

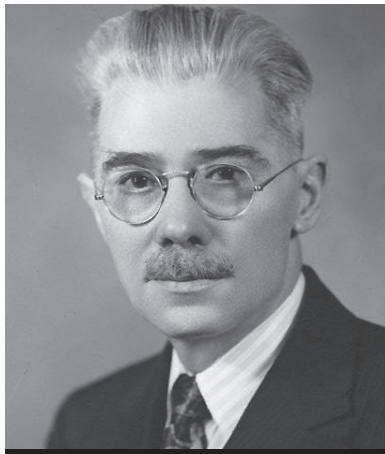
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POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA HONORS FIRST CURATOR — PAGE 7

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

GRONKOWSKI, GOSTOWSKI LEAD PATRIOTS IN SUPERBOWL LIII • BATORY'S VISION CITED • JOYFUL NOISE PAHA'S VALUE TO POLONIA AND TO ITS MEMBERS • PSFCU OPENS IN PENNSYLVANIA • THE POLISH LIBERATORS HOW THE U.S. HELPED POLAND IN 1919 • FRIDAY FISH FRY ALTERNATIVES • ECO-CONSCIOUS COUTURE

NEWSMARK

Agriculture Minister Slams Protest

WARSAW — Farmers from across Poland protested outside the presidential palace, Feb. 6, demanding restrictions on food imports in a move slammed by Agriculture Minister Jan Krzysztof Ardanowski, who said the protest was “a political project.” He accused the farmers of “complete ignorance” of the role of national and EU authorities in agricultural policy.

The farmers demanded limits on imports, complaining of high production costs and low prices for their products, according to Polish press agency PAP.

“Imports are killing Polish agriculture,” said Michal Kołodziejczak, one of the leaders of the AGROunia group, which organized the protest. The demonstration had been billed by farmers as the “Siege of Warsaw.”

“This is far-reaching megalomania, which results, among other things, from ignorance of agricultural management procedures, complete ignorance of the division of competences between the European Union, the EU authorities and Poland,” said Kołodziejczak.

FM Attends anti-ISIS Coalition Conference

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Polish Foreign Minister Jacek Czaputowicz attended a global conference of nations fighting the Islamic State militant group. The high-level meeting took stock of the achievements of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS in Iraq and Syria, and to decide about its future course of action, according to the Polish foreign ministry.

“Poland intends to remain actively involved in the Coalition, both in its military and stabilization dimensions,” said the foreign ministry before the meeting.

In Washington, Czaputowicz emphasized Poland's broader efforts to stabilize the Middle East.

“Stability in the Middle East is key to global security,” said Czaputowicz.

Zakopane History at UM

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — The Copernicus Program in Polish Studies (CPPS) at the University of Michigan is presenting an exhibition and related lectures on Zakopane, Poland through May 3, 2019.

“100 Years of Polish Independence: Zakopane 1918” is an exhibition of photographs from the archives of the Tatra Museum in Zakopane. It tells the unique story of the short-lived Republic of Zakopane, which was established in the concluding weeks of the First World War.

The exhibit at UM's International Institute Gallery opened Feb. 4, with a lecture by former BBC World Service producer Maciej Krupa, a journalist and mountain guide who lives and works in Zakopane.

CPPS has curated the exhibit and organized public lectures in collaboration with the Tatra Museum, the Adam Mickiewicz Institute in Warsaw, and Culture.pl as part of POLSKA 100, an international cultural program commemorating the centenary of Poland regaining Independence.

Auschwitz Exhibition in New York

NEW YORK — An exhibition about the Nazi German concentration camp of Auschwitz is scheduled to go on show at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York later this year.

“Auschwitz. Not so long ago. Not so far away,” had a successful run at Madrid's Arte Canal Exhibition Centre, where it was extended twice and attracted more than 600,000 visitors. The travelling exhibition is a joint project by the Auschwitz Memorial Museum in Poland, experts from other countries, and Spanish company Musealia.

The exhibition is due to open at New York's Museum of Jewish Heritage on May 8 and run until January 3, 2020.

Pence, Pompeo Take Message to Warsaw



Poland's President Andrzej Duda with First Lady Agata Kornhauser-Duda, and U.S. Vice President Michael Pence and his wife Karen visiting the former German Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Vice President urges Europe to Quit Iran deal, Stop Breaking Sanctions

WARSAW — Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo took the White House's aggressive anti-Iran message to a U.S.-sponsored meeting in Poland on peace and security in the Middle East.

Pence used his address to the conference in Warsaw to demand that European countries withdraw from the nuclear deal between

Iran and world powers, one that President Donald Trump's administration has already abandoned.

He urged U.S. allies to back Washington's sanctions on Iran, re-imposed after Trump exited the 2015 accord last year. Long-standing U.S. allies in Europe favor staying in the deal and have sought ways to keep open trade and financial dealings with Iran.

Disagreement over the issue is what partly led to Germany, France and other major U.S.

See “Pence ...” page 4

Lenten Customs Survive



Reaching back to the pre-Christian era when the forces of nature were worshipped as gods, the egg is the essence of the Easter celebration. As a symbol of life's initial stages, it was offered to the sun-god, whose return gave new life to nature.

By Fr. Basil Janasik, O.F.M.

Polish American Lenten customs were at first transplanted without much change, though in time modifications set in to produce variations in usage.

In the first centuries after Poland accepted Christianity in the year 966, the Lenten fast was observed so strictly that nothing cooked or warm was eaten from the middle of Lent until Easter Sunday. The people were satis-

fied with bread, dried fruits and smoked fish. Later, fast was observed on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays of the entire Lenten season and special mortifications were observed during the first and last weeks. Bread only was eaten on the Saturdays in Lent.

The Poles abstained from wine on Fridays but allowed themselves beer once a week.

See “Lenten Customs,” page 11

V4 Summit Cancelled Amid Polish-Israeli Tensions

WARSAW (Radio Poland) — Poland's prime minister pulled his country out of a summit in Jerusalem after a senior Israeli politician reportedly claimed that Poles “suckled anti-Semitism with their mother's milk.”

The move by Poland's Mateusz Morawiecki came after Israel's interim foreign minister, Israel Katz, reportedly accused “many Poles” of collaborating with the German Nazis during the Holocaust.

Poland's PAP news agency reported that the summit of the Visegrad Group, a regional cooperation platform which brings together Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, planned in Jerusalem Feb. 18-19 had been called off.

Amid an escalating spat between Poland and Israel, Morawiecki earlier slammed Katz for “reprehensible, unacceptable and simply racist words.”

Morawiecki told reporters: “This is an example of racist anti-Polonism.”

Morawiecki said that Poles, alongside Jews and Roma, had suffered the most during World War II. He added that Poles had saved a huge number of Jews after Nazi Germany instigated the Holocaust.

The Polish prime minister earlier announced he would not take part in a meeting of the Visegrad Group in Jerusalem. He had delegated Poland's Foreign Minister Jacek Czaputowicz to attend the gathering.

Tensions between Poland and Israel flared after comments reportedly made by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a conference on the Middle East in Warsaw the week prior.

Netanyahu's reported comments were seen as suggesting Polish complicity in the Holocaust.

But Netanyahu's office has said that the Israeli prime minister “spoke of Poles and not the Polish people or the country of Poland. This was misquoted and misrepresented in press reports and was subsequently corrected by the journalist who issued the initial misstatement.”

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Armstrong Appointed to the Senior Foreign Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Donald J. Trump appointed Minnesota Polish American **John Lowell Armstrong** and 87 others to the U.S. Senior Foreign Service at on January 31. The U.S. Senate had previously confirmed these diplomats on January 2. Armstrong and his colleagues received the rank of Counselor, which is the Foreign Service equivalent of a Brigadier General.

Armstrong joined the U.S. Foreign Service at the State Department in 1994. He served overseas at U.S. Embassies in Romania, Ukraine, Poland, and The Bahamas. He served in Washington, D.C., as Senior Political Officer in the Office of Russian Affairs in 2005-07 and as Belarus Desk Officer in 1999-2001. Currently, he is serving at the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, Poland.

Prior to this position, he was the Director of the Washington Passport Agency. He is an honors graduate of the University of Wisconsin in Madison (MA) and the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis (BA). He was a Fulbright Researcher at Marie Curie-Sklodowska University in Lublin, Poland, in 1990-92. He is a graduate of Patrick Henry High School in Minneapolis.

Armstrong is married to Alina Armstrong, his wife of 31 years. They have three children and two grandchildren. Alina Armstrong was born in Lublin, Poland, while John Armstrong's great-grandparents immigrated to central Minnesota from Polish Silesia in the late 1800s. Armstrong has been known for his enthusiasm in supporting Polonian organizations in Minneapolis, Madison, and the greater Washington, D.C., area.

Franczyk to Leave Council After 32 Years

BUFFALO, N.Y. — An era in Buffalo City Hall is drawing to a close. Longtime Council Member **David Franczyk** will not be running for reelection.

"I figure it's just time. At some point, like, you know the Kenny Rogers song, 'You gotta know when to fold 'em,'" said Franczyk. He has spent more than three decades representing the Fillmore District, which encompasses the city's historical Polish American district.

Franczyk says he has no regrets about not running for mayor.

"I like the freedom of being a council member. With the mayor you're 24/7," Franczyk said.

Along with working to address crime, illegal drugs and slum lords, Franczyk says he's fought to protect the city's historic architecture. He says he's the longest serving council member in the city's history.

"George Arthur was 28 years. I think, Jim Pitts was 26 years. And I'm 32. So the record's there to be shattered if you chose to be a career politician like I was. And I don't think that's a dirty word because St. Augustine said: 'it's the most noble of professions if practiced honorably and honestly.' And so that's what I've tried to do," Franczyk said.

He may be retiring from the Council, but Franczyk says he still



plans to be involved in politics. In fact, he says, he's considering a run for Buffalo comptroller. He said he will keep his job as a history and social studies professor at Buffalo State College

Franczyk once served as editor of the *Polish American Journal*. His father, Stan, was a columnist for the PAJ, and was Buffalo city assessor. His uncle, "Gus" Franczyk, was on the Erie County board of supervisors, a council member, council majority leader, and commissioner of City Parks.

— from WBFO and Am-Pol Eagle reports

PSFCU Opens First Pennsylvania Branch

STROUDSBURG, Pa. — The Brooklyn-based Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union expanded its national footprint with the opening of its first Pennsylvania branch in the state's Pocono region, a 1,500-square-foot location at 334 North 9th St.

PSFCU cut the ribbon on its state-of-the-art branch, Jan. 19, with the assistance of local politicians, state senators, schoolchildren from the Pope John Paul II Polish School (East Stroudsburg) and more than 100 local Polish Americans. The new branch marks PSFCU's 19th total branch, and its fourth state from which it operates, joining New York, New Jersey, and Illinois.

The credit union said the new branch will generate five jobs to start, and will likely grow as it attracts more local members.

PSFCU has been granting mortgages and loans for nearly a decade to Pennsylvania residents, but now with a physical branch located in the state, it will be able to offer a range of products and services enjoyed by all members.

PSFCU is the largest ethnic credit union in the United States, with almost \$2 billion in assets. It offers financial products and services to its 135,000+ members, proudly sponsors and supports countless Polish American organizations, schools, churches, and cultural events.

Batory's Vision Cited

PHILADELPHIA — **Joseph Batory** received the 2019 "Inspire" award at The Ethical Society, Feb. 2. The award recognizes an individual who has significantly influenced large numbers of young people through music education.

While superintendent of schools in Upper Darby, Pa., Batory inspired and motivated music education for all students, and advocated for the growth and development of high-quality performing groups throughout the school system. He also founded the Upper Darby Arts & Education Foundation, which has now raised more than \$3 million and returned all of it to Upper Darby educators through more than 900 mini-grants for initiatives which might otherwise not have been possible.

Inspire award sponsors Musicopia is credited with restoring and reinvigorating music and the arts for Philadelphia school children who have been denied or limited in access to these opportunities.

Barcikowski Named 2019 Grand Marshal



DAREK BARCIKOWSKI of Hartford, Conn. was named as the Grand Marshal of the 2019 Pulaski Day Parade at a ceremony which took place at the Consulate of the Republic of Poland in New York, January 31.

Barcikowski, who serves as Connecticut's first Honorary Consul for the Republic of Poland and is the managing partner and publisher at White Eagle Media — a Polish newspaper publishing company based in New Britain, is the first grand marshal in the parade's 82-year history from the state of Connecticut.

Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York Maciej Golu-biewski thanked and congratulated the outgoing 2018 grand marshal, Thomas Duch. In welcoming 2019's marshal, he said "We will be making history this year as Darek Barcikowski will be the first Honorary Consul of Poland to lead the parade which means that not only the Polish community but also Poland has a stake in this year's parade."

State Senators Kulik, Scibak Retire

BOSTON — Massachusetts State Senators **Stephen Kulik** (D-Worthington) and **John Scibak** (D-South Hadley), retired with a combined 41 years of public service.

"The impressions they left have been unambiguously positive," said Matt Szafranski, editor-in-chief for *Western Massachusetts Politics & Insight*. "They were dedicated to the issues people in their districts cared very deeply about ... activist communities felt

like they had a voice."

The two veteran lawmakers were co-grand marshals of the 32nd annual Pulaski Day Parade in Northampton, last year. They replaced former grand marshal Rep. Peter Kocot (D-Northampton), who passed away earlier last year.

The legislators were good friends.

"We have been called the three amigos," said Kulik. "The three Polish amigos."

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ACROSS AMERICAN POLONIA

ILLINOIS

NILES — The Niles-Maine District Library will present **Joseph Zurawski**, March 3, 2019, 2:00 p.m. in Commons Meeting Room A & B. He will discuss his latest book, "The Polish Presence in American Screen Images."

Zurawski, author and educator, will review the history of Polish Americans in film, show selections from three films, and invite comments and questions for the discussion.

There have been well over 1300 films shown in the United States that feature or make reference to a Polish American character, phrase, name or setting.

MICHIGAN

DETROIT — The **Consulate General** of the Republic of Poland in Chicago is organizing a consular visit to the **Piast Institute**, 11633 Joseph Campau, Hamtramck, March 16 and 17.

During the visit the Consulate will only address applications or renewals of a Polish passport. Applicants are required to bring two passport photos. The Piast Institute cannot schedule appointments. Applicants must call the Consulate at (312) 337-8166, ext. 229 or ext. 231 to set up an appointment.

NEW JERSEY

CLARK — The **Polish University Club of New Jersey** will hold its 90th Anniversary Scholarship Ball, Sat., March 16 at the Grand Bethwood, in Totowa.

The Ball is the organization's fundraiser for the Scholarship Fund. Since its inception, over a million dollars has been awarded to 575 students of Polish heritage.

For tickets or to make a donation to the Fund, contact Joan Furman, 336 West Shore Trail, Sparta, NJ 07871. Tickets are \$125.00 per person, and include 6:00 p.m. cocktail hour, followed by dinner and danc-

ing until 11:00 p.m.

NEW YORK

SARATOGA SPRINGS — Coming this May, the Alfred Z. Solomon Trust presents **Ad Astra Theatre Troupe's** "Trojan Women," adapted by Saratoga Springs-based teen writers, Padraig Bond and Catie LeCours. Padraig will be directing. Grace Alberti, also a teen, is the producer. All three are of Polish descent.

Based on the Euripides' classic play, the story begins in the wake of Troy's sacking, following the lives of its women left behind and those who seek to enslave them. Rehearsals will start this month, and performances will take place in late May and early June.

This is Ad Astra Theatre Troupe's third season. For more information, visit www.adastratroupe.org.

OHIO

CONCORD — **Concord Casimir** made his much-anticipated forecast, Feb. 2, at Ellison Creek Knob in Concord (*Polish American Journal*, Feb. 2019). The feline celebrity — found abandoned at Cleveland's St. Casimir Church and now in the care of Concord's John Niedzialek — boasts a perfect record as a weather prognosticator.

How does he do it?

"It's all in the way Casimir eats his pierogi," said John Niedzialek.

This year, Casimir was seen eating his game day pierogi very slowly and patiently, which "can only mean one thing," said Niedzialek: "We will go through some cold and snowy periods yet, but we will experience some real nice days, soon so just be patient."

Niedzialek, an assistant professor at Lakeland College, is a weather enthusiast retired from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He volunteers at St. Casimir Church, where he found Casimir on its steps

in 2015.

PENNSYLVANIA

VILLANOVA — One of the newer clubs on the Villanova campus is the **Villanova Polish American Cultural Society**, or VPACS. The club, as the name implies, was formed to celebrate and inform about the culture of the Polish people at Villanova University, which is just outside Philadelphia.

VPACS held its first event of the year, a Polish Wigilia, on January 24, coordinated by Basia Fiedorowicz and Mateusz Ziarnik, two Villanova undergraduate students. At the Wigilia, attended by over 50 students and 15 faculty members, the group presented a video celebrating 100 years of Polish independence from Germany, Austria, and the Russian empires after the end of World War I.

During the bread breaking ceremony, attendees were encouraged to go around the room and wish each other well in the coming year. The attendees then had their Polish feast with foods such as pierogi and kielbasa, coming from Golden Eagle, a restaurant in Garfield, N.J., with baked goods such as chrusciki and makoweic coming from Banas Bakery, a Polish bakery in New Jersey, and Café Riviera, a café in New York City.

The Villanova Polish American Cultural Society (VPACS) is open to new members and meets biweekly Thursday in 217 Tolentine Hall at 9:15 p.m.

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A Date to Remember



Richard Poremski, *Polish American Journal*, Washington, D.C. Bureau, and Adam Mazurek, librarian and Polish culture keeper, are in the sound booth at radio station WYPR 88.1 FM with *On the Record* host and moderator Sheilah Kast after recording a program about Poland's 100th anniversary of its independence.

by Richard P. Poremski

BALTIMORE — *On the Record* is an hour-long program produced by Sheilah Kast that is broadcast daily on NPR radio station WYPR 88.1 FM. The Nov. 5, 2018 program included a 30-minute segment titled "The Importance of Poland's 100th Anniversary" featuring interviewees Richard Poremski of the *Polish American Journal's* Washington Bureau, and Adam Mazurek, a retired professional librarian now residing at the Henryk Sienkiewicz Polonia Library at the Polish National Alliance - Council 21. Mazurek is also a recognized and welcomed story teller of Polish folk tales and legends, and Poremski is presently chairman of the National Katyn Memorial Foundation.

The second half of Kast's the show dealt with the reemergence of Poland as a nation state on November 11, 1918 after having been partitioned off of the map of Europe for 128 years by Russia, Prussia, and Austria. From the outset, this important date was celebrated officially as Armistice Day both in Europe and the United States, to mark the end of World War I — an ending that sparked a providential beginning for Poland that directly enabled its reemergence as a geographic and

political reality. Over the following years, November 11th in the United States eventually segued officially into Veteran's Day to honor all who served in all of America's wars and conflicts. The duality of Armistice Day and Veteran's Day provided the direct correlation between both segments of the radio broadcast as recorded and presented.

The moderator was keenly interested in the significance and importance of Poland's centennial in today's Polonia. Polish community representatives Mazurek and Poremski were very knowledgeable and adept at supplying answers to the questions posed, as well as voicing their own personal and general relevant observations on Poland's history, culture and its unvanquished national patriotism — especially in the many times of foreign invasion and dominance.

To listen to the program, log onto the WYPR 88.1 FM website, click the *On the Record* tab, and then select the program that aired on Thursday, November 8th, 2018.

You can fast forward the recording to minute 14:55 to go directly to the Poland Independence Day portion of the program if you wish, or just enjoy the entire, very interesting, program from beginning to end.

SUPPORT THE PAJ PRESS FUND

In 1978, a voluntary fund-raising campaign was launched by a group of loyal readers of the *Polish American Journal* entitled "**We Love the PAJ Press Fund**" in order to help cover rising postage, material and production costs.

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

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

A sincere "THANK YOU" for your donation to the PAJ PRESS FUND: **Norb Gapczynski**, South Bend, Ind.; **Richard L. Kozacko**, Raleigh, N.C.; **Christine Kwik**, Elkins Park, Pa.; **Boleslaw Lenkiewicz**, Johnson City, N.Y.; **Joseph J. Mazan**, West Redding, Conn.; **Dr. John Niziol**, Clifton, N.J.; **Sherwood Palczynski**, Henrico, Virg.; **Michael Pietrasik**, Lancaster, N.Y.; **Mary Pizzato**, Manteno, Ill.; **Aniela Radacinski**, Brooklyn, N.Y.; **Walt P. Urbielewicz**, Piscataway, N.J.; **Regina Wnukowski**, Philadelphia; and two **Friends of the PAJ**. Dziękujemy wam wszystkim! The PAJ thanks all who donated.

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Pence. Paid Respect to Jews and Poles who suffered under German occupation

continued from cover

allies not sending their top diplomats to the summit in Poland.

Iran quickly linked the attack to the Warsaw conference, where supporters of the formerly armed opposition held protests.

Dubbing the meeting in Poland the "Warsaw Circus," Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said it was "no coincidence that Iran is hit by terror on the very day" the talks began. But an extremist group from the Sunni Muslim minority claimed responsibility for the Feb. 14 attack in the volatile southeastern Baluchistan region bordering Pakistan. Sunni militants were also held responsible for a major assault on a military parade in southwestern Iran in September.

PAYS HOMAGE. In Warsaw, Pence paid homage to the suffering of the Jews and Poles people under German occupation during World War II with visits to memorials honoring their suffering and heroism.

The heavily symbolic visits to a city destroyed by Adolf Hitler's

forces were gestures of friendship to two of America's closest allies, Israel and Poland. They came a day before Pence made his first visit to Auschwitz, the memorial site where Nazi German forces killed 1.1 million people, in what was then occupied Poland.

Pence joined prime ministers Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel and Mateusz Morawiecki of Poland in honoring the wartime Jewish insurgents who rose up against Nazi German forces in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising of 1943.

Joined by their wives, the three took part in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising memorial.

Visiting the former German Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau, Pence and his wife Karen were joined by President Duda and his wife Agata Kornhauser-Duda.

MITCHELL MISHAP. In a speech to the conference, Pence drew a line from the war that began 80 years ago to the Middle East of today, saying "the Iranian regime openly advocates another Holocaust."

The Polish and Israeli nations have built their modern identities on the lessons of World War II, and the respective uprisings remain to this day sources of pride and honor. Mischaracterization of responsibility for crimes also causes huge offense.

Veteran NBC journalist Andrea Mitchell learned that lesson after she said during a live evening report from Warsaw that Jews in the ghetto rose up against the "Polish and Nazi regime."

The Polish Embassy in Washington called the conflating of occupied Poland with the occupying German Nazis "a serious distortion of history" and said MSNBC should clarify the historical facts.

Mitchell issued an apology on Twitter, but the network did not.

"I misspoke on the show yesterday when I discussed the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. To be clear, the Polish government was not involved in these horrific acts. I apologize for the unfortunate inaccuracy," she wrote.

— *Compiled from from AP, Reuters, and NBC reports*

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Love, Hope, and Survival during Soviet Imprisonment

by Mary E. Lanham

TEARS OF HOPE

A Story of Love, Hope, and Survival during Soviet Imprisonment
By Irena Maria Rozycki

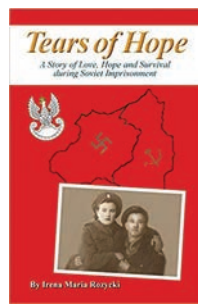
Prose Press, 2016, 193 pgs.

Tears of Hope is the true story of one young couple separated by war and unimaginable hardship who, through unwavering strength of will, beat the odds to find their way back to each other to bring their family back together.

Born in a village in eastern Poland in 1914, Maria grew up on a seventy-five acre farm. She loved school but was pulled out after sixth grade to take care of her younger siblings and do household chores. When she turned 15, she was deemed by her father to be almost old enough to be married. The next year she was betrothed to a young man of her father's choosing. Maria broke off the engagement after she saw that he would not put her first. She convinced her father to let her marry a man that she chose. She was very unusual for her time and place, as most young people were matched by their parents. It was most likely this kind of determination that helped see her through her time in prison, starvation, illness, and slave labor camps.

Maria and her husband Jozef had two children and were still living on his family's farm when Poland was invaded. Soon after, she and Jozef were taken by Lithuanian soldiers and put onto a train to Moscow. When they arrived there, they were put in separate sections of a prison. They saw each other rarely in passing until the day that Maria was "sentenced" by Russian soldiers to work in a slave labor camp.

She was sent to various camps forced to cut down trees, sew uniforms, pick cotton, anything the Soviets deemed was necessary for



their prisoners to do. Maria and her fellow prisoners were fed a diet of meager portions of stale bread, watered down soup, and dirty water. This had barely enough calories to sustain them. They grew weak and susceptible to disease and infection and countless died.

Through all this, the thoughts of reuniting with her two daughters and husband gave her the strength to go on. Then a lucky break happened when Maria and a friend she knew from before the war were able to leave the labor camps on the promise they would travel to help the Soviets fight the Germans. They had other plans and made their way to Guzar, Uzbekistan to join the Polish Army. She was assigned to the kitchens working long shifts in order to feed the thousands of soldiers stationed there.

Maria and her husband were eventually reunited after years of separation. Their unceasing desire to bring their family back together drove them to never stop looking for each other. Their daughter Irena, born after the war was also driven to tell their important story.

Rozycki was born in England and moved to Long Island, N.Y. as a child. She pursued a career in education, earning her bachelors in English and secondary education, and her M.A. in American Literature from St. John's University. She was a high school English teacher for over two decades, and an adjunct professor in the English Department at Long Island University Post. She also spent a decade in the latter part of her career as an assistant principal at a high school. Now retired, she lives in Myrtle Beach, S.C. with her husband.

An Immigrant's Perspective from the UK

POLISH GIRL IN PURSUIT OF THE ENGLISH DREAM

by Monika Wisniewska

Self-published

Available in English from Amazon.com

Polish and English versions available from the author at monikawisniewskaauthor.com

Monika Wisniewska is one of millions of EU citizens who chose Britain to be their home thanks to the Free Movement of the European Union. When Poland entered the EU in 2004, she follows her childhood dream to live in England and shares her painfully honest, deeply powerful and incredibly emotional story of the many challenges of a newcomer in England without sugarcoating. Work exploitation, lack of money, house moves, poverty, sexual harassment at work but also miraculous support form complete strangers are only some of the elements in the story where human nature is explored from every possible angle. Her 13 years in the UK turn out to be a journey to self-discovery, finding unconditional self-love and spiritual awakening. On her own example, the author portrays the spiritual journey through her search for love by seeking loving relationships.

Wisniewska's new book, "Polish Girl in Pursuit of

the English Dream" is filled with visual descriptions of various historical locations in the UK, Poland, and Europe where it takes place. Her determination to succeed in life, perseverance, dealing with heartbreaks, depression only to become a strong, powerful, and inspirational woman make this book a must-read for anyone who wants to join her on this meaningful inner and outer journey. It also gives valuable insight into how the Brexit vote influenced her life on a personal level, and how it changed her perception of the new reality she had found herself in, together with millions of EU citizens.

By sharing her true immigrant story, the author challenges many negative and harmful stereotypes in Brexit Britain directed at immigrants. Her dream is to show the world the Truth and not the harmful political propaganda, challenging people's judgments based on the lack of knowledge of what it truly means to be an immigrant. The story is an ultimate eye-opener for many people around the world.

"Polish Girl in Pursuit of the English Dream" is self-published in both Polish and English. The English version was published in March 2018 on Amazon. Polish version is now available from the author and shipped anywhere in the world.

"Polonian Legacy" Now Available from PAJ Bookstore

"The Polonian Legacy of Western New York (Canisius College Press, 2005), edited by Edward R. Szemraj and Wanda M. Slawinska, is now being offered by the Polish American Journal Bookstore.

The book focuses on the lives of four prominent individuals, and their contributions to the cultural, aesthetic, humanitarian and spiritual life of WNY Polonia: Rev. John Pitass, whose leadership encompassed both the spiritual and communal needs of the area's early immigrants; architect Joseph E. Fronczak, a first generation American and product of Buffalo's East

Side; and Mother Mary Simplicita, whose dedication to vocation and superb leadership of the area's Felician Sisters spans generations. The book also examines the lasting friendship between Buffalo's renowned Dr. Francis E. Fronczak and the composer/diplomat Ignacy Jan Paderewski.

The book is dedicated to the Rev. Benjamin Fiore, S.J., whose involvement in Polish causes both local and international are legion. "Fr. Ben" is Religion Editor of the Polish American Journal, a position he has held for over 30 years.

Zagajewski Nominated for Critics Award

LOS ANGELES — Polish poet Adam Zagajewski is among the finalists for the 2019 awards of the National Book Critics Circle in the United States. He is one of five nominees in the poetry category for his volume of poems "Asymmetry," translated by Clare Cavanagh and published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Zagajewski was born in 1945 in Lwów (now Lviv in western Ukraine), but his family was resettled after Poland's borders were redrawn in the wake of World War II. An opponent of Poland's communist government, he emigrated to France in 1982.

He returned to Poland in 2002, settling in the southern city of Kraków, where he had studied philosophy and psychology as a young man.

In 2016, he received the Leopold Lucas Prize, a prestigious award for humanists presented by the University of Tübingen in Germany for outstanding achievements in promoting tolerance and understanding between people and nations.

The award winners will be announced this month.

Joyful Noise

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College is hosting a benefit concert at St. Michael Church, 651 Washington St., Thurs., March 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. The concert, "Make a Joyful Noise," features young artists including soprano **Brittany Mruczek**, a recent graduate of the Steinhardt School at New York University with a masters in vocal performance; a Mississauga, Ontario native and pianist **Dominik Wrona**, studying under Russian concert pianist, Dr. Natalia Tyomkina; and Cantata Omnes, a young adult choir directed by **Maria Chomicka** with featured soloist, **Chelsea Brodka**. Chomicka has a masters in organ performance from the University at Buffalo Department of Music.

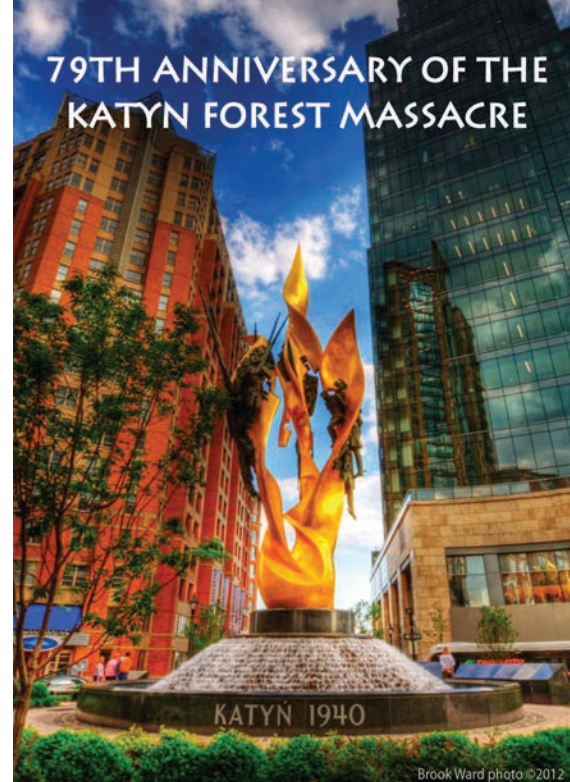
Mruczek will be accompanied by Ivan Docenko, who will also perform on the piano.

The concert benefits the Leokadja Dombroska/Polish Singers Alliance of America Scholarship Fund.

The concert will feature operatic, sacred and Polish folk music with works by Moniuszko, Mozart, Chopin, Szymanowski, Lloyd-Webber, and Gorecki, among others.

A reception afterward, provided by the Polish Arts Club, will feature a meet-and-greet with the artists. Off street parking is available at St. Michael Church. A free-will offering will be accepted for the Scholarship Fund. Checks may be made payable to the Polish Singers Alliance, a 501c3 charity.

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RELIGION

Priest Put on Forced Sabbatical for Defending Against Abuse



Fr. Peter Jankowski was removed as pastor from St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Joliet, Ill., and put on a forced sabbatical by his ordinary, Bishop R. Daniel Conlon.

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Fr. Peter Jankowski, a priest of the RC diocese of Joliet, Ill., was removed as pastor of St. Patrick Church in Joliet by his ordinary, Bishop R. Daniel Conlon, last July. Forced into a sabbatical, Fr. Jankowski is being punished for expressing his concern both to the bishop and then to Rome over fallacious background checks of people working with children at his parish conducted by the former pastor Fr. James Lennon.

He also called the bishop's attention to the frequent visits to his parish by Fr. Lennon and a number of priests who had been removed from active ministry because of credible allegations of sex abuse. He objected to this in order to protect the children in his parish school.

Fr. Jankowski took his complaints to Rome only after receiving no action from his bishop about

the situation. He also became aware that other clergy were quietly removed from ministry and housed near churches and schools without alerting school officials, law enforcement, or parents. His appeal to Rome was taken by his bishop as evidence that he should be removed from his own parish ministry. Local news outlets began reporting on the situation last fall. The diocese had no response when asked for comment.

In another case, former priest Robert Ciolek, who left the priesthood in the wake of abuse of him by Archbishop Theodore McCarrick, expressed disbelief of Donald Cardinal Wuerl's claim that he knew nothing of McCarrick's inappropriate conduct while he was bishop of Pittsburgh. Confronted with the facts of a letter Ciolek sent him and his forwarding the information to higher Church authorities, Cardinal Wuerl subsequently admitted that he did in fact know of the charges against McCarrick.

In a third situation, Chicago's archbishop Blasé Cardinal Cupich removed Fr. Paul Kalchik from Resurrection Parish in the wake of a disagreement over whether Fr. Kalchik should have burned a rainbow pride flag previously used in the parish after he found it in storage. He burned it in a private ceremony with some parishioners and included prayers of exorcism. Fr. Kalchik was himself a victim of abuse by a priest when he was 19 and by another man when he was a child. Cardinal Cupich complained that the Church is becoming distracted by sex abuse scandals instead of focusing on the environment and protecting migrants.

"It has become clear to me that

Fr. Kalchik must take time away from the parish to receive pastoral support so his needs can be assessed," said Cardinal Cupich.

POPE APPROVED POLISH VENERABLE. The heroic virtues of the Servant of God Anna Kaworek, co-founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Michael Archangel, were approved by Pope Francis. The new Venerable was born in Biedrzychowice, Poland on June 18, 1872 and died in Miejsce Piastowe on December 30, 1936.

CHURCH THAT RESISTED DISGRACED ARCHBISHOP CLOSED. Fr. Thomas Santa closed the Church of St. Austin in Minneapolis, Jan. 28. He justified this action as pastor primarily due to what he described as a need for unity in the Parish of St. Bridget, which had maintained two church buildings since the forced merger of St. Austin into St. Bridget in 2012. Reportedly, there have been appeals of the closure decision.

John Nienstedt, the disgraced former Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis, carried out the merger over the protests of St. Austin's Parish Council, trustees, and parishioners. Faithful from St. Austin appealed the elimination of their parish to the Vatican, which upheld Nienstedt's decision. Catholics from St. Austin joined a "Don't Merge Our Parishes!" rally outside the St. Paul Cathedral in August 2011. The rally was organized by parishioners from Holy Cross, the largest Polish parish in Minneapolis, which was also on Nienstedt's merger list.

St. Austin Parish was founded in 1937. While not an ethnic Polish parish, 10-15% of the parishioners

were Polish Americans, including some of the founding members.

The Redemptorist Santa's decision went into effect immediately, and Mass has been discontinued at the Church of St. Austin.

ILLINOIS BISHOPS OPPOSE LEGALIZED MARIJUANA. The six Catholic bishops in Illinois, Bishop Thomas Paprocki among them, issued a joint statement noting the peer-reviewed research affirming the addictive nature of the drug which supporters of legalization deny.

The push for legalization in Illinois is led by State Sen. Heather Steans and State Rep. Kelly Cassidy, both Democrats. Ten states and the District of Columbia have so far legalized recreational use of marijuana and the issue is being promoting in several more, New York included. The state foresees a multi-million-dollar windfall in taxes as a result of the measure, but the bishop urge state officials to look after the common good and the protection of its citizens.

Canadian bishops lament the ethical problems involved with the recreational use and abuse of the drug, as well as the growing problems of a society more and more dependent on drugs and alcohol. Canada legalized recreational use of marijuana last year.

BP. PAPROCKI DISINVITES DURBIN FROM COMMUNION.

Illinois Sen. Richard Durbin has persisted in manifesting grave sin (Canon 915) by his unwavering support of abortion and opposition to any limitation of it. As a result, Springfield, Illinois Bishop Thomas Paprocki — citing the hesitance of his former pastor Msgr. Kevin Vann and his former bishop George Lucas to offer him communion — announced that Sen. Durbin should not receive Holy Communion in his diocese.

He added that the decision was not intended to punish, but to bring about a change of heart.

Calls for similar and even more severe actions have arisen in New York after Governor Cuomo's defiant celebration of the passing of a bill that expanded abortion access

in New York. Knoxville, Tenn. Bishop Richard Stika and Tyler, Texas Bishop Joseph Strickland both support Cuomo's excommunication. New York Cardinal Dolan has balked at taking that measure.

FROM ORPHANAGE TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING. Our Lady of Grace Village Groundbreaking Ceremony took place on a snowy November day in Newark, Del., with Fr. Joseph Piekarski, pastor of St. John the Beloved parish in Wilmington offering the blessing. Several Felician Sisters from Lodi, N.J. also attended, including SM Bridget Becker, SM Charlotte Wszolek, SM Barbara Ann Kemmerer, S Marie Alexander Siegel, SM Elaine Lechert, and S Lenore Marie Murawski. Our Lady of Grace Village replaces an orphanage previously run by the Felician Sisters.

MUSIC CAREER FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS. Kelly Zimba, principal flutist for the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, had her start as a student at St. Louise de Marillac School in Upper St. Clair, Pa., when she earned a spot on the South District honors band. She told Sr. Serafina Viagrande who headed the Diocesan Instrumental Music program for many years that her work meant a great deal to her and to budding young musicians.

NAMESAKES FETED. The Orchard Lake Schools celebrated a Patronal Feast of Ss. Cyril & Methodius, the schools' patrons, Byzantine Greek brothers who became missionaries among the Slavic peoples of the Great Moravia and Pannonia. They influenced the cultural development of all Slavs, for which they received the title, "Apostles to the Slavs." They are credited with devising the Glagolitic Alphabet, the first alphabet used to transcribe Old Church Slavonic. In 1980, Pope John Paul II declared them co-patron saints of Europe.

Each year, the Orchard Lake Schools honors them with prayer and a community gathering of friends and benefactors. This year's celebration, Feb. 15-16, opened with traditional Polish singing in the Seminary Chapel, followed by the Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament throughout the night.

Saturday's events included a 9:00 a.m. benediction and morning prayer at the Chapel. A Holy Mass at the Archdiocesan Shrine of St. John Paul II/Chapel of Our Lady of Orchard Lake was held at 4:00 p.m., followed by an auction to benefit seminarians' room renovations, a cocktail hour, and dinner in the St. Mary's Preparatory Dining Hall.

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

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 34th year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

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

HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE

Coming Together – Celebrating Polish Culture

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — Over the last decade, organizers of the "Coming Together" program have celebrated the cultures of the Filipinos, Greeks, Asian-Hindus, Koreans, Latinos, Chinese, Assyrians, Spaniards, and, last year, Muslim-Americans. In 2019, the focus will be on the celebration of Polish culture.

Skokie Mayor **George Van Dusen**, Lincolnwood Mayor **Barry Bass**, and Niles Mayor **Andrew Przybylo** along with other officials, gathered on January 10 at the Niles-Maine District Library to hold a press conference promoting the upcoming 10-week celebration with events highlighting the ethnic and cultural diversity that is Polish. The programs will include an array of Polish arts, theatre, music, films, cuisine, and crafts.

The program chair **Sharon Van Dusen** notes that 2019 is a fitting year to celebrate Polish culture because Poland celebrates its 100 years of independence and the 30th anniversary of the fall of Communism and Soviet Union domination in Poland.

Over 800 people attended the official opening ceremony of **Coming Together** which began on January 27 at Niles West High School. **Alan Krashesky**, ABC-WLS-TV anchor, emceed the day's events that included performances from the Niles West High School Choir, the Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra, the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra, the Polonia Ensemble, Whispers Center for Artistic Expression, and the children's theater group "Little Stars." The organizers also invited everyone to view exhibits entitled: "Zamenhof" and "Women of Independence."

The January 27 event opened a 10-week series of events that will end on April 7. This project is supported by educational institutions, public libraries, and community organizations in Skokie, Niles, Morton Grove, and Lincolnwood.

Approximately 33 events for adults, 18 for children, 16 geared to teens, and 27 slated for families are scheduled in this series. For a schedule of events, visit the website: www.comingtogether.in.

Naturally, the opening program was free and everyone enjoyed Polish delicacies provided by local establishments.



Skokie Mayor Alan Krashesky and Mayor Przybylo.



Haiman

PMA HONORS ITS FIRST CURATOR. On January 15, 2019, The Polish Museum of America (PMA) commemorated the 70th anniversary of the death of one of its founders, the outstanding Polish historian and Renaissance man, **Mieczyslaw Haiman** (1888-1949).

Haiman was a pioneer researcher of Polonia who studied early Polish emigration to the United States in the 17th-19th centuries. He wrote in both Polish and English describing the lives of Poles who settled in various states and their participation in the American military. He remains one of the most distinguished figures both in American Polonia and in Poland.

Born near Lviv, he was a sailor and a traveler, an active member of the Polish Falcons of America, a poet, journalist, and writer of 14 books, five academic dissertations, 20 popular publications, 65 major newspaper articles, two short stories, 51 poems, and two translations, a total of 159 titles. Additionally, he was an émigré activist,

collector, archivist, librarian, and the first curator of The Polish Museum of America.

He led the Polish American Historical and Museum Society which, from 1936, published the historical "Annals of the Polish Roman Catholic Union Archives and Museum."



Three Kings on Belmont Avenue.

Until his death, he managed the Polish American Historical Association (PAHA). Its journal, "Polish American Studies," is still published today. He was the recipient of numerous awards from Poland and the United States, including the Order of Polonia Restituta (1932), Laureate of the Polish Academy of Literature (1935), the Golden Order of the Legion of Honor of the Polish National Alliance in America (1936), and an award from the Polish Roman Catholic Union in America (1938).

The PMA holds a collection of Mieczyslaw Haiman's personal items, which are on display at his desk in the Ignacy Paderewski Room.

A POLISH MAGI PROCESSION IN THE HEART OF CHICAGO. For the sixth year in a row, the Three Kings — Balthazar, Kasper, and Melchior — rode on horseback down Belmont Avenue, one of the busiest streets on Chicago's Northwest Side, from St. Ferdinand Church to St. Ladislaus Church. On January 6, over 1,500 participants began the more than one-mile procession to celebrate the Feast of the Magi, the Epiphany. Three men dressed in the regal attire of the Magi led the group that included the pastors of both parishes, **Rev. Zdzislaw (Jason) Torba** and **Father Marek Janowski, S.J.**, and Poland's Vice Consul **Piotr Semeniuk**. Also walking during a portion of the procession were 30th Ward Alderman

Ariel Reboyras, Illinois Comptroller **Susana Mendoza** with her husband David Szostak, the mayor of Schiller Park **Nick Caiafa**, and **Jan Kopeć**, president of the Alliance of Polish Clubs. All sang Polish and English Christmas carols and many wore symbolic crowns. The pro-

personal and family histories, pets, and mourning, to Polish immigration, language, Jim Morrison, the Doors, and other feminist fiber artists. The exhibition's title is taken from Joan Didion's "The Year of Magical Thinking," a book about her husband's death, which has been significant to KG, as she grieves her own father's passing, and her lifetime obsession with rock and roll artist Jim Morrison's mythical and mysterious life and death. Gnatowski's art exhibit is available for viewing until March 31.

CHICAGO SOCIETY HOSTS 2019 BALL. The Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance (PNA) 2019 Annual Inaugural Ball and installation of officers and directors was held Jan. 26 at the Victoria in the Park Banquet Facility in Mt. Prospect, Ill. This year, the Society honored the Polish American Chamber of Commerce, which is dedicated to fostering its members' business interests, educating and

cession ended at the Nativity scene in front of St. Ladislaus, where a local St. Nicholas handed out gifts for the children. Father Janowski then invited everyone to the parish hall for refreshments.

Procession organizers would like to thank parish volunteers who helped with refreshments, District 25 of the Chicago Police Department for providing safety on the processional route, **Joseph Sitko** who provided the horses, the Jesuit Millennium Center, and Montrose Deli, Lowell Foods, Alex Deli, Rich's Fresh Market, Kurowski Deli, Andy's Deli, Szymański's Deli, and Laramie Bakery for the refreshments.

GNATOWSKI: SOME KIND OF DUTY. On Jan. 17, the DePaul Art Museum celebrated the opening of "Karolina Gnatowski: Some Kind of Duty." The exhibit featured handmade weavings by Polish-born, Chicago-based artist, "KG," as she likes to be called. Her monumental and small-scale tapestries incorporate subjects ranging from



Gnatowski tapestry

facilitating commercial contacts, and building relations among its constituents. As a voice of Polish American business men and women in the Chicago area, the Chamber's goal is to serve the best interests of its members and to help influence decisions and actions which improve their economic vitality.

The evening started with a cocktail hour followed by dinner, the installation of officers and directors, and presentation of the honoree. Music was provided by Chicago Society member **Anthony Kawalkowski** and his Orchestra.

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MINNESOTA VOICE

Independence from Hunger: How the U.S. helped Poland in 1919

by Mark Dillon

As significant as it was for Poland to achieve and maintain political independence in 1918, the battle against hunger in the months that followed was equally arduous.

The victory was led by Herbert Hoover, who, as director of a newly formed American Relief Administration, helped Poland obtain more than \$55 million in food assistance at a time of widespread famine. Those 1919 dollars would be more than \$1 billion today, adjusting for inflation.

"To the Poles in 1919, the name Woodrow Wilson spelled freedom, while the name Herbert Hoover spelled life," wrote Jagiellonian University researcher Matthew Lloyd Adams in 2009, paraphrasing Hoover's assistant at the time, Dr. Vernon Kellogg of Kansas.

Adams' work, published by the *European Journal of American Studies*, concluded that between April 19, 1919, when the first food shipment for children arrived in Warsaw, and mid-1921, American support was vital to Poland's recovery from both four years of wartime damage and "tantamount to Poland's survival" during and after the 1920 Soviet invasion.

"In their time of need (ARA) stepped in and gave the Poles the crucial relief they desperately required. ARA staff fed hungry people; they helped restart industries; they helped in rebuilding commerce; and they provided clothing and care for children. The ARA aid played an important role in bringing about stability," wrote Adams, now at Savannah State University.

CONGRESS STEPS IN. January 28, 2019 marked the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Congress' authorization of \$100 million in aid to help all of Central Europe and the Balkans recover from World War I, an effort that for Poland was augmented by millions of dollars of individual and corporate charitable gifts, as well as professional support, from American Polonia, fraternal and veterans groups.

One key person from Minnesota who was part of the post-war relief effort was James Ford Bell, founder of General Mills, which operated the Washburn Crosby Co. (Gold Medal flour) During the war Bell headed the Milling Division of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The grain industry trade at the time was highly regulated to provide food for U.S. troops, but Hoover also did not trust the U.S. Department of Agriculture to co-manage the newly formed ARA.

Bell logistically helped get food onto ships from the Midwest to Poland mainly through the port of Gdansk (then Danzig), and years later founded a Minneapolis library dedicated to the history of global trade up to the year 1800. Today part of the University of Minnesota,

Bell's library includes many 16th and 17th century trading records and maps of the Poland-Lithuanian Commonwealth. (See lib.mnu.edu)

At a grassroots level, many of the same people involved in recruiting 335 volunteers from Minneapolis and St. Paul to serve in the Polish Army in France (Haller's Army) beginning in autumn 1917, led the fight to win the peace in 1919 with church fund-raisers and fraternal donations for food, shoes, clothing and care of orphans.

At Holy Cross parish in Minneapolis, one of the first U.S. branches of the Polish Red Cross was formed after being founded in Warsaw in January 1919 by Helena Paderewska, wife of pianist Ignacy Paderewski, Poland's first prime minister following independence.

"American residents could buy food drafts to send to relatives at 20,000 banks in America. They could pick either a \$10 draft for 24 ½ lbs. of flour, 10 lbs. of beans, 8 lbs. of bacon, and 8 cans of milk, or a \$50 dollar package with 140 lbs. of flour, 50 lbs. of beans, 16 lbs. of bacon, 15 lbs. of lard, 12 lbs. of corned beef, and 48 cans of milk. For the Jewish population there was also the option of buying a kosher package," Adams report explained.

In the month of January 1920, the ARA program fed 1.2 million Polish children and provided them with 700,000 sets of clothing. More than 751,135 tons of food were given out at soup kitchens, schools, gyms and other distribution points that first year, ARA records show. Major nationwide non-profit U.S. contributors included non-Polish groups such as the Knights of Columbus, the YMCA, the YWCA and the Federal Council of Churches of Christ.



A poster urged New Yorkers to support assistance to Poland through a group organized by the wife of Ignacy Jan Paderewski. (Source: Hoover Institution, Stanford University)

RESOURCES PLUNDERED BY THE PARTITIONING POWERS.

Hoover and Bell first learned of Poland's plight in 1915, when a then-neutral United States was providing food relief to civilians in Belgium. In touring German-occupied territory, Kellogg found that its military had plundered Polish resources following the May 1915 Gorlice-Tarnow offensive, land that itself had been conquered by Russia from Austria-Hungary in the autumn of 1914. Moreover, as the Russians retreated, they implemented a scorched earth policy on the Masovian plain, one that grew in inten-

HUNGER DRAWS THE MAP



A LOOK AT THE FOOD SHORTAGE IN EUROPE AFTER WORLD WAR I.

This illustration depicts continent-wide famine conditions a month after Poland regained its independence in 1918. At this point America was committed to help feed Belgium, devastated by four years of warfare. News about Central Europe's severe food crisis, also a byproduct of the war, led the U.S. Congress to authorize \$100 million more in assistance on Jan. 28, 1919. Relative food security in the Ukraine compared to Russia during the war's aftermath also fostered envy that Russia's Stalin would later use in 1932-1933 to create the *Holodomor*, the manmade famine genocide in the Ukraine. Source: Hoover Institute

sity as Warsaw fell to the Germans in 1916.

While spared the devastation of artillery fire and trampling armies, food shortages around Krakow also grew intense as World War I progressed, to the point where even the area's religious such as Brother Alojzy Kosiba, tasked with gathering alms for orphans at a Franciscan monastery in Wieliczka, found it challenging to do so.

A post-war study of Krakow school records by Polish history professor Bartosz Ogorek found that the average height of boys who became teens in the World War I era fell by as much as 10 centimeters (about four inches) compared to pre-1900 heights.

In 1919, as politicians sat around a table at the Versailles Peace Conference to adjust Poland's new borders, Hoover and a coalition of U.S. charities and private citizens made it their business to create an effective global private-public partnership to put food on Polish tables.

"Herbert Hoover took many bold though calculated steps to arrange food relief in Poland, including the establishment of the Polish relief organization and the introduction of the young Polish American women into the field," Adams wrote.

POLISH AMERICAN ANGELS OF MERCY.

Known as the Grey Samaritans for their YWCA uniform, more than two dozen U.S. women obtained medical training in New York and assisted relief efforts throughout Poland, traveling to Europe on the French steamship *SS Rochambeau*.

One nurse would be remembered for criticizing the train station master in Poznan for displaying regional bias against Poles from the Russian partition, declaring that all of Poland was now united.

"She strongly suggested that Poles look to America as model for a much needed spirit of unity" wrote Martha Chickering in 1920 in her book *Into Free Poland Via Germany*.

Another Samaritan, Anna Ba-

dura of Rochester, N.Y. gave up a chance to see her Polish American husband in Warsaw for the first time since he had left two years earlier to join Haller's Army. She said her relief work assignment in Kalisz took priority over a reunion, wrote Frank Thackeray in *The Polish Review* in 1990.

The work of the Grey Samaritans continued during the Polish-Bolshevik War and after the Treaty of Riga that ended it in March 1921. One of their ranks was said to have delivered six babies one night during the winter of 1921 from among some 600 refugees whom a Russian train had abandoned at a border crossing without food or shelter (Source: Erla Rodakiewicz, *The Association Monthly*)

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES.

How bad were conditions that most relief workers faced? ARA's reports show that malnutrition among an estimated three million children and communicable diseases such as tuberculosis were rampant. Farm output at the end of the war was half that in 1913. Half the rail rolling stock and more than half the livestock were gone, and industrial worker unemployment was 85%. (Source: *The Polish Review*, Vol. 34, No. 1). The ARA decided to focus first on helping children, as starvation appeared imminent.

Just getting foodstuffs from the U.S. to Gdansk required Hoover to work around multiple bureaucratic and diplomatic obstacles. Even though the trench fighting stopped on Nov. 11, 1918 in Western Europe, Great Britain and France would not lift a Baltic Sea-wide naval blockade until July 1919. There was also fighting in Ukraine, and civil unrest in Silesia and Poznan.

"Herbert Hoover, without Allied support, arranged for special children's milk shipments by rail from Switzerland during the first week of February 1919. By February 17, the first three ships filled with food, financed by the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and the Polish National Department of

America, arrived in Danzig loaded with wheat flour. By February 19, the flour arrived in Warsaw," Adams wrote.

In this environment, Hoover's team was as efficient as it was innovative. Today, some online charities retain as much as a 12% administrative fee for various overseas assistance initiatives, typically in the Middle East, Africa, or Latin America. Hoover's ARA accomplished his task with an overhead expense ratio of less of 1.5%, as reported by the agency in 1922.

Such was Poland's gratitude for ARA efforts that there is still a Herbert Hoover Square today in Warsaw. An outdoor sandstone statue in the square labeled "Gratitude to America," built in 1922, fell apart due to the elements in 1930 (See photo). The base of the statue was removed by Poland's Communist government after World War II. A small marker remains.



MONUMENT OF GRATITUDE TO AMERICA.

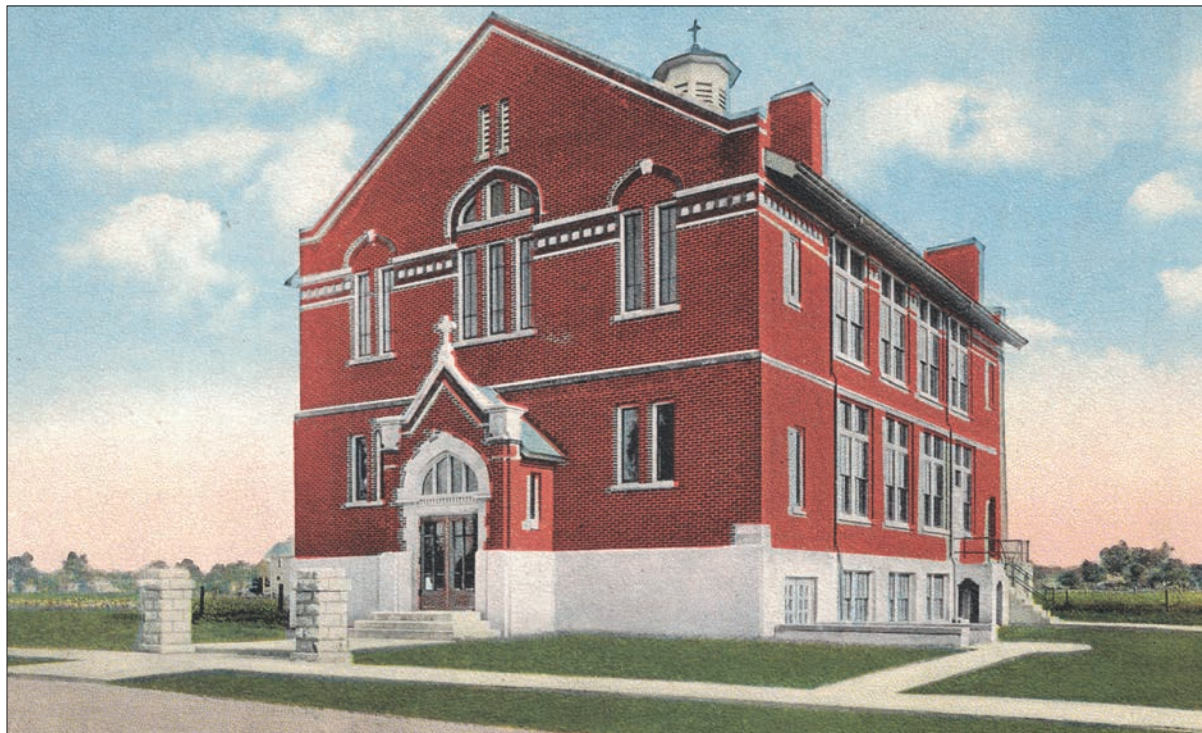
Dedicated on Oct. 29, 1922, this sculpture once stood in Hoover Square, Warsaw and was created Xawery Dunilkowski to recognize U.S. food assistance efforts in 1919. It depicted a mother holding two Baroque-style children on both shoulders. Source: Hoover Institute

FURTHER READING

- *Report of the American Relief Administration European Children's Fund Mission to Poland 1919-1922*; Hoover Institution, Stanford University
- *Herbert Hoover and the Organization of the American Relief Effort in Poland (1919-1923)* by Matthew Lloyd Adams, *European Journal of American Studies*, Autumn 2009
- *When the Prussians Came to Poland* by Laura de Gozdawa Turczynowicz, G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1916.
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- *To Serve the Cause of Poland: The Polish Grey Samaritans, 1919-1922*, by Frank W. Thackeray *The Polish Review*, Vol. 35, No. 1 (1990), University of Illinois Press
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POLONIA PLACES

St. Casimir Church, Fremont, Ohio



St. Casimir's was designed W.R. Dowling of Toledo, who came up with a two-story, red brick, combination school and church structure.

by Gregory L. Witul

St. Casimir Church
2045 Lake Street, Fremont, Ohio
Status: Closed

On Memorial Day 1916, Americans from across the country descended onto the city of Fremont, Ohio to celebrate the dedication of the Rutherford B. Hayes Center Library, the first presidential library in the nation's history. If the Polish Americans of that illustrious delegation decided to stay a few days longer and were looking for a Polish parish to attend that weekend, they would have found the newly-completed Church of St. Casimir perfectly satisfied their need.

As they had in other parts of the Great Lakes region, Poles began settling in central Sandusky County at the end of the 1870s. The few early families from Western Poland chose to attend St. Joseph's church downtown because they could at least understand the German spoken at the parish, instead of the predominantly English St. Ann's church. About once a year Father Wiczorek, Father Ruszkowski, or Father Joseph Koudelka, the eventual first auxiliary bishop of Cleveland, would visit Fremont to celebrate a Mass in Polish. Starting in the 1890s the trickle of Poles moving into Fremont became a river and the expanded community be-

gan to attend St. Hedwig's parish in Toledo. Seeing that the Poles were willing to make the 40 mile journey to Toledo to preserve their heritage, and wanting stop a push by the Polish National Catholic Church in the city, Bishop Schrembs' diocese sent Father Francis S. Legowski to Fremont who on December 13, 1914 established St Casimir's parish.

On a plot of land at the corner of Lime and Lake Streets donated by John and Josephine Kaczmarek, Father Legowski began planning his new church. To design it, he hired W.R. Dowling of Toledo, who came up with a two-story, red brick, combination school and church structure. To build the house of worship parishioner Stanislaus Surdyk was hired and given a budget of \$19,000 for the church, school, and rectory. Construction of the new campus began on July 6, 1915 with the cornerstone being placed less than a month later. The ceremony held on August 1 was highlighted by a parade that began at St. Joseph's and ended at the construction site. In attendance were Polish organizations from Toledo, the Knights of Columbus, all the parish societies of St. Joseph's, and Bishop Schrembs. It would take the rest of the year for the structures to be completed and on January 9, 1916 the first Mass at St Casimir's church was held.

With the building completed,

Legowski began regularly celebrating Mass as Sister M. Ernestine and Sister M. Antonia of the Sisters of St. Francis arrived to establish the school. For almost a half century the Sisters taught the children of Polonia, until 1967 when the school closed. Following Father Legowski, St. Casimir's would see eight additional priests take the helm over the next ninety years. Of these men, Reverend Edward Zulka would have the distinction of severing the longest with 25 years, from 1932-1957 while Reverend W. S. Danielak would have the shortest tenure at two years. Sadly the installation of Father Robert J. Weithman in 1992 was the parish's last.

At the dawn of the new millennium, it became apparent that the Diocese of Toledo lacked enough priests to staff all of its parishes. Soon closure and consolidation was on the table and a list of least-viable parishes was drawn up. Among the doomed churches was St. Casimir.

On the last day of June 2005, Father Weithman celebrated the last Mass for the faithful of St. Casimir. When the service was concluded the doors were locked and a black shroud was placed over the entrance to symbolize the death of the parish. That weekend, the parishioners of St. Casimir's joined the parishes of St. Ann & St. Joseph in Fremont.

Eco-Conscious Couture



Season six of Netflix's "Grace and Frankie," starring Lily Tomlin (above), will have a Polish connection. Tomlin's character dons several necklaces made by Kathleen Nowak Tucci.

LOS ANGELES — Kathleen Nowak Tucci, an eco-designer and artist for 30 years, has turned her

creative focus to designing couture accessories constructed from recycled rubber bicycle and motorcycle inner tubes, and Nespresso coffee capsules. Appearing in *Fashion Market Week* in New York City twice a year, Tucci's designs have landed in some of the most exclusive boutiques and galleries across the United States and Europe.

In 2011, Tucci was juried into the Smithsonian Craft Show, as one of 120 artists the Smithsonian selected from a field of 1300. Her attendance here achieved recognition from the Smithsonian's Women's Society and she was subsequently invited to participate in the 2011 and 2012 Craft2Wear event. Only 40 artists, who have already shown in the Smithsonian Craft Show, were selected for the exclusive Craft2Wear show.

Jewelry designed and created by Tucci was featured on the cover of the August 2010 issue of *Italian*

Vogue magazine. This was the first time that an eco-artist's work was featured on the cover of a mainstream fashion magazine.

Some of the many other magazines that have featured Tucci's jewelry are *Marie Claire*, *Ornament*, *Art Jewelry*, *Memphis Magazine* (cover), *Metal Clay Artist Magazine* (cover), *Heaven Has Heels* (cover), *Coastal Lifestyle*, and *Linen*.

Tucci is the 2015 Saul Bell Design Winner in Alternative Materials and the 2012 Niche Award Winner for Fashion Jewelry. She is the recipient of the prestigious Design Fellowship from the Alabama State Council on the Arts.



Nowak Tucci

Subscribe today!

The Polish Liberators



"We were greeted as liberators" explains Captain Wacław Gutowski, Veteran of the Polish 1st Armored Division, in a television interview during the opening of the "Armored Wings" exhibit.

by Matthew Stefanski

BRUSSELS — "To Warsaw via Berlin 1,375km" reads a sign visible in a World War II era photo that is part of a new exhibit about the Polish 1st Armored Division.

The sign expressed the enduring belief of the Polish forces fighting alongside the Allies that their battle trail would eventually lead them to liberate Warsaw and the rest of Poland from Nazi Germany. History, however, had something else in store. Although they could not free their homeland, the Poles of the 1st Armored Division wrote a glorious chapter in the liberation of Western Europe.

As the 75th anniversary of those fateful events nears, a new exhibit entitled "Armored Wings" showcases part of that chapter - the liberation of the Belgian region of Flanders by the Poles.

Polish Foreign Minister Jacek Czaputowicz, who spoke at the exhibit's unveiling on January 28 in the Belgian Royal Military History Museum in Brussels, said "The exhibit pays tribute to the brave Polish soldiers and their commander, General Stanisław Maczek, whose famous words reflect the motto of the Polish Armed Forces: 'The Polish soldier fights for the freedom of all nations but dies only for Poland.'" The Polish minister was joined by his Belgian counterpart, Minister Didier Reynders, as well as the Minister-President of Flanders Geert Bourgeois and several Polish veterans, among others.

The 1st Armored Division was established in February 1942 in Scotland and eventually counted over 16,000 soldiers and officers. After landing in Normandy in July 1944, it played a pivotal role in closing the Falaise Pocket resulting in a decisive German defeat and an end to the Battle of Normandy. The division would liberate communities in France, Belgium, and the Netherlands. In May 1945, the Poles seized the German naval base in Wilhelmshaven and received the capitulation of its large naval force. Some 1,000 men lost their lives in combat.

"This exhibit serves as a reminder to the people of Belgium and Europe about the incredible contributions of the Polish armed forces to the defeat of Nazi Germany," stressed Minister Jan Kasprzyk, head of the Office for War Veterans, whose institution was involved in the making of the exhibit.

In the spring of this year, the "Armored Wings" exhibit will tour the Flemish cities liberated by General Maczek's troops, includ-

ing Tielt, Roeselare, Sint-Niklaas, and Lommel. The exhibit, which is made up of archival images and video footage as well as original artifacts loaned from various museums and private collections, is one of a number of efforts underway to commemorate the Polish contribution to the liberation of Europe by the Allies.

"None of the Allied commanders had better soldiers than me, having at my side Polish soldiers. They completed every task they were given."

— General J.T. Crocker, commander of the 1st Canadian Corps

A NEW MEMORIAL MUSEUM dedicated to the 1st Armored Division is under construction in the Dutch city of Breda, next to the Polish military cemetery. Its opening is planned for October, to coincide with the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the city by Polish forces. A crowdfunding campaign is also underway for the construction of the first-ever memorial to the Polish Air Force in France. The memorial will be located in the village of Plumetot, in Normandy which was the base of operations for the 302, 308 and 317 Polish fighter squadrons in the summer of 1944 and marked the return of the Polish Air Force to mainland Europe. The Air Force Memorial is scheduled to be unveiled in June as part of events surrounding the 75th Anniversary of D-Day.

General J.T. Crocker, commander of the 1st Canadian Corps under whom the Polish 1st Armored Division served, once declared, "None of the Allied commanders had better soldiers than me, having at my side Polish soldiers. They completed every task they were given."

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ALL ABOUT POLISH EASTER

Origin, Names, Traditions, Artifacts, Greetings, Delicacies, and more

by Robert Strybel

ORIGIN. Easter is the springtime Christian celebration commemorating the resurrection of Christ following his death on the cross. It first appeared in Poland after 966 A.D., when Christianity was officially adopted, but it took two centuries or more to take root across the nation.

NAMES. The Polish word for Easter is *Wielkanoc* (Greatnight), and similar forms are found in other west Slavic languages such as *Velikonoc* in Czech. Among the eastern Slavs the Ukrainians call it *Velykiden* (Great-day). Most European languages have derived its name from the Latin *Pascha*, while the English and Germans have named it after the pagan Germanic goddess of spring, Eostre.

WHEN. Since the fourth century, Easter has been celebrated on first Sunday after the first Full Moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox (April 21st). The earliest is March 22nd, the latest April 25th. This year Easter comes late – on April 21st. In 2020 it will be bit earlier – April 12th.

EASTER SEASON. It starts on Easter Sunday and lasts 50 days until Pentecost Sunday. The word Pentecost was derived from the Greek word for fifty. In Polish folk culture it is called *Zielone Świątki* (Green Holidays).

PRELUDE. Easter is preceded by Lent or *Wielki Post* (the Great Fast), a 40-day period

of prayer, fasting and penance in preparation for the joyous feast of Resurrection.

SYMBOLS. Bunnies and chicks adorn many commercial greeting cards and store displays, but the traditional Polish paschal symbol is the Easter Lamb with Banner of Resurrection (*Baranek Wielkanocny*). Another prime symbol is the word “Alleluja” (*Alleluia*), from the Hebrew meaning “Praise God.”

EASTER CRAFTS. Easter-themed folk handicrafts include Easter eggs of various kinds, Polish Easter “palms,” hand-carved butter-lamb mold, Easter Lambs made of different materials and paper cut-outs.

DECORATIVE ELEMENTS. Pussy willows, hyacinths, daffodils, forsythia, boxwood, ferns, Polish Easter palms, Easter eggs and paper cut-outs (*wycinanki*) are among the best-known Polish Easter decorations.

GREETINGS. Happy Easter is translated into Polish as either “Wesołego Alleluja!” or “Wesołych Świąt Wielkanocnych,” often abbreviated to just “Wesołych Świąt.” Humorous version. “Wesołego jajka i mokrego Dyn-gusa!” (Happy Egg and Wet Easter Monday).

LORD’S TOMB. Known in Polish as *Grób*

Pański, this traditional tableau is set up at a side altar and shows Christ lying in His tomb. It is visited on Holy Saturday by the faithful bringing their hallowfare to be blessed.

HALLOWFARE. This is the Easter fare blessed at church on Holy Saturday, the eve of Easter Sunday. Typical baskets contain eggs, sausage, horseradish, bread, butter, lamb, cakes, etc. which are served at Easter breakfast.

RESURRECTION MASS. Easter Sunday sunrise mass begins with the congregation, all decked out in their holiday best, thrice encircling the church. Only a grave cloth is seen in the now empty Lord’s Tomb as the scent of flowers, candles and incense and the strains of joyous hymns fill the church.

EASTER HYMNS. Favorite Polish Easter hymns include: “Wesoły nam dzień dziś nastał,” “Zwycięzca śmierci,” “Nie zna śmierci Pan żywota,” “Chrystus zmartwychwstał” and “Otrzyjcie już lzy płaczący”

EASTER FARE. The day’s feasting begins with Easter Breakfast, served after the family returns from Easter morning mass. It includes a tarty, creamy soup (*żurek* or *biały barszcz*) hard-cooked eggs in various forms,

ham, sausage, roast meats, pâté, salads, etc. Similar foods are served throughout the day

EASTER CAKES. Yeast-raised egg breads (*babka*, *placek*, *kolacz*, *chalka*), *mazurek* (flat cake), *sernik* (cheesecake) and *sękacz* (log cake) typically grace the Polish Easter table. In Polonia *pączki* and *chruściki* are also served.

EASTER GAMES. The best-known games of the season are the egg tap (the winner is the one whose egg remains intact) and the egg roll (the egg that rolls the farthest wins). Easter egg hunts occurred under German influence mainly in western and northern Poland.

WET EASTER MONDAY. On Easter Monday (*Lany Poniedziałek*) boys drench girls with water in a tradition known as *Śmigus-Dyngus*.

DYNGUS DAY. The American Polonia, especially in and around Buffalo, has turned Easter Monday into a major celebration known as Dyngus Day. It features food, drink, music, polka dancing and the Old Country drenching custom.

ŚWIĘCONKA (PARTY). Another Polonian innovation is the *Święconka*, which in Poland refers chiefly to the Easterfood basket. In Polonia it is also a community Easter party usually held during the first post-Easter weekend. It is similar to Dyngus Day, except no drenching occurs.



POLISH CHEF

Alternatives to the Friday Fish Fry

by Robert Strybel

The run-of-the-mill fish fries hosted by PolAm groups around the country often include fried fish, tartar sauce, cole slaw, potato salad and the like, but very little genuine Polish input. Maybe this is the year to expand your fish-fry menu to include some typically Polish Lenten options. Some suggestions:

LENTEN RYMEAL SOUP (postny żur). In pot combine 5 c water, a chopped onion and cook until onion is tender. Add 2 c *żurek* (bottled liquid ryemeal sour available at Polish delis), 1/2 of a mushroom bouillon cube and 2 buds crushed garlic. Stir in 3 T flour dissolved in 1 c water, bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer 2-3 min. Season with salt, pepper and marjoram and serve over hard-cooked egg slices and/or cubed cooked potatoes. Provide horseradish for those who want a zingier soup. Note: If bottled *żurek* is not available, use 2 c water and

3-4 T 6% distilled vinegar instead.

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

CREAMED HERRING (śledź w śmietanie). Drain 12–16 oz. jar marinated herring, discarding onions and spices. Plunge into cold water, drain and pat dry. Halve and slice thin 2 onions, place in pot, scald with boiling water and after 1-2 min drain. Combine herring and onions and place on serving dish. Fork-blend 3/4 sour cream with 1 T Sarepska or Düsseldorf-style mustard and pour over herring. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight. Just before serving dust

with paprika (optional). Serve with plain boiled potatoes or rye bread.

POTATO PANCAKES (placki kartoflane). Grate 2-1/4 lbs peeled potatoes (by hand or in food processor), transfer to sieve and let drip into bowl. Allow drippings to settle, pour off liquid from top and add the white sediment (starch) to the grated potatoes. Add 1-2 grated onion, about 2 T flour, 2 eggs and salt & pepper. Mix well and spoon batter into hot fat. With spatula flatten pancakes slightly, since thin ones cook better. Fry to a nice crispy, golden brown on both sides and drain on absorbent paper. Serve immediately sweet or savory (just salted a little).

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

cheese (farmer cheese mashed with sour cream), sweet cheese (farmer cheese mixed with sugar and raw egg yolk), jam or preserves of choice (imported Polish powidła [plum butter] is excellent). Provide sour cream.

RAISED PANCAKES (racuchy) Beat 2 c sour milk or buttermilk with 2 eggs. Beat in 2 c + 2 T flour until smooth. Stir in 1 t baking powder and 1 t baking soda. (Optional: Add 1/2 t liquid vanilla extract to batter if desired.) Spoon batter into 1/4” deep hot oil, fry roughly 3” pancakes to a nice golden-brown on both sides and drain on absorbent paper. Serve hot, dusted with confectioner’s sugar or topped with preserves, jam, plum butter, syrup or canned pie filling of choice.

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

longer. Test one for doneness.

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

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

SWEET CHEESE FILLING. (pierogi z serem na słodko). Prepare as in preceding recipe but add 3 T confectioner’s sugar, 1/3 c plumped, drained raisins and 1/2 t vanilla extract to cheese mixture. Served with melted butter, confectioner’s sugar, sour cream. or plain yogurt (for weight-watchers).

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

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CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

March an Important Month in Polish History

by Barbara Szydłowski

The origin of the name March comes from *Martius*, the first month of the earliest Roman calendar, Named after Mars, the Roman god of war and an ancestor of the Roman people through sons Romulus and Remus.

Historical names for March include the Saxon "Lentmonat," named after the March equinox, and gradual lengthening of days and eventual namesake of Lent.

DAYS OF FAME. The "Father of the American Calvary" **Casimir Pulaski** was born on March 6, 1745 in Warsaw, Poland. He was an enthusiastic and fiery soldier, fought courageously but unsuccessfully to save Poland from partition. In July 1777, he came to America to offer his services in the war for Independence. As a cavalry general, he won distinction in numerous campaigns, but was mortally wounded in the Battle of Savannah.

Legend says he died aboard the ship *Wasp* on October 11, 1779 in Savannah, Georgia. For his contributions to the young nation, Congress voted in 1779 to erect a memorial to Pulaski in the capitol.

On March 4, Roman Catholic Churches in Poland and Lithuania celebrate **Saint Casimir Day**. Casimir, born into a noble family, was in line to be king but decided for a life of prayer.

The 19th of March is **Kashubian Unity**

Day, an annual festival to commemorate the first historical written mention of Kashubians, in Pope Gregory IX's Bull of 1238. In the Bull, the Pope referred to Prince Boguslaw I of Pomerania as Duke of Kashubia. Unity Day is designed to promote Kashubian culture, and includes folk art fairs, crafts, exhibitions, and a tournament of the traditional Kashubian card game "Baszka." Celebrations are held in the cities of Gdansk, Miastko, Chmielno, only to mention a few.

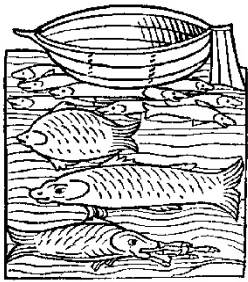
Lenten Customs. Some survive, others adapted over the centuries

continued from cover

The usual drink was boiled water and, in some sections of Poland, many faithful not only took no food but abstained even from water on Good Friday. Others vowed not to take any food on Holy Saturday and remained true to their vow. Olive oil was used for cooking on non-fast days in the homes of the rich. The poor used a cheaper oil. The Poles still have a saying: "Sir benefactor, good dumplings on oil," as a reminder of those times. It was unthinkable to eat meat and it was considered a concession to use butter.

Popular secular songs gave way to pious Lenten hymns. Women put away their ornaments and gaily colored dresses and substituted common, dark hued garments.

SINCE FISH WAS THE STAPLE fare during Lent, each courtyard, monastery and village bred them in many ponds and pools. The kitchens of nobility had their "stockfish" prepared for Lent from great pike. When a sixteenth century bishop named Erasm Ciolek brought a papal dispensation from Rome to



eat meat on Wednesdays, scarcely a subject could be found in his diocese who would avail himself of the privilege. It remained for King Zygmunt August (1520-72) to set a precedent and change the regulations. Out of consideration for the German Protestants dining at the royal table, meat appeared for the first time on a fast day in the palace of Kraków. From that day, meat was consumed even on Palm Sunday. The regulation was relaxed it was said, to express joy that only one week remained before the Savior would rise from the dead.

In a sense, Lent was observed more severely in Poland than in many other European Catholic countries but where the others paid more attention to the quantity consumed, the Polish people were primarily concerned with quality. A French priest who spent some time in Poland during the life of King Jan Sobieski (1624-96) wrote: "Fasting for the Polish people consists in abstaining from meat and butter, but they eat and drink the entire day."

Barszcz, a sour soup, was cut with olive oil. Bread was smeared with olive oil, sprinkled with poppy seed, sugar or salt and baked over hot coals. Toasted bread with toasted beer constituted a Lenten supper. A beer broth consisting of toasted beer with egg yolk was a Lenten favorite served in large glasses called *szklanice*. Another favored Lenten dish was *mnichy* "monks" because it had its origin in monastery kitchens. These were twisted cakes, cut in squares, boiled in scalding water on a little tin sieve and basted on a platter swimming with butter and onions.

THE LENTEN FAST gave rise to a popular custom observed in the Middle Ages and carried over to the present day. An old useless crock is filled with peelings and ashes in the early morning of the Wednesday in mid Lent. Pounding on the door or window of a sleeping neighbor to make sure he is awake, the crock is flung against the door. The city dwellers throw the crock under each others' feet saying: "It is mid-Lent, dear sir (or madam)."

In the evening of Good Friday, or the early hours of Holy Saturday, servants tied a herring with a thread to a long, thick rope suspending it over a path on a tree. The herring was being punished for having reigned over meat-starved appetites during the past six weeks.

Żur, a mess of slightly fermented light oatmeal, was carried out of the kitchen as no longer useful. One of the houseboys was cajoled into carrying the dish of oatmeal on his head, or in a bag on his back. Behind him, another servant carried a shovel for the purpose of digging a grave for the *żur*. As they reached the courtyard, the shovel bearer would suddenly whack the container of oatmeal and the entire mess would cascade over the carrier evoking gales of laughter from the "mourners" accompanying the "funeral."

In the early morning of Good Friday, parents placed their children in a circle and proceeded to lash each child with the words: *Rany boskie* "God's wounds." In some sections of Poland, the custom is observed today and is called *placze bóg*, "God weeps." Mirrors are covered with a black cloth as a sign of mourning and children are warned not to peek into them lest they see the devil.

WATER DRAWN FROM STREAMS and ponds before sunset on Good Friday takes on significance. It is believed that people and animals washed in this water will be protected from skin diseases. Farmers sow peas on Good Friday in the belief that what is sown on this day will be free from insects. Old straw is thrown from the barns because the new straw of Good Friday will not be liable to infestation by vermin. And one can assure himself happiness and good fortune if he takes a handful of dirt from a neighbor's property on Good Friday and carries it to his own land.

In the area surrounding Kraków, it is believed that impure spirits and witches have special powers on Good Friday. Since the Lord is dead, they hold meetings with the devils themselves on this day. In years gone by, guns were fired in cemeteries to disrupt the meetings but today altar boys armed with clappers, pots and pans can be seen running through the cemeteries raising a great hue and cry to drive out the evil spirits.

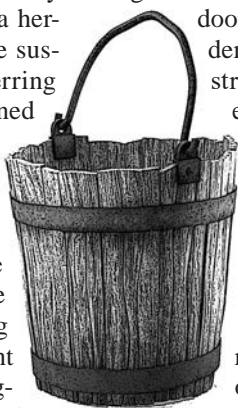
It was believed that an egg laid on Good Friday would never decay and constituted a good remedy against fever. It also was considered a miraculous fire extinguisher if cast into a blaze caused by a bolt of lightning.

Others maintained that the eggs laid on Good Friday were to be consumed raw on Easter Sunday if illness was to be prevented during the entire year.

IN CENTURIES PAST, Poland, too, had its penitential brethren who scourged themselves publicly during Lent but especially on Good Friday. While making the Way of the Cross, a different penitent would flay himself at each station until he drew blood.

At Poland's Shrine of the Black Madonna, a time-honored ceremony begins at 4:00 a.m. on Holy Thursday. The Pauline Fathers in

charge of the Shrine meet behind the closed doors of the main church in order to avoid the crowds already streaming onto the grounds. Covered by the darkness of the early hour, the monks hurry to the sacristy. They open a safe and descend stairs to a small cubicle situated behind the top of the altar. All kneel as two priests vested in surplices and stoles, take down the miraculous picture. They place it on a table covered with a cloth and surround the picture with



lighted candles. Prayers are begun under the leadership of the prior. The crown and precious garments are removed and taken to the safe from which fresh garments and crown are brought. The picture is thoroughly dusted. Various religious and devotional articles are touched to the sacred image. The crown and clean dresses are sealed in place. The prior recites the Litany of Loreto and two monks replace the picture on the altar.

Meanwhile, at Poland's Shrine of Our Lady of Calvary, tens of thousands of pilgrims are entering the grounds. They will be present for the Passion Play enacted annually on Good Friday by the clerics of the Franciscan monastery and the local peasants. The Play is dramatic and instructive. The scenes correspond with the Gospel in depicting the different stages of the Passion. The chapels with their paintings and sculptures harmoniously arranged, according to the Gospel narrative serve as settings.

"THE WAY TO CALVARY" begins with the Chapel of St. Raphael the Archangel, which stands before the great Church of the Crucifixion. Next is the Church of the Cenacle and the bridge leading to the chapel "on the Cedron." There is the "Way of the Agony in the Garden," the "House of Annas," the "House of Caiphas," and 28 "Holy Steps" leading to the "Throne of Pilate." There are also the "Palace of Herod," the "Return to Pilate," the chapels of the "Scourging," "Jesus accepting the Cross" and three chapels commemorating the three falls of the Savior. There are also the chapels of St. Veronica and the "Denudation." All feature appropriate paintings and sculpture executed by famous Polish artists.

The Polish *święconka*, blessed food, of Holy Saturday dates back through many centuries. Chroniclers from the reign of King Ladislaus IV describe the *swieconka*, which stood on the royal table. Four skins of huge wild boars, one for each season of the year, were crammed with pork, hams, sausages and a suckling. Twelve deer with golden antlers, for the twelve months of the year, stood in tandem surrounding each boar. The deer were stuffed with meat of rabbits, grouse, bustards, and pheasant.

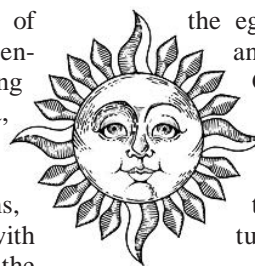
Fifty-two enormous cakes, representing the weeks of the year, surrounded the deer. Each was filled with pancakes, sweetmeats, dumplings and "bakalia." On a table were 365 *babki*, a special sweet bread, for the num-

ber of days in a year. Each was adorned with impressive inscriptions and flourishes. Four goblets of liqueur represented the four seasons. Twelve silver buckets of wine, arranged in tandem, represented the twelve months of the year. Fifty-two silver barrels arranged in tandem, representing the weeks of the year, were filled with wine from Cyprus, Spain and Italy. For each day of the year, 365 bottles of Hungarian wine decorated the scene. 8,700 quarts of honey produced in Breza, representing the hours of the year, were for the servants of the castle.

THE NOBLES SOUGHT to emulate their king. A large table covered with a snow-white cloth was loaded with stuffed sucklings, hams, smoked tongues and baked lambs. Like a phalanx of soldiers surrounding the quiet dignity of their general, this succulent display surrounded an "Agnus Dei," which stood poised with the banner of the Resurrection. At the extremities of the tableaux stood *babki* towering above the scene, arousing the admiration of the onlookers by their texture and size. This sweet bread was the pride of every housekeeper. The dough was snowy, light and puffy evoking praise from the men and envy on the part of the women who either did not know the secret of the baking or were too stingy and lacked diligence in the preparation of the dough. At the furthest ends of the table were mosaic-like pancakes, of the most fantastic designs. And everywhere, crowning the culinary heroes and heroines of the day, were pyramids, towers and turrets atop the walls of a fortress.

It is said that there are deep, sunken ravines where the sun seldom penetrates. On the days when it is to appear on the horizon, the villagers hurry forth at daybreak, carrying all manner of dishes overflowing with omelet. Amid songs and the clanging of brass instruments, they joyfully consume the eggs at the appearance of the sun.

AS IT WAS THEN, SO TODAY the eating of the blessed egg is of the essence, the principal symbol of the entire celebration. The custom is ancient and not limited to Poland, for reaches back into the pre-Christian era when the forces of nature were worshipped as gods. Worship of the sun was common to all early religious. The egg, symbol of life's initial stages, was offered to the sun-god which with its warmth had introduced life into the egg. As with the breaking and sharing of the wafer on Christmas Eve, so too on Easter morn every member and every guest of every household shares the egg, wishing each in turn a Blessed Easter.



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SPORTS

Gronkowski, Gostowski Lead Patriots in Superbowl LIII

by Tom Tarapacki

If **Rob Gronkowski** played his final football game in Super Bowl LIII, he sure went out in a big way, as the nine-year veteran played a key role in the Patriots' 13-3 victory over the Rams. With the game tied at 3 with under eight minutes to play, Gronkowski lined up in the left slot, ran deep down the seam and made a diving 29-yard reception that set up the game's only touchdown. Until then, the Patriots' offense had been struggling to finish drives.

Two weeks earlier, in the Patriots' 37-31 overtime win over the Chiefs in the AFC Championship Game, he set up a go-ahead touchdown in the final minute of regulation with a 25-yard reception on third-and-5. Then, in overtime, he had a 15-yard gain on third-and-10 from the Chiefs' 30, helping position New England for the winning touchdown.

Gronkowski ranks No. 1 all-time among tight ends in postseason catches (87), receiving yards (1,250) and receiving touchdowns (12). However, he has been plagued by injuries, and said he will make a decision about his future in the coming weeks.

Patriots kicker Stephen Gostowski booted 42- and 41-yard field goals, kicked an extra point, and missed one field goal in New England's 13-3 win over the Los Angeles Rams. He's now 6 for 8 on field goals in Super Bowls. His performance in Super Bowl LIII came one day after his grandfather, William Klick, died.

DOROTA TRIUMPHS. A 21-year-old biomedical engineering student has become the first Pole ever to win the Karate World Championship. **Dorota Banaszczyk** defeated Germany's Jana Bitsch, 2-0, to capture the title.

The historic win came as a shock for the Łódź native. She told reporters after the match: "I surprised myself! I did not expect it to go that well." Competing in Madrid, Dorota defeated competitors from Italy, Japan and Bulgaria as well as her long-term rival Bitsch. Last year, the two met in Dubai where Bitsch beat Banaszczyk 3-2.

FRANKOWSKI GOES TO CHICAGO. The Chicago Fire Soccer Club announced it has acquired Polish midfielder **Przemysław Frankowski** via transfer from Polish first-division club Jagiellonia Białystok.

The 23-year-old midfielder is under contract with the Fire through the 2022 Major League Soccer (MLS) season. "We are pleased to finally capture Przemysław's services," said Chicago Fire Soccer Club President and General Manager Nelson Rodriguez. "Our patience and persistence overcame several suitors, and we believe he will prove to be a fan favorite for his relentless style of play." Chicago Fire Soccer Club



GRONKOWSKI

head coach Veljko Paunovic described Frankowski as a "very versatile player with fantastic pace."

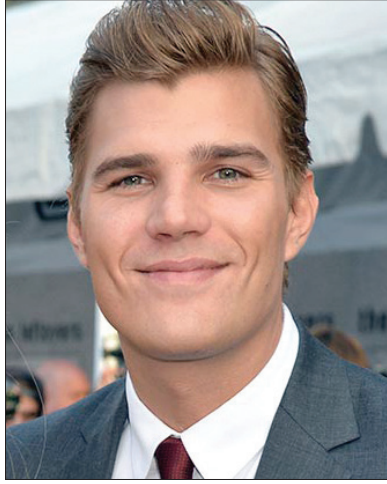
A native of the northern Polish city of Gdańsk, Frankowski spent the past seven seasons with two different clubs in Poland's first division, tallying a total of 181 appearances.

CHRIS ZYLKA: WHAT'S IN A NAME? You may know actor **Chris Zylka**, whose acting roles include HBO's "The Leftovers." You may not know that he played quarterback for the University of Toledo. Also, you probably don't know that his real name is not Zylka.

He was actually born Chris Settemire in Warren, Ohio 33 years ago, and was a football standout at Howland High School. Then the self-described "misfit jock" attended the University of Toledo, where he played football and studied art. However, his grandfather had a heart attack and Chris dropped out to help take care of him, he said in an interview with thedailybeast.com.

While taking care of his grandfather the two men discussed acting, and for the first time Chris became interested in becoming an actor. Chris had never done any acting before that.

Chris's maternal grandfather is William Zylka, the son of Polish-Ukrainian immigrants. When Chris became a working actor he took his last name as a tribute. "I changed it for my grandpa," Zylka says. "I wanted to make him proud." Before he did, he asked his great-grandmother for permission. "Before she passed away, she got to see it in the



ZYLKA

VOTING UNDERWAY FOR POLISH SPORTS HALL OF FAME. **David Legwand**, the all-time leader in numerous offensive categories for the Nashville Predators, and **Joe Dudek**, the only Division III football player to finish in the top ten in the Heisman Trophy voting, lead the list of new candidates on the 2019 ballot for the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame in the high profile category.

Legwand spent most of his 16 years with Nashville, where he became the franchise's all-time leader in all offensive categories. The Predators drafted him with their first-ever pick (second overall) in 1998. The 6-2, 207-lb. center led them into the playoffs in 2004. When he left Nashville in 2014 the Detroit native was the franchise leader in goals, assists, game-winning goals and games played. He finished his career with the Red Wings, Senators and Sabres, and his overall career NHL numbers include 228 goals and 390 assists. His best season was 2006-07, when he had 27 goals and 36 assists for Nashville. He also was a two-time member of the U.S World Junior Team and a four-time member of its World Championship team.

Joe Dudek rose to fame as a running back out of Division III Plymouth State College in New Hampshire, rushing for 5,570 yards and breaking Walter Payton's career touchdown record of 66 by finishing with 79. Dudek made the cover of *Sports Illustrated* in 1985 as one of the top Heisman Trophy hopefuls, along with Bo Jackson and Chuck Long. SI writer Rick Reilly saw Dudek as not only a tremendous talent, but a kind of true student-athlete that no longer existed on the Division I level. Joe finished ninth in the voting, the only Division III player to ever finish that high, as Jackson won the award.

Dudek was with the Denver Broncos for two seasons before returning to New England and working in the beer and wine industry. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1997. His son, Joey, was drafted by the NFL New Jersey Devils.

Holdover nominees in the high-visibility category are: football great **George (Andrzejewski) Andrie**, basketball standouts **Frank Brickowski** and **Steve Wojciechowski**, baseball stars **Mark Grudzielanek** and **Mark Gubicza**, and hockey's **Craig Wolanin**.

Newly added to the category of sports with a lower profile were two female athletes who have won Olympic gold, hockey player **Allison "AJ" Mleczko** and rower **Meegan Musnicki**. Mleczko, a Harvard grad, also became the first



BANASZCZYK

woman to work on NBC's hockey broadcasts. Musnicki was an All-American at Ithaca, and won gold in two Olympics and five World Championships.

Previous nominees are: wrestler and strongman **Ivan Putski**, Duke lacrosse coach **John Danowski**, fencing champion and coach **Ed Korfanty**, basketball All-American **Sue Rojciewicz**, college hockey coach **Leo Golembiewski**, and bobsledding gold medalist **Curt Tomasevich**.

The top vote-getters in each category will be inducted in June. Information about the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame is available at www.polishsports-hof.com.

ANDRIE PASSES. NPASHOF nominee **George Andrie** died recently at 78 of congestive heart failure. A Grand Rapids, Mich. native, he starred at Marquette before playing on the defensive line for 11 seasons with the Dallas Cowboys. A member of the famed "Doomsday Defense," he made five Pro Bowls and helped the Cowboys win Super Bowl VI. Andrie is remembered for scoring a touchdown against Green Bay during the famous "Ice Bowl" 1967 NFL championship game. He returned a fumble seven yards for the Cowboys' first score in a game they eventually lost to the Packers, 21-17. After retiring, he settled in Waco, Texas, and worked in the beer-distribution business. He later started a specialty advertising company.

WATCH LIST. A couple players to keep your eyes on this college basketball season are a senior at Georgetown and a freshman at Notre Dame.

Greg Malinowski is the senior. He's from Chantilly, Va., and played for William & Mary for three years. In the 2016-17 season, the 6-6 guard-forward averaged 7.7 points and shot 40 percent from three-point range, which was fourth best in the conference. After transferring to Georgetown he had to sit out a season. He's now a solid contributor for the Hoyas off the bench.

The freshman is Notre Dame power forward **Nate Laszewski**. The standout at Northfield (Mass.) Mount Hermon was pursued by North Carolina, Wake Forest and Wisconsin. He passed up Wisconsin even though his father, Jay, was a member of the Badgers men's basketball team from 1982-86, including serving as a captain his senior year. Also, Nate's older sister Abby plays basketball for Wisconsin. Nate is a terrific outsider shooter who is also a physical presence around the basket.

Among college basketball coaches, keep an eye on Duke's **Mike Krzyzewski** (of course) and his two former Polish American point guards, **Bobby Hurley** and **Steve Wojciechowski**. Wojo's Marquette squad is one of the top teams in the nation. Hurley has had an up-and-down season, exemplified by his Arizona State team's upset of Kansas followed by a one-point loss to Princeton, but hopes to make the NCAA tournament.

Meanwhile, their mentor, Mike Krzyzewski, has his Blue Devils playing great despite suffering some tough injuries. Coach K, who turned 72 on February 13, is looking to add to his amazing total of 12 Final Fours and five National Championships.

PERKOSKI'S NOTEBOOK. 23-year-old Polish soccer star **Krzysztof Piątek** has signed a contract with Italian powerhouse AC Milan through 2023 ... Polish heavyweight boxer **Adam "Baby-face" Kownacki** knocked out Gerald Washington in Brooklyn ... The Dallas Stars reacquired defenseman **Jamie Oleksiak** from the Pittsburgh Penguins in exchange for a fourth-round draft pick ... Almost one in three Poles who exercise run regularly, which makes the sport the second-most popular in the country, after cycling, according to the *Gazeta Wyborcza* newspaper. Seventy percent of Poles say they exercise regularly.



FRANKOWSKI

title sequence for *90210*."

Chris has had a variety of TV and movie roles, perhaps most notably playing a villain in a couple of *Amazing Spiderman* movies. He's also known for a brief engagement to heiress Paris Hilton.



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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.

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FORCED LABOR IN THE THIRD REICH

The Personal Account of a Polish Slave Laborer

Katherine Graczyk was captured by the SS and shipped to Germany. She shared her story with author Catherine Hamilton

by Catherine Hamilton

Conclusion

Life was very difficult at Wildflecken Displaced Persons (DP) Camp, as was the case in DP camps all across Germany. Every day more people at Wildflecken died due to poor health caused by starvation during their captivity as slave laborers or as prisoners. We lacked adequate food and medical supplies. Many of the children had rickets. We knew the dangers of returning to Communist Poland — deportation to Siberian camps, or imprisonment. No matter how much we longed for home, we had to think of our child's future.

Frank and I were thankful to be alive, thankful that at last we could send letters to our families back home. I wrote to my mother and told her everything. How I'd survived the war. That I was now living in a DP camp. About Frank and me and our marriage, and her newborn grandson. To my sisters, Sophie and Anna, I wrote every detail about their sweet little nephew, Kazimierz. I didn't tell them the hardships we were suffering.

A year passed at Wildflecken and I didn't hear back from my family. I felt frantic that something terrible had happened. Did the communists even deliver our mail? I told myself they hadn't delivered my letters. Every month I sent a letter, never giving up hope, praying they had survived.

In late December, 1947, our one-

year-old son fell ill with a bad influenza. He had diarrhea and was vomiting. I had nothing to give him — no medicine at all. And we had only a quart of milk and some bread, which he wouldn't eat.



Frank and daughter Stella.

"We have to take Kazimeirz to the hospital," I told Frank. He agreed. We bundled Kazimeirz in blankets and rushed there on foot.

We were surprised when the clerk working at the front desk of the hospital said, "This hospital is not for Poles." Her tone was menacing. "Go back to your camp."

But I refused to leave and approached one of the nurses, asking her to help us. She nodded and asked, "What's wrong with the child?"

"He won't eat anything. He has a fever," I said. "I didn't know what else to do. Can you help him?"

She nodded again. "We'll need to keep him overnight. You should come back tomorrow after the doc-

tor sees him." She took him from my arms, saying I shouldn't worry. To get some rest and she would see me tomorrow. I agreed and the next day, I went back to the hospital as I had promised.

The young nurse who greeted me in the waiting room said, "I'm sorry. You're mistaken; your son isn't here. We don't have Polish babies."

"I brought him here yesterday," I said, feeling sudden panic. "The nurse that was here said she'd help him. She told me to come back today. Do you think I would lie about my child? He's here, somewhere!"

"That's impossible!" the nurse insisted.

"But he IS here!" I got so upset I started speaking in Polish. "Masz moje Dziecko! Pozwól mi zobaczyć moje dziecko!" I cried. (You have my baby! Let me see my child!)

"I can't understand you!" She turned away and walked up the hall, returning with another nurse, an older woman, clearly the one in charge. "What's the problem here?" the older woman asked.

"She's insisting we have her baby," the young nurse complained, gesturing toward me. "I told her we don't have any Polish children."

"There are a few Polish children here. What's the child's name?" the older nurse asked.

"His name is Kazimierz Graczyk."

She looked through some papers. "He's here. But I'm sorry to say you can't see him. He's been placed on quarantine."

"But I'm his mother."

"There's nothing I can do. It's policy. You should go now. Try back tomorrow."

I couldn't leave him. I pretended to go, but I turned around and sneaked into the other hallway.

Carefully, I slipped past a nurse's station unnoticed. I found Kazimeirz in a tiny bed. He looked at me but didn't move. He had been walking since he was nine months old — why didn't he move? I don't know if he recognized me. He was licking his lips, smacking them as if he were very thirsty. I reached for him to pick him up, but a nurse spotted me. She pushed me out of the room. "I'm his mother!" I screamed.

The hospital police came and dragged me away. All the while I cried, "I'm his mother! I'm his mother!"

The next day, New Year's Day, 1948, the hospital telephoned the camp office before daybreak.

A British officer brought me the message. My Kazimierz had died.

My heart still breaks when I think of him dying there alone. Plagued, as you can imagine, by untold guilt that I did the wrong thing taking him to that hospital. Haunted by questions: Did they try to help him? Did they give him fluids? Did they just let him die?

I later found out that not one Polish child came out of that hospital alive that year. Hitler was dead, but the Nazi ideology of the super-race continued to take the lives of Polish people trapped inside that country. I believe my firstborn son was one of those people. It wasn't until a doctor from the United States was assigned to the hospital that equal care was administered to Polish adults and children. Poles could finally go to the hospital near camp Wildflecken without fear. It was because of that doctor that Frank and I decided to

emigrate to America.

While we waited to get our papers from the United States, my daughter Stella was born. Thankfully, by that time, life had improved at Wildflecken. My Stella was a healthy happy, baby, and the three of us immigrated safely to the U.S. in 1951. Six years after the war's end, at last, we were free! We celebrated that my brother Antony Ponczocha, who had also survived forced-labor camps and had recently married Janina, a Polish woman he met during his captivity in Ger-



Katherine and son Richard.

many, had received immigration papers for Australia.

When our ship docked at the New York Harbor, we were famished. We walked with little Stella to the first restaurant we could find to get something to eat. But neither Frank nor I spoke a word of English. We stared at the menu and saw "SOUP." This word looked very similar to *zupa* (soup in Polish). So we asked for "Zupa." The waitress understood. Soup was the only thing we had to eat for days! We quickly got to work on our English lessons!

We settled in Denver, Colorado, and there our third child, Richard, was born. Frank worked as a butcher in a meat packing plant, while I managed the home and cared for the children. There were so many other Polish immigrants in Denver that very soon the center of our family life was Saint Joseph's Polish Catholic Church and school. Because of the Communist occupation of Poland we had no hope of returning to visit family back home, although we tried many times.

We weren't allowed to set foot in Poland, now that we'd come to the United States of America.

So I wasted no time trying to contact my family again by mail. I was so worried about my sisters and my mother and my cousins. I

hadn't received even one piece of mail from any of them in more than twelve years. And because there were no telephones in my village, Lipkie Harta, I had to rely on letters.

I sent my first letter from America. Then the second. When I received my first letter from home, I wept for joy. The floodgates were open and no end of letters were exchanged over the years. From their letters I learned what happened to the rest of my family during the war. Sophie and Anna and Mother

had survived the Nazi occupation! Now they found themselves under the Communist occupation. They couldn't travel outside the "Iron Curtain." They had no choice but to remain in Poland after World War II. My first cousin Maturz Ponczocha died in a Nazi prison camp. My aunt and uncle, Maturz's parents, were arrested by the Russians as the Red Army invaded Eastern Poland. They died in Stalin's Siberian labor camps. My cousin Sophie survived the Siberian forced labor and returned to Poland, but her farmland was never

returned to her. It had been confiscated by the communists. Not until 1972, after my mother's death did the Russians let me return to Poland for her funeral.

Frank and I always felt extremely blessed to have survived the slave labor camps and the prisons of Nazi Germany. And despite our suffering the loss of our firstborn son, we made a good life for ourselves in the United States.

Now with my story down on paper, after spending years wrestling with the enemy that haunted my bones — that woke me up at night, living with nightmares, bad memories and regrets. Now that I can release the dove and find peace, I have one more thing to say: I hope my story will enlighten people in the free world and that they will know what happened to 1.5 million ethnic Poles during the Nazi occupation of Europe.

Frank Graczyk died in 1986. Katherine Graczyk passed away on Monday, June 14, 2010 in Denver, Colorado.

Catherine Hamilton, a freelance writer in Beaverton, Oregon, recorded Katherine Graczyk's story during a series of interviews. Hamilton was honored to write the first-person account of these experiences; she and Katherine Graczyk are cousins.

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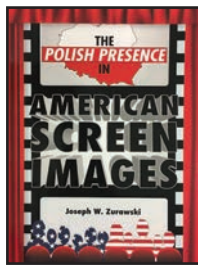
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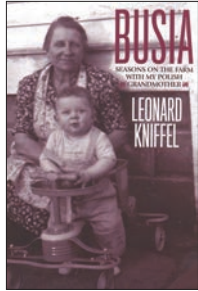
NEW! THE POLISH PRESENCE IN AMERICAN SCREEN IMAGES
by Joseph W. Zurawski
\$29.95
Item 2-682
Softcover, 355

pp., 6" x 9"; 2018

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

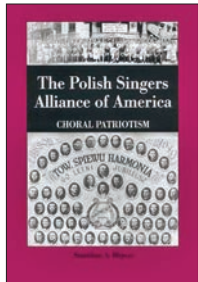
Prominent author, educator and Polish American activist Joseph W. Zurawski identifies and analyzes more than 1300 films shown in the United States that feature or identify a Polish American character or reference. Soft cover. Published by the Polish Museum of America.

BUSIA: SEASONS ON THE FARM WITH MY POLISH GRANDMOTHER



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

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

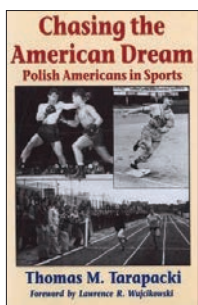


CHORAL PATRIOTISM: THE POLISH SINGERS ALLIANCE OF AMERICA, 1888-1998
by S. A. Blejwas
Item 1-660
Was \$22.50. Now \$14.95

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

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

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



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

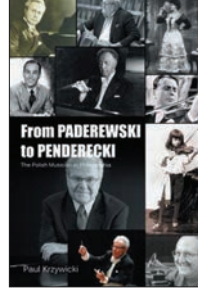
"Chasing the American Dream" provides an in-depth examination of the Polish American experience with sports: its impact upon their lives, the unprecedented economic and social opportunities it created, the enormous changes it brought to the Polish American community, and the athletes, coaches, and organizations involved.

350 Polish American athletes are noted from the worlds of baseball, football, hockey, basketball, track & field, boxing, wrestling, golf, swim-

ming, bowling, auto racing, soccer and more. Included are some of the greatest figures in American sports such as Stan Ketchel; Stella Walsh; and Stan "The Man" Musial.

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

FROM PADEREWSKI TO



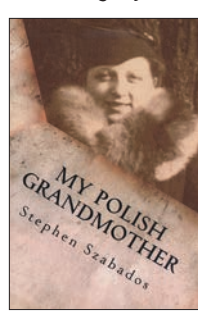
PENDERECKI
The Polish Musician in Philadelphia
by Paul Krzywicki
\$24.95
Item 2-151
Lulu Pub. 2016;
pb. 396 pp.,
6"x1"x9"

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

GENEALOGY

MY POLISH GRANDMOTHER:

From Tragedy in Poland to Her Rose

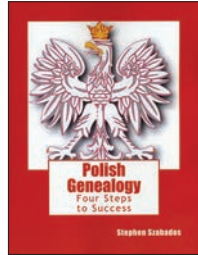


Garden in America
by Stephen Szabados
\$14.95 / Item 2-218
61 pp., b&w photos
2015

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

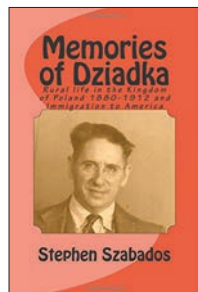
This book asks questions about her fears when growing up, immigrating to America, and making her new life. How did she face these fears? How did she overcome them? Szabados said by searching for answers, he found new insights about his grandmother.

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



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

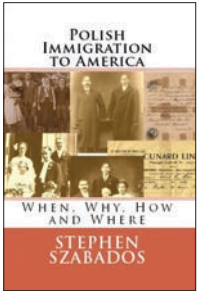
This book is designed to give the researcher the tools needed to research their Polish ancestors and find possible answers to the origins of their Polish heritage. The book outlines a simple process that will identify where your ancestors were born and where to find their Polish records. Traditional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



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

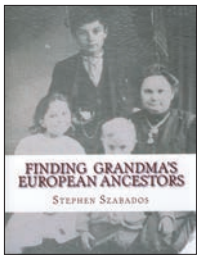
Item 2-670
pb. 134 pp.

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



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

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



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

This is a "must have" book for the family historian who wants to identify their European heritage. The author draws from his research experiences to describe how to find the resources available; first to find out where your ancestors were born in Europe, and then find the records. This revised edition covers genealogical research for most European countries and includes detailed steps that will help you find the records that you need. The author uses his experiences to give tips on what to avoid and what works; how to find and use critical records; and how to use translating guides to decipher the foreign-language records.

FOLKLORE



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

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

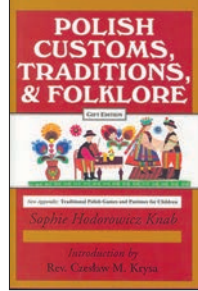
An apple tree in the Slavic tale, "The Fruit of Everlasting Youth," evokes the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden. The ages of man described by the Fate Sisters are quite similar to the ancient "Riddle of the Sphinx." A snake impedes the function of the Tree of Everlasting Youth, again reminiscent of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



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

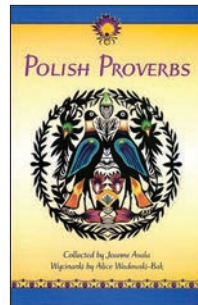
\$14.95
ACTA Publications
2017, p.b., 106 pp., 5x7 in.

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



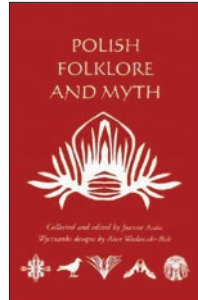
POLISH CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS & FOLKLORE
\$24.95
Item 2-643
by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab
340 pp., hc.

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



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

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



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

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

HISTORY



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

A substantially revised and updated edition

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

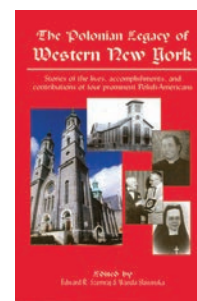
THE MAGNIFICENT 100



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

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

THE POLONIAN LEGACY OF WESTERN NEW YORK



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

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

MARTIN TRILOGY

PUSH NOT THE RIVER

Book 1 of Martin's Poland Trilogy
\$15.95
Item 2-609

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

AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY (Book 2)

\$15.95
Item 2-610

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

THE WARSAW CONSPIRACY (Book 3)

\$17.99
508 pp., pb.
Item 2-611
Portraying two brothers in love and war, *The Warsaw Conspiracy* completes the trilogy. You need not have read the others to enjoy this family saga set against the November Rising (1830-1831). With Siberia or emigration heart-rending contingencies, matriarchs Anna and Zofia attempt to steer the clan through ever-muddying waters.

GENEALOGY

Passenger Lists: The Arrival of Your Ancestors

by Stephen M. Szabados

The story of the arrival in America of your ancestors tells of a crucial event in your family history. With their arrival, they joined the many immigrants who came before and after them and become part of a significant segment of American history. Most U.S. citizens are descendants of immigrants, and our ancestors contributed to the tremendous growth America enjoyed in its early years in Virginia and New England and continued through the post World War II housing boom. The industrial growth in the 1900s could not have happened without the immigrants because of their labors building and working the farms, railroads and the factories.

Most early immigration records were from ships' logs and many showed only cargo, but some also list arriving passengers. However, many of these early records are missing because there was no uniform national policy to

the handling of the ship manifests until 1819 when the U.S. Congress passed the Steerage Act. The National Archives store the surviving U.S. passenger lists, and most of them have been microfilmed, digitized, and indexed.

The Steerage Act of 1819 required the captain or master of all ships arriving in America to deliver a passenger manifest to a federal official. Early formats for the passenger manifest after the Steerage Act listed the passenger's name, age, gender, occupation, what country they left and the destination country.

After 1893, officials gradually expanded the format, and in late 1907 the manifests became two pages. This larger format gave more details for the inspectors to evaluate the fitness of the immigrants to be allowed admittance to the United States. The longer list now gives genealogists a treasure of family information. The records listed marital status, last residence, the ability to read or write, final destination in the United States,

the name of friend or relative in the United States, the name of a relative where they left, mother tongue, if they had previously been in the United States, their physical description and their birthplace.

Passenger manifests will list one to four town names depending on the year of immigration. I have found that the town names listed have been very helpful in my research, but the spelling of the names usually presents problems. Most immigrants were illiterate, so their information is generally entered on the document phonetically. Illiteracy led to many misspellings, but if we remember the recorder wrote the names phonetically, the name should still prove helpful.

Passenger manifests from the ships help document the arrival of your ancestors and may give you valuable information of where they left and where they were going to America. Finding the passenger manifest will also answer the critical question of whether they were traveling alone, with their family, or

with relatives and friends.

Please remember that most of the information listed on the passenger records is not primary and may contain errors. However, it should be used as clues to find other documents and many facts found on the manifests can add rich facts to your family history such as the name of the ship, where they left, where and when they arrived and who arrived with them. The passenger list is the document that shows when your ancestors planted your family roots in America. Next month, I will discuss how and where to find these wonderful documents.

Be patient and remember to have fun looking for your family history.

◆ ◆ ◆

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

THE PONDERING POLE

Where is the Polish Architectural Capital?

by Edward Poniewaz

If this were *Jeopardy!*, the question would be: What is Gliwice?

In the December of 2014 edition of *A Foreigner's Guide to Polish Architecture*, author Anna Cymer explores a number of perspectives on the history, state, and styles of architecture present in Poland. There are eight chapters in this rather long piece, but the one that I was most interested in, the area that had the most to offer, is the region of Silesia and especially the city of Gliwice. Says Anna Cymer:

Tracing the development of Polish architecture in the 20th and 21st centuries, one can easily notice that it is neither the Warsaw nor the Kraków area that boasts the

most interesting endeavors, but the southwestern region of Silesia. This is where the architectural heart of Poland beats the quickest. It is the home of some of the best Polish talents in the field, and a region where numerous projects by renowned architects were also realized.

The Architecture Department of the Silesian Polytechnic was founded in 1945, with its headquarters in the city of Gliwice. For years, the school in Gliwice has been known to educate the most talented among Polish architects, always employing the most modern and innovative trends in its program.

There are a number of possible

reasons that this part of Poland emerged as a hub for quantity and creativity in building after World War II. Ethnically, Silesia was shared German/Polish before the war, so the amount of destruction was less intense than in other more predominantly Polish sectors and therefore many historical structures were spared in cities such as Gliwice, Bytom, and Zabrze.

And because of the incredible decimation of the Polish economy during the war, and since mining was still an intact and viable industry in this region, the communist authorities used this area to showcase the new modern socialist community. With that new "worker" came new living quarters and other structures to go along with the new ideology or counter-ideology in the case of the number of Catholic churches constructed in defiance to that movement.

The Spodek stadium in Katowice is an example to accommodate the secular masses and the Church of the Holy Spirit in Tychy, Church of Christ the Redeemer in Czecho-wice Dziedzice, and the Church of Divine Charity in Krakow represented conspicuous shrines opposing communist dominance. Cymer mentions a number of the outstanding architects such as Tomasz Konior, Robert Konieczny, Stanislaw Kwasniewicz, and Stanislaw Niemczyk leading the way in these and other projects.

The television stations are loaded with shows about all kinds of home and building design and I love watching them. This article presents another twist on that theme. You will learn something reading this article.

POLISH OR NOT? Now available on Netflix, *Springsteen on Broadway*. Over the years there have been hints that the Pondering Pole is a big-time Springsteen fan. Actually I have been one since *Born to Run* debuted while I was in college.

In *On Broadway*, Springsteen talks about his life on the Jersey Shore and the people and places that formed him personally and professionally. Two of those people influencing his rock n' roll awakening were **Walter** and **Raymond Cichon** (pronounced "she-shown" by Bruce). Says "The Boss":



PHOTO: DAVID CICHON, VMAE

Springsteen admired the Motifs in the 1960s, calling Walter (standing, far left) and Raymond (standing, second from right) Cichon "gods." Walter Cichon was drafted at 21 and went missing in action on March 30, 1968 in the Kontum province of South Vietnam. Raymond Cichon, also an Army veteran, died in 1980, at age 36.

"And it made me think about my own friends from back home. Walter Cichon. Walter Cichon was the greatest rock n' roll front man on the Jersey Shore in the bar band '60s. He was in a group called the Motifs, and he was the first real rock star that I ever laid my eyes on. He just had it in his bones. He had it in his blood. It was in the way that he carried himself. On stage, he just was deadly. He was raw and sexual and dangerous, and in our little area he taught us, by the way that he lived, that you could live your life the way you chose.

"Walter had a guitar-playing brother, Raymond. Raymond was tall, tall, kind of a sweetly clumsy guy; one of those big guys who just aren't comfortable with his size ... Raymond was my guitar hero. He was just a shoe salesman in the day. And, uh, Walter, I think, worked construction. They were only a little bit older than we were ... never had any national hit records, never did any big tours, but they were gods to me. And the hours I spent standing in front of their band, studying, studying, class in session. Night after night, watching Ray's fingers fly

over the fretboard, and Walter would scare the ()out of half the crowd. Oh man, they were essential to my development as a young musician. I learned so much from Walter and from Ray. And my dream, my dream was I just wanted to play like Ray and walk like Walter."*

While Cichon is a known Polish name, I'd like to confirm Springsteen's Walter and Ray were Polish.


POMIDORY (CZY TOMATUSY?)

Depending where you live, Spring is here (or just around the corner) so send in your seed order for the "Polish Tomato." Check out the book *Epic Tomatoes: How to Select and Grow the Best Varieties of All Time*, where the author Craig Lehoullier "states that 'Polish'...will always hold a special place in my tomato-themed heart..."

◆ ◆ ◆

If you have a thought about this month's topic, have a question, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; email alinabrig@yahoo.com.

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




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If interested, kindly airmail a \$19 personal or bank (cashier's) check or money order (adding \$14 for each additional surname you wish to have researched) to Polonia's long-standing Warsaw correspondent and name researcher: Robert Strybel, ul. Kanio-wska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

Each order includes a genealogical contact sheet to help check your family records in Poland, track down ancestral homesteads and graves or possibly even turn up long-lost relatives. For more information please contact: resarch60@gmail.com.



THE NIEZGODA COAT OF ARMS was shared by the nobles of several dozen Polish families including: Baranowski, Klonicki, Uderski, Niezgodna, Bujewicz, Prażnicki, Grochocki, Lewandowski, Gorsek, Łętowski, Tracewski Marynowski, Bugwicz, Nutowć, Minkowski, Naganowski, Radziszowski, and Zdramowicz.

OBITUARIES

CIA Officer David Forden

Operative in Cold War Espionage Worked with Col. Ryszard Kukliński

WASHINGTON, D.C. — David Forden, who served as a U.S. liaison in Poland during the Cold War, is dead at the age of 88.

The cooperation between the Forden and Poland's Colonel Ryszard Kukliński provided Washington with the most productive and significant intelligence of the Cold War.

Kukliński feared Poland might be drawn into a nuclear war in Europe, incinerated as a buffer zone for the Kremlin. Motivated by disgust at the Soviet domination of Poland and its military, the Polish officer had begun spying for the Americans.

Meetings between the two began in the early 1970s. Forden became his CIA case officer and confidant, and guided Kukliński's espionage, especially in its first years. The work of a case officer in managing an agent, especially in "denied areas" of the Cold War such as Poland, meant operating in a tense environment of near-constant surveillance. The case officer had to develop trust with the agent, become a friend and confessor, and serve as the agent's adviser and protector, while providing equipment, training and feedback, and



Forden



Kukliński

reporting frequently back to headquarters.

Last year in a statement on the anniversary of Kukliński's death, Forden wrote that thanks to the Polish colonel, the United States received intelligence information that allowed them to distinguish between military exercises and the escalation of hostilities in the War-

saw Pact countries.

He recalled the two of them "clicked immediately" upon meeting each other. "Time was short," Forden said. "We took off our jackets, rolled up our sleeves and got down to work."

It was Kukliński who reached out the CIA. "Long before I met him, Kukliński had already decided that Poland deserved to be a free state and that there was only one country that could help achieve that goal — the United States," said Forden.

Forden died Feb. 12 in Alexandria, Virginia of complications of Alzheimer's disease, said his daughter Sara Gay Forden.

—Composed from New York Times, Washington Post, and Gazeta.pl reports.

Jan Olszewski, Former Polish Prime Minister

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW — Former Polish Prime Minister Jan Olszewski passed away in Warsaw after losing consciousness in his home. He was 88.

A sterling patriot throughout his lifetime, at 14 he fought in the 1944 Warsaw Uprising as part of the *Szare Szeregi* (Gray Ranks) Senior Scouts unit.

As a lawyer in communist Poland, he defended students, dissidents, and workers arrested for striking. Olszewski also represented the family of slain pro-Solidarity priest Father Jerzy Popiełuszko at the trial of his three secret-police murderers. He was an adviser to Solidarity, and took part in the roundtable that paved the way to Poland's independence.

The leader of the conservative political grouping *Ruch Odbudowy Polski* (Poland Rebuilding Movement), Olszewski headed Poland's first fully non-communist postwar government, which was short-lived but far-sighted. It was Olszewski who first set Poland on the path to NATO and European Union membership. By the same token, he strongly opposed then president Lech Wałęsa's plan to turn former Soviet bases in Poland into Russo-

Polish joint-venture companies, which would have perpetuated Moscow's foothold in Poland.

Olszewski also opposed the wholesale sell-off of Polish commerce and industry to foreign-interest groups that was turning Poland into a neo-colonial economy.

But Olszewski was best known for throwing open classified files to expose paid informers of the communist secret police. Wałęsa, who was among those listed, rallied a group of collaborating MPs to vote the then six-month-old Olszewski cabinet out of office. That pivotal event set the stage for the ever-deepening divide, sometimes called the Polish-Polish War, which has poisoned Polish politics ever since.

Following Olszewski's death, politicians from across the political spectrum paid homage to the late prime minister, who was given a state funeral. They included former prime minister Donald Tusk, now chairman of the European Council.

"Sad news has come from Warsaw. Jan Olszewski has died. A courageous defender in political trials and a participant in the Solidarity movement. A good man. May he rest in peace," Tusk wrote on Twitter.

Theresa Wozniak, Vibrant Chicago Hostess

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO —

Stanley Wozniak, Sr., her future father-in-law, first met Theresa Kubinski in Poland right after World War II. He thought she was pretty, smart, and experienced from working at a ski resort in Zakopane, Poland, and would be a good fit for the Wozniak hospitality business.

After meeting Theresa in her hometown of Wieliczka, Stanley Wozniak, Sr. sponsored her to come to America. He thought she'd be a perfect match for his son, Stanley Jr., a polka musician who played with Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones and Marion Lush & the Musical Stars.

According to Theresa's cousin-in-law, Sophie Francis, when Theresa met the late Stanley, Jr., she was smitten and liked what she saw. "She was happy," Francis said, "She fell in love with him."

Mrs. Wozniak passed away on December 10 from respiratory failure. She was 82.

Theresa Kubinski Wozniak ran the famed Wozniak Lounge and Banquet Hall on South Blue Island



Kurt Russell, Theresa Wozniak, and Ron Howard during the filming of "Backdraft."

Avenue in Chicago's Lower West Side for over 40 years. It had a 10-lane bowling alley in the basement, and an outdoor beer garden that could host 3,000 people. Stanley, Sr. had started the original Wozniak Lounge on West 19th Street in the 1930s, and went on to open the Blue Island Avenue location in the early 1950s. The Lounge closed around 1992.

In 1991, when Hollywood director Ron Howard directed his film "Backdraft" in Chicago, he selected Wozniak's Lounge for a party scene in the movie. While he was in Chicago, Theresa became his children's babysitter. She later received cast member credit for being the polka dancer in another movie "Men Don't Leave." It was in this movie that Theresa convinced Jessica Lange to dance the polka.

She regularly hosted a variety of events at Wozniak Lounge including bingo nights, boxing tournaments, and the crowning of Miss Polish America and Polish Freedom queens. A true star, she was never intimidated by crowds. Her son, Stanley Wozniak III, recalls that his mother once hosted a wedding for 700 people and another Polish Highlander wedding, which had 38 bridesmaids and 38 groomsmen.

Mrs. Wozniak is survived by two other sons, Andrew and Richard, seven grandchildren, and her companion Roman Mytnik.



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John Dingell, Longest-Serving Member of U.S. Congress

DETROIT — Former U.S. Rep. John Dingell, who served in the U.S. House for 59 years before retiring in 2014 — the longest-serving member of Congress in American history — died at home at age 92.

Dingell, whose grandfather Anglicized the family name from Dzieglewicz, served under every president from Eisenhower to Obama.

He was dubbed "Big John" for his imposing 6-foot-3 frame and sometimes intimidating manner, a reputation bolstered by the wild game heads decorating his Washington office.

Dingell was a longtime supporter of universal health care, a cause he adopted from his late father, whom he replaced in Congress in 1955. He also was known as a dogged pursuer of government waste and fraud, and even helped take down two

top presidential aides while leading the investigative arm of the powerful House Energy and Commerce Committee, which he chaired for 14 years.

Dingell had a front-row seat for the passage of landmark legislation he supported, including Medicare, the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act, but also for the Clean Air Act, which he was accused of stalling to help auto interests. His hometown, the Detroit suburb of Dearborn, was home to a Ford Motor Co. factory that was once the largest in the world.

One of his proudest moments came in 2010, when he sat next to Obama as the \$938 billion health care overhaul was signed into law. Dingell had introduced a universal health care coverage bill in each of his terms.

Dingell often used his dry wit to amuse his friends and sting opponents, but critics called him overpowering and intimidating, a reputation boosted by the head of a 500-pound wild boar that looked at visitors to his Washington office. Dingell is said to have felled the animal with a pistol as it charged him during a hunting trip in Soviet Georgia.

The avid hunter and sportsman also loved classical music and ballet. Born in Colorado Springs, Colo., he grew up in Michigan, where his father was elected to Congress as a "New Deal" Democrat in 1932. After a brief stint in the Army near the end of World War II, the younger Dingell earned his bachelor's and law degrees from Georgetown University.

Following the sudden death of his father in 1955, Dingell — then a 29-year-old attorney — won a special election to succeed him.

The newly elected politician was no stranger to the Capitol. Dingell was serving as a page on the House floor when President Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan on Dec. 8, 1941. In college, he supervised the building's elevator operators.

When he became the longest-serving U.S. House member in history in 2009, Dingell recalled entering the chamber for the first time as a six-year-old and being in awe of the East door.

"I had never been in a place like this. I was a working-class kid from a Polish neighborhood in Detroit, and this was quite an event for me," Dingell told Time magazine at the time. "I've only begun in later years to appreciate what it all meant."

— From AP, TIME, Detroit Free Press, and Washington Post articles.

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DANCE TIME

Polka Fans Come to the Aid of Those in Need

by Jennifer Pijanowski

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Variety Club, the children's charity of Buffalo & Western New York hosted a polka night featuring **The Buffalo Touch**. Polka fans, Variety Club members, charity supporters, and many children joined in the event for a successful night of fun, dancing and fellowship.

Money raised throughout the evening will be used to help Variety Club continue their mission which is to transform, uplift, and enrich the lives of sick, disabled, and disadvantaged children in Western New York. Keeping us hydrated during the evening was a group of bartenders, one of which was Bob Buyea, who is the proud father of the 2018 celebrity child Jackson.

Words cannot describe the love and dedication that the members of Variety Club put into raising money that stays local to kids who need it in the Buffalo area.

Another great highlight of the evening was when my husband Rick realized that he had played the parents' wedding of one of Variety's officers. After almost 30 years, we got to catch up with not only that couple, but another couple whose wedding he had played, as well. It is such a small world and polka music continues to bless us with new friendships that nurture our lives. We both had an unforgettable time chatting with the Gawron and Fronczak families who we hope to see at other events soon.

Polka bands joined forces to raise money for **Jessica Cameron**, a local 25-year-old mom who's recovering from severe burns. Community members in attendance helped to raise over \$2500 toward medical bills for Jessica. Congratulations and thank you to **Ricky Krew** who organized this event and brought the polka community together to help a fellow Western New Yorker. Admission, 50/50 raffles, and door prize raffles were some of the ways

in which the donation was reached.

All the bands involved donated their time, and did a wonderful job entertaining the audience. Thanks to: **Buffalo Concertina All Stars, Buffalo Touch, Special Delivery, Phocus**, and DJ **Kenny Krew** for the nonstop entertainment and high energy throughout the day.

Longtime friends of the Krew Family, the Litwins, took the opportunity to attend this worthwhile event and celebrate dad Joe Litwin's 60th birthday. Thanks again to Ricky Krew for his generosity and support of this family during their tragic time.

WINTER IS NOT A PROBLEM. Cold temperatures and snow did not keep fans away from three events held on the same day during January's National Polka Month.

The Broadway Market was home to the "Polka, Piwo and Pierogi"



JESSICA CAMERON BENEFIT (l. to r.): Joey Litwin; Erin Holstein; Chi-Chi Hoelscher; Trevor Litwin; Joe Litwin, Jr.; Paula Litwin; Gary Litwin; Christina Litwin (holding Eliza Litwin), and Joe Litwin

event featuring the **Buffalo Touch**. Market-goers danced off the calories to the music of the Touch as it echoed through the landmark building. It is always fun to watch as shoppers stop by and cannot help but sway and tap their toes to a few songs before moving on to finish their shopping. Pierogi from several vendors were available for purchase and the amazing smell wafted as each vendor freshly prepared them.



AT THE BROADWAY MARKET: (l. to r.): Kevin Pilarski, Michael Szafranski, and Beverly McLean.

Kevin Pilarski, Michael Szafranski, and Beverly McLean were bustling as they served Polish beer to thirsty patrons enjoying the event. You could see bottles of Tyskie and Żywiec being savored on a cold winter Saturday, while appreciating the warmth of the Market. It is delightful to see events such as

getting the audience involved and on their feet. **John Gora** provided the music and, as always, wasted no time in getting the crowd engaged with his personality. Making his way through the crowd playing the accordion encouraged the delightful atmosphere. Money raised during this event benefitted Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School.

After St. Stan's, I moved on to watch **New Direction** at The Firehouse. The Firehouse is a wonderful corner tavern located in Kaisertown, an area at the Buffalo-Cheektowaga border. The local watering hole has been hosting a free Saturday night polka event for the past several months, so I was happy to stop by and check it out. **New Direction** played as fans enjoyed watching them in dimly lit back room and bar standers could enjoy while sitting at the bar. It's a match made in heaven when local taverns host polka bands, as the small spaces lend themselves to a friendly atmosphere. I enjoyed seeing patrons at the bar enjoying the music and singing along to their favorites. To can see upcoming dates at the tavern, visit **New Direction's** website thenewdirectionband.com.

A GREAT CLUB. The **Buffalo Polka Booster's** begins its 49th year supporting local polka music. You can become a part of this social group by joining at its monthly meetings, held on the third Wednesday of every month at Polish Falcons, 445 Columbia Ave. in Depew. It is an \$8.00 annual fee to join, and \$7.00

admission to the meeting. Events begin at 8:00 p.m. with music, light refreshments, free beer, and pop with your paid admission. There is an annual picnic in the summer and a holiday dinner held in December as a part of this well-attended club.

To learn more, visit its Facebook page for upcoming events or contact club president Chris Tanski at (716) 771-1076.

CELEBRATE BRUEGGEN'S INDUCTION. The International Polka Association inducted **Gary Brueggen** into its Hall of Fame during its convention last September. Now fans from his hometown area will have the opportunity to congratulate and celebrate with Gary at The IPA Hall of Fame Induction Dance, Sun., March 31, 2019.

The event takes place at the Rib River Ballroom 3237 E. State Hwy 29 in Marathon, Wisc. Admission is just \$10.00 and music will be provided by Gary's Ridgeland Dutchman from 1:00-5:00 p.m.

As anyone lucky enough to see him perform will tell you, Brueggen's talent is unsurpassed. A master of the concertina and drums, he is also proficient and self-taught on the piano, button box, tuba, trumpet, and valve trombone.

In addition to an astounding number of accomplishments in the polka world, he and his family are the nicest people you could ever know. This is sure to be an outstanding event honoring a superb musician and a true gentleman.

MARCH POLKA BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays courtesy Li'l John's Polka Show, WAVL Radio 910 AM and 98.7 FM, Saturday 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., and on the web at www.987jack.fm. Live streaming at www.PA_Talk.com. For information, write to: 121 Seminole Dr., Greensburg, PA 15601; (724) 834-7871; 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 / 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 Mleczo		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Michigan
18	Jeff Dyl		Polka DJ	Massachusetts
19	Stas Ogrodny	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 2019	Musician / Arranger	Florida
29	Bobby Shutty	1952	Musician (Carousels)	Pennsylvania
30	Rick Pijanowski	1959	Musician / Vocalist	Buffalo, N.Y.
31	Judy Stringhill		Musician / Vocalist / Promoter	Pennsylvania
31	John Krizancic	1929 4-25-2009	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / Polka DJ	Hermitage, Pa.

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POLKA CALENDAR

Compiled by John Ziobrowski

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

MARCH 2

- The Knewz. Potts Banquet Hall Buffalo, N.Y. 7-11 (716) 675-6588
- The Boys. Polish Cultural Foundation Clark, N.J. (201) 694-2330
- Jimmy K. Our lady of Scapular Wyandotte, Mich. 7-11

MARCH 3

- Special Delivery. Holy Mother of the Rosary Paczki Day. Lancaster, N.Y. 2-6 (716) 983-5084
- Dennis Polisky. VFW New Britain, Conn. 1-5 (860) 828-6231
- The Boys. PAV Pine Island, N.Y. 2-6 (845) 344-1312
- Polka All Stars. Polish Club Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5 (386) 258-7059
- Fla. Honky Band. Polish Club St. Petersburg, Fla. 2-5 (727) 894-9908
- Jeannie Music. PASC Hudson, Fla. 2-5 (727) 868-9763
- Joe Stanky. VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 472-1152

MARCH 9

- Box On. Pulaski Club Holiday, Fla. 4-7:30 (727) 848-7826
- The Boys. PACC Ludlow, Mass. 7-11 (413) 592-0367

MARCH 10

- Dennis Polisky / Lenny Gomulka / Eddie Forman PACC Ludlow, Mass. 2-7 (908) 963-0890
- Melotones. Polish Club Belleview, Fla. 2-5 (352) 873-2964
- Sounds of The South. Polish Club Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5 (386) 258-7059
- Polka All Stars. Polish Club St. Petersburg, Fla. 2-5 (727) 894-9908
- Jeannie Music. PASC Hudson, Fla. 2-5 (727) 868-9763
- Box On. Moose Lodge Vero Beach,

- Fla. 2-5 (772) 643-5822
- Buffalo Touch. Clinton Bar & Grill Buffalo, N.Y. 5:30

MARCH 15

- Box On. Ellie's 50 Dinner Delray Beach, Fla. 5-10 (561) 276-1570

MARCH 16

- Polka All Stars. Backyard Winery Wildwood, Fla. 5-8 (352) 418-7887
- Button Box Band. Aunt Maggie's Columbia, Ill. 6-9 (618) 281-7894
- Eddie Forman. St. Joseph Polish Society Colchester, Conn. 6-10 (860) 537-2550
- John Gora. Pulaski Club Phoenix, Ariz. (602) 275-9329
- Lenny Gomulka. Holy Spirit Party Ctr. Parma, Ohio. 7-11 (440) 884-8452

MARCH 17

- Northern Lites. Polish Club Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5(386) 258-7059
- Nu Soundz. Polish Club St. Petersburg, Fla. 3-6 (727) 894-9908
- Jeannie Music. PASC Hudson, Fla. 2-5 (727) 868-9763
- John Gora. Pulaski Club Phoenix, Ariz. (602) 275-9329
- Lenny Gomulka. Polish Falcons Mt. Pleasant, Pa. 3-7 (724) 574-8962

MARCH 18

- Dennis Polisky. Public Library Indian Orchard, Mass. noon

MARCH 24

- The Knewz. Irish Center Buffalo, N.Y. 3-8 (716) 825-9535
- Polka Classics. Polish Club Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5 (386) 258-7059
- Northern Sounds. Polish Club St. Petersburg, Fla. 3-6 (727) 894-9908
- Jeannie Music. PASC Hudson, Fla. 2-5 (727) 868-9763
- Lenny Gomulka. Polish Club South Deerfield, Mass. 2-6 (413) 665-8735

MARCH 29

- Dennis Polisky. Oglebay Resort Wheeling WV 3-12 (304) 243-4064

MARCH 30

- Dennis Polisky. Oglebay Resort Wheeling WV 3-12 (304) 243-4064

MARCH 31

- Stephanie. PACC Ludlow Ma 2:30-6:30 (413) 592-0367
- Polka All Stars. Polish Club Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5 (386) 258-7059
- Sounds of The South. Polish Club St. Petersburg, Fla. 2-5 (727) 894-9908
- Nu Soundz. Pulaski Club Holiday, Fla. 2:30-5:30 (727) 848-7826
- Jeannie Music. PASC Hudson, Fla. 2-5 (727) 868-9763
- Joe Stanky. VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 472-1152

APRIL 5-7

- Holy Toledo Polka Days. Renaissance Hotel Toledo, Ohio. (419) 351-5031
- Walt Ostanek / Joe Stanky / Jimmy Sturr / Polka Quads / Polka Method Villa Roma Resort Callicoon, N.Y. (800) 724-0727

APRIL 6

- Special Delivery. Buffalo Distilling Buffalo, N.Y. (716) 254-3610
- The Boys. Polish Club Uniontown, Pa. 6-10 (724) 557-7771

APRIL 7

- Special Delivery. Broadway Market Buffalo, N.Y. 12-3 (716) 893-0705
- Eddie Forman. PACC Ludlow, Mass. 2:30-6:30 (413) 592-0367
- Polka Country Musicians. Slovenian Hall Yukon, Pa. (724) 722-9700.

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POLKA POLONIA

Polka Musicians Database Up and Running Again

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The **Polka Musicians Database**, an on-line reference library for polka musicians, fans, and collectors, is active once again.

The listing, initiated by *Polish American Journal* editor Mark Kohan and former *Polka Magazine* editor Steve Litwin, is an alphabetical listing of "just about anyone who has ever played a polka, and submitted the information."

The PAJ asked for a volunteer to help in the re-construction of the database, and Joe Kiwak (EFO Webmaster) from Massachusetts stepped up.

Musicians, their friends, and their family members are encouraged to submit their bios to the database by going to the polamjournal.com, and clicking on the PMDB box on the bottom right of the PAJ's home page at polamjournal.com.

Once on the website, you have a choice of printing the PMDB form, or submitting the information online.

In addition to birth place and date, information being documented includes instruments played, orchestras and bands the artist performed with, honors and awards, and a discography.

"We are hoping to eventually cross-reference this with other polka and Polish American websites and databases," said Kohan. "Ideally, you will be able to click on an artist's recording and hear a sample of their work, or view photos or videos of them on stage."

The PMDB will eventually be transferred to the PAJ's website, said Kohan. "We are extremely grateful to Joe for the work he did to resurrect the database, which was taken down a few years ago."

"We hope to create a permanent record of the tens of thousands of musicians who have played and recorded polka music in the United States and Canada since the turn of the last century," he continued. "We are counting on today's musicians and the relatives of those who have passed, to help us preserve their memory."

There is no charge to submit information to the site.

For more information or questions about the Polka Musicians Database, contact Joe at joe-k@earthlink.net.

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Thursday

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

Friday

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

- The Derrick Ziegenbein Band

Saturday

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

Sunday

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

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EVENTS

Community Events

- Community Night
- Fireworks
- Polish Food & Souvenirs

Saturday Events

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

Sunday Events

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

CONTACT

General Information

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

Camping

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

Parade Information

- Wayne @ 920-822-5456



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- KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
- PULASKI FFA ALUMNI & FFA
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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



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 CD and Holidays Book



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



Book - Polish Holidays: An Introduction
By Peter Zaremba
This introductory guide to Polish holidays is both informative and fun. This book contains: information, recipes, photographs, songs and more! 8.5" x 5.5", 28 pages.
#BK2573 - \$9.95

Easter Eggs



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




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

Religious Gifts



Polish Language Prayer Book
Great pocket sized prayer book in Polish with large print, making it easy to read. This is a thoughtful gift for a family member, or friend. Hardcover book, Measures: 3" x 4.5" x 1", 308 pages, index, Polish Language Version
#BK2292 - \$19.95



St. Joseph Silver Plated Rosary Box
Handcrafted by a Polish metal smith artist, this round lime tree rosary box features a silver plated image of St. Joseph holding the baby Jesus. Handcrafted using traditional techniques and natural materials. Measures: 2.75" D x 1.9" H
#ARP465 - \$19.95



Our Lady of Lourdes
Resin statue - 6" H.
#435176 - \$19.95



Immaculate Heart
Resin statue - 8" H.
#435177 - \$19.95



Our Lady of Grace
Resin statue - 7.75" H.
#435178 - \$19.95

Polish Apparel and Gifts



Polska on White Eagle
One size fits most with adjustable Velcro strap.
#4358091 - \$24.95



Polska & White Eagle
One size fits most with adjustable Velcro strap.
#4358093 - \$24.95



Hussar Embroidered Polo Shirt
Made from a wrinkle resistant special poly/cotton blend that is soft to the touch and reduces shrinkage. 65% polyester, 35% cotton pique. Available on wine color shirts in sizes S - 2XL.
#8202M265 WNE - \$24.95

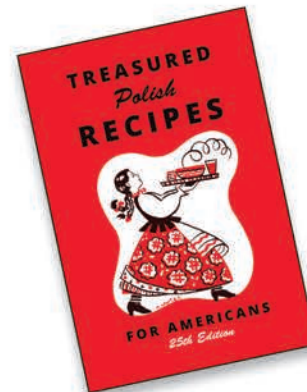


Embroidered Eagle - Adult Apron
Show off your Polish Pride with this ready to wear White Eagle embroidered apron. Ultra Club 2 Pocket 28" long Apron: 9 oz. 65% cotton twill, 35% polyester
#8204APR - \$24.95

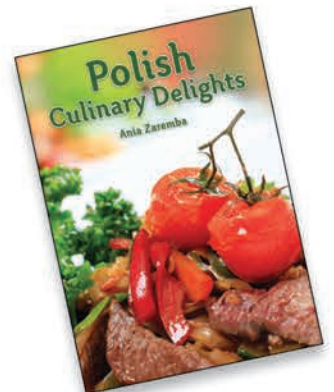


Witamy (Welcome) Doormat
A very durable doormat made of natural fibers in a light beige color that has a flexible non-skid bottom layer. 15.75" x 23.6".
#435015 - \$29.95

Cook Books



Treasured Polish Recipes for Americans, 25th Edition
The Original Polish Cookbook for Americans! Edited by Marie Sokolowski and Irene Jasinski. Illustrated by Stanley Legun. 475 Recipes. Hard Cover. 5.5" x 8.7", 172 pages. English Language Version. Printed in Poland.
#BK2364 - \$19.95



Polish Culinary Delights
Over 175 traditional and unique Polish recipes inside, including those created by author Ania Zaremba and her family. Contains full color photographs and an easy to use index. Soft Cover. 6.5" x 9.25", 224 pages. English Language Version Printed in Poland.
#BK2572 - \$19.95



Lowicz Folk Art Umbrellas
Black polyester umbrella with traditional wycinanki folk art designs from the Lowicz region. Made with a strong fiberglass frame. Long: 35" in diameter, 35" tall, Folding: 41" in diameter, 23" tall.
#4351617 - Long Umbrella - \$39.95
#4351618 - Folding Umbrella - \$45.95



Zalipian Folk Art Glass Case
Features a blue Zalipian design across both the case and included microfiber cloth. Measures: 6.5" wide.
#4351619 - \$19.95