$8.00 p/p & includes FREE buffet  
 Under 16 FREE  
 CD Discount - \$10.00 May 2nd ONLY!  
 NO BYOB / 50-50 Raffle / Theme Tray Silent Auction  
 Door Prizes / Basket of Cheer Raffle

For more information & table reservations please call:  
**Sandy or Matt Lewandowski**  
 (716) 225-9856

e-Mail: alliancepolkas@yahoo.com  
 http://www.myspace.com/thealliancepolkaband  
 YouTube video: www.youtube.com/alliancepolkas

Please join us & be part of our Alliance & support Polka Music!

17th Annual **Pre-Dyngus Day Celebration**  
 Cash Bar & Kitchen Available!

**MICHIGAN'S DYNABRASS**

MASSACHUSETT'S **LENNY GOMULKA & THE CHICAGO PUSH**  
**Sunday, April 12, 2009**

Doors Open: 6:00 p.m.  
 Music 7:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.  
 \$10.00 per person (Non-Refundable)

CELEBRATE **DYNGUS DAY** AT THE **PVT. LEONARD POST, JR. #6251 VFW**  
 2450 Walden Ave. @ Nagel Drive, Cheektowaga, NY  
 For more information or Tickets available at table reservations call Pvt. Leonard Post Jr. Post Jackie (716) 444-8693 (716) 684-4371

20th Annual **Dyngus Day Celebration**  
 Cash Bar & Kitchen Available!

**BUFFALO'S OWN THE KNEWZ**

MASSACHUSETT'S **LENNY GOMULKA & THE CHICAGO PUSH**  
**Monday, April 13, 2009**

Doors Open: 5:00 p.m.  
 Music 6:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.  
 \$10.00 Per Person (Non-Refundable)

NO Squirt Guns • Reserved Tables of 10 or more only, NO EXCEPTIONS  
 A ticket does NOT guarantee a seat • NO BYOB  
 NO bringing in of food or any type of beverage. Bags will be checked!

More polka news, photos, and archives on line at [www.polamjournal.com](http://www.polamjournal.com).  
 Just click on "polka" to go Steve Litwin's Polka Pages!

POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

## Polish Lent: Fish, Herring, Pancakes, and Pierogi

Whether wondering what to serve your family during Lent or holding parish Lenten suppers, here are some genuine Polish dishes to consider.

**HERRING IN OIL (śledź w oleju):** Drain 12–16 oz. jar marinated herring, discarding onions and spices. Plunge into cold water, drain and pat dry. Halve and slice thin 2 onions, place in pot, scald with boiling water and after 1-2 min drain. Combine herring and onions, place in clean jar and drench with salad oil of choice to cover. Refrigerate overnight. Serve with plain boiled potatoes or rye bread.

**FRIED FISH (ryba smażona):** Wash and dry 2-3 lbs fresh-water or ocean fish fillets. Sprinkle with lemon juice, intersperse with onion slices, salt well and refrigerate several hrs or overnight. When ready to use, discard onions, dry fillets on absorbent paper, salt & pepper, dredge in flour, shaking off excess, and fry on both sides in hot oil until golden brown on the outside and fully cooked on the inside. Serve with horseradish sauce: 1 part prepared horseradish and 1 part sour cream.

**LENTEN RYMEAL SOUP (postny żur):** In pot combine 4 c water, a chopped onion and cook until onion is tender. Add 1 c “żurek” (bottled liquid rye meal sour available at Polish delis), 1/4 of a mushroom bouillon cube and 1 bud crushed garlic. Stir in 2 T flour dissolved in 1/2 c water, bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer 2-3 min. Season with salt, pepper and marjoram and serve over hard-cooked egg slices and/or cubed cooked potatoes. Provide horseradish for those who want a zingier soup.

**POTATO PANCAKES (placki kartoflane):** Grate 2-1/4 lbs peeled potatoes (by hand or in food processor), transfer to sieve and let drip



**Naleśniki** (nah-lesh-NEE-kee) are fun to make ... and eat!

into bowl. Allow drippings to settle, pour off liquid from top and add the white sediment (starch) to the grated potatoes. Add 1-2 grated onion, about 2 T flour, 2 eggs and salt & pepper. Mix well and spoon batter into hot fat. With spatula flatten pancakes slightly, since thin ones cook better. Fry to a nice crispy, golden brown on both sides and drain on absorbent paper. Serve immediately sweet or savory (just salted a little).

**CRÊPES (naleśniki):** In bowl combine 1 scant c milk with 2 beaten eggs and 1/8 t salt and whisk until smooth. Gradually add 1 1/4 c flour, sifted, whisking constantly until lump-free and air blisters appear on surface. Whisk in about 1 c water – or just enough to get a thin, pourable batter. Lightly grease frying pan with crumpled-up paper towel dipped in oil. (Note: Special non-stick crêpe pans are available!) Pour in a little batter, tilt frying pan to coat entire surface and fry on fairly high heat. Flip crêpe over and cook briefly on other side. Stack fried naleśniki on inverted dinner plate. Re-grease pan before adding more batter. Fillings include savory cheese (farmer cheese mashed with sour cream), sweet cheese (farmer cheese mixed with sugar and raw egg yolk), jam or preserves of choice (imported

Polish powidła [plum butter] is excellent). Provide sour cream.

**PIEROGI DOUGH (ciasto na pierogi):** Combine 2 c flour, 1 c dairy sour cream, 1 small egg and 1/2 t salt. Work ingredients together to form a smooth dough and knead briefly. Roll out 1/3 of the dough lightly floured board, leaving the remainder under a warm inverted bowl so it doesn't dry out. With drinking-glass or biscuit-cutter cut dough-sheet into rounds. Place a spoonful of filling (see below) just off center of each dough round, cover filling with larger dough flap and pinch edges together to seal. Cook in boiling lightly salted water until they float up. Test one for doneness.

**CHEESE & POTATO PIEROGI FILLING (ruskie pierogi [z serem i kartoflami]):** Cook 1 lb peeled potatoes in boiling salted water until tender, drain, mash and set aside to cool. To potatoes add 1/2 lb farmer cheese or dry cottage cheese, mashed with potato-masher or processed to a ground-like consistency in processor, 2 finely chopped onions sautéed in 2 T oil or butter until tender and lightly browned. Mix ingredients well and season with salt & pepper. As toppings, provide sour cream (or plain low-fat yogurt for dieters) or chopped onions fried in oil.

**CHEESE PIEROGI FILLING (pierogi z serem):** Combine 3/4 lb farmer cheese or dry cottage cheese, pulverized to a powder in food-processor, 1/4 t salt, 1 t sugar, 1 lemon juice and 1 raw egg yolk into a smooth filling. The cooked pierogi may be served with melted butter, confectioner's sugar, sour cream or plain yogurt (for weight-watchers).

**POTATO & ONION PIEROGI FILLING (pierogi z kartoflami):** Cook 6-7 med potatoes until tender, drain well, steaming off moisture, and mash thoroughly are put through ricer. Fry 2 chopped onions in 2-3 T butter or oil and add to potatoes. Stir in 1 egg and (optional) 1 T bread crumbs. Salt & pepper to taste. Serve with sour cream.

BABA YAGA'S CORNER / Jaga Urban-Klaehn

## What do we Know about Indo-European Languages?

Recently I had given a speech at our local Toastmaster's Club about the Indo-European languages. I overestimated my audience since I thought that people know about Indo-European languages everywhere in the world, or at least in the countries of European ancestry. My audience was clueless not only about Indo-European languages but also about how different European languages are interrelated. No wonder! We live in homogeneous America, not in multinational Europe. People here are not exposed to foreign languages like Europeans are.

When I was a child in Poland, even though I could not speak any foreign language, I was still able to recognize many foreign tongues. I lived in Krakow, a town which attracts many foreigners. We listened to the radio a lot and, for us, turning the knob in the radio was moving us to another world, so we could listen to radio Ostrava (just behind the border with Czechoslovakia) or Dresden (Eastern Germany).

**THERE ARE ABOUT 6,700** languages spoken on the Earth right now. Unfortunately many of these languages are on the verge of extinction. The globalization and modern computerized world help spread English and diminish the significance of many other languages. The young generation uses English like no generation before. It is good, because young people from all over the world can communicate, but it is sad because we all become alike.

The majority of the languages belong to just 13 language groups. Among the ten most spoken languages the majority belong to Indo-European group, with the exception of Chinese and Japanese. Another huge group of non indo-European languages includes Semitic-Arabic tongues.

According to Wikipedia, the Indo-European languages are a family of several hundred related languages and dialects. They include the majority of the languages of Europe, but also the Iranian plateau, Afghanistan and Indian subcontinent. Iranian, Armenian, Pashto, Kurdish, Hindi/Urdu, Bengali and Sanskrit belong to Indo-European languages. Sanskrit for Indians is like Latin and Greek for Europeans. It was a language spoken by educated religious elite of the country in India. Europeans, besides Basques, Finns, Estonians and Hungarians, speak Indo-European languages.

The parent language of the Indo-European family was called Proto-Indo-European. How do we know that Indo-European languages come from the same root? By studying their similarities in the basic words. For instance many Indo-European

languages share similarity in a word for “mother” (Polish: *matka*, German: *mutter*, French: *mere*). Also the words for domestic animals, some plants, farm implements, early known metals or wheeled vehicles share the common root. This suggests that people who spoke Proto-Indo-European lived during the New Stone Age (8000-3500 B.C.). It also indicates a region of southern Russia as a cradle of first Proto-Indo-Europeans.

Some Indo-European languages are already dead, like Latin or almost all languages of the Celtic branch, but many are still in the use.

In Europe Indo-European languages can be divided into three main groups:

1. Italic which includes Romance languages: Latin, Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Romanian.
2. Germanic: German, English, Dutch, Swedish, Norwegian, Icelandic.
3. Slavic or Balto-Slavic: Polish, Russian, Ukrainian, Czech, Slovak, Bulgarian, Serbian, Croatian. The Baltic languages (Lithuanian, Latvian and extinct Prussian) are sometimes considered a sub-brand of the Slavic languages.

### POLAND IS SURROUNDED

by neighbors who speak different tongues, some more different than the others. Our neighbors on the East and on the South speak Slavic languages, so we can communicate with them easily. Our neighbors in the West spoke a different tongue. This is a reason why we call Germans “Niemcy.” “Niemy” means “mute” in Polish and in other Slavic languages, since we could not communicate with Germans easily. We were mute to each other.

Who knows, maybe the lack of common language contributed to difficult and hostile relations through the history?

### Maybe the lack of common language contributed to difficult and hostile relations through the history ...

Poles, Czechs, Slovaks and Russians can communicate pretty well with a little knowledge of their neighbor languages, although the Slavic languages differ in alphabet. The basic rule is that the countries which belong to the Orthodox rite use Cyrillic alphabet, the countries that belong to the Roman Catholic use Roman/Latin alphabet. The common language does not mean a common ancestry. Bulgarians speak a Slavic language although as a people, they are non-Slavs, probably of Turkish descent.

It was surprising for me to realize that Germans and English people cannot really communicate or understand each other like Slavs do. Why is it? Are they not all just Germanic people? The reason lies in the complex development of the English language. English went through many transformations since it borrowed the words from many other languages and used it as their own. English vocabulary is richer than any other known language in the world!

In the next article we will discuss English and Slavic languages, its history, similarities and differences.

Visit Baba Jaga's Corner on the web at [www.polishsite.us](http://www.polishsite.us).

814-677-4090 Fax: 814-678-2221 Toll Free: 877-727-8359

## PIEROGI PALACE

“Where You'll Remember Mama's...”  
“Gdzie Będziesz Pamiętać Mame.”

17 Spring Street, Oil City, Pennsylvania 16301

JOSEPH C. BROZESKI, Mgr.  
E-mail: [pierogi@usachoice.net](mailto:pierogi@usachoice.net)  
Website: [www.pierogipalace.com](http://www.pierogipalace.com)



Available in two sizes

Easy to use! Simply coat the mold with vegetable oil (spray type works best), press in softened butter, clamp halves together, place and refrigerator until hardened and you're done. It's that easy. Decorate with greenery or cake decorations. Start your own tradition of making your own table decorations just like they do in Poland.

**Small 3-1/2" width by 3" tall.**  
Item 1-600 \$4.95 plus \$3.00 s&h  
**Large 5" width by 4" tall.**  
Item 1-601 \$7.95 plus \$4.00 s&h

PAJ BOOKSTORE  
P.O. Box 328, Boston, NY 14025  
[www.polamjournal.com](http://www.polamjournal.com)  
1 (800) 422-1275



UNIVERSITY INN  
CLEVELAND, OHIO  
ESTABLISHED IN 1923

Featured on the Travel  
& Food Network

Our Hours are:  
**Lunch**  
M-F 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
**Fri. Night Dinners**  
5:00-9:00 p.m.  
**Sat. Night Dinners**  
4:00-9:00 p.m.  
**Lounge open 'til 1:00**  
a.m. on Fri. and Sat.  
**Cleveland's Premier**  
**Polish American**  
**Restaurant**  
**Now in our 85th year**  
**in Business**  
**(216) 771-9236**  
**[www.sokolowskis.com](http://www.sokolowskis.com)**

## BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes, MLIS

## BOOK REVIEW / Dr. John Grondelski

## Film Making in Poland

**THE LAW OF THE LOOKING GLASS**  
*Cinema in Poland, 1896-1939*  
by Sheila Skaff  
Ohio University Press, appendix, notes, bibliography, illustrations, index, 345 pp., \$34.95

As part of the Polish American Series, Skaff provides a history on the background and development of cinema and film making in Poland.

The title comes from Karol Irzykowski's book, first published in 1924, that considered the ways the cinema both reflects and distorts reality. He felt the visuals would overcome the linguistic barriers and opposed the transition from silent film. This reflection and distortion is strongly prevalent today.

Cinema came to Poland late in 1896 in Krakow. During this time of a partitioned Poland, the use of silent film served the diverse nation very well. When the country was once again independent and a united unit, it still faced political and economic problems with the multilingual population. Silent film, as a universal language, was ideally suitable.

During the mid 1920s, a gradual transition to sound began. By 1931 the government signed agreements with several countries to exchange newsreels. As filmmaking improved, documentaries, avant-garde, and melodramas based on contemporary Polish fiction and ethnographic films were popular. Musicals and comedies were unpopular until understandable country humor was provided.

As cinema became a favorite pastime in cities, groups realized the potential for influencing the population. The Catholic Church started their rating system and religious films. The government as well, provided films that influenced its population in a positive way.

Films in Yiddish were not produced until 1936, and in 1937 a contract for film exchange between countries was developed. Thirty-five German films were sent to Poland, but not a single Polish film was sent to Germany.

Anti-Jewish groups began to protest that Jews held too much power in the film industry. Boycotts began, influenced by Hitler's "don't buy from Jews" slogans. These continued on into the beginning of World War II.

A remarkable collection of information on the progression of movies in the interwar years.

**THE BAGEL**  
*The Surprising History of a Modest Bread*  
by Maria Balinska

Yale University Press, 2008, index, notes, illustrations, illustrations, 240 pp., \$24.00

Traditionally, the bagel is a round piece of dough that is first boiled, and then baked to a flavorful shiny crust. The round bread is a symbol of good luck and good health.

Balinska tells a fascinating story of the little bagel, which claims many sites of origin. It had many names. From the Puglia region in Italy, where it is called *buccellatum* and considered a staple food for Roman soldiers. In Germany it is called *tarallo*, the Arabs called it *kak*, the Chinese called it *girdle* and the Jews called it *beigen*.

In Poland it was called *obwarzanek*, a Lenten bread, a hundred years before Queen Bona's arrival in Poland in 1518, from the Puglian port of Bari. And the tale of King Jan Sobieski's role in the bagel (leg-

end has bakers forming the dough in the shape of his stirrup in honor of his win over invading Turks in the 17th century) is apparently false. But the history of the bagel is woven throughout the history of Poland and Balinska provides a great deal of information.

The year 1882 saw the beginning of a mass exodus of Jews moving from Eastern Europe to America, the majority settling in lower east side of Manhattan, bringing their bread with them.

By the 1960s it was no longer an ethnic food, as Harry Lender began making bagels by machine, developing a distribution system, then gradually expanding from Connecticut by freezing the bagels for distribution across the country. In the 1970s Lenders Bagels put forth a marketing campaign that resulted in gradual conversion of the U.S. population's love of bagel. Today people of all nationalities enjoy bagels, although they are significantly different, being bigger, plumper and softer.

Today, Krakow's fashionable shops use a photograph of a boy of the 1930s peddling strings of bagels on its shopping bags, holding to the age-old methods and recipes.

Balinska is editor of BBC's Radio World Current Affairs department as well as documentary maker specializing in Eastern Europe and the United States.

**PETER PAN**  
*A Pop-up Adaptation of J.M. Barrie's Original Tale*

by Robert Sabuda  
Little Simon/Simon & Schuster, 2009, \$29.99

The story comes alive in this pop-up book with Tinkerbell flying, pirates popping, a sleeping city and a dark forest, not to forget Peter flying or the pirate ship!

Each page contains a sidebar to provide the entire story. The sidebar, itself, includes at least four smaller pop-ups.

Words cannot describe this incredible collection of pop-ups that accompany the age-old story of Peter Pan. Robert Sabuda continues to out-do himself!

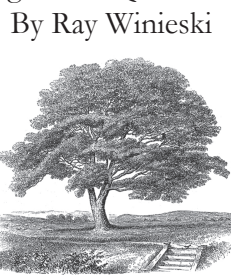
**WHAT DOES YOUR POLISH NAME MEAN?**

Do you consider yourself a good Sasiadek? Are you a patient Nauczyciel? Are colors your thing, Malarka? For a custom-researched analysis of the meaning and derivation of your Polish surname, how many people share it, where they live and whether it is accompanied by a noble coat-of-arms, please airmail a \$16 check (adding \$7 for each additional surname) to: Robert Strybel, ulica Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

## Pieces

(Kawalki)

"Book of Poetry &amp; Thoughts for Quiet Hours"



\$25 includes S & H  
358 Millard Street  
Elmira, New York 14901

## Arcadia Presents Toledo's Polonia

**TOLEDO'S POLONIA**  
by Rev. Richard Philiposki  
in the "Images of America" series  
Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2009, PB, pp. 127, \$21.99  
To order: www.arcadiapublishing.com or 1-888-313-2665

My first experience of Toledo, Ohio, came in the late 1970s when, as a student at St. Mary's College in Michigan, four of us went to staff the "Orchard Lake" booth at the Polish Festival in September. Toledo, then, was something of the butt of jokes: back in 1975, John Denver crooned that "Saturday night in Toledo, Ohio, is like being nowhere at all," maligning the northern Ohio town which had perhaps seen better days. Alas, lots of Northeastern and Midwestern industrial towns, where numerous generations of Polish Americans were born, grew up, married, raised families, lived, and died had seen better days. Some are undergoing gentrification. But many have proud pasts, and Fr. Philiposki's new book is both a tribute to the memory of as well as a celebration of the indefatigable spirit of today's Polish Americans in Toledo. This is an amateur history of Toledo Polonia. In saying that, I in no way criticize this book. Polonia's history, especially outside of Chicago and other mega-centers, is largely neglected. This book is a welcome addition to the meager literature on those smaller Polonian communities. Toledo has been overshadowed by two bigger Polonias: Detroit (which, in its heyday, ranked up with Chicago and New York as a major Polonian center) and Cleveland. Indeed, to the degree that books on Ohio Polonia have appeared, in America or in Poland, they have focused on Cleveland (Grabowski, Polish Americans and their Communities of Cleveland, 1976; A. Walaszek,

Światy imigrantów. Tworzenie polonijnego Cleveland, 1880-1930, 1994).

Arcadia specializes in publishing attractive picture books of local history, and has already released several dealing with Polonian communities large and small (e.g., Detroit, Chicago, Worcester, Chicopee, Mass., New Britain, Conn.). The books are usually the work of amateur historians, which has its bad and good sides: they're not professional historians, but they are usually people who live in those communities, know their roots, and are proud to pass that heritage along to others. The format allows lots of valuable photographs of Polish American history to be preserved in book form. I heartily endorse these efforts and wish that more Polish Americans would document their local histories — especially in the smaller and medium-size communities of the Northeast and Midwest — in this way. Kudos to Fr. Philiposki and his colleagues in the "Toledo Polish Genealogical Society" for recording the history of their community.

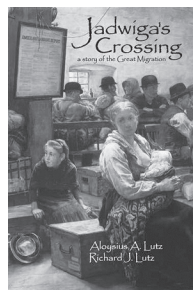
**TOLEDO POLONIA** formed around two neighborhoods: "LaGrinka" on the north side, around La Grange Street, and "Kouschwantz" (German for "cow tail") on the south side. Six Polish American parishes eventually were formed. This book is divided into ten chapters and contains over 200 photographs. The chapters cover the usual repertoire: roots in the old country (many of Toledo's Polonia came from Prussian Poland); their neighborhoods in Toledo; the churches they could afford to build on nickels and dimes (that today's bishops will not keep open); the places they worked (almost all blue collar physical labor); how they socialized (dances and organizations);

military service (well balanced, with the lion's share on World War II but also noting Polonian veterans from Korea and Vietnam); education (again, showing how yesterday's indigent immigrants could build schools today's clergy cannot maintain); business (showing the Polish spirit of entrepreneurship); celebrations of life (baptisms, First Communions, weddings); and how Polonia strives to celebrate its heritage today. The book notes that a Polish American represents northern Ohio in Congress (Nancy Kaptur, D-Ohio, 9th) and that local Polonians have banded into a "Toledo Polish Genealogical Society" to preserve and promote their heritage. It does not note the existence of a Polish Toledo website (polistoledo.com). Nor does it note that there was apparently a Polish newspaper, *ECHA Z AMERYKI*, published in Toledo in the early twentieth century. Echa, after all, dispatched its reporter, Stefan Nesterowicz, to visit Polonian communities in what today is an even more forgotten corner of Polish American history: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas (see Stefan Nesterowicz, Travel Notes, Polish Genealogical Society of Texas, 2007). One would wish to see a little more about present-day Polonia in these towns, but Arcadia's own editorial constraints force the authors to make the past most dominant in their books.

Arcadia has already assembled an impressive library of Polonian communities in the United States. Polish Americans proud of their contributions to America should enjoy them. They should also inspire other armchair historians to document their communities as well.

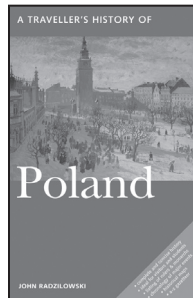
## POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL BOOKSTORE

## GREAT READING



Al and Dick Lutz' acclaimed work **JADWIGA'S CROSSING: a story of the Great Migration** 348 pp., pb.

A perfect gift of heritage... The experience of late 19th Century immigration, as seen through the eyes of Paul and Jadwiga Adamik and what they went through to make America their new home. Appropriate for all ages 12 and up. **\$19<sup>95</sup>**



**A TRAVELLER'S HISTORY OF POLAND** by John Radzilowski 312 pgs. ill. maps. pb.

A comprehensive historical survey guides travellers through a general history of the people and places of Poland from pre-history to today. Includes a full chronology, a list of monarchs and rulers, a gazetteer, historical maps. **\$18<sup>00</sup>**

## MY NAME IS MILLION: An Illustrated History of Poles in America



From the 17th century to the present, people of Polish descent have made important contributions in every area of American life. Most of their names will not be found in American history books. But many of their names and stories are included in this richly illustrated history. My Name is Million is also the story of those millions of Polish Americans whose role in American life have, until now, gone unrecognized.

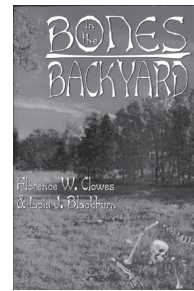
Hardcover. Original Price: \$24.95

ONLY **\$14<sup>95</sup>**



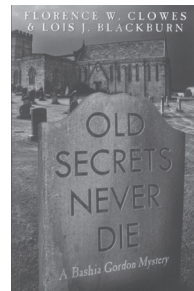
**POLISH FOLK LEGENDS** by Florence Clowes, illustrated by Daniel Haskin A book of forty legends, researched and explained. From the earliest legends of Popiel and the Moustower to Copernicus, a kernel of truth can usually be found. *Item 2-552. sc. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2. 220 pp.*

**\$18<sup>00</sup>**



**BONES IN THE BACKYARD** by Florence Clowes and Louis Blackburn In the quiet corner of Connecticut, semi-retired interior decorator Basha Gordon turns amateur sluth when she and her friend Dottie uncover a fragmented skeleton in a septic tank. *Item 2-550. sc. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2. 198 pp.*

**\$14<sup>95</sup>**



**OLD SECRETS NEVER DIE** by Florence Clowes and Louis Blackburn A new murder mystery featuring Polonia's amateur sluth, Basha Gordon in the second in a series of crime-solving capers in Northeastern Connecticut. *Item 2-553 sc., 5 1/2 x 8 1/2.*

**\$14<sup>95</sup>**

Shipping: 1 book: \$6.95 • 2 books: \$8.95 • 3 books: \$10.95 • 4+ books: \$12.95

**POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL BOOKSTORE • 1 (800) 422-1275**

**P.O. Box 328 • BOSTON, NY 14025**

www.polamjournal.com | VISA MC AMEX DISC ACCEPTED

## SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

## A Ray of Sunshine

Tampa Bay Rays Manager **Joe Maddon** has started a special tradition to help the poor and needy, one in which he uses his Polish and Italian heritages to create a special meal. Since he has joined the Rays, Maddon has prepared "Thanks-mas" meal at the St. Vincent De Paul Society near Tropicana Field. He plays a direct, hands-on role in creating a menu that includes homemade meatballs and pierogi. The needy get a lot of help at Thanksgiving and Christmas, reasoned Maddon, so he chose a day in between to celebrate as "Thanks-mas."

Joe grew up in Hazelton, Pa. Maddon's 75-year-old mother Albina "Beanie" Klocek was born to a Polish family, the seventh of ten children. Her father worked in the mines for 30 years, and died of black lung disease about six months after he retired. In high school, Beanie started working at the Third Base Luncheonette, which her sister and brother-in-law opened it in 1949. She has made sandwiches and continues to work there.

It was at the luncheonette that Beanie met Joseph Anthony Maddon. He was Italian (The family name was originally Maddoninni.) but she didn't mind. "I just looked at the person. I just took him for what he was." They married and had three children. Her husband, who went into his father's plumbing business, was easy-going and relaxed, while Beanie was the disciplinarian or, as she put it, "I was the witch."

Their son Joe was a terrific all-around athlete, a standout quarterback at Hazleton High nicknamed "Broad Street Joe" after the player he liked the most, "Broadway Joe" Namath. He went on to play football and baseball at Lafayette College in Easton before joining the Angels organization, first as a minor league catcher and then as a coach. He caught in the Angels minor league system before starting a coaching career.

Maddon joined the Angels major

league coaching staff in 1994. He held various positions, and went 33-26 in three stints as Angels interim manager. In late 2005, after 31 years with the Angels, he got his first big league managing job with Tampa Bay. The young Rays continued to struggle for a couple of years before Maddon's patience and persistence paid off. In 2008, the Rays won the American League pennant one year after having the worst record in the major leagues. Boasting a 31-game turnaround in 2008 with a 97-65 record, they won the AL East by a two-game margin over the Red Sox. Tampa Bay had never won as many as 70 games in a season before.

The Rays also beat wild-card Boston in the AL Championship Series to earn their first trip to the World Series, where they lost in five games to the Philadelphia Phillies. Maddon was named AL Manager of the Year in a near-unanimous vote. The New York Times referred to Maddon as "one of baseball's more purely intelligent men in uniform," and credited him for helping "transform what had been a laughably disjointed bunch of rookies and castoffs into a vibrant collection of up-and-arriving talent."

One of the great stories of the 2008 World Series was the return of Maddon to his Pennsylvania roots. His father died in 2002, but his mother is still alive and still working at the Third Base. "It keeps her going; it keeps her young," said owner Dave Mishinski, who took over from his father and mother, who was Beanie's sister. "She knows more about the business than I do. If she wasn't here I don't know what we'd do."

Interestingly, although he grew up just outside of Philadelphia, Maddon never was a Phillies fan. He grew following the St. Louis Cardinals. As a boy Maddon and his father stopped to buy a hat after leaving a White Sox-Yankees game in New York. Maddon selected a navy blue Cardinals cap with a red



**Joe Maddon**, today as manager of the Tampa Bay Rays, and as a two-sport athlete at Lafayette College in the 1970s.

insignia. "At that moment I became a die-hard St. Louis fan," Maddon said. "It was simple as that."

**COMING UP BIG.** While he's not the ideal size for a goaltender, **Dustin Tokarski** always seems to come up big in big games. That happened when he led Team Canada to the World Junior Championship, including stopping 39 of 40 shots in the 5-1 final game win over Sweden.

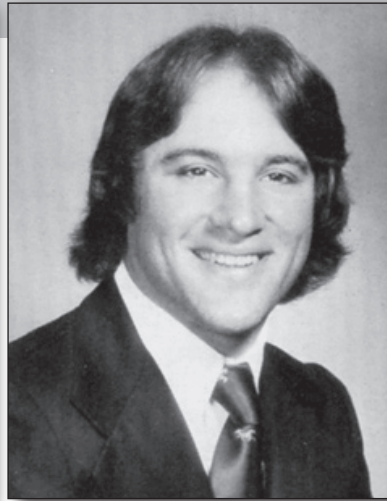
Tokarski, 19, of Humboldt, Saskatchewan, was the 122nd pick of the 2008 draft by the Tampa Bay Lightning. Probably smaller than his listed size of 5 feet 11, 185 pounds, Tokarski doesn't have the preferred goalie size, but he possesses extraordinary technical skills.

He led the Triple-A Prince Albert Mintos to the 2006 Canadian midget championship, and in 2007 junior Spokane Chiefs of the Western Hockey League to the Memorial Cup, winning tournament MVP. At the time of his selection to Canada's National Junior Team, Tokarski was first in the WHL among starting goalies with a 1.97 GAA and .938 save percentage this season and was tied for first with four shutouts.

Tokarski tried out with six mid-level teams before catching on with Prince Albert. He tried out with two WHL teams before the Chiefs took a chance. Last month the Lightning signed Tokarski to a three-year, entry-level contract that kicks in when he goes to the minors, probably next season.

"The thing that Dustin does is he wins games," Lightning co-assistant general manager Claude Loiselle said. "He makes the big saves at the right times. He's a real competitor."

"It comes from family," Tokarski said of his dad, Mark, and mom, Darlene. "A hard-working family, never say die, and I think that carries on to hockey. The games are do or die, so you have no choice but to play good." Dustin's grandfather,



his father, two uncles and younger cousin have all played goalie.

**ADDED TO THE BALLOT.** A college and pro basketball star, a baseball rookie of the year, and one of golf's longest drivers have been added to ballot for the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame.

Montana native **Larry Krystkowiak** is considered the University of Montana's greatest player ever, and is still its all-time leader in points (2,017) and rebounds (1,105).

Krystkowiak also played nine years as a power forward in the NBA, mostly with Milwaukee. He averaged 8.2 points, 4.9 rebounds and 1.2 assists in 420 career NBA games. He then coached in the CBA before becoming head men's coach at his alma mater in 2004. Larry led Montana's to 18 wins — and the NCAA tournament — in his first season as head coach. The next he guided the Griz to their second Big Sky Conference men's basketball tournament championship in as many years at the helm a second straight berth in the NCAA tournament. Krystkowiak returned to the Bucks as an assistant coach in 2006. In 2007 he was elevated to head coach of the Bucks, but was fired after a little more than a year.

**Mark "The Bird" Fidrych** was a national sensation in 1976. Pitching for the Detroit Tigers, he won 19 games, led the league in ERA (2.34) and complete games (24), was the starting pitcher in the All-Star Game, won the AL Rookie of the Year Award. He also finished second in voting for the Cy Young Award. He captured the imagination of fans across the country with his antics on the mound, including talking to the ball. However, injuries the following year hampered his effectiveness and he only won ten more games before retiring.

**Evan "Big Cat" Williams**, considered one of the best long drivers

in golf, is a two-time national long drive champion. His longest tee shot in competition was estimated at 496 yards, or a more than a quarter-of-a-mile. He has also made a hole-in-one on a Par 4 hole. The New Jersey native now living in Michigan competes on the Senior Tour.

The three new nominees will join the holdovers members of the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame ballot, which includes NFL tight end **Frank Wycheck**, baseball manager **Danny Ozark**, and standout swimmer **Kristy Kowal**. This year's winners will be selected throughout nationwide balloting, and inducted in ceremonies that will be held at the American-Polish Cultural Center in Troy, Michigan in June.

**PERKOSKI'S NOTEBOOK.** Former Boston College head coach **Jeff Jagodzinski** was named offensive coordinator of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers ... Beijing Olympic silver medalist **Jenn Stuczynski** won the women's pole vault at the Millrose Games with a jump of 4.71 meters, or 15' 5.5" ... One of Canada's greatest athletes, **Joe "King" Krol**, a winner of six Grey Cups and Canada's athlete of the year in 1946 and 1947, died at the age of 89 ... Maryland tight end **Dan Gronkowski** was invited to the NFL pre-draft Scouting Combine. Younger brothers Chris and Rob both play at Arizona, where Rob is an All-American tight end ... former Cincinnati pitcher **Dave Majewski** signed a minor league contract with the Phillies ... At press time 23-year old Minnesota native **Alex Goligoski** was the top point-producer among Penguins defensemen, with six goals and 13 assists in 42 games.

## THEY SAID IT

"I think if you grew up where I grew up and when I grew up, the one word that comes to mind is respect. That's the one thing that's pounded into you between a Polish mother and Italian father and nuns through the eighth grade."

—Tampa Bay Rays manager **Joe Maddon**.



"My bet is when he plays in the American Hockey League, he'll win a championship, and when he plays in the NHL, he'll win a Stanley Cup. He's one of those guys success just follows."

—WHL Spokane Chiefs coach **Hardy Sauter** on **Dustin Tokarski**.

## PAJ SUBSCRIPTION FORM

## NEW SUBSCRIBER

Fill out form. If **gift subscription**, please fill out address of recipient.

## RENEWAL

Please include address label from paper

## ADDRESS CHANGE

Enter new address below. Please include address label from paper.

KEEP OUR POLISH HERITAGE ALIVE!  
SUBSCRIBE TO THE PAJ TODAY!

1 YEAR—\$20.00

2 YEARS—\$37.00

3 YEARS—\$51.00

## PAYMENT ENCLOSED

**PLEASE BILL ME** Your subscription will not begin until your check clears.

## CHARGE TO MY:

MASTERCARD

VISA  AMEX

DISCOVER

## FOREIGN and CANADIAN RATES:

See prices printed on page 2. For library, institution, and bulk rates, please call 1 (800) 422-1275

CARD NO.

EXP. DATE

CSV CODE

NAME

NO. STREET

APT. NO.

CITY, STATE, ZIP

**MOVING? Please note the Post Office will NOT FORWARD SECOND-CLASS MAIL. If you move, you must notify our office.**

## THREE EASY WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE!

**MAIL TO:** PAJ SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT  
P.O. BOX 328, BOSTON, NY 14025-0328

**CALL:** 1 (800) 422-1275 or (716) 312-8088  
M-F 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. EST

**ON LINE:** www.polamjournal.com  
SECURE SERVER (Amex, Disc., MC, Visa, and PayPal)

## Take Control of your Future with a Little Help from Atlas Savings and Loan Association

NEW YORK—Understanding finances is not just for the experts, knowing more about how to make financial decisions is an important way to survive. Today, more than ever before, one of the greatest challenges facing Americans is ensuring their financial security. Atlas Savings is here to help organize your retirement goals. With the assistance of a tax advisor and a little motivation from within, finding out how to make financial decisions is an important first step to accomplish.

It doesn't matter how old you are—a comfortable retirement tomorrow requires sound financial planning today—that's why Atlas Savings offers a variety of Individual Retirement Accounts that provide some tax advantages for retirement savings. With Atlas, you have a choice of placing your IRA

funds in savings and/or CDs.

Atlas Savings offers the following IRA Accounts at competitive rates:

- Traditional IRA
- Roth IRA
- SEP IRA
- Simple IRA
- ESA (Coverdell Educational Savings Account)

Traditional and Roth IRAs are the most popular plans available to everyone who receives compensation from employment. For the self employed, SEP and Simple IRAs are the favored choice.

Contribution to retirement plans must be made by April 15th tax filing cutoff date to receive your 2008 tax deduction if eligible.

For more details on our IRA products, please call (718) 768-4800 or visit www.atlasbank.com.

## Gorecki Receives Order of St. Gregory

KRAKOW—The renowned Polish composer Henryk Mikolaj Gorecki received the Order of Saint Gregory the Great. This is the highest papal order bestowed on the laity for particular service to the Church. It was presented to Gorecki by cardinals Stanislaw Dziwisz and Franciszek Macharski at a ceremony in Krakow.

The composer promised on this occasion to finish work on a holy mass, which he had started writing for the late Pope John Paul II.

Cardinal Dziwisz said jokingly that the composer has failed to fulfill his earlier promise of writing a mass for the Jubilee Year 2000.

Gorecki pledged he would stop "being lazy."

He said he is toying with the idea of a mass consisting of 10-12 sections, to be performed either separately or as a whole.



**THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski**



**A Local Denizen.** Oswiecim, Poland, May 22, 1976.

**CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin S. Nowak**

**Kuczynski: King of Country Music**

Some performers are all flash and no substance, but in the world of country music, Pee Wee King was both.

Julius Frank Anthony Kuczynski was born on the south side of Milwaukee in 1914 to John and Helen (nee Mielczarek) Kuczynski. His parents spoke Polish and broken English and the youngster switched easily between the two languages. He was called Frank and was taught to play violin and accordion. Dad led a polka band and young Frank joined up at age fifteen.

It was not long before he started his own band, the King's Jesters, and took the stage name Frank King, in tribute to "Waltz King" bandleader Wayne King. They played a mixture of polkas, cowboy and pop songs. In 1933 his band was a regular on the Milwaukee radio show Badger State Barn Dance. A young Gene Autry hired them as his back up band as their music turned more to the country and western side. It was Autry who nicknamed King "Pee Wee" for his five foot six inch height, as well as the fact that there were three Franks in the band.

In 1934 King and Autry performed together as regulars on a Louisville radio program. The following year Autry left for Hollywood, but King stayed in Louisville and played with the Log Cabin Boys. A year later he formed his own country band, the Golden West Cowboys. By 1937 their popularity had grown so much that they were invited to join Nashville's Grand Ole Opry, beginning a ten year run.

Traditionalists were taken aback. Not only was Pee Wee the first country and western star from a northern state, his band played country music with polka and waltz rhythms and



**Pee Wee King** on the cover to the sheet music of one of his hits, "Tennessee Waltz."

were the first to wear rhinestone and sequined suits. They were also the first to use drums, electric guitar, accordion and horns at the Opry. King clearly believed in breaking barriers and he paved the way for acts that followed in the post World War II years.

Pee Wee was a songwriter and musician, but left the vocals to others. One of his outstanding vocalists was Eddy Arnold. King made a few appearances in western movies and for ten years from 1947-1957 he had his own television show in Louisville, broadcast nationally for two years.

It was during these years that King enjoyed his greatest success. In 1947 he co-wrote one of the most popular country songs of all time, "Tennessee Waltz," which his band took to number three on the pop charts. Patti Page released a recording of the song in 1951 and it became a huge multi-million seller.

That same year, Pee Wee King and the Golden West Cowboys released "Slow Poke," which topped the charts for fourteen weeks. Other hits followed, and the band was recognized as the best in country music in the early 1950s. King was one of country's earliest crossover artists, whose appeal extended to the world of pop music.

**He fondly recalled the delicious Polish dishes his mother cooked, including pierogi, gołąbki and kapusta.**

"Tennessee Waltz" was adopted by Tennessee as its state song in 1965. King retired from performing in 1969, was elected to the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1970 and to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1974, where he was a director till the day he died on March 7, 2000.

King was one of the greatest innovators in the history of country music. He was largely responsible for country's acceptance into the pop music world, which paved the way for rockabilly acts such as Carl Perkins, Johnny Cash and Elvis Presley.

Later in his life, Pee Wee King Kuczynski fondly recalled the delicious Polish dishes his mother cooked, including pierogi, gołąbki and kapusta. He said his Polish-born grandparents did not talk much about the old country. He remembered one of them telling him, "Be glad you were born in this country." A little bit of luck, a lot of hard work, and he realized the American Dream and then some.

**ARTSCENE / Staś Kmiec**

**Year of Grotowski**

UNESCO has designated 2009 as "The Year of Grotowski" – 50 years after the founding of the Polish Laboratory Theatre and 10 after the death of its world-renowned Polish theatre director.

Jerzy Grotowski (inset), (1933-1999) was an innovator of experimental theater, the "theatre laboratory" and "poor theatre" concepts. One of the masters of modern theater along with Stanislawski, Meyerhold, Artaud and Brecht, he stressed the importance of the actor, and is known for a physically demanding style of theater bordering on dance choreography.



In essence he created a kind of spiritual process of acting, and made theater engaging, as an interactive, shared personal transformation. He returned theater to its roots in ritual, insisting on the uniqueness of each performance.

In New York through July 13 – *Tracing Grotowski's Path: Year of Grotowski in New York* is the first in-depth and extensive presentation in the U.S. of Grotowski in all the phases of his artistic career. Prof. Richard Schechner, an expert on Grotowski, serves as curator of this multi-faceted celebration.

The opening ceremony was held on February 6 at the NYU Tisch School of the Arts and Cantor Film Center in New York City.

The event brought together former literary director and co-founder of the Theatre of Thirteen Rows (later the Polish Laboratory Theatre), Ludwik Flaszen and the current directing team of the Grotowski Institute in Wrocław, Poland: Jarosław Fret and Grzegorz Ziolkowski. The panel discussion, moderated by Schechner, was preceded by a screening of a film on the director.

"In an epoch of existentialism, Grotowski declared anti-existentialism," Flaszen stated. "From a hold

totalitarian regime, some ambitious projects emerged... it took the political genius of Grotowski for this to be born."

In times of popular culture the concept of "quality of silence" in Grotowski's work was recalled by Ziolkowski – "There were moments of theater productions when there was just silence and the intensity of silence after an all-night event."

A broad spectrum of work is being presented through a variety of lectures, panels, films, and workshops organized by the **Polish Cultural Institute in New York** and the Performance Studies Department at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. Important performance practitioners participating will include early collaborators, former Polish Laboratory Theatre actors, as well as theatre and performance scholars and historians from all around the world.

Of particular note is *The Way - A Workshop with Rena Mirecka* on April 18-22, at Judson Memorial Church. Mirecka was one of the key figures in Grotowski's theatre productions and experiments from 1959 to 1982.

For a complete listing of the programs log onto: [www.polishculture-nyc.org](http://www.polishculture-nyc.org).

**POLISH-ENGLISH TRANSLATOR**

- Official documents, letters, e-mails, etc.
- Reasonable rates.
- Fast, reliable service by e-mail or regular mail.
- Translation to/from other languages available as well.
- Over 20 years experience working with genealogists, attorneys, businesses, film-makers, government, medical professionals, etc.

**ANDY GOLEBIOWSKI**  
109 Rosemead Lane  
Cheektowaga, NY 14227  
(716) 892-5975  
<[andyg81@hotmail.com](mailto:andyg81@hotmail.com)>

**Famous Poles Milk Chocolate Coins**  
A fun gift any time of the year! Made exclusively for the PAJ by renown chocolatier Fowlers Chocolates

<p><b>Famous Poles Set I</b> 3-inch round milk chocolate coins. Pope John Paul II Lech Walesa Marie Curie <b>\$5.95</b></p>	<p><b>Famous Poles Set II</b> 3-inch round milk chocolate coins. Thaddeus Kosciuszko Casimir Pulaski Frederyk Chopin <b>\$5.95</b></p>
---	--

**Famous Poles Combo Set — \$10.95**  
Includes all six coins and brief description of each person

**Shipping Charges**  
\$ .001 - \$10.00 ..... \$5.95  
\$10.01 - \$20.00 ..... \$6.95  
\$20.01 - \$35.00 ..... \$8.95  
\$35.01 - \$65.00 ..... \$9.95  
\$65.01 - \$95.00 ..... \$12.95  
\$95.01 - \$125.00 ..... \$14.95  
\$125.01 - \$200.00 ..... \$18.95  
\$200.01 - \$400.00 ..... \$22.95

**PAJ BOOKSTORE**  
P.O. BOX 328  
BOSTON, NY  
14025  
—or call—  
1 (800) 422-1275

Original artwork created by PAJ Art Director Christopher Misztal

Orders can be placed on the internet at [www.polamjournal.com](http://www.polamjournal.com).  
Click on **BOOKSTORE ICON** **SECURE SERVER!**  
**Delicious!**

Allow 8-12 days delivery. Chocolate is boxed and then wrapped in packaging to prevent melting.

**Let's Learn Polish Easter Coins**

12 1-inch foil-wrapped coins. Polish Easter phrases with English translations. A fun way to learn Polish!  
Happy Easter-Wesołego Alleluia  
Basket Blessing-Swięcenie Potraw  
Butter Lamb- Baranek  
Easter Monday-Dyngus Day  
Polish Sausage-Kielbasa  
Easter Eggs-Pisanki, etc.  
12 different phrases in all!

Name _____			
Address _____			
City, State, Zip _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Check Enclosed			
Charge to my <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> American Express			
Card No. _____			
Exp. Date _____		Security Code (on back of card) _____	
Telephone No. _____ <small>(in case we have a question about your order)</small>			
Description	Price	Qty.	Total
1-550 Famous Poles Set I \$5.95			
1-551 Famous Poles Set II \$5.95			
1-552 Famous Poles Combo (all 6 coins) \$10.95			
1-554 Easter Coins (12 Total) \$9.95			
SHIPPING & Handling- (See chart above, left)			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

## PIASA to Meet in Jersey City

NEW YORK—The 67th Annual Meeting of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America (PIASA) will be held on June 13-14, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Jersey City Hotel 2 Exchange Place, Jersey City, overlooking the New York Harbor with a stunning skyline view of lower Manhattan. The Hotel is adjacent to PATH train station to Manhattan, 15 minutes from Newark Liberty International airport with an easy access to the New Jersey Turnpike.

This two day multi-disciplinary conference on Polish, East Central European, and Polish American studies is being organized in cooperation with the Polish Cultural Foundation, Clark, N.J. According to Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada, chairman of the Annual Meeting a Program Committee is hard at work preparing the conference whose main theme will be "1989: Annus Mirabilis; 20th Anniversary of Poland's Independence."

Scholars, scientists and graduate students are requested to send in their proposals for individual papers or preferably for full sessions to Dr.

Gromada, by e mail tgromada@mindspring.com by March 31, 2009. Members of the local arrangements committee include Frederick Czulada, president of the Polish Cultural Foundation

It is expected that more than one hundred scholars and scientists from all regions of the United States will make their presentation at panels/sessions in various disciplines including history, political science, literature, economics, music, history of science, etc. Participation in the conference is not limited to members of PIASA. Persons interested in the academic and cultural issues dealing with Poland and Polonia are also invited. All persons attending the conference are required to register and pay a registration fee.

Information regarding registration, hotel group rates at Hyatt Regency \$169 per room, banquet reservations for the evening of June 13, etc. will be found on PIASA's website www.piasa.org or can be requested by writing to PIASA 208 E. 30th St. New York, N.Y. 10016.

## Ziolkowski Topic at Hartford Polish Home

HARTFORD, Conn.—On March 19, 2009, at the Polish National Home in Hartford at 6:30, the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford will present a special program on the beginning and building progress of the stone sculpture in the Black Hills of South Dakota known as the Chief Crazy Horse Monument. An award-winning Polish American sculptor born in Boston, Mass., Korczak Ziolkowski began the project of "carving a mountain" to achieve a likeness of Chief Crazy Horse (Tashunko Witco), a highly-revered Sioux warrior in recognition of the roles the native American Indians played in the history of this country.

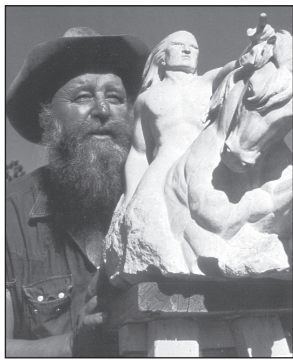
During the program, a film "Dynamite and Dreams" will depict the life and history of Korczak's dedication to this project and will comment upon the progress and plans for the completion of the historic monument, bestowed the title of "American Icon" by Tourist Cares and Globus, a nonprofit travel foundation. In conjunction with this film, club member Clifford Archie will narrate and comment upon the September 2008 visit to the monument site by him and other club members, Pat Archie, Ann Oleasz, Genevieve Jaronczyk and Lou and Anna-Mae

Maglaty.

The artist, Korczyk Ziolkowski, even under trying personal circumstances, accomplished National recognition by hard work and talent. Among many commissioned sculptures was the marble statue of Paderewski which won first prize at the 1939 World's Fair in New York. He assisted sculptor Borglum at Mt. Rushmore with the Four Presidents Monument. Before he left for the Army in World War II, where he was wounded at Omaha Beach, he presented the Town of West Hartford with a gift of a 13 ft. statue of Noah Webster.

Korczak's fame as a master sculptor was internationally recognized and his talent was sought worldwide. He declined many but responded and chose to answer the plea of Lakota Chief Henry Standing Bear and his delegation of Indian tribe elders who envisioned this proposed monument as a way to honor Native Americans. Upon accepting the commission to design and carve this mountain with the huge likeness of Chief Crazy Horse, Korczak Ziolkowski was overheard murmuring "We owe them."

The public is invited free of charge to join the club members at this program.



## IN MEMORIAM

### Lester John Skowronek, Supervised Loading of Doolittle's B25s

Lester John Skowronek was born March 12, 1919 to John M. Skowronek and Elizabeth Tyrala Skowronek in New York City. His education included a BS in Civil Engineering from N.C. State College, and a Master of Science degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he majored in Hydrology.

A week after graduation Skowronek was called to active duty in the U.S. Naval Reserve. From May through September of 1943 he was Officer-in-Charge of establishing an auxiliary base in Lompoc, Califor-

nia. In 1945 he met Helen Wyszpolski of Brooklyn, New York. They married on February 21, 1946. In April of 1946 he was assigned to USS KEARSAGE. After commissioning and the shakedown cruise, Skowronek left active duty in July of 1946 and returned to New York and civilian life.

In September 1946, Skowronek returned to North Carolina with his bride Helen. There he served as an instructor in Civil Engineering where he taught for a year and refreshed his engineering skills. He left academia and later joined

SOCONY Vacuum Oil Company (Mobil Oil) in the Research and Engineering Division in 1949. For the next 35 years he travelled the world working on oil-related projects.

Skowronek retired in 1984s to New Jersey where he and Helen lived happy and interesting lives. Twenty years later in 2003, he and Helen moved to Hendersonville where he was a member of VFW Post 5206, American Legion Post 77, and the Polish American Club of Western North Carolina.

## OBITUARIES / Jennifer Moskal

**JOHN H. KOLECKI**, 88, was a lifelong resident of North Tonawanda, N.Y., and served in the Niagara County Legislature from 1978 to 1985. Kolecki earned bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Canisius College and another master's degree from Niagara University. He taught social studies and Russian in the North Tonawanda School District for 11 years, and in the Sweet Home School District for 19 years. He also taught evening classes at Niagara County Community College. He received the Man of the Year in Education Award from the Am-Pol Eagle in 1963. Kolecki was married to his wife, Violet, for over 61 years. He was the author of three books, and was working on a fourth. He was a Marine Corps veteran who fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II, and was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. He was also active in many community organizations, including the Disabled American Veterans, the Dom Polski Club, and the North Tonawanda History Museum.

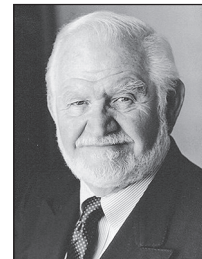
**LT. GEN. VICTOR H. "BRUTE" KRULAK**, 95, was celebrated for his leadership in World War II, Korea and Vietnam, as well as for his authoritative book on the Marines, "First to Fight." Gen. Krulak's book remains on the official reading list for Marines and has been said to carry the DNA of the organization. In a career that spanned three decades, Gen. Krulak displayed bravery during combat and brilliance as a tactician and organizer of troops. He had hoped to become Marine Corps commandant, but was not nominated by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Gen. Krulak retired in 1968 and began a second career as an executive for Copley newspapers and as a columnist.

**THADDEUS S. "TED" LECHOWICZ**, 70, rode the Northwest Side's large Polish vote to seats in both houses of the state General Assembly before serving a 12-year stretch on the Cook County Board. Lechowicz graduated from Weber High School, and worked in a butcher shop to put himself through college, receiving an associate's degree from Wright Junior College and a bachelor's in economics from North Park College. He went to work as a systems analyst for the Cook County Courts, at the same time earning his stripes in the Democratic party. He was also a longtime Democratic committeeman in the 30th Ward, where he got his start in politics in the 1960s as a pre-

cinct captain. After leaving the County Board, Lechowicz was appointed to a temporary position with the Illinois Labor Relations Board.

**ROBERT PROSKY**, 77, was a character actor with hundreds of film, TV and stage credits, including with Washington D.C.'s Arena Stage. He is known for his work on the NBC police drama *Hill Street Blues*, and was featured in big-screen parts including "Mrs. Doubtfire," and "Broadcast News". He was born Robert Joseph Porzuczek in a working class neighborhood in Philadelphia. He briefly attended Temple University but returned home to the family business after his father's death in 1952. He loved theater in high school and returned to the stage while supporting himself in New York as a Federal Reserve Bank bookkeeper. He earned two Tony Award nominations. Prosky was a resident of Washington, D.C. for nearly 50 years.

**REV. LEON K. WARCZYNSKI**, 91, was a former longtime pastor of Sacred Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church in Graceland Park. Fr. Warczynski graduated to the old St. Charles College Seminary in Cantonville, and later attended seminary at St. Mary's on Paca Street and transferred to St. Mary's Seminary and University in Roland Park, where he finished his theological studies. He was ordained in 1942 and served at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church in Westernport, the now-closed St. Paul Roman Catholic Church in Baltimore, Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church, and Sacred Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church in Graceland. During his tenure at Sacred Heart, Fr.



Warczynski led the effort to build a new school and parish hall, which were built in the 1960s.

**EDWARD F. "SLIM" WOJNOWSKI**, 89, was a duckpin bowling champion, winning the Minor League Championship in 1951. Wojnowski was a 1937 graduate of City College and attended Maryland Institute College of Art. In 1941, he began working as a machinist apprentice at Rustless Iron and Steel Co., which later became Armco Steel Corp. When he retired in 1982, he was general manager of plant maintenance. His interest in duckpin bowling began in his youth, and in 1950, he bowled a memorable 220 game, the fourth-highest game ever rolled in duckpins at the time. He was ranked No. 2 by the National Duckpin Bowling Congress in 1956, and made the organization's Top 10 list numerous times. He was also an active member of the Fells Point Polish American community, and had been president and vice president of the Polish Hall for more than 12 years.

## JUREK-PARK SLOPE FUNERAL HOME, INC.



728 4th Ave., Brooklyn, NY

**DORIS V. AMEN**  
LICENSED FUNERAL DIRECTOR  
NEWLY DECORATED CHAPEL FACILITIES  
OUR 24-HOUR PERSONAL SERVICES ARE  
AVAILABLE IN ALL COMMUNITIES  
AT-HOME ARRANGEMENTS  
INSURANCE CLAIMS HANDLED  
SOCIAL SECURITY & VETERAN'S BENEFITS  
PROMPTLY EXPEDITED  
MONUMENT INSCRIPTIONS ASCERTAINED

(718) 768-4192

Completely Air Conditioned  
Aeration Flower Control Services  
Available in All Communities

(718) 383-8600

A.K. No. 383-0320

Peter Rago

Lic. Mgr.

Leslie P. Rago

F.D.

**Evergreen FUNERAL HOME, INC.**  
131 Nassau Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11222

## BRUSH UP / Prepared and distributed by the Polonia Media Network

### Non-Alcoholic Drinks

**kawa** ..... (KAH-vah) f  
coffee  
**czarna kawa** ..... (CHAR-nah KAH-vah) f  
black coffee  
**kawa z mlekiem** ..... (KAH-wah ZMLEH-kyem) f  
coffee with milk  
**herbata** ..... (hehr-BAH-tah) f  
tea  
**bawarka** ..... (bah-VAHR-kah) f  
tea with milk  
**herbata ziolowa** ..... (hehr-BAH-tah zhoh-WOH-vah) f  
herbal tea  
**herbata z cukrem** ... (hehr-BAH-tah STSUH-krehm) f  
tea with sugar

Phonetic hh is like ch in loch • Phonetic ai is like eye  
m, n, f denotes male, female, neuter

**herbata bez cukru** (hehr-BAH-tah behs TSUH-kruh) f  
tea without sugar  
**herbata z cytryną** (hehr-BAH-tah stsih-TRIH-nohw) f  
tea with lemon slice  
**mleko** ..... (MLEH-koh) n  
milk  
**cocktail** ..... (KOHK-tayhl) m  
milk shake  
**woda** ..... (VOH-dah) f  
water  
**woda mineralna** ..... (VOH-da mih-neh-RAHL-nah) f  
mineral water  
**sok** ..... (sohk) m  
juice

"A tradition of local & long distance service continues!"



## Stobierski Lucas Gardenview Funeral Home, Ltd.

Rita A. Lucas 161 Driggs Avenue  
Jude P. Lucas (Greenpoint) Brooklyn, NY 11222  
George J. Mueller (718) 383-7910 • (718) 383-2737

### MARGARET JUSKO Licensed Sales Associate

Fluent in Polish  
1127 Wehrle Drive  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
716-204-2294 (office)  
716-574-8847 (cell)  
716-632-7479 (fax)

mjusko@stovroffttaylorrealtors.com



**PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz**

# Econ 101

In the search for meaning of life, most people think that it can be found at the top of the mountain, where the swami sits in the lotus position, in meditation and contemplation. Or on "Oprah."

Not true. I am here to tell you the real meaning of life can be reduced to a simple study and comprehension of free market economics. As I listened to all of the discussion surrounding the stimulus package for the United States economy, why we need it, what is needed, and what course the country should take on a variety of issues, the more I realize how many of our citizens, especially our political representatives, do not understand or care about the basic law of supply and demand. Most do not understand or care how that law governs the nature and tenor of how we live our lives.

Economics is not only about what we buy and sell either. Everything we do in life revolves around whether we prefer bundle A to bundle B. It is about choice. Preference for bundle A is called demand, and we obtain bundle A or bundle B depending on the availability or the supply of each. It actually is more complicated than that but the fundamental principles apply. You thought everything you learned about life you learned in kindergarten; no, it is all there in ECON 101.

It involves our social activities, our leisure activities, and even our religious activities. Think very hard about something as sacred as a church and what drives its existence. Religion is probably a primary reason for many but certainly not at the top of the list for others. For some, the church is a club. For some, it is a building or a series of projects. The church you attend might be very rich financially but very poor in attendance and the reason for it can be explained in economic terms.

Take Polonia. Polonia is what it is

today because of millions of choices for millions of bundles made over a thousand years. So the question this month is what is the current supply and demand for Polonia? Can we determine what the economic health of Polonia is? Is Polonia in foreclosure or is its stock rising?

Speaking of stock, take T. Boone Pickens. We know about Mr. Pickens because of his success in understanding the law of supply and demand for oil and silver. There is a very nice mention in his recent autobiography, "The First Billion is the Hardest," about his Polish-born employee, Alex Szewczyk. This young man, apparently, understood the power of the free market, made some risky choices, and became successful. Here is his "intriguing pitch" to Pickens during his job interview:

"Mr. Pickens, I'm still in business school. I don't have that much experience. But I'm a very hard worker," he said. "In fact, I'll work for free, and if you don't like the results you see from me, you won't owe me anything."

Pickens was impressed enough to get him reviewed by his other associates and finally decided to hire him. He promoted Szewczyk to be part of the team managing his equity fund. My guess is the equity fund is quite large.

Another "intriguing pitch," so to speak, was the inaugural address by our new president, Barack Obama. There was one part that could have been Obama speaking directly to us, the Polish people. You can substitute a word here and there; "people" for "nation," "Polonia's" for "our," but I hope, if you stretch, these words inspire you as a Polish American.

In reaffirming the greatness of our nation, we understand that greatness is never a given. It must be earned. Our journey has never been one of short-cuts or settling for

less. It has not been the path for the faint-hearted – for those who prefer leisure over work, or seek only the pleasures of riches and fame. Rather, it has been the risk-takers, the doers, the makers of things—some celebrated but more often men and women obscure in their labor, who have carried us up the long, rugged path towards prosperity and freedom.

For us, they packed up their few worldly possessions and traveled across oceans in search of a new life.

For us, they toiled in sweatshops and settled the West; endured the lash of the whip and plowed the hard earth.

For us, they fought and died, in places like Concord and Gettysburg; Normandy and Khe Sahn. Time and again these men and women struggled and sacrificed and worked till their hands were raw so that we might live a better life.

Okay, I know you can speak to any ethnic group in these paragraphs, but President Obama is the son of an immigrant and my understanding is that his family tree on his mother's side has a Polish notch in it. Indulge yourself this one time to think he was speaking to us only.

Dziękuję bardzo to Ben and Bernice Krause for the tip on President Obama's maternal family tree. If you know exactly what the Polish connection is, send it to me.

If you have an answer to the question this month, a previous month's question, have a question of your own, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke, St. Louis, MO 63139; e-Mail alinabrig@yahoo.com.

(Note: if you e-Mail me, put a reference in the subject line about the PAJ or the Pondering Pole. I will not open an e-Mail if I do not recognize the subject).

**HERITAGE / Ellye Slusarczyk**

# Age-Old Superstitions

Scientifically the human race has advanced remarkably. Yet, however many Poles continue to adopt superstitions that their forefathers believed to be true.

Many women refuse to place their pocketbook on the floor, fearing their money will disappear. Also, to prevent their money from flying away, pocketbooks are not placed on windowsills.

Actors and actresses are also superstitious. During rehearsal, if a script is dropped, it should be stepped on immediately. This will prevent errors during an actual performance.

Another superstition, "Knocking on wood," sounds very familiar. If you want a favorable outcome in

a certain situation or you hope to avoid a change in your good fortune, you knock on wood to frighten bad luck, in hopes it will stay away.

Polish mythology tells the tales of the Fire Flower. Fire Flowers bloom mystically and are very powerful plants. One has to enter a forest before midnight on the eve of Kapala. The Fire Flower climbs up the stalk of a fern. At midnight it blooms so brightly that no one can look directly at it. To harvest it, a circle has to be drawn around it. Demons and voices try to distract one. If one falters in this undertaking, doom and gloom will prevail.

Yes, age-old superstitions continue to remain alive.

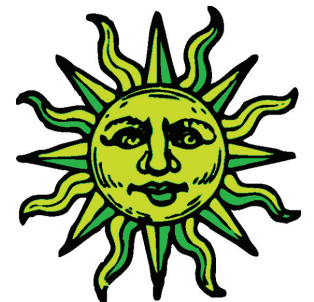
**TRIVIA TIME / Ellye Slusarczyk**

1. The Kazubians were a) An ethnic minority b) monks c) cavalry units
2. Bytow's Castle is a) Romansque b) Gothic c) primitive
3. Tourists enjoy Leba's a) mountain peaks b) many spas c) beautiful beaches
4. Wladyslawowc is a fashionable a) clothing store b) health resort c) country club
5. In Mechowic you might enjoy exploring a) cave b) forested glen c) lighthouse
6. Rozewie is Poland's a) largest shopping complex b) northern most point c) smallest tributary
7. The daughter of Sapieha, a Silesian princess, built a church, as ordained by the pope, and all Madonnas in it had a) black robes b) jeweled crowns c) her face
8. Zloty Stok has a goldmine with an underground a) basilica b) altar c) waterfall
9. In Kletno, visit the a) Museum of Skulls b) Bear Cave c) Altar

10. Mineral waters in Ladek Zdrojare a) radioactive b) salty c) blue

**ANSWERS.** 1.a an ethnic minority 2.b Gothic 3.c beautiful beaches 4.b health resort 5.a cave 6.b northern most point 7.c her face 8.c waterfall 9.b. bear cave 10.a. radioactive

**Help Us GO GREEN**



Subscribe and renew on-line at [www.polamjournal.com](http://www.polamjournal.com)

# Polish Heritage Wood Easter Eggs

Made in Poland. Chicken egg size. Hand-painted eggs with appliques of either Saint Faustyna Kowalska, Our Lady of Czestochowa, John Paul II, Christ Risen, Lily of the Valley Flowers, or Polish Eagle. **\$10.00 each (plus \$1.50 s&h)**



2-100 St. Faustyna Egg

2-102 Pope John Paul II Egg

2-101 Our Lady of Czestochowa

2-103 Risen Christ Egg

2-104 Lily of the Valley Egg

2-105 Polska with Polish Eagle

**ORDER FORM**

	Each	Qty.	Total
2-100 St. Faustyna Egg	\$10.00		
2-102 Pope John Paul II Egg	\$10.00		
2-101 Our Lady of Czestochowa Egg	\$10.00		
2-103 Risen Christ Egg	\$10.00		
2-104 Lily of the Valley Egg	\$10.00		
2-105-Polska with Eagle Egg	\$10.00		
	<b>Subtotal</b>		
NY State Residents must add 8.75% sales tax			
	<b>Shipping</b>		\$1.50
	<b>Total</b>		

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check enclosed  
 Charge to my  Visa  MasterCard  Discover  Amex  
 Card No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exp. Date. \_\_\_\_\_ CVS (security) code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone number (in case we have a question about your order) \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Polish American Journal Bookstore  
 P.O. Box 328  
 Boston, NY 14025

Eggs will be shipped directly from the Polish Peddler® in Hinckley, Ohio



