

# POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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WASHINGTON, D.C.'S  
POLISH HEROES  
PAGE 17

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

**KRZYZEWSKI DOES IT AGAIN • CHOPIN AND BEYOND • POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE CELEBRATES 25 YEARS  
THE RICHES OF WAWEL — THE ELEGANT, THE EXTRAVAGANT, AND THE EXOTIC • DYNGUS DAY WRAP-UP  
HOLLYWOOD'S WAR WITH POLAND • THE POLISH TITAN OF ABSTRACT ART • PHILADELPHIA'S PKM FOLK DANCE GROUP**

## “This is unbelievable — this tragic, cursed Katyn.”

Former president of Poland, Aleksander Kwasniewski

### Poland and World Honor Presidential Couple

by Robert Strybel  
PAJ Warsaw Correspondent

WARSAW—The eyes of the world were on Poland's old royal capital of Kraków April 18, where the remains of tragically departed President Lech Kaczyński and First Lady Maria were enshrined in the crypts of Kraków's Wawel Cathedral. That is the final resting place of royalty and other outstanding Poles including Polish and American hero Tadeusz Kościuszko.

The elaborate state funeral featured a 21-gun salute and the tolling of Wawel's huge Zygmunt Bell, rung only on major occasions. The Kaczyńskis had been among 96 senior political, military and religious leaders who had died in a plane crash eight days earlier in Smolensk, Russia. They had been en route to Katyn where 70th-anniversary observances of the 1940 massacre were to be held.

The magnitude of Poland's biggest post-war tragedy as well as the unique venue and circumstances and of the disaster — on

Russian soil in connection with the Soviets' cold-blooded murder of 22,000 Polish officers — triggered an unprecedented world-wide reaction. Condolences poured in from around the globe and gestures of national — See “Poland and the World ...,” page 4 —



PHOTO: NANO

President Lech Kaczynski, his wife Maria, and 94 senior political, military and religious leaders died in a plane crash en route to Katyn, where 70th-anniversary observances of the 1940 massacre were to be held.

### Katyn Forest Continues to Haunt Poles

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW—Hundreds of Katyn family members had arrived from Poland aboard by special trains and were waiting for 70th-anniversary observances at the memorial to thousands of Polish officers, professionals and intellectuals murdered in 1940 by Stalin's NKVD. The presidential party, including some of Poland's top leaders, were due to arrive by plane at Russia's nearby Smolensk airport and then drive to Katyn in a motorcade. But strange rumors began circulating — something had gone wrong, the plane had experienced problems and eventually the reports began speaking of an air crash.

Media chaos ensued, as the journalists covering the Katyn ceremonies tried to rebase to the Russian military airport which was off limits to unauthorized personnel. Gradually the pieces began falling into place. President Lech Kaczyński and First Lady Maria Kaczyńska together with 94 others, including some of Poland's top civilian and military leaders, had been killed, when their antiquated Soviet-designed plane crashed while trying to land in heavy fog.

It was one of the greatest tragedies in Polish history, compared by some to another Katyn. Among the victims were several members of the presi- — See “Katyn Forest,” page 4 —

### Expressions of Sorrow

Polish Americans Pray for Victims, Their Families, and Poland

PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI



PHOTO: ANDREW GOLEBIEWSKI



On April 10, just several hours after the breaking news of the horrific Polish airplane crash in Smolensk, Polish Americans spontaneously gathered in churches and at Katyn Memorials across the country to commiserate and express their staggering grief.

At Baltimore's Memorial, a visibly shaken U.S. Sen. Barbara Mikulski (above, left) and Polish Embassy Vice-Consul Michal Sikorski both spoke from their hearts to the mourners. Flowers and lighted candles (left) were in abundance at Memorial's base.

Above, Oliwia Prusaczyk, a student at the Msgr. Peter Adamski Polish Saturday School in Buffalo, picks a white carnation to place at a photograph of President Lech Kaczynski on the altar at St. Stanislaus Parish. This area's Polish community gathered at its mother church for a special prayer service, Sunday, April 11. Another service was held April 25.

PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI



### “Hail their memory!”

In a his speech he planned to deliver at the Katyn 70th Anniversary observances, Polish President Lech Kaczyński's words proved a tragic foretelling of his fate and of those aboard the aircraft that claimed their lives near Smolensk, Russia.

The closing sentence — “Hail their memory!” — was meant to honor the World War II Katyn victims, but today reflects the emotion still shrouding the nation weeks after the disaster.

The text of his speech, reprinted below, outline the events and circumstances of 1940 massacre. It demanded the full disclosure of all details of the murders in order to amend Polish-Russian relations and move on.

“Let's make the Katyn wound finally heal and cicatrize,” were Kaczyński's planned words. “We are already on the way to do it.”

— Text of speech on page 4 —



First Lady Maria and President Lech Kaczynski

### What is the Katyn Massacre?

In 1940, the NKVD, Jozef Stalin's secret police, murdered 22,000 Polish officers held as prisoners of war, shooting them, one by one, in the back of their heads. The Soviet

Union covered up this atrocity for 50 years, blaming it on Nazi Germany. Stalin broke off relations with the Polish Government in Exile and later installed a Communist puppet regime in Warsaw.



Exhumation of Katyn victims.

The Katyn massacre caused the greatest diplomatic crisis of World War II. The Wehrmacht discovered the bodies of the Polish officers in a scenic glade overlooking the Dnieper River in early 1943. At the time, the Germans were reeling from their staggering defeat at Stalingrad. They exploited the discovery of the mass graves at Katyn to split the Western Alliance at a pivotal moment in the war. Poland and the Soviet Union were then allied with the United States and Great Britain against Germany, but because the Poles demand-

ed a neutral investigation of the crime by the International Red Cross, Stalin visited on the Poles — and other subject peoples — fused into the one-word symbol of Katyn.

Stalin broke off relations with the Polish Government in Exile and later installed a Communist puppet regime in Warsaw. The massacre was symbolic of a broad policy Stalin initiated to liquidate the Polish intelligentsia soon after he and Hitler overran the country in 1939. The NKVD murdered the Poles in the following spring, between April 3 and May 13, 1940. Additionally, Stalin deported hundreds of thousands of Poles to Siberia, where large numbers died due to forced labor, starvation and neglect. Gradually the litany of horrors Stalin visited on the Poles — and other subject peoples — fused into the one-word symbol of Katyn.

## ALMANAC

May • Maj

"Should I forget them, may God  
in heaven forget me."  
— *Adam Mickiewicz*

- 1 **ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER. LABOR DAY (POLAND)**
- 2 1952. Birth of Tony Award-winning actress **Christine Baranski**.
- 3 **FEAST OF 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 1846. Birth of novelist and Nobel laureate **Henryk Sienkiewicz** (d. 1916).
- 7 1867. Birth of writer and Nobel laureate **Wladyslaw Reymont** (d. 1925)
- 8 1079. Sw. Stanislaw (**Saint Stanislaus**), Bishop, martyr, slain by King Boleslaw Smialy while celebrating mass.
- 9 **MOTHER'S DAY (U.S.)**
- 12 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 1902. Birth of Polish operatic tenor **Jan Kiepura**. He made his debut in 1931 with the Chicago Opera Company. His performance won him title roles in every major opera.
- 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.
- 20 1881. Birth of Polish General **Wladyslaw Sikorski**. (d. 1943) He lead the Polish government-in-exile during World War II.
- 21 1841. Death of Polish poet and writer **Julian Niemcewicz**, who spent the years from 1794-1807 visiting the young American nation.
- 22 1898. Founding of the fraternal benefit society, the **Polish Women's Alliance**.
- 23 1930. Birth of artist **Richard J. Anuszkiewicz**.
- 24 1543. Death of **Nicholas Copernicus** (Mikolaj Kopernik), Polish astronomer.
- 25 992. Death of **Mieszko I**, first Duke of Poland.  
1997. 46th International Eucharistic Congress held in Wroclaw, Poland.  
1861. Death of Capt. **Constantine Blandowski**, first foreign-born officer to die in the Civil War.
- 26 1903. Birth of **Al (Szymonowski) 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.  
1993. Death of **Andrzej Wasowski**, 69, pianist, in Washington, D.C.
- 28 1883. Death of poet **Cyprian Norwid**.  
1944. **Polish American Congress** founded in Buffalo, New York.  
1981. Death of Polish Primate and staunch anti-communist **Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński**.
- 31 **MEMORIAL DAY (U.S.)**



## VIEWPOINTS / Alex Storzynski

## Why Poland's Grief is Doubled

The tragic death of President Lech Kaczynski and Poland's political and military elite among the trees of the Katyn Forest is surreal, given that in those same woods, thousands of Polish prisoners of war were murdered by Joseph Stalin's secret police.

The delegation was headed for the Katyn Forest near Smolensk, Russia, to honor the 22,000 Polish prisoners of war killed 70 years ago by the Soviet Union's NKVD, forerunner of the KGB.

In 1940, Stalin ordered the assassination of Poland's military and political leaders in order to create a leadership vacuum so he could prop up a Communist puppet state in Warsaw.

Many of those killed in Saturday's plane crash helped to overturn Soviet Communism in Poland in 1990. They included Poland's top generals, several bishops, the head of the national bank and several deputy government ministers.

During the five decades of Soviet occupation of Poland in the Cold War, the Russians covered up the Katyn Massacre, claiming that Nazi Germany had murdered these officers. But forensic evidence found in mass graves proved that the Polish prisoners were taken into the woods, with their hands tied behind their backs, and one by one, they were shot dead in the back of the head by the Russians. The mass graves were discovered by German soldiers in 1943 when they saw pawprints of wolves that had been digging up the bones.

In 1990, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the truth began to slowly emerge with revelations by Russian leaders Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin.

It's no secret that Moscow was not excited about Kaczynski's visit to Katyn, because he demanded to know the full truth about the murders. For the Kremlin, the official commemoration took place last Wednesday when Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and Kaczynski's political rival, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, took part in ceremonies at the same gravesite where Kaczynski was heading.

For decades, the cries of Polish families who want to know what happened to their loved ones have fallen on deaf ears. Kaczynski was their voice.

Many will no doubt compare this crash to the 1943 death of Polish Prime Minister Gen. Wladyslaw

Sikorski, who died mysteriously when his plane crashed into the sea near Gibraltar after he asked the International Red Cross to investigate the Katyn Massacre. At the time, the American and British governments were not willing to address the massacre because they were trying to help the Soviet Union fight Nazi Germany on the Eastern front.

Let us hope the flight data recordings from Kaczynski's downed plane will provide enough evidence to dissuade conspiracy theorists.

Ironically, because of Kaczynski's death, more people have already heard about the Katyn Massacre than would have heard about it had he simply placed a wreath at the gravesite. For those Polish officers in the mass graves at Katyn, Lech Kaczynski's death was not in vain.

Many Russian government officials appeared on Polish television after the disaster expressing sincere regrets over the death of Kaczynski and his delegation. Putin has flown to Smolensk, where he said that he would oversee the investigation into the crash. Hopefully, these are signs that this tragedy will somehow lead to the full truth about Katyn and reconciliation between Poland and Russia.

For decades, Katyn has been the symbol of the worst in Polish-Russian relations. That is why several months ago, the Kosciuszko Foundation began working on a conference about the Katyn Massacre to be held at the Library of Congress on May 5. The goal is to provide a forum for political leaders, scholars, authors and human rights advocates from Poland, Russia and the United States to discuss new details on the massacre, and the possibility of finding a path toward reconciliation between Poland and Russia.

There will also be a display of rare Katyn photographs and documents on loan from The Council to Protect the Memory of Struggle and Martyrdom. Andrzej Przewoznik, secretary-general of the Council, was to be one of the speakers. He died in Saturday's crash. Now, this conference and exhibit will be a tribute to him, as well as to the other Polish leaders killed in Katyn during the 1940s, and in 2010.

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*Alex Storzynski is president and executive director of the Kosciuszko Foundation. Originally published on CNN.com. Reprinted with permission of the author.*

## Katyn Massacre Topic of International Conference

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Kosciuszko Foundation, in cooperation with the U.S. Helsinki Commission, announced that an international conference on the Katyn Massacre will be held at the Library of Congress on May 5.

The conference will provide a forum for political leaders, scholars, authors and human rights advocates from Poland, Russia and the United States to discuss new details on the massacre, and the possibility of finding a path toward reconciliation between Poland and Russia. The Katyn conference will also include participation from the Cold War Studies program at Harvard University, the Memorial human rights group based in Moscow, and the Polish Embassy in Washington, D.C. There will also be a display of rare Katyn photographs and documents on loan from The

Council to Protect the Memory of Struggle and Martyrdom.

Sen. Cardin will give one of the main addresses at the conference. Other speakers include Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, National Security Advisor to President Carter; House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, Librarian of Congress James Billington; U.S. Ambassador to Poland during the Bush Administration, Victor Ashe; and Polish Ambassador in Washington D.C., Robert Kupiecki.

Two prominent Russian historians — Alexander Guryanov, an expert on the Katyn massacre, and Dr. Natalia Lebedeva of the Russian Academy of Sciences — will also serve as panelists at the conference.

The May 5 event will be held in Coolidge Auditorium at the Jefferson Building of the Library.

## Recommended Reading ...

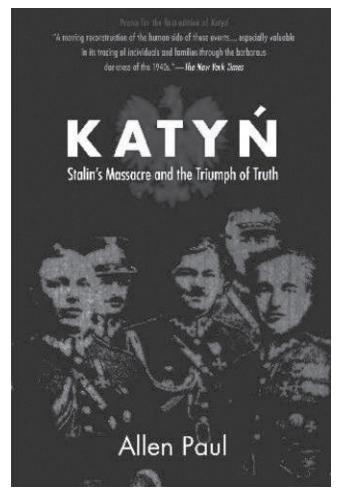
## Katyn: Stalin's Massacre and the Triumph of Truth

DeKALB, Ill. — Marking the 70th anniversary of the Katyn Forest massacre, this edition exposes the crime and its cover-up. Twenty years ago, Allen Paul wrote the first post-communist account of one of the greatest but least-known tragedies of the 20th century: Stalin's annihilation of Poland's officer corps and massive deportation of so-called "bourgeoisie elements" to Siberia. Today, these brutal events are symbolized by one word, Katyn.

Paul's richly updated account covers Russian attempts to recant their admission of guilt for the murders in Katyn Forest and includes recently translated documents from Russian military archives, eyewitness accounts of two perpetrators, and secret official minutes published here for the first time that confirm that U.S. government cover-up of the crime continued long after the war ended.

Paul's masterful narrative recreates what daily life was like for three Polish families amid momentous events of World War II—from the treacherous Nazi-Soviet invasion in 1939 to a rigged election in 1947 that sealed Poland's doom. The patriarch of each family was among the Polish officers personally ordered by Stalin to be shot. One of the families suffered daily repression under the German General Government. Like thousands of other Poles, two of the families were deported to Siberia, where they nearly died from forced labor, starvation, and neglect. Through painstaking research, the author reconstructs the lives of these families including such stories as a miraculous escape on the last transport of Poles leaving Russia and a mother's daring ski trek over the Carpathian Mountains to rescue a daughter she had not seen in six years. At the heart of the drama is the Poles' uncommon belief in "victory in defeat"—that their struggles made them strong and that freedom and independence, inevitably, would be regained.

*Katyn: Stalin's Massacre and the Triumph of Truth* by Allen Paul is available from the Polish American Journal Bookstore, P.O. Box 328, Boston, NY 14025. \$24.95 plus \$6.95 shipping and handling.



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This paper mailed on or before  
April 29, 2010  
The June 2010 edition will be  
mailed on or before May 29.

**Polish Women's Alliance of America joins the world in expressing deep sorrow at the tragedy that took the lives of Polish President Lech Kaczynski, his wife Maria, and 94 others, including many Polish government officials and top military leaders.**



**We extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the people of Poland and the families of the victims.**  
Cześć ich Pamięci

**Virginia Sikora, National President with the Board of Directors, Staff, and Members of Polish Women's Alliance of America**



Chicago, April 10, 2010

## Polish Children's Heartline Celebrates 25 Years

CLARK, N.J. — Early in 1985, Stanley Fryczynski, then president of the Deborah Heart and Lung Center in Browns Mills, N.J., met with Alexandria Patras, who was very active in the Polish community and with other humanitarian activities, to discuss his concerns for the children in Poland having congenital heart problems. He advised that each year 5,000 children are born with heart problems and just a few are able to come to the United States for corrective surgery. His concern was "What is to happen with the rest of them?"

A meeting was arranged by Patras and her husband and Stephen Patras with Most Rev. Edward Kmiec, Rev. Msgr. Casimir Ladzinski, Rev. Msgr. Thaddeus Wojciechowski, Stanley Fryczynski, Mr. & Mrs. George Leoniak, and Mr. & Mrs. Jules Wisniewski to discuss how to help the hospitals in Poland, which were lacking surgical and medical equipment. It was agreed to set up an organization that would solicit funds to purchase and ship equipment and supplies to Poland.

Coincidentally, it was about this time that Adam Prochaski met Prof. Zbigniew Religa, a brilliant cardiac surgeon who, with his staff of young dedicated doctors in Zabrze, was performing open heart surgery on only a few children. Because of the lack of surgical equipment and medical supplies, they were unable to operate on many more that needed corrective surgery. It was decided to provide Prof. Religa with assistance as quickly as was possible. At the first official meeting held in August 1985 at the Polish Cultural Foundation in Clark, NJ, about 25 interested people were in attendance. Discussed was the mission of the organization and how it would function. Msgr. Joseph Marjanczyk and Stephen Patras suggested the name "The Polish Children's Heartline," which was unanimously agreed upon. Shortly thereafter, through the efforts of Leonard Kiszek, Esq. and Zygmunt Goralski, Esq. and Stanley Fryczynski, the Polish Children's Heartline became incorporated in the state of New Jersey, consisting entirely of non-paid volunteers.

In dire need at the time were

surgical masks, latex gloves and sutures. They were the very first shipment made in 1986 to the hospital in Zabrze from donations made by Heartline's founding members. The first major donation was \$3,000 presented by Kazia Wisniewski from the Polish University Club of New Jersey. Through the generosity of members, friends, and organizations, within the first year Heartline was able to purchase six infusion pumps and additional medical supplies valued at \$30,000.

Shortly after beginning its association with Prof. Religa and Dr. Marian Zembala in Zabrze, Heartline then adopted the hospital in Katowice and its talented surgeon Dr. Andrzej Bochenek, along with the Mothers Hospital in Lodz and its talented staff headed by Dr. Jacek Moll. Some of the first shipments going to the hospitals consisted of critically-lacking basic items such as latex gloves, surgical masks and sutures. Many of the same basic items have been shipped one-hundred fold along with more sophisticated supplies and equipment. Many hours were spent driving to pick up donated supplies from distributors, many more hours used to inventory and pack these supplies for shipment. Everything that was given was shipped to the hospitals in Poland. Polish Children's Heartline was faced with not only procuring the materials, but transportation costs also had to be met. Helping in this effort was Mr. L. Wnekowicz of DOMA Imports.

**IN 1989** the first Tree of Life was born, carved from a piece of coal by the miners in Katowice. It hangs in the Slask Centrum of Cardiology with commemorative hearts acknowledging contributors. A second tree, very unusual in design, created by young art students stands in Zabrze and a third tree is in the pediatric division of the Mothers Hospital in Lodz.

In 1990 the Polish Children's Heartline — for the first time — ventured into the Pulaski Day Parade in New York City with a float made by the Patras children and grandchildren. It was the introduction to Polonia of the existence of

this humanitarian organization at the national level. Since 1991 Heartline has been honored to have Adam Bak of ADAMBA International Imports sponsor a professional float for Heartline in the parade.

August 1998 found executive officers in Poland at their own expense visiting hospitals in northeast Poland, probably one of the most economically depressed regions. Visited were hospitals in Bialystok, Grajewo, Suwalki, and Wysokie Mazowieckie, with particular interest focused on pediatric services. Observed were outdated facilities but having outstanding physicians and staffs providing medical services. January 1999 saw the first of several shipments of medical supplies and equipment to the hospitals in that area.

The Millennium and the year 2000 arrived finding Heartline more involved in shipping supplies to Poland and facing new challenges. With the advent of the new health program in Poland, similar in nature to the HMOs in the United States, changes in our relationships with the hospitals and their needs began to take place. With Poland's acceptance into the EU, Poland's hospitals and Heartline experienced changes in having to adhere to EU regulations concerning medical supplies and equipment and causing a change in purchasing from United States manufacturers to buying from primarily Polish companies thus helping its economy. Medical supplies and equipment valued at over \$15 million dollars has been provided the hospitals in Poland.

**THE SUCCESS** of Polish Children's Heartline for providing that second chance to those thousands of children in Poland was and is only because of the support received from Polonia and generous individuals.

All contributions are tax-exempt and acknowledged and may be sent to Polish Children's Heartline, 177 Broadway, Clark, NJ 07066.

You can help Heartline celebrate its 25th Anniversary in 2010 by taking part in its Luncheon Dance in September at the Garden State Art Center, or the Christmas Gala at the Polish Consulate in New York.

QUOTES / compiled from news sources

### Reactions to the Tragedy

"It is a damned place."  
— *Former Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, on the Katyn Forest.*

"They wanted to cut off our head there, and here the flower of our nation has also perished."  
— *Former Polish President Lech Walesa, who presided over Poland's transition from Communism*

"It's a sign of God or something. It's hard to explain ... It's almost like we're cursed."  
— *Sylvester Kobida, a Polish immigrant now living in Palos Hills, Ill.*

"Regardless of whether one agreed with his politics, or his views — and I didn't — he was our president, and he died tragically."  
— *Andrzej Gerula, a 26-year-old computer programmer, told the AFP news agency.*

"It was like losing a family member."  
— *Blanche Weigand, whose mother immigrated from Poland to Chicago in 1950.*

"When the Polish people have any kind of a tragedy, they pray, they go to church. They feel this solidarity, this unity in a church environment."  
— *Anna Szpindor, who was born in Poland and went to medical school there, and now lives in South Barrington, Ill., at before attending prayer services at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Chicago.*

"If this were 20 years ago, people would be spreading stories about some sort of dastardly motive. I cannot imagine any foul play."  
— *Michael D. Kennedy director of Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies.*

"The readings confirm that there were no problems with the plane, and that the pilot was informed about the difficult weather conditions, but nevertheless decided to land."  
— *Russian Deputy Prosecutor General Alexander Bastrykin during a briefing with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.*

"If any good can come with such a horrible event, it would be a way of framing these memories so that

both Poles and Russians could get beyond them

— *Brian Porter-Szucs, associate professor of history at the University of Michigan.*

"I worry because so many clever and decent people were killed. I am afraid we may have problems in the future to find equally talented politicians."  
— *Warsaw high school student Pawel Kwas.*

"When I saw the list of the passengers, I knew he was there ... This is a kind of circle. It's terrible, after 70 years he had survived, and then he died in that area close to his father."  
— *Zygmunt Matynia, the Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, on the death of Wojciech Seweryn, an artist in Chicago, whose father was an officer murdered in the Katyn Massacre.*

**MAGAZINE MAKES GRAVE ERROR.** PARADE MAGAZINE has described Nazi-created concentration camps and Jewish ghettos in Poland as being "Polish."

PARADE, a weekly extra to newspapers across the country, describes John Demjanjuk, currently on trial for Nazi war crimes in Munich, as being stationed at a "Polish concentration camp" during World War II occupied Poland. The April 4 edition of the glossy pull-out also writes about

thousands of Jews held in "Poland's Warsaw Ghetto."

The article — on American Nazi hunter, Federal prosecutor Eli M. Rosenbaum — has led to the Polish-American Congress calling for protest letters and emails to be sent to the magazine's editor, reports TVP public television.

The attributing of Nazi concentration camps as Polish is a mistake long made by foreign journalists — one which, in 2005, the then for-

eign minister Adam Rotfeld described as "insulting."

In 2004, the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council ruled that the use of the adjective "Polish" was misleading after a CTV news report used the wording "Polish camp in Treblinka."

PARADE would not apologize for the blunder, but instead issued a correction, calling it an "editing error."

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## Poland and World Honor Presidential Couple

— continued from cover —

mourning were made not only by Poland's immediate neighbors but even by countries as remote as Brazil. Requests for Andrzej Wajda's film "Katyń" came from many different countries and the hard-hitting movie was shown in the halls of the U.S. Congress.

Nearly 100 world leaders including U.S. President Barack Obama, Britain's Prince Charles, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy all said they would attend the Kaczyńskis state funeral in Kraków, when a freak accident no-one could possibly have expected disrupted their travel plans. The eruption of a volcano in Iceland a few days earlier, sent a thick cloud of volcanic ash over Europe, closing airports across the continent. The ash contains pulverized glass and stone which can damage jet engines in flight.

What could have been the biggest world memorial summit since the funeral of Pope John Paul II suddenly shriveled down to Central-East European proportions. America's Obama sent his regrets but paid tribute to the deceased Polish statesman by saying: "President Kaczyński was a patriot and close friend and ally of the United States, as were those who died alongside him, and the American people will never forget the lives they led." As a result, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, who ignored the volcanic-ash scare, was the most prominent world leader attending the Kaczyński funeral.

**SOME 600 POLISH** and foreign VIPs packed St Mary's Basilica for the requiem send-off of President Lech Kaczyński and his wife Maria, as 150,000 mourners gathered in the Rynek Główny (main square) and adjoining side streets. The proceedings could be viewed on big TV screens strategically located at three prime sites for maximum exposure. When the coffins bearing the remains of the President First Lady set out upon gun carriages across town to their final resting place at Wawel Cathedral, the crowd applauded and chanted "Lech Kaczyński dziękuję ci" (We thank you Lech Kaczyński), waved Polish and Solidarity flags and held up placards. One read: "We want to serve Poland like you did!"

A day earlier, more than 100,000 people had filled Warsaw's vast Piłsudski square for a memorial mass honoring all the crash victims, whose large portraits flanked a tall white cross on the altar platform. "We tremble as we read each of the 96 names and gaze upon their photographs," Acting President Bronisław Komorowski told the mourners. And in an emotional bid sure to move most Poles he added: "We remember the words of Pope John Paul II, who prayed here for the Spirit to descend and renew the face of the earth and of our Polish land." A year after the Polish-born Pontiff had uttered those words in 1979, the Solidarity movement was born, ultimately leading to the collapse of communist rule in Poland and across Europe.

The weekend memorials followed a period of intensive national mourning during which funereal and historical themes dominated the press and airwaves. For the better part of the week coffins kept arriv-



**VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN**, flanked by Polish Ambassador to the United States Robert Kupiecki, signs a condolence book at the Polish Embassy in Washington, D.C., April 14, 2010.

ing from Russia – that of President Kaczyński, then the First Lady's, followed by those of 30 other victims and dozens more over the next few days. But by the time of the Kaczyńskis' funeral, the identity of about 20 bodies was still uncertain. The remains of some, obliterated beyond recognition in the crash, may never be identified.

All week long, thousands of Poles waited around-the-clock in the rain and cold of night to pay their respects to Poland's First Couple lying in state in closed, flag-draped coffins at the Presidential Palace. They filed past, genuflecting, blessing themselves and saying a short prayer before moving on. Outside the Palace thousands converged around a veritable sea of tens of thousands of flickering votive lamps which made the air thick with burning-wax fumes.

The flower, flag and votive-lamp vendors, who had set up makeshift stands along the route, did a thriving business, as did those selling tea and coffee. But non-profit-minded boy scouts and girl guides passed out free bottled water and chocolate bars to the weary and gave first aid to those who felt faint. One senior scout informed line-standers over a loudspeaker that pregnant women could go to the head of the line.

In general, the tragedy had rekindled a spirit of solidarity and togetherness in this often divisively bickering nation. Despite the fatigue and discomfort of waiting in line for up to 18 hours, people were kind and helpful, exchanged addresses and made new friends. The country's political circles, even those who had violently thrashed the president, were also on their best behavior and acted with dignity and restraint. Only the leftist-liberal daily "Gazeta Wyborcza" violated the solemnity of national mourning by protesting against the Kaczyńskis' burial at Wawel Cathedral, saying that the hallowed venue was reserved for kings and national heroes.

**A DOMINANT THEME** of most eulogies, speeches and public statements since the tragedy has been the need for reconciliation. We can differ, because that is our right in a democratic system, but we should do so in a reasonable and civilized manner – was the general gist of that appeal. But with snap elections set for June 20th, many Poles wonder how such a lofty ideal could be adhered to in practice.

In many pronouncements, the spirit of goodwill also extended to

neighboring Russia, with which Poland's relations have been chronically strained. In his funeral homily at St Mary's Basilica, Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz said: "The sympathy and assistance we have experienced these days from our brother Russians have rekindled hope for rapprochement and reconciliation between out two Slavic nations. These words I am addressing to the President of Russia."

Seated in a VIP pew, Medvedev nodded his acknowledgement. Before boarding his plane back to Moscow, he told a Polish TV reporter: "I believe we can make serious efforts to draw our nations closer together, develop economic relations and find solutions to the most difficult problems, including Katyń." The Russian head of state has repeatedly stated that Stalin and his cronies bore the blame for that crime and that Russia has gone a long way to clear up the doubts and memorialize the victims. But whether the Kremlin agrees to give Poles access to all the still classified Katyń records remains to be seen.

## Text of Kaczynski's Planned Katyn Address

— continued from cover —

"Dear Representatives of the Katyń Families. Ladies and Gentlemen. In April 1940 over twenty-one thousand Polish prisoners from the NKVD camps and prisons were killed. The genocide was committed at Stalin's will and at the Soviet Union's highest authority's command.

"The alliance between the Third Reich and the Soviet Union, the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact and the Soviet attack on Poland on 17 September 1939 reached a terrifying climax in the Katyń massacre. Not only in Katyń forest, but also in Tver, Kharkiv and other known, and unknown, execution sites citizens of the Second Republic of Poland, people who formed the foundation of our statehood, who adamantly served the motherland, were killed.

At the same time families of the murdered and thousands of citizens of the eastern territory of the pre-war Poland were sent into exile deep into the Soviet Union, where their indescribable suffering marked the path of the Polish Golgotha of the East.

"The most tragic station on that path was Katyń. Polish officers, priests, officials, police officers, border and prison guards were killed without a trial or sentence. They fell victims to an unspeakable war. Their

## Katyń Forest Continues to Haunt Poles

— continued from cover —

dential cabinet, 17 lawmakers, 10 generals, several army chaplains and numerous Poles who had lost loved ones in the 1940 massacre. The list included the armed forces chief of staff and the commanders of all branches of the services, Sławomir Skrzypek, the president of the National Bank of Poland, Janusz Kurtyka, the head of the National Remembrance Institute (IPN) which researches and prosecutes communist crimes. The conservative Law and Justice (PiS) party, established by Kaczyński and his twin brother Jarosław, lost an inordinate percentage of its leadership in the crash.

A tragic death was also met by such legendary figures as Ryszard Kaczorowski, 91, the last president of the London-based Polish Exile Governments, and Anna Walentynowicz, the crane operator whose firing sparked off the 1980 Gdańsk Shipyard strike that led to the emergence of Solidarity. Kaczyński, 60, was the first officiating Polish leader to perish in an air disaster since the 1943 plane crash off Gibraltar of ex-

iled war-time Prime Minister General Władysław Sikorski.

Thousands of Poles flocked the Warsaw Presidential Palace to pay their respects. They brought flowers, lit votive lamps, sang religious hymns and prayed. Special masses were held throughout the country, sporting events were called off and the giant Zygmunt's Bell in Kraków's Wawel Cathedral sounded for the first time since the death of Pope John Paul II. And condolences poured in from all over the world.

"Today's loss is devastating to Poland, to the United States, and to the world," U.S. President Barack Obama said in a statement. "President Kaczyński was a distinguished statesman who played a key role in the Solidarity movement and was widely admired in the United States as a leader dedicated to advancing freedom and human dignity." His predecessor George W. Bush said he and former first lady Laura Bush were "deeply saddened" by the deaths and called President Kaczyński "a strong defender of freedom and a friend to the United States."

## What's Next for Warsaw?

In accordance with the Polish Constitution, Bronisław Komorowski, the Marshal of the Sejm (speaker of the lower house of parliament) said snap presidential elections would be held by the end of June. Under Polish law, he is obliged to announce new elections within two weeks of the presiding president's death or incapacitation and schedule the polls within a two-month period thereafter.

Komorowski is the ruling Civic Platform (PO) party's presidential candidate in elections originally set for October. Kaczyński had yet to announce he would run for re-election, but observers felt he was about to do so. PiS is running far

below the PO in popularity polls, but some believe the tragedy may generate a sympathy vote for the opposition candidate, probably the young former justice minister, Zbigniew Ziobro.

It is still too early to speculate as to what the long-range ramifications of this tragedy might be. But there is little no doubt that, except in wars and violent revolutions, the upper echelons of a country's political and military establishment are rarely devastated to this extent in a single stroke. Prime Minister Donald Tusk, traditionally a political foe of Kaczyński, called the crash "a tragedy the modern world has not seen."

murder was a violation of the rights and conventions of the civilized world. Their dignity as soldiers, Poles and people, was insulted. Pits of death were supposed to hide the bodies of the murdered and the truth about the crime for ever.

The world was supposed to never find out. The families of the victims were deprived of the right to mourn publicly, to proudly commemorate their relatives. Ground covered the traces of crime and the lie was supposed to erase it from people's memory.

"An attempt to hide the truth about Katyń – a result of a decision taken by those who masterminded the crime – became one of the foundations of the communists' policy in an post-war Poland: the founding lie of the People's Republic of Poland.

"It was the time when people had to pay a high price for knowing and remembering the truth about Katyń. However, the relatives of the murdered and other courageous people kept the memory, defended it and passed it on to next generations of Poles. They managed to preserve the memory of Katyń in the times of communism and spread it in the times of free and independent Poland. Therefore, we owe respect and gratitude to all of them, especially to the Katyń Families. On behalf of the Polish state, I offer sincere thanks to

you, that by defending the memory of your relatives you managed to save a highly important dimension of our Polish consciousness and identity.

"Katyń became a painful wound of Polish history, which poisoned relations between Poles and Russians for decades. Let's make the Katyń wound finally heal and cicatrize. We are already on the way to do it. We, Poles, appreciate what Russians have done in the past years. We should follow the path which brings our nations closer together; we should not stop or go back.

"All circumstances of the Katyń crime need to be investigated and revealed. It is important that innocence of the victims is officially confirmed and that all files concerning the crime are open so that the Katyń lie could disappear for ever. We demand it, first of all, for the sake of the memory of the victims and respect for their families' suffering. We also demand it in the name of common values, which are necessary to form a foundation of trust and partnership between the neighbouring nations in the whole Europe.

"Let's pay homage to the murdered and pray over their remains. Glory to the Heroes! Hail their memory!"

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WORLD WAR II / Zamość under German Occupation 1939-1945 / Sophie Hodorowicz Knab

## Rotunda and Aktion A-B

### Part IV

Zamosc and the surrounding Lublin region is just one example amidst thousands where the Germans instituted Hitler's plan "to kill without pity or mercy all men, women, and children of Polish race or language. (Document L-3 *Nazi Conspiracy and Aggression*, Volume 8, p. 752).

Shortly after the invasion of Poland special action squads of SS and police were deployed to arrest and/or kill any civilians who showed any resistance to the Germans. Thousands of wealthy landowners, priests, and journalists were murdered in mass executions or sent to concentration camps. *Sonderaktion Krakau* was one of the many of these special actions. (*Sonderaktion Krakau* is depicted in Andrzej Wajda's 2007 film "Katyń.") The professors of the Jagellonian University in Krakow were summoned to attend a lecture that supposedly was to discuss German plans for Polish education. Instead, all the professors and students who were in the building at the time, were arrested and sent to concentration camps.

Hans Frank, named governor of the Government General with headquarters in Krakow, declared that the Poles would be made "the slaves of the German Empire."

As early as October 7, 1939 Reichsfueher SS Himmler was given the following directives (Document PS-686):

1. To bring back for final return into the Reich all German nationals, and racial Germans in the foreign countries

2. To eliminate the harmful influence of such alien parts of the population, which represent a danger to the Reich, and the German folk community

3. The forming of new German settlements by settling of the return of German citizens and racial Germans from abroad.

To eliminate "harmful influences," Hans Frank ordered the closing of all educational institutions, es-

pecially technical schools and colleges, in order to prevent the growth of a new Polish intellectuals. At the same time anyone who could possibly lead their communities in any kind of resistance against the Germans was to be arrested and eliminated.

In a speech to officers of the SS, Himmler tells the SS "to shoot thousands of leading Poles." (Document 1918-PS).

On May 16, 1940 Hans Frank ordered the beginning of *Aktion AB*.

*Aktion A-B* (*Ausserordenliche Befriedungsaktion*; Extraordinary Pacification Operation) was the code name for a campaign by the Germans to exterminate any intellectual person within the General Government who would be able to organize the Polish people to resist the Germans. The lists included teachers, priests, political activists and anyone in leadership government positions or suspected of potential anti-Nazi activity. The most well known arrests and executions occurred outside of Warsaw in the Kampinos forest near Palmiry. Executions began in the forest meadow in December 1939 and continued until July 1941. Over 2,000 people, regarded by the Germans as belonging to the Polish elite, were murdered here as part of *Aktion AB*. In the following weeks, the German police, the Gestapo and SD (*Sicherheitsdienst*) arrested and imprisoned roughly 30,000 Poles in major cities throughout Poland.

*Aktion A-B* arrived to the Lublin and Zamosc region in June of 1940. The Rotunda in Zamosc (Polish American Journal, March 2010; Part III Zamosc under Nazi Occupation) served as a transit camp for those who were to be sent on to Lublin and then on to the Nazi concentration camps of nearby Majdanek, Auschwitz, Sachsenhausen or Dachau. In his book, *Diary from the years of Occupation 1939-1944* (Klukowski, Zygmunt. *Diary from the years of Occupation 1939-1944*. Translated from the Polish by

George Klukowski. University of Illinois Press 1993), Dr. Zygmunt Klukowski wrote of his imprisonment at the Rotunda. On his release he detailed the events of his arrest on June 19th and subsequent imprisonment in the Rotunda:

"we were taken through a gate. Above the gate a sign read, 'Temporary Internment Camp for Political Prisoners.' ... I was assigned to cell no. 8 ... high ceilings, brick walls and no floor. The floor was compressed dirt. There was one small window ... in the door there was an opening a little above head height ... along the wall some straw was laid down to be use as beds."

When they arrived to the Rotunda, the Germans — for their own amusement and to debase their prisoners — made the prisoners run laps on a track that existed in the courtyard while holding their bags with their possessions. Anyone who was too slow or faltered in their run was beaten.

"Those that moved slowly were beaten with wooden sticks. I was told by witnesses that Count Alexander Szeptycki from Labun, who was seventy years old, was forced to run; after three laps he was ordered to keep going, and a few yards later he fell dead of a heart attack. Then the Gestapo called a horse-drawn wagon and took the man to the city morgue ... one young man who refused to answer questions during the interrogation was forced to run while singing the Polish national anthem. After three laps he was given a block of ice. With ice held against his chest he ran eight times around the training ground. I found out later that his name was Sozanski and he was a member of the Polish Olympic team."

On his release (his position as hospital superintendent was needed by the Germans), Dr. Klukowski made notes of who else had been arrested:

"friends, such as school superintendent Szczepaniec, notary



Pogrzeb ciał ekshumowanych na terenie Rotundy.  
Burial of exhumated bodies from the Rotunda grounds.

Family members look for loved ones, victims of the Hans Frank order *Aktion AB*.

*Rosinski, lawyers Bajkowski, Czernicki, Sikorski, and Legiec; engineers Bielawski and Klimier; county physician Dr. Tyczkowski; presiding judge of the appeals court Cybulski; Judge Laparewicz; Professor Fenc; school principal Przybolowicz, a few teachers, former students of mine, and many others I knew by sight only."*

Similar arrests were made throughout the region including Chełm, Janów Lubelskie, Puławy. The majority were transported to the Rotunda or the palace in Lublin which had been turned into a prison by the Gestapo and from there to concentration camps. Those who found themselves on the German black list were summarily executed. From June 29 to August 15, 1940 in a small town of Rury Jezuickie, just 3.5 kilometers outside of Lublin there were five major executions. Exhumations conducted in Poland after the war by the Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes identified that "the corpses had their hands tied behind their backs with rope[...] there were blindfolds across the eyes[...] and many skulls had indentations from assault with a blunt instrument."

The report continued:  
"Five graves were excavated. They were troughs 2 meters deep

and 17 meters long. At the bottom of each grave the bodies were lying perpendicular to the axis of the ditch [...] In some places the bodies were lying on top of each other two to three deep[...] Clearly recognizable were the remains of a navy blue uniform of a Polish policeman and the uniform of a prison guard. Two corpses in cassock with clerical collar suggests they were Catholic priests. A few dresses and coats with fur on the remains of women. The rest of the corpses were generally in jackets, vests and pants[...] On the Commission's count it was decided that in the first grave there were 70 bodies; the second contained 20 bodies; the third, about 80; the 4th grave contained 130 and the 5th grave, 50 bodies. (Gałan, Alina. *Akcja A-B na Lubelszczyźnie (A-B Action in the Lublin Region)*. Source: Bulletin of the Institute of National Remembrance (Biuletyn Instytutu Pamięci Narodowej), issue: 12-1/2003-2004, pages 50-54 on www.ceeol.com.)

Due to the significant decomposition, only six of the bodies could clearly be identified by family.

*Aktion AB* continued in the Lublin region long after the June 15th, 1940 deadline specified by Hans Frank.

POLAND FIGHTS / Douglas W. Jacobson

70 Years Ago ...

## Polish Scouts Join the Resistance

"I pledge that I shall serve with the *Szare Szeregi*, safeguard the secrets of the organization, obey orders, and not hesitate to sacrifice my life."

When Rudolf Regner joined the scouts in 1927 at the age of ten, that line was not part of the Polish scout oath. It was added in 1940 when the scouts of Poland were absorbed into an underground resistance organization whose codename was *Szare Szeregi* — The Grey Ranks. Cooperating closely with the underground Home Army, the Grey Ranks numbered close to ten thousand adolescents and teenagers organized by age groups into a variety of special actions against the occupier.

The *Zawisza* — ages 12 to 14 — were instructed in secret schools to prepare for their future involvement in the national Uprising to liberate Poland.

The *Bojowe Szkoły* — ages 15 to 17 — took part in minor sabotage and propaganda actions such as distributing underground leaflets, disrupting German propaganda events, and destroying German flags and, symbols

and signage. They also carried out intense surveillance of German troop movements which were passed on to the Allied armies outside Poland.

The *Grupy Szturmowe* — ages 17 and older — were assault groups trained in secret NCO camps for acts of major sabotage, including the use of firearms and explosives. They operated under the direction of the Home Army's Directorate of Diversion, liberating Polish prisoners from German jails, destroying railroad bridges and German troop trains, and carrying out targeted assassinations of German officers of the SS and Gestapo.

Regardless of age group, all members of The Grey Ranks followed a three-part code of action, known as "Today, Tomorrow, The Day After":

Today — struggle for Polish independence

Tomorrow — prepare for the Uprising and liberation of Poland

The Day After — Prepare for the reconstruction of Poland after the war

Rudolf Regner was born in Dolina, Austrian Galicia and after his scouting and university days worked as a bookkeeper in Turka. When the war broke out Regner, whose code name was "Rudek," was recruited into an elite group of the *Grupy Szturmowe* known as the White Couriers because of his athletic skills and knowledge of outdoor survival techniques.

Numbering no more than thirty former Polish Scouts in their late teens and early twenties, the mission of the White Couriers was to smuggle Polish civilians targeted by the Soviets for deportation out of Poland. Acting alone or in pairs the White Courier operatives led Polish civilians, including women and children, out of the Soviet occupation zone over the mountains to Carpathian Ruthenia and then on to Budapest. The operatives would return to Poland carrying newspapers, money and orders from the Polish Government-in-Exile.

While returning from one of his missions



These girls were members of the *Grupy Szturmowe*

in May, 1940, Rudek was captured by agents of the Soviet NKVD. He was incarcerated at Drohobycz military prison, sentenced to death, and was executed in Lwow in June of 1941. Of the thirty known White Courier operatives, only four survived the war.

Douglas W. Jacobson is the Polish-American author of the award-winning book, *Night of Flames*. A Novel of World War Two. Mr. Jacobson has been a frequent contributor to this newspaper and is currently finishing his second historical novel set in Poland in World War II.

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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

## Defending the Pope

Milwaukee's RC Archbishop **Jerome Listecki** commented on the charges of inaction and concealment brought against **Pope Benedict XVI** in connection with the abuse of deaf children by **Fr. Lawrence Murphy**, now deceased. The situation arose in the Milwaukee archdiocese under its previous bishop and **Archbishop Listecki** made it clear that whatever mistakes occurred were made in Milwaukee not in Rome, and by civil authorities, the local bishops, and other Church officials and not the pope or then **Cardinal Ratzinger**. He reminded his listeners that across the U.S. policies and procedures are in place which ensure as much as humanly possible that no priest with a substantiated allegation of sexual abuse of a minor can ever serve as a priest again in the Roman Catholic Church. The recently released annual assessment of the Church by John Jay College in New York affirmed a relatively low number of new allegations, all dating back some 30 years. Vatican spokesman **Fr. Lombardi S.J.** commended the U.S. Church for establishing a procedure as a model for the rest of the Church.

**IDEOLOGY DIVIDES BISHOPS/SISTERS.** **George Wesolek**, director of the Office of Public Policy and Social Concern with the Archdiocese of San Francisco, observed that the U.S. Catholic bishops opposed the Senate version of the health care reform bill because of its abortion provisions, lack of coverage for immigrants, and lack of strong conscience protections. The Leadership Conference of Women Religious, on the other hand, came out in support of the bill and characterized the bishops' stand as false. Wesolek asks, "So now we have some nuns accusing the bishops of lying about abortion. Are you shocked? Don't be because this has been going on for a long time." He explains that the nuns' perspective and that of the Catholic Health Association, which voiced similar views, is a "view of Catholic social teaching that reflects a vision that they learned in the '60s and '70s ... This view rightly offers deep concern for justice for the poor and vulnerable, but ... minimizes or trivializes the unborn." While the nuns' statement claimed the backing of 59,000 sisters, the endorsement came from its 55 signatories, with the leadership of at least 10,000 sisters voicing their rejection of that position.

**STUPAK DEFENDS HIS VOTE.** Pro-life defender Representative **Bart Stupak**, a Michigan Democrat, spoke in favor of the health care reform bill on the night of the crucial vote and came under severe criticism for that shift. As he explained later, Speaker Nancy Pelosi had a sufficient number of yes votes unannounced but "in her pocket" already. He also had faith that the better-than-nothing deal he made with **President Obama** over a presidential order limiting abortion funding would give at least some protection for the unborn. While the U.S. bishops are watching to see what the practical effects of the bill and the presidential order are, some com-

mentators, such as WASHINGTON POST columnist **Kathleen Parker**, denied that the presidential order will have any enforceable value given the intentionally complicated formulas regarding abortion funding. In the immediate aftermath of the vote for passage of the bill, Rep. Stupak was disinclined from offering the keynote speech for the third annual Illinois Catholics Prayer Breakfast.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ...** Ss. Cyril & Methodius PNCC Parish, Chicago, Ill., celebrating its 70th year. Pastor **Father Senior Joseph Kobylarz** offered the Mass of thanksgiving ... **Sr. Agatha Preis**, CSFN, on her 100th birthday which she celebrated at Nazarethville in Des Plaines, Ill. For a photo album go to [www.nazarethcsfn.org](http://www.nazarethcsfn.org). ... The Congregation of the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus just completing their 50th year of service in North America. Founded by newly canonized **St. Joseph Sebastian Pelczar** in Poland in 1894, the sisters have worked at Vincenian Seminary in Erie, Pa., and its 25 U.S. members currently work in six houses in the dioceses of Philadelphia and Altoona-Johnstown, Pa., Wilmington, Del., and Mandeville, Jamaica. They work in parishes, with the elderly and needy at John Paul II Manor, with young people in retreats and summer camps, and in outreach programs to the sick, impoverished, elderly and unchurched ... **Orchard Lake Seminary**, Orchard Lake, Mich., marking its 125th anniversary. When the need arose for priests to care for Polish immigrants, **Fr. Leopold Moczygemba**, a Polish Franciscan priest, secured permission from Pope Leo XIII to establish a seminary in the United States to train men for the priesthood. **Fr. Moczygemba** entrusted this papal charter to **Fr. Joseph Dabrowski**, another Polish immigrant. In July 1885, the cornerstone was laid for SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary on Detroit's East Side. To date, The seminary has educated almost 3,000 priests.

**STO LAT TO ... Fr. Janusz Marzynski**, appointed associate pastor, Holy Family Parish, Memphis, Mich., and vicariate hospital chaplain for the Blue Water Vicariate. **Fr. Marzynski** has been serving as chaplain at St. John Hospital and Medical Center, Detroit ... **Msrgr. Bernard A. Hebda** of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, under secretary of the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts, on his appointment as Bishop of Gaylord, Texas.

**ST. APOLLONIA WINDOW PRESERVED.** One of the gems of Buffalo's art history will remain in the city, thanks to a group of dentists. The Guild of St. Apollonia has sponsored the stained glass window of their namesake, the patron saint of dentists, that formerly rested in Queen of Peace Church in Buffalo. The window, which is currently undergoing renovations at the Buffalo Religious Arts Center in Black Rock, came to the attention of the guild through **Fr. Richard M. Poblacki**, who served as pastor of Queen of Peace until it merged with St. John

Gualbert Parish in 2007. When the church closed, it was sold to a Muslim group who uses the building as a mosque and teen center. **Swiatek Studios** painstakingly removed the Christian-themed windows over five months and replaced them with plain glass windows. Twenty-five of the 33 stained glass windows are now in the arts center.

The Buffalo Religious Arts Center is run by a growing number of volunteers with a big dream – to establish a place in Buffalo to display and exhibit religious art from the various faith traditions in the community. Located in the former St. Francis Xavier Church, the center was purchased from the diocese with the goal of preserving artwork from closed Buffalo/Western New York churches. The interdenominational works include all 33 stained glass windows from Queen of Peace Church, aluminum Stations of the Cross made in the 1950s, the Ten Commandments in brass and a nine-foot Star of David window from Temple Beth El, as well as items from St. Mary of Sorrows, St. James and the Russian Orthodox Church. The center is open Saturdays and Sundays, May through October, from 1 p.m. Weekdays and bus tours are available by appointment.

**PAPA MEETS.** As part of the celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the Founding of the Orchard Lakes Schools by **Fr. Joseph Dabrowski** – the Orchard Lake Schools hosted the 21st annual convention of the Polish American Priests Association (PAPA) on the Orchard Lake Schools campus as well as other local venues. Some 175-plus Catholic priests, seminarians, and deacons from all over the United States who are either of Polish American descent or are native Poles attended. **Bishop John Yanta**, bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Amarillo, TX and founding president of PAPA, was the main celebrant at a Mass celebrated at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish in Sterling Heights, Mich, with **Fr. Eric Ozech** of Cleveland, Ohio, the national president of PAPA as the homilist.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES SUSPENDS SPOUSAL BENEFITS/FOSTER-CARE PROGRAM.** In light of the legal implications of Washington D.C.'s City Council law recognizing same-sex "marriage" Catholic Charities in Washington has suspended spousal benefits for all new employees and will not allow any changes in the current spousal benefit coverage to include new names. This is to avoid having to support a union that the Church considers immoral. Catholic Charities receives \$22 million from the city for its social programs and would face losing that for non-compliance with the law's requirements if it did not make the stated changes, according to **Edward J. Orzechowski**, President and CEO of Catholic Charities Washington, S.C. In light of the law, Catholic Charities also has transferred its entire foster-care program (children and staff both) to another provider to avoid placing children in families with same-sex parents.

## Nowak Wins State-wide Vanguard Award



BROOKLYN, N.Y. — **Monika Nowak**, a sophomore majoring in architectural technology at New York City College of Technology (City Tech), is one of seven students, out of 93 applicants from throughout New York State, to win the coveted 2009-2010 Vanguard Award, sponsored by the Career Options Institute.

The award recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding secondary and post-secondary students, who are enrolled in Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs that are not traditional to their gender.

Nowak, 35, lives with her husband in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, holds down a full-time job as an assistant project manager at Milrose Consultants. She would like to work as an architect with a company that specializes in the restoration and renovation of existing New York City landmark buildings.

## Lt. Col. Daniel Pawlak Assigned to Poland



BUFFALO, N.Y. — **Lieutenant Colonel Dan Pawlak** has been assigned to be the Chief of Concept Development and Experimentation, Training Branch, Joint Forces Training Center, in Bydgoszcz, Poland.

Col. Pawlak grew up in Tonawanda, N.Y., and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1984. During his time in the Air Force, Pawlak has also served overseas in Germany, South Korea and Iraq.

Prior to his assignment to JFTC, Col. Pawlak was the Director of Operations for the 1st Weather Squadron. He directed Battlefield Weather operations for the US Army's I Corps, the 25th Infantry Division, and seven Brigades in Washington, Alaska, and Hawaii.

Pawlak and his wife, Anita, have three children: Thomas, Katherine, and Sophia. All three children are fluent in both Polish and English.

## 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.

**ST. JUDE NOVENA.** May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the helpless, pray for us. Recite nine times a day. By the 8th day, your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. S.K.

**PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN.** (Never Known To Fail). Oh, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me

herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart and succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you. Grateful thanks, S.K.

**PRAYER TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS.** May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, loved, preserved and glorified throughout the world now and forever. The Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, Helper of the Helpless, pray for us. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for the help of your servant St. Jude in listening to my prayers. Say this prayer nine times for nine days. By the end of the eighth day, your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude for prayers answered. S.K.

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Rev. Richard H. Augustyn, Director



## TRAVELOGUE / Staś Kmieć

## The Riches of Wawel — The Elegant, the Extravagant, and the Exotic

After Poland lost its independence in 1796, the Austrians took over the Wawel Castle and turned it into military quarters. In the early 19th century the arcaded galleries were bricked over. After the occupying Austrian army left the Castle in 1911 and returned it to the Poles, its restoration began. This lasted half a century and restored the Castle almost to its original condition.

A museum was established in the interiors with King Zygmunt August's tapestries recovered from Soviet Russia, as the main exhibit. In the inter-war period the Castle was also a residence of the Head of State. In the last decade of the 20th century the entire complex — now in the care of Wawel Royal Castle Museum — State Art Collection — underwent a further thorough restoration and became a showcase of Wawel's riches.

**TAPESTRIES AND FRIEZES.** Tapestries commissioned by Zygmunt August in the years 1550-1560 are the most valuable treasure of the Renaissance rooms, and the only art object preserved from the original interior decoration. This is the largest collection of tapestries ever commissioned by one ruler (136 items have survived). Woven in Brussels in the third quarter of the 16th century, they depict biblical and grotesque scenes, and the coats of arms of Poland and Lithuania.

From the end of the 16th century the collection belonged to the nation and was part of the Royal Treasury. Looted in 1795 by the Russians, it was reclaimed in the years 1922-1924.

Visitors can admire a great collection of the most valuable tapestries in the world. These masterpieces were made of wool and silk using silver and gold threads by artists from Flanders.

The wall frieze in the *Planet Room* (dating from 1929) which shows the personifications of the Planets is a reminder of 16th century paintings that did not survive. The tapestry entitled "God bless-



King Jan III Sobieski

ing Noah's family" comes from the Zygmunt August collection.

In the *Eagle Room*, the original ceiling with a carved eagle did not survive and was replaced by a new one in the inter-war period. There are portraits of the royals and paintings depicting 17th century historic scenes on the walls. The tapestry (gobelin) "The Death of Decius Mus" was woven to a pattern by the prolific seventeenth-century Flemish Baroque painter Rubens.

The largest room in the castle — the *Senator's Hall* — was originally designated for sessions of the Senate, important state and court ceremonies, royal weddings, theatre performances and balls. The first royal wedding — that of Zygmunt I to Bona Sworza — took place here in 1518. The walls are decorated with large figural tapestries with biblical themes from their son Zygmunt August's collection.

The *Guest Bedroom* has retained its original Renaissance larch wood ceiling, and a painted wall frieze depicting human heads from the first half of the 16th century. The 15th century tapestry — the oldest in the castle's collection, portrays "The Story of the Knight with the Swan," based on five scenes from a medieval poem.

The *Tapestry with Shield-Bear-*

*ing Satyrs* (1555) is one of a group of 13 door hangings with the royal monogram S.A. (Sigismund Augustus) against a grotesque.

**SASHES AND GOWNS.** A Polish element in the textile history is undeniably the weaving of the "kontusz sash," which was a wide band of elaborate cloth. With origins in India and Persia, this was worn by a nobleman to encircle and contain a *kontusz* (a robe-like garment). These sashes were made in special craftsmen's *pensjarnia* workshops, the most well-known of which were in Słuck, Kobylka and Lipków. Polish craftsmen's workshops were at the peak of their development in the 17th and 18th centuries.

These remarkable items, which have rich woven patterns, often with a golden or silver thread, are on display at the Castle. As a part of the old-Polish attire, the sash played an important role as the indicator of the social status and wealth of its owner. They revealed their owners' political views, and they were and still are perceived as a symbol of the culture of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

Among silk and embroidered textiles of royal origin there are many noteworthy items. The *Gown of a Knight of the Order of the Holy Ghost* is made of velvet, grosgrain, silk, gold and silver thread, and was commissioned by King Louis XIV of France. He presented it to King Sobieski in 1676 in Żółkiew. The gown was taken to Russia in 1812 and reclaimed from the Hermitage in 1924.

The Pope's headwear was a gift from Innocent XI to the king in 1684. A wall hanging with the complex coats of arms of Queen

Ludovica Maria Gonzaga, the wife of two Vasas — Wladyslaw IV and Jan Kazimierz, is placed against the *velours de Gênes* background and made of velvet, gold, silk and silver thread.

**TURKISH TENTS.** The artifacts exhibited in the Oriental Art section of Wawel present a particular aspect of Polish heritage and artistic taste, shaped as a result of military and trade contacts with Near East countries. Poland was permeated by art works from Turkey, the Crimea, the Caucasus and Iran — carpets, silks, tapestries, weapons and armory, ceremonial horse saddles and equestrian equipment which eventually became items of everyday and ceremonial use by noblemen and the royal court.

The most essential part of the exhibition is comprised of trophies and artifacts connected with the Vienna campaign of 1683, in which the Polish army commanded by King Jan III Sobieski gained famous victory over the Turkish army commanded by Kara Mustafa Pasha

Captured during the Vienna Campaign, the *Kraków-Paris carpet* is one of the most important works of the Persian Renaissance carpet weaving in world collections. This

is but one half of a medallion carpet representing "paradise", the other half is displayed in the *Musée des Arts Décoratifs* in Paris.

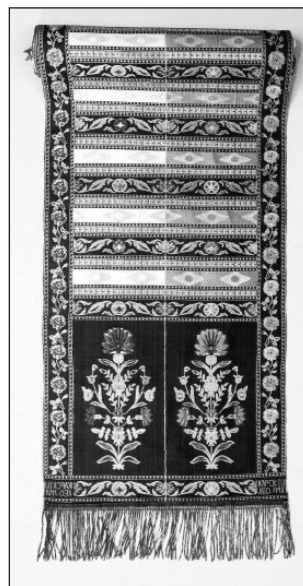
*The Room with banners* — a pantheon of Viennese Victory includes one of the most valuable sets of objects in the Wawel collection — four Turkish banners captured during the campaign of 1683, among them a banner captured in the battle at Parkany.

Among the trophies is a horse-tail ensign — a sign of military rank and the legendary saber of Mustafa Pasha. On pedestals and in show-cases there is Turkish horse armor from the 16th century, a collection of Turkish and Persian sabers from the 17th and 18th centuries, and Turkish and Caucasian prayer-rugs from the 18th and 19th centuries.

A collection of eastern tents, the largest in Europe (13 tents, including 5 complete and fragments of 8 others) includes trophies won at Vienna by Sobieski's troops, and also works obtained by peaceful means in the 17th and 18th centuries, at a time of increased contact between the Polish Republic and the countries of the Muslim orient.

The *Oval Tent with Two Masts* is one of the most exquisite works of Turkish tent making. The largest collection of Ottoman tents is in storage at the Topkapi Palace Museum. The second largest collection is at the Military Museum in Istanbul, with few in display. The only place where the visitor can enter the tents and enjoy their breathtaking beauty is in Wawel Castle.

— Wawel continues next month —



"Kontusz Sash" from Słuck

## ARTSCENE / Staś Kmieć

## Broadway's Billy Elliot is Polish

Michael Dameski has joined the cast of Broadway's *Billy Elliot* in the title role. Based on the 2000 film of the same name, the show won 10 Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

Dameski, 14, who previously played Billy in the Australian production of *Billy Elliot*, makes his Broadway debut. The role of Billy is rotated between three young actors.

An accomplished competitive dancer in the jazz, tap, ballet, hip-hop and musical theatre genres, he was named a *Top 10 Dance Idol Finalist* by the NIDA in 2005, going on to win *Dance Champion of the World* in his age bracket in Los Angeles in 2007.

"I am very excited to make my Broadway debut," said Dameski. "It has always been my dream to be on Broadway and when I heard that I was going to get the opportunity to be Billy at the Imperial Theatre, I couldn't believe it!"

**SCARLETT JOHANSSON ON BROADWAY.** Golden Globe Award nominee **Scarlett Johansson** with Tony Award-winner Liev Schreiber appeared in the Broadway revival of Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge*. Broadway veteran **Peter Kaczorowski** designed the lighting.

Johansson was born in New York City to Melanie Sloan, a producer (of Polish/Ashkenazi Jewish descent) and Danish-born architect Karsten Johansson. She began her acting career in 1994 starring as "Laura Nelson" in *North In 1998*, the acclaimed film *The Horse Whisperer* brought her critical praise and worldwide recognition. Following the film's success, she starred in many other films including the critically acclaimed cult film *Ghost World* (2001), and then the

hit *Lost in Translation* (2003) and then the *Girl with a Pearl Earring* (2003) and Woody Allen's *Match Point* (2005).

She celebrates a "little of both" religions referring to Christmas and Hanukkah and is a Global Ambassador for the aid and development agency, *Oxfam*.



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

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

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## HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

## Chopin and Beyond

CHICAGO – The best of Chicago celebrations honoring Chopin's 200th anniversary, took place on March 20, one of those snowy, rainy and windy Chicago Saturdays. The Chopin Theatre, noted for its innovative theater, cabaret and comedy productions, hosted an intimate musical symposium, "Chopin & Beyond."

This four-hour event presented by distinguished professors from the Jacobs School of Music of Indiana University began with a complimentary Polish-style brunch in the theatre's Parisian-style Cabaret Studio hosted by the Chopin Theatre's proprietors, Zygmunt Dyrkacz and Lela Headd. This was followed by Professor Bill Johnston introducing the program and the performing artists. Dr. Johnston led an informal and interactive discussion with the audience on "Why Chopin is Polish, French, Israeli, Mongolian, Japanese, etc!" Then all guests proceeded to the Theatre's Main Stage to hear Dr. Halina Goldberg, Associate Professor of Musicology, present a multi-media lecture, "Fryderyk Chopin: Varsovian, Pole, Citizen of the World." She added that Chopin is now a citizen of the Universe, since George David Zamka, captain of the latest Endeavor space shuttle mission, took Chopin's music into outer space. Following the lecture, the audience was treated to a concert performed by three outstanding graduate students from the Jacobs School of Music: Alexandre Tsomaia, pianist, from Tbilisi, Georgia; Rafal Zyskowski, violist, from a small town in the Podlaskie Region of Poland; and Laura Waters, vocalist, a native of Roselle, IL, a northwest Chicago suburb. All are recipients of Polish Studies Artists-in-Residence scholarships. The afternoon ended with a breathtaking performance by guest pianist Edward Auer. He performed Chopin's 24 Preludes, Opus 28.

This event also celebrates the 20th anniversary of Chopin Theatre. Zygmunt and Lela like to describe themselves as "the privately owned adventure of a sassy young black MBA from public housing and a middle-aged Polish biologist with a tendency to talk (a lot)."



(l. to. r.): Dr. Lidia Filus of NEIU and Ms. Pasulka

## POLISH AMERICAN EDUCATOR RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION.

**Brigid Pasulka** is not your ordinary high school English teacher. For eight years, Brigid started each workday morning by writing from 5:30 - 7:30 prior to tending to her teaching responsibilities at Whitney Young Magnet High School. Hard work paid off. This Chicago author received the prestigious Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award for the publication of her first novel, "A Long, Long Time Ago And Essentially True."

This novel tells the story of a Polish village couple during World War II and the lovers' granddaughter nearly 50-years later in post-Communist Poland. Her narrative is of her friends, and the people and places she met and visited during her trips to Poland. Two of the book's characters are based on Ms. Pasulka's best friends in Poland. Honored at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston, Ms. Pasulka's award includes an \$8,000 cash prize, a one-week residency in The Distinguished Visiting Writers Series at the University of Idaho's MFA Program in Creative Writing, along with an Ucross Residency Fellowship at the Ucross Foundation in Wyoming, a retreat for artists and writers.

## THE FULFILLMENT OF VISIONARY RETURN.

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas and Chicago Alderwoman Toni Preckwinkle presented an award of excellence to Stella Tobis, author of the book "The Fulfillment of Visionary Return," and for educating the public about the Hitler/Stalin conspiracy of the

deportation of thousands of Poles to Siberia. Ms. Tobis, her sister Irene Sobczak, and their mother were shipped by cattle train to Siberia via Stalin's orders. She and her sister managed to leave Siberia, but their mother was lost. The two orphaned



[photocap] l. to r.: Toni Preckwinkle, Stella Tobis, Irene Sobczak, Maria Pappas,

girls were sent to Iran, India and, then, Mexico. Eventually they were sponsored by Chicago Polonians and made Chicago their home. The book tells of their amazing survival and deep faith.

## Saluted for Outstanding Philanthropy



(l. to r.): Carr, McCreary, Davino, Cepeda, and Kosinski.

The Clerk of the Circuit Cook of Cook County, the Honorable Dorothy Brown, along with the Clerk's Office Women's Advisory Committee and the Chase Women of Color Employee Network Group celebrated "Women's History Month" by saluting seven outstanding women in finance and philanthropy. On March 30, and set at the Chase Tower Auditorium, over 200 guests honored these outstanding women. This multi-cultural group of women brought an outstanding array of talent and hard work to the Chicago area.

Chicago Polonia's **Joan Kosinski**, an honored recipient, has been an active member of the Polish American community. The child of Polish immigrants, Mrs. Kosinski grew up in the "Back-of-the-Yard" neighborhood on Chicago's Southside, and has been a life-long Chicago Southsider. Mrs. Kosinski has distinguished herself as a volunteer, a philanthropist, and an active leader in Chicago. Her leadership roles include past-president of The Polish Museum of America (PMA), past president of the Legion of Young Polish Women, past chair of the Legion's White and Red Ball, an advisory board member of St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital, and an active supporter of the Illinois Guild for the Blind. She is a member of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, the Polish National Alliance, the Polish Women's Alliance, and the Polish Women's Civic Club. Presently, she is Vice-President of the PMA. Joan Kosinski has been recognized for her contributions to the Polish American community with the PMA's "Polish Spirit Award," and the Advocates Society's "Award of Merit."

been honored as a person of generosity, a community organizer, a very active member of the Chicago Cath-



(l. to r.): Kasia Kokocinski, Natalia Ladzinska, Angella Wojnowski, Elizabeth Tomal, Sara Balchanowska. Pauline Kukla, Patricia Lis, Amanda Orlowski, Katarzyna Lis

**LEGION HOLDS 71ST WHITE AND RED BALL.** The Legion of Young Polish Women held its 71st annual White and Red Ball (Bal Amarantowy) on March 13 in the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton Chicago. Approximately 400 guests joined in celebrating the presentation of nine debutantes from the Chicago area's Polish American community. Chaired by Teresa Skawski, this black-tie gala raised funds for the Legion's various charitable endeavors. Since 1939, the Legion has raised over \$1.8 million for many worthy causes throughout the Chicago area, the United States and the world. This year's distinguished guest and Master of Ceremonies was Walter L. Sojka. A funeral director for 56 years, Mr. Sojka has

olic and Polish American community. He is a true inspirational leader and volunteer. The White and Red Ball would not be possible without the generous help of the debutantes, their families, Legion's friends, and the business community.

**UIC NAMES SCHOLARS TO POLISH CHAIRS.** The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) College of Liberal Arts and Sciences named Polish scholar Michal Pawel Markowski as the inaugural Chair in Polish Language and Literature, and selected Keely Stauter-Halsted to the inaugural Chair in History of Poland. Both scholars will take the realm of the Stefan and Lucy Hejna Family Chairs. Professor Markowski is presently the Director of

the Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and is Chair of the International Polish Studies at Jagellonian University in Krakow. Dr. Markowski is considered one of Poland's foremost public intellectuals, an internationally acclaimed scholar of Polish literature and culture, and has authored over 150 essays and more than a dozen books. Markowski received his master's and doctoral degrees in Literary Theory from Jagellonian University. His appointment at UIC "brings greater distinction to the Hejna Chair." Professor Stauter-Halsted is currently the interim chair and Associate Professor of History at Michigan State University. She published articles which examine the non-elite social classes and those population groups excluded from Polish society. Her work has explored Polish-Jewish relations, as well as the culture and history of Jewish communities in Poland. Professor Stauter-Halsted received her master's in Russian and Eastern European Studies and a doctorate in History from the University of Michigan. Pending the approval of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees, Professors Markowski and Stauter-Halsted appointments will begin on August 16, 2010.

Almost two years ago, Romuald "Ron" Hejna passed away leaving an indelible mark on Chicago and its Polish American community. He bequeathed \$10 million to the University of Illinois at Chicago to be used to establish these two chairs. This is the second largest gift from an individual to UIC and the largest single gift to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

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POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

# Dyngus Day Wrap-Up

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Western New York once again showed why it is known as the “Dyngus Day Capital of the World” on Easter Monday 2010. Thousands of people and all types of polka music filled the more than 25 official party sites across Buffalo and its suburbs. The Sobieski Shuttle ferried merrymakers between the various venues. New attractions this year included the Dyngus Day Party Tent in Pussy Willow Park on Memorial Drive; “Doors Open Dyngus” which provided tours of St. Stanislaus and Corpus Christi Churches, the Central Terminal and the Broadway Market; and the Polish Cafe at the Polish Army Veterans Post.

The beautiful weather helped to fill the route of the 4th Annual Dyngus Day Parade through Buffalo’s Historic Polonia district with throngs of people armed with pussy willows and squirt guns. Dyngus Day Buffalo announced the following winners of its Dyngus Day Parade Awards: Polish Princess Birthday Extravaganza and Bowling Pins (Dyngus Day Capital of the World Award); Ironworkers Local #6 (Best Use of Red and White); St. Mark’s Drill Team (Best Use of Pussy Willows); Buffalo Infringement Festival (Best Musical Performance) and Buffalo Re-Use (Best Demonstration of “Love of Buffalo”).

Hats off to Marty Biniasz and “Airborne” Eddy Dobosiewicz for another great celebration. For photos of this year’s fun, visit Dyngus Day Buffalo at [www.dyngusdaybuffalo.com](http://www.dyngusdaybuffalo.com) or on Facebook.

**POLONIA TIDBITS.** Broadway Fillmore Alive provided a self-guided tour of seven historic churches in the Broadway-Fillmore area of Buffalo for the traditional Holy Thursday pilgrimage ... **Polish National Alliance Lodge 2517** of Syracuse elected the following leadership for 2010: Janet Cornier (president), Helen Kowalczyk (vice-president), Stella Pilat (financial secretary), Cheryl Visconti (recording secretary), Mary Jo Tartaglia (treasurer) and Lottie Starowicz (sergeant-at-arms) ... The **Polish Cultural**

**Foundation** has established an open group on Facebook ... **Dr. Magdalena Modrzejewska** spoke on “Lodz: Promised Land, Waste Land” as part of the University of Rochester’s Skalny Lecture Series on April 7 ... Buffalo attorney **James Ostrowski** has published his third book, “Direct Citizen Action: How We Can Win The Second American Revolution Without Firing a Shot.”

On the 8th, the **Polish Genealogical Society of NYS** heard Michael Rizzo’s presentation on Buffalo’s Polish gangsters, and Huminski’s Angels gave a seminar on Polish adoption at the Amherst Marriott ... Buffalo’s Albright-Knox Art Gallery offered “**The History of Polish Art**” as its April 9th “Gusto in the Gallery” event ... WBFO-FM received a regional Edward R. Murrow Award for its story about the **Polish Legacy Project - WWII Conference** ... The **Polish Union of America** sponsored a trip to Washington, D.C. April 9 through 12.

**Lucyna Dziezic’s** Spring Polish language courses in the Maryvale School District Continuing Education Program started in early April... Erie County Judge **Michael Pietruszka** represented the judiciary at the American Bar Association Day at the United Nations in NYC on April 12 ... On April 13, the **Polish Heritage Society of Rochester** presented a workshop entitled “Wycinanki: Traditional Paper Cutouts” at St. John Fisher College ... “**A Blessing To One Another: Pope John Paul II and the Jewish People**,” an interactive exhibit created by Xavier University, opened at the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum on Porter Avenue in Buffalo on April 16. Information on the exhibit is available at [www.blessingexhibit.org/exhibit.cfm](http://www.blessingexhibit.org/exhibit.cfm). The exhibit, which was brought to WNY by the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College, continues until June 30.

The WNY Division of the **Polish American Congress** honored Frances Zalewski, Therese Clarke, Kimberly Kucharski and the Polish Legacy Project-World War II at its “Swienconka” at St. Stanislaus Parish on April 17. The PAC also

installed division president Richard Solecki, vice-president Dina Szymanski, treasurer Andrew Kucharski, secretary Adeline Wujcikowski, national directors Richard Mazella and Christine Lukasiewicz-Kibler, and directors Michael Pietruszka, Edward Reska, and Mira Szramel ... Other WNY groups hosting “Swiecone” during April included the **Professional and Businessmen’s Association**, **St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish** in Rochester and the **Polish Cadets** of Buffalo ... The AM-POL Eagle, WNY Polish American weekly newspaper, held its 2009 **Citizens of the Year** Award Luncheon at Kloc’s Banquet Hall in West Seneca on April 18 ... Also on the 18th, **Krzysztof Latala** was the featured performer in an organ concert in honor of John Paul II at Our Lady of Sorrow Parish in Toronto, Ontario, and Cheektowaga teacher Henry Pogodzinski lectured on “The Polish Command in the American Civil War” at the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning in Chicopee, Mass. ... April 20 brought “The June 1956 Uprising in Poznan: Agency, Memory, Heritage and Commemoration in Post-Soviet Society” to the **Munk Centre** for International Studies in Toronto and “An Evening of Poetry with Polish Poet **Piotr Sommer**” to the University of Rochester River Campus ... North Tonawanda native **Paul Wojtaszek** and Orchard Park Town Justice **Deborah Chimes** have announced their candidacies for seats on the NYS Supreme Court in November’s elections.

If you have an item for this column, please send the information to me 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](mailto: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](http://www.polegl.org).

# Cop Beats Crook



EAST AURORA, N.Y. — Village Trustee **Allan A. Kasprzak**, a Buffalo Police Officer, defeated incumbent Mayor Clark W. Crook to win a tight race for Mayor of the Village of East Aurora.

Kasprzak entered the race because of Crook’s push for dissolution of East Aurora, an historic village of Buffalo that was home to Elbert Hubbard and the Roycroft movement.

“I took a gamble and stepped up here because of what I believed in,” Kasprzak told the BUFFALO NEWS. “I think people are happy the Village of East Aurora exists.”

Kasprzak, who just completed his first term as trustee, is believed to be the first Polish American and first Democrat to serve as mayor.

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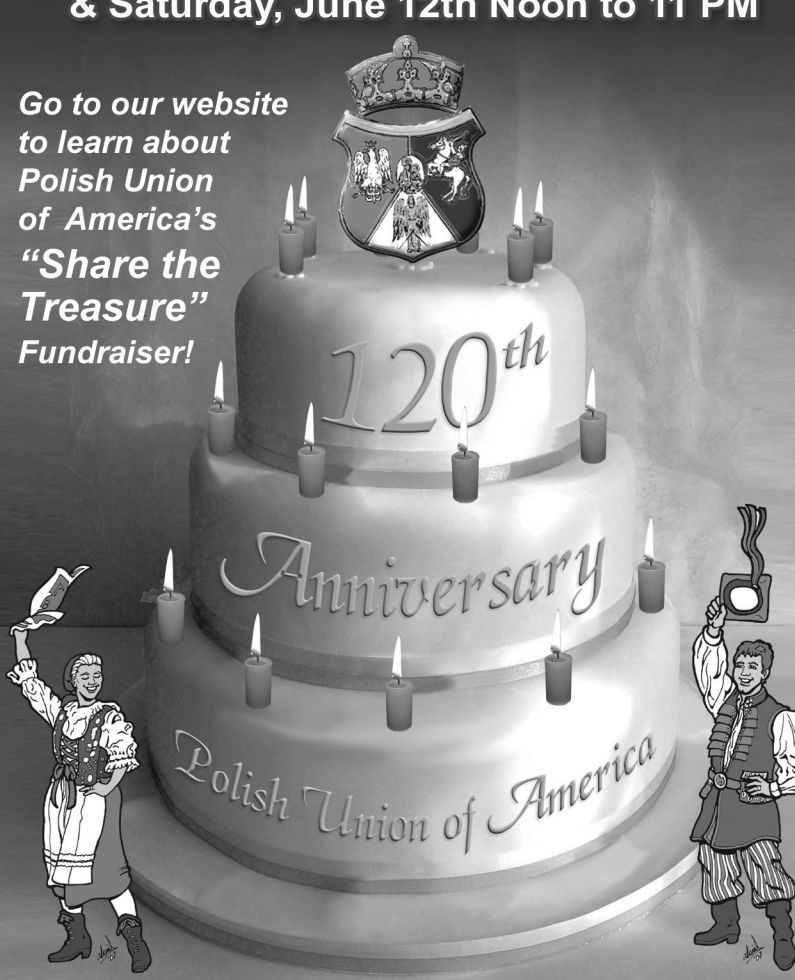


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HAMTRAMCK BEAT / Michelle Odrobina-Jiompkowski

## Love of Polish Roman Catholic Faith Connects Hamtramck and the Orchard Lake Schools

Hamtramck and Orchard Lake, Michigan, couldn't be more different. While Hamtramck is a vital, gritty blue-collar type of city, the City of Orchard Lake is located in Oakland County, one of the richest counties in Michigan. However, the two share a long-standing Polish Roman Catholic faith tradition. Orchard Lake Schools remain the premier site of Polish American studies for the priesthood and the repository of Polish American history archives for the area and the country.

In Hamtramck, the month of May means jam-packed events (pun intended), this year, May 1-2, for its 42nd year of festivities. It's not unusual for parishioners to participate both at the festival and then travel to the Orchard Lake Schools for its observance of the May 3rd Polish Constitution Day.

For 2010, the Polish Day Parade Committee honors Judge Stephen S. Sierawski in its fund-raising roast, Thursday, May 6, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Villa Penna at 43985 Hayes Road in Sterling Heights. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. followed by the entertainment. Judge Sierawski represents 41-A District Court, Sterling Heights. Roast and parade chairman Judge John M. Chmura of the Warren District Court will serve as the master of ceremonies. Roasters are Mark A. Hackel, Macomb County Sheriff; Richard J. Notte, mayor of Sterling Heights; Anthony V. Marrocco, Macomb County Public Works Commissioner; Eric J. Smith, Macomb County Prosecuting Attorney; Judge Richard L. Caretti, Macomb County Circuit Court; and Judge Douglas P. Shepherd, Shelby Township District Court. All proceeds benefit the annual Hamtramck Polish Day Parade held on Labor Day. For more information, call (586) 574-4925.

Judge Sierawski will also participate as the grand marshal of the Polish Day Parade with its theme this year, the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Orchard Lake Schools and the 100th anniversary of the Orchard Lake campus. For a virtual tour of the schools, visit [www.orchardlakeschools.com](http://www.orchardlakeschools.com).

**SCHOOLS' SIGNIFICANCE.** In his Centennial message on the Schools' Web site, Chancellor Rev. Timothy Whalen wrote, "With the blessing of Pope Leo XIII and the permission of Bishop Casper Borgess, the archbishop of Detroit, the cornerstone of what was to become known as "The

Polish Seminary," was laid on July 22, 1885, in the building that was being constructed on the corner of Forest Street and St. Aubin Avenue. On that occasion, the founder of the Orchard Lake Schools, Fr. Joseph Dabrowski, shared the vision that was in his heart with all those who had gathered for that historic moment. He said, "I have in view the education of the Polish candidates for the priesthood and the education of others, so that they may be on par with other young men in this country... We Poles have the right to enjoy complete liberty in this country, but liberty cannot be enjoyed fully by uneducated people. The better a people is educated, the better they enjoy liberty and the better citizens they become of America. ... I deem the erection of this seminary more necessary than the building of expensive churches. Intelligence only makes men free."

The Chancellor continued: "Since 1885, over 3,000 priests have been educated and formed through the combined programs of Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary, St. Mary's College and St. Mary's Preparatory. Presently on campuses both at Orchard Lake and Krakow, Poland, the seminary is educating 63 students, preparing to serve as priests in over a dozen dioceses throughout the United States, and St. Mary's Preparatory, with an enrollment of 480, is preparing young men from seven countries to be the future leaders of tomorrow in commerce and industry."

From the original Detroit site after 24 years of growth and expansion, larger quarters were required and the seminary was transferred to Orchard Lake in 1909, approximately 25 miles northwest of Detroit, scenic grounds of the former Michigan Military Academy. Bound by three lakes, the campus forms a lovely and tranquil oasis for academic studies.

Remodeling and new construction from 1912 through 1928 permitted further growth in enrollment. Three distinct schools: Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary, St. Mary's College and St. Mary's Preparatory emerged from a restructuring of the seminary in 1927-28. Each educational institution offered a four-year program.

Today, the college is known as Madonna University, Orchard Lake Campus, operated by the Felician Sisters, while the seminary and preparatory continue as the Orchard



Marcin Chumiecki

Lake Schools. The late Pope John Paul II visited the OLS, and a historic marker at the "Castle" (the residence for the Chancellor and other priests), memorializes his visits to the schools. Of the schools, the Polish Pope wrote, "If the Orchard Lake Schools did not exist, it would be necessary to create them."

**POLISH MISSION.** On the OLS campus, Marcin Chumiecki works as the director of the Polish Mission. When asked what is the Polish Mission, Chumiecki said that the Polish Mission is the organization created in 1885 by Father Joseph Dabrowski. He was the founder of our schools. And he created the very first Polish seminary in Detroit to help Polonia, Polish people — Polish immigrants in their way to establish themselves in the United States. For me, and for all of us, for the Chancellor, it was always the Polish mission from the time the schools were started 125 years ago. For many, many years, the Orchard Lake Schools were here, serving through World War II, through our Cold War in the '80s, and we played a big role in preserving our culture in the Detroit area and Michigan.

According to Chumiecki, the Chancellor of the Schools, Rev. Timothy Whalen had the idea to organize an official third department for the Orchard Lake Schools which was called the Polish Mission. Chumiecki said, "I was hired here in August 2008, and my main goal and objective was to create a business model for our Polish Mission which includes a central archives for Polonia, World War II museum collections, a Polish rare book collection, the Polish-American Liturgical Center, responsible for the publication of "Pan z Wami," and the Polish Language Joseph Dabrowski School. Recently, we started

our new project, which is the Polonica Americana Research Institute (PARI)." Cecile Wendt Jensen, M.A., a Certified Genealogist, TM, directs the new institute. Plans are for hosting genealogical workshops, lectures and seminars for those interested in Polish heritage and genealogy. PARI will also feature databases and host webinars for researchers who cannot visit the campus.

According to Chancellor Rev. Timothy Whalen, there is the possibility of Lech Walesa visiting the campus in fall 2010.

For more information about the Polish Mission, contact [mchumiecki@orchardlakeschools.com](mailto:mchumiecki@orchardlakeschools.com) or visit [www.polishmission.com](http://www.polishmission.com).

**POLISH AMERICAN NIGHT.** The Polish Roman Catholic Union of American will sponsor the 40th annual Detroit Tigers Polish-American Night, Friday, May 28, with the Detroit Tigers playing against the Oakland Athletics at 7:05 p.m., live bands and traditional Polish dancing begin at 5:30 p.m. with a post-game fireworks show also included, weather permitting. Ticket reservation deadline — a \$35 ticket package — is due by May 14. Included in the package are an upper box seat, official Polish-American Night T-shirt, food voucher (hot dog, bag of chips and Pepsi) and a \$5 donation to the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. Mail your payment Detroit Tigers, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48201 Attn: Dan Griesbaum Jr. For other inquiries, e-mail [Dan.Griesbaum@DetroitTigers.com](mailto:Dan.Griesbaum@DetroitTigers.com).

**PERSONAL MUSINGS.** When I was at a public memorial service, I winced when I heard an otherwise educated woman of Polish American descent refer to herself as a Polack in a talk before a large and diverse audience. Not only once, but twice did she use the defamatory word. I wish Polish Americans like this woman and others would think of how they are presenting themselves to the world and take more pride in their heritage.

**SEASONAL GREETINGS.** Happy Mother's Day to my mother, Casmira Odrobina of Hamtramck. Bog Zaplac. Happy Father's Day. My congratulations especially go out to my niece, Katrina Odrobina, of Chicago, on her graduation from Lane Technical High School — We love you and are very proud of you!

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

Renew your subscription on line at [www.polamjournal.com](http://www.polamjournal.com)

## Exhibition of World War II Artist Szyk



Arthur Szyk

NEW YORK — A major exhibition, "Arthur Szyk: Methods of a Master Illuminator," took place at the Broome Street Gallery, Soho, 498 Broome St, New York City ([www.szyk.com](http://www.szyk.com)).

A Paris-educated Polish Jew who escaped to New York from Europe just ahead of the Holocaust, Arthur Szyk (1894-1951) is best known for his World War II anti-Nazi political art and his famous *Passover Haggadah*. The 20th century artist single-handedly revived the medieval tradition of illumination. His exquisite watercolor and gouache illuminated miniatures, many of which were published as illustrated fine art books. A master of miniature painting and calligraphy, Szyk brought his unmistakable style to subjects as diverse as biblical stories, literary classics, and political caricature and cartoon.

Szyk was born in Łódź, then a part of the Russian Empire, to an upper-middle-class family. Though his household was a secular one, Szyk grew up surrounded by the heroic stories of the Bible. The focal point of the show was the works from a newly discovered 1910s sketchbook. (sk)

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## PAHA

[www.polishamericanstudies.org](http://www.polishamericanstudies.org)

The Polish American Historical Association was established in December 1942 as a special commission of the The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America to collect, compile and publish information about Polish Americans. In October 1944, it was reorganized as a national American society to promote study and research in the history and social background of Americans of Polish descent. The Association, which was incorporated under the laws of Illinois in 1972, strives to assist and cooperate with all individuals and organizations interested in Polish American life and history. Contributions in support of the work of the Association are tax-exempt. Regular one-year membership to the Association is \$30.00.

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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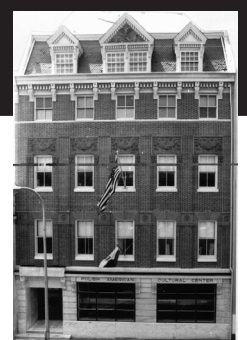
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## Polka Family Band Hurt in Accident

CLEVELAND — Several members of the Polka Family were treated and released from area hospitals after the group's van overturned in the early hours of April 11.

The group was headed East for a Sunday performance in New York state. It had just finished performing at a dance in Cleveland.

## Sturr, Forman, Maestro's Men at Pierogi Festival

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — This year's annual Pierogi Festival will be held May 16 at the Elks Pavilion, and feature The Maestro's Men, Jimmy Sturr & his Orchestra and the Eddie Forman Orchestra.

This event begins at 1:00 p.m. and is held rain or shine.

For tickets, call Carol Forman at (413) 584-2043.

## Trust Me: Krajewski Scores Another Polka Hit With Latest Recording

by Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

LaGrange Street is a northwest artery that starts in downtown Toledo and wanders through several neighborhoods before ending rather unceremoniously in an industrial area in the western part of the city. In between, the area roughly bounded by Austin Street to the south and Manhattan Boulevard to the north was once home to thousands of Polish Americans who kept their culture alive as do most first-generation Americans: by preserving the old country traditions as closely as they could. As time went on, European ways melded with American mores and these changes were naturally reflected in the music, which many of the old timers played in the bars and clubs that dotted the neighborhood.

To the casual traveler, the blighted buildings and run-down neighborhoods of the Old North End are quickly forgotten. Clearly, the churches, schools, and businesses that served the Poles are changing, as is the demographic of the neighborhood. What used to be called "LaGrinka" by Toledo Polonia is today known as the Polish Village and recent debate among neighborhood organizations has given rise to changing the name yet again as the area has become ethnically diverse.

Amidst these changes, many Toledoans continue to be devoted to their Polish heritage, including several second and third generation polka musicians still creating live polka music. Perhaps one of the best-known musicians working today is Randy Krajewski.

Krajewski's interest in music has been present nearly his entire life. "I started taking accordion lessons from 'Joe's Accordion' at the age of 5. I wanted to be a drummer. Joe said I was too little to play the drums, but I was big enough to hold an accordion. Go figure."

Randy first performed in public at the age of 8 with Johnny O and the Moonlighters. He played solo gigs for clubs around town when he was 10. Over the years, Randy has been involved in several Toledo bands, including the Coachmen from ages 13-18, Holy Toledo Polka Stars ages 18-20, A Touch of Brass when he was 23, and Choice (which Randy founded), Bob Earl and the All-Stars, and Bob Zielinski and the Kingsmen simultaneously in the late 80s-early 90s.

When Eddie Biegaj decided to form Cru-

sade in 1996, Randy was a natural choice on the accordion. Crusade performed across the United States and gained acclaim as the 'Bad Boys of Polka.' As time passed, Randy made the decision to leave Crusade for a full time job outside the music scene. This has not kept him away from polkas, however. Today, Randy fronts a unique blend of musicians called 'Badinov'. In all, Randy has recorded 18+ recordings, either as a member or leader of the group.

Badinov's new recording, "Trust Me," is a testament to the creative energy that happens when serious musicians get together. "Trust Me" had its start in 2006. Randy and drummer Matt Lewandowski completed three songs, along with Richie Kojs on trumpet, as well as a five-song medley in Matt's studio in Cheektowaga, New York. After Matt went on to other projects, the recording evolved as Randy continued to compose tunes and work with well-known Toledo musicians on additional tracks.

"Trust Me" is comprised of twelve songs total. The first song, "Seen' is Believin,'" is a country-style tune that Randy wrote based on a popular catch phrase. Listeners will hear traces of Randy's signature writing style throughout this song. Randy characterizes that style as "progressive while still showing respect for tradition." He counts among his influences polka, Cajun, blues, and country. The second tune, "Ja Tancuje" builds on the popularity of the immensely popular "Do You Remember?" the most requested song the band plays at live gigs.

"Ja Tancuje" showcases Randy's accordion talent, and will surely please anyone who appreciates the driving accordion sound. The third song, "Pic Rose" takes its name from the neighborhood bar of the same name just off LaGrange street on Franklin Avenue. "Pic Rose" begins with an old-style AM radio

commercial intro by "dj" Gern Blanton that fades into this tune written by Randy to honor a favorite gathering place.

The next two songs are "Siwy Kon," a traditional tune sung by Jim Rutkowski, leader of A Touch of Brass, backed with the old traditional folk tune "The Old Grey Mare", and C'mon In (Y'All Come) by Eddie Blazonczyk. "Grab Your Balls, We're Goin' Bowling," originally done by the Casuals, is a tune that Randy discovered went over well at live shows.

Alyson Krajewski makes her recording debut on the seventh tune. "Wilenszczyzny Drogi Kraj" is a traditional waltz, with vocals by Randy's older daughter. Aly has been dancing for seven years and singing for approximately three years with The Echoes of Poland dance group. This wartime tune is done a bit differently here: there are no drums or trumpets. Instead, an acoustic guitar, flute, and accordion come together to give this beautiful melody sung by 14-year-old Aly an especially melancholy feel.

The "Toledo Wedding March" will bring back memories to anyone who had an old-fashioned Polish wedding in Toledo in the past 50 years. "At Joe's Accordion, I was given lessons to practice each week, which were wedding marches being played in Toledo at the time," said Randy. "They didn't have titles, just Wedding March #1, #2, #3 etc. Later, I learned that a lot of these marches were unique to Toledo weddings, and it was to preserve these old tunes that this medley came about." Jimmy Mackiewicz, Jr. plays all of the reeds and horns, and Matt Lewandowski plays the drums, with Randy covering all other instruments.

"Honkin' on Bobo" takes its title from an album by Aerosmith. It is the most non-traditional of the originals on Trust Me, and features Rich Benkowski on concertina. "Green Horse" is an instrumental that Randy always wanted to record, after having heard it done by the Chicago Sound in the 1970s.

Trust Me winds to a close with two more

songs that Randy wrote: "Closin' Time" which brings the record nearly to an end, but not before the bonus track honoring a local Polish club: Randy wrote "Christmas Time at Commodore" for the annual Christmas party at the Commodore Club on LaGrange Street. Randy has played at this event for over 16 years, and what started as a solo gig for him has turned into a polka jam session where many of the local players come out and join in the holiday spirit.

Personnel on Trust Me are: Randy on accordion, piano, bass, and vocals, Matt Lewandowski on drums on tracks 1,5,8, and 9, Frankie Dramczyk on drums on all other tracks, Eric Hite on accordion and vocals, Rich Benkowski on concertina, Jim Mackiewicz Jr. on clarinet and trumpet, and Andy Pawlak on trumpet and vocals.

What's next for Badinov? "We are looking forward to this cd and getting our sound 'out there'," says Randy. "We're actively developing more local gigs like the Blarney (a bar in downtown Toledo), and gig opportunities in Michigan and Pennsylvania. I'm happy to be working with Rich Benkowski (one of my polka heroes), someone who knows how difficult it is to get a group of guys together who get along and share a common vision. We really have all of that going for us and I am anxious to see where we can take it. Andy Pawlak and I are doing a lot of writing these days and have a new/different project simmering already. It will be unique, historical and unlike anything done before, polka recording wise."

Badinov brings all of the energy and talent evident on Trust Me to each live show. Badinov can be seen next at the LaGrange Street Polish Festival in July. To learn more about Randy Krajewski and Badinov, or to obtain a copy of "Trust Me," contact Randy at Dr.Boogaloo@toast.net.

◆◆◆

Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk wrote for the POLKA NEWS, later the POLKA TIMES, from 1997-2008. Her column was called "Polkas in Toledo." She also authored several feature articles about Crusade, the Polish-American Concert Band, and A Touch of Brass, among others. Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk has also published several articles about music and polkas in a periodical called BEND OF THE RIVER in Toledo. She enjoys reporting about Polish American culture.

### POLKA JUKEBOX / Steve Litwin

## Years of Experience Now on CD

**THE STEVE DRZEWICKI BAND** has been around for 30 years and their newly released CD, *Live at St. Stan's A.C. Polish Fest*, is a treat for fans of this hard-working Michigan polka band. Featuring 18 tracks of familiar tunes, the entire package was recorded live at the St. Stan's Polish Fest in Bay City, Michigan, June 29, 2009.

With a dozen musicians and vocalists adding their talents, the listener will find everything from "Apples, Peaches, Pumpkin Pie" and "Zosia," to "Orange Blossom Special" and "Red Wing" polka, based on the songs most requested at festivals. Tunes that should be highlighted include "Maple Sugar" and the fiddle work of Gary Mueller, "Magic Trumpets" with some hot horns, and "Tuba" polka with a real tuba and "Red Wing," where the entire band shows how much they enjoy the music.

Contact: Steve Drzewicki at (989) 893-2830 or email: teff18@yahoo.com.

**ARNIE CHECKALSKI** was born in Weyershaeuser, Wisconsin in 1936 and has been a performing musician since 1952, playing

sax, clarinet, drums, piano and concertina. His latest recording, *Concertina Polka Party*, is a musical demonstration of his talent and love of the music, the concertina, and all the instruments he has mastered.

A full collection of music done smoothly and with heart, this 22-track project gives the listener a true variety of everything from "Chicago Land Twirl," to "St. Paul" waltz, to Zima's "Woodpecker Hop" oberek to Marisha Data's "Beautiful Castle" waltz. From the mellow sax on "Lois" waltz, to the sweet clarinet on "Merry-Go-Round" polka, to a great one-man instrumental combo on "South West Medley Swing," Arnie does them all and does them expertly.

Donnie Klossner was the recording engineer and Polka Dan Zantek handled cover design and packaging, but the true star of *Concertina Polka Party* is Arnie Checkalski, a man who plays "Getting Old" polka but truly gets younger with each day.

Write: Arnie Checkalski 1885 19 3/4 Street, Rice Lake, WI 54868 or telephone: (715) 236-7194. Arnie can also be reached

via email at: Checkalski7194@charter.net.

**SHOUTIN' OUT POLKAS - STAS BULANDA'S EARLY HITS**, on the Chicago Polkas label, is not only a tribute to Stas Bulanda, who passed away in January of this year, but a classic collection of songs recorded by this Chicago musician over his career. Among those included in this 15 track CD are "I Wanna Shout," "APB Opening Theme," "I Never Knew," and "Accordion-Concertina" polka, all recorded with the Average Polka Band. There are also songs Bulanda recorded with Windy City Brass, the Dial-A-Tones, Tone-Aires and Polka All-Stars. Some of these were only released on vinyl LPs or 45 RPM records.

Truly a unique grouping of Bulanda performances, this is also polka musical history now available on CD. Thanks to Chicago Polkas, Stas Bulanda will always be with us on *Shoutin' Out Polkas - Stas Bulanda's Early Hits*.

## Full Circle Plans 2011 Cruise

LAFAYETTE, N.Y. — Plans are now finalized for the 2011 Full Circle "Polka Cruise with the Stars IV." The band lineup includes Lenny Gomulka and Chicago Push, Jimmy Weber and the "reunited" "Sounds Polka Band," and the host band "Full Circle." Also onboard will be polka DJ Kenny Olowin with lots of games and prizes as well as all the activities and entertainment a Carnival cruise ship has to offer.

Catering to the requests of their cruise customers, this Full Circle cruise will offer a smaller ship, the Carnival Miracle, an eight day venue, and different ports, Aruba, Curacao, La Romana (Dominican Republic), and Grand Turk.

Cruise dates are March 11-19, 2011. Visit [www.gonefullcircle.com](http://www.gonefullcircle.com) for more details or contact Helga Leonard of a Dream Trip 4 U at [helga@adreamtrip4u.com](mailto:helga@adreamtrip4u.com) or call her at (724) 234-2033. Ask about our special pricing for past cruise guests and those booking early.

## Chuck Stringhill Passes

NORTH BELLE VERNON, Pa. — Charles S. "Chuck" Stringhill, 48, son of Judy Stringhill, died March 15, 2010, after a long battle with cancer.

Loving polka music, Chuck helped his mother at many of the polka festivals she promoted. As a young child, he was part of the Junior Polka Ambassador Dancers in the early 1960s and '70s that she also sponsored.

NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

# An Easter and Dyngus Whirlwind

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Whew. It was quite the Easter weekend starting with my annual trip with my son and his family from Rochester to the Broadway Market on Good Friday. The remarkable sights and scents are in abundance as are the shoppers. A visit here is a must during the Easter

There were many photos taken on Dyngus Day in the paper on April 6, but — wow — right on the front page of the Buffalo News were two cute young dancers that are members of the Polish Heritage Dance group who were performing on Dyngus Day.



Wally Dombrowski of PCM.

It was heartwarming to see that these children were Stephen Kurdziel, 5, and Sara Kurdziel, 7, whose parents are Richie, Jr. and Jennifer who are avid polka fans and attend many doings. How wonderful that these children are involved in this activity. How proud the parents and grandparents, Carol and Casey Kliszak, and Richie Kurdziel, must be.

**USPA DANCE.** On March 27, the United States Polka Association held its 3rd Annual Spring Dance at Pott's featuring the Polka Country Musicians. A large crowd was there to hear this fantastic band. Rich Dombrowski could not play this job due to a family commitment so Richie Kois filled in and did a great job. Wally Dombrowski had to do all the fiddle work but that comes easy to him and he sounded excellent. A good mixture of traditional and country flavored polkas were played.

**GET WELL SOON.** Get well wishes go out to some of our friends that have been sick including Dennis Miesowicz, Jerry Darlak, Nancy Wisniewski, Pat Brady, and Carol Kliszak. And to all the guys in the Polka Family Band, too, after their accident outside of Cleveland. I hope everyone with health problems will be all better soon.

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY.** My sincerest wishes go out to all the mothers for a fabulous Mother's day. Hope you get all the love, recognition and appreciation you so rightfully deserve not just on your special day but every day.

holiday season. You will be amazed at the displays of food.

On Saturday, the blessing of food at Church is a must, too, and that is a meaningful tradition. After Mass, then, a great dinner with family on Easter Sunday. Then, it's time to be with the polka friends and dance and have some fun at the Leonard Post and more of the same on Easter Monday, Dyngus Day. I still can't believe the crowds that fill every available space at all the various Dyngus Day celebrations. It's just phenomenal!

They say Buffalo is the Dyngus Day capital of the world and there's no doubt in my mind about that. I heard five different bands over that weekend and many others, who were in different places, reported to me that the music everywhere was lively and everyone was happy.

I did run into Wally Czaska, one of the originators of the Polka Boosters Club and former dance promoter, who has recently returned to live in Cheektowaga after living in Louisiana for several years. He said he is glad to be back and may be interested in running some dances in the future.



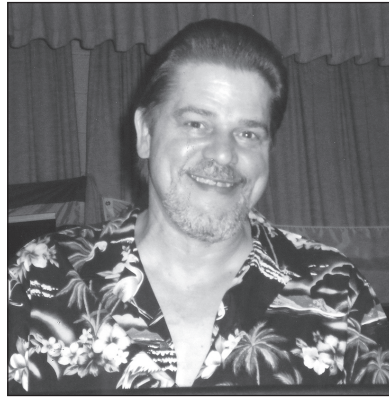
Ken Machelski and Ray Barsukiewicz share a vocal with the Touch.



Mike Stepinski and Lenny Gomulka at the Leonard Post.



Bob Schillinger and Veronica Krupski at Pott's.



Mitch Kempinski filled in with Stephanie's band.



Barb and Hank Krzykowski, former drummer for Buffalo's G-Notes.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**May 5.** Polka Variety Meeting. Lily of the Valley Hall, 2379 Union Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Music starts at 7:30

p.m. Call President Rich at (716) 826-2281.

**May 22.** Eddie O's big band sounds with his 13-piece Band featuring the Vignettes and John Kondal. Lamm Post Grove, 962 Wehrle Dr., Williamsville. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Music from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person and includes a free drink.

John Gora & Gorale, Polka Country Musicians, Full Circle, and New Phaze are all scheduled to entertain you. Call Linda at (216) 662-826 for

**May 25.** Polka Boosters Meeting. Polish Falcons Club, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew, N.Y. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Music and refreshments. Everyone welcome. Call Chris for more info at (716) 892-7977. Note: this is a Tuesday and a change from the regular meeting date due to the car show at the Falcons on Thursdays.



Liz, Alicia, and Rick Iwanczyk from Fonthill, Ontario, had a great time at Pott's.

**May 28-30.** USPA Festival and Convention at the Doubletree Hotel Cleveland South, 6200 Quarry Lane, Independence, Ohio. Polka Family, Lenny Gomulka, A Touch of Brass, Matt Rosinski's All Star Band, The Knewz, Twin Cities Soundz, Freeze Dried, Trel Tones,

more information. **May 31.** Memorial Day Polka Party featuring Full Circle at the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Grove, 200 Como Park Blvd., Cheektowaga, N.Y. Doors open at 2:00 p.m. Music from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person. For tickets and information, call Jackie at (716) 444-8693.

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**POLKA MEMORIES / Jimmy K and Steve Litwin**

If you have a special Polka Memory photograph to publish in the Polish American Journal, email : pajpolka@verizon.net. For more Polka Memories visit www.polkamemories.com.



Happy Richie's Polka Band, Binghamton, N.Y. 1977.

Polka Hall of Famer Theresa Zapolska on stage in Hunter Mountain, N.Y., c. 1980.

Steve "Rocky" Swiader and Nick Nidoh on accordions with The New Brass, Elmira, N.Y. 1983.

**William Borek, Steve Maue, Pass**

**WILLIAM "BILLY" BOREK, JR.**, 39, passed away Thursday April 1, 2010 at his residence in Pawtucket, R.I. Born in Providence, he was the son of Barbara (Jarosz) Borek of Ledyard, Conn. and the late William "Wesoly Bolek" Borek Sr.

He lived in Pawtucket most of his life. Borek was an Independent Construction Contractor and a member of the International Polka Association.

Besides his mother, he also leaves two sisters: Elizabeth Dardzinski and her husband Victor of Saugus, Mass., and Monika Prus of Ledyard, Conn., one niece and one nephew.

A Memorial Service was held April 10, 2010. Memorial donations in Bill's Memory may be sent to NRISC-Wilson House, 80 Summit Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860.

guitar with Jimmie Mieszala & The Music Explosion. He later became the bassist with Lenny Gomulka & The Chicago Push, recording the popular hit, "Oh Baby Mine" on the WRS recording: "Join The Polka Generation." Maue was one of the last members of the Chicago-based edition of the Push before Gomulka relocated to Massachusetts in 1990. Maue finished out his polka career with Jimmy Sturr in 1992.

He began performing on cruise ships and eventually would become a Showband Director for Carnival and Norwegian Cruise Lines. He also put together a solo act performing at various clubs. In 2003, he became Security Supervisor for St. Louis Lambert Airport before relocating to Tampa in 2006 to work as a Security Supervisor for Citigroup.

**STEVE MAUE**, one-time bass player with Lenny Gomulka's Chicago Push band died suddenly, March 30, 2010, in his sleep at his home in Tampa, Fla.

A native of St. Louis, Miss., Maue attended VanderCook College in 1985 to pursue a music degree. While at there, he met Bill Gula and Jim Kucharski, who also attended VanderCook at the time. Gula would later give Steve his start in the polka field performing on bass

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**THURSDAY:**  
 6:00-9:00 PM  
 PolkaFest Kick-Off Party with "The Rhinelanders" (Everyone Welcome! Food & Drinks Available)

**FRIDAY-SUNDAY:**  
 Rosie and The Jammers, Don Wojtla Orchestra, Polka Family Band, Johnstown Area Button Box, Eddie Forman Orchestra, Eddie Rodick Band, The Maestro's Men, Polka County Musicians, Duane Malinowski, Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push

**SUNDAY:**  
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**Tickets Prices:**  
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 Ray Jay & The Carousels & The Eddie Forman Orchestra in the Convention Hall  
 ADULT \$12 AT-THE-DOOR  
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**FRI - SAT**  
**JULY 2nd & JULY 3rd**  
 ADULT ..... \$17  
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## THE POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

## Spring Means Salad Time

Spring and summer means more locally produced fresh greens and vegetables on the market, and that makes it possible to whip up a variety of tasty Polish salads. Most Polish-style salads contain one or two solid ingredients unlike the boring everything-but-the-kitchen-sink "tossed salad" you find at every turn. No lettuce in the house? No problem! Not every Polish salad includes lettuce. In fact, most of them don't! Just look around. If there are some dill pickles, an apple and onions on hand, you're in business. In fact, we might as well start with that example.

**DILL PICKLE SALAD (salatka z kiszonych/konserwowych ogórków).** Slice 4-5 large dill pickles (brined, vinegar type or some of each) into thin rounds. Toss with 2 onions, sliced and broken up into rings, 1 peeled diced apple and (optional) a chopped bell pepper of any color. Add 1-2 buds crushed garlic, toss and dress with salad oil. Good with bland-tasting foods such as fish and boiled meat.

**POLISH LETTUCE SALAD (zielona salata po polsku).** Twist off and discard the core (that holds the leaves together) from 2 heads of Boston or bib lettuce. Separate the leaves and wash well, dry and place in shallow serving dish. If the leaves are quite long, tear each into 2 or 3 pieces. Fork-blend 2/3 - 3/4 c sour cream with juice of 1/2 a lemon, 1/4 t salt and 1/2 - 1 t sugar and pour over lettuce.

**LETTUCE & VINAIGRETTE (zielona salata z winegretem).** Prepare lettuce as above, but instead of sour-cream sauce, dress with home-made vinaigrette (below)

**VINAIGRETTE (winegret).** Combine 1/3 c cider or white wine vinegar with salt & pepper to taste, 1-2 cloves crushed garlic (or 1/4 t garlic powder) and (optional) 1/4 t Provençal seasoning (or Italian seasoning). Mix well and stir in 1/4 c extra virgin olive oil or other salad oil of choice. Variation: Lemon juice may be used in place of all or some of the vinegar. A pinch or 2 sugar may be added.

**SCALDED LETTUCE SALAD (salata parzona).** Core, wash and dry 3-4 small heads of Boston lettuce. Break up leaves into salad bowl. In skillet fry 1/8 lb diced pork fatback or slab bacon into golden-brown nuggets, stir in 1 t sugar, 1/4 t salt (if using unsalted fatback) and about 4 T cider vinegar. Immediately drench lettuce with hot, sizzling mixture and toss to coat leaves evenly.

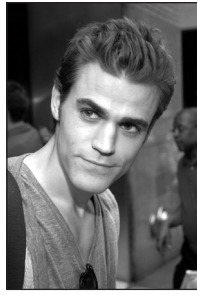
**CUCUMBERS & SOUR CREAM (mizeria).** Peel 2 cucumbers and slice into thin rounds. Sprinkle with salt and freshly ground pepper, 1 t sugar and 1 T or more lemon juice or vinegar. Lace with 1/2 - 2/3 c fork-blended sour cream (or plain yogurt for weight-watchers). Optional: Garnish with chopped dill.

**CUCUMBERS & MAYONNAISE (mizeria z majonezem).** Prepare as above, but replace sour cream with mayonnaise. Or, use a 50-50 mixture of sour cream (or yogurt) and mayonnaise for a zingy but mellow flavor.

**CUCUMBERS & VINAIGRETTE (mizeria z winegretem).** Slice, salt and drain cucumbers as above. Toss with 1-2 small onions sliced thin and broken up into rings. Dress with vinaigrette (above) to taste.

## AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

## CALIFORNIA



PASADENA — Actor **Paul Wesley** (born Paul Wasilewski), 27, has been acting professionally since he was in high school, in TV shows including *Guiding Light*, *Smallville*, *The O.C.*, *24*, *8 Simple Rules*, *American Dreams*, and *Army Wives*, among other roles. He has also acted in multiple movie roles.

Wesley was born to Polish immigrants, and grew up in New Jersey. He doesn't get to spend much time now with his relatives in Poland, but according to the actor, "I used to spend four months out of every single year there until I was 16 years old." He lived in Poland for part of his childhood, and still speaks fluent Polish.

He currently stars in the CW Network's *The Vampire Diaries* as Stefan Salvatore.

## NEW JERSEY

WALL TOWNSHIP — Three of the five people who were killed when a small plane broke apart and tore through a snowy field near a runway in February were family members visiting from Poland.

The victims included Andrzej Zajackowski, 38, of Warsaw; his son, Patryk, 14; and his nephew, Filip Zajackowski, 6. They were family friends of the plane's owner, Jacek Mazurek, 45, of Kearny. He also was killed in the crash along with pilot Wojciech G. Nykaza, 46, of Lodi.

The National Transportation Safety Board said it could be more than a year before the cause of the accident could be determined.

CAMDEN — Sun., May 16. St. Joseph Church Annual Armed Forces Day Mass, 1010 Liberty St. 10:30 a.m. Refreshments following Mass in lower hall. Info call rectory (856) 963-1285.

CAMDEN — Mon., May 31. St. Joseph Church Memorial Day Mass, St. Joseph Cemetery, Chews Landing, N.J., 10:00 a.m. Info call rectory (856) 963-1285.

## NEW YORK

WEST POINT MILITARY ACADEMY — Acting in concert with the American Association of Friends of Kosciuszko at West Point and the Polish American Congress invites all to honor the military engineer and champion of freedom, Tadeusz Kosciuszko, Sat., May 1, 2010 on the West Point grounds.

2010 marks the 182nd commemoration at Kosciuszko's monument.

Also participating in the ceremonies will be the Sea League (Liga Morska), the Polish Singers Alliance of America, Polish Scouting Organization, the Association of the Sons of Poland, Gen. Pulaski Parade Committee of New York, Polish American Cultural Association of Rockland County, among others.

The day's program, which will also celebrate the 600th Anniversary of the victory over the Teutonic Knights at Grunwald, will begin with Mass at 9:45 a.m. at the Catholic Chapel of the Holy Trinity, followed by the Cadet Review (Parade) on The Plain at 11:30. The observance at the Kosciuszko Monument starts at 12:30 p.m., followed by a luncheon at 2:30 p.m. at the Thayer Hotel. If interested, please call F. X. Gates at (718) 346-6108 or 852-6812 for information.

Please remember that, for secu-



CHICAGO — The Polish Museum of America is no exception to celebrating Chopin, as it hosted an exhibit, "Sto Lat Times Two," along with a piano concert performed by Michael Pecak (photo, above). Almost 300 guests filled the Museum's Great Hall to hear Mr. Pecak perform Chopin's Waltz, Opus 18, Andante Spianato, and the Grande Poloniase. Michael, the son of Polish immigrants and a native Chicagoan, graduated from Northwestern University in 2008 in Piano Performance and Orchestral Conducting. He has received several musical honors including a laureate of the Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Competition in New York City. As a Fulbright Scholar, Michael studied at the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw.

rity reasons, all adults entering West Point are required to have a valid photo I.D., and that buses must supply a manifest to the academy twenty-four hours before the arrival date. Please call Miss Gates for information about this and the conference.

NEW YORK — The Kosciuszko Foundation is presenting a "Chopin Anniversary Tour to Poland," October 14-24, 2010 featuring the XVI International Chopin Piano Competition.

To view the tour program, visit [www.thekf.org](http://www.thekf.org) and click on Programs - Tours. For more information, call (212) 734-2130.

## PENNSYLVANIA

CHESTER — Mon., May 3. 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. Info call Judy Kucinski (610) 494-5675.

PHILADELPHIA — Sun., May 23. Annual Members Dinner Dance, Associated Polish Home Ballroom, 9150 Academy Road. 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. Music. Members free - non-members \$15.00. Reservations required. Info call Polish Home (215) 624-9954.

PHILADELPHIA — Mon., May 31. Memorial Day Picnic, Associated Polish Home, 9150 Academy Rd. 1:00 p.m. Music. Info call (215) 624-9954.

BERNVILLE — Sat., June 5. Polish American Heritage Association of Berks County Second Annual Polish Open Golf Tournament, Green Acres Golf Course, 461 South Northkill Rd. 11:30 a.m. Info call Marilyn Wlazewski (610) 779-5523.

READING — Sun. June 6. Annual Polish Parish Festival, St. Mary's Church, 250 S. 12th St. 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Music, Polish food, games, and much more. Rain or Shine. Info call Shelly (610) 376-6321.

CONSHOHOCKEN — Sun., June 13. Annual Polish Festival, St. Mary's Parish, Oak & West Elm Sts. Noon to 7:00 p.m. Music by Rhythm & Music Band. Polish Kitchen, games and more. Info call (610) 828-0260.

## VIRGINIA

LANSDOWNE — In honor of the 200th anniversary of Fryderyk Chopin's birth, Dr. Raymond Jackson of Howard University will repeat his performance of Chopin works, Sun., May 18, 2010, at 2:30 p.m. Monroe Hall Clubhouse Leisure World, 19375 Magnolia Grove Square. Tickets are \$10.00. Checks payable to Leisure World, mail to: Edward J. Pawlowski, 19365 Cypress Ridge Terr. #415, Lansdowne, VA 20176. Security requirements: Please provide names of all guests, and make, color and license plate of vehicle.

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Polish American Congress Washington Metropolitan Area Division, the Friends of John Paul II Foundation of Washington, and the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center are co-sponsoring a screening of "Nine Days that Changed the World," a documentary about Pope John Paul II's visit to his homeland June 2-10, 1979, eight months after becoming Pope, and the historic impact of that visit.

It will be held Sat., May 22, at 2:00 p.m. at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center. Former Speaker Newt Gingrich and Mrs. Calista Gingrich will introduce the film.

The documentary, produced by Citizens United, Gingrich Productions, and Peace River Company, LLC, was released in April.

For more information, visit [www.jp2cc.org](http://www.jp2cc.org) or call (202) 635-5400.

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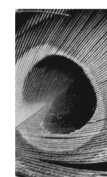


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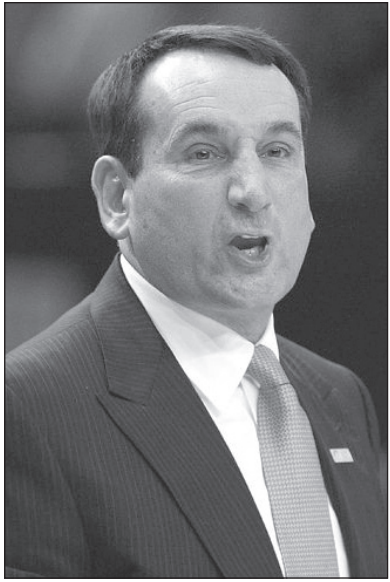
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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

# Krzyzewski Does it Again



Mike Krzyzewski

**Mike Krzyzewski's** Duke Blue Devils knocked off the Butler Bulldogs in the Men's NCAA National Championship basketball game, 61-59. "Coach K" has now won four national championships, a number that leaves him trailing only the legendary John Wooden. "This was the toughest," he said, "and the best one."

Krzyzewski has also led the Blue Devils to 11 Final Fours, 12 ACC Regular Season Titles, and 12 ACC championships over 30 seasons at Duke. Krzyzewski has amassed an NCAA-record 77 NCAA tournament victories, while averaging more than 25 wins per season. He also has 867 career victories, making him the winningest active coach and the fourth winningest all time.

Recently revealed that in the summer of 2004, the Los Angeles Lakers had offered Coach K a five-year, \$40-million deal. Kobe Bryant, who would have attended Duke had he not skipped college, made a personal pitch on behalf of General Manager Mitch Kupchak. "I was more than tempted," Krzyzewski said. "I seriously considered it. One, because it was the Lakers. Mitch is great. It would have been an opportunity to work with Kobe. He and I are very close. I guess because I did not accept it, it really speaks to, you know, how much I love Duke and college basketball, but especially Duke."

More recently, rumors swirled that Coach K was being offered a contract worth \$15 million a year by Russian billionaire Mikhail Prokhorov to coach the New Jersey Nets next season. "I've not been contacted by anybody," Krzyzewski answered. "The guy's Russian, right? Now, do you think he'd hire a Polish guy? Really?"

Before the final Krzyzewski was asked why so many fans hate Duke.

"We have great kids. They go to school. They graduate. If we're going to be despised or hated because we go to school and we want to win, you know what? That's your problem," Krzyzewski said.

**MORE MEN'S HOOPS.** A number of Polish names figured in the men's NCAA basketball tournament. Among them was **Chris Wroblewski** of Cornell University, who helped his squad become the first Ivy League team to make it to the Sweet 16 since 1979. Wroblewski, a sophomore guard, was the only non-senior starting for Cornell. "Ski" has established himself as the best 3-point percentage shooter in school history.

One of Cornell's upset wins came at the expense of **Tim Jarmusz's** Wisconsin squad. Jarmusz is a 6-6 Jr. Guard/Forward from Oshkosh, Wisc.. He was not only a starter but also an Academic All-Big Ten in 2009 for the Badgers.

Before Wisconsin lost to Cornell, it knocked off Wofford College of South Carolina. Wofford was a #13 seed in their first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance. A key player was 6-9 senior guard Corey Godzinski, a native of Clermont, Fla. and a member of the Southern Conference All-Academic Team.

Northern Iowa's **Lucas O'Rear** doesn't have a Polish name, but he does let everyone know about his Polish heritage. He has a shamrock tattooed on one arm to signify his Irish father, and a Polish eagle on the other to represent his Polish mother. He has two tattoos on his back: the Polish word for family, "rodzina," and a cross to commemorate his mother, who died of cancer on Christmas Day in 2000.

Lucas's father, Michael, stands 5-foot-10, but Lucas and brother Calvin both grew to be over 6-5. "Everybody looks at me and says, 'Where did that come from?'" said Lucas' father Michael. "That comes from the mama's side, and the Polish blood." The former Monica Konkel was a softball and volleyball standout in the 1970's, and three years ago she was inducted into the Kaskaskia College Athletic Hall of Fame.

Lucas went to Northern Iowa so that he could play both baseball and basketball, but baseball program was dropped last year. The Nashville, Ill. native was the starting pitcher in the final game. O'Rear, who struck out 15 batters in 17 innings as a sophomore, was considered a pro baseball prospect. He almost transferred to Kansas so he could keep playing two sports, but eventually decided against it. Ironically, Northern Iowa pulled off the biggest upset of the

2010 NCAA tournament (maybe in tournament history) when the no. 9 Panthers knocked off top-seeded Kansas. O'Rear's aggressive physical presence — he was frequently matched up against 6-11 Cole Aldrich — was key to the win. O'Rear also drew a lot of attention with his mutton-chop sideburns, inspiring fans to wear "Fear the Burns" t-shirts.

**ENTERING THE HALL.** Olympic and NCAA Champion swimmer **Kristy Kowal**, former Major League Manager of the Year **Danny Ozark**, and three-time Olympic tennis medalist **Jane "Peaches" Bartkowicz** have been elected into the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame. Kowal and Ozark were elected from the NPASHF national ballot. Bartkowicz was selected by the Hall's Veterans Committee.

Kristy Kowal, a standout swimmer for the University of Georgia from 1997-2000. While there she led the Lady Bulldogs to NCAA Team Championships in 1999 and 2000. She was the first woman in SEC history to win conference titles in the 100 and 200 yard breaststroke four years in a row. In the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Kowal won silver in the 200 meter breaststroke. The Reading, Pa. native set one world record and eight American records, and was the first female in U.S. history to win a world championship in the 100 meter breaststroke.

A three-time Academic All-American, Kowal won eight individual NCAA Championships, and in both 1999 and 2000 was named NCAA "Swimmer of the Year." Kristy was also named the 2000 NCAA Woman of the Year. The very prestigious award was created to honor a senior female student-athlete who has distinguished herself throughout her collegiate careers in the areas of academic achievement, athletics excellence, service and leadership.

Danny Ozark was born Daniel Leonard Orzechowski in 1923 in Buffalo, N.Y., to parents of Polish descent. His father changed the family name to Ozark. He began playing professional baseball in 1942

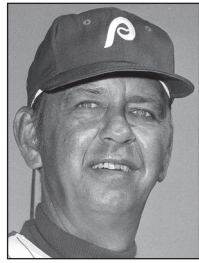
with Class D Olean. Soon He also was drafted into the army during World War II, and he participated in the D-Day invasion and later earned a purple heart. Ozark had a fine minor league career, but was stuck in the talent-laden Dodgers organization. In 1956, Ozark became a manager with the Dodgers' Class

B Wichita Falls farm club and rose up the ladder, winning a division championship with the 1963 Spokane Indians of the Pacific Coast League. In 1965, he made it to the major leagues, joining the Los Angeles Dodgers as a coach for Walter Alston. Ozark served eight years (1965-72) on Alston's staff until his hiring as manager by the last-place Phillies in October 1972. In 1976 with the Phillies posted a club-record 101 wins, capturing the first of three consecutive National League East Division Championships (1976, '77 and '78.) In 1976, Ozark was selected as Major League Manager of the Year by the SPORTING NEWS, and also earned the Associated Press National League Manager of the Year award. Ozark's career managerial record with the Phillies stands at a solid 594-510. The win total is third-best all-time among Phillies managers. He later coached, scouted and served as an interim manager of the San Francisco Giants. Danny Ozark passed away on May 7, 2009, at the age of 85.

Jane "Peaches" Bartkowicz, was born to a working class Polish family in Hamtramck, Mich. and went on to become a teenage tennis phenomena. She rose to world tennis prominence by winning 17 age group titles as a junior, including the Wimbledon Girls' Singles title in 1964. Over the next seven years, Peaches earned three medals in the 1968 Olympics (one silver and two

bronze), and a Fed Cup Championship in 1969, with a 7-0 record in Fed Cup singles play. In 1970, Bartkowicz combined with Billy Jean King to win the final (and deciding) doubles match against Virginia Wade and Winnie Shaw, clinching the Wightman Cup for the United States. As a professional, Bartkowicz won 14 tournaments, and achieved a world ranking of 8th in 1969. She retired in 1971, and was been inducted into the United States Tennis Association / Midwest Hall of Fame, and the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame.

The election of Kowal, Ozark, and Bartkowicz brings the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame roster to 119. The Inductees will be honored at the 38th Annual Induction Banquet on Thursday, June 24th, at the American-Polish Cultural Center in Troy, Michigan, with Baseball Great and 1992 NPASHF Inductee Tom Paciorek serving as Master of Ceremonies. Tickets for the banquet 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.



Danny Ozark

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All the best!	[This is a polite form]
Wszystkiego dobrego!..... (Vshihst-KYEH-goh doh-BREH-goh)	When is your [Mister's] birthday?
..... (Vshihst-KYEH-goh doh-BREH-goh)	Everything good!
Pomyślności!..... (poh-mishl-NOHSH-chee)	Kiedy są pani urodziny?..... (KYEH-dih sohW PAH-neeuh-roh-DJEE-nih)
[I wish you] Prosperity!	[This is a polite form]
Dużo szczęścia!..... (DUH-zhoh SHCHEHN-shchah)	When is your [Madam's] birthday?
..... (DUH-zhoh SHCHEHN-shchah)	Much happiness!
Powodzenia..... (poh-voh-DZEH-nyah)	Kiedy są twoje imieniny?..... KYEH-dih sohW ee-myeh-NEE-nih)
Good luck!	[This is a familiar form]
Dużo zdrowia!..... (DUH-zhoh ZDROH-vyah)	When is your name's [saint's] day
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## Hollywood's War with Poland

**HOLLYWOOD'S WAR WITH POLAND, 1939-1945**

by **M.B. Biskupski**

University Press of Kentucky, 2010  
notes, bibliography, index, 362 pp, \$60.00.

For those of us who deplore the lack of exposure of things Polish, we should examine the attitude of film production in United States during the war years. While Hollywood was producing patriotic films to strengthen confidence in the ability of America to win the war, they were also projecting sympathy toward the Soviet Union. To make Russia look good, the Poles had to be bad. The government agency, Bureau of Motion Pictures, was careful to project Russia in a positive light. Between the communist influence and the presence of the large Jewish community in Hollywood, a positive Polish image was impossible.

Before the war, Poland's image was projected poorly and this increased after 1939. The Polish community occupied a modest position in American society and little was done to urge a more positive attitude toward Poland in film making. Few Poles enjoyed a career in Hollywood. Marianna Michalska (Gilda Gray) and Apolonia Chalupiec (Pola Negri) both born in Poland were the first. Linda Roberts, Miliza Korjus, Hedy Lamarr, Carol Landis, Jean Parker and others were in the limelight for a short period of time. American recognition of the Soviet Union in the '30s prompted the sudden interest in Soviet films

and by 1939 a Russian network of actors and producers made it easier for Russian émigrés to obtain work. Poland was virtually *terra incognita* — Warner Brothers had difficulty rendering a Warsaw street scene because they were unsure what Poles looked like. Of all the major European communities to arrive in turn-of-century America, Poles were ignored by Hollywood. Films devoted to Poland were almost nonexistent. Those that did, depicted Poles with given Spanish or Italian names, spoke German or were big burly palookas.

This book provides a wealth of information on the Roosevelt Administration and his attitude toward Poland. Even the American Jewish Congress campaign to force Hollywood to depict the Holocaust was rejected by the powerful Office of War information. War films usually projected a Pole as a misfit, camp follower, mock-hero, failed soldier or one derelict of duty. *Eagle Squadron*, *The Story of G.I. Joe*, *Air Force*, and *Action in the North Atlantic* include negative Polish characters.

Some films did project a positive Polish image. *Madam Curie* and *A Song to Remember* are two biographies of famous Poles. Biskupski concludes this informative book with a chapter on "Why Hollywood Was at War with the Poles." The Communist Party, pro-Soviet movement, anti-Semitism and Jewish filmmakers are all part of the milieu of absence of a positive image of Poles in American film.

Professor Biskupski holds the Stanislaus

A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish History at Central Connecticut State University.

### ONE LIFE TO GIVE

*A Path to Finding Yourself by Helping Others*

by **Andrew Bienkowski with Mary Akers**  
Experiment Publishing, 2010, photos, \$14.95.

The author and his family were exiled to Siberia when he was five years old. This childhood exile, in which he witnessed the sacrifices and devotion of his parents, as well as the kindness of strangers, helped mold the rest of his life to helping others.

Each chapter begins with an event of their exile and how many events transformed into acts of kindness. When his grandfather was dying he asked to be buried naked. He realized his clothes could be sold so the poor family could eat.

They learned, in their poverty, to be grateful for simple things — the warm sun, a glorious sunset, a stray potato in the frozen ground. Starving, they would gratefully accept a stolen bucket of pig slop. This, again, provided by a kind woman who disobeyed her orders of feeding the compound animals. The harsh lessons of life strengthened their will to survive.

The chapters are intertwined with experiences Bienkowski had with his patients as a therapist. They thought themselves unworthy, ugly, stupid, always thinking of themselves. He showed them how to set goals, to look

for the positive, be grateful for the smallest things. In helping others sort out their lives, his advice is simple and straightforward, a purpose in life, the need to give love and help others, to have perseverance. These stories are an example of how we all can become better human beings.

Bienkowski is now a psychologist who designs and implements mental health programs, working with patients in New York state.

### POLISH-ENGLISH/ENGLISH-POLISH DICTIONARY

*American English Edition*

Jacek Fisiak, et al, Hippocrene Books, 2010, 608 pp, \$22.95

This paperback dictionary is an invaluable tool for students, immigrants and anyone who needs a dependable Polish-English dictionary. It is based on the New Kosciuszko Foundation two-volume Dictionary and focuses on the modern American English. It provides grammatical information with over 30,000 entries, covering idioms and phrases, which is always helpful in understanding a foreign language.

The book opens wide for easy searches, with the principal word search in bold print and with short phrases when appropriate.

Additionally, there is a special guide (in Polish) for Poles who visit, by Tomasz Deptula, Chief Correspondent in NEWSWEEK. (Poland).

PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

## Freedom Month 2010

We celebrate Polish Constitution Day in May, so therefore May is freedom month. Celebrate it!

During my visit to Poland in the early eighties — months before Solidarity — I came across two young ladies from East Germany, also tourists, on the platform in the train station. I had some time to waste so I tagged along with them for a while and used the opportunity to quiz them and hear what the foreigners thought of my ancestral homeland.

Generally very polite, one of girls at one point giggled though and told me the East Germans think that Poland "stinks," and she held her nose. She also explained that many East Germans visit Poland because there was more to do. They were allowed more freedom in the stinky country than in their own. Makes sense as the Russians hated the Germans for World War II and held an iron grip on them. For the Poles, the Russians used an appeasement policy so they wouldn't rebel, or strike, for example, at the ship yards.

Many of the public facilities in Poland at that time were not very nice. They were in need of repair, or replacement, or just not as sparkling grey and disinfected as most good communist structures should have been. Being the Pondering Pole, I thought about what the East German said and about the country as a whole.

My theory is the public facilities were the way they were because the Poles did not care about them. Those "stinky" places belonged to their oppressors, the communists, and they just did not have the discipline or pressure to take care of them as much as their East German friends did. However, as I recall very well, there was not one home I visited that was not clean and tidy and cared for. I also remember noticing young people weeding around the roses at the Catholic University in Lublin and young people volunteering and working at the castle in old town Warsaw. These places belonged to the Poles, they were Pol-

ish domy, and they loved and took care of them. They were symbols of a free spirit and that made all the difference in the world.

My introduction to Radoslaw "Radek" Sikorski (inset, right) was back in the seventies and eighties when I became a regular reader of the NATIONAL REVIEW magazine. Occasionally there would be a piece by Radek, the "roving correspondent." I was impressed with his writing and insight and liked seeing his Polish name pop up now and then throughout the years in the REVIEW.

There are people in this world that I admire very much not necessarily because of great accomplishments (they tend to realize their goals), but because they have such a balanced, diverse, full, and what I would say is the correct perspective on life. I have a friend in California that is engaged and extraordinarily successful at work, has a beautiful wife and family, and seems to be so happy for what he has, the grand and the small. He will change the subject almost immediately if it is about him. For everything I now know about Radoslaw Sikorski, he seems to be one of these people.

The extent and breath of this man's life is truly amazing. He was born in Communist Poland, became a student leader of Solidarity, and studied at Pembroke College, Oxford, England. In the early '80s, he travelled to Afghanistan to report on the conflict, and with the initial intention of joining the Mujahideen. According to one report, he did indeed fight as a volunteer." (www.neoconeuropa.eu/Radoslaw\_Sikorski).

Following Afghanistan, Sikorski signed on with conservative William F. Buckley as the "roving correspondent" of the NATIONAL REVIEW. He completed a reporting assignment



in Angola about the political and military turmoil in that country and then, beginning in the early nineties turned his energies and focus towards Poland, and the rebuilding in many facets of that country. He is currently the Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Republic of Poland.

Radek Sikorski has written a number of books but the one I connected with is entitled, *Full Circle: a homecoming to free Poland* (Simon & Schuster, New York, 1997). It is a well written book, easy reading, and with an interesting twist. The three "chapters" in his life, communist childhood, World War II heritage, and the rebuilding, managing and governing of the post-Solidarity Poland are set against the backdrop of his decades long love affair and renovation of a manor house, a *dworek*, in the town of Chobielin, near his hometown of Bydgoszcz. Here are ways he describes, for instance, these three parts of his life and the life of his homeland, with words about how he views the Polish manor:

I had always wanted to live in a

*dworek*. Every Pole does. An expatriate Englishman may dream of returning to a Georgian Old Rectory in the home counties. An Irish-American may long to go back to a mythical little white cottage. A German or Frenchman may dream of retiring to a stone farmhouse in Bavaria or Provence. A Pole sees himself as the proud resident of a *dwor*, or *dworek*, a little manor house. (Page 23.)

A *dworek* is not just a nice house to live in, but a calling. Nations which have not lived under occupation perhaps cannot imagine the aura surrounding the places where national aspirations were once preserved. (Page 23.)

It was because communism tried to abolish history that I revered old things. And it was precisely because I had been taught that manor houses were a feudal relic that made me want to live in one. (Page 35.)

In most countries, the fortunes of country houses rise and fall for a variety of reasons; grain prices and taxes go up or down, families degenerate, fashions change. In Poland, their curse has always been

the same as the country as a whole — geography.

It is part of the irony I discovered in pre-Solidarity Poland and what Radek Sikorski has come to realize and love about his country, that home, for the Poles, is where heart and freedom lies. The connection between home and country that runs through Sikorski's life is freedom: free elections, free markets, and free expression. He has been an activist, a writer, and a politician. He is also been a home builder, for himself and the nation.

**BUCKET LIST.** Build the *dworek*.

**IF YOU HAVE A THOUGHT** about this month's story, a question to ponder, or interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke, St. Louis, MO 63139; e-Mail [alinabrig@yahoo.com](mailto:alinabrig@yahoo.com).

If you send e-Mail, please reference the Polish American Journal or the Pondering Pole. I will not open an e-Mail if I do not recognize the subject or the sender.



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## The Polish Titan of Abstract Art

by Richard P. Poremski

COLUMBIA, Md. —It's a good thing abstract painter Jerzy Kajetanski wasn't a portrait artist — he preferred to begin working in the early morning hours at 3:00 a.m.! When he died on Christmas Day 1999 at the age of 86, Kajetanski — ever the prolific abstract artist — had amassed a sizable signature-portfolio of 60 large oil paintings and 45 smaller oil-pastel works. His first abstracts-in-oil emerged in the early 1950s — and his work never strayed from that path again. He joined the nascent American Abstract Artist organization and became a proponent in the establishment, recognition and acceptance of the then-revolutionary and scorned abstract genre in the U.S.

Kajetanski was born in Poland and trained at the Municipal College of Fine and Applied Art in Warsaw and the Warsaw Academy

of Fine art. World War II interrupted his graduate work and he joined the Polish Home Army underground fighting against the Nazi German occupiers, being captured and imprisoned by them in a slave labor camp. His representational sketches of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising, and its sad aftermath, are renowned and the U.S. Holocaust Museum has acquired 50 of them for its World War II collection. After spending five years in a displaced persons' camp located in defeated and Allied-occupied-Germany, the Kajetanski family emigrated to the U.S. in 1950.

It was readily apparent upon entering the Slayton House Gallery here on February 20, 2010 that something very unique was afoot: The display walls were splashed with a riot of colors and forms — as exhibited by Kajetanski's seminal works. And "the larger the better" seemed to be his basic rule. The in-

triguing titles, such as "Movement #1," "Inferno In Paradise," "Water Reflection #1," and "The Wing," all served their respective oil-on-canvas very well. A host of much smaller oil-pastels were also very pleasing to the eye and equally stimulating to the mind.

Kajetanski's *modus operandi* is best explained by himself: According to a 1993 "Baltimore Sun" news report, Kajetanski said that the main thing that pulls him to the easel is color — "I am interested in color." And what is his favorite color? Kajetanski smiles and replies in his heavy Polish accented English ... "The rainbow."

Eva Skrenta, daughter of Jerzy Kajetanski, and curator of her father's art collection, happily reported that two of the exhibit's paintings — "Summer Afternoon" and "On The Beach" — have now gone full circle. They will become



ARTWORK OF JERZY KAJETANSKI PRESENTED. Eva Kajetanski Skrenta is pictured above showing "The Sailors," one of the many abstract works of art painted by her father, Jerzy Kajetanski, at a recent dedicated exhibition.

part of the permanent display at the (Art) Muzeum Emigracji in Torun, Poland.

It was a turbulent and painful journey at times for this son of both

Poland and America, but in the end Jerzy Kajetanski has truly earned for himself the prestigious title of "The Polish Titan of Abstract Art."

CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin Nowak

## Polish Heroes Honored in D.C. 100 years Ago

General Casimir Pulaski died fighting in the American War for Independence on October 11, 1779. The U.S. Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia received word of the Pole's death and on November 29, 1779 passed a resolution to erect a memorial to honor the hero. Alas, no money was appropriated for it, due to the fact that the United States' finances were stretched so thinly in those early years.

More than a hundred years passed. Around the turn of the 20th century, Polish Americans rediscovered the Pulaski Memorial resolution, and Polish American organizations petitioned Congress to again consider the issue. They were successful. An act of February 27, 1903 signed into law by President Theodore Roosevelt appropriated \$50,000 for erection of a statue of Pulaski in Washington, D.C.

Meanwhile, the Polish National Alliance (PNA), the premier Polish American society of the time, felt that a memorial to that other great Polish general who fought for America in the Revolution, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, should also be put up in our nation's capital. For this monument, they decided to raise the money themselves. A joint resolution of Congress on April 18, 1904 accepted the gift of a Kosciuszko statue from the PNA and the Polish American people. Eventually, \$60,000 was collected by the PNA, not only from its members, but also from other Polish organizations and individuals.

A committee of four was chosen by Congress to handle arrangements, including design and site selection for the memorials. The sculptor selected for the Pulaski statue was Polish American Casimir Chodzinski, who had designed the Kosciuszko statue in Chicago. For the Kosciuszko statue, a competition was held during which twenty models were considered. Even President Roosevelt took an interest in the selection. The one by Antoni Popiel of Lwów, Austrian Poland, was selected. Popiel had worked on the statue of Pulaski that stands on Wawel Hill in Kraków. Pulaski was cast in bronze by Graham Manufacturing of Rhode Island. Kosciuszko, also in bronze, was fabricated at American Foundry in Chicago.

Finally, by 1910 all was ready. The site selected for the Pulaski monument was between Pennsylvania Avenue and 13th Street near E Street NW, in an area now called Freedom Plaza. It is less than half



The Brigadier General Count Casimir Pulaski Memorial, by sculptor Kasimir Chodzinski and architect Albert Randolph Ross was dedicated on May 11, 1910.

a mile from the south lawn of the White House. Kosciuszko was sited in Lafayette Park across from the front of the White House, one of five statues of military heroes that surround a statue of General Andrew Jackson. On February 25, 1910, Congress appropriated \$8,500 for site preparation and unveiling of the memorials. The dedications were set for May 11 of that year.

At 2:30 p.m., the ceremonies got under way. More than 10,000 people were gathered round the base of the Pulaski memorial and on a special reviewing stand. Most were proud Polish Americans, but the crowd also included many European Poles invited for the occasion. A great grandson of General Pulaski was in attendance. The ceremony was opened by a prayer by Bishop Pawel Rhode of the Roman Catholic Church. Dedicatory speeches were then read by Secretary of War Jacob Dickinson, President William Howard Taft and PNA President M.B. Stenczynski. After the Pulaski statue was unveiled, the participants moved to the site of the Kosciuszko statue, three quarters of a mile away, where the scene was repeated. President Taft noted that it was "appropriate that we should give enduring evidence of our gratitude" to the two men.

The dedications were attended by officials of the Daughters of the American Revolution, who in their magazine gave the following description of the event:

*It was a splendid pageant - great masses of U.S. troops in their glit-*

*tering uniforms and trappings - the blended strains of the Polish and American national anthems borne upon the air - young Polish maidens, some of them brought from overseas for the occasion, passed in a stately procession around the statues, bearing between them immense wreaths and floral emblems, that they massed in great heaps at the base of the monuments. Company after company of Polish societies in the regalia of their orders encircled the monuments, and in a sort of ceremonial rhythm, waved splendid pennants of Polish provinces, as the folds of our own Starry Banner were drawn, exposing the noble figures of these immortal heroes.*

The larger-than-life statue of Pulaski portrays the hero on horseback in caped and hatted Hussar uniform, noble, dignified, yet serene and natural. It rests atop a tall granite pedestal. Kosciuszko stands erect with soldierly bearing in his American uniform atop a 15 foot detailed pedestal, clutching a map of West Point in one hand, his sword in the other. At the center of the base is a globe showing the U.S. with the American Eagle atop it. At the rear is a globe featuring Europe with the Polish Eagle fighting the serpent of despotism. Side sculptures feature Polish and American officers and peasants.

After the ceremonies, the Polish Americans and Poles met for four days under the auspices of the PNA in what was called the Polish National Congress. The group discussed scenarios regarding the future of Poland and Polish Americans, and what could be done to improve their welfare and standing. The group was critical of President Taft for declining an invitation to attend their banquet.

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## Order of the Teutonic Knights

The Teutonic Order has been in existence from 1192, right up to the present day. They swore allegiance to the Pope and, at the time, the Holy Empire, since they were a Roman Catholic religious order. They also were a military order from their inception in 1192 until 1929.

Patron saints for the Knights are the Virgin Mary, Saint Elizabeth of Hungary and Saint George.

The Knights lived communally and led a simple life. Their dormitory beds were plain. Their food was modest, never excessive and they ate together in the refectory. Even their clothes and armor were simple, yet practical. Daily routines included training for battle, maintaining their equipment and workouts with their horses.

The Kings of Poland very often lived in fear of the Order's power. From 1308 to 1457, the famous Malbork Castle was the center of monastic power and the residence of the grand master. However, after the

signing of a peace treaty in Torun, it became the property of Polish kings and the seat of district administrators.

Malbork was one of the most strongly-built medieval castles in the world. It was constructed in three parts with a separate system of defense walls surrounding the High Castle. Within the Middle Castle was the Palace of the Grand Master, guest rooms and an infirmary. The Law Castle contained farm buildings. Even the town, in the shadows of the castle, had its own defense system.

Devastation struck the castle in the 1800s, but has since been restored. In Polish, the Order is "Zakon Krzyzacki, Order of Crusades."

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TRIVIA TIME / Ellye Slusarczyk

1. The Yalta and Potsdam agreements, after World War II, gave control of Poland to the a. Russians b. United Nations c. East Germany
2. Drowning herself in the Wisla River rather than marrying a German nobleman she did not love was a. Princess Wanda b. Stephanie c. Queen Jawiga
3. Legend says that on Candlemas Day, candles were blest in church and prayers to the Blessed Mother were made to ward off a. sin b. the devil c. wolves
4. Usually days are windier and warmer starting on a. St. John's Feast b. St. Dorothy's Day c. Feast of St. Mark
5. Polish custom says Christ, when crowned with thorns, had a mock scepter that resembled a. cattails b. leeks c. bamboo
6. *Kati* are a. fall vegetables b. pussy willows c. kittens
7. *Grajczek* is a festival that welcomes a. the Easter season b. spring c. summer
8. Marzanna, pagan goddess of death, symbolizes a farewell to a. life b. bad luck c. winter
9. The Parade of the Rooster symbolizes a. fertility b. good health c. riches
10. A humorous children's greeting is "Smacznych Swiat i weso lego jajka," translates to a. tasty holidays and happy egg b. jellies and chocolate eggs c. blessed egg

**ANSWERS.** 1. a Russians 2. a Princess Wanda 3. c wolves 4. b St. Dorothy's Day 5. b leeks 6. b pussy willows 7. b spring 8. c winter 9. a fertility 10. a tasty holidays and happy egg

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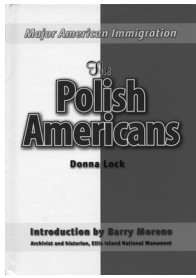
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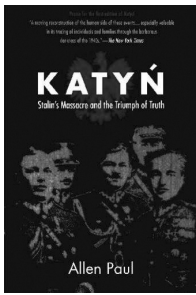


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Immigration Series"  
by Donna Lock  
**\$22.95**  
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Mason Crest Publishers  
2008. 64 pp. hc. 9"x6"  
Ages 9-12

Polish emigrants left their homeland for many of the same reasons as did other ethnic groups: poverty, religious intolerance, hardship, and a strict government. Yet in America's melting pot, the Polish have maintained a stronger hold on their traditions and customs than most of the other immigrant groups that arrived in North America during the 19th and early 20th centuries. This is due in part to the closeness of the ethnic Polish neighborhoods that grew up in the industrial cities where many immigrants settled.

Today, prominent Polish American associations work to ensure that people with Polish ancestry will never forget their proud heritage.

"A good overview of mainstream European American experience..." *Booklist*.



**NEW!**  
**KATYN: STALIN'S  
MASSACRE AND THE  
TRIUMPH OF TRUTH**  
**\$24.95**  
Northern Illinois  
University Press  
2010. 430 pp. pb. 9"x6.5"

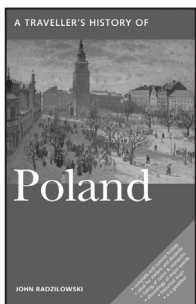
Marking the 70th anniversary of the Katyn Forest massacre, this edition exposes the crime and its cover-up. Twenty years ago, Allen Paul wrote the first post-communist account of one of the greatest but least-known tragedies of the 20th century: Stalin's annihilation of Poland's officer corps and massive deportation of so-called "bourgeoisie elements" to Siberia. Today, these brutal events are symbolized by one word, Katyn.

Paul's richly updated account covers Russian attempts to recant their admission of guilt for the murders in Katyn Forest and includes recently translated documents from Russian military archives, eyewitness accounts of two perpetrators, and secret official minutes published here for the first time that confirm that U.S. government cover-up of the crime continued long after the war ended.

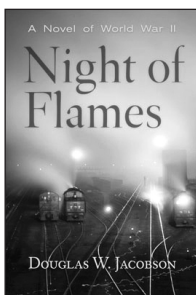
Paul's masterful narrative recreates what daily life was like for three Polish families amid momentous events of World War II—from the treacherous Nazi-Soviet invasion in 1939 to a rigged election in 1947 that sealed Poland's doom.

"Not only a riveting human drama but a powerful historical exposé."—**Zbigniew Brzezinski, former U.S. national security adviser**

"Allen has given us the complete story of Katyn... a wonderful companion to my film!"—**Andrzej Wajda, Academy Award-winning Director of Katyn.**



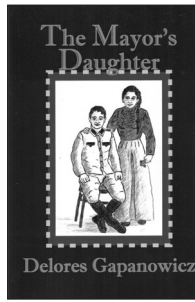
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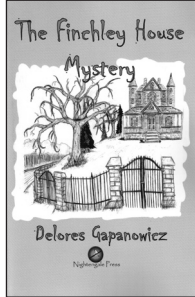
"The most powerful weapon on earth is the human soul on fire." In 1939 the Germans invade Poland, setting off a rising storm of violence and destruction. For Anna and Jan Kopernik the loss is unimaginable. She is an assistant professor at a university in Krakow; he, an officer in the Polish cavalry. Separated by war, they must find their own way in a world where everything they ever knew is gone.

Through the long night of Nazi occupation, Anna, Jan, and ordinary people across Europe fight a covert war of sabotage and resistance against the overwhelming might of the German war machine. The struggle seems hopeless, but they are determined to take back what is theirs.



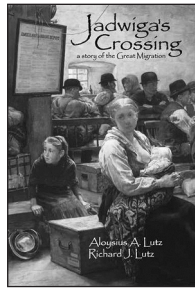
**THE MAYOR'S  
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by Delores Gapanowicz  
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Edition illustrated  
Nightingale Press, 2007  
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Readers will discover what life was like in rural Eastern Europe before World War I, a way of life that has changed forever. This book retrieves one family's heritage and allows us all to connect with our own. The stories were told to the author by her parents before they passed away. These tales show that young people on farms didn't spend all their time milking cows and picking potatoes.



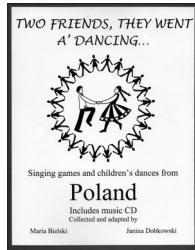
**THE FINCHLEY HOUSE  
MYSTERY**  
by Delores Gapanowicz  
**\$13.95**  
Nightingale Press, 2005  
For Ages 9-12  
132 pp. pb.  
Delores Gapanowicz is  
a published author of  
children's books.

Is the Finchley House haunted or not? Are those ghosts flitting from room to room after dark? Or is someone secretly living in the old house and not wanting to reveal themselves? Could it be the rumors floating around Green Hills are actually true?



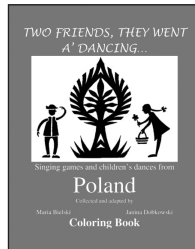
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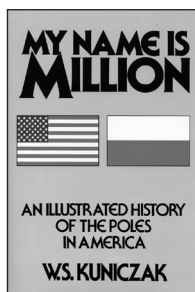
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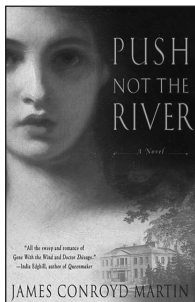
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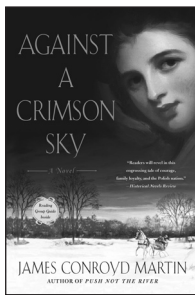


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The author is the winner of the 2007 Gold Medal for Literature from The American Institute of Polish Culture.

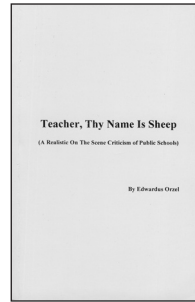
"The story is well paced and compelling, the historical detail plentiful yet not overwhelming, and the characters engaging and true to the period." — **The Historical Novels Review**.



**AGAINST A  
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**\$14.95**  
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369 pp. pb.  
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Reading Group Guide

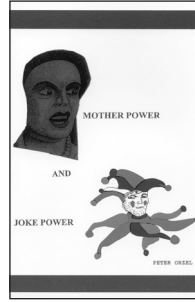
**AUTOGRAPHED!** "You don't have to read *Push Not the River* to get the most from this sequel," says Suzanne Strempek Shea. The award-winning author picks up where *Push Not the River* leaves off, taking the characters 20 years into the fascinating Napoleonic era, highlighting the exploits of the glorious Polish lancers. Having narrowly escaped death amidst the chaos caused by the violent dissolution of their homeland, Anna and Jan struggle to raise a family in uncertain times. When Napoléon Bonaparte comes calling, hinting at independence one day for the country, Polish legions form up—Anna's friends and family members among them—and accompany Napoléon as he battles his way across Europe in an effort that culminates in the doomed 1812 winter march to Moscow.

"A sprawling epic... entertaining." — **Publishers Weekly**.



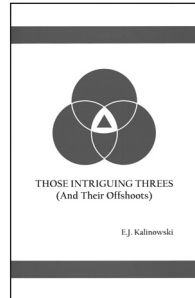
**TEACHER, THY NAME  
IS SHEEP**  
by E.J. Kalinowski  
(NDP Edwardus Orzel)  
**\$9.95**  
Kalski Books, 2004  
132 pp., pb.

Why are American high school students so undisciplined? Read this book and judge for yourself. The author, a retired high school and junior high school teacher, first wrote his opinionated discourse in 1968, and updated it in 2004. Among his views are "Give me a Principal with Principles." "It takes good parents, and good teachers, not a village, to raise good students," and "TV is today's mother, father, and teacher" among others.



**MOTHER POWER AND  
JOKE POWER**  
by E.J. Kalinowski  
(NDP Peter Orzel)  
**\$9.95**  
Kalski Books, 1998  
142 pp., pb.

*Mother Power* is a compendium of psycho-biographical sketches on personalities in various fields: politics, military, medicine, theater, and religion, written in a pertinent, pithy manner pointing out how mother influence determined the success of the famous and infamous. *Joke Power* stresses the deleterious effects jokes have in individuals and groups targeted for derision. The author is a retired high school and junior high school teacher, who has penned numerous polemic observations in community and regional newspapers.



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## Philadelphia's P.K.M. Polish Folk Dance Group

— continued from back cover —  
 Polish culture through a fun, social aspect, said 19-year old **Andrew "Andrzej" Wiśniewski**. "The group not only allows one to experience Polish culture first hand through folk dancing and cultural activities, but connects the younger Poles and Polish Americans in the Philadelphia area. I have been in the group for 4 years, and continue to be an active member. I maintain a strong tie to our rich Polish heritage, which survives in Philadelphia through clubs and organizations such as PKM, and share this bond with others. The group has sparked a greater interest in my Polish affairs, improvement of my Polish language, and a desire to live and work in Poland in the future."

For the past three years, as a charitable goodwill mission, PKM has collected toys, personal items, bedding, clothes, for the children at the orphanage in Bemowo, Poland. PKM alumnus, Maryann Moskal adopted two boys from there and a connection was established.

Each year PKM performs at the 3-Maj Celebration at Our Lady of Czestochowa-Doylestown. Locally, they participate at the *Dozynki Festival* organized by the Polish American Congress, at St. Adalbert's Parish. Many members give back to their ethnic community by volunteering their services in many ways. Some members are instructors at The Adam Mickiewicz Polish Language School, which is based out of the Polish Home.

Members of the troupe are also involved in other Polish organizations. Klimek is well known for his work with the area Polonia. He is the Program Supervisor of *Polish American Social Services*, and serves on the Board of Directors of Polish American Social Services and the

Polish American Cultural Center. He also dons a historical uniform and depicts Tadeuz Kościuszko in improvisational acting presentations in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

On the national level, **Debbie Majka** is the president of the *American Council for Polish Culture* and the Vice-President for Cultural Activities of *The Polish American Congress*. Locally, she produces the weekly *Polonia Today* radio program heard Saturday mornings at 8:00 a.m. on WNWR 1540 AM; and is involved with numerous organizations and projects.

"There are not many events in Philadelphia's Polish America community where you don't find PKM making an appearance — the Pulaski Day Parade, Polonaise Balls, Festivals, even weddings," said Majka. "Through the dance group, young people can get to know and enjoy their Polish heritage with song, dance and costumes, as well as exercise and have fun, too! It's a great and rewarding experience."

**Ania and Pawel Kwaśniewski** came from Szczecin, Poland and are pleased to make the group a couple activity. Ania had danced in Poland, while Pawel was a novice. "In Poland, I would never have been able to continue dancing, as dancing in folk groups is kept primarily at a younger level," said Ania. "Here, I am able to keep the traditions and culture of Poland alive to a greater degree than I did in Poland. I still have a nostalgic longing for my homeland (*tesknota za Ojczyzna*), but being in PKM and in an active role in the Polish community, makes me whole."

The social aspect of rehearsals is equally as important to the practice element. At the conclusion of

an evening of singing and dancing, members sit back, unwind and enjoy lighthearted discussion and chat. Sometimes the accordion comes out, and well-known tunes, such as "Szła Dzieweczka," are sung.

Besides being a supportive environment for students and a dance group, PKM has sponsored sports teams such as baseball and volleyball, published *The PKM Gazette*, and hosted "Polish Nights," which featured Polish foods and beverages and themes around Polish seasonal traditions. PKM has always found ways to reinvent itself, serving the needs of young Polish Americans for almost 100 years. The organization has started to plan its 100th Anniversary, with a tentative date of May 14, 2015. "Our upcoming performance in Doylestown, Pa. is an opportunity to showcase our talents, skills and costumes in front of the largest local audience," said Misthal. "For PKM it is always a matter of pride to do a good show in Czestochowa! We have an exciting performance planned for the festival. It is something new for PKM — a "Journey through Poland" storyline that will link our repertoire together."

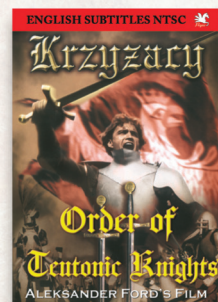
PKM's featured performance will take place on September 5 (Labor Day Weekend) at the 45th Annual *Polish-American Family Festival* at Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pa. ([www.czestochowa.us](http://www.czestochowa.us)).

Anyone interested in volunteering their talents of singing, dancing, music or technical support are invited to join the PKM, which meets on Friday evenings at the Associated Polish Home, 9150 Academy Road in Northeast Philadelphia, web: [www.pkmdancers.com](http://www.pkmdancers.com).

## The Polish American Journal Presents Battle of Grunwald 600th Anniversary

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 Kid's Blue #92440525  
 Kid's Pink #92440825



#### Poland Eagle

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 Ash #9247041  
 Kid's White #92470025  
 Kid's Blue #92470525  
 Kid's Pink #92470825



#### Drinking Team Flag

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 Ash #9211041



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 Black #9222011  
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 Red #9222021



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## Committed to Culture Philadelphia's P.K.M. Polish Folk Dance Group

by Staś Kmieć

A rare gem in the tapestry of American Polonia can be found in Philadelphia with the unique, social, and committed **P.K.M. Polish Folk Dance Group**. This 50-year old troupe knows exactly who they are and their purpose in promoting Polish culture. They do this without attitude or pretense. They do this on their own terms, and without any excuses. With an authentic welcoming nature, their mission is to celebrate life and all things Polish — tradition, hospitality, pride, respect, enjoyment, food, drink, camaraderie and fun!

“What brings people to PKM is our focus on preserving our rich Polish culture through dance,” said President **Diane Misthal**. “What keeps them coming back is our fun way of running our organization, including practices and performances.” Currently PKM has 16-20 members — “depending on weather.” The group has an “open door policy,” and members often return after a hiatus.

The Polish community of Philadelphia is “locked-in-time.” While today’s neighborhood — complete with Polish parishes, Saturday Polish language and culture school, bakeries, markets, and a pierogi-making circle, is a step into Old World Polonia; it is also a marriage of old and new Polish Americans. The locale was in a downswing until a new wave brought a fresh perspective, along with cafes, restaurants, food stores, delis, and a vibrancy to the streets.

“When I joined PKM, 30 years ago, it was mostly Americans of Polish descent. It stayed that way for many years,” added Misthal. “More recently, 4 to 5 years ago, a number of Poles, from Poland joined the group and the character of PKM changed. We also now have more multi-generation members; sons and daughters of dancers, once they reach the ripe age of 14, start dancing with us. We currently have four families carrying on the tradition!”

The Dance Group is one of the cultural activities of the **Polish Intergate Club of Philadelphia** (*Polskie Kółko Międzykolegialne*). The Intergate Club

was founded in May, 1915 to bring together individuals of Polish heritage, share educational experiences, gather for social activities, participate in sports teams and promote Polish culture. Medical students from Jefferson Hospital and other Philadelphia colleges and universities formed the organization to help students of Polish American heritage pursue degrees of higher learning. The dance group was started once before World War II, but had to cease due to a lack of male presence, as the men departed to fight the war. Organized in 1960, the folk ensemble promotes Polish dance through public performances, and consists of high school, college, graduate students and alumni.

**Diane** and sister Dorothy’s rich folklore heritage stems back to their mother, Marianna Prusik who was a vocal soloist in the Folklore Ensemble *Kurpianka* from Kadzidło. Dorothy met her husband **Rich Klimek** in PKM. I encountered these so-to-be-connected families, while on route to choreograph at Alliance College, back in 1985. I had previously been acquainted with PKM at the first Festival of the Polish Folk Dance Ensembles held in Detroit.

“Our original choreographer was **Stefania Efenberg**. It was her interpretations of the Polish dances *Krakowiak*, *Lowicz*, *Mazur* and



PHOTO: STAS KMIEC

*kas* and figure dances that became the staple of the group’s initial repertoire.” said Klimek. “To remain true to the group’s origins, we kept the Polish American material, and added Polish material, thanks to the *Polish American Folk Dance Association of the Americas*, where we came into contact with choreographers from Poland and began to learn authentic suites.”

**Stephen Szymanik** is PKM’s current Artistic Director and keeper of the choreography by Poland’s Antoni Korytek Jan Pogonowski, Jacek Marek, Alicja Kościółek-Rusin, and Baltimore’s Dennis Klima.

I recently mounted the newest piece of choreography — a fast-paced *Suita Rzeszowska*. It is this association and friendship that has brought me back several times to Philadelphia this past year. Prior to my first visit, I had been alerted that there was a “PKM style” of dancing — all fun and less structure. Little did I know how valuable and satisfying this combination would be? I was able to tap into their strength and rapport as a cohesive group, and use their energy to achieve an approach to the choreography that “spoke” to them.

At the conclusion of that first weekend of rehearsals, Krzysiu presented me with a Rzeszów doll couple as a “thank you” for my assistance to the group. Ela gave me a poster from the Polonia Rzeszów Festival, and Rich gave me a Polska T-shirt. I worked with the children of the St. Adalbert’s Polish school

and attended a dual birthday celebration at the Klimek household, where I sampled about 20 different Polish desserts. What a welcome! I was now part of the PKM family!

On the next visit Krzysiu gave me a thank-you bottle of *Wiśniówka*; *Krupnik* followed; and then *Żubrówka*. Originally from Warsaw, Poland, **Krzysztof Możdzonek** was looking for a cultural outlet in Philadelphia, where he would be able to sing and dance. His mother had been accepted into *Mazowsze* as a vocalist, but could not realize her dream, since she had a responsibility to her two young children. Krzysiu had heard of PKM, but the opportunity never arose that he could connect with them. At the wedding of his Filipino brother-in-law to a Polish wife, two ethnic groups performed — a Filipino dance group and the Polish PKM. “I directly approached PKM and joined that day,” said Możdzonek. “That was three years ago, and now PKM is an important aspect of my life and my connection to Poland. I feel I am now able to realize my mother’s dream.”

**P**KM is a family affair. There have been many marriages within the group, there are many family connections, and many have met their lifelong friends. It is not uncommon to find the children of alumni join and carry on the family name into a new era. Monica Klimek has joined her parents, aunt and cousin in the group; and Pat and John Wiśniewski now have their son involved.

“As a young person I was attracted to PKM through two facets: one being to continue a legacy from my parents who met in the group, and the other to appreciate our rich — see “P.K.M.,” page 19 —



IN ADDITION TO preservation and promotion of Polish dance, an added benefit of P.K.M. membership is its social aspect.

the *Hutsul Kolomejka* — which she learned from a book, and selected pol-

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