

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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U.S. SENATE HONORS
JAN KARSKI
PAGE 4

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

NATO TO INCREASE MILITARY COMMITMENT TO POLAND • EU THREATENS US OVER VISA REQUIREMENTS
DIOCESE OKS STEEPLE FIX • MARKER TO HONOR DR. GOLASKI • POLES IN THE OLD LINE STATE: "BARDZO DOBRY"
POPIEŁUSZKO DOCUMENTARY SET TO AIR • WOJCIECHOWSKI TAKES OVER AT MARQUETTE • NEW PORTAL FOR RESEARCH

Our Pope, Our Saint NASZ PAPIEŻ, NASZ ŚWIĘTY



Poland's Favorite Son Ascends the Altar *A Million Pilgrims Attend Co-canonization*

*Saint John Paul II —
pray for us!*

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW —Millions of Poles stayed glued to their TV screens on Mercy Sunday, April 27, to witness the long-awaited elevation to sainthood of their favorite son, Karol Wojtyła, better known as Papeż Jan Paweł Drugi. And tens of thousands of Poles were among the estimated one million pilgrims who personally attended the joint canonization of John Paul II and his Italian predecessor John XXIII. It was the first time two popes were ever simultaneously proclaimed saints and the first time two pontiffs — the currently reigning Francis and his retired predecessor Benedict XVI — took part in the

canonization liturgy.

It was no coincidence that Pope Francis decided to co-canonize those two pillars of Roman Catholicism at a single ceremony. Pope John XXIII had launched the Second Vatican Council to revitalize the Church and open dialogue with other religions, while his Polish successor John Paul II was to make ecumenism a cornerstone of his papacy. It has been said that John XXIII opened the doors of the Church to air it out, while John Paul II walked through those doors and took the message to some 130 different countries world-wide. There were slight differences in style between the kindly, rotund John XXIII and his charismatic Polish successor. But both were religious leaders deeply committed to the service of God and man who never lost their common touch and people-friendly ways despite all the protocol, pomp and celebrity treatment they had

to deal with.

During the days preceding the canonization, thousands of enthusiastic Polish pilgrims — including entire families, nuns, priests and seminarians, scouts, university students, soldiers, and policemen — streamed into Rome. Most had come by plane, train, bus, and car (The ETW Network reported that 1700 buses came from Poland), but some chose motorcycles and bikes and a few even made the more than 800-mile journey on horseback or on foot. White and red flags were everywhere to be seen, and Polish was the most common foreign language heard on the streets of the Eternal City. U.S. and Canadian flags identified many smiling North American Poles in attendance.

In tightly packed St. Peter's Square, where large ban-

continued on back cover

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May Maj

*Głos matki, głos Boga.
Mother's voice is God's voice.*

- 1 **ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER. LABOR DAY (POLAND)**
2004. Accession of Poland to the European Union
- 2 Polish Flag Day and Polonia Day (Dzień Flagi Polskiej oraz Święto Polonii) – these two holidays are of rather recent vintage and have yet to gain wide popularity in Poland.
- 3 **FEAST OF MARY, QUEEN OF POLAND. POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY**
Święto Trzeciego Maja, banned by the communists, re-emerged following the collapse of the regime in 1989. Poland's Constitution of 1791 is the second oldest democratic constitution in the world.
- 5 1194. Death of Casimir II
- 7 2004. Death of Waldemar Milewicz, a Polish journalist and war correspondent who was killed in a drive-by shooting in Iraq by a group of Iraqi insurgents.
- 8 **ST. STANISLAUS**
1989. Adam Michnik's *Gazeta Wyborcza* begins publication under the rhyming mast-head motto, "Nie ma wolności bez Solidarności" ("There's no freedom without Solidarity"). Today, it is the second-largest newspaper in Poland.
- 9 1931. Death of Albert Michelson, physicist (b. 1852).
- 10 1034. Death of Mieszko II Lambert
- 11 **MOTHER'S DAY (U.S.)**
1573. Henry of Anjou (Henry Walezij), became the first elected king of Poland.
- 12 1364. Founding of Jagiellonian University
- 13 1981. Pope John Paul II shot by a would-be assassin at public audience in St. Peter's Square. Also wounded is a Polish American pilgrim from Buffalo, New York, Ann Odre.
- 15 1942. Founding of the Polish Institute of Sciences in America, in New York.
- 16 1850. Birth of Johannes von Mikulica-Radecki, Polish surgical pioneer.
- 18 1920. Birth of Karol Wojtyła in Wadowice, Poland, named Pope John Paul II, October 16, 1978.
- 20 1648. Death of King Ladislas IV, 55. His Jesuit brother, 39, took rule as John Casimir II.
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, which in turn saved Europe and Western civilization. He has been honored for centuries as the "Defender of Christendom."
- 22 1898. Founding of the fraternal benefit society, the Polish Women's Alliance.
- 23 1939. Hitler proclaims he wants to move into Poland.
- 24 1543. Death of Nicholas Copernicus (Mikolaj Kopernik), Polish astronomer.
- 25 1861. Death of Capt. Constantine Blandowski, first foreign-born officer to die in the Civil War.
- 26 **MEMORIAL DAY (U.S.)**
MOTHER'S DAY (POLAND)
- 28 1944. Polish American Congress founded in Buffalo, New York.
- 29 1913. Birth of Tony Zale (Zaleski), middleweight champion from 1940-48.

This paper mailed on or before
May 2. The June edition will be
mailed on or before
May 29.

JUST BETWEEN US / Mark Kohan

Habemus Sanctus!

Before the Vatican could approve the sainthood of John Paul II, two miracles had to be attributed to him. Both came after his death.

The first was on a French nun with Parkinson's disease. Sister Marie Simon-Pierre of the Congregation of the Little Sisters of Catholic Motherhood, who was diagnosed in 2001. The disease worsened in the subsequent years. It was healed after John Paul's intercession in 2005.

Prayers to John Paul II resulted in a second miracle in 2011. Six years after his death, a woman was cured of an aneurism on a major blood vessel in her brain. A neurosurgeon who treated the woman, Alejandro Vargas Roman, said the disappearance of the aneurism had "no scientific explanation."

Prayers for the intercession of saints for cures are as old as the church itself — older, if you consider the tradition's roots. In many ancient societies the spirits and gods were believed to make their presence known through disease. Sacrifice and prayer, it was believed, would remove the malady.

While non-believers may say John Paul II's quick sainthood is more political than spiritual, the Vatican takes the claim of cures very seriously. In both cases, the cures were reviewed by Vatican City doctors and theologians, who later declared the legitimacy of each miracle.

John Paul II's curing power is not a gift that may be shared with all. It is, however, another aspect of our beloved Saint that makes him more special to us, his Polish countrymen, Poland's ancestors, and her descendants.

Not miracles by canon law, there are acts in John Paul II's life that one can say were designed at God's desk. These were events that changed the world.

First would be Cardinal Wojtyła's election to the papacy, which broke a four-plus-century-old franchise dominated by Italian cardinals. With Benedict XVI and

Pope Francis as leaders since John Paul II's death, this may not seem like anything extraordinary to our younger generation. But electing a non-Italian — let alone Polish — pope was pure fantasy before 1978.

Before John Paul II, Roman Catholic popes rarely, if ever, travelled outside of Italy. John Paul II visited more than 125 countries, logging over 680,000 miles in the air. This evangelism reanimated the Catholic Church.

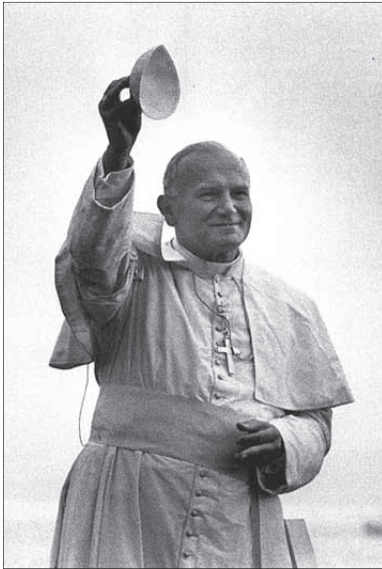
Here, before us, was a man of God — *the man*, to be exact — bringing us the Good News in person. If God was not behind this, then St. Christopher certainly had a hand in the matter.

But as Poles who suffered behind the Iron Curtain, and as Polonians who watched as our family members paid the price for a betrayal at Yalta, perhaps John Paul II's greatest miracle was the role he played in removing Poland from under Moscow's boot, a world event that brought about an end to Communist control, first in the Eastern Bloc and eventually in other satellite countries. From priesthood to papacy, he was not afraid of letting oppressors know their rule denied people their rights as human beings. His trips to Poland during this period inspired leaders and fellow clergy to unite against the common enemy.

As fans and followers, we can fill the pages of books on the events in John Paul II's life we can consider miraculous, from surviving an assassination attempt on his life, to visiting the Western Wall. He survived as a laborer under Nazi-control, but found love in his heart to share with the world. One might even say John Paul II's canonization is a miracle, as it was the first time in history that two popes (with John XXIII) were made saints at the same time.

Little did we know on October 16, 1978, that the white smoke rising from the Sistine Chapel would drift across the globe before it finally made its way to Heaven.

Thank you, Saint John Paul II!



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for Cardinal Karol Wojtyła
at the
41st Eucharistic Congress

*Święty Jan Paweł II i
Św. Faustyny módl się za nami.*



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rodaka Karola Józef Wojtyły,
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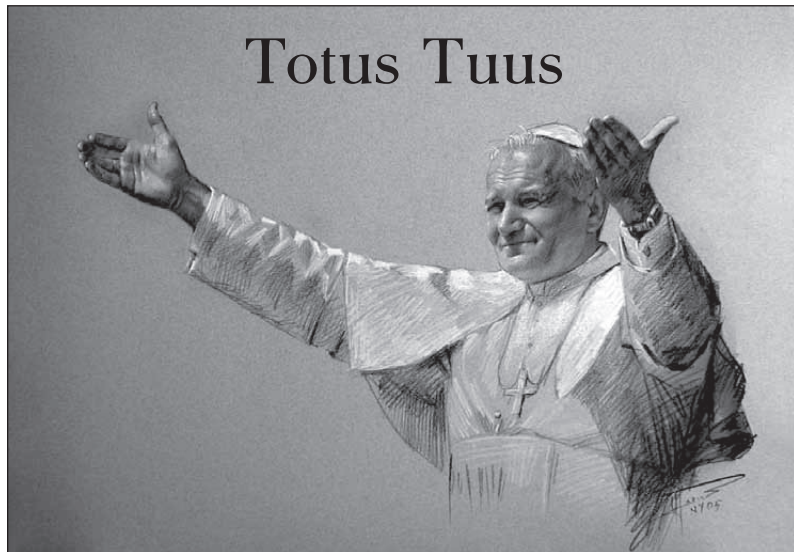
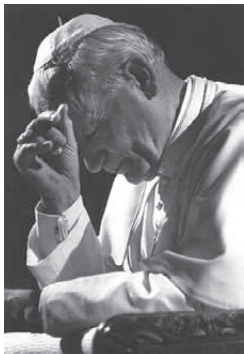
HELEN NOWAKOWSKI

Philadelphia

Z okazji kanonizacji błogosławionego
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liczyć na nasze wiele
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SPEAK UP / Letters to the Editor

A Gift to Share

Dear Editor:

Ever since the election of Karol Jozef Wojtyła, Archbishop of Krakow, Poland to the office of Shepherd of the Universal Catholic Church on October 16, 1978, I have felt a special bond with Pope John Paul II. Especially when I learned that he was born on May 18, 1920. For I received the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist for the first time on May 18, 1941 at Sacred Heart Church in Syracuse, N.Y. And I received the Sacrament of Holy Priesthood on May 18, 1957 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Syracuse.

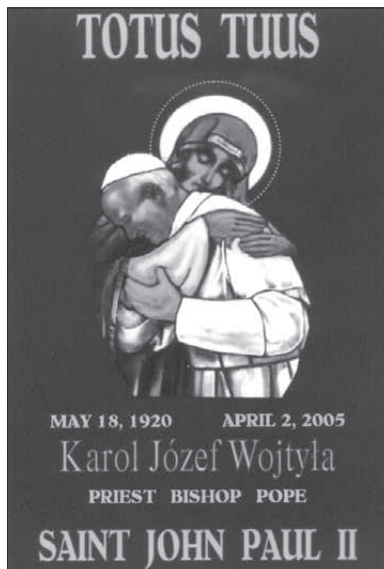
I was present at the Pope's Mass at Logan Circle and at the Civic Center in Philadelphia in 1979. I had been present for some of his Masses in Poland. I participated in his Mass at the pope's summer residence at Castel Gondolfo, and our group of pilgrims were able to pose with him after Mass. I had the privilege to meet and speak with him at the Vatican in 1984 during our pilgrimage for the 500th anniversary of the Death and Glory of Saint Casimir.

For my golden jubilee of ordination to the Priesthood in 2007, my nephew Paul Rogusz, gave me a large, gold-framed picture of Pope John Paul II. On it the Holy Father was being embraced by Our Lady of Czestochowa. The scene is based on Pope John Paul's embrace of his mentor, Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski, when all the cardinals were offering their homage to the new Pope.

I had seen some wallet-size copies but I was hoping to find something larger to distribute on the occasion of the Canonization of Pope John Paul II as a Saint.

After that I found an ad in *Our Sunday Visitor* about a book on true devotion to Our Blessed Mother based on the work of Saint Louis de Montfort. The cover featured a beautiful version of Our Lady's embrace of Blessed John Paul II. Just what I was looking for! So I contacted my creative former parishioner of Saint Casimir's Church in Endicott, Audrey Vanier. She had given me a large size picture of my meeting with Pope John Paul II, possibly as a gift for my Golden Jubilee. I was afraid to impose on her again. In less than a week I had received several copies of her artistic interpretation of that favorite scene.

As I did for my retirement as pastor of Saint Casimir's Church last year, I want to have at least 300 copies of Audrey's work of art so I can give them to others. They might even want to have more copies made



to distribute to their friends and parishioners. I hope so! I also ordered 50 copies of thy larger version. Some clergy may find them suitable to be used for posters for the canonization of Saint John Paul II.

Rev. Matt S. Wiczorek
The Nottingham D 206
1301 Nottingham Road
Jamesville, NY 13078

PROUD OF HER HERITAGE. I continued the *Journal* after my father's death. I am a first-generation American, and I miss all the Polish community traditions. I'm originally from Detroit.

The *Journal* has wonderful articles about Poles, Polish Americans, and even Hamtramck.

I'm enclosing a donation. I hope it helps some, and I hope "contemporary" immigrants keep up their traditions. We should be proud of our "Polishness."

Irena Krzywinska Lane
Santa Rosa, California

CALL "JOKES" WHAT THEY REALLY ARE. This is in reference to Richard A. Pacer's article in the February's issue of the Polish American Journal. I totally agree with the author that the "Anti-Polish jokes" have a harmful effect on the Polish American community.

We have to go on the offensive. One important — and I would even say paramount — way to counter these so called American "Polish jokes" is to call them what they really are; Anti-Polish jokes and Anti-Polish slurs. I would even call the jokes racist. Jokes that insinuate that some group is inferior are racist jokes, and the person saying the joke is a racist, and should be called a racist.

Let our community learn from the Jewish community: Jewish

jokes show Jews in positive humorous light. If the jokes show Jews in negative light then these jokes are called Anti-Semitic jokes, and person saying the jokes is called an Anti-Semite.

So when we write or call to protest these racist jokes, we should always refer to them as Anti-Polish jokes, Anti-Polish slurs, or racist jokes, and never call them just Polish jokes. In today's society no one wants to be perceived as being anti-any group or a racist.

Wieslaw Chlus
Wethersfield, Connecticut

CLOWES REMEMBERED. I would like to write how sorry I am learning about the death of Florence Clowes. I always enjoyed and read with great interest her column, "Books in Brief." I am deeply grateful that Mrs. Clowes wrote about several of my books. Her reviews were always very interesting, honest and very good.

Now I have learned about the interesting life she had. What an amazing and fascinating life she had full of so many endeavors.

My deep sympathy to her family, and to you too.

Aleksandra Ziolkowska-Boehm
Wilmington, Delaware
www.pen.org/aleksandra-ziolkowska-boehm

NOT ALL POLES ARE CATHOLICS. My Polish friends and I have read your articles and have to say, the *Journal* seems to take it for granted that all Poles are Catholics.

We are neither Catholics nor Jewish, yet we are Polish and Polish patriots. We are Christians whose ancestors fought and died for Poland. We speak Polish and English, and we have many relatives living in Poland.

L. Jozef Jedlinski
Via eMail

THE ETHNIC SHIFT. When I was young, the neighborhood was predominantly Polish. When you wanted to go to a Polish Mass on Sunday, the church was filled to capacity, with the late-comers standing on the stairs outside. Not anymore.

The old neighborhood is no more. The Polish people fled to who knows where. I'm guilty of the same, but since I was married there, and my children were baptized there, I return.

The two Polish Masses on Sunday are now reduced to one, and that is sparsely filled. A Mass was added to the schedule, but in Spanish. In those days, to add a Spanish Mass to a Polish Catholic Church was unheard of. True, neighborhoods change, but the place where you worship is stone and mortar, like an old tree, rooted in the ground and immovable. You can't take a church building and move it to a preferable location.

We just recently had First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Would you believe, a Polish Church with forty-plus names, all Hispanic, and not a one Polish.

Please don't misunderstand me: I love all people, all are God's creation. But traditions are different. I'm sure the Hispanic people don't understand our kolędy sung at the Midnight Mass. Likewise, they have traditions that we don't understand.

Neighborhoods change. The whole country is changing. At the least, we should hope the changes are the right ones.

Roman Truskolaski
Chicago

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 28th year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

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

Embassy Celebrates Poland's 15 Years in NATO Military Unity and Strength Emphasized

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Embassy of the Republic of Poland was awash with many foreign diplomats and/or their respective embassy military attachés. The U.S. Armed Forces was represented by a small army of upper echelon officers and generals. Gold braid and military decorations were worn in abundance by the military guests. Also present was U.S. government and political officials, respected luminaries of every stripe, and the greater-Polonia. All were present to celebrate Poland's accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) 15 years ago on March 12, 1999. Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf and Commanding Military Attaché Brigadier General Jaroslaw Strozzyk co-hosted the auspicious event, March 18, 2014.

In his welcoming remarks, Ambassador Schnepf noted the great importance of NATO and the European Union *vis-a-vis* Poland. Regarding "the present situation on our eastern border" (with Ukraine), Schnepf said that "celebrating Poland's 15 years in NATO, it should be emphasized, that especially today, while faced with the dramatic situation in Crimea, that the Alliance proves its strength and worth."

Poland's Undersecretary of State Boguslaw Winid, who was in Washington with a delegation to engage in the on-going U.S.-Poland Strategic Dialogue, then spoke. Among other topics, he emphasized that "the present agenda includes Ukraine." Winid also reminisced on the success of Polish-American relations, and expounded on the legacy of its past leaders and their notable accomplishments.

A highlight of the evening was the awarding of the superior Gold Rank of the Polish Army Medal (Medal Wojska Polskiego) — by the hand of General Strozzyk — to U.S. Army Lieutenant General Patrick O'Reilly (Ret.), for his significant contribution to the development of U.S.-Poland military cooperation. There are three ranks of this pres-



POLAND RECOGNIZES ITS U.S.-NATO PARTNERSHIPS. U.S. Army Lieutenant General Patrick O'Reilly (Ret.), flanked by Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf, addressing the audience after being decorated with the Gold Polish Army Medal by Military Attaché Brigadier General Jaroslaw Strozzyk, at the Embassy of Poland.

tigious medal that are presented to outstanding members of Poland's allied armed forces, and to civilians abroad who contribute to promoting the history and traditions of the Polish Army. General O'Reilly, a former Director of the Missile Defense Agency, who retired after 34 years of military service, expressed his heartfelt appreciation to Poland for honoring him thusly.

Speaking last, U.S. Army Lieutenant General Michael Flynn,

present Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, represented the United States. He recounted Poland's meaningful military cooperation, contributions and actions in regards to both the U.S. and NATO. It was one of the most telling and powerful comments spoken during the military-themed observance when, in closing, Flynn said "Poland is an ally which can always be counted on."

Government Pushes ahead with Nuclear Plans

WARSAW — The government of Prime Minister Donald Tusk has adopted a nuclear-energy program in defiance of public opposition. Successive polls have shown that a majority of the Polish people are opposed to atomic powerplants in Poland.

The program envisages the construction of the first unit will start in 2019 and will be completed by the end of 2024. The actual location will be announced within the next two years. But residents of the Bal-

tic coast village of Gąski, rumored to be a possible site, are up in arms against the plan. They argue that a nuclear power station will drive tourists away from their area.

EU threatens US Over Visa Requirements

BRUSSELS — The European Union may require visiting US diplomats to apply for visas when traveling to Europe if Poland and four other EU nations are not included in the US waiver program. This is the first time the EU has so forcefully expressed solidarity with member states it feels are being discriminated against by Washington. The possibility of not implementing trade agreements to pressure the Obama Administration has also been raised. The European Commission (the EU executive) has given Washington 90 days to lift its visa requirements or face consequences. Besides Poland, the move also affects Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia and Cyprus.

Polish Missionaries attacked in Africa

NGOUNDAYE, Central African Republic — Polish missionaries have come under attack by Muslim rebels during armed clashes between Muslims and Christians in the Central African Republic, where some 60 people were killed. The missionaries were not injured in the attack and refused to be evacuated saying they had to tend to the needs of the growing ranks of war refugees, Father Benedykt Pączka explained. At France's request, Poland has sent some 50 military experts to assist French and African peacekeepers in the landlocked republic, a former French colony. So far, the conflict has displaced more than one million people.

NATO to Increase Military Commitment to Poland

WARSAW — NATO will increase its military presence in Poland within the next few weeks in order to calm fears in Eastern European countries for their security following Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said.

Speaking after NATO foreign ministers met in Brussels to discuss reinforcing the alliance's defenses among its Eastern European members, Tusk said the stronger "military presence" would be "visible" in the coming days and weeks.

"The discussion is not about if, but rather about the scale, pace and some technical aspects of strengthening Poland's security," he told the Polish broadcaster TVN.

Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski said that Poland would be "fully satisfied" if NATO stationed two heavy brigades in Poland. However, NATO's secretary-general had earlier said the alliance would use rotating reinforcements, rather than permanently stationing additional troops in Poland.

The measures could include sending soldiers and equipment to Eastern European allies for short-term reinforcements and exercises, as well as ensuring NATO's rapid-reaction force could deploy more quickly, NATO said.

In March, responding to a request from Warsaw, the United States decided to increase the scale of its military exercises in Poland, sending to the country 12 U.S. F-16 fighter jets and 300 personnel.

U.S. Senate Honors Karski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Board of Directors of the Jan Karski Educational Foundation welcomed the introduction of legislation on March 5 in the United States Senate naming April 24, 2014 as "Jan Karski Day," celebrating the legacy of the famous emissary from the Polish Underground during World War II, who was among the first to provide eyewitness testimony to Allied leaders about the Holocaust in occupied Poland.

Members of the Board thanked three U.S. Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Mark S. Kirk (R-Illinois), and Richard J. Durbin (D-IL), majority whip and a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who were instrumental in the initiative.

"We are overjoyed that the United States Senate has chosen to honor Jan Karski by designating his one hundredth birthday as Jan Karski Day," said foundation chairman Andrzej Rojek.

Włodzimirz Cimoszewicz of the Polish parliament, his senior staffer Melchior Szczepanik along with the Polish Ambassador to the United States, Ryszard Schnepf, Jan Karski Educational Foundation President Wanda Urbanska and Ewa Wierzynska of the Polish History Museum have been working on this initiative for over a year.

Karski was born in Lodz, Poland on April 24, 1914, the youngest of

eight children in a Roman Catholic family. He was a reserve officer in the Polish Armed Forces when the country was attacked in September 1939 first by the German Nazis and later by the Soviets. His war memoir, *Story of a Secret State*, was published to great acclaim in 1944, and re-issued in 2013 by Georgetown University Press. After the war, Karski became a naturalized American. In 1994, he was made an honorary citizen of Israel. President Barack Obama decorated Karski with a posthumous Presidential Medal of Freedom on May 29, 2012.

Marker to Honor Dr. Golaski

PHILADELPHIA — The Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia will unveil a historical marker in honor of Dr. Walter Golaski (1913-1996), engineer and inventor who was a leading pioneer in manufacturing knitted Dacron blood-vessel replacements.

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission approved an historical marker to honor the Drexel University graduate, who also devoted much time and energy to establishing closer ties between the United States and Poland through cultural and scholarly exchange. Though a Philadelphian, he was chairman of the board at the Kosciuszko Foundation in New York during the years 1973-1982.

The dedication ceremony for the marker will take place at noon, Sat., May 17, 2014 at the corner of 34th Street and Lancaster Avenue on Lancaster Walk in back of Drexel University athletic center. The event is open to the public.

A luncheon will follow the dedication at approximately 2:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Jean Joka at (215) 483-0193 or jean-joka@gmail.com

Diocese OKs Steeple Fix

DETROIT — Last November, a major windstorm damaged the steeple at St. Josaphat Church so severely that onlookers claimed the 200' tower could be seen "swaying in the wind." Since the storm, the 113-year-old steeple has taken on a disturbing curvature, like an elf hat. Even church officials admitted the steeple would likely be removed and capped.

The thought of hacking and capping the iconic steeple caused such a public outcry that a fund called SOS (Save our Steeples) was created to accept donations. Since then, the steeple's outlook has grown much brighter. February reports indicated that the structure could be restored with an asphalt roof rather than slate. Now, there's even more reason for optimism.

The Archdiocese of Detroit has approved the parish's plan to move forward with the repair and restoration of the steeple. The plan is to make the necessary structural repairs and reinforcements and recover the exterior of the steeple with new slate.

The contractor doing the work is Detroit Cornice & Slate Co., and the structural engineer is Erik Majcher of Robert Darvis Associates.



GOLASKI



KARSKI

STERLING SILVER JEWELRY

ALL SHOWN ACTUAL SIZE • All items are Sterling Silver.
All these items are available in 14 kt. gold • Please contact us for pricing.

DESCRIPTION	GOLDEN LION JEWELRY
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D. Small Eagle.....	info@goldenlionjewelry.com
E. Medium Eagle.....	• Add \$5.00 S&H
F. Large Eagle.....	• Prices subject to change
G. Large Heavy Eagle.....	• Allow 10-14 days for delivery. If not satisfied, return for refund within 15 days.
H. Extra Heavy Eagle.....	• N.J. residents must add 7% sales tax. N.Y. residents add appropriate sales tax.
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K. #1 Ciocia (Block).....	
Tie Tacks of D, E,.....	
Tie Tacks of F, G,.....	

INTERVIEW/ John M. Grondelski

Poles in the Old Line State: John Bartkowiak on His New Book, "Bardzo Dobry"

John B. Bartkowiak, Jr., is a Maryland attorney and author of *Bardzo Dobry*, a new book by Historyk Press that tells the story of Baltimore Polonia in general and the Bartkowiak Family of Baltimore in particular.

A fourth-generation Polish American, Bartkowiak uses the lens of his family history to discuss Baltimore, a corner of America—right on the doorstep of our nation's capital—usually not associated with Polish immigration. While Baltimore's Poles have now largely left the city, Holy Rosary Church (the Archdiocesan Divine Mercy Shrine), together with Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish in the DC suburb of Silver Spring—both staffed by the Society of Christ—remain active bastions of Polish Catholicism in Maryland. Mr. Bartkowiak talked about his book and Baltimore Polonia with John Grondelski:

Your new book, Bardzo Dobry, tells the story of Polish Baltimore (especially in the late 19th to mid-20th centuries) at large and of the Bartkowiak family in detail. What caused you to write the book? How long did it take?

BARTKOWIAK. I have always been intrigued by the history of Baltimore's Polish community and my family's participation. With the passing of many senior relatives I realized that much history was lost forever. Accordingly, I took it upon myself several years ago to begin gathering information (mostly from public records) relating to Baltimore, Polonia and my family. The project took six years of part time research and one year of writing and editing.

When people think of Polish America, they think Chicago, Detroit, New York. Baltimore normally doesn't come to mind. Yet you talk about Baltimore as a leading port-of-entry for emigracja za chlebem immigrants. Also, those immigrants generally turned into industrial workers, not farmers. So why Baltimore, and why is Baltimore Polonia relatively unknown?

BARTKOWIAK. Yes, Baltimore normally doesn't come to mind as a major Polish American enclave. However, the city was uniquely positioned to welcome a large influx of Eastern European natives in general and Poles specifically. Several of the reasons are: the city lies at the head of the Chesapeake Bay with a well-protected harbor and ship building/ship repair business. The Bay area in itself was abundant with timber, fruits and vegetables, grain, tobacco, and fertile farm land, in addition to an abundance of our esteemed oysters. Economically viable with many menial labor opportunities, there was work for everyone.

Also, in late 19th century Baltimore was relatively unscathed by the destruction of the Civil War and had been established as a gateway for the B&O Railroad to all points west. But, most significantly by this time a well-used trade route had been established between Baltimore's massive German community (having arrived in the 1840s) and the major German port of Bremerhaven (which in itself had been established as a major gateway for emigration from Eastern Europe). A catalyst to this trade route would prove to be Germany's inexhaust-

ible demand for Maryland tobacco and grain which by return ship resulted in a massive influx of immigrants. There were also ample farmlands directly south and northeast of the City proper.



"Baltimore ... became one of the most popular destinations for the Polish immigrants, second only to Ellis Island in New York."

Finally, Maryland had been traditionally a state of religious freedom and I mention this in view Bismarck's repression of Catholics by his policy of *Kulturkampf* in Prussia beginning in 1872.

Baltimore for the above reasons became one of the most popular destinations for the Polish immigrants, second only to Ellis Island in New York.

I would estimate that Baltimore's Polonia reached its peak of 75,000 or about 8% of Baltimore's peak population in the year 1950.

Where Poles went, they built their churches. Tell us something about the parishes of Baltimore, and what has become of them.

BARTKOWIAK. Baltimore's Polish community, once established in about 1880, became very cohesive around the three major Polish Catholic churches they established — all in East Baltimore. Thus it appears that a vast majority would remain in East Baltimore until their great exodus along with other ethnic groups to the Baltimore suburbs after World War II. Where Poles went they built their churches and this was no more evident than in Baltimore Polonia. Beginning with St. Stanislaus Kostka (1880), followed by Our Lady of the Holy Rosary (1886) and St. Casimir (1902). Other lesser parishes would evolve later. The parish, as designed by the Poles, would become the absolute epicenter of religion, culture, customs, music, fraternal organizations and provide education through the eighth grade (with the Polish Felician and Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph leading their schools).

St. Stanislaus was closed and its building converted to commercial usage in 2000. Holy Rosary thrives presently with parishioners comprised of recently arrived Hispanic immigrants. St. Casimir also thrives with a younger parishioner base in a community that has witnessed a massive gentrification.

Baltimore's Fells Point, once the epicenter of the city's Polonia, has undergone gentrification. What's left of Polonia in Charm City?

BARTKOWIAK. Baltimore's Fells Point and adjacent area of Canton have recently undergone massive gentrification. However, the exodus of the Polish community began much earlier in the post-World War II period when many of all ethnic enclaves in Baltimore began their movement to the suburbs. There is very little left of Polonia in Baltimore. Historically, the church buildings remain; there remains about a half dozen each of Polish organizations and traditional Polish merchants — food, florist, and undertakers.

Tell us your favorite memory of growing up as a Polish kid in Baltimore.

BARTKOWIAK. I have been quite fortunate to spend much time in Europe and visit many of its greatest churches and cathedrals. Yet, the church of St. Casimir in Baltimore (built with the pennies of Polish immigrants) remains one of my favorites especially as an altar boy during the Christmas season. Decorations, Polish Christmas carols, followed by the abundance of food, baked goods and a welcome everyone's home in the neighborhood during this season are most memorable.

What contribution did Baltimore Polonia make to the growth of Maryland and our nation?

BARTKOWIAK. Between 1900 — 1950 Baltimore became a major economic powerhouse on the East Coast and the nation with our port, steel making (Bethlehem Steel Sparrows Point), ship building (Bethlehem Steel), aircraft manufacturing (Glenn L. Martin Company), automobile manufacturing (General Motors), and electronics (Western Electric, Westinghouse Electric, and Bendix). Baltimore Polonia provided a high level of competent blue collar and semiskilled labor to meet the inexhaustible demands of this economic engine. Well-paying jobs with benefits proved to be the basis for their next generation to become college educated professionals and the rest is history!

Maryland Polonia may be small, but it seems to be proud: Historyk Press has been steadily releasing titles about local history. Can you tell us something about the Press and how you got associated with it?

BARTKOWIAK. I became acquainted with Thomas Hollowak and his capacity as Director of the Maryland Polonia collection (University of Baltimore, Langsdale Library, Baltimore, Maryland) which in turn proved to be a treasure trove of well-organized research material. I also capitalized upon many (no less than five) works of Historyk Press (also under the direction of Tom Hollowak) on Baltimore Polonia during my research. His seminal work on the 1910 census of Baltimore's Polonia would prove to be of immeasurable value during my research. [Take a look at their other history offerings: <http://historykpress.com> — Editor].

❖ ❖ ❖
Copies of *Bardzo Dobry* are available for \$20 (plus \$4.95 shipping & handling) from Historyk Press, 7 Dendron Court, Baltimore, MD 21234. (Maryland residents add 6% sales tax).

Katyń Tragedies Kept in Mind



On April 10, 2014 the Republic of Poland marked the 74th anniversary of the Katyń massacre of Polish officers by the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (NKVD), the Soviet secret police, in April and May 1940, and the fourth anniversary of the Smoleńsk plane crash.

The massacre was prompted by NKVD chief Lavrentiy Beria's proposal to execute all captive members of the Polish Officer Corps, dated March 5, 1940, approved by the Soviet Politburo, including its leader, Joseph Stalin. The number of victims is estimated at about 22,000.

In the United States, Deputy Consul General Robert Rusiecki (above) laid a wreath at St. Adalbert Cemetery in Niles, Ill. by the Katyń massacre monument and the plaque commemorating the victims of the plane crash in Smoleńsk.

Consul Rusiecki also attended a Holy Mass on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at St. Constance Parish in memory of the late President Lech Kaczynski and the others who lost their lives in the 2010 crash.

Ceremonies were also held at the Katyń memorials in Baltimore and in Jersey City.



We are proud and humbled with the Canonization of Blessed Pope John Paul II

POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS
WESTERN NEW YORK DIVISION

PIASA

The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America, Inc.

Joins the Polish American Community in Celebration of John Paul II's Canonization

PIASA is a 501c (3) tax-exempt, nonprofit organization dedicated to the maintenance of a strong center of learning and culture. PIASA is concerned with advancing knowledge about Poland's humanistic heritage and about Polish-American contributions to the life, culture and history of United States.



Some of the PIASA's activities include: serving as a liaison between American and Polish academic circles; publishing *The Polish Review*; operating The Alfred Jurzykowski Memorial Library and Archives; organizing annual scholarly conferences; as well as organizing lectures, symposia, author evenings, and diverse cultural/scholarly exhibits.

The Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences invites you to join us for what promises to be an exceptional event. Working with the University of Warsaw, the Fifth World Congress on Polish Studies will be held June 20-23, 2014 in Warsaw on the campus of the university. For further information please see www.piasa.org

For membership information write:

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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Popieluszko Documentary Set to Air

A documentary on the life, message, and brutal murder of **Fr. Jerzy Popieluszko**, the martyred priest-chaplain of Poland's Solidarity Labor Union, has been called by New York's Timothy Cardinal Dolan "a must-see documentary for all who believe in the rights of religious liberty, the dignity of the human person, and those who are lovers of freedom and defenders of the truth."

Narrated by actor Martin Sheen, it won first place in the Documentary category of the 28th International Catholic Film Festival in Warsaw, and will be awarded the Christopher Award for the category of TV documentary on May 15 at the 65th annual Christophers Award Gala in New York City.

The 90-minute film aired on Milwaukee public television in April, and is due to be shown on public television stations nationwide. Please refer to your local program listings.

STUPAK'S SECOND THOUGHTS.

Former Congressman **Bart Stupak** whose vote enabled the Affordable Care Act to pass in Congress wrote in a recent column in support of owners of for-profit companies who object to providing contraceptive drugs that can cause abortions.

Soon after his critical vote and despite assurances from the president that abortion would not be furthered by the health care law, he became aware that he was duped and that the president's promised "protections" were empty deceptions. He and the Democrats for Life of America have filed a brief in the Supreme Court cases supporting Hobby Lobby and Conestoga, whose cases are currently being argued in the Supreme Court.

BISHOP SUPPORTS BARRING COMMUNION TO PRO-ABORTION POLITICIANS. Springfield, Illinois' **Bishop Thomas J. Pap-**

rocki supported clergy in his diocese who would refuse communion to Catholic pro-abortion politicians. Both former pope Benedict XVI and Raymond Cardinal Burke have written in favor of decisions like this.

As then-Cardinal Ratzinger wrote, "This decision, properly speaking, is not a sanction or a penalty. Nor is the minister of Holy Communion passing judgment on the person's subjective guilt, but rather is reacting to the person's public unworthiness to receive Holy Communion due to an objective situation of sin."

Cardinal Burke wrote, "The priest's refusal to give Holy Communion is a prime act of pastoral charity, helping the person in question to avoid sacrilege and safeguarding the other faithful from scandal."

FRANCISCAN PRIEST-PEACE ACTIVIST REMOVED FROM MINISTRY. **Fr. Jerome Zawada**, OFM was removed from public priestly activity assigned to a life of prayer and penance to be lived within the Queen of Peace Friary in Burlington, Wis., after he celebrated Mass with Roman Catholic Womanpriest Janice Sevre-Duszynska.

Fr. Zawada will celebrate 50 years as a priest in June, and while he was open to spending time in prayer, he said "when they say I need to be spending time in penance, well, I'm not going to do penance for my convictions and the convictions of so many others, too."

"MASS MOBS" IN CHURCHES. **St. John Kanty** RC Church in Buffalo, N.Y. welcomed a "Mass Mob" of several hundred worshippers to its historic church as part of Buffalo's "Mass Mob" movement, which brings worshippers from the suburbs to churches in the city to let them experience Mass in the beauti-

ful and historic downtown churches.

Catholics in Philadelphia have picked up the cue as they plan "Mass Mob" attendance at some of the Philadelphia Archdiocese's city churches. The "Mass Mob" impacts both the visitors and the local congregation, who get a boost in their parish morale as well as a surge in the collection plate.

PILGRIM ICON VISITS IMPRISONED PRO-LIFE HERO.

The pilgrim icon of Our Lady of Częstochowa, which has been circling the globe on an "Ocean to Ocean" pilgrimage in support of life, was brought to the Vanier Centre for Women in Milton, Ontario, Canada, on the Solemnity of the Annunciation.

The icon was brought to Mary Wagner, in jail for her pro-life activism and non-violent civil disobedience offering gentle and loving support to women at abortion facilities in order to persuade them to choose life. She was arrested in 2012 for entering the waiting room of a Toronto abortion facility and offering help to any woman who would choose life for their babies. Wagner was allowed to attend Mass before the icon, only the second time she has been permitted to attend Mass since her arrest in August, 2012.

After communion, John Bulsza, who helped organize the visit, read a letter from Fr. Piotr Baltarowicz, pastor in Siemysłów, Poland, thanking Mary for her defense of life and offering prayers for the intercession of Mary, Joseph her spouse, and Saints John Paul II, Maximilian Kolbe, and Faustina Kowalska.

STO LAT TO ... Fr. Richard Jędrejewski, pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption RC Church in Buffalo, N.Y. on receiving the 2013-2014 Citizen-of-the-Year Award in the category of religion from Buffalo, N.Y.'s *Am-Pol Eagle*.

Maspeth Street Given "Pope John Paul II Way" Title

MASPETH, N.Y. — His world travel took him to 117 countries and every continent but Antarctica, but New Yorkers most likely remember his trip to Queens.

Years before he donned his papal robes, John Paul II spent time at Holy Cross Church on 59th Road, now co-named "Pope John Paul II Way."

The recognition came weeks before the pontiff received the ultimate honor of sainthood.

"I don't know of too many saints who lived in Queens or did something significant in Queens," said Jeff Gottlieb of the Polish-Jewish Dialogue Committee, who worked with City Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley to rename the street.

He was known as the Cardinal Archbishop of Kraków when the future pontiff stayed at Holy Cross in 1969, and he earned the respect of many Jewish leaders by making a historic trip to a Rome synagogue during his tenure as pope.

"Pope John Paul II's work touched billions of lives globally during his long ministry, and now all Queens residents will be reminded of his legacy for generations to come," said Crowley.

CANONIZATION CELEBRATED.

Fr. Peter Karalus, pastor of St. John Paul II RC parish in Lake View, N.Y., led his parish in a week-end of celebration of their patron's canonization which included a spe-

cial concert of sacred and secular music by the Canisius College Chorale, the blessing and installation in the sanctuary of five specially-commissioned wood reliefs marking significant moments of the saint's papacy, and a reading in Polish of the decree of canonization.

Also part of the celebration was a reunion gathering with readings and reflections on John Paul II's message, witness talks from participants of those in the Buffalo diocese who attended World Youth day celebrations (founded by the late pontiff), and a fireworks display following the chorale concert.

The canonization, coming quickly after the late pope's death, continues Fr. Karalus' efforts of introducing saints into the calendar of Church worship whom people re-

member and relate to as people of their own time.

FR. CZESŁAW KRYSA designated a room in the rectory at St. Casimir's R.C. Church, Buffalo, as the **Papal Prayer Room**. The saint stayed at the rectory and celebrated two Masses in the church during his visit as Cardinal in 1976. The rectory staircase to the room and the room itself contains photographs of the saint's visit, and life, as well as historical mementos. A special prayer wall has been set up to receive prayer intentions of visitors and a recording of the pope-saint praying the rosary in Polish is played to assist the visitors' own prayer. Buffalo Diocese Bishop Richard Malone did just that when he visited the room earlier.



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The association is solely organized for educational and charitable purposes. The objectives of the association are: to promote Polish culture and heritage, as well as the social and economic advancement of its members; to foster patriotism, and to maintain high standards of integrity and honor.

For further information about MSCPWA or our Anthony and Josephine Chmura Scholarship, visit our website:
www.curiewomen.org

Museum Opens in John Paul II's Hometown



(l. to r.): Wadowice mayor Ewa Filipiak, Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz, Prime Minister Donald Tusk, and Culture Minister Bogdan Zdrojewski, cut the ribbon opening the New John Paul II Museum.

A new museum dedicated to the life of Saint John Paul has opened in the childhood home of Karol Wojtyła, born here on May 18, 1920.

The \$9.3 million multimedia museum depicts the life of Pope John Paul from his youth in Wadowice, the son of an army officer, his education, his priesthood through his twenty-six year papacy leading to sainthood.

On display in the museum are personal items like the kneeler on which Karol Wojtyła prayed as a boy and teenager, family photos, the Reverend Wojtyła's sunglasses,

the socks and sneakers he used on hiking and kayaking trips. On view also is the handgun used by Mehmet Ali Agca in his 1981 assassination attempt on the Pope. Next to the gun is a photograph of the Pope meeting Agca in prison at which time the Pope forgave the would-be assassin.

The Reverend Dariusz Ras, director of the museum told the press that he hopes the new exhibition will inform and inspire a new generation of the faithful through recordings of speeches, videos, displays — all presented in the house where John Paul II was born.

Sr. Maria Cecylia Ursula Trela, LSIC Celebrates 60th Year, Papal Blessing

Sister Maria Cecylia Ursula Trela has a remarkable story of how her vocation as a member of the Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception began.

"It happened in November of 1935," Sister Maria said. "My mother was carrying me in her womb in her fifth month. My parents had been in the government [owned] woods raking leaves for the farm. The woodguard, who had previously been friendly, met them and he angrily beat our horses and my father's arms with a cane. My mother tried to intervene. The man aimed a gun at my mother, shot the gun, and the bullet struck her collarbone."

Realizing what he had done, the woodguard then helped her into a wagon. She was able to get home, but it was too far to travel to the hospital until the next day when a doctor told her that he couldn't remove the bullet because of her pregnancy.

"My mother made a promise to

God that if he saved me, she would offer me to his service. God listened to her plea. I was born on the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25, 1936," she said.

In 1984, she had the privilege of meeting John Paul II. He asked if she would like to request a blessing. In her native tongue, she asked for a blessing on the Little Servant Sisters' American Provincial. He touched her cheek and said, "It has been done!"

Sister Ursula entered the convent May 6, 1954, and took her final vows in 1961.

In 1972, her order's Mother General sent Sister Ursula and four other sisters to America.

When plans were being made to open St. Joseph's Nursing Center in Woodbridge, Sister Ursula was asked to take charge. In 1990, Sister Ursula's expertise was needed as administrator for St. Joseph's Senior Living and Nursing Home, where she continues to minister.

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.

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

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

HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

A Must See: "A Place To Stand"



Anna Ferens at Goethe-Institut

CHICAGO — During March, a two-week long showing of the film, "A Place to Stand," organized by the Polish Consulate in Chicago saw crowds meet and talk with its director, Anna Ferens during her Midwest visit. This film about the European Parliament's defense of human rights is a 58-minute English-language documentary relating the struggles against 1980s communist government from both Eastern and Western European perspectives. Award-winning Polish filmmaker, Anna Ferens, premiered this documentary at the European Parliament in Brussels at the 25th anniversary of the fall of communism in Europe. With Poland leading these transformations and the involvement of the European Parliament in the defense of human rights in the countries of the Soviet bloc, revolutionary changes swept Eastern and Central Europe. The documentary recalls the significance of the first partially free elections in Poland on June 4, 1989, which led to the fall of communism and paved the way to democracy for Central and Eastern European nations.

Screenings of this documentary were shown to Polonian and international communities at the European Union Film Festival in Chicago, at the Goethe-Institut in Chicago, the Polish Mission in Orchard Lake, Michigan, and at the Society for Arts in Chicago, organizers of the Polish Film Festival of America. It was also screened at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, the University of Wisconsin in Madison, and Loyola University Chicago.

This film was presented in solidarity with those who stand for the independence of Ukraine.

The showings also served as a reminder to viewers holding valid Polish and other EU passports to vote in the upcoming elections to the European Parliament, scheduled in Chicago for May 24, 2014 (for more on the elections, visit: www.chicago.msz.gov.pl).

KASIA BOBER LIVES THE AMERICAN DREAM. On March 10, 2014, Kazimiera Bober, best known as "Kasia," celebrated the 40th anniversary of her arrival to Chicago from Poland. With perseverance, hard work, and dedication, Kasia decided that her love of cooking would be the foundation of her new life. In December 1982, she opened her deli on Chicago Avenue and began offering her Polish-style home cooking. Not only did neighbors become her customers, but also, as the news spread about a Polish lady whose cooking delights were exceptional, her clientele expanded beyond ethnic lines. Regardless of how pierogi aficionados serve them, as an appetizer, side dish, or entrée, Kasia's has been in-



(l. to r.): James Kolak, Czeslawa Kolak, Barbara Jakubowicz, Lidia Filus, Kasia Bober, Andrew Golota.

spirational in introducing pierogi to the American table. Her outstanding pierogi-making skills and the art of producing great Polish food products have made her dream a reality and success, and her award-winning pierogi has become Chicago's ultimate comfort food. She is living proof that the "American Dream" lives on.

For years, Kasia's products were showcased at neighborhood festivals and at "Taste of Chicago." Even President Bill Clinton and Martha Stewart had the privilege of tasting Kasia's famous pierogi. Her pierogi were the first ever to be served aboard United Airlines, and "Newsweek" magazine selected Kasia Bober as one to the top 15 entrepreneurs, creating "exquisite food with the finest ingredients and whose product transcends ethnic orientation." In 1995, her pierogi empire expanded throughout the continental United States.

Still, even with her humility and quiet demeanor, Kazimiera Bober's accomplishments go beyond producing successful food products. Her real success is her strong commitment to her family, friends, and the community. She is a "true jewel" of the Polish American community and beyond. Her gracious support extends to her neighborhood and community, to civic organizations, Polish events, and benevolent causes. Her years of in-kind donated support for The Polish Museum of America are unprecedented. In 2012, the Museum presented Kazimiera Bober with its prestigious Polish Spirit Award.

It was only fitting that Dr. Lidia Filus, President of Council of Educators in Polonia, along with James and Czeslawa Kolak, members of the Kościuszko Foundation, Chicago Chapter, surprised Kazimiera Bober at her store with a beautiful bouquet of roses. Also, stopping by was former heavyweight boxer, Andrew Golota, who added his celebratory greetings.

ILLINOIS HONORS JAN KARSKI. Through the efforts of the consulate general of the Republic

of Poland in Chicago, the State of Illinois proclaimed April 24, 2014, "The day of the centennial of birth of Jan Karski" - "The Jan Karski Day in the State of Illinois." The consulate general worked with the Illinois governor's office inviting Governor Pat Quinn, Jan Karski's student at Georgetown University, to be the guest of honor during this panel discussion at the consulate. The discussion, entitled "Jan Karski - The Man Who Tried to Stop the Holocaust: the History, the Legacy and the Responsibility," took place on April 24 at the Consulate. The Conference was supported by the Consulate's Polish American and Jewish American partners: the Jan Karski Educational Foundation, Chicago; the American Jewish Committee, Chicago; and the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.

The program featured a panel discussion between historians and sociologists and covered the following subjects:

"Poland in the Heart of Jews and Jews in the Heart of Poland - a Civilization Jan Karski Hoped to Save" by Michael H. Traison,

"Jan Karski and the Polish Government-in-Exile, the Polish Home Army and Jewish Questions during WWII" by Neal Pease, Professor of History, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee,

"Jan Karski's Broader Legacy for Humanity" by Allan Reich, American Jewish Committee,

"Jan Karski - The Messenger" by Thaddeus Radzilowski, historian, sociologist, president of the Piast Institute, Hamtramck, Michigan,

Keely Stauter-Halsted, Professor of History, Hejna Chair in Polish History, University of Illinois at Chicago, moderated the discussion. After the program, guests viewed the exhibit titled "The World Knew" about the life and mission of Jan Karski.



Ted and Marianne Kozelka

78 YEARS OF FINE ART TRADITION. The Polish Arts Club of Chicago opened its 78th Annual Fine Art Exhibition with a reception and juried exhibition on March 30 at The Polish Museum of America. Approximately 300 people filled the museum's Great Hall to view 125 works of art, six sculptures and the rest paintings. Ten works were not for sale, but the remaining were priced from \$75 - \$16,500. Charlotte Sasser won first prize (\$500) for her "Partridge in a Pear Tree" watercolor. Two artists, Marta Niziolek and Andrzej Doman- ski, each received a second prize

(\$300), Marta for her clay and wire "Escargot Evolve" and Andrzej for "Pole," an oil on canvas. Janusz Rafal Glowacki won third prize (\$200) for his oil, "Prototype of Thought." Those who received honorable mention were each given a \$100 award.

They were: Piotr Antonow, Anna Winska-Bajena, Ewa Bloch, Maria Dawid, Kamila Anna Glowacki, Teresa G. Razanacki, Irena Siwek, and Bogumila Szalaj. The chair and co-chair of this event were Jolanta Pawlikowski and Piotr Wolodkowicz. The judges were Agnieszka Ziemacka-Masters, art historian and art critic, Jan Sliwinski, painter and international scenographer, and Lidia Rozmus, art historian and graphic designer.



(l. to r.): Steven L. Rakowski, pres., Advocates Society; Judge William Gomolinski; Justice Thomas L. Kilbride; Vice Consul Robert Rusiecki; Justice Aurelia Pucinski; Wojciech Węgrzyn; Judge Mark Lopez; Alderman Ariel Reboyras; and Judge Raymond L. Jagielski.

tradition. The evening began with greetings from Mary Sendra Anselmo, LYPW president, followed by dancing of the Polonez by Legion members. Bozena Hasztrakiewicz, ball chair, introduced Barbara Chalko, the evening's mistress of ceremonies. Chalko is known by many for her active role within the Polonian community, her service to the Polish Scouting Organization, and her patriotism and devotion to the USA and Poland.



Debutantes with Ball chair and presidents.

LEGION CELEBRATES ITS 75TH BALL. Over 400 guests dressed in evening gowns and tuxedos, arrived at the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton Chicago to attend the most elegant of Chicago Polonia events: the White and Red Ball (Bal Amaranutowy) and the presentation of the 2014 debutantes. For 75 years, this gala has been organized and hosted by the Legion of Young Polish Women (LYPW). On March 8, seven young ladies made their debut into Chicago's Polish American community. This year's debutantes were Emilia Rafalik, Allison Tomal, Katarzyna Hipner, Julia Siemaszko Casiano, Magda Szala, Camilla Alani, and Alexandra Zajkowski. This year's queen was Emilia Rafalik; first runner-up was Allison Tomal; and second runner-up was Julia Siemaszko Casiano. They now join over 550 past debutantes in this lovely and elegant

of the Republic of Poland, visited Chicago, starting with a visit to the Polish Consulate on April 7. He met members of the Advocates Society, an association of Polish American attorneys. Then on April 10, he was the guest of the Advocates Society and the Chicago Bar Association at a luncheon held at The Standard Club. The topic of discussion at this luncheon was the transition of the Polish legal system after the collapse of the communist system. Later that evening the Warsaw Committee of the Chicago Sister Cities International hosted a soirée honoring Węgrzyn at the Ivy Boutique Hotel.

Węgrzyn has served as Poland's undersecretary of justice since April 2012. Until that time, he was president of the district court in Krosno, and, since 1991, he served as judge of the 1 Civil Division. Between 2003 and 2009, he was the chief of the commercial division of the district court in Krosno. Węgrzyn received his law degree from Jagiellonian University, where he also completed post-graduate studies in civil law.

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POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

PAC Elects New Officers, Holds Annual Święconka

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The WNY Division of the Polish American Congress held its election meeting at the St. Stanislaus Pitass Center on March 27. Officers of the newly elected board, which will serve a term of two years, are: **Richard Solecki** (president), **Bernadine (Dina) Szymanski** (vice president), **Andrew Kucharski** (treasurer), **Barbara Solecki-Fenski** (secretary) and **Rev. Ted Bocianowski** (chaplain).

The Directors for 2014-2016 term are **Dr. Deborah Bruch Bucki**, **James L. Lawicki**, **Richard Mazella**, **Mira Szramel**, and **Irena Woszczak**. **Stephen Flor** and **Richard Mazella** were elected as National Directors, and long serving Division Secretary **Adeline Wujcikowski** was chosen to be an Honorary Director/Secretary.

The Annual Traditional **Święconka and Awards Dinner** of the Polish American Congress, WNY Division was celebrated on Sunday, April 27. This event served as the culmination of contemporary Polonia's most significant historic day, the canonization of St. John Paul II. The WNY Division has always honored prominent Polish Americans at this event. This year's honorees were the **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo**; **Michelle Kisluk**, founder of Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY; **Marcin Ostrowski**, owner of **Pol-Tek Industries**; **Dr. Thomas Witakowski**, Choral Director of the Chopin Singing Society; and **Mary Lou Wyrobek**, immediate past chair of the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College. Also at this event, Erie County Judge **Michael Pietruszka** swore in the new officers and board members. The keynote speaker was Erie County Comptroller **Stefan Mychajliw**, who spoke on the situation in Ukraine.

The WNY Division will host the Polish American Congress 70th Anniversary Gala Event in connection with the group's National Board of Directors Meeting the weekend of May 29 through 31.

POLONIA TIDBITS. WNY Polonia activist **Konstanty "K.C." Witzak** passed away on April 1 at the age of 87 ... Classical **94.5 WNED** premiered a new locally-produced radio program underwritten by the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College, entitled "From Sorrow to Joy," which explored the Polish experience of Lent, Easter and Dyngus Day, on April 2. The broadcast was repeated on April 15 and 20. It was the first of a three part series on Polish celebrations. The other two programs, describing a Polish Christmas and Polish weddings, will be presented later this year ... The **Chrusciki Bakery** opened its third location at 2872 Delaware Avenue at Delaware Road in Kenmore at the beginning of April.

The **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** will present a Polish Constitution Day program featuring a performance of the Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble and an address by Chief Judge **Carl Bucki** of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of New York on the May 3rd Constitution, at the Harlem Road Community Center on May 3 ... A gala concert on the occasion of the canonization of Pope John Paul II and Pope John XXIII, featuring soprano **Maria Knapik** and **Matthew Jaskiewicz's Toronto Sinfonietta**, will take place at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre in Toronto's Exhibition Place on May 3.

The **Professional & Businessmen's Association** will hold its annual Mass in remembrance of deceased members at St. Philips

Church in Cheektowaga on May 4 ... On May 10, the **Polish Yacht Club** will mark its 90th anniversary with a banquet featuring "Faza," at the SPK Hall on Beverley Street in Toronto ... The **Polish Heritage Society of Rochester** will hold its annual meeting at St. Casimir Church in Irondequoit on May 18 ... The **Pulaski Police Association** of Buffalo and Western New York announced that its Annual Outing will be held at the Bowen Road Grove in Lancaster on June 4.

The **Polish Scholarship Fund** of Syracuse announced that its 60th Polish festal will be held in Clinton Square June 20 through 22. Performers for this year's festival will include Jimmy Sturr, Rymanowski Brothers, Salt City Brass, John Gora & Gorale, Melody Lane, Noisy Boys, Ewa Angeli, Voices of Faith and Leigh Parry-Benedict ... The Buffalo Bisons baseball team announced that its **Polish Festival Night** will take place on August 12. The Bisons will play the Norfolk Tides, polka music will be provided by the Knewz, and the Krakowiacy Dancers will perform. For group tickets, contact Mark Gordon at 846-2018 ... The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra announced that it will present a program featuring the works of **Karłowicz**, **Penderecki**, and **Chopin** entitled "Na Zdrowie, Poland!" on April 24 and 25, 2015, as part of its 2014-2015 season.

❖ ❖ ❖
If you have any item for this column, send the information by the 6th day of the month preceding the month in which you would like the item to appear (i.e. May 6 for the June edition) at pietruszka@verizon.net.

Mielcareks Head Up NMDA

To Co-Host Convention
with National
Advocates Society

MEDIA, Pa. — **Dr. Leon Mielcarek** and his wife, **Eileen Mielcarek**, are the president and first lady of the National Medical and Dental Association (NMDA), a group of dentists and physicians of Polish ancestry.

The Mielcareks will be hosting the joint meeting of the NMDA with the National Advocates Society, an organization of attorneys and legal professionals.

This year's convention, Wed., July 30 to Sun. Aug. 3, will be held at the Gaylord Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, which is on the perimeter of Washington, D.C. It is easily accessed by either Reagan airport or exit 2A off I-95 in Maryland.

Dr. Mielcarek is a graduate of both the University of Pennsylvania and Jefferson Medical College, and is a board-certified ophthalmologist. He is the founder of Mielcarek Eye

Associates in Media, a Philadelphia suburb. He was a former battalion surgeon for the Marine infantry and also a Naval Flight Surgeon

Mrs. Mielcarek is an ophthalmic executive and an ophthalmic nurse. She is also the author of the ophthalmology chapter in *Alexander's Textbook of Surgical Nursing*, and founder of the Media Aesthetic Center.

As is the tradition, the convention will open with informal cocktail hour and dinner Wednesday afternoon. Discussions on various topics are presented on Thursday and Friday morning. On those afternoons, guests can participate in organized tours or enjoy free time. There is an organizational meeting on Saturday morning, followed by a free afternoon. Saturday evening is a formal dinner dance with the presentation of awards to honorees.

To register or for more information, call Dr. Mielcarek at (484) 840-1968, or write to him at Mielcarek Vision Center, 319 State St., Media, PA 19063.

Skalny Scholarship Seeks Applicants

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — The American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) is seeking applicants for the Louis & Nellie Skalny Scholarships for Polish Studies.

The two \$4,000 scholarships are intended for students pursuing Polish studies (major may be in other fields) at U.S. universities.

Third- and fourth-year college students, as well as post-graduates, are encouraged to apply. Polish descent is not mandatory. Scholarships are awarded for the fall term. Complete application requirements are available online at www.polishcultureacpc.org

For the past 15 years, the Roch-

ester, N.Y.-based Louis and Nellie Skalny Foundation has donated to create a fund for this purpose and selected the American Council for Polish Culture as the scholarship administrator. Debbie Majka, serves as Committee chair.

The deadline for scholarship application is May 15, 2014.

For information, applicants can reach Majka at (215) 627-1391 or via email at dziecko2@comcast.net.

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Pulaski's Birthday in Savannah



PHOTOS: JACKIE KOŁOWSKI
THE COLOR GUARD, composed of the Knights of Columbus, enters the Square

by Peter J. Obst

SAVANNAH — This year's Pulaski Birthday Commemoration was held in Monterey Square, location of a tall marble column that memorializes the hero of two nations.

Ceremonies began with the customary greeting to friends and visitors delivered by Edward Krolkowski, chairman of the Savannah General Pulaski Committee of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC). Sounds of fife and drum were heard in a street adjacent to the square, soon there appeared a color guard composed of the Knights of Columbus in full regalia carrying flags of the United States, Poland and the State of Georgia. Along with them, providing the marching music were members of the Coastal Heritage Society, dressed in Revolutionary War uniforms complete with muskets. They were followed by wreath carriers from the committee. The national anthems of Poland and the United States were sung to the accompaniment of a trumpeter. This was followed by topical remarks from Savannah Mayor Edna Jackson and State

Representative Ron Stephens.

An invocation by Fr. Adam Kasela preceded a ceremonial laying of wreaths from the Poles in America Foundation and the American Council for Polish Culture, whose board members had scheduled their annual Spring Meeting in Savannah to be present at the ceremony. Also present was the eminent Polish American historian, founder of the Poles in America Foundation, Edward Pinkowski. He was accompanied by his son Jack and wife Monica Pinkowski.

Edward Pinkowski provided the inspiration for this Pulaski Birthday observance, and the Poles in America foundation was a major sponsor of the ceremony. After the wreaths were placed the musket team fired a memorial salute. Closing remarks were delivered by committee treasurer Andrew Boguszewski. Afterwards the out-of-town visitors had an opportunity to meet Mayor Jackson and State Representative Stephens.

A post-event lunch was held at the Johnny Harris banquet



(standing, l. to r.): Raymond Glembocki, Robert Dutka, Peter Obst, Savannah Pulaski Committee Chairman Edward Krolkowski and Camille Krolkowski, and Robert Synakowski. (sitting, l. to r.) historian Edward Pinkowski, Savannah Mayor Edna Jackson, and Henrietta Nowakowski.

facility which gave the ACPC board members the opportunity to become acquainted with the local group of members who worked so hard to make the event a success. During the lunch, Frank Sulkowski, Sports Director at WJCL TV in Savannah, delivered an interesting address that spotlighted individuals of Polish background in American sports. Mr. Pinkowski spoke about his research into the life of Casimir Pulaski.

It should be remembered that Pulaski was born on March 6, 1745 as indicated by records at the Church of the Holy Cross in Warsaw where the baptism took place. These were discovered by Sławomir Górczyński in 1992 and later incorporated into an updated entry for Pulaski in the *Polski Słownik Biograficzny*, an official source for biographical sketches of famous Poles.

The Poles in America Foundation (www.poles.org) and the American Council for Polish Culture (www.polishcultureacpc.org) invite interested parties to view additional information presented on their respective websites.

CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin Nowak

The First Holocaust Memorial

The Holocaust was one of the most horrific events ever to happen in the history of mankind. Millions of Europeans of all backgrounds, ethnicities, religions and nationalities died in the Nazi conflagration of the 1930s and 1940s. And for no other reason than who they were.

The need to commemorate the victims of the Nazi system began early on. Today, memorials to those who died exist throughout Europe and in many countries throughout the world. The most poignant and meaningful ones stand on the sites of the Nazi concentration camps themselves. And it was at one of those camps that the first Holocaust memorial in the world was built. Even before the war in Europe had ended.

Albin Boniecki was born Maria Albin Bończa-Boniecki in 1908 in the Russian partition area of Poland. He was a Christian Pole. Boniecki's father had been exiled to Siberia for anti-Russian activities in 1913 and his wife and children went with him. Eight years later they were able to make their way back to Poland.

A sculptor by trade, Albin Boniecki joined the Polish underground army after Germany invaded Poland

in 1939 and served as a medic. He also used his artistic skills to forge documents to help both Christians and Jews evade the Nazis. The Gestapo arrested him in 1942 and he wound up a prisoner in the infamous Nazi concentration camp Majdanek near Lublin.

Despite the horrible conditions in the camp, some inmates would surreptitiously fashion works of art using scraps of paper, cloth, twigs, whatever, and Boniecki was one who did so. These pieces naturally had to be done in miniature and hidden away. However, on occasion the prisoners were allowed to openly carry on these activities, even to send drawings home to their families. No doubt this injected a bit of sanity and humanity into the maddening situation all around them.

One day in May 1943 Boniecki summoned the courage to ask the camp administrators for permission to "beautify" his area of the camp by fashioning outdoor sculptures. Permission was granted. He was given cement and created a column about two meters tall. This was topped by a sculpture of three interlinked eagles taking flight into the air. To Boniecki and his fellow pris-

oners the birds taking wing symbolized the ultimate freedom of Poland and the men, women and children incarcerated at Majdanek.

In the base of this sculpture Boniecki and his helpers secretly placed a container of human ashes from the camp's crematoria. This was the first memorial constructed to the victims of the Holocaust. Though Boniecki chose the eagle to top the column because it is a Polish national symbol, the German authorities approved of it because the eagle was also a German and Nazi symbol.

Boniecki also sculpted a cement tortoise near the Three Eagles Monument, which was representative of Polish resistance through work slowdowns, and also one of a lizard flashing its teeth, pointed toward the guarded camp entrance.

During his imprisonment, Boniecki was able to carry on his resistance activities and information was regularly smuggled in and out of the camp. In 1944 with help from the outside he was able to escape from Majdanek and rejoined the Polish Home Army. He took part in the Warsaw Uprising and was captured again by the Germans before being freed by British forces at the war's

end. He moved to Paris and married Krystyna Binental, who was also an artist. In 1957 the couple immigrated to the United States, first settling in Denver and then in Tulsa. They sculpted, painted, designed educational toys, and in 1965 were granted a U.S. patent for a type of nuclear fallout shelter that they had invented. They both died in 1995 and were buried in Tulsa.

The *Three Eagles Monument* at Majdanek was destroyed after the camp was liberated in 1945 because it was thought to be a Nazi symbol. In 1962 it was reconstructed under orders of the Polish communist government against the wishes of Boniecki. This reconstruction stands on the camp grounds today. Also preserved there are the original tortoise and lizard sculptures.

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CHICAGO — Polish immigrants don't need to look hard to find bakeries, sausage shops, restaurants or even large full service grocery stores that provide the foods that Polish Americans grew up on in Poland.

“While our family traveled to visit Polish friends in Colorado for skiing or down to Florida for a bit of fishing and diving, our friends would always ask if we would be so kind to bring down some delicious Polish smoked sausage or imported pickles and mustards,” said Michael Machnicki, vice president of Polana, Inc.

Today, Polana is one of the largest ethnic specialty food providers on the internet.

The company, founded in 1998, began as a mail order catalog, and developed into the first online source for authentic Eastern European food in the United States.

Growing with the internet came with some growing pains. Moving from a strictly paper-based catalog and ordering system to various software based e-commerce, and then the current cloud-based e-commerce system brought on frustration and constant rebuilding.

Packaging technology has also come a long way over the past 15 years. Shipping perishable and delicate food to any of the 50 states is



Machnicki

not as simple as one would think.

“Complications due to less than gentle shipping services and inclement weather ranging from heat waves to blizzards seem to compound when dealing with perishable products,” said Machnicki. “We have tried and tested a wide variety of packaging and shipping solutions and are confident in our systems today.”

Using a combination of sustainable and high tech solutions, Polana deliver customers orders at a high standard while keeping the costs as low as possible.

As with many cultures, having the right food is critical to a proper

celebration. Eastern Europeans are no exception to this. For centuries, the same items have been present at tables during Christmas, Easter, birthdays, weddings and more. As immigrants came to this country to find new opportunity, these old traditions were never left behind.

“We have many customers that have relied on Polana's products for their celebratory meals for more than a decade,” Machnicki said. “We take the responsibility of getting it right very seriously as we realize it means everything to our customers.”

Polana.com is unique in that it was the first, and remains the top online source for Polish and Eastern European food. With more than 15 years under its belt, it prides itself on carefully hand-picking the best Polish products made, as well as utilized the best in packing technology and e-commerce technology. Coupled with family-owned, small business values and service, it continually strives to exceed the expectations of its customers.

“We take our customers needs very seriously and love nothing more than delivering top quality products that evoke childhood memories of a grandmothers cooking or the tastes of home back in Poland,” said Machnicki.

by Richard P. Poremski

S I L V E R SPRING, Md.

— No doubt the relevant patron saint of love and happy marriage was smiling when Walter Zachariasiewicz — age 102, married Sandra Rovsek-Crabb — age 71, here on St. Valentine's Day weekend. The nuptials took place at Our Lady Queen of Poland/St. Maxmilian Kolbe Church — the established Polish parish for the greater Washington, D.C. area. The ceremony and reception was attended by family, friends, Polish Embassy officials, and parishioners.

At the reception, Walter was asked by the *Nowy Dziennik* newspaper “When is a woman most beautiful? Without hesitation he diplomatically replied “At my wife's age.” When queried about her feelings, Sandra, commented that “Life seems more beautiful with each passing year.”

Walter is the acknowledged, much beloved, and highly decorated patriarch of Washington Polonia. His noteworthy history of many professional, cultural, humanitarian, patriotic and Polonia contributions and accomplishments is held in very high esteem both here and in his native Poland, which he defended militarily and politically during World War II.

Walter's former wife of more than 60 years, Adeline (nee Nowinska), passed away in 2011, at the



Newlyweds Walter and Sandra Zachariasiewicz.

age of 92.

Sandra is a third generation Polish American hailing from California. There she is an art entrepreneur in Hollywood, owns The Victorian Rose B&B in Bel Air, and is a documentary producer. Her works, which include the subject of Pope John Paul II, were recognized when Cardinal Adam Majda presented her with the Pride of Polonia Award in 2012.

Walter and Sandra first met many years ago when both members attended The Friends of John Paul II Foundation board meetings. Both were very active in the establishment of the Washington chapter. This has led to more than one person quipping that maybe this Polish Pope had a divine hand in their union.

Given that Walter has already surpassed the tradition Polish long-life wish and toast of “Sto Lat” (100 Years), it would now seem more appropriate to wish the happy couple “Dwieście Lat!” (200 Years).

Motak Honored for Promoting Culture through Art

PITTSBURGH — Polish American artist David Motak, has been appointed to a prestigious Polish commission to promote Polish culture internationally among Polonian youth.

“Być Polakiem” (“To Be a Pole”) is a world-wide initiative of the Polish government serving to stimulate pride in Polish heritage through a variety of projects that encourage young Polonians to experience their ancestry through the arts. This is accomplished through the sponsorship of a variety of programs in Polish communities around the world, as well as through an annual international competition in which young persons of Polish ancestry express their heritage through poetry, prose and art.

Although membership on the committee primarily consists of native-born Poles, the Pittsburgh-based graphic designer and noted *szopka* (Christmas crèche) artist was appointed to serve as a member of the organization's honorary committee due to his continued efforts to promote Polish culture internationally as well as his programs for children and youth. The “Być Polakiem” project is an initiative of Polish Parliamentary representative Joanna Fabisiak.

TALENT RECOGNIZED WORLD-WIDE. Regarded as an noted expert on the *szopka*, Motak has exhibited his work internationally and was the first artist to promote the art form in Asia with a major exhibition of

his work in Hong Kong in 2011. His work has been commissioned for numerous private collections, as well as by various American galleries, including the noted Gagosian Gallery in New York and the *Frederik Meijer* Gallery in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Motak was also the first foreigner and first American to enter a *szopka* in the annual *Szopka Competition* in Kraków, Poland, for which he received a prestigious Special Award for Artistic Merit in 2010. Since launching his *szopka* project in 2003, nearly 800 individuals, children and families have studied at Motak's workshops, which are conducted both locally and around the United States.

Motak was asked to participate in the annual award ceremony for the 2013 “Być Polakiem” Competition at the Royal Castle in Warsaw in July 2013.

“The entire project is extremely moving,” said Motak. “The passion and pride that these young people have in their Polish identity is very touching. One young girl and her parents traveled five days by train from Siberia to Warsaw in order to attend the award ceremony. It really makes one proud to see this profound devotion to our Polish heritage, particularly when one considers that this young girl's grandparents were exiled to Siberia by the Soviets during World War II, but her family never relinquished their Polish identity.”

In addition to serving on the

“Być Polakiem” initiative, Motak has also been featured recently in a newly-produced scholarly study of the *szopka* art form published by the City of Kraków History Museum.

Samples of Motak's work can be viewed at his artist's web site: www.davidmotak.com.

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POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Time to Ask to Polish Chef

Do you have a question for The Polish Chef? If so, write to him at: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland; or e-mail to: research60@gmail.com

Q I am searching for a grated carrot salad I had while working in Krakow and came across your site. The salad I had was served as a side dish at a restaurant at the castle which overlooks Kraków and seemed fairly simple – grated carrots, vinegar or lemon juice, some sugar maybe. I really like it and have tried to recreate it but would appreciate an actual recipe. Thanks for your help.

Steve Goodwin
Fuquay Varina, NC

A As you probably know, restaurants in Poland or anywhere else for that matter are not in the business of giving out their recipes. I have had my share of unpleasant moments in that area. But you are right – Poland's very popular carrot salad is the height of simplicity to prepare. Although you may not taste it, it usually contains some grated apple which nicely rounds out the flavor. And for added zing, a little prepared horseradish will do wonders. Finely grate 4-5 large (peeled or scraped-clean and washed) carrots and mix in 1 - 2

peeled and more coarsely grated cooking apples. Season to taste with very little salt, a little sugar and lemon juice and a heaping teaspoon or tablespoon of horseradish, if you decide to add it. I never leave it out! Finally, lace with a heaping tablespoon or more sour cream (or sour cream/mayo combination). Play around with the proportions until you get the taste you remember. This is great go-together with pork and other meat dishes as well as poultry and fried fish.

Q My 82 year old brother-in-law remembers a special treat that his mother (from Lublin, Poland) used to make. He describes it as tiny honey buds, dough rolled in honey, with candy sprinkles, served usually at Holidays. He recalls a name something like pfeffniowski. Have ever heard of such a treat? He also remembers a little poem that his mother used to recite to him. with words that sound like "cucha cucha wapchee, Poio demdo bobchee..."

Shirley
via e-mail

A The spelling and description sounds a bit like the German "Pfeffnub" (peppernut cookies). In Poland the word "piernik" (pepper cake) is generally

used to describe such gingerbread-type biscuits, but the Germanized version would have been known to many, because a good part of Poland had been under Prussian occupation for 123 years until 1918. The phonetically rendered verse is part of a children's game-song, something like the English "Patty cake, patty cake, baker's man..." The adult and child or two children face each other and alternately clap each others open palms and then their own while singing: "Tosi, tosi lapci, pojedziem do babci, babcia mleka dala i pocałowala." (The nonsense words roughly mean: "Patty, patty handies, we will go to granny's, granny milk did give us, and then she did kiss us.")

Q I have reviewed a number of texts both in Polish and English and find both spellings for czernina and/or czarnina. What, in your opinion, is the correct Polish spelling. I'm thinking it's czernina.

Dr. Geraldine Balut Coleman
Chicago

A The czernina spelling is by far more common in Poland and can be considered the standard form. Its dialectal (Wielkopolska) variant czarnina is widespread in America, possibly reflect-

ing the fact that the earliest Polish pioneers came from the Prussian partition zone (Wielkopolska and Pomerania).

Q: Would you have an easy, recipe for authentic Polish rye bread? All the recipes I have found seem too involved.

Silky
via email

A It is very difficult to find an easy and authentic Polish bread, because those two concepts tend to be mutually exclusive. It is difficult to fully recreate old-style Polish bread in America, because the grind of flour and yeast are somewhat different and the main thing that is lacking is the traditional Polish, wood-fired "piec chlebowy" (bread oven) which provided ideal heat and humidity. The best you can do is come close to the real thing. Here is a recipe for Polish Rye Bread you may want to try. You will need:

- 2 (.25 oz) packets dry yeast
- 1 t granulated sugar
- 2 c warm water
- 5 c rye flour
- 1 c room-temp buttermilk
- 1 t baking soda
- 1 T salt
- 7 c white bread flour
- 1 T caraway seeds

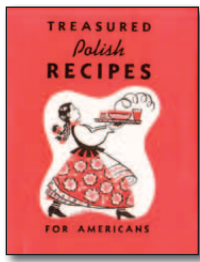
The night before baking the bread, in a mixing bowl dissolve one packet (.25 oz) of active dry yeast and 1 t granulated sugar in 2 c warm water and let stand until foamy (about 10 min). Stir in 4 c rye flour until mixture is smooth. Cover with clean dish towel and let stand overnight. Next day, dissolve another packet active dry yeast in 1 c room-temp buttermilk. Combine with rye-flour & yeast mixture, add 1 T salt and 1 t baking soda and stir together. Add 4 c white bread flour and mix well to combine. Add another 4 c white bread flour 1/2 c at time, mixing well after each addition until absorbed. When dough is uniform, turn out onto floured bread-board and knead until smooth and supple (8-10 min). Knead in 1 T caraway seeds until evenly distributed. Place dough in large, lightly oiled mixing bowl and turn it over to coat with oil. Cover with damp cloth and let rise in warm place until doubled in bulk (app. 60 min). On floured bread-board divide dough into 3 portions, shape into loaves and place in lightly greased bread pans. Cover and let rise until nearly doubled (app. 1 hr). Bake in preheated 360° oven about 35 min. Bread is fully baked when the bottom of loaf gives off a hollow sound when tapped with spoon. Powodzenia! (good luck).

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THE POLISH COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK
\$16.95. by Sophie Knab. 337 pp., pb., ill.
This popular cookbook by beloved Polish American author Sophie Hodorowicz Knab is now updated with a new section on Polish Feasts and Festivals! Knab combines recipes for favorite Polish foods with the history and cultural traditions that created them. Arranged according to the cycle of seasons, this cookbook explores life in the Polish



countryside through the year, giving readers priceless historical information to common questions asked by descendants of Polish immigrants. Lovely illustrations by Elliott Hutten and pearls of practical wisdom from the old Polish kitchen marvelously complement this book. This title includes over 100 easy-to-follow recipes, and a detailed bibliography and resource guide.

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THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD POLISH COOKBOOK:
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POLISH RESTAURANT COOKBOOK \$10.00
by Jonathan Becklar, 44 pp., sc.
This unique cookbook actually rep-

licates recipes taken from menus of Motor City and surrounding area restaurants. It shows you how to make an entire menu right in your kitchen that tastes and smells just like the restaurant. Soups, salads, dressings, sandwiches, stuffed cabbage, and more.

POLISH PIEROGI: From the Old Country to the Old Neighborhood
\$10.00 by Eva Gerwecki, 48 pp., sc.
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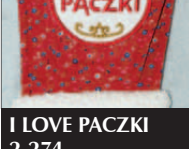





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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Wojciechowski Takes over at Marquette

Former Duke assistant **Steve Wojciechowski** was hired by Marquette University as the school's men's basketball coach. **Mike Krzyzewski's** longtime right-hand man said he wants to follow Coach K's example in rebuilding the Golden Eagles' program as he takes on his first head coaching job at any level.

The son of a Maryland long-shoreman, "Coach Wojo" has been with Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski for 19 years, four as point guard and 15 as an assistant. He played for a year professionally in Poland before coming back to Durham N.C. to rejoin the Blue Devil program, becoming an assistant coach in 1999. Steve was part of two national titles at Duke and assisted Krzyzewski at the 2008 Beijing and 2012 London Olympics.

Wojciechowski, 37, is regarded as a high-energy coach and an excellent communicator. Krzyzewski gave his local radio show to Wojciechowski and allowed him to do many halftime TV interviews. Although a former point guard, he spent much of his time coaching the big men. He was also an invaluable recruiter for the Blue Devils, especially bringing in talent from the Chicago Public School System.

Although Wojciechowski had been approached for jobs in the past, Marquette's was the first he pursued. Some have speculated that he wanted to succeed Krzyzewski, and is leaving now because the 67-year-old Coach K recently announced he'll be at Duke for at least another five years. However, Wojciechowski told CBA Sports last year that "I love Duke. I love working for Coach K. But I also want to have my own program ... There's a few times I've been (close to leaving). I think that time is approaching."

KLESKO, BOBICK, PATULSKI NAMED TO HALL OF FAME.

Major League Baseball standout **Ryan Klesko**, heavyweight boxing champion **Duane Bobick**, and All-American lineman **Walt Patulski** have been elected into the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame for 2014. U.S. Women's Open bowling champion **Liz Johnson** has been chosen to receive this year's Excellence in Sports Award.

Klesko played 16 Major League Baseball seasons (1992-2007) with Atlanta, San Diego and San Francisco, belting 278 home runs, 987 RBI, and 1,564 hits during his major league career. He was a member of the Braves 1995 World Series Championship team and two other Braves World Series teams. Named to the 2001 All-Star team in San Diego, Klesko batted .300 or better in four seasons and hit 21 or more home runs in eight seasons.

Bobick was a three-time All-Navy champion and two-time All-Service champion. He also he won the United States AAU Heavyweight Championship in 1971 and also won the gold medal at the 1971 Pan American Games. As an amateur, he compiled a record of 93-16 with 61 KOs, beating Larry Holmes to be named to the '72 US Olympic team for the summer games in Munich. After turning pro, Bobick was 38-0 before he lost his first fight, a



Wojciechowski

heavyweight title elimination bout in 1977. He retired in 1979 at age 28 with a professional record of 48-4 with 41 KOs.

Patulski, a three-year starter at defensive end for the University of Notre Dame, was a unanimous All-American in 1971. He also won both the UPI Lineman of the Year award, and the Lombardi Award, given annually to the nation's outstanding lineman. He finished ninth in Heisman Trophy voting that same year, and was selected for the College All-Star and Hula Bowl games. The Buffalo Bills made Patulski the first overall pick of the 1972 NFL Draft, but his NFL career was cut short in 1977 due to a knee injury.

Bowler Johnson will receive this year's NPASHF Excellence in Sports Award, by virtue of her 2013 U.S. Women's Open Championship, the pinnacle of success in women's bowling. With her 257-195 victory over defending champion **Kelli Kulick**, Johnson joins Kulick and only two other women to have ever won the event three times. Following her victory, Johnson defeated U.S. Men's Open champion **Wes Malott** in a special "Battle of the Sexes" one game roll-off. Johnson becomes the second individual ever to be awarded the NPASHF Excellence in Sports Award, succeeding last year's inaugural award winner, 2012 NASCAR Sprint Cup Champion **Brad Keselowski**.

The awards will be presented to the recipients at the 42nd Anniversary Induction Banquet on Thursday, June 19, 2014, at the American Polish-Cultural Center in Troy, Michigan. Tickets 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.

STAR WRESTLER. North Carolina State redshirt sophomore heavyweight **Nick Gwiazdowski**, who captured the conference's first individual national wrestling championship since 2009, was named the ACC Wrestler of the Year. Gwiazdowski, who finished the year with a 42-2 record, won the ACC heavyweight title and then plowed through the NCAA field, winning five straight matches and defeating the No. 1 seed in the tournament, Minnesota's Tony Nelson, to win the title. He became the first ACC wrestler to win a national championship since 2009.

Nick grew up in Delanson, outside of Albany, N.Y., and graduated

from Duanesburg HS in 2011. He wrestled as a freshman at Binghamton. When his wrestling coach Pat Popolizio got an offer to coach NC State, Nick went along with him. Nick's goals include winning two more championships and going undefeated for a season. After college, he may pursue the Olympics or Ultimate Fighting.

HONORS FOR WASIELEWSKI. Maine QB Quarterback **Marcus Wasilewski** recently completed a remarkable senior season, honored as the Gold Helmet Player of the Year by the New England football writers. He led the team to an unprecedented 10-2 record and first Colonial Athletic Association championship. The Black Bears had been picked to finish eighth in the CAA.

Wasilewski, who also named to the All-CAA first team and the recipient of the Chuck Boone Leadership Award, passed for 3,009 yards with 23 TDs, rushed 620 yards and three scores.

Marcus, a Pennsylvania native, lost his mother two weeks after he started attending school. He was redshirted as a freshman, making it more difficult. "Straight up, there was a point where he didn't know if he wanted to stay," his father Mark said. "Most kids would have just given in, come home ... He's a very tough kid, mentally and physically," said offensive coordinator Kevin Bourgoin.

The 6-foot-1, 205-lb. hails from Kulpmont, Pa. and played at Mount Carmel. It's the same area of Eastern PA that produced Henry Hynoski, the New York Giants' fullback. Wasilewski is finishing up his degree in exercise science and plans to pursue a master's degree and become a physical therapist.

NO JOKE? CBS announcer Andrew Catalon apologized to Polish-born **Przemek Karnowski** for a comment he made during a Gonzaga-Oklahoma State basketball game. Karnowski is a 7'-1" sophomore center from Torun, Poland.

Trailing in the second half, Oklahoma State started deliberately fouling Karnowski, who is not a good free throw shooter. Catalon, the play-by-play announcer for the game, called the strategy "Hack-a-Polack." Catalon's broadcasting partner was Mike Gminski, a former Duke and NBA star and member of the Polish American Sports Hall of Fame. "G-Man" immediately retorted: "Easy now."

"Oh sorry," answered Catalon. Later in the game Catalon told viewers: "I made a comment about Karnowski. I apologize if people were offended."

After the game, Catalon apologized in person to Karnowski. Przemek was asked if he was offended by the remarks, and he responded: "Not really. I've heard its offensive. But when I came here, I never really heard about it."

Catalon later told SI.com: "The honest truth is that I had no idea it's considered a derogatory term. I'm ashamed and embarrassed to admit that, but in no way was I aware that I was making an insensitive or off-color remark."

Karnowski finished 4-9 from the

TOUGH GUY. A former Chicago Bear who gained even more fame as a Chicago cop recently passed away. **John Kreamcheck**, a lineman who played from 1953 to 1955, died at the age of 88. The World War II Marine veteran was one of



Kreamcheck

the biggest players in the field in that era, standing 6-5, 255-lb with huge hands. "He had a real masculine look about him," said former Chicago Bears Coach **Mike Ditka**. Opposing teams called him "Monster."

John was born in Vestaburg, Pa., to Polish immigrant parents, Joseph and Mary (Lemonski) Kreamcheck. He never played high school football, but learned the game at 17 after enlisting in the Marines. Later, he played at the College of William & Mary, and was drafted by the Bears in 1953 at the age of 27. "He had a lot of respect for George Halas," said a friend, Steve Kuna. "He was Halas' go-to guy. If Halas wanted something done or somebody [on the opposing team] taken out of the game, John would take care of it for him."

After having had a late start and suffering numerous injuries, Kreamcheck left pro football after just three years to join the Chicago Police Department. Rumor had it that Halas helped him get on the force, after Kreamcheck had been rejected for being too big. Kreamcheck was a tough, no-nonsense cop, known for his biting sense of humor. But he had his soft side, especially when it came to dogs. He kept miniature poodles, with names like Oscar or George. While out on patrol, he'd blow his whistle and stray dogs would come to him to feed from the cans of dog food he kept with him. He retired in 1984.

free throw line, but still got a double-double with 15 points and 10 rebounds in the Bulldogs' 85-77 win. He led the Bulldogs into the NCAA tournament, and the team is hopeful that he won't declare for the NBA draft.

DIGGING UP POLISH ROOTS.

Pole vaulters **Jenn Stuczynski Suhr**, a Polish American, and **Anna Rogowska**, a Pole, both were hoping to do well at the World Indoor Championships in Sopot, Poland in March. As the reigning Olympic champion and world indoor record-holder, Jenn was one of the favorites at the Championships. However, she fell short of her best, jumping 4.65m (15'3"), good enough for fifth place. Rogowska tied Suhr for 5th. She, too, had posted much better results previously, jumping 4.76m earlier this season.

However, for Suhr it was still a memorable event. The native of Fredonia N.Y., told the international press in a teleconference that she had been tracing her roots since she found out that the World Indoors would be in Poland. Her great-great-grandfather, Julian Stuczynski, came to the United States in 1905.

To see Jenn's full interview, check out: <http://www.iaaf.org/news/news/world-indoor-championships-jenn-suhr-sopot-po>.

RUSK EARNS ATHLETE OF THE WEEK HONORS.

Freshman tennis player **Michael Rusk** recently earned "Athlete of the Week" honors at Hobart College. The East Amherst native posted a 4-1 singles record and a 3-3 mark in doubles as the Statesmen logged a 4-2 mark during their spring break trip to Orlando, Fla.

Rusk rallied for a 6-7, 6-1, 10-3 win at No. 2 singles against Oglethorpe and earned wins in both singles (6-1, 6-2 at No. 2) and doubles (8-4 at No. 2) helping Hobart to a 7-2 win over Bethel. The 6-ft., 200-lb.

Rusk teamed with fellow freshman **Danny Kot** for an 8-3 win at the top doubles spot in a 6-3 win over Puget Sound, and earned a 6-0, 6-0 victory at No. 1 singles in a 9-0 sweep of St. Michael's. Rusk earned wins in singles (7-5, 6-3 at No. 2) and doubles (8-4 at No. 2) leading the Statesmen to a 5-4 win over Hope.

Michael is a Williamsville East HS product, and was a four-year varsity letter winner on the tennis team. He posted a 50-2 record in the regular season, the second most wins in school history. Michael was also tennis captain for three years. He was also a member and team captain of the varsity golf team, leading the squad in scoring average with a 40.2 for nine holes.

THEY SAID IT

"Really since I found out that the World Indoors will be in Poland, I started doing some research and talking to relatives. We found out that my great great grandfather, Julian Stuczynski, came over to the U.S. from an area of Russian Poland, I guess near Lomza, with his wife in 1905. It's interesting to trace the route back and see where my ancestors were from, it's really been exciting over the past few weeks to do."

— *Olympic champion and world indoor record-holder Jenn Stuczynski Suhr, on her trip to Poland for the World Indoor Championships.*

"You'll find better Polish food in Milwaukee than in Durham, North Carolina."

— *New Marquette men's basketball coach Steve Wojciechowski, on what Mike Krzyzewski told him before he left for Wisconsin.*

"He played pretty damn tough; off the field, he was a cupcake."

— *Mike Ditka, remembering the late John Kreamcheck.*

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POLONIA ON FILM / Joseph W. Zurawski

In the Meantime, Darling (1944)

Comedy, War
Distributor: Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation
Director: Otto Preminger
Screenplay Writer: Arthur Kober, Michael Uris
Featuring: Jennie Crain, Stanley Prager (as Lt. Philip "Red" Pianatowski), Gale Robbins (as Shirley Pianatowski)

An enthusiastically excited Lt. Philip "Red" Pianatowski repeatedly tries to get the attention of the commanding officer at an U.S. Army training facility. Rebuffed a few times, Pianatowski blurts out a room has been vacated at the Craig Hotel. That means his good friend, Lt. Ferguson, can get married to Maggie Preston and they would be allowed to live in the hotel with the other married officers.

Maggie and her well-to-do parents arrive. Meanwhile, Pianatowski enlists his wife to keep the town's Justice of the Peace occupied until Ferguson can bring his bride to be to the store for a midnight ceremony. When they arrive at the hotel, Maggie's parents express their concerns. Mrs. Preston's questions her new son-in-law whether Pianatowski is really an officer. Ferguson replies "he's one of the best," and assures her that "He worked hard to earn it."

There are no rooms available at the Craig Hotel or anywhere near. Maggie's father must sleep on the sofa in the reception area of the hotel. Only thanks to Fialkowski, are the newly-wed Mr. and Mrs. Danny

Ferguson allowed to sleep together. Since the hotel was fully booked, arrangements had been made for Maggie's mom to sleep with her and Danny would sleep at the fort. Pianatowski convinced Shirley, his wife, to sleep with Mrs. Preston so the newly-weds could sleep together their first night of marriage. Pianatowski slept at the fort.

Maggie Preston was not fit for any on the many jobs which had to be done at the hotel while their husbands were in training at the fort. After several attempts to work with baby bottles and making a mess, she calls her husband and cries out, "I don't belong here."

Although the movie "features" the trials and tribulations of the newly-married couple, it was obviously made to uplift the morale of the men and women in the service and uphold the commitment of the nation to the war effort. In that respect, Lt. Philip "Red" Pianatowski and his wife Shirley are clearly the stars. They have a ritual greeting when they meet — exchanging information about their rank and responsibilities. Pianatowski cleverly adapts to any situation as to not detract from the seriousness of the missions the officers must execute. And it is left to Shirley to accompany and calm down the tempestuous Maggie. After their husbands are called to active duty, Shirley returns with Maggie to Philadelphia. Both begin working in the defense industry to help in the war effort.

The initial screenplay, entitled *Paris, Tennessee*, was completed in July 1943. The script underwent numerous revisions and was re-titled *Army Wife* before going into production as *I Married a Soldier*. The screenplay underwent more revisions in order to enhance the screen presence of Jeanne Crain. After these additional scenes were filmed in late March 1944, the film's title was changed yet again to *In the Meantime, Darling*. Thru all these changes Pianatowski and his wife remain the main reason the film was made.

❖ ❖ ❖
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.

BRUSH UP

More Menu Items

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HH is like ch in loch
ai is like "eye"

- kolacja (koh-LAHTS-yah) **dinner, evening meal**
- kielbasa (kyehw-BAH-sah) **sausage**
- za różna (zah ROHSH-nah) **spit-roasted**
- za rusztu (zah RUZH-tuh) **grilled or barbecued**
- kartofel (kahr-TOH-fehl) **potato [regional]**
- kopytka (koh-PIHT-kah) **potato dumplings**
- kartoflanka. (kahr-toh-FLAHN-kah) **potato soup**
- krupnik (KRUHP-neek) **thick barley soup with vegetables**
- kasza jęczmienna (KAH-zhah jehneh-MYEHN-nah) **pearl barley**
- kukurydza (kuh-kuh-RIHD-zah) **corn**
- kasza manna KAH-zhah MAHN-nah) **semolina**
- kluski (KLUH-skee) **noodles or dumplings**
- knedle (KNEHD-leh) **dumplings stuffed w/plums, cherries, apples**
- kołduny (kohw-DUH-nih) **dumplings**
- krokiet (KROH-kyeht) **croquette**

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THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



SNOW-DUSTED FARMER'S MARKET. Krynica, Poland. May 21, 1976.

GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

New Portal for Polish Research

PGSA.org has announced its new web page that lists forty-six domestic and international web sites that are related to Polish genealogy research. You may already know and have tried some of these but there are many that are new in the last few years and may help unlock the door to your Polish heritage.

The most interesting new pages are sponsored by Polish genealogical groups that have indexed many records and are committed to adding scanned images as soon as possible. Volunteers in Poland have been visiting archives and churches collecting images to be indexed and uploaded to their new sites. The Polish groups also make this information available for free. Some websites may require you to register but none of the sites require a subscription fee to gain access.

This is PGSA's first step to increase awareness in the resources that are available in Polish genealogical research. New resources will be added as they are identified.

The Polish websites are in Polish but they can be translated to English using Google Translate and other online translators. However, you will need to return to using Polish when you are reviewing your search results because the translator will convert town names and surnames to English instead of showing them in Polish. Viewing the village name

will make your search results more challenging to understand.

You can have access to this new resource at PGSA.org and click on the link under "Compendium of Polish Digital Web Sites." At the bottom of the next page, you will view several choices: National Sites, Austrian Partition, German Partition and Russian Partition. The National choice will show all forty-six websites and the other choices divide the websites into the three different partition areas. Do not be afraid to browse each website to find the sites that you think will hold your ancestors. Also remember the websites where the Polish societies are indexing and scanning images are relatively new and are adding information. Check these sites monthly to see if they have added your family.

The new PGSA web page is a great resource to get started or where to renew your efforts to find your Polish roots. Start using it today.

❖ ❖ ❖
Stephen M. Szabados, a regular contributor to the Polish American Journal, is a prominent genealogist. In addition to numerous columns and papers, he is the author of three books, "Finding Grandma's European Ancestors," "Find Your Family History," and "Polish Genealogy."

SURNAME CORNER / Robert Strybel

Pearls of Wisdom

Q: My grandmother was born in Poland and died about 20 years ago. Her name was Pearl Krawczyk. The Polish translation for Pearl is Perła, but I was told that name is not used in Poland. Is that true?

Marilyn Hopper
Milwaukee

A: That's true, it is not used as a first name in Poland. There are some people who have Perła as a last name, most likely a translation of the German/Yiddish last name Perl. However, Pearl is the way many Polish immigrants in America incorrectly translated the name Pelagia, at one time a fairly popular first name in Poland.

There are still more than 20,000 Polish females called Pelagia. Other incorrect but customary equivalents include Bernice for Bronisława, Harriet for Jadwiga, Walter for Władysław and Chester for Czesław.

DISCOVER YOUR POLISH NAME. For a custom-researched analysis of the meaning and derivation of your Polish last name, how many people share it, where they live, and whether a coat-of-arms goes with it, please airmail a \$16 check (adding \$7 for each additional surname) to: Robert Strybel, ulica Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

Family and records research in Poland by Kasia Rutkowska. ▶ Located in Warsaw but will travel. ▶ Also translations, photographing of ancestral villages; tour guide and interpreter. ▶ Bilingual. ▶ References available. **email: k.rut@wp.pl ▶ www.polishgenius.net/genealogy-research/**

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SYMBOLS, GESTURES & SUPERSTITIONS / Robert Strybel

Put a Hat on Your Head!

Every nation has its own system of notions, beliefs, signs, symbols and ways of doing things, whose origin is usually buried in the distant past. The Polish people are no different in that regard. Some notions have been borrowed, other are indigenous. Pagan superstitions have intermingled with Christian customs, and often the justification for a certain practice is no longer widely known — it's just the way things are done. Many old habits have fallen by the wayside, whilst others are limited to a certain region or even a single town or village. Here are some that are encountered with varying frequency.

DON'T GO BAREHEADED! Polish babcias in particular are notorious for telling their grandchildren in cold weather "nie z gołą głową!" But teenaged girls may ignore the advice so as not to look frumpy or mess up their hair, and boys appar-

ently think being bareheaded makes them look more macho.

RIGHT FOOT FORWARD. The bride and groom to be should cross the church threshold of the church entrance together with their right foot, since that is said to get their marriage off to a good start.

KNOCK ON UNPAINTED WOOD. Poles often say "odpukać w niemalowane drewno" so as not to tempt fate, prevent something bad from happening or make sure something good continues. In America it is "knock of wood", the English say "touch wood" and in Italy it's "tocca ferro" (touch iron).

HOLD YOUR THUMBS! This is the Polish equivalent of keeping one's fingers crossed as a way of helping something longed-for come true. "Trzymaj za mnie kciuki" ("Hold your thumbs for me") can be translated as "Wish me luck!"

BOOK REVIEW / Andrew Podraza

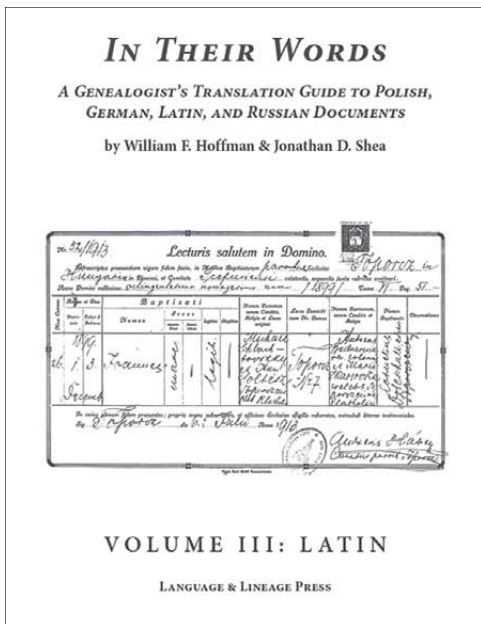
A Worthy Book — Quidem!

IN THEIR WORDS:

VOLUME III — LATIN

A Genealogist's Translation Guide to Polish, German, Latin and Russian Documents
 William F. Hoffman
 and Jonathan D. Shea
 Language & Lineage Press, 2013
 ISBN 978-0-9631579-8-0
 Available from PGSA <pgsa.org>
 and Language & Lineage Press
 <langline.com>

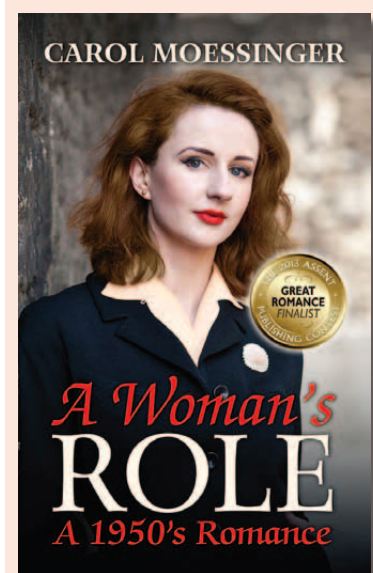
My high school Latin teacher, Brother Theo, would find it extremely ironic that I'd be involved in anything Latin, especially a book.



The Latin guide to "In Their Words" has over 100 samples of Latin documents analyzed and translated. Examples extend from the basic birth-death-marriage variety to the lesser-known church and civil records.

Two years of correcting my translation homework likely contributed to his retiring early. We had a mutual toleration agreement: I'd relentlessly mangle his beloved Latin; he'd retaliate with barely passing grades. Trying times, indeed! But, happy thoughts are now at hand. We no longer need suffer the anxieties of "Latina Langouris."

In today's world, it's not necessary to be Latin scholars to be successful researchers. Not when we have experts like William Hoffman and Jonathan Shea to enlighten us.

A WOMAN'S ROLE:
A 1950's ROMANCE

This heartwarming novel invites the reader to participate in the life of Celina Pasniewski. It's the man's world of 1955, and she is determined to assert herself at home and work, have a career, and resist the coal mining tradition of the small town where she lives.

\$12.99 • pb. 321 pages
 Assent Publishing

Available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Kobo, Sony, and Apple

Their book, *In Their Words: Latin*, is the third in their language translation series. (Volume I deals with Polish; volume II, Russian).

There's something of an adventure about sitting down with a new book, flipping through its fresh pages and exploring unknown contents. At 420 pages, the breadth and scope of information in this book might at first appear overwhelming. Actually, its layout allows it to be quite user-friendly. A generously itemized Table of Contents and thoughtfully detailed Index provide easy guidance in locating specific interests. Within the remainder of the book is where our schooling begins.

Here we discover an extensive range of information for researchers working at translating Latin records. Exhibited are over 100 samples of Latin documents analyzed and translated. Examples extend from the basic birth-death-marriage variety to the lesser-known church and civil records. Supporting the translation-learning process are companion chapters on Latin phonetics and structure along with Latin and English vocabulary. This combination of tools enables researchers to begin interpreting their own documents. Among other aids added to this package are pointers for assisting in the records search itself.

In the book's introduction, Hoffman talks about how he and Shea wanted to produce a book that would offer the type of information they would have liked available when they began to work with records in Latin. Their aim was to present this information along with sample documents to illustrate it, along with search tools in finding the documents. They've succeeded, and not only in providing a vast amount of information. They've managed to present it in a clear format, easy to work with, both for the detail-oriented and for those interested in the broader picture.

Even Bro. Theo might have learned a thing or two from this book.

BOOK REVIEW / Mary Lanham

An Insightful Coming-of-Age Tale

A WOMAN'S ROLE

A 1950s Romance

by Carol Moessinger
 Breathless Books, 2014, 324 pps.

Set in a rural Pennsylvania coal mining town, Celina Pasniewski struggles to find her own place in the world. As a second generation Polish American in the 1950s, Celina tries to balance the pressure from her parents to comply with traditional values with her own desire to be an independent woman.

Celina's life is filled with responsibilities at home and at work, which leaves little time for a social life. Her father treats her like a servant at home and her mother urges her to marry and settle down before she gets much older. At age twenty-three she is considered well on her way towards spinsterhood.

Celina works in a local department store with her best friend Pattie. There she is treated poorly by her employer and longs for escape as a journalist at a newspaper. When Celina meets a mysterious Hungarian immigrant at a dance at the Polish Hall, he throws a wrench in her plans. He is different from all the other bachelors in town; he is not a coal miner but an academic.

Moessinger offers a fascinating insight into the life of a Polish-American family and peppered throughout are descriptions of traditional Polish fare, customs and language. Depictions of food such as pan-fried pierogi slathered in melted butter will surely make your mouth water. Further vivid imagery can be found in the following excerpt where the author describes custom-

ers shopping for back-to-school items in the department store.

"[Celina] watched mothers carrying squirming babies or herding older children into the store. Rambunctious little boys ran their sticky fingers over the clean glass cases. Little girls wandered between the racks, touching the crisp cotton dresses and examining the contents of each pencil box filled with rainbow-colored notepads, erasers, and pencils."

Although this book is a romance, it is also a coming-of-age tale in which Celina Pasniewski strives to find her own path in a post-World War II era.

This is Moessinger's debut novel which was chosen as a finalist in the Assent Publishing Great Romance Contest.

NEW BOOKS

My War, My Life

MY WAR, MY LIFE

By K. Sophie Stallman

Mill City Press, 393 pages, \$16.95

A new book entitled "My War, My Life" by K. Sophie Stallman has recently been published by Mill City Press. It is a true story as seen through the prism of a young teenage girl's eyes that lived and survived through five years of Hitler's Nazi brutal occupation of Warsaw, Poland.

Three generations ago, author Sophie Stallman was a young girl living a normal and happy existence with her traditional, privileged family in Poland. But when the Germans invaded on September 1, 1939, Sophie's life as she knew it ceased to exist. While most of the Europe similarly suffered under the Nazis' boots, Poland's occupation was the harshest. Hitler commanded specific orders for the whole population to suffer daily deprivations, usually labeled "under penalty of death."

It is hard to imagine, how the Polish people could adjust to their daily life in those unbelievable conditions. This is what Sophie so vividly describes in her memoirs. Older people reached for the memories of not so distant World War I experiences to help them to adapt. Younger Poles, like Sophie demonstrated

youthful resilience and matured quickly, amazingly adjusting to the daily life of fear and struggle.

Under the occupation, Germans forbade academic education and executed students and teachers when caught. Sophie worked harder in clandestine high school studies. She also followed her love of music and artistic talents. She excelled developing her modern dance skills and mezzo-soprano voice.

Double-crossing Germans was the game of the day that required youthful invincibility mixed with incredulous responsibilities nobody would have dreamed of asking youth to perform. They fought the occupier any way they knew how. At 15 years of age Sophie followed her patriotic duty and courageously committed to join the Polish resistance organization, the AK (country army), to fight the occupier. This move would put her life in constant jeopardy, especially during the struggles of two months long city fights during the 1944 Warsaw uprising. Her duties were to carry orders and guns, make investigations and reconnaissance.

In January of 1945, the Soviet front was approaching on the receding German army and Sophie luckily escaped Poland minutes before

Soviets arrival. She meandered her way westward, eventually reaching the safety of the American forces in Marienbad, Czechoslovakia.

"My Life, My War" is a story of one girl's battle to not only survive the tragedies and challenges she faced in World War II, but to continually rise above all adversity. Her life serves as a moving testimony to the strength and endurance of the human spirit, and above all, as a tribute to those who were not able to leave Warsaw alive.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR. Sophie Stallman was born in Poznan, Poland. Lived in Germany from the end of World War II until 1956, when she emigrated to Northern California with her husband and two children. Later, Sophie was instrumental in establishing woman's gymnastics in Northern California. She currently resides in Portola Valley, California.

"My War My Life" is available at Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.

For more information please visit Website: SophieStallman.com.

Book Calls Warsaw Uprising "Irresponsible"

WARSAW — A new book by popular historian and journalist Piotr Zychowicz, "Madness '44: How the Poles gave Stalin a present by launching the Warsaw Rising," argues that the insurgency was a senseless act of suicide.

The Warsaw Rising was a major World War II operation by the Polish resistance Home Army (Polish: Armia Krajowa) to liberate Warsaw from Nazi Germany, timed to coincide with the Soviet Union's Red Army approaching the eastern suburbs of the city and the retreat of German forces. However, the Soviet advance stopped short, enabling the Germans to regroup and demolish the city while defeating the Polish resistance, which fought for 63 days with little outside support.

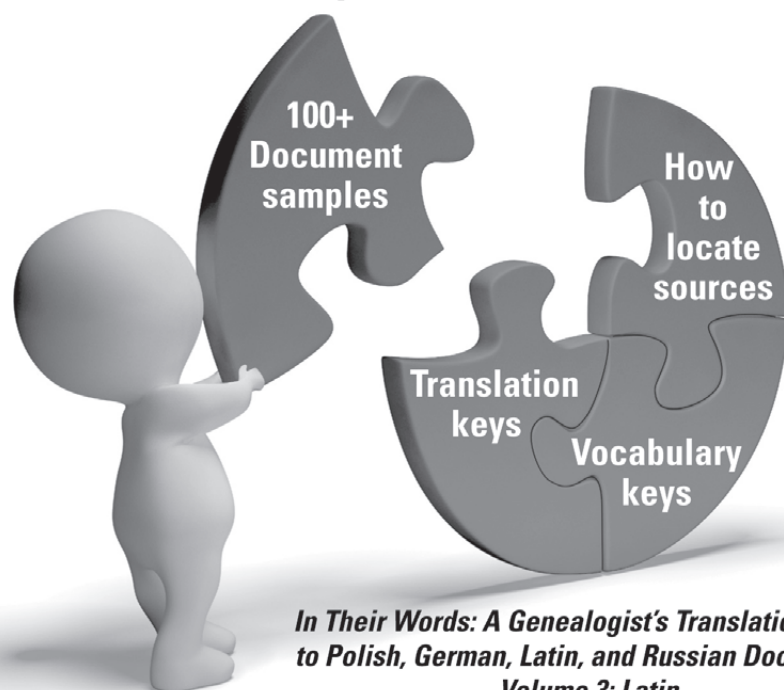
Amid last year's 69th anniversary ceremonies, the head of Poland's Episcopate has defended the insurgency that began August 1, 1944.

"The Warsaw Rising was not at all a sign of irresponsibility," affirmed Cardinal Jozef Michalik, Archbishop of Przemysl, in a statement released on the official web site of the Episcopate.

"Rather, it was the expression of a longing for freedom," he said.

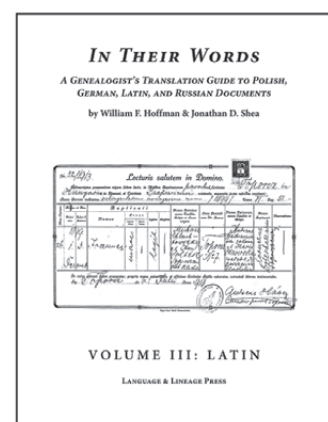
Un-Puzzle Latin Polish Genealogy Records

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"A fascinating look into how women played roles in the Nazi Holocaust, this study reminds us that women's moral agency can serve good—and evil." John Grondelski, Polish American Journal, January 2014.

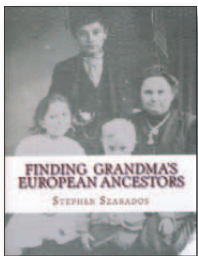
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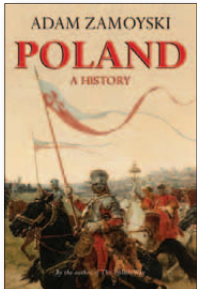


POLISH GENEALOGY: Four Easy Steps to Success by Stephen Szabados \$19.95 164 pp., pb.

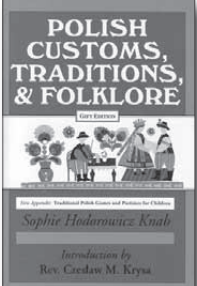
This book is designed to give the researcher the tools needed to research their Polish ancestors and find possible answers to the origins of their Polish heritage.

POLAND: A HISTORY

by Adam Zamoyski \$19.95 pb. 426 pp. 5.5 in. x 8.5 in.

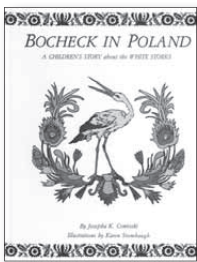


A substantially revised and updated edition of the author's classic 1987 book, The Polish Way: A Thousand-Year History of the Poles and their Culture, which has been out of print since 2001.



POLISH CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS, & FOLKLORE \$16.95

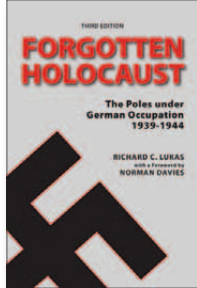
Polish Customs, Traditions, & Folklore is organized by month, beginning with December and Advent, St. Nicholas Day, the Wigilia (Christmas Eve) nativity plays, caroling and the New Year celebrations.



BOCHEK IN POLAND \$11.95 54 pp., Polish Publishing

A First Prize winner in a literary contest sponsored by the American Council of Polish Cultural Clubs, this

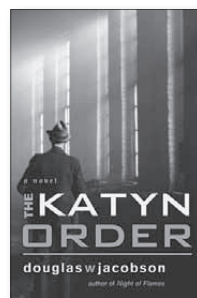
is a delightful, captivating children's story about the life of storks and many of the Polish customs they encounter.



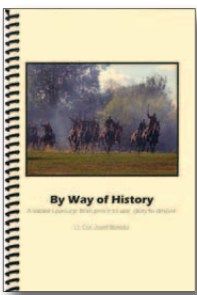
FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST: The Poles Under German Occupation, 1939-45. Third edition \$19.95 358 pp. pb.

Forgotten Holocaust has become a classic of World War II literature. As Norman Davies noted, "Dr. Richard Lukas has rendered a valuable service, by showing that no one can properly analyze the fate of one ethnic community in occupied Poland without referring to the fates of others."

THE KATYN ORDER by Douglas W. Jacobson \$24.95 384 pp., hc., McBooks Press

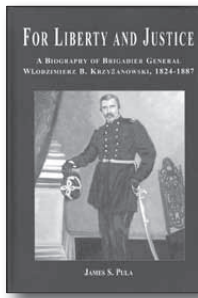


American Adam Nowak has been dropped into Poland by British intelligence as an assassin and Resistance fighter. During the Warsaw Uprising he meets Natalia, a covert operative who has lost everything.



BY WAY OF HISTORY: A Soldier's Passage from Peace to War, Glory to Despair by Lt. Col. J. Bokota, tr. by Stan Bokota \$13.95, 174 pp. Spiral bound, pb.

An eyewitness account of World War I and World War II events, last cavalry charges and the defeat of the Red Horse Army at Komarow in 1920, the battle of Bzura and Warszawa in 1939; the AK struggles, finally description of the moral and physical destruction of Poland by the Soviet regime in the years 1945-70.



FOR LIBERTY AND JUSTICE: A Biography of Brig. Gen. Włodzimir B. Krzyzanowski, 1824-1887 \$29.95 by James Pula. 335 pp. plus introduction. 112 illustrations, hc.

This lavishly illustrated biography of a major Polish American figure of the 19th century, tells the story of a Polish revolutionary exiled to America where he rises from private to general during the Civil War.



TREASURED POLISH SONGS WITH ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS \$24.95 350 pp., hc Polonie Publ.

A magnificent collection of Polish songs with musical scores for voice and piano accompaniment.

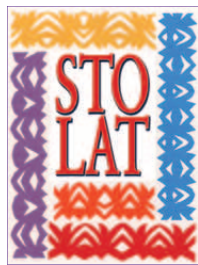
Included are folk songs, lullabies, religious, art songs and ballads, solo and quartet arrangements and more. Enhanced with colorful Werthen illustrations, the book features authentic Polish lyrics with beautiful English translations. Ideal for both musician and appreciative listener alike.



OFF KILTER: A Woman's Journey to Peace with Scoliosis, Her Mother, and Her Polish Heritage by Linda Wisniewski \$18.95 164 pp., pb.

Even before she was diagnosed with scoliosis at thirteen, Linda Wisniewski felt off kilter. Born to a cruel father and a long-suffering mother in a Polish American community in upstate New York, she learned martyrdom as a way of life.

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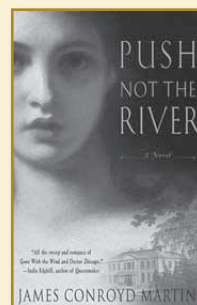
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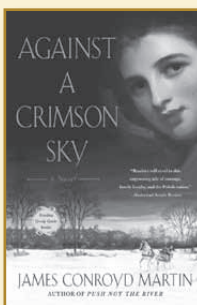
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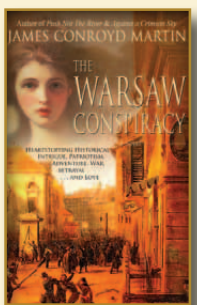
PUSH NOT THE RIVER \$15.95 St. Martin's Press. 496 pp.pb. Maps & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

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



AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY \$15.95 St. Martin's 369 pp.pb. Map & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

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



THE WARSAW CONSPIRACY Hussar Quill Press, 508 pp., pb. \$17.99

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

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PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

IN MEMORIAM

Cultural Inequality

Keeping with the theme of current events, when you look at a glass of water, is it half equal, or half unequal?

Inequality is the current catchphrase. I am sick of hearing about it. Politicians and the Pope are talking about income inequality. We are frequently reminded about the inequality among the races and wage disparities between men and women in the workplace. Gay people cannot be married in some states and they feel this is not fair. Meryl Streep, the movie actress, remarked at the Academy Awards this year that we need "more women in movies," implying an imbalance of roles and parts for women in Hollywood. The other day I saw on Bloomberg an interviewer about "income inequality in Silicon Valley." I kid you not.

All of the talk about inequality and fairness is making me think about my own situation. Why is it I am not as rich as Bill Gates, as good looking as Brad Pitt, and as smart as Sklodowska-Curie! I blame my kindergarten teacher, my parents, and of course God or President Bush (you pick one). The question of why some are more successful and wealthy and motivated compared to others, in some cases with seemingly similar or even extra abundant talents, is one of life's mysteries. Why can't I be like Bill, Brad, or Marie!

Life is not fair, but I am inherently and greatly suspicious of those whining about it or proposing ways to even the score. The problem is, whining doesn't solve anything long term, and short of your mom, dad, grandpa, and the always-a-sure-thing-grandma, there are not too many in authority that can be relied on to efficiently and reasonably alleviate unfair circumstances. Forcing equality by legislation or social pressure is always a risky business and the ones screaming about how unfair something is generally need to look in the mirror.

However, there are real inequalities, injustices, and unfairness to contend with and for those of us who are true Polonians we have our share. Let me summarize where we are now in our thousand year history compared to others in one simple example: Meagan, Ryan, and Kelly are cuter names than Janina, Stan, and Wanda. So it goes and as cultural qualities and features are put on display for Americans to pick, it has been a struggle to have Polish listed high on the shelf.

Cultural longevity is not a guaranteed thing and as long as "the last of the" is not listed in front of the

name of your group you still have hope. It wasn't too long ago that the Polish Pope was the guy everyone thought was different and liked so much. Polish pottery and vodka are still popular and who knows what will be the next slice of Polish culture that catches on.

To every unfair situation, ask yourself three questions: Is this really unfair, is the reason for the inequality, me or something else, and what can I do about it? We probably won't become cultural Gates, or Pitt, or Sklodowska-Curies in our lifetimes, but if enough of us pick the Polish bundle over the non-Polish bundle, then we might adjust the curve closer to achieving equality with the "cutest" among us. That is fair statement isn't it?

STAN "EXECUTIVE PRODUCER" MAN. I watch with increasing interest at how many Polish or Slavic names appear in the credits as producers of varying degrees in Hollywood movies. You would think with so many that we would get a better shake in the quality of the characters and stories. Not fair!

The latest one to pop up is a guy by the name of **Stan Wlodkowski**. The movie I watched was *Now You See Me*, released in 2013 and another along the line of the *American Hustle* flim-flam genre. *Now* has a very credible cast, a catchy believable plot, and a real "fooled-ya" ending.

Wlodkowski was the executive producer of *Now You See Me*, and to my surprise he was also the executive producer of *American Beauty*, best picture of the year in 2000. The executive producer enables the making of a commercial entertainment product and apparently Wlodkowski is quite good at it, for besides the two films mentioned, he has produced a number of other well-known and successful movies.

Please remember to celebrate and have a happy Constitution Day. Have a cool one for me and if you have a thought about this month's topics, have a question, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; email alinabrig@yahoo.com. Don't forget to visit The Pondering Pole blog, ponderingpole.blogspot.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.

Lira Ensemble Announces Two Tours

CHICAGO — Chicago's Lira Ensemble is hosting two tours to Poland this year.

This year's first tour goes to central and northern Poland as well as to Lithuania. It leaves Chicago or New York on Thursday, June 26th and returns Thursday, July 10th. In between, tour members will visit Warsaw, Gdansk, Poznan, Malbork Castle, Torun, Gniezno, Bialowieza Forest, Chopin's birthplace, as well as Vilnius (formerly Wilno) in Lithuania and much more.

Lira's second tour visits central and southern Poland. It leaves Thursday, July 17th and returns Wednesday, July 30th. This tour includes Warsaw, Krakow, Czestochowa, Zakopane, John Paul II and Chopin's birthplaces, Wroclaw, Lodz and much more.

Lira tours are personally led by

Lucyna Migala of WCEV Radio who is artistic director and general manager of the Lira Ensemble and an expert on Polish culture.

Since the Lira Ensemble is a charity, a portion of the tour cost is tax deductible.

For more information, call 773-508-7040 or 1-800-547-LIRA.

Janusz Subczynski, Prominent Neurosurgeon, Sponsor for Freedom Organizations

Dr. Janusz Subczynski, 85, of Marco Island, Fla., was born in Poland, the son of a civil engineer. He had a very good childhood, until one night he found himself on the road escaping from Warsaw with his parents under bomb and machine gun fire. The Second World War had reached his hometown.

"I survived the German occupation, which was very tough, and a lot of people were killed," he said. "Every day, yellow sheets of paper were issued with 50 or 60 names written on them — the names of those sentenced to death."

Subczynski and his parents survived the German occupation, though they soon afterwards found themselves under Russian occupation. Amidst the multitude of murders of Polish people by the Bolsheviks, Subczynski somehow went through medical school, obtained degrees in philosophy and psychology, and became a surgeon.

He traveled to the United States, where he became a



neurosurgeon. In the United States, Subczynski's medical career flourished, as he became the Chief of Neurosurgery at St. John's Hospital in Detroit. He also became a fellow of the American College of Surgery and earned the diploma of the American Board of Neurological Surgery. After a visit to Poland, he received permission for his parents to join him in the United States.

Meanwhile, "since I was not very fond of communism, especially [that found in] the Soviet Union," he became involved in the Polish American organization POMOST. (POMOST is Polish for "bridge").

Although there was a death sentence for him and other leaders of POMOST, they broadcast programs in Polish and English from 1982-1996 that described the real situation in Poland, especially during martial law.

In retirement, Subczynski wrote two memoirs, both published in Polish and later in English. His first book, "In the Shadow of Satan," described his experiences under German occupation, and while working under Soviet communist regime. His second book, "Colors of Life," described his life in the United States and his professional experiences.

Dr. Edward Jan Paul Pawlowski, Lt. Colonel, U.S. Army, ret.

Dr. Edward Jan Paul Pawlowski (Lt. Colonel, U.S. Army, retired), was a member of the board of directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Division of the Polish American Congress on which he served for over a decade. He was recipient of the Division's Award of Recognition in 2012. The Polish American Arts Association of Washington benefited from his term as president and his continuing service with its Scholarship, Nominating, and Chopin Concert committees, as well as his service to the American Council for Polish Culture.

For 20 years he volunteered weekly at the White House in the Office of Presidential Correspondence, and served as an usher and Eucharistic minister for shut-ins at St. Mark's parish.

Dr. Pawlowski was honored at the PAC annual Thanksgiving Dinner at the Kenwood Golf and Country Club on November 18, 2012 with a plaque presented by PAC president, Dr. Susanne Lotarski. During his acceptance speech, he gave a moving account of how being Polish has influenced every part of his life.

The youngest of five children of Polish immigrants,



Ed grew up fluent in Polish and with a love of Poland. While attending high school during World War II, he wrote letters to the editors of Springfield, Mass. newspapers in support of the Polish government-in-exile in London, at times criticizing the Soviet Union and FDR's position.

Dr. Pawlowski served in the military for over 20 years with a wide variety of assignments. With the 502nd Airborne Battle Group in Munich, Ed was trained by Special Forces to parachute 50 miles behind enemy lines at night and reconnoiter enemy troop movements, using his Russian and German language skills.

In 1966-68, Pawlowski was assigned to the Washington-Moscow hotline, where he translated communications between President Lyndon Johnson and Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin.

Lt. Col. Pawlowski's final military assignment, before retiring from active duty in 1972, was with the Defense Intelligence Agency, where he headed a branch of Warsaw Pact defectors from the USSR, Poland, and East Germany, one of whom was the triple agent Nick Shadrin. Pawlowski returned to Washington as a civilian to join the Central Intelligence Agency's Soviet and East European Division. During this period he worked on the case of Polish Colonel Ryszard Kuklinski.

Bernard "Dr. D." Dlutowski, Well-Loved Family Physician

Bernard J. Dlutowski, 79, of Northeast Philadelphia, a family physician affectionately known as "Dr. D.," died March 25, of complications from cancer at his home.

Dr. Dlutowski was a general practitioner in Torresdale for more than 40 years, sometimes caring for as many as three generations of the same family from his offices at 9625 Frankford Ave.

Early in his career, he made visits to the homes of patients, especially if they were neighbors, said his daughter, Janine Ehsani.

"He was an old-fashioned family doctor," she said.

The son of a Polish immigrant who worked in a steel mill and died young, he was the first in his family to go to college.

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, he graduated from Central Catholic High School. He earned his bachelor's degree in premedical studies from the University of Pittsburgh and his medical degree from what was then Hahnemann University

Medical School.

He met his wife-to-be, Theresa Kita, at Hahnemann, where she was a social worker. He proposed to her on Valentine's Day. The two were married for 52 years before her death in March 2013.

Dr. Dlutowski served as head medical officer aboard the Bushnell, a submarine tender based in Key West, Fla., during the Cuban missile crisis. He was honorably discharged with the rank of lieutenant.

He retired eight years ago, but he would often meet former patients on the street. They would regale him with stories of how he had helped them.

"He loved his patients, and his patients loved him," his daughter said.

As a father, he had a sense of humor, but was firm in passing along his values: love of family, learning about different cultures, and taking advantage of all the world has to of-

fer, his daughter said.

Donations in his memory may be made to Jefferson Medical Oncology, Benjamin Franklin House, 834 Chestnut St., Suite 320, Philadelphia 19107.

— Philadelphia Inquirer

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Polka MAGAZINE

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN MUSIC

IPA Hall-of-Famer Richie Tokarz Passes

CHICAGO — Popular polka music sideman and International Hall of Fame member Richie Tokarz, 65, passed away after complications from diabetes.

Tokarz, a song-writer who was equally proficient on trumpet and accordion, performed with the Pala Brothers, Li'l Richard, Marion Lush, Eddie Blazonczyk, and Lenny

Gomulka's groups.

Among his hit songs are: "Stella At the Wheel," "Wrong Number," "Now I See Her, Now I Don't," "Glass of Love," "It's a Mistake," and "Just Married."

A full biography and additional details about Tokarz's life will be published in next month's Polish American Journal.

Chet Kowalkowski and Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr.: Highlights of a Lifelong Friendship

To anyone who considers themselves a polka aficionado, the names Chet and Eddie (no surnames are necessary) are synonymous with vocal excellence. Their harmonies were legendary — think Everly Brothers, Righteous Brothers, Indigo Girls — and their pairing shaped the sound of the early Versatones, one of the most influential bands in modern-day polkas. The following recollection from Chet Kowalkowski, offers an insight into those early, formative years.

by Chet Kowalkowski

I was born on June 12, 1939. Eddie on July 12, 1941. My first encounter with Ed was in 1949 at his mother's establishment, known as Pulaski Ballroom & Restaurant, located at 1709-11 S. Ashland Ave. on the south side of Chicago. We gathered there to drive to a May Day Parade and Eddie's ma, Mrs. Antoinette, must have just purchased the building because the basement was dark, had a musty smell and there was timber and gravel on the floor. I was about nine years old; Eddie was seven.

We all got into cars and proceeded to Division St. and Ashland Ave., where the Polish Constitution Day parade was lining up. All decked out in our Goralski outfits, we followed the Goralski Orchestra leading us, women, and other children in their outfits. We marched to Augusta Blvd. and California Ave., which was near Humboldt Park. After the parade, Eddie and I spent time throwing rocks in the lagoon at the park and got our Goralski outfits dirty. Our parents chewed us out for that.

EDDIE'S NEW BEST FRIEND. I learned the following from Don Ptak, who, throughout his career, would play trumpet with many groups including Li'l Wally and the Casinos and lived in the same neighborhood as Eddie. Ampol-Aires drummer Rudy Sienkowski lived next door to Eddie's father's tavern, which was located at 19th and Levitt. Don told me that, when Eddie was five years old, he would walk down the street and try to make friends. But, because he didn't know how to speak English, Don and his friends would tease him, calling him "DP Eddie" ("DP" was a derogatory street term for "Displaced Person," given to immigrants who were not fluent in English — Ed.) then beat him up, and tell him to learn how to speak English.

Well, Eddie being a smart "DP," bought himself a dog — a Great Dane. The next time he walked down the street, everyone scattered because the dog was so huge. After that, nobody would ever tease Eddie again. "Way to go Edziu!"

BAD REPUTATION. When both of us were in grade school, probably around 6th or 7th grade, I used to get on my bike and ride to Pulaski Village, where Eddie stayed with his mother. Eddie and I used to have a lot of fun riding our bikes through the alleys, behind Pulaski Village. On occasion, Eddie and I would sweep the main ballroom upstairs after a wedding or dance and, as payment, Antoinette made us some soup and sandwiches. We spent practically all day talking about forming a polka band.

One day, while still in grade school, I decided to bring Eddie to my house in Chicago. At that time, he had a reputation for being a bit wild and mischievous, and my parents did not like me hanging around him. Imagine that! They didn't realize (or want to admit) that I came up with a few wild ideas on my own!

Anyway, I had a plan. I told Eddie to take a street car and then a bus to my house. He had to walk about three blocks, so I marked every fifth section of the sidewalk with chalk and an arrow until he got to my house. I had a rough idea what time he would be there, so I was playing in the basement. Eddie came in and knocked on the door, and when my mother answered it, Eddie said, "Is Czesiu home?" My mom said, "What are you doing here?" and immediately called for a cab to take him home—we must have spent all of ten minutes together. But did I get reamed out by my mother!

"I don't want you to see him!" she said. Little did she know that Eddie and I both would become best friends and stars in the polka business one day, and continue on with our "wild side" in the years that would follow.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS. Around 1956, Pulaski Village featured top polka bands such as Lil Wally, Polka Dot Five, Eddie Zima, Steve Adamczyk, etc. Eddie and I would sometimes work the wardrobe, discussing our future and possible careers in polka music. I can remember spending one week cutting out our names in cardboard, sprinkling them with glitter and gluing them to our music stands, which read "Wesoly Edziu, Wesoly Czesiu, and Wesoly Miechui." (Happy Eddie, Happy Chet, and Happy Mitch) We had a clarinet player by the name of Frank Kloc, and a gypsy player who played the upright bass, who came on a street car (the conductor charged him extra for a seat for his bass).

We played one job at Pulaski Village that only had about 15 or so people. Eddie had to pay us from the wardrobe money and money from his mother. Our accordion player Mitch Domanowski's father drove his son to and from the job. When he found out how much his son got paid for the job, that was the end of our accordionist. It was also the band's first and last job; that was August 24, 1956.

Eddie and I, along with Stan Szarafinski, performed a few polka jobs in a band called Happy Eddie & his Polka Jesters. However, in that period, Eddie was already thinking about playing rock 'n roll.

LESSONS LEARNED. As a teenager, Eddie would occasionally stay in the apartment at his father's bar, The Mountaineer Tavern, located on 47th Street and Ashland Ave. When his father told him to go to bed upstairs, he would sneak out, stuffing the pillows under

Eddie would pick me up for work in a 1957 Cadillac while the boss came to work in a beat up Ford. A few days later, we both got laid off. We found out later that the boss said, "They don't need a job, I come to work with a Ford, and they come in a Cadillac."

Around 1960, I had a job rebuilding carburetors near North Avenue and Grand. Sometimes on my way home, I would stop at Pulaski Village and have a few drinks before going home for supper. Eddie's mother would be behind the bar and would ask me, "Czesiu, please try to talk Edziu to quit that rock 'n roll garbage and play polka music like you do."

There was a place on 46th and Richmond called Richmond Tap that, in the '70s would be known as Club Antoinette. I booked two-piece jobs there for some Polish organization; this was around 1960-61. I would call Eddie to see if he was available to play these gigs and, when he was, he would play the accordion and bass drum, I would play trumpet. Then we'd switch and I played the accordion

and Eddie would play drums. We were versatile even then.

Don Ptak told me another story about Eddie. Once, when coming off a road trip with his rock band, he met up with Ptak, who also had just returned from a 30-day road trip with Li'l Wally. Both were exhausted and needed rest, but it was a hot summer in Chicago. So Eddie says to Ptak "Let's go to Peoples' The-



CHET AND EDDIE. 1964.

the covers so his dad would think he was sleeping. Instead, Eddie went to People's Theatre, half a block away to watch a movie. But when he returned home from the movies, his father was usually waiting for him with a razor strap.

Eddie also played for a while in a band called the Polka Poppers with another good buddy, Chet Nuskiwicz in Laoma, Wisconsin. According to Nuskiwicz, who booked the jobs, he played accordion and Eddie played drums. At one job, Eddie was introduced to vodka. He thought it was like water, and drank a good portion of it. When they took a break and went outside, Eddie passed out in a snow bank. Nuskiwicz came up to make an announcement. Everyone expected him to ask: "Is there a doctor in the house?" Instead, he asked: "Is there anybody that can play drums?" One girl got up and tried to play but was very bad.

ROCK 'N ROLL CALLS. At the same period, in Wisconsin, Eddie formed a band called the Hillboppers that played country and rock and roll. In that band, Eddie played drums and sang.

When he came back to Chicago, Eddie stayed with his mother and formed another rock 'n roll band called Eddie Bell in which he sang and played guitar. This was the big time of "Bell's" life—he was really into rock and roll. Around 1957 he recorded four 45 r.p.m.s on Mercury Records, and made it on TV with Jim Lounsbury, and *American Bandstand* with Dick Clark. Ed even coached me in playing my trumpet on one of his versions of "LaBamba." To this day, I still dig it out of the archives to listen to it.

Around the same period, Eddie and I got jobs at Chicago Metal Manufacturing Company. Eddie worked in one department and I worked in another.



Chet and Eddie were life-long friends. Here, they share a vocal at the 1992 IPA Festival of Bands.

atre." The two of them slept half a day in the show because it was air cooled by ice and fans.

By then, Eddie had realized that rock 'n roll was not his future. Around that same time, I performed on Ron Terry's television polka show with the Dick Billa Polka Band, which consisted of Dick Billa, Wayne Nelson, Joe Solomen, and myself. I was also performing with a polka band called, the Happy Polka Hearts. We released the first 45 on Jay Jay Records. The musicians for that band included Gene Walega, Stan Bugno, Tony Cichon, and me.

Next month:
The Beginning of the Versatones.

ALL PHOTOS: CHET KOWALKOWSKI COLLECTION



A 22-year-old Chet Kowalkowski with the original Versatones, before Blazonczyk joined the group.

POLKA JUKEBOX / Steve Litwin

RBO Rekindles Happy Memories

Down here in the land of the spiedie*, the **Rich Bobinski Orchestra** was a regular on the stage of the Polish Club in Binghamton. The Bobinski orchestra had that Eastern kick to their music and brought back memories of the days of Budzilek, the New Yorkers, the Pic-a-Polka Orchestra, and many others.

After the polka world lost Rich, the RBO band came to be, and thanks to June Ingram and others, the music continued on stage and on recordings like the just-released CD *Something Old Something New*. Recorded at the Polish National Alliance Park in Wallingford, Connecticut, this 17-track production offers the listener a full menu of tunes, including two Christmas songs.

The disc features "Sure Fire Kisses," featuring Lorraine Jeski and Eddie Biegaj on the vocals, traditional favorite "Jedziemy Jedziemy" polka and "Godfather" polka showcasing Biegaj's dynamic voice.

Another Eddie, Eddie Zavaski, Jr., takes the lead vocal on the Solek tune, "Fill Up the Glass." Special guest artists include Eddie Biegaj on vocals, Ed Goldberg on piano and Gregg Sajkowicz on drums.

No less than thirteen musicians lend their talents to this recording. Gary Rhamy and Hank Guzevich did the mix-down and technical pro-

duction was handled by Jim Krezeszewski of Jimmy K Polkas. The CD is available at www.jimmykpolkas.com.

* a south-central N.Y. version of a hoagie or sub.

AN ALL-STAR LINEUP. To be the *Keepers of Honky* the musicians must not just play from a chart but also from the heart. Rich Raclawski and the "All Star Honky Band" bring together the best of the best, musicians with a feel and true appreciation for this style, the style of Eddie Zima.

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the right bit of magic to the sweet reeds of the concertina. All 14 tracks on this collection are "keepers" and you'll be playing them more than once.

The talented musicians keeping honky alive are: Rich Raclawski on concertina, Eddie Madura on clarinet and alto sax, Wayne Sienkowski on drums, Bob Zagozda on trumpet, tenor sax and clarinet, Wally Pacura on bass and Matt Sienkowski on piano.

The entire project is dedicated to Tommy Kula, concertina player of the Ampol-Aires.

Recorded by R&M Studio, Keeps of Honky is on C.L.R. Recordings. Visit them on the web at: www.rcrescent.com.

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TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

A One-Two Punch

The International Music Association packed a one-two polka punch to round out their dance season, as two dynamic bands hit town recently. **John Gora & Gorale** come around about once every two years, which means a big crowd and lots of fun. John and the band played for IMA on March 23. Using a remote microphone, John serenaded guests and brought the energy level in the room up a few notches. Joining John on the stage were the **Winiarz brothers, Danny Mateja, and Johnny Krawisz**. The crowd was a mix of local fans and fans from Michigan. **John Zelasko, Sr.** happened to be one of the Michiganders in the crowd, and he got up on stage and sang a few with Gorale.

Two weeks later (and twenty-five degrees warmer), **Polka Family** was on that same stage, entertaining as only Hank and company do, to a packed house at Conn-Weissenberger. It was nice to see many friends who share in celebrating

their birthdays in April with me, including **John Zelasko, Sr., and Sara Zelasko, Larry Holt, Debbie Rutkowski, and Jim Earl**. Sto lat to all my April birthday buddies.

In between, Toledo Area Polka Society brought the **Diddle Styx** band to town from Grand Rapids, Mich., for a rare appearance March 30. Even though what was (hopefully) the last bug of the season caught me by surprise and laid me up for a few days, word from those in attendance was that this too was a successful dance.

IMA will commence dances again in the fall of 2014, and TAPS has two more for this season. TAPS brings in another band rarely seen in Toledo, May 31, when **John Stevens & Doubleshot** round out the season. For more information, please "like" Toledo Area Polka Society on Facebook to keep updated on these and other Toledo polka events.

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Alex Meixner. Photo by Chris Spiegel

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- The Knewz (NY)
- Jeff Mieczko's DynaBrass (MI)
- The Buffalo Concertina All-Stars (NY)
- Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze (IL)
- The Nu-Tones (PA)
- Ray Jay & The Carousels (PA)
- Andy Fenus & The Trel-Tones (PA)
- Henny & The Versa J's (PA)
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DANCE TIME / Jen Pijanowski

Missing Mike and a Tri-Ethnic Celebration

BUFFALO, N.Y. — It's finally here, the beautiful weather we have all been yearning for over the past several months. More importantly, May opens the season of the polka festivals, picnics, and summer celebrations. I am looking forward to traveling to Kuzman's later this month to see all of my Penn-Ohio friends once again. It is going to be tough to stand at suicide corner without our polka loving friend **Mike Dorfi**. I know there are going to be many shots toasted in his name at his reserved corner of the bar. Mike is watching from up above and still enjoying every single polka beat that is played. His love of life and polka music serves as a testimonial to all polka fans to enjoy the fun, friends, and music at every opportunity you can. I was so lucky to call him a friend and I will remember his passion for life as we venture into this polka season.



Mike and Tammy Soich from Pa. visiting Buffalo for the Buffalo Touch St. Patty's Day dance

PAN-ETHNIC POLKAS. Buffalo Touch borrowed the luck of the Irish for St. Patrick's Day by hosting a Pre-St. Patty's Day polka dance on March 16th. Those who attended donned green attire in celebration of this beloved saint. Buffalo Touch provided upbeat polkas and alternated with Kenny Krew for a nice afternoon of music and entertainment. Danny Potts offered either a ham or corned beef and cabbage dinner as an extra bonus as this Sunday affair. Everyone raved about the food, music and fun, and enjoyed being Irish for the day.

After hearing the Touch, I headed over to Anchor Inn in Cheektowaga to listen to **Phocus**. The crowd was a mix of polka lovers and patrons who had been celebrating downtown at the Buffalo Irish parade. Everyone there had the same intention which was celebrating life and enjoying the cheerful music. There were a few "polka lessons" happening to some polka newbies and, as always, much laughter coming from the bar. Phocus always keeps the attention of the crowd and commands the audience at Anchor, their home away from home.

Buffalo Polka Boosters March meeting was on March 20th with entertainment by **New Direction**. This is a band that truly enjoys playing together and it really shows when they are performing. Ray Barsukiewicz filled in while Frank Zeczak is out temporarily recovering from shoulder surgery. The dance floor was packed to the sounds of this honky style band. I am looking

forward to many people outside of Buffalo getting to enjoy the sounds of New Direction when they play the lounge party at UPSA on Memorial Day weekend.

A favorite event of mine held in Western New York is the **St. Patrick's/St. Joseph's/ Dyngus Day Tri-Ethnic Celebration**. This year marked the 17th go-around for this

annual tri-heritage event. **Special Delivery** proudly represented the culture for the Polish portion. The affair was held at the Buffalo Irish Center, which provides the perfect location for this well-attended function. Three separate rooms showcase the bands, the Irish music is in the front bar area upon entering the facility. The Italian music delighted their audience in the large hall that has plenty of room for dancing. The



Staś and Nancy Komenda from Pa. visiting Buffalo for Stephanie dance.

Polish room is filled with charm and its cozy aura is an impeccable atmosphere for dancing and socializing. There is always a menu available to meet the appetite of this collective celebration. The options varied from kielbasa, pizza, corned beef and cabbage to salt potatoes and pierogi. There was definitely music, food, and entertainment to satisfy the desires of everyone who made a trip to South Buffalo for the dance.

That same afternoon, Potts Banquet Hall hosted **Stephanie & her Honky Band**. I had to stop by to catch a few sets of this local legend. Stephanie does not play often enough in the Buffalo area, so I always make it a point to see her when the chance arises. As always, she was extremely entertaining and constantly feeding off the energy of the crowd. I become mesmerized watching her smile and play her

concertina as if she were playing for thousands of her fans.

If any of you have ever attended a Stephanie dance in Buffalo, you are sure to know the couple I am about to mention. It is a highlight for me to see **Don and Marina Kozak** dancing to almost every single song. They are true fans and to witness Don twirling his towel over his head while truly loving every minute of the music is infectious. Stephanie is a true show woman and we are proud that she is a part of our Buffalo polka community.

UPCOMING

Western New York

May 3. Buffalo Touch, VFW Post #5798, 8989 Erie Rd Angola, 8:00-11:00 p.m. Free admission, and free buffet.

May 3. Polish Happy Hour in celebration of Polish Constitution Day. Adam Mickiewicz Library, 612 Fillmore Ave., Buffalo, 5:00 p.m. Free. Polish Constitution Day has become an annual event at the Mickiewicz Library. The event includes the reading of the Polish Constitution, food, and this year will feature John Gora Musical Services for the entertainment.

May 4 . Polka Cinco de Mayo Party, New Direction and the Knewz, Potts Banquet Hall, 41 S. Rossler Street, Cheektowaga. 4:00-9:00 p.m. \$10.00

May 10. Special Delivery, Metzger's Pub, 4135 Seneca St., West Seneca. (716) 674-9897. Free admission. Food available.

May 13. Buffalo Touch, River Grill, 70 Aqua Lane, Tonawanda. 7:00 p.m. Free admission.

May 16. Buffalo Touch, Collins Town Library, 7:00 p.m. Free admission.

May 18. Phocus, Anchor Inn, 2437 William St., Cheektowaga, N.Y. 5:30-9:30 p.m. Free admission

May 27. Buffalo Polka Booster Meeting featuring Special Delivery, Polish Falcons, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew. 8:00-10:30 p.m. \$7.00 members / \$10.00 non-members

May 28. Polka Variety Meeting, Pic-A-Polka Orchestra, Pvt. Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga. 7:30-10:00. \$8.00 members / \$9.00 non-members

Beyond Buffalo

May 4. John Gora & Gorale, Roosevelt Hall, 2325 Mt. Pleasant Rd., Norvelt, Pa., 3:00-7:00 p.m. Call Frank (724) 861-5872 for info

May 8. John Gora & Gorale, Molly B Polka Show, Sawmill Creek Resort, Huron, Ohio.

May 9. Phocus & Buffalo Concertina All-Stars, Molly B Polka Show, Sawmill Creek Resort, Huron, Ohio

May 17. Buffalo Touch, Kuzman's Bar, 1025 S. State St., Girard, Ohio. (330) 545-8521

USPA Convention

May 23-25. Holiday Inn. 5471 Royalton Rd Strongsville, Ohio (440) 238-8800. Featuring Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, Polka Family, The New Direction Band, The Knewz, Freeze Dried, Marion Lush Tribute (with Full Circle), Ray Jay & the Carousels, Matt Rosinski's All Star Band, John Gora, D Street Band, Polka Country Musicians, and The Boys.

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Our Pope, Our Saint

continued from cover

ners with portraits of the two about-to-be-canonized pontiffs adorned the façade of the basilica, Pope Francis recited the Latin saint-making formula. "After mature deliberation, numerous requests for divine assistance and in consultation with our Brothers in the Episcopate, we hereby declare and define the sainthood of Blessed John XXIII and John Paul II and enroll them among the saints, decreeing that they are to be venerated as such by the entire Church."

In his homily, the Holy Father described the two pontiffs as "men of courage," who bore witness to God's mercy.

"They were priests, bishops and popes of the 20th century who experienced that century's tragic events, but they were not overwhelmed by them. For them, God was more powerful, faith was more powerful – faith in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of man and the Lord of history," said Pope Francis.

Praising the Second Vatican Council, which had helped bring the Church to the people, he said: "John XXIII and John Paul II cooperated



PHOTO: BUSINESSNEWS.AU

Vatican Radio estimated the crowd at some 800,000 in the St. Peter's area, including the square and the roads and gardens around it. Another 500,000 followed the proceedings on giant screens set up around Rome, according to estimates based on police aerial shots.

with the Holy Spirit to restore and update the Church according to its original shape, the shape with which saints have endowed it over the centuries."

Pope Francis referred to the Polish Pontiff as "the pope of the family" and noted that he was planning

a special synod devoted to family affairs.

Attending the ceremony was an official Polish delegation led by President Bronisław Komorowski and accompanied by the country's remaining two democratically presidents, Lech Wałęsa and Aleksander

Kwaśniewski. Also present and were some 40 additional heads of state and prime ministers. President Obama sent a low-level delegation headed by his adviser John Podesta.

Many Poles felt Jan Paweł II had already been a saint during his pontificate, a conviction echoed at

his funeral in 2005 by Italian young people who called for immediate sainthood chanting "Santo subito." A similar view was expressed in a rare interview by the Polish Pontiff's immediate successor, Benedict XVI, who said: "In the years in which I collaborated with him, it was ever clearer to me that John Paul II was a saint. My memory of John Paul II is filled with gratitude. I couldn't and shouldn't try to imitate him, but I have tried to carry forward his legacy and his work as best I could."

It was German-born Pope Benedict (Joseph Ratzinger) who accelerated his Polish predecessor's beatification in May 2011, a mere six years after his death. By the standards of the Roman Catholic Church, the mills of which grind slowly, Karol Wojtyła's canonization can only be regarded as fast-track sainthood. Co-canonized John XXIII had to wait more than half a century to become a saint. And medieval Poland's Queen Jadwiga was beatified (in 1979) and canonized (1997) by John Paul II, nearly six centuries after her death.

The Canonization: A Polish American Perspective

by **Kathy Blazonczyk and Barbara Adams**

Kathy Blazonczyk and Barbara Adams, both of Chicago, were among the thousands of Americans of Polish descent who made their way to Rome to witness the canonization of Blessed John Paul II. They filed this report hours after the two popes were made saints.

We arrived in Rome from Chicago on Friday, April 25. Shortly after arriving we checked into our bed and breakfast, which was conveniently located just 10 minutes walking distance from St. Peter's Square and the Vatican.

On Friday evening, we were invited to attend a small private event regarding the Swiss Army. We toured the Swiss Army Armour and Uniform Museum and learned a lot about the history of the Swiss

Guards and their role in protecting the Pope. We were fortunate to have met Andreas Widmer, Director of Entrepreneurship Programs for the School of Business in Economics at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Mr. Widmer, who is the author of "The Pope and CEO: John Paul II's Leadership Lessons to a Young Swiss Guard," signed copies of his book for us. The book is an account of Andreas's two year term as a Swiss Guard for John Paul II.

On Saturday morning we got up early to attend Mass at 7:30 a.m. at the tomb of John Paul II, located in St. Peter's Basilica. After Mass we took a tour of Rome and had lunch at a local Italian restaurant with a family of friends who live in Rome. Their son Rafael, was an altar boy at the Vatican while John Paul II was Pope.

We were invited to attend a

concert on Saturday evening at the Santa Maria in Vallicella Cathedral. Composer and musician Stanisław Soyka composed and arranged a concert honoring the life of John Paul II. Many dignitaries attended this prestigious event including the Prime Minister of Poland. Cardinal Dziwisz was in attendance, who coincidentally was celebrating his 75th birthday.

The concert was exceptional! The light show in the cathedral, coupled with the musicianship and angelic voice of Stanisław Soyka made for an unforgettable evening.

Immediately following the concert we rushed back to our bed and breakfast to change into our Goral-ska attire. Kathy wore her grandmother's traditional folk skirt and vest from Chocholow and Basia wore her Goral-ski costume from her many years of performing Polish folk song and dance.

We knew our only chance of getting into St. Peter's Square was camping out all night in line with millions of people wanting a chance to witness history. This was the first time ever that two popes were present, Francis and Benedict, to canonize two popes on the same day, John XXIII and John Paul II.

We stopped in Holy Spirit church directly across the street from St. Peter's square for Adoration. We realized the church would be open for an all night long vigil, and many people spent the night sleeping there. After realizing there were no available pews, floor space, aisles or confessional boxes, we decided to sleep at the altar of The Divine Mercy. The statue of Sister Faustina was nearby and a huge picture of smiling John Paul II was directly across from us.

At 5:00 a.m. we left the church to experience the canonization.

Sunday evening we met very Rev. Canon Walter Ptak for dinner.



VERY REV. CANON WALTER J. PTAK (left) Dean of Human Formation at Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary, and **MSGR. THOMAS MACHALSKI**, Chancellor and Rector of Ss. Cyril & Methodius at Orchard Lake, both participated in the Canonization Mass.

Father Wally was in Rome with a group of people making the pilgrimage with him. Both Father Wally and Msgr. Thomas Machalski, Chancellor and Rector of Ss. Cyril & Methodius at Orchard Lake, both participated in the Canonization Mass.

After dinner with Father Wally, we walked back to our bed and breakfast. As we passed St. Peter's

Square we heard Polish hymns being sung by a sea of Polish people holding a vigil of Thanksgiving in front of John Paul II's picture hanging at the Vatican. The strong and proud Polish voices and amount of Polish flags made for another unforgettable memory.

This trip was an unforgettable life experience full of memories to cherish.



KATHY BLAZONCZYK (left) and **BARBARA ADAMS** were among the thousands of Americans of Polish descent who made their way to Rome to witness the canonization of Blessed John Paul II.

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