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**CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI,  
PRIMATE OF THE  
MILLENNIUM, VENERATED**  
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PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, NEW YORK  
AND ADDITIONAL ENTRY OFFICES

**CARDINAL DZIWIŚZ TO VISIT ORCHARD LAKE • ATTACK ON POLAND'S EMBASSY IN ISRAEL • GORTAT CELEBRATES POLAND  
SOCIAL HISTORY AND OUR ANCESTORS • SHARING ŚWIĘCONKA WITH AMERICA? • FR. WALTER RAKOCZY OBSERVES 40TH  
A SUPER-EASY OUTSOURCED ŚWIĘCONE • PHILHARMONIC TO TOUR POLAND • LOST PAINTING RECOVERED, RETURNED**

## Newsmark

### CALLING ALL POLISH WORLD WAR II VETERANS.

Polish Military Veterans of World War II will gather in Warsaw, Sept. 1-3, 2018, to mark the September 1, 1939 Nazi Germany invasion of Poland that started World War II. This will be a huge historical and very emotional event in Poland.

Being this may be the last opportunity to so honor the aged World War veterans en masse in the fatherland, Consul General Zygmunt Matynia – Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, D.C. — has announced that all expenses will be paid for the eligible veterans, and one escort, to include airfare, hotel, meals, etc.

All veterans who are interested and would like to participate in this event should contact directly one of the following representatives for the Office for War Veterans and Victims of Oppression: Zbigniew Krzywosz tel. +48 22 661 86 21, e-mail zbigniew.krzywosz@kombatanci.gov.pl; or Artur Frączek tel. +4822661 87 47, e-mail Artur.fraczek@kombatanci.gov.pl

### PIAST INSTITUTE WINS MENTORING AWARDS.

The University of Michigan-Dearborn announced that Dylan Siwicki was named Intern of the Year for fall of 2017. Siwicki, a senior at the University majoring in history and minoring in journalism, was an intern at the Piast Institute during the fall term of 2017. He was involved in a number of research projects, including the Hamtramck community survey and several additional projects gathering demographic data for a number of Detroit community organizations. His work was evaluated by both the university and through the reports of his mentor, Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski.

Radzilowski also received an award for his work in guiding the internship. He received an award as Mentor of the Year for 2017. This is the second time the Piast Institute has been recognized as the mentoring organization of the year by the University of Michigan-Dearborn. The previous award was bestowed on the Institute in 2010 for an internship Dr. Radzilowski supervised for Mr. Dominic Stecula in 2010. Stecula is currently a doctoral candidate in political science/political communication at the University of British Columbia.

**NEW CABINET PROMOTES GROWTH.** Polish President Andrzej Duda has sworn in new foreign, finance, defense, interior, health and environment ministers following Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki's cabinet reshuffle. Having established successful social-welfare programs, the conservative Law and Justice government intends to prioritize economic growth during the latter half of its four-year-term. It also hopes to improve its international image, tarnished through repeated attacks by the European Union's liberal-leftist leadership over a variety of issues including judicial reforms, rule of law and logging.

At the swearing-in ceremony Morawiecki said: "I would like our government to be remembered as a good government for Polish families and Polish security."

**U.S. CULTURAL-EDUCATION CENTER SET UP IN WARSAW.** During Poland's centennial year, an American cultural and educational center has been established in downtown Warsaw.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, America's Ambassador to Poland, Paul W. Jones said: "A hundred years ago the United States committed itself to the rebirth of an independent, sovereign and free Poland. It is with great pleasure that we celebrate the centennial of Polish independence, because we regard it as part of our common history. This is also the one hundredth anniversary of America's diplomatic relations with Poland."

Headquartered in the Rector's Mansion of Warsaw Technological University, the American Center was set up to prepare cultural, educational and scientific events.

## Cooked to Perfection



Agnieszka Krajewski, Malgorzata Janowski, Lucia DiRado, presenter Joanna Jagielska, and Irena Rybak display the delicious fruits of their labor (in this case, paczki), prepared for Tłusty Czwartek (Fat Thursday), the traditional Christian feast marking the last Thursday before Lent.

by Richard Poremski

BALTIMORE, Md. —The proverb "Too many cooks spoil the broth" doesn't necessarily apply to the kitchen of the Polish National Alliance – Council 21. Since 2011, monthly Polish cooking classes have been conducted here every fall, winter and spring. The popular idea originated with PNA members Agnieszka Krajewski and Malgorzata Janowski,

and now also includes committee members Lucia DiRado and Susan Miller. The class size is usually 10 to 12 participants, each paying \$30. Everyone is welcome to attend, PNA membership is not a prerequisite, according to Council 21 president, Maksymilian Bondyra.

The three-hour classes include expert instructions for the various prepared-from-scratch and totally authentic dishes, as well as hands-on

individual participation by the participants. Afterwards, everyone sits down in the lounge and consumes their creations, after which the aspiring gourmands are given detailed recipes to take home with them.

All of the usual classic dishes in the repertory are prepared in monthly rotation, including gołabki, pierogi, bigos, kielbasa, placki, flaczki

See "Cooking," page 2

## Teacher Warned of Shootings

PARKLAND, Fla. — A teacher credited with saving lives during the mass shooting at a high school in Parkland, Florida, issued a warning on Facebook three weeks prior about the ongoing threat of gun violence in American schools.

"So we are 23 days into the New Year ... in that short time we have had 11 shootings on a school campus. Eleven ...

Rospierski please let that sink in," Ernie Rospierski wrote in his Jan. 23 post. "School is supposed to be a safe place for students not the scene of a first person shooter game."

In the now-ominous post, Rospierski went on say that federal lawmakers should prioritize school safety ahead of all other matters with the three-day government shutdown over.

Rospierski lost nine friends in the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School that left 17 dead.

See "Teacher," page 2

## Two Sides of the Same Coin?

### Poland Under Attack Over "Death Camp" Law

Warsaw hopes patient dialogue will resolve the dispute  
Polish-Israeli diplomatic row intensifies

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW — A Polish-Israeli diplomatic crisis, which first erupted when a Polish anti-defamation amendment was signed into law, has reached new heights at the hint of Jewish complicity in the Holocaust. The amendment makes it a crime punishable by up to two years in prison to publicly blame the Polish state or nation for the Holocaust, and specifically targets such formulations as "Polish death camps."

During an international security conference held recently in Munich, Germany,

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki was asked by Israeli journalist Ronen Bergman whether a new Polish law would regard him as a criminal for speaking about the Polish neighbors who turned his family over to the Gestapo during World War II. Morawiecki replied: "Of course it's not going to be punishable, it's not going to be seen as criminal, to say there were Polish perpetrators, as there were Jewish perpetrators, as there were Russian perpetrators, as there

See "Under Attack," page 4

### U.S. "Disappointed" over New Anti-Defamation Law

Israel concerned new law could mean penalties for anyone who criticizes individual Poles' role in the Holocaust.

RADIO POLAND — The United States is "disappointed" that the Polish president has signed into law new anti-defamation rules which were criticized in Israel, Ukraine and the United States, said U.S. State Secretary Rex Tillerson.

The U.S. State Department raised concerns about the repercussions the law "could have on Poland's strategic interests and relationships" — including with its ally the United States and Israel.

"We encourage Poland to reevaluate the legislation in light of its potential impact on the principle of free speech

and on our ability to be effective partners," said Tillerson in statement before Polish President Andrzej Duda signed the contested law.

The legislation could impose a jail term for anyone who accuses Poland of being complicit in Nazi German crimes during World War II.

Duda said simultaneously that he would refer the law to Poland's highest court so it can assess whether the new rules are in line with the constitution.

After the signing, the U.S.

See "Disappointed," page 4

PHOTO: LARRY JANOWSKI

PHOTO: FACEBOOK

## International

## Cardinal Dziwisz to Visit Orchard Lake

**HIS EMINENCE STANISŁAW CARDINAL DZIWIŚZ**, former Archbishop of Kraków (2005-2016), will meet with representatives of the governing body of the Polish American Congress on the campus of the Orchard Lake Schools on March 7, 2018. At 6:00 p.m., he will celebrate Holy Mass at the Chapel Our Lady of Orchard Lake/Archdiocesan Shrine of St. John Paul II. A special recognition dinner will follow at 7:30 p.m. on the grounds of the Orchard Lake Schools, where his Eminence will be honored for his decades of support to this campus community, including that of his visits in 1969 and 1976 when he accompanied Cardinal Karol Wojtyła. All proceeds will go to the St. John Paul II Center in Krakow. His visit is sponsored by the John Paul II "Be Not Afraid" Foundation.



Cardinal Dziwisz was a long-time and influential aide to Pope John Paul II, a friend of Pope Benedict XVI, and an ardent supporter of John Paul's eventual beatification.

On Thurs., March 8, his Eminence will celebrate Mass in the seminary chapel for the members and guests of the seminary.

The honorary alumnus was appointed by Archbishop Wojtyła to the position of personal secretary in October 1966, a position he held through Wojtyła's election as Pope John Paul II, when Cardinal Dziwisz was appointed Pope JPII's principal private secretary, a position he held 27 years until the time of the Pontiff's death in 2005. In 2006, Dziwisz was created a cardinal.

For more information about these events, contact John Roland, president of the JPII "Be Not Afraid" Foundation, at (248) 755-7590 or jkroland77@gmail.com; Mary Ellen Tyszka, assistant, at (586) 575-9279; or Joanna Olejniczak-Caushaj, Orchard Lake Schools, at (248) 706-5363 (9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.).

**NEW CHINA-POLAND RAIL LINE LAUNCHED.** According to the official press agency of China, a train carrying electrical products and sheet metal, recently left the Chinese city of Qinzhou in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous re-

gion for Małaszewicze, eastern Poland. The train will cover the distance of some 6,800 miles in 18 to 20 days – 12 days less than by ship. Poland has been actively seeking to increase the number of trains linking Poland to China.

**CENTENNIAL BEING CELEBRATED WORLDWIDE.** Various events and celebrations are being planned and organized across Poland and worldwide to mark the 100th anniversary of Poland's re-emergence as an independent state.

Polish diplomatic posts, institutions and organizations all over the world have prepared numerous special events to celebrate the occasion.

"As a consulate, we focus on public diplomacy towards the American audience and we want to underline Poland's contribution to Western civilization and intellectual dialogue in the West, and relate that to the present topic," Poland's consul general in New York, Maciej Golubiewski told Radio Poland.

**INVESTORS FLOCKING TO POLAND.** Foreign investors have

capitalized about \$13 billion EUR (about \$16 billion USD) in Poland last year, creating over 86,000 jobs. No other European Union country has surpassed that record. An investment monitoring service for the Financial Times Daily found that the total value of these projects doubled since 2016.

Tomasz Pisula, head of the Polish Investment and Trade Agency stated: "We have not had such good results for a decade."

Principal assets enjoyed by Poland which attract business investment are its strategic location, its EU membership, its large population, a large number of Special Economic Zones, inexpensive labor costs and an overall fiscal system attractive to investors.

For many years Poland has promoted foreign direct investment in high tech. While the United Kingdom, Germany and the Netherlands are the three principal investors in Poland, a rising number of first-time investors from Asia, the United States and other parts of the world are making commercial real estate deals in Poland.

**MAZOWSZE KICKS OFF ANNIVERSARY.** Poland's internationally-known Mazowsze Folk Song and Dance Troupe began its 70th year with a gala performance at Warsaw's National Opera.

Recognized as Poland's cultural ambassadors, the ensemble of sixty-five dancers and singers and a twenty-three-member orchestra offer music ranging from Chopin to the folk melodies loved by Poles for centuries. In the last fifty years alone, Mazowsze has performed more than six thousand shows in cities around the world.

The group was established by the Ministry of Culture and Art in 1948. A decree issued by the Ministry directed Tadeusz Sygietyński to create a folk group with the aim of preserving regional traditional folk songs and dances of the Masovian countryside.

## Teacher

continued from cover

dead.

He considers himself lucky he was not one of them.

During the attack, Rospierski came within 20 feet of the shooter while he and his terrified students were locked outside their third floor classroom. Moments earlier, they'd left for a fire drill but heard gunfire and came running back to a locked door.

At first, Rospierski thought blanks were being fired as part of a surprise drill.

"I see one of my kids get hit and I say to myself, 'This is no drill.' He points his gun at me and starts firing," Rospierski said.

One bullet grazed his cheek. Another grazed his hip.

Rospierski and his students crowded behind a wall leading to their classroom. When the shooting stopped, he peeked his head out and saw the shooter reloading.

"Run!" he yelled.

He and his students dashed to the stairs, but Rospierski stayed behind in the stairwell to hold the door shut.

"That's what you do," he said. "You help people."

He spotted a girl face down on the ground. He shook her but she didn't move. He checked for a pulse but she didn't have one.

With the gunman still shooting, he raced down to the second floor and hid in a locked bathroom.

Then the shooting started again. With his students safely on their way down the stairs, Rospierski ran into the bathroom to hide. He was there for what felt like 20 or 25 minutes before police arrived. For those harrowing minutes, Rospierski said he thought about his wife, Andrea Kowalski-Rospierski, who also teaches at the school and was in another building across campus.

Rospierski and his wife are both natives of Michigan.

When Rospierski learned that law enforcement had identified the suspect as 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz, he realized the gunman was a former student. Cruz hadn't caused problems in Rospierski's class, but the teacher remembered that he'd had discipline problems in other classes.

❖ ❖ ❖

Also credited with saving the lives of her students was teacher Melissa Falkowski, who thought fast and grabbed 19 students and hid them in a closet with her.

"We sort of huddled in the corner for a few minutes and then I made the decision to move everyone to the closet," she told CNN. "You try to do the best you can for the kids you are supposed to keep safe."

Falkowski and her students hid for 30 minutes until SWAT officers came to secure the room.

—from *SunSentinel*, *Miami Herald*, *WJAX*, and *CNN* reports

## Cooking

continued from cover

(tripe) and kaszanka (black/blood sausage). A selection of the traditional breads, soups and desserts are usually prepared and served in tandem with the main course.

A larger family-style and festive class was conducted on December 2nd in the more spacious PNA Lounge featuring Pierniczki Toruńskie – gingerbread cookies, Torun style, with expert presenter, and Torun, Poland native Małgorzata Bondyra. Seventeen adults and seven children, all with flour-covered hands, helped bring a treasured old country Christmas tradition to a very appreciative Baltimore Polonia and its guests.

## Almanac

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March  Marzec

*W marcu mgły,  
powódz za sto dni.  
A foggy day in March  
brings a flood 100 days later.*

- 1 1634. Polish King **Władysław IV** beats the Russians in the Smolensk War, a two-year conflict fought between the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and Russia.
- 2 1864. **Abolition of serfdom** in Poland.
1943. Germany's first transport of Jews from Westerbork, Netherlands, to Sobibor concentration camp.
- 3 1996. Death of **Cardinal John Krol**, Archbishop of Philadelphia, first Polish American Cardinal.
- 4 **ST. CASIMIR**  
A patron saint of Poland and Lithuania, St. Casimir is also the patron saint of bachelors and is represented by a crown and a lily, symbolizing purity.
- 5 1940. Stalin, among others, signs an order for the **Katyn Forest massacre** of Polish military officers, intellectuals, and priests.
- 6 1933. Poland reinforces its garrison at the **Westerplatte** munitions depot outside the port city of Danzig (Gdansk) with a battalion of Polish Marines. This began a ten-day occupation of the port by the Poles. Polish Marshal Józef Piłsudski wanted to reassert Polish prestige in the Free City, make German Chancellor Adolf Hitler willing to hold talks with Poland, and to weaken the reigning German National People's Party in Danzig.
- 7 966. **Mieszko I**, Duke of Poland, accepts Christianity.
- 9 1734. Russians capture **Gdansk**.
1497. **Nicholas Copernicus** (1473-1543), makes first recorded astronomical observation.
- 11 1920. **Bolsheviks** opened a major offensive on the Polish front.
- 13 1995. Death of **Franciszek Gajonczek**, Auschwitz prisoner saved from death by Fr. Maximilian Kolbe, who later became a saint.
- 14 1882. Birth of **Wacław Sierpinski**, mathematician.
- 15 1869. Birth of **Stanisław Wojciechowski**, politician and scientist.
- 17 **ST. PATRICK**
- 17 1921. Adoption of Poland's **March Constitution**.
- 18 1921. Signing of the **Peace of Riga** concludes the Polish-Soviet War.
- 19 **ST. JOSEPH**  
*Gdy na święty Józef bociek przybędzie, to już śnieg nie będzie.*  
*If storks arrive on St Joseph, the snows shall melt.*
- 20 1673. Death of **Fr. Augustyn Kordecki** (b. 1603), led the defense of Czestochowa against Swedish invaders.
- 24 1794. **Tadeusz Kosciuszko** assumes the title of Supreme Commander of the Polish Insurrection of 1794.
- 25 **PALM SUNDAY**  
**Niedziela Palmowa**. This feastday, commemorating Jesus' triumphal ride into Jerusalem, marks the start of Holy Week.
- 29 **HOLY THURSDAY**
- 30 **GOOD FRIDAY**
- 31 **HOLY SATURDAY**  
**Wielka Sobota** is associated by most Poles with the traditional blessing of Easter food. After the blessing, it is customary to stop and say a prayer at the tabeau of Christ's Tomb.

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Editor in Chief Mark A. Kohan  
editor@polamjournal.com

Associate Editors Benjamin Fiore, S.J., Mary E. Lanham, Michael Pietruszka, Jennifer Pijanowski, Stas Kmiec, Thomas Tarapacki

Contributing Editors John J. Bukowczyk, Thad Cooke, Mirek Denisiewicz, John Grondelski, Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab, Steve Litwin, James Pula, John Radzilowski

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## Viewpoints

# Sharing Świąconka with America?

by Robert Strybel

French Mardi Gras, the Mexican piñata, the German Oktoberfest, and St. Patrick's Day festivities are examples of customs that have broken out of their original ethnic framework and into the American mainstream. On a local basis, that might also be said of Chicago's Third of May and New York's Pułaski Day parade.

To achieve wider acceptance two things are needed: a custom must have general appeal and receive sufficient exposure. The two best-known Polish customs are the oplatek-sharing of Christmas Eve and the Holy Saturday food-blessing ritual, and both are easy to like. But

mainly those non-Polonians who have married into PolAm families or attended a community Oplatek Dinner have come to appreciate the Wigilia tradition.

For several reasons, the Świąconka seems to have even more going for it. It takes place in spring, when all nature has come alive, and it goes over well with youngsters. Young kids really enjoy coloring Easter eggs, assembling Easter baskets, taking them to church for the blessing and visiting the Boży Grób (Christ's tomb). And many non-PolAm have found the custom to be warm, homey, familial and pleasingly quaint or sum the traditions up with: "This is really cool!"

Considerable confusion arose in

the post-Vatican II 1960s and '70s, when some younger of the priests began discarding beautiful old statuary and hand-carved Stations of the Cross as well as such time-honored customs as Świąconka and Boży Grób. When parishioners grudgingly accepted such alleged "reforms," they effectively deprived the next generation of those beautiful old traditions. In some cases, PolAm parishioners stood up for their heritage and were even willing to transfer to another parish to back their demands.

In the ethnically-mixed parishes which predominate nowadays, the Świąconka 'is alive, well and gaining new adherents wherever it is practiced. The point is to introduce

or re-introduce it where it is not. A request by just one member of the parish may not have much impact, but several parishioners proposing the food-blessing custom could make a difference. Especially nowadays, when pastors try not to needlessly alienate their shrinking congregations.

**ISN'T SHARING** Świąconka and other ethnic customs what America is really all about? Isn't the true spirit of this nation of immigrants best reflected by pluralism which enriches the national mosaic, bringing people together and closer to God through diverse cultural values and traditions? The Świąconka is an excellent case in point!

## Easter Preparations

# Poland and Polonia's Favorite Easter Custom

Both in Poland and Polonia, Easter baskets are taken to church on Holy Saturday for the traditional blessing. If this custom is new to you, here are a few hints how to go about it:

**Napkin:** 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 while the basket is being carried to and from church. The napkin is said to symbolize the shroud in which Jesus' body was wrapped. The napkin should be removed for the blessing. 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 & 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 the well-known beet-horseradish condiment ewikła 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, chalka, 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 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 wiel-**

**kanocny):** 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 usually red banner of Resurrection emblazoned with a gold cross (although other colors are also encountered). 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.

**LAPSUS CALAMI.** We regret that in the February 2018 issue of the Polish American Journal (Happenings: Chicago Style), we mistakenly reported that Saint Andrew the Apostle, in Calumet City, Illinois, has been scheduled for demolition. St. Andrew is, and plans to remain, a vital parish serving its faith community.



**"The Lord is Risen! Alleluia, Alleluia!"**  
May the Risen Lord fill your hearts and lives  
with Faith, Hope and Love!



**"Chrystus zmartwychwstał! Alleluja, Alleluja!"**  
Niech zmartwychwstały Pan opromienia Was  
światłem wiary, nadziei i miłości!

### 2018 EASTER SCHEDULE

**MARCH 25: PASSION SUNDAY** - Blessing of Palms at each Mass.

**MARCH 29: HOLY THURSDAY** - Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 PM.

**MARCH 30: 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 31: 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.

**APRIL 1: 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 8: DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY** - Celebration begins at 2:30 PM with Mass.

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## Under Attack

continued from cover

were Russian perpetrators, as there were Ukrainian and not only German perpetrators.”

During the Nazi occupation, Councils of Jewish Elders (Judenräte) provided the Germans with the names and addresses of local Jews, thereby facilitating their roundup and transport to death camps. Other Jews collaborated with the Nazis by serving in the Wehrmacht and Ghetto Police as well as blackmailing fellow-Jews and snitching on them to the Gestapo. Those occurrences have all been documented.

**BUT A POLISH PRIME MINISTER** even hinting at that Jewish taboo at an international conference triggered an immediate uproar from Israel's political stage. Their narration was quickly relayed worldwide by the Western media. Israeli politicians, normally at odds, responded with uncanny national solidarity.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called his Polish counterpart's comment “outrageous” and accused him of “lacking sensi-



PHOTO: REUTERS

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu (above) called Polish PM Mateusz Morawiecki's comment “outrageous” and accused him of “lacking sensitivity to the tragedy of the Jewish people.”

tivity to the tragedy of the Jewish people.” His arch-rival, Yair Lapid, head of Israel's centrist opposition party, said Israel should recall its ambassador immediately and accused Morawiecki's comments of “anti-Semitism of the oldest kind.”

Labor leader Avi Gabbay said Morawiecki sounded like any other Holocaust denier. Ronald Lauder, who heads the World Jewish Congress, accused Morawiecki of ignorance and said his “government is going to extreme and unfathomable lengths to exonerate some of their countrymen's own complicity in the murders of their neighbors.”

**TO OUTSIDERS,** it may seem incongruous that Jews, who are so quick to condemn any aspect of Holocaust denial by Gentiles, practice it themselves by glossing over Jewish crimes against fellow-Jews. The standard explanation is that the brutal extermination of 90 percent of Poland's Jews and two-thirds of European Jewry was so traumatizing a national catastrophe that marginal incidents of Jewish collaboration are meaningless in comparison.

Shortly after the latest controversy erupted, Morawiecki was in touch with Netanyahu, suggesting calm and patient dialogue to resolve the dispute. Time will tell if the Polish narration has a fair chance of making it into the international mainstream on equal footing with the Judeo-Israeli version of things.

have said such phrases distort history. But commentators have said that Israel is concerned that the new law could mean penalties for anyone who criticizes individual Poles' role in the Holocaust.

Israeli ambassador to Poland Anna Azari has said that in Israel the law “is seen as creating a possibility of punishment for Holocaust survivors' testimony.”

The law has also been protested in Ukraine because it could see penalties for anyone who denies crimes committed by Ukrainian nationalists until 1950.

Public broadcaster Polish Radio has launched a new website, GermanDeathCamps.info, aimed at debunking misconceptions about Poland's role in the Holocaust.

## Full text of Poland's Holocaust Legislation

*“Whoever claims that the Polish Nation is responsible or co-responsible for Nazi crimes committed by the Third Reich ... shall be liable to a fine or imprisonment for up to 3 years”*

The Institute of National Remembrance — Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation Act, the War Graves and Cemeteries Act, the Museums Act, the Liability of Collective Subjects for Acts Prohibited under Punishment Act, and the Prohibition of Propagating Communism or Other Totalitarian Systems through the Names of Buildings, Facilities and Areas of Public Use Act:

Article 1. The Institute of National Remembrance — Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation Act of 18 December 1998 (Polish Journal of Laws of 2016, item 1575) is hereby amended as follows:

### 1) Article 1:

#### a) item 1a) shall read:

“a) Nazi crimes, communist crimes, crimes committed by Ukrainian nationalists and members of Ukrainian units collaborating with the Third Reich, and other felonies that constitute crimes against peace, crimes against humanity or war crimes, committed against persons of Polish nationality or Polish citizens of other nationalities between 8 November 1917 and 31 July 1990.

b) item 2 shall be followed by item 2a, reading:

“2a) protecting the reputation of the Republic of Poland and the Polish Nation;”;

### 2) Article 2 shall be followed by Article 2a, reading:

“Article 2a. Within the meaning of the Act, crimes committed by Ukrainian nationalists and members of Ukrainian units collaborating with the Third Reich constitute acts committed by Ukrainian nationalists between 1925 and 1950 which involved the use of violence, ter-

ror or other human rights violations against individuals or population groups. Participating in the extermination of the Jewish population and genocide of citizens of the Second Polish Republic in Volhynia and Eastern Malopolska [Lesser Poland] also constitute a crime committed by Ukrainian nationalists and members of Ukrainian units collaborating with the Third Reich.”;

### 3) Article 45a shall read:

“Article 45a. Investigations concerning crimes referred to in Articles 54–55a are initiated by a prosecutor of a branch commission.”;

### 4) Article 53n is hereby repealed;

### 5) section 6b shall be followed by section 6c, reading:

“Section 6c

Protecting the reputation of the Republic of Poland and the Polish Nation

Article 53o. Protecting the reputation of the Republic of Poland and the Polish Nation shall be governed by the provisions of the Civil Code Act of 23 April 1964 (Polish Journal of Laws of 2016, items 380, 585 and 1579) on the protection of personal rights. A court action aimed at protecting the Republic of Poland's or the Polish Nation's reputation may be brought by a non-governmental organization within the remit of its statutory activities. Any resulting compensation or damages shall be awarded to the State Treasury.

Article 53p. A court action aimed at protecting the Republic of Poland's or the Polish Nation's reputation may also be brought by the Institute of National Remembrance. In such cases, the Institute of National Remembrance shall have the capacity to be a party to court proceed-

ings.

Article 53q. The provisions of Article 53o and Article 53p shall apply irrespective of the governing law.”;

### 6) Article 55 shall be followed with Articles 55a and 55b, reading:

“Article 55a. 1. Whoever claims, publicly and contrary to the facts, that the Polish Nation or the Republic of Poland is responsible or co-responsible for Nazi crimes committed by the Third Reich, as specified in Article 6 of the Charter of the International Military Tribunal enclosed to the International agreement for the prosecution and punishment of the major war criminals of the European Axis, signed in London on 8 August 1945 (Polish Journal of Laws of 1947, item 367), or for other felonies that constitute crimes against peace, crimes against humanity or war crimes, or whoever otherwise grossly diminishes the responsibility of the true perpetrators of said crimes – shall be liable to a fine or imprisonment for up to 3 years. The sentence shall be made public.

2. If the act specified in clause 1 is committed unintentionally, the perpetrator shall be liable to a fine or a restriction of liberty.

3. No offence is committed if the criminal act specified in clauses 1 and 2 is committed in the course of the one's artistic or academic activity.

Article 55b. Irrespective of the regulations in force at the location of committing the criminal act, this Act shall apply to Polish and foreign citizens in the event of committing the offences referred to in Articles 55 and 55a.”

## MFA Statement on Institute of National Remembrance Law Amendment

WARSAW — In light of the U.S. Department of State press release of January 31, 2018 on the amendment to the Law on the Institute of National Remembrance-Commission for the Prosecution of Offences against the Polish Nation and Certain Other Laws, the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) would like to note that the enacted legislation does not inhibit free speech, freedom of research and scholarship, or freedom of history debate or artistic activity.

## Swastikas sprayed on Embassy in Israel

RADIO POLAND — Unknown perpetrators sprayed swastikas and anti-Polish slurs at the entrance to the Polish embassy in Israel on Feb. 18, 2018 Polish foreign ministry spokesperson Artur Lompart has told the PAP news agency.

Poland has asked the Israeli authorities to look into the incident and undertake efforts to protect the Polish diplomatic outpost, Lompart said, adding that the Israeli police have launched an investigation.

The incident comes after Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki made controversial comments in reference to a new Polish anti-defamation law about “Jewish perpetrators” at a Munich conference on Saturday.

“The foreign ministry believes that efforts need to be undertaken to lower the temperature of the ongoing discussion in both countries as the present situation is not conducive to dialogue,” Lompart said.

The MFA emphasized the legislation's main aim is to fight all forms of denying and distorting the truth about the Holocaust as well as belittling the responsibility of its actual perpetrators. “In this context, we hold the view that accusing — publicly and despite facts to the contrary — the Polish Nation and the Polish State of complicity with the German Third Reich in Nazi crimes is inaccurate, misleading,

## Poles More Vilified over Holocaust than German Nazis: Opinion

JERUSALEM — Blame for the Holocaust is often pinned on stereotypically “staunchly Catholic, simple-minded and chauvinistic” Poles rather than on Nazi Germans, author Danusha Goska has said in an opinion piece in Israel's Haaretz daily, published amid a Polish-Israeli diplomatic crisis.

Goska is the author of *Bieganski, the Brute Polak Stereotype*, which explores how Poles are portrayed as strong, stupid, and anti-Semitic, how this portrayal is promoted in popular culture, and how it affects Polish-Jewish ties.

Goska said Polish-Jewish relations and World War II history had been boiled down to a calculation in which bad, anti-Semitic Poles far outnumbered good, righteous Poles.

But she said such a calculation prevented “historical clarity and ethical responsibility,” was “intellectually and ethically bankrupt” and “distorts beyond recognition a thousand years of Polish-Jewish interaction and the unique horror of

and hurtful to the victims who are Polish citizens of both Jewish and Polish descent,” said Minister Jacek Czaputowicz in the statement.

“Despite differences of opinion on the draft legislation, we believe that the current legislative work under way in Poland to develop legal solutions that would protect historical truth will not affect Poland's strategic partnership with the United States.”

1939-1945.”

“With increasing frequency, Polish, Catholic peasants, not German Nazis, are positioned as the quintessential Holocaust criminal,” said Goska. “It is easier for clean, well-educated, progressive audiences to accept dirty, backward, superstitious peasants as the perpetrators of the twentieth century's most notorious crime. German Nazis are too much like modern audiences.”

She warned that “Poles will recognize their demonization, and flock to ever-more nationalist champions.”

She added that “the monolithic stereotyping of Poles actually damages our understanding of complicity and responsibility for the Holocaust.”

Goska said she supports free speech but opposes the new Polish law. “But the tumult that prompted the law will not die down till the false stereotypical calculus ... is smashed,” she said.

## Statement from the Spokesperson of the Government of Poland

The comments of Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki during a discussion in Munich were by no means intended to deny the Holocaust, or charge the Jewish victims of the Holocaust with responsibility for what was a Nazi German perpetrated genocide.

On the contrary, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki has repeatedly and categorically opposed denial of the Holocaust—the murder of European Jewry—as well as anti-Semitism in all its forms. The Prime Minister has made his position clear: Poland wants to continue dialogue with Israel in the spirit of truth and mutual trust.

The words spoken by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland should be interpreted as a sincere call for open discussion of crimes committed against Jews during the Holocaust, regardless of the nationality of those involved in each crime. Each crime must be judged individually, and no single act of wickedness should burden with responsibility entire nations, which were conquered and enslaved by Nazi Germany. It must be emphasized that the destruction, conquest and occupation of the Polish state by the German Third Reich were conditions that allowed the Nazi German murder of Jews to take place in the way that it did. Before the Second World War, Jews lived, created, and worked in Poland for 800 years.

Attempts to equate the crimes of Nazi German perpetrators with the actions of their victims—Jewish, Polish, Romani among others—who struggled for survival should be met with resolute, outright condemnation.

## Disappointed

continued from cover

State Department said “Enactment of this law adversely affects freedom of speech and academic inquiry.”

The Polish law says that artists and researchers would be exempt from penalties.

In Poland, the new rules are seen as a way of fighting the use of the phrase “Polish death camps,” which many say implies the country's involvement in the Holocaust.

Poland has long fought the use of such phrases, which have often appeared in foreign media in relation to Nazi German-run extermination camps located in occupied Polish territory during World War II.

Poland's ruling conservatives

## Fr. Walter Rakoczy Celebrates 40th



The Mass for Fr. Rakoczy's 40th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination was celebrated on Jan. 28, 2018, at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Michigan City.

MICHIGAN CITY, Ind. — Rev. Walter Rakoczy celebrated his 40th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination on January 28th, 2018, with a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Michigan City, Ind.

Concelebrating the Mass were Rev. Eric Orzech of Cleveland, Ohio, who was also the homilist; Rev. Stephen Kosinski of Hammond, Ind.; Rev. Dominic Bertino of Hobart, Ind.; Rev. Ted Mauch of Dyer, Ind.; Rev. Killian Knittel of Michigan City, Ind.; Deacon Robert Bonta of Portage, Ind.; and Deacon Michael Green of Chesterton, Ind.

A reception followed the Mass at the Scholl Center, located on the campus of Marquette High School in Michigan City, Ind.

A native of East Chicago, Ind., Rev. Rakoczy attended seminary at

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary (Orchard Lake, Mich.), spending his third year at Czestochowski Seminarium Duchowne in Krakow, Poland.

He was ordained on Jan. 28, 1978, at Holy Angels Cathedral in Gary, Ind., and celebrated his first Mass on Jan. 29, 1978, at St. John Cantius Catholic Church in East Chicago (Indiana Harbor), Ind.

Rev. Rakoczy celebrated his first Mass in the Polish language on Feb. 1, 1978, at the Shrine Chapel at Orchard Lake, Mich.

Rev. Rakoczy began his ministry as an assistant at St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church in Michigan City, Ind., and held various leadership and teaching positions throughout the Diocese of Gary. He received Senior Priest status in 2016.

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Szczęść Wam Boże!



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## Religion

# Cardinal Wyszynski Declared Venerable

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Pope Francis recognized the heroic virtues of **Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski**, thus setting him on the path toward beatification and eventual canonization. Born in 1901 in Zuzela, Mazovia, in the Russian Partition, he was ordained in 1924, was appointed Bishop of Lublin in 1946 and Metropolitan of Gniezno and Warszawa (Primate of Poland) in 1948. His fierce resistance to Nazism and Communism and his efforts that led to the election of Karol Wojtyła to the papacy gained him the title "Primate of the Millennium." Imprisoned with other priests during Communist persecutions, he witnessed the brutal torture and mistreatment of prisoners under that regime. Made a cardinal in 1953, he died of abdominal cancer in 1981 at the age of 79 and is buried in St. John's Arch-cathedral in Warszawa. Also declared venerable was **Fr. Paolo Smolikowski**, priest of the Congregation of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ (1849-1926).

**SENATORS BLOCK PRO-LIFE BILL.** Once again, **Sen Lisa Murkowski** (Alaska) voted against a pro-life bill, this time the "Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act," and the bill failed. In the upcoming House races later this year, pro-life Democrat **Dan Lipinski** (a rare and courageous position for a Democratic representative) is being challenged by a pro-abortion opponent in the overwhelmingly Democratic third district of Illinois. Rep Lipinski has been a consistent supporter of pro-life legislation in the U.S. Congress.

**CERTIFICATION FOR PRO-LIFE WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE CENTERS.** Former abortion doctor-turned pro-life advocate **Dr. John Bruchalski** recently opened Tepeyac OB/GYN, renowned throughout the country for its pro-life gynecologists and obstetricians and neonatal hospice program. The center is a spacious, bright office near the hospital where its doctors deliver babies in Northern Virginia. Dr. Bruchalski has just launched the PWHC initiative, an alliance which will enable Tepeyac and its educational arm, Divine Mercy Care, to give their stamp of approval to other independent centers that provide a full range of pro-life women's healthcare. While each center will remain independent, their association in the consortium will bring public attention to what excellence in women's healthcare truly looks



Pope John Paul II and Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski embrace May 17, 1979 in Vatican at the observance of the 900th anniversary of Saint Wojciech, the Patron Saint of Poland.

like. In this way, the consortium can collaborate to provide a real medical answer to the half-truth that the Planned Parenthood movement has spread. PWHC members provide care that women ask for and need: honest, cooperative, listening, patient by providing well-women care, gynecology, pap smears, STD testing and treatment, breast exams, maternity care, prenatal care at least through 20 weeks, miscarriage support, abortion pill reversal, hormone management services, postpartum checkups, fertility awareness education, pro-life fertility services, and corrective surgical operations. Three centers are already fully certified: Tepeyac, Morning Star OB/GYN in Arizona, & Bella Natural Women's Care in Colorado.

**BUST OF ST. JOHN PAUL II BLESSED AND INSTALLED.** A gift of the U.S. Knights of Columbus, a bust of St. John Paul II, modelled after the John Paul II statue at the St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C., was presented to Kraków's St. John Paul II Sanctuary. Stanisław Cardinal Dziwisz blessed the bust in the presence of many Polish Knights of Columbus.

**PROCREATION A GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN?** **Kristen Pyszczuk**, a Canadian feminist, wrote an article for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation trashing U.S. TV "Fixer Upper" stars Chip and Joanna Gaines for having a fifth child. Pyszczuk wrote, "Women need to be presented with options for a fulfilling life that don't involve taking 20 years of their lives

to care for offspring." Advocating "shaming" of couples with large families, she cites the carbon footprint of large families and decries "cultural conditioning" that favors motherhood. To her credit, Pyszczuk strongly advocates adopting the many children who need loving homes.

**ACTIVE RETIREMENT.** **Fr. Edmund Nadolny** was best known as director of Archdiocese of Hartford's Office of Radio and Television, where he served for 15 years (1968-1983). He was also director of evangelization for the archdiocese. Now a "senior priest" at 84, Fr. Nadolny continues to share his faith wherever he goes in a variety of ways. One is "mobile billboards" or pocket crosses and prayer cards. He has distributed some 55,000 crosses in person and through the mail (contact: [fngoodnews@aol.com](mailto:fngoodnews@aol.com) or Tel: 860-335-2342). Other means are a billboard campaign on the state's highways. Most successful for fundraising was his sale of pierogi to benefit children in Rwanda. And everywhere he goes, Fr. Nadolny offers the grace of God's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**STO LAT TO...** Archdiocese of Hartford priests in their new assignments: **Fr. Piotr Buczek** as chaplain of Central Connecticut State University, New Britain; **Fr. Glen Dmytryszyn** as chaplain of Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven; **Fr. Gerald Dziezic** as pastor of Our Lady of the Lakes and St. Francis Xavier Parishes, New Milford; **Fr. Roman Kmiec, CM** as pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Ansonia; **Fr. Marek Sobczak, CM**, as pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish, New Haven.

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## "Kronika Bukowsko" BILINGUAL TRANSCRIPT BOOK ON CD

by **Kazimiera Kochańska**  
translated by **Roman Kaluzniacki**  
published by **Deborah Greenlee**

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146 pages including an index, Polish transcription, English translation, and photos.

All of the proceeds go to the Bukowsko kindergarten school. Bukowsko is one of the poorest gminas in Poland.

The "Kronika Bukowsko" (historical non-fiction) is a transcript in both Polish and English of a diary kept by the principal of the Bukowsko, Poland, school from 1945-1977. It records school and civic events in the village and includes many illustrations and photographs. Of particular interest, however, is the history of the village during the postwar period when the area was dealing with the conflict between the Ukrainian Insurgent Army and the new Communist controlled Polish government, which ended with Akcja Wisła.

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## Books in Brief

## Lessons Unlearned. Again.

by Mary E. Lanham

**THIS IS HOW IT BEGINS:  
A NOVEL**

by Joan Dempsey

*She Writes Press, 2017, 399 pgs.*

In 2009, Ludka Zeilonka, art professor and survivor of the World War II, is unwillingly brought into the middle of a political battle when her grandson, along with a group of others, is fired from his teaching position. What follows is a story about free speech, intolerance, and what happens if bigotry is allowed to ferment into violence.

Ludka's grandson, Tommy, is fired for allegedly silencing Christian students, but the real reasons for his dismissal soon become evident. He and every single other teacher let go is gay. Soon after, he is violently attacked in front of his own home.

When a bill, proposing to give school boards the power to define



sound, moral character, is filed on the request of a conservative talk show host, Tommy's father — a State Senator — is compelled to fight against its passage. Dempsey uses an even hand when writing about both sides of the issue. Both the pastor leading the charge against the teachers and the talk show host with political aspirations are given voices and motivations for pushing the bill into law.

In the center of it all is Ludka, who has seen it all before and it causes buried disturbing memories of her past to spring forward.

Dempsey excels at her craft. Her descriptions paint a vivid picture. In the excerpt below, Ludka and her husband Izaak are looking into their backyard watching deer.

"Ludka stood next to him and felt the chill of the glass. The deer were beautiful. Healthy. When Lolek and Frank were toddlers there had been only forest and field out there, and then one day a pair of beavers had arrived and resurrected the dormant wetland, drowning the forest in the process. Ludka loved the water but had never gotten used to the way the dead trees jutted up like so many

standing chimneys in a bombed-out city."

Joan Dempsey earned her MFA in creative writing and a post-grad certificate in creative writing pedagogy from Antioch University in Los Angeles. She has been published in *Alligator Juniper*, *The Adirondack Review*, and *Plenitude Magazine* among others. Dempsey is the winner of the 2017 Maureen Egen Writers Exchange Award from *Poets & Writers* for *This Is How It Begins*. She lives in snowy Maine with her family. *This Is How It Begins* is Dempsey's debut novel.

## Second Looks

## The real-life story of Second Lieutenant Vadek Kossakowski

by Catherine A. Hamilton

**A HOMELAND DENIED:***In the Footsteps of a Polish POW*  
(Whittles Publishing, 118 pp., £16.99/\$16.68)

Literary nonfiction at its best, Irena Kossakowski's *A Homeland Denied: in the Footsteps of a Polish POW* tells the real-life story of Second Lieutenant Vadek Kossakowski, the author's father. Fifty years after his release from prison, he wrote the letter to his grandson that motivated Vadek's daughter to tell his story. "At last I understood his nightmares," the author writes in the book's preface.

Narrated as though from inside a Soviet prison camp in Siberia, *A Homeland Denied* transports the reader further back in time with memoir-like snippets of the soldier's childhood on his parents' farm in Poland, at boarding school, and with his first love. The contrasting threads of his life treat the reader to a kind of intimacy rarely seen in nonfiction. In addition to her father's personal memories, Irena Kossakowski reveals the secrets of stealth and cunning that kept Vadek alive while imprisoned.

For readers of all ages, the beautifully written vignettes employ striking imagery that evokes a range of emotions. Second Lieutenant Vadek Kossakowski's war takes us on an extraordinary journey from Russian gulags into the harrowing Battle of Monte Casino in Italy. The book's narrative moves skillfully between the experiences of the young Vadek and those of the mature lieutenant whose courage and hope to return to his homeland are tested.

On page one, Lieutenant Kossakowski tastes Arctic air for the first time. He is at the beginning of

what will be a lengthy trek—on trucks, trains, boats, and miles of forced marches—to eventual confinement at the infamous Siberian gulag, Camp Kola. "The double iron gates loomed in front of him, and with each quaking step he felt as if he were walking to his doom." When the barbed-wire prison gates swing shut, the camp commandant's voice echoes over the prison yard, "This will be your grave!" The mental and physical horror of isolation in Siberia sets in. "Bones and joints became as fragile as glass, so they could break with the slightest pressure ... they would reset themselves awkwardly without the person knowing. Until much later."

But just in time, the story of a youthful, innocent Vadek keeps lovers of historical nonfiction from despair and warms their hearts. Readers are rescued from the icy winds that freeze a man's eyelids shut and are transported to a farm where a boy runs with his cousin after squealing piglets. "... you can't make friends with a pig like you can a horse or even a cow. Pigs just stare at you, like this one's doing," Vadek tells his cousin. "That's because she likes you!" answers Andrzej.

That is not to say the atmosphere of impending doom is forgotten when the anecdotes of childhood pay homage to the happiness of a carefree youth. Quite the opposite. Those endearing parts bring the reader face to face with what's at stake for Poland if Hitler isn't defeated. Irena Kossakowski takes on the task of describing her father's



fight for his life and his moments of dire depression when his mind wanted only to escape — but when the only escape would be death itself.

The poignancy of the prison narrative juxtaposed with memories of Vadek's homeland is all the more necessary to give this book a complete glimpse into the Polish role in Hitler's defeat, something that historians all too often have ignored. Even more fascinating is the fact that the Soviets moved the lieutenant from frozen Siberia, and ultimately, allowed his transfer to the scorching Palestinian desert due to Hitler's betrayal of Stalin by invading Russia. That event saved the lives of hundreds of thousands of Polish military and civilians, and Lieutenant Kossakowski was one of them. The Polish government-in-exile was clever enough to forge an Amnesty Pact with Stalin that freed all Polish people imprisoned in or by the USSR. Once his bones thawed, the lieutenant felt alive again, recalling, "Having endured the terrible conditions in Siberia and being denied so much for so long, even the simplest things seemed luxurious." He had never been so happy to see a bar of soap!

The past and the present collide on the page when Vadek meets up with his cousin Andrzej on the battlefields of Monte Cassino. But again, the author holds nothing back in her description of her father's grief when the happy reunion with Andrzej is short. During the harrowing but victorious battle for Monte Cassino, Vadek lost commanders, friends, and family, all of which he witnessed die on the battlefield.

The Polish Second Army Corps continued to push the Germans out of Italy, securing town after town all

the way to the key victory at Bologna, where the Polish flag was hoisted. The Poles destroyed three more enemy divisions before Churchill declared the war in Europe over. The Polish troops celebrated with "... the American troops who had joined them, through the crowded streets, while the chorus of 'Viva Polonia!' rang in their ears."

Unbeknownst to Vadek and his fellow Polish soldiers, the happiness of victory was to be short lived. The lieutenant learned very soon that he couldn't return home to Poland without the certainty of returning to a Soviet prison. There was no free Poland, a homeland denied because Moscow received the prize. Musings of betrayal fill the final chapter when Vadek grapples with what he foresees as Poland's fate. Fifty years behind the iron curtain of communism was unimaginable. Another sad and shocking result of the mistakes made during the Yalta Agreement is that not one Polish soldier was allowed to march in victory parades in England or anywhere else

across Europe. This tragedy is more poignant because by the end of this inspiring story, the reader develops a fondness for Lieutenant Kossakowski.

Writers of historical nonfiction carry the burden of attending to all the details of fact. What to include? What to leave out? How to keep from boring the reader who knows what happens at the end? I know plenty about this particular subject matter and couldn't put the book down until I got to the last page. Irena Kossakowski rises to the literary challenge and skillfully transforms this historical account into a creative work of nonfiction about World War II.



Catherine A. Hamilton, a freelance writer of Polish descent whose articles and poems appear in magazines and newspapers, is author of the book chapter, "Katherine Graczyk," in *Forgotten Survivors*, edited by Richard C. Lukas. To learn more about her, visit: [www.catherineahamilton.com](http://www.catherineahamilton.com).



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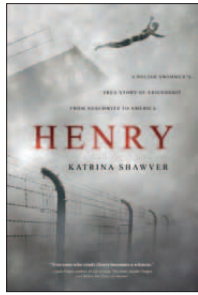
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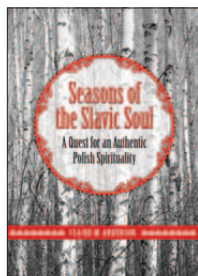


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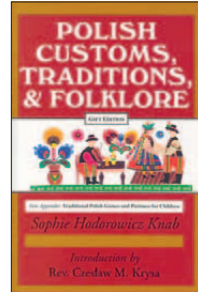


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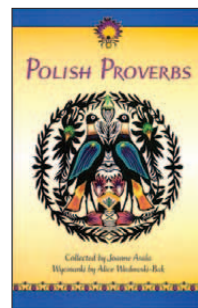
rhythms and practices in her own Polish cultural tradition and the physical world around her.

POLISH CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS & FOLKLORE



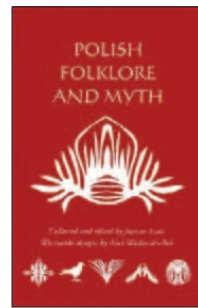
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This book examines the history of the Polish Singers Alliance of America as an ideological organization, documenting the extent to which the politics of the homeland engaged an immigrant and ethnic community over a century.

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

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

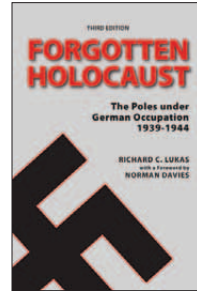
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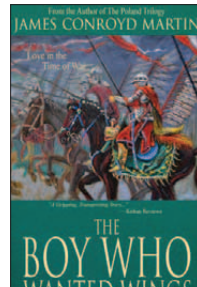
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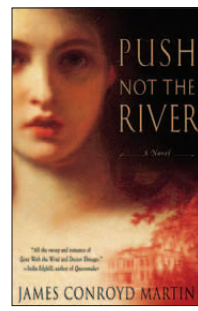
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## Happenings: Chicago Style

## Marching with the Three Kings



Three Kings on horseback.

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — Balthazar, Kasper, and Melchior rode on horseback down Belmont Avenue, one of the busiest streets on Chicago's Northwest Side, then turned down Long Avenue. From St. Ferdinand to St. Ladislaus Church, approximately 1,500 people marched over a mile down these streets that were partially closed to traffic. Poles wearing paper crowns and carrying flags and balloons sang Polish and English carols in the fifth annual celebration of January 7, the solemnity of the Epiphany, the Feast of the Three Kings.

The celebration began at St. Ferdinand Church, where Rev. **Zdzislaw "Jason" Torba**, pastor, and **Bishop John R. Manz**, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, spoke of the meaning of this feast day. The joint caroling was led by the pastor of Our Lady of Victory, **Rev. Michael Wyrzykowski**. Participating in the procession and walking along with Rev. Torba and Rev. Wyrzykowski were Polish Vice Consul **Piotr Semeniuk**; alderman of the 30th Ward, **Ariel Reboyras**; alderman of the 22nd Ward, **Ricardo Munoz**; and **Jesús "Chuy" Garcia**, member of the Cook County Board of Commissioners. The procession was accompanied by music of the Misericordia Band of Lombard.

Once everyone arrived at St. Ladislaus, **Father Marek Jankowski**, S. J., pastor of St. Ladislaus, shared his observations on the Pol-

ish diaspora's growing interest in Chicago Polonia. He noted that, on the way, he met Hispanics who were very interested in what was happening and enthusiastically joined the entourage. Once the "Three Kings" reached St. Ladislaus, they re-enacted the homage of Jesus. Mary was portrayed by **Katarzyna Smolecki**, and Joseph by **Krzysztof Wasik**. Thanks to the St. Ladislaus Polish Club, processioners were served hot beverages and snacks in the parish hall.



Thaddeus Makarewicz

**CHICAGO SOCIETY INAUGURAL BALL.** On January 27, almost 150 guests attended the Chicago Society (CS) of the Polish National Alliance Inaugural Ball at the Victoria in the Park located in Mount Prospect, Illinois. The CS was pleased

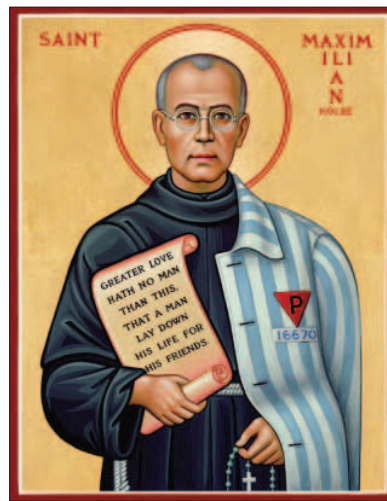
to recognize **Thaddeus "Ted" Makarewicz**, chief legal counsel to the Assessor of Cook County, as its "Man of the Year," and to induct the Society's 2018 officers.

The evening began with the singing of the national anthems of Poland and the United States, sung by **Izabela Jarko** and **Patrick Gawronski**, followed by welcoming remarks by **Romuald Matuszczak**, Inaugural Ball chair. Makarewicz humbly thanked everyone present and CS President **Steven Rakowski** reflected on CS changes and future plans.

The Honorable **John A. Wasilewski**, Retired Circuit Court Judge of Cook County, administered the oath of office to the 2018-2019 CS officers and directors, including: President **Steven Rakowski**, Executive Vice President **Peter Dykas**, Second Vice President **Mario Mikoda**, Recording Secretary **Charles Cwiakala**, Financial Secretary **Richard Wiermanski**, Treasurer **Robert Nowaczyk**, Advocate **Adam Konopka**, Senior Director **Thaddeus Makarewicz**, Director of Social Activities, **Romuald Matuszczak**, Director of Personnel **Mark Orwat**, Director of Outreach **Ronald Topczewski**, and Director of Publications/Webmaster **Christopher Grzadziel**. Peter Dykas announced the Society's Booster Award, annually given to that member who brought in the most new members. The 2018 recipient was Ted Makarewicz. After dinner, guests danced to the music of The Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra.

"Man of the Year" honoree, Ted Makarewicz is a native Detroit, who received his bachelor's degree in history from the University of Detroit. He moved to Chicago to attend Lewis University College of Law, now known as Northern Illinois University College of Law, and has been an active Illinois attorney since May 1980. Ted served as president, chairman, director, and member of numerous Polish American organizations. He is the recipient of the Cavalier's Cross of Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland and was the Grand Marshall of the 120th Anniversary of the Polish Constitution Day Parade. Additionally, Ted

is an official in several Catholic organizations. Since his arrival in the Chicago area, he has committed vast amounts of volunteer time to serving Polonia.

**ST. MAXIMILIAN RELIC HOUSED IN CHICAGO.**

St. Ita Catholic Church, on the North Side of Chicago, has installed a relic of **St. Maximilian Kolbe** (above), the Polish Franciscan friar martyred at the Auschwitz concentration camp, including beard trimmings, which were saved by fellow friars before Kolbe's imprisonment. According to Father Bob Cook, pastor of St. Ita and also a Franciscan friar, Father Kolbe ordered the friars to put his beard trimmings in the furnace. But he was unaware that the furnace would not be lit that day. Thus, his trimmings survived.

Father Kolbe was a well-known scholar, the founder of the largest religious order in Poland, and the publisher of the largest magazine in Poland. Thus, he became a target of the Nazis. The Gestapo arrested him on February 17, 1941, and on May 28, he was transferred to Auschwitz and became prisoner #16670.

When a prisoner from his barracks escaped, it was the beginning of the end for Kolbe. This escape meant that, in reprisal, 10 prisoners in Kolbe's barracks were to be murdered. These 10 prisoners were placed in a starvation bunker, and, within two weeks, all were dead except Kolbe. On August 14, 1941, the Nazis killed him by a lethal injection of carbolic acid. He was cre-

mated on August 15.

Kolbe was canonized by Pope John Paul II on October 10, 1982. He is known as the patron saint of prisoners, drug addicts, and journalists. This relic of St. Maximilian Kolbe is now on permanent display at St. Ita.

**A COPERNICUS CENTER SHAKE UP.**

The Copernicus Center (CC), which is supported by the Copernicus Foundation, a not-for-profit organization, is known by more than just Polish Americans living in the Chicago area. It's a place for Polish and non-Polish concerts, numerous ethnically-diverse cultural events, and multi-cultural social service programs. During the Labor Day weekend, its "Taste of Polonia" attracts approximately 40,000 guests from many ethnic backgrounds. It serves English-speaking, Polish-speaking, and other English-as-a-Second-Language patrons.

During the last week in January, speculations were heard within Polonia that **Gregg Kobeliński**, long-time managing director of the Copernicus Foundation and Center had resigned or had lost his CC post. Gregg has held this office for seven years and had previously held the office of president of the Copernicus Foundation for four years. Another board officer, **Lester Wojcinowicz**, had also lost his position.

Ted Przybylo, listed on the CC website as its treasurer, has subsequently been selected at the acting managing director of the Copernicus Foundation and Center. As yet, there has been no official announcement from the Copernicus Foundation.

According to Ted Przybylo, **Kobeliński** resigned but he had no further comment on the matter. However, he stated that the "Copernicus Center is now a well-managed and more stable institution than ever before."

The Copernicus Center has, in recent years, become one of the most important centers of socio-cultural life in Chicago. The Polish community awaits a clear and detailed explanation of the reasons that these changes at the Foundation were considered necessary.

**Lira Ensemble to Tour Poland**

CHICAGO — For more than 25 years, the Lira Ensemble has organized tours of Poland. Its cultural tours include lots of music, song and dance — both folk and classical. Lira Tours also spotlight folklore, traditions, architecture, history and all types of Polish cuisine.

In 2018, Lira is offering two tours: Central and Southern Poland, departing Chicago, June 21-July 5; and Northern Poland and Lithuania, departing Chicago, July 19-Aug. 2.

Lira's Southern Tour includes guided tours of Warsaw, Krakow, Zakopane, Czestochowa, St. John Paul II home, Chopin's home, Auschwitz, and Wieliczka.

The Northern Tour includes Warsaw, Gdansk, Poznan, Torun, Chopin's birthplace, Malbork Castle and Vilnius and Trakai in Lithuania.

Lira tours are escorted by **Lucyna Migala** of WCEV Radio, who is co-founder, artistic director, and general manager of the Ensemble.

Since the Lira Ensemble is a charity, a portion of the tour cost is tax deductible.

For details, call (773) 539-4900 or 1-800-547-LIRA.

## Romuald "Ro" Matuszczak

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

The fourth person in my series of "Chicago Polonians You Should Know" is **Romuald "Ro" Matuszczak**, a member of the fast diminishing "Greatest Generation." A survivor of the Great Depression, who served as a U.S. Marine during World War II, Ro has shown pride in a tireless work ethic and a faithful commitment to all that he did and continues to do.

Born in Chicago on July 10, 1924, "Ro" Matuszczak, has been active in Chicago Polonia for many, many years. As he approaches his 94th birthday, he will begin 75 years of service to his community. After serving in the Pacific during World War II as a U.S. Marine staff sergeant, he returned home to begin college at Loyola University Chicago, receiving a bachelor of science degree in history.

Ro has since spent 72 years in the travel business. His company, R. Matuszczak and Company Travel Agency, also known as Matco Travel, recently celebrated its 98th anniversary; Romuald's father, **Richard Matuszczak**, started it on January 13, 1920. Since 1946, Ro has been actively assisting travelers.

Ro's lifelong dedication to the Polish American community has been celebrated through

many Polonia awards he has received. Among them are the Appreciation and Legion of Honor Awards of the Polish National Alliance (PNA), participation on the Polish Constitution Day Committee, 14 years as president from the Pol-



Ro and Chris Matuszczak

ish American Business Club, the Medal of Honor from Poland's Ministry of Sport and Tourism for his work in expanding tourism to Poland, and the

Person of the Year Award from the Chicago Society (CS) of the PNA.

Matuszczak is proudest of his 61 years of membership in the Chicago Society of the PNA. He served as its president for four separate non-consecutive terms and continues as its director of social activities. Many CS members come to Ro for his expert guidance regarding the rules and procedures of the organization. He has served for over 17 years as the chair or co-chair of the Polish Constitution Day Parade Committee, and for 40 continuous years, he has served as a chair of the Pre-Parade Chicago Society Polish Constitution Day Parade Brunch. He will serve in this capacity again in 2018. Ro has served as chairman of the Chicago Society Distinguished Children's Christmas Party for 54 years. He is also proud of his involvement in the Polish Legion of American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion.

When he is not attending monthly dinner meetings of the Chicago Society and its Foundation, helping someone in need, or chairing an event, Ro finds time to play the piano, saxophone, or clarinet. Romuald is the devoted husband of **Harriet "Chris"**. He is proud of his six children, two step children, and 10 grandchildren.



Minnesota Voice

“Concertina Bowl” Marks 40 years

by Mark Dillon

A week before the flock from Philadelphia flew into downtown Minneapolis for Super Bowl LII, hundreds of musical eagles gathered 18 miles north for the 40th Annual Concertina Bowl.

Suburban Blaine, Minn.’s Brook Hall at Blainbrook played host to a Jan. 27 milestone jam

festival of musicians from across the Midwest who play concertinas, the square bellows-driven, free-reed cousin of the accordion.

Art Ohotto of Coon Rapids has been the event’s quarterback for four decades, organizing it as a fundraiser for Knights of Columbus Council #5141. Ohotto hopes to keep alive the tradition – which drew a crowd of 465 this season -- for another decade.

“That’s the goal I’m hoping for,” he said.

The Concertina Bowl started as an idea among four men for a jam party in the Twin Cities in 1978 that drew 100 people at a \$1 cover charge, Ohotto explained. Over the years it has grown to attract dozens of nationally-known players of all ages, including 19-year-old Josh Eidsor, one of this year’s featured performers.

“He plays all 12 keys flawlessly,” Ohotto said. “Josh is a master concertinist.”

Minnesota has also become both America’s manufacturing and marketing center for chemnitzer-style concertinas, with craftsman producers in New Prague, Sleepy Eye and Lake Elmo. It generally takes about

a month to produce one completely hand-made instrument.

“Over time the hub has shifted (from Chicago)” said David Sibinski, president of the Czech Area Concertina Club in New Prague. At 260 members, Sibinski, who is part Polish American, boosts that the CACC is the largest club of its kind in the world.

The instrument was first popularized in Chicago in the late 1880s and became a staple of Polish polka music in the 1940s, according to a timeline on the U.S. Concertina Association’s website. A music store in Minneapolis owned by Pat Watters was an early distributor of sheet music arranged specifically for chemnitzers, the site says.

The chemnitzer has its roots in 1830s Germany and is named for the city of Chemnitz in Saxony near the Czech Republic border. Concertina players say the instrument is harder to play than an accordion because of its complexity (it typically has 104 music buttons rather than a piano-like keyboard).

In the Midwest, the chemnitzer has evolved into a multi-cultural instrument, fostering Polish, Czech and German-style variations of play. The strong presence of all three nationalities in Minnesota since the 19th century and a willingness today to harmonize at a musical level has helped maintain the chemnitzer tradition, with each group contributing technology innovations and talent.

This year a concertina team from the Twin Cities — David Sowada and Todd Jurek — seemed to be a crowd favorite with Concertina

Bowl attendees, Ohotto said. The Polish-style Cynor Classics, Bobby and Bernie Cynor, were also a featured part of 11 hours of entertainment.

Opinions vary about the differences in sound between Polish, Czech and German styles, but one school of thought is that the Polish style of play has more emphasis on A notes and changes chords sooner or later. Ohotto said the differences are akin to speaking English with different accents.

POLISH MAYOR TO VISIT MINNESOTA, WISCONSIN IN MAY

WINONA, Minn. – Bytów, Poland mayor Ryszard Sylka plans to visit the historic Kashubian enclaves of Winona and Pine Creek, Wisc. in early May during the Polish Cultural Institute and Museum’s week of Polish Constitution celebrations.



Winona is a sister city with Bytów and many of its founding Kashubian families are originally from Bytów, Poland mayor Ryszard Sylka will visit Kashubian enclaves.

Kashubians, who have a distinct language and cultural customs, emigrated from the region to Minnesota beginning in the late 1850s.

Sylka’s visit, his second to the United States, will also include trips to Milwaukee and Charleston, S.C., says Tim Breza, president of the museum’s board of directors.

The museum’s leaders have spearheaded a growing connection between Winona and Bytów since

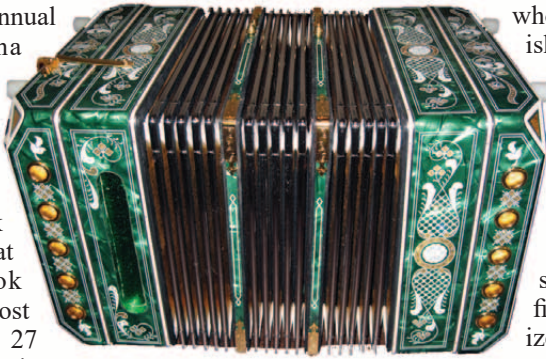
2003, when 28 people from Minnesota first visited Bytów to rediscover their family heritage. The bilateral relationship, begun by founder Fr. Paul Breza, has expanded to include mutual student exchanges.

This year’s events to mark the May 3rd anniversary of Poland’s 1792 Constitution and Sylka’s visit include a celebratory Mass at the Basilica of Saint Stanislaus in Winona on Saturday, May 5 and a reception and dinner at the museum’s annex hall, Fr. Breza adds.

Four years ago, when Sylka first visited Minnesota along with Bytów Council Chairman Leszek Waszkiewicz, the pair were interviewed by KQAL, a radio station at Winona State University. A podcast of that interview is at <https://beta.prx.org/stories/112890>.

At the time, Fr. Breza estimated that 85% of the original Polish Kashubian settlers had emigrated from an area within five miles of Bytów. Neighboring Pine Creek, Wisc. was settled across the Mississippi River from Winona by Kashubians around 1860.

Winona’s current population is about 27,000 while Bytów, founded in the 13th century, has about 17,000 people.



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

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

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**POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE** (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 32nd year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

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

## Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes

# Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra to Tour Poland

by Michael Pietruszka

**BUFFALO, N.Y.** — The **Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra (BPO)** will be touring Poland with performances in Lusławice, Rzeszów, Wrocław, Warsaw, Katowice and Lublin from March 15th through the 22nd. Their program, spotlighting American master composers, will include Barber's "Symphony No. 1"; Gershwin's "Piano Concerto in F"; featuring pianist Conrad Tao; and Bernstein's "Symphonic Dances" from "West Side Story." Also on the program is Krzysztof Penderecki's "Adagietto" from "Paradise Lost." This program was designed to celebrate the centennial of Leonard Bernstein and the 85th birthday of Penderecki, in accordance with the theme of the 2018 Beethoven Easter Festival. More information on the tour is available at <https://bpo.org/tickets-events/the-bpo-goes-to-poland>.

**POLONIA TIDBITS.** The Polish Union of America announced its scholarship recipients for 2017: Stanley Czaster Award to **Alana Biggie** of Pendleton; and National Board Awards to **Stephanie Biggie** of Pendleton, **Trevor Brudz** and **Victoria Brudz** of Brockport, **Brandon Galanti**, **Danielle Galanti**, and **Rebecca Galanti** of Hamburg, **Edward Halady** of Cheektowaga, **Joseph MacFarlane** of Fairport, **Charles Nigro** and **Nicolette Nigro** of West Seneca, **Michael Rusk** of Amherst and **Michael Taylor** of Salem, Conn. ... The BPO Chamber Orchestra performed Bach's "Brandenburg Concerto No. 3" and Dvorak's "Serenade for Strings" at **St. Stanislaus Church** in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District, Feb. 2nd ... The **Adam Mickiewicz Library and Dramatic Circle**, also in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District, hosted a "Pop Up Candlemas" on the 2nd and "Isa's Sweet Friday" Polish Carnival tradition on the 9th. On February 3rd, the **John**

**Paul II Polish Cultural Centre** in Mississauga, Ontario hosted its "Odlotowy Bal Karnawalowy" featuring violinist Vasyl Popadiuk and the Marek Majewski Band ... Also on the 3rd, **Ludowa Nuta** sponsored its "Bal Swistaka - Zbojnika" ("Peoples' Ball") at the ZPwK Hall in Hamilton, Ontario ... **St. Casimir Parish** in Buffalo's Kaisertown neighborhood held a "Thunder Candle Procession and Blessing", Feb. 4th. The **Villa Maria Chorus** and the **Quo Vadis Choir** led the final caroling ... The **Canadian Polish Congress** marked its 85th anniversary, Feb. 7th.

The **Polish Genealogical Society** of New York State met at Villa Maria College in Cheektowaga on the 8th ... The **Lechovia Polish Canadian Folk Dance Company** marked its 40th anniversary with a Gala Banquet at the Capitol Banquet Hall in Mississauga, Feb. 9th and a Gala Concert at the Rose Theatre in Brampton, Ontario on the 11th ... "Impuls" performed at the "Ostatki" at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga on the 10th of February ... Other "Walentyńki/Ostatki" were held at the Bravo Bistro and Livadia Banquet Hall in Mississauga, the Hamilton Dom Polski, and the Polish Hall in Burlington, Ontario on the 10th.

The **Polish Heritage Dancers** of WNY hosted their "21st Annual Paczki Day Celebration" featuring "Special Delivery" at Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral in Lancaster, Feb. 11th ... The **John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre** was the site of the "Wysniona Milosc" Valentine Concert; and St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Mississauga hosted the inauguration of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Poland regaining its independence, on the 11th as well ... "PhoCus" played at the "Paczki Day Fat Tuesday Celebration" at Potts Banquet Hall in Cheektowaga on the 13th.

The **St. John Kanty** 125th Anni-



**THE PERMANENT CHAIR OF POLISH CULTURE** at Canisius College joined with the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo in hosting Janina (Jeannie) Smith, daughter of Polish heroine and Righteous Gentile Irena Gut Opydyke, for UN Holocaust Remembrance Day. Ms. Smith's presentation, held Jan. 28, 2018, tells her mother's story which is outlined in the book, *In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer*.

The following day, she visited three different schools in the Western New York area and talked to approximately 1200 students with this message of faith, forgiveness and love. Assistance for the presentations also came from the Canisius College History Department, the Center for Polish Studies Program at Daemen College, the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo, and the Polish Legacy Project. To secure Janina Smith for a lecture contact [hillsidegirl@gmail.com](mailto:hillsidegirl@gmail.com) or visit her website: [www.ireneopydyke.com/](http://www.ireneopydyke.com/)

The Canisius Polish Chair annually sponsors a film at the Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival. This year's presentation is the documentary, *Raise the Roof*, about the centerpiece exhibit at Warsaw's POLIN Museum and the students who created it. Screenings will be held on March 11th and 13th at 1:00 p.m. at the Dipson Theatres, 3500 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14226. Tickets are \$10.00

The Polish Chair will also be coordinating a Mass in memory of Irena Krzyzanowska Sendler on the 10th anniversary of her death, on Saturday, May 12, 2018 at 5:10 p.m. at St. Michael Church, 651 Washington Street, Buffalo, NY 14203. Following the Mass, *In the Name of Their Mothers*, a documentary produced by Mary Skinner on the courageous efforts of Irena Sendler and the organization, Zegota, to save the lives of 2500 Jewish children from the Warsaw Ghetto will be screened. A reception will follow. The event is free and open to the public.

versary Time Capsule was blessed, Feb. 18th ... On February 21st, the **Polish Arts Club** of Buffalo heard from Edward Reilly III on "The Impact of Polish Immigration on the Civic and Religious Identity of the United States" at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst ...

The **Chopin Singing Society** held its "Annual Celebration for Chopin's Birthday" at the Pvt. Leonard Post VFW in Cheektowaga on the 27th

**UPCOMING.** As of March 1, the **Polish Union of America** will be

closing its offices in West Seneca and transferring operations to the home of President James Jozwiak. The new mailing address is P.O. Box 115, Springville, NY 14141-0115 ... The **General Pulaski Association** will hold its Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Pulaski statue in Downtown Buffalo on March 2nd. The ceremony will be followed by the group's Installation Banquet at the Protocol Restaurant in Cheektowaga. Kevin O'Connell from WGRZ-TV will serve as Master of Ceremonies, Erie County Legislator Barbara Miller Williams and Erie County District Attorney John Flynn will be the guest speakers, and Cheektowaga Town Justice Paul Pitrowski will install the group's officers: Brian Rusk (president), Chris Witkowski (first vice-president), Kenneth Graber (second vice-president), Edward Reska (treasurer), Jerry Inda (secretary), Douglas King (sergeant-at-arms) and Rev Cole Webster (chaplain).

**Buffalo Distilling** will be releasing its new Buffalo-made One Foot Cock Krupnik at a polka party featuring Special Delivery at its Lark-inville neighborhood cocktail bar on March 3rd ... Also on the 3rd, **Potts Banquet Hall** will host its "5th Annual Spring Fling" featuring The Knewz ... On March 9th, the Polish rock group **Perfect** will perform at the Meeting House in Oakville ... The Western New York Division of the **Polish American Congress** will hold its election meeting at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga on March 14th ... The **Polish Arts Club** of Buffalo will be accepting applications for its 2018 visual or performing arts scholarship until April 2nd.

❖ ❖ ❖

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 6th for the April issue) to [pietruszka@verizon.net](mailto:pietruszka@verizon.net)

## Across New York

### Consul General Golubiewski to Visit State Capital

**ALBANY** — Through efforts of the Polish American Congress, Western New York Division, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York, Maciej Golubiewski, will be meeting with lawmakers in Albany on March 6, 2018.

The consul general will have meetings with Leadership from the Senate and Assembly. He will be received by both legislative chambers. Representatives from various New York State divisions of the Polish American Congress will be present for the visit for this auspicious occasion.

Polish American Congress, Western New York Division President, James L. Ławicki II, thanked New York State Senator (59th District) Patrick Gallivan for his assistance in coordinating the consul general's visit to the State Capitol.

### Concert Scheduled

**BUFFALO** — The Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College presents "Make a Joyful

Noise," Wed., March 14, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. The concert will feature young artists including Western New York sopranos Emily Helenbrook and Haley Brunstad, and pianist Dominik Wrona of Ontario, as well as veteran pianist Ivan Docenko in works of Chopin, Paderewski, Beethoven, Mozart, and pieces related to World War I, and more. A free will offering will be taken to benefit the Leokadja Dombroska/Polish Singers Alliance of America Scholarship Fund.

Ms. Helenbrook is a winner of numerous awards, including the Polish Singers Alliance Scholarship, the American Prize in Vocal Performance, and the 2017 Getting to Carnegie Voice Competition, and has been showcased on the CBS Morning Show with Renee Fleming.

The concert will take place at St. Michael Church, 651 Washington St., Buffalo 14203, which houses the Jack Koessler Memorial Steinway Grand Piano. Free Parking is available, and the Polish Arts Club will provide a reception following the concert.

Contact Mary Lou WYROBEK at [wyrobekm@canisius.edu](mailto:wyrobekm@canisius.edu) for information.

### Rusk Re-Elected Pulaski Association President

**BUFFALO** — Brian D. Rusk, international public relations consultant, has been elected to his 30th one year term as president of the General Pulaski Association, Inc.

Also elected were: 1st Vice President Chris Witkowski, 2nd Vice President Hon. Kenneth E. Graber, Esquire, Treasurer Edward J. Reska, Jr., Secretary Jerry Inda, Sergeant At Arms Douglas E. King, Sr., Honorary Directors Renee Harzewski, Dr. Jack Kotlarz, M.D. and Hon. Sandi Schmid and Chaplain, the Reverend Cole Webster.

Brian Dwight Rusk of Amherst is also president of the Friendship (mental health) Foundation, board member of the M.D.A., the Challenger (space education) Learning Center, Lockport, vice president/treasurer of the Villa Serein Condominium Association, member of the Buffalo Club Entertainment

Committee and the Amherst South Rotary Club and host of the Rusk Report radio program on ESPN AM 1520, which is broadcast to 17 states and Canada.

The General Pulaski Association hosts the annual Pulaski Day Parade which has been led by President John F. Kennedy, First Lady Pat Nixon and Poland's Secretary of State Anna Anders. This event is chaired by Mira Szramel with co-chairs Joseph M. Rej, Jr. and Edward J. Reska, Jr.

General Pulaski Association committee chairs are: Wreath Laying, Jerry Inda, Installation, Marian Kreutzer, Spaghetti Dinner, Irene Kmiotek, Gala and Banquet, Joseph Rej, Jr. and Kenneth Graber, Souvenir Booklet, Chris Witkowski, Countess and Princess, Elaine Kolbert and Donna Skobjak, Christmas Party, Danielle Merchant and Government, Camille Brandon.

The Pulaski Association has saluted the legacy of Revolutionary War Hero of two continents, General and Count Casimir Pulaski for over 80 years in Western New York.

### PolishFest Announces 2018 Book Club Selections

**LATHAM** — From June 1-3, 2018, PolishFest will return to 250 Old Maxwell Rd., The Capital Region's largest celebration of Polish and Polish American culture will again feature its popular PolishFest Book Club. Festival goers are encouraged to buy the books and read them before the festival. The authors will be speaking, selling and signing books at the festival and there will be the opportunity to discuss the books with other literary-minded festival goers. And yes, they do serve that essential book club staple, wine, at PolishFest (as well as many varieties of Polish beer).

This year's PolishFest Book Club selections are: *echoes of tattered tongues: memory unfolded*, by John Guzłowski, *The Best Polish Restaurant in Buffalo*, by William Kowalski, and *Grace Revealed*, by Greg Archer.

For more information about PolishFest, visit [www.PolishFest-NY.org](http://www.PolishFest-NY.org), or [www.facebook.com/PolishFestNY](http://www.facebook.com/PolishFestNY).

Polish Chef

# A Super-easy Outsourced Świącone

by Robert Strybel

Maybe you don't have a big gang to cook for anymore. Maybe you lack the time or know-how to prepare things from scratch. But if you nevertheless want to enjoy some of our time-honored Polish Easter delicacies, outsourcing may be the next best thing. In most larger north-eastern and Midwest cities and elsewhere across America nowadays there are Polish groceries, supermarkets and delis which can make this possible.

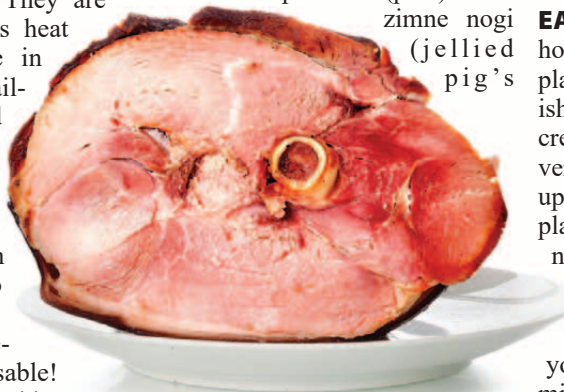
**BIAŁY BARSZCZ AND ŻUR.** These two rather similar tart soups are traditionally served at Easter brunch over hard-cooked eggs and sliced smoked kielbasa. They are imported from Poland as heat & eat soups that come in one-liter cartons. Also available are biały barszcz and żurek soup mixes if you like soup-mix soups.

**HARD-BOILED EGGS.** This is the main item you'll actually have to cook for your outsourced Świącone – buying pre-cooked eggs is not advisable! Place fresh eggs in pot of cold water to cover by at least one inch and slowly bring to gentle boil. Cover, switch off heat and let stand 20 min. Pour off water and cool with cold

running water. Add to hot biały barszcz or żurek, allowing 1 halved or sliced egg per person, or serve as below.

**EGGS WITH MAYO & CHIVES.** Place shelled, hard-cooked eggs cut-side-down on lettuce-lined platter. Top each egg with a dab of mayonnaise and garnish with chopped chives. You may be surprised how attractive, appetizing and tasty this simple dish can be!

**HAM AND OTHER COLD-CUTS.** Your local Polish deli probably stocks a variety of traditional cold meats including ham, polędwica (Canadian bacon), baleron (type of ham), Krakowska, perhaps also paszтет (pâté) and zimne nogi (jellied pig's



feet). Arrange all or some of the above on platter decorated with radishes and sprigs of curly parsley.

**BAKED FRESH KIELBASA.** Maybe you can get fully cooked fresh kielbasa which only needs to be warmed up at home. But fresh uncooked kielbasa is usually a better choice, since it's so easy to prepare. Place fresh kielbasa in a single layer in baking pan and cover with water. Bake on 350° oven until half the water evaporates, Turn kielbasa over and continue baking until all the water is gone and sausage starts to sizzle.

**EASTER CONDIMENTS.** Chrzan (prepared horseradish) and ćwikła (beets & horseradish) are the most popular go-togethers with hot and cold Easter meats, and both are found at Polish groceries and delis.

**EASY SAUCES.** Instead of creamed horseradish out of the jar, try mixing plain grated store-bought horseradish with a little sour cream or coffee cream and a bit of sugar to taste. A very nice sauce is easily whipped up my fork-blending one part each: plain grated horseradish, mayonnaise and sour cream.

**POLISH CAKE-MIXES.** If you don't mind easy baking, you might want to try Polish cake-mixes. These include: babka, sernik, karpátka, murzynek, piernik, sernik and even kremówki papieskie (papal creamcakes). If that is too much effort, then see next time.

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View with a Grain of Sand	Szyborska	SC	U	\$12.95	\$2.95

**BAKED GOODS.** At your PolAm bakery or supermarket, stock up on Polish bread, holiday breads and cakes. These include: babka, placek, chałka, mazurek and sernik. Pączki and chrusciki are not normally served in Poland for Easter, but in Polonia they are popular at Easter-time and any time!

**POLISH EASTER TREATS ONLINE.** If there are no Polish groceries, markets, delis, butcher shops or

bakeries in your area, shopping online may be the next best thing. Here are some links worth clicking on:

- www.polana.com
- www.sweetpoland.com
- www.babciafoods.com
- www.stanleysmarketstore.com

Check out Polish food suppliers in the United States at [www.thespruce.com/where-to-buy-polish-foods-1137260](http://www.thespruce.com/where-to-buy-polish-foods-1137260)

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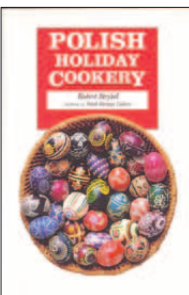
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Item 2-644  
248 pp., pb., Hippocrene Bks.

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

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



**POLISH COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK**  
by Sophie Knab  
\$19.95  
Item 2-632. 337 pp., sc;

From top-selling author Sophie Hodorowicz Knab comes an expanded edition to a best-selling book that combines recipes for favorite Polish foods with the history and cultural traditions that created them. Arranged according to the cycle of seasons, this cookbook explores life in the Polish countryside through the year.

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

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

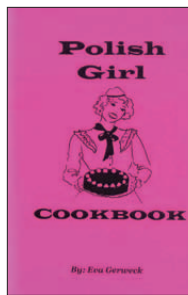
**PLEASING POLISH RECIPES**  
by Jacek and Malgorzata Nowakowski  
\$8.95  
Item 2-678  
5-1/2 x 3-1/2 inches  
160 pp., spiral bound

This little cookbook features a great variety of regional foods, such as hot beer, vegetable soup, leek salad, graham bread, bigos, potato pancakes, dill pickles, nut roll, gingerbread, and royal mazurkas. Readers also will find a table grace and information on dyeing traditional brown Easter eggs.

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

A collection of "secret" recipes, tips, and more by Eva Gerwecki. Fillings, toppings, and a variety of dough recipes as well.

Over 150 recipes with regional variations, from New York to California!



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

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



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

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For generations, Milwaukee Ave. has been the beating heart of Chicago's Polish community. Off this main thoroughfare are some of the most recognizable Polish churches in the nation. The historic parishes of Holy Trinity, St. Stanislaus Kostka, St. Hyacinth Basilica, and All Saints Polish National Catholic Cathedral are found near Milwaukee. Also near where the Avenue meets Pulaski Street, is the Art Deco inspired, Kosciol Swietego Wacława or St. Wenceslaus Roman Catholic Church.

From the establishment of St. Stanislaus Kostka RC Church in 1867, Poles had been slowly making their way northwest from this epicenter. By 1910 they had reached the emerging neighborhood of

Parkview, between the Northwestern Railroad tracks and Pulaski Road. In June of 1912, Archbishop Quigley responding to the plea of the Poles appointed Rev. Ferdinand C. Scieszka to organize the three hundred families of the area and establish a new parish under the patronage of St. Wenceslaus.

While most founding priests spend months struggling to raise funds so they can buy a plot of land and build a church, Father Scieszka completed this task in about 10 weeks. Knowing that a church would be needed in the neighborhood, the Archdiocese had already purchased a block of land on Monticello Avenue for the parish to use. To welcome their new neighbor, St. Hyacinth Church gave Father Scieszka an old frame building they were no longer using which served as the first home of St. Wenceslaus.

That September, Father Scieszka celebrated the first Mass at St. Wenceslaus to a full church of grate-



St. Wenceslaus was founded in 1912 to relieve overcrowding at St. Hyacinth parish, which first met in a small wooden frame structure at Roscoe Street and Lawndale Avenue.

ful parishioners. While they had the building from St. Hyacinth, the parish still needed a school. On August 15, 1912 Father Ferdinand turned the first spade of dirt for what would become a combination church/school building. Two years later, on Corpus Christi Sunday 1914 the completed structure was dedicated. For the next ten years Father Ferdinand would grow his church and guide the clubs and organizations that were born of the parish.

In 1923 Father Scieszka was replaced by Msgr. Theodore J. Czastka, who with great energy and vigor, expanded the parish campus. In 1924 a convent was built for the teaching sister, in 1925 eight classrooms were added to the school, and in 1926 construction of a rectory began.

As the parish grew, so too did its importance to greater Polonia. In 1934 Gen. Joseph Haller chose to

visit the church during a tour of the United States. Five years later on Ash Wednesday, 1939 a fire broke out in the boiler room that greatly damaged the combination building. Although quickly repaired, the fire reignited the desire of the parish to build a new church.

On March 27, 1940 ground was broken for a Romanesque-Art Deco hybrid building designed by McCarthy, Smith, and Eppig. Because of the war it would take over two years for the church to be completed, but on June 7, 1942 St. Wenceslaus' new home was dedicated.

Since its dedication in 1942 St. Wenceslaus has remained a strongly Polish parish. But it also has adapted to modern times offering Masses not only in English and Polish but Spanish as well. Today, St. Wenceslaus is a must-see destination for architectural and Polish American historians visiting Chicago.

The Polonia Institute  
2018 Essay Contest

TORRANCE, Calif. — After 123 years of partition and occupation, Poland regained its independence in 1918. However, the Polish state had to struggle for two more years on the battlefield and through diplomacy to defend its fragile sovereignty. Roman Dmowski of the Polish National Committee became the spokesman for the Polish interest in the Allied coalition. In June 1918, the independence of Poland was endorsed by the Allies. On November 11, 1918 the Polish Regency Council granted extensive powers to Jozef Pilsudski who became the First Marshal of the Second Polish Republic.

In France, a Polish army known as the Blue Army was formed. It was comprised of 70,000 Poles and 20,000 Polish Americans. A 30,000-men strong Polish army was also formed in the East. Under Marshal Pilsudski, the united Polish army succeeded in preserving the liberty of Poland.

Applicants are asked to analyze the struggle of Poland for independence between 1918 and 1920 by first addressing several issues, outlined on the Polonia Institute's website (see below).

Awards: \$5,000 First Prize, \$2,000 Second Prize, \$1,000 Third Prize. Additional essays may be considered for recognition and publication.

The 2018 Historical Essay Contest is open to all residents of the United States of America and Canada between ages 20 and 27 as of July 1, 2018.

For requirements and an application form, visit [www.poloniainstitute.net](http://www.poloniainstitute.net).

Deadline is July 1, 2018. Results will be announced by August 15, 2018.

For more information, write to: [info@poloniainstitute.net](mailto:info@poloniainstitute.net).



St. Wenceslaus' overall design is a mix of Byzantine and Romanesque elements, with a host of Art Deco features, popular at the time of its early 1940's construction.

## DYNQUS DAY

## Easter Monday

April 2, 2018

Polish Falcons Nest 8  
60 S. 18th Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203

## Event Highlights:

FREE and open to the public  
Event is from noon to 8 p.m.  
Kids activities & games: 3-8 p.m.  
Cornhole and other games  
Rain or shine

## Food Vendors:

Pittsburgh Pierogi Truck: 12-8 p.m.  
Franktuary Truck: 3-8 p.m.  
Bethel Bakery: all day with fresh pączki  
Potato Pancakes made fresh by Fr. Miro  
Polish & domestic beer all day

## Entertainment:

Trel-Tones, Polish Polka Band at 3 p.m.  
Folk dance performance at 6:30 p.m.

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## Sports

## Gortat Celebrates Poland



Gortat. Promoting his heritage and homeland.

by Tom Tarapacki

**Marcin Gortat** recently celebrated his fifth Polish Heritage Night with the Washington Wizards, an event he's been organizing since he came to the team five seasons ago.

During the event, a video message by Polish President Andrzej Duda was shown reminding the crowd that Poland is marking the centenary of regaining its independence, and emphasizing the importance of the military alliance between Poland and the United States. Special guests included Polish Ambassador to the United States **Piotr Wilczek**, actress **Alicja Bachleda-Curuś**, Polish cheerleaders as well as two Polish military veterans who fought in Afghanistan. There was also a meet-and-greet with Gortat for fans.

Among the 20,000 in attendance were **Kristy Probst** and her fifth-grade reading class at H.D. Cooke Elementary. The class studied Poland last school year, and last summer she and two of her students travelled to Poland thanks to the Polish Embassy in D.C., the U.S. Embassy in Poland and Marcin Gortat's foundation. **Dagmara Jasińska** of the Polish embassy staff and Gortat's friend, and manager, **Michał Miciel-ski**, were deeply involved. Jasińska said Polish Ambassador Piotr Wilczek, an educator himself, fully supported the idea. Ms. Probst and the students, **Erick Saxon** and **Fatou Gaye**, visited Gortat's hometown of Lodz and the capital city of Warsaw. Among the stops were the Warsaw Uprising Museum and the childhood home of physicist Marie Curie, whom they had studied in class. They also learned some Polish and sampled a variety of authentic Polish cuisine. They also attended one of the basketball camps that Gortat has run in Poland since 2009.

Before the game there was a reception at the Polish embassy which included CNN's **Wolf Blitzer**.

By the way, the Wizards beat the Brooklyn Nets 119-113 on Polish Heritage Night, as Gortat had 16 points and 13 rebounds.

**WISNIEWSKI WINS.** Eagles guard **Stefen Wisniewski** helped Philadelphia win Super Bowl LII as part of the offense that racked up 538 yards in a 41-33 win over New England.

The Pittsburgh Central Catholic graduate was a first-team All-American at Penn State, and was selected by the Oakland Raiders in the second round of the 2011 NFL Draft. He went to Jacksonville in 2015 before signing with Philly in 2016, where he's played left guard and some center.

At Penn State, Wisniewski was



Wisniewski. Helped the Eagles beat the Patriots.

named a first team All-American at the end of the 2010 season. His father, Leo, was a standout defensive lineman for Penn State who played for the Baltimore Colts in the 1980s. An uncle, Steve Wisniewski, was a two-time first-team All-America guard during his Penn State career (1985-88) and was selected All-Pro eight times in his 13 years with the Raiders. However, Stefen was the first to play in — and win — a Super Bowl.

**IN MEMORIAM.** A number of significant deaths have occurred in recent weeks:

**Soccer standout Stanislaw "Stan" Terlecki (62).** Just 5-8 with tiny feet, he starred in Poland and the United States, and was one of indoor soccer's most lethal strikers. However, he was an outspoken advocate for rights during the rise of Solidarity.

The Warsaw native began his pro career at age 17 and played for three clubs in the Polish top division. He was first selected for the national team as a 21-year-old, but his career for Poland was cut short due to his open criticism of the communist governments of Poland and the Soviet Union. Twice suspended by the Polish federation for attempting to form a player's union, in 1980 he was one of the key figures in a public incident in which the players rebelled against management, known as the Okęcie Airport incident. He later arranged a meeting between players and Pope John Paul II on a trip to Italy, despite warnings that such a meeting was forbidden. He was suspended for year, and made ends meet while teaching as he worked on his Master's in History at the University of Łódź.

In 1981, Terlecki moved to the U.S. and signed with the Pittsburgh Spirit team in the Major Indoor Soccer League. Known as "Stan the Fran," as in "the Franchise," he became one of the best players in the indoor game. When martial law was declared in his homeland Terlecki's jabs at the Soviet Union often appeared in American media. He later played for the Golden Bay Earthquakes of the NASL and the New York Cosmos.

In 1986, with an easing of the political situation, Terlecki finally returned to Poland, rejoining his former club, Łódzki KS. He retired in 1993 after two seasons with Polonia Warsaw, helping the club make it to the first division for the first time in forty years. He later coached, and his Maciej played for the national team.

**Hockey player and coach Len Ceglarski (91).** When he retired in 1992 after 34 years of coaching (14 at Clarkson, 20 at Boston College),

Ceglarski was college hockey's all-time winningest coach with a record of 673 victories, 339 defeats and 38 ties. An outstanding high school hockey player, Ceglarski went on to All-American honors at Boston College, NCAA champs his sophomore year. The son of Polish immigrants, he was elected to the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame in 1993.

**Washington State quarterback Tyler Hilinski (21).** He died of an apparent suicide. The Claremont, California native just finished his redshirt sophomore season for the Cougars. He started the team's bowl game against Michigan State and appeared in eight games, throwing for 1,176 yards and seven touchdowns. His brother Ryan, also a quarterback, issued a statement saying that the Hilinski family was "in complete shock and disarray" and that "Tyler was the kid that put a smile on everybody's face when they were down, especially his family."

**Canadian-born NHL All-Star**

**Zarley Zarlapski (49).** He suffered complications related to a viral infection. His father, Leonard, named him after professional golfer Kermit Zarley.

Originally drafted by the Pittsburgh Penguins fourth overall in 1986, he played 12 seasons in the NHL. Zarlapski had his best offensive seasons with the Hartford Whalers, with 20 goals in 1991-92 and 65 points in 1992-93. He retired in 2000.

**Australian rugby standout Stan Pilecki (70).** Born to Polish parents in a refugee camp in Germany, his family emigrated to Australia in 1950. "The Pole" was the first player of Polish descent to play rugby for Australia. A colorful character with a quick wit as well as a great talent, he is commemorated with the Pilecki Medal, which is awarded to the Queensland Reds player of the year.

**FROM KICKBOXER TO DIRECTOR.** **Chad Stahelski** has gone from being a professional kickboxer to becoming a sought-after action movie director. After starting his movie career as a stunt man in 1991, Stahelski went on to co-direct 2014's hugely successful action thriller *John Wick*.

Chad studied martial arts as a child after his father, Gary, took him to his first Bruce Lee movie. He later trained at the world-renowned Inosanto Martial Arts Academy in California, and became a competitive kickboxer. He got involved in the movies when a stunt coordinator saw him demonstrate "backflips, kicks, standard stuff" at an event.

After doing stunt work in some low-budget films, he body-doubled for his friend and training partner Brandon Lee in *The Crow*. After Lee's accidental on-set death during filming, Chad helped complete the film. Later, Stahelski worked with the Wachowskis on *The Matrix* films; he was Keanu Reeves' stunt double in the first, and martial arts stunt coordinator for the sequels. Since then, he has been one of Hollywood's most in-demand action guys, working as a stunt double, second unit director and action choreographer for films such as *The Expendables* and *Spider-Man 2*.

In 2014, he co-directed (along with frequent collaborator David



Chad Stahelski (left) and Keanu Reeves, who plays the legendary assassin John Wick in the movie series of the same name.

Leitch) Keanu Reeves in the sleeper hit *John Wick*, considered by many the best American action movie of this decade. Since then he's been in demand as a director, and the 49-year-old will return as sole director for the film's 2019 sequel.

#### THEY SAID IT.

"Everybody thinks Poland is kind of like Russia: cold, dirty, not too many nice places to visit, which is wrong. We are getting better, and we already did get better the past 10 years. I'm not going to lie, when I made it to the NBA and I left Poland, we were completely different. Eleven years ago I would not say the same thing I'm saying now. Poland has a lot of beautiful places you can go and visit. Obviously we are not Bahamas, we are not Caribbean islands or Fiji or Spain, but we still have a lot of places that you can go in our country, and definitely a lot of history."

— **Marcin Gortat** of the Washington Wizards, during an interview about his annual Polish Heritage Night Celebration.



"I feel terrible for Rob

Gronkowski but his balance problems were some of the clearest concussion signs you will ever see. He is done for the day, unless the Patriots and NFL only want to talk about the concussion protocol for the next week."

— *A tweet by Chris Nowinski during the AFC Championship game when Patriots TE Rob Gronkowski received a helmet-to-helmet hit. Gronk was assessed with a concussion, and was taken out of the game. Nowinski, who is the co-founder and CEO of the Concussion Legacy Foundation, has been critical of the NFL's concussion protocol.*



"It's a huge honor.... MMA is far away from being Olympic competition, so it's huge merit for me to represent our country on so huge an international area. I'm very happy with that."

— **Joanna Jedrzejczyk**, on being asked to carry the Olympic flame for Poland in the lead up to the 2018 Winter Olympics.

**NEXT MONTH:** Winter Olympics Roundup.

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## Sybiracy

## Labor Camps in Komi District

"Sybracy" (Poles exiled to Siberia during World War II) is written by Stefania Borstowa.

Borstowa, her children and Marysia, a home servant, were deported from Lvov to Krutoyarka, a small village in Kazakstan. Soon after the Soviet Union invasion, her husband was sent to the labor camp in Eastern Siberia and died of dysentery, but she did not know about it until after World War II.

**PART XXIX.** After I came back from Kostanay, I was told that one of the Polish women was staying ill already for a long time. Marysia was treating her until she realized that she is really healthy. I visited her when she was in an excellent mood laying in her bed, then she asked me whether I would like to see something. She uncovered a quilt slightly and lifted her left arm, so I could see an egg wrapped in a warm scarf under her armpit. She said that she would start "giving birth" in three days and that she is already "hatching" for eighteen days. We laughed, and a chick came into the world in three days, a small cockerel. After two months, his head was cut off, and he was eaten.

I went back to work in the kolk-

hoz. They even made me so called "udarnitza" – the forewoman. The news from the front reached us more frequently, and they were better. The hope to go back home to Poland was revitalizing us. We had more frequent meetings with other Polish people and started planning our lives back in Poland. Our eyes were shining and our backs, until now in pain due to hard work, were stretched.

One time while walking to the region, I met a young man. His face was worn out, and his eyes had no any expression. He asked me about our location and how far it is to a village of Piestschiany. He was from our area, but he was sentenced to two years of labor camp (gulag) to Komi district<sup>1</sup>, allegedly for the theft of grain. I asked him whether he have heard about the town Abez. He said that he was just returning from there, and he is on the way already for four months. He lost his eyesight in the labor camp, he can only see some shadows under the sun, but does not recognize the shapes clearly.

I asked about Polish prisoners, since my husband was sent to Abez. He said that there is a labor camp for about twelve thousands of Polish



Prisoners place railroad ties on the roadbed of the North Pechora Railway, near the city of Vorkuta.

officers there and that these people were living in terrible conditions. They slept in trailers, with no heating, on the straw and that the frost was terrible. They were suffering from snow blindness<sup>2</sup>, since there was no access to sun glasses. The limited food was only delivered by helicopters. The mortality rate was high, especially due to a lack of warm clothing at the temperature reaching negative 58 C (-72.5 F) in winter.

When general Sikorski signed a treaty with Stalin in 1942, all officers were supposed to be freed but only a fraction was allowed to leave the camp. The labor prisoners were used to build a railway line in the area that was impassable until now. They were located about 500 km away from city Komi. This distance was safe for Soviets to make sure that the prisoners would not be able to escape, especially since during the winter, it was lots of snow

and frost, and in Spring, there were impassable swamps and marshes. People could not even dream about the escape. I was terrified to hear this testimony. This man was only twenty two years old, but he looked like he was fifty.

I asked him to stop by our house in Krutoyarka to get some food, take a rest, so he could have enough strength to get to his village.

1. Komi district had many labor camps, so called gulags. Prisoners of the gulag were sent there by the hundreds of thousands to perform forced labor in the Arctic regions of the USSR. Prisoners built city of Vorkuta, worked at the coal mines, build the railways (North Pechora Railway), roads and the industrial infrastructure." Abez was located on the outskirts of Vorkuta and it is a place of a mass cemetery where hundreds thousands victims of Communism are buried
2. Sun blindness is caused by too much visible and ultraviolet sunlight reflected from the snow that cause permanent damage to the eye's cornea.

continued next month

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

## Lost 1872 Painting Recovered, Returned

WARSAW — A painting lost in World War II and recently recovered by Polish experts and police was showcased to the public.

The 1872 painting, entitled "Winter in a Small Town," is the work of renowned Polish artist Maksymilian Gierymski (1846-1874). It was recovered through the joint efforts of regional police and experts from the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage in Warsaw.

The painting was presented in a high-profile ceremony at a gallery in the southern city of Kraków, a division of the city's National Museum.

It will return permanently to the National Museum in Kraków after several months of restoration

work.

"For many years, we've been trying to locate and regain lost artwork in a systematic way," said Piotr Gliński, the minister for Culture and National Heritage.

He added that the Ministry operates a special department that employs specialists who are tasked with recovering lost artworks.

An official list of Poland's wartime losses comprises almost 63,000 works of art, including paintings, sculptures, handicrafts and furniture, according to Gliński.

Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union plundered a huge amount of art and valuable objects when they occupied Poland during World War II.

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## Destruction of Gestapo Documents

by Regina Szamborska-McIntyre

*Resistance is a story about the conditions, which led to the Warsaw Uprising during World War II, and how the courageous and tenacious people of Poland fought the Nazi occupation, only to be decimated by the political vagaries of war.*

*Three main characters drive the story: Zygmunt Kaminski, publisher of an underground newspaper; Marek Gudzinski, aka Dysthmus, delivery man of contraband items to underground units; and Michal Bednarek, attorney at law, who tries to remain neutral and uninvolved.*

**CHAPTER XXIV.** A large banner was unfurled and hung on the back wall of the Duzat barn.

AS LITTLE—AS LATE—  
AS BAD AS POSSIBLE

It was the Peasant Battalion Banner, and a recent acquisition for the Duzats who had recently become involved in covert activities.

One night, Wicek appeared at a meeting of the local unit. He had the look of a vanquished man. His son was gunned down during a foolish disruption activity by the boy scouts, of which Felix played no part. Wicek's concern of maintaining quotas to keep his family safe was no longer his priority. He was determined to spend his last breath honoring Felix' diligence to the cause of an independent Poland.

One swift stroke of an axe unlocked the door of the village office that held the documents of mandated quotas for every farm in the region. Piotrek pointed out the cabinet that contained the oppressive documents. Fredryk and Piotrek pulled out the drawers and proceeded to dump the contents on the ground outside.

"We don't want to destroy the building." Wicek was in charge of the operation.

They were still dumping paper on the pile when they heard the sound of a vehicle barreling down

the road. They emptied the last of the drawers when approaching headlights lit up the drive. Piotrek and Fredryk ran toward the truck. Wicek stayed to dump the petrol. He threw a match and a shot was fired at him from the window of the car before it pulled to a stop. He fell on top of the burning pile of documents. Piotrek opened fire, just as the gendarmes piled out of the car. One of them fell. Piotrek ran to help Fredryk pull his brother from the blaze and load him in the truck. Piotrek delivered another round of fire at the remaining gendarme and they took off down the road.

Nine Gestapo brown shirts rushed into the fields to hunt their prey. The lieutenant and two privates remained behind with Fredryk, in order to guard their bound prisoner.

Wicek was carried into the barn. The Duzat women ran to the barn and reacted wildly as Wicek's spirit slowly passed away from the barn... from the fields... from Poland.

It was the morning of Felix' birthday.

Five black autos, bearing the dreaded crooked cross, pulled into the Duzat driveway. Fredryk walked toward the vehicles in an effort to delay the entourage.

"Halt!" They piled out of the cars. Two officers raced to Fredryk and cuffed his hands behind his back. The officer in command, Lieutenant Mueller demanded, "Where is your brother?"

"He's in the field."

All the Duzats were in the field. They had just buried Wicek when the SS men arrived. The women separated and found places to hide.

Nine Gestapo brown shirts rushed into the fields to hunt their prey. The lieutenant and two privates remained behind with Fredryk, in order to guard their bound prisoner.

The game of hide and seek did

not last long. Matcha was pushed along the road to the house. And the interrogation process began. Rifle butts and clubs drew welts and blood. Matcha collapsed from a blow to the back of her head.

Fredryk's head lolled on his chest; he was dazed from the brutal beating he had endured.

Ludwiga and Halina had taken separate routes to the barn.

Ludwiga pulled the rifle from the shelf over the tools and cautiously made her way back to the house. She swallowed hard when she saw the tactics being used on her son. She knelt down to position the rifle on the porch rail; she steadied the site. Two brown shirts hit the ground. A German bullet entered Ludwiga's chest, another caught her in the head as she dropped to the ground. Fredryk managed to rise from his seat in reaction to the scene, and a final rifle blow split his temple. Matcha never regained consciousness; death offered a peaceful release from further torturous interrogation.

Halina was found lying on the floor of the barn, a malevolent smile on her face. As the soldiers approached the barn, she remembered having seen Felix hide something in the box he kept in a crevice of the wall. Her mother's curiosity prompted her to inspect the contents at her first opportunity. Buried in the slips of paper was a rubbery capsule. She made no mention of it, but she prayed that Felix would never be caught in a situation that would require him to swallow the pill. It was conveniently left in the box for her.

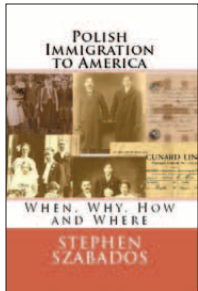
continued next month

Regina Szamborska-McIntyre is a retired Speech Pathologist who currently facilitates memoir workshops at her local library. She is the author of two books of historic fiction, "An Altar of Sod" and "Yesterday's Pupils."

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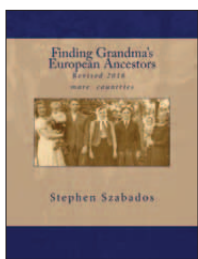
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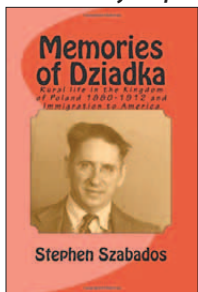
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Item 2-670  
pb. 134 pp.

This book is about the life of a Polish immigrant, from his birth in the Russian partition of Poland: the customs and traditions he grew up with; his decision to leave his family and the land of his birth; the trek across Poland to the port of Bremerhaven; his voyage across the 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.

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



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

## Social History Affected Our Ancestors

by Stephen M. Szabados

Social history is defined as the study of our everyday lives and was an important part of the lives of our ancestors. We may think of our ancestors as unique individuals, but they were usually part of groups that reacted to the economic and political pressures that surrounded them. Researching the historical context in which our ancestors lived will add a historical background that may help answer questions and explain behaviors. Common elements in the daily lives of what can be researched include their residence, occupation, religion, local politics, local economy, family migration, military experiences and social status. Including this information and events could add important insights into our ancestors' lives and help portray them as real people and not just names on a chart.

When adding social history as a background for your ancestors be sure to mention your sources and draw your conclusions after presenting evidence that leads to those conclusions. Be careful not to fic-

tionalize their lives by forcing their lives into events in which they did not take part. Avoid inserting famous historical events that are not relevant to your family history.

I have used many sources for the social history that I have added to my histories. I used general history books and many other books that I found at my local library. I also used the Internet to find various articles and books about topics such as the journey that immigrants endured. Other sources that may give historical references that can be used in our histories may be found in letters and diaries, favorite recipes and notes in cookbooks, biographies, histories of urban ethnic neighborhoods and county histories.

Most families do not have oral history or documentation that explains why their ancestors immigrated. Even if some oral history has been passed down, studying history can help determine how to verify the accuracy of the family stories. Reviewing the history of the country gives some general insight, but finding a history of the specific county or village where they left

gives insights that should apply to our ancestors more closely. County websites normally have a page for their history and they may also have a gallery of vintage pictures of the village and area. Googling the history of the county, town or village may also yield useful information and pictures.

Social history has brought more life to my ancestors. However, as a general rule, I try to add as much social history as I can — but these events must affect the lives of my ancestors. As an example, a brief history of the railroad shops in Bloomington, Illinois will help explain why my family was in Bloomington seeking jobs. However, explaining the workings of all of the various departments in the shops is overkill.

Newspapers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries can yield an abundance of personal news and social items ancestors. You may think that your ancestors were not important enough to be included in news articles but there are many stories of interest that may include ordinary people. To expand your family his-

tory, go beyond announcements for births, weddings and deaths. Many editors of early newspapers felt free to express their opinions on any given subject, and to describe local events in detail. Local newspapers can show more insights of our ancestors through announcements of anniversaries, legal notices, letters to the editor, and social columns filled with local news of a more personal nature. This can provide a gold mine of information for your family history. No matter what size the newspaper is or where it is located, newspapers can open a new window into the lives of your ancestors.

As I stated earlier, our genealogy research should be more than collecting documents. Your genealogy research can generate a family history that will be a wonderful treasure for many future generations of your family.

❖ ❖ ❖

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."

## The Pondering Pole

### So Good! So Good! So Good!

*Słodka Karolina, dobre czasy nigdy nie wydawały się takie dobre. Bylem skłonny, wierzyć, że nigdy tego nie zrobią.*

*Sweet Caroline, good times never seemed so good. I've been inclined, to believe they never would.*

"Sweet Caroline"  
by Neil Diamond

by Ed Poniewaz

We were inclined to "believe she never would," but she did it and the good times do feel "so good!" After 42 tries, tennis pro **Caroline Wozniacki** won her first Grand Slam event at the 2018 Australian Open. I cannot emphasize this enough to my fellow Polonians: trying is okay, but winning is the best. And it is fun when you do.

If you were not able to watch the post-match festivities, please see the YouTube spot where the crowd serenaded her with the famous Neil Diamond song. It was a truly wonderful feel good moment. She seems like a really decent gal and is engaged to homeboy (St. Louis) NBA All-star David Lee. With those genes I hope they have ten kids.

Pro baseball is dominated by Latino players; the NBA and NFL is dominated by African-Americans; bowling is dominated by people from Milwaukee; and if you haven't noticed, women's pro tennis now is dominated by Eastern Europeans. That is cool.

**SOMETHING DIFFERENT.** Most of the travel brochures and tours of Poland are geared for the main sites: Warsaw Old Town, Krakow Square, Auschwitz of course, and the Wieliczka salt mines. I have been to Warsaw and Krakow, and I want to see the other two but there are some outside the standards that are a bit "unusual."

You can surf the net and find some of these spots but I would recommend you go to the web site <http://unusualplaces.org>. If you have been to a place which has great character, is an interesting or beautiful landmark, or has some special

significance for you, let me know. Here are a few that interest me:

**Zalipie**, "the most beautiful village" in Poland. We hear about the legendary towns and villages throughout Europe and this one should be on the list. "A small ancient village in South-Eastern Poland, Zalipie, is definitely one of the country's top tourist attractions. Not because it has five-star hotels or massive glass buildings, but on the contrary, due to its small wooden cottages, which are painted in the most vibrant colors."

**Kziaz Castle.** Instead of Malbork, try this castle located near the city of Walbrzych in Southeastern Poland. Kziaz has architectural beauty and history including some from World War II. "Kziaz Castle is an impressive fortress rising up on a cliff embankment and surrounded by lush forests and immaculate gardens. With a history that dates to the 12th century, the imposing complex has had a wide variety of important owners and architectural acknowledgments that are worth a visit in their own right ... Kziaz was confiscated by the Nazis during World War II, and tens of thousands of Nazi prisoners, mainly Jews from Hungary and Poland, were forced to build a massive subterranean complex with 12-meter high ceilings beneath the Gothic and Baroque ramparts that rose above."

**Bialowieza Forest and National Park.** The Polish National Park is the smaller piece of the forest which extends into the country of Belarus. Like the Greek Parthenon or the Roman Coliseum, Bialowieza is a piece of antiquity that should be saved but also experienced. For comparison, eight years ago I visited Muir Woods National Monument 12 miles north of San Francisco which contains Sequoia redwood trees and undergrowth. I am aware that the redwood trees exist but it was not until I was actually there and walked among them that I realized how spectacular they are. I have a feeling that will be the same with Bialowieza. More important (and I don't know if this exists) near the forest preserve there should be a vodka tasting restaurant featuring

Zubrowka vodka. I believe the Zubrowka vodka distillery is located in or near Bialystok so if you can confirm this, please share location and details.

### POLISH OR NOT?

**Joseph Patrick Kenda** is a former Colorado Springs homicide detective and the inspiration for one of my favorite television shows, *Joe Kenda, Homicide Hunter*.

From Wikipedia: "Kenda grew up in the western Pennsylvania town of Herminie, Pennsylvania, about 30 miles (48 km) southeast of Pittsburgh. His uncle, father, and grandfather were coal miners; his grandfather died in a 1933 mining accident."

Joe Kenda, a child from a family of coal miners from Pennsylvania, the name has got to be Polish or Eastern European but Polish or not?

I mentioned the rock band *Rush* in the February Pondering Pole and one of the producers of their albums, **Nick Raskulinecz**. Still no word on Nick's ethnicity. Another major producer of rock and hip-hop

is Dr. Luke, born **Lukasz Sebastian Gottwald**, September 26, 1973. He began his career as the lead guitarist for the house band on *Saturday Night Live*. He later changed his name to Dr. Luke and produced a number of major bands and stars such as Bon Jovi, Katy Perry, Shakira, and Pitbull. Gottwald's father, Janusz Jerzy Gottwald was an architect who was born in Lask, Poland. Billboard magazine named him as one of the top performing producers in the 2000s and according to the website Celebrity Net Worth (<https://www.celebritynetworth.com/dl/dr-luke>), Lukasz Gottwald is has a net worth of \$100 million.

**IF YOU 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](mailto: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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If interested, kindly airmail a \$19 personal or bank (cashier's) check or money order (adding \$13 for each additional surname you wish to have researched) to Polonia's long-standing Warsaw correspondent and name researcher: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

You will also be able to check your family records in Poland, track down ancestral homesteads and graves or possibly even turn up long-lost relatives thanks to a helpful genealogical contact sheet included with each order. For more information please contact: [research60@gmail.com](mailto:research60@gmail.com).



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## Obituaries

## “Kostek” Trela: Survivor of Three Concentration Camps

CHICAGO — Constantine “Kostek” Trela, 100, was born on September 13, 1917 in Turbia, a small town in Southeastern Poland. In 1937, having graduated from military academy, he began his military career. In September 1939 he was stationed on the Polish-German border and experienced one of the first battles of World War II. That same month he was wounded and subsequently captured by the German army. After being held as a prisoner for about six weeks, he managed to escape, tracing his steps back to his hometown.

But in 1940, Trela joined the Polish Home Army Underground. He was captured by the Gestapo again in mid-1942 and sent to several German prisons. Narrowly escaping execution, Trela was later shipped to Auschwitz-Birkenau. In 1943, he was examined by the notorious Josef Mengele, deemed fit to be a laborer, and sent to the Sachsenhausen labor camp, and, in 1944, transferred to the Buchenwald concentration camp. On April 11, 1945, General Patton’s 6th Armored Division of the U.S. Third Army liberated him and the other prisoners at Buchenwald.

Avoiding a return to Poland, because the Soviets were executing former Polish officers, Trela stayed in the Allied Sector of Germany for four years. In 1949, he immigrated to the United States, spending some time at Camp Butner, N.C., a camp converted from a prison-of-war camp to a wartime refugee facility.



PHOTO: CONSTANTINE TRELA, JR.

In 1950, he travelled to Chicago, where he met his late wife Zoe. They married in 1952. Trela became a U.S. citizen in 1956, and established the Cerwin Hardwood Lumber Co. (Midwest Hardwood Lumber Co.), a flooring supply and installation business, that he operated for over 50 years. He was proud of his many years as a member of the Paderewski Choir and his years as its president.

On December 24, 2017, Trela and his family celebrated his 101st *Wigilia*. He passed away two days later with his children at his side.

Trela is survived by his daughter, Antoinette Trela Schoen, former secretary-treasurer of the Polish Women’s Alliance of America; a son, Constantine Trela, Jr.; and three grandchildren.

— Geraldine Balut Coleman

## Stan Kokoska, Father of Little League in Poland

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. — Stan Kokoska, known as “The Father of Little League in Poland” and a Polish National Youth Baseball Foundation national representative to Poland for 28 years, passed away on December 21, 2017 at the age of 86.

Kokoska went to Poland to find his roots in 1987 and while on tour that summer, saw boys without an activity. He went to Warsaw to meet with Polish officials regarding Little League baseball and then contacted Williamsport, Pa. headquarters. After much effort, Poland became the first Communist country in Eastern Europe to start Little League baseball. Today his work has spread throughout the continent with numerous East European countries participating.

Kokoska took early retirement from the Connecticut State Department of Education to follow up on the wishes of Little League that he organize all of Poland. He enlisted the help of long time fellow worker Tony Arnista to create a foundation which is today known as “Polish National Youth Baseball Foundation.” Kokoska and Arnista were long-time colleagues as consultants in the Connecticut State Department of Education and had similar interests in their Polish activities.

The Board of Directors, through donations, collects tons of items from numerous baseball leagues and Kokoska painstakingly repaired, packed, stored and shipped them. For many years, Kokoska also traveled throughout Poland introducing and coaching baseball. He taught Polish coaches how to re-lace gloves, fix chest protectors, build baseball fields, utilize training techniques, and more.

Kokoska learned how to repair desktop computers and, once fixed, donated them to PNYBF, at his expense. Thus, through the Internet, he was able to communicate



In recognition of his effort to teach baseball in Poland, Kokoska (right) was awarded the Knights Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland in 2009. The presentation was made by Consul Przemyslaw Balcerzyk.

more quickly than by mail

Kokoska served in the U.S. Third Division in Korea as an infantry lieutenant and was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor after a daylight raid on an outpost in Korea.

He graduated from the University of Connecticut with a BS degree with a major in physics. Kokoska received his master’s degree in science from Rensselaer in New York. He was an instructor for eight years in Windham Technical School and then became an administrator in vocational-technical education as a director of the Hartford Skill Center and concurrently Vocational Satellite at the Enfield Prison.

He has been president of several groups, including: Polish American Congress District of Conn., Pulaski Citizens Club of Willimantic and the Willimantic Kiwanis Club to name a few. He was also elected mayor of the City of Willimantic and was the first Polish American to become mayor of that city. Little League named him Eastern Regional Volunteer of the Year in 1989.

His love of sports and his desire to teach children led him to his hobby of coaching Little League and YMCA Basketball for ten years before he left to help establish Little League in Poland. His son Tom, a football and baseball star at Yale, roomed with and caught for Ron Darling, former N.Y. Mets pitching star. Tom’s Yale connection led Kokoska to meet President George Bush Sr. President Bush was a former Yale baseball captain and was going to Poland to meet Polish governmental dignitaries. In 1989, at Kokoska’s request, the president agreed to help Polish Little League by meeting in Warsaw with the four new teams—Jaslo, Kutno, Rybnik and Wroclaw. There, President Bush presented the first Little League charters in Eastern Europe.

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Donations in Kokoska’s name can be made to the Polish National Youth Baseball Foundation, 222 Ocean Drive East, Stamford, CT 06902. For questions, call Al Koproski at (203) 323-9944.

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## Joseph Polchinski, Top Theorist on Multiple Universes

Professor was giant in the development of string theory, the ambitious attempt to achieve a “theory of everything.”

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — Joseph Polchinski, one of the most creative physicists of his generation, whose work helped lay the mathematical foundation for the controversial proposition that our universe is only one in an almost endless assemblage that cosmologists call the “multiverse,” died on Feb. 2, 2018 at his home in Santa Barbara.

He was 63.

His death was announced by the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he was a longtime professor and a permanent member of the Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics. He had been treated for brain cancer since late 2015.

Dr. Polchinski was a giant force in the development of string theory, the ambitious attempt to achieve a “theory of everything,” which envisions the fundamental particles of nature as tiny wriggling strings. The theory has brought forth ideas and calculations that have opened new fields of study and new visions of a universe that is weirder and richer than astronomers had dreamed.

In recent years, Dr. Polchinski’s investigation of black holes, the Einsteinian monsters that gobble light and everything else, uncovered a mystery that calls into question what scientists thought they under-

stood about how these objects work. The Firewall Paradox, as he and his collaborators called it, led to a firestorm of speculation about the nature of gravity and space-time.

Raphael Bousso of the University of California, Berkeley, who worked with him, said in an email interview that Dr. Polchinski “ranks among the greatest theorists of the last half-century.”

Joseph Gerard Polchinski Jr. was born in White Plains on May 16, 1954, the eldest of two children. His father was a financial consultant and manager; his mother, the former Joan Thornton, was an office worker and homemaker.

“Joe was amazingly talented as a physicist, and incredibly generous as a friend and colleague,” says Sean Carroll, a research professor of physics at Caltech. “His approach of thinking carefully about the deepest questions will continue to inspire everyone who knew him.”

At Caltech, Polchinski was mentored by the late Tom Tombrello, Caltech’s former Robert H. Goddard Professor of Physics.

“Joe often reminisced about how his Caltech experiences laid the foundation for his later life and career,” said John Preskill, Richard P. Feynman Professor of Theoretical Physics. “His friends were not surprised by the opening sentence of his delightful recent memoir: ‘Whenever I am asked where I am from, I always want to answer ‘Caltech.’” That memoir, *Memoirs of a Theoretical Physicist*, was made available in 2017.

Polchinski earned his PhD in physics from UC Berkeley in 1980, after which he worked at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Laboratory (SLAC) and at Harvard. In 1984, he joined the faculty at the University of Texas, Austin, and in 1992, he joined UC Santa Barbara as a professor of physics, becoming a professor emeritus in 2017. He was also a long-time member of the Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics at UC Santa Barbara.

Polchinski was a fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 2008, he won the Dirac Medal of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics, and, in 2013 and 2014, he won Physics Frontier Prizes. Polchinski was also the author of a two-volume textbook, *String Theory*.

Matt Strassler, a professor of theoretical physics at Rutgers University, who worked with Polchinski on D-branes, wrote a blog post about his colleague, saying, “It was breathtaking to witness the speed with which Joe worked, the breadth and the depth of his mathematical talent, and his unmatched understanding of these branes.”

❖ ❖ ❖

Polchinski is survived by his wife, Dorothy Chun, a professor of education at UC Santa Barbara; their two sons, Steven and Daniel; and his sister, Cindy Reid.

— Compiled from articles by Dennis Overbye in the New York Times and Whitney Clavin in Caltch News.



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

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

Polish American Historical Association  
Central Connecticut State University  
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POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

# Polka MAGAZINE

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## Dance Time

# National Polka Month Celebrated

by Jennifer Pijanowski

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The historic Broadway Market celebrated National Polka Month with their annual event: “Polka, Piwo, and Pierogi.” This event gave attendees the opportunity to taste an array of Polish beers while enjoying the live music of the **Buffalo Touch**.

The Broadway Market has continually embraced the deep roots of Buffalo’s Polish heritage, so polka music is right at home on the market stage. Market-goers and polka lovers bounced to the music while sipping on their beverage of choice. Empty stomachs were delightfully filled with pierogi from many of the vendors who have made their home at 999 Broadway. These delicate dumplings were offered by Potts Deli, Babcia’s Pierogi, Chrusciki Bakery, Keeping Tradition, and Pierogi by Paula. Not only were traditional pierogi available, there were also some diverse takes on food favorites.

The event was a welcome escape from the cold snowy weather which lurked outside on this particular January afternoon. It was easy to keep warm enjoying our favorite polka tunes from one of Buffalo’s most popular polka bands, The Buffalo Touch.

The Broadway Market will soon be bustling as locals prepare for their



Hall of Famers Ed Guca, Mike Nowakowski, and Walter Ostanek at the IPA's Buffalo Festival of Bands.

the floor full throughout the night while a number of us also kept the bartenders hopping. The board and members of the Post were welcoming and incredibly hospitable. The hall offered a beautiful dance floor with a large bar in the back of hall.

A surprise during the evening occurred when a young man who was a member of the post, brought a button box in tote. He wasn't a familiar face at polka events so we were all stunned when he broke out a Roland button box and played his heart out. New Direction's Ron Urbanczyk graciously jammed alongside him

him at some Buffalo polka affairs. With the success of New Directions' appearance, I am certain that we will see polka events here in the very near future. Keep your eyes peeled so that you don't miss out on visiting this local establishment.

**THE 3RD ANNUAL IPA** Festival of Buffalo Polka Bands was held in conjunction with WBBZ's *Polka Buzz*. This celebration is held as a fundraiser for International Polka Association which is a non-profit organization that promotes polka music of all types. The IPA is celebrating their 50th anniversary this year and has once again chosen the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga for their annual convention over Labor Day weekend.

Local bands lent their talents for an evening honoring our allegiance to polkas. **Phocus, Concertina All Stars, Buffalo Touch, Special Delivery, New Direction, and Rare Vintage** shared the stage for an evening of nonstop polka music and dancing. WBBZ was on hand to tape several episodes of *Polka Buzz*, a local TV show highlighting the thriving polka scene in Western New York.

One of my favorite parts of this yearly event is having all of our accomplished musicians together for an evening honoring the music they have worked so hard to preserve. Several IPA Hall of Fame Members were on hand and took turns showcasing their talents. Canadians **Walter Ostanek** and **Ed Guca** made their way across to border to participate and enjoy this fabulous event. It was wonderful to see many of the musicians who play along Eddie Guca there to support their fellow musicians. Buffalo's **Mike Nowakowski** even took to the stage just weeks after undergoing successful major back surgery. The joy these polka icons have for the music is apparent when talking to or watching them on stage.

Polka promoter **Patrick Henry** traveled overnight via Amtrak to support **Lori Urbanczyk**, NYS Director for the IPA. We also got the opportunity to hear musician **Tyler Zawatski** join musicians on stage

See “IPA Festival ...” page 18



Ron Urbanczyk (left, standing) and his students, brothers Chase and Logan Staniszewski, were again a hit at the Buffalo Festival of Bands. Helping along on bass guitar is Gene Rzeznik.

Easter celebrations. It is imperative that we support these local vendors to keep this mecca of Buffalo Polish history alive and successful. Visit [www.BroadwayMarket.org](http://www.BroadwayMarket.org) for upcoming events and information.

**A NEW VENUE**, at least for me, presented a polka night featuring **New Direction**. Buddy Knaus Post on Broadway in Depew welcomed polka fans and members for a fantastic night of music and fun. For just a \$5.00 admission, fans got an evening filled with polkas, obereks, and even a chance to dance to some requested English tunes. The event was filled with dancers, who keep

during one of the breaks and let him play a few with the band. The gentleman's name was **Tim Kubiak** and he played the button box with obvious joy and energy.

I got a chance to chat with him during the night and urged him to start attending dances and perhaps join a local band. His talent would be a welcome addition to any of our accomplished local bands. He even spoke fluent Polish so my husband had a wonderful time conversing with him throughout the evening. He grew up in Cheektowaga and his father was a featured singer with Chopin Singing Society. I am hopeful that we will be seeing more of

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## IPA Festival of Bands Draws Crowd

continued from page 17

with his expertise on the accordion. Thanks to these wonderful guys and everyone else who traveled near and far to boost this remarkable event. And huge kudos to Lori Urbanczyk, organizer of this highly anticipated yearly bash.



Tyler Zawatski and Greg Chwojdak.



Lori and Kathy Urbanczyk.

**BIRTHDAY BASH.** While visiting with Patrick Henry in Buffalo, he told me about his annual birthday party bash. This year's event is being held on Fri., March 16, 2018 at Glendora Banquets 10225 S. Harlem Ave Chicago Ridge, Ill. Join him in celebrating with **DynaBrass** for this rare Chicago performance. Doors will open at 7 p.m. and music will be from 7:30-11:30 p.m. Admission is \$12 for adults and kids under 16 get in free. Patrick was born on March 17th so join him to celebrate not only his birthday but the beloved St. Patrick's Day holiday that we all embrace, whether we are of Irish heritage or not.

**GETTING READY.** Lent is in full swing so, as we all take time to fast and reflect on this defining religious season, we can also start preparations for Dyngus Day. Western New York has become the United States' Dyngus Day Capital and 2018 is scheduled with an abundance of polka music.

Kick off the celebration early on Easter Sunday evening at any three of the locations which will be offering music, including: Salvatore's Hospitality in Depew, or Potts Banquet Hall and Leonard Post, which

are both located in Cheektowaga. Music by **Dynabross, The Boys, Lenny Gomulka, The Knewz, Buffalo Touch, and Concertina All Stars** will assist in kick-starting your Dyngus Day binge. Dozens of venues offer polka music with both local and national acts taking the stage. Take advantage of free transportation among many spots by purchasing your Pussy Willow Pass at a participating venue like Potts Banquet Hall or Polish Villa II.

You can visit <https://www.dyngusday.com/> for a list of participating locations or check out the schedule in the *Polish American Journal*. It is impossible to visit every venue so it is imperative that you formulate a strategy to hear all of the bands which are a must-see for you. Some of the national acts performing this year are **Polka Country Musicians, Brave Combo, The Boys, Lenny**

**Gomulka & Chicago Push, Dynabross, John Gora & Gorale, Nu Tones,** and of many more. Obviously, you can enjoy all of our brilliant local bands at several of the venues in the area as every band is fully booked for this occasion.

If you have not made your way to Buffalo for this celebration, make your plans now to attend. Besides enjoying the music, take time to visit our many beautiful Polish churches in the area, walk along our fast growing waterfront, and indulge in our local restaurants, breweries, and taverns. It is a one-of-a-kind experience to see so many people embracing the love of polka music.

Easter Sunday and Easter Monday are true celebrations of our Polish heritage, and ones that Western New Yorkers are very proud to host as we say goodbye to winter and hello spring.

## Polka Calendar

Compiled by  
John Ziobrowski

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

### MARCH 2

- Joe Oberaitis. SNPJ Lodge. New Smyrna Beach, Fla. 5-9. (386) 428-3983
- Jimmy Sturr. German Club. Cape Coral, Fla. 5-9:30. (800) 724-0727

### MARCH 3

- Frank Moravcik. Moose Lodge. Bradenton, Fla. 6-9. (941) 739-8638
- Joe Oberaitis. SNPJ Lodge. New Smyrna Beach, Fla. 1-6. (386) 428-3983
- Jimmy Sturr. Polish Club. Port St. Lucie, Fla. 1-4. (800) 724-0727
- Special Delivery. Buffalo Distilling Company Buffalo, N.Y. (Larkinville) 2:00-5:00 p.m.

### MARCH 4

- Polka All Stars. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
- Box On. Pulaski Club. Holiday, Fla. 2:30-5:30. (727) 934-0900
- Out Side Da Box. Polish Club. St. Petersburg, Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908
- Jeannie Music. PASC. Hudson, Fla. 2-5. (727) 868-9763
- Joe Stanky. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-5. (570) 472-1152

### MARCH 5

- Box On. Rec. Center. The Villages, Fla. 6-9. (352) 753-6655

### MARCH 11

- Special Delivery Band. St. Andrew Parish. Sloan, N.Y. 11 a.m. Polka Mass. (716) 892-0435
- Special Delivery Band. Clinton Bar & Grill. West Seneca, N.Y. 5-8. (716) 768-3246
- Dennis Polisky/Eddie Forman/Lenny Gomulka. PACC. Ludlow, Mass. 2-7. (908) 963-

0890

- Duane Malinowski. Misiula Hall. Toledo, Ohio. 2-6. (419) 691-5684
- Melotones. Polish Club. Bellevue, Fla. 2-5. (352) 854-6193
- Polka Classics. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5 (386) 258-7059
- Polka All Stars. Polish Club. St. Petersburg, Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908
- Jeannie Music. PASC. Hudson, Fla. 2-5. (727) 868-9763
- George Tarasek. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-5. (570) 472-1152

### MARCH 17

- Joe Oberaitis. Backyard Winery. Wildwood, Fla. 5-8. (352) 418-7887
- Alex Meisner. Cobb Landing. Ft. Pierce, Fla. Evening (772) 460-9024
- Lenny Gomulka. Holy Spirit. Parma, Ohio. 7-11. (440) 884-8452

### MARCH 18

- Northern Lites/Joe Oberaitis. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
- Nu Soundz. Polish Club. St. Petersburg, Fla. 2-5. (727) 894-9908
- Special Delivery. Broadway Market. Buffalo, N.Y. (716) 893-0705. Noon-3:00 p.m.
- John Stevens. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-5. (570) 472-1152
- Lenny Gomulka. Roosevelt Hall. Norvelt, Pa. 3-7. (724) 861-5872

### MARCH 23

- Lenny Gomulka. Oglebay Resort. Wheeling, W.V. 8-12. (877) 436-1797

### MARCH 24

- John Gora/Nu Tones/The Knewz. Oglebay Resort. Wheeling, W.V. 10 a.m.-midnight. (877) 436-1797

### MARCH 25

- Sounds of The South. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059

- Northern Sounds. Polish Club. St. Petersburg, Fla. 2-5. (727) 894-9908
- Jeannie Music. PASC. Hudson, Fla. 2-5. (727) 868-9763
- Nicklecity Express. Pulaski Club. Phoenix, Ariz. 3-6. (602) 275-9329
- Swingmasters. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-5. (570) 472-1152
- Ray Jay/Lenny Gomulka. Oglebay Resort. Wheeling, W.V. 12-6. (877) 436-1797

### MARCH 29

- Special Delivery. Broadway Market, Buffalo, N.Y. (716) 893-0705 3-6 p.m.

### APRIL 1

- Polka Allstars. Pulaski Club. Holiday, Fla. 3:30-5:30. (727) 934-0900
- Jeannie Music. PASC. Hudson, Fla. 2-5. (727) 868-9763

### APRIL 2

- Special Delivery Band. Polish Falcons. Depew, N.Y. 2-6. (716) 684-2373
- Special Delivery Band/The Knewz. Leonard Post. Cheektowaga, N.Y. 7-?? (716) 684-4371
- Joe Stanky. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-5. (570) 472-1152
- Jimmy K. The Jukebox. Cleveland, Ohio. 1:30-3:45. (216) 206-7699
- Jimmy K. Sokolowski's University Inn. Cleveland, Ohio. 5-9. (216) 771-9236
- Dennis Polisky. Van Dyck Lounge. Schenectady, N.Y. (518) 348-7999
- Nicklecity Express. Pulaski Club. Phoenix, Ariz. 6-9. (602) 275-9329
- NuSoundz. Polish Club. St. Petersburg, Fla. 5-9. (727) 894-9908
- Florida Honky Band. Nickle City Grill. St. Petersburg, Fla. 1-9. (727) 549-9464
- Northern Sounds. Brentwood Square. The Villages, Fla. 5-9. (352) 753-2270
- John Gora. Millennium Hotel. Cheektowaga, N.Y. (716) 681-2400



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Seating 10:30 AM, Noon & 2:00 PM

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SUNDAY  
MONDAY

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Entertainment begins at 11:00 AM  
Chopin Singing Society Performs  
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**March Polka Birthdays**

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

2	Todd Zaganiacz		Polka DJ / Polka Jammer IJ	Massachusetts
3	Fred Hudy	1942 8-31-13	Bandleader / Musician / IPA Officer	Chicago
3	John Richnafsky	1952	Polka DJ WMBS	Uniontown, Pa.
3	Hank Guzevich	1963	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Pennsylvania
4	Lucy Floccic		Polka DJ	Massachusetts
5	Dick Pillar	1940	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / DJ / Promoter	Connecticut
6	Al Pala	1945	Musician / Arranger (Pala Brothers)	Indiana
8	Christopher Piotrowski		Pan Franek-Musician / Vocalist	Michigan
8	Big Daddy Lackowski	1937	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Michigan
9	Nick Kanyan	1949	Musician / Vocalist / DJ	Indiana, Pa.
9	Eddie Siwiec		Musician / Vocalist / Arranger	Michigan
10	Stephanie Pietrzak		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Buffalo, N.Y.
10	Ray Kolodziej	1955	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / DJ	Pennsylvania
11	Chester Pala	1943	Musician (Trumpet) Pala Brothers	Chicago
11	Fr. Dennis Bogusz	1950	Polka DJ	Pennsylvania
11	Steve (Simms) Seremet	1954	Musician / Vocalist	Pennsylvania
12	Tommy Wanderlich	1966	Musician / Vocalist	Arizona
13	Gene Mendalski	1933 4-19-15	Bandleader / Musician	New Jersey
14	Casey Kliszak	1939	Musician (Concertina)	Buffalo, N.Y.
15	Joni Zychowski Minehart		Polka IJ (Polka Jammer)	Pennsylvania
17	Larry Walk	1942	Polka DJ / Promoter IPA	Youngstown OH.
17	Patrick Henry Cukierka	1963	Polka DJ / Promoter	Chicago
17	Jeff Mleczko		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Michigan
18	Jeff Dyl		Polka DJ	Massachusetts
19	Stas Ogradny	1954 8-7-06	Musician / Vocalist (Versa Js)	Pennsylvania
19	Emily Bizon	2003	Vocalist	Massachusetts
21	Ted Tomczak	1945	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Indiana
22	Ted Lang	1976	Musician / Vocalist	Ohio
24	Mark Kohan	1960	Musician / Vocalist / Bandleader	Buffalo, N.Y.
26	Steve Fenus	1946	Musician / Vocalist Trel-Tones	Pennsylvania
27	Stas Bulanda	1954 1-6-2010	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / Arranger	Chicago
28	Lynn Marie Rink		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Tennessee
29	Danny Mack Mackewicz	1943	Musician / Arranger	Florida
29	Bobby Shutty	1952	Musician (Carousels)	Pennsylvania
30	Rick Pijanowski	1959	Musician / Vocalist / Rodeo Champion	Buffalo, N.Y.
31	Judy Stringhill		Musician / Vocalist / Promoter	Pennsylvania
31	John Krzancic	1929 4-25-2009	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / Polka DJ	Hermitage, Pa.

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**SUNDAY & MONDAY APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> - 2<sup>ND</sup> 2018**

One Ticket One Venue Polish Food Available Both Days

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Sunday, April 1, 2018**  
**Pre-Dyngus Day Party \$10 PER PERSON**  
6:00 p.m. Doors Open  
7:00 p.m. Music all night 'till 1 a.m.  
7:30 p.m. **The ORIGINAL**  
"Blessing of the Instruments" Ceremony  
Followed by the  
"Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble"  
**Continuous Polka Music By:**  
**The Boys From Baltimore (MD)**  
**The DynaBrass (OH)**

**Monday, April 2, 2018**  
**Dyngus Day Celebration \$10 PER PERSON**  
4:00 p.m. Doors Open  
5:00 p.m. Polish Kitchen Open  
6:00 p.m. **Continuous Polka Music - 12:00 a.m.**  
**The Boys From Baltimore (MD)**  
**The Polka Country Musicians (CT)**  
Special Guest Appearance By  
**Doctor John Valby**  
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**Easter Butter Molds**



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



**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 Rooster Wooden Butter Mold**  
This hand-carved mold forms butter into an adorable rooster. Makes a nice companion piece to the Easter Chick Butter Mold. Measures 4.0" W x 3.0" H x 2.7" D. **#KOR116 - \$29.95**

**Easter Music on CD**

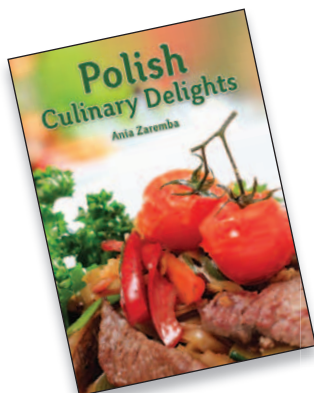


**Droga Krzyzowa - The Way of the Cross on CD**  
In chapter 16 of Mark's Gospel, the disciples are thunderstruck by the discovery of the empty tomb and the angel's message that Christ had risen. For those disciples, Jesus' resurrection primarily meant that, for the Church, the way of the cross had only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

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**Polish Crystal**



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

**Easter Cards**



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

**Easter Gift Set**



**Easter Set, Featuring a Polish Holiday Book, a Bunny Candle, a Bunny Button and two packs of Egg Sleeves**  
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**Easter Lamb Decorations**

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



**Sitting Easter Lamb**  
Measures 3.25"H **#VA013 - \$9.95**



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

**Easter Eggs**

**Mother Mary with Jesus Wooden Egg on the Stand**  
Exquisitely handcrafted wooded egg with image of the Mother Mary, holding the Baby Jesus. On the other side of the egg is image of the crucified Jesus with two angels praying on their knees. The whole egg is beautifully adorned with vibrant hand painted patterns. Available in variety of colors, please allow us to make selection for you. The egg comes with a wooden stand. Egg is 3.5" tall. Made in Poland **#550154 - \$29.95 each**



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

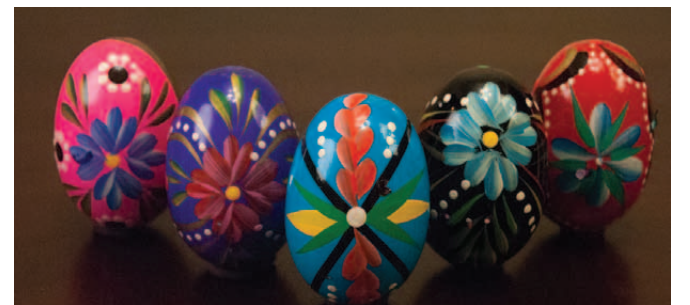
**Hand Painted Decorative Egg, Set of 2**  
These chicken-sized wooden eggs come in a variety of base colors with multicolored decorative markings. Every egg is unique and would be a terrific addition to any collection. 2.4" H x 1.7" D. **#250407 - \$12.95**



**Natural Wood Unfinished Egg, Set of 2**  
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**Rooster Wycinanki Design, Real Egg**  
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