

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN CULTURE

AN INTERVIEW PAHA'S TOM NAPIERKOWSKI • NOT JUST YOUR LONG ISLANDER'S MUSEUM • THE EXCELLENCE OF ŚLĄSK
 AMBASSADOR ADDRESSES U.S.-POLAND RELATIONS • TRIBUTE TO A LEGACY • WHERE WERE YOUR ANCESTORS BORN?
 A CONCISE ACCOUNT OF POLES IN WORLD WAR II • DOMBROWSKI AND ZAYAK ELECTED INTO HALL OF FAME



THE REMARKABLE LIFE OF
THE GREAT ONE'S DAD
PAGE 17

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

NEWSMARK

HAGEL OFFERS CONDOLENCES. U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel called Polish Defense Minister Tomasz Siemoniak to express his condolences for the loss of a Polish soldier serving with international forces in Afghanistan. Hagel thanked Poland for its steadfast support of the ISAF mission, and its continued leadership in NATO and within the European community.

He also expressed his appreciation for Poland's understanding of changes to the European Phased Adaptive Array missile defense system (see next story).

Finally, Hagel lauded Polish efforts to modernize its armed forces. He repeated the United States' appreciation for the close working relationship with Poland, and expressed his desire to further deepen U.S.-Polish ties.

U.S. SAYS MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM NOT ENDANGERED. U.S. Undersecretary of State Wendy Sherman paid a visit to Warsaw to reassure Poland over recent changes in a European missile defense system.

A few days earlier, U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel announced the United States was abandoning the final (fourth) stage of its Eastern European missile defense plan with the focus shifted to perceived threats from Iran and North Korea. As a result, deployment of several ballistic missile interceptors in Poland will be scrapped.

However, the third missile shield construction phase in Poland is not endangered, Sherman said in Warsaw, and shorter-range interceptors would still be based in Poland as part of NATO's missile defense system in Europe.

She added that Poland knew about changes in the fourth phase before the announcement.

The Obama administration has planned to put medium-range interceptors in Redzikowo, in northern Poland, starting in 2018, as part of the NATO system. They are meant to protect Europe from attacks from Iran.

Sherman said the Polish site "will go forward as scheduled."

FIRST STOP: POLAND. Paul McCartney will kick off a world tour in Warsaw on June 22, four days after he turns 71, the former Beatle's official website announced.

McCartney's appearance at the National Stadium will be his first-ever show in Poland, said www.paulmccartney.com, adding that his "Out There!" tour would feature music from his entire career.

McCartney will also perform in Vienna on June 27, the website said, with confirmed dates for concerts in other cities to be announced.

BASIA JOHNSON DEAD. Barbara "Basia" Piasecka Johnson, 76, a Polish farmer's daughter who worked as a maid for an American heir to the Johnson & Johnson fortune before marrying him and eventually inheriting much of his wealth, has died.

Her death was announced by her family in Warsaw's daily, *Rzeczpospolita*, saying only she died "after a long and serious illness." Johnson was buried April 15 in Wroclaw, the southwestern Polish city where she grew up.

Johnson became embroiled in a nasty feud over the Johnson & Johnson fortune after her husband, J. Seward Johnson Sr., died in 1983. She prevailed over his six children, getting much of the money. In 2007, Johnson was listed on the Forbes 400 World's Richest People list with an estimated net worth of \$2.7 billion, making her the 149th richest person.

YOU CALL THIS SPRING? Heavy snows plagued Poland over the Easter weekend, leaving more than 80,000 homes in central Poland without electricity because of the unseasonably heavy snowfall. Over 30,000 homes in the major city of Bialystok alone were without power.

Police recorded 162 traffic accidents which resulted in sixteen fatalities and 232 injuries.

Visa Waiver Legislation Rolls into Immigration Reform

BUFFALO, N.Y.— Leaders in the Polish American community responded positively to U.S. Senator Charles Schumer's announcement on Buffalo's East Side

April 1 that, as part of Comprehensive Immigration Reform, he will prioritize including the "JOLT" Act — Jobs Originated Through Launching Travel.

The JOLT Act, according to Schumer, would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act regarding the visa waiver program to: (1) authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS), in consultation with the Secretary of State, to designate program countries, like Poland; (2) adjust the criteria for visa refusal rates to permit entry into the program if a country has a low visa overstay rate, which Poland does; (3) set a maximum three percent visa overstay rate for program countries, which Poland would likely not exceed; and (4) revise probationary status and program termination provisions.

It also directs the Comptroller General to review the Secretary of Homeland Security's methods for tracking aliens entering and exiting the United States and for detecting visa overstays. These revisions, according to a statement from Schumer, would likely lead to Poland's admission into the Visa Waiver Program.

The Five-Groszy That Went to the Moon

by Willie G. Moseley

The word "flown" has an important connotation when it's used to describe space memorabilia, as it designates an item that has actually been on a mission. Accordingly, the older the "flown" item is, the more interesting it will be to collectors and/or historians.

During the earliest days of the American space program, NASA made sure that many of its missions took along particular items—oftentimes, small flags or medallions—to present to other nations as gifts of goodwill following the completion of the flight.

What's more, astronauts were allowed to bring along personally-selected items inside their Personal Preference Kits (PPKs), and the quantity and variety of souvenirs that traveled into outer space inside PPKs were probably as diverse as said astronauts' personalities.

And this 1958 Polish five-groszy coin is a very unique example of an item from

See "To the Moon," page 3

Larger Than Life



PHOTO: CZAREK SOKOLOWSKI

WORKERS PUT THE FINISHING TOUCHES on the world's tallest statue of the late Pope John Paul II before its unveiling in the pontiff's native Poland, April 13.

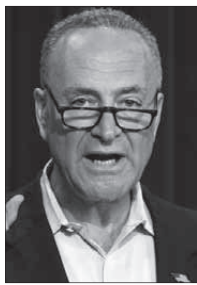
The 13.8-meter (45.3-foot) white fiberglass figure will tower over the southern city of Czestochowa, home to Poland's most important Catholic pilgrimage site, Jasna Gora.

Funded by a private investor, the pontiff appears smiling and stretching his arms to the world.

Funder Leszek Lyson called the pope "a great and good man." He said: "His statue should make everyone stop and think about life."

Lyson is trying to get the statue into Guinness Book of Records as the world's tallest of Pope John Paul II, who died in 2005.

Poland already boasts it has the world's tallest statue of Jesus.



SCHUMER

Pinkowski Receives Orchard Lake 2013 Fidelitas Medal

Posthumous Conferral Awarded to Richard Cosby



PINKOWSKI

ORCHARD LAKE, Mich.— Edward G. Pinkowski of Cooper City, Fla., is the 2013 Fidelitas Medal recipient of the Orchard Lake Schools. He was recognized for his work in preserving and recording Polish American history.

Pinkowski's research played pivotal roles in connection with two American Revolutionary heroes: Tadeusz Kościuszko and Kazimierz Pułaski. He was instrumental in identifying and preserving Kościuszko's last known residence in the United States, at Third and Pine Streets in Philadelphia, which became a National Park Service Memorial and museum site. In 1996, he identified the burial vault of Kazimierz Pułaski under Monterrey Square in Savannah.

The Fidelitas recipient's other colonial research involved Anthony Sadowski, a Polish-born trader instrumen-

See "Pinkowski," page 2



PHOTO: NASA

Apollo 14 CMP Stuart Roosa. Took a 1958 5-groszy "lucky coin" to the Moon and back.



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May Maj

Za każdym rogiem czyha kilka nowych kierunków.
Beyond each corner a number of new directions lie in wait.
— Stanisław Jerzy Lec (1909-1966)

1 **ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER. LABOR DAY (POLAND)**

1908. Birth of Krystyna Skarbek, who became a spy for the British Special Operations Executive during World War II, inspiration for Bond Girls Tatiana Romanova and Vesper Lynd.

3 **FEAST OF MARY, QUEEN OF POLAND**

1791. Polish Constitution Day marked the second oldest democratic constitution in the world.



4 1993. Death of Marion Lush (Marion Luszcz), polka musician known as the "Golden Voice of Polkas," in Hollywood, Florida, age 60.

5 1846. Birth of novelist Henryk Sienkiewicz (d. 1916), who won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1905. He is the author of "Quo Vadis?" and three other novels known as "The Trilogy."

7 1867. Birth of writer and Nobel laureate Władysław Reymont (d. 1925).

8 **ST. STANISLAUS (POLAND)**

Poland's patron, Stanislaus, an early Bishop of Krakow, was slain by King Bolesław Śmiały while celebrating Mass in 1079. His body lies in the cathedral of Wawel Hill in Krakow, Poland. Hundreds of Polish churches across the world are named after him.

10 1034. Death of Mieszko II Lambert

11 1573. Henry of Anjou (Henry Walezy), became the first elected king of Poland.

12 **MOTHER'S DAY (U.S.)**

1970. Death of World War II Polish Gen. Władysław Anders, leader of several successful battles which freed Monte Cassino, Italy, from Nazi occupation.

1902. Death of Marie Elizabeth Zakrzewska, first woman doctor in New England.

13 1889. Founding of the Polish Singers Alliance of America.

1984. Death of Stanisław Marcin Ulam, mathematician who participated in the Manhattan Project.

15 1942. Founding of the Polish Institute of Sciences in America, in New York.

18 1920. Birth of Karol Wojtyła in Wadowice, Poland, named Pope John Paul II, October 16, 1978.

20 1881. Birth of Polish General Władysław Sikorski. (d. 1943) He led the Polish government-in-exile during World War II.

21 1674. Coronation of Jan Sobieski, who defeated the Turkish Armies during the battle of Vienna in 1683.

25 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 **MEMORIAL DAY (U.S.)**

29 1913. Birth of Tony Zale (Zaleski), middleweight champion from 1940-48.

VIEWPOINTS / Henry Mazurek

A Responsibility We Must Never Let Fade

Memorial Day is a day to honor and salute the men and women who defended our freedom when our country called in its time of need. It is also a time to honor the price these courageous veterans paid on our behalf.

We should match the commitment of these men and women with the assurance that veterans and their families are not homeless, hungry, unemployed, or unable to receive medical treatment. We must continue to care for those who sacrificed their lives to reserve our country and to preserve our freedom.

It's so easy to forget the blessings of liberty we so easily take for granted. Even in this time with the threat of terrorist attacks in the news

daily, liberty is still second nature to us, and for this reason, we fail to appreciate its potency.

Freedom is on the march again in the world today, but at a price. Our young generations must be taught the heritage of patriotism, the value of freedom, and the tremendous cost of defending it.

The selfless courage these veterans have demonstrated in such far places as Afghanistan, Iraq, Khe Sahn, Normandy Beach, Iwo Jima, the Argonne Forest, Persian Gulf, and Central America provide us with real examples of the American spirit.

By passing on the legacy of the American sacrifice in the cause of freedom, we can assure that our

children and grandchildren understand that liberty carries with it great responsibilities.

Honoring our war dead, honoring all veterans is a not only a tradition, it is a responsibility we must never let fade.

In one way or another, each one of us bears scars from our wars: some of us bled openly, other invisibly — inside. We carry the scars to this day. On this Memorial Day, then, let us remember those with whom we served and who didn't come home, who remained forever young in the memories of those left behind.

Let us gather around our warrior's remains; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved

from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence reflect that, by one supreme act, they accepted death for love of country, and made immortal their patriotism, devotion and virtue.

This is a time not only for honoring these brave men and women who shed their blood and made the supreme sacrifice against the evils of tyranny, but also for stressing the futility of war and expressing our hopes for a lasting world peace. It is for this generation to see that this healing is made permanent.



Henry Mazurek is former director of the Erie County, New York, Office of Veterans' Services.

QUOTES / compiled from news sources

In Sympathy and Solidarity

"I am convinced that all Poles, perhaps especially those who appreciate sport and sporting events, are in solidarity with the American people."

— Polish president **Bronisław Komorowski**, expressing his country's sympathy for the dead and injured following the bombing at the Boston Marathon.



"Thatcher was a fearless champion of liberty."

— Polish Foreign Minister **Radosław Sikorski**, describing former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher, after news of her death. Although a staunch anti-communist, recently declassified documents indicate that Thatcher wavered over throwing Britain's weight behind Solidarity in December 1981, after martial law was declared in Poland.



"She was a great person. She did a great deal for the world, along with [late US president] Ronald Reagan, Pope John Paul II and Solidarity, she contributed to the demise of communism in Poland and Central Europe. I'm praying for her."

— Former Polish president **Lech Wałęsa**, and erstwhile leader of the Solidarity trade union.



"Poland is one of the few E.U. member states that understands the implications the U.S. shift has for Europe. It has been pushing the E.U. to respond strategically."

— **Tomasz Valasek**, president of the Central European Policy Institute in Bratislava, Slovakia, on

America's shifting attention to the Asia-Pacific region, and realignment taking place inside the European Union, two changes that will force Europe to take greater control of its own defenses.



[With] "turmoil in the south and a distant UK, we have a chance to enter the closest decision-making circles in the E.U." [Poland should strive to be at the heart of Europe] "not for the prestige that is associated with it, but to be able to influence and work with others to shape the future of the Union."

— Polish Foreign Minister **Radosław Sikorski**, telling Parliament MPs that in order for Poland to show its weight in the E.U., it must be prepared to join the Eurozone. While it will bring benefits to consumers and businesses, Poles will have use the euro, something most are reluctant to do.

Pinkowski. 2013 Fidelitas Medal Recipient

continued from cover

tal in trade with Indians during the Pennsylvania colonial period. He also wrote about Leon Jastremski, a Louisiana Confederate military officer who later was a politician, businessman, and editor in the Pelican State. His "Poles in America Foundation" (www.poles.org) seeks to foster knowledge and research into Polish contributions to American history.

Pinkowski, born in Holyoke, Mass. in 1916, served in the U.S. Navy in World War II. He is married

and the father of two sons.

The Fidelitas Medal is awarded annually by the Orchard Lake Schools in recognition of service to God and country. It was conferred during the Ambassadors' Ball in Birmingham, Mich., April 13.

Also at the April 13 ceremony, the Orchard Lake Schools formally conferred its 2012 Fidelitas Medal posthumously on Richard R. Cosby (Kossobudzki). Cosby, born in Poland in 1925, took part in the 1944 Warsaw Uprising (pseudonym "Ryś"). Interned in a camp in Dres-

den, he escaped and made his way to U.S. Army forces. Eventually emigrating to America, he was a civil engineer involved in such public projects as the Connecticut interstate highway system, the Niagara Power Plant, and work on such important Washington buildings as the Library of Congress, the Dirksen Senate Office Building, the National Gallery of Art, and the Canadian Embassy. His extraordinary life was documented by his daughter, CBS Inside Edition correspondent Rita Cosby, in her book, *Quiet Hero*.

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To The Moon

continued from cover

another country that was personally selected by an Apollo astronaut to travel to the Moon.

Its owner — a Baby Boomer who says we can call him Art — is of Polish heritage, and resides in the greater New York City area. His father, a second-generation Polish American, fought in the Battle of the Bulge in World War II, and met his mother, a Polish internee during the war, in a liberation camp in May, 1945. She later came to the United States; the couple married, and Art's father settled into a career as a firefighter.

“You couldn't imagine my surprise when I got an 'air mail' envelope ... from the Kennedy Space Center, which contained a letter from Major Roosa, not some secretary, saying he would carry my coin.”

quite special, with a red, white and blue border—from the Kennedy Space Center, which contained a letter from Major Roosa, not some secretary, saying he would carry my coin.”

Art expedited the coin to the Apollo 14 CMP, and remembers following the flight “minute by minute.” He got the coin back, as well as an autographed photo from Roosa, in July of 1971. A follow-up letter documented that the coin had traveled 1,151,086 miles in 216 hours and two minutes.

“My hands shook as I read the letter, saw the inscribed photo, and held the coin in my palm again,” he remembered.

Obviously, Art has kept both letters as provenance that his coin flew to the Moon.

The longtime space enthusiast noted that his favorite Apollo 14 in-flight photo of Roosa is from a film, in which the Apollo 14 CMP is seen wearing an eye patch for use while sighting with a sextant. Art noted that he was fascinated by what he termed as Roosa's “very natural smile” in that image.

Some family heirlooms are unique, and Art's five-groszy coin is about as personal as it gets, as it had an international connotation, yet flew inside a PPK.

“I'm most certain it was the only Polish used currency that ever flew on any American spaceflight,” he said.

Author/columnist/lecturer Willie G. Moseley's eighth book is Smoke Jumper, Moon Pilot: The Remarkable Life of Apollo 14 Astronaut Stuart Roosa (Acclaim Press) and he is also the senior writer for Vintage Guitar Magazine. Moseley says that his original contact with Art, which led to this story, transpired after the book was released. Moseley's tenth book, The Bass Space: Profiles of Classic Electric Basses, is due to be released in 2013.



ROOSA DURING THE APOLLO 14 MISSION with an eyepatch that was worn when he used a sextant to navigate the spacecraft to the Moon.

Art's mother managed to keep in touch by mail with her sister, who had remained in their homeland, and was married to a Polish air force officer. Correspondence was somewhat circuitous, as it had to go through another sister due to the Cold War and the domination of Poland by the Soviet Union.

Likewise, Art corresponded with his cousin Jesek, a son in the military family, who was six years younger.

“We were both interested in jets and the space program,” Art recalled. “He sent me a gift of a leather wallet with a small coin, a five-groszy piece. It's about the size of a dime and is made of what feels like aluminum. Jesek died of leukemia when he was about 11 or 12.”

As he came of age during the Sixties, Art, like millions of others around the world, followed history's primeval space flights intensely, as the Moon beckoned to the human race. He even fine-tuned his interest in the race to Luna, as the individual Apollo astronauts who were not slated to land on the Moon captured a disproportionate amount of his attention.

“The Moon flights were the zenith of space exploration for me,” he recounted, “and I couldn't read enough about them. The Command Module Pilots (CMPs) fascinated me the most, as that position required the skills of a great pilot, as well as the inner confidence and courage to fly alone while the two Lunar Module astronauts ventured to the surface.”

Like other enthusiasts, Art was paying particular attention to the Apollo program—and the very real possibility of its termination—following the near-tragedy of Apollo 13, and he wrote to Apollo 14 CMP Stuart Roosa, in the summer of 1970, wishing Roosa and the rest of the crew good luck. He also asked if Roosa would consider taking his “lucky coin” on the mission.

“You couldn't imagine my surprise when I got an 'air mail' envelope—in those days, they were

Schnepf Addresses U.S.-Poland Relations



RYSZARD SCHNEPF. Poland's ambassador to the United States.

by **Richard P. Poremski**

BALTIMORE, Md. — The Baltimore Council on Foreign Affairs invited Poland's Ambassador to the U.S. — The Honorable Ryszard Schnepf — to address Poland's foreign affairs and relations here on April 4, 2013 at the World Trade Center. Dr. Frank Burd was the MC and moderator, with 200 Council members and guests attending.

Ambassador Schnepf spoke extemporaneously for about 1 hour, which included a follow-up Q&A session. The main topics and answers concerning our two countries are condensed as follows:

Baltimore — “I'm very pleased to be here. Baltimore is culturally, historically and economically one of the most active Polish communities in the U.S. today. It's also home to the National Katyn Memorial, which is very important to Poland and its people.”

U.S. - Poland Relations — “Poland is the most reliable friend and good ally that the U.S. has; the U.S. has few such friends in the world. Poland is loyal and dedicated and has proved it in Iraq, Afghanistan, and many other places. We have received much important help from the U.S., political and economic, and we have not wasted this help. Poland considers the U.S. to be its most important partner in the world.”

Military Cooperation — “Polish soldiers were very proud to serve alongside American soldiers in Iraq. In Afghanistan we cooperated with the U.S. at the highest political and military levels — and it will be ‘Together In, Together Out.’ The U.S. Missile Defense System, and the presence of American soldiers now in Poland, is a vital issue to Poland. U.S. - Polish security is merged and joined. The U.S. has revised some phases of its Missile Defense plan, and Poland is not happy with the changes. Poland has always been a fighter for freedom — ‘For Your Freedom and Ours’ — including the American Revolutionary War help given by Polish Generals Pulaski and Kosciuszko.”

Jewish Property Restitution — “It's a difficult problem. Jewish property is 14% of the entire claims. The claims are all being treated equally, with no division by religion or ethnicity. The owner is the owner, with legal documents and titles being very important. This has affected even prime, historic property formerly owned by the Polish government.”

U.S. Visa Waiver Program — “It's unfair that Poles need a visa to enter the U.S., and Poland needs to be included into the Visa Waiver Program very soon. Presently, there are very stern and onerous preconditions in obtaining a visa — especially for younger Poles, with their rejection rate being automatically extremely high. The U.S. is losing out on the Polish talent because the professional and highly skilled Poles desired by U.S. companies are now going to the entry-free E.U. countries to work. Many Polish tourists want to visit the U.S. and spend their money here. The President, and certain Senators and Congressmen are now working to resolve the problem. Adding Poland to the Visa Waiver Program will be a benefit to both the U.S. and Poland.”

Ambassador Schnepf proved to be an outstanding, very knowledgeable and socially engaging speaker, witnessed by the standing ovation he justly received from the appreciative audience at the conclusion of his very informative remarks.

Ambassador Protests “Unfair” German TV Series

(IAR) — Poland's ambassador in the United States has protested against a German World War II TV series being distributed in the United States which stereotypes Poles as anti-Semites.

“This film presents a selective image, based on stereotypes, and above all is painfully unfair to soldiers who heroically fought the German occupiers, often paying the highest price,” Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf writes in a letter to Music Box Films, which is to distribute the controversial *Our Mothers, Our Fathers* TV series, made by the German state television network ZDF.

Poland's anger has been raised by scenes in the series which depict members of its World War II “Home Army” resistance move-

ment against occupying Nazi Germans as being anti-Semites, with one scene showing a Pole saying that they “drown Jews like rats.”

Schnepf writes in his protest letter that the TV series “does not serve the truth” about Poles' attitudes to Jews during the German occupation, saying that the film neglects to show the thousands of Poles who risked their lives sheltering Jews from the Nazis.

The TV series prompted one right-wing Polish weekly, *Uwazam Rze*, to depict on its front cover Chancellor Angela Merkel dressed as a concentration camp inmate, with the headline: “Falsification of History: How The Germans Made Themselves The Victims of World War II.”

THE POLISH GIFT OF LIFE

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Appreciating Values

An Interview with Dr. Thomas Napierkowski, President, Polish American Historical Association

Dr. Thomas Napierkowski was recently elected president of the Polish American Historical Association (PAHA), a professional group of professors and other scholars researching the Polish American community. It is his second time as PAHA's president, having served in 1992-94. Napierkowski, who earned his doctorate at the University of Colorado-Boulder, is professor in the Department of English at the University of Colorado - Colorado Springs. He spoke with John Grondelski about PAHA and his plans.

Congratulations on being elected President of the Polish American Historical Association (PAHA). For readers who have not heard about it, tell us something about PAHA: its history, activities, and current projects.

It's an honor to serve as PAHA president, an interdisciplinary organization dedicated to the study of Polish American history and culture. Although it was founded as part of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences (PIASA) in 1942, in 1948 PAHA became an autonomous scholarly society. It's affiliated with the American Historical Association, promoting and disseminating research about Polish American history and culture. We focus on the Polish experience in America: from the earliest settlers at Jamestown and Panna Maria to the latest immigrants. At the same time, we also examine the Polish experience in other parts of the Americas, e.g., a recent issue of our journal, *Polish American Studies*, examined the Polish presence in Latin America. Let me also stress we are truly interdisciplinary: we include not just historians but sociologists, musicologists, anthropologists, literary critics, and even theologians.

As PAHA President, what do you want to achieve? How would you like to see PAHA grow or change?

I want to promote a better aware-

ness of PAHA, both within Polonia and with the American public at large (which will hopefully grow our membership). Although we are doing well, more members mean we can achieve more. I hope to continue promoting greater cooperation with Polish scholars, universities, scholarly groups, and the Polish government, something beneficial to all involved. I also want to resurrect a Speakers' Bureau, enabling both Polish organizations and the American public/media to draw on our members' expertise.

PAHA is the Polish American Historical Association. Cynics might say Polonia today is more history than a living reality, especially with declining immigration from Poland. The Great Immigration za chlebem which laid the mass base of Polonia is now in its fourth or even fifth generation. Where is Polonia going? What do you think American Polonia will look like in 2035?

Michael Novak once said you can change your name, but not your grandparents (or your great-grandparents!). Polish immigrants and their children have generally retained their identities. Later generations have, no doubt, identities different from their grandparents or great-grandparents, but there is clear evidence they kept or rediscovered their roots. John Paul the Great, Solidarity, Polish NATO membership, and easier tourism to Poland have all played roles; but family traditions, genealogical studies, and the work of scholars such as those in PAHA have done much to foster continuing interest in being Polish. A recent example of the latter is PAHA's award-winning *Polish American Encyclopedia*, which affords much easier access to the Polish experience in America and will undoubtedly contribute to Polish American pride.

People may have moved to the suburbs, parishes may be closing, fewer and fewer Poles may speak Polish ... but I have no doubt Polonia will survive as long as we work together.

Polonian organizational life has been suffering from declining numbers and aging membership. What

does that say for Polonian academic organizations like PAHA?

One reason — but only one reason — for the “graying” of organizational life is the fact that many younger Polish Americans don't appreciate the history of Polish America or Poland. The sources of this ignorance are multiple, but the solution lies with groups like PAHA and PIASA which help provide a better understanding and appreciation of Polonian heritage and what we have



Dr. Thomas Napierkowski

contributed to American history and culture. This, in turn, will enable Polish Americans to reclaim their identity and share it with others.

Undoubtedly, some Polonian organizations will be lost, but others will survive. Younger people more aware of their heritage can carry that awareness into a new generation of personal and professional organizations.

You teach literature. American ethnic literature has been growing in importance, although writing by European ethnics seems to get short shrift. What is the lay of the land in Polish American writing today?

I've written a lot about these topics — too much to summarize here — but I would stress a few points. (1) The canon of American literature has expanded, in recent decades, to include minority, immigrant, and ethnic literatures. (2) It is also unfortunately true that Polish

American literature remains very much marginalized. The blame for this lies both with the “guardians” of American culture and with the Polish American community. Nativist attitudes and political prejudice account for some of the neglect of Polish American literature, but the failure of our community to support Polish American authors has also hurt.

There is a large body of literature — fiction, poetry, drama — in Polish by immigrants of the *stara emigracja* still uncatalogued, unstudied, and untranslated. It is in danger of being lost: without a conscious effort to find and preserve that literature, much of it risks simply being thrown out in the next attic cleaning. This is a shame, because there is now a growing recognition that American literature is multilingual. For many similar reasons, the literature in Polish of World War II refugees, Cold War immigrants and Solidarity-era arrivals is likewise neglected.

Finally, it is important to note that although it has taken a long time, the children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of the *stara emigracja* have discovered their background and found their voices, drawing on their lives of their forebears for inspiration and creativity. Writers like Anthony Bukoski, Suzanne Strempek Shea, Leslie Pietrzyk, and Brigid Pasulka and poets like John Guzowski, Linda Nemecek Foster, Cecelia Woloch, and John Miczewski have gained critical acclaim for themselves and recognition for Polonia.

The late 1970s were the heyday of European urban ethnic awareness, and one might even say gave Ronald Reagan victory in 1980. Do you see any chance for a revival of that movement?

The heyday of the “unmeltable ethnics” (to use Michael Novak's term) was in the 1970s; but recent evidence suggests that the dawn of the “enduring ethnics” has arrived. This is especially true if organizations like PAHA effectively achieve their mission of disseminating accurate research on the Polish experience in America; even people who have lost their ethnic identity will be

curious about it. This recovery and preservation will, I am convinced, enrich American society.

Polonia — and especially Polonian subjects — seems terribly underrepresented in American academe. Do you agree? What would you tell a young scholar, especially in the humanities or social studies, who might be thinking about specializing in Polish or Polonian research?

I agree; and that is a problem that has marginalized our community. I would simply advise young scholars to propose courses of study and to explore research opportunities which touch their lives as Polish Americans. I personally found my way to the study of Polish American literature after working for some years in African American literature; my work in that area piqued my interest in the literature of my own community. It also honed my skills on the analysis of minority American literature in general.

PAHA is a wonderful source of professional support and encouragement for younger scholars. Our annual meeting and our scholarly journal *Polish American Studies* are great venues to report and publish fresh scholarly work.

You recently returned from Romania, where you were a visiting Fulbright scholar. Tell us something about your experience.

It was a rewarding experience. I taught at a Hungarian-sponsored university in western Romania that serves the large Hungarian population of that community. I also had opportunities to lecture at Romanian universities, and so had a foot in two worlds. I even was able to do some traveling. As cosmopolitan as the experience was, it also renewed my love of the United States, a country where someone with a long Polish name is a native son.

Persons interested in learning about the Polish American Historical Association, wanting to subscribe to its biannual journal “Polish American Studies,” or learn about the “Polish American Encyclopedia” can check out the organization's website at www.polishamericanstudies.org.

Tribute to a Legacy

ALEXANDRIA, Virg. — Peter and Laura Zeranski are the authors of the acclaimed heritage cookbook *Polish Classic Recipes*, and the recently released *Polish Classic Desserts*. Their unexpected venture into the world of Polish cuisine is one of happenstance and a tribute to Peter's mother, Alina Zeranska. In 1968 Alina, a popular journalist who emigrated from Poland after World War II, wrote *The Art of Polish Cooking*. She was an accomplished cook but she also wanted to preserve the important holiday traditions. Since she wasn't so familiar with English terminology, 18-year old Peter was tasked with reading all the stories, articles and recipes, and providing English-language corrections to the huge stack of “erasable typing paper”—the output of months of clacking keys on the old manual Smith Corona typewriter. Eventually her book was published by Doubleday Publishing, later acquired by Pelican Publishing of Gretna, La., and it continues to sell worldwide. Truthfully, it only became a best seller after the explosion of internet shopping. Today, hundreds of online book stores sell Alina's book. And so, in 1968 a legacy was born, then re-born in the 21st century thru technology.



Peter and Laura Zeranski

Fast forward four decades to 2010: Peter is married to Laura. Laura is an excellent home cook and baker in her own right. Alina passed away in 2005 and Laura has accumulated over 35 years of experience cooking traditional Polish cuisine—mostly from Alina's book. Laura's own copy is filled with hundreds of notes and tips from her mother-in-law and from her own experiences. But “the book” was written long before microwave ovens, immersion blenders, or standing mixers. Laura and Peter thought it would be a nice

“post retirement” project to update it. So Peter contacted the publisher and suggested a new and improved version. Instead, the owner asked for an entirely new book, to be part of Pelican's series of classic recipe books.

They jumped into this brand new challenge full bore. Craig's List was a gold mine yielding a professional young and hungry photographer, his buddy the food stylist, an editor in Florida, and a graphics designer in Louisiana who had designed other books in the series and already knew what he was doing. Laura was the cooking expert and

Peter was the writer and business manager. They couldn't use Alina's published recipes so Laura researched friends and family for new heritage recipes, all handed down from generation to generation. Over six months each recipe was tested and retested to perfection; the imprecise “pinch of this” and a “glass of that” were also converted to precise North American measures. Plus, Laura re-

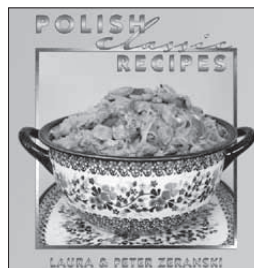
corded numerous notes and tips to ensure that even novice cooks could be successful with each delectable dish. In early 2011 *Polish Classic Recipes* was released and quickly became a hit. Polish Americans everywhere, as well as foodies and cook book collectors, love the delicious recipes, clear instructions, background essays about “growing up Polish” and the stunning photography.

Today the book is available in specialty stores and websites around the world, and is enjoyed by readers from Russia to Australia, from the United Arab Emirates to Japan.

As Peter and Laura signed their book up and down the East Coast, new friends everywhere talked about their childhood memories of filled donuts, Grandma's cheesecake, Christmas ginger bread

cookies, tall tortes, and all the other sweets they loved growing up. And many were sad they no longer had the recipes, or that their kids didn't know how to make those traditional delicacies. And thus *Polish Classic Desserts* was born. A new photographer was found on Craig's List. Again, every recipe was tested to perfection to the great delight of family and neighbors who tasted every dish. This newest heritage cook book was released in February. Almost instantly the book rose to the Pelican Publishing's Top Ten List on Amazon. Once again Peter and Laura are signing books at Polish heritage festivals, Polish church fairs, books stores and specialty retailers from Buffalo to Richmond.

❖ ❖ ❖
The Zeranskis will be at the Polish Festival in Hamburg N.Y. on June 7-8. Their books are available on our own Polish American Journal web site (polamjournal.com) or autographed on their own website, polishclassiccoking.com. Smaczno!



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REVIEW / Staś Kmieć

Śląsk — an Ultimate Performance of Excellence

The recent tour of *Śląsk — The National Song and Dance Ensemble of Poland* can be summed up in one word — *czysto!* — clean form, clean execution, and clean technique made for an ultimate performance experience of excellence. The company, presented under the auspices of Starvox Entertainment, was just here in November of 2012, but returned with a brief tour of select cities in Canada and the United States.

At the Lehman Center for the Performing Arts in New York City's Bronx borough, *Śląsk* gave two performances of bright, theatrical dancing and singing. The company of 80 performers was skillful, dazzlingly energetic, and the presentation was much enhanced by the costumes and live orchestra.

For comparison, I attended both shows — viewing the first from the last row of the balcony and the second in a closer orchestra seat. Each performance had a change of casting in the soloist roles. The distance allowed me to view the exquisite choreographic pattern and see if the performance can carry the distance; while the closer perspective offered interaction, connection, and projection.

Śląsk is one of the great professional folkloric ensembles in the world. With its founder Stanisław Hadyna and original conceptual choreographer Elwira Kamińska no longer at the helm, the spirit and virtuosity behind this company, under the directorship of Zbigniew Cierniak, are still very much in evidence.

One cannot help but respond enthusiastically to the breathtaking male bravura of the *Podhalańskie* mountain dances — the quintessential gem of the repertoire that closes the first act to repeated encores. In the matinee though, it was the more subtle and superbly performed *Ku-*

jawiaki Gluszyńskie, as realized by soloists Joanna Mokwa and Adam Czechlewski that stole the show as one of those rare occasions of theater magic.

Reimagined and adapted for a single couple from the original ensemble choreography by Hanna Chojecka, the solo dance, supported by the vocals of the choral contingent to music by Wojciech Kilar, was a revelation. The romantic interplay between the two lovers was magnetic and real. The lyrical steps punctuated with percussive gestures approaches the traditional through a storyline using a contemporary vocabulary of movement. Many folkloric companies are presentational in format — playing to an audience. With this dance we are privileged to look beyond the “fourth wall” and witness an intimate, private exchange.

While the troupe's basic repertoire can be predictable, it has still preserved the verve, athleticism and precision that has animated the company for the past 60 years. The standard repertoire by Kamińska anchors the performance as classics of their genre. There is a difference however, between her pieces and those set by succeeding choreographers. *Polka Beskidzka* by Władysław Stefanik is entrancing and closest in style; Jurah Kubanka's *Polka Opolskie* is entertaining in its revue-like style.

Tańce Lubelskie does not fare as well. Though greatly improved from its premiere in 1989, the choreography still remains disjointed. The changes made are derivative and “borrowed” from previous work and the styling of other established ensembles.

Beginning oddly with “Szumiąca Leszczyna,” a *walczek* tune from the Rzeszów region, the suite lacks understanding of the subtleties of



The company of 80 performers was skillful, dazzlingly energetic, and the presentation was much enhanced by the costumes and live orchestra.

arm, head, and leg positions, and the intricacies of the partnered pivot in the wedding dance, *Mach*. Unlike the stylized invention of choreographic imagination, it is difficult to create a piece so closely aligned with authentic material without properly knowing the region.

Dwa Michały, a charming dance confection was actively matched by Czechlewski and Marek Kulig as the “two Michaels.” Stylistically, Aneta Wojtyra and Emil Tarnowski in the *Kujawiak-Oberek*, and Agnieszka Kulig and Piotr Cegiełkowski in the finale *Krakowiak* captured the intricate essence and technique of the solo choreography.

In comparison to November, the program was similar but different in dynamics — offering a contrast to the glowing smiles and happy village dances. A selection that was appreciated by this reviewer was the dark and dramatic “*Ondraszek, Pieśń o Zbójniku*” — a bold choice for the typical American show-au-

dience. Written in a minor key, the song as compellingly performed by Joanna Budzisz, details the tragic story of the real life *beskidnik* highland bandit from the mountains of the Moravian-Cieszyn Silesian Beskids, Andrzej Szebista. Known as Ondraszek or Ondra, he was murdered on April 1, 1715 by a member of his own gang for the reward of a hundred florins. Ondraszek was immortalized in popular legend as a “defender of the peasants and the enemy of noblemen,” and is the subject of many folk tales, and songs — the most famous being this one.

For the longest period of time (and in particular when the founder Hadyna returned to his post as director after a lengthy absence), *Śląsk* chose to exactly reproduce the tone,

inflection and vocal quality of its earlier recorded soloists. Through the years, despite different persons taking on the role, “*Karolinka*,” “*Szła Dzieweczka*,” “*Starzyk*,” “*Helokanie*,” and “*Ondraszek*” seemed to mimic the sound of the original. For the listener brought up on archive recordings, this was comforting to hear. It is refreshing to hear new qualified vocal interpretations of songs that have been embedded in the ear.

“*Szła Dzieweczka*” was enacted in two beautiful interpretations — the traditional sound of Renata Dworak and Michał Borkowski, and an “in-the-moment” original version by Dorota Sitek and Piotr Nikiel. Their rapport was genuine — breathing new life into this staple of the repertoire and popular folk song catalogue.

In the “*Do Krakowa*” sequence Borkowski sang in an elevated heightened tone, as he searched through a forest of women to find “his Marysiu.” During the evening performance Nikiel was spontaneous, heartfelt, and endearing in his search for his beloved. His tenor has a pure, natural quality that is nuanced, solid, deep, and masculine.

The expressive, effortless open voiced *biały glos* of Beata Pyda is a joy to hear in anything she sings — the signature “*Karolinka*,” “*Stoneczko Wyszło*,” and “*Maryś, Maryś*.”

Śląsk never fails to delight and embody the culture and spirit of the people of Poland through the unique expression of national folk dancing and concept ideas. With the success of its two recent return engagements, the audiences throughout the country await the next visit to our shores.

SUPPORT THE PAJ PRESS FUND

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

Donations to the PAJ Press Fund are also used to support our reader services (postage, telephone, research, etc.), provide newscletters 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.

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Summer Language Program at the KF

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Summer Semester of Polish Language Classes will start Mon., June 3 and end Thur., July 25.

Four sections of Polish classes are offered this summer:

- Beginners I (Wednesdays, June 5- July 24);
- Beginners I Continuation (Mondays, June 3-July 22);
- Beginners II (Tuesdays, June 4-July 23);
- Intermediate/Advanced (Thursdays, June 6-July 25)

All classes start at 6.30 p.m. and end at 8.15 p.m. at the Washington Office of the Kosciuszko Foundation, 2025 O St.

Visit www.learnpolishdc.com for more information or email bernhardtbasia@gmail.com for details.

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Canonization Processes Advance

On March 28 Pope Francis recognized the heroic virtue of lay brother missionary of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate **Antoine Kowalczyk**, and designated him as Servant of God. This allows his cause to advance toward beatification. Bro. Kowalczyk was born in Dzierżanów, Poland in 1866 and died in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada in 1947.

On March 19, the path to sainthood recognition was opened in the RC Diocese of LaCrosse, Wisc., for **Fr. Joseph Walijewski**, a humble missionary who helped the poor in Latin America. The diocese is now seeking persons who could give testimony, whether positive or negative, about his holiness. Fr. Sebastian Kołodziejczyk, who worked with him at an orphanage in Lima, Peru, said of him, "He was all about doing God's will as a priest. He was always working with the poor, sharing the hardships of the poor."

Born in 1924 to Polish immigrant parents in Grand Rapids, Mich., he was ordained in 1950 in the La Crosse diocese and after working in several parishes in Wisconsin went to work in Bolivia in 1956, where he founded a parish in Santa Cruz. He then did missionary work in Ecuador, pastoral work in Wisconsin, and ministry in Lima, Peru, after a devastating earthquake there in 1971. The breakfast stations that he organized served 8,000 children a day. He then founded an orphanage, the House of John Paul II, in 1987 with the help of a married couple. At age 76 he established a home for the elderly and drove to the rain forest on Sundays to celebrate Mass for native Indian communities there. Like the new pope, "he was not just preaching poverty, he lived it. It was not just something for show," said Fr. Kołodziejczyk.

During the Japanese invasion of China in 1937, the bishop of Chengtingfu gave refuge to about 5,000 persons, mostly women and girls who feared rape by the invaders. When the Japanese demanded that 200 women be surrendered to serve the soldiers' pleasure as "comfort girls," the bishop refused. That evening the bishop was taken away along with eight other European missionaries and laymen. They were all burned alive. One of these was Polish lay brother **Władisław Prinz**. The cause for the bishop and his companions has been entered

for investigation to see if they merit eventual beatification or declaration as martyrs.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR 105 YEARS. **Five Holy Martyrs RC Church**, in Chicago's Brighton Park neighborhood, has served the Polish community since 1908. The parish school is named for Pope John Paul II and the street outside the church is named John Paul II Drive. Like most parishes, the challenge facing Five Holy Martyrs is to find a way to attract younger Catholics. **Teresa Toczek-Bala**, a long-time and active parishioner, suggested that the church should promote itself more by doing good deeds in the community and offering outreach programs.

SUPERIOR INSTALLED AT CHERRY HILL CONVENT. **Mother Beata Chwistek**, superior general, and **Sister Bernadeta Dudziak**, vicar general, installed **Mother Dorota Baranowska** as the new superior provincial of the Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Province of America. Mother Baranowska, originally from Białystok, Poland, is a child educator who entered the congregation in 1992 in the United States. Until recently she had been teaching at Blessed Edmund Center in Cherry Hill, N.J.

POPE'S LOVING EXAMPLE PRAISED. Congressional delegates to the papal installation Mass praised the new pontiff as a spiritual leader who presents the fullness of Church teaching in love. Among the delegates was Chicago Democrat **Dan Lipinski**, known for his voting in congress to defend life and marriage. "Pope Francis," he said, "has demonstrated both humility and strength, I pray to the Holy Spirit to guide him as he leads the world's 1.2 billion Catholics."

YOUTH CENTER CELEBRATES 30 YEARS. The Centro San Lorenzo in Rome was founded 30 years ago by **Blessed John Paul II** as a place where young pilgrims in Rome could encounter the living Church within the context of prayer and community. The center has been run by a team of young people ever since its founding. The anniversary celebration began with Mass at

Blessed John Paul II's tomb in St. Peter's Basilica. Fr. Jacquinet, director of the Pontifical Council for the Laity said, "The fact [Blessed] John Paul II opened a center for young people in the Vatican" is evidence of his desire "to give to the young people their place in the Church. They are the present and the future of the Church. They are the hope of the Church."

SEMINARIANS INSTALLED AS LECTORS. Among the 55 seminarians at Rome's North American College, the residence in Rome for U.S. seminarians, who were installed as Lectors was **John Michael Kuchinski** from the Harrisburg RC Diocese. He is a native of St. Leo the Great Parish in Rohrerstown, Pa.

NEW ALTAR BLESSED. Archbishop **Thomas G. Wenski** of Miami placed a relic of Venerable Fr. Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, into the altar stone of the new portable altar which will serve liturgical services for the Knights of Columbus in Florida. The altar was built by **Joseph Soborowicz** of Resurrection Council 11189, Winter Garden, Fla.

Man of the Year, Holy Name A.C.

STAMFORD, Conn. — The city's oldest athletic organization, Holy Name Athletic Club, organized in 1925, held its 79th Annual Communion Breakfast, Palm Sunday. One of the traditions at the breakfast was to honor one of its members as the Citizen of the Year. This year's honoree was John Orzechowski, president of the club.

The speaker for the event was Polish Catholic Holocaust survivor, **Bozena Urbanowicz Gilbride**, who spoke about her award-winning book, "Children of Terror." It is the story of two young girls — one Polish Catholic the other German Jew — both born in the same year, who



both suffered at the hands of the Nazis in World War II. Although their backgrounds were very different, they had to endure the same hardships in the early years of their lives and became friends as adults. The book is available on Amazon.com.

Pictured above are club officer **Koproski, Orzechowski**, and **Urbanowicz Gilbride**.

INTERNATIONAL

COMPROMISED REACHED. A compromise has been reached over church funding in Poland, said Cardinal **Kazimierz Nycz**, Archbishop of Warsaw, and **Michał Boni**, Minister of Administration and Digitization.

Talks began in April 2012 between government ministers and the Roman Catholic Church after the government announced plans to eliminate the state's Church Fund as part of austerity measures.

Although about 28 million dollars per year will be cut from state spending, as a result of the compromise, tax-paying Poles will be allowed to give from 0.8 to one percent of their income tax to the church. The government had proposed 0.3 percent.

The vast majority of church funding — about 80 percent — already comes from donations by church members.

Separate government talks with representatives of Poland's smaller religious denominations are set to begin. As ninety percent of Poland's

population is Roman Catholic, the majority of the annual funding has gone to the Catholic Church.

HOLOCAUST DOCUMENTS UNVEILED. Meticulous records kept by the Nazis detailing the fate of 17.5 million of their World War II victims have been rediscovered in the German town of Bad Arolsen. The archive shelves, stretching 16 miles and containing 50 million pages of documents, are gradually being made public. They were confined to secret storage after World War II by the victorious allies out of concern for the privacy of the victims and also for political reasons.

Among the records are details about many of the imprisoned and murdered Jews, Christians, Russians, and others, including 1,900 priests who met horrific deaths under the German and Russian aggression. The archive stands as incontrovertible proof of the World War II exterminations which refute the ignorant and wilful claims of Holocaust deniers. The "60 Minutes"

segment detailing the archives is available on YouTube.

"CAPPUCCINO FOR AFRICA." A group of Capuchin friars in Poland used the order's historical link to cappuccino to raise money to help Africans.

Coffee shops in six Polish cities joined in the three-day action "Cappuccino for Africa" for missions that the Krakow-based friars are running in the Central African Republic and Chad.

Capuchin monks have been often credited with inspiring the name for the frothy coffee drink because of their coffee-colored habits.

A project coordinator, **Piotr Gajda**, said a friar got the idea for the charity last year while drinking a coffee, and wondering how the order's association with the pleasurable drink could be used to help the missions. The group says proceeds from selling one cappuccino in Poland will provide 10 hot meals for children in the Central African Republic.

Preserving the Past, Forging the Future



THE ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS marked the 50th anniversary of the Shrine Chapel of Our Lady of Orchard Lake, March 3, 2013. The historical milestone was celebrated at Mass by Archbishop **Vigneron** and Reverend Monsignor **Thomas C. Machalski, Jr.**, in the presence of a capacity crowd, many of whom came to honor the past.

Dedicated in 1962, the chapel was designed by Orchard Lake Schools alumnus **Walter Rozycki**. A remarkable example of fine artistry and craftsmanship, it was designed to house up to 750 under the curved beams and roof purlins of laminated Oregon Douglass Fir — a design feature that resembles "praying hands" angled toward the heavens.

The anniversary celebration initiated a fundraising effort to restore the chapel to its original grandeur. "Included in the renovation plans is the building of a shrine to house the relic of the Blessed John Paul II that we received from his secretary, Cardinal **Dziwisz**," said Reverend Monsignor **Thomas C. Machalski**, Chancellor and Rector, Orchard Lake Schools.

Swing into Spring

ORCHARD LAKE, Mich. — The music department of St. Mary's Preparatory is kicking off the season with its annual Spring Swing Dinner Dance fundraising event, Fri., May 10, 2013, from 6:30–11:00 p.m. in the St. Mary's Athletic Complex Banquet Center.

This year's theme, *Mardi Gras Dance Party*, caters to the sounds of New Orleans as well as all-time classics performed by the talented St. Mary's Jazz Ensemble with Detroit award-winning special guest, **Planet D. Nonet**, known as "Detroit's best little swing band." This musical ensemble, who has partnered with the St. Mary's musicians for several years, is once again making a special appearance alongside the men of the Prep.

Seating is limited. All tickets are \$40 each after May 1. For reservations or more information, call (248) 681-3645 or email bollass@comcast.net.

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. Send to: Polish American Journal, P.O. Box 271, N. Boston, NY 14110.

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. M.B.H.

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, G.M.K.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT. Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems, who light all roads so I can attain my goal. You who give me the Divine gift to forgive and to forget all evil against me and that in all instances of my life you are with me. I want this short prayer to thank you for all things and to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you, even and in spite of all material illusion. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. Thank you Holy Spirit. That person must say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the favor requested will be granted, even if it may appear difficult. This prayer must be published immediately after the favor is granted, without mentioning the favor. Your initials should appear after the thank you. Thank You Holy Spirit. G.M.K.

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. M.A.E.

The Polish American Museum — Not Just Your Long Islander's Museum

by Gerald Kochan

PORT WASHINGTON, Long Island, N.Y. — Libraries have long been known as the repositories of knowledge. The former Port Washington Library at 16 Bellevue Ave., serves as home to the Polish American Museum. The wealth of knowledge contained in those walls is not confined as formerly it was only to books and periodicals. Displays, both historical and cultural pervade the rooms and halls of this amazing building. Within thirty rooms, the building houses fifteen exhibit galleries, a research library, the CMS annex, lecture hall, gift shop offices and supplementary classrooms and storage areas.

Much like the children's story of "The Little Engine that Could," this museum has stepped up to pull a load larger mainstream museums in America have given scant regard to "Polish History, Culture and the Polish Experience in America." Celebrating its 26th year of existence this year, the Museum has evolved



PAM President Basia Szydłowski and Life Scout Peter Levenchuck, who earned Eagle status by volunteering at the museum.

in a manner that both surprised and delighted its founders. Under its tireless President Basia Szydłowski, volunteers give of their time and skills bringing a sense of community as opposed to bureaucracy to the endeavors of the staff. Foremost among these tireless volunteers is Steve Szachacz a craftsman in every sense of the word. When the museum acquires a new collection



Display on Gen. Haller's Blue Army of World War II.

or needs to maximize its display space, Szachacz keeps "Madame President" Basia and the Director Gerald Kochan grounded to the limits of engineering and the Museum building.

There has been much to test the limits of space and engineering, even as the article is being written, everyone is rallying to determine how to display a folding bicycle used by British and Polish Airborne forces in World War II. An extremely rare piece, this example holds a special place in Kochan's regard. Examples of this folding bike, including perhaps this very bike were used by the Polish Airborne Recon Platoons, in which his father served. Moreover, the bike is just the proverbial tip of the iceberg regarding recent acquisitions. With the Center for Military Studies Annex occupying the right wing of the Museum for over five years now, a great number of historical items relating to military service of Poles and Polish Americans have been placed on display.

The Center was founded in 1992 in response to the tumultuous events that unfolded in Eastern Europe and Southwest Asia at the end of the eighties and early nineties. The Gulf War brought Poles serving alongside U.S. forces for the first time since World War II. This was a role the Poles encored with valiant service in Iraqi Freedom and today again, yet in Afghanistan. Founder

Kochan serving as a U.S. Army officer in the Gulf, worked with these forces and was inspired by this experience and his heritage to seek recognition for their efforts. With an honorary board consisting of the late Col. Francis "Gabby" Gabreski (top European Theater World War II ace), Major Jerry Devlin (Ranger Hall of Famer and DSC awardee), and Col. Richard Jung (Iraqi Freedom 11th Iraqi Division METT Commander), the project moved rapidly forward. Still, it wasn't until Szydłowski and the Polish American Museum made the Center part of their own educational outreach that both institutions maximized the potential of the Center.

This is what the Polish American Museum does the best — it allows potentials to be realized. When Life Scout Peter Levenchuck of Troop 134 was looking for a project for his Eagle Scout Badge, the Museum and Levenchuck both benefitted from a coming together. Bringing together volunteers from his family, Troop and museum, Levenchuck engaged upon an ambitious plan to repaint more than two thirds of the museum as while as install a sprinkler system to the lawn. The Museum is proud to report he will be receiving his Eagle Scout award as a result in June.

This year has witnessed a number of new exhibits launched including one that pays tribute the contributions of Polish Americans to the rebirth of the Polish nation in 1918 and its defense against the USSR in the 1920 campaign. In particular, it follows the various patriot organizations, such as the Sokol clubs, that gave rise to the famed Blue Army. A force recruited from Polish Americans, trained along the Niagara border in Canada and numbering over 75,000 strong, this army went to France to fight alongside the French in hopes of seeing the reestablishment of a free Poland with the defeat of the German and Austrian Empires. The Blue Army under General Haller was also a key factor in the defeat of the Soviet invasion of Poland in 1920. The museum has artifacts and rare uniforms featuring Sokol, Blue Army, and Haller veteran alike from this

period of rebirth. Many of these veterans returned home to the US after giving their all to see a free Poland. This story is one rarely told in U.S. history books and one among many that would fall away if not for the efforts of "the little train that could," the Polish American Museum and CMS annex.

This desire of Polish Americans to keep Poland alive has not died out with the demise of the Blue Army veterans. From Detroit, one of the old Blue Army recruiting hubs, Ed Kaminski recently donated two significant art pieces by the noted aviation artist R. Wong depicting 315 Polish Squadron and the Polish Fighting Team — Skalski's Circus — during World War II. Although originally formed by residents of Long Island, Ed's donation symbolizes the increasingly cosmopolitan outreach of the museum as we seek to serve community, nation and international Polonia alike.

Not to stand in the shadow of the historical displays, the cultural displays including those of regional costumes, and rich musical heritage have all been renovated. Of particular note to the visitor is how easy it is to move from a gallery that features Polish Scientists and Noble prize-winners to one which illustrates the rich religious background of Poland with no sense of incongruity or unease.

Moving beyond the boundaries of the physical walls, a new website has been created to bring the museum far beyond any border limitation. You can access the Polish American Museum, the CMS annex and their many events and collections by going to www.polishamericanmuseum.com. An additional acknowledgment of the Museum's electronic media centered age is the documentary series that is produced

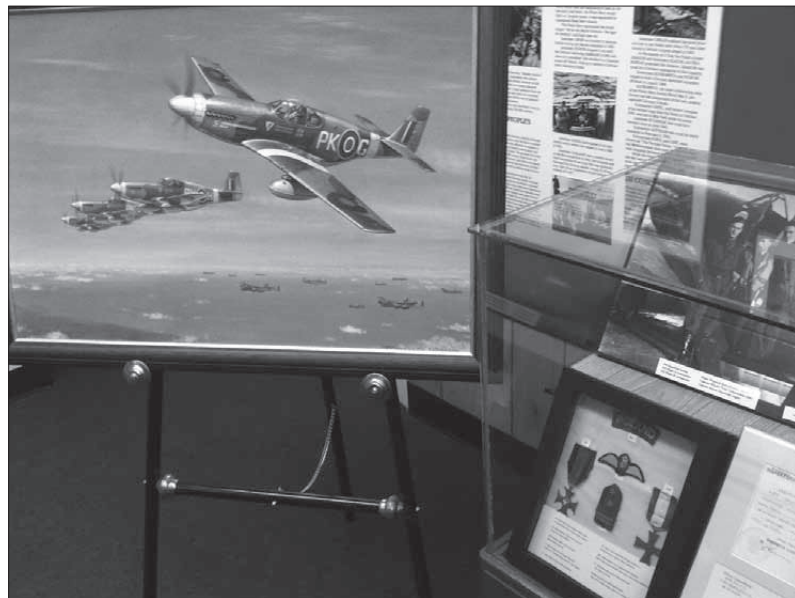


Director Gerald Kochan with Major Kurtz at his home during documentary preliminary research on 1st Polish Armored Division.

is often found echoing in the performance hall. The Chopin Concert series in the spring season is always a well-attended event. Most of all, what echoes in the halls of the museum today is a growing sense this is not a regional museum, but one of increasing national importance.

Members, volunteers, staff, and donors are key to making this a reality. The Museum would like to thank you and invite your continued support by reminding you it is a registered 401c, and any donations are tax deductible including membership fee. In recognition of its belief in the PAJ readership, the Museum is offering a free DVD copy of the award-winning documentary on the Polish Air Force entitled, *White Eagle in Borrowed Skies* with your Sustaining Level Membership of \$35.00 (Please mention "PAJ reader" to receive DVD with membership)

For additional information and hours, visit the website, or contact Basia at (516) 883-6542 or Gerald at (214) 914-5432.



Dziubek's Deblinskis (Polish 315 Sqdn.), an original oil donated by Ed Kaminski added to the Polish Air Force Exhibit.

by the Center with Museum support to preserve the record of vanishing generations.

The museum also serves as a true educational hub for Polonia by providing academic merit scholarships annually to gifted students. The music of Chopin, Gorecki and others

ready to further strengthen bonds and cooperation with the Holy See in the defense of Christian culture in Europe and the world," Tusk said. Roman Kotliński, a defrocked priest belonging to the anti-clerical fringe group, the Palikot Movement, told parliament the prime minister's message "destroyed Poland's image as a democratic state that values ideological pluralism and does not engage in religious disputes."

— Robert Strybel



Performance hall.

Anti-gay Remarks Cost Wałęsa \$70,000

Solidarity founder and former Polish president Lech Wałęsa has already lost over \$70,000 dollars due to cancelled U.S. lectures following outspoken remarks about homosexuals. In March, Wałęsa said homosexuals should remember they are a minority and should not flaunt their unwanted lifestyles in front of the majority, which can be embarrassing to parents with young children. The cancellations, according to Wałęsa, showed how

the small but vociferous gay lobby and its mainstream-media backers are able "to persecute and punish the majority."

JUSTICE MINISTER BACKS WAŁĘSA. Justice Minister Jarosław Gowin has told a group of Warsaw University students: "Sexual orientation is a personal matter for every human being. But to try and make this private matter a political struggle under gay slogans and ideology

is a totally different issue. I am opposed to this ideology and here I totally agree with former president Lech Wałęsa." He added: "As of Justice Minister I stand by the Constitution, which clearly states that marriage is a union between man and woman."

POLISH PRIME MINISTER DONALD TUSK was attacked over the congratulatory message he sent to Pope Francis. "Poland is willing and

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Family, Friends, and Community Mourn Komosa



Barbara and Robert Komosa

CHICAGO — **Robert Komosa's** positive spirit was a symbol of courage. He passed away on March 16, 2013 in his Barrington Hills home from respiratory failure. A funeral Mass was held on March 23 at St. Thomas Becket Church in Mount Prospect, Ill.

On October 6, 1999 and at the age of 17, Robert was at his Rolling Meadows High School football practice. During this practice session, he was tackled, but this time something happened. "The tackle knocked him into a metal post — part of a fence near the practice field. The impact fractured two vertebrae in Komosa's neck and paralyzed him for the neck down." He was unable to walk. He could not move his arms and legs. He could no longer breathe on his own. This life-changing injury required him to use a ventilator to breathe and he needed round-the-clock medical care. His widowed mother, Barbara, gave up her job to take care of him. For nearly five years, Robert and his family relied on the charity of the community for financial support, and the community rallied around them. It raised thousands of dollars to move them into a handicap-accessible home. The Duchossis family, owners of Arlington Race Track, donated a handicap-accessible van.

The family filed a lawsuit against Northwestern Suburban High School District 214 on the grounds that not only was the metal post not padded, but the practice field was not configured correctly. In 2005, the contentious suit was settled as "no fault" for \$12.5 million. After the settlement the post was padded and the practice field layout was changed.



His years after the accident were inspirations for thousands. He continued onward with great dignity, participating in activities with family and friends. He maintained his love of football and sports, attending sports and social events. He was the inspiration for the founding of a charity called "The Gridiron Alliance" — a not-for-profit organization that ministers to the special needs of catastrophically-injured student athletes. "Until the time of his death Komosa campaigned for insurance coverage for high school athletes."

An hour PBS documentary, "The Unbreakable Spirit of Rob Komosa" was produced by Bob Ray of Blue-line Productions in 2001. The documentary followed Komosa for nearly a year telling his amazing story. Komosa was also the main subject of a book published in 2012, *Unbreakable Resilience: Leap of Faith Stories to Live By—Eight Survivor Athletes Piecing Together the Grace and Blessings of an Imperfect Life*. The book was published as a fund raiser by the Gridiron Alliance.

As Rob Komosa's sister, Ann Phister said, "Rob not only showed others how to overcome adversity and how to cope. He was an example for all of us in how to live our lives."



(l. to r.): Betran, Zborek, Odrobina, Kurzydowski, Klosowiak, Elliott, Quinn, and Alba.

PMA CELEBRATES PULASKI DAY. On March 4, The Polish Museum of America (PMA) held its annual Pulaski Day celebration. This event was held in conjunction with the State of Illinois' Casimir Pulaski Day. As in the past, many Illinois officials were in attendance, including Governor Pat Quinn, Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon, Treasurer Dan Rutherford, and Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka. Also attending were U.S. Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, Chicago's Mayor Rahm Emmanuel, Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas, Poland's Consul General Paulina Kapuścińska, along with other Illinois, Cook County, and Chicago officials. Numerous dignitaries from Polish American organizations were present. The Masters of Ceremonies for this event were Joseph A. Drobot, Jr. and Maria Ciesla, chair and president of the PMA. The Most Reverend Andrew Wypych, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago, gave the invocation. The Polish and United States national anthems were sung by Aleksandra Kurzydowski, a senior from Loyola Academy. She was accompanied by Piotr Dymon, pianist from St. William Parish. A special presentation was given by Joseph Gregoire, Regional Illinois President of PNC Bank, and Linda Morris, its vice president of Retail Banking. On behalf of the PNC Bank, they presented the PMA with a \$5,000 donation. The Jewel-Osco grocery store chain, represented by Jewel-Osco's Nick Betran, vice president of Operations, and Miguel Alba, Director of Community Relations, were on hand to present five \$1,000 scholarships to award-winning essay scholars. This year's essay winners were: Annette Elliott of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Emil Klosowiak of Northwestern University, Aleksandra Kurzydowski of Loyola Academy, Paul Odrobina, Jr. of Columbia College, and Elizabeth Zborek of Northwestern University. The benediction was given by the Reverend Tomasz Ludwicki, Assistant Director of the Holy Trinity Mission. The Pulaski Day celebration ended with the ceremonial laying of the wreath to honor Casimir Pulaski and the singing of "God Bless America."

AN EVENING WITH DANIEL SZEFER. The Board of Directors of the Lira Ensemble hosted "An Evening with Pianist Daniel Szefer." Held at the prestigious Kenilworth Club in Kenilworth, Ill., on March 6, a cocktail soirée, concert, and dinner commenced with welcoming remarks by Camille Kopielski, Chair of the Lira Ensemble's Board, and Lucyna Migala, Artistic Direc-

tor and General Manager of the Lira. Approximately 100 guests were delighted to hear and watch 14-year-old Daniel Szefer perform music of Chopin, Bach, Beethoven, and Rachmaninoff. After Szefer's outstanding performance, Robert Rusiecki, Vice-Consul of the Republic of Poland, presented Daniel with gifts from the Consulate. This was followed by a wonderful Polish-style buffet dinner.

Daniel, the son of Polish immigrants, began playing the piano at the age of seven, made his solo debut at the age of nine, and, in January 2010, played his first public recital in Miami, Florida. Since then, he has played in numerous concerts throughout the United States. In 2012, he was the youngest finalist to compete in the most challenging youth piano competition in the United States — the Crain-Maling Foundation Chicago Symphony Or-

chestra Youth Audition. He played Beethoven's Concerto No. 5, receiving second place. In December 2012, Daniel made his Chicago orchestral debut with the Lira Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Mina Zikri. Daniel is a student of the distinguished pianist Pawel Chęciński, Roosevelt University's artist-in-residence, and Ralph Neiwem of the Music Institute of Chicago. Daniel is an eighth grader at Washburne Junior High School in Winnetka, Ill.

PWCC HELD SUCCESSFUL BENEFIT. The Polish Women's Civic Club (PWCC) held another successful annual Palm Sunday Benefit Luncheon. On March 24 at the Avalon Banquets in Elk Grove Village, nearly 200 adults and children attended the festive afternoon filled with something for everyone. There were clowns entertaining the children, on-hand Pisanki instructions and Pisanki creations by Joan White, a PWCC member, for purchase. Also available were martini tastings for the adults and photo booth fun for everyone. However, the highlights of this benefit were the raffling of thirty-five PWCC's popular custom-made baskets, each valued at \$50 or more, the raffling of five \$200 Gold Raffle Baskets, and the distribution of handmade children's "Easter Baskets." A special thank you to Janette and Dr. Kenneth Korzec for their most generous donation to the PWCC's Scholarship Fund, to Marian Friend, a new PWCC member, for her donation of custom-made centerpieces, and to Joan White for donating all monetary proceeds from her handmade

Pisanki sale to the PWCC Scholarship Fund. Kudos to Kathleen Burzycki, Chair of this benefit luncheon, to Ann Burzycki, PWCC's president, and to Geraldine Balut Coleman, Alicia Dutka, Lenore Fuesz, Lucille Gutowski, Michelle Kmiec, Bernadette Kowalik, Karen Kozlow, Barbara Marquart, and Marcia Zurawski, for making this event a successful one. All money made from this event will be earmarked toward the PWCC Scholarship Fund.

ZBIKOWSKI: A BEAR'S SAFETY. Tom Zbikowski, the newly contracted safety for the Chicago Bears, has returned back to the Chicago area. He agreed to a one-year contract with the minimum wage of \$715,000. Born in Park Ridge, Ill., but raised in Arlington Heights, Ill., Zbikowski was a two-time All-American at Notre Dame University, where he distinguished himself as a safety and returner. As a student at Buffalo Grove High School, he was a noted "dual-threat" quarterback and set numerous school records. Tom played for the Baltimore Ravens and the Indianapolis Colts. He has also had a successful boxing career. Tom is a member of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America.



"LIBRARIES ARE SACRED PLACES" On February 24, the Polish American Librarians Association (PALA) held its third annual conference. More than 85 librarians and library supporters from thirteen states including Texas and Florida, met at The Polish Museum of America (PMA) for an afternoon of networking, brainstorming, and programs. Its keynote speaker was Stuart Dybek, award-winning Polish American author and poet, who provided the highpoint of this conference with stories about his reverence for libraries, calling them "sacred places" that are at the center of a writer's life. "My library card was like a passport that could be stamped over and over again on my journey to becoming a Polish-American," he said.

Elizabeth Marszalik, PALA president, and Maria Ciesla, PMA president, welcomed conference attendees, and Konrad Zielinski, Vice Consul of the Polish Consulate, stated that he looks forward to working with PALA on future projects. Leonard Kniffel, PALA board member, mentioned PALA's connection to the Jan Karski Educational Foundation. Malgorzata Kot, PMA's head librarian, served as emcee and conducted a tour of the museum library, one of the largest of its

kind in the world.

Barbara Bilszta, the PALA's project coordinator, spoke about "All of Polonia Reads to Kids" and screened a film showing how well the reading initiative has taken off in Poland. She urged Polish American librarians to participate. Following her talk, student musicians from the Music Academy of Paderewski Symphony Orchestra entertained with performances of classical and popular music.

Katie Clausen, library school student from Dominican University, received the 2013 Vera May Barnes Zubrzycki Scholarship. Her heartfelt acceptance demonstrated why she was chosen, as she spoke about cultural diversity in libraries. Susan Roman, dean of Dominican University's Graduate School of Library and Information Science and Michael Zubrzycki, scholarship donor for whose mother it is named, were on hand to present the award of \$2,300 scholarship. The mission of the Polish American Librarians Association is to positively impact services provided to library patrons of Polish descent and individuals interested in Polish culture.

POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Assumption Church continues 125th Anniversary Celebration



BUFFALO, N.Y. — Assumption Church welcomes the return of soprano vocalist, **Brittany Mruzec** (above), Sun., May 19 for a 10:30 a.m. "Hymns of Mary" concert. The concert is part of a series of special events held during the Quascentennial Celebration Year of Assumption Church. Mruzec will sing selections from her first CD, "The Hymns of Mary," between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m. The songs will feature her singing in English, Polish, and Latin. She will also be the featured vocalist at the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

A former Teen Miss Buffalo, through the Miss American pageant system, Mruzec attended the East-

man School of Music in the Community Education Division, where she was the multiple year recipient of the June Clase Vocal Scholarship in honor of Renee Fleming, and received an Honor's Diploma in Voice.

Mruzec holds a B.M. in Vocal Performance and Music Education from the Crane School of Music at the State University of New York at Potsdam, where she graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2011.

Assumption Church is located at 435 Amherst St.. Any additional information may be obtained by calling the rectory during regular business hours (716) 875-7626. A light reception will follow the Mass at the Msgr. Bogacki Hall.

POLONIA TIDBITS. WNY survived another Dyngus Day, despite the weather. **Val Bakowski's** Dyngus Day party at the Millenium Hotel brought in over polka fans from across the United States. Also, congratulations to **Marty Biniasz** and **Eddy Dobosiewicz** and all of their Dyngus minions. For photos of the festivities, please visit www.dyngusdaybuffalo.com ... U.S. Senator **Charles Schumer** announced his support of the JOLT Act, which would set the stage for the expansion of the visa waiver program to Poland, during his visit to Buffalo on Dyngus Day ... The results of the Adam Mickiewicz Library

and Dramatic Circle's Dyngus Day "**Buffalo's Best Kielbasa Contest**" were: Dubel's Sausage (Best Overall Commercial and People's Choice for Commercial), Kasprzak Family (Best Overall Homemade, Best Fresh Homemade and People's Choice for Homemade), and Alex Cockerill (Best Smoked Homemade) ... The **Wegmans** grocery chain continued the Dyngus Day festivities on April 6 with in-store performances by Kenny Krew at the Losson Road store in Depew, Dave Gawronski's Musical Magic at the Amherst Street Store in Buffalo, and New Direction at the Orchard Park/West Seneca store ...

The **Syracuse Polish Home** collection of photographs is now available at www.nyheritage.org/institutions/syracuse-polish-home ... **Keith Kaszubik** donated his "Polonia Surname Index" database, containing over 6,000 entries, to the Polish Genealogical Society of New York State ... The St. Catharines, Ontario Canadian Polish Club sponsored its 2013 **Miss Polonia** and **Princess Polonia** Banquet and Ball at its Facer Street hall, and the Bialy Orzel "Zabawa" featuring "Non-Stop" was held at St. Casimir's parish hall in Toronto's Roncesvalles neighborhood, on April 6 ... Buffalo based **M&T Bank** now offers colorful credit cards with a Polish theme ... On April 7, the **Permanent Chair of Polish Culture** at Ca-

nisius College presented "An Afternoon with Chopin" featuring pianist Emma Ziskin, and Amy Smardz reading from Chopin's letters, at the Montante Cultural Center, and St. Amelia's Parish in Tonawanda held a Polish Folk Mass featuring **Joe Macielag &** his Pic-A-Polka Orchestra and a Polish Dinner featuring a performance by the Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY ... The **Consulate General** of the Republic of Poland in Toronto presented a Commemorative Concert on the 73rd anniversary of the Katyn Massacre and the 3rd anniversary of the Smolensk Tragedy, featuring the Oakham House Choir, Our Lady of Sorrows Chorale and Ecumenical Choir, organist Krzysztof Latala and soprano Lucja Czarnecka, at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Toronto also on the 7th ... Once again, the Maryvale Continuing Education Program included **Polish language classes** in its Spring 2013 offerings ... The **Fregata Restaurant** in Mississauga, Ontario hosted the "Polonia Talent Show" on April 12 ... The Polish Heritage Society of Rochester held its 15th Annual Scholarship Awards Luncheon at St. John Fisher

College on April 13 ... Also on the 13th, Ludowa Nuta's "Kashubian Dance Party" took place at the White Eagle Banquet Hall in Hamilton, Ontario ... The **Professional & Businessmen's Association** held its Memorial Mass at Queen of Martyrs Church in Cheektowaga and "Swienconka" at the Polish Villa II Restaurant on the 14th.. The group recently elected the following leadership: Michael Emser (president), Ralph Maraszek (vice president), John Pawlak (treasurer), Walter Stapien (secretary) and John Gonsiorek (financial secretary).

The Polish Union of America announced that its **Polish Heritage Festival** will take place at the Hamburg Fairgrounds June 7 and 8 ... The General Pulaski Association announced that this year's **Pulaski Parade**, to be held on July 21 in Cheektowaga, will be in honor of the late Parade Co-Chair Jackie Schmid and be led by the "Mummers" of Philadelphia.

❖ ❖ ❖
If you have an item for this column, please send it to me at pietruska@verizon.net.

Pulaski Honored at Capitol



Jack Pinkowski and his wife Monica at the bust of Pulaski in the United States Capitol Building.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Because of the expected snow activity forecast for March 6, the annual commemoration of Pulaski's birthday at the United States Capitol did not take place as planned.

The ceremony, rescheduled to March 7, took place in the presence of Poles in America Foundation president Jack Pinkowski, and his wife Monica at the bust of Pulaski inside the Capitol building. This white marble portrait of the general — one of only six individuals granted honorary U.S. citizenship — is the work of the talented Polish sculptor Henryk Dmochowski.

The ceremony honoring Pulaski's true birthday was instituted to call attention to the fact that he was born in Warsaw and baptized March 6, 1745 under circumstances which strongly indicate that the day of his baptism also fell on the date of his birth. On that day Fr. Christopher Faltz hurried from the Church of the Holy Cross to the Pulaski residence on what is now the corner of Warecka and Nowy Swiat Streets. There, he administered the sacrament because the parents feared the

newborn Pulaski son might not live. Young Casimir, however, gained in strength and the baptismal ceremonies were completed on March 14

with several pairs of godparents that included Mazowsze Voivode Stanislaw Poniatowski, father of Stanislaw August, the last Polish king.

All these events were recorded in the church's official book of baptisms. The records survived the fighting and destruction of the Warsaw Uprising in 1944. They were initially noticed by Wladyslaw Rudzinski as he researched the genealogy of his own family, and were later examined by Edward Pinkowski, founder of the Poles in America Foundation.

In 1989 the Polish Academy of Science (PAN) issued a correction to its entry on Pulaski in the "Polski Sownik Biograficzny," showing the proper date, and place. While some of the incorrect information is still being repeated, we are fortunate that some new reference works, like the recently published "Polish American Encyclopedia" edited by Dr. James Pula, have the actual and true date.



Become a member today

Polish American Historical Association

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

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

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BABA JAGA'S CORNER / Jagoda Urban-Klaehn

Marie Curie: Trips with Einstein, Radium Standard

Marie Curie life was very active, even after Pierre's unexpected and tragic death in 1906. I previously covered Marie's activities in years 1906-1911. Marie became self-sufficient. She had to keep the laboratory work going. She also took over Pierre's professorial and teaching position at the Sorbonne University. She became the only parent for her daughters and struggled with depression. Marie started a co-operative school for Irene and other children in 1907.

Marie was awarded a second Nobel award in Chemistry in 1911. (I wrote an article about this for the *Pol-Am Journal's* 100th anniversary in 2011). Marie was the first scientist and the first woman to receive two Nobel awards! She attended the Nobel ceremony accompanied



Einstein enjoyed discussing physics with Curie since she could understand his scientific mind and the problems he tried to solve. Marie's daughters remembered Einstein hiking the trail without really noticing the surroundings.

by her sister Bronya and her older daughter Irene, then fourteen years old. Marie's acceptance speech confirmed her own credentials in the discoveries of polonium and radium. She was congratulated by Swedish king Gustaf.

By 1906 there was a consensus that a standard measure of radioactivity is needed. Marie was working very hard to establish radium as the standard unit of radioactivity. Radium was the best known radioactive element with much higher activity than uranium or thorium. Establishing a radioactivity standard was discussed at 1910 during International Congress on Electricity and Radiology in Brussels, attended by Curie and Rutherford. But when finally the members of the special committee gave a name of "Curie" to about 10-12 grams of radium Marie was not impressed. This unit was well-suited for geologists or doctors that used tiny amounts of radioactive material. In 1911 Marie prepared a glass tube containing exactly 21.99 mg of radium chloride. This standard was subsequently compared with multiple standards created by other chemists. The standard was so good and reliable that 1 g of radium was established as a standard for 1 Curie of radioactivity and it is used until now.

After the hard work Marie needed a rest. Marie and Albert Einstein were already good friends for several years. They decided to take their families to Swiss mountains near the lake Como in August 1913. Unfortunately Eduard, Einstein son, was sick, so his mother, Einstein's first wife, Mileva Marić, had to stay with

him. Einstein went to the trip with Hans Albert, his older son. Einstein enjoyed discussing physics with Marie since she could understand his scientific mind and the problems he tried to solve. Marie's daughters remembered Einstein hiking the trail without really noticing the surroundings. He was so preoccupied with his theory of relativity and a speed of light that he once suddenly stopped, grabbed Marie's arm exclaiming: "You understand what I need to

know is exactly what happens to the passengers in an elevator when it falls into emptiness."

You may remember from previous articles, Marie's and Pierre's laboratory was an old shack, with a leaky roof where medical students once dissected human bodies. Since Curies became famous, they needed a better place for conducting their research. In July 1914, the Radium Institute was almost ready. It was built thanks to the donations of the Sorbonne University and The Pasteur Institute. It contained a laboratory of radioactivity placed under the direction of Marie Curie, and also a laboratory for biological research and application of radiotherapy for medical treatment, so called curio-therapy. Marie took an active role in planning how Radium Institute would look like. She demanded vast rooms and big windows allowing sun light inside. She also took care of the garden.

On August 3, Germany declared war on France. This started another heroic episode in Marie's life.



Visit Jaga's Polish Culture Website at: www.polishsite.us

References:

Eve Curie: "Madame Curie."
Sarah Dry: "Curie."

PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

A Book About Us

Look closely at the picture of the Polish soldiers on the cover. Focus on the sad and exhausted face of the marching young man peering directly at the camera. He is your dad, your Uncle Henry, or your neighbor Joe. He is me. He is you. I have seen that face a hundred times. He is us.

Albin Wozniak, publisher of the *Polish Studies Newsletter* got it right in the February 2013 edition when he proclaimed, "Polonia should honor her for writing this book." The woman he refers to is Halik Kochanski and the book is *The Eagle Unbowed: Poland and the Poles in the Second World War* (Harvard University Press 2012). Buy as many copies as you can afford and give it to your children, grandchildren, to your friends, and then donate a copy to the neighborhood library. It is that good and important.

(Editor's note: John Grondelski reviews *The Eagle Unbowed* on page 16 of this month's PAJ).

Here is why: The Polish experience is either non-existent, minimized, or put in a negative or biased light in popular culture such as movies and television and in our formal culture such as in our schools. Kochanski examines all of the major parts of the war and gives the Polish perspective, whether it is good or not so good, but she gives a logical and clear picture of the context and circumstance surrounding whatever occurred. That is a refreshing thing and the mark of a stellar historian.

Another reason to read this history is to feel the power of both the sorrow and the incredible pressure the Poles lived under fighting to survive in truly unbelievable conditions in their country and abroad. We have heard so many times about how Poland "suffered" in World War II and this work illustrates that part of it. What is most satisfying to me was the dispelling or clarifying of what I thought was the history of the Polish performance on the battlefield and in diplomatic circles. In some cases *Eagle Unbowed* reveals information I was not aware of and what I was familiar with the book often gave at the least another take on those events, added a twist or two, and without passion.

The range of the historical record Kochanski presents is new and broad. World War II really began for the Poles as it had for many of the European nations from the end of World War I. Poland was a recovering and emerging entity and this had a tremendous impact materially and psychologically on how she would engage Germany and Russia when they attacked her September 1, 1939. This, throughout the war, and until the "Final Chapter," the total war experience "left Poland devastated" (page 532).

There are a number of excellent

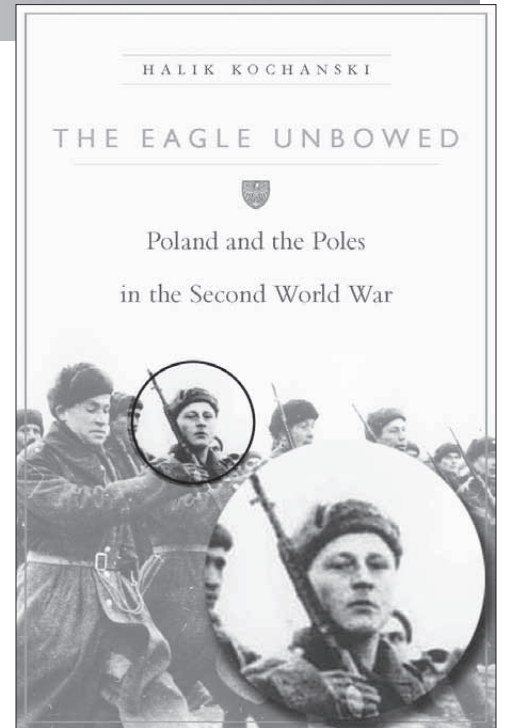
books written about the Polish experience in World War II. Add this one to that list and please read it. Then consider as a meditation sometime during May, Polish freedom month, first that the Poles lost their freedom for over one hundred years, that their country was trashed and raped by the warring powers in World War I, that they fought five wars following World War I to secure their borders, that they worked very hard to build a nation between the wars only to see it destroyed because they fought Hitler and the Germans in the Second World War. To the critics, yes, the Poles made mistakes, didn't do as much as they should have, and on and on but they also were engaged in the fight, mostly by themselves, with spirit and determination, and on balance, made decisions and acted appropriately from start to finish.

For all of this then, can you easily trade away the honor and identity of your ancestral background? Again, see the face of the young soldier on the cover of *Eagle Unbowed*. I hope you never forget it.

SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PONDERING POLE.

I'm listening to a woman of Mexican descent describe how her uncle gets the family together to make tamales. He has the family secret and he wants the rest of them to learn how to make it like grandma did. I knew an Italian family that did the same thing with raviolis. How about your family getting together to make pierogi or chrusciki? What a great way to pass down the "art" of your personal ethnic cooking and have fun with the cousins.

Along the same lines, here is an idea for a business: In the case of the tamales and raviolis, someone had to host the group at their house, and it can be a major mess when the party is over. Renting the church hall or another public facility can be quite expensive but why not a storefront "kitchen" where the



group can meet, have the fun, and clean up for a slight rental fee? We rent rooms for all kinds of reasons and with some minor upgrades you can turn your property into a rent-a-kitchen. The Pondering Pole never stops thinking.

PONDERING POLE QUESTION

FOR MAY: Does your family meet to make the family secret recipe? I would love to hear the story.



A very big *dziękuję bardzo* to my friend Jim "Jak" (for Jakub) Rygelski for the wonderful gift of *Eagle Unbowed*. I also recommend you make the blueberry cheesecake from the Mala Cukierenka website (malacukierenka.pl/sernik-na-zimno-z-jagodami.html). Hint: there are equivalency websites out there for the amounts, and use only an ounce of gelatin. It makes it fluffier and is absolutely delicious. Thank you Susie for making it for me.

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

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

POLAND / Robert Strybel

ARCHIVES OF NOBLE-WINING CZESŁAW MIŁOZŻ ARRIVE IN POLAND. The personal archives of Poland's Nobel Prize winning poet Czesław Miłosz (1911-2004) have arrived in Poland. Donated to Poland's National Library by Miłosz's son, they include his Nobel Prize medal, the poet's correspondence, still unresearched notebooks dating from 1974-2003 and other valuable documents. A former diplomat, Miłosz defected from communist Poland and for nearly four decades taught Slavic languages and literature at the University of California in Berkeley. His 1980 Noble Literary Prize coincided with the emergence of Solidarity, the Soviet bloc's first independent labor union.

JEWISH AMERICAN IS "TRUE POLISH PATRIOT!" The Polish daily newspaper "Polska the Times" (published in cooperation with "The Times" of London) has called Jewish-American journalist Anne Applebaum "a true Polish patriot" who has done more to promote Poland in the world than

most Polish politicians. The wife of Poland's Oxford-educated Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski, Applebaum received a Pulitzer Prize for her book "Gulag". She has lived in Poland more than two decades and is applying for Polish citizenship.

POLISH 33-YEAR-OLD DISCOVERS NEW PLANET. Rafał Herszkowicz, 33, has been credited with discovering a Jupiter-sized planet some 1,200 light years away from earth. The results of the Pole's celestial discovery have been published in the prestigious "Astrophysical Journal". Code-named PH2b, the newly discovered non-solid, gaseous planet orbits around a sun-like star in the constellation Cygnus, but scientists believe on of its moons could sustain life. Herszkowicz is known by his nickname rafcio028 on the astronomy social networking site odkrywcyplanet.pl, part of the international planethunters.org.

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Polka World Loses Al Soyka

Al Soyka (Sojka) came from that time when bands dressed in shirts, ties, and suitcoats to perform on stage. They were professional in every way, especially their music. The Polka Hall of Famer passed away April 05, 2013 in Lake Worth, Fla. Soyka was one month away from being 91 years old.

Soyka left a legacy of songs, music, and professionalism on stage and off.

Born May 6, 1922 in Rockville, Conn., Soyka started on accordion in a trio with his brother Ray singing and his cousin Ed on violin. The band grew and was soon the nine-piece Al Soyka Orchestra with their first big hit tune, on the Dana label, "The Jolly Caballero." Soyka fol-



BANDLEADER AL (SOJKA) SOYKA (right), and son, Richard.

lowed up that hit with the "U.S.A." oberek, for which his mother provided the music and lyrics.

Recording on the RCA label and his own Jan and Glo labels, Soyka continued his musical success with songs like "Trip to Poland," the "Hello Dolly" album, his "The 51 Polka Favorites" album with Ray Soyka on the vocals and more. In 1979 Soyka was inducted into the IPA Polka Hall of Fame.

"Most of my dad's polka songs were recorded and arranged based on folk songs and lyrics that my grandmother, Babcie Sojka, used to

sing to her children," said Richard Sojka, the bandleader's son. "This music gives me a direct link to my Polish ancestry, which is full of the myths and folklore of the Polish culture that existed at the turn of the century."

"If you close your eyes and listen carefully, you can feel this in my dad's music and in your heart."

Condolences may be sent to: Richard, Carol, and Nancy Sojka, 4037 Phelan Road, Suite A, Unit 138, Phelan, CA 92371 or via e-mail: dr_rich_sojka@mac.com.



IPA Celebrates 45 Years

CHICAGO — The 45th Annual I.P.A. Festival and Convention will take place at the Embassy Suites, Cleveland-Rockside, 5800 Rockside Woods Blvd., Independence, Ohio, Thursday, August 1 to Sunday, August 4, 2013.

Opening night, August 1, it will be The Mel Sinchak Band from 7:00-10:30 p.m. On Friday, from 5:00 p.m.—1 a.m., music will be by "The Divas," featuring Ania Piwowarczyk, Gennie Okrzesik, and Mary Lou Czerniak; The Knewz; Polka Family; and Freeze Dried. On Saturday, the 44th Annual I.P.A. Polka Music Hall of Fame and Music Awards Banquet begins at 10:00 am. Reservations are required

and the price of a ticket is \$35.00. Please contact Linda Niewierowski (773) 489-3987 or email her at plkaqueen25@aol.com.

On Saturday, from 4:00 p.m. — 1:00 a.m., music will be by The Boys; Polka Country Musicians; and the IPA Tribute Band with Special Guest I.P.A. Hall of Famers.

On Sunday, the Polka Mass begins at 9:00 a.m. and the Annual Election of Officers and Convention Meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. for current members only.

Admission prices are \$10.00 on Thursday, and \$15.00 on Friday and Saturday, payable at the door. No advance tickets will be sold. Children under 16 will be admitted free

when accompanied by an adult. For hotel reservations, call (216) 986-9900, price is \$99 plus tax per night and you must mention you are coming for the I.P.A. Polka Festival.

Reservations must be made no later than July 15, 2013. This is an all-suites hotel. All suites have a private bedroom and separate living rooms, a wet-bar, microwave, refrigerator, coffeemaker and two flat screen TVs, Complimentary cooked-to-order breakfast each morning, Complimentary manager's reception with light snacks and beverages each evening, indoor pool, whirlpool, fitness center and seasonal outside sundeck.

POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

Polkaitis and Other Maladies

Joe Oberaitis apparently had the first documented case on his album back in 2004 and many of us have it today without even knowing.

If you play polkas in the morning, while getting ready for your day, you might have *Polkaitis*. If you can't get into your car without bringing a handful of polka CDs with you, you probably suffer from *Polkaitis*. When you go to a jukebox and polkas are the first selections you search for, you have *Polkaitis*.

For years, during September, there was a yearly two-day occurrence of *Polkaitis* in the Thousand Islands region of New York State causing people to dance on river boats and sometimes try to dance on water.

Short bursts of *Polkaitis* have cropped up at past events like Am-

pol Days when some gathered under tents, and sometimes danced on a floor surface that was puffy white with ivory snow detergent.

Of course, you might also suffer from *Polka Motion* too. This occurs when you have the need to dance near the ocean, your body staying in constant motion and your empty glass suddenly refilled.

Polkabration is yet another ailment that is not as prominent today but, at one time, would often last for eleven days, causing a salty coating to cover your body and giving you that urge to dance on concrete, boardwalk planks and sand.

In recent times many have been overcome with a new form of *Polkaitis* called *Jammeritis*, where they have an excessive need to listen to polka music via the internet

twenty-four hours a day.

Others, in Erie, Pennsylvania, have shown symptoms of EPD (Erie Polka Days) and mysteriously find themselves singing in front of the El Patio Motel between the hours of 1:00 to 6:00 a.m.

Those attending Pulaski Polka Days were overcome with a rare affliction which had them singing "Puka Jasiu" and looking for a General to salute. This is a side-effect of *Polkaitis*.

Before everyone starts to panic, a cure for these ailments exists. Search the *Polish American Journal* Polka Magazine section for a dance, festival, or polka event near your location and attend, bringing friends and family. The *Polka Insider* also suggests immediately listening to two polkas — and don't call me in the morning.

POLKAJUKEBOX / Steve Litwin

Gems that Shine

Chicago-based polka groups generally come in two packages, the four- to five-piece group or the seven- to ten-piece orchestra. Steve Fornek & the Polka Gems with seven (and sometimes eight) members was one of those true polka orchestras.

With a classic styling, and multi-talented vocalists, the Polka Gems created their own sound that played dances halls and polka hot-spots throughout the Windy City. Now, Chet Schafer, on his Chicago Polkas label, presents "Steve Fornek - Package of Polkas," a remastered collection of 18 great songs by Fornek and the Orchestra.

There is no doubt, "Black Raven" polka deserves the spot as the lead track. A polka classic by Fornek, it has stood the test of time in the polka music world. Adding tunes like "Old Timer's" oberek, "Wedding Day" polka, "My Mother" waltz, "Polka Stop" polka and others, this collection highlights not only the talent of the musicians but the vocals of Louise Walczak. Joining Steve and Louise are Ted Burzycki on accordion and concertina, George Burzycki on drums, Bob Sven on trumpet, Rich Janik on bass and clarinet and the one and only Steve Jankowski on piano.

Get this one today and appreciate classic Chicago polka history.



It's titled "Sax ... is Good For You" and Frank Borzymowski croons, swoons and even moons on his new 16-track eclectic collection

that covers the entire four seasons of the year and features a list of musicians with talent, pizzazz and history in the business.

Shifting musical gears every other song, the listener will be thinking Peter, Paul and Mary with "If I Had a Hammer," then find themselves at a "Polish Picnic" from the Sajewski book. The folksy "Ramblin' Man" with the fiddle work of Ryan Joseph rambles you down the road to "Good Old Wyandotte," and a bar full of beer. Names and the musical voices of Rich Tokarz, Johnny Karas, Whitey Ryniec, Mike Stapinski, Lenny Gomulka, and Mitch Biskup join Frank "For One Night Only" in a medley that you will want to play at least twice through on the first listen.

Frank tilts the wheel a bit with personal commentary on "Kiss My Dupa," but quickly has you wishing for snow with "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Winter Wonderland." A superb version of "Silent Night" makes you check your calendar to see if you should be decorating your tree.

Teaming up with Frank is John Zelasko on accordion and concertina, Dave Kurdziel on bass, Rob Piatkowski on trumpet, Robin Pegg behind the drums, Randy Koslosky on piano, Ryan Joseph on fiddle and strings and Rich Schwarz on guitar.

As the liner notes state, "No, not your father's polka, today's polka. Hey, your father would like this, too."

POLKA MEMORIES / Steve Litwin

If you have a special Polka Memory photograph to publish in the Polish American Journal, email : pajpolka@verizon.net.

Marion Lush — 20 Years Later



WITH THE DEATH OF MARION LUSH on May 4, 1993 the polka world lost its "Golden Voice," leaving a void in polka music that has never been filled. From those fabulous Polish waltzes, to his Polish vocals on so many great polkas, Lush had a simple formula, give the fans good, solid, music.

He knew music and once said, "I can read it, I can write it, I can arrange it." Taking accordion lessons for 12 years—but self-taught on the trumpet—he was dedicated to his profession, his fans and his music. Lush composed almost 100 tunes and his trumpet riffs are still used today by bands that are not even aware Lush was the originator.

Many knew Lush as a musician and friend. His legacy lives on and memories of Marion remain strong with those who had the pleasure to call him a friend.

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NOTES / Barbara Pinkowski

Dyngus Day Gets Bigger and Better



VAL BAKOWSKI, promoter of the Dyngus Day Party at The Millenium, is flanked by local television hosts Kristy Mazurek (with fan Mia Slowinski on her arm), and Lydia Dominiak.



A LARGER-THAN-LIFE butter lamb was on display at the Dyngus Day Party at the Millenium.



THE SOUNDS. Joe Dipiat and Jim Weber, leader of The Sounds.



JOHN GORA clowning with accordionist Al Piatkowski on Easter Sunday at the Millenium Hotel.



POLKA DJ ANDY KUCZMARZKI was broadcasting live from the lobby of The Millenium.



ERIC BAKOWSKI'S Tru Heritage at The Millenium polka pool party.

BUFFALO, N.Y. — It seems like the Lenten season passes so quickly and soon Easter Sunday is here. I hope everyone enjoyed the holy and happy side of the Easter season.

My annual visit to the **Broadway Market** was wonderful. Yes, it is very crowded but it is worth the visit, seeing so many people shopping from our local vendors. The aroma of the chocolates, the baked goods, the sausages, hams, horseradish and flowers filled the building. All the displays of a variety of food look so delicious and welcoming. Dan Potts took over the restaurant from Perison's in the market and business was booming. Not only there, but at all the stands. Different bands and types of music including our polka bands provided some happy sounds to the shoppers. This is a big attraction at holiday time. It is hoped that more support would be given throughout the year. Prior years, the Market Bar across the street had entertainment and a good crowd, but this year I noticed it has closed.

As usual, our area offered many venues and much entertainment to enjoy Dyngus Day. And, the best part is they all have a great turnout. But here, things get started with the Pre-Dyngus day parties and the Dyngus Day Parade that have become so popular. This year's parade was the largest with about 75 floats showing a lot of creativity. Despite wintry weather, the parade drew a large crowd lining the streets along the route to the Central Terminal.

The reunion of **The Sounds** at the Millennium on Easter Sunday and Dyngus Day was fantastic. It has been ten years since their last

reunion so this was a real treat. Jimmy Weber, Joe Dipiat, Rich Zebrowski, Ralph Sabitini, Dave Morris and Frankie Liszka brought it all back together again. Frankie was filling in for Vinnie Bozzarelli who has had some health issues. Another stellar band was the **IPA Tribute Band** who put on an excellent performance. The IPA Tribute Band is a group of talented musicians who want to increase the awareness of the International Polka Association by performing songs that pay tribute to the IPA Hall of Fame Inductees and Award winners. It was nice to see **Helen and Norb Wojciechowski** visiting from Florida, and also **Jean and Ed Szela** from Massachusetts who were among the many out of town folks. It was one heck of a party day all over.

IN SYMPATHY. Our condolences go out to Mike Kurdziel and family on the passing of his wife, **Jan Seel Kurdziel**, March 4. Mike has played drums with many bands throughout the years, and is currently a member of PhoCus. May she rest in peace.

AROUND THE TOWN. Backtracking a little: At the Spring Fling dance at Potts Hall on March 9, the **Concertina All Stars** played to a packed house. **Stan Wiglocki** and a busload of polka fans from the Albany-Schenectady area visited the Broadway Market and a few establishments before coming to the dance. Joe Trzeciak was part of the group and did a taping for future shows. The Concertina All Stars were outstanding. Andy Bojczuk from the Knewz and Stephanie Pietrzak each got a

chance to sing a couple songs with the band. I thought this may have been the last dance at Potts Hall on South Ogden St. but it was not.

On March 17, Danny Potts held a Final Farewell dance with free admission and a St. Patrick's Day special price for a delicious corned beef, ham and cabbage dinner. Fantastic music was provided by **Tru Heritage, The Buffalo Touch, and The New Direction** band. This dance was a last-minute decision and turned out perfectly. Great music, full hall, many happy polka people and excellent food and refreshments. I will miss this hall; always felt comfortable there and had many good times there. We anxiously await to see what the new place will be like.

The annual St. Patrick's, St. Joseph's and Dyngus Day Party held at the Irish Center, March 24 had such a super variety of music. **Joyce Czarnecki** said there was a nice turnout for this unique event and everyone enjoyed the three different bands, food and dancing.

CONGRATULATIONS. ... to Nancy and Dennis Paner on becoming grandparents—their son Kevin and wife Melissa recently had a baby boy. Dennis is a member of City Side, and has played trumpet with many area bands over the years ... to **Marty and Mandy Koslosky** on the birth of their son, Samuel,

on March 24. Grandparents Joyce Czarnecki, Roger Czarnecki, Sharon and Marty Koslosky are elated that little Charlotte now has a brother ... Also, belated congratulations to grandparents **Barb and Hank Krzykowski**. Their daughter, Kara, had twin boys, Kyle and Blake, last August.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY. I'd like to wish a Happy Mother's Day to each and every mother. Where would the family be without you. Enjoy your special day in the way that makes you happiest.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 7. Polka Boosters Meeting. Polish Falcons Hall, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew, N.Y. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments, music and a short meeting. New members also welcome to attend. For more information call Chris at (716) 892-7977.

May 14. The Buffalo Touch play at the River Grill in Tonawanda, N.Y. at 7:00 p.m.

May 22. The Polka Variety Club Meeting at the Leonard Post, 2540

Walden Ave., Cheektowaga. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments, music and a short meeting. Everyone welcome to attend. Call Bill at (716) 759-8194.

May 25-26. Adirondack Polka Festival. Tony Blazonczyk & New Phaze, Eddie Forman, New Direction, Polka Family. Call Dave at (919) 252-9142.

May 24-26. U.S.P.A. Polka Festival and Convention at the Holiday Inn in Strongsville, Ohio. The Boys, Polka Family, Matt Rosinski's All Star Band, The Beat-Reunion, The Knewz, Maestro's Men, Nutones, Polka Country Musicians, New Brass Express, John Gora Band, The Best of Eddie Biegaj with the Piatkowski Bros. (330) 410-5568.

June 1. Opening of the Lamm Grove, 962 Wehrle Dr., Williams-ville, N.Y. Music by Polka Country Musicians, and Special Delivery, Buffalo's newest polka band. 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Doors open at 2:00 p.m. \$10 advance; \$13 at-the-door. Food will be available. Call Bob (716) 837-3582 or Sandy at 837-2684.

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JR & Friends Debuts

Congratulations to Jimmy "J.R." Rutkowski for putting together a new band for 2013. JR & Friends played on St. Patrick's Day for the monthly TAPS Dance, and the band's performance was well appreciated. JR will be back for more area performances throughout the year.

It was no April Fool's joke that the Dyngus Day celebration moved out of downtown Toledo for 2013 and into the south end, to the Distillery Bar on Heatherdowns Boulevard. This neighborhood hang out, just a few blocks from the Ohio Turnpike, filled up quickly as polka fans came out to celebrate the Easter Monday tradition. Randy Krajewski did it again, that is, brought a stellar band to the stage for the crowded house. Line up included Randy, Jimmy Rutkowski, Andy Pawlak, Eric Hite, and drummer Matt Gury, with Eddie Kaczmarczyk sitting in for a set. The dance floor was full nearly from the start and all too

soon the festivities came to an end. Here's hoping this 'new' tradition continues for years to come.

Looking ahead to several events before the summer festival season begins, next month's recap will include area events: the Lisa Biskup Memorial Gift of Life Dance, the St. Adalbert Feast Day Polish Fest, announcement of the new officers for TAPS, and any other dances this writer can squeeze into the schedule. Looking forward to all of it!

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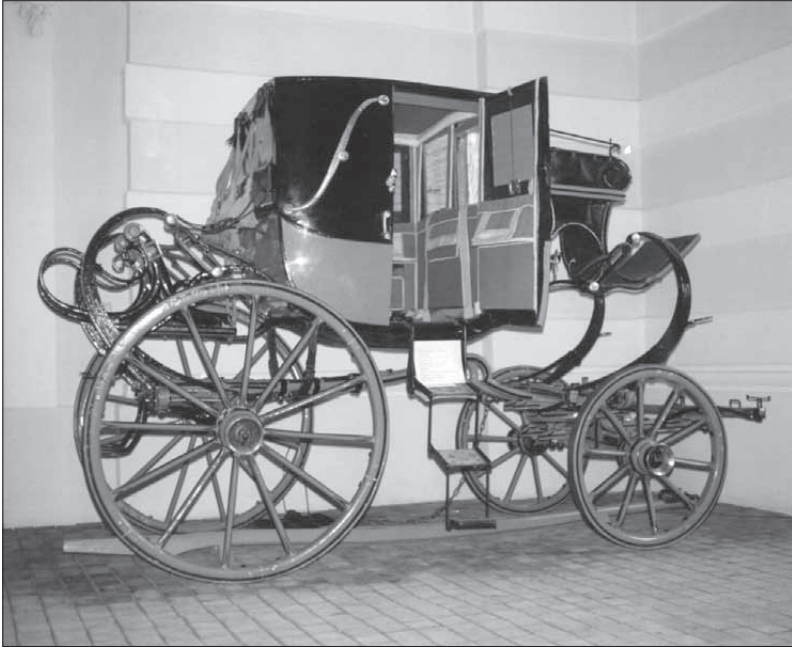
Friday, May 31
 6 PM-10 PM
 Don Wojtila Orchestra
 Polka Family Band

Saturday, June 1
 1 PM-10 PM
 The Rhinelanders
 The Polka Quads
 Polka Family Band
 Don Wojtila Orchestra
 The Maestro's Men

Sunday, June 2
 11 AM-6:30 PM
 Polka Mass ft. John Gora Band
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 John Gora Band
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 Lenny Gomulka & Chicago

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THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



RIDING HIGH ABOVE IT ALL. Lancut, Poland. May 20, 1976

CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin S. Nowak

The Polish School of Medicine in Scotland

This is the story of a little known piece of World War II history.

After the invasion of Poland by Germany and the USSR in September 1939 and its capitulation, some 85,000 Polish fighters managed to escape to France. With the German invasion of France in late spring 1940, the Poles fought attached to the French forces. With the fall of France, 20,000 Polish soldiers and airmen fled to Britain.

Among the remnants of the Polish armed forces were several men who had been medical professionals in civilian life. Among them was Dr. Antoni Tomasz Aleksander Jurasz. Jurasz was born in Heidelberg, Germany in 1882, the son of a Polish doctor and an Englishwoman. The elder Jurasz had settled in Germany to further his career, a common move for Polish professionals at the time of the partitions. Following his father, young Antoni took an interest in medicine and developed a deep respect for all things Polish.

Upon receiving his medical degree from the University of Heidelberg in 1906, he served in various capacities throughout Germany, but in 1920 he accepted a challenge from Poznań University in newly independent Poland to develop a surgical clinic there. That he did, and became an accomplished multilingual teacher and administrator, received international acclaim and became known for the Jurasz Procedure, a treatment of pancreatic cysts. He was one of the first surgeons in Poland to use endoscopy, spinal anesthesia and blood transfusions.

Jurasz was drafted into the Polish army as a surgeon just days before the outbreak of World War II on September 1, 1939 and saved many lives during the German invasion. He managed to escape to France where he joined his fellow military men who had also made their way to that country after Poland's surrender. With the invasion of France by the Nazis in 1940, Jurasz was among the Polish soldiers and airmen evacuated to Britain. There, they were attached to the British army and concentrated in Scotland.

The Scots and the Polish medical men attached to the unit recognized the need for the training of Poles in medicine in order to provide health care to their countrymen in Britain, both military and civilian refugees. An agreement was made between the Polish government-in-exile in London and the University of Edin-

burgh to establish a Polish School of Medicine at the college. Dr. Jurasz was chosen as its dean. This was a unique arrangement in the world: a university allowing a foreign school to operate under its auspices in its own language with the ability to grant its own degrees.

At first only military students were allowed, but soon Polish civilians were admitted. Dr. Jurasz saw the need also for a Polish hospital in the area and to raise money he visited the United States in 1942. He appealed for funds to preserve Poland's scientific and academic life. Due to a large grant from the U.S. based Paderewski Fund, the facility was founded as the Paderewski Hospital.

When the war ended in 1945, it was agreed that the school and hospital would gradually cease operations. In 1949, the school closed after graduating 228 students. Dr. Jurasz wanted to transfer the hospital's equipment to Poland, but the communist government would not cooperate with him. Only twenty graduates returned to Poland, most stayed in Britain and the rest immigrated to the U.S. and other countries.

Dr. Jurasz himself came to the U.S. in the late 1940s and became an American citizen. He was surreptitiously attacked by the Polish communists, who planted defamatory stories against him, which some of his former supporters chose to believe. This left him disappointed and downhearted. The medical equipment he wanted taken to Poland became outdated and unusable. He was a practicing surgeon in New York and he died in that city on September 19, 1961.

Several reunions of members of the Polish School of Medicine were held following its dissolution and today a University of Edinburgh medical professor lectures annually in Poland, a program known as the Jurasz Lectureship. A Polish School of Medicine Historical Collection resides at the university and a commemorative plaque memorializes the school, an outstanding example of mutual cooperation between Scots and Poles at a time of great stress and upheaval.

PASS IT ON! When you finish reading your copy of the Polish American Journal, please pass it on, and ask that person to subscribe.

OBITUARIES

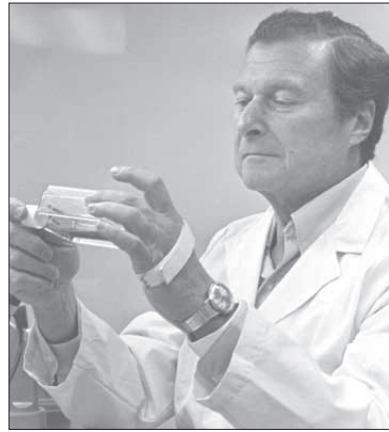
Hilary Koprowski, Developed Oral Polio Vaccination

PHILADELPHIA — Dr. Hilary Koprowski, the Polish-born researcher who developed the first successful oral vaccination for polio, died this week at his Philadelphia home. He was 96.

Although not as well-known as fellow researchers Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin, Koprowski's 1950 clinical trial was the first to show it was possible to vaccinate against polio, the crippling and sometimes fatal disease that's now all but eradicated.

Koprowski's son, Christopher, said Saturday his father liked the scientific recognition his work received without the celebrity of Salk and Sabin. "He enjoyed not having his scientific work disrupted," said Christopher Koprowski. "Not that he was a modest individual, mind you."

Christopher Koprowski said his father had been sick for several months before dying in the same



home he'd lived in since 1957.

Hilary Koprowski self-administered the live-virus oral vaccine he developed before the 1950 trial — about two years before Salk's injectable version using a dead form of the virus began testing with the backing of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, now the March of Dimes. Sabin, who Koprowski's son said sometimes col-

laborated with his father, was the first to get the more effective oral version, which didn't require boosters, licensed for use in the United States.

Koprowski went on to be the director of The Wistar Institute in Philadelphia from 1957 to 1991. Under his leadership, the independent research institution developed a rubella vaccine that helped eradicate the disease in much of the world, Wistar officials said. It was during that time the institute also developed a more effective rabies vaccine.

A talented musician, Koprowski was a penniless immigrant in Rio de Janeiro making money teaching piano before hooking up with a lab there and eventually moving to the United States, his son said. "He was a great dad. He was colorful, charismatic," Christopher Koprowski said. "He's still the most brilliant person I've ever met."

Teresa "Teri" Buckner, Photographer Par Excellence

Teresa "Teri" Buckner died of cancer on March 1, 2013 at the age of 66. She was born in Babiak, Poland and, at seventeen, she and her mother emigrated to the United States and settled in Chicago's Humboldt Park area.

As a young woman, working for Motorola, she met a fellow employee, Jim Buckner, whom she later married. Jim left Motorola to become a Chicago police officer and Teri became a "stay at home" mother. They moved to Chicago's West Lawn neighborhood near Midway Airport.

After nurturing her three children, Barbara, James, and Robert, Teri went back to work and used her Polish-language skills by teaching English-as-a-second language within the Polish-speaking community. She became an active member of numerous organizations including the Polish Women's Civic Club, the Polish American Police Association, the Legion of Young Polish Women (LYPW), the Polish American Chamber of Commerce, and the Chicago Council of Global Affairs. She held the position of first vice president of the Alliance of

Polish Clubs, and the Polish American Congress-Illinois Division. She even managed time to be the photo editor of the Polish News.

Whenever there was an event within Chicago Polonia, Teri would be there, taking photos. She could be seen at the Polish Constitution Day Parade, The Polish Museum of America, and the LYPW's White and Red Ball, documenting a pictorial history. Teri was everywhere taking those fabulous photos.

Buckner is survived by three children, and two grandchildren.

— Geraldine Balut Coleman

Robert Pacholski, Coach, Columnist

Robert Pacholski of Buffalo, whose 29-year career at St. Francis High School included coaching several athletic teams to championships, died unexpectedly in Mercy Hospital. He was 69.

A lifelong resident of Buffalo, Pacholski was a graduate of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute and earned a bachelor's degree and law degree from the University at Buffalo. He also did graduate studies in political philosophy and educational administration.

A teacher of physics and business law, among other subjects, Pacholski began his teaching and coaching career at Cardinal Dougherty High School in Buffalo in 1967, after working for the staff of the Buffalo Common Council. He coached cross-country and indoor and outdoor track and field. He led the school's cross-county team to its first Monsignor Martin Catholic High School Athletic Association championship in 1979.

Pacholski also served as Cardi-

nal Dougherty's sports information director before joining the faculty of St. Francis High School in Athol Springs in 1979.

At St. Francis, Pacholski served as director of sports information, director of development, assistant principal and vice president for institutional advancement. For the five years preceding his retirement in 2008, he was director of communications.

In 2008, the school awarded him the Father Justin Figas Distinguished Communicator Award. He also had received the Father Justin Figas Memorial Award for his work at the school in the late 1980s and was inducted into the Father Rufinus Niedzwiecki Sports Hall of

Fame in 1999.

Pacholski founded and coordinated the Broadway-Fillmore Turkey Day road race in the 1970s and the Evening Optimist Club High School Invitational Cross-Country Meet in the 1980s. He also worked on the Big E Relays and Jesse Owens Meet committees for several years.

Sports editor for 15 years at the *Am-Pol Eagle*, he also was a reporter for the *Courier-Express*.

Active in the Polish Union of America as president of the Father Justin Society in the 1970s, Mr. Pacholski was instrumental in gaining recognition of the Father Justin Rosary Hour through a historical marker at Corpus Christi Church.

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GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

Where were Your Ancestors Born?

To extend your family history research to Polish records you will need to determine where your ancestors were born. Town names are important to know where to search for your family. To do this, you will need to compile a list of possible towns from these sources:

- Documents and letters (such as Birth documents) from the old country
- Family oral history – interview older relatives
- Marriage records – civil and church records
- Naturalization petitions - 1906 and after
- Passenger manifests
- Military Records
- Employment records
- Death certificates
- Obituaries

Polish birth records found in the “shoe boxes” or desk drawers are treasures and will always give your destination immediately. However, Polish birth records are rarely found

in your “old papers.” Towns mentioned in your family oral history are also very good clues but may only give the names of large towns and districts or may contain phonetic spellings that are difficult to find on maps. Marriage applications, church marriage records, passenger manifests and naturalization papers have proven to be the best source of town clues. Military records, employment records, death certificates and obituaries occasionally give place names but cannot be relied upon as the main source of names.

Do not stop the search when you find one name. Collect as many names as possible. Save all of the names that you find even if you believe the spelling is not correct. Most countries have multiple locations for towns with the same name so you will need to have more than one place name to point the way. Also, you should research the documents of children, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles and friends of your an-

cestors if they were born in Poland. The place names on documents for these relatives should point to the same area as your ancestors. After you have exhausted your search through the documents, you will find that one of the names may be the name of the county (powiat), another one the township (gmina), another town will be where the parish church is located and other towns on your list may be surrounding villages. All are needed to locate your ancestors. You will know where you are going when you see the cluster of the names on a map.

Next month I will cover using gazetteers and your town lists to find the birthplaces on a map.

Stephen M. Szabados, the author of *Finding Grandma's European Ancestors*, and *Find Your Family History*, is a respected genealogist, and a regular contributor to the Polish American Journal.

Genealogical Societies in Poland Topic of Meeting

CHICAGO — Guest speaker, Cynthia Piech, will address the popularity of Genealogy in Poland, at the Polish Genealogical Society of America's next meeting, Sun., May 19, at 2:00 p.m.

There is an increasing number of genealogical societies in various regions. Guests will look at the websites of several of these societies to see what they offer the Polish-American genealogist. Piech will demonstrate how to easily translate the web pages that are in Polish.

Piech has been doing genealogical research for 14 years both in the United States and Poland: managing to trace her family back to the late 1700s. She has written articles on genealogy and travel in Poland for the the PGSA's *Rodziny*. She is a member of the PGSA, the National Genealogical Society, the Association of Professional Genealogists, and the Genealogical Speakers Guild.

The meeting will be at the Polish Museum of America Social Hall, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave.

PGSA's 35th Anniversary Conference

CHICAGO — The PGSA's 35th Anniversary Conference, “Growing Your Research Resources,” will be held Sept. 13-14, 2013.

Among the highlights: Tomasz Nitsch from Poland will address Polish Archives and Genealogical Societies.

Thomas MacEntee will provide new and exciting ways to access data online.

Ola Heska will discuss the Russian Partition and its re-

cord. Ceil Jensen will offer techniques for those more advanced and provide a hands-on lab exploring both the FamilySearch and Ancestry websites.

Updated information can be found at pgsa.org.

The Hilton Lisle/Naper-ville, Ill. is now accepting hotel reservations.

The rate of \$95 will end August 31. Call (630) 505-0900.

SURNAME CORNER

Bakers, Blacksmiths, and Cooks

by Robert Strybel

Many Polish last names originated many centuries ago to describe people on the basis of their occupation. In addition to the basic form (given first), numerous derivatives emerged to indicate the person's son or helper. Here are some of the more common:

- **BAKER.** Piekarz, Piekarczyk, Piekarek, Piekarzewski, Piekarski
- **SMITH.** Kowal, Kowalski, Kowalczyk, Kowalik, Kowalewicz
- **CARPENTER.** Cieśla, Cieślak, Cieślarek, Cieślarczyk, Ciesielski;
- **CABINETMAKER.** Stolarz, Stolarczyk, Stolarczak, Stolarek, Stolarski
- **CARTWRIGHT.** Stelmach, Stelmachowski, Stalemaszyk, Stelmasiak, Stelmachowicz
- **COOK.** Kucharz, Kucharczyk, Kucharczak, Kucharzewski, Kucharski, Kuchciak
- **FISHER.** Rybak, Rybacki, Rybakiewicz, Rybarczyk, Rybakowicz.

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POLONIA ON FILM / Joseph W. Zurawski

Bataan (1943)

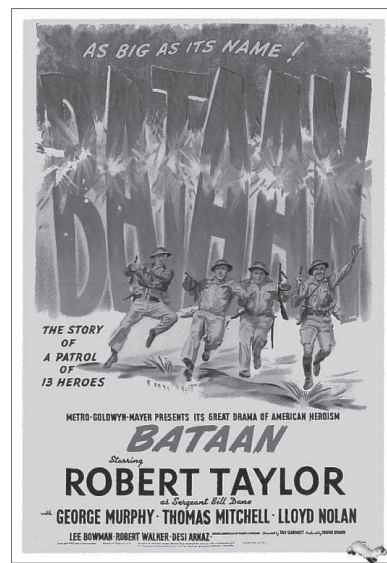
War
Distributor: Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer
Director: Tay Ganett
Screenplay Writer: Robert Hardy Andrews
Featuring: Robert Taylor, Barry Nelson (as Francis Xavier Matowski)

As World War II rages in the Pacific, American and Filipino forces and civilians are being driven out of Manila by the Japanese. A unit of the U.S. infantry is assigned to destroy a bridge along the Bataan peninsula, which spans a mountainous jungle ravine. Eleven volunteers with vastly divergent backgrounds make up the unit. “They’re a mixed group,” remarks the commanding officer, “All experts in their own line.”

The commanding officer explains they are to destroy the bridge as often as the Japanese rebuild it, so the U.S. forces in the Pacific will have time to mount an assault. The bridge is dynamited by the unit within a day. It is also rammed by an American pilot in his airplane, which was filled with explosives. Snipers, bombings and other military action kill off the members of the unit until the sergeant in command is left alone. He digs his own grave and awaits the Japanese to finish him off.

Among the volunteers is good-natured, always-pleasant Private Francis Xavier Matowski, an engineer, from Pittsburgh, and anxious to get back home. During the evacuation of Manila, Matowski and two other soldiers hide under a truck while the Japanese are bombing. After the Japanese leave, Matowski crawls out from his shelter and lights a cigarette. One of the other soldiers points to the truck and the explosives clearly in view. With a chuckle, Matowski says, “We could have knocked those planes clear out of the sky.”

Wesley Epps, a black American demolition expert, and Matowski report, “Me and Matowski made a special collection.” Matowski adds that it was not all authorized. As soon as the unit is settled in, Matowski and Epps are busy on the bridge setting the explosives. As the unit is ready to leave the bridge, Matowski warns the other men about smoking. Back at their camp, Matowski checks all the wires and equipment and pushes the lever to blow up the bridge. A gaping hole is evident in the bridge,



which is perhaps three hundred feet tall and several hundred feet long.

Back at the camp Matowski responds to the commanding officer's request: “Which one of you guys claims to be good at climbing trees?” with a prompt “Which tree?” He is told to climb the one “as high as you can see.” Shoes off, Matowski runs up the first few feet of the tree as his friend Epps approves with a broad smile. He quickly shimmies to the palms atop the tree. He salutes. He is shot by a sniper. The sad expression on the face of Epps reflects the developing respect and friendship each had for the other.

Matowski's appetite was noted. “Matowski? He's always hungry.” However, when Matowski joins in saying that his “Mom makes lima bean soup with vinegar every Monday” we're left to wonder how that dish originated. I did not find any such soup in any Polish cookbook.

Joseph W. Zurawski is author of *Poland: The Captive Satellite: A Study in National Psychology*; *Polish American History and Culture: A Classified Bibliography*; *Polish Chicago: Our History, Our Recipes; six regional histories (Niles, Illinois, Door County, Sister Bay, Keweenaw County, Liberty Grove, Saukville) and Sturgeon Bay Shipbuilding. He has also developed educational materials for several publishers on the Polish American experience and taught Polish American history and culture at Wright College and Triton College. His article “Out of Focus: The Polish American Image in Film” is scheduled for publication in the Spring 2013 Polish American Studies.*

UNITED STATES, POLAND SIGN NEW TAX TREATY. The U.S. Department of the Treasury announced Ambassador Stephen Mull and Polish Deputy Finance Minister Maciej Grabowski signed a new income tax treaty between the United States and Poland.

The treaty replaces the existing agreement, signed in 1974, and brings the bilateral relationship into closer conformity with current U.S. tax treaty policy.

The new treaty provides for reductions in withholding taxes on cross-border payments of dividends, interest and royalties. It also incorporates new methods for attributing business profits to a permanent establishment. The new methods were recently developed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and are consistent with U.S. tax treaty policy.

The text of the treaty document can be found at the U.S. Treasury website.



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NEW BOOKS / Geraldine Balut Coleman

English-Speaking Witnesses To Katyń

ENGLISH-SPEAKING WITNESSES TO KATYŃ

by Krystyna Piórkowska
Warsaw, Poland: Muzeum Woljska
Polskiego, 2012.
Pp. 149 (English),
Pp. 149 (Polish).

This book is not for your normal bedtime reading. It is, however, a well-documented bi-lingual publication which presents new and previously unknown historical material on the Katyń Massacre. Much literature has been written about Katyń in the form of articles, theses, and books, but none contained the newly-discovered documents obtained by Krystyna Piórkowska that relate to heretofore unknown reports, as well as the fact that U.S. Army witnesses sent coded messages. Additionally, the author was able to preview material released by the U.S. National Archives prior to public release in September 2012. It was there that she located confirmation that these messages did, in fact, deal with Katyń.

She brings into view the fact that there were eight English-speakers who witnessed the exhumations at Katyń. These men were: U.S. Army Lt. Colonel John H. Van Vliet, Jr., Captain Donald B. Stewart, Captain Stanley S. B. Gilder, Lt. Colonel Frank P. Stevenson, along with one civilian, Frank Stroobant, whose identity Ms. Piórkowska confirmed, and three British enlisted men.

In May 1943, these eight prisoners-of-war (POWs) were taken to the Katyń Forest by their German captors to witness the mass graves of thousands of bodies of uniformed Polish officers. In seeing the heavily decayed corpses wearing almost unworn boots, led them to believe that this massacre took place much earlier in the war at a time, when Soviets had control of this area. There was other evidence indicating that this was a Soviet orchestrated massacre. Both of the U.S. witnesses to the Katyń Massacre wrote reports, testified to the Madden Committee, and then continued to testify in articles, speeches, and recordings. Yet these efforts were not noticed by the Polish government, neither in London nor in free Poland.

What the author has done is to precisely chronicle the selection process prior to and the sequence of the Katyń visit and the post-war efforts of each witness to document the events. Even more significantly, she located a heretofore unknown report written by Colonel Stevenson, and the fact that the Madden Committee wanted all of three – Gilder, Stevenson, and Stewart to testify to them – but the British Foreign Office impeded it. But this is not all that the author presents. There is a detailed report on the Soviet disinformation



campaign of January 1944, and the willing and active participation of Harrison Salisbury, editor of the New York Times, in that project.

All this research placed Piórkowska in the enviable position of searching for material that she expected existed, and thereby she was able to locate. The newly-declassified documents show that these men sent secret encoded messages as early as June 1943 from a POW camp in Szubin, Poland. It is important to note that the Roosevelt Administration was, in fact, getting information on the Soviet guilt, but sequestered this information for the sake of its alliance with Stalin. In the early years after the war, some American officials expressed their outrage that this was concealed by the U.S. government. In 1952, a final report was released by the Madden Committee. There was no doubt of the Soviets' guilt. "The White House maintained its silence on Katyń for decades, showing an unwillingness to focus on an issue that would have added political tensions with the Soviets during the Cold War."

Unwilling to add to the political tensions of the Cold War, the White House maintained its silence on Katyń for decades.

This book guides the reader through the author's discoveries and research. Piórkowska illuminates the importance of the visit of the English-speaking POWs to Katyń and the restricted arena in which the Germans announced this Soviet crime. She has numerous documents, which, to this point, have not been used in previous research. The book contains rare photos relating to Katyń as well as pre-war images of each of the five witnesses. Although we now wait for an in-depth report on the newly discovered material, this current book is necessary for anyone trying to understand.

BOOK REVIEW / John Grondelski

A Concise Account of Poles in World War II

THE EAGLE UNBOWED:
POLAND AND THE POLES IN
THE SECOND WORLD WAR

by Halik Kochański

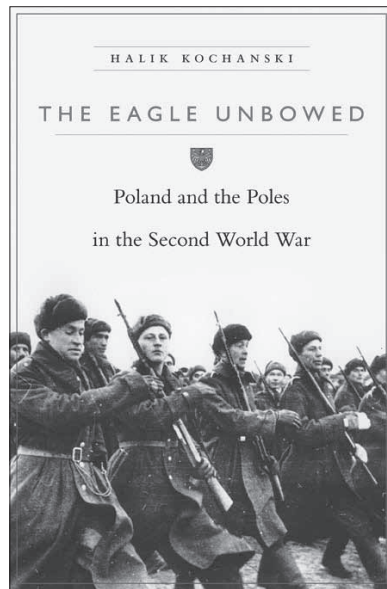
Cambridge, Mass: Harvard
University Press, 2012. Pp. 734,
HB, \$35.00

To order: www.hup.harvard.edu or
1-800-405-1619 (M-F, 9-5)

2014 will mark the 75th anniversary of the World War that started in and began over Poland. With Halik Kochański's "Eagle Unbowed," we have an authoritative, magisterial and up-to-date history of those years from the perspective of Polish experience. Buy this book!

I say "Polish experience" rather than "Poland's experience" because, as this book documents, the Poles' war experiences occurred practically everywhere: in Poland, on the Western front, in the Soviet gulag, in the Middle East, and in displaced person camps and orphanages as far-flung as Germany, India, today's Zimbabwe, and Mexico. While I originally wrote "those six years," I changed it to "those years" for two reasons: (1) Kochański's book runs through 1947, the final consolidation of Communist dictatorship in Poland; and (2) the question remains—probably for future historians—as to when the war really did end for Poland. As Kochański also notes (p. 579), when General Anders first published his post-war memoirs, he entitled them *Bez ostatniego rozdziału* [Without the Last Chapter] because the Polish commander knew that, even in 1949, the war that began over Poland really was not yet over. As I have argued, one could say that, in fact, it didn't really end until 1989—the fiftieth anniversary of the start of World War II—when Poland's postwar puppet regime was finally ousted and something of a democratic government returned to Warsaw for the first time in a half century. Arguably, the 75th anniversary of the War that we observe in 2014 will be a milestone for two reasons: (1) it will be the first milestone anniversary where the War really was over for Poland and (2) it will also be the first time that only a handful of eyewitnesses—who themselves were only children during the War—still remain alive.

Kochański, who has taught at University College and King's College London, has written a comprehensive (almost 750 pages) yet eminently-readable study of the Polish experience of World War II. While books of that length can sometimes become tendentious by their down-in-the-weeds detail, Kochański's scholarship keeps the story flowing while striking the right balance between illustrative detail and superfluous minutia. The book would have been enhanced, however, by greater use of Polish sources. And while Kochański deftly sets out the Polish *raison d'état* on a variety of issues, she does so in an objective and balanced fashion, not chauvinistically. She reports that Polish cavalry (the Pomorze Cavalry Brigade) did attack German tanks (the 20th Motorized Division)—and then adds the relevant facts that (a) the Poles' commander knew that he issued an impossible order but (b) had hoped thereby to run enough interference so that other units of the Polish infantry could retreat and regroup (p. 63). She notes that Poland produced 5,000+ "Righteous Gentiles" honored at Yad Vashem—and clarifies it "is not a legitimate inference" that not "only 5,000 Poles actively worked to save Jews . . . because



Yad Vashem requires the testimony of Jews who were saved. Since any capture of hidden Jews by the Germans resulted in the immediate execution of the Jews and their Polish protectors, there was no chance for a later Jewish survivor to bear witness. Furthermore, Yad Vashem also requires that the Gentiles received no financial reward for hiding Jews, so this means that many people who were too poor to keep a Jew unless he could contribute financially to his upkeep are "automatically excluded" (pp. 317-18, emphasis original). On the neuralgic question of *Jedwabne*, she maintains a historian's measured analysis, observing on the one hand that Gross's book "Neighbors" represents "a milestone in the discussion of this terrible subject" (p. 588) while, on the other, noting that the killings were "not a spontaneous pogrom but a massacre deliberately encouraged by the Germans and one in which many of the perpetrators were not, as has been alleged, neighbors . . . but had come from nearby villages to take part" (p. 292).

INDEED, throughout this book, one is repeatedly struck by Kochański's approach of reporting the facts along with her considered historical interpretation and letting the chips fall where they may. Her accounts of Polish-British relations, for example, are best summarized by how she titled chapter 14: "Poland: The Inconvenient Ally." Nor does the American President come off better. "Roosevelt . . . was not to be trusted,

as is shown by the duplicity of his treatment of the Polish-American Congress. Roosevelt confined his statements to generalizations, but his duplicity comes, not from what he said, but from the fact that the meeting was conducted in front of a map showing Poland with her pre-war frontiers" (pp. 457, 458). Her critical assessment of prewar Polish foreign policy and internal politics is fair and balanced, although likely to gore the oxen of some parts of the Polonian *emigracja polityczna* that anachronistically perpetuated the Dmowski-Piłsudski conflict in exile in America.

MOST AMERICANS, apart from knowing that World War II began when Germany invaded Poland, know practically nothing about the War as Poles experienced it. (Indeed, a considerable number probably even think that the War started when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor). They know little, if anything, about Soviet treachery (especially since the paradigm of "Big Three" Allied unity remains regnant in American historical interpretation) or Western Allied duplicity (who applied a Dionne Warwick approach—"wishin' and hopin' and thinkin' and prayin'/plannin' and dreamin'"—to the post-war future of the ally over which they began the War). On the threshold of the 75th anniversary of the War, this book deserves widespread readership: among Polish Americans, to give them a contemporary and historically-sound scholarly account of their ancestral country's travails, and among Americans in general, whose mainstream historical understanding of World War II still (willfully?) cultivates certain rather enormous blind spots. This book belongs in Polonian homes and in your favorite high school, college, and local libraries. Given its size and sophistication, the work is in fact a bargain. Kudos to such a prestigious press as Harvard for publishing it.

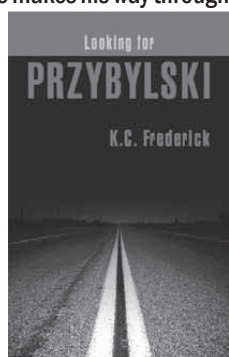
Editor's Note: If you are interested in this book, please call the PAJ Bookstore at 1 (800) 422-1275. The Bookstore will stock it if there is enough demand for it, and the first twelve orders will be able to reserve the book for \$30.00 plus s&h.

"Ziggy's quest is related without sentiment...it resonates as a rumination on the trials and triumphs of a newly examined life." — *Publisher's Weekly*

WHEN ZIGGY CZARNECKI WAS BIG IN DETROIT, the Motor City was hot, and so was he. But that was then and Ziggy's an old guy now who's got used to keeping his head down as he makes his way through the desolate city. Still, when he hears that Przybylski might be the one who fingered him all those years ago, he's got to find out if it's true. Crossing the country on a Greyhound, Ziggy meets a lot of people who are on quests of their own and discovers that the world is a bigger and stranger place than he'd imagined. **K.C. Frederick** won the L.L. Winship PEN New England Prize for Fiction in 2007. This is his sixth novel.

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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Chasing Coach K

Bobby Hurley certainly has a long way to go to catch up with his college coach, **Mike Krzyzewski**. After all, Coach K's resume includes 927 career wins, four national championships, and 11 Final Four appearances. However, the point guard on back-to-back championship teams at Duke is ready to try his hand at being a college head coach.

Drawing upon his experience playing for Coach K at Duke, and with a Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame coach for a father, Hurley decided he was ready, so after spending the past three seasons working as an assistant under his brother Dan Hurley at Wagner for two seasons and then last year at Rhode Island, he accepted the head coaching position at the SUNY Buffalo.

"I just think the wealth of my basketball life has prepared me for this moment," said the 41-year-old Hurley. "Everything I did as a player — I was blessed to have a chance to play for some of the great coaches in the history of the game — has prepared me to go out on my own."

His father was legendary high school coach Bob Hurley Sr. (of Irish ancestry), and his mother was the former Christine Ledzion, a Polish American.

Bobby began playing basketball at an early age. Despite his lack of size, he was a quick and aggressive ballplayer with remarkable ball skills and great stamina. He honed his game on basketball courts throughout the area, especially in the White Eagle Bingo Hall, which served as the practice court for his father's high school team at St. Anthony's in Jersey City. Founded in 1952 as the parish school of the nearby Polish Catholic Church and run by Felician nuns, St. Anthony's basketball program has achieved national recognition through Bob Hurley Sr.'s remarkable coaching efforts. He was the subject of *The Miracle of St. Anthony*, a best-selling book by Adrian Wojnarowski.

Signing with Duke, Bobby became a two-time All-American set many national and school records including, most assists in NCAA history (1076), most NCAA Tournament assists (145), most NCAA Tournament made three-pointers (42), most games started (139) and most minutes played (4802). More importantly, Hurley led the Blue Devils to back-to-back NCAA championships in 1991 and 1992 and was named Final Four MVP in 1992. He was selected by the Sacramento Kings as the seventh over-

all pick in the 1993 draft. Hurley's rookie year was interrupted by a near fatal automobile accident, but with the same kind of hard work and discipline that made him a great player, Bobby eventually came back to play four seasons with Sacramento and the Vancouver Grizzlies ending his career in 1998. He has received numerous honors, including induction into the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame in 2006.

Hurley's ties to Duke certainly played a part in his hiring. The father of UB's Athletic Director, Danny White, is Kevin White, the AD at Duke.

HE'S GREAT, TOO! They may call **Wayne Gretzky** "The Great One," but **Walter Gretzky** is pretty great, too. The father of NHL legend Wayne Gretzky has truly had a remarkable life.

Walter is the son of ethnically Polish immigrants, Anton and Mary Gretzky. Walter's website states that his parents were Polish; his father came from Grodno Governorate, then Poland now Belarus; his mother, from Pidhaisi (now Ukraine). They emigrated to Canada via Krakow, Poland.

Walter was a good hockey player, but never made it beyond juniors. He met his wife Phyllis Hockin (of British ancestry) at a wiener roast at the Gretzky farm when she was 15 and he was 18. They married in 1960, and moved to Brantford, Ontario. Walter's love of hockey was passed on to his sons, most notably Wayne. His other children — Kim, Keith, Glen, and Brent — were also athletic. Brent, drafted by the Tampa Bay Lightning, played 13 NHL games. Keith, drafted by the Buffalo Sabres in 1985, never made it to the NHL, but has coached in the minors (he was Brent's coach when both were with the UHL Asheville Smoke). Kim was a track and field star.

Walter Gretzky spent his working years as an employee of Bell Canada. He retired in the early nineties at a relatively young age. Shortly after Walter's retirement tragedy struck in the form of a brain aneurysm (ruptured blood vessel). Very few people survive this affliction and the doctors had no reason to believe that Walter would be the exception. The family was gathered



WAYNE GRETZKY and dad Walter.

together for what was believed to be Walter's last night on earth. Ultimately, Walter's survival left him to deal with a long recovery which lasted about four years. The aneurysm also resulted in a permanent 20 year lapse in memory of the early 1970s to the 1990s. That was not his first serious medical issue. Earlier, a manhole cover blew up in his face, leaving him deaf in one ear. His wife passed away in 2005.

Hockey's most famous father recovered after years of intense physiotherapy. He went on to become one of the most sought after individuals on the banquet lecture series. Walter has also devoted much time to helping charities and fundraisers and coaching youth hockey. Walter received Canada's highest civilian honor, the Order of Canada, for his various work with a wide range of charities and foundations.

His ordeal is the basis of the CBC movie "Waking Up Wally: The Walter Gretzky Story." He has also written two books: *On Family, Hockey and Healing* (2003), and *Gretzky: From Backyard Rink to the Stanley Cup* (1985), in which he recalled how he helped shape his son Wayne into one of the greatest players in hockey history.

COACH MAC HONORED. Shippensburg University football head coach **Mark "Mac" Maciejewski** was named the 2012 AFCA Division II Region 1 Coach of the Year after leading the Red Raiders to an 11-2 record and the second round of the NCAA playoffs.

In his second year, Maciejewski opened the season with 10 consecutive victories, establishing Division II's longest active winning streak and maintaining the honor for several weeks. Shippensburg also earned the No. 3 seed for Super Region 1 in the 2012 NCAA Football Championships. SU hosted No. 4 seed Bloomsburg in the opening round of the postseason and defeated the Huskies, 58-20. The win marked the first NCAA tournament victory for Shippensburg since 1991, when Maciejewski was an All-American nose guard for the Red Raiders. It also was just the second time in school history that a SU squad won 11 or more games in a season.

The 2012 Red Raiders broke or tied 73 school records, scoring 609 points and 83 touchdowns en route to 6,889 yards of total offense. SU led the nation in total offense (529.92) and ranked second in scoring offense by averaging 46.8 points per game. The defense scored a school-record six defensive touch-

Dombrowski and Zayak Elected into National Polish-American Sports Hall

ORCHARD LAKE, Mich. — Former New Orleans Saints tackle/guard **Jim Dombrowski** and World Champion figure skater **Elaine Zayak** have been elected into the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame for 2013. Additionally, current Sprint Cup Champion **Brad Keselowski** has been chosen to receive the Hall of Fame's Excellence in Sports Award.

Dombrowski, a unanimous All-American and two-time recipient of the Jacobs Blocking Award, was a stand-out offensive lineman at the University of Virginia from 1982-1985. He

was the sixth overall pick by the Saints in the 1986 NFL Draft and anchored the Saints offensive line for 11 seasons from 1986-1996. In 2008 Dombrowski was elected into the College Football Hall of Fame and in 2003 he was elected into the Saints Hall of Fame.

Zayak, who began figure skating as physical therapy after losing three toes in a lawn mower accident, won both the U.S. Junior Championship and the World Junior Championship in 1979 at age

13. Zayak won the gold medal at the U.S. National Championships in 1981 and captured another gold medal in 1982 winning the World Championships in Copenhagen. Zayak was inducted into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame in 2003.

Keselowski won the 2012 N A S C A R Sprint Cup Championship in November in only his third full-time Sprint Cup season. An underdog to start the season, Keselowski, driving the Number 2 Miller Lite Dodge for Penske Racing, won five times and had eight other top five finishes. He is one of two NASCAR drivers to have won a championship in both the Sprint Cup Series and the Nationwide Series.

The awards will be presented to the recipients at the 40th Anniversary Induction Banquet on Thur., June 13, 2013, at the American Polish-Cultural Center in Troy, Michigan, with Detroit Pistons play by play announcer George Blaha serving as Master of Ceremonies. Tickets for the banquet, which begins at 6:00 p.m., are \$100 and can be ordered by calling (313) 407-3300. Information on the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame is available at www.polishsportshof.com. Check out next month's PAJ for more information.



downs.

A 1988 Punxsutawney Area High School graduate, Maciejewski graduated from Shippensburg in 1992. He is one of just three players in the program's history to receive All-PSAC First Team honors in three consecutive seasons at the same position, nose tackle. He was also inducted into the university's athletic hall of fame. After serving as an assistant coach with the Red Raiders for 12 years, he became head coach in 2010.

THEY SAID IT

"Maddon grew up in a blue-collar immigrant neighborhood in Hazleton, Pennsylvania. His grandfather, born Maddonini in Italy, changed the family name to Maddon in America so he could get more plumbing work from his Polish and Slovak neighbors. Maddon's father, Joe Sr., who died in 2002, was a plumber too; his Polish mother, Albina, whom everyone calls 'Beanie,' still waits tables in a diner in town."

— From a Men's Journal article titled "Baseball's Scrappy Genius" about Tampa Bay Manager Joe Maddon, written by Pat Jordan. It features a photo of Maddon with his mom, the former Albina "Beanie" Klocek.

"I am incredibly happy for Bobby and for the Buffalo Basketball program. What a great marriage it will be for Bobby to work with (Athletic

Director) Danny White. The two will form an incredible team that will take Buffalo Basketball to another level of success. Bobby Hurley is as good of a competitor and the equal of any guard to play in the history of college basketball."

— Duke Head Men's Basketball Coach **Mike Krzyzewski**.

"I couldn't be happier for Bobby. It's my hometown, so I'm excited for the city of Buffalo and UB. You are getting a 'Class A' person and character and a 'Class A' in terms of basketball knowledge. I don't want to put pressure on him, but I'm expecting the basketball program to improve because Bobby is a great coach."

— **Christian Laettner**, a native of the Buffalo area and a former teammate of Hurley's at Duke. Both men are members of the Polish American Sports Hall of Fame.

"Go to where the puck is going, not where it has been."

— A quote usually attributed to Wayne Gretzky, it actually was said by his father, **Walter**. However, Walter explained that his advice was intended for a peewee hockey team, not hockey professionals. As Walter explained: "It's just simple basics, like the ABCs. You have to know the alphabet before you can write. And naturally, going to where the puck is going is something that pros take for granted."

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Book Covers Everything a Polish American Needs to Know

A unique manual to get PolAms
"hooked on their heritage"

POLISH/POLONIAN HERITAGE AND LIFESTYLES

by Robert Strybel
Available in both e-book
as well as PDF format

by Teresa Pencak Schwartz

As its title *Polish/Polonian Heritage and Lifestyles* suggests, Robert Strybel's latest book on Amazon focuses on Polish and Polonian customs and traditions, family and community celebrations as well as social and cultural events of every conceivable type. As his project assistant and publisher, it has been my pleasure to work with him on this book which explains in detail Polish folkways and foodways, including the traditions of



Strybel

Christmas, Easter, St John's Eve and Harvest Festivals, weddings, christenings, namedays, anniversaries, funerals and more.

This 340-page book touches on Polish history and culture and contains a wealth of information on Polish surnames and genealogy, even suggestions on what to name your household pet, how to set up a Polish restaurant in your area or conduct a successful PolAm fundraiser. Abundant contact data are included to inform readers where they can find this or that cultural resource or make contact with Polish-related businesses and organizations. *Polish/Polonian Heritage and Lifestyles* is a companion piece to Strybel's two cookbooks, *Polish Heritage Cookery* and *Polish Holiday Cookery* – both available through Amazon and from PolAm suppliers of cultural goods.

The result of years of research, *Polish/Polonian Heritage and Lifestyles* is a one-of-a-kind instruction manual for Polish-American clubs, parishes, schools, organizations, families and individuals with countless ideas on how to celebrate and popularize Polish traditions and lifestyles in a North American setting. It was written so that no Polish American could honestly say: "My family has drifted away from its Polish heritage so I don't know much about it" or "I wouldn't know where to begin." Hopefully, this book will pique the interest even of some of those who now bluntly state: "Polish culture is not my cup of tea – I'm just not interested."

Polish/Polonian Heritage and Lifestyles is available:

1. As an e-book which can be read on a Kindle or other e-tablet or personal computer [iPad, Nook, etc.], from Amazon.com for \$8.99 at <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00APPJKEW> or
2. In PDF format which can be read or printed out on any personal computer. Just airmail an \$8.99 personal or bank (cashier's) check or money order along with your email address, to the author: Robert Strybel, ulica Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

For more information on *Polish/Polonian Heritage and Lifestyles*, please contact Teresa Pencak Schwartz, the publisher, at: vilagedwellers@yahoo.com.

Now's the Time To Get Ready for a Pol-Am Summer Food Fest

by Robert Strybel

They may be called a PolAm Festival, Polish Heritage Day, Polish Fest, Polonian Jamboree or even St. Stan's Parish Picnic. But, regardless of the other attractions provided, at all these events it is usually traditional Polish comfort foods – the kind Babcia or Mama used to make – that reign supreme. Chicago's Taste of Polonia, Milwaukee's Polish Fest, the annual Polish Festival hosted by Falcons Nest #45 in St. Louis, Mo., the Polish Arts Festival in the Buffalo suburb of Cheektowaga, and the Polish Harvest Festival in Yorba Linda, Calif., are but a few examples. To enjoy the ethnic delicacies and even stock up on take-outs people will drive for miles, even from neighboring states. It's no wonder that Polish food fests of various types are such good fundraisers! Here are some things for the sponsoring lodge, nest, group, club, parish or other organization might consider.

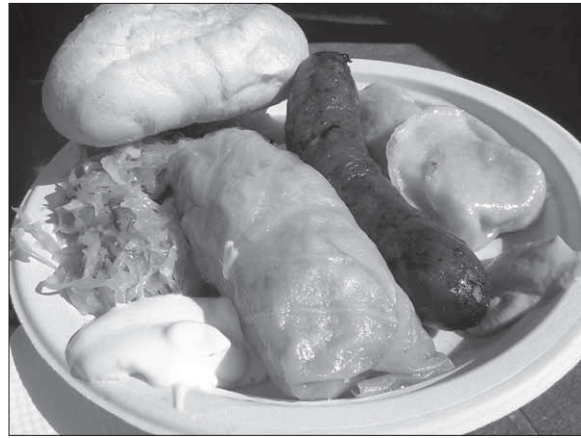
POLISH FOOD EVENT. At a Polonian Culinary Showcase, Polish Food Fair, Festival of Polish Treats or other such gathering Polish comfort foods are the main event and quite likely a fairly extensive menu would be provided. It would probably include pierogi, kielbasa, gołąbki, bigos, kiszka, maybe also potato pancakes, naleśniki (crêpes) and flaczki (tripe soup). Favorite cakes might include pączki, babka, szarlotka and makowiec. That is not to say that other attractions are not included (see "Non-culinary activi-

ties" below.)

THEMED FOOD EVENT. This type of event focuses on one typical dish or type of food. It might be called a Kielbasa Cook-Off, Gołąbki Gala, Pierogi Panorama, Polish Soup Festival, Polish Cake & Pastry Fair or whatever. But even such a themed event should include other items for the benefit of those who may dislike cabbage, be allergic to something, be avoiding carbohydrates or happen to be vegetarians. For those unaccustomed to Polish ethnic treats (usually young kids), hotdogs, burgers, pizza and tacos are often provided.

VOLUNTEER MAN (OR WOMAN) POWER. Traditionally PolAm groups have relied heavily on volunteer labor to shape the pierogi, fry the pączki, cook the kapusta and make all the other necessary preparations. Often they run for weeks if no months, since many items freeze up well for future reference. That is obviously the ideal solution in fundraising terms.

OUT-SOURCING. For various reasons some groups have found it difficult to find enough volunteer kitchen staff to meet the expected demand. In such cases the usual al-



ternative is out-sourcing – relying on commercial suppliers. The proceeds will be lower than with volunteer help, but good discounts can often be obtained on quantity orders from delis, bakeries, wholesalers, etc. At times, a combined approach is possible – there are volunteers to cook the kielbasa and kapusta, but the pierogi have to be acquired from a commercial supplier.

TYPE OF VENUE. Different preparations are needed if the Polish food event is being held in a hall with a fully equipped kitchen as opposed to a picnic grove where booths or tents are set up and appliances have to be brought in. Depending on the type of food being served, such aids as electric roasters, crock pots, heating trays, microwaves and refrigerating devices may be needed.

POLISH FOOD AT CENTER STAGE. Providing festival-goers with a good selection of traditional Polish dishes to enjoy on the spot or

take out is the main goal of a Pol-Am food-related event. But it could also feature a cooking demonstration (making pierogi or babka for instance), a competition for the best kielbasa, pickles, soup or whatever. And a pierogi or pączki-eating contest can also be lots of fun.

NON-CULINARY ACTIVITIES. Usually other non-culinary attractions are included at Polonia's various food fests. Things may kick off with Holy Mass at a weekend event, maybe even a Polka mass. Polka bands providing live entertainment and dance music are pretty much standard, but folk-dance performances are also enjoyed by many. Such events may also include an exhibition, beauty pageant, games of skill, strength and/or chance, souvenir stands and midway rides.

JOINING AN EXISTING EVENT. It's not a bad idea to ensure a Polish-American presence at an International Festival, where different ethnic groups showcase their heritage. That can also be accomplished at Fourth of July Celebrations, a State or County Fair or other community-wide events. Apart from the fundraising potential, running a Polish food concession at such venues is the opportunity to expose the community at large to the delicacies our Polish heritage has to offer.

Once you have held your strategy session, set your goals, lined up your volunteers and decided what, where, when, how and why, all the remains is to wish your group.

POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Menu for a Polish Picnic

Part I

Here are some of the familiar old favorites for your next Polish festival or Polonian picnic. Also included are a few suggestions which your group may not have tried do far.

POLISH COUNTRY-STYLE SCRAMBLED EGGS (jajecznica po wiejsku). If your event starts early with Sunday Mass, a typically Polish breakfast would be the ideal follow-up. Dice 1/2 lb thick-sliced bacon and heat in large skillet. Add 2 lbs smoked kielbasa, sliced into thin rounds, and two large diced onions and cook until nicely browned. Add 2 dozen very fresh eggs and cook like sunny-side-up eggs until white is slightly set. Turn over and break up eggs with spatula and fry until as soft or firm as you like. Serve with rye bread and unsalted butter, lemon tea or white coffee (café au lait). Powidła (Polish plum butter), other jams and/or honey can be provided on the side. Babka, chałka and other coffee cakes and egg breads are also Polish breakfast favorites.

STUFFED CABBAGE (gołąbki). For each 3–4 lb head of cabbage, remove core and place cored-side-down in pot of hot water to cover and simmer to wilt leaves. Remove outer leaves as they wilt to rack or absorbent paper to drain. When cool enough to handle, have down the thick central vein of drained cabbage leaves, cutting out and discarding the thickest part above the core. Place an oblong scoop of filling at the base end of each leaf. Fold sides of leaf over filling and roll up away from filling. After the gołąbki have been rolled, line the bottom of a roasting pan with half

the leftover undersized, damaged or otherwise unused cabbage leaves. Place the cabbage rolls snugly in roaster no more than 2 layers. Drench with sauce of choice, cover with remaining unneeded cabbage leaves. Surrounding the gołąbki with extra leaves will prevent them from scorching.

MEAT & RICE STUFFED CABBAGE (gołąbki z mięsem i ryżem). Prepare filling by combining 1 lb raw ground meat (pork, pork & beef, pork-veal-beef combination) with 4–6 c undercooked rice, 1–3 chopped butter-fried onions and 1 egg. Mix ingredients well and salt & pepper to taste. Fill cabbage leaves with mixture, roll up, arrange in roasting pan or electric roaster and drench with 3 c tomato juice combined with 1 c regular or spicy ketchup. Bake covered in preheated 350° oven or electric roaster 1 hr. Reduce heat to 325° and cook another hr. Electric roasters are excellent and will keep the gołąbki hot until needed.

MUSHROOM & RICE STUFFED CABBAGE (gołąbki z grzybami i ryżem). For the vegetarians in your crowd, wash, dry and dice 16 oz fresh Portobello mushrooms and fry in several T butter, margarine or oil with 2 med diced onions on med-low about 15 min or until browned, stirring occasionally. Combine with 4–6 slightly undercooked rice, barley or buckwheat groats. Add 1 raw egg and mix to blend ingredients. Salt & pepper to taste and garnish with 1 T chopped fresh dill and/or parsley. Fill pre-wilted cabbage leaves as usual, drench with 4 c vegetable stock (in which 1 mushroom bouillon cube has been dissolved) and bake

as above. On the side, dissolve 1 mushroom bouillon cube in 2 c hot water. Whisk in 1 c sour cream fork-blended with 1 heaping T flour and simmer several min without boiling. When cabbage rolls are cooked, add any remaining pan liquid from roaster to mushroom sauce. Salt & pepper to taste. Ladle mushroom sauce over gołąbki.

PIEROGI, BASIC DOUGH RECIPE (pierogi, podstawowy przepis na ciasto). Set a large pot of lightly salted water on high flame and bring to boil. Sift 2-1/4 to 2-1/2 c flour work surface. Sprinkle with 1/2 t salt. Deposit 1 small egg at center and use knife to mix outlying flour into egg. Gradually add about 1/2 c fairly hot water in a thin stream and 1 T salad oil and work mixture by hand into a dough. Knead well until dough is smooth and elastic and no longer sticks to hand. On lightly floured board, roll out thin 1/3 of the dough, leaving the remainder under a warm inverted bowl so it doesn't dry out. With drinking-glass or biscuit-cutter cut dough-sheet into rounds. Place a spoonful of filling just off center of each dough round, cover filling with larger dough flap and pinch edges together to seal. If dough is on the dry side, brush edges lightly with water or lightly-beaten egg white and pinch together with floured fingers to ensure a good seal. Drop small batches of pierogi into boiling water so they can float freely without crowding. When boiling resumes, reduce heat to gentle boil and cook 5 - 10 min., testing 1 for doneness. (Exact cooking time varies depending on size of pierogi, thickness of dough and type of filling used.) Remove with slotted

spoon and serve at once. Or allow them to cool, and reheat by frying in butter.

CHEESE & POTATO PIEROGI (ruskie pierogi – z serem i kartoflami). Cook 1 lb peeled potatoes in boiling salted water until tender, drain well, mash and set aside to cool. To potatoes add 1/2 lb farmer cheese or dry cottage cheese, mashed in with potato-masher or processed to a ground-like consistency in processor, 2 med. finely chopped onions sautéed in 2 T. oil until tender and lightly browned. Mix ingredients well, season with salt & pepper and use to fill rounds of pierogi dough.

KRAUT & CABBAGE PIEROGI (pierogi z kapustą). Prepare sauerkraut and shredded cabbage as in kielbasa & sauerkraut recipe (below). Make sure to squeeze out as much liquid as possible from the cooked kraut & cabbage before filling dough rounds and forming pierogi. A moist filling may cause pierogi to fall apart during cooking.

MEAT PIEROGI (pierogi z mięsem). Soak a crumbled-up stale bread roll in water. Dice 1" square pork fatback and brown lightly with 2 finely chopped onions. Grind 3/4 lb cooked (boiled or roast) beef together with the onions and squeezed-out roll. Mix well and salt & pepper to taste. Add 2 T bouillon if very dry. *Note:* An economical way of preparing these for a festival or other community event is to have club members donate frozen cooked meats from their home freezers.

continued next month

Dyngus Day Dousing — Almost

PHOTO: ANDY GOLEBIOWSKI



YOUNGSTERS COWER in anticipation of a Dyngus Day splashing by reveler Marty Olejniczak at the 2013 Dyngus Day Parade, held on Buffalo, New York's East Side, Easter Monday. Olejniczak is a member of the Polish Heritage Dancers, one of 75 groups that participated in this year's march from Corpus Christi Church, around the neighborhood, to Buffalo Central Terminal.

Those standing curbside braved intermittent blasts of snow and hail, as well as sprays of water from parade float participants. The post-Lenten celebration brought tens of thousands to the city's former Polish American stronghold. Over 50 suburban locations also held Dyngus Day parties, featuring Polish food, refreshments, and polka bands from across the area and the country.

This year, Dyngus Day fell on April 1, April Fool's Day, adding more amusement to Olejniczak's prank water bucket.

Real-life Lassie Saves 3-Year-Old Girl

PIERZWIN, Poland — A stray dog is credited with saving the life of a toddler in Poland, staying with her, cuddling with her, and keeping her from freezing to death. The small black dog named Czarue was credited by firefighters with saving the girl's life.



The toddler named Julia had gone missing from her home overnight amidst sub-freezing temperatures. Both were found the next morning cold and wet by the firefighters, who among over two hundred people, had been searching for the girl. Grzegorz Szymanski, one of the firefighters who found Julia after first hearing a barking dog and

later the cries of a child, said that "if it hadn't been for the dog, she likely wouldn't have survived."

The rescuers called the dog a

hero and all credited him with having saved Julia's life.

The child was treated at a local hospital for frostbite.

"This dog, which was with her, most probably kept her warm (and) alive. It lay down next to her when she fell asleep. She was walking and walking, and fell asleep when she got tired," said Kazimiera Barczyk, pediatric ward chief.

"She was with this dog all the time," said Julia's grandmother. "She didn't go anywhere without it. When she was with me, when I was looking after her, she constantly said, 'Granny, the dog needs to come in the house'."

Piast Institute Launches New Survey of Polonia

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. — Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, president of the Piast Institute announced the initiation of a new survey of Polish Americans in the United States in cooperation with the University of British Columbia.



The Institute is a National Center for Research, Analysis and Policy formation on Polish and Polish Affairs and an official U.S. Census Information Center (CIC) that focuses on Polish and other East Central European ethnic groups in America. This survey follows up on two earlier national studies in 2009 and 2010 that the Institute did of 900 and 1,400 Polish Americans respectively. The new study probes some of the key social, political and economic questions asked on the earlier studies and adds a few additional issues that have aroused public concern since. It also probes the attitudes of Polish Americans on matters of concern to the community and their ideas about its future.

The study is being conducted as a "rolling survey" over a span of three months. Polish Americans and Poles living in America are encouraged to participate. Dominik Stecula, a Ph.D. student at the University of British Columbia, who coauthored the original study, urged as wide a participation as possible to give the study a broad statistical sample for analysis. "I hope all Polish Americans who have a concern about our community take the time to respond

to the survey," he said. "The original study demonstrated to us that Polonia is a unique community which shows distinctive opinions and attitudes on public and community issues," said Stecula. "We need broad national participation to allow us to confirm our earlier findings and to deepen our analysis. These will be invaluable as we seek to create Polonia anew in the 21st century."

The survey, which can be completed in 25 to 60 minutes, can be accessed at blogs.ubc.ca/piastsurvey.

The 2010 study, "Polish Americans Today," has gone through three printings. Its findings have been a key item of discussion at several national conferences. The chancery of the President of Poland ordered copies for its staff as well as several Polish Ministries, as well as the offices of the Marshalls of the Sejm and Senate.



"The Piast Institute undertook the original study because we found a dearth of information about the Polish American community as major research centers — such as NORC at the University of Chicago and the national election exit polls — have stopped asking about European American ethnic groups," said Radzilowski. "Poles and other European groups were lumped into a new default category called 'White,' which makes no historical, cultural or demographic sense. It is a new version of the melting pot."

The new study will be published by E. Mellen Press, a major Social Science and Humanities publisher. For more information contact the Executive Vice President of the Piast Institute, Virginia Skrzyniarz, Skrzyniarz@piastinstitute.org or (313) 733-4535.

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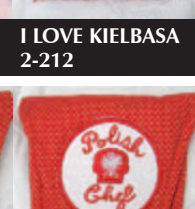
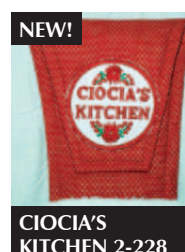
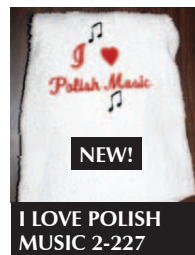
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