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EASTER (THE GREAT NIGHT) IN OLD POLAND • MIXING UP YOUR ŚWIĘCONO MENU • ŚWIĘCONKA AND DYNGUS DAY
 KARSKI'S LIFE TOLD IN ILLUSTRATION • STUDY IN POLAND THIS SUMMER • PAHA 2016 AWARDEES NAMED
 DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS STATES • END OF AN ERA IN TOLEDO'S POLISH VILLAGE • KUBIAK'S SUPERBOWL

Newsmark

FM SAYS POLAND NEEDS U.S. SUPPORT (RADIO POLSKIE) Poland's new Law and Justice government needs the support of the U.S. and other NATO allies as it presses for a beefed up presence by the military alliance on its eastern flank, Polish Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski said.

In a piece published by the *New York Times* on its editorial pages, Waszczykowski said: "Russia's aggression against Ukraine, Poland's eastern neighbour, is a problem" for both Warsaw and Washington.

With Poland preparing to host a NATO summit in July, Waszczykowski reiterated Warsaw's calls for a permanent presence by the military alliance in Poland.

"Only a meaningful forward presence — including infrastructure, military ground units and advanced defense systems — can give Poland and other allies in the region the level of security we need," the Polish foreign minister said in his article.

"Such a presence isn't a radical departure — NATO has already conducted exercises and pre-positioned equipment and vehicles in several Eastern European states," he added.

"But we need the United States to go further, to take the lead in making a forward presence on NATO's eastern flank a multinational endeavor."

KAPUSCINSKA ENDS HER ASSIGNMENT. Paulina Kapuścińska, Consul General of Poland in Chicago, announced to her Midwest constituents that on January 30, 2016, her diplomatic assignment has been completed. She thanked the Polish, Polish American, and non-Polish communities for three years of support, cooperation, and enthusiasm in being American partners with Poland. She emphasized her satisfaction that projects that she promoted were successfully accomplished with her American partners. As of now, a new Consul General of Poland in Chicago has not been named. (GBC)



INCREASES PRESENCE. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said that defense ministers are expected to agree to beef up the military alliance's presence on its eastern flank, Poland's PAP agency reported.

"Effective deterrence and defense requires both forward presence of Allied forces, and our ability to reinforce them quickly," said Stoltenberg.

Beefing up NATO in Central and Eastern Europe is a key goal for Poland, which considers Russia, its giant neighbor to the east, a major potential threat to its security. Warsaw is to host a NATO summit July 8-9.

DEMOCRACY PROBE UNDERWAY. The head of the Venice Commission has met with Polish president Andrzej Duda and members of the judiciary to probe the state of democracy in the country.

Gianni Buquicchio, the president of the Venice Commission — the Council of Europe's human-rights organization — met Polish President Andrzej Duda to discuss a decision to elect new members to Poland's Constitutional Tribunal.

"It was a very good, substantive meeting between two lawyers," said a spokesman for the presidential office, Marek Magierkowski, following the meeting.

Buquicchio praised the decision of Polish Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski, who invited representatives of the Commission to Poland, Magierkowski said. He added that the findings of the Venice Commission are not binding.

The European Commission launched an inquiry into whether Poland is upholding the principle of the rule of law and whether controversial legislation pushed through by the country's new Law and Justice (PiS) government violates EU standards.

He Is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!



WHEN THE SABBATH WAS OVER, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" (Mark 16:1-7).

Wałęsa Under Attack

Backers insist the Solidarity legend must not be tarnished

Detractors say Poles have a right to know historical truth.

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW—Former Solidarity leader and Polish president Lech Wałęsa again soared into world headlines recently over allegations that he had collaborated with Poland's communist-era secret police. Such suspicions have circulated for decades, and on more than one occasion he himself had admitted to "signing something" just to get secret-police investigators off his back.

This time, however, the National Remembrance Institute (IPN), a body that investigates crimes against the Polish nation, produced fairly convincing evidence that between 1971 and 1976 Wałęsa had been a paid secret-police informer codenamed Bolek.

See "Wałęsa ...," page 6

Blessing Baskets at the Lord's Tomb — Why?



FROM THE SAME CLOTH. Though we may be generations away from our ancestral roots in Poland, we share the spirituality and customs of Easter in the same fashion. The above photo — taken in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Lublin — could be used to described Holy Saturday blessings Polish church in the United States, Canada, or elsewhere outside of Poland.

by Rev. Dr. Czesław M. Krysa

Recall now, the church or place to which you take your family for the Easter food blessing. If you attend a PolAm Church, most likely there is a devotional depiction of the Lord, buried in a Garden Tomb nearby, covered with exuberant potted spring flowers, and branches, where families kneel and light vigil candles.

In Polish spirituality, Holy Saturday is the quietest day of the year, both in church and at home. Once

pianos or radios, today iPads and entertaining smart phones lie dormant. The mouth of God has been shut by executioners and sealed in a tomb. All creation weeps silently, gathering at the Lord's Tomb in a holy vigil before the Resurrection.

Yes, the Son of God who spoke Gospel, Good News, is clamped shut by death. As Isaiah the prophet proclaimed: like a lamb led to the slaughter, he opened not his mouth. Every shepherd in the Middle East See "Blessing Baskets," page 5

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

BBC Sensationalizes Longtime Friendship

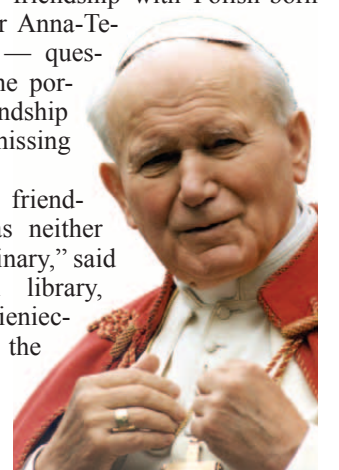
VATICAN CITY (CNA/EWTN NEWS) — Experts and friends of Pope St. John Paul II responded quickly to a BBC promotion of a documentary about his friendship with Polish-born female philosopher Anna-Teresa Tymieniecka — questioning some of the portrayals of their friendship and outright dismissing others.

"John Paul II's friendship with her was neither secret nor extraordinary," said Poland's national library, which hosts Tymieniecka's letters from the Pope.

"The statements made in the media have no basis in the content of the letters of John Paul II to Anna-Teresa Tymieniecka, which are in the National Library of Poland's archives," the library said, according to Agence France Presse.

On Feb. 15, BBC News discussed letters and various meetings between the Pope and Tymieniecka, saying that the letters showed a close relationship. The BBC story said there is no suggestion the Pope "broke his vow of celibacy."

See "Longtime Friendship," page 6



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"We have a large public that is very ignorant about public affairs and very susceptible to simplistic slogans by candidates who appear out of nowhere, have no track record, but mouth appealing slogans"

- Zbigniew Brzezinski (born March 28, 1928).

- 1 1634. Polish King Wladyslaw IV beats the Russians in the Smolensk War...
2 1864. Abolition of serfdom in Poland.
3 1996. Death of Cardinal John Krol...
4 ST. CASIMIR
5 1940. Stalin signs order for Katyn Forest Massacre.
6 1745. Birth, in Mazowia, Poland, of Casimir Pulaski...
7 966. Mieszko I, Duke of Poland, accepts Christianity.
9 1497. Nicholas Copernicus (1473-1543), makes first recorded astronomical observation.
13 1943. Germans close the Krakow ghetto.
16 1964. Birth of Gore Verbinski...
17 1921. Adoption of Poland's March Constitution
19 ST. JOSEPH
20 PALM SUNDAY Niedziela Palmowa. This feastday, commemorating Jesus' triumphal ride into Jerusalem...
21 1547. Matthew Strykowski (d. c1592), the 1st author of a printed history of Lithuania...
23 1891. Death of Fr. Leopold Moczygemba in Detroit...
24 HOLY THURSDAY Wielki Czwartek
25 GOOD FRIDAY Wielki Piątek Deszcz w Wielki Piątek, zapełnia każdy kątek Rain on Good Friday, brings a good harvest
26 HOLY SATURDAY Wielka Sobota is associated by most Poles with the traditional blessing of Easter food.
27 EASTER SUNDAY Wielkanoc, the most important celebration in the Catholic calendar...
28 DYNGUS DAY (Lany Poniedziałek)

VIEWPOINTS

Wesołego Alleluja!

When it comes to childhood, most people have vivid memories of certain events and, among them, undoubtedly, are Christmas and Easter. Traditions and practices cultivated in one's early years have tremendous staying power, keeping us young long after the mirror tells us otherwise.

For those who grew up in Polish or Polish American homes, those two feasts were characterized by special traditions and activities. The customs of Holy Week, the special flower and pussy willow palms, the traditions of the Paschal Triduum, the baking, the decorated "graves" of Christ in churches, making pisanki, the Easter Mass, and święconka breakfast are all parts of the Polish Easter tradition.

This year, make some memories for your family, your children and grandchildren. Set out to observe some of those traditions. Learn how to make Polish palms and Easter eggs. Prepare an Easter basket to bring to church for blessing on Holy Saturday. Maybe find a Polish parish where you can share some of these traditions.

Easter is, of course, more than just customs. As St. Paul reminds us, Easter is the central act of the Christian faith: without Easter, being Christian is just plain foolish.

That's why we encourage you to keep Christmas and Easter, not just for the traditions, but as part of your Christian identity. Christmas has already been tamed by secularity: it's quite

possible to push Christ out of Christmas, focusing on the presents, parties, and "festivity" to the exclusion of the "reason for the season."

... don't go gently into that night of secularism. Celebrate Easter! Celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.

It's harder to do that to Easter, which is probably why it's typically secularized by being ignored. Luckily, it always falls on Sunday, so it never confronts us with a holiday in the middle of the week.

So don't go gently into that night of secularism. Celebrate Easter! Celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. Celebrate your cultural heritage and, where applicable, your religious identity.

Wesołego Alleluja!

Going, Going ...



BUFFALO, N.Y. — Soup chef Teddy Seternus shows the last ladle of his popular Kapuśniak, at Corpus Christi Church's Pączki, Zupa and Chruściki Party, held January 31 at the parish social center.

The festival featured two homemade soups — Krupnik and Kapuśniak — which sold out, as did kanapki (Polish open-faced sandwiches), and 250 pączki brought from a Polish bakery in Canada.

January 31 also marked the last Sunday in the Polish tradition of celebrating Christmas until February 2. Fr. Michał Czyżewski presented prizes to young people who made creches.

To make a donations to the Corpus Christi Fuel, please send a check to the church at 199 Clark St., Buffalo, NY 14212.

OLS to Host Celebration of Poland's Anniversary of Christianity

ORCHARD LAKE, Mich. — This year marks the 1,050th anniversary of Poland's Christianity. It began in 966 with the baptism of Mieszko I, Poland's first historically known king.

faith helped the Poles endure years of war, totalitarian oppression and martial law. Even in the last 50 years, Poland has experienced monumental change.

"The gift of faith has been passed from one generation to the next and we, by God's grace

and providence, are the recipients of that 1,050-year faith tradition," said Monsignor Thomas C. Machalski, Jr., Chancellor-Rector, Orchard Lake Schools.

On June 22, 2016, the anniversary celebration will commence on the grounds of the Orchard Lake Schools. Invited guests include the Papal Nuncio and Primate of Poland; all the Polish-American Bishops; the president, vice president, secretary-general and Episcopal delegate for Poles in the Diaspora of the Polish Episcopal Conference and all members of Polonia throughout the United States.

This historical and spiritual event, cosponsored by the National Polish Apostolate, the Orchard Lake Schools and the Polish American Priests' Association, will begin with a Mass and general procession for all. Guests are invited to come in their native costume with their society's banner as a celebration of national pride.

For more information, call or write: Orchard Lake Schools, 3535 Commerce Rd., Orchard Lake, MI 48324; phone: (248) 682-1885.

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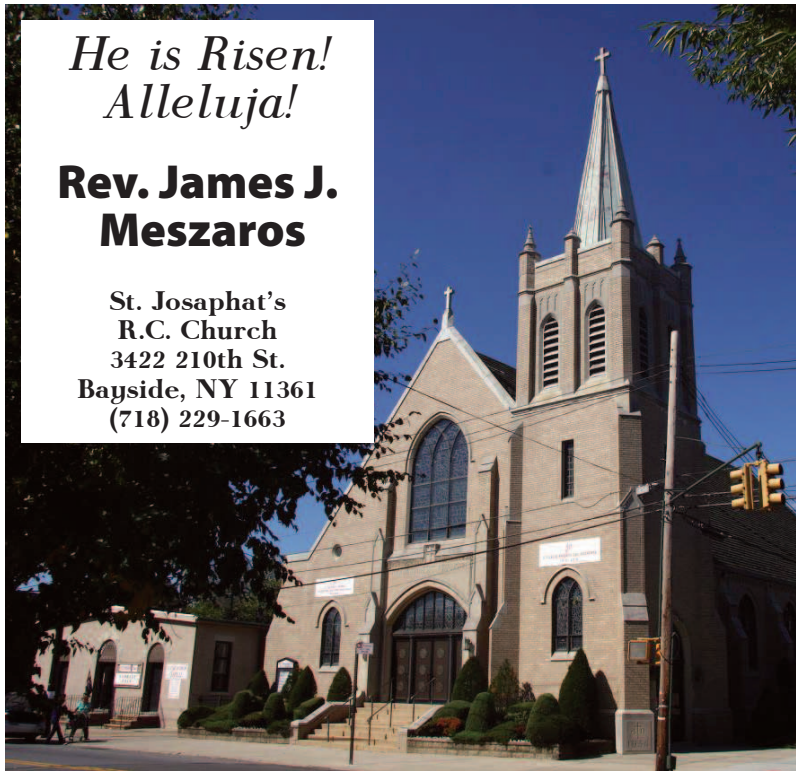
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This paper mailed on or before March 1, 2016. The April 2016 edition will be mailed on or before March 31, 2016

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Alleluja!*

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*Niech zmartwychwstały Pan oświeca Was
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2016 EASTER SCHEDULE

MARCH 20: PASSION SUNDAY - Blessing of Palms at each Mass.
MARCH 24: HOLY THURSDAY - Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 PM.
MARCH 25: GOOD FRIDAY - Liturgy of the Passion and Death of the Lord at 3:00 PM. Stations of the Cross in English & Polish at 7:00 PM.
MARCH 26: HOLY SATURDAY - Easter Vigil Liturgy at 7:30 PM. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Tomb, Confession & Blessing of food all day. Divine Mercy Novena begins.
MARCH 27: EASTER SUNDAY - Resurrection Procession and Mass at 8:30 AM in Polish. 10:00 AM & 12:30 PM Mass in Polish. Masses in English at 11:00 AM, 2:30 and 5:00 PM.
APRIL 3: DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - Celebration begins at 2:30 PM with Mass.

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MASS SCHEDULE / PLAN MSZY

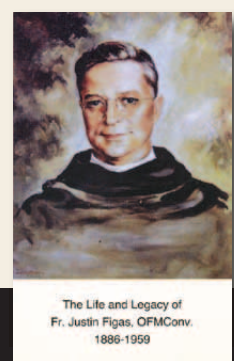
Saturday / Sobota	4:00 p.m.
Sunday / Niedziela	9:00 a.m. (Polish)
	10:30 a.m.
Wed. / Sroda-Fri./Piat.	9:00 a.m.
Vigil of Holy Days / Msza Wigilijna	5:00 p.m.
Holy Days / Dni Swiete	9:00 a.m.



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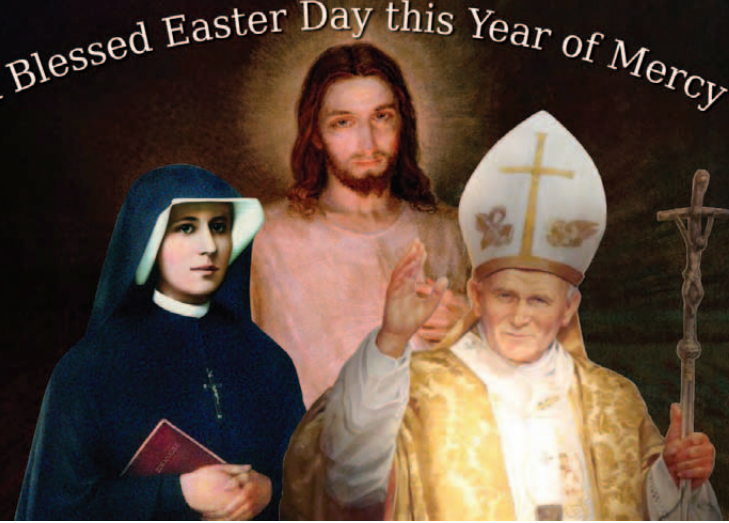


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Winners of the 2016 Awards Named at PAHA's 73rd Annual Meeting in Atlanta

LOS ANGELES — At the 73rd Annual Meeting held in Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 7-9, 2016, the Polish American Historical Association (PAHA) announced the winners of its annual awards.

The PAHA Meeting included also many scholarly presentations as a part of the conference of the American Historical Association.

The Mieczyslaw Haiman Award, offered annually to a scholar for sustained contribution to the study of Polish Americans, was bestowed on Prof. Dorota Praszalowicz of Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland.

The Oskar Halecki Prize recognizes an important book or monograph on the Polish experience in the United States. Eligibility is limited to works of historical and/or cultural interest, including those in the social sciences or humanities, published in the two years prior to the year of the award. The 2016 Halecki Prize was presented to Prof. Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann and Theodore Zawistowski, for *Letters from Readers in the Polish American Press, 1902-1969: A Corner for Everybody* (Lexington Books, 2014).

The Amicus Poloniae Award that



(l. to r.): Dr. Silvia Dapia, Dr. Pien Versteegh, Mr. Theodore Zawistowski, Dr. Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann, and PAHA President Dr. Grażyna Kozaczka. January 9, 2016.

recognizes significant contributions enhancing knowledge of Polish and Polish American heritage by individuals not belonging to the Polish American community was presented to Dr. Silvia Dapia of John Jay College and The Graduate Center, City University of New York.

Dr. Pien Versteegh, Dean of

Avans School of International Studies at the Avans University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands received the Distinguished Service Award, given occasionally to a member of PAHA who has rendered valuable and sustained service to the organization.

The Swastek Prize is awarded

annually for the best article published in a given volume of Polish American Studies, the journal of the Polish American Historical Association. The Editorial Board of Polish American Studies recommends that the Swastek Prize for the best article in Polish American Studies for the year 2014 is awarded to Lori A. Matten for "Scouting for Identity: Recruiting Daughters to Save the Traditional Polish Family During the Interwar Years"

The program of PAHA's 73rd Annual Meeting included six sessions on diverse aspects of Polonia's culture, presented from historical, sociological, anthropological, gender-studies, feminist and literary perspectives:

Polish immigrant adaptation and cultural transitions; Polish immigrant and Polish American ethnic women; foreigners' view on the American Civil War; émigré political activism during the Cold War; and the reception of Polish culture in the United States. Scholars discussed traditions of ethnic and immigrant communities such as the Kashube, Ukrainians, miners in Germany, Polish Americans in Toledo, Ohio and in Georgia, or for-

mer female prisoners of Nazi camp at Ravensbrück dispersed around the world. Dr. Maja Trochimczyk presented her recent book of verse, *Slicing the Bread* (Finishing Line Press, 2014), filled with bitter family memories from World War II and its aftermath, the takeover of the country by the Stalinist regime.

New board members, appointments and policies were presented at the board meeting, facilitated by PAHA President, Grażyna Kozaczka, with Mary Erdmans, Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann (editor of Polish American Studies), Anna Mazurkiewicz (first vice president), Anna Miller, James Pula (treasurer), Robert Synakowski, Maja Trochimczyk (secretary), and Pien Versteegh (executive director). Dr. Anna Miller, of the University of Michigan at Dearborn joined the board as its newest member and Dr. Iwona Drag Korga, executive director of the Pilsudski Institute in New York City, became the chair of the Awards Committee for 2017.

PAHA is a non-profit, tax-exempt, interdisciplinary organization devoted to the study of Polish American history and culture as part of the larger Polish diaspora.



Wesołego Alleluja!

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"Ja jestem
zmartwychwstaniem
i życiem."

Jesus said
"I am the resurrection
and the life."

Wesołego Alleluja
Happy Easter!

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Blessing Baskets at the Lord's Tomb — Why?

continued from cover

knows that the ranting and raving, baaa-ing male sheep are cowards. They create a scene and make noise when danger approaches, failing to protect their ewe, and their baby lambs.

The silent ram symbolizes masculine strength, a defense to the death of their young, and the silent victor. The Paschal Lamb of ancient Christian art, as well as the centerpiece of the Polish Easter Table, is a ram with a red and white cross, emblazoned: "This is why all This is the exact opposite of the commercialized fuzzy, cutesy bunny or vernal rodent.

The silent strength of the condemned Jesus is rooted in a confident trust in his Father's love, never to abandon his Son, even when publicly rejected by his own people. Death seals the lips that proclaimed forgiveness, and ceases the freedom that healed and comforted, and fed thousands. Death closes his mouth, but is not victorious, for the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, tramples death by his death, and rises forever only to welcome us to his new wedding feast (Rv 19:9)—the Easter Eucharist, reaching the family in blessed Resurrection feast or *święconka*. Yet another holy meal, as on Christmas Eve, of the Polish family or domestic church.

However, the fundamental uniqueness of the Polish family Food Blessing is that it takes place at a Garden Tomb. Roman Catholic rituals for the blessing, used in Poland, all exhort those who presented the fruits of their Lenten Fast in food baskets to visit the Lord's Tomb (*Boży Grób*) and adore the Lord often present there in the Blessed Sacrament.

HERE LIES THE TWO-FOLD SECRET of Poland's unique spirituality: Keeping a prayer vigil at the Tomb, we remember those who taught us how to prepare our baskets and take them to church on Holy Saturday. Especially if they are deceased, we pray, that buried with Jesus in Baptism and the death of the grave, they also rise with him eternally. Pray for your deceased family members at Jesus' Holy Saturday Tomb, especially when you still feel the pain of their loss. Pray that they share the Victor Ram's everlasting resurrection.

Blessing and consuming of symbolic Easter foods is a pre-Christian memorial meal for the ancestors. An-



"Second Baskets for the Needy" placed near the Lord's Tomb. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Wyandotte, Mich.

the dead, our First Ancestor in the faith, and honors him who, in turn, gives life to all. Hence, the profound reason to pray before his Tomb on Holy Saturday for your beloved deceased.

The second unique feature of our Polish faith heritage is that these foods were shared with the needy and poor. Polish solidarity with the underdog, (consider the Worrying Christ figures of *Chrystus Frasobliwy*), extends to those that society rejects and marginalizes. Blessing baskets carry the fruit of your family's Lenten fast, and in some manner must be shared with those who personally today share in Jesus' lot, for whom fasting and want is not a choice, but a way of life.

This is why altar servers in Poland sell sugar Lambs, Easter Palms, etc., and collect the proceeds for children summer camps for low-income families. The Archbishop of Kraków blesses an Easter Table extending the length of the medieval square for the homeless and those without work, sponsored by the restaurants of the royal city. Polish homespun spirituality recognizes Jesus' rejection in their plight and actively responds to the one in need with the belief: Whatsoever you do to the least of my people that you do unto me (Mt 25:40).

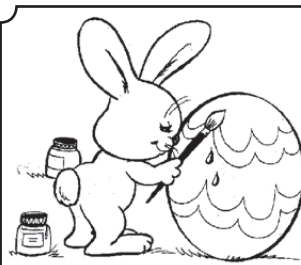
Therefore, for a full Polish *święconka* celebration, find a PolAm Church nearby or search for one farther away. Make a Holy Saturday pilgrimage with your family during this Year of Mercy, to pray before the Lord's Tomb for your beloved family members who have passed away. Donate the fruits of your Lenten fasting in kind, for a local food bank or church food pantry. Recognize Jesus walking among us and then, welcome him, the Risen, Victorious Lord to your family's Resurrection Feast, as you share the blessed egg: *Chrystus zmartwychwsta! Christ is risen!*

Rev. Dr. Czesław M. Krysa is Rector of The Church of St. Casimir, Prince of the Poor, in Buffalo, N.Y. He is a well-known ethnographer, and the respected author of many works, including A Polish Christmas Eve, and — most recently — Polish American Heritage Hymns: Spirituality in Song and Ritual.

PASCHAL LAMB BASKET COVER. St. Casimir Church is offering a limited edition, heirloom Easter Basket cloth (16"x28"), bedecked with Victorious Paschal Lamb, silk screened myrtle greens, spring flowers, pussy willows, ancient Polish *pisanki* designs from Fr. Krysa's 3,000 written egg collection, and emblazoned with the saying: "Gathering the Fruits of the Lenten Fast for the blessing, the Family Resurrection Feast and the needy." While supplies last. Mail \$30 plus \$3 postage to The Church of St. Casimir, 160 Cable St., Buffalo, NY 14206. Attn: Heirloom Basket Cover. Orders will be processed by March 15, 2016. It also makes an excellent shower or wedding gift.



clients placed leftovers overnight on the family table or threshold or even cemetery, believing the spirits of deceased returned home for "refreshment" in their deathly fate. Polish Catholicism looks to Jesus, the firstborn of



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in Cleveland, Ohio,
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starting at 12:30 p.m.

Join Honored President **Richard D. Zawisny** and our 2016 Grand Marshal **Dr. Donna M. Koch-Kapturski** and all of the 2016 Contingent Marshals and the young ladies serving as Miss Polonia of their contingents marching up Fifth Avenue for the Celebration of Polonia and the Greatest Revolution War Hero, General Casimir Pulaski
www.pulaskiparade.org



Deputy Foreign Minister Dziędziczak Visits States

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — During his week-long visit to the United States, Secretary of State and Deputy Foreign Minister Jan Dziędziczak was the guest of honor at an Embassy of the Republic of Poland reception, on February 3, 2016, hosted by Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is charged with Poland's international diplomacy as well as maintaining and fostering ties with the sizable worldwide Polish diaspora. Dziędziczak was very eager to meet with the broad spectrum of the leaders, members and notables of Polonia present. He was gregarious and very generous with his time, speaking at length to individuals and groups about their concerns, ideas, suggestions, questions, etc., all in the spirit and synergy of continued bilateral co-operation between Poland and America. He was especially taken and impressed by two groups of students from Georgetown University and American University who are invested in Polish Studies.

In his address to the American Polonia, Dziędziczak said the United States and Poland share the same



RECEPTION WITH POLONIA. Deputy Foreign Minister Jan Dziędziczak (right) and host, Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf, share a light moment with the audience at the Polish Embassy during the Minister's official visit to Washington.

Caucus on Poland.

The Warsaw NATO summit in July, and plans to strengthen NATO's eastern flank, as well as the reinforcement of Polish American relations were all discussed. "Poland is a long standing and reliable ally of the United States," he said.

port for Poland. Much to his credit, America and its Polonia actively responded to him with their admiration and affirmation in many different respects. It was a real win-win reciprocation for everyone in communion with a most successful diplomatic endeavor.

Dziędziczak Meets with Chicago's Leaders

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — After visiting New York and Washington, Jan Dziędziczak, secretary of state in the Foreign Ministry for Parliamentary Affairs visited the Chicago area from February 4-6. He met with members of the Polish and Polish American communities, as well as representatives of Illinois. Dziędziczak's first visit was at the Thaddeus Kosciuszko monument on Chicago's Solidarity Drive. There, along with Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf and Consul Robert Rusiecki, they laid flowers to commemorate the 270th birthday of the hero of two nations.

He then met with Steve Koch, deputy mayor of Chicago, followed by a meeting with Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner. They discussed prospects of additional economic and cultural cooperation between Illinois, Chicago, and Warsaw. Another agenda item was to rally support for the inclusion of Polish visa-free travel to the United States. Meetings included representatives of Polish and Polish American

organizations, including the Polish American Congress, the Polish American Medical Society, and Polish-speaking American journalists.

At St. Adalbert Cemetery in Niles, Illinois, Dziędziczak laid wreaths at the memorial plaques commemorating the Katyń and Smolensk tragedies. He also paid a visit to The Polish Museum of America and the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. He also met with students, teachers, and nuns at Holy Trinity School.

Dziędziczak completed his visit with a trip to the consulate general of Poland in Chicago. It was here that Ryszard Schnepf, Polish Ambassador to the United States, presented the *Amicus Poloniae* Award to sculptor Barry Tinsley of East



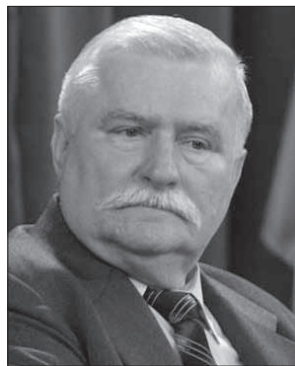
Dziędziczak and Tinsley

Chicago, Indiana. Tinsley is single-handedly repairing the bronze statue of Thaddeus Kosciuszko. Last September, thieves "hacked off" the statue at the feet in an attempt to steal it and sell it for scrap metal. Established in 1996, the *Amicus Poloniae* Award is bestowed by the Polish Ambassador to the United States to a citizen of the United States for merits in the field of Polish American relations, especially achievements that enhance Polish culture or sciences, or for promoting Poland.

Wałęsa Under Attack

continued from cover

The new evidence had come from the files of the late Czesław Kiszczak, the mastermind of the communist regime's 1981 martial-law crackdown on Solidarity.



WAŁĘSA. Regardless of findings, his role in 1980 Gdańsk Shipyard strike started a revolution that ended communist control of Poland, and brought changes across Europe.

Wałęsa had been arrested in December 1970 for his part in worker food-price protests and spent four days in a communist jail. That was when he was allegedly recruited.

Among the newly released documents is a handwritten pledge to serve as an informer. Wałęsa has gone on record as saying: "To get out of that place I would have signed anything except betraying God and my country."

His wife Maria offered to sell the Wałęsa files to the IPN for nearly \$24,000, but instead the public prosecutor and police raided the Kiszczak home and seized six boxes of illegally held documents.

In the latest round of the long-running debate about his past, the 72-year-old Nobel Peace laureate shot back: "You can't change the facts with your lies, allegations and falsifications."

Wałęsa had been arrested in December 1970 for his part in worker food-price protests and spent four days in a communist jail. That was when he was allegedly recruited.

The pledge, dated December 21st, 1970 states: "I undertake to cooperate with the security service in uncovering and combating the enemies of the People's Republic of Poland." It was signed: "Lech Wałęsa Bolek."

MIXED OPINIONS. Predictably, this controversy has again polarized Polish public opinion. A survey conducted by pollster IBRIS asked Poles whether they thought Wałęsa had been a paid informer. Nearly 38% answered in the affirmative, 28% disagreed, and over 33% were undecided or had no opinion.

Supporters of the present conservative government emphasize that Poles have a right to the full historical truth. The anti-government opposition backs Wałęsa and accuses his detractors of trying to tarnish his reputation as a major player in the liberation of Eastern Europe from communist rule.

But middle-ground Poles point out that Wałęsa broke off his collaboration in 1976 and went on to lead the landmark 1980 Gdańsk Shipyard strike, which gave rise to *Solidarność*, the Soviet bloc's first independent union. They also recall that the once all-powerful communist regime had ways of pressuring, intimidating and blackmailing people, which few were able to withstand.

However the controversy plays out, one thing seems certain: it is not likely to go away or achieve national consensus in this highly polarized nation any time soon. And, since the death of Pope John Paul II in 2005, the former shipyard electrician will probably remain the world's best-known Pole.

End of an Era in Toledo's Polish Village

TOLEDO — Toledo Catholic Diocese Bishop Daniel E. Thomas announced St. Hedwig Church will lose its consecration.

St. Hedwig is the original Polish church in the diocese, and a fixture in the Polish Village for decades. The final regular mass was held there on August 26, 2012. Emotions ran high on that day, but St. Hedwig was still available for weddings and funerals, even though parishioners had merged with St. Adalbert parish four years earlier.

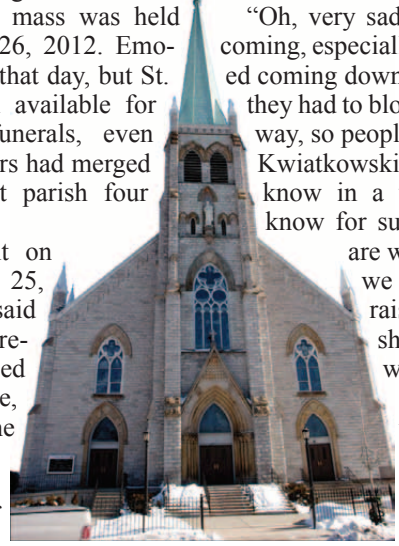
In a statement on this past January 25, Bishop Thomas said St. Hedwig has remained unused for any purpose, including divine worship and other liturgical purposes, since July of 2014.

"The parish requested in 2015 that a decree of relegation be issued. The upkeep of St. Hedwig church has become onerous, presenting a variety of challenges to the parish,

both financially and through daily care and maintenance." Retired Fr. Paul Kwiatkowski was St. Hedwig pastor from 1984 to 1994. He realizes the structural problems and the cost to overcome them made this decree inevitable.

"Oh, very sad. We knew it was coming, especially as shingles started coming down from the roof and they had to block off the passageway, so people, for their safety," Kwiatkowski said. "And you know in a way, it's good to know for sure because people are wondering, 'Should we get a committee to raise funds or what should we do?' Now we know for sure."

The Bishop said the Decree of Relegation means the sacred building will formally lose its consecration and according to canon (church) law, this allows for items in the building to be used elsewhere and allows for the chance that the building could now be sold.



Three Polish Tenors Delight Chicago

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO —

You have probably heard of the famous Three Tenors: Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo, and José Carreras, or maybe the Three Irish Tenors: Finbar Wright, Anthony Kearns, and Ronan Tynan. But what of the Three Polish Tenors: **Wojciech Sokolnicki, Miłosz Gałąż, and Mikołaj Adamczak?**

On January 16, the Copernicus Center on Chicago's northwest side was filled with singing enthusiasts and classical music lovers. It presented an opportunity for the audience to hear a repertoire of operetta arias and operatic music.

The Polish tenors radiated a genuine charisma and passion, as well as a sense of humor. Their perfectly blended voices moved the audience from roars of laughter to heartfelt tears. They shared the stage with well-known Chicago-based sopranos: **Mirosława Sojka-Topór, Olga Bojovic, and Anna Siwiec-Sitkowska.**



This event was the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra's (PASO) 10th Carnival Gala. The stage was also shared with WICI dancers and the chorus of the PASO under the direction of conductor, **Wojciech Niewrzol.**

The two-hour concert included favorites, such as "O Sole Mio," a Polish favorite, "Usta Milczą, Dusza Śpiewa" (Lips Are Silent, Soul is Singing), and "Time to Say Good-bye."

The Paderewski Symphony Orchestra is a not-for-profit cultural organization that continues to serve Chicago audiences to promote dialogue between the Polish Americans and all other communities, and to popularize Polish music and Polish artists in the United States.

Longtime Friendship

continued from cover

The news story preceded the broadcast of a documentary on the British television station BBC One. Promotional material for the show depicts its subject as "the secret letters of John Paul II."

Greg Burke, vice director of the Holy See Press Office, commented on the broadcast Feb. 15.

"With regard to a documentary on the BBC, it comes as no great revelation that Pope John Paul II had deep friendships with a number of people, men and women alike," he said. "No one will be shocked by that."

The report started Internet rumors of an affair, but the late Pope's longtime secretary, countered these.

"Those who lived at John Paul II's side know very well that there is no space for malicious conspiracy theories," said Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz. "He was free and transparent; he lived with no complexes because he was a very pure man, as he respected every person in every

life's situation. This is the only key of interpretation of his exemplary and holy life."

The friendship between St. John Paul II and Tymieniecka was well known within John Paul II's inner circle and outside of it. George Weigel's biography of John Paul II, *Witness to Hope*, recounts that Tymieniecka began writing letters to the prelate before he was pope, when he was known as Karol Wojtyła. The letters discussed his philosophical thoughts after the publication of his book *The Acting Person*.

Msr. Pawel Ptasznik, a Polish priest in the Vatican Secretariat of State, was one of Pope John Paul II's close collaborators for 10 years. He reflected on the correspondence between the Pope and Tymieniecka.

"Even when the philosophical debate was concluded, she kept on writing to Cardinal Karol Wojtyła and then to Pope John Paul II. Since he was a very polite man, he used to respond to every letter of hers he received."

RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

A Historic Prayer Service

For the first time in some 500 years, Roman Catholic clergy joined their Anglican counterparts at a Vesper prayer service in Henry VIII's Chapel at Hampton Court in London, England. **John Studzinski** helped organize the service. He is an American-born and raised British investment banker and philanthropist and since 2006 has divided his time between London and New York. Henry VIII broke with Roman Catholicism over a dispute about his planned divorce from his first wife. He subsequently started the Church of England and persecution of Catholics in the British realm began.

RELICS OF ST. MAXIMILIAN IN NORTH AMERICA. The relics of St. Maximilian Kolbe are on an eight-month tour of the United States and Canada. Most stops will be for two days or so. St. Maximilian Kolbe died as a martyr of mercy when he gave his own life to save that of a married fellow prisoner destined for death in Auschwitz concentration camp. Information about the tour of the relics can be found at Franciscan Friars Conventual in Ellicott City, Maryland. **Joseph Hamilton** is spokesman for the tour and director of development at the Franciscan friary.

MURALS RESTORED, EXPLAINED. The murals in St. Joseph worship site of Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph Parish in Niagara Falls, N.Y. were completely redone. **Fr. Duane Klizek**, pastor of the parish, commissioned Swiatek Studios to do the restoration. In addition, Fr. Klizek commissioned new canvasses and other painted imagery on the ceiling with the intention of making it "look like the Sistene Chapel." After three years, the completed work was blessed by Buffalo Diocese **Bishop Richard Malone**. Fr. Klizek said that the paintings were something done "for the greater glory and honor of God."

TEAM PIEROGI IN ACTION. At St. John Kanty Church in Buffalo, N.Y., a team of 20 women and men began making pierogi in mid-January in preparation for sale during Lent. Last year, 11,000 pierogi were stuffed, boiled, frozen, and sold. **Diane Czajka** supervises the process and assigns new members to the tasks. Everyone is welcome to join the team and learn the process. A second team makes placek which is also sold at the parish. Palm Sunday is the last day when this year's pierogi and placek can be bought.

DANCING FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY. St. John the Baptist parish in Alden, N.Y. held a special Polka Mass and dinner dance to raise funds for parishioners who will be pilgrims to the **World Youth Day in Kraków**, July 22-31.

Christine Garas, who plans to go to WYD, commented, "We are all at the end of high school. We are on the brink of adulthood. I think it would be a great experience for all

of us."

Fifteen teens and six adult chaperones will take part in the trip along with some 150 from the rest of the Diocese of Buffalo. Diane Czerniak added, "As a youth minister, I'm hoping that all these young people come back and share that energy here in our parish."

STATUE OF ST. JOHN PAUL II DEDICATED. A statue of St. John Paul II was installed atop a new columbarium at St. Adalbert's Cemetery in Lancaster, N.Y. The columbarium is located on the shore of a pond in a garden setting and will house 1,000 graves.

HOLY NAME BENEFITS MEMBERS. Fr. Ray Zientara, director of the Diocesan Union of Holy Name Societies in Buffalo, N.Y., noted that the main mission of the Holy Name Society is to promote devotion and reverence to the holy Name of God and Jesus Christ and to help members grow in holiness and obtain personal salvation. Members can grow in faith and spirituality as well as receive graces and blessings, enjoy fellowship, and share in the riches of the Catholic Church. As they become better Catholics, neighbors and citizens, Holy Name members practice corporal and spiritual works of mercy, a special focus of the Year of mercy.

MASS-MOB WELCOMED AT ST. LUKE'S MISSION OF MERCY. St. Luke's Church in Buffalo, N.Y., was rescued after its closure in 1993 by the charitable organization St. Luke's Mission of Mercy, a social service organization that provides food, clothing, housing, and education for the destitute on Buffalo's east side. Originally a Polish American church, built in 1928, **David Topor**, a missionary at the organization, called attention to the Our Lady of Częstochowa shrine and the image of Jesus the Divine Mercy. **David Marciniak, RN**, provides on-site nursing care and care management for St. Luke's Good Shepherd Residence, one of the many services offered through the Mission of Mercy. This was the 14th Mass Mob, which brings churchgoers from the whole area to Mass at distinctive but often struggling churches.

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Holy Trinity Cathedral Celebrates 100th



CONCELEBRATES AND ALTAR SERVERS OF THE CENTENNIAL MASS. Guests included guests included Bishop Peter Libasci of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester, Suffragan Bishop Richard W. Lipka of the Anglican Church of North America Missionary Diocese of All Saints, and Rt. Rev. Philip Raczka, Rector of the Annunciation Melkite Catholic Cathedral.

Sea of PNCC's Eastern Diocese Completes Restoration

Recognized with City Landmark Award

by Greg Witul

MANCHESTER, N.H. — A century of faith, fifteen years of planning, the guiding force of two committees, and a year of restoration, culminated in the 100th anniversary and rededication of Holy Trinity Cathedral of Manchester. The See of the Polish National Catholic Church's Eastern Diocese for over 60 years, the history leading to this moment extends back to the heady days of the independent church movement while the congregation predates the Polish National Catholic church in the area by 15 years.

Initially established in 1915 as Holy Cross, an independent Roman Catholic Church, the parish attempted to work with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester to meet the needs of the Polish Catholics of the city. When that failed, and internal dissent quelled, Holy Cross was reorganized into Holy Trinity and joined the PNCC in January of 1930. Since then it has been a cornerstone of Manchester's Polonia and has played a key role in Polish National Catholic Church. In 1952, it was elevated to a cathedral with the installation of Rev. Joseph L. Soltysiak to Bishop, and in 1967 the parish hosted the Twelfth General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church.

The seed for a restoration of the Cathedral was planted in 1997 under the pastorate of then bishop, Thomas Gnat. With an eye to the future, a Restoration Fund was established with the mission to "renovate, restore, or update the church facility," according to Carolyn Dickson, an archivist at the Cathedral. Over the course of 18 years, the fund slowly developed with memorial donations and individual weekly contributions. As preparations for the anniversary began in early 2014, a Centennial Committee was formed where it was suggested to restore the church and as committee member Nancy Beurivage put it "the two projects just dovetailed together."

Overseen by a restoration committee, Baker Liturgical Art of Southington, Connecticut was hired to handle the entire project. "All pews were removed so the entire



Bishop Paul Sobiechowski rededicates the Cathedral.

floor could be refinished; ceramic tile aisles were added; all walls and ceilings were repainted and restenciled; all statuary and Stations were stripped, repaired and repainted; gold leaf was added to the three altars to accent the ornate carving of 100 years ago."

On the morning of October 17, 2015, the centennial Mass for the newly refurbished Holy Trinity was held. The ceremony began outside with a special consecration of the cathedral by Bishop of the Eastern Diocese Paul Sobiechowski. Inside Bishop Sobiechowski led the Mass concelebrated with a number fellow priests and bishops including Prime Bishop, Rt. Rev. Anthony Mikovsky. Religious guests included Bishop Peter Libasci of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Man-

chester, Suffragan Bishop Richard W. Lipka of the Anglican Church of North America Missionary Diocese of All Saints, and Rt. Rev. Philip Raczka, Rector of the Annunciation Melkite Catholic Cathedral. The banquet that followed included proclamations from New Hampshire Governor Maggie Hassan, Manchester Mayor Ted Gatsas and Congressman Frank Guinta.

FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK and dedication, the cathedral was recognized by the Manchester Historic Association with their 2015 Restoration of a City Landmark Award. Congressman Guinta included this in his recognition of Holy Trinity Cathedral, which he added to the *Congressional Record* on October 21.



Wesołego Alleluja!
Happy Easter to All!

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

Please help us help our own community. Join the ...

PAJF Polish American Journal Foundation

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

As a national newspaper serving Polish immigrants and their descendents since 1911, the Polish American Journal has a unique perspective on the shortfalls — primarily funding — that have prevented many great projects from getting off the ground. We also have grown increasingly frustrated to see students — future leaders, who are passionate about Polonia — seek other areas of study because they could not secure something as simple as airfare to study in Poland or abroad.

Likewise, we see so many talented academicians, scholars, artists, folk groups — the list goes on — whose special projects or areas of study have been dropped for lack of funds. In many cases, state or federal arts or cultural



Your tax-deductible donation to the Polish American Journal Foundation supports our efforts to keep the Polish American community strong for generations to come.

fundings is available, but these groups cannot afford processing fees to meet application requirements. It is time to start helping our own.

MEMBERSHIP. Donations are accepted in any amount. All donations will be acknowledged and may be used as charitable contributions on your tax return. As a member, you can suggest any worthwhile cause: a donation to a local Polish American museum; veteran's group; scholarship fund; dance group, etc. Our board reviews these suggestions and creates a ballot of the most-requested causes/recipients, which will then be voted on by current members. (Membership is yearly, starting with the date of your most recent donation). All members reserve the right to abstain from being a voting member.

Since 1911, the Polish American Journal has been an advocate for Poles and their descendents 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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POLONIA AT A GLANCE

FLORIDA

ST. PETERSBURG — On Jan. 31, the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg celebrated its 65th anniversary as Florida's oldest organization honoring Polish and American culture.

The gala event included a catered dinner, live music and dancing, a dance competition, and a ballroom dance show performed by national champions. Guests of honor include local political and business leaders, and the society's past presidents.

"We are proud to be part of the city of St. Petersburg. We own this great facility in a convenient location, and want Florida residents to know us better, join our club, and use our facility for their next event, whether personal or business," said Eugene Poplawski, club president. "This anniversary celebrates our members as we look back upon our rich heritage, and look forward to a vital future for our Club."

For information about the Polish American Society, go to polishsociety.org.

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO — The public is invited to celebrate **Pulaski Day** on Monday, March 7, 2016, 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 from national, state, county, and city governments, 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.

MASSACHUSETTS

SOMERSET — **Bus Trip** to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. Sat., April 30, 2016. Departs from Somerset at 5:00 a.m. from the Park & Ride on Route 103 (1701-1759 Wilbur Ave.). Off-street parking available there. Will pick up additional passengers in Central Falls, R.I. from St. Joseph's Church, 391 High Street. Will return from West Point approximately 5:00 p.m. \$70.00 per person (tip included). Includes: Walk through "Kosciuszko Garden"; View Cadet Pass in Review; Attend Annual Observance at the Kosciuszko Monument; Self-Guided Tour of West Point Military

PSAA District 7 Springtime Events

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — District 7 of the Polish Singers Alliance of America announces a list of events in which its member groups will participate. All events are open to the public.

- **Sun., April 3, 2016. Jutrzenka #226.** PSAA will hold its **Annual Fundraiser Card Party** from 2:00-6:00 p.m. in the lower school hall of Our Lady Czestochowa, St. Casimir's Parish, 183 25th Street, Brooklyn. Leokadia Juszczak and Janina Oledzka agreed to be co-chairladies of the event. For reservations, or information, call (718) 720-6089.
- **Sun., April 10. Jutrzenka's** OLC. St. Casimir Parish will be holding its **Annual Swieconka**. If interested, please call Adele Iwachow at (718) 748-3699.
- **Sat., April 16.** PSAA's District 7 will hold a fun-filled **Fundraiser Dance**, at the Polish Slavic Center, 177 Kent Street, Brooklyn. Theme: Music of

Model Airplane Contest Winners



FLYING HIGH (l. to r.): Al Koproski, with siblings John Frankowski, Paula Frankowski, Michael Frankowski, and their proud father, Pawel Frankowski.

STAMFORD, Conn. — The **Adam Mickiewicz Polish Saturday School** of Holy Name of Jesus Church, Stamford, held the closing of Christmas Celebrations with a "Jaselka" Christmas play, Sat., Feb., 6, 2016 at the school. January is a special month, celebrating Christmas and Polish traditions, according to Director Kazmiera Ferenc. The school has 300 children, whose entire curriculum is in the Polish language. The students are from Stamford, Norwalk, Weston, Westport and Port Chester and attend classes weekly to study their culture and language.

This year the American Legion Post 3 Commander of Stamford, George Ducanic, donated 50 model

airplane kits to the school. Al Koproski, who is a member of Post 3, and his wife, through the Koproski Family Foundation, came up with the idea to have a contest open to all the children with prizes for the best airplane project.

The children who completed the best three airplanes all came from the same family. If you have ever tried to complete a model airplane kit you know it is not an eas task. An independent group of judges chose the following winners from eleven finalists.

1st — Michael Frankowski; 2nd — Paula Frankowski; and 3rd Prize — John Frankowski. Checks were presented to the winners by Al Koproski.

Museum; and 60-Minute Guided Tour of U.S. Military Academy West Point.

For additional information call Brian Curt at (508) 678-0987 or visit www.kosciuszkoclub.org.

NEW YORK

BUFFALO — The Broadway Market and Adam Mickiewicz Library & Dramatic Circle (Mickey's) are bringing back **Buffalo's Best Kielbasa Contest**.

The contest will be held on Dyn-gus Day, March 28, 2016 at The Broadway Market, 999 Broadway from noon-2:00 p.m. The winner of this year's contest will receive a basket of Polish cheer, and the honor of being designated Buffalo's Best in the Wholesale, Commercial and Homemade categories.

Applications are accepted until March 18. Participants must register in advance. Email buffalobestkielbasa@gmail.com, or call (716)

479-2342.

The annual event is sponsored by Fillmore District Council Member David A. Franczyk.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA — The **Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia** will hold its annual Fryderyk Chopin Concert on Sun. March 6, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. at the Sister Francesca Onley Education Center (formerly the Holy Family University Education & Technology Center), 9801 Frankford Ave.

Featured guest artist will be Kate Liu, Bronze Medal winner at the 2015 Chopin International Piano Competition in Warsaw, Poland. A light reception will follow the performance. Ticket costs: \$30.00 per person; \$20.00 for students with proper identification. Reservations may be made through Debbie Maja, chairperson at (215) 627-1391 or dziecko2@comcast.net.

(917) 913-3133.

- **May 21, 2016. Jutrzenka #226** is hosting the 65th Polish Singers Alliance of America's **District 7 Convention** at OLC-St. Casimir Parish, 183 25th Street, Brooklyn. Families, friends and interested admirers of choral music, as well as all PSAA members are cordially invited to come to the festival-style competition and concert to be held at 2:30 p.m. in the church proper, followed by a 5:00 p.m. Mass of Thanksgiving for living and deceased members of the PSAA. At 7:00 p.m., the **Awards Dinner-Dance** will be held at the Grand Prospect Hall, 263 Prospect Avenue in South Brooklyn (between 5th and 6th Avenues overlooking the Prospect Expressway). For further information, please call (718) 720-6089.

For more information on these and other PSAA events, visit polishsingersalliance.org.

SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Kubiak Leads Broncos to Super Bowl Win



KUBIAK. John Elway's confidence proved correct.

In 2013 Gary Kubiak suffered a mini-stroke while coaching the Houston Texans and was later fired by the team. In 2016 the 54-year-old Houston native led the Denver Broncos to victory in the Super Bowl, his first season as the team's head coach.

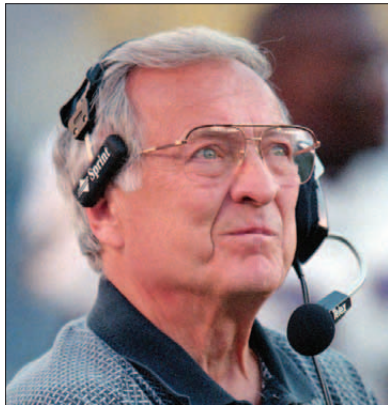
Kubiak was hired as Broncos' head coach in January 2015 by GM John Elway, his former teammate, coach and close friend. Some assumed that Kubiak was hired because of that friendship. However, Elway was confident that Kubiak was the right man to lead the Broncos through a crucial transition period. "Kubes" implemented a new offense and gained the trust of veteran quarterback Peyton Manning. On the defensive side, he brought in Wade Phillips to make the defense one of the league's best. Despite a rollercoaster season that included a quarterback controversy, Kubiak's calm demeanor and steady hand eventually led Denver to an upset win in Super Bowl 50.

Kubiak's ancestors came to Texas from Poland in the late 19th century when the small city of Bremond, Texas began recruiting laborers from Poland to work the cotton plantations. In the 1880s Gary's great grandfather, Michal, came with his family from the Poznan region of Prussian-occupied Poland to Bremond, where other family members had previously settled. Bremond, once the largest Polish settlement in Texas, still has a lot of Polish pride and celebrates its Polish Festival Days every June. Gary's wife, the former Rhonda Kaminski, also has roots in "The Polish Capital of Texas" Gary and Rhonda were high school sweethearts at Pius X in Houston; he was the star quarterback and she was the cheerleader.

Gary played quarterback at Texas A&M, and was an eighth round draft pick of Denver. He played with Broncos from 1983 to 1991, serving as Elway's back-up. Kubiak went into coaching, and eventually became the second head coach of the Houston Texans in 2006. In 2013 Kubiak suffered a transient ischemic attack, or mini-stroke, while on the field. He recovered, but was later fired as coach. After spending last season as the Ravens offensive coordinator, he returned to Denver as head coach.

POLONIA LOSES MARCHIBRODA, MICHAELS. Two football greats who were natives of Pennsylvania and members of the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame, **Ted Marchibroda** and **Lou Michaels**, died in January.

Marchibroda, a former NFL coach of the Baltimore and India-



MARCHIBRODA. Considered to be one of pro football's greatest innovators.

Marchibroda was a college quarterback at St. Bonaventure University and the University of Detroit. In 1952, at Detroit, "Butch" Marchibroda led the country in total offense. He was a first-round draft pick of the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1953, despite being only 5-10. He played in the NFL for the Steelers and Cardinals. In 1961 he got his first NFL coaching job, as an assistant in Washington.

In 1975 he got his first head coaching job with the Baltimore Colts, leading a 2-12 team to three consecutive AFC East titles. After being fired he worked as an assistant in the NFL, including a stint with Buffalo. As offensive coordinator of the Bills, introduced the revolutionary no-huddle K-Gun offense that helped the Bills win four straight AFC championships. In 1992, the Colts, now in Indy, gave Marchibroda a second chance, and he again had instant success. The Colts went 9-7 in his first season after going 1-15 in 1991. In 1995 the Colts were a failed Hail Mary pass shy of going to the Super Bowl. Ted returned to Baltimore in 1996 as the first head coach of the Ravens, where he stayed for three years. Afterwards he returned to Indy, where he worked on the Colts' radio broadcasts.

Considered to be one of pro football's greatest innovators, Marchibroda was also remembered as a kind, humble man. He mentored many coaches who went on the successful careers, including Bill Belichick. "I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for Ted Marchibroda," Belichick said.



MICHEALS (nee Majka) was named to two Pro Bowl teams while with the Steelers.

Louis Andrew Michaels died on Jan. 19 at age 80. He was born to Polish immigrants Walter and Mary Majka on Sept. 28, 1935, in Swyersville, in northeastern Pennsylvania.

nia. He played college football at Kentucky during the single-platoon era, playing both offense and defense and serving as the Wildcats' punter and place kicker. He was named SEC player of the year in 1957 and was an All-American as a junior and senior. He finished fourth in the voting for the 1957 Heisman Trophy.

The 6-foot-2, 243-pound Michaels was a first-round draft pick of the Los Angeles Rams in 1958. He played three years in Los Angeles and three for the Steelers before he was traded to Baltimore. He finished his 13-year career in 1971 with the Green Bay Packers. As a kicker, he made 187 of 341 field-goal attempts and converted 386 of 402 extra points. He was named to two Pro Bowl teams while with the Steelers. It was in Pittsburgh that he met another Polish American, Judy Mis, who was the personal secretary to the Steelers owner, Art Rooney. Lou and Judy were married in 1966. After retiring he operated a tavern and was athletic director at a prison.

An older brother, Walt Michaels, was an All-Pro linebacker in the NFL and later became head coach of the New York Jets. Walt was the defensive coach of the Jets when New York scored an upset victory against his brother's Colts team in Super Bowl III in 1969. Lou was never able to accept that loss. "People say, 'Forget about it,'" Lou once said. "How do you do that when your brother has your Super Bowl ring?"

BALLOTING COMPLETED. Voting is now over for the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame's Class of 2016, which will be inducted in June. Check out next month's PAJ for the results. New names in the high visibility category are Frank Brickowski and Craig Wolanin. Brickowski was a 6-9 power forward who was Penn State's MVP in 1980. He went on to a 13-year NBA career in which he average 10 points and five rebounds. Wolanin was a rugged NHL defenseman who played for 13 seasons and was a member of the 1996 Stanley Cup winning Colorado Avalanche. Holdovers include **George (Andrzejewski) Andrie, Conrad Dobler, Mark Grudzielanek, Mark Gubicza, Joe Kocur** and **Steve Wojciechowski**.

New to the "all-other" sports category are **Rachel Komisarz** and **Ann Meyers Drysdale**. Komisarz is an accomplished swimmer who was a 2004 Olympic gold medalist in the 800 free relay and silver medalist in the 400 free relay. Meyers Drysdale achieved numerous firsts as a basketball player, including first to be named All-American four straight seasons, the first person to be drafted by the Women's Basketball League, and the first woman to try out with an NBA team. Holdovers include **Tony Adamowicz, Leo Golembiewski, Steve Javie, Jeff Klepacki, Joe Proski** and **Curt Tomasevich**.

NEWS AND NOTES. Gary Kubiak's Broncos got to the Super Bowl thanks to a 20-18 win in the AFC Championship over New England. In the first quarter of that game the Patriots' incredibly accurate kicker **Stephen Gostkowski** missed his first extra point in 524 attempts. Gostkowski took the blame for the loss, but had New England let Gostkowski kick field goals on a couple of red zone opportunities late in the fourth quarter — instead of going for it on fourth-and-short — the Patriots might have won.

RUN, BERNIE, RUN. Just how good of an athlete was presidential candidate Bernie Sanders? There's been a lot of discussion of that. "I was a very good athlete," Sanders told CNN. "I wouldn't say I was a great athlete. I was a pretty good basketball player. My elementary school in Brooklyn won the borough championship."

As Sanders has often pointed out, his father was born in Poland and came to the United States in 1921 at the age of 17. His mother's family came from Poland and Russia. Bernie was born in 1942 in Flatbush, Brooklyn. He has said that, as a youth he constantly

played sports and played basketball obsessively. "One of the differences, by the way, between today and way back then is maybe you learn a little bit about democracy. Kids are out on the street. There wasn't any supervisors. There wasn't any parents. You chose—punch ball, softball."

Despite his success in basketball in elementary school, Bernie was unable to make the varsity team at Madison High School. He then turned his attention to track and became co-captain of the team. Bernie became a very good long-distance runner, finishing third in the indoor mile his senior year and second in cross country in the borough championships. "I think my best was 4:37, which is not superstar, but it's pretty good," he said of his mile time.

Sanders visited his father's home in Słopnice, Poland back in 2013. Town Mayor Adam Soltys said that Sanders was "very sympathetic, warmhearted and friendly" and "even speaks a few words of Polish." Regarding Sanders' recent primary success, Soltys told a Polish TV station: "There's quite a bit of excitement in the air here — we're proud of Senator Sanders and we wish our 'homeboy' even greater success!"

Despite suffering cramping that caused him to miss some of the second half of the AFC title game, Patriot tight end Rob Gronkowski finished with eight receptions for 144 yards and one TD. He made two of the biggest plays in the game in the fourth quarter, when he caught a 40-yard pass on fourth-and-ten on the team's final drive and capped it off with a four-yard touchdown catch on fourth-and-goal.

Adam Griffin, born Andrzej Debowski, executed a perfect onside kick that helped Alabama win the national title against Clemson. Adam had just kicked a 33-yard field goal to tie the game, 24-24, in the fourth quarter. On the ensuing kickoff Griffin hit a perfect onside

"pop kick" that Alabama defensive back Marlon Humphrey caught over the shoulder at midfield. Two plays later the Tide scored. The 5-foot-10, 192-pound junior came to the U.S. as a 13-year-old Polish orphan from Stargard Szczecinski.

Alan Trammell again fell short of Baseball Hall induction. He started with 15.7% of the vote in his first year of eligibility, 2002, and got up to 40.9% this year. He was still far short of the 75% needed. Trammell was a member of the 1984 World Series-champion Tigers team, had six All-Star appearances, and won four Gold Glove Awards and three Silver Sluggers. He'll be eligible for consideration by the Expansion Era Committee beginning in 2020.



Bernie and brother Larry Sanders, together with their wives, visit a World War II war memorial with Adam Soltys, the mayor of Słopnice, Poland in 2013. Sanders' father, Eli, was born in Słopnice in 1904.



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ATTENDEES, guests, and musicians. (Above) Pani Ada Dziewanowska and the author.

PHOTOS: GOSIA'S HEART PHOTOGRAPHY AND STAŚ KMIĘĆ



I have attended many debutante balls and Polonia social events in the United States, but *Bal Maskowy* — an annual event presented by the *Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble* of Milwaukee, particularly plays to my cultural heart and soul. This is an once-in-a-lifetime event, and fortunately for me, it was my second visit to partake in the festivities and celebrate the 99th birthday of the Artistic Director, my dear friend — the legendary Ada Dziewanowska. If you missed this year's costumed event, you missed something special and intrinsically Polish.

Dancer Tym Stoll, who had invited me last year as a surprise guest, made sure I arrived from my hotel. Guests were greeted by Renaissance and Medieval musical strains, recreated on period instruments by the authentically dressed *Worldwind Consort*. The theme was nobility and the attendees aimed for the highest level of costume artistry. The interpretations varied. American refinement was encountered with Civil War representations. Kay Josten glided across the room as a Southern belle in an emerald hooped gown with her blond hair cascading in long curls. Lynn Dziadulewicz, the Ball chairperson delighted in an Edwardian style period gown of the early 1900s, while her husband Neil was in a military uniform evocative of World War I.

My eyes were diverted to the couple ascending the stairs in the elaborate *Kontusz* costume — the standard dress during the reign of Zygmunt III. I had met Robert and

Carol Mayer last year when they were stunning as Pirate nobility, but this year they exceeded visual expectation. Carol had carefully researched every element of the historical design, and with extravagant fabrics, furs and ornamentation created a stunning ensemble.

Some rented costumes, but most took pride in creating their own attire. Tuxedos were decorated with sashes, medallions, and Imperial ornaments, and gowns encompassed various periods of aristocratic dress. Pani Ada arrived cloaked in a cape that revealed a ball length *Kontusik* in blue — her favorite color, which also brought out the brilliance of her intuitive and inquisitive blue eyes. Her hair, pulled back in a characteristic bun twist was accentuated with a crown. The costume was designed by Carol Mayer, who already exchanged ideas of a new creation for next year's special event.

Last year, I wore my 17th century *Kontusz* costume, but this time due to travel and baggage constraints in an attempt at simplicity, I opted to wear a tuxedo — black pants and teal blue jacket. In a sea of historical costumes, this did not go unnoticed. Pani Ada's first words to me were "Where is your *Kontusz*?"

IF THE ATMOSPHERE and ambiance were not enough, attendees were treated to a sublime dinner. The table setting was elegant and modest with an urn of fragrant lilac, roses and wildflowers, on a mirror tile surrounded by votive candles.

On a beautifully folded napkin,

the soup — an *Asparagus Chantilly* — was topped with a pastry crust cap and ornamented with a breaded bow. A visually pleasing salad and basil rolls preceded the pre-determined choice of entrée: *Filet Mignon*, *Pan Seared Pork Tenderloin*, or *Veg-etable Fantasia*. The official dessert was a *Crème Bruleé* topped with a triangle of strawberries, two blueberries, and a raspberry mounted on a twist of cappuccino mousse.

The customary *Polonez* was performed by the *Syrena Ensemble*, followed by the communal Grand March. Throughout the evening, the etiquette of the bygone era of Old-World Polish society was observed with men escorting ladies to the floor; bowing and kissing their hand at the conclusion of their dance.

The audience was treated to a performance of the fiery *Mazur* from the opera house "Halka" in its full-length premiere. Duane Tomka's choreography was dynamic and presentational, bursting forward in alternating ensemble and solo couple sequences. This stylization of the national dance from the courts of Poland, incorporated all the signature movements. The classic score of Stanisław Moniuszko

2017 BAL MASKOWY. Plans are already underway for next year's special event — the "Sto Lat" 100th birthday celebration of Pani Ada. Polonia Dance groups can wish "Wiele Lat" in the souvenir book. A special program honoring Pani Ada's life, achievements, and legacy will highlight the evening. All who have known her should make the trip to this not-to-be-missed event, which is expected to sell out quickly. The date is set for Saturday, February 4, 2017.



was adapted and extended to accommodate the length of the choreography performed by ten couples.

Pani Ada was acknowledged with a bouquet of flowers and a round of "Wiele Lat," a revised version of "Sto Lat." The Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra from Chicago regaled with not only virtuoso classical selections, but a cavalcade of dance styles. Interspersed Pani Ada led her signature *Kujawiak* — a staple in recreational folk dance circles in the United States and Japan, and a partner-interchanging *Waltz Mixer*.

Later in the evening, there was a long line to partake in the Sweet Buffet — a sumptuous array of Polish desserts made by the *Syrena Ensemble*. A *Złoty Adwokat* (Golden

Advocat) filled-chocolate was at each place setting to further the enjoyment of the final hours.

The souvenir book offered historical articles written by Katelyn Prepish and Pani Ada on the *Kontusz* costume, the *Mazur* the opera "Halka," and the history of the *Mazur* dance.

Thank you to *Syrena* for once again welcoming me, extending such warm hospitality, and providing a memorable evening for all.

Germany Returns Looted Treasures

WARSAW — Two pieces of 18th century furniture have been returned from Germany to Wilanów Palace on the outskirts of Warsaw, from where they had been looted during the German occupation of Poland.

They were handed over to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture and National Heritage Piotr Gliński by the Chairman of the Bundesrat, the upper house of the German Parliament, and Prime Minister of the Free State of Saxony Stanislaw Tillich at a ceremony at the palace, the former residence of Polish King Jan III Sobieski.

The two pieces of furniture are a Rococo desk, the work of French craftsmen dating from around 1745, and a richly-ornamented cabinet in Chinese-style (*Chinoiserie*) from the beginning of the 18th century, containing fifteen drawers.

— Radio Polskie

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POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Polish Arts Club Receives \$100,000 Challenge Grant

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Polish Arts Club of Buffalo received a \$100,000 challenge grant from **Walentyna Polczynska Janta**. The grant will be used to stage plays by Polish and Polish American playwrights in Buffalo and WNY, and the challenge is that the organization must raise an additional \$100,000 in matching funds within five years.

"This is the first time in the 70-year history of the Polish Arts Club that we have received a grant of this type or amount," said PAC managing director Charles Peszynski. "The challenge grant will have a major impact upon the ability of the club to fulfill its mission of fostering interest, appreciation and understanding of the culture and history of Poland and Polish Americans."

"When the Endowment Fund is created as a separate 501(c)(3) non profit, the club will be able to draw upon the resources provided by the fund to expand our programming far beyond what we have done in the past. Raising the matching funds will not be an easy task, but we will begin working on it as soon as the fund is created."

Mrs. Janta has requested that the grant be used to create a permanent endowment named the Aleksander and Walentyna Janta-Polczynski Endowment Fund.

CITIZENS OF NOTE. The *Am-Pol Eagle*, WNY Polonia's weekly newspaper, announced the winners of its 2015 Citizen-of-the-Year Awards: **Chrusciki Bakery Inc.** (Business), **Monica Rzepka** (Civic Leader), **Daniel Hart** - Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Executive Director (Community Leader - non-Pole), **Polish Happy Hour Buffalo** (Community Organization), **Connie Emmens** (Culture), **Villa Maria Circle of Friends** (Education), **Paul Andruczyk** (Fraternal), **Buffalo's Good Neighbors** (Good Neighbor), Buffalo Police Commissioner **Daniel Derenda** (Government), **Stephanie Mucha** (Health/Medicine), **Deborah Lasek** and **Maureen Gleason** (Heritage), **Henry Mazurek** (Humanitarian), **Diana Oramus** (Individual in Organization), **Michael Marszalkowski, Esq.** (Law), **Michael Mroziak** (Media), **Norm Skulski** (Military/Veterans), **Tomasz Wdowik** (Mu-

sic), **Cheektowaga Supervisor Diane Benczkowski** (Politics), **Rev. James D. Ciupek** (Religion), **Jill Spisiak Jedlicka** (Science/Environment), **Carlene Sluberski** (Sports), and **Maya Karmilowicz** (Youth). The award ceremony will be held at Buffalo's St. Adalbert's Basilica on April 23.

ISKIERKI. The WNY Division of the **Polish American Congress** is undertaking a project to develop an interactive virtual tour of the area's historic Polonia sites to be called "The Polish Heritage Trail" ... **Justin Kohan** and **Aaron Zakrzewski** were awarded this year's Polish Arts Club of Buffalo's \$1,000 scholarships at the group's recent Installation Luncheon. Officers and directors were installed by Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Court **Judge Carl Bucki**.

Hungry Polonians have two new options for comfort food while visiting Toronto, Ontario: **The Saucy Pierogi** at 1282 Dundas Street West <http://thesaucypierogi.com>, and **The Loaded Pierogi** at 1044 Gerard Street East <http://loadedpierogi.ca>.

The WNY Division of the Polish American Congress hosted its "Kulig Winter Festival 2016" at the Chestnut Ridge Park Casino in Orchard Park despite an uncharacteristic lack of snow, and the **Polish Heritage Dancers** of WNY marked "Paczki Day" with music by Special Delivery at the Holy Mother of the Rosary Polish National Cathedral in Lancaster, Feb. 7 ... Buffalo native **Tom Dudzick's** play, "Miracle on South Division Street," completed a successful run at Rochester's GEVA Theatre on Feb. 7th ... The **Polish Heritage Dancers** of WNY offered its "Want To Learn How To Dance for Dyngus Day?" polka lessons at the St. John the Baptist Parish Hall in Alden on Feb. 11th, 18th and 25th ... Also on the 11th, WNY Polonian activist **Jim Lawicki** was invested in the Order of St. Stanislaus in Rome ... From Feb. 11th through the 25th, the Institute of National Remembrance, University of Toronto and Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Toronto presented an exhibit entitled "Polska Walczaca, Fighting Poland" at the Munk School of Global Affairs.



NA ZDROWIE! Beekeeper David Newman and Rev. Czesław Krysa of St. Casimir's Parish pose at St. Casimir's annual Krupnik Fundraiser, held at the Polish Villa II restaurant in Cheektowaga, N.Y., Jan. 30. The honey-liqueur cordial is made by Fr. Krysa and volunteers, using a recipe handed down through the priest's family.

Admission to the event includes a bowl of bigos (Hunter's Stew), a Polish buffet, Mama Krysa's Honey Cubes, and a shot of krupnik. A raffle, split club, and live polka music by Special Delivery topped off the afternoon. Funds raised will be used for the restoration of the church, which is located in Buffalo's Kaisertown section. To make a donation, or to learn more, write to: St. Casimir's Roman Catholic Church, 160 Cable St., Buffalo, NY 14206; (716) 824-9589.

On Feb. 12-13, **Kabaret Pod Banka** presented its "19th Annual Polonijny Kabaret" at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga, Ontario ... **St. John Kanty Parish** began its "Pierogi and Placek Sale" the weekend of Feb. 13 and 14th. The sale will continue each weekend until Palm Sunday ... On Feb. 14th, WNEC Classical 94.5 FM aired "Polskie Wesele: A Polish Wedding" featuring Eileen Koterak Elibol, Sophie Hodorowicz Knab and Rev. Czesław Krysa. The program was funded by the **Permanent Chair of Polish Culture** at

Canisius College ... The Polish Arts Club of Buffalo presented **Joe Macielag's** lecture on "Polka - The Polish American Cultural Anthem?" at the Harlem Road Community Center on Feb. 17th.

The **Novi Singers Polish Choir** and **Shevchenko Choir** presented "Slavic Roots: Blending Ukrainian and Polish Cultures" on the 28th at Toronto's Columbus Centre.

UPCOMING. The **Professional & Businessmen's Association** will hold its General Membership Meeting on March 1st at Bobby J's Res-

taurant in Cheektowaga ... Also on March 1st, the **Chopin Singing Society** will present a musical evening commemorating the genius of Frederick Chopin at the Pvt. Leonard Post VFW ... In March, the University of Rochester **Skalny Lecture and Artist Series** will salute Polish filmmaker Krzysztof Kieslowski by screening his "Three Colors: Blue" on March 2nd, "Three Colors: White" on March 16th, and "Three Colors: Red" on March 23rd, at the Dryden Theatre in Rochester.

The WNY Division of the **Polish American Congress** will hold its Annual Election Meeting at the St. Stanislaus Marian Hall on Buffalo's East Side on March 10th. By-law changes will also be on the ballot ... The **Pulaski Police Association** of Buffalo and WNY will host its Casino Trip on March 15th ... March 28th is Dyngus Day. For the latest information about celebrations, please visit www.dyngusday.com ... Forgotten Buffalo is offering its "Pride of Polonia Tour" on April 11th ... **Rev. Matt Nycz** will be leading a Jubilee Year of Mercy "The Saints of Mercy" Pilgrimage to Poland May 16-24. The group will visit places associated with Saint John Paul II, Saint Faustina Kowalska and Saint Maximilian Kolbe ... Polish composer and conductor **Krzysztof Penderecki** will conduct the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra at Kleinhans Music Hall in Buffalo on December 3-4.

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

Wishing All a Happy Easter

Congressman

BRIAN HIGGINS

26th-New York



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POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Mixing Up Your Świączone Menu

The Polish term Świączone (pronounced; shfyen-TSAW-neh) can be translated into English as Easter breakfast, brunch or lunch. Here are some of the things that could grace your festive table after Easter Sunday Mass.

EASTER RYEMEAL SOUP (żurek wielkanocny). In pot combine 2 to 2½ c diced smoked kielbasa, ham and/or roast pork, 6 c water, 1 quartered onion and several peppercorns. Simmer on low under cover 1 hr. Stir in 2-3 c ryemeal sour (*ryemeal sour; also known as żur; is a liquid is available at Polish delis and at some supermarkets with international sections. You can make your own with 2 c water mixed with 2-3 T cider vinegar. — ed.*), 1 c water in which 1 heaping T flour has been dissolved and ¼ of a mushroom bouillon cube. Bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer 5 min. Switch off heat, add 1 bud crushed garlic, 1 heaping t prepared horseradish and 1 heaped T marjoram. Stir and salt & pepper to taste. Serve over hard-boiled eggs and ¼ inch slices of cooked kielbasa. Variation: This soup can also be made with 1 part kielbasa stock (in which your kielbasa was cooked) and 1 part water.

WHITE EASTER BARZSCZ (biały barszcz wielkanocny). In pot combine 3 c water in which fresh or smoked kielbasa has been cooked with 3 c cold water. Add 2-3 c liquid ryemeal sour (see above), bring to boil and simmer 5 min. Remove from heat. In small mixing bowl, fork-blend or whisk 1 heaping T flour with ¾ c sour cream until smooth. Add 1 c hot stock 1 T at a time to sour-cream

mixture, fork-blending or whisking constantly, then stir mixture into pot. Return to heat and simmer 2-3 min just below boiling point. Serve over hard-cooked eggs and sliced cooked sausage. Cubed farmer cheese, dry rye-bread cubes and horseradish may also be provided.

BEETROOT & HORSERADISH (ćwikła z chrzanem): Drain 1 12 oz can pickled beets (reserving liquid). Grate coarsely or chop fine and mix with 1-2 heaping T prepared horseradish. Optional: sprinkle with a pinch or 2 ground caraway. This relish as an absolute “must” to accompany traditional Polish Easter food (eggs, ham, sausage, roasts). Note: Use the beet liquid to dye several shelled hard-cooked eggs by keeping them submerged 1 hr. Pat the red eggs dry with paper towel and intersperse them among the white hard-cooked shelled eggs for a colorful accent.

EASTER SALAD (salatka wielkanocna) Combine 2-3 c cold, cooked, diced potatoes, 1 can drained peas & carrots, 2 cans drained navy beans (or pea-beans), 4 diced dill pickles, 1 bunch chopped green onions, 1 bunch diced radishes, 2 peeled, cored, diced apples and 2 - 5 diced hard-cooked eggs. Toss ingredients gently, season with salt & pepper lace with just enough basic mayonnaise-sour cream sauce (above) to coat ingredients. Garnish with chopped parsley. Note: Feel free to juggle quantities according to preference. Other possible ingredients include: capers, chopped celery, bell pepper, diced beets, a firm diced pear, etc. Re-

frigerate over night for flavors to blend.

HOME-MADE WHITE KIELBASA (biała kielbasa domowa). If you want to try your hand at making home-made kielbasa, refrigerate 4.5 lbs pork butts overnight. Next day cut into chunks, grind coarsely, and combine with 1 lb cold ground veal or raw hamburger. Sprinkle with 3 T salt and ½ to 1 t pepper and 2-3 buds crushed garlic. Work by hand, gradually add ½ - ¾ c cold water and continue working until it is completely absorbed. Slip end of hog casing which has been rinsed of salt over sausage-making nozzle of electric or hand-cranked meat-grinder. Stuff casing with meat mixture, twisting into 12” links. Hang up in cool place to air dry several hrs or overnight. Variation: For West Poland kielbasa [Poznań region], add 1 heaped T marjoram to meat mixture.

BAKED WHITE KIELBASA (biała kielbasa pieczona). Arrange white (fresh unsmoked) kielbasa in a single layer in uncovered baking pan. Cover with cold water and bake in 350° oven. Turn sausage over when half the water has evaporated. Scatter wafer-thin onion slices over top and sprinkle with caraway seed. It is ready when all water evaporates and sausage begins to sizzle.

DID YOU KNOW? “Chodzenie z kogutem” (“making the rounds with a rooster”) was once a favorite form of house-to-house Easter caroling on Easter Monday and later. The rooster symbolized fertility, high yields, and robust health.

Favorite Easter Cakes and Pastries

POLISH LOG CAKE (sękacz). Beat 1 slightly heaped c unsalted butter with 1½ c sugar until fluffy (app. 5 min). Add 7 egg yolks 1 at a time, beating until fully absorbed before adding the next, and beat until fluffy and lemony. Stir in 2 t vanilla extract. Separately, combine 1½ c instant flour, ¾ c potato starch and 2 t baking powder and stir into egg mixture. Beat 7 egg whites until they peak and carefully fold into batter. Heat overhead broiler in oven. Grease a tube pan and sprinkle with breadcrumbs. Ladle some batter into the pan to cover bottom and place under broiler 2 min or until golden brown. Ladle in another portion of batter and repeat process. Keep repeating until all batter is used up. Check for doneness with wooden pick. If it does not come out clean, bake in hot oven a while longer.

5 egg whites until stiff and gently fold into cheese mixture.

Transfer to baking pan and bake in preheated 150°F oven 50-60 mins. Remove from oven, cool to room temp and refrigerate.



EASY EASTER BABKA (babka wielkanocna latwa). Mash 1 cake yeast with 1 c sugar. Add 3 whole eggs, beaten, ¾ c butter dissolved in 1 c very warm milk, 3 c flour, 1 t vanilla and ½ c raisins. Mix well to blend ingredients, but do not knead. Fill well-greased babka pan with dough, but it should be only ⅓ full. Cover with cloth and let stand in warm place until doubled in bulk (about 2 hrs). Bake about 1 hr in preheated 350°F oven. It is fully baked when a wooden pick comes out clean. Dust with confectioner’s sugar or glaze with icing (mix together ⅔ c confectioner’s sugar, 1 t rum or vanilla extract and 2-3 T boiling water).

EASY POLISH CHEESECAKE (latwy sernik). Line bottom of ungreased 9 – 10 inch round baking pan with parchment paper and cover it tightly wall to wall with Polish biszkopty, Lorna Doones, vanilla wafers or other plain cookies. Beat 5 egg yolks with 1 c sugar and 1 t vanilla until fluffy. Process 2.2 lbs farmer cheese (twaróg) to a powder and add in small batches to a powder and add in small batches to yolk mixture beating constantly until well absorbed. Finally beat in 1 pkg vanilla pudding mix. Separately beat

CRUMBLE-TOP PLUM MAZURKA (mazurek powidlowy z kruszonką). Cut ½ lb butter into 3 c flour, add 4 egg yolks and 1 scant c confectioner’s sugar. Quickly work ingredients into a smooth dough, wrap in foil and refrigerate several hrs. Divide dough into 2 parts. Roll out one half and fit it into square or rectangular baking pan. Spread with powidla (Polish plum butter). Coarsely grate the remaining dough, evenly covering the entire surface. Bake in preheated 390°- 400° oven about 20 min or until nice and golden. When cool, cut into squares.

HAPPY EASTER



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The Polish Town Where They Beheaded Death

by Agnieszka Gryzek

Jedlińsk is a town in the Mazovian voivodeship of Poland, situated along E-77 highway on the Radomka River (a tributary of the Wisła) 60 miles south of Warsaw. It is locally famous not just for its picturesque landscapes but, above all, for the unusual mystery play that has been re-enacted there for centuries. Here, on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the citizens of Jedlińsk settle scores with the greatest criminal opposing the human race: for more than 150 years, Death itself has been publicly tried, condemned, and beheaded on the Town Square!

The annual spectacle is a particularly colorful phenomenon whose uniqueness enralls not just the locals but guests from across Poland and the world. The multi-century tradition has been preserved to our day thanks to a dramatic text written by Father Jan Kłoczowski.

The first traces of the spectacle date from 1860 and were found in



ANNUAL SHROVE TUESDAY PERFORMANCE. For more than 150 years, Death itself has been publicly tried, condemned, and beheaded in Jedlińsk Town Square on the day before Lent. The play is deeply rooted in the local tradition and the only one of its kind in Europe.

an article by Fr. Kłoczowski in the "Daily Gazette" ("Gazeta Codzienna"). The article described the event and contained a brief ethnographic note. His poetic text for the mystery play appeared in 1868 in the *Kalendarz Warszawski*.

The origins of the mystery play are not completely known, but Kłoczowski, a famous observer, discussed its sources this way: "I heard of that beheading of death ... and thought it was a leftover from pagan times. After a closer study of the matter, however, I concluded that this was untrue. It is a remembrance of the bloody executions from those times when criminals were beheaded in Jedlińsk. The sources of the custom should then be sought in the earlier golden days of the settlement, to which the text of the play appeals and which is a leftover of them."

In those days, only important towns had the privilege of the so-called "right of the sword" (*jus gladii*), the privilege of executing the most serious of criminals, conferred

upon them.

Jedlińsko (the historical name of the place) was established by Mikołaj Jedliński in 1530 and, at the same time, received city rights. It lost both those city rights and the "right of the sword" — as did the majority of towns — at the time of the Partitions, by virtue of an 1869 decree from the Russian Czar.

The Arian School (which functioned in the period 1530-1630) and the Rakovian Academy (which, after 1630, functioned as a lyceum under supervision of the Kraków Academy) both doubtlessly influenced the shape of the play. [Jedlińsk had been a center of the Protestant Reformation in Poland—ed.]. As in other academic centers at the time, the students of Jedlińsk organized different kinds of theatrical presentations. Death frequently played a role in many dramas from the Enlightenment period (e.g., *The Judgment of Paris*, *Prince of Troy*) but in them it is Death that executes rather than being executed.

And that is what is special about Jedlińsk's "Beheading Death" — they were the first justly to try and sentence Death to death. "It was a matter unheard of, that Death be captured!"

The play is deeply rooted in the local tradition and the only one of its kind in Poland or even Europe. One proof of the exceptional nature of this presentation is that Death is played by an actor in the costume of a skeleton and not — as in other plays — by a puppet. Likewise, in

keeping with centuries-old tradition, all roles, even the feminine ones, are played by men. The executioner's role, which is central to the play, tells man how to behave to avoid punishment. His words are eloquent: "I, the master of justice, do not let any wrongdoing pass by: no guilt, no crime." The play ends with an angelic monologue: "Although you have beheaded death, he nevertheless lives, and will soon seize you all by your necks!"

The signal for the beginning of the last day of Carnival before Lent is the transfer of power at 1:00 p.m. from the incumbent mayor by the ancient city council. The figures of the play (*kusaki*) alone rule Jedlińsk until midnight, using the time for fun, games, and self-will. That afternoon, the music of folk groups pulses through the town. Despite the winter aura, the common party atmosphere keeps people warm with lively obereks, polkas, and waltzes. Shrove Tuesday is also marked by a market of sellers offering their handmade folk goods. So

"Power is assumed, it's time to begin the Shrove Tuesday festival. Let no one be sad today, let nobody hum sad songs. It's time for a party until the late night." And that's how it was in Jedlińsk, Poland, on February 9. Why not plan to be there next year?

❖ ❖ ❖
Agnieszka Gryzek is director of Jedlińsk Culture and Physical Education Centre (*Centrum Kultury i Kultury Fizycznej*).

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Holy Saturday Easter Food Blessing

by Robert Strybel

The opłatek-sharing ritual of Christmas Eve and the Holy Saturday food-blessing custom are Poland's and Polonia's two best-known holiday traditions. Both are practiced by some 95 percent of all families in Poland and a great many wherever Poles have settled. Over the generations they have grown into national heritage symbols.

In the Poland of yesteryear, priests would perform the blessing in the homes of leading parishioners where a special święconka table was set up. Peasant women would gather with their baskets outside where the priest would sprinkle them with holy water on the way out. In villages without their own church a priest would be driven in to perform the blessing beneath a wayside cross.

Nowadays, Easter baskets are usually taken to church for the blessing, but the actual scenario may vary. Long tables may be set up inside or outside of churches (depending on the weather), and priests come out every so often to perform the ritual. In some churches the baskets are brought up to the communion rail or placed in the aisle next to the pews or kept in the pews, but its cloth covering is always removed.

When preparing the basket, it is first lined with a linen or lace napkin whose ends should extend beyond

the basket's rim, so the Easter food can be covered to and from church. The napkin symbolizes the shroud in which Jesus' body was wrapped. Into the napkin-lined basket are placed:

EGGS, COLORED OR PLAIN. (jaja, pisanki). Plain or colored hard-cooked eggs of one type or another are an absolute "must." The egg symbolizes new life, and the way a chick pecks its way out of the shell is a metaphor for Christ emerging from His tomb to bring us the promise of eternal life.

BREAD (chleb). This is "our daily bread," "the staff of life" and "the bread of life," a metaphor for the redemptive grace Christ has upon mankind. Small round loaves of bread, whose tops are marked with a cross, are specially baked to fit Easter baskets.

MEAT AND SAUSAGE (mięso, wędliny). A piece of kielbasa, a slice of ham or roast meat are usually included. All meats are symbolic of the Paschal lamb or Christ resurrected, His victory over death and His promise of eternal life.

HORSERADISH (chrzan). Both plain, grated, prepared horseradish as well as the well-known beet-horseradish condiment ćwikła symbolize one of the bitter herbs of the Passover which foretold the suffering of

Christ on the Cross. It is also symbolic of life in which one must accept the bitter with the sweet.

VINEGAR (ocet). A small cruet of symbolizes the sour wine (our English word "vinegar" comes from the French "vin aigre" = sour wine) which Jesus was given on a sponge to drink while hanging on the cross.

SALT (sól). Salt in a salt-cellar, salt-shaker or a small paper cone containing a symbolic portion (1 t or so) retards spoilage, improves the taste of food and symbolizes that which preserves us from corruption and adds zest to daily life. Some also include pepper whose preservative and flavor-enhancing role in food preparation is similar to that of salt.

PEPPER (pieprz). Pepper in a pepper pot, pepper-shaker or a small paper cone containing a symbolic portion (1 t or so) is another seasoning that adds zest and preserves food. Like horseradish, it was one of the bitter herbs of the Passover.

EASTER CAKES (babka, mazurek, placek, sękacz, kołacz, chałka, sernik). Babka (a whole small babka or just a slice) together with servings of other traditional Easter cakes are among the typical contents of the traditional Polish Easter basket. Following the 40-day period of Lenten self-denial and mortification, cakes and confections symbolizing the



THE MOST POPULAR POLISH EASTER TRADITION. The blessing of baskets on Easter Saturday defines Poles, wherever they live. Above, a priest does his duty for Poles who settled in London, England.

sweetness of eternal life can now be freely enjoyed in celebration of Christ's Resurrection.

WINE AND OTHER SPIRITS (wino i inne trunki). Some but not all Poles include a small decanter or cruet of wine or other spirits in their Easter basket. Its moderate use was sanctioned by Jesus at the Wedding Feast at Cana, and wine was raised to the altar at the Last Supper where Christ originated the Eucharistic sacrifice of the mass.

EASTER LAMB (baranek wielkanocny). Although this is the prime Easter symbol, it is added to the basket last so it can guard over the remaining ingredients and be clearly visible during the blessing.

The lamb is usually made of butter or sugar (rock candy), but can also be of dough, wood, plaster, fleece or even plastic. It wields a banner of Resurrection emblazoned with a gold cross. The Baranek Wielkanocny symbolizes the sacrificial Paschal lamb, in other words Jesus himself, whose banner proclaims the victory of life over death.

BOX TWIGS (bukszpan). Boxwood, an evergreen shrub with tiny green leaves, is used to decorate Easter baskets. Cranberry leaves are used for the same purpose. Some add a few pussywillow twigs. The main thing is to add a bit of decorative plant-life.

The Święconka Party and Dyngus Day

Two PolAm Easter-themed inventions:

by Robert Strybel

In Poland the term *święconka* means the Holy Saturday food-blessing custom, as well as the Easter basket itself. But across Polonia it has taken on an additional meaning and refers to a community Easter party usually held during. It's much the same with Dyngus Day. In Poland the day after Easter is called *Lany Poniedziałek* (Wet Monday) because of the Śmigus-Dyngus drenching custom. But in Polonia it has become a full-blown celebration similar to the *Święconka* with the water-sprinkling added.

Just as my hometown of Hamtramck, Mich. is now known as America's Pączki Capital, so too Buffalo, N.Y. is undoubtedly the country's Dyngus Day capital (check out www.dyngusday.com). Both cities have revitalized and put their own unique PolAm spin on the Pączki and Dyngus traditions to mention only Hamtramck's Pączki run (www.tour-de-troit.org/paczki-run) and Buffalo's Dyngus Day Parade.

To give your Dyngus Day and/or Święconka some authentic ethnic flavor, the following things might be considered.

ŚWIĘCONKA TABLE. Properly prepared and prominently displayed, this traditional Easter table (set up for the Holy Saturday blessing) could be the mood-setting conversation piece of your event.

FOOD BLESSING. If a priest is on hand, the food may be ceremoniously blessed, even though some time has elapsed since Holy Saturday, the traditional food-blessing day.

EXPLANATION. Since a growing number of Polish Americans are no longer all that familiar with their heritage, many are of mixed ethnic backgrounds and non-Polonian guests are likely to be in attendance, an effort should be made to explain the significance of the individual symbols and customs. This may be done through a brief presentation by the officiating clergyman, emcee, club president, etc. and/or printed programs or leaflets meant to be taken home by participants.

EASTER MENU. The foods featured at such events should expose guests to the typical Polish Easter foods: white Easter soup (zurek or biały barszcz), hard-cooked eggs prepared in different ways, ham and other cold meats, jellied pig's feet, kielbasa – cold and hot, ćwikła, sal-


ads, and such seasonal cakes as babka, mazurek, sernik, sękacz, pascha, placek z kruszonką and kołacz.

POLISH EASTER CONCERT. Traditional Polish Easter hymns performed by a choir and/or instrumental group (see above) would help highlight the Paschal aspect of this event.

EASTER FOLK-ART DEMONSTRATION. The actual creation of Easter palms, pisanki, wycinanki and other traditional folkcrafts nearly always generates interest.

POLISH EASTER PAGEANT. A staged re-enactment of Polish Lenten and Easter customs by a folk-dance group or other knowledgeable Polonians could help put it all together for the benefit of the average Święconka-goer. This could include the portrayal of such traditions as palm blessing, coloring pisanki, food blessing, the Śmigus-Dyngus drenching custom and house-to-house Easter trick or treating.

EASTER GAMES. Instead of or in addition to the Anglo-Germanic Easter-egg hunt, why not introduce your guests to the traditional Polish egg-rolling contest, the winner being the one whose eggs rolls the farthest. Another traditional contest is the egg-tap. Each contestant taps his hard-cooked Easter egg against that of his rival, the winner being the one whose egg remains intact.


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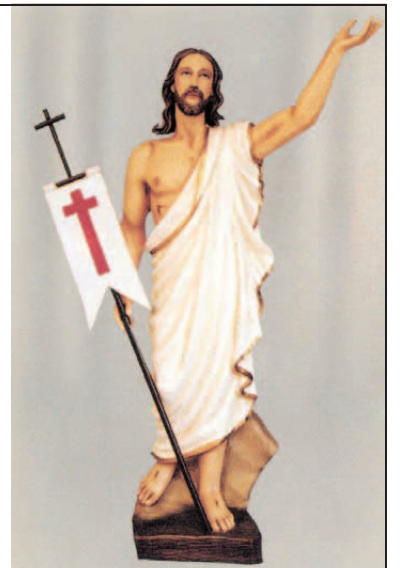
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Easter (the Great Night) in Old Poland

by Robert Strybel

Easter, known in Polish as Wielkanoc (literally: Great Night) or Wielka Niedziela (Great Sunday) finally arrived after six long weeks of Lent. Things began with a Eucharistic procession that encircled the outside of the church three times before the actual Mass got under way. Church bells, which had fallen silent on Holy Thursday, now rang out joyously. Gunshots and detonations could be heard in memory of

the rumbling believed the have accompanied the opening of Christ's tomb. A local garrison might even provide an artillery salute.

THE CHURCH WAS ABLAZE with lights and full of flowers and greenery. Gone was the somber mood, dimmed lights and violet-shrouded, statues of Lent Christ's Tomb was now empty, and a figure of Christ holding the Banner of Resurrection was seen on the altar. After Mass,

parishioners greeted each other with "Chrystus zmartwychwstał" (Christ has risen), to which the response came: "Prawdziwie zmartwychwstał! (Truly He has risen).

Famished after six weeks of lean Lenten fare, all looked forward to Święcone. The breakfast began with prayers and the sharing of blessed Easter eggs, accompanied by mutual well-wishing. On the table there appeared a tureen of steaming Easter soup — *zurek* or *biały barszcz* — containing hard-cooked eggs and *kielbasa* slices. Hard-cooked eggs, plain or garnished with various toppings, were ravenously devoured by Poles who had not tasted a single egg since before Ash Wednesday.

White (unsmoked) *kielbasa* with white or red beetroot-flavored horseradish was a typical Easter treat. Better-to-do families also feasted on smoked hams and baked pork loins while those less well off made do with *kaszanka* (kiszka) and *zimne nogi* (jellied pigs feet). *Babkas*, *mazurkas*, cheesecakes (*sernik*) and *sękacz* (log cake) were typical Easter desserts.

The rest of the day was usually spent with family, chatting, snacking, and possibly an afternoon stroll. Youngsters amused themselves with Easter games, such as *wybitka*, where two competitors tapped eggs together and the winner was the one whose egg did not crack. They also rolled eggs down a small hill or inclined planks to see whose went the farthest. Egg hunts were known only in Prussian-ruled Poland.

Easter Monday, known in Poland as *Dyngus Day* and in Poland as *Lany Poniedziałek* (Wet Monday), is when *Śmigus-Dyngus* is celebrated. It evolved from two separate customs: the *Śmigus* part referred to boys whipping girls' legs with pussy willow branches, while *Dyngus* referred to Easter trick or treating. A stingy householder might be drenched with a bucket of water.

In Old Poland it was the household-to-house rounds by begging masqueraders lasting from Easter Monday until Pentecost that provided the most amusement. In some places the revelers pulled along a little cart containing a live, stuffed or carved wooden rooster, a symbol of spring, vitality and robust health. They also recited humorous poems or songs, one of which translates as:

*Easter begging we have come,
About Jesus we'll sing a song.
About the Virgin and Saint Pete,
About old Judas and the thief.
Generous housewife,
if you please,
Treat us to vodka,
bread and cheese.*



Happy Easter!
Wesołego Alleluja!
to our family, friends,
Polish Americans,
and Poles everywhere.

**RICHARD
AND PEARL
WILGOSZ**
Hollywood, Florida

Wesołego Alleluja!



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ACPC
for Polish Culture

wishes Polonia a Happy Easter!

Wesołego Alleluja

This year our Annual Convention
will take place
August 10 - 14 in Pittsburgh, PA
at the Wyndham Pittsburgh University Center Hotel

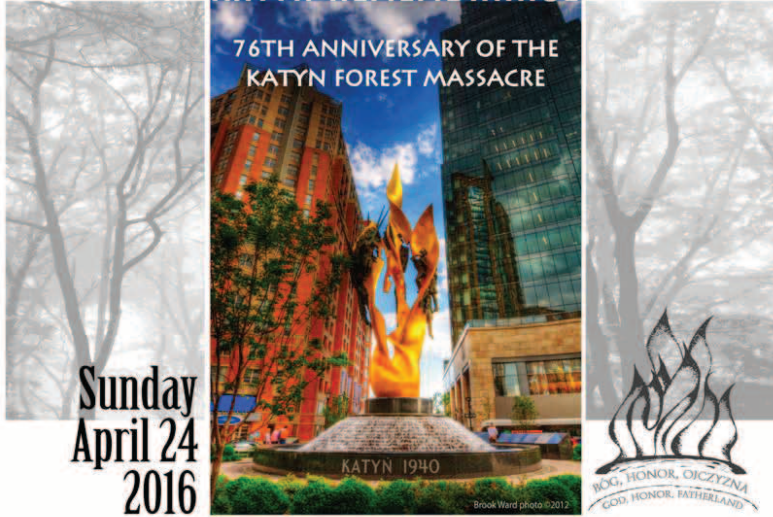
Officers:

- Thomas Payne - President
- Robert Synakowski - 1st Vice-president
- Alicia Dutka - 2nd Vice-President
- Judy Tompkins - Treasurer
- Marcia Lewandowski - Recording Secretary

see ACPC activities and membership info on our website:
www.polishcultureacpc.org

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL KATYN REMEMBRANCE

76TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
KATYN FOREST MASSACRE



Sunday
April 24
2016

Sponsored by The National Katyn Memorial Foundation, with The Embassy of the Republic of Poland
www.katynbaltimore.com

10:30 am Mass at Holy Rosary Church
408 S. Chester St., Baltimore, MD 21231
(off the 2100 block of Eastern Ave.)

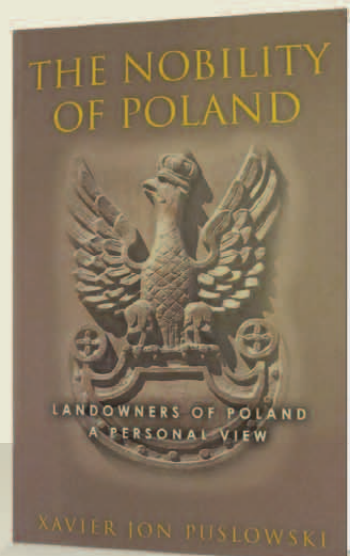
11:45 am Coffee/Pastry Reception
Holy Rosary Church Undercroft

1:00 pm Ceremonies at the National Katyn Memorial
Baltimore Harbor East at Katyn Circle
600 block of President St. (at Aliceanna St.)
Baltimore, MD 21202

'SHOULD I FORGET THEM, MAY GOD IN HEAVEN FORGET ME.'
ADAM MICKIEWICZ

THE NOBILITY OF POLAND

By Xavier Jon Puslowski



AVAILABLE AT:
amazon.com

Action-filled as any thriller, this historic panorama brings to life a little known and long defunct society: the Polish nobility, from their origins to their political demise during World War II.

Beginning with a mysterious murder, still unsolved, whose aftereffects shook Polish society to its core, the narrative unfolds until it reaches the 1940s. Chapters range from the nobility's day-to-day lives to such striking landmarks as the seventeenth century wars with the Ottoman Empire, the saga of Europe under the Napoleonic tricolor, and the centrality of Poland to the Eastern Front throughout the course of World War I.

Happy Easter
from the Kosciuszko Foundation!

May it be filled with
lots of love and joy!

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE

(a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 31st year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

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

HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Longtime Polish Museum of America Volunteer Maria Ciesla Retires



Maria Bronny Ciesla

CHICAGO — On January 27, after many years of volunteering her expertise, time, and commitment to the Polish American culture, **Maria Bronny Ciesla** retired as an officer of The Polish Museum of America (PMA). Maria first began volunteering at a docent at the PMA in 1977. From 2005-2015, she served with great distinction as president of the PMA and one year as treasurer. During her tenure, Maria contributed significantly to Polonia's cultural life, by nurturing the Polish spirit, safeguarding historical records of Polish and Polish American history, and helping to elevate the PMA to world-class status. Through her leadership, a completely redesigned state-of-the-art Paderewski Room was realized, the outstanding Stephen and Elizabeth Ann Kusmierczak Fourth Floor Art Gallery was completed, the PMA's first floor entrance was updated, a new and easily accessible first floor gift shop was installed, and the Rare Books Room of the PMA Library was added to the museum. These improvements brought in scores of international visitors to the PMA.

Although Maria's presence in Chicago Polonia has, at times, gone unnoticed and underappreciated, her relentless commitment and sincere compassion in preserving Polish culture has made her an outstanding diplomat for many of the accomplishments of Chicago Polonia. She will continue to be a Polish American community leader *par excellence*, keeping Polonia connected and vital within Chicago's diverse ethnic community.

per" **Topczewski**, retired Chicago police officer, and the **Polish American Police Association**. Ceremonies included the installation of new CS officers.

Guests enjoyed a wonderful dinner, danced to the music of The Music Company, and were treated to some authentic Polish dancing performed by the WICI Ensemble of the PNA.

John A. Wasilewski, retired circuit court judge of Cook County, administered the oath of officers and directors. The new officers and directors are President **Thaddeus J. Makarewicz**, Executive Vice-President **John Cieslik**, Civic Vice-President **Robert Groszek**, Recording Secretary **Richard Ciesla**, Financial Secretary **Ryszard Jadczyk**, Treasurer **Ted Wiecek**, Advocate **L. Steven Rakowski**, Senior Director **Mark Orwat**, Director of Social Activities **Mario Mikoda**, Director of Club House Administration **Romuald E. Matuszczak**, Director of Personnel **Peter A. Dykas**, Director of Publications **Mark Pasiaka**, Director of Public Relations **Charles A. Komosa**, Director of Finance **Andrew Zapalski**, and Director of Special Projects **Charles Cwiakala**.

CS members staged a traditional śledź pageant. The pageant is a fun-filled experience not to be missed!! It was followed by the crowning of a new "St. Joseph" for 2016, who will serve as chaplain at the Chicago Society meetings and at special occasions.

The celebration of Śledź is the Chicago Society's version of Christian and Polish traditions that date back centuries. Poles have always taken their religion and the season of Lent seriously. With equal dedication, they have indulged themselves in the happy time of *Karnawal* (Carnival) commencing with the feast of St. Sylvester (December 31) and ending on Ash Wednesday. The merriment picks up momentum from Shrove Thursday (*Thusty Czwartek*) until midnight on Shrove Tuesday. For the week before Ash Wednesday, meats, sweets, and drink are enjoyed before the restrictions of Lent begin.

According to folklore, Carnival revelers dress as beggars, gypsies, and animals, while musicians play. Those in costume and the musicians join in a procession led by a *dziadek* (old man), who carries a hobo stick with a fish attached to its end. In the

(773) 286-7123, John Cieslik (312) 859-5404, or Mark Orwat (773) 502-6969.

changed, and our production has not changed," Derek Luszc said. "We still make our sausages and artisanal



Polish American Advisory Board.

ILLINOIS COMPTROLLER MEETS WITH POLONIA. On January 13, Illinois Comptroller **Leslie Geissler Munger** met for the second time with the non-partisan Polish American Advisory Board at the office of the Polish National Alliance. Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner appointed Leslie Geissler Munger as Illinois State Comptroller on January 12, 2015, after the untimely death of incumbent Judy Baar Topinka.

The meeting highlighted the importance of open communication between Illinois government and Polish American community leaders during these stressful economic times. The Board discussed the state's financial situation and suggested strategies for tackling the challenges ahead. The group spoke about the effects of state payment delays and shared details for minimizing financial hardships for non-profits. Future meetings will be held to ensure an ongoing dialogue.

meats the same way we always have ... it's just the location that's changed." Fresh meats are prepared the old-fashion way by trained butchers.

Gene Luszc and his brother, John, immigrated from a small village in the Malopolskie region of Poland. They first established their delicatessen business in 1972 at the corner of Roscoe and Laramie, in the St. Ladislaus Church area on the northwest side of Chicago. The family sold a variety of smoke meats and other delicacies to Polish and non-Polish customers. In 1980, they moved the sausage shop to the Belmont location.

The Luszc family sold its Belmont location to Carnicerias Jimenez, a Mexican grocery chain. The host of "Bizarre Foods with Andrew Zimmern" on the Travel Channel visited Gene's to sample *kiszka*, Polish blood sausage.

Derek also announced that Gene's has collaborated with the



Śledź participants.

CHICAGO SOCIETY CELEBRATES "ŚLEDŹ." Many celebrated Shrove Tuesday and *Pączki Day*, here in Chicago. A traditional Polish Śledź was held by the Chicago Society (CS) of the Polish National Alliance. **Charles Komosa** and **Mark Orwat** acting as master of ceremonies hosted a party that included śledź, music, cocktails, dinner, a

past, the procession would travel from house to house, receiving gifts of food and drink along the way. In Poland, *kulig*, or the carnival ride, was a procession of colorfully decorated sleighs. Prior to midnight on Shrove Tuesday, a platter of śledź would remain. In certain parts of Poland, fried cakes, such as *racuchy* (funnel cakes) or *pączki* would be served.

Playful members of the Chicago Society recreated this tradition with **Michael Dropka** portraying the devil, **Robert Groszek** as an angel, **Romuald E. Matuszczak** as Father Time, and **Judge Edward and Mrs. Alice Marsalek** as the King and Queen of the Carnival, and the 2015 "St. Joseph," **Ryszard Jadczyk**, selected **John Cieslik** as the 2016 "St. Joseph." Acting as pallbearers were **Ted Makarewicz**, **Ronald Topczewski**, **Rocky Nowaczyk**, and **L. Steve Rakowski**.

The **Chicago Society** cordially invites you to its **Pre-Primary Election Candidates' Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner** on Thurs., March 10, at the AAC Eagles Club, 5844 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago. The cost is \$40.00 per person. This is perennially a sold-out event, so reservation and pre-payment are required. No tickets will be sold at the door. Contact Charles Komosa

traditional Chicago Society pageant, and loads of wonderful *pączki*, on February 9. Guests travelled to the LaVilla Restaurant in Chicago, for the festive evening. Some who were there had never attended such a party, or even knew that this Polish tradition exists.

Dinner started with śledź (hering) as an appetizer. After dinner,



Installation of Chicago Society officers and directors.

2016 CHICAGO SOCIETY INAUGURAL BALL. On January 23, the Chicago Society (CS) of the Polish National Alliance (PNA) held its annual Inaugural Ball at Café LaCave in Des Plaines, Illinois. This year, the CS honored its persons of the year: **Edward H. Marsalek**, retired Cook County judge, **Ronald "Top-**

GENE'S SAUSAGE SHOP CLOSED, BUT YET OPEN.

After a successful 35-year run, the popular **Gene's Sausage Shop & Delicatessen**, located on Belmont Avenue on Chicago's Northwest Side, closed its doors on January 15, 2016. The shop was always easy to spot with its large Hereford cow sculpture that dominated the outside of the store above the door. The Luszc family owns Gene's at another newer location on Lincoln Avenue, which opened in 2009. The newer Lincoln Square store was the former popular German-style Meyer's Delicatessen. Gene's has added an outdoor rooftop patio serving beer and grilled sausages.

According to **Derek Luszc**, Gene's son and co-owner, "My parents are both in good health and they've spent 44 years working hard at their stores, so they've decided to take a little time for themselves." But his parents, Gene and Alice will still be spending some time at the Lincoln Avenue location.

"We want everyone to understand that our products have not



Gene's on Belmont.

Arcade Brewing Company of Chicago to create Gene's Sausage Bock Beer. The beer is brewed from malt smoked at Gene's. The label features the likeness of Gene Luszc framed in kielbasa and wearing his well-known white paper hat as he sharpens a butcher's knife.

Many Chicagoans remember the former Krakus Deli on Milwaukee in Chicago's Jefferson Park area. It is rumored that Gene's will open another store at this location soon.

DID YOU KNOW? "Rezurekcja" (literally: Resurrection) is the name of an early morning Easter Mass that begins at the crack of dawn with an outdoor Eucharistic procession that thrice encircles the church.

CULTURAL TELEGRAM / Kasia Romanowska

SPOTLIGHT ON LONG ISLAND / Barbara Szydłowski

Titanic — The Exhibition

It's been nearly 20 years since James Cameron's *Titanic* premier in 1997. Yet the fascination with the luxury ship dates back much earlier. *Titanic* sank on April 15, 1912. In one month, in the Palace of Culture and Science, viewers can see the exhibition titled *Titanic*. Cabins and corridors of the world's most famous ship will be displayed on over 2,000 sq. m. Viewers will also have the opportunity to see the famous stairs to the ballroom.

The exhibition will feature more than 200 original objects donated by the heirs of survivors of the disaster. Viewers will be able to take a close look at the tableware, jewelry, garments, letters, diaries and postcards written by the passengers. Each of the objects will be accompanied by the story of the owner.

The exhibit, *Titanic, the Exhibition* will be on display on the fourth floor of the Palace from April 9 to October 9. Tickets can be bought on www.bilety.cojestrgrane24.pl or www.wystawatitanic.com.pl. Normal price of 39.99 PLN, reduced price 29.99 PLN.

AMERICAN STAND-UP COMEDIAN TO PERFORM IN POLAND. Stand-up Polska invited an American stand-up comedian Matt Davis to perform in Poland. Davis is a firm believer that nothing is sacred ... nothing is safe. With over one million online video views and five full-length comedy albums, Davis is known for his dark and dirty humor.

He recently headlined the twelve-show "Operation Laughter" tour for U.S. troops in the Middle East and Africa. Davis' "dirty but smart" sense of humor has earned him an Editor's Choice on Sony Crackle.com, and has taken him to eight countries with repeat performances in over 150 cities.

His material relies on everything from hunting and Harry Potter to retro clothing and homophobia of Arabs. The show in English will be yet another organized by Stand-up Polska after the one with Dylan Moran in November.

WOMEN OF NO SIGNIFICANCE IN DRAMATYCZNY THEATER.

Women with no significance (*Kobiety bez znaczenia*) is a new play in Dramatyczny Theater. Based on works of British playwright Alan Bennett, it opened at the Dramatyczny Theater in Warsaw, Feb. 19.

The play is all about a dramatic life of two lonely women, forming moving portraits of characters. The play is comprised of parallel monologues of two extremely different women who do not want to dissolve into nothingness. One of them is a clerical worker with a boring life, the other, a working class woman who is not afraid to speak up.

Women with no significance was directed by theater director Grzegorz Chrapkiewicz. The main characters are played by Małgorzata Niemirska and Halina Łabonarska.

Pulaski Parade Committee Names Dr. Koch-Kapturski Grand Marshal

NEW YORK — "Celebrating Polish American Youth in Honor of World Youth Day, Krakow, Poland" is the theme for the 2016 General Pulaski Parade, to be held Oct. 2, on Fifth Avenue, New York City.

The sashing of the 2016 Pulaski parade marshal, Dr. K. Dr. Donna Koch-Kapturski, took place at the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York, on Jan. 21.

Family, friends and members from various Polish organizations were welcomed by the Consul General Urszula Gacek.

At the most recent Parade Committee meeting, Parade Committee President Richard Zawisny requested a moment of silence for the passing of the 1996 grand marshal, Regina Kujawa Kowal. Following, 2015 parade marshal Artur Dybanowski relinquished his sash to Dr. Koch. Among the honorable guests in attendance were the past grand marshals Senator Ray Lesniak of New Jersey; founder of the Guardian Angels, Curtis Sliwa; Stanley Trojaniak; Dariusz Knapik; president of the Polish Slavic Federal Credit



Dr. Donna Koch Kapturski and family.

Union Bogdan Chmielewski; and television news anchor, correspondent, radio host, and author Rita Cosby.

Dr. Koch, a resident of Garfield, N.J., was born in Passaic, New Jersey to Polish immigrant parents. Dr. Koch is married, and a mother of three children. She moved to Garfield following her medical school residency in 2001, whereby she established a family medicine practice. As a resident of Garfield, she has given the children of the community a tutoring program called "Essential Piece," where she mentors high school students who demonstrate an interest in the medical profession.

In 2012, Dr. Koch was honored

along with 35 other women by Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter of District 35. She was given the "Women in Excellence" during Women's History Month 2012.

A music performance by pianist Wayne Wenc and entertainment by the Gorale Dancers was enjoyed by all in attendance. The event was hosted by General Pulaski Memorial Parade committee President Richard Zawisny. The master of ceremonies was Peter Eagler.

MARCH BABIES. Fryderyk Chopin was born on March 1, 1810.

A composer and pianist, his music was deeply influenced by his Polish roots. Its beauty and lyricism still speaks to all men. He was perfection itself, and only gave 30 public performances. He died in 1849 and was buried in France.

Casimir Pulaski was born on March 6, 1745. He was a fiery soldier, who fought courageously but unsuccessfully to save Poland from partitioning powers. In July 1777, he came to America to offer his services in the war for independence and as a cavalry general. He won distinction in numerous campaigns.

Vince Boryla, born March 11, 1927, is a retired Polish American basketball player ... On March 13, 1884, U.S. Army Gen. **Joseph Barzyski** was born. ... On March 26, 1932 former Lt. Governor of New York **Mary Anne Krupsak** was born ... Former NFL football quarterback **Ron Jaworski** was born on March 23, 1951 ... Two gentlemen share the same birthdate on March 28: **Sen. Frank Murkowski** of Alaska (1933) and **Zbigniew Brzezinski**, political scientist, statesman, and geostrategist (1928).

HAPPY EASTER. The egg has been a centerpiece of Easter customs for centuries. Egg-rolling contests, egg hunts and egg dying all have their European counterparts. The decoration of eggs is particularly common, with styles ranging from pastel monotonous (most common in the United States), to the elaborate filigree work of the Ukraine and Poland, which makes it traditional *pisanki*. In Greece and the Christian Middle East, eggs are dyed red, symbolizing the sacrificial blood of Christ.

Karski's Life Told in Illustration

JUPITER, Fla. — The Jan Karski Educational Foundation announces the publication of the long-anticipated illustrated book *Karski's Mission: To Stop the Holocaust*, based on the true story of Jan Karski (1914-2000), a Polish Catholic and member of the Polish Underground during World War II, who risked his life to carry his eyewitness account of the ongoing slaughter of the Jews in Nazi-occupied Poland to Allied leaders.

The text of this 28-page comic book was written by Dr. Rafał Medoff, founding director of The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies and the author of

15 books about the Holocaust and Jewish history. The bold and dramatic illustrations were drawn by Dean Motter, an artist, writer and designer, best known for the comic book sensation, *Mister X*. The book has been published in two language versions, English and Polish.

The Foundation's mission is to instill in people — especially youth — the values of leadership, courage



and integrity, as exemplified by the life of Karski. The Foundation is offering the new book to educators to use in the classroom, especially on middle and high school level, in addition to other resources, including Karski's wartime memoir *Story of a Secret State*, educational packet and others.

Students will be attracted to the fast-paced narration and engaging illustrations and the book will serve as an effective tool to help them learn about Humanity's Hero, as well as expand their knowledge about the Holocaust and European history. The comic book can also serve as an introduction to *Story of*

a Secret State.

If you are an educator and would like to obtain copies for your classroom, please contact the Foundation at info@jankarski.net, or write to: Jan Karski Educational Foundation, P.O. Box 192, Jupiter, FL 33468.

Karski's Mission: to Stop the Holocaust was underwritten by the Jan Karski Educational Foundation (Fundacja Edukacyjna Jana Karskiego), and The Association of Friends of the Polish History Museum. Additional funding for the Polish edition was provided by the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.

SYBIRACY / Stefania Borstowa

Trying to Stay Clean in Unsanitary Conditions During Kazakhstan's Winter

"Sibracy" (Poles exiled to Siberia during World War II) is written by Stefania Borstowa. Borstowa, her children and Marysia, a home servant, were deported from Lvov to Krutoyarka, a small village in Kazakhstan. Soon after the Soviet Union invasion, her husband was sent to the labor camp in Eastern Siberia and died of dysentery, but she did not know about it until after World War II.

Please: read this letter after you already finished your last meal. I only share these reflections with few of you and please, keep it to yourself. Please, attach this letter to all the previous records of my life in Kazakhstan. It is a bit rude and written in a common language, which I don't used on daily basis. I hope you would not keep it against me. I have to share it with you, otherwise I would choke up.

Excerpt from the letter written in December 15, 1940:

It is a winter time and a day starts at 8 am. There is no need to wake up earlier since it is still dark. We eat breakfast like hungry wolves, then we have to go "to the yard, Baba Jagans we need to relieve ourselves, some-

where behind the barn. There is not even one simple toilet in the whole village of Krutoyarka! The slogan of local people is "You pee where you stand."

We see the smelly traces of human presence everywhere. Before we go out we have to dress warm, put on felt boots, sheepskin coat and the thick headscarf. Then we look for the intimate and calm corner which is not easy, since there is a wind blowing almost everywhere; the snow also blows into the bottom where we expose it. After we are done we run like madmen back to the house, since it is a Siberian cold outside. When we are finally in, we put on underwear and stand for a couple of minutes next to the kitchen oven to heat up the frozen bottoms and peripherals.

Jedrek, my youngest, is the only privileged one, since he is using a potty. But Mischa, a son of our hosts, the same age as Jedrek, runs outside regardless of the weather. When Mischa is ready to do his business outside, he takes off his shorts and thick stockings at home, put on felt boots, gloves, coat, a head cap and runs outside. After a few minutes we hear a cry of poor Mischa. We open the door and see a picture of misery. Mischa holds his shoes in one hand, gloves in the other, feet

and hands are bare and frozen, since they are covered in snow. Misha is a very healthy boy, does not suffer any colds or other infections as like living in the extreme conditions improves his immune system.

It is good when the stomach works well, because if it does not, there is a problem. I am going to describe what Marysia had to go through. She had a bad diarrhea and she had to run back and forth outside the whole time during one winter day and night. After 24 hours her "behind" was cut by frost and wind so badly that it looked like liver-colored. We used ointment and some baby powders to soothe it.

One of our daily chores is picking up head lice. I always check Tereska, my daughter, and I usually find 5-8 lice daily. It is not a surprise since she goes to school daily, where she interacts with other kids. The school building has immense never ending supplies of lice. Jedrek also catch some lice, although his hair is almost completely shaven. God bless, our house does not have any clothing lice, since we scratched and cleaned the walls when we moved here. Bedbugs usually do not disturb us also, but even one is enough, to wake me up from a deep sleep. Fleas are temporarily

gone since it is too cold for them in winter.

Since it is too cold in the farming building, our hosts keep twelve chicken and one rooster in their living room. The rooster is very active, he wakes us up with his "cock-a-doodle-doo" every morning. We are relatively lucky, since other Poles live in the houses where their hosts have calves, lambs or kids (small goats) at homes. Can you imagine the odor of all of these animals? Especially since it is too freezing to open the windows or doors.

The worst are the evenings for us. We can use only one hour of oil lamp light per day, since it is impossible to get any more oil. We use this light to eat supper snack and clean ourselves a bit. We can use soap only once per week and change the personal cloths once per two weeks. We are usually in bed by 6 p.m. and telling the stories. Jedrek asks us to tell stories about Poland. I and Marysia try to find something interesting to say every night about how it was in Poland before the war and how it will be after the war. The happy end usually includes information that there will be always bread, sugar and wine in Poland. After 2-3 hours of storytelling, we all go to sleep.

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

THE PONDERING POLE / Ed Poniewaz

A Polish Pro-lifer, in More Ways than One

Spring. Easter. For Christians, it is the time of Resurrection and new life. Life.

Are you Pro-life?

Most of the thinking around the sanctity of life usually begins and centers on abortion. I prefer the comprehensive approach that the Catholic Church espouses, from cradle to grave and everything in between. Two people said things that I think are interesting perspectives on the right to life and especially on the "in between" part.

I have heard a lot of stirring homilies over the years but the one I heard on Pro-life Sunday this past January brought me, and brought most everyone at Mass to tears. As proof, turning around for the handshake of peace I was surprised to find that the two girls sitting behind me were still teary-eyed and sobbing. Instead of beating us over the head with "abortion is bad, abortion is bad," Father Dan Shaughnessy asked all of us to consider the underlying meaning for the act of abortion, which is the surrender to contraception, not only of the physical, of pills, but the contraception that

is a state of mind. The definition of contraception uses the words inhibit, prevent, or restrict and this affects the smallest child all the way up to the most rugged man. The denouement of the sermon was his personal story of intervention and how much he loves receiving "grace" in his life, Grace, in the form of a bubbly and beautiful little girl.

THE OTHER REFERENCE that had a good "everything in between" sentiment was a speech by the Republican candidate Carly Fiorina. She spoke of her early experience in the business world and how at one point she was told to "settle" into a position and go along with the status quo. She explained how happy she was to have never "settled" for things she thought could be improved or for outcomes that could be better. Whatever your opinion about Carly, I think it is safe to say she has a fire in her belly for life and what it has to offer.

There are countless examples of Poles that embraced life in all of its fullness, became successful, and made any number of contributions

to humanity, including in the realm of Pro-life. Recently I finished reading the excellent book, *The Auschwitz Volunteer: Beyond Bravery, Captain Witold Pilecki, Prisoner No. 4859* (Aquila Polonica, 2012). Some might think it strange to use a concentration camp experience as an example for Pro-life but I think this comparison to the abortion industry is real and fits.

Just as the fences around Auschwitz blocked all civil normalcy and German Nazism was contraception to all the life outside of the sphere of Hitler's terrible cult, the "haftlings" (camp inmates and prisoners) were like feint heartbeats inhabiting the inner sanctum of that awful place of death. Not knowing what lay before him, Pilecki volunteered to be captured and sent to Auschwitz to report to the Polish government and the allies what was going on in the camp. The book is his diary of his incarceration inside the camp and it is obvious he was engaged fully in completing the mission. The following excerpt from the 1942 chapter confirms this as Captain Pilecki reflects on the reaction of new captures from Warsaw (page 242):

"My comrades whom I have mentioned and who had come in from Warsaw ... remarked that they had not expected to find the inmates' physical condition and morale in Auschwitz to be so good. They said they had known nothing about the brutality here, the 'wall of tears, nor about the phenol or the gas chambers."

"They themselves had not thought, and no one in Warsaw had seriously considered that

Auschwitz could represent an active asset; for the most part people felt that everyone there was a skeleton whom it was pointless and useless to rescue.

"It was bitter listening to this while looking at the lads' brave faces."

WITOLD PILECKI was fighting not only for his life but the life of his comrades, and the life of the nation. He was fighting for life. So many of us Poles give in to the contraception of our self-respect and dignity and accept restrictions and inhibitions imposed upon us by society and the greater world in which we live. Pro-life is about birth, family, language, culture, death, and the remembrance and the history of all of them. Cradle to grave and all that is in between. Captain Pilecki rejected the forces of contraception in his world and he certainly did not settle in accepting it. Should we?

POLISH BABES AND BABIES.

Wow! **Lindsay Czarniak** born in Harrisburg, Pa., Nov. 7, 1977 has been employed in a number of television sports related programs including reporting on the 2008 Summer Olympics, NASCAR Sprint Cup Series, and as a host on ESPN's SportsCenter. Beautiful Polish name and beautiful lady but Lindsay, Polish or not?

On a roll for another Polish named baby. **Kamil and Celeste Kuczewski** have a new baby, Boleslaw Kamil Kuczewski, better known as "Bolek." Bolek is three months old and is, as I have been hearing a lot lately, too cute! Congratulations to the Kuczewskis and



Kamil and Celeste Kuczewski, with baby Bolek.

their beautiful little boy.

❖ ❖ ❖

Wesolego Alleluja to all of the *Polish American Journal* subscribers! Have a chocolate marshmallow egg for me and I hope you embrace all aspects of life including the varied and beautiful traditions and customs that have been handed down to you from our ancestors.

❖ ❖ ❖

If you have a thought about this month's topic, have a question, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; email alinabrig@yahoo.com. N.B. If you send email, reference the Polish American Journal or the Pondering Pole in the subject line. I will not open an email if I do not recognize the subject or the sender.

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OUR POLISH SAINTS / Martin Nowak

Patrons and Protectors

Part III

Although St. Stanislaus, St. Adalbert and St. Casimir come to mind when thinking of patron saints of Poland, a few others are also considered to be patron saints of that country, including St. John Kanty, St. Kinga and St. Florian. What is a patron saint? That is a saint who is a protector or advocate before God of a place, occupation, activity or class of persons. Technically, saints are also patrons of persons who carry their names, and of churches named after them.

ST. OTTO OF BAMBERG

Otto z Bambergu
1060?-1139

Canonized: 1189
Feast Day: July 2 or October 1
Grave: St. Michael's Church in Bamberg, Germany

Born in Swabia, Germany, he served in the household of Duke Władysław I Herman of Poland, the progenitor of the Silesian Piasts who ruled that region for centuries even after most of it fell to German control. Otto became Chancellor of the Holy Roman Empire then Bishop of Bamberg. He was also a diplomat and missionary who settled a serious dispute between the pope and the Holy Roman Emperor with the Concordat of Worms. He established many monasteries, built churches and castles and was responsible for the great expansion of the city of Bamberg. He conducted missionary work among the Pomeranians of northwestern Poland at the request of Polish King Boleslaus III the Wrymouth and was successful

in converting the leading Pomeranian nobles from paganism to Catholicism. St. Otto is known as the Apostle of Pomerania. Patron saint of Bamberg and against rabies.

ST LADISLAUS OF HUNGARY

Władysław I

1040?-1095

Canonized: 1192

Feast Day: June 27

Grave: Nagyvarad, now

Oradea, Romania

Son of exiled King Bela of Hungary and grandson of King Mieszko II of Poland, he was born in Kraków. Bela returned to Hungary with his family and reclaimed the throne. When Bela died, Ladislaus fled to Poland but eventually became King of Hungary himself. He enacted a set of harsh laws, strengthened Christianity in Hungary and fought non-Christian principalities in the Balkans to extend his kingdom southward. He then established the Roman Catholic Church throughout the conquered lands. His daughter Irene is revered as a saint in the Eastern Orthodox Church. Patron saint of Hungary.

ST. STANISLAUS

Stanisław Szczepanowski

1030-1079

Canonized: 1253

Feast Day: May 8

Grave: Wawel Cathedral,

Kraków

The first Polish-born saint. He rose to become Bishop of Kraków. He criticized King Boleslaus II the Bold for being a womanizer and ordering the cruel punishments and

executions of his subjects. The king in turn accused Bishop Stanislaus of conspiring to unseat him. Enraged, Boleslaus ordered his soldiers to slay the bishop, but they were too afraid. King Boleslaus then killed Stanislaus himself, as he said Holy Mass. He had the body hacked to pieces and scattered, but it miraculously came back together, as legend says, sewn together by eagles. His sarcophagus was later stolen by invading Swedes, but his skull was recovered and rests in a reliquary in the treasury of Wawel Cathedral. The silver sarcophagus of St. Stanislaus in the cathedral is actually empty. He is the patron saint of Poland, Kraków, and moral order.

ST. HEDWIG OF SILESIA

Jadwiga Śląska

1174-1243

Canonized: 1267

Feast Day: October 16

Grave: Trzebnica, Poland and

relics in Andechs, Bavaria

Born in a small town in Bavaria, Hedwig married Henry I the Bearded, the Polish Duke of Silesia and Kraków. They were both very religious. When he died, she moved into a monastery in Trzebnica (Trebmitz), Silesia. She was a founder and supporter of several monasteries, hospitals and charities and regarded as a saint while still alive. She donated much of her fortune to the church. Hedwig was the aunt of St. Elizabeth of Hungary. She is the patron saint of Silesia, Berlin, Wrocław and of orphaned children.

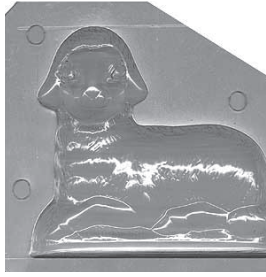
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INTERNATIONAL

Seasons & Celebrations
 Rosalie Fuscaldo Gaziano

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 Madeline Armillotta & Diane Nocentini

COOKBOOKS

PIEROGI LOVE
 New Takes on an Old World Comfort Food
 By Casey Barber
 \$19.95
 Hc; 128 pp.
 8.3 x 8.1 inches
 Full color photographs



This tasty tribute to the pierogi takes a familiar wrapping and stuffs it with a host of unconventional, innovative, and decidedly non-traditional fillings. With 60 sweet and savory recipes that include everything from the classic Polish cheese and potato offerings to American-inspired Reuben pierogie and fried apple pie-rogies to worldly fillings like falafel and Nutella, there's a pierog for every party and every palate! Each recipe comes with a charming story from Barber's extensive explorations in pierogi flavors.

Casey Barber is a freelance food writer, photographer, and editor of the critically acclaimed website Good Food Stories.


Zeranska has translated these Polish recipes perfectly using exact American measurements.

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.



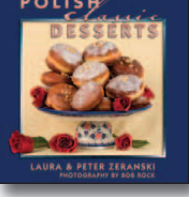
Polish Holiday Cookery covers holidays such as Christmas and Easter, as well as celebrations year-round. Ideas for banquets, picnics, dinners, and family favorites abound throughout, ensuring that cooks have a selection of dishes for any occasion.

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



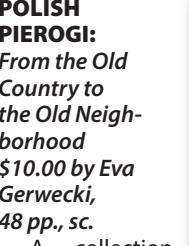
Designed for the modern kitchen yet retaining traditional roots, each heritage recipe in *Polish Classic Recipes* has been tested to perfection. Accompanied by notes on Polish holiday customs, history, and menu pairing suggestions, these dishes offer a flavorful sample of the Polish dining experience, 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 PIEROGI: From the Old Country to the Old Neighborhood
 \$10.00 by Eva Gerwecki, 48 pp., sc.




A collection of "secret" recipes, tips, and more for not only fillings and toppings, but a variety of dough recipes as well. Over 150 recipes with regional variations, from California to

THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD POLISH COOKBOOK: Hamtramck, Detroit and Beyond
 \$10.00 by Elna Lavine, 44 pp., sc. 96 recipes from the famed Polonia of Detroit. Breakfast, lunch, dinner pastries, pierogi, kluski, cream chipped beef, soups, desserts and more.




POLISH GIRL COOKBOOK
 \$10.00 by Eva Gerwecki, 44 pp., sc.



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

POLISH RESTAURANT COOKBOOK
 \$10.00 by Jonathan Becklar, 44 pp., sc.

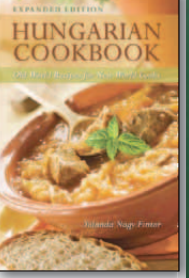


This unique cookbook actually replicates recipes taken from menus of Motor City and surrounding area restaurants. It shows you how to make an entire menu right in your kitchen that tastes and smells just like the restaurant. Soups, salads, dressings, sandwiches, stuffed cabbage, and more.

BOOKS MAKE GREAT GIFTS ANY TIME OF THE YEAR!

SEASONS AND CELEBRATIONS: Cooking Secrets of Italian Villages
 by Rosalie Fuscaldo Gaziano
 Pb. 144 pp. was \$15.95 **now \$10.95**

HUNGARIAN COOKBOOK
 Expanded Edition
 \$10.95



SCOTTISH-IRISH PUB AND HEARTH COOKBOOK
 by Kay Shaw Nelson
 Pb., 253 pp. was \$16.95 **now \$7.95**



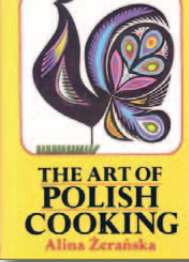
CULINARY TREASURES OF NORTHERN ITALY: The Cooking of Emilia-Romagna
 Hardcover, 208 pp. was \$19.95 **now \$13.95**



SPOONFULS OF GERMANY: German Regional Cuisine
 by Nadia Hassani
 Pb., 288 pp. was \$19.95 **now \$13.95**



THE ART OF POLISH COOKING
 By Alina Zeranska
 Pub. at \$22.95
 PAJ Bookstore Price: \$15.95
 Ethnic / Polish
 384 pp.
 8 1/4 x 5 1/2



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.

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POLISH CHICAGO

POLISH CHICAGO: OUR HISTORY, OUR RECIPES
 \$29.95
 by Joseph W. Zurawski
 240 pp., hc., 720 photographs
 G. Bradley Pub.



Since the 1830s, millions of Poles have come to Chicago. This work recounts by vivid prose, rare photographs and poignant anecdote the amazing story of these indomitable people. The volume turns a spotlight on 36 Polish American restaurants and families who opened up their kitchens to share time-tested, delectable Polish recipes.

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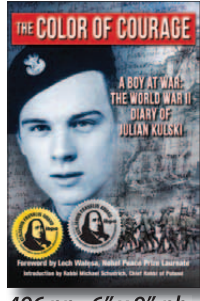
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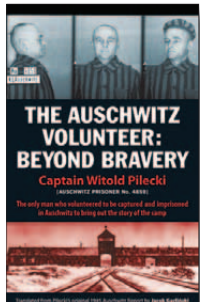
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NEW! THE COLOR OF COURAGE A Boy at War: The World War II Diary of Julian Kulski Paperback by Julian E. Kulski \$19.95 Aquila Polonica Publ., 2012

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



NEW! THE AUSCHWITZ VOLUNTEER by Witold Pilecki Translated by Jarek Garlinski \$34.95 Aquila Polonica Publ., 2014 460 pp., 6" x 9", pb.

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

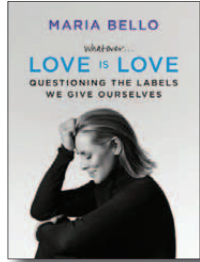
AMERICAN ORIGINALS Northwest Ohio's Polish Community at Home, Work, Worship, and Play



Editor: Timothy Borden Pb. 258 pp. The University of Toledo Press 9 x 6 inches \$22.95

American Originals, an anthology of stories from Toledo Polonia will prove to be a favorite on any bookshelf devoted to the Polish-American experience. Eleven chapters discuss aspects of what makes Toledo's Polish community unique, such as the polka traditions, weddings, foods, neighborhoods, and culture. Importantly, American Originals provides an overview of the assimilation of the Poles into Toledo.

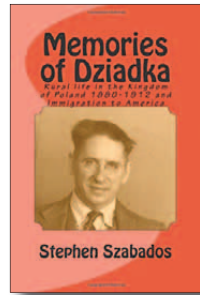
The University of Toledo Press published American Originals as part of its series on the various ethnic groups who settled in Toledo. Previous titles include Hungarian American Toledo, The Irish in Toledo, and Aran Americans in Toledo.



LOVE IS LOVE List price \$25.95 PAJ Bookstore price \$15.95 By Maria Bello 240 pages, 5.5 x 0.8 x 7.2 inches Dey Street Books, 2015

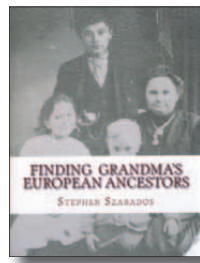
The daughter of a working-class Roman Catholic Italian American father and Polish American mother, Mario Bello majored in political science at Villanova University. Following graduation, she honed her acting skills in a number of New York theater productions before moving on to become one of today's most successful actresses. Bello speaks often and highly of the influence her Polish American grandmother had on her.

In 2013, Bello was recovering from a life-threatening illness when she made a discovery that changed her life: She was in love with her best friend, a woman named Clare. In her new book, she examines the myths that so many believe about partnerships. She explores how many different relationships helped define her life.



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

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



FINDING GRANDMA'S EUROPEAN ANCESTORS by Stephen Szabados \$14.95 / 128 pp., pb.

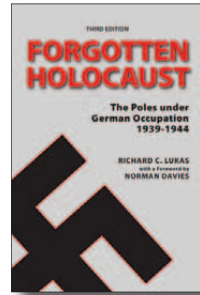
This is a "must have" book to find your European ancestors. The au-

thor uses his experience to help you identify the available resources that you can use to find your own ancestors. The book includes many sample documents, current websites and books that will be useful for your genealogical search. Even if you are not a beginner, this book will give you helpful tips that may be the one you need to locate that missing relative.



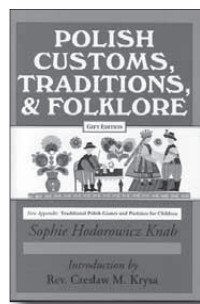
POLISH GENEALOGY: Four Easy Steps to Success by Stephen Szabados \$19.95 164 pp., pb.

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



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

Forgotten Holocaust has become a classic of World War II literature. As Norman Davies noted, "Dr. Richard Lukas has rendered a valuable service, by showing that no one can properly analyze the fate of one ethnic community in occupied Poland without referring to the fates of others. In this sense, The Forgotten Holocaust is a powerful corrective." The third edition includes a new preface by the author, a new foreword by Norman Davies, a short history of ZEGOTA, the underground government organization working to save the Jews, and an annotated listing of many Poles executed by the Germans for trying to shelter and save Jews.



POLISH CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS & FOLKLORE \$16.95 by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab 340 pp., pb. Hippocrene Books

Polish Customs, Traditions, & Folklore is organized by month, be-

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

MY WAGGING TAIL by Stanley Bednarczyk \$19.95 / 476 pp., p.b.

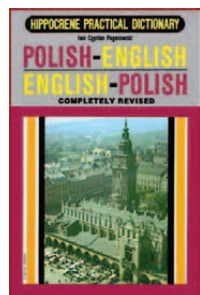


There comes a time in life when one begins to look backward instead of forward. The story of growing up in Camden, N.J. as the son of Polish immigrants (and the youngest of five children) Bednarczyk, an 81-year-old Depression baby, recalls his life on the streets as a youth and as a letter carrier. "A member of the so-called Silent Generation, he has something worthwhile to say." (Mary Latham, Polish American Journal).



POLAND: A HISTORY by Adam Zamoyski \$19.95 pb. 426 pp. 5.5 in. x 8.5 in.

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



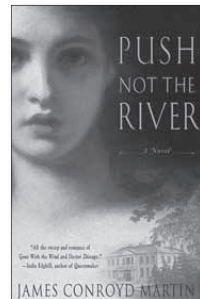
HIPPOCRENE PRACTICAL DICTIONARY POLISH-ENGLISH ENGLISH-POLISH \$19.95 by Iwo C. Pogonowski 682 pp., pb. 7x4.5 inches 15th edition

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



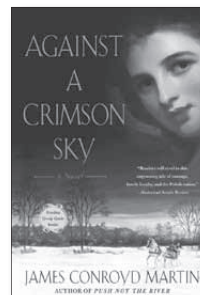
BE NOT AFRAID by Heather Kirk \$19.95 Borealis Press, 276 pp., pb.

Want to learn something about Poland and the movement that started the end of the Cold War in an easy-to-read, well-written book? Be Not Afraid is an introduction to the Polish non-violent resistance movement, "Solidarity." It involved ten million people over a period of ten years, freed Poland from Soviet domination, and contributed to the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. It killed no one.



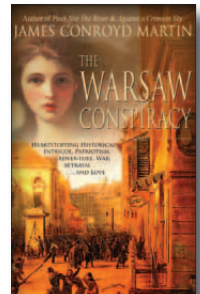
PUSH NOT THE RIVER \$15.95 St. Martin's Press. 496 pp. pb. Maps & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

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



AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY \$15.95 St. Martin's 369 pp. pb. Map & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

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



THE WARSAW CONSPIRACY Hussar Quill Press, 508 pp., pb. \$17.99

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

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BOOKS IN BRIEF/ Mary Lanham

Salt to the Sea and Kaleidoscope of Poland: A Cultural Encyclopedia

SALT TO THE SEA

by *Ruta Sepetys*
Philomel Books, 2016, 391 pps.
 375 Hudson Street
 New York, NY 10014
PhilomelBooks.com



inevitable. With each turn of the page, the suspense builds, keeping the reader guessing as to their pasts and their futures.

The author paints realistic, three-dimensional individuals with fluid prose. Emilia's cautious hope for the future and struggle to remain brave is plainly expressed as is Alfred's delusion of importance. The excerpt below of one of Emilia's chapters typifies the Sepetys's writing style.

"*Per aspera ad astra, Papa,*" I whispered. Through hardship to the stars. It was a Latin phrase he used whenever I complained that something was difficult. Where was my father now? Could he ever have imagined things would be this difficult? I looked up at the sky, wondering if the stars would be pretty

here." *Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys is one book that can't be missed and is available at Barnes & Noble and Amazon.com.

Note: This review is based on the advance uncorrected galley.

About the author. Ruta Sepetys is the author of the New York Times Bestseller, *Between Shades of Gray* as well as *Out of the Easy*. Originally from Detroit, Sepetys is the daughter of a Lithuanian refugee. She earned her B.S. in international finance from Hillsdale College. In 1994, she started an entertainment managing firm in Los Angeles. Sepetys is the director of the nonprofit group that focuses on fundraising for music education. In 2013, she was awarded Lithuania's Cross of the Knight of the Order by the president of Lithuania for her cultural contributions to bring to attention to the history of totalitarianism in the Baltics. Her novels have won awards and nominations and

have been the top of dozens of best book lists, both nationally and internationally. Sepetys currently lives in Nashville, Tenn..

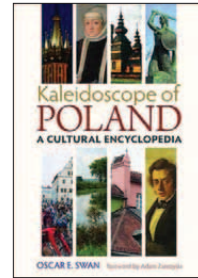
KALEIDOSCOPE OF POLAND: A CULTURAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

By *Oscar E. Swan*
University of Pittsburgh Press, 2015, 366 pps.
 7500 Thomas Blvd.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15260
UPress.pitt.edu

In this introduction to all things Polish, everything about Poland's culture both historical and modern from Armia Krajowa, the Polish underground military during World War II to *pierogi* (no explanation needed) to Zakopane, a town located in the Tatra Mountains, has an entry. Many entries are punctuated by im-

ages of a particular region, food, or person. It also contains a timeline of Polish historical months, Polish literary figures, and Polish rulers; major national and regional Polish uprisings; and indexes both English and Polish.

This reference book on Poland is definitely one you need to keep on hand. *Kaleidoscope of Poland: A Cultural Encyclopedia* by Oscar E. Swan is available from the University of Pittsburgh Press and Amazon.com



About the author. With over fifteen books and numerous journal articles, Swan is a professor of Slavic languages and literatures at the University of Pittsburgh. He has earned an A.B. from Princeton and both an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University at California, Berkeley. His many awards include the Polonian of the Year Award from the Pittsburgh Polish Cultural Council and the Polonium Award from the University of Warsaw.

POLONIA PLACES

GREGORY L. WITUL

Saint Stanislaus Catholic Church

5818 Dubois Street
 Detroit, Michigan
 Status: Closed

For many in Polonia, Easter means traveling great distances to celebrate traditions with family. It's preparing the Easter basket, sitting around talking to rarely seen aunts and great uncles, and reminiscing about the past. It also means attending morning Mass at the same church as your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, or great-great-grandparents. Sitting in the same pew as them, looking at the same stained glass windows as them, having an uninterrupted connection to people who lived 135 years ago. Sadly for others, like the families of St Stanislaus in Detroit, that connection is gone and can never be regained.

In the late 1890s, Poles began settling in the northeastern reaches of Detroit. The Roman Catholics living in this sparsely populated frontier had to travel to St. Albertus or St. Josaphat for their spiritual needs. The weekly, two and a half mile round trip walk for Mass wasn't too strenuous during the summer, but the daily walk for the school children, especially in winter, was a point of concern for families. Working with a priest from St.

Josaphat's, the families formed a committee and appealed to Bishop Foley for a parish of their own. On July 8, 1898, with the blessing of the Bishop, the former Beth-El Lutheran Church and school at the corner of Medbury and Dubois was purchased. Four days later Fr. Francis Gzella was assigned to the group and St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr parish was born.

When the new church was dedicated at the end of July, 20,000 spectators lined the street as a parade of 8,000 marched by, representing Polish organizations, religious societies, and parishes. In the three years that followed, the Polish population around St. Stanislaus grew steadily and the school was expanded. Soon this expansion wouldn't be enough as parish enrollment exploded from 700 families in 1905 to nearly 1,500 in 1910. On August 1, 1911, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for a new St. Stan-



A bird's eye view of the St. Stanislaus campus from 2015.

islaus Church. Designed in the Baroque style by Harry J. Rill, the new house of worship would have American-made stained glass, elaborate murals, and a seating capacity of 1,500. The completed church cost \$134,957 or \$3,470,000 in 2016 dollars.

With its new building, St. Stanislaus began a Golden Age. More Polish families moved into the area, finding jobs in the auto industry and filling the pews to the point that new churches had to be established. There were so many Poles that the whole area took on the moniker of Poletown. The parish sailed through the Great Depression and Second World War. It would be the postwar years that would be the most difficult. Started in



St. Stanislaus Church in the 1930s.

1945, the Edsel Ford Freeway created an automotive moat separating St. Stanislaus from many of its parishioners. This coupled with population changes led to a decline in the parish. In 1968, the grade school was closed which was followed by the high school in 1974.

Despite the Interstate and closings, the late 1970s saw a great resurgence at St. Stanislaus. Under the leadership of Fr. Charles Szesesny, the parish held festivals, dances, and open houses that drew people in. The influx of funds from the events allowed the parish to remodel and repair the 70 year-old church. In the middle of the church revitalization, Fr. Szesesny died of a heart attack in July 1981. His replacement, Fr. Joseph Grzyb saw the oncoming Poletown Assembly Plant as a possible boost for the neighborhood and continued on Fr. Szesesny's work.

By 1983, the work was done, but the GM plant didn't bring prosperity but further decline. In 1989 there were only 289 families and the Archdiocese of Detroit decided to close the parish. In July of the same year, the entire parish complex with buildings by Harry J. Rill and Kastler & Hunter were placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The church made headlines again in 2014 when it was sold for \$45,000 or just 1.29% of its original cost when adjusted for inflation.

A window of St. Stanislaus raising Peter from the dead found in the church.

"Little Poland" Sets Fine Example

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. — For the past 10 years, Little Poland has served as a blueprint for turning around a neighborhood, and plenty of notable politicians and other dignitaries have seen it for themselves, thanks to Adrian Baron.

"It started as an informal thing," said Baron, a local attorney who has been involved in "reclaiming the neighborhood."

A decade ago, Tim O'Brien, a former mayor and city councilor, asked Baron to give a tour of the neighborhood.

Since then, he has given about a dozen more tours to members of U.S. Congress, the Polish ambassador, members of the Parliament of Poland, members of the Japanese Delegation to the United States, and other well-known figures.

"The tour usually starts in my law office," Baron said. "We have a number of reproductions of famous Polish paintings."

Baron said tours then proceed to shops, markets and other businesses. The store owners frequently tell stories and share a few laughs with their visitors.

"We've, in a sense, reclaimed the neighborhood," Baron said. "We're proud of it. We turned the pawn shops and strip clubs into restaurants, law firms and delis."

Most visitors, Baron said, are in awe of how the section of the city dubbed Little Poland could so closely resemble an old-time neighborhood — one where bread is bought in one place, meat in another and baked goods somewhere else.

"A lot of ethnic neighborhoods have lost that," Baron said. "This one has retained its character."

Baron said he, along with the Polish American Foundation, are hoping to continue the tours and give them to more well-known figures, including celebrities and athletes of Polish descent.

DID YOU KNOW?

- "Mazurek" is the name of both a folk dance of Poland's northern Mazury region (known in English as the mazurka) and a flat Easter sheet cake served cut into squares.
- Horseradish (*chrzan*), a typical Easter condiment, symbolizes one of the bitter herbs of the biblical Passover,



The interior of the church during the 80th anniversary Mass in 1978.

GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

Important News for Genealogy Software Users

Family TreeMaker (FTM) has been discontinued. Sales for this product stopped on December 31, 2015.

How will this action affect your genealogical research?

In 2016, FTM users will see no change when they open up their FTM files.

In 2017, the FTM software will continue to function, but support for the product will cease. However, I am not sure if the link to Ancestry.com will also be turned off in 2017. The link to Ancestry.com affects two functions in the FTM software. First, the link allows FTM to sync with your online trees and keep both updated. The second function allows the ability to search the databases and allows you to download and merge information, documents and source citations automatically to your FTM trees. It is not clear what will happen in 2017 to these two functions, but I believe the sync function will disappear, and the merge function may continue to work.

At some point in the future, we may be forced to switch software because updates to our computer's operating systems will degrade the functionality of FTM. The timing of the switch should be considered carefully because of what you may lose in the transfer of your files. FTM saves its files in a format that will not be compatible with other genealogy software, and the transfer of family data has to be done using the GED format. Users of FTM 2012 and FTM 2014 will be able to export their media files along with their tree information to the GEDCOM file, and the transfer will be relatively painless. However users of older FTM versions will not be able to export their media data, and the most important part of your research has to be added manually to your new software.

Waiting may help this problem if apps can be developed to extract the media files from FTM 2011 (and older) versions. However, waiting too long may cause

you to lose your work because your operating system updates may cause FTM to turn off and not allow you to save your files in a transferable format.

I use FTM because the software allows the download and merging of documents and citations to my FTM trees on my hard drive. Without the merging function of FTM, there is no reason to have an Ancestry subscription to manage your Ancestry documents offline. Free access to these databases can be found in most libraries. Ancestry seems to want everyone to use their online family trees. I have online trees on Ancestry but prefer to use offline software to edit the family trees that I use for my research. I feel that offline genealogy products have better navigation, and their reports are easier to read and print. I used my online trees only as a billboard to attract other researchers to exchange information.

Sometime in the future, I will begin using another genealogy software program, and it will be important that it have the ability to access information from online databases. Roots Magic, Legacy, and Ancestral Quest are products that have received good reviews and also allow access to Ancestry.com and Familysearch.org. I have tested RootsMagic, and I was able to merge information that I found on these databases to my RootsMagic family tree. All three of these programs offer a free version which you can be download and test. The retail versions offer more reports and the ability to print your reports.

If you are going to change software today, I recommend you choose from the three products listed above. If you wait, you may have more options available but recognize the risk of losing some of your information.

❖ ❖ ❖

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

SCHOLARSHIPS

Study in Poland This Summer

NEW YORK — The **Kosciuszko Foundation** is accepting applications for summer study programs at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. Undergraduate students have the opportunity to earn college credit while studying language and courses such as history, literature, and contemporary Poland.

Students of Polish descent have the opportunity to apply for funding to attend the Jagiellonian University's programs via the Foundation's Tomaszkiwicz-Florio Scholarship. Candidates must be at least 18 years of age by the first day of the program and have a high school diploma. Undergraduate students are also eligible. Two letters of recommendation, transcripts showing a minimum GPA of 3.0, an essay, and financial need are part of the requirements for scholarship funding.

The deadline to apply for a scholarship is April 13. Classes begin in July. Programs include language classes, afternoon classes on Polish history, workshops, Polish traditions, three meals a day, a shared room, and sightseeing on weekends. Airfare is at the student's expense.

Additional details regarding how to apply for a scholarship and further details regarding courses may be found at www.thekf.org/kf/programs/study/

PAAA OFFERS \$5K. The **Polish American Arts Association of Washington, D.C.** offers a scholarship up to \$5,000.00 to undergraduates and graduates of Polish descent. If more than one are granted for a calendar year, the amount may change. The student must: be a resident in the D.C., Maryland, or Virginia; attend an accredited university or college; be a U.S. citizen; have a minimum GPA with the promise of a successful future.

A full list of requirements and an Application Form are available on the PAAA website www.paaa.us/scholarship/.

KARAMANOUKIAN SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTED. Dr. Hratch L. Karamanoukian and the Vein Treatment Centers of Clarence and Williamsville, N.Y. will offer its 5th annual **General Pulaski Association, Inc.** \$1,000 college scholarship at the Gen. Pulaski Installation, Fri., March 4, 2016 at the Millennium Hotel, Cheektowaga.

Criteria for the Pulaski Scholarship donated by Dr. Karamanoukian include: applicant must be a child or grandchild of a U.S. armed forces veteran and be of Polish descent; composition of a 200-word essay; involvement in Polonia; support of U.S. military; and a letter of recommendation.

POLISH CAN BE FUN / Robert Strybel

Polish Easter Greetings

Whether greeting your grandmother in person, or sending cards to family back in Poland, here are some common Easter greetings you can share to make the holiday even more special.

- **Wesołego Alleluja!*** (Happy Easter; literally: Happy Alleluia!)
- **Zdrowych i spokojnych Świąt Wielkanocnych!*** (Healthy and peaceful Easter Holidays!)
- **Wesołych Świąt Wielkanocnych!*** (Happy Easter Holidays!)
- **Radosnych i pogodnych Świąt Wielkanocnych!*** (Joyful and tranquil Easter Holidays!)
- **Z okazji Świeta Zmartwychwstania Pańskiego najukochańszej naszej Babuni życzymy obfitych łask Bożych i stu lat życia!** (On the Feast of our Lord's Resurrection we wish you, dearest Granny, God's abundant blessings and a hundred years of life!)
- **Dzieląc się jajkiem, myślimi będziemy przy Was, życząc Wam Wesołego Alleluja i obfitych łask Bożych dla całej Rodziny!** (While sharing the egg, we will be with you in spirit, wishing you a Happy Easter and the Lord's abundant blessings for the whole Family!)
- **Chrystus Zmartwychwstał – Prawdziwie zmartwychwstał!** (Two-part responsorial greeting: Christ has risen – [response]: Truly He has risen!)
- **Smacznym Świąt i wesołego jajka!*** (Tasty Holidays and a happy egg? – humorous kids' greeting)
- **Wesołych Świąt, smacznego święconego i mokrego Dyngusa!*** (Happy Easter, a tasty

Easter breakfast and a wet Drencher's Monday!)

- **Najserdeczniejsze życzenia wielkanocne zasyla Wam Wszystkim ...** ** (Most cordial Easter wishes from ...)
- * **All the greetings marked with an asterisk (*) can be followed by "zyczy" (if one person or a family is doing the wishing) or "zycza" (if more than one are involved).**
- Examples**
- **Wesołego Alleluja or Radosnych i pogodnych Świąt Wielkanocnych życzy Wujek Adam or Rodzina Kowalskich** (Wishing you a Happy Easter or Joyous and pleasant Easter Holidays – Uncle Adam or the Kowalskis)
- **Wesołych Świąt Wielkanocnych życzą Marysia i Janek or kochające dzieci.** (Wishing you Happy Easter Holidays – Mary and Johnny or Your Loving Children.)
- ** **All the asterisked greetings may be prefaced with "Najserdeczniejsze życzenia" and followed by the name of the sender after: zasyla (singular) or zasylaja (plural).**
- Example**
- **Najserdeczniejsze życzenia Wesołych Świąt Wielkanocnych oraz obfitych łask Bożych zasylaja Babcia i Dziadziuś z Helenką.** (Heartfelt wishes for a Happy Easter and God's abundant blessings from Granny, Grandpa and Helen.)

DID YOU KNOW? The Kurpie region of NE Poland is known for the country's tallest Palm Sunday "palms." These are trees up to 45 feet tall, stripped of their branches and decorated with evergreen roping, paper flowers and ribbons.

GENEALOGY NOTEBOOK

Roving Ambassadors

CHICAGO — If you're looking for some personal help with your family research, there are none better than Polish Genealogical Society of America members **Richard** and **Teresa Lach** to answer your questions and offer suggestions.

They will be at the following events in the coming months (look for them at the PGSA booth):

March 19, 2016, South Bend Area Genealogical Society, St. Joseph County Public Library, 304 S. Main St., South Bend, Ind.

April 8-9, 2016, Wisconsin State Genealogical Society, Plaza Hotel & Suites, 201 N. 17th Ave., Wausau, Wis.

Uncovering Your Family Medical History

You know you got your curly red hair from your grandmother, and your prominent nose from your dad. However, these aren't the only things you may have inherited from your family and in turn may pass along.

Experts state that about 3000 of the 10,000 known diseases have genetic links, and that many diseases "run in families," including colon cancer, heart disease, alcoholism, and high blood pressure. Creating a family health history can be a useful tool to aid you and your medical care provider in interpreting patterns of health, illness and genetic traits for you and your descendants. What you learn now could poten-

tially save a family member's life tomorrow.

Consequently, while collecting family history details, take note of your ancestor's overall health. About.com suggests using the traditional family tree format with squares for men and circles for women, and symbols (medical or your own) to indicate health issues. You needn't include names since it's only the relationships that matter.

To read more go to http://genealogy.about.com/od/health_history/

New Officers

The **Polish Genealogical Society of New York State** announced its officers and trustees for 2016: Denise Oliansky (president), Sherry Sojka (vice-president), Dolores Ferguson (secretary), Chuck Pyrak (treasurer), Jim Ciulis (trustee), Hank Kozlowski (trustee), Charlie Penasack (trustee), Maria Slomczewski (trustee) and Maureen Gleason (trustee). Nicole Pohancsek discussed her recent trip to Poland at the group's February 11th meeting in the Villa Maria College cafeteria in Cheektowaga.

PGSA Launches Website Search Function

The **Polish Genealogical Society of America** (PGSA) has launched its newly developed database search engine. As part of this extended development and testing, the PGSA has uploaded and transferred approximately 1.5 million

data records (contained in 45+ database tables) from its old website to the new site.

To use the search engine enter your key word(s) in the "Search Term" window, select one of six "Search Types" and click on the Search button. The search engine will automatically scan all of our online records and retrieve those that match your search criteria. Your results will vary depending on whether or not you're logged in as a PGSA member.

SURNAME CORNER

Discover the Meaning of Your Polish Name

Consider a unique and memorable Christmas gift of Polish heritage, giving a loved one the story of his or her Polish family name is a gift that will long be remembered and appreciated. It will explain the surname's meaning, how it came about, how many people share it, where they are from and whether a coat of arms goes with it.

The recipient will also get a useful genealogical contact chart which will put you him/her in touch with genealogical researchers who can help track down your family records in Poland as well as photograph and/or videotape ancestral homesteads and graves.

For a custom-researched analysis of your family name, please airmail a \$19 personal or bank (cashier's) check or money order* (adding \$12 for each additional surname you wish to have researched) to:

Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland. For more information on this service please contact research60@gmail.com.

Payment is also accepted via MoneyGram.



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OBITUARIES

Henry R. Gabryszak, Municipal Judge, Active in Polonia

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Henry R. Gabryszak, a retired municipal judge and a force in Cheektowaga politics for half a century, died Jan. 25, 2016 in Sisters Hospital after a short illness. He was 90.

Gabryszak, of Sloan, presided for 15 years in Cheektowaga Town Court, one of Erie County's busiest town courts, and for 28 years as Sloan village justice. A judge who took pride in the efficiency of his courtroom, in Sloan he once leaped from the bench and subdued a defendant who was attacking the police officer who arrested him.

Born in Buffalo, Gabryszak at-

tended School 57 and was a graduate of Sloan High School and Bryant and Stratton Business Institute.

During World War II, he worked for a short time as an accounts clerk in the Department of the Navy offices in Washington, D.C., but returned to Buffalo to help his family after his father became ill. He helped operate his father's tavern on Broadway near the city line.

He worked as a Cheektowaga police dispatcher, then became a stenographer for Buffalo City Court Judge Michael E. Zimmer. Later he served as confidential secretary and court reporter for then-City Judge

M. Dolores Denman.

A lifelong Democrat, Gabryszak inherited a love of politics from his father, who had run unsuccessfully for office in Buffalo. Shortly after building a home in Sloan with help from friends, he ran for mayor of the village in 1953 and was elected, becoming the youngest mayor in New York State at the time. He served for one two-year term.

He was first elected Sloan village justice in 1967 and unsuccessfully challenged longtime Cheektowaga Supervisor Dan Weber in 1971. He was appointed interim town justice in Cheektowaga in 1974 and was

elected to the first of four terms the following year. He retired from the Cheektowaga court in 1989 and stepped down from the bench in Sloan in 1995.

His son, Dennis, was Cheektowaga supervisor from 1993 to 2006 and served for seven years in the state Assembly.

A longtime member of the Chopin Singing Society, Gabryszak traveled with the group to perform in Poland and at the Vatican in Rome in 1984. At the Vatican, he received an audience with Pope John Paul II, who blessed a photo of his ailing grandson. He also sang with Quo Vadis Choir and the choir at St. Andrew's Catholic Church, where he was a parishioner. He also was a member of the St. Andrew's Holy Name Society and worked as a volunteer at its bingo games.

During the early 1980s, he was part of a group of Cheektowaga residents who gathered clothing and other items to send to Solidarity protesters in Poland.

CLASSIFIEDS

Advertise in the Polish American Journal Classifieds. \$10.00 flat fee plus \$.30 per word. Flat fee waived after first insertion. Call (800) 422-1275 or send with payment to: PAJ Classifieds, P.O. Box 271, North Boston, NY 14110-0271.

LEGAL NOTICE

Buffalo United Charter School
325 Manhattan Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14214-1809
716-835-9862 PHONE
716-408-9575 FAX

OPEN ENROLLMENT NOTICE

Open enrollment for the 2016-2017 academic school year ends on 4/1/2016 at 5:00 p.m. Applications are available for grades K-8 and can be obtained at the school, at www.NHAschools.com or by calling 866-NHA-ENROLL. Should the number of applications received during open enrollment exceed available seats, a random-selection drawing will be necessary. The drawing, if needed, will be held on 4/5/2016 at 1:30 p.m. in the School MultiPurpose Room. Applications received after open enrollment will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis for remaining open seats. Waiting lists will be formed accordingly.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

Buffalo United Charter School admits students of any race, color, and nationality or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of intellectual or athletic abilities, measures of achievement or aptitude, disability, status as a handicapped person, homeless status, English proficiency, religion, creed, race, sex, color, or national origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies and athletic or other school-administered programs.

DID YOU KNOW? Traditional Polish Easter plants include pussy willows ("bazie" or "kotki"), boxwood ("buzszpan"), a small-leaved evergreen used for decorating Easter baskets, cranberry leaves (used for garlands rimming the "święconka" table) and such springs flowers as daffodils, hyacinths, tulips and forsythia.

Rev. Robert Grib, S.J., Missionary, Polka Drummer

CHICAGO — Robert "Bob" Grib, S.J., 75, was born in Chicago on March 31, 1940, and passed away on January 25, 2016. Fr. Grib was member of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) for 57 years. He attended Five Holy Martyrs Grammar School in Chicago's Brighton Park area and graduated from St. Ignatius College Prep High School in 1958. That same year he entered the Jesuits in Milford, Ohio. After taking his first vows in 1960, he continued his studies in the Chicago area, receiving a master's degree in philosophy.



PHOTO: GERALDINE BAUTUCOLEMAN

In 1965, he requested a mission assignment to Patna, India. Grib returned to Chicago for his ordination in 1972. In 1973 he returned to India where he served as a parish priest, a youth director, and a teacher of Jesuit novices. From 1978 - 85, Grib taught Hindi to Jesuit novices. Finally, from 1994-96, he was a diocesan youth director. With this final assignment, Grib concluded his 31-year career in India. Many acknowledged that he probably spoke Hindi better than those native to the country.

After returning to the United States in 1996, Grib served as a pastor, substitute teacher, director of retreats, and music minister. His final assignment was priest-in-residence at St. Eugene Parish in Chicago, along with his brother, Philip Grib, S.J. In 2015, Grib moved to the Jesuits' Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Mich. for health reasons.

While attending St. Ignatius High School, the brothers Grib and Robert Dutka played together in the Melody Knights Dance Band in the 1950s. Bob played drums; Phil played the saxophone; and Bob Dut-

ka played the upright bass fiddle.

In 2004, Fr. Robert Grib, Fr. Philip Grib, Dr. Robert Dutka, and Ed Ptazek formed the Brighton Park Connection (BPC). They later invited Tom Suroviak and Marty Drazek into their band to enhance the polka sound. According to Dutka, the backbone of the BPC was certainly Grib with his enthusiasm and love of polka music.

Father Bob Grib is survived by his brother, Philip Grib, S.J. (GBC).

Richard S. Gawronski, Popular Accordionist

NAUGATUCK, Conn. — Richard Gawronski, accordionist and sound engineer for The Rich Bobinski Orchestra passed away on Sat., Jan. 30, 2016. He was 67.



Gawronski was born on October 7, 1948 in Philadelphia, son of the late Stanley and Veronica (Borek) Gawronski. He spent his younger years in Pennsylvania, and graduated from Cardinal Dougherty High School in Philadelphia and later received his Bachelor's degree.

He was a communicant of St. Vincent Ferrer Church.

Gawronski first played with Walter Solek when he moved to Connecticut from Pennsylvania. Following, he played with The Rich Bobinski Orchestra, The Jimmy Sturr Orchestra, and The Dick Pillar Orchestra.

When Pillar retired, Gawronski became a full-time member of Bobinski's group.

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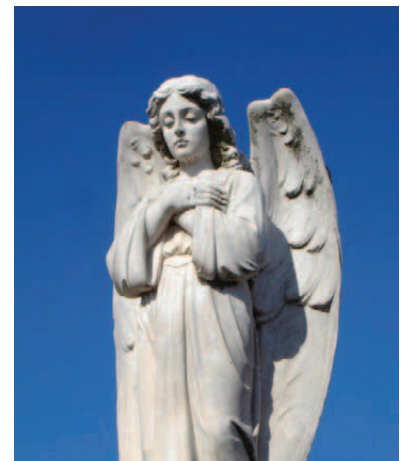
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Polka MAGAZINE

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POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

Remembering the Late Stan Lachut

I first experienced the Lachut Brothers while standing in front of the stage and listening to them at the Dom Polski Hall in North Tonawanda. These brothers played music that made me want to run home and pick up my accordion. They were older than I was, but we became friends, on stage and off.

As time progressed, Stan Lachut became my teacher. He taught me not in a formal sense, but instead how to play music from the heart, for the people and as a tribute to our heritage. Litwin's blue room, the back room of Litwin's Bar and Grill on Oliver Street, was our stomping grounds. It was where Stan would pick up the house accordion and start playing whatever tune came to mind. The back room would instantly fill with people, often having to stand because all the tables and



chairs were taken.

The "big" event each year was Koledy night when all the regulars would gather, filling the Blue Room, to make music from the heart. It was

Stan who produced that music and taught us all to enjoy every minute.

Though we lost Stan Lachut January 1, 2016 at the age of 94, his love for the music and people will never be lost, thanks to a few cassette recordings my Uncle Henry "Jumbo" Litwin made.

Every time I pick up my accordion, I remember a tune that Stan played in his many performances with the band and solo on accordion. He was one of a kind, a "brother" and a true Polska Musician.

Stanley Lachut was the husband of the late Florence Lachut, and father of Ronald, Janice (Wayne) Tylec and Gerald (JoAnne) and grandfather of eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother John (Natalie) and is the brother of the late Stephen, Chester, and Viola Wiechec.

POLKA SHORTS

Polkapalooza III

NICHOLS, N.Y. — Polka music will fill Tioga Downs, Sat., April 2, as four polka bands take to the stage for a day packed with good times and music.

Featured will be Joe Stanky & The Cadets from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; Fritz's Polka Band from 1:00-3:00 p.m.; Salt City Brass from 3:00-5:00 p.m.; and John Stevens & Double Shot from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Emcees for the event will be local radio personalities, Roger Neel and Bill Flynn.

Admission is free. Tioga Downs is located at 2384 W. River Road.

20th Anniversary Year for The Maestro's Men

Sometimes the best ideas are the result of an unintentional occurrence. Case in point: the Maestro's Men band started as a group of close-knit friends, who gathered for what was supposed to be just one gig.

"After our first set, folks in attendance were already asking 'where are you performing next?'" said leader and founder Dennis Polisky.

On June 4, 2016, the Maestro's Men — Polisky, Libera, Ken Yash, Rich Bernier, Andrew Galarneau, Jim Motyka and Bob Siwicki — return to the newly remodeled PACC in Webster, Mass., where it all start-

ed, to celebrate 20 years of bringing their unique brand of polkas to their fans. Joining the celebration will be The Polka Country Musicians.

Polka Magic Joins Cranesville Lineup

AMSTERDAM, N.Y. — The Cranesville Radio Network has added the award-winning Polka Magic Radio Network to its weekly syndicated polka show broadcast on WIZR 930AM and 102.9FM (Johnstown, N.Y.) and WKAJ 1120AM, (St. Johnsville, N.Y.) each Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

The Polka Magic Network started at WSPN FM 91.1 (Skidmore College Radio) in 1985. The popular weekly Polish radio program is hosted by John "Li'l Jas" Lesniewski and Robert "Happy Bob" Pawlak. They provide community information for local and national events, and items of interest to those of Polish American heritage.

"We are very excited to be back in the Mohawk Valley once again," said Lesniewski, owner/announcer of the Polka Magic Network.

Recently the network's broadcast has been added to the Polish New Castle radio group streaming polkas at www.polishnewcastleradio.com.

Requests and dedications are accepted at (518) 580-5783, or can be emailed to polkamagicradio@gmail.com.

TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

Tenth and Final Memorial "Gift of Life" Dance to have Special Meaning

With Easter arriving early in 2016, drawing a parallel between the Easter theme of new life and the Memorial Gift of Life Foundation started by Ron Biskup seems appropriate.

When Ron and Sue Biskup started the Gift of Life dance in 2007, as a way to honor

Lisa Biskup and her story of being a heart transplant recipient, they had no idea of how much the event would grow and the number of lives they would touch. In a recent conversation, Ron talked about how the main goal in that first year was to raise awareness of being an organ donor. After a few years, Ron formed the Lisa Biskup Organ and

Tissue Donor Foundation. The purpose of the foundation was to support the University of Michigan Transplant Center's Camp Michitanki. As Ron once said, "Camp Michitanki is a place where kids who are organ recipients go to be carefree and 'just be kids.'"

As the years have passed, the benefit dance in honor of Lisa has become known across the country and even worldwide as a 'go to' event to help raise awareness of being an organ and tissue donor. At least 17 states have been represented over the years at the dance.

"The event has grown beyond my expectations," Ron said. "I have no idea how people have signed up [to

be organ donors] but the response has been very good. Our Foundation has also been instrumental in getting the State of Michigan a personalized 'Gift of Life' license plate.

Capturing the highlights of the evolution of the Gift of Life dance is admittedly difficult, as the dance has grown in scope and impact since 2007. Of course, pictures, videos, etc., have documented all the years, but it is the people themselves who have made the dance a success.

Ron spoke of the hundreds of volunteers who have assisted him year after year, as well as the special guests, organ recipients who gave testimonials about their own journeys.

"Last Year (2015) was especially important, with Accordions A-Go-Go and the polka that Randy Krajewski wrote 'The Gift of Life.' Our recipients will never be forgotten. I am proud that they could share their stories of survival," said Biskup.

So the final Memorial Gift of Life Dance is upon us: Saturday, April 30, 2016 at the PRCUA Hall in Wyandotte, Mich. The music begins at 5:30 p.m. and continues until midnight. Music will be provided by Polka Country Musicians, Pan Franek & the Polka Towners, and as an added attraction, a "Concertina on Parade" tribute featuring the musical talents of Polka Hall of Famers Al Piatkowski, Lenny Gomulka,

"Ray Jay" Jarusinski, Mitch Biskup, and Jackie Libera. All proceeds benefit the Lisa Biskup Organ and Tissue Donor Foundation; more info can be found at www.lisabiskupmemorial.com.

I asked Ron what the future holds as he concludes a decade of stellar success with this event: "I plan to spend time as a volunteer at summer camp. A new camp called North Star Reach will open in the summer of 2016. It will be open year round for kids in recovery from all types of ailments and illnesses. An onsite shrine at Camp North Star Reach will honor Lisa."

Congratulations Ron and Sue on ten years of greatness!

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DANCE TIME / Jen Pijanowski

IPA Festival of Band a Smashing Success

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Many of us are several weeks into giving up some of our favorite guilty pleasures for Lent. Now we look just a few weeks forward to the celebration of Easter and the end to our Lenten sacrifices. Luckily, we in Buffalo relish in the anticipation of celebrating Dyngus Day. Not only does Dyngus Day mark a critical day in Polish and religious life but those of us who are polka fans, get to partake in the largest such celebration outside of Poland. This year's calendar is overflowing with festivities at venues throughout Western New York. As I have begun walking through these 40 days of Lent without my morning coffee, I take comfort in knowing that, in just a few weeks, polka music will take over the Buffalo music scene for one glorious day.

As I listen to stories of polka days gone by, I have several times commented that if all of the Buffalo musicians would come out to dances, we could easily have fifty extra people. Thanks to the IPA Festival of Bands held the last week in January, that logic came to fruition. Lori

John's joviality and love of the music exudes as he sings and performs on stage. Phocus set the bar high with good music and much for each band to deliver upon.

Ron Urbanczyk and New Direction were next up. Changing the tempo to honky style music gave an instant showcase of the different styling of polka music right here in our Western New York area. Both original and standard honky style music in the styling of Lil' Wally and Marion Lush are the backbone of this popular local band. Ron was also instrumental in helping Lori get the bands to come together in celebrating this showcase of our local talent. This band's love of music and Polish heritage is evident as they each take turns belting out those Chicago style tunes. New Direction invited another IPA Hall of Famer, Ed Guca, to join their band on stage as an added bonus. Ed's professionalism and showmanship radiated as he took the stage. I never tire of listening to his superb vocals and his humble graciousness as he performs. Ed is truly a class act who I look forward to listening to each



Danny Potts and Lori Urbanczyk

from the heart, providing maximum entertainment value. But, there's no denying that they would get an extra bit of attention taking Jordon on some jobs with them. Congratulations to these guys who are passing the love of this music onto future generations.

A halt in the music midpoint through the night brought attention to the dance floor as the IPA Hall of Famers were announced and applauded for their well-earned honors. Next, every polka musician was invited to the dance floor to join them exhibiting the multitude of talent found right here. Over 40 musicians were present at this landmark event. Everyone also joined Lori in honoring Danny Potts for his many years of commitment and support of the local Buffalo polka bands. Danny is always quick to offer his establishment for a practice or dance to keep polka alive and well.

After a four month hiatus, it was exciting to see the Buffalo Touch perform once again. A double dose of Hall of Famers joined this band as original member Mike Nowakowski bellow shook his accordion alongside guest concertina player Eric Bakowski. For this evening's performance 2015 IPA inductee Mark Trzepacz lent his musical craftsmanship on the trumpet for a star-studded performance. The Touch is celebrating 20 years of polka music and they don't show any signs of stopping. Fans were anxiously awaiting their return and took this opportunity to dance along to their very favorite polka tunes. I know devotees will be looking forward to seeing them again in the near future.

As the evening progressed the enthusiasm continued to grow as Special Delivery took the stage. This band is anchored by its enjoyable vocals, which provide fantastic harmonies. Dancers take to the floor quickly as the band delivers classic polkas and reinvented nontraditional tunes. My favorite song, the "Happy and Rich Medley" was a hit as many packed the floor enjoying their rendition of those well-known Happy Richie Bojczuk favorites. Special Delivery allows each member to shine from the stage, continuously demonstrating their musical diversity.

The Krew Brothers are an iconic Buffalo polka band, who played dances, wedding, and festivals for many years. I have personally never gotten to see them perform so I was ready front and center as their show began. Each brother possesses much musical talent, both singing and playing several instruments. They switched places intermittently as they flaunted their talent and flair for performing. Although I enjoyed every moment of watching these brothers on stage together, I truly enjoyed watching Donnie sing. As he stood center stage with the microphone in hand, he belted out Judy



Greg and Jordan Chowjdak

Polka with a massive crowd stage front. The brightness in his eyes and giant smile on his face demonstrated the special place polkas have in the heart of the Krupski family.

The finale of the evening was none other than the Knewz, who took the stage with fans standing in front with much anticipation of their performance. Their creativity and ingenuity keeps the heart of polkas alive while putting a new spin on the classic sound. Mark Trzepacz and John Gora happily joined the



Doreen Dembik-Schafer and Rebecca Shafer.

Knewz, each singing a few of their prominent numbers. There were both intently watching onlookers as well as a packed dance floor for the festive conclusion of the event.

Congratulations and thank you to Lori and the entire Urbanczyk family for putting this successful event together. It is a testament to what happens when a group works together towards a common goal. I am hopeful that we see more events like this in the future to help celebrate the continuation of polka music.



Michael Papuga and Les Motyka



Mary Melymuka and Adam Biskup



Hall of Famers John Gora, Ed Guca, Mike Nowakowski, and Mark Trzepacz

Urbanczyk, our New York director for the International Polka Association, organized this fundraiser. The event featured every polka band in Buffalo, as well as our IPA Hall of Famers. Potts Banquet Hall was full to capacity (every table was reserved before the day of the event). Upon entering, it was exhilarating to see so many familiar faces. It took me over an hour to get through the crowd as we stopped to say hello, hug, and kiss all of our friends as we made our way to the bar.

The first band up to start the event was Phocus, who generously loaned their equipment to their fellow bands for the evening to allow a quick change and flow between each. Their upbeat take on polkas made for a boisterous start to the evening. A large table of Canadian fans danced as they cheered on their own Tony Winiarz and Michael Papuga, who lend their musical talents to this Buffalo group. Ricky Krew and Jimmy Nowaczewski, who each have a flair for powerful vocals, showcased their instruments as they invited Hall of Famer John Gora on stage for a few songs.

time I am given the chance.

None other than Rare Vintage was now ready to assume their position in the spotlight. Longtime polka musician Jerry Miesowicz is an icon in our area, so it is always delightful to watch him share his talents on the trumpet. This band puts an entire new spin on polka music billowing out classics with their own unique beat. "Accordion Bill" Malczewski grabbed the mike and sang his classic "Krupnik Song" which always earns laughs, applause, and cheers from the crowd.

Following Rare Vintage, we were immersed in still more honky tunes as Buffalo Concertina All Star graced the stage with special guest Jordan Chowjdak, Greg's three year old son. There is no doubt of the caliber of talent and the enjoyment that everyone got from dancing to both original and standard foot-stomping tunes of this band. However, it was hard to keep your eyes off of Jordan as he sat bright eyed in front of the band with a drum stick in hand playing to the beat. This tight knit group of musicians clearly plays straight

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POLKA CALENDAR / John Ziobrowski

MARCH 5

- Jimmy Sturr. Pulaski Club. Holiday Fla. 5-9. (727) 934-0900
- Frank Maravcik. Elks Lodge. Titusville Fla. 12-6. (321) 268-2113
- Mike Surratt. White Rose Restaurant. York Pa. 7-11. (717) 848-5369

MARCH 6

- Special Delivery Band. Clinton Bar & Grill. West Seneca N.Y. 4:30-7:30. (716) 768-3246
- Joe Stanky Cadets. VFW. Dupont Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- Jimmy Sturr/Mollie B. PACC. Vero Beach Fla. 1-5. (772) 778-0039
- Bailey's Best. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
- Bee Sharps. Pulaski Club. Holiday Fla. 3-6. (727) 934-0900
- Northern Sounds. Polish Club. St. Petersburg Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908
- Music by Jeannie. PASC. Hudson Fla. 2-5. (352) 596-4802

MARCH 10

- All-Star Band. Potts Banquet Hall. Buffalo N.Y. TV Taping. 7 p.m. (716) 675-6588

MARCH 11

- The Knewz. Oglebay Resort. Wheeling W. Virg. A. 8-12. (304) 243-4060

MARCH 12

- Special Delivery Band. Polkasino Bus Trip. Donovan Post. Cheektowaga N.Y. Call Ted. (716) 668-9101
- The Knewz/Stephanie/D Street. Oglebay Resort. Wheeling W. Virg. A. 3-12. (304) 243-4060
- Frank Moravcik. Moose lodge. Bradenton Fla. Evening. (941) 739-8630
- Box On. Pulaski Club. Holiday Fla. 4-8. (727) 934-0900
- The Buffalo Touch. Broadway Market. Buffalo N.Y. 1-4. (716) 893-0705

MARCH 13

- John Stevens. VFW. Dupont Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- Polka Country Musicians. German Club. Pawtucket R.I. 2-6. (401) 723-3549
- Dennis Polisky. PACC. Lyndhurst N.J. 2-6. (201) 803-0909
- Polka Family Band/Ray Jay. Oglebay Resort. Wheeling W. Virg. 12-6. (304) 243-4060
- Melotones. Polish Club. Belleview Fla. 2-5. (352) 245-9378
- Polka All Stars. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
- Out side Da Box. Polish Club. St. Petersburg Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908
- Music by Jeannie. PASC Club. Hudson Fla. 2-5. (352) 596-4802
- Box On. Pulaski Club. Holiday Fla. 2-5. (727) 934-0908

MARCH 15

- Fritz's Polka Band. Finger Lakes Gaming. Farmington N.Y. 11-2. (585) 742-7301

MARCH 17

- The Knewz. Polish Falcons. Depew N.Y. 8-10:30. (716) 684-2373

MARCH 19

- Special Delivery Band. Broadway Market. Buffalo N.Y. 3-6. (716) 893-0705
- Eddie Forman. St. Josephs Polish Society. Colchester Ct. 6:30-10:30. (860) 537-2550
- Jimmy Sturr. Northampton Comm. Ctr. Northampton Pa. 6-10. (610) 261-1113
- Phocus. Anchor Inn. Buffalo N.Y. 5-9. (716) 896-9762

MARCH 20

- Polski Swingmasters. VFW. Dupont Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- Polka Country Musicians. K of C. Saratoga N.Y. 2-6. (518) 584-8547
- Lenny Gomulka. Roosevelt Hall. Norvelt Pa. 3-7. (724) 861-5872
- Marc Bouchard. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach Fla. 2-5 (386) 258-7-59
- Sounds of the South. Polish Club. St. Petersburg Fla. 3-6 (727) 894-9908
- Music By Jeannie. PASC Club. Hudson Fla. 2-5. (352) 596-4802
- Polka Country Musicians. K of C. Saratoga Springs N.Y. 1-5. (518) 584-8547
- New Direction Band. Broadway Market. Buffalo N.Y. 12-3. (716) 893-0705

MARCH 24

- The Special Delivery Band. Broadway Market. Buffalo N.Y. 3-6. (716) 893-0705

MARCH 26

- New Direction Band. Broadway Market. Buffalo N.Y. 12-3. (716) 893-0705

MARCH 27 / EASTER SUNDAY

- The Buffalo Touch/Concertina All Stars.

Leonard Post. Cheektowaga N.Y. 7-12. (716) 684-2373

- The Boys/The Beat. Salvatore's Italian Gardens. Depew N.Y. 7-12. (716) 449-1309

MARCH 28 / DYNGUS DAY

- The Special Delivery Band. Polish Falcons. Depew N.Y. 1:30-5:30. (716) 684-2373
- The Special Delivery Band. IV Stallions. Buffalo N.Y. 6:30-10:30. (716) 897-1935
- Phocus. Polish Falcons. Depew N.Y. 6-10. (716) 684-2373
- John Stevens. Potts Banquet Hall. Cheektowaga N.Y. 2 p.m. (716) 675-6588
- The Knewz. Broadway Market. 1-4. (716) 893-0705
- The Knewz. Pvt Leonard Post. Cheektowaga N.Y. 6-12. (716) 684-4371
- Polka Family/The Boys. Salvatore's Restaurant. Depew N.Y. 6-12:30. (716) 334-2188
- The Buffalo Touch/Piatkowski Brothers. Polish Villa 2. Cheektowaga N.Y. 10 a.m.-11p.m. (716) 822-4908
- Tony's Polka Band/New Direction Band. St. Gabriels Church. Elma N.Y. 3-11. (716) 668-4017
- Fritz's Polka Band. The Cove. Depew N.Y. TBA. (716) 565-7946
- New Direction Band. Polish Villa 2. 10 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (716) 822-4908
- Pan Franek Polka Towners/Eddie Guca Orchestra. Millenium Hotel. Cheektowaga N.Y. 12-12. (716) 685-9466
- Stephanie. St. Stanislaus Hall. Buffalo N.Y. 5-11. (716) 854-5510
- All Star Jam Band. Firehouse 2141 Bar. 1-5. (716) 826-4259

APRIL 2

- Dennis Polisky/Eddie Forman/Lenny Gomulka. German Club. Pawtucket R.I. 6 p.m. (401) 569-6427
- Polka Family. W. Virg. IA TV. Pittston Pa. show taping 3 p.m. (570) 344-1244
- The Boys. Polish Home. Lyndhurst N.J. 6-10. (201) 803-0909
- John Stevens/Joe Stanky/Salt City Brass/Fritz's Polka Band. Tioga Downs. Nichols N.Y. 1p.m. (888) 946-8464
- Eddie Derwin. St. Faustina Church. Nanticoke Pa. 7-10. (570) 735-4833

APRIL 3

- The Special Delivery Band. Clinton Bar & Grill. West Seneca N.Y. 4:30-7:30. (716) 768-3246
- Chris & Ronnie/The Eastern Sound. German Club. Pawtucket R.I. 1-6. (401) 569-6427
- Golden Tones. VFW. Dupont Pa. 206. (570) 654-5504
- Polish All Stars. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach Fla. 3-6. (386) 258-7059
- Fla. Honky Bank. Polish Club. St. Petersburg Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908
- Music By Jeannie. PASC. Hudson Fla. 2-5. (727) 868-9763

APRIL 8

- Jimmy Sturr. Villa Roma Resort. Callicon N.Y. 2p.m. (800) 724-0727

APRIL 9/10

- Polka Country Musicians/Jimmy Sturr/Mollie B/Polka Naturals/Joe Stanky. Villa Roma Resort. Callicoon N.Y. 8-12. (800) 724-0727
- Walt Groller. Lancaster Liederkrantz. Mt. Joy Pa. 7:30-11:30. (717) 406-6620
- John Gora. Clarion Hotel. New Kensington Pa. dinner dance. (724) 335-8212
- Mike Surratt. American Legion. College Park Md. 8-11. (301) 441-2783

APRIL 10

- Walt Groller. Arts Quest Café. Bethlehem Pa. 2-5. (610) 332-1300
- Dennis Polisky. Polish Community Ctr. Albany N.Y. 2-6. (518) 456-3995
- Polka Country Musicians. PACC. Ludlow Mass. 2-6. (413) 567-1961
- John Gora. Slovenian Hall. Yukon Pa. 3-7. (724) 722-9700
- John Stevens. VFW. Dupont Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- Mellotones. Polish Club. Belleview Fla. 2-5. (352) 245-9378
- Polka Pals. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7-59
- Sounds of The South. Polish Club. St. Petersburg Fla. 3-6. (727) 868-9763
- Music By Jeannie. PACS. Hudson Fla. 2-5. (727) 868-9763

APRIL 14

- Special Delivery. Polka Buzz Recording, Potts Banquet Hall, 41 S. Rossler Ave., Buffalo, NY (Clinton-Rossler Plaza / Cheektowaga) 7:00 p.m. (716) 675-6588




DEPEW POLISH FALCONS CLUB
DYNGUS DAY CELEBRATION
 Our 42nd Annual!
MON., MARCH 28, 2016
 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



MILLENNIUM
 BUFFALO

march 28, 2016
CHOPIN SINGING SOCIETY
 55th annual "buffalo's original"
DYNGUS DAY
 celebration
 2040 WALDEN AVE., BUFFALO NY 14225

SCHEDULE
BALLROOM

- entertainment begins at noon
- chopin singing society performs
- swieconka lunch buffet (not included in admission)
- white eagle dancers
- live entertainment: 3 to midnight
- eddie guca
- pan franek, zosia & the polka towners (first appearance in buffalo)

COURTYARD

- entertainment begins at 6 pm
- 90 west
- ny rockin' revue

POLISH RESTAURANT
 3 PM TO MIDNIGHT

\$10 ticket CONTACT THE
CHOPIN SINGING SOCIETY FOR TICKETS
716.685.9466
 DYNGUS DAY SPECIAL ROOM RATES CALL 1-800-323-3331

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



C. Hand Painted Small Wooden Eggs, Set of 3
Colors and styles vary for each 1.25" tall egg. Made in Poland.
#250406 - \$12.95

D. Decorative Wooden Egg Hand Painted, Set of 2
These chicken-sized eggs come in a variety of base colors with multiple colors used throughout their color schemes. Made in Poland.
#250407 - \$12.95

E. Rooster Wycinanki Design Chicken Egg
These real eggs are decorated by an artist who uses traditional Polish paper-cutting techniques and motifs.
#250408 - \$16.95

F. 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



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

Easter Egg Sleeves



Alleluja - Egg Sleeves #260301 - \$3.95



Cartoon - Egg Sleeves #260302 - \$3.95

Easter Music on CD

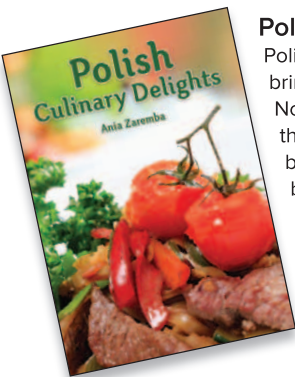


Droga Krzyzowa - The Way of the Cross on CD
In chapter 16 of Mark's Gospel, the disciples are thunderstruck by the discovery of the empty tomb and the angel's message that Christ had risen.. For those disciples, Jesus' resurrection primarily meant that, for the Church, the way of the cross had only just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

Books



Polish Holidays: An Introduction
This handy introductory guide to Polish holidays provides just enough factual information to keep you informed, while presenting it all in an easy to digest packet. Contained within is information, recipes, and/or songs for Christmas Eve (Wigilia), Easter (Wielkanoc), and more. Soft Cover. 8.5" x 5.5", 28 pages. English.
#BK2573 - \$9.95



Polish Culinary Delights
Polish Culinary Delights was written to bring authentic Polish recipes to the North American kitchen. Besides finding the usual "traditional Polish" fare, this book includes unique recipes created by author Ania Zaremba and others in her family. This traditional cookbook includes more than 175 recipes. Soft Cover. 6.5" x 9.25", 224 pages. English Language Version Printed in Poland.
#BK2572 - \$24.95

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 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

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