

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN CULTURE

ESTABLISHED 1911

MARCH 2020 • VOL. 109, NO. 3 • \$2.25

www.polamjournal.com



POLISH FILM STARS DURING HOLLYWOOD'S GOLDEN AGE PAGE 7

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TATRA EAGLE INDEXED FOR RESEARCHERS • GENEALOGISTS TO THE RESCUE • TOMBSTONE RECOVERY IN LVIV
MINNESOTA'S 160-YEAR KASHUBIAN LEGACY • LENARD'S RENAISSANCE KANAPKI • AND NOW, HERE'S JENNY!

NEWSMARK

Election set for May 10

Poland will elect its next president to a five-year term on Sunday, May 10, Marshal (speaker) of the Sejm Elżbieta Witek announced. Incumbent Andrzej Duda is the front-runner so far, with the public backing of 44 percent of Poles. In second place is the liberal opposition's Małgorzata Kidawa-Błońska with 24 percent. Several minor candidates enjoy only single-digit support, surveys have shown. A candidate who gets over 50 percent of the vote on election day becomes president. Under Polish law, if no contender wins over half the vote, a second round will be held two weeks later, on May 24th.

F-35 Fighters to Cost \$4.6 Billion

Poland signed a \$4.6 billion transaction to obtain a fleet of 32 U.S.-built state-of-the-art F-35 fighter jets to replace the antiquated Soviet-era SU-22 and MiG-29 warplanes still used by the Polish Air Force.

"This project will strongly contribute to strengthening Polish-U.S. relations," President Andrzej Duda said.

As a deterrent to Russia's periodic saber-rattling, Poland has done much in recent years to beef up its defenses, mainly with American military hardware. This has included a \$4.75 billion purchase of Patriot missile-defense systems, said to be the largest defense deal in Polish history, and a HIMARS medium-range missile system for \$414 million. American Blackhawk helicopters are now being built in Poland.

Close Call

None of the Poles evacuated from the Chinese city of Wuhan — which became the center of global attention after the coronavirus spread over its streets in the latter part of January — were infected, said Col. Wojciech Tański of the Military Clinical Hospital in Wrocław, Poland.

Two military aircraft with 30 Poles returning from Wuhan landed at Wrocław airport, and were taken to hospital for examination, observation, and quarantine.

According to the airport's sanitary services, there were no people with suspected infectious diseases among the passengers, who were taken to an isolated hospital ward, specially adapted for observation.

To Benefit from Space Research

Polish companies will benefit from research and development in Europe's growing space market. Poland's Space Agency is part of the European Surveillance and Tracking Consortium, which predicts, detects, and records movements of space debris orbiting the Earth. This orbiting debris threatens efforts of space research scientists.

In addition to having a representative from Poland on the Consortium Board, Polish sensors and telescopes are in use in the surveillance of space and in the clean-up efforts.

Elder Statesman

Poland is in the running for its second "European Tree of the Year" award. The annual contest, initiated in 2011, does not emphasize size, beauty or age, but instead each tree's story and its connection to the people in its location. An online vote determines the winner and results are announced in March at a ceremony in Brussels.

Poland won the award in 2017. A Polish oak, nicknamed Józef (Joseph), growing in the village of Wiśniowa in southeast Poland—was voted European Tree of the Year, receiving 17,597 votes from people in 16 countries.

Poland's entry in the contest for the title of "European Tree of the Year 2020" is a 200-year-old European Elder growing in the southeastern city of Rzeszów. It is believed that the tree was part of a park that once belonged to the Lubomirski family, one of the most well-known and aristocratic families in Poland's long history.

Survey Says: Gorale



THE BOBEK FAMILY — Jeff, Matt, Danuta, Daniel, and Jan — were contestants on *The Family Feud* in their Gorale (Polish Highlander) attire. They are members of is Kapela Hajducy from Chicago. Hosted by Steve Harvey (center), *Family Feud* ranks in the top-10 highest-rated programs in all of daytime television programming, and third among game shows.

The Bobeks decided to try out for the show when they heard auditions were being held in Chicago. Jan, who served as the team captain, told family members "if we are going to do this, then we are going full out." They passed the first two rounds of the audition process and were told to expect a call from the producers. Within a few months, the Bobeks were invited to Los Angeles for the taping. Airfare, lodging, and meals were courtesy of the game show.

While Jan could not reveal the results of the competition, he did say appearing on the show was a lifetime experience, and host Harvey was gracious and entertaining both on and off camera.

Jan Bobek is a music teacher at Willowbrook High School in Chicago. He also runs a children's violin group call Zawternik. Brother Matt is a physical education teacher at Lane Tech High School. Daniel is a sound engineer; Danuta Bielanski is a home healthcare supervisor; and Jeff Gal is the proprietor of J&D Whirlpool Kitchen & Bath.

Check local listings for *Family Feud* air times.

To learn more about Kapela Hajducy, visit the group's Facebook page.

"Corpus Christi" Makes Oscar Top Five

by Robert Strybel



Komasa

The South Korean thriller "Parasite" snapped up four Oscars at this year's Academy Awards gala, but Poland's up-and-coming film director Jan Komasa wasn't surprised or too disappointed. He was happy his "Corpus Christi" had made it into the top five of the international Oscar nominees, and that it has been sold to 45 different countries where it is drawing raves from audiences and reviewers alike.

Inspired by an actual incident, "Corpus Christi" tells the story of 20-year-old Daniel, released from a youth detention center to which he had been sentenced for second-degree murder. While behind bars, he experienced a spiritual transformation and hoped to enter the priesthood. But his police record was an insurmountable obstacle, and he is sent to work as a carpenter in a small rural village in southeast Poland.

During the absence of the local pastor, Daniel was mistakenly taken for a priest and decided

See "Corpus Christi," page 4

Father Majka: A Wing and a Prayer



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

REVEREND CANNON PHILLIP S. MAJKA on a concourse at Washington Dulles International Airport. The airport's interfaith chapel is the active site of Rev. Majka's ongoing ministry after his official retirement from the priesthood.

by Richard Poremski

DULLES, Virg. — If you ever find yourself at Dulles International Airport feeling stressed and frazzled by all the TSA security check point procedures that entail

For Poles, a Balance in Lent's Solemnness

by Magdalena Znamirska

Polishorigins.com

"What has become a habit let it remain a habit, and this, what was, what we heard from our fathers, or we have seen already by ourselves, pass to those who will come after us; remembering that where the past was, there, also, the future will be..."

— Leon Potocki, 1854.

Lent is a time of penance and preparation for the most important days for Christians: Easter. It lasts for 40 days, from Ash Wednesday to the beginning of the Mass of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday (Sundays are not counted).

It is not a coincidence that it lasts 40 days. This number refers to the 40 years of long travel through the desert by the Israelites and to the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert preparing for His death and Resurrection.

see "Lent ...," page 9

long lines, document presentations, partial disrobing, shoe shedding, full body scanning, bag searching, questioning, etc., and long to discover an island of tranquility

see "Airport Ministry," page 4

ALMANAC

March  Marzec

*Ile razy marzec mgłą uraczy,
tyle niepogody w lecie znaczy.
Every March fog foretells a day
of foul weather in summer.*

- 1 **1634.** Polish King **Władysław IV** beats the Russians in the Smolensk War, a two-year conflict fought between the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and Russia.
- 2 **1864.** Abolition of serfdom in Poland.
1943. Germany's first transport of Jews from Westerbork, Netherlands, to Sobibor concentration camp.
- 3 **1996.** Death of **Cardinal John Krol**, Archbishop of Philadelphia, first Polish American Cardinal.
- 4 **ST. CASIMIR**
- 5 **1940.** Stalin — among others — signs an order for the **Katyń Forest Massacre**.
- 6 **1745.** Birth, in Mazowia, Poland, of **Casimir Pułaski**, American Revolutionary War hero, general, and father of the American Cavalry.
- 7 966. **Mieszko I**, Duke of Poland, accepts Christianity.
- 9 1852. Birth of **Hieronim Derdowski**, Polish immigrant who played an important part in his community in Winona, Minnesota.
1497. Nicholas Copernicus (1473-1543), makes first recorded astronomical observation.
- 11 **1913.** Birth in Paris of fashion designer **Oleg Cassini Loiewski**.
- 12 **ST. GREGORY**
- 13 **1943.** Germans close the Krakow ghetto.
- 14 **1882.** Birth of **Waclaw Sierpinski**, mathematician.
- 15 **1869.** Birth of **Stanislaw Wojciechowski**, politician and scientist.
- 16 **1964.** Birth of **Gore Verbinski**, American film director and writer.
- 17 **ST. PATRICK**
1956. Death of **Irene Joliet-Curie**, Polish-French scientist, daughter of Pierre and Madame Curie, and Nobel Prize in Chemistry recipient. (b. 1897)
- 18 **1921.** Signing of the Peace of Riga concludes the Polish-Soviet War.
- 19 **ST. JOSEPH**
- 20 **1842.** First Polish immigrant society formed in New York City, **Towarzystwo Polaków w Ameryce**, Association of Poles in America.
- 21 **1900.** Birth of **Paul Kletzki**, Polish violinist, composer, conductor.
- 22 **1659.** The Warsaw parliament issues metal currency, shillings, for Lithuania and Poland.
- 23 **1891.** Death of **Fr. Leopold Moczygemba**, Franciscan who founded the first Polish Church in the United States in Panna Maria, Texas.
- 24 **1794.** **Tadeusz Kościuszko** assumes the title of Supreme Commander of the Polish Insurrection of 1794.
- 25 *Wszystko dobre,
co się dobrze kończy.
All's well that ends well.*
- 26 **1942.** Germans began sending Jews to the Auschwitz concentration camp.
- 27 **2004.** Death of **Edward Piszek**, founder of Mrs. Paul's Kitchens, frozen-food business.
- 28 **1928.** Birth in Warsaw of geopolitician **Zbigniew Brzezinski**.
1939. Britain and France agreed to support Poland if Germany threatens to invade.
- 29 **1963.** Death of prolific Polish writer **Pola Gojawiczyńska**.
- 30 **1892.** Birth of mathematician **Stefan Banach** (d. Aug. 31, 1945).
- 31 **1888.** Birth of **Mieczysław Haiman** (d. Jan. 15, 1949), leading historian of the Polish American community.

This paper mailed on or before **February 28, 2020**. The April edition will be mailed on or before **March 27, 2020**.

Auschwitz and the so-called Soviet liberation of Poland

by Norman Davies

Thanks to the annual commemoration at the former Nazi German camp at Auschwitz, and also to Vladimir Putin's recent foray into Polish history, "liberation" is once more in the news. Thoughtful people need to reflect on what actually happened in Poland, both in 1939 and in 1944-45, and to draw their own conclusions.

In September 1939, Germany's invasion of Poland was followed by a Soviet invasion, as the two powers partitioned the country under a secret clause of the Nazi-Soviet Pact. The Soviets described themselves as "liberators" of Belarusians and Ukrainians inhabiting the eastern regions of the destroyed Polish state. Perhaps all invaders and occupiers describe themselves in these terms. Two years later, on invading the Soviet Union, the Germans would claim to be "liberating" it from Bolshevism. So "liberation" can be a doubtful quantity.

FIVE YEARS AFTER the events of 1939, the Soviet armies returned to Poland, at the end of their titanic and victorious struggle with Hitler's Wehrmacht. But the same question again arises: was their advance an act of liberation, or not? President Putin would say "Yes." Most Poles would say "No." Many observers, including myself, would say "Yes and No."

During the 20th century, Russian or Soviet armies invaded Poland four times over. In many ways, the second Soviet occupation of 1944-45 resembled the first Soviet occupation of 1939-41, the Red Army's invasion of 1920 during the Polish-Soviet War, and the Tsarist Russian invasion of Austrian-ruled Galicia 25 years before that, when the Cossacks rode up to the outskirts of Kraków.

On all these occasions, the invaders' propaganda claimed loudly that the local people were being liberated. Sir Bernard Pares was a British liaison officer with the Russian army in Galicia in 1915. "We are liberating the Slavs," he told his bosses in London, perhaps unaware of the gross misconduct of the incoming "Slav brothers," including forced conversions, arrests and mass deportations.

At the end of the Second World War, Stalin's forces took complete political control of all Poland, whilst annexing only the eastern borderlands, or Kresy. Once again, beyond the River Bug, the claim was that the Slav brethren were being liberated. The local population was not asked for its opinion, but was unlikely to have agreed.

In the preceding years, that population had changed drastically. As a result of frontline battles and anti-partisan warfare, up to a quarter of the population of Belarus and western Ukraine had perished. During the German occupation in 1941-44, the Jews were killed *en masse* and virtually eliminated. And in the final phase, the campaign of ethnic cleansing by a branch of the Ukrainian nationalist movement was murdering tens of thousands of Poles.

When talking of attitudes to the post-war Soviet occupation of the Kresy, therefore, one is referring in large measure to the attitudes of the remaining Belarusian and Ukrai-

nian peasants. Here the picture is perfectly clear. Most of those peasants belonged to the Greek Catholic (or Uniate) Church, a denomination which had repeatedly been viciously persecuted by successive waves of Russians. They knew from experience that the arrival of the Soviet army would be accompanied by all



Auschwitz survivors, photographed by a Soviet photographer in February 1945, during the making of a film about the freeing of the camp.

sorts of chicanery, by the disappearance of their clergy, and by the imposition of Russian Orthodoxy. This was no recipe for "liberation."

THE NATIVE LANGUAGES of those same peasants fell into the category of ruski — or "Ruthenian," a branch of the East Slav linguistic family. Since ruski is also the name of the Russian language, most outsiders are unaware both of the complexity and of the long struggle waged by Belarusians and Ukrainians to have their forms of speech accepted as separate languages.

The histories of Auschwitz and Majdanek must be considered together to reveal the true face of the so-called liberation.

In Tsarist times, Russian officials, who had rebranded Belarus as "White Russia" and Ukraine as "Little Russia," insisted that the natives of those countries were simply speaking dialects of Russian; and they punished anyone who thought otherwise severely. (Their views may best be likened to German nationalists, who once held that "Dutch" was no more than a dialect of "Deutsch.")

In Soviet times, linguistic policy had shifted, and under Stalin the Belarusian and Ukrainian languages were initially permitted. Yet in the late 1930s, the newly educated intelligentsias of the western Soviet republics were decimated in the purges and terror; and it was well known in neighboring Poland that over the border "you are completely free to speak Belarusian or Ukrainian, so long as you don't mind being a corpse."

Above all, the peasants of pre-war eastern Poland were fiercely attached to the land, which they owned and tilled. Until the 1860s, three or four generations earlier, they had all been serfs tied to their lords' estates, and unlike their compatriots across the frontier in the Soviet Union, had never been collectivized after their emancipation.

DESPITE THE HARDSHIPS of subsistence farming, they valued their freedom above all else. They were

well informed of the fact that Stalin's collectivization only a decade earlier had caused untold misery, widespread famine and the death of millions. So the very last thing they wanted was the collectivization which the Soviet army was bringing in its wake. They had been far from content under pre-war Polish rule,

three camps, each with a different function.

KL Auschwitz I, which the prisoners entered through the notorious gateway declaring *Arbeit macht frei*, was built in 1940 as an internment camp for Polish political prisoners.

Auschwitz II Birkenau, built in 1941, was larger and combined a high-intensity concentration camp with an external complex of gas chambers and cremation furnaces. The camp contained facilities to let the inmates eat, sleep, and work, but the greatest number who perished at Auschwitz never even entered the camp, being sent directly on arrival from the railway ramp to the gas chambers. Around 900,000 Jews met their fate in this manner.

KL Auschwitz III, built in 1942, was a dedicated slave-labor camp servicing the nearby artificial fuel factory, whose workers were not supposed to be worked to death.

Each of the three camps at Auschwitz differed from the true Vernichtungslager, or "extermination camps," at Treblinka, Belzec and Sobibor, which made little or no provision for work and were designed exclusively for killing the largest number of victims as quickly and as smoothly as possible.

And then there was KL Majdanek.

Built, like KL Auschwitz II Birkenau, in 1941, Majdanek was designed for the same purposes, and under Nazi management caused another huge death toll. Unlike Auschwitz, however, which was immediately turned into a museum after the war, it fits into another category of concentration camps, like Buchenwald in eastern Germany, which were put to use under Soviet management as centers for repressing new cohorts of prisoners.

If one puts the histories of Auschwitz and Majdanek together, therefore, the true face of the so-called liberation is revealed. At the very same time in January 1945 when the surviving inmates of Auschwitz were being released in full view of the cameras, the NKVD, who were now running Majdanek, were secretly filling it with another set of inmates and carefully avoiding all publicity.

This time, the ex-Nazi camp housed thousands of members of Poland's wartime resistance movement, the Home Army (AK), who were allies of the Western powers and had fought the German occupiers hard. Many of these resistance fighters were Britain's allies, inspired by democratic ideals and flown into Poland in 1942-43 by Britain's Special Operations Executive (SOE). But they were regarded by Stalin as spies, turncoats and traitors.

After Britain recognized the post-war communist regime in line with the Yalta Agreement, the British government lost all interest in their fate. In the minds of most Westerners, the lessons of the so-called liberation were never learned.

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Norman Davies is UNESCO Professor at the Jagiellonian University and Professor Emeritus at University College London.

This article was published by Notes from Poland Foundation, notesfrompoland.com/.

SO ONE NEEDS TO LOOK carefully at the details and the terminology. Despite the loose language often used, and despite the colossal death toll, Auschwitz cannot simply be described as a "death camp." It should be categorized as a sort of hybrid, made up of a complex of

POLONIA PLACES

St. Laurentius Church Philadelphia

by Gregory L. Witul

St. Laurentius
Roman Catholic Church
 1608 E. Berks St.
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 Status: Closed

The great city of Philadelphia is home to a number of amazing Polonia Places, the Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial, the Polish American Cultural Center, St. Valentine's Church, and the Associated Polish Home. But of all these places, one of the most beautiful is the former St. Laurentius Roman Catholic Church in the city's Fishtown neighborhood.

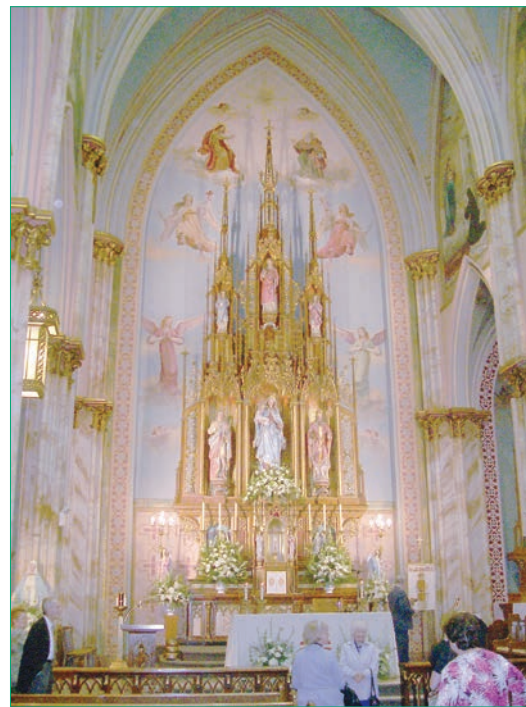
The parish of St. Laurentius got its start in Muellersken Hall on Third Street on January 29, 1882. On that evening, 47 families from the region gathered to starting a parish with a ish-speaking priest the city. To head up the effort, a committee was formed with Xavier Karczewski as president, Albert Nowak as secretary and Mr. Ro-baszkie-

wicz and Mr. Ostrowski as keepers of the treasury. A sum of \$31.50 was raised at the gathering to further their efforts. When the efforts underway were brought to the attention of Archbishop Wood, he met with the committee and granted their wish, establishing the Polish parish.

The new parish, called Holy Cross Church, was first led by Father Julian Dutkiewicz who was brought in from New York. During his short tenure, Father Dutkiewicz was able to secure the basement of St. Boniface to serve as the parish's first home. He was replaced by the German-born but Polish-fluent Rev. Emil Kattein. Father Emil loved the people of his new parish but wasn't taken with the name and changed it to the Latinized version of St. Lawrence's name, St. Laurentius. Upon his arrival Rev. Kattein secured part of a building at Norris and Sepviva Streets to serve as the parish home as he began looking for a plot to build his church. After almost two years of looking Kattein was able to purchase land at the corner of Berks and Memphis and after completing the basement, Archbishop Ryan blessed it in 1885.

In May of 1887 Reverend Adalbert Malusecki, the first Polish-speaking graduate of St. Charles Seminary, joined Father Kattein as his assistant. Three months later, Father Emil passed away and Rev. Malusecki took over. Father Malusecki quickly expanded the parish's holdings. In 1888 he started the parish school, inviting the Felician Sisters over to teach, and began construction on the church building.

For his church, Father Adalbert hired Philadelphia architect Edwin Forrest Durang to design a gothic inspired building. The completed structure measured 114 feet long,



60 feet wide and 57 feet high at the nave, boasted two bell towers and altars, statues, a pulpit, and stained-glass windows imported from Munich, Germany. Father Adalbert further added to the campus by building a rectory in 1892, while the school would be completed in 1899 under the direction of Father Gabriel Kraus.

For over a century St. Laurentius met the spiritual needs of the Poles living in and around Fishtown, but as the Catholic population receded and priests became fewer and fewer, the parish was linked with Holy Name of Jesus Church in 2013. On March 29, 2014 the site was permanently closed by the Archdiocese citing structural issues with the building. The Archdiocese planned to demolish the church in 2015 but the Philadelphia Historical Commission put a halt to it. In January of 2020 a developer purchased the property and plans to transform the church into offices.

QUOTES

Questionable Judicial Control

"This is a very sad day for Poland: The president has sealed an attack on the independent justice system."

— **Malgorzata Kidawa-Blonska** on a much-criticized law signed by President Andrzej Duda of Poland giving politicians the power to fine and fire judges whose actions and decisions they consider harmful. The legislation bars judges from questioning judicial appointments made by the president and forbids them from engaging in political activity.

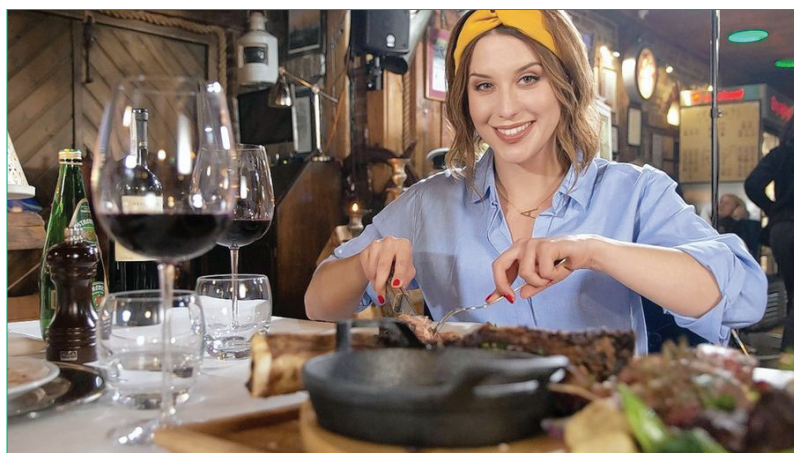
Kidawa-Blonska is Duda's opposition in the presidential election this May 10.

❖ ❖ ❖
 "I feel that we failed this little boy. The system failed. We religious and social leaders, we failed him because we are the ones supposed to make change. We are the ones supposed to protect life."

— **Bishop Andrzej Zglejszewski**, on the death of Thomas Valva. The 8-year-old boy's father, NYPD Officer Michael Valva, and his fiancée Angela Pollina have been charged with second-degree murder after forcing the boy to sleep in an unheated garage. Despite years of documented abuse, allegedly at the hands of Valva and Pollina, the courts sided with the cop for custody over the boy's Polish American mother, Justyna Zubko-Valva, who represented herself.

❖ ❖ ❖
 "It's practical and convenient, but it's also about receiving recognition. It's a nice feeling."

— 100-year-old **Jozef Walasz-**



Aleksandra Augustynski. "I come from a family of Polish patriots."

czyk, on the *Silent Hero* program, which provides free transportation to Polish senior citizens who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. The taxis are four limousines donated by Jewish cab owners in London. There are approximately 200 Righteous Among the Nations still alive in Poland, where 6,992 rescuers received the title.

❖ ❖ ❖
 "I grew up with this dual reality. Everything outside of home was American. The minute I'd go home, it was Polish. I come from a family of Polish patriots. There was no question about me or my siblings forgetting where we come from."

Aleksandra Augustynski, host of the new culinary travel television series "Flavor of Poland," airing at 11:00 a.m. Saturdays on WTTW in the Chicago area and other Public Broadcasting Service stations across the nation. Born in the small

medieval town of Tuchów, Poland, Augustynski moved to Bartlett, Illinois with her parents, Marta and Tomasz, when she was 3 years old.

❖ ❖ ❖
 "The goal here is to show the local community and the schools that (soldiers) are real people too, and not just protecting freedom."

— **U.S. Army Sgt. Austin Eveland**, who is part of NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence, on his visit to Miejskie Przedszkole school in Elk, Poland, where he and fellow U.S. and Romanian soldiers took a break from the finer points of strategic deterrence to the delight of dozens of singing kindergartners. In Poland since October, Eveland helped give out school supplies mailed to him by his family. The NATO soldiers visit multiple schools in Poland, where they teach the kids American games and in turn learn about Polish games, Eveland said.

Contractor Warns I-74 Bridge "Not Buildable"

MOLINE, Ill. — The lead contractor for a Mississippi River bridge is involved in a now-public feud with the state of Iowa over whether the bridge is buildable.

The I-74 bridge is meant to replace a bridge on the same location connecting Moline, Ill., and Bettendorf, Iowa. Known as the Iowa-Illinois Memorial Bridge, the bridge is a pair of suspension bridges located near the geographic center of the Quad Cities.

The original bridge was designed by engineer **Ralph Modjeski**. The first span opened in 1935 as a toll bridge. In 1961, an identical twin span, built from the same blueprint, opened to facilitate increased traffic demands. The twin spans were merged with Interstate 74 in 1975.

The new bridge was designed by a team from two firms: Pennsylvania-based Modjeski & Masters, the firm that designed the original bridge; and Chicago-based Alfred Benesch & Company.

After Lunda Construction, the lead contractor on the new bridge, missed deadlines for completing sections of arches, it began criticizing the basket-handle arch design, saying the tolerances in the design wouldn't work. Iowa disagrees and is standing by the designers.

Daniel Pogorzelski of the Polish American Engineering Association is working to try to save the bridge. Precedent solutions include the successful conversion of the Poughkeepsie Railroad Bridge (also designed by Modjeski) into a pedestrian bridge, now known as the Walkway Over The Hudson State Park, said Pogorzelski.

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

Dedicated to the Promotion and Continuance of Polish American Culture

ESTABLISHED 1911

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

USPS 437-220 / ISSN 0032-2792

Published ten times each year in four editions (Buffalo, Polish Beneficial Association, National, and Digital) by:

PANAGRAPHICS, INC.

P.O. BOX 271

N. BOSTON, NY 14110-0271

(800) 422-1275

(716) 312-8088

info@polamjournal.com

www.polamjournal.com

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, N.Y. AND ADDITIONAL ENTRY OFFICES

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to:

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

P.O. BOX 198

BOWMANVILLE, NY 14026-0198

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Tatra Eagle Press Releases Index to “Tatrzański Orzeł / The Tatra Eagle, 1947-2019”

INDEX TO TATRZAŃSKI ORZEŁ / THE TATRA EAGLE, 1947-2019

by Janina Gromada Kedroń and Thaddeus V. Gromada

ISBN: 978-1-7923-2141-2

Tatra Eagle Press

31 Madison Ave.

Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604

\$14.95 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling.

Make check or money order payable to Tatra Eagle Press

“Tatrzański Orzeł/The Tatra Eagle” (ISSA 0039-9914) is a bilingual quarterly published without interruption from 1947 to 2019 by a brother and sister team, Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada and Janina Gromada Kedroń. It focused on the folk culture of Polish highlanders (górale) and the góral diaspora in America. The journal received the prestigious “Oskar Kolberg” award from the Polish Ministry of Culture in June 2018 for its contributions to Polish folk culture in America and Poland and was designated part of the rich folk heritage of the Polish Highlanders.

After seventy-two years, the editors decided to discontinue its publication at end of 2019 but will pursue its mission by publishing brochures, books, etc., from time to time through the Tatra Eagle Press.

The editors prepared a 150-page Indeks/Index in anticipation of the digitalization of the journal by the Podhalan Digital Library (PDL), an



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autonomous part of the Małopolska Digital Library in Poland. Dr. Anna Mlekodaj, director of the PDL, announced that the highlander quarterly will be accessible in digital form, free and open by April 2020 on <http://MBC.Małopolska.pl> to researchers around the globe. Presently, it is available in paper form in several major libraries in the United States and Poland. Academic and non-academic researchers will find the Indeks/Index to be an invaluable

tool to discover a treasure trove of information about the rich Polish Highlander Folk Culture and its impact on Polish national culture as well as information about the Góral diaspora in America.

About the authors: Janina Gromada Kedroń, M.A., chair of Department of Foreign Languages, Northern Highlands Regional H.S., New Jersey (Emerita); past deputy executive director, Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America.

Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada, Ph.D., Prof. Emeritus of History, New Jersey City University; past president and executive director, Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America.

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thadgromada@gmail.com

More on Haller’s Army in France

Haller’s Polish Army in France

Volume II

by Paul S. Valasek

2019

474 pp., 8 x 11”, hc.

\$60.00 plus \$6.00 s&h

Available from

hallersarmy@aol.com

Now available is Volume II, which adds to the information of the first volume, published in 2006. This book continues to tell the story of Haller’s Army in France, and subsequently in the Polish-Ukrainian and Polish-Soviet War. Attention is focused on numerous newspaper articles from English and Polish newspapers in the United States as well as magazines and newsletters of the time.

The lives of four officers and three enlisted men are told in detail by family members and associates.

The histories of the 48th and 50th Borderland Riflemen have been translated from Polish and are presented in English.

Over 250 color and black-and-white images are used throughout the book. Maestro Paderewski and his wife Helena are well represented as to their trials and victories. Reports of the progress of World War I are chronologically recorded, as well as the battles fought after the Armistice of 1918 to free Poland and restore it to the map of Europe.

The book weighs 4.4 pounds and will be mailed in a box via Media Mail in the United States. International customers need to contact the author for a price quote on postage.

If you do not have Volume I, please inquire at the email address listed above. Purchases will be combined to save on shipping.

Corpus Christi examines challenges facing youth

continued from cover

to play out that role. Donning liturgical garb, he began ministering to his flock. Not for personal gain but because of a deeply felt religious calling. The energetic ministry of this charismatic young man initially raises eyebrows but ultimately helps heal the rift that has polarized the local community.

In one post-Oscar interview, Komasa said he had been observing America’s presidential cam-

paign and came to the conclusion that “maybe people don’t need a president as much as they need a therapist.” That theme runs through “Corpus Christi, and the rural village can be seen as a symbol of Poland’s polarization in recent years. “Even at the Wigilia supper political controversies now creep into the conversation,” he remarked.

Now 38, Komasa began his climb to prominence in the early 21st century. A screen writer and movie director he has created numerous films from short subjects and documentaries to full-length feature films which have won awards at Europe’s leading festivals. They have included his drama “Suicide Room” (2011) depicting alienated youths retreating into the cyber world and contemplating self-annihilation as well as his blockbuster “Warsaw 44” (2014) focusing on the tragedy of the Warsaw Uprising. A common

theme of most of Komasa’s works are the often-daunting challenges facing the younger generation.

In recent years, several Polish films have made it onto the Academy Awards international short list including Agnieszka Holland’s war drama “In Darkness” (2011). In 2018, Paweł Malinowski’s “Cold War” also landed among the front-running nominees, but only his post-Holocaust drama “Ida” (2015) won the top prize.

Poland’s world-renowned filmmaker Andrzej Wajda received the Motion Picture Academy’s life-achievement award in 2000. The first Pole ever awarded was British-born Leopold Stokowski, who conducted the score to Walt Disney’s 1940 animated film “Fantasia.” In 1953, all of America was humming “Hi-Lili Hi-Lo,” a song composed by Polish-born Bronisław Kaper for the movie “Lili.”

TRAVEL

Two Tours Available from Chicago

CHICAGO — For nearly 30 years, the Board of Directors of the **Lira Ensemble** has organized tours of Poland for its fans and audience members. Lira is the nation’s only professional performing arts company specializing in Polish music, song and dance. So, its cultural tours include lots of music, song and dance – both folk and classical. Lira Tours also spotlight folklore, traditions, architecture, history and all types of Polish cuisine, including country favorites. Like Lira concerts, the tours are designed to be enjoyable as well as informative.

In 2020, Lira is again offering two tours:

Central and Southern Poland, departing Chicago – June 25th through July 9th

Northern and Eastern Poland departing Chicago – July 16th through July 20th

Lira’s Southern Tour includes guided tours of Warsaw, Krakow,

Zakopane, Czestochowa, St. John Paul II home and museum, Chopin’s home, Auschwitz, and Wieliczka, and much more.

The Northern Tour includes Warsaw, Gdansk, Poznan, Torun, Chopin’s birthplace, Malbork Castle, the Bialowieza Forest, Białystok, plus more.

Unlike most tours, Lira excursions include concerts, folk performances, and surprises – all included in the tour price. Also included are first class hotels, all transportation and admissions, two or three Polish and/or Continental meals a day and a state-of-the-art motorcoach. The tours do not include airfare, so tour members can choose how and when they want to get to Poland and when they want to return home.

Lira tours are personally escorted by Lucyna Migala who is co-founder, artistic director, and general manager of the Lira Ensemble. She is known for her witty

and informative narrations which accompany Lira concerts. During the tours, she provides background and insights so that tour members truly understand what they are seeing and why they are seeing it.

Since the Lira Ensemble is a charity, a portion of the tour cost is tax deductible. Those taking the Lira tour will not only enjoy very personal and unusual tours of Poland, they will be helping with the mission of the Lira Ensemble - to bring the best of Polish culture into American life.

The Lira tours are for fun-loving people who enjoy the arts and good company. Those interested are asked to call 773-539-4900 or 1-800-547-LIRA or visit liraensemble.org for more information.

2020 Tours to Polish Russian Partition and Lwów-Galicia-Kraków

CHICAGO – The Polish Genealogical Society of America (PGSA) is hosting two new tours to Poland led by professional genealogy guides based there.

One covers the Russian Partition from Warsaw, through the lakes country to Vilnius, Lithuania, returning to Warsaw via Białystok and Lublin. The other explores the historic borderlands of Lwów, now in Ukraine, beginning in Warsaw and including Przemyśl, Łancut Castle, ending in Kraków.

As in the prior tours, participation is limited to 15-20. Trips are scheduled for May 30-June 11, and September 5-17. You can add additional personalized research and visits to ancestral villages.

The complete itinerary and details are at www.pgsa.org or write tours@pgsa.org.

Airport Ministry

continued from cover

among all the madness surrounding you — you are in luck.

Just proceed directly to Gate 32 on Concourse A. It’s the prime location of the airport’s inviting interfaith chapel staffed by Roman Catholic priest Reverend Cannon Phillip S. Majka. This has been his ongoing ministry since 2006. Besides all the weary travelers, Rev. Majka also ministers to the airport’s pilots, cabin crews, and ground support personnel as they continuously seek to balance their hectic work — and its demanding schedules — with their personal and family lives. Being constantly in service to everyone, it’s as though Rev. Majka is propelled by at least a few drops of high octane aviation fuel mixed into the blood flowing through his veins.

Rev. Majka was ordained in New Britain, Connecticut 54 years ago and celebrated his Golden Jubilee in 2015. He is a member of — and the chaplain to — many of the Polish American groups and clubs in the greater Washington, D.C. area, not to mention being vice president of the National Conference of Catholic Airport Chaplains since 2010. Many well-deserving awards, honors and medals have flown his way from various Polonia organizations and the universal Roman Catholic Church, both here and abroad, and very proudly from Poland. Diplomatically, in 1999 he was awarded

the Knights Cross, of the Order of Merit, of the Republic of Poland.

For those seeking peace and tranquilly, the interfaith chapel is indeed a real refuge; it’s the polar opposite of a busy airport environment. It is well-appointed with pews, chairs, and with an impressive large concave dome radiating a heavenly soft light over the altar where mass is celebrated. One section of the floor is covered with colorful prayer rugs, and there is an arrow-sign pointing in the direction of Mecca for Muslim faithful to properly direct their prayers. There is also consideration for those of the Jewish faith, and additionally there is a large and diverse collection of religious books, tracts, pamphlets, and other related reading materials. The resulting chapel is a perfect safe environment with something for everyone, even if it’s just to sit quietly to think or meditate.

But the chapel, like any other chapel, in and of itself, is an inert sacred space. But when you factor in an active multiplier of ecclesiastical force — exactly like Rev. Majka — it is then transformed into a very sacred place.

So now, at 81-years-young, with his feet on the ground and his head in the clouds, the Reverend Canon Philip S. Majka metaphorically continues to fly in a divine holding pattern in the airspace immediately above the Washington Dulles International Airport — much to the benefit of us all.

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GENEALOGY

Where can we find the stories for Post-World War II Displaced Persons?

by Stephen M. Szabados

Did your parents or grandparents immigrate to the United States shortly after World War II? If so, they probably told you stories of staying in one or more of the refugee camps at the end of the war. The Allied forces established these camps to handle the masses of displaced persons coming from the German work camps or death camps or who fled their homes to escape communist rule.

Did your ancestors tell you the details of their lives during and after the war, or were they reluctant to talk about their experiences? The International Tracing Service had the task of saving the documents of the refugees and gives us hope to complete their stories.

The work of ITS began in 1943 when the Headquarters of the Allied Forces asked the British Red Cross to set up a registration and tracing service for missing persons. ITS grew out of the Central Tracing Bureau, which was approved on February 15, 1944. The bureau initially worked out of London but was moved from there to Versailles, then to Frankfurt am Main, and then to its current location in Bad Arolsen, Germany. On July 1, 1947, the International Refugee Organization (ICRC) took over administration of the bureau on July 1, 1947, and changed the name of the bureau to International Tracing Service on January 1, 1948.

ITS collects and controls the documents, information, and research on Nazi persecution, forced labor, and displaced persons. The archive in Bad Arolsen contains about 30 million records from concentration camps, details of forced labor, and

files on displaced persons. The archives have been accessible to researchers since 2007. Requests for information from individuals or descendants can be made by mail or on the ITS website (Home Page - <https://arolsen-archives.org/en/>). In 2015, ITS began adding records to an online database and today has over two million records in an online searchable collection of documents. Family historians should search the online archive at <https://arolsen-archives.org/en/search-explore/> to confirm their ancestors are in the archive. However, the results will show one or two documents but not the complete file. Use the inquiry page (arolsen-archives.org/en/search-explore/inquiries/) to request the entire file. Be patient because the average delivery time for the files is about four months and can take as long as eleven months.

The original goal of the authorities at the refugee camps was to repatriate the refugees to their countries of origin as quickly as possible. However, authorities soon changed their strategy after there were reports of mistreatment of refugees returned to communist countries and the growing resistance of the refugees. Immigration to western countries became the new destination of the refugees.

In late 1947, Belgium was the first country to adopt refugee immigration and accepted nearly 22,000 people. The United Kingdom accepted 86,000 refugees, which was in addition to 115,000 Polish army veterans who had resettled in England and 12,000 former Ukrainian members of the German SS. By the end of 1951, Canada had accepted 157,687 refugees, Australia took 182,159 refugees, and France ac-

cepted 38,157 displaced persons. The Latin American countries of Venezuela, Brazil, and Argentina accepted almost 80,000 refugees.

From the end of the war to 1948, nearly 50,000 refugees had entered Palestine (many illegally).

The United States was late to accept displaced persons and did so only after considerable lobbying for a change in policy. There was significant opposition in the U.S. Congress to taking Central and Eastern Europeans and Jews. Truman signed the first act on June 25, 1948, allowing entry by 200,000 refugees, and this was followed by the second act on June 16, 1950, allowing entry for another 200,000. The American program was the largest and most idealistic of the Allied programs, but also it was the most bureaucratic. Charitable organizations, such as the Lutheran World Federation and ethnic groups, undertook much of the humanitarian effort.

ITS has a wealth of information in the documents that will add to your family history. The information will identify the camps where your ancestors lived. It may list their occupations, residence before the camps, birthplaces, and jobs while in the camps. Research the history of the camps to add background information about where they lived.

Pay attention to the details which you may have to translate. The details will reveal the picture of the struggles of your ancestors to survive after the war and how they rebuilt their lives. The details will also give you insights into the character you see in them.

Save their stories and honor your ancestors.

Tombstone Recovery in Lviv



The inscription on the recovered tombstone on the right reads (in Polish): "Here lies Kajetan Isakowicz, age 40, who died January 15 (year illegible). I ask for eternal rest."

LVIV, Ukraine — Ukrainians, Jews, Poles, French, and a German worked shoulder to shoulder in the rain dismantling a crumbling residential retaining wall in Lviv, partially built from Jewish headstones. Over fifty headstone fragments were recovered.

Lviv (Polish: Lwów) is the largest city in western Ukraine and the seventh-largest city in the country overall. Between World War I and World War II, Lwów held the rank of the Second Polish Republic's third most populous city (following Warsaw and Łódź), and it became the seat of the Lwów Voivodeship. Following Warsaw, Lwów was the second most important cultural and academic center of interwar Poland. About two-thirds of the city's inhabitants were Poles.

Pre-war Lwów had a large and thriving Jewish community, which constituted about a quarter of the population.

After the German-Soviet inva-

sion of Poland in 1939, Lviv became part of the Soviet Union, and in 1944-46 there was a population exchange between Poland and Soviet Ukraine. In 1991, it became part of the independent nation of Ukraine.

Based on visible interwar dates on many of the fragments, it is very likely that the recovered stones had originally been taken from the Yanivsky Jewish cemetery during the German occupation, said Marla Raucher Osborn, a research fellow at Fulbright Ukraine, co-founder of Rohatyn Jewish Heritage, and Project Lead of Jewish Headstone Recovery. The fragments were taken to Yanivsky cemetery, where they await organization.

In 2018, dozens of volunteers extracted 125+ Jewish headstones from a road, revealed in the course of city repair works.

Raucher Osborn said recovered fragments will hopefully be incorporated into a memorial wall.

Genealogists to the rescue!

by Robert Strybel

These days, many PolAms are linking up with Ellis Island and ancestry-type websites, exploring ship's manifests and even having their ethnic DNA researched. But the best source to fill in the missing pieces of Polish immigrant history is often one's oldest living relative and/or elderly former neighbors and family friends. The only problem is that all too often they are no longer around to ask.

It's understandable that in their younger days PolAms were busy raising a family, setting up a business, pursuing a career and enjoying the "good life." That often did not leave much time for tracking

down roots. Amid the considerable social pressure to assimilate, ethnic heritage was often dismissed as little more than some "old country side-show."

With the approach of retirement, many PolAms suddenly feel there is something missing. Why do they know so little about their ancestral roots, where their family is from, or how it developed? Those who no longer have access to an elderly relative able and willing to tell it like it was, a professional genealogist specializing in Polish family history could be the next best thing.

English-speaking Polish genealogical researchers can help you track down your family records in Poland, draw up a family tree, pho-

tograph and/or videotape ancestral homesteads and graves and possibly even turn up long-lost relations. Some offer genealogical guided tours to PolAms visiting Poland.

The following genealogists, listed in alphabetical order with their email address, have helped countless Polish Americans touch base with their ancestral roots:

- **Iwona Dakiniewicz**
genealogy@pro.onet.pl
- **Tim Firkowski**
tim@thegenealogyassistant.com
- **Aleksandra Kacprzak**
aleksandra.genealogy@gmail.com
- **Emil Krasnodębski**
emil@ancestorsinpoland.com
- **Michał Marciniak**
office@polgenresearch.com
- **Andrzej Rola-Stężycki**
instytut@instytut-genealogii.com.pl
- **Andrzej Sikorski**
obgpiast@wp.pl

It is best to contact several if not all of those listed above to compare the services they offer, projected research time, estimated prices and other particulars. Provide as much information on your family ties as you know.

For professional translation of family records from Polish, German, Russian and Latin into English, contact:

- **Andrew Gołębowski**
andywbuffalo@yahoo.com

Help for Non-Polish Speakers and Singers


WASHINGTON, D.C. — Non-Polish speakers and singers can learn a thing or two from this talented lady. **Laura Kafka-Price** (right), a member of the Polish American Arts Association, recently presented a workshop, "Singing in Polish for Non-Polish Speakers" at the Virginia National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) state conference.

During her 50-minute workshop, Kafka-Price sang live examples of Polish songs and play excerpts of her recordings with pianists Eileen Cornett, Tomasz Robak, and Alvin Smithson. Her repertoire included works by Fryderyk Chopin, Ludo-

mir Różycki, Karol Szymanowski, as well as Szklana góra, the new Polish art song by Virginia composer Dr. Sal Ferrantelli to the poem of Lidia Kosk. Kafka-Price Laura sang the premier of Szklana góra in May 2019, at the Polish American Arts Association meeting at the Arts Club in Washington.

The presentation was part of her current project, the Children's Rhymes Project centered around the Op. 49 song cycle Rymy dziecięce (Children's Rhymes) by Karol Szymanowski.

Kafka-Price may be contacted at laura@laura-kafka-price.com.



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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. Kaniowska 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: strybel@interia.pl.



THE KORWIN COAT OF ARMS was shared by the nobles of several dozen Polish families including: Bieńkowski, Chrzanowski, Gałczewski, Gosiewski, Jagodziński, Joachimowicz, Karaczyński, Kossakowski, Krukowski, Lisowski, Materna, Michałski, Orzeszkowa, Piotrowski, Prendowski, Sakowicz, Sereżyński, Terajewicz, and Wendrychowski.

MUSIC

Wins Chance at International Title

Poland's rising piano star **Piotr Alexewicz** has won Poland's National Chopin Competition in Warsaw. The 20-year-old has now secured a place in the International Chopin Piano Competition, which will be held in Warsaw later this year. Second-prize winners **Piotr Pawlak** and **Adam Kalduński** have also booked their places in the upcoming international event, whose preliminary round saw judges evaluating video recordings submitted by more than 500 pianists from around the world.

Of this, a total of 180 pianists will be invited to perform in the event's qualifying stage before the final pool of 80 participants is selected for the competition, which is due to be held in October.

Founded in 1927, the International Chopin Piano Competition is among the most prestigious events of its kind worldwide.

Poland's National Chopin Institute, which is the main organizer of the event, has hinted that the competition's qualifying stage, originally scheduled for April, could be held at a later date if prospective participants from Asian countries face difficulties in reaching Warsaw due to the coronavirus epidemic.

Alexewicz is a student at the Music Academy in Wrocław, Poland. He has previously won prizes at piano competitions in the Netherlands, Germany and France.

Chopin Still a Hit

Warsaw's Fryderyk Chopin Museum welcomed its millionth visitor, Tetsuya Motigiwa, who had



Alexewicz

traveled from his native Japan to attend a friend's wedding in Poland. He was given a tour of the exhibits as a special guest, was gifted a recording of composer Chopin's complete works, and a collection of memorabilia.

"As my mother is a piano teacher, I have been listening to Chopin's music ever since I was a child," said Motigiwa. "Being in Warsaw, I took the opportunity to visit the Chopin Museum. I am extremely happy."

The Museum was established in the 1930s and covers the history and works of Chopin, including original letters, documents, and manuscripts, as well as sculptures and photographs of him. The Museum was refurbished ten years ago and reopened during celebrations of the bicentenary of Chopin's birth.

Chopin was born in Zelazowa Wola, west of Warsaw. After his birth, the family moved to Warsaw. His father, Nicolas Chopin, had emigrated from France to Poland in 1787 and married Tekla Justyna Krzysanowska in 1806.

RELIGION

Archbishop Calls for St. John Paul II to Be Named Doctor, Co-Patron

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Head of the Polish Episcopal Conference **Archbishop Stanisław Gądecki**, called for St. John Paul II to be declared a Doctor of the Church and a co-patron saint of Europe. He cited the pope-saint's efforts at bringing down the Iron Curtain and reuniting Europe. Gądecki noted that since World War II, Europe — in the minds of most people — consisted of the countries to the west of the line through central Germany. The Pope-Saint John Paul II succeeded in reuniting the countries of Central and Eastern Europe to Western Europe in the minds of the people of the world.

In his long years of papal teaching he called attention to the cultural and spiritual crisis that gripped Europe and worked for a return to the common historical and religious heritage of Christianity in Europe.

As co-patron he would join the seven current co-patrons: St. Benedict, Ss. Cyril & Methodius, St. Bridget of Sweden, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein), St. Jadwiga of Poland. As Doctor he would take his place alongside the 36 already declared doctors, including: Ss. Gregory the Great, Ambrose, Augustine, Jerome, Thérèse of the Child Jesus (Little Flower).

Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Lviv, Ukraine, head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, in his book *Dialogue Heals Wounds. About God, the Church, and the World*, spoke about St. John Paul II and his contributions to the revival of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church as well as to the Polish-Ukrainian reconciliation. In view of the pope-saint's work as a doctor treating the wounded continent of Europe after World War II, the archbishop called for St. John Paul II to be named the Patron of the Polish-Ukrainian Reconciliation.

Remembering Blessed Bukowiński

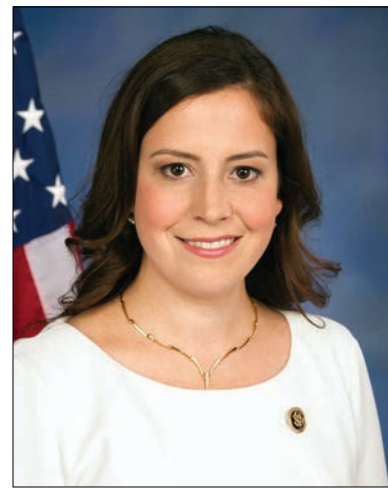
Born in 1904 in Lutsk (formerly Luck) Ukraine, **Władysław Bukowiński** moved with his family to Western Poland and entered the seminary in Kraków in 1926. He served in the eastern diocese of Luck in 1931 and was pastor of the cathedral there under Russian and then German occupation in World War II. Freed from a German prison he organized charitable works and hid Jewish children among Catholic families. When the Russians returned to power they imprisoned him for 10 years in the mines of Kazakhstan, where he ministered to fellow prisoners. Freed in 1954 he stayed in Kazakhstan and served as the first Catholic priest in Karaganda where he served Catholics over a wide area. He made eight missionary journeys throughout Kazakhstan and died in Karaganda in 1974 while clutching his rosary. He was beatified in 2016.

Happy Anniversary to...

The **Pauline Fathers** who came to serve in Buffalo 15 years ago. The Anniversary Mass was celebrated at St. Stanislaus B&M Church by the Father General of the Pauline Order, Fr. Arnold Chrapkowski.

The Paulines serve in churches and missions throughout the world. In Buffalo, they also serve the nearby Corpus Christi Church and, in addition to preserving the historic churches, they have made significant contributions to the community around the churches. **Fr. Michal Czyżewski, OSPPE**, pastor of Corpus Christi Church, celebrated his 15th anniversary of ordination on May 29, 2019. He was ordained at the American Częstochowa, Doylestown, PA.

Fr. Stanisław Roz, a Divine Word Missionary priest, on his first anniversary of serving in Alaska in the Diocese of Fairbanks. There he assists **Bishop Chad Zielinski** alongside **Bro. Bob Ruzicka, OFM**, originally from St. Louis, Mo., drawn to serve in Alaska after reading a letter by **Bishop Kaniecki**, who preceded Bishop Zielinski, after working for 10 years as a Franciscan in Ohio.



Stefanik. Pro-life stance not favored by opponents.

Pol-Am Politicians Under Attack

Rep. Elise Stefanik (Republican – N.Y., 21st Dist.) and **Daniel Lipinski** (Democrat – Ill., 3rd Dist.) are both targeted in the up-coming November elections for their pro-life stance.

Lipinski stands virtually alone among Democratic politicians for his steadfast opposition to pro-abortion legislation favored by his party colleagues. As a result, a variety of pro-abortion groups including Planned Parenthood are pouring money into his opponent's campaign. The pro-life Susan B. Anthony List has urged support for Lipinski.

Stefanik evoked the ire of Democrats for speaking out against the recent impeachment process. She also wins their displeasure for her support of pro-life positions and opposition to pro-abortion legislation. Needless to say, Democratic party money is also pouring into her rural New York district to try to unseat her.

On Trial for Exposing Abortion-Body Parts Sale

Although six of the 15 felony

charges against pro-life **David Daleiden**, brought against him for undercover filming and then revealing Planned Parenthood officials' negotiations over the sale of the body parts of aborted babies, have been dropped, the remaining charges are still to be adjudicated before a court in San Francisco. Planned Parenthood could not deny what the films revealed but is pressing forward to try to get the pro-life journalist jailed for exposing their heinous harvest and sale of aborted baby parts. **Tom Brejcha**, president and chief counsel of the Thomas More Society, a not-for-profit law firm, is underwriting and helping move forward Daleiden's civil and criminal defense. The St. Thomas More Society proudly defended the most prominent leaders in the U.S. pro-life movement brought into court by Planned Parenthood and other pro-abortion organizations. This court case is yet another opportunity to drag into light the brutal abortion practices long hidden in the shadows.

Miami Archbishop Urges resettlement of Refugees

Miami's Archbishop Thomas Wenski has called on Texas governor Greg Abbott (a Catholic and married to a Mexican-American wife) to participate in the federal refugee resettlement program. The archbishop noted the success of church volunteer groups and individuals in welcoming and integrating refugees into American society, finding work and making positive contributions to their adopted country. Gov. Abbott declined to participate in the federal program, which requires written consent from states and local entities before resettlement can be done within their boundaries. Forty-two governors already declared support for the refugee services. Texas' 16 bishops have asked the governor to reconsider his refusal. "As Catholics," they said, "an essential aspect of our faith is to welcome the stranger and care for the alien. We use this occasion to commit ourselves even more ardently to work with all people of good will, including our federal, state and local governments, to help refugees integrate and become productive members of our communities."

Sto Lat to...

The seven people honored with the Pro-Vita Awards of the Buffalo Diocese. The awards were given to the recipients in St. Joseph's Cathedral by the cathedral's rector **Fr. Charles Slisz** and recognize dedication to the sanctity of life. Recipients **Diana Skotarczyk** and **Kathy Vukovich** were joined by **Brandon Adkins, Kathleen Gallagher, Deacon Timothy Chriswell, Deacon Mike Ficorilli, and Rick Suchan.**

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

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PRAYER TO SAINT ROCH. O Blessed Saint Roch, patron of the sick, have pity on those who lie upon a bed of suffering. Your power was so great when you were in this world, that by the sign of the Cross, many were healed of their diseases. Now that you are in heaven, your power is not less. Offer, then, to God our sighs and tears, and obtain for us that health we seek Through Christ our Lord. Amen. Saint Roch, pray for us, that we may be preserved from all diseases of body and soul. P.N.M.

HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE

Chicago's Szopka Competition at Lutnia



Winning szopka at Lutnia.

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — The creation of szopka (crèche) has been a long-standing tradition in Krakow, Poland. This past December 21, the 12th annual szopka competition took place at Lutnia Restaurant on Chicago's Northwest Side during a special Christmas Eve supper hosted by the Friends of Krakow Society and its vice-president, Marek Pieprzyk, who is also the owner of the restaurant. Marek has the largest collection of Krakow-style crèches outside of Poland.

Jolanta Grocholska, president of the Society, spoke of the 23-year-old Chicago history of the Friends of Krakow Society, the close con-

nection it has to Krakow, and its mission to bring everyone closer to Polish traditions. She thanked Pieprzyk for exposing all who patronize Lutnia to the wonderful tradition of Krakow's szopka, and for giving children the opportunity to create their own Polish crèches.

This year's winning students were Anna Lind, an eighth grader from Chicago's General Władysław Anders Polish School, and Daniel and Monica Miętus, siblings from St. Blaise Polish School of Summit, Illinois. Anna used a 3-D printer to create multiple matching details for her crèche. Monica drew attention to small white stones that decorated the bases of her szopka's towers. The children were awarded checks,

gift packages, and recognition diplomas. The awards were presented by Jolanta Grocholska and Marek Pieprzyk, who also originated this competition.

Pieprzyk's szopka collection was available for viewing at Lutnia until the end of February. Miniature szopka are permanently placed in a display case near the entrance to the restaurant.

The Krakow Nativity Scene (Szopka) is a small, slim, multi-level tower, and a richly-decorated structure made of light and delicate materials. It is characterized, especially now, by miniaturized replicas of various historic Krakow architectural sites. The szopka serves as a wonderful representation of the traditional scene of the birth of Jesus. Established in the 19th century, Krakow's unique artistic creation is the only one of its kind, not only in Europe, but also the world.

LIRA ENSEMBLE PERFORMS AN EPIPHANY CONCERT. On Jan. 5, St. Thomas Becket Church in Mount Prospect, Ill., was filled to capacity as the Lira Ensemble singers under the direction of its musical conductor, Mina Zikri, introduced an enthusiastic audience to the festive atmosphere of a Polish Christmas tradition.

The Epiphany concert, commemorating the arrival of the Three



Lira Ensemble.

Wise Men to Bethlehem, included Polish and American Christmas carols, a most appropriate way to conclude the Christmas season. Lucyna Migala, the Lira's artistic director and general manager, presented the history of Polish caroling in her usual delightful way.

The large audience had the opportunity to hear the well-known "Pójdźmy Wszyscy Do Stajenki" (Let's All Go to the Stable), "Bóg Się Rodzi" (God is Born), "Lulajże Jezuniu" (Lullaby to Little Jesus), and the very warmly-received "Kołądy Góralskiej" (Highlander's Christmas Carol), performed by Katarzyna Dorula.

The program also included one

of the most popular Christmas carols, "Dzisiaj w Betlejem" (Today in Bethlehem), performed beautifully by Ewa Kowcz-Fair. The audience also enjoyed the old Polish Christmas carol "Gdy Śliczna Panna" (As the Lovely Maiden) sung by Bridget Ascenzo.

The Singers did not forget traditional English language songs, performing "O, Holy Night" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

The entire concert continued the tradition of the professionalism and artistry of the Lira Ensemble and the continued need for cultural experiences that promote Polish heritage in America.

FILM

Polish Film Stars Shone Brightly during Hollywood's Golden Age

by Joseph Zurawski

Part I

Three film stars came to Hollywood from Poland to play prominent roles in the Golden Age of America's film industry. Pola Negri was the first and proved to be a sensation even before she arrived. Gilda Gray attracted extensive publicity and started a national craze with her "shimmy" dance. Lyda Roberti, "Broadway's Preferred Blonde" established a dedicated following for brilliant performances and moved on to Hollywood and film stardom. Other foreign stars, Greta Garbo, Marlene Dietrich, Merle Oberon, Claudette Colbert, and Louise Rainer, were quickly recruited. Hollywood's Golden Age had arrived.

Barbara Apolonia Chalupec was born February 3, 1897. After her father was arrested and imprisoned for revolutionary activities against Russia in 1903, Apolonia and her mother lived in a slum in Warsaw. In 1911, Apolonia entered ballet school thanks to a scholarship she received from friends of her mother. She also studied at the Warsaw Imperial Academy of Dramatic Arts and made her stage debut in 1912 as Pola Negri (Pola for Poland, Negri for an Italian poet who made a strong impression on her). She received excellent reviews and was earning a salary.

During World War I, Negri made films in Poland and then Berlin. Her portrayal as Madame Du Barry broke attendance records throughout Europe. It was booked for New York's Capitol Theater in 1920 with a new title, *Passion*. Attendance for the first day was 21,000 with thousands turned away. During the two-week engagement, 350,000 customers paid 10 to 35

cents to see the film. Associated First National Pictures began distributing the film. *Passion* was a huge success, and Negri was invited to Hollywood. She signed a contract in 1921 to make films in America for Paramount.

Negri's first film released throughout the United States was *Bella Donna* (1923). The film was ridiculed by *Time* on April 21, 1923 ("There's a sheik and an English nobleman and a little box of poison and a desert with a prowling lion—and none of it matters very much. Except when Pola appears."). *The New York Times* explained, "Her face was beautiful one second, filled with hate the next; her eyes glow with deep affection and suddenly sparkle with fiery anger. She is good, and then wicked; loving and then the ruthless vampire. Her acting is made all the more compelling by her light and sinuous movements, which set off to the fullest extent the beauty of her expensive gowns. There may have been other vampires on the screen, but none possess the talent of Pola Negri."

There were reports that American audiences were eager to see Negri in her first American film and arrived at movie theaters early and in large numbers. *The Flame* (finished in 1923 with a U.S. release in 1924) was a flop since there were many confusing editing changes before it was shown to American audiences. However, one reviewer wrote "Pola Negri is excellent as Yvette: she conveys deep beauty and exotic sexuality, yet also manages to be convincing as a woman who hopes to escape her life of prostitution."

Negri was on pace for making three to four movies a year with Paramount. She was extremely happy to hear that her favorite director

with whom she worked extensively in Europe, Ernst Lubitsch, would direct her in *Forbidden Paradise* to be released in 1924. It was one of Negri's best films. Harry Carr wrote in the *Los Angeles Times*, November 12, 1924, "As long as she lives, Pola will never have an-



other part which so perfectly fits her character and temperament as this petulant, arrogant, passionate, Slavic queen, who had humor and shrewdness as well as power and strength." Unfortunately, for Pola, Lubitsch, and (probably) millions of fans, their artistic temperaments and career paths kept them from working together in America on any other films. Three years later, with another director, *Hotel Imperial* (1927) set box-office records and Negri continued to receive critical acclaim.

Negri was a very popular American and international film celebrity. She was always followed by paparazzi and reporters. Her wardrobe was huge and extravagant. Once when she went to a hotel in Europe she rejected the suite set aside for her since — she insisted — she needed an entire wing to accommodate her belongings. She

married twice: In Poland to a Polish count, Eugeniusz Dambiski; in Los Angeles, to a "self-styled" Georgian prince, Serge Mdivani.

Once she took her cheetah to a press conference. When it got restless and the press got nervous, Negri shouted, "Stay calm, my darlings. When I bark, the cat sits." She was a highly paid actress, earning as much as \$10,000 per week. She had considerable control over the scripts she selected or were selected for her. Her dressing room floor was covered with rose petals and orchid petals. There was always some caviar and champagne available in her dressing room while Her Rolls Royce was always parked nearby.

She was a trendsetter: she painted her toenails, frequently wore a turban, introduced women's boots. Millions adapted to these new fashion styles. Her jewelry collection (including gems from the Hohenzollern and Hapsburg dynasties) was extravagant, vast, and frequently worn. She spoke five languages. She had a highly publicized passionate affair with that "Latin Lover" and film icon Rudolph Valentino. Out of the thousands who could have been chosen before her, Pola Negri was the eleventh pick for the Hollywood Walk of Fame, placed next to the tenth pick, to whom she was also engaged for a time, Charlie Chaplin.

Negri did reflect her Polish identity in several films. The first film Pola made (1914), *Niewolnica Zmyslow* (*Slave to her Senses*), was released in the United States as *The Polish Dancer In Shadows of Paris* (1924) she becomes an elegant Polish countess for several scenes. Negri continued to attract attention with *Lily of the Dust* (1924). *The New York Times* (August 25, 1924), in an unsigned review com-

mented, "As for Miss Negri she lives with the story, giving a better account of herself than in any picture produced in Hollywood. Even in her brief period of prosperity she is careful in her selection of gowns. She is quick to betray her emotions, such as anxiety, affection, nervousness, interest, pleasure and despair. Her eyes are soft and, as usual, wonderfully expressive ... She does not flirt. Men flirt with her ... Pola Negri will win many admirers by her sincere performance as Lily." In *Crown of Lies* (1926), a lost production, Negri is Olga Kriga. Court Mirko convinces her she is a daughter of the former Queen of Sylvania in Europe. Kriga puts on a performance and is accepted as a queen until Count Vorski tries to get her removed. Negri Polish in *Hi Diddle Diddle* (1943). She receives some flowers from her manager that are wilted. She rants, "Ja mu pokazie" (I'll show him). Her Polish accent is easily detected as she also expresses her confusion with an American saying: "You can't pull my wool over my eyes."

One of the more sensational events in Negri's life was her behavior during the funeral of Rudolph Valentino. She sent \$2,000 worth of flowers that spelled out her name to the funeral. She fainted several times at the funeral. She announced that Valentino had proposed to her. Newsreel footage of Pola Negri at Valentino's funeral is shown in *The Golden Twenties* (1950). After three years of research, Mariusz Kotowski released a documentary, *Pola Negri: Life is a Dream in Cinema* (2006) in which, according to a reviewer, "Negri's 'appearance at his [Valentino's] funeral [is] sympathetically covered' as are other events in her personal life.

continued next month

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 35th 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 seven hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok, Grajewo, and Ostroleka. 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

MINNESOTA VOICE

Minnesota's Kashubians to Mark Milestone Year

by Mark Dillon

At the annual Smaczne Jabłka Polish Apple Festival in Winona, Chuck Kernler brings a flavor that is not exactly Polish. It's his French ancestor's recipe for caramel, paired with apples grown on a nearby orchard whose harvest helps sustain the Polish Cultural Institute & Museum.

In January, Kernler, 71, was elected the new president of the Winona museum, which bills itself as America's Kashubian capital, Kashubia being the culturally and linguistically distinct region of northern Poland around Gdansk and nearby villages.

Kernler says his family roots are Bavarian, French, and Scandinavian. However, his leadership and strong enthusiasm for Kashubian culture has the blessing of museum founder Rev. Paul P. Breza and the museum's board.

"It is a pivotal time for the Polish museum," Kernler says. "I am really glad that how well I am being accepted even with my German heritage."



Chuck Kernler is the new president of the Polish Cultural Institute, Inc. & Museum in Winona, Minn.

German and Swedish heritage. She says about half of a planned \$135,000 budget has been raised so far through private donations, a regional cultural grant and city budget assistance.

Kashubia had been part of the German-Prussian partition and its fate was the subject of negotiations at the 1919 Versailles peace conference in the aftermath of World War

I, with Gdansk being designated a separate "free city" under its German name Danzig until the German-Soviet invasions of September 1939.

As part of the series of memorial events, Alexander will lead a 20-person delegation on a trip to Bytow, Poland, a Sister City to Winona, this September, while 16 dignitaries from Poland will visit Minnesota in June and October, including experts from the University of Gdansk, Pomeranian University and the Western Kashubian Museum. They will present on:

- Kashubia's 1920 incorporation into Poland, known as the Stake Wars
- cultural relationships between the Kashubian diaspora and the homeland
- unique aspects of Kashubian music
- Kashubian art and literature.

The Winona museum marked a milestone of its own this past October. Forty years earlier Fr. Breza opened shop at a former lumber yard office he purchased in 1977, and over the years apple sales have helped raise museum development capital and improvements. Fr. Breza and new President Kernler met more than a decade ago when Kernler began to supply the museum with crates for hauling apples.

Like Fr. Breza, Kernler has an eye for seeing the historic value of a site and patiently transforming it by his own hand. In the mid and late 1970s, as a fisheries manager at Minnesota's Whitewater Wildlife Management Area (near the Mississippi River west of Winona), Kernler and his wife Diane, as a young couple, restored the abandoned 1858 Hemmelberg-Kieffer house, one of the state's earliest German-immigrant built stone homes (Min-



Michelle Alexander, co-chair of the Kashubian Centennial Committee, sits on Winona, Minn.'s City Council and plans to lead a delegation of 20 civic leaders to Poland this September.

nesota was admitted to the Union that same year). Kernler holds a degree in fine arts from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

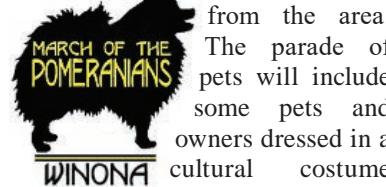
Fr. Breza, who will turn 83 in June, remains actively involved in the museum, including building the cultural exchange and Sister Cities relationship with Bytow, Poland which is his own family's ancestral Kashubian community.

With the exception of the Polish Apple Festival, all this year's Polish-themed events are new, says Alexander. The calendar includes a dog parade, food festivals, Mississippi River tours and workshops

March of the Pomeranians

Parade on March 28 at noon at Sobieski Park

This event is billed as "a delightful way to introduce folks to the Pomeranian regional culture through the wonderful breed of dogs



that originated from the area. The parade of pets will include some pets and owners dressed in a cultural costume

of their choice. The pets and their owners will be awarded prizes for best costume, most authentic cultural representation, and most similar in appearance: owner and pet."

Pomeranians were first bred in northern Poland. Famous owners have included Marie Antionette, Queen Victoria, and Mozart.

Smigus Dyngus Day

April 13 at Sobieski Park

Community wide water pistol and balloon fights, coupled with a children's paint balloon art and coloring contests.

Jeny Kochany (Oh, My Gosh)

Festival. May 23 at Levee Park

A "day-long celebration of all things Kashubian" with a Live@ the Levee concert featuring a Polka Battle of the Bands. There will be a Polish Polka dance off, dance lessons, Polish and a Pisanki (egg decoration) demonstration and competition.



Kashubia is located in north-west Poland.

Banquet in the Street-Kashubian Style on June 25 Center St./3rd and 5th Sts.

Essentially a neighborhood-wide Polish potluck dinner. A "meal in the street" featuring community members sharing Kashubian dishes, or other family and fan favorites. Tables will be set up along an East Side street and folks will be invited to participate in celebrating Polish food. Polish music and dancing will follow.

Watkins Bake-Off

September 26

A regional bake off and food competition (Winona is the headquarters of the J.R. Watkins Co.). This year will feature special awards for Polish cuisine in each area in addition to the primary categories of Best Bake, Best Dessert, Best Bread. One Watkins ingredient must be included in the recipe. This day will also feature a donut-eating competition

Commemorative Oak and Pine Plantings

September 30 and October 1 Polish Traditions Workshops (multiple dates)

A series of presentations on the history, culture and art and cuisine of the Kashubian people. They will include The Polish Table (Cuisine), Haft (Embroidery), Genealogy, and Wycinaki (Paper Cutting) and Pisanki

Mississippi River Boat Tours (multiple dates)

Themes: Home-Town Heroes; The Polish Immigrant — New Place, New Ways; The Fighting Poles; and The Polish Worker.

Capital Centennial

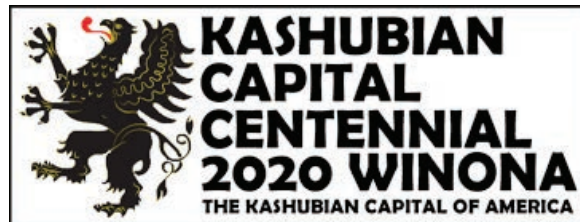
"KCC2020 will inform a new generation about Kashubian culture, history and arts," says the event's Steering Committee, led by Alexander and Tim Breza, a museum board member and former president. "The KCC2020 organizers chose the art forms and events to be included with an eye toward their significance and to rekindle pride and awareness."

"Kashubians are very much a part of Minnesota history," Kernler notes.

A Minnesota microbrewery also plans to craft a commemorative "Bytow Brew" for the year's events, Alexander adds.

Most Kashubians in Minnesota arrived between 1859 and 1898, with some 6,000 people settling in a 15-mile radius around Winona. The migration was especially noteworthy after German unification and the Franco-Prussian War in 1870-1871. At that time Otto Von Bismarck initiated a Kulturkampf campaign to Germanize areas of northern and western Poland, discriminate against Catholics, and ban the Kashubian and Polish languages.

During that period, Minnesota had the third largest concentration of Kashubian emigration to the United States after Wisconsin and the Buffalo, N.Y. areas, which had 30,000 and 7,000 immigrants respectively, museum and U.S. census research shows.



Programs to mark Kashubia's Centennial as part of Poland

This year will be a busy one for Kernler, the museum's 15 or so regular volunteers, and Winona's Kashubian community. Under a program called Kashubian Capital Centennial 2020 (KCC2020.org), the museum has partnered with the City of Winona and businesses to create 35 cultural events that begin this month to mark the 100th anniversary of the addition of the Kashubia region into the Republic of Poland.

"The whole community has gotten on board" says Winona City Councilwoman Michelle Alexander, who is of mixed Polish,

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



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Minnesota's 160-year Kashubian legacy

A French-Canadian Kashubian connection dates to the mid-19th century, as many Kashubians including Breza's family passed through Quebec to get to Minnesota. The first Kashubians in the state were the Jacob and Franciszka von Bronk family of Wiele who sailed from Hamburg to Quebec on the ship Elbe in May, 1859 and reached Winona in time for the 1860 U.S. census. (Source: Bambenek.org)

"Winona was the first major city on this side of the Mississippi for Poles," Alexander says. "Kashubians were looking for a place that reminded them of the area they were from."

Winona's initial Kashubian Polish community also included the Felckowski, Kiedrowski, Kukowski, Libera, Pelowski, Reszka, and Walenski families, museum records show. Originally home to a Sioux village, one of the Winona area's earliest pioneers of the period was Francois LaBathe, a French and Native American fur trader.

Kernler's father emigrated from Bavaria to Wis-

consin in 1902 at the age of one. His maternal line of descendants includes the Truax/du Trieux family, originally from French-speaking parts of Belgium that settled in Quebec and New York in the 17th century.

Councilwoman Alexander is hoping the city-wide Kashubian excitement will last more than just a year. One permanent change that she says is under consideration is rebranding the name of the city's baseball team from the Chiefs to the Griffins, a griffin being the mythological creature (see event logo) that is Kashubia's historic symbol, akin to the way a bear is for Carpatho-Rusyns or a lion is for Czechs.

Another way is integrating Polish and Kashubian heritage into the local school district's curriculum, says Alexander. At Winona's Washington-Kosciuszko Elementary School on Feb. 4, she said the school's students marked Thaddeus Kosciuszko's 264th birthday with a day of learning about the Polish American patriot.

AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

FLORIDA

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — An organ recital by **Dr. Mateusz Rzu-ewski** will be held Sun., March 15, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul Catholic Church, 1800 North 12th St. For details, visit www.aipctampabay.org.

CONNECTICUT

NEW BRITAIN — The **S.A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish Studies** will present its Milewski Lecture, “An Unknown Story: Polish Cold War Exiles,” by Sławomir Łukasiewicz, Mon., March 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in Founders Hall, Davidson Building, Central Connecticut State University.

Following the tragedy of World War II, more than half a million Polish exiles, unable to return to now communist Poland, stayed in the West. It was an extraordinary phenomenon, which forever changed the Polish community abroad.

Sławomir Łukasiewicz is a Fulbright Scholar at Harvard University. In 2015-2019, he was the director of the Institute of European Studies at John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, where he is a university professor. He is widely published,

including most recently Poland, in: East Central European Migrations during the Cold War. A Handbook; Christian Democracy across the Iron Curtain; and Third Europe: Polish Federalist Thought in the United States. His research awards include the Kosciuszko Foundation, the Foundation for Polish Science, the Polish Ministry of Science and the Fulbright Commission, among others.

This event is free and the public is cordially invited. For further information please contact the Polish Studies at (860) 832-3010 or jacquesm@ccsu.edu

Public parking available in parking garages.

NEW JERSEY

RUNNEMEDE — St. Joseph / St. Patrick Social, sponsored by the **Polish American Citizens Club** of Camden. Sun., March 22. 3:00-7:00 p.m. Runnemedede VFW Post 3324, E. 6th Ave. and Veteran's Way. \$25 donation, includes buffet, beer, wine and soda. Cash bar for mixed drinks. Music by The Polka All-Stars Rick Gazda, Ray Malach and Chuck Pendrak. Deadline for reservations is March 13. For info, call Dan at (856) 468-1215.

CAMDEN — **St. Joseph's Polish Apostolate** is holding its 2020 Celebration of the Arts, Sat. April 4, 2020, 2:00-4:00 p.m. St. Joseph's Church, 1010 Liberty St., Presentation by Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS, on the topic “Beauty Will Save the World.” For more information, leave a message at the rectory (856) 963-1285, or visit PAHACamdenCounty.com.

NEW YORK

TONAWANDA — St. Francis of Assisi Parish is having its 11th annual **Polish Fest**, Sat., March 21 from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at 70 Adam St. Dinner features traditional Polish food, including pierogi, sauerkraut, Polish sausage, wine, beer, and soda. Music will be provided by the Pic-A-Polka Orchestra, and there will be a performance by Polish dancers. Tickets (\$18 per person) are available at the door and the rectory office. A Polish-American Folk Mass will be celebrated in church at 4:30, right before the dinner. All are welcome.

OHIO

BEREA — 2nd Annual Northeast Ohio **PierogiFest**. Sat., April 4, 2020, 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, 164 Eastland Rd., Berea. This event will feature: local restaurants and caterers offering Polish favorites including lots of traditional and untraditional varieties of pierogi; Polish and domestic beer; live musical entertainment; authentic Polish dancers; and an expansive shopping bazaar featuring 75 crafters, artists, artisans and local businesses. Limited tickets. available. No tickets will be available for purchase at the door. Tickets must be purchased at either the event website www.doyoulovepolishfood.com or by calling toll free (888) 504-8103 ext. 1.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA — Sun., March 8. **Polski Uniwersytet Ludowy Lecture**, in the Polish language, Associated Polish Home, 9150 Academy Rd. 3:00 p.m. Speaker: Ryszard Druch, Graphic and Satire Artist. On Sun., April 19, there will be a lecture in Polish by Natalia Dziętycz, Drexel University student, and Anna Kwasniewska and Christine Strzalka, owners of Secret of Flowers (in English). For information about either event, call (610) 613-9652. All are invited to attend. Free.

PHILADELPHIA. Sun., March 22. Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia **Annual Chopin Concert**, Settlement Music School, 6128 Germantown Ave. 2:30 p.m. Featured artist: Martin Labazevitch. Info/tickets call Debbie Majka (215) 627-1391.

LANSDALE — Sat., April 18. Annual **International Spring Festival**, North Penn High School, Valley Forge Road & Sumneytown Pike. 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Food vendors, international displays, live entertainment, activities for children and much more. Info call Lansdale Public Library (215) 855-3228. Free admission. Everyone is invited.

WYOMISSING — Sat., April 25. Berks County **Polish American Board of Education Scholarship Banquet**, Inn of the Reading Hotel, 1040 North Park Rd., 5:00 p.m. Music. Info/reservations call Helen Nowotarski (610) 777-4598.

PHILADELPHIA — Sat., March 28. **Cultural Heritage Mass**, Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter & Paul, 18th & Benjamin Franklin Pkwy. Procession of ethnic groups 2:00 p.m.; Mass 2:30 p.m. Info call (215) 587-3540.

Lent: Time to drown or burn “Marzanna”

continued from cover

For Poles, Lent comes just after carnival (*zapusty*) – a time of wonderful parties and joy, to which nobody wants to say goodbye. But the last day finally has to come. On this day all the parties were great but lasted only until midnight, when both behavior and diet had to change.

There was an old Polish custom to say goodbye to carnival by preaching a special “ash sermon,” during which one of the partygoers, dressed in a shirt in place of a surplice and with a belt around his neck, spun a story full of anecdotes and jokes and filled it up with stupidity and Latin maxims without any sense to cause laughter and admiration.

After this ornate speech at midnight the sound of church bells reverberated everywhere, the music fell silent, bright lights went out and the end of joyful days was announced. Then the hostess disappeared and went to the kitchen to prepare “Podkurek” (a breakfast eaten before the first rooster crowed). When the bells fell silent the hostess brought out a platter with a lid and all stood around her. The host raised the lid and a bird (usually a sparrow) flew out, symbolizing fickleness. The meal eaten afterwards (Podkurek) consisted of herrings, eggs and milk. The same dishes were served in both rich and poor houses. This was the way of saying goodbye to meat and it was supposed to be the diet for the next 40 days. If, after eating, there was some milk left, it was put on a spoon and splashed on the ceiling to read the future by looking at stains.

All musical instruments had to be hidden, as well as trinkets and mirrors (if not, they had to be at least covered up with scarves). Women changed clothes by choosing dark and modest ones. All kitchen accessories and especially frying pans were thoroughly cleaned – no remains of fat could be left.

The next morning was Ash Wednesday. The first thing that had to be done was participating



Marzanna is usually a straw effigy of a well-dressed woman symbolizing winter and death. To end the winter, the effigy is usually setting on fire or drowning in a river (or both). The ceremony is held March 21, the first day of the calendar spring, but in the past the festival was held on the fourth Sunday of Lent.

in Holy Mass. During this service, the priest sprinkled (and nowadays they still do it) all heads with ashes (made by burning palms from the previous year). Poles were so devout that even when ill they asked to have some ash brought to them and sprinkled on their heads in their beds.

The people did not want to lose the cheerful atmosphere so fast, so among those going to the church were boys “jokers” who tried to pin eggshells, crow's feet, bones tied up with string or turkeys' necks to the women's dresses – all this to amuse the crowd during a very serious Mass. Over the doorsteps of inns, a strainer with ash was hung and everybody entering had a little “ash shower”. The very serious custom of sprinkling ash on heads in church became a contribution to the village's fun. So, youths filled sacks with ash and hit one another with them or dumped a great quantity of ash on the head of someone of the opposite sex. Sometimes a pot full of ash was thrown very close to somebody to make a cloud of ash dust and to dirty this person. The custom of throwing such pots against the door at midnight in the middle of Lent survived in Poland for a very long time. It was a symbol of tightening up the fast. In

the old days in Poland the fast was strictly observed, especially in the early days of Christianity. In those times, in the second half of Lent, people did not eat any boiled dish and they ate only bread, dried fruits and smoked fish.

The middle of Lent was also the time of drowning or burning a straw dummy, called “Marzanna” which was a symbol of the death and winter.

This custom is still alive but the date has changed to March 21, the first day of spring. After this symbolic goodbye to winter, people came back to the village with a spruce decorated with colorful ribbons and painted eggshells and with a cheerful song: “Our gaik (the decorated spruce) green is beautifully decorated.” They sang and wandered from one house to another and demanded small gifts, usually food.

Palms and Their Symbolism

A big part of Lent always falls in March, the time of sowing. Peasants very much wished to start sowing this month in order to have rich crops. Regardless of bad weather or wet soil all of them went to the field. They started to sow after a special ritual during which they threw seeds four times to the four

sides of the world “for God's glory, as a benevolence for goblins, as an offering for the soil, water, air and all living creatures both good and bad”, then they made the sign of the cross and started to sow.

A very cheerful day in the middle of Lent's sadness was Palm Sunday, the last Sunday before Easter. On this day all people went to church with palms in their hands. It often happened (and still does) that this day fell in April, so the atmosphere was joyful (as it is in spring), and thanks to the palms in church this day was really colorful and happy. Palms were made, as nowadays, of willow twigs, myrtle, colored blades of grass and dried flowers, but today we make them small and in the old days they could be two or even three meters long.



Blessed catkins had a lot of symbolic functions: if burned they became a penance ash, left in a corner of a field they protected plants against pests and bad weather, put in a window during a storm they drove away bolts of lightning. They were also put behind crosses and paintings of saints as a guard for the house and a request for God's blessing. After the Mass people hit each other with palms, wishing them good health, wealth and bumper crops.

Palm Sunday commemorates the day when Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem before His death and Resurrection. To commemorate this day in old Poland (until the 20th century) Catholics imitated the Savior's entrance into Jerusalem. So one of

farmers was dressed as Jesus, seated on a donkey and among shouts of joy and cheerful songs led to the church while people threw willow twigs under his legs. It often happened that farmers would refuse such an honor because of humility, so in place of a man a wooden sculpture of Jesus seated on a donkey was used. Such a figure was pulled by the most respected men in the village.

On this day boys also got even with Judas. They made a dummy Judas of straw, string and old scarecrows. They placed a money bag with thirty pieces of broken glass on his neck as a symbol of the 30 pieces of silver, then threw the dummy out of the church tower and then hit it with sticks. Even one piece of “Judas” could not remain, his leftovers were burned or thrown into water.

Easter was very close. All were busy cleaning in and around their houses. All houses were painted and in those where a girl old enough to get married lived, one of the walls was only splashed with paint as a sign for bachelors.

Before Easter Sunday everything had to be cleaned: body and soul, inside the house and in the farmyard.

Lent started by sprinkling ashes on heads, giving to the poor the remains of carnival parties, and putting carnival clothing into closets. During this time people put jam or oil on bread and did not use butter. They ate herring without cream. Coffee was served without sugar. They drank herbal drinks and ate cookies with only a little sugar inside called “everlasting” (because they could be eaten half a year after baking). Lively melodies were forbidden. Toys were hidden and only the most toil-worn ones were left. In place of fairy tales, the life stories of saints were read. In the 19th century, men renounced alcohol, cigarettes and the pleasures of love.

Lent seems to be a sad, gloomy and gray time, but even at that time of year, Polish tradition included many colorful and charming customs.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Realistically Portraying Characters in a Broken World

reviewed by Mary E. Lanham

THEY WENT LEFT

by Monica Hesse
Little, Brown, and Company, 2020, 364 pgs.

They Went Left begins where many stories about World War II end: at the conclusion of the war and the liberation of the concentration camps. Hesse skillfully stitches together the coming-of-age story of Zofia Lederman, an eighteen-year-old survivor of the Gross-Rosen death camps, with the lives of other survivors that she encounters along the way. Zofia, one of the last of her family to live to see the end of the war, is driven to seek out her younger brother, who she promised to find no matter what.

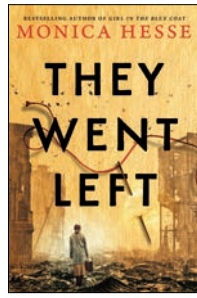
Photographs of liberated prisoners from the Nazi death camps show the starvation, disease, and utter filth with which they were forced to live. But what they could not depict were the traumas and psychological aftermath of seeing neighbors mutilated, friends tortured, and family members killed. Hesse's portrayal of Zofia, illustrates the toll these

traumas can take on the psyche. Zofia's memory gaps, disturbing dreams, and panic attacks all create barriers to her mission to find Abek, her twelve-year-old brother.

From southern Germany, Zofia returns to her hometown in Russian-controlled Poland before traveling to an Allied refugee camp in search of her brother. There she meets other survivors like herself, seeking to rebuild their lives any way they can. To do this, her new friends do what they can. Miriam writes ten letters a day to locate her sister, Breine rushes to wed her new fiancé as soon as possible, and for her part, Zofia begins to unlock the mystery of the loner Josef.

Through her journey, Lederman must find a way to uncover her buried memories, recover lost pieces of herself, and discover hidden strengths to forge a new future.

Using her journalistic train-



ing, Hesse delved into oral histories, documentaries, memoirs, and books about World War II, concentration camps, and displaced persons camps to sensitively and realistically portray her characters in a broken world. These are stories that need to be told and Hesse does so with thoughtfulness and sympathy. *They Went Left* is a much-needed addition to post-World War II historical fiction and as a young adult book it is the perfect gift for the Polish American teen in your life.

Originally from Illinois, Monica Hesse is the bestselling author of *Girl in the Blue Coat* for which she was the recipient of the Edgar Award for Best Young Adult Mystery. She has also received the Society for Feature Journalism's Narrative Storytelling award. Hesse's other books are *American Fire* and *The War Outside*. Hesse is currently a columnist for the Washington Post and lives outside of Washington, D.C. with her family.

Review is based on an uncorrected proof.

BOOK REVIEW

Tokarczuk's Nobel-Winning Flights

reviewed by
Barbara Betlejewska

FLIGHTS

by Olga Tokarczuk
416 pages
Riverhead Books
English Edition
ISBN-10: 0525534199
ISBN-13: 978-0525534198

Flights is a fragmentary novel, first published in Polish in 2007, wonderfully translated into English by Jennifer Croft in 2017, and provided the impetus for which Polish author Olga Tokarczuk and her translator were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2019.

The Nobel Committee cited Tokarczuk for her "narrative imagination that with encyclopedic passion represents the crossing of boundaries as a form of life."

A fragmentary novel is a novel made of fragments, vignettes, segments, documents, or chapters. The earliest known example of this was by a Roman author around 60 A.D. The fragments can be read individually by simply opening the book at random and/or sequentially as part of the entire novel. Like most fragmentary novels, *Flights* is non-linear, and lacks a traditional plot or set of characters. There is no beginning and no end, all of which many will find disconcerting initially. The book's original Polish title is "Bieguni," or "Runners," from the Polish verb *biegać*, "to run."

Flights is a mystical, visionary work of fiction about travel of all types, including inside the human body. *Flights* explores what it means to be a wanderer, a body in motion, inside and out, through space and time. It is easy to read, although I frequently found it jarring and edgy, with some similarities to American Southern Gothic writers Carson McCullers and Flannery O'Connor. This is not surprising, given Tokarczuk's traumatic childhood as a gifted Polish child under Russian communist near-slavery. Tokarczuk trained as a psychologist, but left actual practice after several years because — in her words — "I was working with one of my patients and realized I was much more disturbed than he was."

And aren't we all, to a greater or lesser extent. Her writing draws much from her psychological background. She married a fellow psychologist, had one son, and later divorced. *Flights* is her ninth novel.

I found Tokarczuk's novel bold, perceptive, inventive and "in your face." She describes details of life that most miss. Vignettes include the story of how the Polish composer Fryderyk Chopin's heart is smuggled back into Poland by his sister, the discovery of the Achilles tendon by a 17th century Dutch anatomist, the euthanasia of a terminally ill man by his former high school sweetheart, and mundane observations while waiting in airports, boats, hotels, and cars. There are detailed discussions of human anatomy and human platination, and even a chapter on the ubiquitous plastic grocery bag flying around.

Most venues described in the novel are outside of Poland, which I found surprising. Two quotes include "The tongue is the strongest muscle," and "Move. Get going. Blessed is he (or she) who leaves." Tokarczuk traveled extensively throughout Europe and Asia in her 30s and draws much of her material from these wanderings. I was particularly intrigued by one of several documents included in the book, the 1878 map of the Parc Monceau in Paris, because I was an au pair girl in Paris at age 19 and would often take my little French charges to that park to play.

Tokarczuk is a controversial figure in Poland today because she is a feminist in a patriarchal country overreacting to outside domination. She is also a vegetarian among hunters and meat-eaters overreacting to centuries of food insecurity. She is particularly controversial because she is willing to scrutinize Poland's history — both the good and the occasionally not-so-good, like all countries and even all humans — and has been criticized by Poland's right-wing nationalists for this. Tokarczuk is known for her trademark dreadlocks and "hippie" demeanor, although her hairstyle is actually a *plica polonica*, or "Polish tangle," reports of which date back to the 17th century.

The book is fascinating, easy to pick up, put down, and pick up again, and you will definitely want to explore all the nuances of movement and flight by this great contemporary Polish author.



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St. Valentine's PNCC and PHC Host Sing-Along

by Christine Newman

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. — St. Valentine's Polish National Catholic Church and the Polish Heritage Committee of Northampton celebrated the Christmas Season with a concert of Polish carols. The event was held Jan. 5, 2020 and hosted by St. Valentine's Church.

With twenty-five lead singers, the Annual Polskie Kolędy Sing Along featured twenty traditional Polish carols and pastoralki. Some of the selections included: "Cicha Noc," "Wśród Nocnej Cizy," "Śliczna Panienska," "Dzisiaj w Betlejem," "Oj Maluśki, Maluśki," "Mędrzy świata, monarchowie," "Pastuszkowie bracia mili," "Bóg zawitał," "Skrzypi wóz" and "Nowy Rok bieży."

Lead singers were comprised of choir members (some dressed in Polish costumes) from area churches throughout the Pioneer Valley, including: Holy Family (South Deerfield); Our Lady of the Hills (Haydenville); Our Lady of the Valley (Easthampton); Mater Dolorosa (Holyoke); Most Holy Redeemer (Hadley); and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, as well as St. Valentine's, both from Northampton. The organist for the event was Jean Gromacki, the

organist at St. Valentine's as well as St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parishes. For the second consecutive year, two special guest musicians performed: Eddie Forman, accordionist and the leader of the Eddie Forman Orchestra for over fifty years, and retired Music Director of the Hadley Public Schools; and Lenny Kokoski, violinist and bass player with the Eddie Forman Orchestra for seven years, and who currently plays for the Mark VI Band and is a participant in the Polish Carolers group from Ludlow, Mass.

Rev. Adam Czarnecki, pastor of St. Valentine's, opened the event with prayer asking God to open our hearts to praise Him and give glory by singing the beautiful carols, which are about his miraculous birth. Bob Gibowicz, Chairman of the Polish Heritage Committee, Northampton, presented "Polish Christmas Traditions."

This year's program included the blessing of chalk and incense by Rev. Czarnecki for distribution to all in attendance, and two Gospel readings were read: "The Birth of Jesus according to St. Matthew," and "The Birth of Jesus according to St. Luke" read by Michael Lambert and Krycia Newman, respectively. Rev. Robert Koerber, Holy

Name of Jesus Parish, offered a closing prayer.

This year's event had the largest attendance yet – approximately 250 guests. Local TV station WWLP – News 22 sent its camera crew along with reporter Sy Becker to do a story for presentation on the evening news program the day of the sing along.

The event culminated with a reception parish hall.

Watch for the announcement for the 2021 Sing-Along.

The event was videographed, and DVDs are available at \$10.00 each by calling Christine Newman at (413) 584- 4531.

ASK OUR MAN IN WARSAW

Kindly airmail all Polish/Polonian-related queries to:
Robert Strybel
ul. Kaniowska 24
01-529 Warsaw, Poland
email: strybel@interia.pl

Q: Is it appropriate to sing "Sto lat" at a person's 100th Birthday?

— Helen Stanislaw Kukula
(via Facebook)

A: It all depends on the birthday person's sense of humor. More likely than not he/she will not suspect you of wishing him/her immediate demise. But Poles have thought up a humorous sequel to "Sto Lat" which goes: "Mało sto, dwieście lat niech

żyje, żyje nam..." ("A hundred's too little so 200 years may you live and live and live...")

Q: My mom would say this children's nursery rhyme in Polish when we were little, and I'd like to teach it to my grandchildren. She would hold our hand and tap the middle and then touch the tops of our fingers until she got to our thumb and pull it up to the sky. After that she would go up our arm with a slicing motion and at the top she would tickle us. Anybody know what I'm talking about?

— Donna Esch,
Redford, Michigan

A: The nursery rhyme (although it's not a rhyme) goes: "Tu myszka gotowała kaszkę. Temu dała, temu dała, temu dała, a temu lebek urwała i poleciała!" (Translation: "Here the little mouse was cooking porridge. It gave some to this one, this one, this one, and this one, but this one's head it ripped off and flew away.")

With her index finger, Mama or Babcia makes a circular stirring motion in the center of the child's open palm, as if cooking something. She then grabs or touches four of the child's fingers in succession saying "temu dała, temu dała..." and then grabs its thumb and pretends to whisk it away ("a temu lebek urwała i poleciała").

Pulaski Day Ceremonies at PMA

CHICAGO — Celebrate Pulaski Day at the Polish Museum of America (PMA) on Mon., March 2, 2020, with top officials from national, state, county, and city governments and leaders of Polonian organizations and institutions, as the State of Illinois pays tribute to the Polish community by honoring Revolutionary War hero Casimir Pulaski.

The program includes the traditional wreath-laying ceremony at Stanislaw Batowski's painting of Pulaski at Savannah. Admission is free and the program be-

gins promptly at 10 a.m. in the PMA Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall, 984 North Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago.

In 1977, Illinois made Casimir Pulaski Day an official state holiday.

Refreshments will be served following the official program in the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America Social Hall on the first floor.

The Polish Museum of America is at 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. Telephone (773) 384-3352.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships Presented, More Available for HS Seniors

PORT WASHINGTON, N.Y. — The Polish American Museum scheduled a Christmas Concert of Polish music, but unfortunately the artists cancelled. In their place was the talented artistic pianist Miguel D'Armande, who performed the music of Frederic Chopin and Franz Schubert as well as some Christmas music. In addition to the concert, the American Polish Council of Long Island — under the direction of its president, Doctor John Pitrowski — presented scholarships to Emily Ciszewski and Michael Kalicki. The program was chaired by Barbara Szydłowski. Refreshments were served and the guests toured the museum.

Applications for the Polish American Museum Founders Scholarships are now available upon request to high school students graduating in June 2020. For details, call (516) 883-6542.

Engineers' Application May 15

CHICAGO — The Polish-American Engineers Association, Inc. remind all that the deadline for its scholarship is May 30, 2020.

Candidates must be pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree in engineering, computer science or architecture in a university or college program accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. Students must

be in their junior year or above, and be attending colleges or universities in Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, or Michigan. Previous scholarship recipients are not eligible.

For more information, visit www.polishengineers.org/scholarships.php, or write: Polish-American Engineers Association, c/o Michael Niedzinski, 1 Watergate Dr., South Barrington, IL 60010; email: administration@polishengineers.org.

PAAA invites Students to Apply for 2020 Scholarship

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Polish American Arts Association of Washington invites Polish American students to apply by March 15, 2020 for a scholarship grant of up to \$5,000.

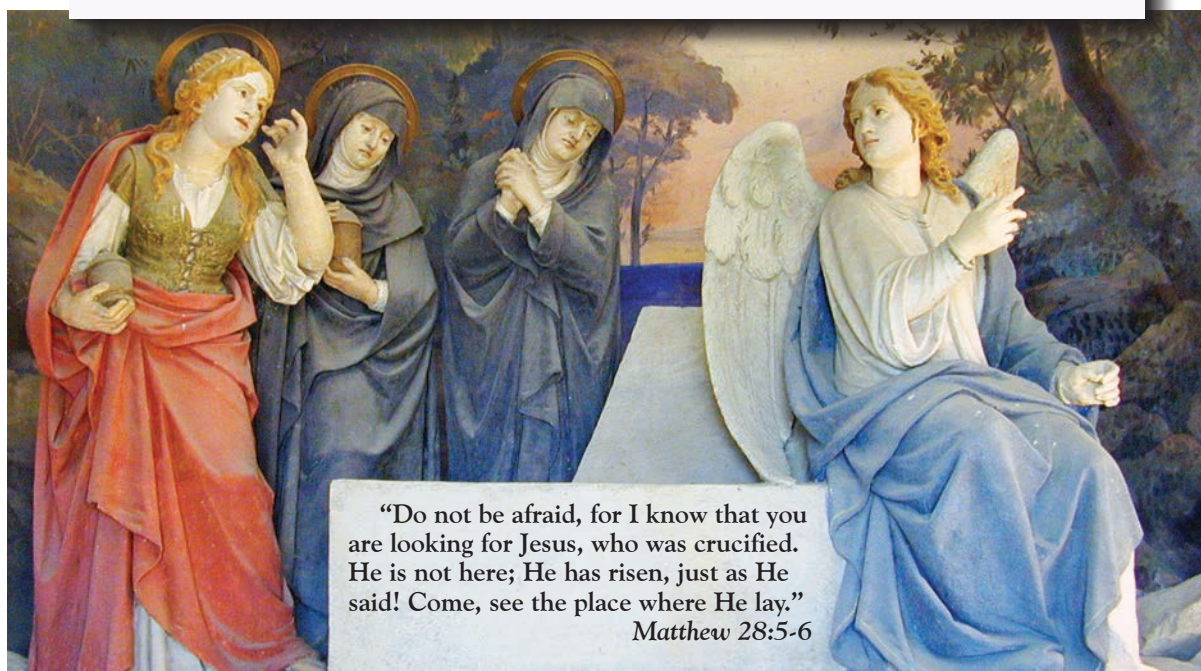
To qualify, applicants must be of Polish or Polish American descent and be full-time college student currently enrolled at an accredited college or university in the United States. Applicants must also be residents of Washington D.C.; Maryland or Virginia or study at an institution in one these jurisdictions.

Complete application package must be received in its entirety no later than March 15, 2020. There is no application fee required, and all are encouraged to apply. For full details and information on how to apply, please visit paaa.us/scholarship.

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"Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said! Come, see the place where He lay."
Matthew 28:5-6

We invite our readers to participate in the time-honored tradition of sending Easter wishes to fellow Polish Americans with a holiday greeting ad. All messages will be printed in the Easter 2020 Edition of the Polish American Journal. Your support, in the form of a holiday greeting, helps us continue our mission to serve American Polonia. Furthermore, it is a demonstration of the solidarity that exists between Polish Americans from all corners of our country.

Can we count on you? If you have any questions, please call 1 (800) 422-1275, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

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SPORTS

Wisniewski Celebrates his Second Super Bowl Win



WISNIEWSKI. Super Bowl star wasn't even on an NFL roster for the first five weeks of this season.

by Tom Tarapacki

Stefen Wisniewski wasn't even on an NFL roster at the beginning of this season, but he ended up starting at left guard for the Super Bowl LIV champion Kansas City Chiefs. It was the second ring in three years for the 30-year-old veteran. It was Kansas City's first win in the big game since **Hank (Wilczek) Stram** led the Chiefs to victory in Super Bowl IV.

The Oakland Raiders selected Wisniewski out of Penn State in the second round of the 2011 draft and he started in every game he played in four seasons. He went to Jacksonville in free agency, and after starting all of their 16 games the Jags didn't re-sign him. That offseason, he had to wait weeks before the Eagles signed him. Wisniewski went on to start on the Philly offensive line that dominated the Patriots defensive line in Super Bowl LII, but he was released this past August.

Wisniewski wasn't even on an NFL roster for the first five weeks of this season, until Kansas City needed some line depth. It helped that KC coach Andy Reid's offense is basically the same as Reid protege Doug Pederson used in Philly. Stefen became a starter late in the season, started every game and played every offensive snap for KC in the playoffs.

Number 61 has been undervalued by many and he thinks he knows why. "I think I get the job done ... but I don't do anything that often that's like, 'Oh, that's amazing!' he said. The 6-foot-3, 305-pound "Wiz" was a three-time Academic All-American at Penn State, and he's a technician who can play multiple positions.

Wisniewski's father, Leo, played three years as a nose tackle for the Colts, and his uncle Steve, spent 14 seasons at guard with the Raiders. However, Stefen was the first in the family to win a Super Bowl.

JUSZCZYK PAYS OFF. San Francisco fullback **Kyle Juszczyk** was on the losing side in the Super Bowl, but he scored a touchdown and was stopped just short of another one. Kyle's receiving TD was the first by a fullback in a Super Bowl in 26 years. In fact, he was the first fullback to score at all in a Super Bowl in 17 years.

Modern NFL offenses have led to the near-extinction of the fullback; most teams, if they have one, rarely use him. However, the skill and versatility of the 6-1, 240-lb. Harvard graduate — he's often described as a "Swiss Army knife" — have made him an important part of

the 49ers' offense.

If you made a positive Super Bowl prop bet on Juszczyk you made a lot of money. Las Vegas paid off big if he scored a TD or had more than 10.5 yards receiving. Not only did he catch that touchdown that tied the game, but he totaled three receptions for 39 yards.



NFL QUARTERBACKS of Polish ancestry. (Clockwise, from top left): Brady, Garoppolo, Romo, and Marino.

POLISH RIFLES. The NFL has had some great Polish American quarterbacks, "Polish Rifles," if you will. They have included names like **Johnny Lujack**, **Ed Danowski**, **Zeke Bratkowski**, and **Ron Jaworski**. But there are also some pretty outstanding signal callers who have Polish ancestry on the maternal side of their lineage.

Jimmy Garoppolo, Super Bowl LIV QB is one of them. The native of Arlington Heights, Ill, near Chicago is the son of Anthony J. and Denise F. (Malec) Garoppolo. Jimmy's maternal grandparents were Polish.

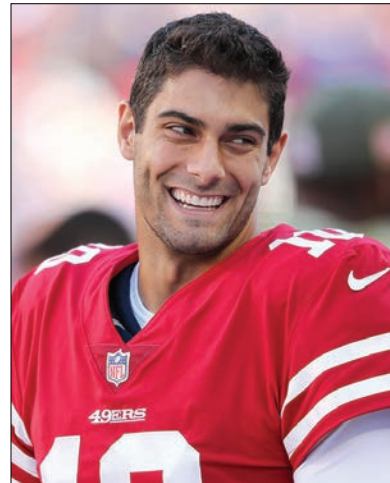
At Eastern Illinois Garoppolo broke the school record for career pass completions previously held by former NFL quarterback Tony Romo. Romo also has Polish ancestry on his maternal side. Tony's mother, the former Joan Jakubowski, is Polish, while his father is Mexican-American.

New England quarterback **Tom Brady** has Polish ancestry on his

mother's side, as his maternal grandmother was Bernice Obitz. Former NFL QB **Dan Marino's** father was Italian and his mother was Polish, the former Veronica Kolczynski.

KUBIAK STILL COACHING. Health concerns caused **Gary Kubiak** to step away from being an NFL head coach, but they haven't kept him from contributing to the game in other capacities.

A native of Houston, Kubiak's lineage (and that of his wife, the former Rhonda Kaminski) goes back to the Polish immigrants who were recruited to Texas from Poland to work the cotton plantations following the Civil War (*PAJ March 2016*). He was mostly a backup QB in the NFL, then became a coach. He got a chance to be a head coach with his hometown Houston Texans in 2006. In 2013 he suffered a transient ischemic attack, or ministroke, on the field. He only missed one game before returning to work on a modified schedule. He later



WELZER, née Wleczak.

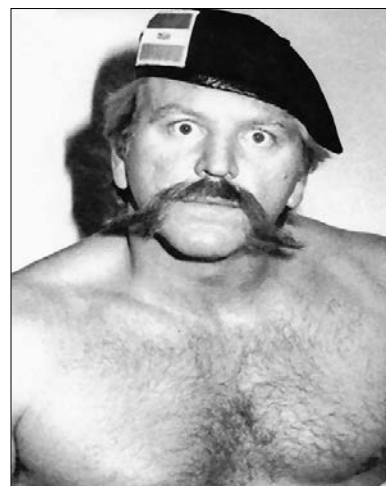
actually Polish. Technically there was no Poland on the map at the time, but the former major league pitcher was indeed Polish.

His birth name was Anton Frank Wleczek, the son of Felix Wleczek and Maryanna Paczocha Wleczek. The family came to the United States in 1903 and settled near Milwaukee.

Welzer was a right-hander whose work in semipro leagues impressed the Boston Red Sox, and the struggling franchise bought his contract in 1925. In 1926 the 5'11" 160-lb. control pitcher had a 4-3 record as a rookie for the Red Sox, the only winning record on a staff that lost 107 games. A year later he went 6-11. That season Welzer gave up three home runs to Babe Ruth in one week during the New York Yankees great's record-setting 60 homer season in 1927.

In a two-season big league career, Welzer posted a 10-14 record with 85 strikeouts and a 4.78 ERA in 76 appearances. He continued pitching in the minors through 1932, finishing up with Binghamton in the New York-Penn League. After baseball, he worked as a machinist for International Harvester and married Mary "Mae" Albricki, whose father, Ladislaw, came from Russian Poland. He died of respiratory failure in 1971 in Milwaukee.

A GOOD VILLAIN. By all accounts **Edward Wiskowski** was a pretty nice guy, but his greatest success in pro wrestling came when he played "heels." He went by the Polish Prince, Cowboy Bret Wayne, Derek "The Mongoose" Draper, and other names, but he's best known for portraying two great villains in the ring, Mega Maharishi Imed and Colonel DeBeers.



Born in St. Joseph, Mo. in 1945, Wiskoski (above, as Colonel DeBeers) went to Northwest Missouri State University where he was a first-team All-Conference defensive lineman in 1967. In 1975 "Easy Ed" Wiskoski started wrestling with "Playboy" Buddy Rose (real name:

Paul Perschmann) in the Pacific Northwest. Ed later wrestled under various monikers, but really caught the fans' interest when he portrayed a couple of really bad guys.

Wiskoski became Mega Maharishi Imed in the 1980s in response to the controversy in eastern Oregon about the leader of a cult named Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. The Bhagwan came from India and established his own religious community, and he and his followers were constantly at odds with their neighbors. (The story of the group is featured in the Netflix docuseries, *Wild Wild Country*). Wiskoski had a beard and red robes, just like the Bhagwan.

But the Bhagwan died in 1990 and Wiskoski had to find another gimmick. He created a new villain, one who would become his best-known persona. It was Colonel DeBeers, a South African soldier with a large mustache, beret, and military garb. That country's system of apartheid was frequently in the news, and the Colonel personified its racist policies. Fans loved to hate him, and DeBeers is still considered one of wrestling's most hated heels.

Later Wiskoski and Rose ran a wrestling school in Portland before retiring to Arizona in 2006.

TRIPUCKA ENTERS THE RING.

Former Notre Dame forward **Kelly Tripucka**, a member of Notre Dame's only Final Four team in program history, was inducted into the Notre Dame Ring of Honor. He played all four years for the Irish before pursuing a professional career in the NBA, where he played 10 seasons for the Detroit Pistons, Utah Jazz and Charlotte Hornets, earning two all-star berths.

Tripucka was third in scoring for the Irish as a freshman, averaging 11.7 points per game in 1977-78. That season the Irish lost in the national semifinal to Mike Gminskiled Duke, who went on to lose in the championship to Kentucky. Kelly was a three-time All-American, leading the Irish in scoring his final three seasons. Tripucka finished his career as the 12th-leading scorer in program history and will be the ninth men's basketball inductee to the Ring of Honor.

Both Kelly and his father Frank, a former pro QB, are members of the Polish American Sports Hall of Fame.

POLISH COACHES EXCEL. There are numerous Polish American coaches who are excelling in all levels of college basketball, but there are a few who are doing especially well this season:

Mike Krzyzewski (of course) has had his Duke Blue Devils in the top 10 for most of the season. Coach K is hoping to win his sixth Men's D-1 title this year.

G.P. Gromacki has his Amherst College women's squad in the top ten as well. The winners of two of the last three D-3 championships, Amherst is doing very well for a "rebuilding" program.

Landry Kosmalski continues to advance the Men's D-3 program at Swarthmore. Kosmalski's team has reached the NCAA tournament in each of the past three seasons and has posted school-record win totals in each successive year. As we go to press, Swarthmore is ranked number one with an undefeated record.

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POLISH KITCHEN

Renaissance Kanapki

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

My dear friend Jan introduced me to some wonderful Polish open-faced sandwiches almost 30 years ago. The elegant Polish canapés originated at Lenard's Little Poland Restaurant on Chicago's Northwest Side.

As an important part of Poland, Lenard's was a gathering spot for Poles living in Chicago. Everyone knew Lenard's.

These Renaissance canapés, a recreation of the original recipe, became a festive New Year's Eve specialty for many years and are best when accompanied by a bottle of good champagne or sparkling wine.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 large loaf of high-quality rye bread
- 1/4 lb. butter, softened
- 2 tins sardines in olive oil
- 1/4 lb. Nova lox
- 2 large kosher dill pickles
- 1/2 lb. sliced cheese, American or Swiss preferred
- 2 jars black lumpfish caviar
- 1 dozen eggs, hard-boiled, peeled, and sliced
- 1/2 lb. Polish ham, sliced (Krakus preferred)
- 2 small bunches green onions
- 8 small plates to hold 8 ingredients (except for bread and butter)



Freshly-created kanapki

DIRECTIONS

Cut each slice of bread in half and cut lox into one-inch squares.

Drain sardines, pat dry with paper towel, and cut each sardine into four pieces.

Cut Polish ham into one-inch squares and do the same with the cheese.

Cut each dill pickle in half length-wise, and then slice into thin slices.

Slice hard-boiled eggs into circular half slices, trying *not* to separate the yolks from whites.

Using only the green portion of the onions, slice them into thin rings. Place each ingredient on a separate small plate.

Once these preparations are completed, lightly butter each half-slice of bread on one side and begin the preparation ritual of placing each ingredient in its special position on the bread, as illustrated in the drawing. Makes 35-40 canapés. *Smaczne!*

largely continued in America. The tavern was visited by workers after a back-breaking shift. But, as in the Old Country, the family home was where families gathered for holidays, christenings, First Communion and "poprawiny" as well as festive Sunday dinners.

ALTHOUGH IMMIGRANTS retained their preference for the familiar foods they had grown up with, their eating habits did undergo modification. A major change was the wider availability of meat. The typical Polish peasant had his fill of meat only on holidays, at weddings, christenings and a few other occasions and even then, this was stretched by a lot of grain and vegetable fillers. Factory and

New Vegetarian Cooking from the Old Country

FRESH FROM POLAND

by *Michał Korkosz*
Published by *The Experiment*
Distributed by *Workman Publishing* (workman.com)
In Canada: *Canadian Manda Group* (mandagroup.com)
\$19.95 U.S.; \$25.95 Can.
240 pp.; 7.5" x 9.75", pb
ISBN: 978-1-61519-655-5

Polish food is more than just meat and potatoes, and food journalist and *Saveur* award-winning Michał Korkosz is here to prove it.

Drawing from the traditional recipes of his mother and grandmother, Korkosz fuses modern culinary elements with a vegetable-heavy ingredient list to compile the first-ever vegetarian Polish cookbook.

Fresh From Poland showcases over eighty vegetarian recipes that pay homage to Poland's culinary history, with personal touches that bring the foods firmly into the twenty-first century (and make them simply irresistible). If the promise of brown butter scrambled eggs, sweet blueberry buns with streusel, or vegetarian pierogi in every flavor doesn't lure readers in, Korkosz's award-winning photographs certainly will.

Korkosz's love for cooking and his home country shines through each vibrant recipe, no matter the dish; and *Fresh from Poland* is sure to arm readers with delightful, satisfying recipes that will bring Polish cuisine promptly to the front burner.

Korkosz won the 2017 *Saveur* Blog Award for best food photography (both Editors' and Readers' Choice). He is a food journalist, cake lover, and croissant gourmand. On his blog, *Rozkoszny* (which means "delightful"), he connects this love of cooking with another

hobby—photography—that captures both his delicious dishes and the loved ones he shares them with. He was born and raised in Poland.

Jagodziarki

Sweet Blueberry Buns with Streusel

This is just one of eighty vegetarian recipes from *Fresh from Poland: New Vegetarian Cooking from the Old Country* ©

Michał Korkosz, 2020. Reprinted by permission of the publisher, The Experiment. Available wherever books are sold. experimentpublishing.com

During summer, everyone freaks out about these buns. You can buy them everywhere, and every pastry shop claims they make the best ones. But honestly, homemade *jagodziarki* are even better. Enter these buttery buns, dotted with plenty of blueberries and a touch of sugar. They are so easy to make and insanely delicious. You can fill them with any berries you like.

Makes: 9 buns

Prep time: 30 minutes

Resting time: 12 hours

Chilling time: 30 minutes

Bake time: 20 minutes

FOR THE DOUGH

- 2 cups (280 g) all purpose flour, plus more for shaping
- 1/4 cup (50 g) sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons (5 g) instant yeast
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt



JAGODZIARKI are buttery buns, dotted with plenty of blueberries and a touch of sugar. You can fill them with any berries you like.

- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) milk
- 6 tablespoons (3/4 stick/85 g) unsalted butter, melted
- 1 tablespoon sour cream
- Vegetable oil

FOR THE FILLING

- 1 pound blueberries or bilberries
- 1/4 cup (50 g) sugar
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch

FOR THE STREUSEL

- 3/4 cup (100 g) all-purpose flour
- 1/4 t teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup (50 g) sugar
- 4 tablespoons (1/4 cup) unsalted butter, chilled and cut into pieces

FOR THE EGG WASH

- 1 large egg
- 1 tablespoon milk

1. To make the dough, combine the flour, sugar, yeast, and salt in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a dough hook. Add the egg, milk, melted butter, and sour cream. Knead at medium-high speed until the dough is soft and silky, about 8 minutes.

2. Grease a large bowl with oil and transfer the dough to it. Cover with plastic wrap and let rest in the fridge for 8 to 12 hours. The dough won't rise much.

3. To make the filling, combine the blueberries, sugar, and cornstarch in a medium bowl.

4. Lightly flour a work surface and turn the dough out onto it. Sprinkle the dough with a little more flour and fold it over onto itself twice. Divide the dough into 9 pieces and shape each into a circle about 5 inches (13 cm) in diameter. Place 2 to 3 tablespoons of the blueberry mixture in the center of each circle, fold the dough over the filling to meet in the center, and pinch the edges to seal.

5. Place the buns, seam side down, on a baking sheet covered with a parchment paper, leaving them space to rise. Cover with a kitchen towel and let sit in a warm place until noticeably puffy, about 2 hours.

6. While the buns rest, make the streusel topping. In a medium bowl, whisk together the all-purpose flour and sugar. Add the butter and mix it into the flour, using your fingertips, until the streusel has a light bread-crumble texture. Transfer to the fridge and chill for at least 30 minutes.

7. Preheat the oven to 375F°.

8. To make the egg wash, beat the egg and milk together in a small bowl. Gently brush the buns with the egg wash. Scatter the streusel topping over the buns. Bake until golden brown, 20 to 25 minutes. Cool on a wire rack.

POLISH CHEF

Despite Assimilation, Many Old Polish Standbys Remain Popular

by Robert Strybel

As Polish immigrant communities grew in America in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, enterprising businessmen established groceries, bakeries and sausage shops to cater to the newcomers' needs. But, unlike other ethnic groups, the early Polonia did not set up too many Polish restaurants. Perhaps that was because eating out had not been the custom among the peasantry to which most of the immigrants traced their roots.

In the Old Country people did stop off at inns for a drink and snack when traveling or on market day, but for serious celebrations they would retire to the intimacy of private homes. That practice was

largely continued in America. The school lunchrooms acquainted the newcomers with mainline American dishes. Polonia was exposed to and gradually adopted many such foods as steak, roast beef, flapjacks, fruit pies and corn on the cob. Also, chow-chow, spaghetti, chop suey and city chicken.

The break-up of many Polish neighborhoods in the aftermath of World War II sent Polish Americans scattering to ethnically mixed areas. There, starchy American white bread, cake mixes, canned soups, TV dinners, fast-food burgers, pre-packaged lunch meats and a wide variety of instant, processed, and imitation foods began replacing the made-from-scratch dishes of earlier generations.

Like many Americans, many PolAms and other ethnics came to believe that these innovations were modern and superior. Those who did soon joined the American national pastime – constipation. The yogurt, oat-bran and no-preserva-

tives-added craze of the late 20th century attested to the fact that our Old Country ancestors had been right in the first place. The coarser breads, groats, soured milk, root crops, sauerkraut, fresh and dried fruits and other natural, high-fiber foods had kept our immigrant ancestors regular.

Despite widespread assimilation, the old Polish comfort foods — kielbasa, pierogi, gołąbki, naleśniki, babka, and pączki — continue to remain popular. In fact, many PolAms are often prepared to drive for miles to stock up on the Polish goodies not readily available where they live. Those nice family-run Polish delis, bakeries, and sausage shops offer the old, familiar delicacies, whose aroma can be detected even before entering. Their homey atmosphere is a far cry from supermarkets, where most products are canned, jarred, frozen, freeze-dried, cellophane-encased or plastic-wrapped.

Like many Americans, many PolAms and other ethnics came to believe that these innovations were modern and superior. Those who did soon joined the American national pastime – constipation. The yogurt, oat-bran and no-preserva-

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THE PONDERING POLE

And now, Here's Jenny!

by Ed Poniewaz

The typical Polish personality is more on the reserved side — quiet, contemplative, but fun loving and possessing a dry sense of humor. I want to introduce you to a person with all of that and more. Her name is **Jenny Milkowski**, known also as “Jenny Milk” or “JMilk” and she is a host, reporter, and weather and traffic anchor on CBS channel 8 in San Diego, Calif. She is a Polish girl with pizzazz. Check out her website (<https://www.jennymilkowski.com>) and you can find a number of other examples of her work as a TV personality on Youtube. You will see lots of big, enthusiastic, “I love life” smiles. I love that.

In examining Milkowski's life a couple of things jump out. First, she is a very hard worker with a lot of determination to succeed, and second, she possesses an inner confidence, drive, and strength that says, American, and Polish, is who I am and if you have a problem with it, sorry, but I am going to keep being me. Let me show you what I am talking about.

Milkowski is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a B.S. in broadcast journalism. She was a member of The Second City Chicago comedy troupe and the Acting Studio in Chicago. Her broadcasting career began at WJFW Newswatch, channel 12 in 2006 in Rhinelander, Wisc., as a reporter and weekend weather producer and anchor. Like many of the great ones, she began at a small station with high hopes.

WJFW Newswatch started her on the path to all-things media. After a stint with NBC Universal in 2007 as a production assistant, she got on with the Tribune Company and was a news producer and *ChicagoNow* blogger for the next five years. In 2012 she was employed by CBS where she won an Emmy award for her writing and producing. Milkowski became a co-owner of MUU MEDIA LLC and was nominated for another Emmy while working as a traffic reporter for Total Traffic Network in Chicago. From March 2018 to when she transferred to the CBS affiliate in San Diego, she was a host of the “Jenny Milk & Jay” show at Hubbard Broadcasting in Chicago.

Milkowski has been round in her career in radio and television, but it has been a very impressive journey.

She has worked hard at her career and part of the reason for her success is because she is secure in her Polish skin. Per her website, both parents are Polish immigrants; she embraces that ethnicity, and even flaunts it. She is not shy to say that Polish was her first language as a child and being crowned queen of the Pierogi Fest in Whiting, Ill. was a big deal for her. An article from the *Crazy Polish Guy* website puts it all into perspective from her days broadcasting in Chicago:

Jenny brings a uniquely Polish personality to the weekday morning show at FOX-TV Chicago, “Good Day Chicago.” Aside from sprinkling informational tidbits about Poland in between her traffic reports, she serves as an on-air Polish guru. That's right. Whenever anyone at the station is covering anything involving Polish culture, you can probably bet that



Jenny Milkowski, known also as “Jenny Milk” or “JMilk” and she is a host, reporter, and weather and traffic anchor on CBS channel 8 in San Diego.

Jenny will be involved. Her Polish pride shines through the TV camera lens, making her among the most passionate and visible proponents of Polish culture in the Chicago metropolitan area.

Wouldn't you love to sit down to dinner with Milkowski, not only to hear about all of her experiences in the news world, but all of her thoughts on growing up Polish in the United States.

Polish or not?

Co-starring with Casey Affleck in the 2019 film *Light of My Life* is **Anna Pniowsky**, who plays “Rag,” a daughter dressed like a boy by her father (Affleck) struggling to survive in a disordered society where a plague has wiped out most of the women in the world. Anna has garnered a lot of praise for her performance in *Light* such as “Pniowsky is especially phenomenal, a young performer who knows how to express vulnerability or curiosity or anger in a blink...” Born in Winnipeg, Canada, is the 13-year-old “phenom” Anna Pniowsky Polish, or not?

Lionel the Lion-Faced Man — his real name was **Stephan Bibrowski**, born in 1890 in a town called Bielsk in Congress, Poland and he died in 1932. Stephan was born with long hair that covered his entire body in a horrible way and he was given up by his family as a young child. Eventually Bibrowski found employment as a circus sideshow performer. His condition was probably hypertrichosis (excessive growth of hair). Other sideshow performers you might know are Chang and Eng, The Original Siamese Twins, Zip, The Pinhead, Joseph Merrick, The Elephant Man, and General Tom Thumb, the world's smallest man.

Many of the performers had talents that went along with or beyond their peculiar features or looks. Their fates were mixed with some becoming worldly popular and others descending to the lowest rung of ridicule and outcast in society. Though it seems like the Poles have operated on the periphery of human history, in this camp Bibrowski fit in quite nicely. For all of them, and looking at it from our time, we can only feel sympathy for their condition and their lives. God bless Lionel the Lion-Faced Man.

Remember the actress **Joan Blondell**? A beautiful and sexy woman, she starred in films during the 1930s, '40, and '50s, but stayed around into the '80s, and did some

TV as well. The Turner Classic Movie channel had a 24-hour run of her movies in December. Here is her Polish connection from *Wikipedia*:

Rose Joan Blondell was born in New York to a vaudeville family...Her father, Levi Bluestein, a vaudeville comedian known as Ed Blondell, was born in Poland to a Jewish family in 1866.

There is a company called Carpe (www.mycarpe.com) that makes a number of products. but the ad I saw features a lotion for people with sweaty hands. CEO and co-founder David Spratte along with COO and co-founder **Kasper Kubica** appear in the ad. I wish these guys all the success in the world. Kasper Kubica is a very Polish name but is COO and co-founder Kubica, Polish, or not?

If you have a thought, question, or interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 3765 Autumn View Drive, Arnold, MO 63010; 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.

Great Polish Cinema: A Library Card Away

by Matthew Stefanski

Streaming. On-Demand. Cable. Dish. Network TV.

The options consumers have when it comes to accessing entertainment such as TV shows and movies seems to be growing longer each month. With new subscription services being announced almost every other week, it's easy to feel skeptical as to whether each additional platform is worth the time, and more importantly, the subscription fee.

Well, while I do not have a clear-cut answer as to which service is best for each individual's viewing habits and tastes, what I can offer is my recommendation for a different — and totally free — option.

Kanopy is a website which provides users with free access to a wide range of films and television shows. The only thing you need to access the site is your local library card. Over 4,000 libraries across America have already partnered

with Kanopy, including Philadelphia, Seattle, San Francisco and the DC Public Library, the latter of which I am a member. My library card grants me access to six films a month from Kanopy's extensive repertoire of streamable content, which also includes a surprisingly wide array of Polish movies and education content about Poland.



Kanopy offers numerous films for Polish cinephiles, from classics directed by Andrzej Wajda to more contemporary films such as *Jack Strong* (above).

From black and white classics directed by Andrzej Wajda and Roman Polanski, to more contemporary films such as *Jack Strong* and Oscar-winning *Ida*, Kanopy offers numerous films for Polish cinephiles to enjoy. Their list of documentaries is even more extensive, exploring various aspects relating to Polish history, arts and culture. So, before you pull out your credit card to subscribe to another streaming platform, first visit your local library and inquire about Kanopy. And while you're there, register to vote, and explore the wealth of other resources that are at your disposal at your local library.

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Polish American Journal Foundation

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

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

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IN MEMORIAM

Edward H. Poluszny, Community Leader

Edward H. Poluszny, 94, of Buffalo, N.Y., passed away Jan. 27, 2020.

Born July 23, 1925, Poluszny was the seventh of nine children born to John and Agnes Barszcz Poluszny from Poland. His education began in Precious Blood Elementary School, where he graduated at the top of his class. He then went on to Hutchinson Central High School which he left at the age of 16 in his senior year to help in the World War II war effort. He was employed at the Bison Casting Co., a defense plant that manufactured anchors for the U.S. Navy, until March 17, 1944 when at the age of 18 he enlisted into the U.S. Army Air Corps.

After his military discharge, he went back to continue his education, graduating from Hutch Tech. He went on to the University of Buffalo where he earned a Bachelor of Science in business administration. At U.B. he met Alice Wardynski, a fellow student, whom he married in 1950. The day after his honeymoon, Ed began work as a salesman, and later, sales manager at the Wardynski Sausage Company, which he continued until he came to Toledo, Ohio in August of 2018.

Poluszny was active in numerous activities including being one of the first investors into Tops Markets, the founding of television station WUTV Channel 29, the Peter Adamski Village, a development of low-priced houses and housing for low income senior citizens, the St. Joseph Hospital and many social organizations. In 1973, the *Am-Pol Eagle* named him Citizen of the Year in Civil Leadership for his activities including chairman of the Department Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College.

Poluszny is remembered as one

of the most outstanding leaders the community has ever known. He and his wife headed a reception committee to welcome to Buffalo Cardinal Karol Wojtyla of Poland, who in 1978 became Pope John Paul II. Other achievements included the organization of the Makowski Citizens Committee, a group of bi-partisan Polish Americans who worked for the election of Stan Makowski as mayor, and serving as chairman of the MCC. Poluszny was a member of the Millennium Committee, the Board of Advisors of Villa Maria College, the Council of Polish Americans, the 100 Club of Buffalo, the Polish Union of America, Chopin Singing Society, Adam Mickiewicz Library and Dramatic Circle, the Professional and Business-men's Association, the Ambassadors Committee of St. Joseph's Inter-community Hospital, and the Canisius College Founders.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Aloysius Gonzaga Roman Catholic Church, or to Ohio Living Swan Creek, 5916 Cresthaven Ln., Toledo, OH 43614.

Michael Budney, 108, Helped Immigrants

(HARTFORD COURANT) — Michael Budney helped scores of Polish immigrants find jobs at his factories.

He believed in exercise and chided his first cousin because he wasn't active enough. Into his 90s, Budney would jog 10 times around the three-hole golf course on his Berlin property, not even stopping to tie a shoelace, leaving his daughter Lori puffing along behind. He drove a bulldozer on his farm until she took the keys away at 100.

Budney died Dec. 4 of pneumonia, just two days after his last visit to Budney Industries, where he felt most comfortable walking the shop



floor. He was 108 years old and had officially retired just four years ago.

His parents, Stephen and Helen Budney, were Polish immigrants, from a small town near Warsaw, and Mike was born Oct. 3, 1911, while his parents were vacationing in Poland. He came to the United States when he was six months old and grew up in Newington along with two brothers and two sisters.

He graduated as a machinist from a two-year program at what is now E.C. Goodwin Technical High School, then worked as a tool-maker at Colt Firearms in Hartford for more than a decade. In 1940, he and his brothers rented a garage and started manufacturing tool holders under the name Atlantic Machine Tool Works. The business grew, and the Budneys were soon able to build a factory in Newington based on orders from Pratt & Whitney, their major customer. Over time, the company, whose name was shortened to Atlantic Machine, employed 2,600 engineers, machinists and tool makers, many of them Polish. Budney was the president.

Several times a week, he would send an employee, working in conjunction with the Polish Immigration Committee, down to the wharves of New York to enlist new workers fresh off the boat, offering them a job and lodging in an environment where they could speak their language and be with other Poles. Budney began to build motels, where he gave newly arrived employees temporary housing, and sent buses to bring them to work. In the close community of Atlantic workers, there was even a Polish doctor. Budney personally signed many Affidavits of Support, guaranteeing employment and housing to Poles seeking to emigrate to the United States. He hired women in the inspection department (he thought they were more capable)

and often two or even three generations of the same family worked for him. Keeping his employees happy was a lifelong goal, and the parties on his Goshen farm (where he stocked the fishpond) and the Christmas parties (brimming over with Polish delicacies) were regular treats.

By the 1950s, there was a huge demand for aircraft parts for both military and civilian planes, and one machine, a jig borer, made the job of boring holes in metal faster and more accurate than prior methods. There was a shortage of these machines, but Budney had his engineers take one apart piece by piece and replicate it, with minor design changes, then bought a metal casting foundry to produce them. At the request of the U.S. government, he displayed and sold them at trade shows around the world.

In 1969, he sold Atlantic Machine, but continued, through several different companies, to manufacture parts for military and commercial aircraft engines, as well as space rocket parts destined for the moon and Mars. His most recent company is Budney Industries in Berlin.

Despite coming from a generation where gender roles were strictly observed, he delighted in bringing his daughter into the business, said Lori, who is a vice president of Budney Industries, along with her brother Wayne.

Budney liked challenges, and though he was financially successful, didn't take wealth seriously, said his daughter.

Esther Witek, Avid PMA Volunteer



Esther Witek, born April 5, 1935, passed away on January 20, 2020. She was well-known throughout Polonia as a promoter of Polish culture and traditions. She spent her

life in the service of others.

For 26 years Witek was employed as a librarian with the Cicero, Ill., school system and served as an active volunteer at The Polish Museum of America (PMA) and the Polish Genealogical Society of America. She was a Life Member of the PMA and an avid supporter of that organization for years. Her dedicated volunteer work made her an invaluable member of the PMA community. In 2005 Witek was recognized as the PMA's Volunteer of the Year. She leaves behind two nieces and a nephew along with many grandnieces and nephew.

— Geraldine Balut Coleman

Jolanta Pawlikowski, Devotee of Polish Scouting and Arts



Jolanta Maria Pawlikowski, nee Zurczak, was born on August 23, 1938 in Święciechowa, Poland. She passed away on January 19, 2020. During World War II, her father, Jozef, a second lieutenant in the Polish Army was captured and taken to a prisoner-of-war camp in Murnau, Germany. In 1944 her mother Maria along with Jolanta and a younger brother were taken by transport to a labor camp. After the war, they were relocated to a "displaced persons" camp in the British-occupied zone of Germany, where they were reunited with her father. This would soon be Pawlikowski's introduction to Polish Scouting. The Zurczak family arrived in the United States in October 1949 aboard the *USS General Black*, a U.S. Navy transport. The family first settled in rural Wisconsin and later relocated in Chicago. Pawlikowski attended St. Stanislaus Kostka Grammar School and its High School. She joined the first Polish Girl Scout group in Chicago. After high school she helped supplement the family income by working as a secretary at an architectural firm. She studied at the American Conservatory of Music and the University Chicago, graduating with a degree in Music, specializing in voice and cello.

Jolanta and Witold Pawlikowski were wed in 1959. She served as president of the Polish Arts Club of Chicago (PACC), was a Life member, and for many years chaired the PACC's Art Exhibit of Painting and Sculpture. In the early 1980s, Pawlikowski and her husband joined others as founders of the Chicago Chapter of the Kościuszko Foundation. She spent many years promoting Polish culture, music, and the arts. She was a very active member of the Polish Scouting Organization.

She leaves behind her husband of 60 years, her daughter Beata, her granddaughter Kinga, son-in-law Andrius Tamulis, and brothers Andrew and Victor Zurczak.

— Geraldine Balut Coleman

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DANCE TIME

Top Shelf Premieres in Buffalo; Hrukus Recognized by IPA

by Jennifer Pijanowski

A new hotspot in Western New York is highlighting polka music and dancing twice monthly. The **Thomas E. Tehan American Legion Post** decided to offer polka music to give polka enthusiasts who live in the southern part of the Buffalo area a venue closer to home.

The Post is located at 2075 Electric Ave in Blasdell and has started hosting bands every other week for just a \$5.00 admission charge. **Special Delivery** performed for the inaugural event and a few weeks later **Buffalo Touch** took the stage. Music is offered from 6:30-9:30 p.m. for "Polka Nights" and reasonably-priced food and beverages are available. The hall is ideal for polka dances, having plenty of seating as well as room to dance. The bar is open on both sides so that you can relax and enjoy a beverage while still watching the band.

Polka fans flocked to the first few performances and it was great to see both new and familiar faces. Buffalo polka lovers are always happy to welcome a new spot for music and I am certain that we will see the crowds grow each and every month at the Tehan Post.

For further information on dates for polka music, you can contact the Post at (716) 826-1949.



Top Shelf, toasting at their first public performance. (l. to r., front): Jackie Libera, Al Piatkowski, Lenny Gomulka, and Frank Liszka. (l. to r., rear): Larry Trojak and Jim "Maly" Weber. The band specializes in honky-style Polish American polkas, and other songs from the music's past.

memories that we would all cherish for years to come.

The very idea of six talented musicians, five of them being Hall of Famers, had the crowd impatiently waiting for **Lenny Gomulka, Jackie Libera, Frankie Liszka, Al Piatkowski, Jimmy Weber, and Larry Trojak** to make their way to the front. As the band took the stage, hundreds of people stormed the dance floor to watch their open-

While most of the bands currently performing at large dances and festivals now emphasize more push style music, it was refreshing to hear some of these forgotten favorites and witness the seamless talent of these musicians.

Not only are these gentlemen bursting with talent, but they are all humble and gracious as was evident by the amount of people who truly see them as friends. In this day and age where polka promoters hope to make enough at the door to cover band expenses, it was encouraging to see nearly 300 people enthusiastically supporting this band.

Top Shelf did get into some push style polkas later in the night, even playing "Stump the Band" as fans yelled out their requests and the band readily obliged.

Mark and Cherie Trzepacz were keeping listeners at home entertained as they hosted a live remote broadcast for Polka Jammer Network. Hosting their popular Friday evening show *TGIFriday*, the couple's passion for polka music is infectious and their live remote gave listeners at home a true feeling of being right at Potts along with their polka family.

Top Shelf is playing a limited number of engagements this year,

ing number. The talent, professionalism, personality, and years of experience on that stage were a confirmation of the high expectations everyone held for the evening's performance. Throughout the night the camaraderie, respect, and joy of polka music was apparent as the all-star band belted out honky music to vigilant fans, many who never left the front of the stage.

Dancers quickly took the floor showcasing their ease of dancing to these "forgotten" polkas, played from the heart. The instrumental and vocal arrangements spotlighted each of the performers as they played standard and vintage songs — many being Li'l Wally favorites.



Top Shelf Dance. (clockwise, from left) Richard "Cricket" Trzipit, Jackie Hoyt, Tim and Traci Raymond, and Ula Michaski.

TOP SHELF IS JUST THAT. After months of anticipation, **Top Shelf** made its first appearance at Potts Banquet Hall in Cheektowaga, N.Y.

Weeks before the dance occurred, every single table had been reserved in advance. Knowing this was going to be a full house, fans were lined up as the doors opened at 6:00 p.m. Polka lovers from far and wide showed up for this talent-packed band's first performance. There were many from upstate New York, Massachusetts, Canada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Chicago, and as far away as Wisconsin. It was very clear even before the music began that this was going to be a spectacular night filled with



Top Shelf Dance. Among those in attendance were: (photo, left) Jim and Kathy Przepiora, and (photo, center) Sonny Wanderlich and Mike Costa. Photo, left: Charlie "Tuna" Strylka gets a hoist to see the band from Mac Martin and Paul Wanus.

so take advantage of seeing them when you get a change. Next up on their schedule is Seven Springs, Fri. July 3.

After the first set, the **International Polka Association Joe Jozwiak Award** for 2020 was presented to the **Hrukus Hellraisers**.

Everyone gathered 'round to see the presentation to this lively polka group who exemplify enthusiasm and love of polka music. Dating back to 1976, this group of polka fans continue, some 40+ years later, to be fixtures at most festivals, major dances, and polka events.

Noted for their "Hrukus Halloween Howler" weekend which is held annually in Cohoes, N.Y, polka fans travel from all around to support this group in their efforts to sustain polka music.

Although I have known many of the core group for a few decades now, I was happy to hear Mark Trz-

epacz tell the story of how their name came about. The late IPA Hall of Famer **Jan Cyman** starting calling this frenzied group of polka lovers a "bunch of *horilka*" (which is Ukrainian for vodka) Hellraisers, and with that Hrukus Hellraisers was born.

It was wonderful to see many of the core group there, Bill "The Captain" Dobrucki, Debbie (Dobrucki) and Gerry Rymanowski, Joe and Doris Brozowski, Tim Raymond,

Mark "Big Staś" Clark, and Charlie "Tuna" Strylka. The Captain was emotional accepting the award and took a few minutes to reminiscence about all of the memories and fun times this group has enjoyed supporting polka music over the years. He even broke out the original whistle that was used on the Dynaton's *Live Wire* album. The mention of the Hellraisers on the *Live Wire* album remains one of their fondest memories. Their tight friendship continues with **Henry Mazurek**, who owned the famed Broadway Grill. The group called "The Grill" their home away from home, and frequently made visits there during its time in business.

Congratulations to the Hrukus Hellraisers on a very well-deserved honor for preserving and promoting polka music.

Towards the end of the evening, Charlie "Tuna" was proudly hoisted



Accepting this year's Joe Jozwiak Award, presented by the International Polka Association, are Hrukus Hellraiser parliamentarians (standing, l. to r.): Henry Mazurek, "Captain" Bill Dobrucki, Debbie Rymanowski, and Gerry Rymanowski. (seated, center): Charlie "Tuna" Strylka.

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It was wonderful to see many of the core group there, Bill "The Captain" Dobrucki, Debbie (Dobrucki) and Gerry Rymanowski, Joe and Doris Brozowski, Tim Raymond,

onto the shoulders of two friends, reminiscent of so many festivals where he was visible shoulders above the crowd watching the band and encouraging the energy of the crowd. It was a fitting commemoration of the happiness this group brings wherever they emerge.

For information on Hrukus Halloween Weekend, where you have another chance to catch Top Shelf,

See "Dance Time," next page



Holy Toledo 2020 Continuing as a Three-Day Event

by Margaret
Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

“Holy Toledo” is commonly used to mean something unbelievable, or quite surprising. And there are a lot of variations on the phrase, including the one that is the subject of this article, Holy Toledo Polka Days.

To die-hard polka fans, Holy Toledo Polka Days has a meaning all its own. In the 1990s and into the 2000s, Holy Toledo Polka Days, held in the spring, was a highlight of the festival-going season. For many polka fans, it marked the beginning of numerous polka festival weekends throughout the spring, summer, and fall.

“I give a lot of credit to Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr. for his guidance back in the day,” said Joe Zalewski, creator of Holy Toledo Polka Days. “You’ve got to put skin in the game,” Eddie once told me.”

Polka music had to be an investment, a business, in order to make it as a full-time player. This meant that, in order to make a full-time living as a polka musician, which Joe was doing back then, it was necessary not only to get hired for gigs, it was vital to create and promote events that helped to ensure a full schedule throughout the year.

Thus, the birth of Holy Toledo Polka Days. Joe’s extended family helped run the event, which he credits for how smoothly the festival ran.

Originally held in a hotel on Reynolds Road in South Toledo, Holy Toledo Polka Days continued for thirteen straight years, until the hotel was sold to a church. As a result of that sale, Joe had to cancel the 2005 event.

The resurrection of Holy Toledo Polka days took place in 2019.

“Never did I dream it would take fourteen years to resurrect Holy Toledo Polka Days. I spoke to the management of several other hotels in Toledo, including the Renaissance (under several former names and owners), and none of them were open to the idea. The wedding busi-



LENNY GOMULKA & CHICAGO PUSH. Among bands scheduled to perform at this year’s event.

ness, especially in the spring, was simply too lucrative.” Other limitations included limited ballroom space. Joe tried an event at the Maumee Bay State Park Lodge in nearby Oregon, Ohio, and considered trying events at other locations. But he kept circling back to Toledo as the place for an early spring polka festival.

Located at 444 N. Summit Street, on the banks of the Maumee River, the hotel that is now known as the Renaissance Toledo was built in 1985. At that time, it was a Hotel Sofitel. After upwards of 10 different brandings, the hotel then known as the Grand Plaza was shuttered for renovations in late 2015. After 20 months and a \$31 million renovation, the Renaissance Toledo opened its doors in August 2017. The hotel, while a part of the Renaissance Marriott chain, is unique in that everything about the facility embraces Toledo. From the artwork and everyday items, Toledo’s history, heritage, and culture are apparent. For the uninitiated, what sets Toledo apart, among other things, is the iconic Jeep Brand, Toledo’s niche in the art of glassmaking, and of course, the sit-com M*A*S*H*, where Toledo was made famous by one of its famous sons, Jamie Farr.

Joe pitched the idea of Holy Toledo Polka Days to the management

of the hotel in an effort to connect Toledo’s rich Polish American culture to the new opportunities offered by the resurrection of a luxury hotel in downtown Toledo.

“The sales team was open to embracing the heritage and growing the hotel’s business.” Joe said. “The challenge was enlightening the staff on the concept of a polka festival and the kind of energy it generates.”

The 2020 festival will begin with an opening night polka party on Thursday April 16 at the nearby Radisson Park Inn. The Holy Toledo Jam Band will provide music, featuring several veteran Toledo musicians. Music continues April 17 and 18 and will feature some of the top bands on the polka music scene.

“The day may come when polka festivals are the only way to preserve our polka heritage,” Joe said in conclusion. “I look forward to seeing everyone at Holy Toledo Polka Days.”

For more information, check out Holy Toledo Polka Days on Facebook or at holytoledopolkadays.com.

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Dance Time: Top Shelf to Play at Polka Fireworks



Top Shelf Dance. (l. to r.): Sue Krysa, Peter Wojcik, Mike Pasierb, and John and Mary Menczynski.



Friends gathers to celebrate Chester Kowalski’s 85th birthday.

continued from previous page

you can contact Debbie Rymanowski at (518) 235-8356 or email her at: lilhruku@aol.com.

STO LAT, CZESIU! Local watering hole Clinton Bar & Grill continues to host polka music with the **Buffalo Touch** one Sunday each month. During the band’s February appearance a few birthdays were celebrated. Buffalo’s longtime polka fan **Chester Kowalski** celebrated his 85th birthday as longtime girlfriend **Eleanor Pittner** is always on hand to kick the party into full gear. Bar

owner Bill Macakanja was also celebrating his birthday and got a surprise as many of his employers and friends showed up to listen to the Touch and partake in some birthday celebrating. The bar charges no cover for its polka Sundays and always offers a reasonably priced food options. As Dyngus Day approaches, Clinton will once again host the Dyngus Day Jam Band. This Monday afternoon engagement features a talented group of polka musicians and loads of polka fun. Watch for their announcement coming soon on social media and in the Dyngus Day guidebooks.

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LIVE FROM PHOENIX. Buffalo Concertina All Stars are heading to Phoenix, Ariz. to cut a brand new “live” album during their appearance at the Pulaski Club of Arizona.

The weekend of March 13-15 will include a “Meet and Greet,” with the band and music by Nickelcity Dave on Friday with Concertina All Stars performing on Saturday and Sunday. You can come be a part of the recording and preserve your participation in this exciting new release for the band. Admission is just \$12.00 at the door on Saturday and Sunday.

More information is available by contacting the Pulaski Club at (602) 275-9329. This is sure to be a weekend full of laughs, great music, and wonderful memories made as Buffalo Concertina All Stars record their first “Live” album.

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

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

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HE’S BACK! Eddie Biegaj’s *Crusade* will make its return to Buffalo on Sat., March 28 at Potts Banquet Hall in Cheektowaga. This first official public appearance will showcase Eddie Biegaj, Randy Krajewski, Jimmy Mackiewicz Jr, Doug Galuzsy, and Andrew Kuczmarzski. Admission is \$15.00 at the door with music from 7:00-midnight with Crusade alternating with the Buffalo Touch.

Table reservations and information are available by calling Andrew at 598-8466.

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.

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|----|-------------------------|----------------|--|----------------|
| 2 | Todd Zaganiacz | | Polka DJ / Polka Jammer IJ | Massachusetts |
| 3 | Fred Hudy | 1942 8-31-13 | Bandleader / Musician / IPA Officer | Chicago |
| 3 | John Richnafsky | 1952 | Polka DJ WMBS | Uniontown, Pa. |
| 3 | Hank Guzevich | 1963 | Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist | Pennsylvania |
| 4 | Lucy Floccic | | Polka DJ | Massachusetts |
| 5 | Dick Pillar | 1940 | Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / DJ / Promoter | Connecticut |
| 6 | Al Pala | 1945 | Musician / Arranger (Pala Brothers) | Indiana |
| 6 | Jerry Tokarz | 1952 2-3-20 | Drummer / Pala Br. Lush, Versatones | Michigan |
| 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 Siwec | | 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 Mleczeko | | 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 |
| 20 | Jim Kaminski | 1954 | Musician / Vocalist | Buffalo, N.Y. |
| 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. |

POLKA CALENDAR

Compiled by John Ziobrowski

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

- MARCH 1**
- Swingmasters VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 654-9104
 - Tonys Polka Band Roselawn Banquets New York Mills, N.Y. (315) 736-5030
 - Sounds of The South Polish Club St. Petersburg 3-6 (727) 894-9908
 - Polka All Stars Pulaski Club Holiday, Fla. 2:30-5:30 (727) 934-0900
 - Jeanne Music Polish Club Hudson, Fla. 2-5 (727) 868-9763
- MARCH 7**
- John Gora PACC Ludlow, Mass. 7-11 (413) 592-0367
 - The Knewz Potts Banquet Hall Cheektowaga, N.Y. 8-12 (716) 675-6588
 - Box On Pulaski Club Holiday, Fla. 4:30-7:30 (727) 934-0900
- MARCH 8**
- Dennis Polisky/Lenny Gomulka/Ed-die Forman PACC Ludlow, Mass. 2-7 (413) 519-7014
 - Golden Tones VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 654-9104
 - Box On Polish Club Vero Beach, Fla. 2-5 (518) 429-8995
 - Polka All Stars Polish Club St. Petersburg, Fla. 3-6 (727) 868-9908
 - Mellotones Polish Club Belleview, Fla. 2-5 (352) 854-6193
 - Jeanne Music Polish Club Hudson, Fla. 2-5 (727) 868-9763
- MARCH 9**
- Box On The Villages, Fla. 6-9 (352) 259-5520
- MARCH 10**
- Buffalo Touch Clinton Bar & Grill Buf-falo, N.Y. 5:30 p.m.
- MARCH 15**
- Jimmy K VFW Dearborn Heights, Mich. 2-6 (313) 274-4666
 - Box On Polish Social Club Port St. Lucie, Fla. 1:30-4:30 (772) 871-9551
 - John Stevens VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 654-9104
 - Nu Soundz Polish Club St. Peters-burg, Fla. 3-6 (727) 894-9908
 - Jeanne Music Polish Club Hudson, Fla. 2-5 (727) 868-9763
 - Pennsylvania Villagers. Sacred Heart Parish, Cornwall, Pa. 2-6. (717) 566-

- 5704.
- MARCH 20**
- Heros Garfield, N.J. (973) 722-5766
- MARCH 21**
- Special Delivery. Buffalo Distillery Buffalo, N.Y. 2:30-5:30 (716) 254-3610
 - Lenny Gomulka Holy Spirit Party Ctr. Parma, Ohio. 7-11 (216) 496-0223
- MARCH 22**
- The Knewz Irish Center Buffalo, N.Y. 2-7 (716) 675-6588
 - John Gora/IPA Tribute Band Glen-dora Banquets Chicago, Ill. (708) 425-3683
 - Lenny Gomulka Mt. Pleasant, Pa. 3-7 (413) 374-7096
 - George Tanasek VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 654-9104
 - Northern Sounds Polish Club St. Pe-tersburg, Fla. 3-6 (727) 894-9908
 - Jeannie Music Polish Club Hudson, Fla. 2-5 (727) 868-9763
- MARCH 27**
- Lenny Gomulka Oglebay Resort Wheeling W.V. 2-6 (877) 436-1797
- MARCH 28**
- Jimmy K/John Gora/Ampol Aires Oglebay Resort Wheeling W.V. 3:00 (877) 436-1797
 - Crusade/Buffalo Touch Potts Ban-quet Hall Cheektowaga, N.Y. 7-12
- MARCH 29**
- Special Delivery. Broadway Market. Buffalo, N.Y. 12-3 (716) 893-0705
 - Eddie Biegai PACC Ludlow, Mass. 2:30-6:30 (413) 592-0367
 - John Gora/Lenny Gomulka Oglebay Resort Wheeling W.V. (877) 436-1797
 - Joe Stanky VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 654-9104

- Fl. Generations Polish Club St. Pe-tersburg, Fla. 3-6 (727) 894-9908
 - Jeannie Music Polish Club Hudson, Fla. 2-5 (727) 868-9763
- APRIL 4**
- Heroes. PACC Port Washington, N.Y. (516) 883-5553
 - DynaBrass. Misiuda Hall Toledo, Ohio. 7-11 (41) 69-5684
- APRIL 5**
- John Stevens VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 654-9104
 - Polka Country Musicians. K of C Sara-toga, N.Y. 1-5 (518) 584-8547
 - DynaBrass. Polish Falcons Erie, Pa. 2-6 (814) 452-6034
 - Sounds of The South Polish Club St. Petersburg, Fla. (727) 894-9908
 - Jeanne Music Polish Club Hudson, Fla. 2-5 (727) 868-9763
- APRIL 8**
- Special Delivery. Broadway Market. Buffalo, N.Y. 1-4 (716) 893-0705

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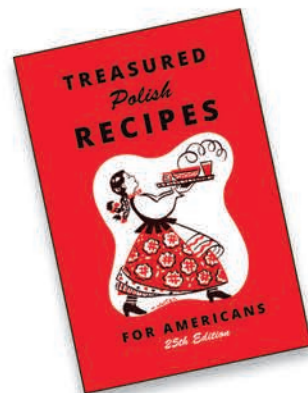


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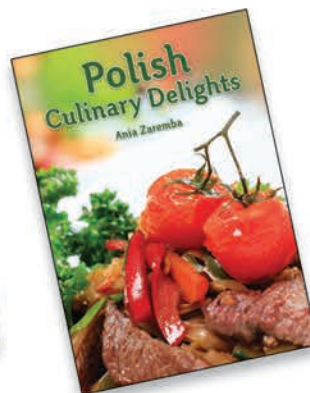


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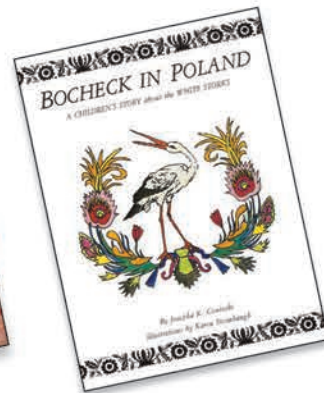
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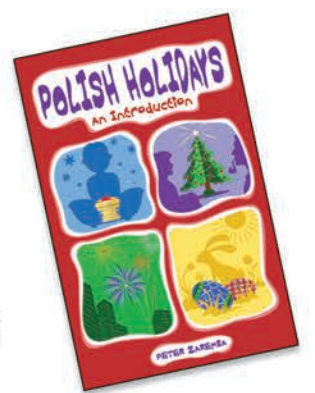
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