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

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**STUDY IN POLAND THIS SUMMER! • TO DANCE AGAIN WITH PANI ADA • OLD POLISH LENTEN FARE**

## NEWSMARK

### POLAND, RUSSIA CLASH OVER ANNIVERSARY.

(NEWS.PL) — Russia has slammed Polish foreign minister Grzegorz Schetyna over his support for Poland's plans to host V-E Day tributes in Gdańsk that would clash with Moscow's own event.

"This is the newest in a line of clumsy attempts by the Polish politician to cast doubt upon the results of World War II, and the role of the Soviet Union as the winner in that war," said Russia's deputy foreign minister Grigory Karasin.

Schetyna said in an interview with Poland's RMF FM that President Bronisław Komorowski's recently announced proposal to host EU leaders in Gdańsk on May 8, seventy years after the end of World War II, is "an interesting idea."

Schetyna sparked Russian ire in the lead-up to the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi German death camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau. The foreign minister had emphasized that Ukrainian soldiers' liberated the camp, although these soldiers fought as part of the Soviet Union's Red Army.

Meanwhile, Poland's foreign ministry said in a statement that it is "astonished" by the "brutality" of Karasin's language. The statement also reiterated that both Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union invaded Poland in September 1939.

### NATO BRACES FOR POTENTIAL AGGRESSION.

NATO defense ministers agreed to set up command units, staffed with national and NATO soldiers, in six eastern European allies as part of a new strategy in response to the Ukraine crisis, NATO's chief said.

Creating the units in Poland, Romania, Bulgaria and the three Baltic countries is one of the most concrete steps NATO has taken to show that the alliance will protect its eastern allies, some of which are nervous about Russian intentions following Moscow's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg denied the creation of the units could be considered provocative by Russia.

"It is completely within all our international obligations and what we are doing is defensive and it is proportionate," he told Reuters in an interview.

**CHANGING TIMES.** The crisis in Ukraine has become a catalyst for a joint strategy between Poland and Germany, boosting military cooperation between the two countries. In an unprecedented move, Germany will send about 1,700 troops to Poland for participation in Polish-German NATO exercises.

Although preparations are ongoing, it is clear that the joint troops will participate in NATO's "Sober Strike" exercises at northwest Poland's Drawsko Pomorskie military training facilities in June.

Drawsko Pomorskie is just south of the town of Szczecin, the regional capital.

It has been announced that additional Polish, German and Danish troops will reinforce NATO's Szczecin headquarters, Multinational Corps Northeast. The headquarters south of the town of Szczecin is frequently used in NATO exercises.

**MOSCOW CONTINUES GAMES.** A court in the Russian city of St. Petersburg has ruled that Polish diplomats must move out of the building used by the Polish Consulate General. In passing the judgement, St. Petersburg's Arbitration Court cited alleged arrears amounting to over USD \$1 million, ordering the Polish government to pay its dues to the city authorities.

Russia maintains that Poland broke off a deal in 1993 which allowed for the real estate to be used for Polish diplomatic purposes free of charge. However, the Polish Foreign Ministry does not agree, saying that, as Russia has rent-free access to real estate in Poland, the agreement is mutual.

## Royal Ride

PHOTO: ANDY GOLEBIEWSKI



**AN OLD-FASHIONED SLEIGH RIDE**, known better in Polish as a *kulig*, was part of the first-ever Polish Winter Festival, sponsored by the Western New York Division of the Polish American Congress. The event, held Feb. 8 at Chestnut Ridge Park in Orchard Park, N.Y., featured sleigh rides, sledding, tobogganing, live Góralaska Kapela (Polish folk singers) in traditional costume, Polish food and beverage, along with a roaring fireplace to keep warm and have conversation. Face painting and crafts were available for children.

Kulig organizer PACWNY Director Jim Lawicki said the goal was to give individuals and families a chance to experience the sights and sounds of a visit to the Polish mountain town of Zakopane during the winter.

## A Pole in the Midst of the Irish Famine

An interview with Prof. Christine Kinealy on Paul Strzelecki

**T**he Great Famine refers to a seven year long (1845-52) period in Irish history in which one million people died of starvation. Often called the "Potato Famine" in the United States, that term obscures the fact that man-made factors greatly exacerbated the suffering. British agricultural and economic policies exploited Ireland during the period, e.g., amidst mass hunger, large quantities of meat and grain continued to be exported from Ireland to Britain. Prevailing *laissez-faire* thinking prevented the taking of strong governmental measures to alleviate the high mortality rate, literally evident in the dead on streets and in bogs. The British civil servant responsible for relief efforts — Sir Charles Trevelyan — in Scrooge-like terms wrote of Ireland's "surplus population." At the end of the Great Hunger, in addition to the million dead, another million emigrated, reducing the island's population by 20-25% (rates comparable to Poland after World War II). That emigration laid the foundation for large-



**PROF. CHRISTINE KINEALY.** Expert on The Great Famine credits Polish count for saving many lives.

of *Charity and the Great Hunger in Ireland. The Kindness of Strangers*, and contributor to a new book, *Mayo: History & Society* talked See "Strzelecki ...," page 4

scale U.S.-bound immigration from Ireland.

Into the breach of malign neglect stepped various charitable souls, attempting to provide some relief for Ireland's starving. One of those souls was Polish Count Paweł Strzelecki.

Prof. Christine Kinealy, director of the Irish Great Hunger Institute at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut, author of *Charity and the Great Hunger in Ireland. The Kindness of Strangers*, and contributor to a new book, *Mayo: History & Society* talked

## Brzezinski: US Should Deploy Troops to Baltics

WASHINGTON — The United States and its allies should deploy troops to Baltic states to deter Russia from staging a possible incursion in those countries, former presidential national security adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski, told lawmakers.



The foreign policy expert, who served under President Jimmy Carter, told the Senate Armed Services Committee that he feared Russian President Vladimir Putin might try to take control over Baltic countries in a lightning move that could take NATO by surprise.

A nightmare scenario could be that "one day — and I literally mean one day — he just seizes Riga and Tallinn ... That would literally take him one day. There's no way they could resist," Brzezinski said.

"And then we'll say how horrible, how shocking, how outrageous. But, of course, we can't do anything about it," he said, without risking a potential nuclear conflict.

The United States needed to make clear to Russia that it would deploy US forces if it tried to invade the Baltics, he said.

"I think deterrence has to have meaning. It has to have teeth in it. And it has to create a situation in which someone planning an action like that has no choice but to anticipate what kind of resistance will lie in counter," he said.

"I do recommend pre-positioning of some forces," in those countries, he said, but in a way that was not provocative.

"An American company (of troops) in Estonia is not going to invade Russia," he said.

See "Brzezinski," page 3

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March  Marzec

"When one does a thing, it appears good, otherwise one would not write it. Only later comes reflection, and one discards or accepts the thing. Time is the best censor, and patience a most excellent teacher."

—Fryderyk Chopin

1 1634. Polish King **Wladyslaw IV** beats the Russians in the Smolensk War, a two-year conflict fought between the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and Russia.

2 1864. Russian Czar **Alexander II** upheld reforms in Poland that gave landholders ownership of their lands.

3 1996. Death of **Cardinal John Krol**, Archbishop of Philadelphia, first Polish American Cardinal.

4 **ST. CASIMIR**

1484. Death of **St. Casimir**, Patron of Poland. Casimir (Kazimierz), the son of Lithuania's Grand Duke Casimir, died in Grodno at age 25. In 1602 he was declared a saint and protector of Lithuania. (b. Oct 3, 1458, Krakow).



5 1940. Stalin among others signs an order for the massacre of Polish military officers, intellectuals, and priests who had been taken prisoner during the invasion. They are buried in mass graves in the **Katyn Forest**, just outside Smolensk, Russia.

6 1933. Poland reinforces its garrison at the Westerplatte munitions depot outside the port city of Gdansk with a battalion of Marines, beginning a ten-day occupation of the port by the Poles. Polish Marshal **Józef Pilsudski** wanted to reassert Polish prestige in the Free City, make German Chancellor Adolf Hitler hold talks with Poland, and weaken the reigning German National People's Party.

9 1734. Russians capture Gdansk

11 1920. Bolsheviks opened a major offensive on the Polish front.

12 **ST. GREGORY**

*Na Świętego Grzegorza, idzie zima do morza.*

*On St. Gregory, the winter goes down to the sea.*

17 **ST. PATRICK**19 **ST. JOSEPH**

*Święty Józef kiwnie brodą,*

*idzie zima nadół z wodą.*

*St. Joseph shakes his beard,*

*and see: Winter's disappeared!*

21 1609. Birth of **Jan II Kazimierz**, cardinal, and King of Poland (1648-68).

1822. Death of **Jozef Wybicki**, wrote the Polish National Anthem.

22 1659. The Warsaw parliament issues metal currency, shillings, for Lithuania and Poland.

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 in Warsaw of **Zbigniew Brzezinski**, Polish American political scientist, geostrategist, and statesman.

29 **PALM SUNDAY**

This paper mailed on or before **February 27, 2015.**

The April edition will be mailed on or before **March 31, 2015.**

## EDITOR'S DESK / Mark Kohan

## Preparing for Easter

The Polish equivalent for the English word "Lent" is "Wielki Post," which translated means "the Great Fast."

According to the late Katyn massacre survivor and Katyn Families Association advocate, Msgr. Zdzisław Peszkowski, "Fast is a man's struggle for his greatness with his passions, which try to pull him down."

Wielki Post begins, of course, on Ash Wednesday, known as *Popielec*.

Msgr. Peszkowski said that, for Poles, "the whole world is filled with ashes: Dachau, Buchenwald, Gross Rosen, Oswiecim (Auschwitz), and Majdanek." At Majdanek in Poland, almost 48,000 cubic feet — more than 13 tons — of human ashes were uncovered.

The ashes, and Lent, "remind us of the important and creative task of utilizing human and material values to proper goals," said Msgr. Peszkowski. "To achieve this, it is necessary to be a self-disciplined person, to overcome something in one's life for a higher goal."

We are in the midst of Lent. Let us take Msgr. Peszkowski's reminder to heart and try to make small but important sacrifices, put aside petty grievances, focus on the truly important things in our life. Doing so, we can better ourselves and, in turn, get closer to the real core of our heritage: a unique blend of faith, family, and community. Fasting, even in a figurative sense, has never been more important nor more beneficial.

**A WISE DECISION ... FOR NOW.**

Russia's aggression in Ukraine has Poles and many Polish Americans on edge. Putin, who has delusions of a revived Russian state, is a mobster, and is funding thugs to take control of Ukraine. Poles do not want to fan the flames of war, but Putin is all but giving its neighbor and other countries an excuse to make a move.

"We are very worried by what is happening in eastern Ukraine," French President Francois Hollande said after talks with Polish Prime Minister Ewa Kopacz. France and Poland urged Russia to stop all forms of support to separatists in Ukraine and called for an immediate cease-fire, warning that sanctions on Moscow would be maintained and could be extended as long as no political solution was found.

Hollande said it was urgent to reach a political solution because sanctions against Russia were taking a toll on the whole region. Poland, in the meantime, has wisely

decided to help Ukraine by sending humanitarian aid.

**REMINDERS.** If you have a press release or story you'd like to share with other readers, be sure to send it to our office by the 8<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication month (e.g., March 8 for the April edition). In late February we received photos and stories about wigilia and Christmas parties, which would place them in the April — the Easter — edition of the paper. This type of news, while more than welcome, is too old to publish.

In addition to press releases, we receive hundreds of newspaper clipping each week. These are sent in by readers who find news items of Polish interest in their local press, and wish to share them with fellow subscribers.

While we make an honest attempt to read each item, there is simply not enough time.

We prefer and have a preference for stories that are submitted via email. We accept all formats, but stories submitted in standard word processing format (MS Word, for example), Adobe PDF, or plain text placed in the copy of the email also get preferential treatment. We simply do not have the time to retype and/or edit material that arrives as a graphic image, such as a jpg or tiff file.

**WE NEED YOUR INPUT.** It was a good year for the PAJ Bookstore and many of the items stocked over the Christmas holiday have sold out and are no longer available. If you see or hear of a book you think others would enjoy, drop us a line at [info@polamjournal.com](mailto:info@polamjournal.com).

**... AND YOUR DILIGENCE.** This item from subscriber Denis Mirek:

A new book "Trusting Calvin: How a Dog Helped Heal a Holocaust Survivor's Heart," is "the true story of Max Edelman, who, as a Jewish teenager in Poland during World War II, endured horrendous cruelties, including a brutal attack that blinded him permanently," said bookseller Bas Bleu.

Without sounding like a broken record, during World War II, Poland was occupied by Nazi Germany. Omitting "Nazi-occupied" before Poland in the description gives the allusion Edelman was blinded by a Pole. The injury was, in fact, done by two Nazi guards.

When you come across items such as this, please call or write the publisher.

## SPEAK UP / Letters to the Editor

## Holocaust Museum Shows Bias

The 2015 Calendar published by the United States Holocaust Memorial features twelve Jewish survivors of the Holocaust. In defense of the Christian Poles, and other non-Jewish victims, Holocaust survivor and author Bozena Urbanowicz Gilbride wrote this letter to CEO of the Museum, Sara J. Bloomfield:

Dear Ms. Bloomfield,

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) recognizes 11 million victims that perished in the Holocaust of World War II. Some historians claim it was much more than that.

I was and still am a member of the USHMM, long before it was built. I donated artifacts, video tapes of testimonies of Polish Catholic Holocaust survivors long before the Museum was established. I, too, as a Polish Catholic Holocaust survivor, have given my testimony to the Museum. I and my co-author Inge Auerbacher of "Children of Terror," have given our time to sign our book for the Museum Book Shop. As survivors, we have given our time to speak to your tour guides. I did and do all this because I believe in educating our students about hate and what it did, does, and will do. I have, in my own small way, done

much to help the Museum.

Yet, the USHMM Calendar for 2014 lauds 12 Jewish survivors of the Holocaust. In the description on the first page, it states (in part):

"The Holocaust survivors featured in this 2015 calendar have each volunteered at the USHMM since its founding ..."

There were and are non-Jewish Holocaust survivors, who have given their time, but are omitted from this calendar. Why this exclusivity of Jewish survivors only? The Museum represents 11 million victims of the Holocaust and it should represent that fact in any way it can. I am very concerned with this calendar and its message of singularity. The Museum does mention non-Jewish victims/survivors in other public statements and publications. The 2015 calendar is for 12 months, and it will only tell the public about 12 Jewish survivors — nothing about the "others," as they are referred.

There is nothing worse than to be forgotten; not even a footnote.

*Editor's note: Letters in support of Urbanowicz Gilbride should be addressed to Sara Bloomfield, USHM Museum, 100 Wallenberg Place, SW, Washington, DC. 20024.*

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OUR FRATERNALS / Dorothy Wieczerek

## Financial Wellness for Your Child

Today our lives are filled with many insecurities: natural disasters, loss of a job or benefits; and changes in work contracts to meet changing times. We make every effort to keep our children healthy and to educate them for their future. But do we consider helping them build a secure financial future, considering all the possibilities of these changing times? What is one of the best investments for a child that any parent or grandparent can make? An **endowment** policy is a way of saving money. After twenty years, the full face amount stated in the certificate is then paid to the person named in the certificate. Yes, this certificate provides life insurance coverage for that face amount valid from the date of issuance throughout the certificate's existence. But consider that at maturity the policyholder is given options either to receive the full proceeds or to increase paid up life coverage at no further cost. Then the certificate owner will always have cash value available, and allow the holder to take a loan in case of financial difficulties and still be insured.

When a child is born, new parents may be overwhelmed with the cost of providing the essentials for keeping the child healthy and secure. Twenty years from now is not necessarily something on the minds of these parents. But soon the child is in school and, as you blink, the child is in college and on the way to an adult life. Can you imagine the joy of being twenty and receiving a gift of several thousands of dollars from parents or grandparents? This can provide the child with the means to complete his or her education, buy a car or begin a new professional life with a windfall that pays for the deposit on a place of his

or her own.

Why not just open a savings account in a bank? Yes, that is an option and should be considered. But take \$376.10 and put it in a savings account once a year for the next twenty years. You will, after twenty years, have saved \$7,522. But if you used that amount to purchase an endowment policy, from most Fraternal Societies you would have \$10,000. That is what it would possibly cost for such a policy for a

*An endowment can provide a child with with a windfall to complete his or her education, buy a car, or pay for a deposit on a place of his or her own.*

newborn. For a 10-year old it would cost \$13 or more each year; and at the age of thirty, imagine just how delighted this young adult would be to receive \$10,000? These numbers may vary slightly depending on which Fraternal you choose to purchase membership. The annual payment towards an endowment is an obligation from which it is important not to be misled. As other needs arise, it is too easy not to make the deposit into the savings account while making the premium payment gives you the sense of urgency. But you need to be aware that as it reaches cash value, a taxable interest statement will be sent and should be included in a tax return, usually for the parent.

When you purchase this endowment from a Fraternal Benefit Society you are entitled to many benefits beyond just life insurance. Visit us online at [www.polishbeneficialasoc.com](http://www.polishbeneficialasoc.com) or [www.sonsofpoland.org](http://www.sonsofpoland.org).

## Brzezinski: US Should Deploy Troops

*continued from cover*

Putin would understand that, "but he will know that if he invades Estonia, he will encounter some American forces on the ground. And better still, some Germans, some French. And some Brits, of course," he said.

Brzezinski also said that Western governments should provide "defensive" weapons to Ukraine to make Moscow's intervention more costly, while also sending a signal Ukraine would not be given membership in the NATO alliance.

His comments came as NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said Russia had increased the amount of heavy arms it was sending into Ukraine while Kiev accused Moscow of deploying 9,000 troops inside its country.

The United States has sent troops to the Baltics, Poland and other eastern allies for high-profile exercises to reassure anxious government's over Russia's intervention in Ukraine. But US officials so far have not proposed stationing additional American troops permanently in the Baltics.

Brzezinski is a professor at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies.

— *Agence France-Presse*

## Doba NG's "Adventurer of the Year"

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Poland's Aleksander Doba has been named the 2015 *National Geographic* People's Choice Adventurer of the Year for completing the longest open-water kayak crossing of the Atlantic Ocean — at age 67. Doba was selected from a group of adventure innovators whose extraordinary achievements in exploration, conservation, humanitarianism and adventure sports distinguished them in the past year. More than half a million online votes — the most ever — were cast on the *National Geographic Adventure* website.

"It was the vote at the National Geographic website that showed how many known- and unknown-to-me friends I have all over the world who are fascinated with the 67-year-old person in a kayak on the great ocean. It makes me feel humbled and very honored," said Doba.

Doba spent more than six months



Smyrna Yacht Club Commodore Daniel Kolassa (r.) greets Aleksander Doba at New Smyrna Beach following Doba's Transatlantic trip.

padding about 7,700 miles across the Atlantic Ocean, beginning in October 2013 from Lisbon, Portugal, and ultimately docking in New Smyrna Beach, Florida, in April 2014. He originally intended to follow a 5,400-mile route, but a combination of storms and equipment failure pushed him off course and extended the journey. Averaging 30 miles a day, Doba is the only person to kayak across the Atlantic, continent to continent, alone, unassisted and under his own power. Doba, who is now 68, began kayaking at age 34. He had already kayaked across the Atlantic from Africa to South America in 2011.

## Joint Trade Program Paying Dividends

WARSAW — Poland-Africa trade has been boosted by the "GoAfrica" initiative, as business between the two has risen by 25% during the last two years. The largest trade gains were with Algeria and Nigeria, where bilateral trade increased dramatically. The GoAfrica drive has organized thirty-eight promotional events which included five trade missions with African countries and two trade fairs.

Sławomir Majman, chief of the Polish Information and Foreign Investment Agency, which directs the trade initiative said, "We have the first results of the work of the GoAfrica program. If we take into account the countries to which we have sent missions ... we have seen a very satisfactory growth in trade."

Poland's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Katarzyna

Kacperczyk said that the GoAfrica initiative will continue to broaden and that "we are planning to organize training with the World Bank concerning the public procurement system in Africa. This is a good way in which to enter the more difficult markets." This year, she said, the program is planning trade missions to Congo, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Angola, Tanzania and South Africa.

## POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL FOUNDATION



We invite you to become a member of the Polish American Journal Foundation. Established this year, the PAJF is a **non-profit 501c3 organization**. Our mission is to promote Polish and Polish American culture and traditions among members of the public and other Polish and Polish American groups. This will be done by organizing special events, networking, consultation, and gatherings.

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

### OUR INITIATIVE

In this, our initial year of operation, we will solicit funds for our first funding project. In June 2015, we will ask our members how the PAJF's proceeds should be used. As a member, you can suggest any worthwhile cause: a donation to a local Polish American museum; veteran's group; scholarship fund; dance group, etc. Our board will review these suggestions and cre-



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

### MEMBERSHIP

Donations are accepted in any amount. All donations will be acknowledged and may be used as charitable contributions on your tax return.

### "KEEP ALIVE THIS HERITAGE"

— *Saint John Paul II,  
Gniezno, Poland, June 3, 1979.*

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

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## Strzelecki and the Great Famine

*continued from cover*

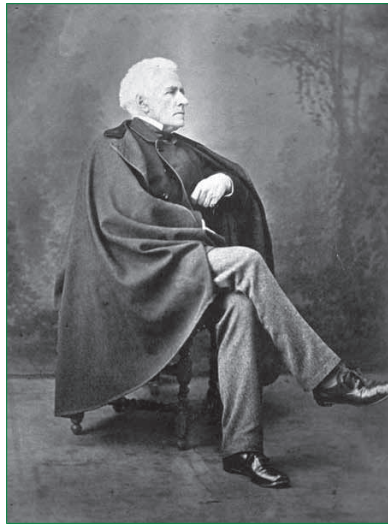
with the *Polish American Journal* about Strzelecki and the Great Famine.

**For readers unfamiliar, can you tell us something more about the “Great Hunger” and its place in Irish culture and society?**

The Great Hunger (in Irish, *an Gorta Mór*) was a watershed in the development of modern Ireland. It was triggered by a disease in the potato crop (the subsistence food of almost half of the population), which returned in varying degrees for seven years. Many of the relief policies put in place by the British government proved to be insufficient and inappropriate. The population in 1845 was approximately 8.5 million; by 1851, it had dropped by two million due to a combination of death and emigration. But what makes the Irish Famine both unique and tragic is that Ireland never recovered from this demographic shock. The population today is smaller than it was in 1845. Culturally also, Ireland changed. Many of those who died or emigrated were Irish speakers, so the use of the language was weakened. And, in the words of a descendant of a survivor, “music, dancing and poetry died.”

**Why was the Great Hunger so particularly hard-hitting in the west of Ireland, in places like County Mayo? Can you describe the local conditions in the 1840s?**

All of Ireland was affected by the Famine, but some regions were particularly hard hit, such as west Cork (Skibbereen achieved a par-



**COUNT PAUL DE STRZELECKI.**

“Strzelecki’s contribution to saving lives was immense,” said Prof. Kinealy. In 1847, while working with people dying from disease, he caught “famine fever,” impairing his health for the rest of his life.

particular grim notoriety), west Clare, and north Mayo. County Mayo before the Great Hunger was one of the poorest districts in the country, with high levels of dependence on the potato and poor quality land that had been repeatedly sub-divided into ever-smaller plots. In some of the most remote districts, such as the Belmullet peninsula, most of the landlords were absentee or showed little compassion towards their tenants. A young Quaker who visited Mayo in 1847 described the local poor as “living skeletons ... barely able to crawl.” Count Paul de Strzelecki chose to base himself in the small town of Westport in County Mayo, at the center of so much suf-

fering.

**In your work on County Mayo, you introduce the relief work of Polish Count Paul de Strzelecki. What was he, and what brought him to Ireland?**

Strzelecki was a Polish-born explorer and scientist. In the early 1840s, he had achieved some fame for his pioneering explorations in Australia. Strzelecki had left his homeland around 1830, and in 1845 had become a naturalized British citizen. At the beginning of 1847, the British Relief Association was formed in London to raise money on behalf of the Irish poor. Within a few days, Strzelecki had offered his services, free of charge. Only twenty-four hours later he was asked to travel to the west of Ireland to ascertain the situation there. This is what brought him to Westport.

**Can you describe in broad lines what Strzelecki did in terms of relief work in Ireland?**

Strzelecki’s contribution to saving lives was immense. Firstly, he proved to be a sympathetic eyewitness. In his first letter from Westport he wrote: “No pen can describe the distress by which I am surrounded ... You may now believe anything which you hear and read, because what I actually see surpasses whatever I read of past and present calamities.” More than that though, in order to get much-needed food to the poor, he put himself at personal risk. When his carriage could not get through the snow, he would walk to his destination. In April 1847, while working with people dying from disease, he caught “famine fever,” impairing his health for the rest of his life.

**Can you tell us something particularly about his relief work for suffering children? What was the magnitude of his efforts?**

One of Strzelecki’s most successful schemes was to provide funding for children who attended local schools, the money was to be used to buy them a suit of clothes and a daily meal. He started the scheme in Westport, but it proved to be so popular and effective that he extended it throughout the west of Ireland. Sadly, the scheme ended in 1848 when Strzelecki’s funds ran out. At this stage, over 200,000 children were being fed daily as a result of this scheme. In any famine, children are one of the most vulnerable groups, reflected in their high rates of mortality, so giving them relief directly was very beneficial, to the children and their parents.

**What eventually happened to Strzelecki’s efforts?**

Most of the charitable relief that

was sent to Ireland was concentrated in 1847. By the end of that year, most fund-raising committees started to end their activities. The British Relief Association, which was the most successful of all these bodies was able to continue working until summer 1848, by which time its funds were totally exhausted. Although Strzelecki’s formal involvement ended at this stage, he did return to Ireland in 1849 and again in 1850, at the request of the British government.

**How eventually did the Great Famine end?**

It is hard to say how or when the Famine ended. For the most part, the potato blight had disappeared from Ireland in 1852 but, throughout the 1850s, levels of disease, mortality and emigration all continued to be far in excess of their pre-Famine levels. Also, large numbers of people continued to leave Ireland, with men and women emigrating from Ireland in equal numbers. By 1901, the Irish population had fallen to just over four million people. So, in demographic terms alone, it is hard to say that the Famine ever really ended.

**Food as a political weapon has unfortunately been an all-too-frequent phenomenon in Europe. Do you see parallels between the Great Famine and the starvation “diet” given by the Germans in concentration camps or with the 1932-33 Holodomor in Ukraine?**

We know that famine is never caused simply by food shortages. It is part of a wider, long-term process that at heart is political. In the sixteenth century, an English politician and writer, Edmund Spenser, advised Queen Elizabeth I that they way to tame her ‘barbarous’ [sic] Irish subjects was to starve them to death. In the twentieth century, there were a number of examples of food — or the lack of — being used as a weapon of mass destruction, including during the *Holodomor*. It is heart-breaking that we cannot learn lessons from history and say “never again.”

**You have been studying the Great Hunger all your professional life. What set you on this topic?**

Yes, I have been studying the Great Hunger for approximately three decades — it was a central part of my doctoral thesis which was a study of Irish poverty from 1838-1864. My interest in this topic comes from my interest in issues of social justice — I think that is a theme that binds all of my work together. When my first book was published in 1994, it really followed a drought of writing about the Great

Hunger (there had been no major work on the Famine published since Cecil Woodham-Smith’s monumental work in 1962). As long as I have something new and fresh to say, I will keep writing and researching on this topic. But, thirty years on, it still is as raw and painful to me in terms of the horror of this tragedy.

**You are director of the Irish Great Hunger Institute at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut. Tell us something about this resource.**

Ireland’s Great Hunger Institute at Quinnipiac University was founded in 2013. Its establishment was a result of approximately 16 years of commitment to collecting historical and cultural resources, including art work relating to the Irish Great Hunger by the President of the University, John Lahey. I was appointed Founding Director of the Institute on 1 September 2013.

The Institute is:

... a scholarly resource for the study of the Great Hunger, which is also known as *An Gorta Mór*. Through a strategic program of lectures, conferences, course offerings and publications, the institute fosters a deeper understanding of this tragedy and its causes and consequences.

At opposite ends of Europe, Ireland and Poland have a lot in common: Catholicism; long external oppression; repression that generated large emigration to the United States (continuing in some forms until today). Do you think that Irish Americans and Polish Americans understand what they really have in common, and how can that mutual understanding be improved?

There are many similarities between the history and struggles of Ireland and Poland — two countries who have been oppressed by external forces for centuries, yet who have maintained an identity and traditions that had survived and even flourished, whether at home or overseas. In the last twenty years, a large portion of Polish emigration has been to Ireland, with some interesting consequences. I am not sure that emigrants from both countries are aware of what they have in common and many people I have spoken to have no awareness of Count Strzelecki’s role during the Great Hunger. His work as an explorer is far better known.

**Where next for you and Count Strzelecki?**

You have probably gathered my great admiration for the wonderful Count Strzelecki. There is a statue to him in Australia, and a few years ago his remains were returned to Poland. Ireland still needs to honor him. I am working with people in Ireland, particularly County Mayo, to urge that a permanent memorial be installed in his honor. Of course, I would welcome support. He truly is a hero who put his own life in danger to help the poor of Ireland.

The Great Hunger Institute is located on the Mount Carmel campus of Quinnipiac University, in Hamden, Conn. For more information see: [www.quinnipiac.edu/institutes-and-centers/irelands-great-hunger-institute/](http://www.quinnipiac.edu/institutes-and-centers/irelands-great-hunger-institute/).

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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

## Polish Franciscans to be Beatified

Two Franciscans missionaries from Poland — **Michał Tomaszek** and **Zbigniew Strzałkowski** — will be beatified, alongside Italian priest Alessandro Dordi, all murdered by the Shining Path, a Maoist guerrilla insurgent organization in Peru.

Additionally, Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero from El Salvador is to be beatified. Romero, who was vocal against human rights abuses, was shot in March 1980 while conducting Mass.

The date for the beatification is not yet known, although the process for Tomaszek and Strzałkowski has been ongoing since 1996 at the instigation of the Diocese in Peru's Pariacoto, where the missionaries were killed on August 9, 1991.

The Vatican took over beatification proceedings in 2002, and during the process mulled over whether the men died for their faith, or were simply caught up in Peru's civil war.

**PAPAL RELIC FIND HOMES.** A relic of **St. John Paul II** came to the Springfield, Mass. area, where hundreds of area faithful packed **St. Cecilia Church** in Wilbraham to attend Mass, view and pray near the relic. The artifact on view is dated from the time of the late Pope's 1981 near assassination in St. Peter's Square. After the Mass a dinner was held, in which donations were offered toward the construction in Krakow, Poland of a building to honor Pope John Paul II.

"He really emulated what it meant to be a follower of the Lord Jesus," said Bishop Mitchell Rozanski. "To have his relic here in Springfield ... means so much. His presence, as it was with the Church for 27 years, continues with us here in the Diocese of Springfield."

A vial of blood, a first class relic of St. John Paul II, has been enshrined at **St. Adalbert Church**, on Thompson St. and Allegheny Ave. in the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia, Pa. Then-Cardinal Karol Wojtyła visited the church in 1976. Most Rev. Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap, Archbishop of Philadelphia, presided over the ceremony of enshrinement.

Pope John Paul II, the first Polish Pope, was canonized in April of 2014.

**A CELEBRATION OF PEACE THROUGH MUSIC** is a special televised concert created by American conductor Sir Gilbert Levine that took place on May 5, 2014 in Washington, D.C. The concert features the **Kraków Philharmonic Choir**, the Orchestra of St. Luke's, and the Washington Choral Arts Society. Through music, a language that supersedes all cultural boundaries, Levine leads these world-class vocal and orchestral ensembles in a moving tribute to **Pope John XXIII**, **Pope John Paul II**, and **Pope Fran-**

**cis** — three spiritual leaders recognized for their devotion to promoting understanding and peace around the world.

*A Celebration of Peace Through Music* is a two-hour show that will be broadcast on public media stations nationwide in Spring 2015, particularly around Easter 2015 — Sunday, April 5. Check local listings)

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY . . . V. Rev. Edward M. Grosz**, auxiliary bishop in Buffalo, N.Y., on the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the episcopate. The Buffalo native had been a member of Assumption RC Church before he entered the seminary. Buffalo's Bishop Richard Malone appreciates his collaboration with Bp. Grosz and said, "Anything I ask him to do in his work in the diocese, he gets to it immediately and carries it through in a very detailed and timely way." In addition to that, his personality and humor leads him to inject a bit of wit which helps when coping with difficult situations ... **Fr. William Ignatius Staniszewski** of the Society of St. Paul, on his 50th anniversary as a priest. The Paulist specialize in media ministry in 40 countries. The Lackawanna, N.Y., native served in the Paulist seminary and high school in Derby, Ohio and has been provincial of the community for two terms.

**THE POPE'S "SOUL ON THE STREET."** Any of the homeless men and women who seek food and shelter around St. Peter's Basilica in Rome know **Msgr. Konrad Krajewski** as Don Corrado. The pope's almoner recently saw to the installation of a bathroom and shower for the homeless to use and a place for them to get a haircut. These are unmarked and are known only to the homeless who use them. A group of volunteer barbers will provide free haircuts and shaves to the poor every Monday.

The office of almoner, in existence since the 12th century, has been updated by Pope Francis who chose Msgr. Krajewski to find innovative ways to help the poor. At times the Pope has tagged along on the almoner's late night charitable runs, with volunteer, off-duty Swiss Guard for protection. The pope filters the initial request for assistance — some 12,000 of them in 2014 — and hands over to his almoner the ones to investigate further. He responds quickly to those whose situations are truly desperate.

In explaining the idea about the showers, "The first thing we want is to give dignity to the person," he explains. "The person who does not have a chance to wash is socially rejected, and we all know that a homeless man cannot enter a public place like a bar or restaurant to

ask to use services, because he will be refused." The idea has caught on and a dozen Roman parishes have followed suit and have built their own public showers through donations from the papal charity.

**ABOUT-FACE KILLS 20-WEEK ABORTION BAN PROPOSAL.** Rep. **Jackie Walorski**, R-IN, helped lead a House effort to kill the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, a bill to limit abortion to the first 20 weeks of pregnancy that many pro-life groups have labeled their top legislative priority. After standing at the podium of the March for Life in Washington, Jan. 22, and receiving warm applause, she joined a procedural effort to prevent the bill from coming to a vote. She refused to explain to Pro-Life advocates why she had thwarted the bill's progress. Others noted that wording in the bill which would require reporting a rape was objectionable. House leaders will try again to get the bill to a vote, with appropriate changes in the wording.

**ANOTHER POL-AM CHURCH TO CLOSE.** St. Joseph Church in Gardner, Mass., will close this summer along with another of Gardner's Catholic churches, Sacred Heart.

St. Joseph's, established by Polish immigrants, has served the community since 1908. The current pastor of the church is Fr. Tom Tokarz.

CULTURAL TELEGRAM / Kasia Romanowska

## Treliński's Debut at the New York Metropolitan Opera

Although the snowstorm delayed the opening of a double-bill of two rarely performed operas: Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta* and Bartok's *Bluebeard's Castle*, the operas received standing ovations at the Met.

With a distinct cast: Anna Netrebko singing the title role in *Iolanta*, and Nadja Michael as Judith in *Bluebeard's Castle*, Mariusz Treliński, a director, turned both of the operas into a captivating study of obsession. The Polish tenor Piotr Beczala as Vaudemont, was a highlight of the evening.

Treliński and his set designer Boris Kudlicka use several images in the opera: a forest of trees, video projections, including deer being hunted down and killed in *Iolanta*.

The venue was a co-production of the Metropolitan Opera and Teatr Wielki-Polish National Opera.

After the success, Peter Gelb, director of the Met, suggested that Treliński open the 2016 season with *Tristan and Isolde* by Wagner.

**THE WORST MAN IN THE WORLD.** An aching honest confession of an alcoholic who

escapes in an imaginary world, whimsical hobby and subsequent relationships.

Małgorzata Halber's book, *The Worst Man in the World* (Najgorszy człowiek świata) is a book about problems everyone has, but which some are better at deceiving themselves about.

The story of Krystyna, the protagonist, is set in Warsaw in popular alternative clubs. It is a mettlesome book, which alone makes it a worthwhile read.

**ENTERTAINING POLISH THRILLER.** "The Grain of Truth," a film by Boris Lankosz, acclaimed author of "Reverse," is called by critics a successful thriller, both entertaining and covering important topics.

Lankosz made the movie following the immortal principles ruling the genre. The main character is a classic man with a past, a dreary middle-aged attorney with a young lover. He wears a black trench coat and smokes one cigarette after another. His relationship with his friend Leon, starring Jerzy Trela, has elements of the classic buddy films, with a plot organized around a contrasting male characters.

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We invite you to participate in the time-honored tradition of demonstrating your support with an Easter Patron advertisement. This is not only a way to show fellow Polish Americans you care about our culture, but is a way to send Easter greetings to family, friends, and fellow Polonians across the miles. Can we count on you?

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## NEWS FROM THE EMBASSY / Richard Poremski

## Foreign Minister Schetyna Received in Washington

WASHINGTON, D.C. — At the invitation of U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, Poland's Minister for Foreign Affairs Grzegorz Schetyna was officially received on January 7-8, 2015. In addition to Sec. Kerry, he met with various top U.S. officials of foreign affairs. Topics of discussion included European and global security, the situations in Ukraine and Afghanistan, and threats from the so-called Islamic State. On Capitol Hill he was feted by the Bipartisan Senate Caucus on Poland, led by U.S. Senators/founders Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.), Chris Murphy (D-Ct.) and Jim Risch (R-Id.). [Note: This meeting was extensively covered in the January, 2015 issue of the PAJ].

On the second day of his visit, Minister Schetyna was the guest of honor at an Embassy of the Republic of Poland reception hosted by Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf. During the proceedings, Minister Schetyna decorated Dr. Timothy Snyder with the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland. Dr. Snyder, an author of seven scholarly books, and a professor at Yale



**U.S. REPRESENTATIVE MARCY KAPTUR** (D-Oh.) is pictured speaking with Poland's Foreign Minister, Grzegorz Schetyna, at his Polish Embassy reception. He participated in decorating Dr. Timothy Snyder with honors, presided over the transfer of historic Slonim Tapestries to Poland, and met personally with members of Polonia.

University, was recognized as a specialist in the history of Central and Eastern Europe, and for his knowledge and promotion of Polish history. The transfer of two historic and priceless 18th century Slonim Tapestries to the museum in Poland's Wawel Castle was additionally presided over by the foreign minister. (See accompanying story). As chief of Poland's diplomacy, Minister Schetyna was very eager to also meet with leaders and notables of the local Polish-American community, as arranged by Ambassador Schnepf. Very generous with his time, he spoke at length to individuals and small groups about their concerns, ideas, suggestions, etc. — all in the spirit and synergy of continued bilateral cooperation between Poland and America. In his address, Minister Schetyna expressed his admiration and solidarity with the Polish diaspora for their contributions fostering Polish American relations and building a good image of Poland in the United States. "I would also like to assure you that you have my support and that I'm always there for you," he said.

## Historic Slonim Tapestries Return to Poland



**SLONIM TAPESTRY DISPLAYED AT EMBASSY.** Two guests are pictured here admiring an 18th century Slonim tapestry. The tapestry was displayed in the Petite Salon of the Polish Embassy prior to the official ceremony bequeathing it to the Wawel Royal Castle in Krakow for its extensive restoration and eventual display there.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Polish American Xavier Puslowski is a very generous man.

He has donated two priceless Slonim tapestries — "Flora" and "Leda" — to the Wawel Royal Castle's Slonim Collection in Krakow, Poland where they will be restored to their original, vibrant-colored conditions. At present the 18th century silk weavings are faded to an overall cream-tone and almost completely devoid of any coloring. However, the in-woven figures and decorative embellishments

are readily visible to the naked eye upon close inspection.

Professor Jan Ostrowski, director of the Wawel Royal Castle Museum, was present to take possession of the tapestries and to deliver relevant remarks. We also learned that Slonim tapestries were made in an artists' workshop set up by the Grand Hetman of Lithuania Michal Kazimierz Oginski around 1782 and operated by a Saxon-born weaver, Johan Karl Kletsch. His weaving studio's greatest achievement was a series of 12 tapestries which depicted statues of ancient gods to decorate a garden pavilion in Oginski's sprawling Slonim Palace complex — a miniature Versailles.

Today no trace of the palace exists, and Slonim is now located in Belarus as a result of redrawn national borders following World War II.

At the Embassy of the Republic of Poland on January 8, 2015, Puslowski was decorated with the "Well Deserved for Polish Culture Honorary Award," by the hand of Poland's Foreign Minister Grzegorz Schetyna, in appreciation of his generosity and fidelity to Poland's culture, art and history.

## Wesołego Alleluja or Wesołych Świąt Wielkanocnych?

### Wishing Happy Easter to Ciocia in Poland

by Robert Strybel

Will you be sending an Easter card to a favorite aunt or uncle in Poland? Perhaps your grandmother in Hamtramck or your sister in Greenpoint. If so, it is a Polish tradition to customize such a card by adding a few words of your own, even if there's already a printed message inside.

But as in America, nowadays also in Poland more and more people are emailing their greetings. For those not fully conversant in Polish, the question arises: What should I write?

Here are several suggestions:

- The standard traditional Happy Easter greeting in Polish is: **Wesołego Alleluja!** Nowadays it is becoming increasingly common to say or write just **Wesołych Świąt!** Since in December that also means Merry Christmas, you can expand it to read **Wesołych Świąt Wielkanocnych!** (literally: Happy Easter Holidays).
- Some people like to add wishes for a tasty Easter feast, something like "Enjoy your hallow-fare" (the food blessed on Holy Saturday). Combined with the above the greeting would come at as: **Wesołego Alleluja oraz smacznego święconego!**
- If you want to send a bit more than just the bare-bones greeting, you might couch it in a formulation such as: **Życzymy Wam Wesołych Świąt Wielkanocnych, dużo zdrowia, smacznego jajka i mokrego śmigusa-dyngusa!** (We wish you a Happy Easter, good health, a tasty /Easter/ egg and a wet Dyngus Day.)
- For a more religious-flavored greeting you might write: **Z okazji Święta Zmartwychwstania Pańskiego życzymy Wam miłych, zdrowych i spokojnych świąt oraz obfitych łask Bożych dla całej Rodziny!** (On the Feast

of our Lord's Resurrection we wish you pleasant, healthy and peaceful holidays as well as God's abundant blessings for the entire family).

- You might want to phrase it a bit differently: **Dzieląc się poświęconym jajkiem staropolskim zwyczajem myślni będziemy przy Was i życzyć będziemy dobrego zdrowia, spełnienia wszelkich Waszych marzeń oraz obfitych łask Bożych!** (When sharing blessed Easter eggs in the Old Polish tradition, our thoughts will be with you and we will be wishing you good health, the fulfillment of your dreams and our Lord's copious blessings).

**IF YOU DO NOT HAVE POLISH CHARACTERS** on your keyboard, you have one of two options. Visit <http://polish.typeit.org/> which will enable you to type all the *ą, ć, ł, ś, ż*, etc. properly or just forget them entirely. Polish texters and many emailers completely ignore the accent marks and are nevertheless fully understood.

**IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS** to a shop offering Polish-language cards, you can order them from the Polish American Journal Bookstore online at [www.polamjournal.com](http://www.polamjournal.com), or see the advertisement on the back of this month's paper.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

- Polish people refer to Lent as "**Wielki Post**" (the Great Fast).
- Lent begins on **Popielec** or **Środa Popielcowa** (Ash Wednesday) when the faithful have their heads sprinkled with ashes as a sign of the transitory nature of life on earth.
- The Polish term for Easter is "**Wielkanoc**" (the Great Night) or, less commonly, "**Wielka Niedziela**" (Great Sunday).

### POLONIA PLACES / Gregory L. Witul

## Karcz Motor Company, Pulaski, Wisconsin

723 State Highway 32  
Pulaski, Wisconsin  
Status: Closed

There are two major purchases the average person will make in their life, their home and their automobiles. When making such large deals, the customer wants to make sure they can trust the person on the other end of the table to not take advantage of them. So when Poles from Hofa Park, Sobieski, or Krakow, Wisconsin needed to buy a car, they traveled to Pulaski to deal with one of their own, the Karcz family and their Ford dealership.

Like many of the residents of northeastern Wisconsin, Edward Karcz was a third generation Polish-



The Karcz Motor Company's first home at 162 West Pulaski.

his brother Sylvester as a sales man. Sylvester "Cy" Karcz was a natural born salesman. If you were thinking about buying a car, he would have you driving off the lot in your new Ford by the end of the day. Sylvester's abilities were a boon for Karcz and soon a bigger showroom



The Karcz showroom at 222 West Pulaski.

to 723 State Highway 32, on the town's east side. For the next 8 years Edward would oversee the company until his passing in 1982. Following his death, Ed's sons Mike and Rick would take over the business. Three years after that, Cy retired to spend as much time in Cape Coral, Fla. as he could.

The company was on good solid footing through the rest of the 1980s and 1990s. Used cars started to overtake the new car sales, but Karcz soldiered on. The Motor Company ran into real trouble with the Great Recession. With credit drying up for both companies and individuals, cars started to pile up on the lot. As this scenario played out across the country, auto makers stared consolidating dealers which forced Karcz to sell its franchise back to Ford in April of 2008. The company struggled for the next 6 months, selling used cars and taking in all the body work available but it wasn't enough. On Friday, October 3, 2008 the 62 year old Polish-American company closed its doors for the last time.

**ALTHOUGH THE KARCZ MOTOR COMPANY** is gone, many of its former buildings are still being used. The company's first home at 162 West Pulaski is now Wery's Flowers 'n Things, while the second building next door is home to the Pulaski Library.

The final showroom at 723 State Highway 32 may not be as lucky as its predecessors, as a developer plans to raze it and put a Bellin Health in its place.



The final location of the Ford dealership at 723 State Highway 32.

American. His grandfather, Maciej Karcz, left Suleczyno, Poland in 1869 and ended up in Wisconsin in the late 1870s. Edward was born in Maple Grove, Wisconsin in March of 1916 and the family eventually moved to Pulaski. With the end of the Second World War, Edward secured a plot of land one block west from the heart of Pulaski, Assumption Roman Catholic Church. In 1946, he opened his Motor Company at the intersection West Pulaski and Main and began offering auto body and glass installation services. Shortly thereafter, Karcz became a Ford-Mercury dealer and Ed hired

was needed. Ed expanded west and opened a new office and sales floor at 222 West Pulaski Street. With the economic boom times of the 1960s Sylvester hit his stride. The Karcz Motor Company became one of Ford's top dealerships and Cy began racking up honors including Ford's Top Hatter Sales Award. In 1969 and 1970 Sylvester was named by "Time Magazine and Reader's Digest as Ford's Top Salesman in the Nation."

With an All-Star on his hands, Ed needed more room for all the cars Cy was selling. In 1974, Karcz Motor Company made its final move

## HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

## The Truth and Remembrance – The Katyń Massacre



PHOTO: JULITA SIEGEL



Attendees caroling.

the Katyń Forest Massacre. The film probes the issues of truth, justice, and memory in a shrouded family tragedy.

**CAROLING AT PMA.** An evening of bilingual caroling, *Koledawanie*, hosted by AMOPOD (Americans of Polish Descent, Inc.) and The Polish Museum of America (PMA), turned out to be a huge success. “Wieczor Koled,” the annual caroling gathering of members, friends, and guests of the AMOPOD and the PMA, attracted over 200 guests on January 18, 2015. Additionally, the choir of the Highlanders’ Children’s Choir of the Tatra Mountain Cultural Foundation and the Lajkonik Song and Dance Ensemble made a “surprise” visit to add to the post-Christmas merriment. Caroling included *Przybieżeli do Betlejem* (Quickly to Bethlehem), *Cicha Noc* (Silent Night), and *Jungle Bells*, just to name a few.

The PMA’s and AMOPOD’s “Wieczor Koled” was successful thanks to the efforts of those who publicized the event, who made the preparations, who volunteered their time during and after the event, and those who underwrote this event. This was a cooperative effort, with the PMA playing a leading role by providing a great location and organizational expertise. AMOPOD’s mission is to preserve, distribute, and promote the history and culture of Poles and Polish Americans. Next year will mark the 25th anniversary of this caroling event.

**KORZISTKA PIANO RECITAL AT PMA.** On Sat., Jan. 31, 2015, with a major snowstorm approaching Chicago, some 80 individuals filled the Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall of The Polish Museum of America to attend a benefit piano recital hosted by The Polish Museum of America Library (PMAL) and the Chicago Chopin Society. The recital to benefit the Library’s Rare Book Conservation Project was performed by renowned Polish pianist, **Michał Korzistka**, accompanied by a distinguished quartet, featuring **Miguel Garcia-Bender** and **Agnieszka Likos** on violin, **Davis Perez** on the viola, and **Patrycja Likos** on cello. The program featured Fryderyk Chopin’s Piano Concerto, No. 2, F Minor, Opus 21, and **Jarosław Golembiowski**’s String Quartet, No. 3, Part I and II.

The PMAL initiated the Rare Book Conservation Project in 2012, focusing on conserving approximately 300 rare books. With the generosity of the Friends of the PMAL and grants from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland, 40 books published in the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries have been conserved under this project. Three of these books were conserved thanks

to the proceeds from previous recitals by Michał Korzistka. As the average conservation cost per book is \$500, the PMAL is grateful for all the support the project has received in anticipation of the Library’s centennial.

**CHICAGO SOCIETY INAUGURAL BALL.** On January 31, almost 200 guests travelled through the onset of a major snowstorm to attend the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance Inaugural Ball at Elmcrest Banquets in Elmwood Park, Illinois. The Chicago Society’s Ball was pleased to salute its honorees, **Frank Spula**, president of the Polish National Alliance and the Polish American Congress, and **Andrew Przybylo**, Mayor of Niles, Illinois, and businessman extraordinaire, and to induct the Society’s 2015 officers.

The evening began with the singing of the national anthems of the Republic of Poland and the United States of America, followed by welcoming remarks by **Romuald Matuszczak**, Inaugural Ball Chair. The **Rev. Robert Fedek**, pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish in Chicago, gave the invocation. A special performance by the **Wici Dancers** of the Polish National Alliance entertained the guests. Thaddeus Makarewicz, newly-elected president of the Chicago Society, Charles Komosa, vice president, and Mark Orwat, immediate past president, reflected on plans and accomplishments of the Society. The **Honorable John A. Wasilewski**, retired Cook County Judge, installed the Chicago Society’s 2015 officers. After dinner, guests danced to the music of The Music Company.

**DOM DZIECKA AND WHITE TULIP BALL.** *Dom Dziecka*, Children’s Home Foundation in Chicago, held its second annual White Tulip Ball on January 24 at the ever-popular European Crystal Banquets in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Its goal was to fund the building of another playground for an orphanage in Poland. Established in 2011, *Dom Dziecka*, an Illinois not-for-profit organization, is the only organization in Chicago that directly helps orphanages in Poland.

Last year’s benefit raised funds to create a playground for an orphanage in Wałbrzych, Poland. This year’s ball was another success, and *Dom Dziecka* raised sufficient money to build its next playground for the children’s orphanage in Policach, Poland. Rev. Jerzy Gawlik, associate pastor of St. Joseph Church in Wheeling, Illinois, gave the invocation. Agata Paleczny, *Warsztaty Teatralne* actress and singer, provided an artistic performance by singing “Mamo” from the Polish opera, “Halka” by Stanisław Moniuszko.



Korzistka and Quartet.



Romuald Matuszczak, Frank Spula, Andrew Przybylo, and Thaddeus Makarewicz.

## POLISH STUDIES

## Study in Poland This Summer!



NEW YORK — Your friends have done it. Your cousins have done it. And you’ve heard all about the cafes, museums, underground restaurants and clubs, and Old Towns with their castles and dragons. Now, it’s your chance to study in Poland! The Kosciuszko Foundation is currently accepting applications for its summer programs at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow and the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. Not only will you have the opportunity to explore old Polish medieval towns and historic sites, you’ll have the opportunity to pick up a few undergraduate credits and meet other Polish Americans from around the world!

Join us for summer Polish language classes in Poland. Classes at the Jagiellonian University are available for 3-, 4-, and 6-weeks. Classes at the JPII Catholic University can be as short as two weeks or as long as eight! You will be able to start language classes at a level which is appropriate to the knowledge you already have and develop your language skills further. Begin-

ner, intermediate and advanced language classes are available. Additional classes are offered in cultural enrichment including *Polish Art, Film, Literature, History and more*. Prices begin at \$1,620 for a 3-week program at the Jagiellonian University and \$925 for a non-intensive program at the John Paul II Catholic University of Poland. Program fees include tuition, dormitory housing, meals and sightseeing. Airfare is not included.

Absolute beginners are welcome! We’ll help you transfer the credits you earn abroad to your university here in the States. And, if you want to fly with other program participants, you’ll be able to fly with other KF students on regularly scheduled flights to Poland.

Scholarships are available.

For classes, prices, course information, scholarship information and additional details, please see <http://www.thekf.org/programs/summer/study/> or call the Summer Study Abroad office (212) 734-2130 ext. 210.

Our Lady of Katyń.

CHICAGO — Well over 200 guests attended the opening of the **Truth and Remembrance – The Katyń Massacre** exhibit that took place on Sunday, February 8, 2015, in the Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall of The Polish Museum of America. The exhibit commemorates the 65th anniversary of the **Katyń** Massacre. It contains 32 bilingual Polish/English panels that relate the history of events leading up to World War II, followed by the **Katyń** Massacre, its cover-up, and the unending search for the truth. The exhibit was prepared by the “Katyń Family” Association of Łódź and the Museum of Independence Traditions in Łódź.

As we all know, **Katyń** has become the symbol of one of the most shocking, yet little known genocides of the 20th century. It was in spring of 1940 that numerous units of the Soviet NKVD (Secret Police) murdered 22,000 Polish prisoners of war in three different locations, now collectively known as “Katyń.” This was part of a larger Soviet campaign against the Polish nation in which one million people were deported to Siberia where many died in deplorable conditions. Present at this event were 11 “Siberia” children, who were acknowledge and honored. **Katyń: Truth and Remembrance** runs through March 11, 2015. Guest speakers included historians Dr. Marek Jan Chodakiewicz and Piotr Uzarowicz.

**Marek Jan Chodakiewicz** (inset, below) is a Polish American historian specializing in East Central European history of the 19th and 20th centuries. His historical works include: *After the Holocaust: Polish-Jewish Relations in the Wake of World War II*, and *Between Nazis and Soviets: Occupation Politics in Poland*. In 2003, Chodakiewicz was appointed Research Professor of History and in 2004 Professor of History at the Institute of World Politics (IWP) in Washington, D.C. Since 2008, he has also held the Kosciuszko Chair in Polish Studies at IWP. Professor Chodakiewicz earned his masters and doctoral degrees from Columbia University.

**Piotr Uzarowicz**, a graduate of Loyola University Chicago, is the producer and director of the 2010 documentary film, “The Officer’s Wife” that follows a son’s startling discovery. After the death of his father, a forgotten safe deposit box reveals his grandmother’s autobiography, old photos of an army officer, and a mysterious postcard that all help to uncover a concealed crime:



## To Dance Again with Pani Ada

*Syrena-Milwaukee presents the Old-World Elegance of Poland's Bygone Era*

by Staś Kmieć

Every year in February since 1988, the *Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble* has presented its masquerade ball – *Bal Maskowy* at the Grand Ballroom of the Wisconsin Club in downtown Milwaukee. The exclusive event is attended by invitation only and is a “must” for anyone seeking to experience the historic aspect of Poland’s culture.

I was privileged to attend this year’s event, and included in the trip a long overdue reunion with my dear friend, Pani Ada Dziewanowska, the Artistic Director of *Syrena*. I have known Pani Ada since her time in Boston, when she was the director of *The Krakowiak Polish Dancers*. Her husband M. Kamil Dziewanowski – a historian of Poland, Russia and modern Europe, was a professor at Boston University. She was born in Poland and learned the traditions and celebrations of the Poznań, Pomorze, and Kujawy countryside, and Polish national dances in school. Pani Ada was popular throughout recreational folk dance circles as an instructor and popularized Polish dance with a series of folk dance record albums accompanied with a learning syllabus. The couple moved when Kamil began teaching at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. We met again at the first festivals held by the *Polish Folk Dance Association of the Americas* in Detroit.

Occasional postcards and chance meetings followed, our next meeting was in Lublin, Poland, as Pani Ada was finishing her degree and certification at *The Course for Instructors of Polish Artistic Ensembles*. When she began the course it was held in Plock and had since moved to the University of Marie Curie-Skłodowska. I was in my second year of study and I was pleased to see this familiar face. We danced the *Polonez* together at the opening banquet festivities, and I remember vividly the historical commentary Pani Ada provided throughout the procession of figures.

**WE WOULD SEE EACH** other daily, and occasionally in combined classes. Pani Ada documented concerts and classes with her Super 8mm movie camera, and had me demonstrate the men’s steps for dances from the Warmia region, as well as the partnered lifts and jumps for the national dance, *Oberek* as she fastidiously recorded it on celluloid. Pani Ada would grab me in free moments and test out certain figures and partnered steps.

Our paths crossed again briefly when Pani Ada returned to the Massachusetts area to teach a special evening. My friend Regina Laskowska and I attended as partners to dance. The last time we met in person was in Poland, when *Syrena* and my dance ensemble *Lubliniaczy* were both in attendance at the 1986 *Festival of Polonia Artistic Ensembles from Abroad* in Rzeszów. I remember walking from lunch and encountering Pani Ada and members of *Syrena* as they were headed to their meal and did a swift turnaround to spend a second lunch in conversation with Pani Ada.

Prior to leaving on a two-year tour of *Fiddler of the Roof* in 1994, I was approached by Jacek Galazka of Hippocrene Books to assist with the editing and direction of Pani Ada’s book *Polish Folk Dances and Songs: A Step-by-Step Guide*.

He sent the manuscript that was behind in its intended publication date. Carrying a typewriter and fax machine with me on tour and through frequent contact with Pani Ada by phone, letters and fax, the book’s scope was enlarged and with the assistance of authoring one section and a portion of another, the book – a comprehensive and definitive encyclopedia on Polish Dance was completed.

Years passed and postcards became fewer and then the opportunity and the chance to once again dance with Pani Ada came about. Tym Stoll, a transplant from Ohio and a newer *Syrena* member made the suggestion to attend the *Bal Maskowy*, and what better place to reconnect with Pani Ada than at this classic Polish event?

**THE BAL** began at 5:30 p.m. and was intended to conclude at midnight. I entered the lavish Wisconsin Club – a location that began as an exclusive social club over a century ago. It was the former home of banking magnate and Congressman Alexander Mitchell, and is exactly what you would imagine it to be: an enclave of quiet Victorian gentility – high-backed armchairs, fresh flowers, paintings bearing plaques indicating original ownership, historic photographs, and austere mahogany walls.

I was greeted at the top of the stairs by Neil Dziadulewicz, 1984 President of *Syrena* and Ball Com-

mittee member, who was attired in the military officer’s uniform of the Civil War. I was guided to another member Kay Josten, who had been with the ensemble for over 20 years; she was gracing the waiting area divan in a medieval maiden’s costume of bright pink with a flowing veiled headpiece. Other guests followed in imaginative period attire from the Middle Ages to the 1940’s, while those not as savvy wore tuxedos and full-length evening gowns. Fr. Rajmund Grawonski S.J. of St. Patrick’s seminary in Menlo Park, California travels each year to attend. As Pani Ada was unaware I was to be in attendance, I made sure to abide to the instructions and arrive masked; I wore a lavish gold Venetian mask and the 17th century *Kontusz* made for me by the costume manager of *Mazowsze* before he retired.

The long robe outer garment with a set of decorative buttons down the front became popular in the 16th century and came from Hungary and Turkey to the lands that were under Polish-Lithuanian rule. The sleeves have an opening that allow on hot days to be released and thrown back and in winter a fur lining could be attached. In the 17th century, it was worn over an inner *żupan*. The *Kontusz* is tied with a long, wide sash (*pas kontuszowy*). It has been said that the first *Kontusze* were worn by *Szlachta* nobility who captured



The author and Pani Ada Dziewanowska, the Artistic Director of *Syrena*.

them from Ottomans. Throwing the sleeves on one’s back and stroking one’s moustache was considered to be a signal of readiness to fight.

Cocktails were enjoyed to the music of *The Elegant Gypsies*,

about Poland, culture, dance and all things Polish. She told me that she cuts out all my cultural articles in *The Polish American Journal* and keeps them in a book under her bed for reference.

The four course dinner with entrée choices of Filet Mignon, Whitefish Królowej Bony Sforza and Vegetable Wellington was followed by the traditional *Polonez* performed by *Syrena* in flamboyant masquerade garments. The 1794 melody in A-minor, “*Pożegnanie Ojczyzny*” (Farewell to the Homeland) by Michał Kleofas Ogiński was played. Attendees were then invited on the floor for a Grand March communal Polonaise. There were so many participants from the over 200 attendees, that the procession had to travel throughout the side halls and then finish on the dance floor.

**A VIENNESE WALTZ** followed and I had the opportunity to escort Pani Ada to the floor as my partner. She instructed me to hold her strongly and firmly and to keep my steps smaller. At age 98, Pani Ada is astonishing for her energy, involvement and love of dance. She noted that I too had tasted this elixir of longevity and had not changed over the many years. The secret was dance and its three elements:

For the Mind – “one must pay attention to the directions of movement, right, left, clockwise or counter-clockwise.”



Guests at the *Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble's* masquerade ball – *Bal Maskowy*.

For the Heart – “the playing of music enlivens and brings great joy.”

For the Physique – “that is obvious, no gym can give the full-body movement that dance provides.”

We whirled around the floor, engaged in constant conversation and it was as if I was transported back in time. Returning to the table for a dessert of hot peach and apple cobbler, we heard the popular tango “*Umówiłem się z nią na dziewiątą*” (I Have a Date with Her at Nine). With a melody by Jewish composer Henryk Wars (Warszawski) and text by Emanuel Schlechter, the tune appeared in the 1937 film *Piętro wyżej*, where it was sung by Eugeniusz Bodo. We began to sing the words we could remember:

**SPOTTING PANI ADA**, I made my way to greet her with (in typical Polish style) a presentation bouquet of roses. Speaking in Polish, I relayed that “I had not seen her for many years, and wanted to surprise her on this occasion.” Pulling off the mask, she was delighted and astonished. We began an evening of reminiscence and lively conversation

Across the dance floor, I spotted a

vision in pink – dressed in a brighter Mary Todd Lincoln style 1800s period gown was one of my favorite costumes worn by Neil’s wife Lynn Dziadulewicz, the Ball Chairperson. Carol Mayer a costume aficionado made her Ching Shih, the Chinese Female Pirate costume and matched her husband Robert as a Pirate King. Her family having been in the United States for multiple generations, Carol had conducted extensive research into her lineage, discovering her maiden name *Cira* (*Cyra* in Poland) came from roots in the Lipusz region of Pomorze.

Everyone was out of their seats and on the dance floor for “*Ada’s Kujawiak*” – a dance made popular among recreational folk dancers throughout the United States and even in Japan. It consists of only two repeated sections, and its basic structure makes it easy to follow for the novice. A “Waltz Mixer” had Pani Ada (in Polish) and Lynn (in English) instruct the couples through period figures to interchange partners. Pani Ada remarked about the charming inflections to the calls such as – “*a teraz kułeczko!*” that she remembers from her earlier days in Poland.

Dressed as Zorro was *Syrena’s* choreographer of the last 6 years – Duane Tomka. Having finished the Choreographer’s Course in Rzeszów, he has brought the ensemble, celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, into the 21st century – utilizing technical and computer devices. His main initiative is to bridge the gap between the children’s, youth and adult dancers and to have the 3 groups “feed” into the ascension by natural progression. *The Syrena Ensemble* presented dances from Central Poland’s Opoczno region. With 9 couples, there was often an interesting juxtaposition of a single couple versus the mass.

Pani Ada was acknowledged with flowers and a round of “*Sto lat*” that was revised to “*Wiele Lat*.” In typical fashion, she took the microphone and scolded the few female dancers who changed from their evening attire into folk costume and had forgotten to bring their head kerchiefs, saying “We wear kerchiefs in the Opoczno Suite, I’ll come from another life and haunt you... don’t forget your kerchiefs” – displaying that her no-nonsense character has no sign of ever changing.

A fixture at the most prominent Polish balls across the country, the Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra from Chicago provided the music for the evening. Comprised of some of Chicago’s finest musicians and vocalists with the virtuoso violinist at the helm, they led the audience through opera, folk, salon and co-tillion contra dances, classic ballroom dances and social dances from Swing to Pop. There was something for everyone – never have I heard an orchestra with such diverse style.

A buffet of Polish desserts made by the ensemble members, followed by the “*Biały Mazur*” signaled the conclusion of the festivities. From a Bygone era, *Syrena’s Bal Maskowy* brought the tradition and charm of “*Old Warsaw*” and Polish elegance to Milwaukee. It is an event that can not to be compared to other Polish-American formal affairs. At midnight, the party continued on a lower level and Pani Ada finally wound down for the night at 2:30 am.

❖ ❖ ❖

The date for the next *Bal Maskowy* has been set for February 6, 2016. Contact *Syrena* at [www.syrenadancers.com](http://www.syrenadancers.com) to acquire an invitation and to have the opportunity to reunite, meet and maybe dance with the legendary Pani Ada.



## THE PONDERING POLE / Ed Poniewaz

## Spring, At Last!

Polish is popping up like poppies. Take your pick.

**Janice Dickinson**, is a model, author, and television personality. According to Wiki, she “has been described by herself and others as the first supermodel.” Born in Brooklyn, New York, her Polish mother is Jennie Marie Pietrzykowski. Her book is entitled “No Lifeguard on Duty: The Accidental Life of the World’s First Supermodel (2002).” Based on what I barely know of her, Janice is a good person who, despite all of her gifts and successes, has had a tough journey through life. I hope she is doing well and I wish her peace and happiness.



**JANICE DICKINSON**, “the first supermodel,” was born in Brooklyn to Jennie Marie Pietrzykowski.

to check out Steve’s. I’d like to hear some stories from our Cleveland readers about this diner and the “Polish Boy.”

The other Yahoo ticker was “The Best Booze (at the Best Price) for Your Home Bar” that included the Polish vodka Luksusowa on the list. My heart jumped because I am familiar with this brand. (Perhaps a bit too familiar – yikes!) My high opinion and discovery of taste and price was echoed one time in a personal story.

A number of years back, after our meal at a local restaurant we were talking with the mixologist and I asked him what his favorite Polish vodka was. I expected to hear Chopin or Belvedere but to my surprise, he singled out Luksusowa. There you go.

**SUPER BOWL XLIX, POLISH OR NOT?** On a team with a lot of

Eastern Europeans, **Tom Brady**, quarterback for the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots, is a quarter Polish according to *EthniCelebs.com*.

Tom’s maternal grandmother was Bernice Theresa Obitz (the daughter of Charles John Obitz and Anna Stish). Bernice was of Polish descent. Charles was the son of William Obitz and Maria Ulik. Anna was the daughter of Peter Stish and Katarzyna Anastasia Koslicki.

While I was drinking Luksusowa on the rocks and watching the Super Bowl, I was also eating a couple bags of Doritos. Of course I watch the Super Bowl for the commercials and it was neat to find out that a Polish guy won the “Crash the Super Bowl” contest. That lucky fan’s life changed in the most incredible way today when PepsiCo’s Doritos brand awarded **Scott Zabielski** of Los Angeles the grand prize in this year’s “Crash the Super Bowl” contest – \$1 million and a dream job at Universal Pictures in Hollywood. Zabielski created the best homemade Doritos ad in the ninth edition of the award-winning consumer-created ad contest, racking up the highest number of total fan votes on doritos.com.

Congrats Scott, and please google **Joe Pytko**. Good luck in your future film pursuits.

**MAIL CALL.** It was good to hear from **Ron Tomczik** regarding the Polish Enigma code breakers. Your eMail peaked my interest, Ron, so much so, that I have been doing some research. The Polish involvement is an interesting study and I would encourage all Polonians to become familiar with this part of World War II. You can judge for



**SCOTT ZABIELSKI’S COMMERCIAL**, “The Middle Seat,” won him the grand prize in this year’s “Crash the Super Bowl” contest – \$1 million and a dream job at Universal Pictures in Hollywood.

yourself the degree of significance of the Polish contribution in this event.

If you have a thought about this month’s topics, have questions, would like to explore a particular topic, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Po-

niewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; email alinabrig@yahoo.com.

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

**FROM THE YAHOO TICKER**, I give you the “Polish Boy” sandwich and good (but cheap) vodka.

I was not familiar with the “Polish Boy,” a super sandwich that originated and is apparently very popular in Cleveland. In a piece titled “The Best Diners in America”, Steve’s Lunch is on the list, a diner restaurant located in Cleveland. Here is how Steve’s and the PB were presented in the piece:

*This legendary, 24-hour diner in the Detroit-Shoreway ‘hood is a 60-year institution that has seldom closed its doors since it opened them. With less than a dozen seats in the place (and tabletop jukeboxes for nostalgia), the joint does a fine breakfast, but the specialty is amazing skinless beef franks piled with dry chili (kind of like the Flint coney-style), or its take on Cleveland’s own Polish Boy (piled with fries, coleslaw, and hot sauce).*

You can find a number of references and recipes for the “Polish Boy” online and for sure, the next time I am in Cleveland, I have got

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## SPOTLIGHT ON LONG ISLAND / Barbara Szydłowski

## Celebrating General Casimir Pulaski

Happy Birthday to **General Casimir Pulaski**, born March 6, 1745 in Warsaw, Poland. At the age of 15, he joined his father and other members of Polish nobility in opposing the Russian and Prussian interference in Polish affairs. He traveled to Paris, where he met Benjamin Franklin, who induced him to support the colonies against England in the American Revolution. Pulaski, impressed with the ideals of a new nation struggling to be free, volunteered his services.

In 1777, Pulaski arrived in Philadelphia where he met General George Washington, and later came to his aid at Brandywine and distinguished himself as a brilliant military tactician. Congress appointed him Brigadier General in charge of four horse brigades. In 1778 through Washington’s intervention, Congress approved the establishment of the cavalry, appointing Pulaski as its leader. Thus, Pulaski became known as “Father of the American Cavalry.” He demanded much of his men and trained them and tested cavalry tactics, many of which he used in his fight for freedom in Poland. When allocations from Congress were scarce, Pulaski often used his own personal finances in order to assure his forces of the finest equipment and personal safety.

**MARCH FACTS.** Here comes the Ides of March 15, a day on the Roman calendar that corresponds to this date but just what is the Ides? It’s the date of the assassina-

tion of Julius Caesar in 44 BC. His death made the Ides — the 15th of March, May, July, and October on the Roman calendar; the 13th the other months of the year — a turning point in Roman history, one of the events that marked the transition from historical period known as the Roman Republic to the Roman Empire.

Although March was the third month of the Julian calendar, in the oldest Roman calendar it was the first month of the year. The holidays observed by the Romans from the first through the Ides often reflect their origin as New Year celebrations.

**SUPERSTITIOUS?** How about Friday the 13th? There is a theory that thirteen became unlucky because primitive man reasoned that when you added up your fingers you got ten, then add two feet and you had twelve, after that came the unknown, or thirteen. Since the unknown is frightening, thirteen became a scary concept. Did you know that Friday the 13th appears three times this year?

**HAPPY ST. PATRICK’S DAY.** Here’s a legend about Saint Patrick, the fifth century British-born monk who converted the Irish to Christianity:

The Emerald Islanders at that time were given to piracy and brigandage. They had captured the future saint as a teenager and sold him into slavery. His later missionary

calling to the island was a way of paying back these rude folks with kindness. The difficulty of his task was aggravated by a lack of understanding on the part of the pagan Irish, especially their inability to understand the Christian doctrine of the Trinity. To get across the message that the God he served was three persons in one, Patrick used the Shamrock to illustrate the mystery. To all my Irish friends: Happy Saint Patrick’s Day-March 17.

**THINK SPRING.** The weather can’t make up its mind, especially in the Spring. Some days it may be cold, possibly snowy, or warm enough to start planting a garden. According to the calendar, Spring is scheduled for on March 20, but will it arrive with polkas and sunshine?

**PALM SUNDAY.** The last Sunday of March brings us to Palm Sunday, a holiday which, in many Christian churches, includes a procession. The assembled worshippers carrying palms represent the palm branches the crowds scattered in front of Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem. The difficulty of procuring palms in unfavorable climates led to the substitution of branches of native trees including: yew, box, willow and olive.

It is customary in many churches for the worshippers to receive palm leaves on Palm Sunday. In parts of the world where this has historically been impractical, Belgium, Finland and Lithuania, for example, substitute traditions have arisen. Many



Women carrying hand-made ‘palms’ to be blessed in church on Palm Sunday

Polish villages (including Lipnica Murowana in Malopolska and Lyse) organize palm competitions. The biggest of those can reach more than 100 feet in height — in 2008 the highest palm was over 109 feet high!

**MUSEUM REMINDER.** The Polish American Museum, located at 16 Bellevue Avenue, Port Washington on the north shore of Long Island is open on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. ... The 9th annual Museum Founders Scholarship applications are now available. High school seniors of Polish descent entering college in the Fall 2015 who are residents of Nassau or Suffolk County may ask for an application by calling (516)

883-6542 ... The scheduled lecture on February 8 was cancelled due to the snow, and will be rescheduled in the Spring ... There will be a spring concert on Sunday, March 8 featuring Krycia Wirkowski.

**OFF TO A GOOD START.** Some of you are wondering if I made any New Year resolutions. Not really, although I did promise myself that I would attend more Polonia events. In between the snow, rain, and sleet, I did manage to attend the Szymozjum “Patriotyzm Dzisiaj” sponsored by the Jozef Pilsudski Institute at the Polish Consulate in New York City, and attended the opening of a unique photograph exhibit by Xiomario at the Oyster Bay Historical Society.

## SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

## It's 1K for Coach K

Mike Krzyzewski became the first men's Division I head coach to reach 1,000 wins when No. 5 Duke earned a 77-68 comeback victory over St. John's at a sold-out Madison Square Garden. His latest milestone came about three years after Coach K became the all-time winningest coach at the Garden, surpassing his former coach, Bobby Knight.

A large contingent of Duke fans yelled, "Coach K! Coach K!" after the game as Blue Devil players wore hats and T-shirts which read "1,000 and Kounting."

At the post-game press conference Krzyzewski was asked about how many more games he'd coach. "There's an end in sight," he said. "I'm going to be 68 next month and it'll end sooner than later, but hopefully not real soon."

The Chicago native has won 927 games at Duke after starting his career with five seasons at Army. He's also achieved four NCAA titles and 11 Final Four appearances.

**POLES TRIUMPH.** Agnieszka Radwanska beat world number one Serena Williams to help Poland to its first Hopman Cup title in Perth, Australia.

World number five Radwanska claimed a 6-4 6-7(3) 6-1 win to put her country 1-0 up against the United States and returned to partner Jerzy Janowicz and beat Williams and John Isner 7-5 6-3 in doubles as Poland became the 13th nation to win the mixed team event. Radwanska's first victory over Williams in nine meetings came after she signed up former American great Martina Navratilova as a coach.

The Hopman Cup is an annual international team indoor hardcourt tennis tournament in which mixed-gender teams compete on a country by country basis. Last year the Polish team comprised of Radwanska and Grzegorz Panfil finished second to France.

**VOTING UNDERWAY.** Voters are selecting the Class of 2015 for the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame. New to the ballot in the high visibility category are All-Star pitcher Mark Gubicza and NHL standout Joe Kocur. They join holdovers George Andrie, Conrad Dobler, Steve Wojciechowski, Mark Grudzielanek, Larry Krystkowiak and Bryan Smolinski.

New to the all other sports categories are former University of

Arizona hockey coach Leo Golembiewski, NBA referee Steve Javie, and slalom racer Kristina Koznick. Holdovers are Tony Adamowicz, Jeff Klepacki, Joe Proski, Curt Tomasevich, and Evan "Big Cat" Williams.

The Hall's 43rd annual induction is scheduled for June 18th.

**KUBIAK RETURNS TO DENVER.** Gary Kubiak has been given a four-year contract to coach the Denver Broncos.

"Gary Kubiak has established a track record of leadership, success and high character during his 30 seasons in the NFL. While there is no question he is a Bronco, what Gary has learned from his other opportunities around the league — especially in his eight seasons as a head coach — will tremendously benefit our organization," General Manager John Elway said in a statement from the team. "Having coached on three Super Bowl champions and 11 playoff teams, Gary knows what it will take to deliver another World Championship to Broncos fans. Coach Kubiak is all about winning and doing things the right way."

Elway knows Kubiak well, as Kubiak served as backup quarterback to Elway for a pair of Super Bowl wins before becoming a part of the team's coaching staff after his retirement. Last season Kubiak was offensive coordinator at Baltimore. Prior to that, the Texas native served for eight seasons as head coach of the Houston Texans.

The 53-year-old is fully recovered from a mini-stroke he suffered while coaching the Texans in 2013. Both he and his wife, Rhonda are both Polish Americans, having descended from Polish families that settled in Texas in the 1800s.

**IT'S GOING, GOING, GONE!** According to Erik Malinowski writing for foxsports.com, we'll probably never see one of the most iconic of baseball souvenirs: the baseball hit out of Forbes Field by Bill Mazerowski on October 13, 1960.

It was on that day that Pittsburgh's Mazerowski, batting in the seventh game of the World Series, led off the bottom of the ninth with the only walk-off home run to win a World Series Game 7 in baseball history.

A 14-year-old boy named Andy Jerpe picked up the ball just beyond the left-field wall and took it to the Pirates clubhouse, where Maz

signed the ball and gave it back to Jerpe. "You keep it, son," he said. "The memory is good enough for me." A few months later, Jerpe took the ball out of its plastic protective cube so he and his friends could play baseball with it. The ball went into some high grass and was lost.

"It was, more or less, the plot of The Sandlot, 32 years before the movie was made," wrote Malinowski. "To this day, the most valuable and important baseball in World Series history has never been found. And almost certainly never will be," he concluded.

**KEEPING TRACK.** Buck Jerzy recently marked a half-century anniversary keeping statistics for television and radio broadcasters of professional and college football games.

Buck was recently profiled by Don Horkey in the *Michigan Catholic*. As Horkey put it: Statisticians like Jerzy are rarely acknowledged on air for supplying on-the-spot, play-by-play information, but the service they provide is vital, enabling announcers to describe without a hitch what's happening on the gridiron below.

Jerzy's career as a stat man started in 1965 when the Detroit Lions played the Washington Redskins in the annual Pro Football Hall of Fame Game in Canton, Ohio. Later he connected with Detroit broadcasting legend Van Patrick, and in 1968 the pair started working Notre Dame football for Mutual Radio. "We'd do Notre Dame football on Saturdays, the Lions on Sundays and then Monday Night Football. I was getting \$750 for each game, but had to pay my own expenses," Jerzy said.

When Patrick died in 1974, Jerzy remained with Mutual Radio. He's kept the stats for Irish football for 47 years in a row, at home and away. One of his fondest memories was a 1979 road trip for a Notre Dame-Miami game in Tokyo. His prize possession is a championship ring presented him when the Irish won the national title in 1988. In 2004, Jerzy was recognized as the top statistician in college football by the All-American Football Foundation.

The 79-year-old was born Jerome Jerzy in Hamtramck. He got his nickname from his fondness for buckwheat cereal as a youngster. He's been a property and casualty insurance agent for about four decades, and lives in Detroit with his

## More Honors for Coach K.

PHOTO: AUSA NEWS



COACH MIKE KRZYZEWSKI, center, accepts the Association of the United States Army's George Catlett Marshall Medal and Citation from (left) Nicholas D. Chabreja, chairman of the AUSA Council of Trustees, and Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, USA, Ret., Association president and chief executive officers.

Coach Michael W. Krzyzewski, legendary head basketball coach at Duke University and a long-time supporter of our men and women in uniform and their families, received the 2014 George Catlett Marshall Medal, the highest award presented by the Association of the United States Army.

The award is given annually to an individual who has exhibited selfless service to the United

States of America. Krzyzewski was recognized for his contributions as a strong supporter of national defense and those men and women who have served, or are now serving, to protect our freedom and liberty.

"His service exemplifies his unique and patriotic commitment to the highest American ideals," an AUSA official said.

wife, Paula.

Among his many activities, he was a long-time board member and past chairman (1989-91) of the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame. Check out the full article at: www.themichigancatholic.org.

**PERKOSKI'S NOTEBOOK.** Jerzy Wilim, a Polish striker who played for Szombierki Bytom, Gornik Zabrze and Stade Rennes, and was a member of the Poland national soccer team in the 1960s, died at 73 ...

Henryk Szczeptański a Polish soccer star who competed in the 1960 Summer Olympics, died at 81 ... Polish cyclist Lucjan Lis, who won a silver medal at the 1972 Summer Olympics as well as a bronze and a gold medal at the world championships in 1971 and 1973, respectively, died at 64 ... Polish fencer Ryszard Zub, who won silver in the team sabre events at the 1956 and 1960 Summer Olympics, died in Italy at the age of 80 ... Nicholas Stachowski of St. Francis High School in Athol Springs, N.Y. won his league's scholar athlete award presented by the WNY Amateur Football Alliance ... Missouri veteran defensive line coach Craig Kuligowski, named by Football Scoop as the 2014 national defensive line coach of the year, passed up a lucrative offer to become defensive coordinator at Illinois. Before coaching, the Southgate, Mich. native was an all-conference offensive tackle at Toledo ... Nancy Walczyk of Boston, N.Y. received the Helen Baker Award for distinguished service by the U.S. Bowling Congress.

**DEAD CENTER.** Madison Rutkowski, 15, of Boyertown, Penn., won her second title at the International Bowhunters Organization's world championships, held in Elliptonville, N.Y.

The IBO specializes in 3-D archery shooting, and for the second year in a row, Rutkowski won the youth female class against a worldwide field of other 13- to 18-year olds. Her score was 530, with 32 "X" out of 50 targets.

Earlier last year, Rutkowski won the women's open class at the 2014 Winter Cam Classic in Rochester, N.Y., and was second overall in the three-tournament IBO Triple Crown, which leads to the IBO

World Championships.

"Now I have to decide what to do," said Rutkowski, who also is an exceptionally talented softball player, competing throughout the summer on three softball teams, including a Berks County adult women's team. "Now I have to decide if I want to move up to the adult female class where competition is tougher or if I should stay in the youth female class."

**THEY SAID IT.** "Energy is not a matter of age, it's a matter of commitment to your position, to what you do. As long as I'm doing it, I'm gonna bring energy."

— Mike Krzyzewski, on having the energy to coach at age 67.

❖ ❖ ❖  
"We love Rob. Everything is about Rob right now."

— Tara Lipinski, covering pre-Super Bowl festivities for NBC Sports, on the star of Media Day, Rob Gronkowski.

❖ ❖ ❖  
"It's an unbelievable feeling. It's everything I expected plus more."

— Rob Gronkowski, on winning the Super Bowl with the New England Patriots. He had six catches for 68 yards and a touchdown.

❖ ❖ ❖  
"I just think he loves what he's doing. He has a great passion for it ... I think it's relationships, all the people he'd been able to coach and the impact he's had. I think he wants to continue to have that impact."

Bobby Hurley, on why his former coach at Duke, Mike Krzyzewski, is still coaching.

❖ ❖ ❖  
"I have never had an action figure, never had a bobblehead. It took me eight years to have my first action figure."

— Marcin Gortat, on the action figure (left) with his likeness that was given out at a recent Washington Wizards game. The game sold out.



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## RESTAURANT REVIEW / Geraldine Balut Coleman

## POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

## Podhalanka Reigns Supreme

Once again, **Podhalanka Restaurant** has the spotlight. During a Friday, February 6, broadcast, Steve Dolinsky, food reporter for ABCTV/Channel 7 Chicago, did a fantastic job in reviewing a restaurant whose food, in my opinion, gives warmth to the body and soul.

I've written twice before about **Pani Helena Majec** and her Podhalanka Restaurant. Yes, I have to admit it is one of my favorite restaurants and has excellent and authentic Polish meals at a very reasonable price. Here in Chicago, it is not hard to find homemade Polish dishes served at numerous Polish restaurants. And, yes, most of those restaurants are on the Northwest or Southwest Sides of Chicago and beyond. They all offer something that will satisfy every palette. But you cannot overlook the former bastion of the old Polish neighborhood, the "Polish Triangle" at the intersection of Milwaukee, Division, and Ashland. Nestled, almost inconspicuously on Division Street is, as Jamie Katz stated in his May 2009 *Smithsonian Magazine* article, "Chicago Eats," you'll discover the "holy grail" of ethnic restaurants in Chicago — Podhalanka.

Since we all differ on which Polish restaurants have the best pierogi and *naleśniki*, Dolinsky states that "You'll find some of the best pierogi and blintzes (*naleśniki*) in town" at Podhalanka.

As **Greg Jamka**, co-owner along with his aunt, **Helena Majec**, puts it, "In the early 80s, my uncle opened this place, he ran it for three years, then my aunt took over and

she's been here for 33 years."

You will find Helena back in the kitchen, frying the potato pancakes, preparing the *naleśniki*, and creating her well-known and delectable soups. I must admit that her *biały barszcz*, (white beet) aka *żurek*, and *zupa fasolowa* (navy bean) soups are more than outstanding; they are a soup lover's dream. Served with slices of rye bread with butter, Podhalanka's soup will do the trick for these cold winter days in Chicago. If you have a larger appetite, once again, I suggest the *pièce de résistance*, *zrąry wisprzowe zawijane* — rolled pork stuffed with carrots and celery.

For me, Podhalanka represents a step back in time. I first started to patronize Podhalanka years ago, when I was working on my doctoral dissertation and needed a culinary boost. This was the place. For me, the soups reigned supreme. Adding the restaurant's ambiance and conversations with Pani Majec was all I needed. There is no doubt that it's a step-back in time with its linoleum-tiled floor, vinyl tablecloths, a lunch counter and tables and chairs from the 1950s, along with *rozmaite rzeczy*, an array of Polish memorabilia hanging along one of its walls - with a television between them all. The photo of Saint Pope John Paul II reigns supreme at Podhalanka.

This restaurant is not to be missed for it is an unforgettable experience; it is a return to your Babcia's culinary delights and shades of days gone by. Podhalanka is located at **1549 W. Division Street, (773) 486-6655**.

## Old Polish Lenten Fare

Wielki Post (literally the Great Fast), or Lent, has traditionally been associated with religious exercises and self-mortification. That has included avoiding rich foods and cutting back on overall food intake. Some of the following traditional Lenten foods may be served at pre-Easter PolAm club and parish fish fries.

**FRIED FISH *Ryba smażona***. Rinse and pat dry 2 lbs fresh or thawed frozen fish fillets, salt lightly and refrigerate several hrs or overnight. Optional: fillets may be drizzled with lemon juice and smothered in sliced onions. Rinse and pat dry fillets, salt & pepper, roll in flour or 50-50 mixture of flour and plain bread crumbs. Fry in 1/2" hot oil to a nice golden brown on both sides. Drain on paper towel. You can give your fish fry a Polish flavor by serving the fish with boiled potatoes (not fries), sauerkraut salad (not cole slaw) and horseradish sauce (not tartar sauce).



**SAUERKRAUT SALAD. *Salatka z kiszzonej kapusty*** (above). Drain, lightly rinse and press out moisture from 1 qt sauerkraut. Chop coarsely. Add 1 large grated carrot, 1-2 chopped onions and 1 peeled, diced cooking apple. Toss, season with

some pepper, sugar and (optional) caraway seeds and drizzle with salad oil. For best results, refrigerate several hrs before serving.

**LENTEN CABBAGE ROLLS**

***Postne golqtki***. Scald cored head of cabbage in pot of boiling water and remove wilted leaves as usual. Fill with any of the following and roll up:

- **Mushroom & rice:** Dice 12-16 oz fresh white or Portobello mushrooms and fry up with 2 chopped onions in 3 T oil until tender. Combine with 4 c slightly underdone rice; stir in 1 egg and 1 T chopped fresh parsley and/or dill, and season with salt & pepper.
- **Rice & egg:** Combine 4 c undercooked rice, with 2 finely chopped onions fried golden tender in a little oil, 4-5 chopped hard-cooked eggs, 1 raw egg and 1 heaping T finely chopped fresh dill, and salt & pepper to taste.
- **Potato & onion:** Peel, cook and mash well 3 large potatoes and set aside. Grate 3 large peeled, raw potatoes and drain in sieve, collecting drippings. When drippings settle, pour off clear liquid and add whitish sediment at bottom (starch) to grated potatoes. Combine with mashed potatoes, add 2-3 chopped onion fried golden tender in a little oil, 1 egg and salt & pepper generously.

Fill cabbage rolls with filling of choice, roll up and place snugly in baking pan in no more than 2 layers. Drench with mushroom stock (1 mushroom bouillon cube dissolved

in 3 c water) and bake in preheated 350° oven 2 hrs. After switching off heat, leave in oven until cooled to room temp. Refrigerate and reheat as needed.

**MEATLESS KASHUBIAN POTATO SAUSAGE *Postna kiszka kaszubska***

In 1/4 c oil fry 2-3 chopped onions until tender and golden. Peel, rinse and grate 2-1/4 lbs potatoes into sieve and collect drippings. When drippings settle, pour off clear liquid and add whitish sediment at bottom (starch) to grated potatoes. To grated potatoes add fried onions, 2 heaping T flour & 1-2 beaten eggs. Season rather generously with salt, pepper and marjoram and mix well. Stuff hog casing with mixture loosely, because it will expand during cooking. Twist into links every 12-14". Bake in well-oiled baking pan in preheated 375° oven 90-100 min, turning over every 30 min to brown evenly on both sides. Serve hot from the oven or reheated with sour cream (or low-fat plain yogurt for dieters).

**POTATO PANCAKES *Placki kartoflane***

Peel, rinse and grate 2-1/4 lbs potatoes into sieve and collect drippings. When drippings settle, pour off clear liquid and add whitish sediment at bottom (starch) to grated potatoes. Add 1-2 grated onions, 1-2 eggs, 2 heaped T flour, salt & pepper and mix well. Spoon batter into hot oil, fry to a nice golden-brown on both sides and drain on paper towel. Hint: For placki that are crispy on the outside and fully cooked on the inside, press pancakes down with spatula in frying pan to make them rather thin.

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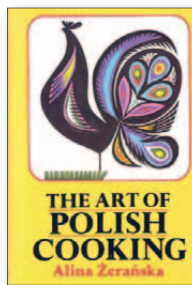
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## COOKBOOKS



**THE ART OF POLISH COOKING**  
By Alina Zeranska  
Pub. at \$22.95  
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Ethnic / Polish  
384 pp. 8 1/4 x 5 1/2

12 b/w illus. Index 2nd ptg.

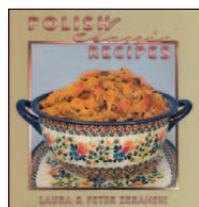
Reissued by Pelican Publ., *The Art of Polish Cooking*, contains 500 authentic recipes, complete with recipes for hors d'oeuvres, soups, entrees, vegetables, pastries, desserts, and beverages. Special holiday menus are also presented, along with charming descriptions of traditional Polish feasts and celebrations. Author Alina Zeranska provides easy-to-follow recipes for favorites like Cabbage Rolls, Chicken in Dill Sauce, Meat Pierogis, and Fruit Mazurka. Zeranska has translated these Polish recipes perfectly using exact American measurements.

**POLISH HERITAGE COOKERY**  
by Robert Strybel  
\$49.95  
h.c. 900 pp.  
7.25 x 9.50 in.  
Expanded Edition, ill. and full color photographs

"Polish Heritage Cookery is the best Polish cookbook printed in English on the market." — *Polish Cultural News*

A perennial bestseller, *Polish Heritage Cookery* is the most extensive and varied Polish cookbook ever published. More than 2,200 recipes use

easily available American ingredients and measurements. Modern Polish cuisine is a blend of hearty peasant dishes and more elegant gourmet fare, incorporating a broad cross-section of cultural influences. The book includes numerous cultural notes, historical accounts of Polish culinary traditions, and descriptive line drawings. Its expanded edition includes information on Polish products available in the United States, such as plum butter, honey mushrooms, and kielbasa, and their culinary uses.



**POLISH CLASSIC RECIPES**  
\$16.95  
by Laura and Peter Zeranski  
2011, 96 pp., h.c., index, 100 color photographs by Matthew Aron Roth

Designed for the modern kitchen yet retaining traditional roots, each heritage recipe in *Polish Classic Recipes* has been tested to perfection. Accompanied by notes on Polish holiday customs, history, and menu pairing suggestions, these dishes offer a flavorful sample of the Polish dining experience, as passed down from generation to generation.

**POLISH CLASSIC DESSERTS**  
\$16.95

By Laura and Peter Zeranski 2013. 96 pp. 8 1/2 x 8 1/2. Index. 100 color photos  
Organized by type and with titles in both Polish and English. From mazurkas and babas to pastries and beverages, these recipes are designed for the modern kitchen but retain their traditional roots. Each of the forty-five desserts are tested to perfection and paired with mouthwatering photographs and notes on Polish history and customs.

**POLISH HOLIDAY COOKERY**

\$24.95

by Robert Strybel

248 pp., hc., Hippocrene Bks.

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

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

**THE POLISH COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK**

\$16.95. by Sophie Knab

337 pp., pb., ill.

This popular cookbook by beloved Polish American author Sophie Hodorowicz Knab is now updated with a new section on Polish Feasts and Festivals! Knab combines recipes for favorite Polish foods with the history and cultural traditions that created them. Arranged according to the cycle of seasons, this cookbook explores life in the Polish countryside through the year, giving readers priceless historical information to common questions asked by descendants of Polish immigrants. Lovely illustrations by Elliott Hutten and pearls of practical wisdom from the old Polish kitchen marvelously complement this book. This title includes over 100 easy-to-follow recipes, and a detailed bibliography and resource guide.

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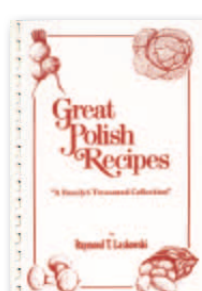
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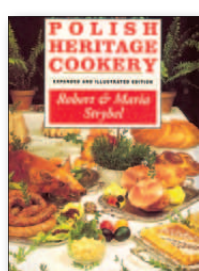
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8.5 x 5.5 in.

Published in 1980 and rediscovered this year, this is a collection of four generations of recipes from kitchens in Poland and the United States. Includes appetizers, soups, salads, vegetables, breads, noodles, sauces, stuffing, kielbasa, entrees, and desserts. Straight-forward, easy-to-follow recipes for beginners and experienced cooks alike.



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## BOOKS IN BRIEF / Mary Lanham

# Enduring the Pain of War

## SLICING THE BREAD

Children's Survival Manual in 25 Poems

by Maja Trochimczyk

Finishing Line Press, 2014, 28pp.

PO Box 1626

Georgetown, KY 40324

(859) 514-8966

Finishinglinepress.com

Maja Trochimczyk pulls no punches with *Slicing the Bread*, a volume of 25 poems about the suffering and perseverance of Poles during the Second World War and The Cold War.

This book of poetry was created in response to World War II and subsequently The Cold War. Heinous crimes were perpetrated against huge numbers of people, by the orders of ruthless dictators. Millions died and those that survived are haunted by the past. In these brief poems — no more than one page each — Trochimczyk paints tiny portraits of these survivors and their children. Some of these survivors cannot give up the habits they learned to survive, such as hoarding food, making sure not one bit goes to waste. They seek to instill these habits onto their children. In the titular poem, a mother tells her child that, “war is hunger.” She stashes enough paper bags of sliced bread in her kitchen for a month. In another poem, “How to Walk” a mother warns her child to always be on the lookout for the enemy; to be ever vigilant.

Like a farmer, Trochimczyk gathered up her own memories, oral histories of her family and oral testimonials from documentary films like seeds and planted them in her fertile mind. She carefully cultivated the seedlings until they blossomed into starkly vivid and lyrical works of art for us to take notice and



always remember.

*Slicing the Bread: Children's Survival Manual in 25 Poems* by Maja Trochimczyk is available at Amazon.com and finishinglinepress.com.

**About the author:** Maja Trochimczyk was born in Poland and educated in Warsaw and Montreal where she earned her Ph.D. from McGill University. Not only is Dr. Trochimczyk a prolific poet having published two volumes of poems and two poetry anthologies, she is a music historian as well. Maja has taught music history at McGill University and the University of Southern California and has published four books on the subject. Many of her Polish and English articles and poems have been translated into German, French, Chinese, and Spanish. Maja Trochimczyk currently lives in California where she serves as President of Moonrise Press and is the Communications Director for the Polish American Historical Association. More information about Dr. Trochimczyk and her publications are available on her website, trochimczyk.net.

## PATHS OF HEARTS

By C. Heart

Xlibris, 2011, 113 pps.

1663 Liberty Drive

Suite 200

Bloomington, IN 47403

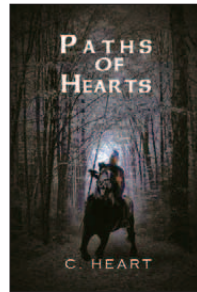
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Xlibris.com

Poetry and prose intermingle in *Paths of Hearts* by C. Heart. Presented in two parts, Heart combines his own life experiences as well as the experiences of his family and friends with that of fictional stories. In the first part, Heart examines in two short vignettes and several poems, the role of cats in his life. The second part of the volume touches on the experiences of friends and family who survived World War II. One particular story recounts briefly the life of a Polish woman who was exiled to Siberia. Sometimes quirky, sometimes serious, *Paths of Hearts* skillfully balances these two counterpoints which makes for an interesting read.

*Paths of Hearts* by C. Heart is available at Amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, and bookstore.xlibris.com.

**About the author:** C. Heart was born in Poland and raised during the communist oppression. His parents, as part of the Underground Army, fought the Nazis during World War II. In 1974, he moved to the United States where he married and settled down. He has held a variety of positions, including his most recent profession as a landscaper and gardener. C. Heart now lives in Virginia with his wife.



## NEW BOOKS

# New Renee Lukas Novel Explores Perspectives on Gay Culture

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Renee J. Lukas, daughter of renowned author and historian Richard C. Lukas, has released her debut novel, *The Comfortable Shoes Diaries* (Bella Books, 2015). Her father, Dr. Lukas, is the author of eight books on the Polish experience during World War II, including *The Forgotten Holocaust*, which has had numerous printings.

Like her father, Renee is also a published author, writing fiction with diverse, humorous characters and a story that comments on current social issues, including gay marriage. Her first novel, *The Comfortable Shoes Diaries*, is a lesbian romantic comedy that explores different perspectives on gay culture and — at the same time — finds humor in the darkest situations, such as job loss and bankruptcy. The novel tells the story of Sydney Gray, a neurotic writer, who loses everything — her job, home, and long-term relationship. How she's able to pick herself up and find happiness again is a real mystery, especially since she's determined to fail at everything.

Whether gay or straight, readers will find many universal themes to relate to in this story of heartbreak and loss, then hope. Most of all, the novel is about accepting detours that life throws our way, and eventually seeing the positive in what appears to be a negative situation. Like her father, Renee is very interested in stories about disenfranchised groups and the injustices they often face. At the same time, she enjoys telling these stories with a comedic twist.

Renee was born and raised in Tennessee, along with her older sister, Jennifer. It was her dream to be-



come a published author. As a child, she would sneak into her father's study when he wasn't there and use his typewriter. Most of the time, she didn't get beyond “Chapter One.” But her parents encouraged her to express herself on the page, and one Christmas, got her a typewriter of her own. She used it to create her own magazine dedicated to family events.

Renee graduated with a B.A. in Motion Picture History, Theory, and Criticism from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. While there, she studied the craft of storytelling for the screen and fell in love with screenwriting. She now teaches The Basics of Screenwriting for an adult education class. She has many more novels up her sleeve as well, and looks forward to the beginning of what she hopes will be a long writing career. She now lives in Massachusetts with her partner and two stepsons.

# A Man of Letters

Retired Mailman  
Pens a Memoir of  
His Beloved City

by Kevin Riordan

Philadelphia Inquirer

HADDON HEIGHTS, N.J. — All the guys who hung out at 10th and Lowell in Whitman Park had nicknames. There were Moose, Winky, Dickie Doo — and a wiry fellow they called Muscles.

“That’s because I didn’t have any,” explains Stan Bednarczyk, who’s written and published *My Wagging Tail*, a detailed, deeply felt memoir about a Camden corner boy, the neighborhood he loved, and the man he became.

The author, now 81, grew up the youngest of five children of an immigrant Polish couple who spoke little English. He was shy, and he loved baseball, movies, and music, as well as Poznan Baking Co. pumpernickel, St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, and the sports columnists in the *Evening Bulletin*.

Bednarczyk and his wife, Connie — married 56 years — are my neighbors in Haddon Heights, which is how I learned of *My Wagging Tail*. The book is available through Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com. About that wry title, more in a moment.

During his 33-year career as a Camden letter carrier, Bednarczyk took a writing course at Camden County College in Blackwood. His byline occasionally appeared in the weekly *Camden County Record* and the *Polish American Journal*.

But a decade ago, after Bednarczyk was diagnosed with cancer, what he called his “scribbling” took on a certain urgency.

“I didn’t know how many years I had left,” he says. “I started writing on loose-leaf ... and the stories just flowed, one after another.”

Like the memoir’s opening chapter, which describes Bednarczyk’s 1953 return to the rowhouse at 949 Jackson St. as an Army corporal freshly discharged after a tour of duty in Korea and Japan.

He was accustomed to exchanging manly handshakes with his father, Jozef, who surprised his son by welcoming home the soldier with “a long, emotional hug; my cheek rubbing against the sandpaper stubble of his face,” Bednarczyk writes. “It was ... the only time he showed that kind of sentiment.”

The book covers the first 22 years of the author’s life and includes a number of evocative scenes: Bednarczyk’s mother, Katarzyna, playing baseball with him in her house dress; his confrontation with a nun at St. Joseph’s High School; his re-



**STAN BEDNARCZYK**, a frequent contributor to the *Polish American Journal*, has published *My Wagging Tail*, a volume of his memories about Camden, N.J.

alization that a clerk to whom he was bragging about Korea had lost an arm in World War II.

“I hadn’t even seen any action,” Bednarczyk says.

Though the Army chapters are well done, the author’s rendering of pre- and postwar Camden — roaring industries, lively ethnic neighborhoods, safe streets — is the book’s most powerful element.

“I was hanging out by our corner candy store, and I heard a car beep to me,” Bednarczyk writes, setting a scene involving “Jersey Joe” Walcott, Camden’s own heavyweight boxing champ.

“I turned around, and there he was, a beaming Jersey Joe in his tan Cadillac with a miniature crown and JJ#1 on the license plates, waving to me as he drove by.”

He also describes the dozens of businesses that lined the “Polish Boardwalk,” Mount Ephraim Avenue, where couples stopped at the Dainty Sweet Shop and kids went to matinees at the Liberty Theater.

Later, Bednarczyk writes, he and the rest of his corner crew wore suits and ties — their dates wore dresses and high heels — for Saturday-night movies at the elegant Savar Theater downtown. That is, when they weren’t going to dances at the Polish American Citizens Club, a neighborhood hot spot.

Eventually, the corner gang got jobs and steady girlfriends; Bednarczyk and Connie were married in 1958. They moved to Audubon the following year, and have two grown daughters and three grandchildren.

Connie, 77, typed up the book on the computer from her husband’s longhand. Her cousin Tom Weiss of Cherry Hill helped with the editing.

“This is a legacy Stan has wanted to leave for his family,” Connie says. “And he’s finally had the chance to do it.”

As for the title, Bednarczyk says he grew up trying to please people but slowly grew to understand he

needed to be more assertive and less like a friendly pooch. “I realized I was chasing my own tail,” he laughs.

Bednarczyk credits Connie (“the best thing that ever happened to me”), family, and faith with sustaining him throughout his struggle with cancer.

He hopes to be around for Pope Francis’ visit to Philadelphia next September, and he hopes people will read his book.

“I can’t believe I did it,” the author says. “I’m very proud of it.”

He should be. It’s a story well told — of a life well lived.

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## TRAVELOGUE – 5 Days in Poland / Staś Kmieć

## The Royal Route leads to a Royal Find

Part XII

continued from last month

Moving onto ul. Świętojańska, I see a new window display at the number seven location – a fine array of classic old-style food products and a book of Old-World cuisine, *Historia Polskiego Smaku*. I had to have this book, so I wandered in, past the doorway, and down a short corridor enclosed by slabs of stone to reach the shop – *Klasyka Smaku*, a sort of Health Food Store specializing in the tastes of real Poland.

Greeted by the proprietor Joanna Gولاتowska, I promptly inquired about the book I saw in the store front. She informed me that the book was not on sale here, but could be found at one of the popular bookstore chains. Getting ready to depart, I was taken in by some of the unique products and then was promptly treated to a tour of the quaint shop's offerings, along with an extensive explanation of the many delicacies and their origins. The Royal Route led me to what was indeed a royal find! From its traditional origins in an archaic Poland, I had found

something new and intriguing – it was mesmerizing. As a “walking encyclopedia,” Joanna led me on an historical epicurean excursion.

If you are looking for products prepared according to old, original recipes, without artificial additives, and beautifully packed this place is the place to go. “The food is a journey to discover culture, traditions and flavors,” says Joanna.

There are marinated mushrooms, dried mushrooms; additives for meat: blueberry, cranberry, blackthorn (*tarnina*), rowan (*jarzębina*), red pepper paste and green walnut; accessories for tea: jam with sea buckthorn (*rokitnika*), rowan, and quince.

Jams of damson (*mirabelki*), rhubarb, and gooseberries, and green tomato preserves made by a religious order of nuns, a preparations of cherries with *nalewka*, or rum, blackberry with egg liqueur, and berries in Żubrowka stand in an ordered arrangement on the shelves.

In the Tea section, there is an assortment of quince and safflower flower, sea buckthorn (*rokitnika*), cranberry, plum, raspberry, rose,

lemon balm, nettle, along with packages of linden flower, chamomile, rose, and coffee acorn, mint leaf, and nettle. Dried Fruit packages of mulberry, dogwood, rowan, hawthorn (*głóg*) are available.

In the sweets sections there are *szkloki* and *kopalnioki* (hard candies of rhubarb, plums, or aniseed from Śląsk); *oblaty* (sweets from vanilla, cinnamon, and even garlic, onion; and pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds, peanuts, sesame in caramel. Traditional cakes are available: *Sękacz* tree cakes and *Mrowiska Mazurskie* – an beautiful “anthill” cake made of a very thin and irregularly fried *chrust/faworki*, which are arranged in the shape of the mound and topped with a honey-lemon icing. In addition, it is sprinkled with flakes, raisins, cranberries, and poppy seeds. It was formerly made only in the houses of Bishops and only on special occasions. Over the years, it was prepared for weddings, christenings and other holidays, and has now become a delicacy commonly available in Sejneńszczyzna.

Another delicacy comes from the mansions of Wilno made with roasted apples; it has survived to this day in the mountains by the nuns of the Świętokrzyskie Holy Cross Mountains. Chocolate Plums, *opatowska* (cow milk fudge), *raczki*, *kukulki*, *michalki*, *cukierki ślazowe*, marzipan cakes and the Toruń gingerbread *piernik* will also entice one's “sweet tooth.”

The fruit and vegetable juic-



Jams of damson (*mirabelki*), rhubarb, and gooseberries, and green tomato preserves made by a religious order of nuns, and preparations of cherries with *nalewka*, or rum, blackberry with egg liqueur, and berries in Żubrowka stand in an ordered arrangement on the shelves.

es of rhubarb, chokeberry (*aronia*), blackberry, red currant (*czerwona porzeczka*), and beet are pressed directly from the fruit, with no additives. Other drinks include bread *kwass* and *podpiwek* – a dark colored drink of sweet taste that contains a small amount of alcohol and is considered more of a soft drink. It is created by pouring hot water over malt flour; adding yeast and then storing it in a sealed vessel to allow fermentation. This “fizzy” refreshing drink achieves a delicate bitterness. At home it can be made with roasted coffee grain, dried hops, yeast, water and sugar. *Miodolada* – a drink made of rapeseed honey from beehives in Pachniczówka with and fruit juices, is a natural, non-alcoholic beverage without

sugar. Unique flavors in cooking can be achieved with rapeseed oil (*olej rzepakowy*) from the Św. Wawrzyńca mountains), or linseed oil from Sister Margaret Chmielewska of the community organization “Chleb Życia” (Bread of Life).

In the alcohol section there is a honey beer from an original XV century recipe brewed with wort (*brzezki miodowej*) instead of malt; natural ciders, mead (*miód pitny*) bottled in stoneware; grape wines from the Świdnicka Vineyard; Benedictine *nalewka*, cherries in liqueur, chocolate Wedel liqueur, *Żubrówka*, *Śliwowica Łącka*, and *Spirytus* (95%).

Next: More to Polish cuisine than dumplings and pork schab.

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## Gorecki Scholarship Applications Being Accepted

CHICAGO — The Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation is formally announcing that it is accepting applications for the Richard Gorecki Scholarship for this year. The amount of scholarships will be between \$500.00 and \$1,000.00 as determined by the Scholarship Committee.

To be eligible, the applicant must be a U.S. citizen and of Polish ancestry. Applicant must be a full time student enrolled as a sophomore,

junior, senior or post-graduate in an accredited undergraduate or graduate program at a college or university, with a minimum GPA of 3.0 out of 4.0. Applicant must be a member of their local Polish American Congress Division or if none in their area, then a member thru the National PAC.

To apply, you must: complete a PACCF Scholarship application; submit a resume, including name and relationship to you of the near-

est family member(s) from whom you ascribe your Polish ancestry and a description of your academic and career goals; submit a most recent transcript, including an original certified copy of your GPA; and a description of your personal involvement in the community.

Applications can be obtained at www.paccf.org, emailing to paccf@paccf.org, or by phone at (773) 763-9942. Deadline to apply is April 15, 2015.

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## GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

## My Ancestors: Peasants or Nobles?

My Polish grandparents talked very little of their early life in Poland. The few times they did, the stories described a hard life on their family farms. This gave me the impression that my ancestors were peasants. When I found the baptismal records for their parents and grandparents I was surprised to see that they were of "royal birth."

The *Słownik Geograficzny*, which was published about 1880, listed that the gmina where my grandfather lived was inhabited by poor nobles. The population was listed as 3,900 people and consisted of 800 Jews, 600 common people and 2,500 poor nobles.

How could my ancestors be nobility and still be poor farmers? A recent article by *Iwona Dakiewicz* helped explain what happened to my ancestors and many more of the nobility. Iwona's article was titled *Time for Nobles* and appeared in the February 2015 edition of the *Rodziny* published by the Polish Genealogical Society of America.

Iwona explained that all of the children of the nobles had an equal right to inherit the property. The sons received equal parts of the land and the daughters received dowries. This caused rapid subdivision of large estates. If the farm became too small, the landowner had to work the land himself because he could not afford to support serfs or pay laborers. Thus the class of minor nobles (*zaściankowa*) was born from the heirs who owned small farms but whose ancestors were brought up on large manor estates (*folwarks*) and had

lived privileged lives. Their heirs could not enjoy the right of inheriting equally. After the estates were reduced to sizes that could barely support one family, the laws were changed to giving the right to inherit to only the oldest son.

Iwona's article also explains that the adjective *zaściankowy* comes from *za*, "behind" and *ściana*, "wall." This describes the idea that the minor nobles were impoverished and working their own fields but seemed to stand behind an invisible wall that continued to separate them from the peasants who lived nearby.

The mass exodus of the farm laborers from the Polish countryside between 1870 and 1920 was due to their poor living conditions and they resolved to leave in an attempt to make their lives better. They were not caught up in "America fever" but felt they needed to emigrate in order to find a place that could improve their living conditions. This wave of emigration is often called *za chlebem* or "for bread." Peasants were not the only class of Polish people included in this wave. It also included many of the children of minor nobles who did not have the right to inherit and had to emigrate to find opportunities for themselves.

The majority of Polish Americans are descendants of Poles who arrived after 1850. It is estimated that more than two million Poles had immigrated by the 1920s. Today, there are over 10 million Americans of Polish descent in the United States. Learn more about your Polish ancestors and enjoy your heritage.

## POLISH CAN BE FUN! / Robert Strybel

## Pytania i Odpowiedzi — Questions and Answers

In Polish and any other language most conversations revolve around questions and answers. The most basic are things like "How are you?" (*Jak się masz?*) or "How's it going?" (*Jak leci?* or *Jak idzie?*) Typical replies include "OK", "fine" (*dobrze*), "not bad" (*nieźle*), "so so" (*tak sobie*) or even "lousy" (*kiepsko*).

Other questions can be asked by simply prefacing a statement with the question-word *czy*. For example: *Ona ma psa.* (She has a dog). If we add a *czy* and say *Czy ona ma psa?* we have asked: Does she have a dog?

A few more examples:  
To jest kościół (This is a church)  
— *Czy to jest kościół?* (Is this a church?)

Anna jest z Kanady (Anne is from Canada) — *Czy Anna jest z Kanady?* (Is Anne from Canada?)

As you can see, English simply inverts the subject and verb to form a question as in: He was famous — Was he famous? In Polish we would

say: *On był sławny* and ask: *Czy on był sławny?* Polish uses the handy question word *czy* to request a simple yes or no answer. But there are many other question-words.

Here are the most common with examples showing how they are used:

- **CO (what):** *Co tu się dzieje?* (What's going on here?)
- **KTO (who):** *Kto rozlał mleko i stłukł stary wazon babci?* (Who spilled the milk and smashed grandma's old vase?)
- **KIEDY (when):** *Kiedy on wreszcie przyjdzie? Nie mogę już dłużej czekać.* (When will he finally get here? I can't wait any longer.)
- **GDZIE (where):** *Gdzie ona znalazła tak głupiego męża?* (Where did she find such a stupid husband?)
- **JAK (how):** *Jak on to zrobił? To było bardzo trudne.* (How did he do it? It was very difficult.)
- **ILE (how much or many):** *Ile*

*kosztuje mały samochód taki jak Chevrolet Aveo? (How much does a small car like a Chevy Aveo cost?) Ile ona ma lat (How old is she?)*

*Note: Jaka ona jest stara?* is an Anglo-Germanism which should be avoided in proper Polish!

If you feel ambitious, try to formulate at least two Polish sentences for each of the question words given above. Use the vocabulary you have learned in Polish Can Be Fun so far or words you remember from childhood.

## WORDS OF WISDOM

Kto pyta nie błądzi!

P.S. Reader input is most appreciated. If you have any questions, remarks or suggestions, please feel free to email them to: [strybel@interia.pl](mailto:strybel@interia.pl) or airmail them to: Robert Strybel / ul. Kaniowska 24 / 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

## SURNAME CORNER

## What Does Your Last Name Mean?

by Robert Strybel

A large group of Polish last names were derived from place-names: *Puchalski* was "the guy from Puchały (Snifferville), *KAMIŃSKI* came from Kamień (Rockton). *NOWAK* was "the new guy in town". Surname's ending in "-ak" and "-wicz" were of patronymic origin indicating who one's father was. *STASIAK* was the son of Staś, and *KLI-MOWICZ'S* dad was known as Klim or Klimek.

Other surnames pointed to different traits: *GARBACKI* (hunchbacked); *KULEJ* (limpy) and *BIEGAŁA* (a runner). Still others reflected the tools, crops, animals or situations people were associated with: *ŁOPATA* (spade); *ŚWIDER* (drill); *KOGUT* (rooster); *WRÓBEL* (sparrow); *CHMIEL* (hops); *STĘPIEN* (married into money) and *NIEDZIELA* (born on Sunday).

If interested in finding out what your Polish surname means, how it originated, how many people use it, where your namesakes live and whether a coat of arms ever accompanied the name, please airmail a \$19 personal or bank check or money order to: Robert Strybel / ul. Kaniowska 24 / 01-529 Warsaw / Poland.

## Upcoming Free Polish Genealogy Presentations

**MARCH 7. FINDING THE FAMILY:** Problems, Successes & Rewards (Tim Firkowski) and **POLISH TRADITIONS CUSTOMS and SUPERSTITIONS** (Aleksandra Kacprzak). 10:00 am - Noon. Kennebunk Free Library, 112 Main Street, Kennebunk, ME 04043. Details: [kennebunklibrary.org](http://kennebunklibrary.org)

**MARCH 14. POLISH GENEALOGY – DIGITAL STYLE** with Aleksandra Kacprzak and Prof. Jonathan Shea. 1:00 p.m. at the Polish American Foundation, 27 Grove Hill, New Britain, CT. Details: [www.paf-ct.org](http://www.paf-ct.org)

**MARCH 16. GENEALOGY RESEARCH – MY GALICIAN-LEMKO ROOTS**, research in Polish State Archives and more with Aleksandra Kacprzak. 6:30 p.m. at the Polish American Foundation, 27 Grove Hill, New Britain, Conn. Details: [www.paf-ct.org](http://www.paf-ct.org).

**MARCH 21. MY GALICIAN-LEMKO ROOTS.** Part 1. State Archives resources. Part 2. Tracing the past with Aleksandra Kacprzak. 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at The Ukrainian Historical and Educational Center of NJ, 135 Davidson Avenue, Somerset, NJ 08873. Details: [ukrhec.org](http://ukrhec.org).

## DID YOU KNOW?

Although known in Polish as "palmy" or "palemki" (palms), what Poles have blessed in church on Palm Sunday are pussywillows interspersed with boxwood or other evergreen sprigs or rod-type wild-flower bouquets.

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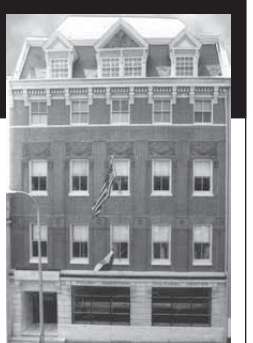
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## AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

## CONNECTICUT

NEW BRITAIN — The S. A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish Studies announces The Fiedorczyk Lecture entitled “**The Most Dangerous German Agent in America**,” a book launch for M.B.B. Biskupski’s just released volume.

The event will be held Thurs., March 12, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in Founders Hall, located in Davidson Building, CCSU.

According to British Intelligence in World War I, the most dangerous man working for the Germans in the United States was a Pole-named Ludwik Hammerling. He was an immigrant from Austrian Galicia and a self-made millionaire, a powerful figure among all immigrants in America, and almost certainly a crook. Soon thereafter he returned to post-war Poland and became a Senator of the Republic of Poland and a powerful one at that.

Mysterious, often investigated, and accused of countless crimes, Hammerling led an astoundingly adventurous life.

This book, which will be available to purchase in signed copy form, has just been released to the marketplace.

Admission is free and the public is cordially invited. A reception will follow the lecture. For further information please contact the Polish Studies program at (860) 832-3010 or jacquesm@ccsu.edu. Public parking available in campus garages.

## ILLINOIS

CHICAGO — The public is invited to celebrate **Pulaski Day**, Mon., March 2, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. in the Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall of The Polish Museum of America (PMA), 984 N. Milwaukee Ave. A short program will take place with elected officials, as well as leaders of Polonia, and will conclude with an official wreath laying ceremony at Stefan Batowski’s painting of Pulaski at Savannah. Admission is free.

Refreshments will be served following the official program in the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America Social Hall on the first floor. Free parking. Additional information may be found on the PMA website [www.polishmuseumofamerica.org](http://www.polishmuseumofamerica.org).

## MINNESOTA

ST. PAUL, Minn. — On March 7, 2015, Edziu Rajtar will present “**The Beautiful Roots of Your Polish Ancestors**,” which will demonstrate and interpret the meanings behind the Polish folk dances and dress of several regions of Poland. Rajtar has been a beloved leading figure in the Twin Cities community for several decades in preserving and promoting our Polish culture. Now splitting



**RETIRES FROM BUFFALO POLICE.** Allan A. Kasprzak has retired following a 37-year career with the Buffalo Police Department. His tenure with the department included eight years of services as a K-9 officer, five years with the Traffic Division, and twelve years heading the Hit and Run Office.

Among his other activities, he is a member of the board of the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame. He is also the mayor of the village of East Aurora, N.Y.

For his retirement, he was presented with a steel plaque that featured a large Polish eagle and a replica of his badge.

his time between Poland and the Twin Cities area, he has been the leading force behind Dolina, the Polish cultural dance group and its younger dance teams. He is also the primary leader responsible for bringing the very successful annual summer Polish Festival back to Minneapolis.

The event will be held from 10:00 a.m.-noon at the Minnesota Genealogical Society, fourth floor board room, 1185 N. Concord St.

## NEW YORK

NEW YORK — The Polish brand **Katie Baby** from Lodz Province was selected for the prestigious fashion fair “ENK Children’s Club.” The show will take place at the Jacob Javits Center, March 1-3.

It is a huge success for the Polish company. Katie Baby is a children’s fashion brand offering high-quality clothing. Founded in 2009 as a continuation of a family tradition started in 1989, the company’s brand has already exhibited in Russia, China and Brazil.

“ENK Children’s Club” is an international exhibition featuring all categories of kid’s clothing, starting from newborn to age 12. It is an excellent opportunity to see designers, producers and boutiques from the baby products industry. Children’s Club is held four times a year in NYC in January, March, August, and October.

To attend an ENK event, you can begin the registration process by choosing a show. The contact is via e-mail [buyer@enkshows.com](mailto:buyer@enkshows.com) or by calling (310) 857-7316, 8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. PST).

TONAWANDA — St. Francis of Assisi Church will hold its annual **Polish Fest**, Sat., April 25, 2015 at the Adam Street Hall, 70 Adam St., from 6:00-9:00 p.m. A Polish folk mass will be held at the church at 4:30 p.m. The festival features homemade Polish food, Joe Macielag’s Orchestra, and the Harmony Folk Dancers. Call Dottie at (716) 694-0026 with any questions.

BUFFALO — Branch 630 of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association recently awarded Tuition Assistance Grants to four area students: **Leandra Hoeglmeier, Angela Staszak, Alexandra Hoeglmeier, and Ryan Sobczak**. FCSLA is a national fraternal benefit society headquartered in Cleveland. A Buffalo chapter was established in 2012.

## PENNSYLVANIA

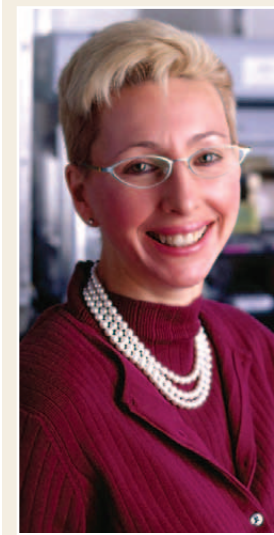
JOHNSTOWN — Military medals earned in Vietnam were presented to two former soldiers. **Ronald Krupa**, an Army veteran, received six decorations, including the National Defense Service Medal. **Eugene Migut**, also an Army veteran who died in 2012, earned a Purple Heart. Krupa never received the honors due him. Migut buried his medals with a pet because “he wanted to forget about Vietnam,” said his son Michael. The medals were passed out by U.S. Rep. Keith Rothfus, R-Sewickley, during a ceremony at the South Fork VFW Post 7524.

JOHNSTOWN — **Edwin and Rosemary Pawlowski** who have been instrumental in contributing to the well-being and growth of Johnstown’s arts community, were inducted into the Artists Hall of Fame. The husband and wife have been engaged in art projects in the region separately, collectively and collaboratively for many years.

“They have done so much artistically for this community and Bottle Works,” said Bottle Works Ethnic Arts Center Executive Director Angela Rizzo, who was named to the position following Rosemary Pawlowski’s retirement in 2013.

“They are quite the team, and we want to thank and honor them for all they have done.”

## Nowak Named Executive Director of Bioinformatics and Life Sciences Center



BUFFALO, N.Y. — Norma Jean Nowak, Ph.D., a renowned research scientist, educator, collaborator and entrepreneur, has been named executive director of the University at Buffalo’s New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences (CBLIS).

**NOWAK.** Professor is pioneer in the field of human genomics.

Nowak has been a part of the center’s success since its inception. In 2003, she was named director of science and technology at CBLIS, where she has been a catalyst for innovation and evolution that improves health care for patients.

Nowak brings years of experience in both research and business to CBLIS, which houses UB faculty investigators and life sciences companies under one roof in its downtown facility. The center supports economic development in the region by supporting entrepreneurship in high-tech fields and connecting industry with university resources.

In addition to her role at CBLIS, Nowak is a professor of biochemistry at UB and founder and chief scientific officer of Empire Genomics LLC, a molecular diagnostics company focused on enabling personalized medicine.

She is a pioneer in the field of human genomics. Her research contributed directly to the Human Genome Project, as well as to genomic-based approaches to understanding heritable disorders and cancer.

Nowak and her team are developing approaches to understanding the information encoded by the genome and using that information to improve patient care. Investigating the complexities of the genome can aid not only in disease treatment, but in prevention as well.

Nowak was instrumental in obtaining more than \$70 million in funding for research and infrastructure; she has authored and co-authored 144 research articles.

## POLAND AND WORLD WAR I / Martin Nowak

## The Polish Countryside

In any war, cities are the main targets of enemy forces because in them are concentrated people, business, industry, wealth and government. The destruction and/or occupation of large population centers is the most important objective of any invading army.

In the Great War, the conquest of Polish cities in the Russian controlled Congress Kingdom of Poland was accomplished by Germany and Austria-Hungary by September 1915. Most cities were taken with only a modest amount of damage done because the Russians typically evacuated them in order to form a stronger defensive position further eastward. But by late 1915 this had resulted in German-Austrian occupation of the whole of Russian Poland up to a north-south line running several miles to the east of Wilno, Brześć-Litewski and Lwów.

The taking of Polish cities did not happen as isolated events. The opposing armies were continuously advancing, retreating and positioning themselves across the Polish countryside in order to attack or defend those cities. As such, farms, villages and forests and their inhabitants suffered greatly. Anything caught in the path of an army was often completely destroyed.

The introduction of modern industrial warfare killed and wounded millions of soldiers and its victims also included hundreds

of thousands of civilians, their homes and property. The firing of thousands of rounds of artillery shells left the countryside looking as though it had been struck by massive hurricanes and tornadoes. Huge tracts of woodlands were reduced to muddy fields of splintered tree trunks, devoid of wildlife. Farms and villages that got in the way were often wiped out of existence.

The approach of fighting forces usually drove civilian refugees to hit the road to escape the battles. The scene of Polish peasant families heading down dirt roads carrying essentials in a horse drawn cart, or sometimes little more than themselves, was typical during the war. They sometimes headed for the relative safety of the cities but often camped out in the countryside, in forests, often in trenches, sometimes in the cellars of burnt-out houses, hoping that the death and destruction would pass them by. The number of Poles so affected was about two to three million.

Various accounts were written about the plight of the villagers and rural Poles during the war and from them one gets a general sense of what they went through.

Picture a dirt road with a dozen or so peasant cottages along one side, and twenty or so across from them. They are surrounded by fields which the Polish men, women and children work, and a few cattle and sheep graze

nearby. Perhaps a small wooden church and a cemetery are just down the road a piece. It is just such places and the nearby forests that were so terribly affected by the war.

The skies rumble in the distance and during the night bursts of light accompany this thunder. It is not the thunder of nature’s rain-storm, but the man-made noise of death and destruction – the war is approaching this little ramshackle village. The residents must decide – stay put and hope the battle leaves them alone, or flee for safety. Those who stay risk dying in their own homes from indiscriminate shelling or ruthless soldiers intent on stealing, destroying and violating everything in their path.

Usually, the Poles chose to leave. They either headed for the perceived safety of the cities or for the forests as far from the fighting as they could get.

The pathetic road scene featured carts drawn by one or two horses, driven by the father or oldest child, with the mother sitting atop a pile

of belongings tending to the smaller children. Cows, geese or pigs were driven along the roadside. In some places, such refugees stretched for ten or twenty miles and stayed on the road for a month, their destinations and futures uncertain. Incredibly, the Red Cross reportedly provided some free food and drink to these people at certain points along the way.

As can be surmised, all this anguish, stress, lack of shelter and shortages of food took a terrible toll on the refugees. Though mostly acting in a stoic manner, their heartache can only be imagined. Many of them died on these treks, particularly the very young and very old, and they were buried along the roadsides, their graves marked with lonely rough wooden crosses.

*Next month: In the Path of the War*

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TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zatkiewicz-Dramczyk

## Hope of Spring Lightens Winter Woes

TOLEDO — Think spring! Someone told me the other day that we are past the halfway mark through winter. Let's hope the warm weather gets here quickly, because warm weather brings my favorite outdoor events and activities.

I was looking forward to the Golec concert at Sweetest Heart of Mary Church in Detroit February 1st, but Mother Nature had other plans. With up to a foot of snow plastering three or four states across the Midwest all day Sunday, no one ventured north from T-town. Until the next time they tour the United States, I'll have to listen to Golec on the Internet. From all reports, the event was successful.

**UPCOMING.** The International Music Association (IMA) announced its full 2015 schedule earlier this year, and it is impressive:

I have heard a lot of great things about **Box On**; they will play the April dance on the 26th at Conn-Weissenberger Hall. Rick and Alicia Vinecki and their six talented children are certain to please the crowd.

IMA also announced that **Henny**

& the **Versa Js** will play Sept 13; **John Gora & Gorale**, Oct. 25; **DynaBrass**, Nov. 8; and Christmas with **Duane Malinowski** will be held Dec 6. All IMA dances are held on Sundays, with doors open at 12:30, lunch at 1:00 p.m., and music from 2:00-6:00 p.m.

**LAGRINKA NEWS.** From time to time, I've written about a landmark in the LaGrinka neighborhood, and the efforts of various groups to keep this landmark from the wrecking ball. The demise was nearly a reality just a few years ago, but thanks to some grant funding and the hard work of the staff at United North, the Ohio Theatre continues to make a comeback in the neighborhood.

The current Mission Statement as it is written on the website reads: "The historic Ohio Theatre and Event Center will provide access to the arts for low to moderate income residents of the surrounding community, preserve a cultural icon by providing social and artistic programming for the region, and serve as a catalyst for business district revitalization along the Lagrange

Street commercial corridor."

A short schedule of the events being held there this spring includes an "Echoes of Poland" concert, March 8; "Spoken: An Evening of Toledo Stories," March 12; and the Toledo Symphony Brass Ensemble, April 19, with more events planned in the summer and fall. For more information go to the Ohio Theatre website.

**BISKUP BENEFIT.** Ron and Sue Biskup are excited to announce that the 9th annual Gift of Life Polka Benefit in honor of Lisa Marie Biskup is coming up April 25. This year, Ron and Sue have planned a line up that is sure to get people talking.

The Krew Brothers from Buffalo, N.Y., The Boys from Maryland, and as an added attraction Accordions A Go-Go, featuring the talents of Richie Bernier, Randy Krajewski, Eric Hite, Jimmy Mackiewicz Jr, Eddie Siwiec, and Matt Gury. Special guest is Mitch Biskup.

The PRCUA Hall, located at 1430 Oak Street in Wyandotte, will host the dance, as it has for the past eight years. The donation this year is \$20.00 with kids 13 and under free. This event draws people from throughout the Midwest and the East Coast, and is not to be missed.

**IN SYMPATHY.** Another Toledo polka supporter has passed away: **Dolores Ziemianski**, who was a founding member and former secretary and treasurer of Toledo Area Polka Society, died suddenly on Tuesday, January 13. She is survived by husband Walter, daughter Carol Holt (Larry), and son Ed Ziemianski (Ester), and step grandchildren Tim, Donnie, and Kim. The members of TAPS will certainly miss seeing Dolores and Walter at their favorite table each month.

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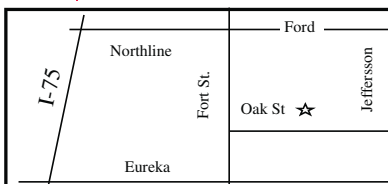
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## DANCE TIME / Jen Pijanowski

## Scrubby and Larry, Karas to Join Lenny Gomulka for Easter and Dyngus Weekend

BUFFALO — As Western New York gets ready for the upcoming Easter and Dyngus Day weekend, word comes that former Dyna-Tone vocalist and drummer **Larry Trojak** will be filling in with the **Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push** both days at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga. Joining the band will be none other than Hall-of-Famer **Dave "Scrubby" Seweryniak**, who — at press time — is schedule to appear on Dyngus Day, and possibly Easter Sunday as well.

And — just when you think it can't get any better — the Millennium announced that hometown saxophone legend **Johnny Karas** of the Jimmy Sturr Orchestra will also be sitting in the Chicago Push.

It seems that Dyngus Day in Buffalo gets bigger and more exciting every year. If you are making plans to come to town, check out the venues advertised in this issue of the PAJ. Of course, you can also find out more on-line at [www.dyngusday.com](http://www.dyngusday.com).

**WINTER WARMUP.** A small cozy VFW post in Cheektowaga played host to a unique spin on a typical polka dance. Donovan Post served up warm soup and Wardynski ham sandwiches along with foot stomping music at the "**Rosol and Szynka Dance.**"

The modest hall is exactly what I think of when I imagine an old fashioned polka dance. Long tables were filled with couples and friends, sharing food, drinks, and plenty

of smiles. As **Special Delivery** played, it was reminiscent of a simpler time, as couples swirled around the floor just feet in front of the band. Friendly down-to-earth bartenders were quick to share stories with bar patrons about their club, members, and current affairs. The post's walls were decorated with patriotic murals as well as an extensive collection of VFW license plates from posts across the country.

**SUNDAY FUNDAY.** Sundays have become quite popular for polka events in Western New York over the past several years. On this particular Sunday, there were two events which overlapped by just an hour and were only a half a mile apart. Polish Villa II welcomed **Polkas & Brunch** with **Buffalo Concertina All Stars**. The fact that it was the same afternoon as the AFC and NFC division final games did not keep polka fans away. Concertina All Stars filled the restaurant and bar room with family, fans, and even kept restaurant patrons there long after finishing brunch to watch the entertainment. The solidarity of this band is evident in their interaction and laughter; their love of the music is obvious in every note. Even the wives of this band have a genuine friendship. Several smaller tables in the restaurant were combined to allow room for all of the wives and family members to sit together and enjoy the music. Many of them took turns dancing with one another and enjoying

the upbeat honky sounds of the All-Stars. A young boy around three or four years old became mesmerized by the band, grabbed a few drum sticks and sat up front next to the band. The brotherhood in this band allows a true expression of what polka music should exemplify. The band members compliment one another so that each musician has the opportunity to shine. **Greg Chwojdak, Ray Barsukiewicz, Art Gaylor, and Bob Zielinski** showcase their vocals, but still leave room for their fellow musicians to shine. This afternoon of music established the beginning of a bountiful day of polkas for me.

Afterwards, we headed around the corner to **Anchor Inn**. This tavern recently underwent changes in ownership and the future of polkas was unknown. I am overjoyed that new owner **Christopher Smith** realizes the importance of polka music and will continue hosting **Phocus** every month. **Phocus** has been the house band at Anchor for years and gives the bar owner good reason to keep them playing. This tavern which has been a neighborhood watering hole for years sees an enormous change in volume on a polka Sunday. Seats at the bar and in the adjacent dining room are at a premium long before the music starts. A pool table which sits in the back room is even covered with plywood to allow for more table space on these Sundays. This week was no exception as the band filled the dance floor with fans eager to dance their cares away.

**Mike Chipchak**, who was once again in from Rochester, was thrilled when Jimmy sent him birthday wishes along with one of his favorite songs, "Boys from Chicago." Mike who absolutely loves dancing enjoyed an emotional polka with his beautiful daughter Linda. His love of polkas is a great example of what has kept this music alive for so long. **Phocus** kept cranking out favorites one after another that evening, showcasing its fine musicianship. This particular evening **Kenny Machelski** offered his talent filling in with the band, adding his vocals to the band's already-strong harmonies. **Phocus** graciously offered up their spots to allow local musicians in attendance to share the spotlight and play a few songs.

Well-known brothers **Val and Al Bakowski** sat in with the band for an added bonus. Even **Jacob Zawisza** from Canada approached the bandstand, lending his vocals to the guest mix. You never know what to expect when you join **Phocus** at Anchor but a great experience is always guaranteed.

**A FITTINGLY SNOWY**, icy night in Cheektowaga set the mood for **New Direction's** annual **Snowball Dance**. Patrons braved the blustery weather for a music-filled evening at Potts Banquet hall. **New Direction** belted out their show-stopping tunes like "Searching" polka and some of my other favorites which are featured on their latest CD, *Clear Directions*. They even pulled out some commercial tunes that were a charming surprise, especially to those dancing.

Upon entering the dance, patrons were given a door prize ticket. Bandleader **Ron Urbanczyk** called numbers for the winners of these door prizes and the grand prize winners, who had packages of Hostess Sno Balls in their prize bags, were given the added award of a shot of Krupnik. The three female champions quickly



**POLKA VARIETY CLUB INSTALLS OFFICERS.** (Back row, l. to r.): Ed Kurtz (pres.); Bob Wojciechowski; Paul Prusakowski; Dick Szykowny; and Pauline Janish (sgt.-at-arms); (front, l. to r.): Diane Hardick (sec.); Fay Morith (sgt.-at-arms); Fran Garbe (treas.); Veronica Schillinger (vice-pres.); Linda Gayler; and John Stepien; and Ziggy Liszewski.

made their way to the stage to indulge in the prized golden honey liqueur. Laughs and cheers filled the audience as we encouraged them to down their prize. The best part of the evening? Once the dance was over, the snow and ice were all cleared for a safe drive home.

**LIGHTS, CAMERA ... POLKA.** The public got a rare opportunity to be a part of the taping of a television special at Potts Banquet Hall. Fox 29 WUTV enlisted the talent of **Phocus** in taping an **Old Fashioned Dyngus Day Polka Party** for broadcast on March 29. The band took to the stage at 7:00 p.m. to start warming up for the taping. Filming crews were working hard to make sure that the sound and video were just right for the event. It was fun to see the crew tapping their feet and swaying their heads as they enjoyed the bouncy beat of this band which really loves being in the spotlight.

Attendees were dressed up a little more than usual in hopes of getting their fifteen minutes of fame during the taping. After the band's "practice set," it was time for the main event, performing some of their most popular catchy tunes and resulting in a very busy dance floor. The taping only lasted about an hour but the fun continued until later in the evening. The Fox special will be highlighting festivities that are associated with Dyngus Day, an event that has grown by leaps and bounds in popularity over the last several years. Dyngus Day has been responsible for exposing polka music to the huge numbers of people who come out to celebrate the Monday after Easter. Be sure to check your listing to catch this special. No doubt you will see quite a few familiar faces enjoying **Phocus** and the energy of polka music. I want to extend a quick "thank you" to Angelo Ciatello and Fox29 for taking the time to highlight the deep Polish roots here in Western New York.

### CALENDAR

- March 7** — The Knewz, Midnight Saturday Night Dance, AMVETS Medallion Post 13, 25 Review Place, Buffalo. Carol Lenczyk @ 823-0772, or Post 13 @ 874-0559 for tickets.
- March 7** — Special Delivery, Polkasino, Potts Banquet Hall, 41 So. Rossler, Buffalo. 4:00-6:00 p.m. Call Ted for details 668-9101.
- March 8** — Special Delivery, Dianeagains, 2460 Clinton St., Cheektowaga. 4:30-7:30 p.m. Free admission.
- March 9** — Buffalo Polka Boosters, The Knewz, Polish Falcons, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew. 8:00-10:30 p.m.
- March 21** — Special Delivery, Broadway Market, 999 Broadway, Buffalo 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Free. Call (716) 893-0705 or visit <http://broadwaymarket.org/>
- March 22** — New Direction, Ray's Lounge, 2070 Clinton St., Buffalo. 4:00-7:00 p.m. Free admission. Polish buffet will be available for purchase.
- March 25** — Polka Variety Meeting with the Krew Brothers, Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga. 7:30-10:30 p.m.
- March 28** — Special Delivery, Broadway Market, 999 Broadway, Buffalo 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Free. Call (716) 893-0705 or visit <http://broadwaymarket.org/>
- March 29** — New Direction, Broadway Market, 999 Broadway, Buffalo 12:00-3:00 p.m. Free. Call (716) 893-0705.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2015

# PRE DYNGUS

Easter Brunch - 10am to 3pm  
5pm Doors open  
6pm Midnight  
• Special Delivery

• Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push  
6:30pm Polish Restaurant

MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2015

## CHOPIN SINGING SOCIETY'S 54TH ANNUAL "BUFFALO'S ORIGINAL" DYNGUS DAY CELEBRATION

• Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push  
• Buffalo Touch

### SCHEDULE

#### BALLROOM

11:30am Doors Open  
12pm Blessing - Witamy Was  
Chopin Singing Society Performs  
Buffet Lunch  
White Eagle Dancers  
3pm-6pm Queen City Swing Performs  
6pm-12am - Polish Specialties Restaurant

Special guestroom rates!  
Take the elevator home!  
800-323-3331  
All overnight guests receive \$10 off  
Easter brunch + 2 tickets to Pre-Dyngus!

#### COURTYARD

Continuous entertainment from  
3pm to 12am  
Featuring Rochester's "own"  
Tommy Brunett & NY Rockin Revue

**MILLENNIUM  
HOTEL  
BUFFALO**

2040 Walden Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14225  
**(716) 681-2400**

Tickets at the door or call  
Chopin Singing Society  
(716) 685-9466

\$10 TICKET  
\$22 WITH LUNCH

With Special Guests  
of The Chicago Push  
The Dyna-Tones'  
**LARRY TROJAK** and  
**"SCRUBBY" SEWERYNIAK**  
and from the Jimmy  
Sturr Orchestra  
**JOHNNY KARAS**

Join Us For Buffalo's Best  
**DYNGUS DAY**  
 Celebration at: "Mother Church of Polonia"  
**St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr Church**  
**Mon., April 6, 2015**  
 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 4:00 p.m.  
 Admission: \$10.00 • Children under 10: \$3.00  
 Beer and Wine only @\$5 • Kitchen will be Open  
 Free Polish Sausage with every \$10 admission while supplies last.  
 Tickets: Isabella @ St Stan's (716) 854-5510 or Teresa (716) 893-3627

**Polish New Castle Radio**  
 Streaming Polka Joy Across  
 The World On The Fastest  
 Growing Polka Network.  
 www.PolishNewCastleRadio.com

First Annual  
 Wildwood, N.J.  
**POLISH FESTIVAL**  
 Friday and Saturday  
 May 15-16, 2015  
 4 Great Bands Including:  
**THE BEAT**  
**MARTY SWIATEK & BACK ON TRACK**  
**JOHN STEVENS & DOUBLESOT**  
**THE BOYS**  
 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT BY  
**DJ BRUCE ZAMORSKI**  
**AUTHENTIC POLISH FOOD POLISH VENDORS**  
**THURSDAY WELCOME PARTY**  
 with Refreshments  
 FREE TIME ON THE FAMOUS WILDWOOD BOARDWALK  
**BUS TOUR GROUPS**  
 THE ABOVE PACKAGE with MOTORCOACH TRANSPORTATION FOR ONLY \$329.00/ pp dbl RESTRICTIONS APPLY. CALL FOR DETAILS  
 Great Packages Available!  
**4 Days & 3 Nights**  
 Thursday, May 14 through Sunday 17, 2015  
 PACKAGE INCLUDES:  
 • 3 NIGHTS DELUXE ACCOMMODATIONS at an OCEANFRONT HOTEL in WILDWOOD, NJ  
 • 3 FULL BREAKFASTS  
 • 2 FULL DAYS ADMISSION to the First Annual Polish Festival At FOX PARK (FRIDAY & SATURDAY BEGINNING AT NOON).  
 • Fox Park Will be fully tented for the event in case of inclement weather  
 • ALL TAXES ARE INCLUDED  
 Wow!  
 Only \$229.00 / ppdbl.  
 DAY PASS ADMISSION ONLY  
 1 FULL DAY PASS.....\$12.00 per Person  
 2 FULL DAY PASS..... \$20.00 per Person  
**CALL 1 (888) 358-9880 for Reservations**  
 www.wildwoodpolishfest.com

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**The Polka Bandstand Show**  
 hosted by Ray Serafin and Al Meilitis  
 Since 1981  
 Saturdays 10 a.m. -12 p.m.  
**jazz90.1**  
 take jazz further  
 Rochester, NY.

DEPEW POLISH FALCONS CLUB  
**DYNGUS DAY CELEBRATION**  
 Our 41st Annual!  
**MON., APRIL 6, 2015**  
 2:00 p.m.-?? • Doors open at 1:00 p.m.  
**MUSIC • FOOD • DRINKS • GOOD TIMES**  
 One of the originals — we keep it going!  
 Celebrating a local event with local bands  
 FEATURING BUFFALO'S BEST BANDS  
**SPECIAL DELIVERY • PHOCUS**  
 2:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.-??  
 No table reservations • Public is welcome • Plenty of FREE parking  
 Food and drinks available at reasonable prices  
 Kitchen will open at 2:00 p.m.  
 \$10.00 admission • NO REFUNDS  
 CHILDREN UNDER 12 ADMITTED FREE WITH PARENTS  
 DEPEW POLISH FALCONS (716) 684-2373  
 RON GAJKOWSKI (716) 685-1980  
 KEN KNOLL (716) 683-7242  
 445 COLUMBIA AVE., DEPEW, NY  
 www.polishfalconsdepew.com

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 Your Host: Ed Slomkowski  
 www.polishnewcastleradio.com  
 Wed. 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.  
 Fri. 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
**WGPA Sunny 1100**  
 Allentown, Pa.  
 Sunday Morning 9:00-10:00 p.m.

**Val's 26th Annual Dyngus Weekend**  
 THE WORLD'S LARGEST DYNGUS EVENT FOR "ALL" GENERATIONS  
**Salvatore's Italian GARDENS**  
 6461 Transit Road, Depew, NY 14043 (716-683-7990)  
 Off the NYS I-90 Exit 49 (Transit Rd-Depew). Turn right on Transit Road.  
 Approx. 1 mile at the corner of Genesee Street  
**23rd Annual Pre-Dyngus Party**  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2015**  
 Doors Open: 6:00 p.m.  
 Music 7:00-to 1:00 a.m.  
 \$10.00 per person  
 ALSO ... Salvatore's Fantastic Easter Brunch Available 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. • ADULTS \$31 - Children \$19 • RSVP at 716-683-7990  
**2015 Buffalo Dyngus Day Official Kick-Off**  
 The Original and "ONE AND ONLY"  
**BLESSING OF THE INSTRUMENTS CEREMONY** at 7:30 p.m.  
 POLKA MUSIC BY:  
**POLKA COUNTRY MUSICIANS** (Connecticut)  
 AND **POLKA FAMILY** (Pennsylvania)  
**26th Annual Dyngus Day Celebration**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2015**  
 Doors Open: 4:00 p.m.  
 Polish Kitchen Open: 5:00 p.m.  
 Music 6:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.  
 \$10.00 per person  
 Polka Music 6:00 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. by:  
 The fantastic **POLKA FAMILY BAND** (Pennsylvania)  
**INTERNATIONAL POLKA ASSOCIATION (IPA) TRIBUTE BAND** (Chicago, Ill.)  
 Special guest appearance by **DOCTOR JOHN VALBY**  
 Singing his Famous "Dyngus Day In Buffalo Song"  
 AND, FOR THE GENERATIONS:  
**PUSSYWILLOW'S, DYNGUS AND COUNTRY**  
 BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND, THE BEST COUNTRY & WESTERN MUSIC IN WESTERN NEW YORK BY THE FABULOUS **WEST OF THE MARK**  
 7:00-11:00 P.M.  
**ONE TICKET ONE VENUE! POLISH FOOD BOTH DAYS!**  
**SALVATORE'S Garden Place HOTEL**  
 6615 Transit Rd.  
 Williamsville NY 14221  
 Easy access immediately in front of the I-90 Thruway - Transit Road Depew Exit-49.  
**SUPER DYNGUS WEEKEND ROOM RATES! \$99.00**  
 King w/Jacuzzi or Double Room Includes: Room Amenities, Hot Breakfast Buffet Each Day, Shuttle Service every 10-15 Minutes to and from Salvatore's Italian Gardens, ½ Price Discounted Admission Tickets to Dyngus Weekend Events, Price good for Sat., Sun., or Mon., April 4-6, 2015  
**For Room Reservations Call: 877-456-6036**  
 MUST ASK FOR DYNGUS DAY ROOM RATES  
 Or online at: http://www.ascend-collection.com/ires/en-US/html/ArrivalInfo  
 Polka Music, - Polish Dance Ensembles - Polish Food, Polish Spirits - Reasonable Drink Prices!  
**For tickets or table reservations, Call Val at 716-334-2188**  
 Email: DyngusNY@aol.com  
 Or Visit us on FaceBook at "VAL DYNGUS DAY"

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**Use form on page 13**  
use form for all items on page 11, also

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MON.-FRI., 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

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**polamjournal.com**  
SECURE SERVER

**Easter Butter Molds**



**Folding Easter Square Wooden Butter Mold**  
Each pyramidal block features an Easter lamb, a fish, a pussy willow and an egg engraved in the mold, representing an Easter themed relief when butter mold is completed. Measures 2.7" L x 2.7" W x 2.8" H  
#KOR102 - \$49.95

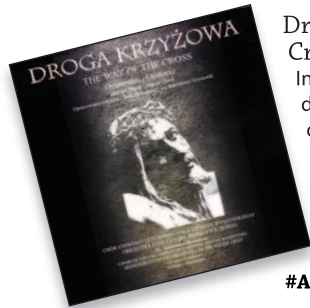


**Easter Lamb Wooden Butter Mold**  
The molded butter lamb is a Polish tradition, and has become a staple in many homes during Easter celebrations. Measures 4.5" W x 2.5" H x 1.5" D.  
#KOR101 - \$39.95



**Easter Chick Wooden Butter Mold**  
A cute Spring chick sprouts from this hand-crafted mold. Makes a nice companion piece to the Easter Lamb Butter Mold. Measures 3.75" W x 2.75" H x 2" D.  
#KOR103 - \$29.95

**Easter Music on CD**



**Droga Krzyzowa - The Way of the Cross on CD**  
In chapter 16 of Mark's Gospel, the disciples are thunderstruck by the discovery of the empty tomb and the angel's message that Christ had risen.. For those disciples, Jesus' resurrection primarily meant that, for the Church, the way of the cross had only just begun. 16 songs. 58 minutes.  
#AB003 - \$19.95

**Easter Lamb Decorations**

Each Lamb is hand made from natural products by artisans in Poland



**Laying Easter Lamb**  
4.0" L x 1.75" W x 3.5" H  
#VA007 - \$9.95



**Standing Easter Lamb**  
Measures 4" H  
#VA006 - \$9.95

**Easter Eggs**



**Pressed Amber Egg**  
This chicken-sized egg is made of amber chunks and amber dust, melted down and then combined with plastic. A beautiful decoration for your Holiday setup. Measures 2.25" H x 1.75" D.  
#AMB045 - \$29.95

**Brass Egg Stand**  
Measures 0.5" H x 1.5" D.  
#435994 - \$6.95



**Artistic Wooden Painted Easter Egg**  
Each wooden egg is masterfully decorated with ornate designs and color schemes; no two eggs are the same. These award winning ARTEGGS are crafted by a company in Poland 2.25" H x 1.85" D.  
#4353003 - \$14.95 each



**Vividly Painted Wooden Egg, Set of 2**  
Handcrafted wooden eggs with strikingly beautiful hand paintings ornamenting the egg. No two are exactly alike. 2.25" H x 1.75" D.  
#250402 - \$12.95



**Small Painted Wooden Eggs, Set of 3**  
Hand painted so no two are exactly alike. 1.25" H x 0.8" D  
#250406 - \$12.95

**Polish Crystal**



**Hand Cut Clear Crystal Egg Candy Jar**  
This small Egg Jar is wonderful gift to showcase during the Easter holiday season, or at any other time for that matter. The production of this marvelous piece is entirely made by hand. 24% Lead Crystal. Measures 4.7" High. Made in Poland  
#GAR515 - \$49.95 each

**Easter Cards**



**Easter Postcards, Set of 9** different postcards for Easter each having a message in Polish on the back. 4.25" x 5.5" #PCS803 - \$9.95



**Easter Eggs, 5 Card Set** Mixed Set. Measure: 4.6" x 6.5", Envelopes included. #PCS228 - \$9.95

**Easter Sunday Palms**

Please Note: Since our Easter Sunday Palms are handmade, yours may not arrive exactly as pictured!



Brought to the Palm Sunday mass by the parishioners, straw palms are blessed by the priest. Consecrated palm fronds are believed to have protective powers and are kept in the home for protection from misfortune.

**A. 23 Inch Palms, Set of 3**  
Hand made by skilled artisans in Poland from natural items.  
#ARP395 - \$19.95

**B. 30 Inch Palms, Set of 3**  
Hand made by skilled artisans in Poland from natural items.  
#ARP394 - \$29.95

**Easter Egg Sleeves**



**Alleluja - Egg Sleeves** #260301 - \$3.95



**Cartoon - Egg Sleeves** #260302 - \$3.95



**Folk - Egg Sleeves** #260303 - \$3.95



**Fabergé - Egg Sleeves** #260304 - \$3.95

**C-F. Easter Egg Sleeves, Set of 4**  
Collection of 4 different Styles; Alleluja, Cartoon, Folk, and Fabergé. Each set contains 10 designs.  
#260300 - \$13.95