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NEWSMARK

CAPTURED U.N. WORKER RETURNS HOME. U.N. worker John Solecki was released from captivity after being held for 61 days by the Baluchistan Liberation Front, a previously unknown Pakistani militant group.

He was discovered on a mountain road by a local restaurant owner with his hands and feet bound.

After spending the night in the Quetta hospital, Solecki boarded a medical flight bound for the United States.

REFURBISHED HERCULES DELIVERED. The U.S. Air Force delivered a refurbished C-130E Hercules aircraft to the Polish Air Force, part of an agreement with Poland that includes the delivery of five of the refurbished military transport aircraft along with spare parts.

The delivery of the Hercules, which can carry up to 17 tons of equipment, is part of an effort to expand the Polish Air Force's ability to support evacuation and humanitarian missions and other applications including operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. Air Force reported.

KACZYNSKI-KARZAI MEET. Polish President Lech Kaczyński traveled to Kabul and held talks with Afghan leader Hamid Karzai.

"It is a one-day visit," said Afghan foreign ministry spokesman Sultan Ahmad Baheen.

Poland is a key contributor to a NATO-led military force helping Afghanistan fight an extremist insurgency.

POLAND'S ECONOMY HEALTHY AND GROWING and may be the only economy in Europe to record a rise in GDP this year. The Economist Intelligence Unit predicts a 0.7% growth, an excellent statistic in comparison to other countries in Europe and throughout the world. Predictions are that, within one year, Poland's GDP growth will rise to 2.2%. Market specialists are not surprised by these figures, saying that Poland is not as dependent on exports as are Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, for example. According to the report, the best economy currently is that of China, with 6% GDP growth, followed by India and Egypt.

ASTOUNDING DISCOVERY. (Poland.pl) — A sensational discovery has been made during renovation works at the Cathedral Basilica in the eastern Polish city of Sandomierz. Original Byzantine-Russian frescoes were discovered under wall paintings, which had last been renovated in 1934. The newly-discovered paintings are in a relatively good state, art conservators report. No such frescoes can be found in Poland. They are also unique in Central and Western Europe. The paintings were partly covered by the main altar. During the renovation works, Gothic frescoes were also discovered on the whole northern wall of the Sandomierz Cathedral, which was built around 1360 and developed in the 15th century.

A POLISH STUDIES CHAIR will open at New York's Columbia University, announced Poland's Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski, Culture Minister Bogdan Zdrojewski and Treasury Minister Aleksander Grad at a press conference in Warsaw. Three million dollars has been raised through a combined effort of the Foundation for Polish Science, the Polish Consulate in New York and Columbia University's professor John Micgiel. The Chair of Polish Studies will begin in 2010 and will offer classes in humanities, the social and political sciences of Poland and Central and Eastern Europe. A main goal of the Chair will be the promotion of Poland in the United States.

POLAND TO PULL TROOPS. Poland will withdraw its troops from United Nations Interim Forces (UNIFIL) in Lebanon. Poland's ambassador to Lebanon, Tomasz Niedzisz, stated that it is part of the Polish government's policy decision to limit its number of troops serving abroad. UNIFIL is made up of soldiers from twenty-nine countries and is charged with the safeguarding of the Lebanese-Israeli border and supports Lebanese forces in security operations.

Vatican Defrocks St. Stan's Bozek

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Rev. Marek Bozek of St. Stanislaus R.C. Church in St. Louis was informed he will no longer be able to serve as a priest in the Roman Catholic Church.



BOZEK

"It took 10 minutes," Bozek said as he drove back to St. Louis from Springfield, Mo., where he was given the news. "I drove four hours there and four hours back for a 10-minute conversation."

At the end of those 10 minutes, in which, Bozek said, he was shown a letter from the Vatican dated Jan. 31, 2009, See "Bozek Defrocked," p. 3

National Bank of Poland Visits United States



BANK HOSTED AT POLISH EMBASSY. The President of the National Bank of Poland, Slawomir Skrzypek (pictured above), and his delegation were the honored guests at a candlelight dinner party, hosted by the Embassy of Poland in Washington, following their important and successful working visit to the United States. *Story on page 4.*

Poland to Sell LOT Airlines

WARSAW — Government-owned LOT airlines will be sold this Fall, said Poland's treasury minister.

"We are looking for investors: financial, strategic, in Europe and outside," said Minister Aleksander Grad.

The government hopes to sell 49 percent of shares currently owned by the Treasury and Swissair, and prepare for further privatization.

Poland's carrier desperately needs a financial rescue package.

In 2008, its operating loss rose to \$44.3 million USD, compared to 2007's \$21.5 million profit.

Total losses could be as high as \$206 million. Management forecasts a \$35 million loss for 2009, but a \$1.5 million profit in 2010.

Betrayal in the Forest



"ZGRUPOWANIE STOLPECKIE" on patrol. This branch of the Home Army was led by Adolph Pilch.

Editor's note: The recent movie "Defiance" tells the story of the Bielski partisans and their survival in northeast Poland, now Belarus. Little is known about the Polish Home Army of that region — their many victories against the Nazis, their tragic betrayal, connection to the Bielski partisans, and their recovery

On December 1, 1943, members of the Bielski Resistance Camp, Revered in the Movie "Defiance," Took Part in Soviet Attack on a Unit of the Polish Home Army.

and move to Kampinos forest. The following is a brief account of one of those AK men, Lieutenant Jozef Niedzisz, written by his son, for POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL.

by John Nurt

On September 1, 1939, the German Blitzkrieg struck Poland. Anchored by six armored divisions, 1.5 million personnel attacked from the north, south and west. Two weeks later, Poland was sucker-punched in the east by 500,000 Soviet Red Army troops. The besieged nation was wedged between a hammer and an anvil. In spite of the hopeless situation, the Poles fought valiantly.

My father, Jozef, was only twenty at the time. As a member of the KOP (Borderland Defense Corps), he fought in early skirmishes with the brutally-efficient Wehrmacht. By October 6, Polish forces had capitulated. Survivors, numbering tens of

See "The Other ...," p. 3

Father Jan: A Priest for All Seasons

by Dr. Richard C. Lukas

When we look back on our lives, all of us remember at least one person who stands out among the people who touched us in a special way. Father Jan Januszewski, a survivor of the German occupation of Poland, was a man who had a profound impact on me. He was truly a priest for all seasons.

I met Father Jan in the 1950s when he arrived in Florida after spending several years in a Displaced Persons Camp in Germany. There were hundreds of thousands of Poles like him who lived in these Allied camps after World War II. The United States and Great Britain encouraged, sometimes even pressured, these refugees to return to Poland. But the majority of them refused. Understandably, they yearned for a future that promised to be better in the free countries of the west than in a Poland dominated by a Communist regime imposed by Joseph Stalin, dictator of the Soviet Union.

Father Jan's arrival in Florida was at least partially due to the efforts of my parents, who were prominent members of the Polish American community in south Florida. Through their efforts, the local bishop had been persuaded of the need to have a Polish-speaking priest to meet the spiritual needs of Polish Americans in his diocese.



FR. JAN JANUSZEWSKI

I met Father Jan for the first time when he came to our home for dinner. He was a tall courtly man with a full head of black curly hair that defied his best efforts to control. He had a quiet dignity that masked the enormous pain he had suffered during World War II. He preferred to talk about subjects involving my family and gently deflected attempts to focus the conversation on him and the painful memories of his recent experiences during the war.

I was a history major in college at that time with a special interest in modern European history, a field in which I later earned a doctorate. Anxious to learn more about Father Jan's wartime experiences, I urged my parents to arrange an interview between me and him.

See "Fr. Jan ..." page 4

ALMANAC

May • Maj

"Beauty is to enthuse us for work,
and work is to raise us up."
Cyprian Norwid

- 1 **ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER**
Labor Day (Poland)
1576. **Stefan Batory** crowned King of Poland.
- 2 1978. Polish mountain climbers reach the South Kanchen peak in the Himalayas.
- 3 **MARY, QUEEN OF POLAND**
1791. **Poland's first Constitution** is passed, becoming the second Constitution in the world, and the first in Europe. Poland rejoices amidst feelings of renewed patriotism.
- 5 846. Birth of novelist and Nobel laureate **Henryk Sienkiewicz** (d. 1916).
- 7 1867. Birth of writer and Nobel laureate **Wladyslaw Reymont** (d. 1925)
- 8 **ST. STANISLAUS**
1931. Death of **Albert Michelson**, Nobel Prize-winning physicist. (b. 1852)
- 10 **MOTHER'S DAY (U.S.)**
- 12 1970. Death of World War II Polish Gen. **Wladyslaw Anders**.
1902. Death of **Marie Elizabeth Zakrzewska**, first woman doctor in New England.
- 13 1889. Founding of the **Polish Singers Alliance of America**.
- 15 1942. Founding of the **Polish Institute of Sciences in America**, in New York.
- 16 **ST. ANDRZEJ BOBOLA**.
1902. Birth of Polish operatic tenor **Jan Kiepura**.
- 17 1025. Death of King **Boleslaw Chrobry** (Boleslaus the Brave).
- 18 1920. Birth of **Karol Wojtyla** in Wadowice, Poland, named Pope John Paul II, October 16, 1978.
1944. Second Polish Corps win the **Battle of Monte Cassino** in Italy.
- 20 1881. Birth of Polish General **Wladyslaw Sikorski**. (d. 1943)
- 22 1898. Founding of the fraternal benefit society, the **Polish Women's Alliance**.
- 24 1543. Death of **Nicholas Copernicus** (Mikolaj Kopernik), Polish astronomer.
- 25 **MEMORIAL DAY (U.S.)**
1861. Death of Capt. **Constantine Blandowski**, first foreign-born officer to die in the Civil War.
- 26 1903. Birth of **Al (Szymanowski) Simmons**, Hall of Fame baseball player for the Philadelphia Athletics.
- 27 1953. Defection to the West of Polish pilot **Lt. Francis Jarecki**, thus allowing the first close look at the new Russian MiG fighter.
- 28 1883. Death of poet **Cyprian Norwid**.
1944. **Polish American Congress** founded in Buffalo, N.Y.
1981. Death of Polish Primate and staunch anti-communist **Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski**.
- 29 Memorial Day (U.S.)
1913. Birth of **Tony Zale** (Zaleski), middleweight champion.
- 31 1972. Visit of **President Richard Nixon** to Poland, the first visit by a U.S. president.



REYMONT

Nobel Prize-winning physicist. (b. 1852)



ZAKRZEWSKA

first woman doctor in New England.

JUST BETWEEN US / Robert Strybel

Spend two weeks in Poland this summer for free and ...

Become a Pol-Am Community Leader

WARSAW—Many countries invest a great deal of time, money and effort into promoting themselves in various ways. They hire top-flight public-relations firms, cultivate goodwill ambassadors and bankroll ethnic activities and community activists. Our ancestral homeland, Poland, has rarely been in the forefront of such efforts. The reasons are many, but a lack of funds has been among the leading drawbacks.

Now, the "Szkola Liderow Polonijnych" hopes to make up for lost time. Sponsored by the Polish Senate, the traditional champion of world-wide Polonia, its purpose to groom young, energetic, future leaders for North America's Polish community. The name of this initiative has been somewhat clumsily translated into English as "School for Leaders for the Polish Community Abroad". Polonian Leadership School would have probably been a better choice.

"The School of Leaders program has been in existence since 1994 but so far has been addressed to community activists in Poland. This is the first time we have branched out into Polonia," the program's coordinator Magda Kolodziejczyk told this reporter. To my question as to why is this information has been issued so late with so little time to apply, she replied: "We did not get a grant from the Polish Senate to finance this project until April 1st, so the time is indeed short and we are doing the best we can under the circumstances!"

The project includes a two-week study tour of Poland this summer that will give participants an insight into the country's major social and political issues as well as various aspects of the its history, culture and everyday life. They will learn about Poland's transition from a communist dictatorship to a parliamentary democracy and from Marxist central planning to a market economy as well as the challenges that now lie ahead.

Above all, the Polonian Leadership School will help participants develop their leadership skills, teach them the importance of teamwork and communication and train them how to launch dynamic, socially relevant initiatives in their local communities back home. The

study tour being held from June 29th to July 12th, 2009 will include lectures, meeting with political leaders, artists and community activists as well as field trips all over Poland.

TO QUALIFY, AN APPLICANT SHOULD:

- Be between the ages of 20 and 35;
- Reside in the United States or Canada;
- Be of Polish ancestry;
- Be a leader in their local community;
- Have had at least two years experience in community affairs, culture or politics;
- Wish to improve their leadership skills; and
- Want to learn about the contemporary Poland, its culture, society and recent history.

Successful applicants can count on an all-expenses-paid stay in Poland, including free accommodation, meals, study materials and admission to sites of cultural interest. In addition, participants will be reimbursed for up to 2,000 zlotys of their round-trip airfare. (At the mid-April exchange rate of \$1 = 3.26 zlotys, that would come to a \$613 reimbursement.)

TO APPLY, interested parties should submit an application form, CV, letters of recommendation and other documents certifying the information included in their application via e-mail to: mkolodziejczyk@szkola-liderow.pl or mmazur@szkola-liderow.pl Unfortunately, the application deadline is April 26th. Additional information about the program is available in Polish or English at either of the above e-mail addresses or by phoning: (48 22) 556-8256 or (48 22) 556-82 65.

From amongst the applicants, fifteen young Poles for the United States and an equal number from Canada will be chosen to participate. All indications suggest they are in for a truly memorable adventure in their ancestral homeland. "A knowledge of the Polish language is not required to attend," Ms. Kolodziejczyk added. "Only an open mind, the will to learn new things and a desire to hone one's Polonian leadership skills."

SPEAK UP / Letters to the Editor

Practices Traditions for Other Reasons

Czeslaw Krysa's rambling and somewhat testy article, "A Polonian Examination of Conscience," in last month's Viewpoints column fails to consider that many of us in the Polish diaspora are not Catholic and many others of us are secularists. We who fall into either of these categories — especially the latter — continue the traditions that we grew up with, not for religious reasons, but as a way to remain connected to our forbears and to honor their memory.

We respect that they may have practiced these traditions partly out of a sense of religion, despite Catholicism in particular or religion in general not being a part of our motivation to continue these traditions.

The origination of many of these folk customs that now surround the Catholic "Easter" predate Catholicism in Poland, having been co-opted by the Catholic church from ancient folk practices in celebration of the Spring equinox. There is nothing inherently "Catholic" in any of them.

We Polish non-Catholics and/or non-believers can decorate eggs, douse or switch our loved ones, enjoy traditional cuisine, and perform other Polish "rites of spring" without the need for the veneer of religious belief. And these rites remain for us just as much, in the words of Dr. Krysa, "value-filled traditions..." as they are for the believers among our fellow Poles.

H.J. Czekalinski
Columbia Station, Ohio

FEELS BETRAYED. Over 54% of Catholics are reported to have voted for President Obama. He has betrayed them by funding overseas abortions, removing restrictions on human embryo experimentation and compromising their religious beliefs. He has betrayed the middle class through his mayors, governors and politicians with massive new taxes that affect everyone. Officially we now have 8.6% unemployment.

He has betrayed the sovereignty of America

with his decisions at the G20 Conference and he has compromised the image and strength of the United States by calling us arrogant to the entire world. He has betrayed those who wanted to end the war by sending more troops to Afghanistan. Each day we wonder what new betrayal will be revealed.

Catholics who came to this country at the turn of the century joined the Unions, the Democratic Party and fueled the industries of America. These same Catholics have, for two or three generations, stayed with the Democratic Party. Catholics and Christians who believe in the Ten Commandments see a major rift with the Democratic Party in the future. Is there a change for these Catholics and Christians in the future?

Leaders like Biden, Pelosi, Dodd, Etc., who claim to be Catholic, may see a change in the future for their betrayal to their constituents.

Al Koproski
Stamford, Connecticut

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Betrayal in the Forest

continued from cover

thousands began reorganizing into resistance groups. The bulk of these clandestine units would eventually band together to form the Home Army.

My father returned to Iwieniec, in eastern Poland. The homeland he once new had ceased to exist, overrun by the opportunistic Soviets. Jozef and his brother, Jan, quietly helped organize resistance units in their region. They were soon arrested by NKVD, the maniacal Soviet secret police. The brothers were deported to prison in nearby Minsk. They would endure months of harsh beatings and interrogation.

True to form, Hitler broke Germany's treaty with the Soviet Union. Chaos erupted as the Wehrmacht turned its war machine against the Red Army. As prisoners were marched eastward during the frantic Soviet retreat, Jozef and Jan escaped. By this time (Spring 1941), the Polish resistance had grown considerably. My father, using the pseudonym Szary ("Gray"), was tagged for leadership and helped plan the Iwieniec Uprising of June 19, 1941. It was a remarkable victory for the resistance, laying waste to a German SS garrison in a daring, well executed attack. Over one hundred enemy soldiers were eliminated and a cache of weapons captured. The attack also liberated partisan prisoners and headed off a planned roundup of the male population. Only three AK men were killed in action, sadly, my Uncle Jan was one of them.

The German invasion left thousands of Russians stranded behind the front. A tentative working relationship grew between Polish and Soviet partisans. Although the Soviets vastly outnumbered the Poles, major actions against the Nazis were launched almost exclusively by the Home Army. In midsummer 1943, the Germans initiated "Operation Hermann." They deluged Naliboki Forest with sixty-thousand troops in an effort to eliminate resistance activities. Soviet partisans proved unreliable, on one occasion abandoning their position and allowing Polish troops to walk into an ambush.

Despite losses during the German operation, the Stolpce Group ("Zgrupowanie Stolpeckie") of the Home Army continued to launch successful actions. While the Poles were busy disrupting Nazi occupation forces, the Soviets schemed to undermine and eliminate patriotic Polish units. After a period of friendly cooperation, Home Army leaders would be invited by the Soviets to discuss strategy against the Germans. The Poles were then captured, disarmed, and liquidated.

Such was the fate of the Stolpce Group on December 1, 1943. Downplaying the concerns of other resistance leaders, the newly arrived Home Army commander accepted the invitation of Soviet General "Dubov," and sent Stolpce officers to convene with Soviet partisans. En route to the meeting, the officers were surrounded by a large contingent of armed Soviets. Moments later, the nearby Polish camps were attacked. Poles who attempted to fight or flee were summarily executed. Before being shot, some were savagely tortured by their supposed Soviet "friends." Victims

were discovered with their ears and fingers cut off. The Polish officers captured were either sent to Moscow for trial or secretly murdered in the forest.

At this time, the Bielski partisans were subservient to the Soviets, and supplied fifty men for the operation. Prior to this, the Bielskis and other partisan detachments had friendly relations with the local Polish army, sharing meals and even games of chess. This relationship was eclipsed by the larger goals of Stalin and his NKVD

My father and the rest of the cavalry narrowly avoided the Soviet dragnet. They were guarding the edge of the forest that day, mindful of the frequent German patrols. They collected a few stragglers who had been lucky enough to escape the ambush. The fate of their partisan comrades became painfully clear. Soon after, My father's cavalry platoon was securing a local village



JOZEF NIEDZWIECKI (l.) and Jan Niedzwiecki (r.) sometime before Jan's death on June 19, 1941

when Soviet partisans appeared on horseback. The Poles withdrew from sight, allowing the enemy to approach. The Soviets were surrounded, disarmed and searched. My father found a shocking document in the possession of the Commissar: "Copy #7 of a secret order detailing the planned betrayal of the Home Army as directed by General Ponomarenko and General Platanow. With chilling matter-of-factness, it states that any Poles who resist "must be shot on the spot." Indeed, my father's discovery proved that the skirmishes and killings in the region were not isolated events. They were the culmination of Soviet policy, dictated at the highest echelons. Correspondingly, the local Home Army's new plan for survival required total war against Soviet partisans as well as the Nazis.

The winter of 1943-44 was a desperate time for the Stolpce group. The Soviets openly targeted the families of Home Army members. Entire villages were ruthlessly erased. But the



JOZEF NIEDZWIECKI (1919-1989), whose tactics earned him the name "Lawina," the "Avalanche."

Polish partisans responded with an influx of new recruits, and their new commander, Adolph Pilch, provided courageous and wise leadership. My dad's young sister, Helena, also joined the partisans in the forest. After victories at Stalingrad and Kursk, the Red Army seized the initiative and surged westward towards Berlin. My father's unit used the confusion of the German retreat to move their army to the Kampinos forest near Warsaw. They fought many actions in Kampinos while coordinating efforts as part of the Warsaw uprising. In the aftermath of the uprising, they attacked the infamous SS RONA - Kaminsky brigade on two successive evenings. The raids caused such destruction that afterward the Kaminsky brigade ceased to exist as a unit. My father led his squadron on the second night of these attacks, in the town of Marianow. The attack was swift, destructive, and overwhelming, calling to mind my father's new *nom de guerre*. The SS men were hit by Lawina, the "Avalanche."

Throughout the war, my father's Home Army units fought in over two-hundred successful engagements. He was shot twice in combat, yet never faltered in his struggle for Poland.

Only after his third injury and unavoidable capture in late 1944 did my father's tireless service come to an end. By that time the Allied victory in Europe was imminent.

After his liberation by British forces, Jozef Niedzwiecki would emigrate to America. He arrived carrying with him the Virtuti Militari, Poland's highest military decoration.

The heroic struggles of Zgrupowanie Stolpeckie, the Soviet betrayal and the discovery of the "secret order" remain largely unknown, due to four decades of Communist suppression and false accounts by Soviet partisans.



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Vatican Defrocks St. Stan's Bozek

continued from cover

confirming his laicization, the question changed from "when will it happen?" to "what does it mean?"

Bozek had received the sacrament of holy orders when he'd been ordained a priest in the Roman Catholic Church in 2002. That authority is void now that Pope Benedict XVI had returned him to the status of a layman.

Many question if Bozek is still considered a priest.

A dismissed priest is forbidden to exercise ministerial functions, but an indelible priestly character is held to remain on his soul (as is sung at a priest's ordination, "You are a priest forever, like Melchizedek of old:"). Consequently, any exercise of his sacramental power to consecrate the Eucharist is considered valid even though illicit. If a penitent is in danger of death, a dismissed priest may and indeed must hear his confession

and confer absolution. To reinstate a priest dismissed from the clerical state, the consent of the Pope is required.

Since late 2007, when former St. Louis Archbishop Raymond Burke first began the official proceedings that led to the laicization, Bozek has repeatedly referred to the permanence of the sacrament of holy orders. "Once a priest, always a priest," he has frequently said.

Bozek's bishop in Springfield suspended the priest's "faculties" — or the authority to perform as a cleric — after Bozek fled the diocese in 2005 to become pastor of St. Stanislaus.

The Polish American parish had been locked in a battle with the archdiocese over control of its property and assets, and Burke had removed its priests 18 months earlier.

— summarized from the
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National Bank of Poland Visits United States

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The critical mission was concluded most satisfactorily. Now it was time to decompress, relax and enjoy themselves a bit before returning home. And that's just what happened here at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland on March 2, 2009 when Ambassador Robert Kupiecki hosted Slawomir S. Skrzypek, president of the National Bank of Poland (NBP), and his delegation of seven Bank officials.

Ambassador Kupiecki, assisted by DCM Wojciech Flera, arranged an intimate dinner for the NBP president, his entourage, and 20 guests representing local Polonia. Given the present economic crises around the globe, it was good to hear President Skrzypek say that Poland is in relatively good financial shape, especially in comparison to other emerging countries in Eastern Europe. For example: despite having taken its share of hits, Poland's economy grew by a respectable 2.9% in the last quarter of 2008, while many others were tanking world-wide.

Skrzypek thanked his dinner partners for their continuing support of Poland and emphasized our very special and enduring mutual friendship. The guests were delighted to be gifted with a small wooden chest. The elegant *kuferek* contained two coins minted in 2008 by the NBP to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first Polish settlers who landed at Jamestown in 1608. In addition to being highly engraved, the totally unique 10 zloty silver coin has a large etched-glass center depicting a Polish glassblower at work.

The NBP delegation arrived in the United States on February 27, 2009. Their whirlwind itinerary consisted of many meetings in New York, Chicago and Washington. The focus was on networking with key economic officials and related institutions, as well as with Polonia entrepreneurs, concerning the present world economic crisis and its solu-

tions. But the Bank's main mission here was proactive in nature: to present, project and reaffirm Poland as a steadfast and trustworthy economic partner, now and in the future.

Most symbolically, the NBP's visit began at the New York Stock Exchange. Consultations with the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, U.S. Federal Reserve System, U.S. Treasury, and many other major financial institutions followed as the days progressed.

Connecting with our Polonia was considered an important component of the NBP agenda. In Chicago, President Skrzypek was the guest of honor during the Polish Festival at Navy Pier. The Polish American Business Club/Kosciuszko Foundation hosted the delegation in New York. Locally, the Bank met with Prof. Zbigniew Brzezinski, former National Security Advisor serving President Carter, and Zofia Korbonska, a recognized activist for Polish freedom and independence from the Soviets. As a member of the Polish resistance Home Army, she participated in the 1944 Warsaw Uprising against the Nazi Germans.

Skrzypek, age 46, is no stranger to the United States. He worked as an intern for the U.S. Congress and for the Polish Mission at the U.N. in New York. He holds master's degrees from the University of Wisconsin and Georgetown University in areas relating to finance and business. His academic accomplishments in Poland include various diplomas and degrees from the Silesian University of Technology, University of Silesia — Faculty of Law and Administration, Warsaw School of Economics and Cracow University of Economics.

Poland has every reason to celebrate the fact that the experienced, steady hands of Skrzypek are gripping the helm of the National Bank of Poland, steering it safely on a true course during these stormy economic times.

Father Jan: A Priest for All Seasons

continued from cover

But Father Jan politely demurred. Undeterred, after beginning graduate studies, I tried again to arrange an interview with Father Jan. By that time, he had become pastor of St. Justin the Martyr Catholic Church in Key Largo, Florida. After I received my doctorate, Father Jan agreed to be interviewed by me for a book I was writing on Polish Christian survivors of the Nazis. Surprised that he consented to the interview, I asked him what had changed his mind. "The world rightly knows what happened to our Jewish brothers and sisters," he said sadly, "but it knows so little about us. We should not be forgotten."

It was a hot humid day in Key Largo, when I arrived at St. Justin's. Father Jan greeted me warmly while holding a small dog in his arms. I noticed several cats and dogs in the room.

"I'm really not trying to emulate St. Francis," he said jokingly, "but I find these strays at my door all the time. Sometimes, people drop them off here, knowing that I will take care of them."

BEFORE THE INTERVIEW, Father Jan talked about his ministry at St. Justin's, which he loved. I learned from others later about the many acts of charity that he quietly performed for people. Father Jan often gave his own money to people of the parish who struggled to raise families on limited incomes.

"He gave away what little money he had," one parishioner said.

When I asked him about his experiences in wartime Poland, Father Jan said that the Germans came to his village on September 16, 1939, a few weeks after the invasion of Poland. "They told us," he said, "that since the German people had suffered so much during the war, the Poles would have to pay restitution."

The Germans allowed Father Jan to perform his priestly duties until February 1940, when the chief of police told him that the Polish episcopate had been abolished and that the clergy would have to cooperate fully with Nazi authorities. Father Jan objected, insisting that he had to honor his oath as a priest. A short time later, in the middle of a Mass, the Gestapo entered the church, marched down the aisle and dragged him out to a waiting car.

On his way to the Gestapo car, Father Jan noticed a boy, who had often been in trouble with local authorities before the war, bolting from the crowd of shocked onlookers and running toward him. The boy tearfully exclaimed: "Father, Jesus Christ suffered for us; now it is your turn." Reflecting on what the boy had said, Father Jan told me, "That remark really boosted my spirits. If that statement had come from someone else who had been particularly religious, it would not have had the impact that it did coming from this young man."

When the Germans invaded Poland on September 1, 1939, they embarked on a racial war which, as Adolf Hitler himself declared, was intended "to kill without pity or mercy all men, women and children of Polish descent or language." The result of his maniacal policy took the lives of six million Polish citizens — three million Polish Jews and three million Polish Christians.

Most priests, nuns, and monks behaved with dignity in the face of the brutal policies of German occupation. They played an important role in charitable and humanitarian work on behalf of Poles and Jews and in the Polish resistance movement. As many as two-thirds of the religious communities of nuns in Poland hid Jewish children and adults, assuming the risk of the death penalty that the Nazis automatically imposed on Poles who aided Jews in any way.

The Germans realized that if their policy of enslaving the Polish nation had any chance of success, they had to destroy the organization and leadership of the Roman Catholic Church, an institution that historically fostered the spirit of Polish nationalism and acted as a unifying force during times of political and social turmoil.

The German policy of annexing western Poland to the Third Reich and turning the remainder of the country into a penal colony, known as the General Government, succeeded in destroying the structure of the Polish church. The clergy in the annexed lands, where Father Jan lived, suffered especially cruel treatment at the hands of the Germans. Deportations to concentration camps and executions were commonplace.

Father Jan was one of the hundreds of thousands of Poles sent to concentration camps.

THE GERMANS SENT HIM TO DACHAU, where thousands of priests were interned. It was in Dachau where the infamous Dr. Claus Schilling, a medical doctor, often infected Catholic priests with malaria for his experiments. He also used Polish prisoners for experiments with infectious hepatitis.

Mercifully, Father Jan was not selected for these experiments, which took the lives of so many of his conferees. "The Germans assigned me to heavy work details," he said. "At that time, I was young and my body was able to withstand the beatings, malnutrition and squalor better than the older inmates."

Recalling those dark days in Dachau, Father Jan choked back tears, saying: "So many of my fellow priests died in that horrible place."

When he returned from his work details, Father Jan spent the remaining time of his day praying and ministering to other inmates. Father Jan joined other priests in clandestinely distributing Holy Communion. It was a risky enterprise because discovery by the guards meant sacrilege to the Host and beatings, often fatal, to the priests.

While in Dachau, Father Jan

befriended some of the Jewish inmates. One Jew, worn down by the difficult work and meager diet, often stumbled and was unable to fulfill his work quota. Father Jan realized that it would only be a matter of time before the Jewish man would die from overwork and malnutrition or some of the sadistic guards would kill him.

"I helped him fulfill his quota," Father Jan said modestly: "The man survived." He lowered his head to wipe the tears streaming down his cheeks: "My regret is that I wish I could have helped more souls in that terrible place."

When I asked him about how he was able to endure the hardships of life in Dachau, Father Jan looked intently at me and said, "I was able to cope with concentration camp life because I had no sense of guilt for anything. I was arrested and sent to Dachau because I was a Polish priest. The Germans didn't even accuse me of anything. I was just lined up with other priests, arrested and sent away."

"My regret is that I wish I could have helped more souls in that terrible place."

THIS GENTLE SAINTLY MAN always exuded a sense of deep appreciation to God for surviving the Nazis and being allowed to continue his priestly vocation in the United States.

When I concluded my interview with Father Jan, I had no idea that he was seriously ill. Even parishioners who were close to him did not know that he suffered from cancer. He bore his suffering stoically and cheerfully until his death five years later. He was seventy-five years old.

Father Jan's courage and Christian compassion shine like beacons across the wasteland of the Holocaust, reminding us of the Gospel message which he made a vital part of his life.

His life was an inspiration; his memory a benediction.

Dr. Richard C. Lukas is a well-known authority on Poland during World War II. His landmark study, "The Forgotten Holocaust," has gone through several editions and printings and is considered essential reading for students in many university classrooms. He has written seven other books and scores of scholarly and popular articles. Since his retirement from university teaching, he has contributed freelance articles to the CATALYST, INSIDE THE VATICAN, the CANADIAN MESSENGER, ST. ANTHONY MESSENGER, and various newspapers.

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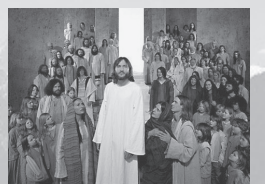
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Re-Enactors to Tour Poland



MEMBERS of the Czarniecki Division Re-enactment Group outside Gniew Castle in August of last year.

DURHAM, N.H.—Sleep in an 800 year old castle, dine in a hall where knights feasted and take your place on the battlefield where were your ancestors may have fought 380 years ago and you are at “Vivat Vasa,” an event held annually at Gniew Castle in northern Poland.

For a group of American re-enactors and history enthusiasts, participating in such an event was a dream-come true. In August of 2008 members of the Czarniecki Division and friends did just that. Not only did these folks get to participate in Poland’s largest 17th century event, but they toured the country as well. In addition to the two day event in Gniew, the group of Americans — some of Polish descent, some not — visited Malbork, Gdansk, Golub, Warsaw, Czestochowa and Krakow. English-speaking guides accompanied us for the whole trip, since

most of the members spoke little or no Polish.

This unique tour is called the “Husaria Tour of Poland.” (Husaria referring to the legendary winged cavalry of 17th century Poland). The tour was developed by Eryk Jadaszewski of the Czarniecki Division Re-enactment Group based in New England. Arrangements were made by Mary Gorecka of PAT Tours of W. Springfield, Mass.

The tour’s focus is not only to re-enact but to visit the wonderful collections of Polish winged hussar arms and armor as well as seeing the major cultural and historical sites across the country.

If you are interested in joining the 2009 Husaria Tour of Poland, August 11-24, 2009, contact Eryk Jadaszewski for a brochure and prices at jrjada@myfairpoint.net or call (603) 563-8054.

TV Station Apologies for Error

NEW YORK — Public Television’s WLIW21 on New York’s Long Island issued a formal apology to the Polish American Congress, the Kosciuszko Foundation and the Polish Consulate for inadvertently describing the Auschwitz concentration camp Hitler’s SS operated in German-occupied Poland as “Polish” instead of German.

In an apparent attempt to be politically correct, much of the American media seems to go out of its way to deliberately avoid connecting the word “German” with the words “concentration camp” whenever there’s reference to the camps the Germans built in Poland, according to Michael Preisler, co-chair of the Holocaust Documentation Committee of the Polish American Congress. He is also a Polish Catholic survivor of Auschwitz.

“They like to call these camps ‘Polish.’ We would like them to be accurate and not mislead the public by calling the German camps Polish,” said Preisler, whose committee has been fighting such misidentification for many years. “It’s been repeated so often, a lot of people have come to believe it.”

The largest group murdered in Auschwitz was Jewish. Poles were the second largest.

The United Nations considered the misrepresentations so inaccurate and misleading it felt compelled to issue a directive in 2007 clearly defining Auschwitz as German, not Polish.

Preisler says he is grateful WLIW was quick to recognize and acknowledge the objections of the Polish American community. “We have always had an amicable relationship with the station and understand this was a mistake. But we suspect some of the other major media may have done it with deliberate intent.”

“WLIW21 apologizes for the misleading language printed in our April 2009 program guide, In Focus, regarding the upcoming broadcast ‘Swimming in Auschwitz’ that identified Auschwitz concentration camp as ‘Polish,’” said the PBS station in its apology. “The language used was an editorial oversight due to space restrictions and was only meant to reflect the camp’s geography. The language was not intended as a characterization of Poland or its people.”

North Carolina and Arkansas Polonia

Polish Americans in North Carolina have a club, whose website is www.polamrtp.com.

Raleigh has a Polish-German restaurant called J. Betski’s (www.jbetskis.com), and a Polish deli called Polonez. The proprietors of the Polish deli Integro in Greensboro recently took it over.

The small Polish American community of Marche, just north of Little Rock, Arkansas, was founded in 1877 when Polish Count Timothy Choinski bought land for the settlement. While most of the settlers were farmers, most ended up working for the Iron Mountain railroad. Their church is Immaculate Heart of Mary. Many Pol Ams also live in Slovak, Arkansas, along with others from Eastern Europe.

Twenty-two Poles Die in Homeless Hostel Blaze

By Robert Strybel

WARSAW (PAJ) — Twenty-one people, including six children, were burnt alive in the Baltic coast town of Kamień Pomorski, and as many more suffered injuries in Poland’s worst fire in 30 years. The blaze, whose cause is yet to be determined, started shortly after midnight and within minutes had turned a hostel for homeless families into a blazing torch. The first fire-brigade unit arrived minutes after being alerted, but by then the three-floor building was a blazing inferno.

“People were crying for help, throwing their children out of win-

dows and jumping themselves. Many broke their limbs but at least they survived,” one witness said. “A 70-some-year-old man jumped and didn’t break a thing. I saw someone jump to and climb down a tree growing next to the building.”

Firefighters were criticized for ineptness, and witnesses claimed they couldn’t locate functioning hydrants, were unable to open their ladders and, when they did, found they were too short. “They were running around in circles and it was all very chaotic. There were ladders, but they reached only to the first floor. I shouted to my sister

on the second floor. ‘Jump and I’ll catch you!’, but she didn’t. Then it was too late,” eye-witness Dariusz Janyszko told Polish news channel TVP-INFO.

Fire brigade spokesman Pawel Frątczak admitted that the local fire brigade had only seven men on duty and was under-equipped, but he said the firefighters had done everything possible to save people under the circumstances. “When we arrived, the building was one raging blaze. A wall of flame, toxic smoke and temperatures of up to one thousand degrees made entering the building impossible. Oxygen masks would have melted together their wearers’ faces,” firefighter Daniel Kowaliński explained.

The door leading to the building’s sole fire escape was locked, and the construction of the shabby temporary residence enabled the flames to spread at lightning speed. All the residents of the concrete-block ground floor escaped unscathed, but only those who jumped out of the first-story windows survived. Everyone on the top floor perished in the fumes and flames. The top two stories had comprised a metal frame covered with fiberboard siding enriched with gypsum and asbestos. Seventy-seven people had been registered in the hostel but some were away during the blaze.

NATIONAL MOURNING. President Lech Kaczyński, who had proclaimed three days of national mourning, rushed to the scene to survey the situation and visit the hospitalized survivors. Flags were

lowered to half-mast and tied with black crepe, and public television withdrew its more frivolous programming. Prime Minister Donald Tusk was there a few hours earlier and promised financial aid for the survivors and victims’ families as well as the construction of a new hostel at a nearby site.

The tragedy triggered an outpouring of national solidarity. The local Catholic charity Caritas provided first aid, basic essentials and emergency housing for the survivors. Gifts began flowing in from all over Poland. They included clothes, bedding, personal-hygiene products, school supplies, food and donations for those who had lost everything in the blaze. Special prayers were offered in churches, and the new local archbishop Andrzej Dzięga postponed his planned investiture at the cathedral.

The tragedy has prompted some serious soul-searching as to the condition of other social facilities of this type including homeless shelters and homes for unwedded mothers with children. Many such buildings are overcrowded and in a sad state of disrepair, have antiquated wiring and lack adequate emergency exits.

The Kamień Pomorski blaze claimed more lives than any other fire since 1980, when 55 patients of a psychiatric hospital in Górna Grupa died and 26 suffered serious burns. In 1955, 58 people including 38 children died when a blaze broke out at a library in southeast Poland during a movie matinée. Thirty-seven lost their lives in a 1971 refinery fire in Czechowice-Dziedzice.

QUOTES

compiled from news sources

“Obama is not putting missile defense in the deep freeze as such. He is putting it in the fridge. It means it can be taken out, depending on Russia.”

—**Nikola Hynek**, a defense expert at the Institute of International Relations, on the mounting anxiety that Poland and the Czech Republic would not receive the missile bases promised by President Bush.

◆ ◆ ◆

“I wish they would be just as sensitive about the feelings of the Polish people and not confuse the American public by putting a ‘Polish’ label on Auschwitz or any other German concentration camp.”

—**Michael Preisler**, co-chair of the Holocaust Documentation Committee of the Polish American Congress, and a Polish Catholic survivor of Auschwitz, on how the media appears to be sensitive to the way the Germans might feel about always bringing up the past and their part in the Holocaust.

◆ ◆ ◆

“We face the same problems that the Latino community faces, like people being deported or mistreated. But nobody wants to talk about it.”

—**Kasia Tarczyska**, 27, a full-time student at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Tarczyska, along with Monika Starczuk and Paulina Marek, formed the Young Polish Initiative in 2007 after the wife of a Polish-born immigrant was deported three months before getting his green card. He has been fighting to get her back ever since and even testified before Congress in 2007.

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“The closing of St. Genevieve Church has been one of the hardest things I’ve ever had to do as a pastor. It’s not simply the closing of a building but the end of an era. Many faithful whose lives were shaped and formed within the walls of St. Genevieve Church and school gathered for the closing. It is that living faith that will sustain us today and always.”

—**Rev. John J. Batykefer**, of the Polish American parish of St. Genevieve’s in Canonsburg, Pa.

◆ ◆ ◆

“I was baptized here, I was married here, and I want to be buried from here. We don’t want the building destroyed.”

—**Tina Girod** of Painesville, Ohio, from the altar of St. Casimir R.C. Church, Cleveland, a week before it was announced the building will be shuttered. The bishop says the diocese needs to close nearly 50 churches, mostly in the cities. Cleveland’s St. Stanislaus Parish will remain open.

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“Our message to parents is, hey, we are providing you some conditions ... that may allow you to feel a little more comfortable in giving them the car more often.”

—**Jim Buczkowski** of Ford Motor Co., on a computer chip in the key that can limit a vehicle’s speed to 80 m.p.h.

◆ ◆ ◆

“I took piano lessons from the Felician sisters. I still have nuns who are good friends. One is almost 90, and she used to teach me music. They are so positive. That’s why they live so long.”

—**WNED-TV’s Eileen Koterak Elibol**, reflecting on her Polish upbringing in a personality profile in *The Buffalo News*.

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Deportation to Russia and Katyn Massacre Anniversaries

This spring marks the 69th anniversary of the deportations of Poles to Soviet camps in the north of Russia, largely to the area of Arkhangelsk and Irkutsk. The Polish Institute of National Remembrance records that in this, one of the gravest crimes against the Poles in World War II, the Russian occupiers of Eastern Poland deported some 1.5 million people from their homes, most of whom never returned.

April was the month when Poles commemorate the Katyn murders by Soviet Russians. The late **Rev. Msgr. Zdzislaw J. Peszkowski**, who mysteriously escaped death at Katyn as a captured Polish cavalryman, dedicated his life after his ordination in the United States to making public the truth about Katyn. He eventually erected a cross at one of the extermination sites in Russia. The Polish postal service acknowledged his contributions with a stamp that depicts him blessing the cross at Katyn. In like manner, Pope John Paul II is depicted on a stamp praying before crosses as the postal service marked the 60th anniversary of the slaughter. Despite Russian government obstacles to pursuing the perpetrators of the crime, independent Russian researchers have announced that they have found the names of the KGB-led murderers, some of whom are still alive.

STO LAT TO ... Newly-certified parish workers in the Detroit Archdiocese: Business Managers **Carol Chupka**, St. Columban, Birmingham; Directors of Religious Education **Joseph Kuligowski**, St. Kieran, Shelby Township; **Amelia Sledz**, St. Margaret of Scotland, St. Clair Shores; **Michelle Szczepanski**, St. Andrew, Rochester; **Julie Wieleba-Milkie**, Sacred Heart, Dearborn (also liturgical ministry and pastoral ministry and youth ministry); Youth Ministers **Joseph Kuligowski**, St. Lucy, St. Clair Shores; **Paul Pyrkosz**, St. Aidan, Livonia; **Joseph Sturza**, St. Francis of Assisi/St. Maximilian Kolbe, Ray.

Srs. Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus as they expand their mission in Swedesburg in the Philadelphia RC Archdiocese. **Sr. Superior Klara Slonina** directs the religious education program and assists in the Polish dance classes for

children. **Sr. Mary Joseph Calore** has various parish office jobs and directs **Postulant Sr. Katherine Major** who does secretarial and teaching work at this and a nearby parish; **Sr. Miriam Joseph Spinneweber** is sacristan and catechist.

Bishop Allen H. Vigneron on his appointment to replace retiring **Adam Cardinal Maida** as archbishop of Detroit.

Mr. Eugene Bak on being honored by the Northeast Ohio Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation at its Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony for his dedication to the Polish-American community and his passion for Polish Culture and heritage. **Danielle Chmielewski**, recipient of the 2008 Tomaszewicz-Florio Scholarship for Summer Study in Poland was also recognized.

Fr. Clifford Ruskowski, on being honored along with three of his fellow graduates of Detroit's Sacred Heart seminary. He was given the Daniel Ryan Award for Outstanding Former Faculty as a former professor of homiletics.

Sr. Bernadette, mother superior of the Missionary Sisters of the Gospel (the "John Paul II Sisters") in Perth, Australia. The former lawyer, who enjoyed the good life, had a deep conversion experience and, together with two other sisters, founded the congregation of sisters in 2007. They wear the traditional habit, take new names when they pronounce their vows, and rely on donations of food, goods and money to meet their needs, as part of their vow of poverty.

TWO NOTEWORTHY BOOKS. The story of the **Ulma** family, parents, six children and one in the womb days away from birth, all shot in 1944 along with the eight Jews they sheltered in Markowa, southeastern Poland, was told by **Mateusz Szpytma**, co-author of "The Sacrifice of the Just: The Ulma Family Gave their Lives for Helping Jews. The Ulmas are honored as "Righteous Among the Gentiles" in Jerusalem and their beatification process has been initiated on the diocesan level. Other Poles in Markowa successfully saved at least 17 other people.

In his book "You Shall Be My Witnesses: Lessons Beyond Dachau,"

(Square One, 2009) **Archbishop Kazimierz Majdanski** recounts his imprisonment and the faith of his fellow seminarians and priests, many of whom did not survive the camps. Despite special torture and pressure, not one of the Poles denounced his priesthood or betrayed his country. After his release, Archbishop Majdanski worked as a pastor, seminary professor, editor and bishop.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO... **John Paul II School of Polish Language** in Walnut Creek, California, on its 40th anniversary. More than 1,000 students have benefited from language and culture classes at the Saturday school. They have used their language skills in their college careers and the cultural skills in theatre performances, dance festivals and poetry and literary arts events.

WITH THE POPE IN BRONZE. The meeting of third-grader **Melissa Brent** with Pope John Paul II on his visit to Baltimore is captured in a 7-foot bronze statue recently unveiled in the Pope John Paul II Prayer Garden in downtown Baltimore, Md., at the Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The pope is depicted as embracing Melissa and a local boy after they gave him a bouquet of Black-eyed Susans on his arrival at Baltimore-Washington International Airport. Melissa is now a third-year nursing student and she attributes her college success and future of service to the life-changing meeting.

ITALIAN CATHOLIC PRIEST HONORED for helping Polish children afflicted with spina bifida. Father Bruno Lima received the Order of the Smile in January in the southern Poland city of Kielce. Father Bruno organized several charity campaigns in support of health clinics for children with spina bifida in Poland. His fund-raising efforts have yielded eight deliveries of specialized equipment to the Polish clinics and have made the costly products accessible to Polish children free of charge.

COACH K'S FAMILY LIFE CENTER. With the parochial school at Immaculate Conception parish in Durham, N.C., growing in numbers and esteem in the community, the pastor, **Fr. David McBriar, OFM**, approached a parishioner, successful Duke University basketball coach **Mike Krzyzewski**, with his dream of building a gym for the students. The idea appealed to him and he committed himself to the project along with others, who caught the enthusiasm and saw a facility that could meet even more of the community's needs. In the end, the Emily Krzyzewski Family Life Center was erected, with rooms for after-school activities, classrooms for English lessons for the large Hispanic population, and of course the gym. With donations from many sources, the center provides a structured program to aid student participants to develop their intellect and skills through tutoring, individualized lesson plans, and after-school activities.

MUSIC MINISTRY. "Blessed Be Music Ministries" is name of a special group of performers who use

their voices and hearts to provide music for people at the end of their life and to create a sacred space for their passing. **Srs. Joanne Kotwicki, Michele Grodzinski, and Veronice Plewinski** are joined by **Robin Lucas, Vince Chiles** and **Dan Varner** and others as they visit homes, nursing homes and other settings to ease anxiety, anger or sadness among patients facing the end of life. The group rehearses on the second Tuesday of each month at St. Joseph Villa, in Reading, Penn. Those interested in joining the group or asking for their services can call Vince Chiles at (484) 651-0752.

Daniel Pisarcik, one of the 2008 winners of the Monsignor Kawalec Young Organist Scholarship offered by Buffalo, N.Y.'s Church Musicians Guild, played the historic A. Radziewicz 3/32 pipe organ at Corpus Christi Church. To win his scholarship the 14-year-old Pisarcik had to perform three hymns and one selection of organ literature. The

North Tonawanda, N.Y. resident was one of two diocesan awardees. This is the third time he has won an award in the scholarship competition.

Fr. David Bialkowski, pastor of St. John Gualbert RC Church in Cheektowaga, N.Y., dedicated and blessed the renovated church organ at his church. The expanded instrument incorporated the organ from recently-closed Holy Name of Jesus Church in Buffalo.

DID YOU KNOW? **Leon Trotsky, Vladimir Lenin** and **Joseph Stalin** are featured in a window in St. Stanislaus Kostka R.C. Church in Adams, Mass. They are depicted as listening to **Archbishop Jan Cieplak**, who defended religious rights in communist Russia in the early 1920s. The church building was recently slated for closure by bishop of Springfield, Mass. Parishioners reacted by occupying the church to prevent further action.

Jewish History Tours of Poland

SAN FRANCISCO—The Taube Foundation for Jewish Life & Culture launched a new cultural tourism program encouraging Jews to visit Poland and learn about the country's 1,000 years of Jewish history.

Poland Jewish Heritage Tours is unique in its emphasis and implementation. The program touches on the Holocaust like other tours, but places it in the context of Jewish life in Poland, both past and present. The specialty tours were designed to help people explore their own Jewish roots.

The tours, which have been open to the public since 2005, are the brainchild of Taube Foundation Chairman Thaddeus "Tad" Taube, who is of Polish Jewish origin.

"Poland was once the cradle of Jewish life, and Israeli and Diaspora Jewish culture were profoundly shaped by it," said Taube, who was appointed Honorary Consul for the Republic of Poland in 2007. "Visiting Poland with us will strengthen your connection to your Jewish roots and preserve our Jewish future, at the same time it supports

and celebrates the Jewish renewal taking place in Poland today."

More than 70 percent of American Jews and 60 percent of Israelis are of Polish descent, but few of them have had the opportunity to visit Poland and learn about their heritage beyond the horrors of the Holocaust — until now.

More than 70 percent of American Jews and 60 percent of Israelis are of Polish descent.

Poland Jewish Heritage Tours aims to highlight this rich history through visits to historical sites; participation in genealogical field research about family histories; meetings with Jewish leaders, politicians and the media; and outings to cultural events, such as the annual, summer Jewish Culture Festival in Krakow, which is the world's largest Jewish festival.

For more information please visit www.PolandJewishHeritageTours.com or e-mail info@PolandJewishHeritageTours.com.

MODLITWY

PUBLICATION OF PRAYERS. The Polish American Journal gladly accepts prayers ads for publication. They must be received by the 10th of each month, prior to the month of publication, and must be pre-paid at the cost of \$15.00 each, which can be paid by check or charge. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please call 1 (800) 422-1275 or (716) 312-8088.

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

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT. Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems, who light all roads so I can attain my goal. You who give me the Divine gift to forgive and to forget all evil against me and that in all instances of my life you are with me. I want

this short prayer to thank you for all things and to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you, even and in spite of all material illusion. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. Thank you Holy Spirit. That person must say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the favor requested will be granted, even if it may appear difficult. This prayer must be published immediately after the favor is granted, without mentioning the favor. Your initials should appear after the thank you. Thank You Holy Spirit. A.D.

THANKSGIVING NOVENA TO ST. JUDE. Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near the kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent position. In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. (Say three Our Fathers, Three Hail Marys, Three Glory Be's). St. Jude pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Amen. Publication must be promised. This novena has never been known to fail. My prayers have been answered. M.E.

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Kosciuszko Foundation Offers \$1,000 in Essay Contest

NEW YORK — Kosciuszko Foundation President Alex Storzynski announced that a \$1,000 prize would be awarded for the best essay written by an American student between ages 18 and 22 on the worldwide significance of the 1939 invasion of Poland.

Storzynski said, "With the 70th anniversary of World War II approaching, the Kosciuszko Foundation wants to encourage students to study and comment about the events of 1939 that changed the lives of their parents and grandparents. Many of these Polish American students were born in America because their forefathers were refugees from a horrible war waged on humanity by the Nazi dictator of Germany, Adolf Hitler, and the dictator of the Soviet Union Jozef Stalin."

World War II was the deadliest war in history. Approximately six million Jews were murdered during the Holocaust by the German SS Einsatzgruppen commandos and in German Nazi concentration camps. By some estimates, 70 million soldiers and civilians were killed during the reign of terror begun by Hitler and Stalin. After the war, the map of Europe was redrawn and millions of refugees were forced from their homes.

The contest will be spearheaded by Maria Szonert-Binienda, Esq., with co-judges Professor Donald E. Pienkos, University of Wisconsin, and Professor Thaddeus V. Gromada, President of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America.

For more information call (330) 666-7251.

First CyberKnife for Poland

WASHINGTON, D.C. — CyberKnife is a sophisticated robotic radiosurgery system which uses nonsurgical, painless technology of highly precise high dose radiation to reduce or eliminate certain lesions and tumors, many previously considered inoperable in the human body. It serves as a valuable adjunct to already existing surgical and medical treatments.

The Polish American Health Association (PAHA) is spearheading a fundraising drive to collect funds for the first CyberKnife for Poland.

The fundraising Gala was held at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, March 28, 2009, under the patronage of his Excellency and Mrs. Robert Kupiecki.

Professor Wojciech Maksymowicz, a world-renowned neurosurgeon and former Health Minister of Poland, who is also the initiator and organizer of the purchase of the first CyberKnife in Poland, was the guest of honor, and was accompanied by Dr. Leszek Dudzinski, the president of the Polish Medical Association in Poland.

Donations (tax deductible) to support the "First CyberKnife for Poland" fundraising action can be sent to the following account: BB&T Bank #0000150093007, or to the following address: Polish American Health Association, 3904 Cleveland St., Kensington, MD 20895-3804.

For more information, visit www.PahaUSA.org.

Starbucks Opens in Warsaw

WARSAW — Starbucks Corp. opened its first cafe in Poland in April, marking the next step in the company's global growth plans. The Warsaw store will be run by AmRest Coffee, a joint venture between Starbucks International Inc. and a subsidiary of the Dutch company AmRest Holdings N.V. The cafe will be located at Nowy Świat 62.

The coffeehouse market in Poland is growing faster than other

culinary segments, according to restaurant industry data cited by Starbucks. Starbucks and AmRest formed the Polish partnership in 2007. Last year, AmRest partnered with Starbucks to open the first cafe in the Czech Republic. The two companies are also partners in the Hungarian market. AmRest also manages KFC, Pizza Hut and Burger King in Central and Eastern Europe.

KULTURA / Staś Kmieć

Travelogue – Adventures in Poland

Part V

Poland's capital, Warsaw, has shrugged off its dour Eastern Bloc image, and is finally showing its true colors. The vibrant heart of the largest country in "New Europe," Warsaw is now poised to make its presence felt as a business and cultural hub.

The years under the country's last King, Stanisław Augustus Poniatowski, as well as the inter-war period, when the city was dubbed the "Paris of the East," were two cultural peaks of this great city. After a challenging twentieth century, Warsaw is back with festivals, cultural institutes, museums, galleries, theatres, and an active cultural and arts scene.

ALONG NOWY ŚWIAT. Leaving *Teatr Sabat* I wandered along ul. Nowy Świat, where one can take a walk among old buildings and pockets of the past, while surrounded by the atmosphere of a big city. The most popular street in Warsaw for tourists and the locals alike, it is a venue for cafés, restaurants, exclusive perfume, coffee, tea, pastry and chocolate shops and high-end boutiques.

Dating back to medieval times the roadway was used by Kings on the journey from Warsaw to Kraków and evolved from a former road leading from Old Warsaw to the nearby town of Jazdów.

The first settlements along the route date back to around 1640, when the street was given its present name, which means "New World."

The street was home to small wooden farmers' houses. By the second half of the 18th century, more affluent



Pastries in the store window of the Blikle Café on ul. Nowy Świat in Warsaw (photo: Staś Kmieć)

buildings appeared, including seven palaces, a dozen townhouses, a market, along with the Vauxhall (Foksal in Polish) public park, modeled after the park of the same name in London.

The location was the scene of public events and shows, including the first balloon flights in Warsaw. Nobility and burghers made up the majority of the residents of the street. From that period, only house No. 1 has survived in an unchanged form.

During the period of the Constitutional Kingdom of Poland (1815-1830) dozens of one and two story late-classicist buildings were developed. Gutters were constructed, and the street was paved with cobblestones. Nowy Świat gradually grew into a shopping artery with many stores, perfume and wine producers, a pharmacy, the *Aspazja* café and many arts and crafts shops. The street was provided with gas lighting in 1856.

Elegant metropolitan buildings started to appear, lined with large shop windows. At the end of the 19th century, the street had hundreds of stores, the first

fashion houses, numerous restaurants and milk bars, which were very popular at that time.

A. Blikle, a small pastry store, opened at No. 33 in 1869. It soon expanded and established its headquarters at No. 35. The two addresses still exist today, providing the most famous and oldest Warsaw pastry store and café, combined with a luxury delicatessen store.

The atmosphere at Blikle Café is a mixture

of conversation and contemplation. It is a good place to catch up with friends, debate and discuss, but also somewhere to take solace with oneself, sit idly and read, or simply watch people come and go. The offerings include a selection of teas, coffees (including liqueur coffees) and other drinks, and a tempting array of traditional Polish pastries and cakes made according to century-old methods. Blikle, however, is best known for its signature *paczki* doughnuts.

Walking further I encountered an elderly woman selling handmade artificial bouquets for Fall cemetery plots, and then I was drawn to the strains of the classic *Kapela Czerniakowska* and their old Warsaw street songs.

In the early 20th century, the style shifted from neoclassical architecture to Art Nouveau style. The street's first modern hotel, the *Savoy*, was erected in 1905. The five-story building stood out for its dimensions, as well as its facade and interior.

During the interwar period, Nowy Świat was considered to be the most elegant street in Warsaw. The street's spacious courtyards had many cinemas, of which the largest, the *Colosseum*, could accommodate an audience of several thousand, as well as revue theaters and operettas. The cafés and restaurants were the haven of popular Polish writers, artists and politicians.

World War II brutally severed the street's development. The Warsaw Uprising in 1944 left Nowy Świat almost completely destroyed. At war's end, it was decided to rebuild Nowy Świat.

The reconstruction work from 1946-1950 restored to the buildings their classicist facades of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, as restoring its prewar Art Nouveau state would have been prohibitive.



Along ul. Nowy Świat

As the Polish economy was nationalized after World War II, the rebuilt street's business and social life declined for decades. Here and there small privately-owned shoemaker's, tailor's and watchmaker's establishments operated.

In the wake of the political and economic changes after 1989, Nowy Świat gradually began to regain its prominence. The early 1990s saw attempts to revamp it as the city's main shopping street; however many elegant boutiques moved to newly built shopping centers. Restaurants and cafés promptly moved in and have in recent years turned the street into the gastronomic quarter of the city.

Walking along Nowy Świat, here and there you can spot remnants of the street's former splendor architecturally and culturally. The *Cukiernia Grycan* parlour (number 35) boasts a long tradition and makes its ice cream according to a 60-year old family recipe.

At the *Amatorska*, *Piotruś* and *Bajka* cafés, time stopped around the year 1970. One can have a cup of delicious coffee and sample Warsaw's original *bajaderka* and *wuzetka* cakes.

— continued next month —

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Pressing Matters at the Polish Museum

CHICAGO — March 27 marked the opening of an outstanding exhibit: "Pressing Matters: A Glimpse at the Polish Print Continuum" at the Polish Museum of America (PMA). This Polish print display elevated the PMA on Chicago's museum map. The Great Hall of the PMA was filled with over 400 guests: Poles, Polish Americans, and non-Poles. The culturally-diverse crowd had the opportunity to view Polish prints that spanned three generations and five decades. An introspective and haunting exhibition, it included works by a number of notable graphic artists working in Poland from the 1960s to 1980s, along with more recent prints. Two of Poland's up-and-coming artists, Stanisław Wejman and Małgorzata Malwina Niespodziewana, along with Monika Nowak, PMA's Graphic Arts curator, were on hand to offer a historical perspective on Poland's printmaking history. According to Nowak, "While other Communist regimes were mandating social realism, Poland's government left its artists alone." Printmaking thrived because paper was a cheaper medium, and prints were easier to transport. Even though Poland's artists had a difficult time trying to travel abroad, famous artists from around the world were permitted to submit their work within Poland's art community. This gesture enabled Poland's printmakers to keep abreast of the world's art movements, techniques, and styles. Also, the Polish Communist government permitted its native artists to send their works abroad.

This exhibition was held in conjunction with the 2009 Southern Graphics Council Conference, which was held at Columbia Col-



Monika Nowak, Małgorzata Niespodziewana and her print.

lege in Chicago from March 25 – 28 and attended by over 1,000 delegates. The exhibition was curated by Monika Nowak, Graphic Art Collection Curator of the Polish Museum, and Beauvais Lyons, Professor of Art at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Monika received her MA degree in Art History from Jagiellonian University and a certification in Museum Studies from Northwestern University. Professor Lyons received his Master of Fine Arts degree from Arizona State University and taught under a Fulbright Fellowship at the Fine Arts Academy in Poznan.

The exhibition was organized

under the honorary patronage of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, Bogdan Zdrojewski, the President of "Wspólnota Polska" Association, Maciej Płażyński, and the Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, the Honorable Zygmunt Matynia.

The crowd enjoyed complimentary foods from Szalas Restaurant, Andy's Deli, and Montrose Deli, with wine and vodka donated by Stawski Imports. Entertainment was provided by Grazyna Augustzik,



Monika Nowak, Grazyna Augustzik, Andrew Golota, Bozena and Zygmunt Matynia.



Monika, Beauvais Lyons, and photo-journalist Wojtek Gil.

Chicago's own internationally-renowned jazz singer.

The evening's reception was a success, a definite crowd-pleaser, a salute to Monika Nowak, a tribute to the Polish Museum, and a proud moment for Chicago's Polonia community. This exhibition of fine Polish prints will be on display until April 19, 2009.

ACTIVITIES AROUND AT PMA.

On March 27, the Polish Museum hosted the Pikeville College Concert Choir as it presented a program of American standards and a few Polish songs. The Choir was in town to study, practice, and perform with the Lyric Opera of Chicago's Chorus Master, Donald Nally. The Choir surprised its audience with choral renditions of *Jeszcze Polska nie Zginęła* (Poland's national anthem), as well as Chopin's *Wiosna*, Opus 74, No.2, and the "Raindrops" Prelude, Opus 28, No. 15. Other concert selections included Appalachian folk songs and Afro-American spirituals. Two members in the choir were of Polish descent and were very excited about visiting the Museum. After the concert, Maria Ciesla, Museum President, and Jan Lorys, Museum Director, donated numerous books and some Kosciuszko letters to the Pikeville College Library. One choir member, with the help from Mr. Lorys, found her great grandfather's obituary in *DZIENNIK CHICAGOWSKI* micro film in the PMA's Library. Pikeville College is located in Pikeville, Kentucky, in the Cumberland Mountains of Central Appalachia, and is a small Presbyterian arts and science institution with approximately 1100 students.

On April 2, the PMA traveled to Wheeling, Illinois, to present "The Art of Pisanki." This hands-on demonstration was hosted by Wheeling's Indian Trails Public Library. With only limited space available, the workshop was closed as of March 27.

On April 4, the PMA hosted its annual Palm Weaving and Easter Egg Decorating Workshop, featuring "Drapanki", the art of egg scratching on dyed eggs with a needle and "Egg Tapping", the art of tapping designs onto eggs.

LIRA ENSEMBLE'S ACTIVE SCHEDULE.

On April 19, the Lira Ensemble travels to Hartford, Wisconsin to perform a concert of Polish songs and dances. This concert will feature the Lira Singers, the Lira Dancers and the Pytlak Brothers Polish Folk Band. The Ensemble then returns to Chicago's South Side for an April 23 concert, where it will perform "A Polish Highland Experience." This concert will feature music from the Polish mountain region. Following this musical performance, guests will be treated to a Polish Highlander's style dinner at Szalas Restaurant, decorated as a charming Polish mountain chalet. Reservations are required.

On May 3, the Lira continues its concert schedule by collaborating with *Cuerdas Clasicas* String Ensemble in musical celebrations of *Cinco de Mayo*, Polish Constitution Day, and the 100th anniversary of Five Holy Martyrs Church. The concert will take place at Five Holy Martyrs, located on Chicago's South Side.

WHAT DOES YOUR LAST NAME MEAN?

If it is Kowalczyk, someone once called some distant ancestor of yours "the blacksmith's kid," and it stuck.

For a custom-researched analysis of the meaning and derivation of your Polish surname, how many people share it, where they live and whether the name is accompanied by a coat-of-arms, please airmail a \$16 check to: Robert Strybel, ulica Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland

Legion's 70th Bal Amarantowy

Over 400 guests attended the Legion of Young Polish Women's 70th Annual White & Red Ball and the presentation of eight Chicago-area Polish American debutantes. This black-tie charity gala took place on March 14 in the Chicago Hilton's Grand Ballroom. Twelve Legion officers and/or committee members and their escorts danced the *Polonez* and 13 past debutantes and their partners danced the lively *Bialy Mazur*. In a special ceremony during the evening's festivities, the Consul General of the Republic of Poland, Zygmunt Matynia, presented certificates of appreciation to the past presidents of the Legion for their service to Chicago's Polonia community. This

year's Mistress of Ceremonies, Judy Baar Topinka, former Illinois State Treasurer, presented each debutante to the guests. Stanisław Czarniecki, SJ, gave the invocation and Christopher Kubik, MD, sang the national anthems of Poland and USA. This year's Ball Queen was Morgan Gaede Cioromski, and the First and Second Runners-Up were Rebecca Spiewak and Natalia Rafalik, respectively. The Queen is determined by the highest total of donations as well as listings in the Legion's Program Book generated by each debutante. The evening's program was chaired by Grazyna Migala and was presided over by the Legion's president, Teresa Sinkowski.



Front Row (l. to r.): Rebecca Spiewak, JoAnna Nannini, Caroline Smagacz, Morgan Gaede Cioromski, Alexandra Kuechel, Natalia Rafalik, Marta Budzikowska, Ewa Kasprowicz. Back Row (l. to r.): Phillip Spiewak, Wesley Adamczyk, George Smagacz, Hubert Cioromski, Joseph Kuechel, Stanisław Rafalik, Dariusz Budzikowski, and Kazimierz Knap.



Polonez Dancers

PHOTO: MARCINPHOTOVIDEO.COM



Bialy Mazur Dancers

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POLONIA EAGLE OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Poland to Publish Online List of World War II Dead

WARSAW (AFP/Expatica) — Around six million Poles are believed to have died during the 1939-1945 Nazi occupation of their country including about three million Jewish Poles, who made up half of the overall victims of the Holocaust.

“The list will be posted in coming days at www.stratosobowe.pl, and will initially contain 1.9 million names. There will also be an appeal to Internet users to provide us with extra details,” said Polish historian Andrzej Kunert.

Around six million Poles are believed to have died during the 1939-1945 Nazi occupation of their country. The figure includes some three million Jewish Poles, who made up half of the overall victims of the Holocaust.

The Internet list, which is the result of three years of painstaking research and comparison of different databases, ranges from Holocaust victims, Poles who died in combat in the resistance at home and fighting the Nazis under Allied command, to civilian victims of German reprisals.

The next step, Kunert said, is to expand the list to at least 3.5 million names, notably via more research in Germany’s archives.

But the 10-year project could end up listing still more names, he said.

The Internet project is financed by Poland’s culture ministry and the Institute of National Remembrance, set up in 1998 to investigate historical crimes.

Polish American Congress Day in Albany

On April 20, a delegation of **Polish American Congress** officers and directors from WNY joined with their counterparts from Central New York and the New York City area to discuss issues that are important to our Polish American Community with NYS representatives in the state capital. Proclamations from Governor Patterson, the NYS Senate and the NYS Assembly were presented to the PAC representatives. The WNY Division was led by President Richard Solecki, the Central New York delegation was led by their President, Theresa Bunk, and the New York City area group was led by their President, Frank Milewski. This event, a first for Polonia in NYS, was organized by NYS Assemblyman Dennis Gabryszak of Cheektowaga and his Communications Director, Kristy Mazurek.

In other PAC news, **Rev. Ted Bocianowski**, of St. Adalbert’s Basilica, has replaced Bishop Edward Grosz as the Chaplain of the WNY Division. Bishop Grosz cited his “heavy schedule” as the reason for his resignation ... On April 25, the WNY Division honored Henry Maziarczyk, Commander Janusz Nieduzak and Wanda Slawinska at their **Annual Swieconka Dinner** ... More news on the WNY Division is available at www.pacwny.org/home.

BUFFALO-RZESZOW SISTER CITIES NEWS. Buffalo-Rzeszow Sister Cities Inc. elected the following leadership for the coming year: James Serafin (president), Michael Pietruszka (vice-president), Mary Jane Wajmer (treasurer), Elizabeth Opoka (secretary) Aniela Baj (director), Therese Clarke (director), John Medwid (director) and Andrzej Ogiba (director). The new leadership wants to re-establish the close ties that Buffalo enjoyed with Rzeszow

in the past and is hoping to bring a choir from Rzeszow to WNY later this year.

The group’s new mailing address is P.O. Box 411, Niagara Square Station, Buffalo, NY 14201-0411. The group’s website is www.brsc.us/index.html.

POLONIA TIDBITS. **Polish Falcons of America Nest 6** hosted the 14th Annual Polish Falcons Youth Volleyball Tournament at JFK High School in Cheektowaga during the first weekend of April ... The **Polish Genealogical Society of NYS** elected the following officers for this year: Dave Newman (president), Ted Smardz (vice-president), Chuck Pyrak (treasurer) and Susan Malyszka (secretary) ... **Rachelle Cybulski** has been named Director of the Erie County Probation Department ... The Town and Village Republican Committee of Lewiston honored **Bob Ciszewski** with its Chairman’s Award ... Polish pianist **Igor Lipinski** performed works of Chopin at his Eastman School of Music Senior Degree Recital in Rochester’s Kilbourn Hall, April 7.

Many groups sponsored “**Swieconkas**” to celebrate the Easter Season, including the Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School, St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in Rochester, Corpus Christi Parish in Buffalo, Professional and Businessmen’s Association, White Eagle Club of Syracuse and the Syracuse Polish Home ... Andrzej Wajda’s film “Katyn” was presented by the University of Rochester’s **Skalny Center for Polish and Central European Studies** at the Dryden Theatre on April 17 and 19 ... Forgotten Buffalo ran its “**Polonia Pride**” tour of Buffalo, the **Professional and Business Women of Polonia** hosted its scholarship fundraiser at Magruder’s Banquet Facility in Depew, and Joe Macielag and the Pic-A-Polka Orchestra performed at the **St. Amelia Polish Festival** in Tonawanda on the 18th ... **Rev. Lucian Krolkowski**, the author of “A Stolen Childhood” and “Memoirs of the Siberia Prisoner and a Displaced Person,” visited WNY April 18 through 20 ... Cheektowaga native **Valerian Ruminski** has been accepted into the Wagner Society in Washington, D.C ... Immaculata Academy senior **Bridget Kruzka** has been selected as a Section VI All-WNY scholar athlete.

The **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** presented a lecture by Michael Harris entitled “Paderewski: Romantic Piano Superstar” in Amherst on the 22nd ... Nineteen-year-old WNYer **Christina Slomczewska** was honored as one of the Kosciuszko Foundation’s 2009 Debutantes at

the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in NYC on April 25 ... **Dr. Annamaria Orla-Bukowska** addressed the topic of “Polish Christian - Polish Jewish Relations at the Dawn of the 21st Century” as part of the Skalny lecture series at the University of Rochester on April 30 ... **Bobby Vinton** performed at the Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort in Niagara Falls, Ontario on April 30 and May 1 ... The Polish documentary films, “Paul Tomkowicz: Street Railway Switchman” and “Necrobusiness,” will be presented as part of Toronto’s “**Hot Docs**” Festival at the beginning of May ... **Polish Constitution Day** celebrations are scheduled for Buffalo and Rochester the first weekend of May ... May 2nd will be “**Polish Kashub Day**” in Wilno, Ontario ... The 30th National Convention of the **Polish Army Veterans Association of America** will be held at the Grand Island Holiday Inn the last weekend of May.

The 7th Annual **Polish Heritage Festival** will take place on May 29 and 30 at the Hamburg Fairgrounds. This year’s theme is “Hands Across the Border.” Performers will include the John Gora Band, Jerry Darlak & the Touch, Mon Valley Push, Anya, Kujawiacy Polish Song and Dance Ensemble, Sugar & Jazz Orchestra and Ludowa Nuta Polish Choir. More information is available at www.polfunfest.com ... The **State University of New York at Buffalo** announced that it will be offering a new course in its Polish department entitled “Polish Culture and Society” on Tuesday and Thursday evenings starting May 18. The instructor will be Danuta Nycz ... The **Polish Legacy Project** – World War II is planning a conference, “Poland to Buffalo Through WWII: Untold Stories Come Alive,” in WNY at the beginning of October. For more information, please contact Andrzej Golebiowski at (716) 892-5975 or andyg81@hotmail.com.

♦ ♦ ♦
If you have any item for this column, please send the information by the 6th day of the month preceding the month in which you would like the item to appear (i.e., May 6 for the June edition) at: POLEGL, P.O. Box 223, Niagara Square Station, Buffalo, NY 14201-0223. My e-mail address is: pietruszka@verizon.net. For more information on what’s going on in the Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes, including a calendar of upcoming events, an organizational directory and interesting links, visit my website at: www.polegl.org.

Monessen to Celebrate Its Roots

MONESSEN, Pa. — In honor of the centennial of the former St. Hyacinth Roman Catholic Church, the Greater Monessen Historical Society is sponsoring a spring exhibit, called, “Sto- Lat, Monessen’s Polish Heritage.”

St. Hyacinth was merged along with four other ethnic churches in Monessen to form the Epiphany of the Lord Parish in 1991.

The exhibit is located in the Monessen Heritage Museum at 505 Donner Avenue, Monessen. It showcases the contributions and traditions of the Polish Americans in the Greater Monessen area and is scheduled to be on display until June 1. Hours are 10:00-3:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

An Easter Basket demonstration and dinner was held on March 31 at the Museum. Palm weaving and Pysanky displays were included along with Polish Easter carols. On May 3, a Polish Constitution Day

dinner will be held in the Jozwiak Hall at the St. Vincent DePaul Society building located at 1701 Grand Boulevard, Monessen. Radoslaw Fizek, the well-known Polish violinist and singer, will furnish entertainment. Rev. Dennis A. Bogusz, a former pastor at St. Hyacinth, will be the guest speaker and officiate at May Crowning ceremonies for Our Lady of Czestochowa.

The Historical Society is searching for copies of photographs taken at the former St. Hyacinth’s Roman Catholic Church or the Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Church in Monessen to create a DVD showcasing highlights of the Polish Exhibit and accompanying events, along with the church histories. Further information is available by calling (724) 684-8460.



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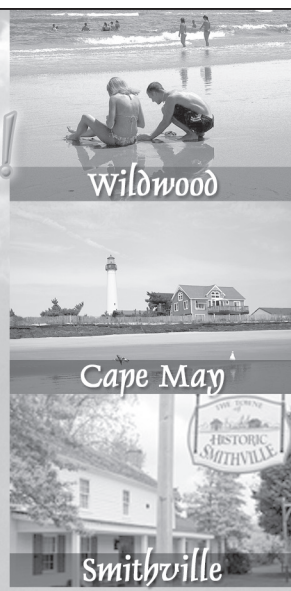


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PERSONALITY PROFILE

GM's Alexandra Dymowska

WARREN, Mich.—“Being an immigrant from Poland has deeply impacted my view of design,” explains GM Color and Trim Designer Alexandra Dymowska, “but GM’s design studios are like a mini-United Nations, so I have never felt like an outsider here. They truly embrace a global perspective.”

That’s one major way GM is reinventing itself and its cars, according to Dymowska. “We have 11 design studios around the world and they all work together. The Buick LaCrosse was designed both in the U.S. and China; the Cadillac Converj electric plug-in concept car was designed in the UK and here in Warren. Inside our studios, there are Polish and Russian and Korean and South American designers everywhere. Practically every country is represented.”

And there is one thing they all have in common. “Good designers know how to put a smile on a soul.” That’s how 31-year-old Dymowska describes the impact a designer can have on the world. Born and raised in Lodz, Poland, her family moved to Chicago when she was a teenager. She now works on the color and trim of future small, luxurious, eco-friendly Cadillacs. Color and trim includes the materials, colors, and style of everything from the seats to the dashboard to the door panels. Color and trim designers must balance design with functionality and create an original subtle, signature look for every vehicle.

Dymowska says she learned early on how important the connection to your car is in American culture. One of her family’s first outings in America was visiting the Chicago Auto Show. “I was blown away. I was just awestruck. I grew up in Poland under communism and we used public transportation. The only cars I saw were boring and outmoded. This explosion of color and bold design and abundance was simply amazing to me. It was like Hollywood for cars.”

Yet, Dymowska is equally influenced by her Polish heritage and upbringing, where she literally grew up in a world of color. “My childhood in Poland was filled with art. My mother worked as a colorist and then in the fashion industry. My grandmother was an embroidery designer, and then I had relatives who were painters and textile designers,” Dymowska remembers. “As a child I had an inkling for drawing, sculpting, and folk crafts, which were part of my Polish culture.

That artistic beginning led her



ALEXANDRA DYMOWSKA

to Columbia College in Chicago, where she earned her Bachelor of Art and Design in Fine Arts/Art History. Dymowska then went on to earn her Masters of Industrial Design at the Pratt Institute in New York City through an award from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. She was personally recruited by GM Design.

Why did she choose car design when she could pick any artistic profession? She says she was enamored with creating something that can be used every day and has a functional quality to it.

“Design humanizes technology,” explains Dymowska. “It helps the customer bond with the product. It’s both visually appealing, yet it has to fit into your life. When you get into the car and it’s been smartly designed, it feels like it was made for you.”

Dymowska is used to working hard for what she wants. As an immigrant, she experienced what it is like to be an outsider attempting to fit in. “Since our arrival to the United States from Poland, my mother’s sole focus has been helping me assimilate into the American culture. Our existence has been about catching up with everyone else, but catching up is not good enough — we have to be better than everyone else to make up for being immigrants. What is a given to others has to be fought for by us.” She believes these struggles have sensitized her to the needs of different cultures. But one thing that appeals to them all, she believes, is design.

“Making that connection between the product and its owner is the secret to great design — no matter where you come from.”

HAMTRAMCK BEAT / Michelle Odrobina-Jiompkowski

Spring Ushers in Roast Honoring PRCUA's Ozog

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. — Besides the annual spring celebrations, early June will bring the Polish Day Parade Roast of Wallace Ozog, June 4, at the PNA Hall in Hamtramck. Ozog serves as the president of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. As the head of the PRCUA, he oversees the activities of the fraternal, founded in 1873, the oldest Polish fraternal.

CURRENT ROLE. PRCUA President Wallace M. Ozog has been very active in the organization as Vice President of Circuit #8, United Circuits of Michigan and President of Pope John Paul II Society #1593. During the time he was the fraternal’s first vice president, Ozog was a million dollar producer in life insurance sales three times.

He has also served as a board member of the Polish Museum of America, Polish American Bicentennial Commission; and chairing various National Sports Tournaments. He has been a life insurance deputy since 1958, attained the distinction of FICF (Fraternal Insurance Counselor Fellow); coordinated deputy training sessions at state and national levels, and assisted many PRCUA deputies in life insurance sales.

Ozog retired from his full-time job with the State of Michigan after serving for 32 years in the Administration of Public Assistance Programs. The Ozogs belong to St. Anne Catholic Church in Warren, Mich. Ozog has served the parish in various positions, including past member of the Parish Council, President of the 50-50 Club, Chairperson of Catholic Services Appeal, and Sausage Festival Subcommittee Chairman.

A 1968 graduate of the Detroit Institute of Technology with a bachelor of arts degree, he is married to Joann and the Ozogs have three grown sons: Michael (married to Tina) who resides in Livonia, Mich., Mark, who resides in Studio City, Calif., and Christopher who resides at home in Warren, Mich.

Besides serving as the honoree of the Roast, Ozog will also serve as the Grand Marshal of the Polish Day Parade held annually on Labor Day. The Polish Day Parade is sponsored by the Polish American Congress, Michigan Division.

For more information, contact Roast and Parade Chairman Judge John M. Chmura at (586) 574-4925.

STRAWBERRY FEST. St. Florian will host its 41st annual Strawberry Festival, Saturday, May 2, 5:00-9:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 3, 1:00-9:00 p.m. The parish is located at 2626 Poland. For details, visit www.stflorianparish.org.

In other news, St. Florian will present “A Festival of Polish Organ Music,” in three Sunday afternoon



WALLACE OZOG

concerts. The first was held April 19 with the performance of Piotr Rachon. Stephanie Nofar will perform May 17 at 3:00 p.m.. David Troiano will perform June 7, at 3:00 p.m.. The concerts are free with free will offerings accepted.

HELPING HANDS. Sharon Buttry runs the R.E.A.C.H. youth program for Acts 29 Fellowship of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Hamtramck which helps youth protect themselves against violence and substance abuse. English as a Second Language (ESL) is another component of the program she runs. Buttry is a former executive director for Friendship House, which is connected with the Baptist church. She credits Hamtramck United Social Services as being the model for social services in the city with its more than 30-year history. Acts 29 is a group member of HUSS.

And now working at Acts 29, she mentioned that the homeless in the area are able to wash themselves and store their belongings at the facility. For more information, go to acts-29.us. Other venues of assistance are the soup kitchens at St. Ladislaus Roman Catholic Church and Holy Cross Polish National Catholic Church. Nearby in Detroit is the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

JASON FRIEDMANN. In a story published in THE CITIZEN, written by Terry Parris, Jr., staff writer, Jason Friedmann, the new community and economic development director for Hamtramck gave his views on why he accepted the position. “I was doing a lot of redevelopment of bigger projects. I wanted to work in a vibrant urban setting: A place that had some realness, some grit. This is exactly where I wanted to be.”

As a former senior planner for Macomb County, Friedmann welcomes the closeness of Hamtramck and the added responsibility. “I’m looking forward to being a part of each specific project,” he said. “I know there will be no quick and easy way to do anything and I’m looking forward to figuring out how to fit all of our little pieces together.” Friedmann attended Michigan State University for urban planning.

MIRON'S CLOSING. Hamtramck is home to many specialty markets reflecting the ethnic makeup of the city. One of the popular Polish family-owned neighborhood markets, Miron's Grocery closed due to the owner's health.

YOGA CENTER. An addition to Hamtramck's Joseph Campau business strip will be The Yoga Suite - Center for Yoga Studies. Visit www.theyogasuite.com.

ST. MARY'S COUNTRY FAIR. Hamtramck's own Polish Muslims will be performing at St. Mary's Polish Country Fair, Saturday, May 23 at 12 noon on the Orchard Lake Schools grounds. Billed as America's largest high school fair, the event runs from May 22-25. For more information, go to www.stmaryspolishcountryfair.com.

FOUNDER'S DAY. Also at the Orchard Lake Schools, the annual Founder's Day will be held June 19 on the campus. Visit www.orchardlakeschools.com for information.

Until my next column, Happy trails to you from Hamtown!

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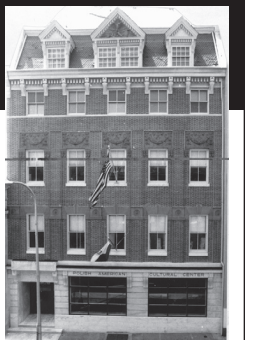
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I am interested in becoming a member of PAHA. Enclosed is a check or money order for \$30.00 made payable to the Polish American Historical Association.

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Polka MAGAZINE

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN MUSIC

Johnstown Proudly Welcomes the World Famous PolkaFest, May 29-31, 2009

JOHNSTOWN, Pa. — The Greater Johnstown Convention and Visitors Bureau cordially invites all to join them in the Friendly City of Johnstown for its annual PolkaFest, May 29-31. You'll enjoy three fantastic days of dancing to the best polka music around.

The festival is located in historic Cambria City, Johnstown's ethnic neighborhood, on the wooden dance floor under the pavilion at Saint Mary's on Power Street. This is a free festival.

Come early and plan to spend some extra time in Johnstown visiting our wonderful attractions that showcase the region's history and heritage. Discover the shocking story of the Great Johnstown Flood of 1889 at the Johnstown Flood Museum. There you'll see state-of-the-art exhibits and the Academy Award winning documentary film, "The Johnstown Flood."

Take a ride on Johnstown's famous Inclined Plane — the World's Steepest Vehicular Inclined plane! The observation platform at the top provides a sweeping view of the city below. You can pick up a souvenir at the gift shop and enjoy an ice cream cone!

Don't miss Johnstown's newest museum — the Johnstown Heritage Discovery Center — for a unique visitor experience. At the Discov-



ery Center, the permanent exhibit "America: Through Immigrant Eyes" will allow visitors to immerse themselves in the different environments experienced by those who came to Johnstown from Eastern and Southern European countries from 1870-1914. You will travel with immigration characters as they disembark at the Johnstown Passenger Station, as they encounter the prejudice of the dominant class and as they seek work and a better home life. Bring the kids to tour the new Children's Museum and experience

the Mystery of Steel.

So, when you come to Johnstown for PolkaFest, stay for the history and take home memories that will last a lifetime!

For complete information on all of our sites and attractions, be sure to request a free visitors guide from the Convention & Visitors Bureau (800) 237-8590 or email your request to jstcvb@visitjohnstownpa.com. Visit our Attractions page for more exciting attractions in and around Johnstown, Pa.

Mother's Day Dance at the Yukon Slovenian Hall

NEW STANTON, Pa. — The annual Mother's Day Polka Dance will take place May 10, 2009 at the Yukon Slovenian Hall in New Stanton. Enjoy the great polka sounds of Andy Fenus & the Treltones with music from 3:00-7:00 p.m. Doors open at 2 p.m. The Yukon Slovenian Hall is located on Rt. 70, three miles west of the New Stanton Exit of the PA Turnpike.

Ostaneck Receives Achievement Awards

NIAGARA FALLS, Ont. — Canada's Polka King, Walter Ostaneck, received a Special Achievement Award at the second annual Niagara Music Awards which took place at the Niagara Centre for the Performing Arts.

Ostaneck has been the recipient of the Order of Canada, three Grammy Awards and a star on Canada's Walk of Fame in his 52 year career.

Attention Concertina Players

Ken Yagelski can use help with material to expand his Internet site at www.concertinamusic.com with photos and musical backgrounds of more concertina players. and round up needed photos or locations of some that are already listed. Musicians, past and present, are listed on the site, but photos of them playing their concertinas are needed. Persons having pictures are asked to respond to Yagelski via the website.

The Alliance: "Better Days to Come"

BUFFALO, NY — Matt Lewandowski of Buffalo proudly introduces his new band, "The Alliance." The Alliance consists of six talented polka musicians from the New York and Pennsylvania area and their debut recording "Better Days to Come" is scheduled for a May 2, 2009 release at the band's inaugural dance in Buffalo.

Leader and originator of The Alliance is Matt Lewandowski, renowned percussionist and recording engineer, who plays bass with the group. On trumpets are Richie Kois and Joe Dipytic from Pennsylvania. Jim Adamczyk, from Utica, NY, is on the accordion. Eric Bakowski from Buffalo, N.Y., plays concertina while Mike Dipytic from Pennsylvania is the man behind the drums. Their goal is to honor polkas from the past, as well as introduce songs to keep the music alive for generations to come.

"Better Days to Come" contains 14 tracks that range from traditional polka songs, to country push polkas, and cross-over/contemporary polkas. Matt, Richie and Jimmy provide the vocals on this recording. Traditional songs featured are "In America" polka, "Till We Meet Again," "Four Miles from Warsaw" waltz, "Take Me Back" polka, "Siwe Kon," "Going to the City" polka, "Pass it On" polka and "Un-

der the Tree" oberek. Some of the cross-over/contemporary songs include "You'll Be in My Heart" and "I'll Be There For You." Country flavored polkas include the title cut, "Better Days to Come," "Hung on You" and "Highway 40 Blues." One original song, featured is "At the Dance," composed by vocalist and accordionist, Jim Adamczyk.

The Alliance will be holding their debut dance in Buffalo on Saturday May 2, 2009 at the Lily of the Valley Banquet Hall in Cheektowaga, N.Y.. There will be a free buffet, Chinese auction, basket of cheer raffle, door prizes and plenty of polka fun! For more information regarding that dance, please check the venue on their MySpace page at www.myspace.com/thealliancepolkaband or contact the Lewandowskis at (716) 225-9856. The Alliance will be appearing at various polka venues throughout the United States this year. They are scheduled to appear at Blob's park in July, Polkamotion by the Ocean in Rehoboth, Del. in September, and also at the Ludlow PACC in Ludlow, Mass. in October. Promoters and organizations who wish to book The Alliance can contact Matt Lewandowski at the above number or email at alliancepolkas@yahoo.com. CDs will be available through Matt's web site as well at www.maxstudiosny.com.

Musician, Bandleader Larry Szabo Passes

TOLEDO — Larry Szabo, accordionist and leader of The Glass Town Sound Orchestra, died March 10, 2009.

Szabo began his musical career on accordion at the age of 12. After several years with the Polish Kids Orchestra, Szabo formed The Glass Town Sound and for 30 years performed at weddings, festivals and dances. The Glass Town Sound recorded two albums.

Szabo and his wife, Bonnie, hosted the "Polka Spotlight" radio show in the 1980s.

Szabo was preceded in death by his father, Elmer, and his baby sister, Joyce. He is survived by his wife, Bonnie; son, Corey; daughter, Marissa; his mother and stepfather, Millie and Howard Nollenberger.

A funeral Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Little Flower Catholic Church followed by entombment at Resurrection Cemetery.

Honky Express on the Road

CLEVELAND — On Sunday, June 14, the Honky Express will provide the music for a dance at the Maynard, Ohio, PNA Pavilion, 71560 Hall Street. Music and dancing will be from 3:00-7:00 p.m. For more information call Ann Marie at (740) 635-3537.

On Sunday June 28, the Honky Express will be on stage for the PLAV 10th Annual Polka Picnic at St. Sava's Picnic Grove, 2300 W. Ridgewood Drive, Parma, Ohio 44134. Doors open 1:00 p.m. with music from 2:00-6:00 p.m. Food, refreshments, games and raffles will be featured. Funds raised go to help Veteran's Programs. For tickets call: Ed (330) 637-1720, Michael (216) 398-4968 after 7:00 p.m., or Kenneth at (216) 524-3908.

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41st International Polka Festival Set for August

CHICAGO — Polka fans and music lovers everywhere. Get your dancing shoes on and get ready to dance the night away as the International Polka Association presents its 41st Annual International Polka Festival. The dates for this premiere event are August 6, 7, 8 and 9. This year's festival will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Independence, Ohio.

Taking center stage throughout the weekend will be some of the best polka entertainment in the industry. Music will be provided by John Stevens & Doubleshot from Pennsylvania, Dennis Polisky's Maestro's Men from Connecticut, Lenny Goulka & Chicago Push from Massachusetts, Jerry Darlak & Buffalo Touch from New York, Ray Jay & the Carousels from Pennsylvania, Downtown Sound from Illinois, Polka Family from Pennsylvania and Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze from Illinois. So how can you not attend this superb polka event?

Not only will there be polka music in the convention hall but the party continues every night in the lounge. There will also be a Welcome Party with DJ on Thursday afternoon. Polka parties with a DJ poolside will commence on Friday and Saturday. Polka music will resound throughout the hotel for the entire weekend.

The highlight of this polka festival is the Polka Music Hall of Fame Awards and Music Awards Banquet. A star-studded semi-formal affair, the banquet commences on Saturday morning with a pre-banquet cocktail reception, luncheon, presentation of music awards and induction of polka personalities into the coveted Polka Music Hall of Fame. This is a one of a kind extravaganza which no one should want to miss.

Sunday morning boasts a Polka Mass followed by the annual meeting for IPA members only.

Make your reservations now for the International Polka Association's 41st Annual Polka Festival. More information is available by listening to the IPA Polka Radio show every Sunday morning on www.wpha1490am.com which airs from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. CST, calling the IPA at 1-800-TOPOLKA or by visiting the IPA website at www.internationalpolka.com.

IPA ART CONTEST. Do you doodle on your notebooks? Think you're a pretty good artist? Then why not show your artistic talent and win a prize. Enter the International Polka Association's 9th Annual Art Contest being held in conjunction with the 41st Annual International Polka Festival.

To be eligible, students, ages 14 and under, can draw a picture using any medium (crayons, paints, pencils, pens). The theme of the picture "The Future of Polka Music" must be written on the picture. The picture should show the joy of polka music. Pictures must be on an 8 1/2" x 11" piece of paper. On the reverse side of the picture, the student should write his/her name, age, address, phone number and name of school.

All pictures will be judged on originality and creativity. Five top finalists will be picked from all pictures received. Not only will the top finalists receive awards but they will also receive monetary prizes.

If you would like to enter a drawing, send your artwork, no later than June 21, to: International Polka Association Art

Contest, c/o Jerry Wantroba, 4608 South Archer Avenue, Chicago, IL 60632.

HALL OF FAME MUSIC AWARDS BANQUET

Come dine with the Polka Stars! Congratulate the Music Award Winners! Meet and greet the new Polka Music Hall of Fame Inductees! And enjoy the luncheon!

The 41st Annual International Polka Association's Polka Music Hall of Fame Music Awards Banquet is scheduled for Saturday, August 8 in conjunction with the annual festival.

This semi-formal gala event accords the highest honor and recognition to individuals and groups for their accomplishments within the polka industry.

The Polka Music Hall of Fame Music Awards Banquet begins with a Hall of Fame reception at 10:00 a.m. followed by a luncheon at 11:00 a.m.

Banquet tickets are \$35 per person by Advance Reservation Only. Plan to attend this extravaganza to rub shoulders with the finest entertainers in the polka industry.

For reservations, send your name, address, phone number and number of tickets needed, along with a check payable to the International Polka Association to: IPA Hall of Fame Banquet, 4608 South Archer Avenue, Chicago, IL 60632.

For more information call 1-800-TOPOLKA or visit us at www.internationalpolka.com.

NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

Big Joe is Coming to Town

BUFFALO, N.Y.— The Buffalo Niagara Convention and Visitors Bureau announced that “Big Joe” Siedlik will be bringing his nationally-syndicated polka television show to Western New York from October 1-4. During the four day visit, Big Joe will be taping 32 East Coast polka bands at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center for broadcast on RFD-TV. Taping will begin each day at noon. There is a charge to attend.

For more information on the Big Joe show, please visit www.rfdtv.com/shows/bigjoe.asp or www.polkacatalog.com/bigjoe_show.htm.

More information about Big Joe's visit to Buffalo is available at 1-800-BUFFALO Ext. 237.

APRIL DOINGS. I can't believe how fast time is going. Easter and all the hoopla on Dyngus Day is over for another year and as usual, our area had an abundance of local and out of town bands playing to big crowds everywhere. The Broadway Market had a welcome attraction this Lenten shopping season by featuring live polka music by our local bands for the last four Saturdays in Lent. The Knewz, Cityside, Jerry Darlak & the Touch, and the Concertina All Stars all brought lots of great entertainment and joy to the shoppers.

On April 4, the USPA had its “Spring Fling” dance at the Lily of the Valley Hall in Cheektowaga, N.Y. The Polka Country Musicians did an outstanding job providing the music. Brothers Rich and Wally Dombrowski were hot on the fiddles. Always a hit with the fans, they were sizzling. It was nice to see many of out-of-towners which added to the fun of the evening. I'm glad there was a very good attendance at this one.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ... Sharon and Marty Kozlowski, on the marriage of their daughter, Stacey, in December. Their son, Ryan, will be getting married this August to Mandy Czarniecki, the daughter of Joyce Czarniecki and Roger Czarniecki. Best wishes go out to all.

Also, congratulations to **Lynn Ginter and Dennis Ratajczak,** who got married in March in Cancun.



Eddie Gawron and Ron Polak loved the music of Polka Country Musicians at the Lily of the Valley Hall.



John Gora and Veronica Wanderlich thought the band sounded great, too.



Wally Dombrowski of Polka Country Musicians belts out a vocal at the Lily of the Valley Hall.



Hometown accordion hero John Fomenko did a super job fill in with PCM.

Dennis is a musician with Cityside. A celebration will also be held locally.

Barb and Hank Krzykowski are expecting their first grandchild soon. Their daughter, Kara, is due at the end of May. Hank, drummer for the former G-Notes, is dealing with some health issues. We wish him good health soon.

SYMPATHY TO ... The family and friends of **Louis Colangelo** who passed away on April 3. Lou attended many polka functions with his companion, Hattie Pawlikowski. May he rest in peace ... **Greg Murawski** and family, on the passing of his wife, Christine. Many of you may remember her from years ago, when “Sparkles” (as she was affectionately known) and “Mr. M.” would provide information on upcoming events on the “Sunday Polka with Friends,” show.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY. I would like to wish all the mothers, step-

mothers, godmothers, grandmothers, great grandmothers, mothers to be, etc. my sincerest wishes for a lovely and loving Mother's Day.

You all deserve the very best. Enjoy your special day.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1. Polish Hall, 2613 Fairview St., Burlington, Ontario. Music from 8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. by Jeff Mleczek and Dynabass and John Gora and Gorale. For more information visit www.johngora.com.

May 2. Debut of a new Polka Band called Alliance led by Matt Lewandowski. Lily of the Valley Hall, 2379 Union Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Music is from 8:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Admission \$8.00 which includes free buffet. For more information, call Sandy or Matt at (716) 225-9856

May 3. Polka Sunday at Potts Hall, 694 South Ogden St., Buffalo, NY with Cityside from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

May 6. Polka Variety Meeting at the Lily of the Valley Hall – Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Music starts at 8:00 p.m. Admission includes snacks, dessert, coffee, beer and pop. For more info, call Len at 896-1476.

May 17. The Knewz CD Release Party at the Potts Banquet Hall, 694 South Ogden St., Buffalo, N.Y. from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$5 and includes a complimentary buffet. For more info call Tom at 465-2487.

May 22-24. USPA Convention at

the Double Tree Hotel, I-77 & Rock Side, Independence, Ohio. Two of our local bands, Phocus and the Knewz, are scheduled to perform. For more information, call Barb at (440) 886-6157.

May 23-24. Adirondack Polka Festival at the Hildebrand Recreation Center on North St., in Old Forge, N.Y. On Saturday, it is The Maestro's Men and Eddie Blazonczyk & the Versatones, and on Sunday Polka Family and the Knewz will be playing. Dave Sychtysz is the promoter for this one. Call (315) 699-1708 for more information.

May 26. Tuesday. Polka Boosters Meeting at the Polish Falcons Hall, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew, N.Y. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Music and refreshments at 8:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please note that there is a change of meeting dates for May, June, Aug. and Sept. due to the Car Show run by the Falcons. For info, call Chris at 892-7977.

May 29-30. Polish Heritage Festival at the Hamburg Fairgrounds. Admission is \$5.00. Various events, displays and entertainment. Polka music will be by Jerry Darlak and the Touch and John Gora and Gorale. On Fri., May 29, Jerry Darlak starts at 5:00 p.m. and alternates with the Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble. John Gora plays from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Then, on Sat., May 30, Jerry Darlak starts at 3:00 p.m. Go to www.polfunfest.com for more info.

POLKA PLATTER

USPA ANNOUNCES 2008 POLKA MUSIC AWARDS

CLEVELAND — The United States Polka Association (USPA) has announced its winners of the 2008 Polka Music Awards. The awards will be presented on May 23, 2009, at the annual USPA Convention and Festival in Cleveland, Ohio, over the Memorial Day Weekend.

The Polka Music Award winners are:

- Favorite Band: Polka Family
- Favorite Male Vocalist: Hank Guzevich of Polka Family
- Favorite Female Vocalist: Mollie Busta of Squeezebox
- Favorite Recording: “Hungry For More” by Polka Family
- Favorite Song: “Graj Chlopcy Graj” by Polka Family
- Favorite Polka Reporter: Helenrae Budzilek of the Polka Times
- Favorite Cover Designer: Ted Borzymowski for “Polkas For Charity”
- Favorite IJ/DJ: Mike Matousek & Mike Ziemiński of “The Mikes Are On” on 247polkaheaven.com
- Lifetime Achievement Award in the Living Category: Lenny Gomulka
- Lifetime Achievement Award in the Deceased Category: Jean Wagner

For more information, log on to the USPA website www.uspa-polkas.com

PILLAR ENDS INTERNET POLKABRATION SHOW

CHICAGO — Dick Pillar has discontinued the Internet edition of the “Pillar Polkabration Show.” However, he will continue airing his program locally in Connecticut on Sunday mornings from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. ET over WICH (1310 AM).

As a result of Pillar's decision, the Saturday rebroadcast of “Mary Lou's Polka Party” with Mary Lou Brock has been moved on the Polka Jammer Network to one hour later and can now be heard Saturday mornings from 10:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m. CT.

In another move “Kenny Kopopka's Polka Café” has been expanded to three hours and now airs Wednesday mornings live from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. CT.

The Polka Jammer Network is found on the Internet at www.polkajammernetwork.org.

PROBLEM CORRECTED

The company that runs the e-mail software for the Polka Jammer Network Newsletter was bought out by Google earlier this year. Since then, many of the network's time-sensitive service announcements often arrived at inboxes two days late. As a result, Polka Jammer has switched to another newsletter delivery system in mid-March and expects improved deliveries.

BANDSTAND ON THE AIR

Al Truszkowski's “Bavarian Bandstand” can now be heard worldwide via www.thegamradio.com. The 30-year Pennsylvania-based old program is also available Sundays via broadcast on WYCK (1340 AM, Wilkes-Barre), WICK (1400 AM, Scranton), WFBS (1280 AM, Berwick) and WPSN (1590 AM, Honesdale).

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We believe the following information to be correct, but it should always be verified before traveling long distances or expending funds.

SATURDAY, MAY 2

• New York. Matt Lewandowski & the Alliance at a Debut and CD Release Party, Lily of the Valley Banquet Hall, 2379 Union Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y., 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m., \$8.

SUNDAY, MAY 3

• Florida. Florida Honky Polka Band at the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, 1343 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 2:30, music 4:00-7:00 p.m., members \$5, non-members \$7.

• Florida. B-Sharps at the Polish American Club, 4616 Darlington Rd., Holiday, Fla., dinner 1:00 p.m., music 3:00-6:00 p.m.

• Massachusetts. Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men at the Polish American Citizens Club, 335 East St., Ludlow, Mass., 3:00-7:00 p.m.

• Michigan. Duane Malinowski at the American Legion Hall, Hickory park, 11601 Lewis Ave., Ida, Mich., 3:00-7:00 p.m.

• New York. Joe Stanky & his Cadets at the Polish American Legion, Pine Island, N.Y., 2:00-6:00 p.m.

• Pennsylvania. Polka Family and Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push at Sunnybrook Ballroom, East High St. and Sunnybrook Rd., Pottstown, Pa.,

2:00-8:00 p.m., \$15 advance, \$17 at door.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

• New York. Tony Krew at the Polka Variety Social Club, Lily of the Valley Banquet Hall, 2379 Union Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y., from 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 9

• Maryland. Jimmy K & Ethnic Jazz at Blob's Park, Jessup, Md., 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.

• Massachusetts. Eddie Forman Orchestra, Polka Family and Jimmy Sturr & his Orchestra at Pierogi Fest, Elk Pavilion, West Springfield, Mass., 1:00-7:00 p.m.

• Massachusetts. Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push at a pork-chop dinner-dance, St. Mary Church, South St., Ware, Mass., dinner 5:30 p.m.; music 6:30-10:30 p.m. Check locally for details.

SUNDAY, MAY 10

• Connecticut. Eddie Derwin & the Polka Naturals with Lou Kryger at the Polish Club, Bristol, Conn., 3:00-7:00 p.m.

• Illinois. Eddie Blazonczyk & the Versatones at a Mother's Day Dinner-Dance, Polonia Banquets, 4604 S. Archer Ave., Chicago, Ill., doors open 12:00 p.m., dinner 1:30 p.m., music 3:00-6:00 p.m., adults \$25, children 4-12 \$10.

• Pennsylvania. Andy Fenus & the Treltones at Fiedor's Grove, Mount Pleasant, Pa., 3:00-7:00 p.m.

• Pennsylvania. Pan Franek & Zosia at the Capital City Polka Dancers Assn., Holy Name of Jesus Church, Harrisburg, Pa., 7:30—11:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 16

• Maryland. Jimmy Sturr & his Orchestra at Blob's Park, Jessup, Md., 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m., \$15.

SUNDAY, MAY 17

• Connecticut. Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men at FunFest, St. Joseph School, 26 Main St. N., Grosvenordale, Conn., 12:30-4:30 p.m., free admission.

• Florida. Sounds of the South at the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, 1343 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 2:30, music 4:00-7:00 p.m., members \$5, non-members \$7.

• Massachusetts. Eddie Forman Orchestra at the Polish American Citizens Club, 335 East St., Ludlow, Mass., 3:00-7:00 p.m.

• Pennsylvania. Polka Family at the Coal Crackers Association, Lakeside Ballroom, Barnesville, Pa., 3:00-7:00 p.m.

• Ohio. Squeezebox Band at the Bavarian Haus, Hwys. 65 and 18, Deshler, Ohio, 4:00-8:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

• Florida. B-Sharps at the Polish American Club, 4616 Darlington Rd., Holiday, Fla., dinner 5:30 p.m., music 6:00-9:00 p.m.

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POLONIA LIFESTYLES / Robert Strybel

The Polish Wedding in a Nutshell



PARENTAL BLESSING. The superstition of the groom not being able to see his bride on the morning of their wedding is an Anglo-Saxon tradition, not a Polish one. On the day of the wedding, the groom goes to the home of his bride for the parental blessing. Pictured above are the editor's parents, Mary Winkowski and Jon Kohan. Standing are (l. to r.): Myrtle and William Kohan, Jan Winkowski (bride's grandfather), and Adam and Mary Winkowski. The year: 1958.

Part 1 of 2

Over the centuries, the wedding has been an event of great importance to our Polish ancestors. To the newly-weds it was a new stage of life involving by the creation of a new family unit. To their parents it marked the culmination of their parenthood. To relatives it was a time to re-integrate, reminisce and catch up on family affairs. To friends, neighbors and other invited guests it was a time to celebrate and socialize. Even in our divorce-prone times, first-time Polish weddings still hold out the promise of a loving, happy and stable new family in the making and are looked forward to accordingly. Here are some of the elements encountered at Polish and Polonian weddings that have withstood the test of time. Feel free to clip out and save this column. If you or someone you know is planning to get married at some time in the foreseeable future, maybe some of these hints might come in handy.

PROPOSAL (OŚWIADCZYNY).

When a young Polish man proposes marriage, he usually asks: "Czy zostaniesz moją żoną?" (Will you be my wife?) or "Czy wyjdiesz za mnie?" (Will you marry me)? If the answer is "tak" (yes) he offers his lady love an engagement ring and the couple is henceforth engaged. The traditional-minded proposer first asks the consent of the bride's parents. The formal, public proposal in front of witnesses takes place at the engagement party.

ENGAGEMENT PARTY (ZARĘCZYNY).

The fiancés officially announce their intention to wed at a festive dinner usually held at the home of the bride-to-be. The occasion allows both sides of the family to get to know each other over food, drink and general merriment. Also in attendance are members of the bridal party (groomsmen, bridesmaids). The engagement ring may be ceremonially placed on the girl's right ring finger for all to see.

TIME AND PLACE (TERMIN I MIEJSCE).

Weddings are not normally held during Lent or Advent, but Saturdays following Christmas and Easter are quite popular. According to tradition, the only successful marriages are those performed in

months whose Polish names contain the letter "r": Czerwiec (June), Sierpień (August), Wrzesień (September), Październik (October) and Grudzień (December). Marzec (March) also contains an "r", but it usually falls during Lent when weddings are normally not held. Nuptials normally take place on a Saturday at the bride's parish.

INVITATION (ZAPROSINY).

In spite of today's high-tech e-mails and cellphone, it is still considered proper for the bride and groom to be to personally pay visits to and invite the more respected guests including godparents, elderly relatives and close family friends. Printed invitations are mailed out to the remaining guests.

BACHELOR'S NIGHT (WIECZÓR KAWALERSKI).

A stag party is thrown for the groom-to-be by his male siblings and close friends. Regarded as "the last night of freedom," it is usually marked by heavy drinking and sometimes turns into a night on the town. The bride's sisters and friends gather at a "wieczór panieński" (maidens' night or bachelorette party) for an evening of girlish jests and gossip. In Polonia, a bridal shower may be held instead of or in addition to the bachelorette party.

PARENTAL BLESSING (RODZIELSKIE BŁOGOSŁAWIENSTWO).

On the day of the wedding to groom goes to the home of his bride for the parental blessing. The couple kneels as both sets of parents invoke God's blessings for their children, wishing them health, happiness and children and sprinkling them with Holy Water. The couple thanks their parents for their long years of care and upbringing and asks forgiveness for any transgressions they may have committed. The ceremony is witnessed by the couple's grandparents, siblings, godparents and other relatives as well as the groomsmen and bridesmaids. The entire wedding party then sets forth to church for the nuptial. At a real Polish wedding, the Anglo-Saxon superstition of the groom not being able to see his bride that morning as well as the "something borrowed something blue" notion are ignored.

POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

The Foods of a Polish Wedding

There are those who serve their wedding guests sushi, curry dishes, tacos and other trendy things, but most newlyweds and their parents prefer more traditional fare. Here are some of the dishes enjoyed at Polish weddings on both sides of the Atlantic.

— Soups —

CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP (ROSÓL Z MAKARONEM). Wash 3 lbs chicken parts such as backs and necks, place in pot, add 1 T salt and 2-1/2 - 3 qts water, bring to gentle boil and cook 60. Skim off scum until no more forms. To broth add 2 carrots, 1 parsley root, 1 leek and a slice of celeriac (or 2 stalks celery), 1 halved onion (impaled on fork and charred over flame), 1 whole tomato, 6 peppercorns, 2-3 grains allspice and 1 bay leaf. Cook until vegetables are tender. Strain and discard all spices. Remove meat from bone, dice and return to soup. Vegetables may be used in some other dish such as vegetable salad (below), but the carrots may be diced and served in the soup. Serve over home-made or store-bought egg noodles or poured-batter noodles. Note: For the benefit of today's many weight-watchers, refrigerate broth overnight and discard congealed fat before reheating. Garnish with a little finely chopped parsley and/or dill before serving.

POURED-BATTER NOODLES (LANE KLUSKI). Fork-blend 2 small eggs, 6 T flour and 2 pinches of salt until mixtures is smooth. Stir in 1 T chicken broth or as much as needed to get a nice pourable batter and beat with fork until smooth. Pour batter in a thin stream into a pot of rapidly boiling water and cook about 2 min. Remove with slotted spoon and serve in broth.

EGG NOODLES (MAKARON).

Sift 2 c flour onto bread-board and make a volcano-like depression at center. Into it break 2 eggs, sprinkle with salt and add about 5 T lukewarm water. With flat of knife bring flour up into volcano and work by hand into a uniform dough. Knead on floured board until smooth and elastic and roll out quite thin. Leave

rolled-out dough sheet on board 30 min to dry. Roll it up tightly and slice into noodles 1/8" wide or a bit narrower. Scatter noodles over floured board to dry another 30 min. Cook noodles in boiling salted water 15 min or until tender. Drain in colander and serve with chicken soup.

— Hot Main Courses —

ROAST CHICKEN POLONAISE (KURCZAK PO POLSKU).

Soak 2 broken-up stale white bread rolls in milk to cover until soggy. Process or grind together with 3 raw chicken livers. Combine mixture with 1/4 lb raw ground veal, 1 - 2 eggs, 1 - 2 T soft butter or margarine. Work well by hand until fully blended. Season with salt, pepper, a dash of nutmeg, 1 heaping T finely chopped fresh dill and (optional) 1 t finely chopped parsley. Mix well. Rinse well 2-1/2 - 3 lb broiler and pat dry. Rub inside of cavity with salt, pepper and a pinch of marjoram and stuff just before roasting. The general rule of thumb is to allow about 3/4 c stuffing per lb of chicken. Sew up, tying legs together. Rub chicken all over with a little oil, sprinkle with pepper and paprika and rub in. Bake in preheated 375° oven about 75 - 90 min. Baste occasionally with pan drippings.

DILLED NEW POTATOES (MŁODE KARTOFELKI Z KOPERKIEM).

Do not peel but scrub away the thin skins from 2-1/2 lbs of real, walnut-sized new potatoes under cold, running water. Place in pot, cover with boiling water, add 1 t salt and cook on med heat about 30 min or until fork-tender. Drain well and steam off moisture by returning pot to flame. Dot with butter (about 1 heaping T) and garnish with finely chopped fresh dill. Toss gently to evenly coat potatoes with melting butter and dill.

BREADED PORK CUTLETS (KOTLETY SCHABOWE).

Cut bones away 6 center-cut pork chops (reserving them for soup stock) or slice boneless center-cut pork loin 1" thick and pound with meat mallet pound on both sides until 1/4" - 1/3" thick. Sprinkle with salt, pep-

per and a pinch of marjoram and/or garlic powder if desired. Dredge in flour, dip in egg wash and roll in fine, plain bread crumbs. Gently press breading into cutlets so it stays put during frying. Fry to a nice golden brown on both sides in hot lard, vegetable shortening or oil, drain on paper towel and serve immediately.

CHICKEN-BREAST CUTLETS (KOTLETY Z PIERSI KURCZAKA).

Pound 4 skinned and halved chicken breasts to between 1/8" and 1/4" thick. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and (optional) hunter's seasoning, dredge in flour, dip in egg wash and roll in bread crumbs, shaking off excess. Fry in several T hot butter to a nice gold-brown (several min per side), drain on absorbent paper and serve immediately.

MEATBALLS IN MUSHROOM GRAVY (KLOPSIKI W SOSIE GRZYBOWYM).

Soak stale white bread rolls (app. 1/4 lb) in r milk until soggy. Fry 2 sliced onions in a little fat until golden. Run drained soaked bread and onions through food-chopper or process briefly. Combine with 2 lbs raw ground pork & veal or pork-veal-beef mixture, add 1-2 eggs, mix well by hand to blend ingredients and a dash of garlic powder, a sprinkle of marjoram, and salt & pepper to taste. Form into golf-ball-sized meatballs fry in butter, oil or lard until fully nicely browned on all sides, flattening them somewhat with spatula. Cover, reduce heat and simmer another 15-20 min. While they simmer, dice 1 lb washed and dried fresh Portobello mushrooms. In large skillet sauté 1 finely-chopped onion in 2 - 3 T butter until golden. Add the mushrooms, toss with spatula and simmer 5 min. Dissolve 1 mushroom bouillon cube in 3 c hot water and add to mushrooms and cook 15 min. Remove from heat. When cooled slightly gradually, stir in 2/3 c sour cream fork-blended with 1 T flour and simmer on low several min. Salt & pepper to taste. Add cooked meatballs and allow to simmer in sauce several min. Serve with potatoes or buckwheat groats (kasza).

continued next month

ASK ANDZIA ABOUT AMBER

How do I Take Care of my Amber Jewelry?

On the Moh's scale of hardness a diamond is a 10 and amber is between a 2 and a 3--similar to opal. Remember, amber has survived millions of years, yet at the same time can be quite fragile. Treat your amber jewelry as you do all your precious possessions--taking that little extra minute to handle with care. Instead of co-mingling your amber with other items in your jewelry box, it is best to keep it in a soft cloth pouch or separate jewelry drawer when not wearing, out of the way of direct sunlight. This will ensure that the amber doesn't accidentally get scratched if it should become entangled with other hard objects.

Make a conscious effort to avoid all solvents such as chlorinated water and never use a sonic jewelry cleaner. Always apply your makeup, perfume, hairspray before putting your amber jewelry on. The residue from the type of products can, over time, result in dulling the beautiful appearance of your amber. Remember, amber jewelry is typically passed from one generation to the next, so there is no need to be anxious when handling it — just a little careful.

WHAT IS AMBER ACTUALLY?

Even if you have just purchased your amber recently, it is quite an antique. Baltic amber is alive, still breathing and interacting with your environment. This fossil gem is dated approximately 40-60 million years old. It is not pine sap as quite frequently said and heard. It is polymerized fossil resin, the remnants of the vascular tissue tissues of an unknown variety of giant sequoia-like trees from the ancient amber forests that once covered Northern Europe. It is said that there was a fierce climate change 40-60 million years ago in that area which caused the trees to "weep" copious

amounts of their tissues in a bid to protect themselves. The lovely amber you may own is the result of severe climatic change and as such may have much to teach humanity today. Amber is constantly studied by scientists looking for answers to today's problems.

Andzia and Holly Chmil are owners of Andzia's Amber Jewelry, known on the web as amberjewelry.com.

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BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes, MLIS

Many from the Illustrating Frank Remkiewicz

CLASSROOMS AND BARROOMS

An American in Poland
by David Jackson

Hamilton Books, 2009, 130 pp.

A semester-long Fulbright Fellowship to teach in Poland resulted in Jackson learning about the people of Lodz as much as the students and professors at the University of Lodz.

An orientation in Wroclaw resulted in meeting many new and previous Fulbrighters, providing tips and warnings, and his teaching assignments for the semester. He does not speak Polish and was assigned to teach Canadian Government, American Government, Media and Politics and Gender and Politics in English. The students, incidentally, apparently know more about American Government than our own students.

Jackson decides the best way to meet the working people was to visit bars, and the majority of the book resulting in his meeting a variety of people and getting drunk along with the bar regulars.

During his time there he was offered assistance and invited to their parties, befriending him. A student invited him home to share *wigilia* with the family where he learned that Agnieszka had studied in the United States, but returned home to finish her Ph.D.

On his time off he explores the city. A cab driver takes him to visit his family's village, Stary Wisnicz, which he and his mother had visited a few years earlier.

Overall, it is a nice glimpse of Fulbright fellow and his experiences. I wish more was devoted to the university atmosphere, but the title does spell it out and the classroom looses over the barroom.

A FOOT IN THE MOUTH

Poems to Speak, Sing and Shout
by Paul Janeczko

ill. by Chris Raschka
Candlewick Press, \$17.99
ages 8-12.

This full color oversized book is meant to excite children with poetry, some favorite old ones and other new creations. The illustrations that accompany the poems are daring, colorful and imaginative. Poetry is

Sound and these poems beg to be read out loud. There are poems for two or three voices, tongue twisters, bilingual poems and limericks. Can you visualize the owl and pussy-cat going to sea in a pea green boat? It is all there, begging to be read and memorized.

JOE AND SPARKY GET NEW WHEELS

by Jamie Michalak
ill. by Frank Remkiewicz
Candlewick Press, \$15.99. Ages 5-7.

Joe, the giraffe, takes Sparky, the turtle along to claim the prize he won—a bright yellow Super Flash 5000. They go for a ride, with Joe reckless and daring, Sparky timid and slow. They cause mayhem wherever they go—an unlikely pair in a string of adventures that will make children laugh! Bright full color pictures emphasize the tail.

DOWN BY THE STATION

by Jennifer Riggs Vetter
ill. by Frank Remkiewicz
Tricycle Press, \$15.00, ages 18 months to 3 years.

Yes, the familiar "Down by the Station" song is here, accompanied by full color pages. But Vetter has gone one step further with this oversized book. "Down by the School Bus Depot," "Down by the Worksite," "Down by the Airport," "Down by the Water," and more await the young reader. Cute little animals take part in the activities.

LET US NOW PRAISE FAMOUS WOMEN: A Memoir
by Frank Sikora
Fire Ant Books. 135 pp, \$12.95

In this memoir, Sikora leads the reader through his difficult life, first in cold Ohio and then in Alabama, imposing on his wife's parents, who are just able to make ends meet. The Helmses struggle through the depression, the acceptance of their fate, with dignity. In their quiet manner, uneducated and unpolished, they give support to Sikora and his growing family.

Living in a rural white community and the changing times that descend upon them, Sikora writes about the attitudes and lifestyle of poor white folk in the rural south with feeling

and truthfulness. He eventually became one of Alabama's acclaimed chroniclers of the civil rights movement, Martin Luther King's murder, George Wallace, Hurricane Camille and other political issues.

PIGGY AND DADDY PLAY

by David Martin
ill. by Frank Remkiewicz
Candlewick Press, \$27.50
ages 4-7

Nursery school and kindergarten teachers will love this over-oversized book! 18" x 12" is large enough to open before a large group. The pictures are uncluttered, the print large enough to make it fun reading for brand new readers.

Instructions are provided to help the brand new reader, by first, reading to him, letting him point to each word and say it aloud. Word and picture association brings the youngster into the antics of Piggy and his dad. The short funny stories will have children reading successfully for the very first time — and having fun!

NEW BOOKS

Authors Share Love of Dance with Next Generation

BROOKLYN, N.Y.—Maria Bielski and Janina Dobkowski recently co-authored and published a book of Polish children's singing games and dances entitled "Two Friends, They Went A' Dancing."

The book contains lyrics (in both English and Polish) of ten popular singing games, and a vocal music score with chords. Clear step-by-step movement and dance instructions are outlined precisely with the text. In addition, a CD of the recorded songs with accompaniment is included, so that parents, grandparents, teachers, and children can immediately enjoy the songs and games. Each page has an original "wyci-nanki" (Polish cut-out style) illustration, designed by the artist, Joanna Bielska, which can be reproduced for coloring or craft projects.

The authors created this book as a resource for anyone interested in folk culture. They hope it will help to pass on Polish national traditions to children and grandchildren of Polish Americans who may not be fluent in Polish. Teachers, occupational therapists, ethnic dance directors, whether Polish or not, can use this book to enrich their classroom program,

physical education curriculum, music and dance classes and children's events. The CD can be used during assemblies, parties for both children and adults, car trips and sing a

its headquarters at the Kosciuszko Foundation, and Marie Skłodowska Curie Professional Women's Association, of which Maria is the current president. Maria has been a member of the PNA for many years as well.

Janina is a member of the National Dance Association and Dance and the Child International which fosters dance opportunities for children.

Maria and Janina have been friends since their teenage years in the Polish Scouting Organization. They have been dancing and singing together their whole lives, and invite everyone to grab a friend, young or old and dance.

You can view the book at www.polishkidsdance.com. To order, call (203) 268-8733 or e-mail: two-friends@optonline.net.

POLISH RE-ENACTORS HANDBOOK

by Eryk Jadaszewski
85 pp., \$19.99 plus shipping

The Polish Re-enactors Handbook is a fascinating look into living history and military re-enactors in the 17th century Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Whether you are new to living history or a seasoned re-enactor, this book will assist you with well-researched information on period clothing, weapons and armor. Also discussed are period foods, mannerisms and other aspects of this rich and diverse culture. Readers will enjoy the high quality photographs of re-enactors and period iconography which will guide you through this fascinating time. This handbook will also explain in detail the different types of soldiers raised across the kingdom, such as winged hussars, Cossacks, infantry and artillery. Lastly, there are links to Polish re-enacting groups, recommendations for references and suppliers. There is also information on historical tours to Poland centering on the winged hussars.

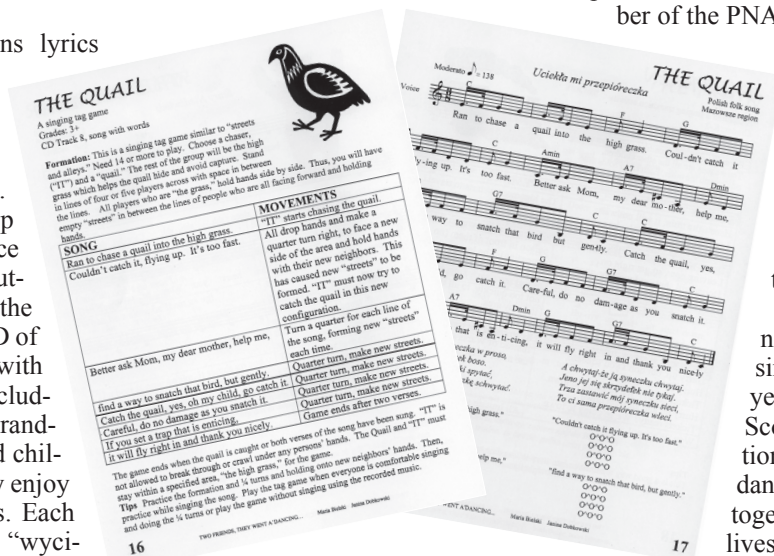
BABCIA'S WISH

A Ghost Story from Old Poland
Written and Illustrated by Eryk Jadaszewski

36 pp., color drawings and photographs
\$14.99 plus shipping

This is a family ghost story handed down from fathers to sons over a century. It is not a story of a haunting or evil but a tale of love and the strength of a family. The story also gives the reader a sense of what life would have been like in a rural Polish village a century ago. The color illustrations bring the story to life, giving the reader a sense of what a grandfather may have actually seen on that dark night in that rural Polish village at the turn of the last century. The story presents a message of the importance of family and reveals a surprise ending that will make one wonder "Could this really have happened?"

To purchase either book, contact Eryk Jadaszewski, 42 Brush Brook Rd., Dublin, NH 03444; jrjada@myfairpoint.net.



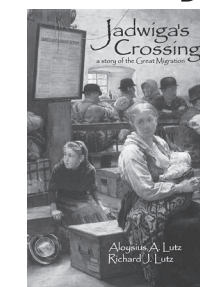
longs. This book will make an ideal gift for anyone who loves music, dance, and folk art, especially Polish Americans of any generation.

Both authors are teachers by profession and have an extensive background in Polish folk art, music and dance. They have danced with the Polish American Folk Dance Company and organized countless folk dance workshops all over the New York Metropolitan area. They are members of the Polish American Teachers Association, which has

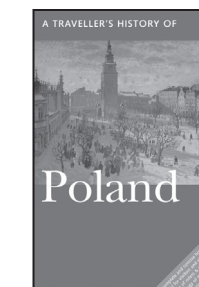
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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Cooperstown Honors Kubek

Tony Kubek will be honored with the Ford Frick award during Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies on Sunday, July 26, 2009 in Cooperstown, N.Y. The Frick Award is presented annually for major contributions to baseball broadcasting.

Kubek was a four-time All-Star shortstop during a nine-year big league career with the Yankees from 1957-65. He earned the American League Rookie of the Year Award in 1957 and appeared in six World Series, helping the Yankees win three championships. After injuries ended his career prematurely, he joined the NBC broadcast booth in 1965. He served as an analyst on backup games from 1966-68, then was elevated to the primary broadcast in 1969. Working with play-by-play partners Jim Simpson, Curt Gowdy, Joe Garagiola and Bob Costas, Kubek broadcast 11 World Series and 14 American League Championship Series for NBC as well as 10 All-Star Games. Kubek also called the final NBC Game of the Week on Sept. 30, 1989.

Kubek was opinionated and uncompromising. On April 8, 1974, when Hank Aaron hit his record-breaking 715th career home run in Atlanta, Kubek, who was calling the game, blasted Baseball Commissioner Bowie Kuhn for not attending that historic game.

When NBC lost the baseball contract Kubek worked on local television broadcasts for The Sports Network and CTV for the Blue Jays from 1977-89. He then broadcast Yankees games for the MSG Network from 1990-94.

NY DAILY NEWS sportswriter Rob Raissman wrote about how Yankees owner George Steinbrenner didn't appreciate Kubek's candor on the MSG Network. MSG head Bob Gutkowski found out the Yankees were collecting video of every perceived "negative" comment Kubek ever made during Yankee telecasts. Gutkowski had his crew gather tapes of all Kubek's positive Yankee commentary. In 1993, when Steinbrenner's suspension was lifted, he rushed to Gutkowski's office with the tapes. Both men pulled out their Kubek tapes and, as Gutkowski recalled: "George's eyes were bugging, he was yelling and screaming. So was I." Security was called before the commotion eventually ended and Steinbrenner and Gutkowski walked out arm-in-arm.

"We were both laughing. George probably knew, no matter how hard he pushed, I wasn't going to dump Tony. But he got all this stuff off his chest," Gutkowski said. "Sometimes you just had to go at it with George."

Tony resigned in 1994, the year of the bitter strike that wound up cancelling the World Series. He didn't like how the game had changed, and wanted to spend more time at home with his family in Wisconsin. Now 72, he spends much of his time teaching English as a second language, mostly to Hmong immigrants in the Appleton area. The closest he gets to baseball is former teammate Moose Skowron's fantasy camp in Florida.

POLISH HALL INDUCTS QUARTET. Former Detroit Tiger pitcher the late Mark Fidrych (see sidebar), record-breaking UCLA women's volleyball coach Andy Banachowski, boxing champion Bobby Czyz and former Olympic and NCAA swimming champion Joe Verdeur have been elected into the Nation-



KUBEK was a four-time All-Star shortstop during a nine-year big league career with the Yankees

Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame. Fidrych and Banachowski were elected from the NPASHF national ballot. Czyz and Verdeur were selected by the Hall's Veterans Committee.

Mark Fidrych, captured the public's imagination during his sensational 1976 season. That year he posted 19-9 record, with a 2.34 E.R.A. and 24 complete games, despite not starting a game until May. He was selected as the American League's starting All-Star Game pitcher, was named A.L. Rookie of the Year, and finished second in Cy Young Award balloting. He drew wide national attention not just with his pitching ability, but with his colorful personality that including talking to the baseball while on the mound.

With a full head of curly blond hair, he was nicknamed "The Bird" after his resemblance to the famous Sesame Street character. However, injuries the following season hampered his effectiveness and he only won ten more games before retiring.

Andy Banachowski has been head coach of the UCLA women's volleyball team for the past 42 years. He has been part of 12 volleyball National Championships, including six women's titles as head coach, four men's titles as assistant coach, and two others as a player. In 1972, '74, and '75, Banachowski coached both the men's and women's teams to NCAA titles. For years he was an Olympic advisor, and in 1993 was head coach of the U.S. team for the World University Games that won the silver medal. In 2008, Banachowski coached the Bruins to their 10th consecutive 20-win season, bringing his career coaching record to an amazing 1082-292 (.787 winning percentage). He was inducted into the National Volleyball Hall of Fame in 1997.

Bobby Czyz was an outstanding boxing champion who went on to a career in broadcasting. The Wanaque, N.J. native was a member of the US amateur boxing team whose other members died in the crash of a Soviet-built LOT airliner in Warsaw in 1980. That tragic accident killed all 87 people on board, including the 22 US boxers going to Poland to prepare for the Olympic Trials. Czyz was not on that flight because he was injured in a car accident just days before team's departure.

Following the 1980 Olympics, which the United States boycotted, Czyz started boxing professionally at age 18. Fighting as middleweight, he won his first 20 fights. He eventually moved up in weight, and went on to capture the IBF World Light Heavyweight Title in 1983 and the WBA Cruiserweight Title in 1991.

He retired from boxing in 1994, with a record of 44-8, with 28 knockouts.

Known for his good looks and intelligence (Czyz is a member of Mensa, the organization for people in the top 2% in IQ), Bobby went on to become a boxing commentator for the Showtime network.

Joe Verdeur was a four-time NCAA All-

American swimmer (1946-50) from LaSalle University. Verdeur's mother's was Zofia Machalowski, a native of Poland who came to the US in 1904. Twice named Sport Magazine Swimmer of the Year, Verdeur set 21 American and 19 World records between 1948 and 1950. In 1948, the Philadelphia native was named NCAA "Swimmer of the Year," and also captured a gold medal in the 200m breaststroke at the Summer Olympic Games in London. He could possibly have won more medals in the butterfly and individual medley (he was a multiple national champion and record-breaker in both) but they were not part of the Games at that time. Since Europe did not have swimmers for this event, Verdeur was essentially the best swimmer in the world during this time. Legendary sportswriter Grantland Rice called Verdeur "the greatest swimmer of the first half century." Verdeur is well known to many not for the gold medal he won but the one he gave up. In 1948 he was also set to race in the 4 x 200m freestyle relay in which the US was certain to win Olympic gold. Verdeur went to coach Bob Kiphuth and suggested that another swimmer, Wally Wolf, take his place. The coach consented and the team won the medal.

Verdeur was a school teacher in Philadelphia from 1954-91 and also coached the swim teams at Temple (60-69) and Thomas Jefferson University (69-81). Verdeur had five children by his wife Mary Ellen and also ran a pool supply business. He was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 1966, and died of cancer in Bala Cynwyd, PA in 1991 at the age of 65.

The election of Fidrych, Banachowski, Czyz, and Verdeur brings the National Polish-American Sports

HERITAGE / Ellye Slusarczyk

Pomerania

Pomerania is an historic region, located on both sides of the Oder River. To its north lies the Baltic Sea and the Vistula River flows to its south. Many border changes have taken place over the years between Poland and Germany. Presently occupying this region is Eastern Germany and Western Poland.

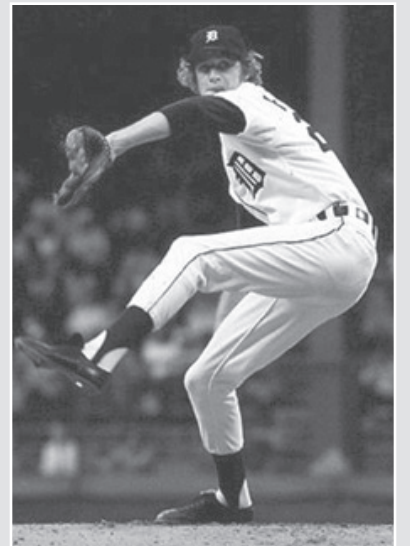
Its past history can be rather confusing. The region was named for the Slavic Pomerani Tribe that settled there during the 5th century. During the 12th century the area was split between the Holy Roman Empire and the Teutonic Knights stronghold. In more recent times West Prussia and Germany controlled the area and finally in 1945

Accident Takes the Life of Mark "the Bird" Fidrych

Mark "the Bird" Fidrych, the fun-loving pitcher who baffled hitters for one All-Star season and entertained fans with his antics, was found dead in an apparent accident at his farm. He was 54. A family friend found Fidrych beneath a dump truck he had apparently been working on in Northborough, Mass., about 35 miles west of Boston.

The curly haired right-hander was the American League Rookie of the Year in 1976, when he went 19-9 with a 2.34 ERA and 24 complete games. But injuries cut short his career, and he ended up spending only five seasons in the major leagues, all with the Detroit Tigers. He was 29-19 with a 3.10 ERA.

Fidrych was due to be inducted into the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame this June.



Hall of Fame roster to 116. The Inductees will be honored at the 37th Annual Induction Banquet on Thursday, June 18th, at the American-Polish Cultural Center in Troy, Mich.. Tickets for the banquet, which begins at 6 p.m., are \$85, and include an open bar and traditional Polish family-style dinner. Tickets can be ordered by calling (313) 407-3300.

Information on the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame is available at www.polishsportshof.com

THEY SAID IT

"For an entire generation of baseball fans, Tony Kubek was the face and the voice of the game. In the days before all-sports TV networks, Tony brought baseball into your living room every Saturday afternoon for almost three decades. His straightforward style, quick and detailed analysis and no-nonsense commentary on the game's nuances gave viewers an insider's look at what the players were experiencing on the field."

— *Baseball Hall of Fame president Jeff Idelson, on the selection of Tony Kubek as the first exclusive television analyst to win the Ford Frick Award.*

"I always thought George probably respected Tony's toughness. And always knew he was the best in the business."

— *Former MSG Network head Bob Gutkowski on the once-contentious relationship between Tony Kubek and George Steinbrenner.*

"Kubek's election was overdue: he was a smart, serious and candid analyst for NBC, the Toronto Blue Jays and the Yankees. His technical

mastery of baseball fundamentals made him the model of a modern analyst, far more than a color man. He offered no frills."

— *Richard Sandomir in the NEW YORK TIMES.*

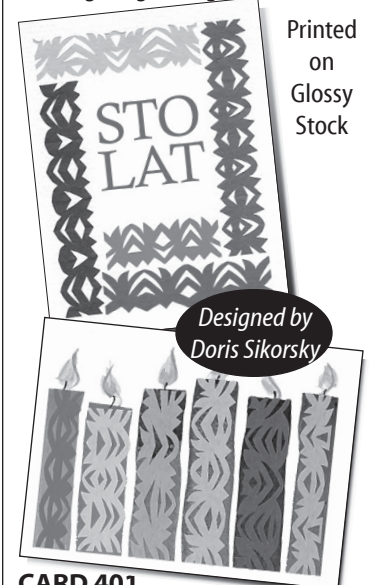
"There was a kind of stubborn authenticity to him. He viewed the game in a certain way: anything that didn't feel authentically baseball to him, he recoiled from it ... He was honestly appreciative of a well-turned double play; more than a spectacular play, he liked the guy who moved into the hole when he knew a changeup was coming."

— *Bob Costas, one of Tony Kubek's NBC partners, about his former colleague.*

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BABA JAGA'S CORNER / Jagoda Urban-Klaehn

Reflections from the Great Depression in Poland (1930-1936)

The current economic crisis encourages us to reflect on economic depression of the 1930s. In Poland the crisis started slightly later than in the United States, but it lasted longer: 1930-1935. Following the horrors of World War II, Poles tend to view the '30s as good years. But the big economic crisis brought lots of misery and poverty, especially in the regions — mainly in Southeastern Poland — which were already poor.

Both of my parents were born in 1930. They were still children in the pre-war times. My father, an only child, came from a relatively rich family. He grew up partly in the country and still remembers that the cheap food products made farmers very poor. But the real misfortune did not affect his family until World War II, when his mother died of tuberculosis, which was accelerated due to the poor diet. They ate mainly rapeseed soup and rye bread. During the war the medical care was also inadequate. My father became semi-orphaned as a 12-year-old boy.

My mother was the youngest of seven children in a miner's family in Katowice, Upper Silesia. When she was born, the whole family lived in a house which consisted of a kitchen and two rooms, but they only had access to one room. Like many Poles they had also a small farm with geese, chicken and goats and a small field and garden. Her father, a miner, was forced into early retirement during the Great Depression. He lost much of his savings in

a bank bankruptcy. Still, my mother's parents were able to expand the house adding an upper floor. Of course, during this time they had to save on food, so the meat or buttered bread was only served on Sundays.

My mother remembers that during the crisis her family had to guard against thieves. They would sit in the fields nearby smoking cigarettes. One could see the small blinking lights from their cigarettes. These thieves sometimes stole a chicken or goat. Once they even stole a family dog after they put him to sleep.

THERE WERE MANY POOR people and beggars asking for help. My grandmother never sent anybody away without something to eat. There were also men who were collecting rags in exchange for some small gifts. My mother remembers getting a child ring for some old rags her family gave away.

In general, the years from 1926-1928 were successful for the Polish economy. Exports grew, especially coal due to the long strike of British miners. Unemployment was low. But the economic crisis affected Poland quite soon after the New York stock crash. Foreign banks withdrew credits given for development of Polish economy, the foreign investments stopped. The crisis affected the most was agriculture which was giving jobs to 60% of Poles. In 1929 the Polish economy was 79% agrarian and 21% industrial. This was one of the main reasons why the Polish crisis was longer than in industrially developed countries.

The first sign of the crisis was a drastic decrease in food prices due to overproduction and a decrease in consumption by urban population. Farmers had to sell much more to pay taxes, buy tools, cloths, salt or matches. The lower food prices and higher supply caused a further decrease of food prices and more hardship for farmers. In time it led to a huge inequality between food (very cheap), and industrial products (very expensive).

The industrial slow down caused a rapid decrease in production. This led to the development of monopolies, which limited competition and led to an increase in prices. The total industrial production in 1932 was about 40% less than in 1928. 1932 was the worst year for the Polish economy: unemployment beyond farming was estimated at 44%.

CHANGE TAKES TIME. Initially the Polish government did very little to improve the economic situation, other than fighting for duty barriers for imported products and the easing of barriers for Polish products. The value of Polish currency was kept high, the access to credit was low, investments were low and budget expenses were cut. This led to lower industrial production, lower prices and a lower standard of living for the population. A more complex program to fight the crisis was introduced at the end of 1932. It helped increase the value of farm products and lower the prices of industrial goods, especially those produced by monopolies. The government initi-



THE AUTHOR'S PATERNAL GRANDFATHER, Jan Urban, (center, light suit), director of the Niwka-Jedrzejow mine. He is probably among other engineers and managers. This mine was owned by different foreign corporations, first Austrian-Italian, then German and finally, Jewish. The author's grandfather was the oldest son of a rich farmer; instead of giving him land, his father sent him to study mining in Austria.

ated steps against unemployment and to increase exports. People were hired for public works; my mother remembered some barracks which were built for temporary road workers. The safe work for many people was a job in public institutions. Lowering unemployment decreased the number of strikes. Many corporations become public, since they were unable to repay their credits.

Industrial projects were kicked off to alleviate differences between better-developed western and central Poland, sometimes called "Poland A," and the poorer "Poland B" which included Eastern and South-eastern regions, predominantly

farmland inhabited by minorities. The biggest project was so called Central Industrial Region (COP) was initiated in 1936 in the central Poland just between Poland A and Poland B. The COP project was interrupted by the outbreak of War World II in September 1939. One has to wonder what Poland would look like today, without all that human and economic devastation and then forty years of communism brought on by the war and Soviet occupation.

♦ ♦ ♦
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THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



Marking the arrival of the Three Kings. Lezajsk, Poland, May 20, 1976.

CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin S. Nowak

Kowal's Comets, Moons and Centaurs

Rose Kowal recalled taking her young son Charles to the Museum of Science in Buffalo, N.Y. where he attended programs about the night sky. She also remembered him building home-made telescopes and using them to peer at the heavens in the backyard of their home.

Charles T. Kowal graduated from high school at age sixteen in 1957 and moved to Los Angeles, where he attended the University of Southern California and received a bachelor's degree in astronomy. He was hired by the California Institute of Technology to look for supernovae, or exploding stars. From 1961 to 1984, he discovered eighty-one of them, second only to one other astronomer. Kowal's access to the giant telescopes at Mt. Wilson and Mt. Palomar allowed him to search for other objects as well. He discovered many asteroids. Several comets that he found bear his name. In September 1974 he discovered the thirteenth moon of Jupiter, which he named Leda. The following year he found the giant planet's fourteenth moon, Themisto. Since then dozens of more moons have been found.

But Kowal also devoted much time to searching for distant objects in the Solar System, with dreams of finding a tenth planet. It was in November of 1977 that he discovered something that created a sensation. What he found was a strange object that the press speculated might indeed be the tenth planet. But, moving between the orbits of Saturn and Uranus, it was too small and its orbit too eccentric to be a true planet, too far out to be an asteroid, and did not possess the properties of a comet. What Kowal had discovered was a unique body unknown before that time, a distinct new class of Solar System object.

He named it Chiron, after a mythical half-man, half-horse, or Centaur. Since 1992, dozens of Centaurian objects have been discovered, and it is thought that they are escapees from the Kuiper Belt beyond the orbit of the planet Pluto. In 1979, Kowal was awarded the

James Craig Watson Medal from the National Academy of Sciences for his noteworthy discoveries. But he was not done yet.

In 1980 while rummaging through Galileo's notebook's, Kowal found that the renaissance Italian astronomer had seen the planet Neptune in 1612 and 1613, 135 years before it was "officially" discovered.

By 1985, Kowal decided to move on to a new specialty. That year he accepted a position at the Space Technology Institute in Baltimore, with an opportunity to work with the Hubble Space Telescope. As operations astronomer, he monitored the instruments aboard the Hubble, checked the quality of data, and re-pointed the telescope. He was the first person to see many of the fascinating photographs transmitted to Earth by Hubble.

Kowal transferred to a job at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland in 1996 where he went to work on the Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous spacecraft, or NEAR. He wrote computer programs for the mission, which sent the satellite into orbit around the asteroid Eros, eventually landing on it in 2001. Kowal had now transitioned from the position of astronomer to aerospace engineer. He later was involved with a spacecraft called TIMED, that studied the upper atmosphere of the Earth.

In 2002, astronomers who discovered a large Kuiper Belt object beyond Pluto went back to old photographic plates that Kowal had taken in 1982, and found that he had photographed but overlooked it back then. Using the old plates, they were able to calculate its specific orbit.

Charles Kowal retired in 2006. During his career he published dozens of scientific articles and wrote the book *Asteroids: Their Nature and Utilization*, which was released in 1988. His accomplishments and discoveries certainly rank him as one of the most important astronomers of the last half of the twentieth century.

PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

Freedom Month

Spring in St. Louis was glorious this year. The flowering trees like the Redbuds, Dogwoods, Crabapples, and Pear trees were absolutely brilliant with color. Taki ładny drzew!

With that, here is my inspiring question for May: who freed more people in the history of the world? Moses? The Polish Constitution? Lincoln? Franklin Roosevelt? Ronald Reagan? Bono? My nominee: Pope John Paul II.

Been thinking about this one for a long time. Maybe I just don't hear it, but the writers and analysts I do read and hear do not even mention him as the "other" player in the fall of communism. Occasionally they will acknowledge JPII with having something to do with the downfall of communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe but President Reagan usually gets the lion share of the credit.

There are two sides to understand how John Paul freed so many people in the world. One is the fall of communism; the second is the many countries he visited and ministered to. The fall of communism occurred because of his unofficial partnership with President Reagan and their similar views regarding the Soviet Union. Freeing millions of non-Soviet people resulted from JPII's philosophical and theological approach to the condition of mankind which he preached about wherever he traveled.

In the fall of communism, Ronald Reagan was "Mr. Outside" and Pope John Paul II was "Mr. Inside." President Reagan used the world stage and diplomatic circles and created the Star Wars missile system. In the past, treaties and armies were not enough to bring down the Soviet Union. It wasn't that way during the '80s either but JPII worked the people of Poland and activated the worldwide conscience and that was the difference. The whole thing, the demise of the Soviet Union and the evil empire would have never happened if the Polish Pope had not given the Poles the inner strength to revolt. It wasn't just a labor strike as many Western journalists and commentators would have you believe. It was social upheaval and resistance in the heart and minds of the people. The United States covered Poland's back while she fought it out in the trenches, while she did the heavy lifting.

Consider this on the theory of freeing other subjugated people in the world:

- The Pope visited Ireland and the IRA, the English, and the Orange men of Northern Ireland eventually reconciled.
- The Pope visited the Philippines and the Filipinos got rid of Marcos.
- John Paul visited Chile and the Chileans got rid of the death squads and Pinochet.
- The Pope visited Haiti and the Haitians got rid of Papa Doc Duvalier.
- The Pope visited Nicaragua and the Nicaraguans got rid of the Ortega brothers and their priests in berets.

How could this have happened? How did freeing all of the Soviets and their satellite minions happen? After all, Roman Catholic clergy are not supposed to be social revolutionaries. Not supposed to use guns and soap boxes.

Christians hold fast to the idea that political dealings are to be left to the secular world and those things "give to Caesar." Remember the people in the crowd wanted Barabas, a social revolutionary, and left Jesus to suffer and die on the cross. This sidebar in the New Testament

gospel clearly demonstrates the essence of the separation of church and state. A critic of the Pope would say he was sticking his nose into the political arena where it did not belong. How can the Pope be a true Christian and free nations?

George Weigel, in his "War and Peace" version of everything you always wanted to know about John Paul II, "Witness to Hope, the Biography of John Paul II," gives us ample information on the Pope's thinking and ideas on what approach he used for all of this "freeing people" stuff. Instead of Liberation Theology, which is pushing the social agenda behind theological principles, the Pope preached that "true liberation was found in the salvation offered by Christ, a messianic liberation wrought by 'transforming, peacemaking, pardoning, and reconciling love.'" Instead of pitting poor against rich, Marxism against Capitalism, or Poles against Russians, the

"Christian Liberation" that John Paul professed raised the dignity of individuals and groups of individuals so that any literal or figurative borders became meaningless.

It was Latin America in the late '70s, and the Pope's experience there, that defined his response to all of the ideologies and philosophies swirling within the Church and the world. In the town of Puebla, near Mexico City, JPII spoke to the Latin American bishops assembled. Here is part of George Weigel's telling of the session:

The bishops' task as pastors and teachers of the truth was to "defend human dignity [as] a Gospel value that cannot be despised without greatly offending the Creator." In defending religious freedom, in protesting coercion and torture, in promoting the right of participation in public life, the Church "does not need to have recourse to ideological systems in order to love, defend, and collaborate in the liberation of man." She only had to look to Christ. A comprehensive liberation of the human family was the Church's cause, because it was the cause of Christ.

One of the reasons John Paul appealed so well with young people was his emphasis not so much on what they were doing and whether it was right or wrong, rather it his emphasis on what they could become. Same is true of how adults behave. Communism in Poland was such a disappointment to

a person such as John Paul because, I believe, he knew the Poles were capable of so much more. Governments don't make people better citizens, thoughtful and spiritual individuals take it upon themselves to make the community better and do what is right. Pope John Paul II, like Ronald Reagan, was for small government and he didn't even realize it.

It becomes a natural progression. Raise the individual with hope and dignity and he can experience true freedom.

DZIĘKUJE BARDZO to Mirek Denisiewicz for the kind words and for noticing all of the Pol-Am staffers at REAL SIMPLE, a magazine with tips for a "life made easier every day" (www.realsimple.com).

If you have a question of your own, or an interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke, St. Louis, MO 63139; e-Mail alinabrig@yahoo.com. Please note: if you e-Mail me, put a reference in the subject line about the Polish American Journal or the Pondering Pole. I cannot open an e-Mail if I do not recognize the subject or the sender.

The Third of May Constitution

To Poles, the Third of May is as important as the Fourth of July is to Americans.

During the decades of Communist rule, the Third of May was replaced by the so-called Day of Poland's Rebirth (July 22), in recognition of the day the Communist government was established in 1944. Ironically, that date — July 22, 1944 — meant the beginning of Poland's political and economical colonization by the USSR.

At the end of the 18th century, Poland was a nation in political crisis. In 1772, Poland was attacked and partitioned by the neighboring absolute monarchies of Russia, Prussia and Austria. Far-reaching reforms were needed to make Poland politically and economically stronger in order to resist such acts of aggression from outside its borders.

The first step toward reform was the creation of the National Education Commission in 1773. This was the first ministry of education in Europe, and was responsible for setting up the system of secondary schools and colleges.

In 1788, the Four-Year Sejm (parliament) began functioning, and on May 3, 1791 the Constitution was drafted and passed.

The Third of May commemorates the ratification of the Constitution by the Four-Year Sejm. This Constitution, written by a group of enlightened patriots and reformers — influenced by the ideas of the French and American revolutions — was the second in the world after the United States (1789) and the first in Europe written as supreme law for organizing and governing the state. Adoption of the Constitution would have transformed Poland into a modern parliamentary monarchy. The King was to be head of a government which would include ministers with executive powers. The supreme legislative organ of the state would be a bicameral Parliament composed of the Sejm and Senate. The Sejm, the lower chamber of the Parliament, would have elected deputies representing both the upper and middle classes. A more solid economic base and the beginning of early capitalism would be established by granting the middle class full citizenship rights and the authority to participate in government affairs.

These drastic social reforms were not in the interest of the large landowners, nor of Imperial Russia. As result of a conspiracy, Russia attacked Poland in 1792. In 1793, with allied Austria, Russia partitioned Poland a second time. The third partition in 1797 wiped Poland off the map of Europe for the next 123 years.

Today, Poland enjoys a democracy and free capitalist system, brought about by the downfall of Communism championed by the Solidarity movement. With a thriving economy, Poland is quickly becoming a world economic leader, and today celebrates its freedom with other democracies across the globe.

IN MEMORIAM

Wladyslawa Kopczynski, Took on Adversity

Wladyslawa Irene "Kopp" Kopczynski passed away March 29, 2009, after a second courageous battle with breast cancer. She was 89, or as she would put it, "in her 90th year."

Born Dec. 1, 1919, of Polish immigrant parents, Kopczynski was a native of New Jersey, where she lived most of her life in Bayonne, Roselle Park and Barnegat. She considered herself a New Yorker and loved the theatre, attending many Broadway shows over the years.

She was married to the late Charles Kopczynski for 58 years and raised two children. In addition to being a homemaker, she worked for many years as a bookkeeper for a small home oil company.

Kopczynski was intelligent, hardworking, resilient and fun to be around. Her wit was evident even during her last days of life. Proud of her Polish heritage, she traveled several times to Poland and em-

braced the saying, "Nie daj sie!" which, roughly translated, means "Never give up!" She demonstrated her resiliency by surviving a heart attack, brain tumor, breast and thyroid cancer, and at the age of 84, a case of appendicitis.

Having no grandchildren of her own, Kopczynski volunteered throughout the years at the schools where her daughter, Donna, taught and was principal and became known as "grandma" by hundreds, if not thousands, of Clark County School District students.

In June 2008, Kopczynski left New Jersey and became a resident at The Homestead in Boulder City, where her keen sense of humor kept other residents and staff alike laughing every day. The family requests those who wish to honor Irene's memory do so by making a donation to The Homestead at Boulder City, 1401 Medical Park Drive, Boulder City, NV 89005, in her name.

KULTURA / Staś Kmieć

Helena Modrzejewska Plaque Unveiled

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of her death, *The Polish Cultural Institute in New York* commemorated **Helena Modjeska**, the iconic Polish-American Shakespearean actress of the 19th century.

On April 5, following a Palm Sunday mass conducted in Polish and English in memory of the great actress, the Consul General of Poland, Krzysztof W. Kasprzyk, and the Director of the Polish Cultural Institute, Monika Fabijańska unveiled a plaque in honor of Modjeska at St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr Church, the oldest Polish Roman-Catholic parish in Manhattan.

During the final years of her life, the actress was a parishioner at this church. Her son, Ralph Modjeski a famous American civil engineer and bridge builder, was married there in 1886; and on July 2, 1909, Modjeska's funeral mass took place in this church, after which her remains were taken to Poland. Her funeral at the Rakowicki Cemetery in Kraków turned into a great patriotic manifestation.

Helena Benda (known theatrically as "Helena Modrzejewska" and later Americanized as "Modjeska") was born in Kraków in 1840. From humble origins, she became

a dominant force in Polish theater, where she developed a spectacular career in the theatres of Kraków and Warsaw, and became a star in high society circles.

At the age of 36, for reasons both political and personal Modjeska left Poland together with her aristocrat husband, Karol Chłapowski, and founded a utopian community in California. Following several years of intensive study of English, she made a theatrical debut at in California. The immigrant actress was considered by many American critics to be the best American female Shakespearean of her generation. A one-woman theatrical institution, she played 260 roles, and is comparable

only to the great Edwin Booth in her achievements.

On April 8, 100 years to the day after Modjeska's death, a panel discussion was held at the Martin E. Segal Theatre Center, CUNY Graduate Center. Moderated by Prof. Daniel Gerould, the Center's director, Prof. Andrzej Zurowski, a leading Polish Shakespeare scholar,



PHOTO: STAS KMIEC

CONSUL GENERAL OF POLAND, Krzysztof W. Kasprzyk, Monika Fabijanska - Director of the Polish Cultural Institute, Fr. Józef Olczak OSPPE - Provincial of the Pauline Fathers and Brothers, Agata Grenda - Deputy Director, PCI and Prof. Andrzej Zurowski unveil the plaque commemorating American theater icon Helena Modjeska.

and Prof. Beth Holmgren of Duke University explored Modjeska's life from contrasting theater-historical and feminist perspectives. The trailer for a forthcoming documentary on Modjeska was shown. A toast was made by Fabijańska to her memory at the private reception that followed.

In a special resolution the Polish Parliament paid homage to Helena Modjeska, describing her as "the star of two continents and an extraordinary personality who made Polish arts and culture known overseas." Her autobiography, *Memories and Impressions of Helena Modjeska*, was published posthumously in 1910.

POLISH FOLK DANCE PARTIES. Recreational Folk Dance parties are back. Many Polish dance organizations are returning to the folk dance trends of the 1970s, by offering group events, just for the fun and communal atmosphere it can offer.

On Sunday May 3, *The Janosik Dancers* of Philadelphia will hold a free recreational folk dance event. In the tradition of the troupe's late director Morley Leyton, the "afternoon of fun for all ages" will offer lessons, demonstrations, a fashion show of traditional costumes, light picnic refreshments, and dancing. The event will take place between 1:00-5:00, admission is free and no partners are necessary. For more information: www.janosikdancers.org.

The Krakowiak Dancers of Boston will hold two folk dance parties on May 23 and June 13. Information was not available at press time, consult: www.krakowiak.org for more details.

OBITUARIES / Jennifer Moskal

JOHN GRANT BEDNARZ, 77, was born the youngest of 10 children in Iron Mountain, Michigan. Bednarz was a world-class ski jumper, setting a class "C" world record at age 17 and was named an alternate to the 1952 U.S. Olympic ski jumping team. During his military service in Korea as a corporal and surveyor for placement of forward artillery, he represented the U.S. Army in ski jumping exhibitions and tournaments worldwide, winning the Far East Championship in Japan.

JOHN PAWLOWSKI, 26, was a police officer in the 35th District Squad 1A of the Philadelphia Police Department. Officer Pawlowski had earned two Merit Commendations during his service, which began in January 2008. He was a student at St. Anselm Grade School and Archbishop Ryan High School. He was also very active with the Parkwood Youth Association growing up.

BENJAMIN PUCHASKI, 87, was a Philadelphia public relations executive for 35 years. When Puchaski entered what is now Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh before World War II, it was on a music scholarship. But when war struck, he changed majors, and later graduated in 1943 with a degree in aeronautical engineering. Puchaski immediately started designing wartime aircraft for Curtiss-Wright Corp., later becoming a test pilot for carrier-based airplanes. He also worked for the precursor of Eastern Airlines, and the precursor of ARA in Philadelphia. He later founded his own public relations agency Ben Associates Inc., later Ben Associates Franchises Inc., which owned a string of beauty salons and yogurt stores in Pennsylvania and Delaware. He also always retained his passion for the violin, even playing for the Columbus Symphony Orchestra.

NICHOLAS REY, 70, was evacuated from Poland as a toddler after German troops invaded in 1939. Rey graduated from Episcopal Academy in Merion and earned a bachelor's degree from Princeton University. In 1993, President Bill Clinton appointed Rey ambassador to Poland. During his service, Poland joined NATO, and the country solidified its turn toward full democracy through elections.

ALBERT TOMASIK, 90, was born in Detroit, Michigan. During World War II, Tomasik served in Patton's Third Army from 1942-1945. After 30 years of service with the U.S. Postal Service, Dearborn, Michigan. He retired in 1974 and moved to Mesa, Arizona. He was also past president of the Pulaski Club of Phoenix.

ELZBIETA ZAWACKA, 99, crisscrossed Nazi-occupied Europe to carry messages between Poland's exiled government and its resistance forces during World War II. During the war, Zawacka was a member of the resistance Home Army and repeatedly risked her life crossing the borders of Nazi-occupied Poland on false documents to carry reports about the Nazi atrocities and the resistance to Poland's government-in-exile in London. In September 1943 she was the first and only woman to be dropped by parachute into Poland, bringing orders and instructions for the Home Army. She also fought in the ill-fated Warsaw Uprising against the Nazis. In 1951, the communist authorities falsely accused Zawacka of espionage and treason. Tortured by the secret forces, she was given a ten-year prison term, but was released in 1955. For her bravery, President Lech Kaczynski promoted Zawacka to the rank of general in 2006.

TRIVIA TIME / Ellye Slusarczyk

1. "He went amber hunting" means he was a) lost b) finding treasures c) died
2. The Mouse Tower in Kruszwica is where mice supposedly ate a) all of the grain b) a princess c) King Popiel
3. Wiezchowska Gorna cave is a) in Brok b) very large c) blocked off
4. "Ociec u Kaly" means a) "Mountain son" b) "Father of Rock" c) "High and Windy Hill"
5. Hercules Club in Ojcowski National Park is a) a cave b) steep path c) rock
6. Krakow Gate is an unusual a) rock formation b) mountain pass c) apple orchard
7. Pieskowa Skala is a fine example of a Renaissance a) cathedral b) fortress c) castle
8. Zamkowa Hill, in the Jura, is a) plateau b) mountain c) deep cavern
9. In 1885, Aleksander Janowski formed the a) Polish Stamp Club b) Society of Titled Men c) Polish Sightseeing Society
10. The wealth of Upper Silesia is found a) in the lowlands b) underground c) in its cities

ANSWERS. 1.c died 2.c King Popiel 3.b very large 4.b "Father of Rock" 5.c rock 6.a rock formation 7.c castle 8.b mountain 9.c Polish Sightseeing Society 10.b underground

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Weather, Part 1

wiosna.....(VYOHs-nah) f
spring
lato.....(LAH-toh) n
summer
jesien.....(YEH-shayn) f
autumn
zima.....(ZHEE-mah) f
winter
pogoda.....(poh-GOH-dah) f
weather
deszcz.....(dehshch) m
rain
śnieg.....(shnyehk) m
snow
temperatura.....(tehm-peh-rah-TUH-rah) f
temperature

Phonetic hh is like ch in loch • Phonetic ai is like eye
m, n, f denotes male, female, neuter

prognoza pogody...(proh-GNOH-zah poh-GOH-dah) f
weather forecast [forecast of weather]
Jaka jest pogoda?... (YAH-kah yehst poh-GOH-dah?)
How is the weather?
Jest ładnie.....(Yehst WAHD-nyeh)
It is fine.
Jest brzydko.....(Yehst BZHIHT-koh)
It is bad.
Na szczęście nie pada.....(Nah SHCHEN-shcheh nyeh PAH-dah)
Fortunately, it is not raining. [falling]
Pada śnieg.....(PAH-dah shnyehk)
It is snowing. [Snow is falling]
Co za cudowny dzień!.....(Tsoh zah tsuh-DOHV-nih dzayn!)
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AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

CALIFORNIA

PASO ROBLES — The 2009 **Paderewski Festival** will be held in a number of venues in Paso Robles and vicinity, November 12-15. Concerts of solo piano and chamber music, an exhibit of Paderewski's memorabilia, a film screening and lectures are planned. Winners of the Paderewski Youth Competition will be presented in a free, public concert that will be followed by the Festival Gala Concert on Sat., Nov. 14. Both events will be held at the historic Ballroom of the Paso Robles Inn.

For details, visit www.paderewski-fest.com or call (805) 227-2888.

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS — May 3. **Constitution Day Celebration.** After 11:30 Polish Mass at Holy Cross Church, 1621 University Avenue NE. For more information call (612) 789-7238 during office hours.

ST. PAUL — May 3. Artist **Shai Wosner** performs at 3:00 p.m. at Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center, Macalester College, 130 Macalester Street. (1 block west of Snelling and 2 blocks south of Grand). For more information, contact the Frederic Chopin Society at (612) 822-0123 or email chopinsociety@aol.com.

MINNEAPOLIS — May 24. **Reception** for cast metal Artist Jeff Lohaus, PACIM's first exchange artist from Minnesota to travel to Warsaw the latter part of August 2009. He will exhibit his work at the Polish American Library from 1:00-3:30 p.m. The Library is located at 2514 Central Avenue NE. Parking is available on the street or in the lot behind the building. Lohaus's studio is in the Northrup King Building in Northeast Minneapolis. His castings are unique, in that he uses grains such as millet, popcorn, mustard seed, wheat, and field corn as well as glass microbeads to incorporate into his castings. He also does traditional castings in bronze, aluminum, iron and steel.

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS — August 7-12. The **Columbia Heights Sister Cities Committee** is looking

for families in the Columbia Heights area who would be willing to host nine students (seven girls/two boys) and two chaperones. Hosts would be responsible for housing and breakfast. For information call Gil at (763) 571-1166 or Dolores at (763) 571-1709.

NEW JERSEY

TRENTON — The **Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union** opened a new branch office at 1110 North Olden Avenue, March 21, 2009. Hundreds attended the opening day event, which began with a blessing by Fr. Jacek Libinski, Pastor, St. Hedwig Parish, located across the street from the new branch office. The ribbon cutting took place at noon and was followed by a Polish buffet.

The Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union Trenton Branch is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from noon to 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The office is closed on Wednesday. For more information call (609) 278-9580 or visit www.psfcu.com

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA — The **Thaddeus Kosciuszko House**, located at 3rd and Pine Streets in historic Philadelphia, officially reopened to the public on March 21, 2009. Since closing in December, 2008, the Kosciuszko House has undergone substantial renovation and the installation of new exhibits and artifacts, which are on temporary loan from

the Kosciuszko Collection of the Historical Museum of the City of Krakow in Poland.

The new exhibits interpret the compelling story of the freedom fighter, known as the "Hero of Two Continents," his important contributions to the American Revolution, his valiant efforts to free Poland from Russian rule, and his wish to bequeath his estate to free and educate the slaves in America.

The Kosciuszko House is open

Lany Poniedziałek



IT WAS A WET MONDAY indeed, as Fr. Anzelm Chalupka, pastor of Corpus Christi Church in Buffalo, N.Y., blessed Dyngus Day Parade participants with both Holy Water and a garden hose as they passed the church on Clark St. This is the third year for the parade, organized by Dyngus Day Buffalo.

The Easter Monday festival, celebrated by turn of the 20th Century immigrants, died off in Buffalo until it was reanimated by Judge Ann Mikoll and her late husband, Ted, at the Chopin Singing Society in 1961. The success of the Chopin Dyngus parties led



PHOTOS: ANDY GOLEBIEWSKI

to other Dyngus dances throughout East Buffalo and into the suburbs.

Fr. Chalupka deserves much credit for Corpus Christi's success. Once in danger of closing, the former Franciscan parish is enjoying a new life under the guidance of the Pauline Order, which was invited to Buffalo by now-retired Msgr. Matthew Kopacz.

To learn more about the holiday, visit www.dyngusdaybuffalo.com.

For information about Corpus Christi Church, visit www.corpuschristibuffalo.org.

Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 4:00 p.m., and closed on Monday and Tuesday. For more information, call (215) 597-7130.

PHILADELPHIA — Police Officer **John Pawlowski**, 26, a member of Polonia and Philadelphia Police officer, was mortally wounded in the line of duty on Fri., Feb. 13, 2009, when he attempted to apprehend an armed and violent felon.

A Memorial Fund has been established to assist Officer Pawlowski's family. Checks should be made payable to John Pawlowski Family Fund and mailed to Police and Fire Credit Union, 901 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

PHILADELPHIA — Sat., May 2. **Polish Constitution Day Commemoration**, Polish American Cultural Center Museum, 308 Walnut St. 1:00 p.m. New exhibits highlighting May 3rd Constitution. Refreshments available. Free. Info call (215) 922-1700.

DOYLESTOWN — Sun., May 3. **Polish American Congress Polish Constitution Day Mass and Youth Program.** National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Ferry Road, Mass, 12:30 p.m., Youth Program, 2:30 p.m. Info call (215) 739-3408.

WILLOW GROVE — Sun., May 3. **Janosik Polish Dance Ensemble** Folk Dance Party, Professional Dance Academy of Montgomery County, 706 Lincoln Ave.,

1:00 p.m. There will be lessons and demonstrations, picnic refreshments, and a fashion show of traditional costumes. Free admission. Info call (610) 688-4061 or visit www.janosikdancers.org.

PHILADELPHIA — Sun., May 3. **Poppies Day.** Polish Army Veterans Association, Post 12. Volunteers will be stationed outside all Polish Parishes. Donations to benefit disabled Polish Army Veterans.

CHESTER — Mon., May 4. **Polish Constitution Day Commemorative Program.** Historical 1724 Court House, Avenue of the States. 9:30 a.m. Sponsored by the Council of United Polish Societies. For info, call Judy Kucinski (610) 494-5675.

PHILADELPHIA — Sun., May 17. **Annual Members Dinner Dance**, Associated Polish Home Ballroom, 9150 Academy Rd., 2:00-6:00 p.m. Music by Music Box Band. Call Polish Home (215) 624-9954 or Debbie Majka (215) 627-1391.

On Mon., May 25, the Polish Home will have its annual **Memorial Day Picnic**, starting at 1:00 p.m. Music by Shoreliners Band. Info call (215) 624-9954.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

On March 24th and 25th, 2009, selected members of the Executive Committee of the Polish American Congress (PAC) met in Washington

for the first-ever **"Polish American Congress Day on Capitol Hill."** The two-day event was an effort to increase the awareness of the new U.S. Administration and members of Congress about key issues that are of greatest concern to the Polish American community and to the PAC.

All of the Capitol Hill meetings stressed the inclusion of Poland in the Visa Waiver Program. Additional topics discussed included commemoration of the following: the 65th Anniversary of the Polish American Congress; Poles who were helping Jews during World War II, based on the records of Yad Vashem; the 70th Anniversary of the beginning of World War II and the 65th Anniversary of the Battle of Monte Cassino and Polish participation; the 20th Anniversary of the Round Table talks in Poland; 20th Anniversary of the beginning of free elections in Poland; and the 230th Anniversary of the death of Casimir Pulaski.

President of the PAC, Frank Spula noted, "We look forward to pressing ahead during the current Congress, buoyed by the knowledge that we already have an important number of supporters in the Senate and House of Representatives, and thankful that our voice is heard where it counts the most--by our elected officials in the nation's capital."

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PIASA Annual Meeting, June 13-14

NEW YORK — The Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America in cooperation with the Polish Cultural Foundation, Clark, N.J. will hold its 67th Annual Meeting at the Hyatt Regency Jersey City, Two Exchange Place, Jersey City, N.J., Sat., June 13-14, 2009.

The conference is open to the public. All persons attending the conference including panelists, presenters, etc. are required to register and pay a \$60 registration fee. Advance Registration is recommended. Forms are available on PIASA's website: www.piasa.org. On site registration will also be possible.

PIASA has reserved a block of single/double occupancy rooms at a special group rate. All room reservations must be made by directly telephoning 1-800-233-1234 or by booking on line at www.jerseycity.hyatt.com. Reference group code is G-PIAS. Reservations must be made not later than May 22, 2009.

For session details, visit www.piasa.org.

Betrayal of Poland Discussed in New PBS Documentary

"WWII Behind Closed Doors: Stalin, the Nazis and the West" Premieres May 6 at 9:00 p.m.

LOS ANGELES — The dramatic history of Stalin's secret meetings with Roosevelt and Churchill — and subsequent fate of Poland — come to life in a new documentary that shatters the myths of World War II. Rare wartime documents made briefly available only after the fall of the Soviet Union help reveal the real story — presented in "WWII Behind Closed Doors: Stalin, the Nazis and the West," a six-hour series, airing Wednesdays, May 6, 13 and 20, 9:00-11:00 p.m., on PBS (check local listings).

Award-winning historian and filmmaker Laurence Rees tells the hidden story of Stalin's backroom dealings — first with the Nazis and then with Roosevelt and Churchill. By juxtaposing conventional documentary elements with dramatic recreations, "WWII Behind

Closed Doors" breaks through the myths of the Allied powers, illuminating the hidden motivations of "The Big Three" and creating a dynamic reappraisal of one of the seminal events in world history.

The series Web site, pbs.org/behindcloseddoors, offers viewers an in-depth look at the complex relationship among Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill using secret documents, first-hand accounts, interactive maps, and an extensive collection of primary source material, including archival photos and video.

A companion book will available. The complete DVD set of World War II Behind Closed Doors (BBC Video) will be available in stores and at ShopPBS.org (1-800-531-4727) on Tuesday, May 26.