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CIESLA HONORED FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE
PAGE 7

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

YAD VASHEM AND THE JEWS VS. "POLISH CONCENTRATION CAMPS" • POLAND'S ECONOMY KEEPS ROLLING ALONG
THE DÉJÀ VU OF RUSSIA'S ROUGH JUSTICE • HALF-NA-PÓŁ OR "GROSERNIA NA KORNERZE" • THE YEAR OF KANTOR
HOW POLAND'S NOBILITY CAME INTO BEING • THE ANCIENT HEART OF THE WARSAW • POLES UNDER ATTACK IN DUBLIN

NEWSMARK

INCUMBENT KOMOROWSKI A PRESIDENTIAL SHOO-IN. Incumbent Bronisław Komorowski is more than certain to be re-elected to another five-year term in Poland's May presidential election. However, most likely he will not win more than 50% of the vote, so a run-off between the top two candidates will determine the winner. The election campaign has been an exercise in classic political mud-slinging. Komorowski's camp has accused his opponents of involvement in a savings and loan scandal, while challenger Andrzej Duda's backers have dredged up the incumbent's unfulfilled promises. Both sides have exploited the fifth anniversary of the Smolensk air tragedy to score political points. A total of 11 hopefuls have collected the 100,000 signatures required to register as a candidate including a comely blonde with a Ph.D. in history, a monarchist and a rock star. PolAms holding Polish citizenship are eligible to vote, but only in a very close race could their ballots make a difference.

SAD REMINDER. Poland marked the 75th anniversary of the Katyn Massacre, the mass murder of over 22,000 Polish officers and other war prisoners in western Russia's Katyn forest by Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin's secret police. The massacre, perpetrated by the Stalin Regime, was designed to eliminate Poland's elite after the Soviet Union overtook part of Poland in September of 1939.

"The 20th century did not see any crime like the one committed in Katyn," said Poland's President Bronisław Komorowski during the anniversary commemoration ceremony at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

For decades, Russia refused to acknowledge that Stalin had ordered the killings, placing blame instead on the Nazis. It was only in 1990 that Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union admitted Soviet guilt in the atrocity.

MATTEL UNDER FIRE FOR "NAZI POLAND" GAME. (Onet) One of the world's largest toymakers has angered authorities in Poland for using the term "Nazi Poland" in one of its family games.

The "Apples to Apples" game is a party game where people have to guess a word from the description.

One of the "Red Apples" cards entitled "Schindler's List" reads "1993 Steven Spielberg film. Powerful, real-life story of a Catholic businessman who eventually saved over a 1000 Jews in Nazi Poland."

It is estimated that this game has already sold more than 3 million copies. It is available on the United States and other markets.

A spokesperson for the Polish Embassy in New York said that the embassy was alerted to this issue by the Polish-language *Nowy Dziennik* daily, published in New York.

"The Embassy immediately intervened with the President of the company, calling on the company to correct the mistake made by Mattel – which is completely untrue from a historical perspective, and detrimental to the good name of our country. We hope that it will be effective," the Embassy spokesperson said.

BULLET-PROOF VEST BREAKTHROUGH. Poland's Moratex Company has developed a revolutionary new substance that will make protective body armor safer to use. Known as Shear-Thickening Fluid (STF), it hardens on impact and disperses massive gunshot energy away from the wearer's internal organs. When struck by a high-powered projectile, Kevlar-based body armor can penetrate the wearer's body to a depth of 1.5 inches causing damage to the sternum, heart and spleen. Kevlar is a synthetic fiber Developed by Polish American Stephanie Kwolek at DuPont in 1965.

The Best of the Best

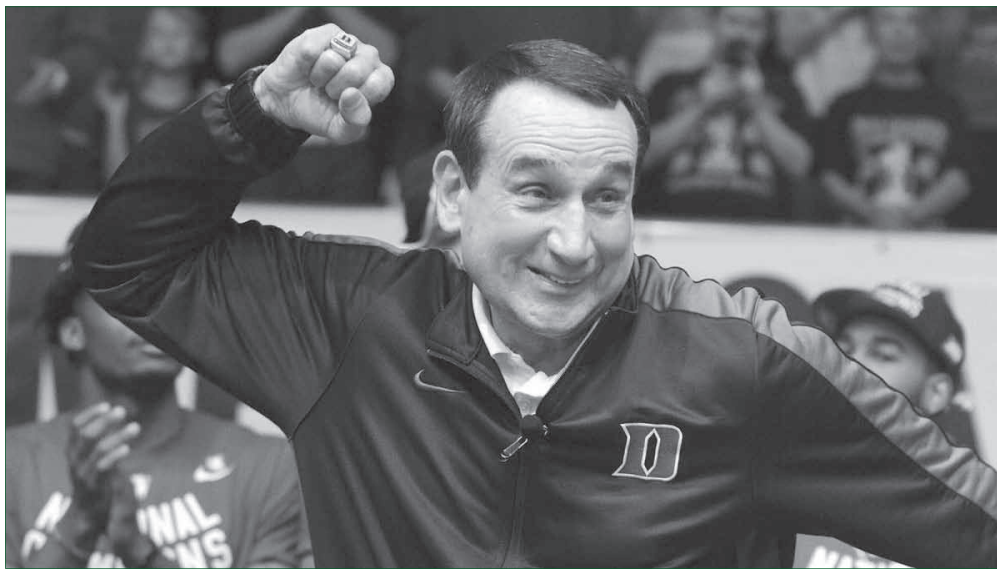


PHOTO: FOX SPORTS

COACH K, Mike Krzyzewski, led Duke to its fifth national championship. The 68-year-old Krzyzewski is now second to only the great John Wooden in national championships. Coach K leads in all-time wins with 1,018, the most in NCAA history. *Story on page 10.*

Smolensk Continues to Divide Poles

Polarization Serves Putin's Interests

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW—The fifth anniversary of the 2010 Polish presidential plane crash, Poland's worst civilian disaster since World War II, was marked in Poland with memorial assemblies, masses, wreath-layings and extensive media coverage – all par for the course. Also typical of the Polish political scene was the fact that separate memorial events were. The government memorialized the crash victims at the Smolensk monument in Warsaw's Powązki Cemetery, while later in the day across town the opposition marched to the Presidential Palace for a commemorative rally.

The air disaster in Smolensk, Russia, which claimed the lives of 96 high-profile Poles, including President Lech and First Lady Maria Kaczyńska, has polarized Polish society unlike any other issue. About the only point of common agreement was that a greatly used Soviet-built Tupolev Tu-154 airliner was taking a high-level Polish delegation to the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Katyn massacre when it crashed in heavy fog at edge of disused, rundown Russian military airport. There the agreement ends.

A whole Smolensk ideology has arisen, including monthly torchlight marches and anti-government rallies outside the Presidential Palace, where Lech Kaczyński

had lived and worked. The demonstrators have accused Poland's ruling camp of a cover-up and called for the "full truth" about Smolensk. Some of the placards brandished during the rallies have even accused President Bronisław Komorowski and Prime Minister Donald Tusk of having blood on their hands by allegedly conspiring with Russian President Vladimir Putin to assassinate

the Polish president.

As the fifth anniversary of Smolensk was approaching, several new developments came to light. Transcripts from one of the plane's black boxes leaked by a Polish radio station seem to indicate that Polish air force commander General Andrzej Błasik had been in the Tupolev cockpit alongside the pilots urging them to land. See "Smolensk..." page 3

FBI Director Pens Letter of Regret

Accused Poland of Nazi Collaboration

WASHINGTON — After creating international controversy for comments made at the U.S. Holocaust Museum, FBI Director James Comey gave a letter of regret to Polish Ambassador Richard Schnepf.

Comey accused Poles of being collaborators in the Holocaust.

In a column in the *Washington Post*, adapted from a speech he gave April 15 at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's 2015 National Tribute Dinner, Comey said:

"In their minds, the murderers and accomplices of Germany, and Poland, and Hungary, and so many, many other places didn't do something evil. They convinced themselves it was the right thing to do, the thing they had to do."

This was part of a speech he gave, telling every new FBI agent to get acquainted with the museum.

"Naturally, I want them to See "FBI Director," page 2

INTERVIEW

50 Years After an Appeal To Forgive and Be Forgiven

Father Zygmunt Zieliński on the Polish Letter to the German Episcopate

At the close of the Second Vatican Council a half century ago, the Polish Bishops reached across the aisle to their German counterparts, sending an appeal that declared "we forgive

significance of that Declaration.

and ask forgiveness" for the past. The declaration was not only intended as a Christian close to Vatican II, but also to prepare Poland as it entered 1966, marking the Millennium of Poland's origins as a country when Mieszko I was baptized. Father Zygmunt Zieliński, professor emeritus of Church History at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (KUL) spoke with the Polish American Journal about the



SUDETEN GERMANS cheering the arrival of the German Army into the Sudetenland in October 1938. Following World War II, the Potsdam Conference called for redrawn borders and the resettlement of Germans living in areas in present-day Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Kaliningrad Oblast, and other East European countries.

Fifty years have passed since, at the end of Vatican II, the Polish bishops reached out to their German counterparts to "forgive and ask forgiveness." From the perspective of a half century, what has been the significance of that act?

The declaration "we forgive and ask forgiveness" from the Polish side generated, as we know, controversy not just among the Communist rulers but among many average Poles who remember See "Letter to German Episcopate," page 4

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May Maj

*Droga ta chatka,
gdzie mieszka matka.
Dear is the cottage
where the mother dwells.*

- 1 **ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER LABOR DAY (POLAND)**
1576. Coronation of Stephen Batory and Anna Jagiellon
- 2 1952. Birth of Tony Award-winning actress Christine Baranski in Buffalo, N.Y.
- 3 **FEAST OF MARY, QUEEN OF POLAND POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY**
Poland's Constitution of 1791 is the second oldest democratic constitution in the world. This declaration of democracy remains a focal point for the Polish people who are reminded that Poland was the fatherland of documented democracy in Eastern Europe, second only to the democracy established by the American constitution adapted in 1787.
- 4 1870. Birth of **Zygmunt Stojowski**, a champion of the newly independent Polish nation in 1918.
- 5 1846. Birth of novelist **Henryk Sienkiewicz** (d. 1916), who won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1905.
- 7 1867. Birth of writer and Nobel laureate **Wladyslaw Reymont** (d. 1925) He received the Nobel Prize for literature in 1924 for his four-volume novel, "The Peasants."
- 8 **VE DAY (U.S.) ST. STANISLAUS**
- 9 1667. Death of **Marie Louise de Gonzague-Nevers**, French Queen of Poland (1645-48).
- 10 **MOTHER'S DAY (U.S.)**
- 12 1902. Death of **Marie Elizabeth Zakrzewska**, first woman doctor in New England.
- 13 1889. Founding of the **Polish Singers Alliance of America**.
- 15 1942. Founding of the **Polish Institute of Sciences in America**, in New York.
- 16 **ARMED FORCES DAY (U.S.)**
1211. Death of **Mieszko IV Tanglefoot**
- 18 1920. Birth of **Karol Wojtyla** in Wadowice, Poland, named Pope John Paul II, October 16, 1978.
- 19 1674. Election of **John III Sobieski**.
- 20 1704. Formation of **Sandomierz Confederation**, an anti-Swedish confederation, formed in defense of the King of Poland, August II the Strong. It was formed in reaction to the Warsaw Confederation, and its marshal was Stanislaw Ernest Denhoff. The confederation lasted until 1717, when it was disbanded by the Silent Sejm.
- 21 1674. Coronation of **Jan Sobieski**.
- 23 1939. Hitler proclaims he wants to move into Poland.
- 24 1543. Death of **Nicholas Copernicus** (Mikolaj Kopernik), Polish astronomer.
- 25 **MEMORIAL DAY (U.S.)**
1861. Death of **Capt. Constantine Blandowski**, first foreign-born officer to die in the Civil War.
- 26 **MOTHER'S DAY (POLAND)**
In Poland, *Dzień Matki* is always celebrated in Poland on this fixed date rather than on the second Sunday of May.
- 27 1993. Death of **Andrzej Wasowski**, 69, pianist, in Washington, D.C.
- 29 1913. Birth of **Tony Zale** (Zaleski), middleweight champion from 1940-48.

This paper mailed on or before
April 30, 2015. The June edition
will be mailed on or before
May 29, 2015.

FBI Director Pens Letter of Regret to Ambassador

continued from cover

learn about abuse of authority on a breathtaking scale. But I want them to confront something more painful and more dangerous: I want them to see humanity and what we are capable of.

"I want them to see that, although this slaughter was led by sick and evil people, those sick and evil leaders were joined by, and followed by, people who loved their families, took soup to a sick neighbor, went to church and gave to charity," Comey wrote.

The Polish government and press reacted quickly to Comey's comments. Poland summoned U.S. Ambassador in Warsaw Stephen Mull, who denounced Comey's words. "Suggestions that Poland, or any other country apart from the Nazi Germany was responsible for the Holocaust are wrong, harmful and offensive," he said.

UNACCEPTABLE. Deputy Foreign Minister Rafał Trzaskowski told IAR news agency that such statements are unacceptable. "The Polish State always responded and will always respond [to such comments], the embassy immediately responded with a letter to the director of the FBI, where it clearly explained the historical reality," Trzaskowski said. He added that Poland also reacts to false charges which regularly appear in the foreign press.

PRESSURE BRINGS REGRET.

Comey met with Polish Ambassador in Washington Ryszard Schnepf April 22 to explain the issue. During the meeting, he presented a handwritten letter to Schnepf, in which he expressed his regret over the situation.

Below is the text of the letter:
Dear Mr. Ambassador:

Thank you for our meeting today. I value our friendship with Poland. As I told you, I regret linking Germany and Poland in my speech because Poland was invaded and occupied by Germany. The Polish State bears no responsibility for the horrors imposed by the Nazis. I wish I had not used any other country names because my point was a universal one about human nature.

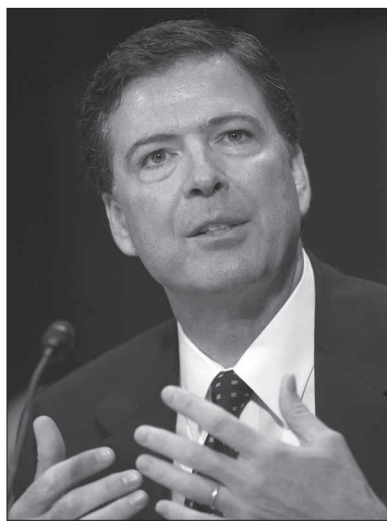
Yours,

James B. Comey

There has been no comment from Warsaw about Comey's letter. Critics say the hand-written note on FBI stationery is not an official apology. Others are calling for his resignation. An on-line petition was started to have President Obama remove Comey from his position.

A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING.

Shortly after the *Washington Post* article appeared, Poland's Prime Minister Ewa Kopacz said Comey's words were "unacceptable," and that "Poland was not a perpetrator but a victim of World War II."



COMEY. FBI director confuses individual actions with official state policy.

In all, 6 million Polish citizens were killed during the war, about half of them Jewish and the other half Christians.

The directors of several Polish war-time museums wrote to Comey to say they were "deeply concerned" by his words and to invite him to Poland for a "study visit" that could help him understand the complex history of Europe under Nazi German occupation from 1939-45.

"Poles, and especially Polish citizens of Jewish origin, suffered immensely" during the war, in which Poland was the first country to fight German Nazi leader Adolf Hitler

and where entire families were exterminated if caught hiding Jews, said the letter signed by Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum director Piotr M.A. Cywinski and five others.

Before issuing the written apology, Comey was asked by Tennessee's WATE-TV if he had an admission of guilt.

"I don't. Except I didn't say Poland was responsible for the Holocaust. In a way I wish very much that I hadn't mentioned any countries because it's distracted some folks from my point," he said. "I worry a little bit in some countries that point has gotten lost. There is no doubt that people in Poland heroically resisted the Nazis, and some people heroically protected the Jews, but there's also no doubt that in every country occupied by the Nazis, there were people collaborating with the Nazis."

Poland's former president and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Lech Walesa praised the country's protest and even blamed the Holocaust on the United States.

"If anybody is to blame, then it's more the United States than Poland," Walesa said on TVN24.

Had they listened to Poland's information, brought by wartime couriers to Allied leaders, they would have joined in sooner to stop Hitler, he said.

— *Compiled from AP, Reuters, and Radio Poland reports*

SPEAK UP / Letters to the Editor

Yad Vashem and the Jews vs. "Polish concentration camps"

Introduction: Just a few months ago, Yad Vashem used on their website the expressions "Polish death camps" and "Polish concentration camps." If a person working in such an institution uses such a term, it is a sign for me that he or she is fully incompetent to do his/her job. But I think, there is not a problem of historic knowledge, but there is a lack of good will. The term "Polish death camps" was coined or at least adopted by a former Nazi, a German Alfred Benzinger to whitewash the German responsibility for the genocide of the Jews. And now, ironically, this term is so willingly used by so many of the Jews themselves, even by those who professionally deal with the genocide of their compatriots.

Notwithstanding, after some protests regarding the expression "Polish death camps" used by them on their website, they have changed the wording in those instances and published their response to the protests. You will in vain look there for one word of their apology. Beneath their text you can read some praising comments as for example the expression – "Splendid news." I don't share this view. Their response is not really satisfactory. Since my comment was not approved for publishing on the Yad Vashem website, I decided to publish it as an open letter.

OPEN LETTER
TO YAD VASHEM

Thank you very much for your answer to the protests regarding the expression "Polish death camps" used on your website and for correcting the "unfortunate mistakes". My comment, however, is meant to address the way WAY these corrections were made. I found two relevant examples:

1. Previously written expression "Polish concentration camps" – corrected to "Nazi concentration camps in Poland";
2. Previously written expression "Polish death camps" – corrected to "Nazi death camps located in Poland."

My concern is that even with these corrections being made, the text is still not "accurate and updated historical information" that Yad Vashem aspires to provide. The reason for it is the fact that at that time there was no Poland as a free and independent country. Therefore, it is historically inaccurate to say "Nazi concentration camps located in Poland," just as it is impossible to say that in 1943 "Jerusalem was situated in Israel" because at that time Israel did not exist as a state.

The second instance contains information about the World War II period, but the map pro-

vided is clearly postwar. I believe it is a manipulation, and Yad Vashem must be aware of it. As it is specified in your statement from April 23, 2006, Yad Vashem "supported and continues to support" the request of the Polish Government to "add the words 'the former Nazi German Camp' to the name of the Auschwitz – Birkenau Camp, since this is an historical fact," but I find it disturbing that in both instances mentioned the adjective "German" is avoided, but "Polish" or "in Poland" are added. Why is it that writing "Polish death camps" or "Polish concentration camps" is not considered to be problematic, while writing "German death camps" or even "German Nazi death camps" requires special consideration? Why has the correction "Nazi death camps situated in Poland" been accepted, although this information is not historically accurate? Why is it that the word "German" is avoided, while associating the death or concentration camps with what pertains to "Poland" or "Polish" is accepted, even though this is an "unfortunate mistake" or manipulation?

Fr. Placyd Kon Biecz, Poland

PS. A Yiddish proverb says: "A half-truth is a whole lie."

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OUR FRATERNALS / Dorothy Wiczerczak

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Our plans of insurance build cash value (except Juvenile TERM) against which your child can borrow. While it is hard to

think of your infant as a senior and retired, that will probably happen and then the cash value can reach more than 50 % of the face value. Why is that important? Because cash value means you can borrow against the policy should a need for immediate cash arise without the loss of insured coverage. Paying the loan is also member friendly. The member should just pay the interest once a year. If the member can pay a bit more and eventually reduce the entire principal, your original face value is in effect again.

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Your decision today may be one of the most important decisions for your young person and this new generation. Give them what all should have! Financial stability and Fraternal membership. Contact the Association of the Sons of Poland Home Office at (201) 935-2807 for more information, or visit it online at www.sonsofpoland.org.

Poland's Economy Keeps Rolling Along

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In every sense of the word it was really "business as usual" here at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland on March 24, 2015. Grazyna Henclewska, Under Secretary of State at Poland's Ministry of Economy - was the guest of honor at a reception co-hosted by Charge d'Affaires ad interim Maciej Pisarski and Minister-Counselor Pawel Pietrasinski - head of the Embassy's Trade & Investment Section.

Secretary Henclewska, in her remarks, reported on the vibrant and ever-expanding business climate in Poland, *vis-à-vis* the United States in regards to trade and investments of all types between the two countries — "which is so important as to be conducted on the same level as our mutual political and military cooperation."

Henclewska gave an extensive overview of Poland's continuing favorable economy and varied business situations in all fields, and its projected future developments. She placed enhanced emphasis on the high tech industry, with references to the Silicon Valley IT phenomenon and its corporations. The fact that "last year the Polish economy grew by 3%, and is up 3.5 % this year" was announced by Henclewska.

Proactive participation in the international Select USA Investment 2015 Summit here, March 23-24, was the primary reason for the visit of Henclewska and her delegation. The delegates also participated directly and independently in commercial relationships and dialog with various American businesses.

The Summit was first convened by President Obama in 2013. This year 2,600 influential business persons and government officials from all over the world were in at-



GRAZYNA HENCLEWSKA, Under Secretary of State at Poland's Ministry of Economy, addressed a gathering of 100 entrepreneurs at the Polish Embassy on the topics of Poland's economy and business initiatives.

Embassy's familial Polish hospitality.

It was made clear on this evening that a welcoming Poland is open for business ... including even yours.

"Poland is open to the world," said Henclewska by way of invitation.



To explore business opportunities in Poland, or to attract Polish investments in the United States, please contact the aforementioned Minister-Counselor Pawel Pietrasinski (washington@trade.gov.pl) and/or Consul-Counselor Sabina Klimek (Sabina.klimek@trade.gov.pl) in New York.

Smolensk: Polarization Serves Putin's Interests

continued from cover

despite the lack of visibility.

Polish prosecutors recently announced that Polish pilot error was to blame for the disaster. But, if the Blask hypothesis is true, no-one could have expected air force pilots to disregard their commander's order to land. Two Russian air traffic controllers at the Smolensk airfield have been charged in connection with the crash, Polish military prosecutor Ireneusz Szelaż told newsmen. One is suspected of "being directly responsible for endangering air traffic" and the other of "unintentionally causing an air traffic disaster."

It is unlikely that Moscow, which rejects the charges, would ever agree to extradite the two to stand trial in Poland. So far, Russia has even refused to hand over the plane's wreckage to Polish authorities, insisting its investigation into the disaster is ongoing. Moscow claims it cannot wind up its probe because the Polish side has not

responded to requests for additional data.

THE CONSPIRACY VERSION of the disaster has included the contention that explosives planted in the plane had caused it to blow up before it touched ground. A recent survey showed that 30% of Poles support hold such views, roughly the same percentage as supports PiS. Interestingly, Poles of under 25 years of age are among the strongest advocates of that version. The government and ruling Civic Platform party in turn claim everything has been done to uncover all the causes of the disaster and accuse PiS of rabble-rousing and electioneering.

At this point only one thing seems certain: any semblance of consensus on the Smolensk controversy is probably unlikely until the present generation leaves the scene. But regardless of which side is right, keeping Poland polarized and having Poles at each others' throats ultimately serves the neo-imperial designs of Vladimir Putin.

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL FOUNDATION



We invite you to become a member of the Polish American Journal Foundation. Established this year, **the PAJF is a non-profit 501c3 organization.** Our mission is to promote Polish and Polish American culture and traditions among members of the public and other Polish and Polish American groups. This will be done by organizing special events, networking, consultation, and gatherings.

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

OUR INITIATIVE

In this, our initial year of operation, we will solicit funds for our first funding project. In June 2015, we will ask our members how the PAJF's proceeds should be used. As a member, you can suggest any worthwhile cause: a donation to a local Polish American museum; veteran's group; scholarship fund; dance group, etc. Our board will review these suggestions and cre-



ate a ballot of the most-requested causes/recipients, which will then be voted on by current members. (Membership is yearly, starting with the date of your most recent donation). All members reserve the right to abstain from being a voting member.

MEMBERSHIP

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— Saint John Paul II,
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The Déjà Vu of Russia's Rough Justice

by Alex Storzynski

As Europe commemorates the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, a troll army secretly floods websites with pro-Putin propaganda while Russian government officials openly defend the indefensible. Moscow archivists are spreading misinformation to whitewash Soviet history.

In March, Russian archives posted documents purportedly showing that the Polish Army was allied with Nazi Germany. The agency's head, Andrei Artizov made the absurd claim that Poland stabbed Russia "in the back." This is rehashed agitprop from a 1945 Stalinist show trial.

In the "Trial of the Sixteen," Joseph Stalin prosecuted Polish underground leaders as Adolf Hitler's allies. It's Orwellian doublespeak because it was Stalin who allied himself with Hitler in the 1939 Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. In reality, World War II began when Germany and Soviet Russia attacked Poland from two sides, splitting the country in half.

Poland's freely elected government was exiled to London, while the Polish underground army continued fighting the Nazis for the next six years.

In the territory captured by the Soviet Army, half a million Poles were sent to Siberian gulags where they were starved, frozen and worked to death. Stalin ordered the murder of 22,000 Polish officers in the Katyn Forest. Their hands were tied behind their backs and they were each shot in the back of their heads. When Germany invaded Russia,

the Nazis discovered the mass graves and reported it. Stalin lied and claimed the Germans did it.

Poles stabbed Russians in the back? No, Russians shot Poles in the back of their heads.

After six years of German occupation, the people of Warsaw rose up when the Soviet Army approached the east bank of the Wisla River. The Russians urged Poles to "rise up," but it was a cynical ploy. If Poles liberated their own capital, the Russians knew they'd never take over. So this time, Stalin ordered his troops to watch for 63 days as the Germans killed 200,000 Poles, mostly civilians, during the Warsaw Uprising.

Afterward, Russian troops marched through the rest of Poland. Stalin was not about to relinquish this territory. So when the remaining Polish underground army and political leaders gathered in 1945, Stalin invited them to a villa outside Warsaw to organize a new government.

It was a trap.

The Poles were kidnapped by the NKVD, Stalin's secret police, and flown to Moscow and jailed in the infamous Lubyanka Prison where they were interrogated, tortured and prepared for their trial. There were 16 Polish officials in all.

They fought Nazi Germany longer than anyone, yet Stalin charged them as collaborators. Unbeknownst to the Poles, a month before their arrest, Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill made a backdoor deal at the Yalta Conference ceding half of Poland's ter-

ritory to the Soviet Union in exchange for Stalin's promise to allow "free and unfettered elections" in an "independent Poland."

Stalin had no intention of keeping this promise.

The Soviets declared that they had "liberated" Poland and then propped up a puppet regime, the Polish Committee of National Liberation. The Polish Home Army and government in exile in London objected, but to no avail.

AT FIRST, the Russians claimed they did not have the 16 in custody. But when it became obvious that they did, the Kremlin had to stage a trial as propaganda production. The 16 were marched into the courtroom at gunpoint and forced to confess to bogus crimes. Most of the prisoners broke down, and were eventually allowed to live in Soviet-occupied Poland. But three of the 16 mysteriously disappeared from prison and were never heard from again.

George Orwell wrote a scathing letter to the British democratic socialist magazine *Tribune*, saying the 16 Poles "were accused of trying to preserve the independence of their country against an unelected puppet government."

So in March when the Russian Federal Ar-



Ad in *Komsomolska Pravda*

chival Agency once again attacked the 16 Poles, the Polish Institute for National Memory took out a full page ad in the Russian newspaper *Komsomolska Pravda* asking for anyone with information on those disappeared prisoners to speak up.

Russians are known for airbrushing photos and erasing blots from their history. Hopefully, someday soon, Russians will get the democratic government that everyone deserves. Democracies make good neighbors, while autocracies are dangerous.

Rough justice is nothing new for the Kremlin. It has historically used show trials to terrorize domestic critics and its neighbors. Even now, the suspect in the Boris Nemstov assassination says he was beaten and forced to confess. The truth is unlikely to emerge, even with a show trial.

That's because in Russia, justice is not blind. It's a theater production.

Alex Storzynski is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, award winning author, and past president and executive director of The Kosciuszko Foundation.

You can follow him on Twitter at www.twitter.com/AlexStorzynski.

Polish Letter to the German Episcopate

continued from cover

bered the War. That controversy really hasn't gone out because, inasmuch as German crimes were incontrovertible, so the suffering of Germans after World War II is commented upon as an injustice suffered by the guiltless. That's true insofar as people who were not directly responsible for those crimes suffered, but the issue is that the whole nation suffered for those crimes. Discussion of this problem will not end because what the bishops raised back in 1965 still has its value and awaits final clarification. The bishops' statement was uncomfortable for rulers of the Polish Peoples Republic because it increased the Church's significance in the public sphere.

Tell us something of just how groundbreaking an initiative that gesture was fifty years ago.

The bishops' groundbreaking act at that time was the request for forgiveness directed by the Polish side to German Catholics, to whom the bishops were speaking through their appeal to the German bishops. It also meant an indirect admission of Polish fault towards Germans expelled from territories assigned to Poland after 1945. As I said above, that suffering was undeniable but there is until this day no one viewpoint as to its cause: does it also fall on the Polish side, or does it rest exclusively on the policies of the Third Reich? I believe the Appeal was a green light for discussion of this issue. Nor is it insignificant that it was the Polish Church that launched this. It was certainly a breakthrough in relations between Polish and German Catholics.

What are Polish-German relations like today, on the civil and church levels?

Polish-German relations today are nothing like what they were before 1965 nor what happened after 1990. The December 8, 1970

Border Treaty between Poland and West Germany already significantly limited German claims and brought about closer contacts in the governmental and economic spheres. It also facilitated private contacts with West Germany and further emigration by people who called themselves Germans. The friendly gestures by Willy Brandt and the ruling Social Democrats towards Poland met with sharp criticism from the Christian Democrats, the Christian Social Union, and expellee groups. For them, the slogan of "revising Potsdam" — which meant a change of Poland's western border in Germany's favor — still obliged. The German Right did not take into account the fact that Poland bordered East Germany and the guardian of that border was the USSR.

How did the decision of the Polish bishops to seek to reach out to the German bishops originate? What drove that decision?

The Appeal's origins are complex. It is not often remembered that, at the end of Vatican II, the Polish bishops sent similar letters to 56 bishops' conferences around the world. That does not, of course, change the fact that the letter to the German bishops was of an essentially different character from the others. Primate Wyszyński and the other Polish bishops regarded the end of the Council as a unique opportunity for a gesture of reconciliation that was difficult to achieve—in the case of the Germans—for over 20 years! The bishops' decision found its source in the teaching of the Gospel, in which forgiveness of trespasses and giving of reconciliation is a clear and unambiguous command. Reconciliation cannot occur, however, exclusively on one's side's admission of guilt since neither side is guiltless: we are all sinners. The politics of reconciliation were more problematic than the religion.

How did the communists seek to exploit that gesture, and what implications did it have for Polish Church-state relations?

1965 was mid-decade of the Gomulka era, when the politico-economic situation of the ruling group was still comparatively good. Gomulka held that no other force apart from the Communist Party



FATHER ZYGMUNT ZIELIŃSKI. "... there were efforts to find responsibility for the War's outbreak in Germany not just in the Third Reich. Stalin had his role here, too. The attempt to impute guilt to Poland, however, is utterly devoid of historical basis and pure propaganda."

could pretend to a role of leadership in society. Against that background, constant conflict arose between Church and State and personally between Gomulka and Wyszyński, the latter of whom recognized the Church's need to have a voice and to take a stand on all issues affecting the nation's good. That also drove the sending of that Appeal to the West German Episcopate. Thus, its religious dimension notwithstanding, the Appeal was interpreted by the Party as the Church's attempt to mount the public stage, which led to major tensions in Church-State relations. Those tensions continued until 1970, when events on the Baltic Coast forced Gomulka off the political stage.

Did it affect celebrations of the Polish Millennium of Christianity?

Celebrations of the Millennium of Poland's Baptism in 1966 took place during the declining but still

constantly ongoing propaganda by the Party against the Church because of that Appeal. It was once again a test of strength, as the Government organized commemorations of the Millennium of the Polish State while the Church — while not ignoring Poland's origins as a state — put focus on the Millennium of Poland's Baptism. As in the case of the Appeal, the Party emphasized the patriotic aspect of Poland's political birth while the Church accented the symbiosis which, from the beginning, characterized Poland's statehood with Christianity. The Party had many more means to observe the event, while the Church focused on the spiritual demands flowing from Poland's Baptism. Both the Appeal as well as the Church observances of the origins of Christianity and statehood in Poland confirmed the Church's presence in public life.

There are voices in Germany that criticize Poland, especially among Germans who formerly lived on now Polish territory, as well as those who claim Germany has more than paid for World War II. How do you evaluate these phenomena?

This problem appears above. One needs to distinguish between two opposite viewpoints — the German and Polish — in which it is not a question of sides but only of the interests of the expellees and the historical arguments made by each side. Insofar as pretense against the Allies' decision to make territorial concessions to Poland and Czechoslovakia was an internal German debate, so — as memory of World War II recedes — there were efforts to find responsibility for the War's outbreak in Germany not just in the Third Reich. Stalin had his role here, too. The attempt to impute guilt to Poland, however, is utterly devoid of historical basis and pure propaganda.

The 1965 gesture of the Pol-

ish bishops to their German brothers affected bilateral relations. Do you see any opportunities for similar ecclesiastical outreach, say, in Ukraine, Lithuania, or even Russia?

This question is problematic inasmuch as Ukraine, Lithuania, or even Russia are on a wholly other comparative scale to Germany. Ukraine — or, more precisely, western Ukraine — has on its account the brutality of ethnic cleansing perpetrated against Poles living there. Efforts to find understanding with Ukraine despite those memories has been more or less successful. Recollected hatreds are nevertheless great and difficult to overcome. From an ecclesiastical perspective, understanding with Greek Catholics is slow but steady. Lithuania is a separate problem: here, historical events remain decisive for the present even today. It's the same with Russia although, as regards the Catholic Church there, it exists in large measure thanks to the Polish Church.

Can East-Central Europe (including Germany, geographical imprecision notwithstanding) become a community that guarantees security and creative cooperation?

Efforts in this direction have occurred in various places and, as regards demands of the European Union, it would be a chance for the weaker countries to make up ground and match development. The Church has a task here, too: to (re) implant Christian principles in these societies in both social and individual life. The very different situations of the Church in these countries and its ability to act are barriers to that effort. Regression is evident even in Poland, even though the Church there is comparatively better off than elsewhere. A common path in this region is, however, possible and will be more certain the more there is an ideological, moral, and political confluence.

PHS Holds Chopin Recital



The Executive Board of Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia with artist Katarzyna Musial (with bouquet).

PHILADELPHIA — On Sun., March 1, 2015, the annual Chopin Concert of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia was held at Holy Family University Technology and Education Center. The concert was held on the actual birthday of Frederic Chopin, who was born March 1, 1810.

Guest artist for the event was Katarzyna Musial. Prior to Musial taking her place at the piano, Marie Hejnosz, president of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia, welcomed everyone and spoke briefly about the organization and its mission.

Hejnosz introduced Deborah Majka, concert chair and honorary consul of Poland for Southeastern Penn-

sylvania, who briefly spoke about Musial, and then introduced Janusz Sporek, director of the Marcella Sembrich Women's Choir. Sporek was born in the same town in Poland as Musial. He provided a wide range of information about the pianist, her musical journey and accomplishments.

"When Katarzyna started to play, she exploded with much gesture and such interpretations of music by Witold Lutoslawski, Zgymunt Stojowski, and many more," said Jean Joka, PHS publicity chair.

After the concert a reception was held, and members of the audience were treated to a variety of Polish delicacies.

ACPC Announces Pulaski Scholarship Winners

by Marion V. Winters

Five winners of the 15th Annual Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies, administered by the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) were announced recently by Marion V. Winters, committee chairman. Serving with him on the committee are Alicia L. Dutka; Deborah M. Majka, MS; Stephen E. Medvec, PhD; and Carolyn L. Mleski, MS. The committee awarded \$5,000 to each of the following Polish American students.

Aleksander Kubiak is a medical student at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia. A U.S. citizen born in Poland, Kubiak graduated Magna Cum Laude from St. Joseph High School in Metuchen, NJ. In 2013, he graduated Magna Cum Laude from Drew University and began his journey toward becoming a physician. Two letters from M.D. professors at Drexel University praise Kubiak very highly and say "the constellation of his fine qualities as a student attest not only to his intelligence and scholarly diligence, but also to his upbringing, his maturity, and his strong cultural and social values," and predict "he will prove to be a fine physician who remains actively committed to his cultural roots." In addition to pursuing a career in medicine, he has been actively involved in the Polish community. Kubiak co-founded the Polish Culture Club at Drew University, which has received several awards because of its extensive and outstanding activities, including a performance of *Life in a Jar*, a play about Irena Sendler who had saved many Jewish children from the Warsaw Ghetto.

Nicole Kuruszko is presently a master's candidate in International Affairs at The New School in New York, NY, having graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BA in Political Science and German Studies at Drew University - Madison, N.J. in 2013. Kuruszko's overall career goal is to join the Foreign Service



and become a public diplomacy officer on behalf of the U.S. State Dept. Since Jan. 2015, Kuruszko has been serving as an intern with the U.S. Mission to the United Nations at the U. S. State Dept. in New York City and is scheduled for an internship this summer at the U.S. Embassy in Vilnius, Lithuania. At the New School, she is serving as a program associate at the Trans-regional Center for Democratic Studies (TCDS). The TCDS director's letter of recommendation praises Nicole highly and believes that "awarding her the scholarship would be a very worthy investment, both for the applicant, the Polish American community, and in the future for ACPC itself." Kuruszko is currently working on writing a young adult novel on the life of Irena Sendler, "the Polish heroine who rescued 2,500 Jewish children during World War II." She had the good fortune to have won the ACPC's Summer Studies in Poland award last year and took language courses at St. John Paul II Catholic University in Lublin.

Dariusz Ocetek, an accomplished singer, bass baritone, is presently a student working on his doctorate of musical arts program at the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music at The Catholic University of America. The school's professor and head wrote that "Dariusz's presence is an introduction to new repertoire for the entire vocal division" and he finds him "to be a worthy liaison between the school and the Polish community in the greater Washington D.C. area." Ocetek's university studies began in Poland where he earned a degree in Music Performance-Voice at the Vocal & Ballet College in 1991. Five years later he obtained a bachelor of music in Performance-Voice at the Brooklyn College Conservatory of



Music, NYC. A master's degree in the same field followed in 2013 at Valdosta State University in Valdosta, GA. He has performed in operatic concerts with orchestra, with piano and also in collaboration with singers and pianists in Germany, Italy, Poland, and the U.S. Ocetek has served as an artistic director for the Polish American Culture Club, New York, for the Polish American Music Stage, New York, and assistant director of the Polish Singers Alliance of America for a number of years. In the latter position the Chamber Student Choir created and conducted by Ocetek won First Prize at the 57th Convention & Competition, and he was awarded the grand prize for that competition in 2005. He is very highly recommended by The Catholic University of America (CUA) prof/head of vocal division/ opera and the maestro conductor of the CUA Symphony Orchestra as well as by the music director of the Polish Singers Alliance of America District VII.

Ava Socik - Having earned a BA in Psychology at Yale University where she served as a Sweitzer Fellow and Student Mentor, Socik is currently in her third year at Rush Medical Center for a doctor of medicine degree. A Professor MD at Rush Medical Center describes Socik as "one of the most competent, hard-working, and enthusiastic students" with whom he has worked over the past 46 years. He adds that "she will make a wonderful clinician, teacher, and clinical researcher." Socik was selected by senior students to be a leader in the University's Community Health Clinic where she and four classmates recruit, train and schedule volunteers to provide service to the community. She works primarily with Polish patients and also with Spanish patients. As a translator she gives patients comfort knowing they are being fully understood and have a clear picture of the doctor's advice. A very busy young lady, aside from her university studies, Ava has



SCHOLARSHIPS

Skalny Foundation Applications Due May 15

For the past nineteen years, the Louis Skalny Foundation has donated a grant for the Louis & Nellie Skalny Scholarships for Polish Studies. The American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) is the administrator in awarding the scholarships.

In 2014 the awardees were: Michael Anthony Chrusciel, a student at Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich. he not only received a Nutrition & Food Science B.S. degree with honors, but also a B.A. in Slavic Studies with honors; and Liliana Karas Gregory earned a B.A. degree in Economics & Germanic and Slavic Languages & Literatures, Central European Studies Concentration.

These scholarships are intended for students pursuing some Polish studies (major may be in other fields) at universities in the United States who have completed at least two years of college or university work at an accredited institution. The scholarships are awarded for the fall term.

The ACPC is a national non-profit Polish American confeder-

ation of 34 affiliate and supporting organizations and individual members engaged in fostering interest in our rich Polish cultural heritage. ACPC recognizes the importance of encouraging individuals to assume leadership roles in the Polish American community.

For requirements, contact the Chair Deborah Majka at dziecko2@comcast.net. Deadline is May 15.

Only a Handful of Polish Billionaires

The richest Pole, Jan Kulczyk, is worth \$4 billion but ranks only in 418th place on the world list of billionaires. The second wealthiest Polish plutocrat is Zygmunt Solorz-Zak (\$3.2 billion). Trailing behind are Michał Solowow (\$2 bln), Leszek Czarnecki (\$1.3 bln) and Dariusz Milek (\$1.1 bln). There would be far more Polish billionaires if their assets were calibrated in Polish currency. To qualify as a złoty billionaire one would now have to be worth "only" \$270 million.

several manuscripts in preparation and is serving as project manager for Arbor Falls Fdn; community outreach intern; technology representative at Rush Medical Center, and a steering committee member in the largest free health clinic in the nation where she organized and coordinated Rush's involvement in the Chicago Community Health Clinic.

Pawel P. Wierzbicki, a U.S. citizen born in Poland, is a graduate student enrolled in the L.L.M. (Legum Magister - Master of Laws) Comparative Law Studies Program at the University of Florida Levin College of Law, which will be completed within one year (May 2015). He had earned a *Juris Doctor* (equivalent to U.S. Professional Degree) at the University of Warsaw in Spring 2014. In cooperation between the Levin College of Law



and the University of Warsaw Wierzbicki was issued a one year certificate in American Law Studies, June 2014. He was a finalist for the best legal essay "Legalization of the Concubinage in Poland. A Univ. of Florida professor's letter of recommendation credits him with receiving the top grade in his Torts class; earning the prized "Book Award," and "his achievements including out-performing our U.S. students are remarkable." In one of three additional letters of recommendation it was reported that "Pawel's active engagement included presentations to other students of not only Polish legal concepts and traditions, but also cultural values, e.g., the dinner held by the International Law Society, which was solely prepared by Pawel introduced Polish traditional dishes such as "borscht, pierogi, and bigos." Also, he had organized a film screening broadcasting some Polish movies. "He is the best representative of Polish ancestry and heritage in the American community you can only imagine."

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St. John Paul II and the Buffalo Connection Exhibit Opens

by Mary Lou T. Wyrobek

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Celebrating the first anniversary of the canonization of St. John Paul II, The Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College and Artsphere Studio and Gallery presents *St. John Paul II and the Buffalo Connection*, an exhibit by the late photographer, Roman Zabinski, featuring photos taken at the Vatican presenting an artwork of Prof. Joseph Slawinski to St. John Paul. Additional photos of then Cardinal Karol Wojtyla in his 1969 and 1976 visits to Buffalo will be on display.

The exhibit is held at Artsphere Studio and Gallery, 447 Amherst St., Buffalo. An opening reception was held April 26, and the exhibit runs through May 23, 2015. Gallery hours are Wed.-Fri., noon to 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Admission is free.

THE STORY OF THE EXHIBIT

begins in late October of 1980, when five pilgrims from Buffalo embarked on a memorable trip to Rome, Italy to present a work of art to Pope John Paul II to be housed in the yet-to-be completed Polish Pilgrims' Home. The intrepid travelers were the artist, Professor Joseph Slawinski and his wife, Wanda; the instigator of the project, Rev. Stanley Skiba, assistant at Assumption Church; and the photo documenter, Roman Zabinski and his wife, Marcy. Prof. Slawinski had extensive artistic training in Poland, studying at the Higher School of Painting and Decorative Arts in Warsaw, then under the tutelage of two noted Polish muralists: S. Kalinowski at his



ROMAN ZABINSKI'S PHOTO of the Papal audience during the visit of the Buffalonians to present Prof. Slawinski's work.

studio in Lublin, and W. Drapiewski at his studio in Pelplin. Later, he studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw where he succeeded in earning four important scholarships, one of which was for study in Italy. He also studied at the Austrian Akademie der Bildenden Duenste in Vienna. With this impressive education, Sławiński became a Professor at the Fine Arts Academy in Warsaw where he taught for a total of 13 years. Additionally, he was constantly involved in restoration and conservation of paintings and murals in churches, palaces and other public buildings which had been severely damaged during the war.

WHILE HIS FAVORED MEDIUM was *sgraffito*, a technique that was

used extensively in the ancient world, the artwork to be presented to the Pope was of gilded and silver-plated hammered copper funded by donors who are acknowledged with a plaque on the artwork. A nearly life-sized depiction of Pope John Paul II surrounded by images of St. Mary's Church in Krakow, the site of his Arch-bishopric, and of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, as well as of historical events in Poland's history, the stunning piece was meant to be made part of the Polish Home of John Paul II, meant for pilgrims from the Pope's homeland. The concept for such a home was conceived on October 23, 1978 in his first audience with Poles when the Pope pleaded, "don't leave me here alone." Given the financial restric-

tions of Poles leaving Communist Poland for pilgrimages to Rome, the necessity of an inexpensive place to stay was apparent to the Polish clergy who worked in Rome. They appealed to the Polish diaspora for funds to see it come to fruition. On November 7, 1981, the keys to this home were proudly presented to Pope John Paul II. Its location today is the same as then: Via Cassia 1200, in the northwest corner of Rome, some seven miles from the Vatican. The artwork continues to grace the walls of the Home, near to the Chapel even today!

and Minor White. Roman had works published in: *The Photographer's Eye*, by John Szarkowski, published by The Museum of Modern Art in NYC and *Photography at Mid-Century*, published by The George Eastman House of Rochester. Zabinski was the recipient of many local and international photo awards including several at the Western NY Exhibition at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery. As a member of the Patteran Society, he participated in many of their exhibitions as well. He is in the permanent collection of the George Eastman House and the Burchfield



RECENT PHOTO OF THE ARTWORK presented to Pope John Paul II in 1980 by Jozef Slawinski and the travellers from Buffalo as it is currently displayed at the Polish Home of St. John Paul II in Rome.

THE FEATURED ARTIST of this exhibit is the late Roman Zabinski whose talent for photography was initially fostered at the Albright Art School and guided by inspiring teachers such as John Szarkowski

Penney Art Gallery. In 1979, Roman was honored to be granted special clearance for close proximity photos of Pope John Paul II at the Vatican for his 1980 trip featured in this exhibit.

RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Church Support in the Face of Suffering in Ukraine

Bishop Bronislaw Bernacki, Bishop of Odessa-Simferopol found his diocese spoilt in two by the Russian occupation of Crimea. The half of his diocese now in Russian-controlled territory is administered by Auxiliary Bishop Jacek Pyl who stayed on the Crimean peninsula after the Russian incursion and take-over. In the RC Diocese of Kharkiv-Zaporizhia, the effects of the ongoing war between the Ukraine government and Russian-supported separatists is most drastic. Auxiliary Bishop Jan Sobilo struggles to support the 75,000 refugees from the war zone. The Albertine Order operates a soup kitchen that serves refugees daily, with additional aid going to women and children weekly. Greek Catholic Bishop Jaroslav Pryriz of the eparchy of Sambir-Drohobyc in western Ukraine has 20 of his priests serving the government forces near the war zone. "No matter whether they are Catholics, Orthodox, or members of other faiths, they are all happy when a priest is just simply there for them, even though some have never even heard of God," said Bishop Pryriz. In the Ukrainian capital Kyiv the Greek-Catholic cathedral accommodates a hospital for the war wounded. Bishop Ber-

nacki, speaking to the international Catholic charity "Aid to the Church in Need," declared, "Never before have I seen so much suffering, sorrow and tragedy... What I am seeing now — people without hands, without legs, without eyes, ears — will haunt me forever." He noted that many soldiers from his diocese have either been killed or have disappeared without any trace. "There is so much sorrow over sons, fathers, husbands." He ended his talk with a call for prayer for peace "because we can only overcome evil with good."

WORLD YOUTH DAY IN POLAND. With 16 months yet to go, the preparations for World Youth Day in Krakow in 2016 are proceeding well. Expecting some two million participants, **Msgr. Bronislaw Fidelus**, co-organizer of the event, called attention to the congress' theme of Divine Mercy and expressed hope that the five-day event would renew the faith of young Catholics everywhere. The World Youth Day will be held on the 1050th anniversary of Poland's conversion to Catholicism and dioceses throughout the country have come forward to offer accommodation to the thousands of young pil-

grims. Organizers are working on a "Youth Bible" which will present the New Testament in contemporary language and without "archaic expressions."

BISHOP SURROUNDED BY CONTROVERSY. Bishop Paul Bootkoski of the RC Diocese of Metuchen, N.J., has found himself the target of commercials asking Catholics across the country to call his office to ask why a Catholic school teacher was dismissed for rejecting gay "marriage" on her private Facebook page. Patricia Januzzi, was a teacher of theology at Immaculata HS in N.J., who was fired after her defense of "healthy families with a mother and a father for the sake of children and humanity" on Facebook, was taken by the nephew of actress Susan Sarandon and spread across Facebook. Bishop Bootkoski reacted by saying, "The teacher's comments were disturbing and do not reflect the Church's teachings of acceptance."

"RELIGIOUS RIGHT" IN THE US AND POLAND COMPARED.

Prof. Paulina Napierala, of Krakow, Poland's Jagiellonian University, and currently in Boston, Mass., on a Fulbright Fellowship at Boston College and Harvard, is studying the "religious right" movements in her homeland and the United States. She outlined her discoveries in a talk at Canisius College, Buffalo, N.Y., where she noted striking similarities between Fr. Rydzysk's *Radio Maryja* movement and U.S. movement such as the Moral Majority. Both ally themselves with political parties that advance conservative values; see themselves as the repositories of the true values of their respective countries; sponsor educa-

tional institutions to develop leaders who will advance the cause; find opponents among gays, feminists, social progressives and secular humanists; tend to be anti-Semitic; and campaign against abortion.

Differences are undeniable, since in the United States, the right is largely Protestant and upholds Puritan values of the founders of the country, while in Poland the right considers itself true Catholics as opposed to other branches of the

Church, which have "sold out" to the secularizing forces of Western Europe.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN LITHUANIA. St. Ignatius Council of the Knights of Columbus was founded in Vilnius in 2013 and now has 45 members. They were able to introduce themselves to the thousands of participants in the Family Expo at the Vilnius Conference Center.



Artsphere's "St. John Paul II and the Buffalo Connection"

A photo exhibit celebrating the first anniversary of his canonization, featuring the works of Roman Zabinski at the Vatican gifting a work by Joseph Slawinski to the Pope. Additional photos of Cardinal Wojtyla in Buffalo will be on display also. Opening Reception on Sunday, April 26th at Noon at Artsphere Studio, 447 Amherst Street (across from Assumption Church), Buffalo 14207. The exhibit will run April 26th through May 23rd.

Wednesday thru Friday: 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. & Saturday: 11:00 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Sponsored by The Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College

MODLITWY

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

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

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Maria Ciesla Honored For Her Half-Century of Service



Maria Bronny Ciesla

CHICAGO — On March 29, well over 200 guests filled the Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall of The Polish Museum of America (PMA) to honor **Maria Bronny Ciesla** for her many years of volunteering service to the PMA since the mid-1970s.

Maria's life began in Butzbach, a displaced persons camp 40 miles north of Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Her life's journey took her to the small rural town of Williamsfield in West Central Illinois, where

her father resumed his professional career as a country doctor. Her roots in Chicago's Polish American community began to grow and flourish some 50 years ago. Maria's relentless commitment and sincere compassion in preserving Polish culture has made her an outstanding diplomat for many of the accomplishments of Chicago Polonia. Maria will always be honored as a Polish American community leader *par excellence*, keeping Polonia connected and vital within Chicago's diverse ethnic scene.

Maria's voluntary contributions to Polonia's cultural life are countless, from nurturing the Polish spirit, heralding Polish pride, safeguarding Polish and Polish American history, to elevating the PMA to world-class status. She has made Americans of Polish descent proud of their Polish ancestry.

Polish Vice Consul Robert Rusiecki, Małgorzata Kot, Richard Owsiany, James Robaczewski, Geraldine Balut Coleman, Stephen Kusmierczak, and Bozena Haszłakiewicz paid tributes to Maria. Musical tributes were offered by the Tatra Mountain Cultural Foundation

with song and dance, Włodzimierz Zuterek, serenading Maria with "You Light Up My Life," and Mark Piekarcz singing "Rozlegnijże Się."

COMPOSERS ALIVE: POLAND – CHICAGO. Each year for the last three years, the Polish Ministry of Culture has commissioned works from 100 composers, a nearly unprecedented level of support for contemporary classical music. As a result, Poland is emerging as a world leader in classical music, producing distinct, vibrant, and original works.

The 2015 Composer Alive: Poland concert was sponsored by Access Contemporary Music (ACM) in association with 98.7FM (WFMT) and the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago.

The April 10 performance was held in the intimate setting of The Annex of the Copernicus Center on Chicago's northwest side. Approximately 250 modern classical music enthusiasts attended.



Agnieszka Stulgińska and Seth Boustead

The program began with *Moon Flowers* by Chicago's own **Marta Ptaszynska**, followed by *In C* by **Marcel Chyrczyński**, *Quartet for Clarinet and String Trio* by **Krzysztof Penderecki**, *Shades of Ice* by **Agata Zubel**, *Seven One Minute Waltzes* by **Alicja Gronau**, and *Quatour pour la naissance* by **Zygmunt Krause**.

The concert concluded with the world premiere of **Agnieszka Stulgińska's** new composition, *Dance With My Breath*, performed by the entire Palomar Ensemble under the direction of Francesco Milioto. It featured a unique collaboration between ACM's Palomar Ensemble and Warsaw's Stulgińska, who traveled to Chicago for its world-premiere performance. The new composition will be featured on WFMT's Relevant Tones with Seth Boustead, Saturday, May 23, at 5:00 p.m.

NEWBERRY CONSORT ROCKS WITH POLISH MUSIC. On March 22, approximately 200 music lovers filled the intimate Alice Millar Chapel of Northwestern University to hear and watch the renowned

Newberry Consort explore Polish music from the Renaissance world of Copernicus and the Baroque era. The "Music from the World of Copernicus – Polish Cultural Treasures" concert included foot-stomping Polish dances, folk tunes, songs, and choral repertoire from Poland's rich musical culture. Early medieval songs were in Latin, including *Mater Polonia* and *Cracovia civitas*. Some of the compositions from the Renaissance period were the most melodic, *Już sima smutna minęła*, and the lively, *Alleluja, Chwalcie Pana*. An instrumental from the 16th c. by Mikołaj z Krakowa called *Wesel się Polska korona* was a crowd pleaser. The concert ended with *Pieśń rokoszan Zebrzydowskiego*, a six-voice masterpiece filled with "emotive expression...showing the passions of the most passionate people," according to **Tom Zajac**, one of the musicians and a Polish-speaking Chicago native.

The Newberry Concert is the only musical ensemble in Chicago of international stature that presents Medieval and Renaissance vocal and instrumental repertoire. It is the ensemble-in-residence at the University of Chicago and Northwestern University. Members of the Consort include Zajac, David Douglas, Shira Kammen, Mark Rimple, and Daniel Stillman, all of whom play medieval-period instruments. Sian Ricketts came from Case Western Reserve University to substitute for Daniel Stillman. Added to the ensemble were Ellen Hargis and Laura Pinto, sopranos; Angel Young Smucker, alto; Matthew Dean and Corey Shotwell, tenors; and Eric Miranda, bass. Thanks to Zajac, the entire program was printed in English and Polish.

THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN PILECKI. During the month of March, the Polish Consulate General in Chicago presented special screenings of the Ryszard Bugajski film, "The Death of Captain Pilecki." The film tells the story of an Auschwitz volunteer, **Witold Pilecki**, and stars actor **Marek Probosz**.

It recounts heroism that transcended race and religion, the story of Captain Witold Pilecki, a Polish intelligence officer, who during World War II, volunteered for a Polish Resistance operation to become imprisoned in the Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp. His mission was to gather intelligence and enable the Polish government-in-exile to inform the Allies about the Holocaust in occupied Poland. The operation was expected to convince the Allies to act on the Pilecki reports and stop the Holocaust while there was still time. The film also recounts the story of Pilecki's unhappy fate at the hands of the Communist govern-



Kapuścińska, Brown, Boone, and Quelle.

in question-and-answer sessions.

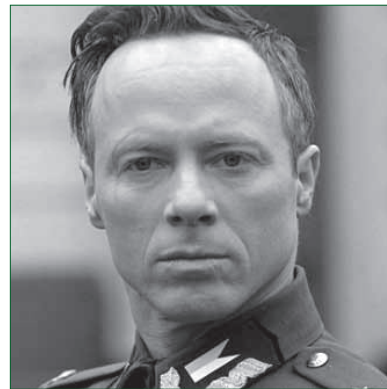
POLISH RESCUERS OF JEWS EXHIBIT. During the week of March 23, 2015, Chicagoans had a special opportunity to view a memorable photo exhibit, in the east lobby of the Richard J. Daley Center in downtown Chicago. **Paulina Kapuścińska**, consul general of Poland in Chicago, **Dorothy Brown**, clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, and **Michelle T. Boone**, Chicago's commissioner of cultural affairs, officially opened "They Risked Their Lives – Poles Who Saved Jews During the Holocaust." The exhibit honored the Polish Righteous Among the Nations, a group of men and women who rescued Jewish people from the Nazis during World War II.

Judges, the media, and consuls general, including German Consul General **Herbert Quelle**, attended the opening. "This exhibit's mission is to teach about the virtues of selflessness and courage. It shows how one's life choices can change history for generations of people," said Consul General Kapuścińska.

Polish citizens in the entire Nazi German-occupied territory were punished by death for helping Jewish people. Thus far, over 20,000 people worldwide have been honored by the State of Israel as the Righteous Among the Nations for saving Jewish lives from the Holocaust. Approximately 6,500 were Polish citizens, the most from any country.



Pilecki



Probosz

ment after World War II.

Bugajski's film was screened at four locations: the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Skokie, Illinois, St. Ferdinand Parish on Chicago's northwest side, The Polish Museum of America, and Loyola University Chicago's Lake Shore Campus.

Marek Probosz, the guest of honor and the film's lead actor, was on hand after each screening to engage

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A sincere "THANK YOU" for your donations to the PAJ PRESS FUND: **Rita Przygocki Johnson**, Carlsbad, Calif.; **Frank J. Pleva**, Cleveland; **Bob Radycki**, Chicago, **Regina Wnukowski**, Philadelphia, and one friend of the PAJ. Dziękujemy wam wszystkim! The PAJ thanks all who donated to the Press Fund.

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Racist Attacks on Poles in Northern Ireland Raises Concerns

DUBLIN — The Polish government is very concerned at an upsurge in racist attacks against its citizens living in Northern Ireland, an official representative has said.

Honorary Polish Consul Jerome Mullen accused political leaders of not doing enough to tackle racism in the region.

He was commenting after the latest in a spate of hate crimes targeting the Polish community which saw a beauty salon in east Belfast extensively damaged by arsonists last month.

The business is managed by a

Lithuanian but it employs a number of Polish staff and, days before the attack, graffiti saying "Polish Out" was daubed on the shop front.

The week prior, three homes occupied by Polish people were targeted in north Belfast. All four of the incidents happened in loyalist areas.

While racist attacks have been on the increase across Northern Ireland, there has been a particular escalation in Belfast. In 2013 there were 307 racist hate crimes reported in the city, and last year there were 476 – 88 of which targeted the Polish community. Police believe loyal-

ist paramilitary elements have been involved in some of the attacks.

"The Polish community are the largest ethnic minority community that are living in Northern Ireland. They have come here to work hard, to earn a living and to make a living for their families, and to find themselves now at the center of this particular recent escalation of attacks on their homes is an appalling situation that has to stop and must be stopped as quickly as possible," said Mullen.

— Excerpted from the Irish Times, April 14, 2015

POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Western New York Overtaken by Dyngus Fever

BUFFALO, N.Y. — WNY, the Dyngus Day Capital of the World, marked Dyngus Day on April 6. Photos of the festivities can be viewed at www.dyngusday.com and Robert Johnson's Polonia Music site: www.poloniamusic.com/Dyngus_Day_Buffalo.html.

Buffalo's Best Kielbasa Contest was held at the historic Broadway Market on Dyngus Day. This year's winners were: Redlinski Meats (Best Overall Commercial, Best Smoked Holiday Commercial, Peoples' Choice), Deli Shoppe LLC (Best Fresh Commercial, Best Non-Traditional Commercial, Best Fresh Holiday Commercial), Greg Kozak



Dancers anxiously await the start of the parade.



Float honoring the World War II soldier bear, Wojtek.



Every location hosting Dyngus Day events was a sea of white and red. Reports from several sources say over 50,000 people attended the parade on city's East Side.

(Best Fresh Homemade), and Brian Tomaszewski (Best Smoked Homemade, Best Non-Traditional Homemade).

The 9th Annual Dyngus Day Parade wound its way through Buffalo's Historic Polonia District. Dignitaries who participated included NYS Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York William Hochul, Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Erie County Comptroller Stefan Mychajliw, Erie County Sheriff Tim Howard, Erie County Judge Michael Pietruszka, Buffalo City Comptroller Mark Schroeder, Fillmore District Councilmember David Franczyk and East Aurora Mayor Allan Kasprzak. Prize winners will be included in next month's edition of the PAJ.

WKBW-TV, WNY's ABC affiliate, broadcast an hour-long program

entitled "Dyngus Day Diaries" featuring clips of Polonia's history in, and contributions to, WNY, hosted by Eddie Dobosiewicz and Autumn Lewandowski during the evening of the 6th.

POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS "SWIECONKA." On April 11, the WNY Division of the Polish American Congress celebrated its annual "Swieconka" at the St. Stanislaus Social Center in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District. Polish Consul General Urszula Gacek presented the Polish Cross of Merit to Roger Puchalski, publisher of the *Am-Pol Eagle*, WNY's weekly Polish American newspaper. The division honored Buffalo Auxiliary Bishop Edward Grosz, Senior U.S. District Court Judge William Skretny, retired NYS Appellate Division Judge Ann Mikoll and Eugene Golomb of Rochester's Polonia



The Polish Heritage Dancers (above) along with Buffalo's Harmony Folk Ensemble gave dance presentations at events hosting Easter Monday parties all across Erie County.

Civic Center. Edward Dobosiewicz was given the Bronislaw Durewicz/Henry Maziarczyk award and St. Casimir Parish in Buffalo's Kaisertown neighborhood received the organizational award. Rev. Czeslaw Krysa, the rector of St. Casimir Parish, was the event's keynote speaker.

CHANGES AT ST. STAN'S PARISH. On Palm Sunday, Bishop Richard Malone of the Catholic Diocese of Buffalo announced a number of far-reaching changes in the administration of Buffalo's St. Stanislaus Parish, the Mother Church of WNY's Polonia. As of April 12, Rev. Mariusz Dymek, OSPPE, of the Pauline Fathers, will be the pastor of St. Stanislaus. The Paulines are the congregation of Polish priests and brothers, headquartered in Doylestown, Pa., who took over the operation of Corpus Christi Parish in 2004. Rev. Michael Czyze-

wski, OSPPE, became the administrator of Corpus Christi effective April 12, as well.

The diocese confirmed that there will be no changes in the administration of the St. Stanislaus Cemetery in Cheektowaga, the weekly radio broadcast of the Polish Mass or the status of the St. John Paul II Shrine. St. Stanislaus's previous pastor, Rev. Thaddeus Bocianowski, was transferred to St. Padre Pio Parish in Oakfield to serve as that parish's administrator.

POLONIA TIDBITS. Parishioners of Corpus Christi, St. Stanislaus, St. John Kanty and St. Adalbert's Churches raised money to deal with the past winter's heating bills by selling red and white "Polska Buffalo" t-shirts and hoodies ... On April 8, the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo presented a lecture by Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra (BPO) Director JoAnn Falletta and BPO Principal Horn Jacek Muzyk in anticipation of the orchestra's "Na Zdrowie, Poland!" concerts later in the month ... The tragedies at Smolensk and Katyn were remember by Polish Canadians at events held in the Toronto area on April 10 through 12. Information on these observances can be found at <http://2015-smolensk-katyn.info>.

The Polish Student Association of the State University of New York at Buffalo (SUNYaB) held its "Swieconka" at the Newman Center on April 12 ... Also on the 12th, Festiwal Polskiej Piosenki "Radosne Nutki" was held at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga, Ontario ... The Tadeusz Lange film "Chasing Chopin" was screened as a fundraiser at the Chopin Restaurant in Toronto's Roncesvalles neighborhood on April 14

SUNYaB alumni hosted a reception at the Polish Consulate in NYC to mark the 650th year of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, with which the Buffalo school has a

partnership, April 24 ... Also on the 24, the Polish rock legends "Kombii" performed at the Rose Theatre in Brampton, Ontario ... Polish Arts Club of Buffalo scholarship recipients Kyle Baran and Mark Pietruszka were recognized for academic achievement by the Department of Theatre at the Niagara University College of Arts and Sciences Day of Recognition on April 24.

On April 24 and 25, the BPO presented its "Na Zdrowie, Poland!" concerts, featuring works by Karłowicz, Penderecki and Chopin at Kleinhans Music Hall ... The *Am-Pol Eagle* presented its annual "Citizen of the Year" awards at St. Adalbert's Basilica on April 25 ... Arturo Mari, personal photographer of St. John Paul II participated in a program on "St. John Paul II - A Defender of Human Rights and Dignity. The Rise of Solidarity and Fall of Communism" at St. Maximilian Kolbe Church in Mississauga on the 25th ... Also on the 25th, ZPK Group 21 hosted the Miss Polonia Ball at the Veterans' Centre in Oshtawa, Ontario.

On April 28, the Villa Maria College Board of Trustees honored Clara Gardon Dommer and Hon. Henry Wick at the group's annual dinner at Salvatore's Italian Gardens in Depew ... Also on the 28th, the Skalny Center for Polish and Central European Studies at the University of Rochester presented a lecture by Lisa Jakelsky of the Eastman School of Music on "Building an Avant-Garde: The Warsaw Autumn Festival and New Polish Music" at Goergen Hall on the university's River Campus. The Polish Arts Club of Buffalo will host a repeat of this program at its May 20 meeting at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst.

UPCOMING. Krzysztof Cugowski, legendary vocalist of the Polish rock band Budki Suflera will perform at the Cawthra Park Theatre in Mississauga on May 3 ... The Syracuse Polish Home will mark Polish Constitution Day with a program in Pulaski Park on May 4 ... The Professional and Business Women of Polonia will host its Scholarship Dinner on May 14 ... The BPO will host its "VIP Poland Tour" from May 17 through 24. More information on the trip is available at <https://bpo.org/tickets-and-events/events/event:vip-bpo-poland-tour> ... Wanda Bolanowska will speak on "Jeszcze Polskie nie Zginela" at the Niagara Polish Cultural and Historical Society meeting on May 19 at the Niagara Falls Public Library.

❖ ❖ ❖
If you have an item for this column, please send the information by the 6th day of the month preceding publication month (i.e. May 6 for the June issue) to pietruska@verizon.net.

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SPOTLIGHT ON LONG ISLAND / Barbara Szydłowski

May is an Important Month for Poles

May is a month of many celebrations but, “The Vulgar say that it is unlucky to marry in May” said Ovid (Fasti 5) during the opening days of the first century.

HISTORY. May 3 is a national holiday in Poland celebrating the declaration of the **Constitution of May 3, 1791**. It is considered one of the most important achievements in Poland’s history, despite being in effect for only one year, until the Russo-Polish War. The historian Norman Davies calls it, “the first constitution of its type in Europe” while other scholars refer to it as the world’s second oldest constitution.

The May 3 Constitution is recognized by political scientists as a very progressive document for its time. For generations, it helped keep alive Polish aspirations for an independent and just society, and continued to inform the effort of its authors’ descendants. In Poland, it is viewed as a national symbol and the culmination of all that was good and enlightened in Polish history and culture.

The May 3 anniversary of its adoption has been observed as Poland’s most important civil holiday since Poland regained independence in 1918.

ORIGIN. In ancient Greece, the first celebrations in honor of mothers were held in the Spring, when a tribute was paid to Rhea, the Mother of the Gods. During the 17th century, England honored mothers on “Mothering Sunday,” celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent. In Rome, the most significant Mother’s Day-like festival was dedicated to the worship of Cybele, another mother goddess. Ceremonies in her honor began some 250 years before Christ was born. This Roman religious celebration, known as Hilaria, lasted for three days from March 15 through 18.

Anna Jarvis is credited with originating the Mothers Day holiday in the United States. Her campaign to establish such a holiday began as a remembrance of her mother, who died in 1905 and who had, in the late 19th century, tried to establish “Mother’s Friendship Days” as a way to heal the scars of the Civil War. Several years after her mother died, Jarvis held a ceremony in Grafton, West Virginia to honor her. She was so moved by the proceedings that she began a massive campaign to adopt a formal holiday honoring mothers. In 1910, West Virginia became the first state to recognize Mother’s Day — a year later, nearly every state officially marked the day. In 1914 President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Mother’s Day as a national holiday to be held on the second Sunday of May.

SPECIAL. The annual foot race called the **Long Island Marathon** will be held on Sunday, May 3. This 26.2 mile race first occurred in 1970 as the Earth Day Marathon, renamed in 1978 as the Long Island Marathon. A half mile race was added in 1984. The record of 2:19:53 was set by Lou Calvano in 1979. May 16 will also mark the **Armed Forces Day** in this country. First observed on May 20, 1950 the day was created on August 31, 1949 to honor Americans serving in all branches of the service: Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marines, and Navy. The first Armed Forces Day was celebrated by parades, air shows, open house and reception. The longest running city-sponsored

Armed Forces Day Parade is held in Bremerton, Washington.

In Poland, **Polish Armed Forces Day** is celebrated annually on August 15. Begun in 1923, this day commemorated the anniversary of Poland’s 1920 victory over Soviet Russia at the Battle of Warsaw in the Polish-Soviet War. The holiday was discontinued during the communist era in 1947, only to be revived in 1992 after the return of democracy.

CURIOUS. Poppies, those little flowers from which opium is made are also a symbol that is dear to our heart. The extraction of opium from poppies was discovered in Persia and Asia Minor and was kept secret from other areas for centuries. The narcotic effects of the poppy were understood, and are reflected in the ancient legend of Somnus, God of Sleep. He placed poppies around the resting goddess who grieved for her lost daughter. When the goddess awoke, she picked some poppies, ate them, and then slept again, this time losing her sadness and sense of bereavement.

Professor and poet Moina Michael, conceived an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial Day in honor of those who died serving the nation during the war. She was the first one to wear one and sold poppies to her friends and co-workers with the money going to benefit service men in need. Later Madam Guerin from France was visiting the United States and learned of this new custom started by Michael and when she returned to France, made artificial red poppies to raise money for the orphaned children and widowed women. This tradition spread to other countries. In 1948 the U.S. Post Office honored Michael for her role in founding the National Poppy movement by issuing a red 3 cent postage stamp with her likeness on it.

POLAND’S FLOWER. “Czerwone maki na Monte Cassino” (“The Red Poppies on Monte Cassino”) is one of the best-known Polish military songs of World War II. It was com-

posed in May 1944 in Italy, during the Battle of Monte Cassino, on the eve of the Polish Army’s capture of the German stronghold. Its name is taken from the poppies blooming on the mountain-side at the time of the battle.

According to Piotr Konieczny, who penned the Wikipedia entry about the song, in early 1944 a German stronghold — dug in at the ancient Benedictine monastery atop Monte Cassino — had blocked the Allies’ advance toward Rome. The forces of several Allied countries had attempted since mid-January to capture the German fortress. For a fourth major assault, which would begin on May 11, 1944, Polish troops were rotated in.

The song’s melody was composed during the night of May 17-18, 1944 by Alfred Schütz, a composer, actor and member of the Polish Soldiers’ Theater garrisoned at Campobasso in the shadow of Monte Cassino. Two opening stanzas were written at that time by Feliks Konarski (“Ref-ren” — “Refrain”), a poet and song-writer and soldier of the Polish II Corps commanded by Major General Władysław Anders. The third stanza would be written a few days later.

On May 18, 1944, the Poles stormed and captured the precincts of the Monte Cassino monastery. Later that day, the song was first performed at General Anders’ headquarters to celebrate the Polish victory. “The Red Poppies on Monte Cassino” won popularity with the troops and was soon published by a Polish American newspaper in New York. It would later be published in Poland. It was banned, however, during the Stalinist period in the People’s Republic of Poland, when the government sought to minimize memory of the wartime Polish Armed Forces in the West. It is featured, however, in Andrzej Wajda’s film *Ashes and Diamonds*, made in 1958, after the death of Stalin.

Musial Named 2015 Parade Grand Marshal

PHILADELPHIA — The Polish American Congress (PAC), Eastern PA District, announced that Wesley Musial will be the Grand Marshal of the 2015 Pulaski Day Parade.

Musial is serving his second term as the censor of the Polish National Alliance, America’s largest national fraternal organization, which was founded in Philadelphia in February, 1880. He was selected by the PAC in recognition of his many years of participation with the PAC, the Pulaski Day Parade in Philadelphia, and as a supporter of organizations in Polonia.

On Sun., Oct. 4, Musial will lead the Parade in Center City, just one of the many events in the Philadelphia area held in recognition of the National Celebration of Polish American Heritage Month.

For more information about Philadelphia’s Pulaski Day Parade, visit PolishAmericanCongress.com or PulaskiDayParade.com.

For additional information, you can call the Polish American Congress office at 215-739-3408. Email address: Info@PulaskiDayParade.com.

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THE PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

If I Could Change One Thing ...

Well, actually, I wish I could change many things but, as a Polish person, let’s begin with my two big ones.

If you are a reader of the *Polish American Journal*, like me, you might be a little frustrated hearing all of the “omissions” with the release of the most recent *Enigma* movie, the Glen Beck comments, or the editorial in the *Jewish Light* newspaper. On top of that, at the end of a talk by a professor on the history of Poland, a group of us were milling around and the subject turned to the Polish language. While he was very positive otherwise, he apparently felt the need to say, “Well, Polish is an archaic language.” It might in fact be an archaic language but that just seemed to be such a big pooper in an otherwise happy moment. I thought, why did you say that?

But I had heard similar things before. These two things, the very public, “big picture” omission or unwarranted rebuke and the “required” negative shot or zinger about the Polish by an individual, a supporter, a friend, or even another Polish person exasperate me very much. It is not that I am mad or want to put up my dukes, more than anything it deflates me emotionally and psychologically. I am all about getting things done and making progress and this kind of stuff makes me feel like I just took a step backwards. There is a study documented in a famous scientific journal and it is called the “throw me a bone will ya” syndrome. Come on, it is 2015 and is this the best we can expect?

So what do we do to shake off this irritating monkey? It is probably a shame but I expect it now and so when I do hear a misrepresentation or zinger I am not shocked. The second thing I do is politely respond. This can be in the form of an email or a tweet or a call or a humorous return zing or a gentle dissatisfied look. Rolling of the eyes works well too, depending on the situation. Sometimes you do have to diplomatically let it go although this is the most difficult option for me. Some of the dumbest and most bigoted people can be turned. In the end, if you believe as I do about all of the wonderful and beautiful things that resonate from our Polonia then none of the cracksters and detractors will frustrate, exasperate, or bring you down.

SHOUT OUT TO THE SNOWBIRDS OF DAYTONA. While in Daytona Beach, Florida this past February I wandered in to the Sunday polka dance at the *Polish American Pulaski Club Daytona* (<http://polishamericanpulaskiclubdaytona.com>). The Eddie Forman Orchestra was playing, the dancers were talented and delightful to watch, and

there was a sizable group in attendance. High compliments for my dancing partner Marian who dances every dance. I was having convulsions and she barely broke a sweat. Great place, good people, and you will feel at home there. Check it out.

READERS RESPOND. Dziękuję bardzo to jumping Joseph John Czepiel for an update on the work he is doing to have the grave of Lieutenant Matt Urban designated as notable. Please keep going on this one Joe. I feel your frustration, but hang tough and be persistent as this is a cause worth pursuing. I am praying for your success.

Thanks also to John Skibiski for the kind words and the list of Pol-Am mayors of Massachusetts to add to those mentioned in the April Pondering Pole. Massachusetts mayors include: **Wallace Puchalski** and **David Narkiewicz** (Northampton, 1961 and 2012, respectively), **Daniel Szostkiewicz** (Holyoke, 1999), Chicopee mayors **Walter Trybulski** (1953), **Robert Kumor** (1971), **Richard Lak** (1987), and presently **Richard Kos** (1997 and 2014), and **Michael Tautznik** (Easthampton, 1996). Go Mass!

POLISH OR NOT? Martha MacCallum, Fox News anchor and contributor. Born in Buffalo, New York. Her



mother is Elizabeth B. MacCallum and the “B” could stand for Martha’s middle name “Bowes” or perhaps it is something else. Since everyone from Buffalo is Polish, is Martha’s mom, or grandmother Polish or not?

Happy Trzeciego Maja, Polish Constitution Day to all of the Pondering Pole and PAJ readers and subscribers.



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

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

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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Coach K: Simply the Best

It was a great year to be Polish in college basketball, but one name stood above the others: **Mike Krzyzewski**. The Chicago native led Duke to its fifth national championship with a 68-63 win over Wisconsin and Player of the Year **Frank Kaminsky**. The 68-year-old Krzyzewski is now second to only the great John Wooden in national championships won. Coach K leads in all-time wins with 1,018.

Duke won its fifth national championship with four freshmen combining for 60 of the Blue Devils' 68 points. In the past, Duke was built on upper classmen. When the "one-and-done" rule came in, Krzyzewski mostly avoided players who planned to play one year in college before turning pro. However, the legendary coach has adapted to the changing state of college basketball. "The ability to adapt is key in everything," Krzyzewski said. "I think I've adapted well."

Krzyzewski's name was the biggest, but it wasn't the only "ski" that stood out in Division I men's basketball. They included: **Przemek Karnowski**, a 7-foot native of Poland who starred for Gonzaga, who lost to Duke in the NCAA Tournament Elite 8; **Kaleb Tarczewski**, the 7-foot Arizona center whose team lost to Wisconsin in the Elite 8; **Tyler Kalinowski**, who was Player of the Year in the A-10 for Davidson; **Dallin Bachynski** of Utah; **Andrew Chrabaszcz** of Butler; **Evan Smotrycz** of Maryland; **Joey Ptasinski** and **Matt Klinewski** of Lafayette; **Dave Sobolewski** of Northwestern; **Aaron Kubinski** of New Mexico State; and **Alexander Aka Gorski** of Wyoming.

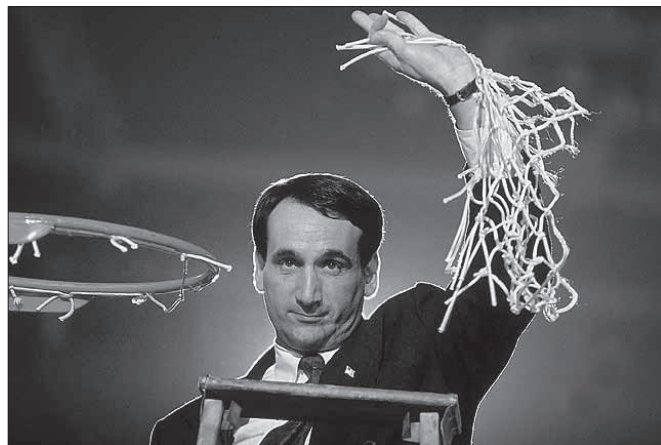
Other Polish American coaches who led their teams to the NCAA Tournament included Utah's **Larry Krystkowiak** and Buffalo's **Bobby Hurley**. Other D-I coaches this year included UC-Davis' **Jim Les**, Marquette's **Steve Wojciechowski**, Toledo's **Tod Kowalczyk**, San Jose's **Dave Wojcik**, Canisius' **Jim Baron**, and Rhode Island's **Danny Hurley**.

WILL THE REAL COACH K ... Coach K faced Coach K for the first time in the NCAA Tournament's South Regional semifinals, as Duke defeated Utah, 79-62. Duke's Coach K, of course, is **Mike Krzyzewski**, a member of the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame; Utah's Coach K is **Larry Krystkowiak**, a Polish American Hall of Fame nominee. They may lead the NCAA in name typos, but they have a lot of victories, too.

Krzyzewski is known for his pride in his Polish background, and Krystkowiak feels the same way. Krystkowiak talked about it on Krzyzewski's SiriusXM radio show earlier this year. "I know a lot of Poles that work their butts off and do it the right way," Krystkowiak said. "So I'm really proud of that."

Krzyzewski joked that Krystkowiak's name signified Polish royalty: The first vowel in his name comes after six consonants — one better than Krzyzewski!

Krystkowiak's father, one of nine children, was sent to a German work camp during World War II for two years before emigrating to the United States. Krystkowiak went to visit Poland with his uncle in 2000, seeing the farmhouse where his father grew up and visiting family grave sites. "I've always kept that in perspective compared to where I grew up. Man it wasn't all that long ago that there was some crazy stuff happening," Krystkowiak said. "It's always been a high priority for me. I've been very



proud of that situation."

Krystkowiak also shares his heritage with Utes senior center **Dallin Bachynski**, who Coach K calls his "fellow Pole-ski."

The two Coach Ks also talked about their humble beginnings and early struggles. "I love what you've done at Utah," Krzyzewski said on the show. "The way you started your career at Utah reminds me so much of my career." Krystkowiak's response was: "Wow."

So who's the "real" Coach K? Krystkowiak says it's Krzyzewski. "Yeah, he's the man — 1,000 wins," he said. "I've got 100."

KOZNICK, SMOLINSKI AND STOKLOS ENTERING HALL OF FAME. World Cup skier **Kristina Koznick**, veteran NHL center **Bryan Smolinski** and World Champion Beach Volleyball player **Randy Stoklos** have been elected into the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame for 2015.

Kristina Koznick (left) is one of the United States' most decorated female World Cup slalom racers, racing 12 World Cup seasons with six World Cup wins, 20 podiums and 55 top ten finishes. She was the 1993 Ski Racing U.S. female junior alpine skier of the year, and took home Ski Racing's top alpine female honor in 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2002. The Minnesota native retired in 2006 as a five-time U.S. National Slalom Champion and a three-time Olympian. "Koz" started skiing when she was four. Her father, Jeffrey, got her into competitive skiing at age six, when he walked into a ski resort and saw her playing a video game. "I told her, 'If you have this much time, we'll put you in another program,'" he once recalled. "And so that's how she got into ski racing. It's all because I hate video games."

Bryan Smolinski (insert, below) started playing college hockey in 1989 at Michigan State University and was drafted as the 21st pick in the 1990 NHL Draft. The Toledo, OH native joined the Bruins after completing his four years at MSU and played 17 seasons in the NHL



with the Bruins, Penguins, Islanders, Kings, Senators, Blackhawks, Canucks and Canadiens. He played in 1,056 NHL games, scoring 651 points with 274 goals. Smolinski was a two-time member of both Team USA for the World Cup and the U.S. World Championship team. Smolinski was introduced to hockey by his father, Tom, who was looking for a way to keep the very active youngster busy. He introduced Bryan to hockey at the age of three, and Bryan immediately showed great ability and competitiveness.

Randy Stoklos was perhaps single-handedly responsible for changing beach volleyball and bringing it into the sports mainstream in the 1980s. A powerful, athletic player, "Stokey" made history by becoming the first player to reach

the \$1 million mark in career prize earnings along with 123 career wins. Stoklos teamed with Sinjin Smith to win the Beach Volleyball title at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona as a demonstration sport, prior to it becoming an official Olympic sport in 1996. He was named the AVP's "Most Valuable Player" four times. Randy was one of the first beach volleyball athletes to earn lucrative endorsements, and also played one of the leads in the 1990 Tri-Star Pictures release, "Side Out." Randy began playing beach volleyball because his parents did not like full contact sports. His father, Rudy, was a native of Poland who survived a German concentration camp and later founded an electronics company in Southern California.

The awards will be presented to the recipients at the 43rd Annual Induction Banquet on Thursday, June 18, 2015, at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, Michigan. Tickets for the banquet, which begins at 6 p.m., are \$100. Call (313) 407-3300. Information about the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame is available at www.polish-sortshof.com.

POLISH SPORT. A new sport is taking Poland by storm, and it could spread to the rest of the world. It's a test of strength similar to the old-fashioned tug-of-war, except that it uses a large canoe rather than a rope, and you push rather than pull.

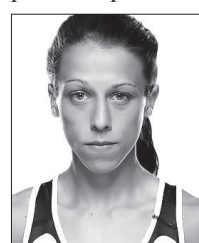
Two teams of six people (three on each side) face each other in a double-wide dragon-boat canoe. The boat is placed in a pool, with a middle line marked. At the start signal both teams start paddling. Whichever side paddles hard enough to push its team over the line wins.

It doesn't seem to have an official name yet, but some call it canoe tug-of-war or tug-of-oar. It looks like a lot of fun. Check it out by going to YouTube and searching for Poland new sport.

THE BIG TIME. The Minnesota Vikings signed free agent offensive lineman **Babatunde Aiyegbusi**. Aiyegbusi is a native of Poland who is 6 feet, 9 inches tall and 351 pounds. He's 27 years old and played for the Dresden Monarchs of the German Football League in 2014. In 2013, he helped the Wroclaw Giants to the Polish American Football League Championship. His father is Nigerian and his mother is Polish.

Four Polish-born men have played in the NFL. Defensive lineman **Jason Maniecki** and kickers **Rich Szaro**, **Chester Marcol** and **Sebastian Janikowski** have all been on NFL rosters. Janikowski is still kicking for the Oakland Raiders. However, "Babs" would be the first to have not gone through the U.S. college football system.

A KNOCKOUT. In one of the most impressive performances in UFC history,



Poland's **Joanna Jedrzejczyk** (left) defeated Carla Esparza in the co-main event of UFC 185. An exceptional striker, Joanna knocked out Esparza in the second round to capture the straw weight title (115-lb.).

Joanna started training in martial arts in Poland 12 years ago, eventually winning four kickboxing titles and numerous European and world championships in Muay Thai. When she could no longer find opponents willing to fight her, she turned to MMA. She made her MMA debut in 2012, and won her first eight contests going into UFC 185. The 27-year-old became the UFC's first Polish champion and just the third champion from Europe.

POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Polish Festival Favorites

With summer around the corner, now is the time to plan your church or organization's summer event menu. In addition to pierogi and gołabki, here are some additional treats that also go over well at Polonian festivals, fairs and picnics.

GRILLED KIEŁBASA (kielbasa z rusztu): Cut smoked kielbasa into 3-4" serving-sized pieces or use the smaller grillers (wiener-size Polish sausage). Cook on charcoal or electric grill well away from flame, turning frequently, until evenly browned on all sides. These can also be cooked on a rotisserie. Hint: To ensure even cooking, score each piece of kielbasa by cutting half-way through at an angle on one side at 1/4" intervals. They can also be kept warm and ready to serve in an electric roaster.

KIEŁBASA IN A ROLL (kielbaska w bulecze): Grillers or pieces of baked kielbasa the size of the crusty split roll into which they are inserted are a convenient festival fast food. Prepare as above and serve in crusty rolls (rye or crusty French bread type) with Polish-style brown mustard or horseradish.

SHISH-KIEŁBASA (szaszлык z kielbasą): On a skewer alternate 1/2 - 3/4" pieces of smoked kielbasa with 1/2" onion slices, fresh mushroom caps and bell pepper pieces of roughly equally size. Brush with oil, sprinkle with garlic powder and paprika and cook on rotisserie or grill, making sure that all sides are evenly cooked. They are ready when the onion is tender. May be served in split bread roll.



POLISH BURGER (kotlet mielony w bulce): Soak 2 stale bread rolls (kasier rolls, hamburger buns, French bread) in milk until soggy. Fry 2 sliced onions in a little fat until golden. Run soggy bread nad any leftover milk and onions through meat-grinder or process briefly. Combine with 2 1/4 raw ground meat (preferably pork or pork-beef-veal mixture) add 1-2 eggs, mix well by hand to blend ingredients and salt & pepper to taste. Form thick patties and brown to a nice golden-brown on both sides in hot fat, then reduce heat, cover and simmer on low another 10 min or so until fully cooked. While frying, flatten with spatula to fit your bun and serve with mustard, mayonnaise, dill pickle or tomato slice.

KISZKA-BURGER (kaszanka w bulce): Fry rounds of kiszka with skin removed in a little lard, butter or oil until heated through and crusty-browned on both sides and serve in a crusty bun, hamburger-style. The kiszka can also be fried broken up (like hash). Go-togethers include brown mustard, horseradish, fried onions, dill pickles and sliced tomato slices.

SUMMER BIGOS (letni bigos): Remove the skin from 1 lb smoked kielbasa and dice or slice into thin rounds. Place in pot, add boiling water to cover and simmer covered 30 min. Wash well 1 head baby cabbage at the loose-leaf stage (not yet formed into a compact head). Trim away base and any wilted or damaged leaves. Chop cabbage coarsely and add to sausage pot. Mix well and simmer until tender, adding a bit more water as needed. In saucepan lightly brown 2 T flour in 2 T bacon or fatback drippings and stir into cabbage. Simmer covered another 5 min. Season with salt and pepper, sour to taste with lemon juice and garnish with chopped dill. Note: Mature cabbage may also be used, but requires somewhat longer cooking.

POTATO PANCAKES (placki kartoflane): Grate 2 1/4 lbs peeled potatoes by hand or in processor. Transfer to sieve and allow drippings collect in bowl. When liquid has settled, pour off dark liquid from top and stir the remaining white sediment at bottom into grated-potato mixture. Add 1-2 grated onion, about 2 T flour, 2 eggs and salt & pepper. Mix well and spoon batter into hot fat. With spatula flatten pancakes slightly, since thin ones cook better. Fry to a nice crispy, golden brown on both sides and drain on absorbent paper. Serve immediately, providing sour cream, sugar and salt on the side.

CRÊPES/THIN PANCAKES (naleśniki): In bowl combine 1 scant c milk with 2 beaten eggs and 1/4 t salt and whisk until smooth. Gradually add 1 1/4 c flour, sifted, whisking constantly until lump-free and air blisters appear on surface. Whisk in about 1 c water — or just enough to have a thin, pourable batter. The traditional way is to grease a small, hot frying pan with a 1" square of pork fatback impaled on fork, pour in a little batter, tilt frying pan to coat entire surface and fry on high heat. Flip crêpe over and cook briefly on other side. Stack fried naleśniki on inverted plate. Re-grease pan before adding more batter. Spread with filling of choice (jam, apple sauce, sweet cheese, savory cheese, ground cooked meat & onion, etc.), roll up and fry until heated through. Provide sour cream for the meatless variety.

NYC Native Awarded Gold Cross of Merit

WARSAW (GBC) — On April 8, 2015, Bronisław Komorowski, president of the Republic of Poland, posthumously awarded U.S. Army Colonels Donald B. Stewart and John H. Van Vliet, Jr. the Officer's Cross of Merit of the Republic of Poland. President Komorowski also awarded the Gold Cross of Merit of the Republic of Poland to Krystyna Piórkowska of New York City, a Polish American historian and author of a book documenting the history of the English-speaking witnesses to Katyn. Her dedication and researcher's resolve resulted in the discovery of this heretofore-unknown thread of the Katyn Massacre.

Col. John H. Van Vliet, Jr. and Col. Donald B. Stewart, U.S. Army officers, were POWs in May 1943 and were among the first neutral witnesses to Katyn. While being held as POWs, Van Vliet and Stewart sent coded letters in which they advised the U.S. Army and Military

Intelligence about the massacre. Most specifically, they indicated that responsibility for the Katyn crime lay with the Soviets. After World War II, they testified at length before a Special Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, thus ensuring a widespread and public disclosure of these events, including the fact that under international law, the USSR was responsible for this unprecedented war crime.

This presentation of these awards occurred during the 75th anniversary of the Katyn Massacre and forms one of the central aspects of this year's observances.

The Center of Polish-Russian Dialogue and Understanding, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defense, and the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage invited the families of these U.S. witnesses to Poland for this special Katyn Massacre ceremony.

CULTURAL TELEGRAM / Kasia Romanowska

The Year of Tadeusz Kantor



UNESCO has declared 2015 the Year of Tadeusz Kantor (left) — April 6 marked the 100th anniversary of his birth. An interesting program promoting knowledge about Kantor worldwide will include a variety of activities, including: a cross-sectional retrospective of his works in Sao Paulo; an exhibition of work by Kantor and other contemporary Polish artists in Japan; the creation and presentation of new performances inspired by his work in the United States; and the cooperation with prestigious academic institutions around the world, including Yale University.

WARSAW ORANGE FESTIVAL IS ARRIVING! One of the biggest Polish events of its kind this year beckons famous bands such as Muse, Chemical Brothers, Incubus, Hey or Bastille, yet music lovers can enjoy also a wide range of lesser known bands. Birth of Joy, Parkway Drive, Palma Violets are popular in their own countries and are gaining more and more popularity in Europe and the United States.

New sounds can be heard at this year's edition of the

Warsaw Orange Festival on June 12-14.

CONQUERED AMERICA WITH HIS MOVIE POSTERS. Grzegorz "Gabz" Domaradzki graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Poznań. In the early years, Gabz's personal art work focused around rather dark themes. Recently, however America has gone crazy for his posters, mainly those from *The Terminator* movie. Initially he works mainly with pencil and pen but then his hand-drawn art gets perfected using his iMac. He also works with vectors, acrylic and oil paint.

Gabz majors in graphic design and enjoys playing with custom-made typography.

ZANUSSI TO WIN THE GOLDEN SNAKE. Worst Movie Picture, Worst Director, Worst Screenplay and Most Embarrassing Important Subject Video of the year go to Krzysztof Zanussi, a famous Polish director. Zanussi is well-known for his outstanding movies such as *The Structure of Crystals* or *The Illumination*, yet this year he receives the Golden Snake (Złoty Wąż) for 2015. Another "winner" — *Obce Ciało* (Alien Body) swooped up 12 statuettes.

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THE ART OF POLISH COOKING
By Alina Zeranska
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PAJ Bookstore Price: \$17.95
Ethnic / Polish
384 pp. 8 1/4 x 5 1/2

12 b/w illus. Index 2nd ptg.
Reissued by Pelican Publ., *The Art of Polish Cooking*, contains 500 authentic recipes, complete with recipes for hors d'oeuvres, soups, entrees, vegetables, pastries, desserts, and beverages. Special holiday menus are also presented, along with charming descriptions of traditional Polish feasts and celebrations. Author Alina Zeranska provides easy-to-follow recipes for favorites like Cabbage Rolls, Chicken in Dill Sauce, Meat Pierogis, and Fruit Mazurka. Zeranska has translated these Polish recipes perfectly using exact American measurements.

POLISH HERITAGE COOKERY
by Robert Strybel
\$49.95
h.c. 900 pp.
7.25 x 9.50 in.
Expanded Edition, ill. and full color photographs

"Polish Heritage Cookery is the best Polish cookbook printed in English on the market." — *Polish Cultural News*
A perennial bestseller, *Polish Heritage Cookery* is the most extensive and varied Polish cookbook ever published. More than 2,200 recipes use

easily available American ingredients and measurements. Modern Polish cuisine is a blend of hearty peasant dishes and more elegant gourmet fare, incorporating a broad cross-section of cultural influences. The book includes numerous cultural notes, historical accounts of Polish culinary traditions, and descriptive line drawings. Its expanded edition includes information on Polish products available in the United States, such as plum butter, honey mushrooms, and kielbasa, and their culinary uses.

GREAT POLISH RECIPES
by Raymond T. Laskowski
\$10.00
Spiral bound, s.c.
62 pp., index
8.5 x 5.5 in.

Published in 1980 and rediscovered this year, this is a collection of four generations of recipes from kitchens in Poland and the United States. Includes appetizers, soups, salads, vegetables, breads, noodles, sauces, stuffing, kielbasa, entrees, and desserts. Straight-forward, easy-to-follow recipes for beginners and experienced cooks alike.

POLISH HOLIDAY COOKERY
\$24.95
by Robert Strybel
248 pp., h.c., Hippocrene Bks.
Polish Holiday Cookery acquaints readers with traditional Polish foods associated with various occasions and furnishes countless cooking tips and

serving suggestions. This "instruction manual for the culturally aware Polish American" offers more than 400 recipes, along with a lexicon of basic foods and culinary concepts, ingredients and procedures, and sample menus. The clearly-written recipes facilitate the preparation of the dishes and their incorporation in the Polish American mainstream culture.

Polish Holiday Cookery covers holidays such as Christmas and Easter, as well as celebrations year-round. Ideas for banquets, picnics, dinners, and family favorites abound throughout, ensuring that cooks have a selection of dishes for any occasion.

POLISH CLASSIC RECIPES
\$16.95
by Laura and Peter Zeranski
2011, 96 pp., h.c., index, 100 color photographs by Matthew Aron Roth

Designed for the modern kitchen yet retaining traditional roots, each heritage recipe in *Polish Classic Recipes* has been tested to perfection. Accompanied by notes on Polish holiday customs, history, and menu pairing suggestions, these dishes offer a flavorful sample of the Polish dining experience, as passed down from generation to generation.

POLISH CLASSIC DESSERTS
\$16.95
By Laura and Peter Zeranski
2013. 96 pp. 8 1/2 x 8 1/2. Index. 100 color photos

Organized by type and with titles in both Polish and English. From mazur-

kas and babas to pastries and beverages, these recipes are designed for the modern kitchen but retain their traditional roots. Each of the forty-five desserts are tested to perfection and paired with mouthwatering photographs and notes on Polish history and customs.

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

A collection of "secret" recipes, tips, and more for not only fillings and toppings, but a variety of dough recipes as well. Over 150 recipes with regional variations, from California to New York!

THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD POLISH COOKBOOK:
Hamtramck, Detroit and Beyond — \$10.00 by Elna Lavine, 44 pp., sc.

96 recipes from the famed Polonia of Detroit. Breakfast, lunch, dinner pastries, pierogi, kluski, cream chipped beef, soups, desserts and more.

POLISH GIRL COOKBOOK
\$10.00 by Eva Gerwecki,
44 pp., sc.

Another cookbook full of recipes from Detroit's Old Polish neighborhoods. Appetizers, entrees, breads, desserts, and more! Upper Peninsula style pastries, potato salad, pastries, babka, breads, and more.

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THE BEST OF CROATIAN COOKING by Liliana Pavicic and Gordana Pirker-Mosher Pb., 311 pp. was \$12.95 now \$8.95	FLAVORS OF SLOVENIA: The Food and Wine of Central Europe's Hidden Gem by Heike Milhench Hc., 220 pp. was \$15.95 now \$10.95	HUNGARIAN COOKBOOK: Old World Recipes for New World Cooks by Yolanda Nagy Fintor Pb., 230 pp. was \$11.95 now \$7.95	NEW UKRAINIAN COOKBOOK by Annette Ogradnik Corona Pb. 270 pp. 2012 Gourmand Award Winner was \$19.95 now \$13.95	SPOONFULS OF GERMANY: German Regional Cuisine by Nadia Hassani Pb., 288 pp. was \$19.95 now \$13.95	CULINARY TREASURES OF NORTHERN ITALY: The Cooking of Emilia-Romagna Hardcover, 208 pp. was \$19.95 now \$13.95	TASTES FROM A TUSCAN KITCHEN by Madeline Armillotta & Diane Nocentini Hardcover, 188 pp. was \$15.95 now \$10.95	SEASONS AND CELEBRATIONS: Cooking Secrets of Italian Villages by Rosalie Fuscaldo Gaziano Paperback, 144 pp. was \$15.95 now \$10.95	A SIMPLY DELICIOUS IRISH CHRISTMAS by Darina Allen Paperback, 100 pp. was \$12.95 now \$8.95	TRADITIONAL IRISH RECIPES by George L. Thompson Paperback, 88 pp. was \$10.95 now \$6.95

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BOOKS IN BRIEF / Mary Lanham

Something New from Martin and a Look at Student Politics in Communist Poland

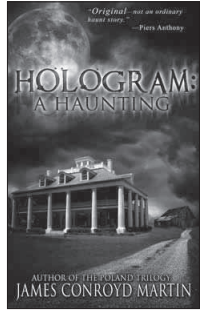
HOLOGRAM: A HAUNTING

By James Conroyd Martin

Hussar Quill Press

2014, 209 pps.

Meg Rockwell is a woman haunted by the past in more ways than one. A native Chicagoan, she is drawn inexorably towards a beautiful old house in Hammond, Indiana. Hammond, a small city just outside Chicago is a stark contrast to the bustling metropolis.



Kurt, Meg's husband, the vice-president of a hospital, is reluctant to purchase the 90 year-old Greek Revival home as it is far away from his work in the Windy City. It takes much persuasion on Meg's part to convince her husband to buy the estate, but she prevails.

After they move in, Meg begins to have strange experiences that she cannot explain. Left alone in the

house most of the week while her husband stays in Chicago, she sees the ghostly image of a young boy, hears odd noises at night, and smells rotting flowers. She also has vivid dreams of the family who built the house in 1910.

Paranormal forces are definitely at work in the home, but Hologram: A Haunting is not a usual ghost story. The author offers a unique explanation as to the origin and motivations of the spectral energies within the story. This is one spooky tale that will keep you on the edge of your seat.

Hologram: A Haunting is available at Amazon.com.

About the author: James Conroyd Martin is the celebrated author of *Push Not the River*, *Against a Crimson Sky*, and *The Warsaw Conspiracy* also known as the Poland Trilogy. He holds a bachelor degree from Saint Ambrose University and a Master of Arts in English Literature from DePaul University.

In 2007, Martin received a gold

medal from the American Institute of Polish Culture and he was honored in 2008 by the Wisconsin Division of the Polish American Congress. Until his retirement, he chaired the English Department at Marian Catholic High School in Chicago, Illinois.

Martin now lives in Portland, Oregon, where he continues to write.

STUDENT POLITICS IN COMMUNIST POLAND

Generations of Consent and Dissent

by Tom Junes

Lexington Books

2015, 291 pps.

4501 Forbes Blvd., Suite 200

Lanham, MD 20706

(301) 459-3366

Lexingtonbooks.com

Student Politics in Communist Poland is a comprehensive text on the student movements in Communist-Era Poland. It thoroughly examines the upheavals in 1956, 1968, and 1980-1981 by giving each its own separate part or "Generation."

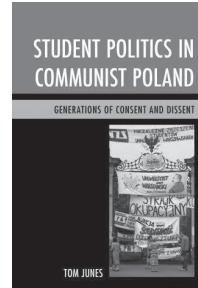
Junes successfully demonstrates that the activism of students was integral to the political climate of the country and the subsequent downfall of Communism in Poland in 1989.

Junes builds to these pivotal moments by examining the years 1944 to 1989 and covers topics such as Western influence, organizational pluralism, and the influence of the Church. He also shows the various ideologies of the eight generations of students that he profiles. Despite the complex subject matter, *Student Politics in Communist Poland* is easy to understand and a pleasure to read.

This well-researched tome, which draws from print sources and interviews conducted by the author, includes endnotes, a bibliography, and an index, giving the dedicated student of Polish history the oppor-

tunity to delve even deeper into the subject. The book is a must-have for anyone interested in Poland's history.

Student Politics in Communist Poland: Generations of Consent and Dissent by Tom Junes is available on Rowman.com and Amazon.com



About the author: Tom Junes is a graduate of the University of South Africa with an Honors Bachelor of Arts in History and Katholieke Universiteit Leuven with an MA in East European Languages and Cultures and a PhD in History. Junes is a visiting fellow at the Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung in Potsdam and at the Imre Kertész Kolleg in Jena, Germany.

He is also the author of numerous articles and book chapters and has made several conference presentations. Junes's research interests include student movements, the history of Eastern Europe, Africa, and the Cold War.

POLONIA PLACES / Gregory L. Witul

St. Stanislaus in Buffalo, New York

St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Roman Catholic Church

123 Townsend Street

Buffalo, New York

Status: Open

Holy week 2015 will be a memorable one for the parishioners of St. Stanislaus. It was announced at Palm Sunday Mass that the parish would no longer be staffed by the Buffalo Diocese but by the Pauline Fathers. This announcement will start a new chapter for the "Mother Church of Buffalo's Polonia" in a book that is already 142 years in the making.

Poles began settling in the German neighborhoods of Buffalo as early as 1853. These early pioneers attended St. Mary's parish, standing in the rear of the church during Mass. As their numbers grew, they moved to a side chapel of St. Michael's church, where an occasional Polish Mass was celebrated for them. On December 12, 1872 these parishioners, with the help of Father Gartner, organized themselves into the Society of St. Stanislaus and began collecting money for their own parish. On the other side of the world, a young seminarian named John Pitass was attending the Collegium Romanum in Rome. After a meeting with Father Gartner and a gift \$124, John boarded a ship and headed off to America.

Finishing his studies at Niagara University, Pitass was ordained on June 7, 1873. The next day he arrived in Buffalo, celebrated Mass with the Society of St. Stanislaus, and formally established St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr parish, enrolling 82 families. As the new parish began looking for a place to build their new church, Pitass was approached by real-estate developer Joseph Bork with an offer: Bork would donate a parcel of land to the new parish, in the heart of his new development, if Pitass would build his church there. With the offer of free land, the priest took Bork up on

the offer and St. Stanislaus found a home at the corner of Peckham and Townsend in Buffalo's East Side.

Construction of the small wood frame church, school, and rectory would take the rest of the year until January 25, 1874 when Bishop Ryan dedicated the building. At that first Mass, sermons were given in



The first St. Stanislaus Church completed in 1874.



An interior photograph of the church from the early 1920s.

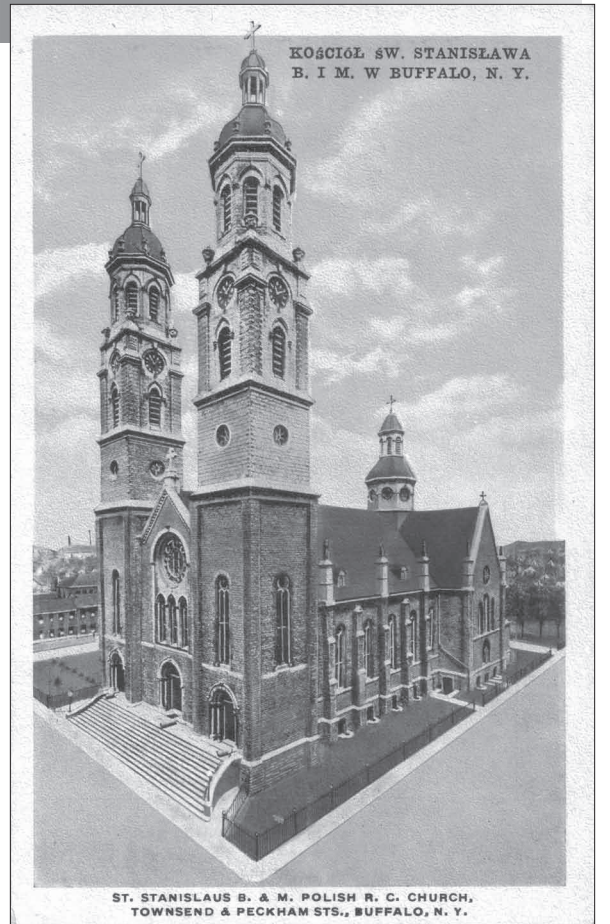
Polish, German, and English so all in attendance could understand the importance of this first Polish parish. In the spring of that year the school opened with 170 students.

Over the next six years, the Polish population of Buffalo exploded and Pitass soon found his small church to be inadequate for his congregation. The reverend hired T.O. Sullivan to design a stone church based on the Basilica of St. Mary and St. Bartholomew found in Pitass' home town of Piekary Śląskie. When completed the limestone structure would have an upper and lower chapel, a Wm. Johnson & Son organ, stained glass imported from Austria depicting the life of St. Stanislaus, and two towers that reached 217 feet into the air, all for the cost of \$100,000.

As Poles continued to settle in Buffalo *en masse*, six parishes were carved out of St. Stanislaus; St. Adalbert's Basilica, St. John Kanty, Transfiguration, Corpus Christi, St. Luke's, and Queen of the Most Holy Rosary. But even with the loss of so much territory St. Stanislaus continued to grow, both

in size and influence. In 1905, Archbishop Francis Albin Symon toured the Polish parishes of the United States on behalf of the Pope. While in Washington, the Archbishop and Father Pitass met with President Theodore Roosevelt. In its account of the summit, the *Washington Post* reported Father John Pitass as the "rector of the largest Catholic parish in this country."

Father Pitass passed away in 1913. In the century that followed, St. Stanislaus saw Cardinal Karol Wojtyła at the altar, and Presidents Gerald Ford and Lech Wałęsa in the pews.



A postcard of the parish as it looks today.

With the Pauline Fathers leading the Mother Church of Buffalo's Polonia, it is hoped the parish will thrive in the centuries to come.

A Happy Birthday, Indeed

BUFFALO, N.Y. (WIVB) — Two western New Yorkers are celebrating their good fortune after winning \$1 million each on scratch off jackpots.

One is Lackawanna native Theresa Dybalski, who said her birthday brought a little bit of luck. She opened her million dollar ticket after receiving it in a birthday card from her friend.

Dybalski said she waited until she got home to scratch off the ticket.

"I was scratching and scratching and had nothing until I got to the last box in the row and saw a match on the number four and the words Jackpot, \$1 million," she said.

She claimed her prize in March and said she's grateful for the good fortune. After all taxes and required withholdings, she took a lump sum payment for \$522,822.

In 2014, 34 New Yorkers have taken home prizes of over \$1 million from the lottery.

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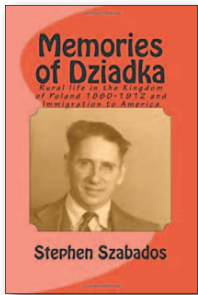
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NEW! MY WAGGING TAIL
by Stanley Bednarczyk
\$19.95
476 pp., p.b.

There comes a time in life when one begins to look backward instead of forward. The story of growing up in Camden, N.J. as the youngest of five children) Bednarczyk, an 81-year-old Depression baby, recalls his life on the streets as a youth and as a letter carrier. "A member of the so-called Silent Generation, he has something worthwhile to say." (Mary Latham, *Polish American Journal*).

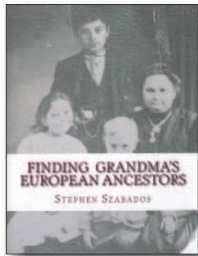
MEMORIES OF DZIADKA
Rural life in the Kingdom of Poland 1880-1912 and Immigration to America



by Stephen Szabados
\$14.95
pb. 134 pp.
6 x 9 inches

This book is about the life of a Polish immigrant, from his birth in the Russian partition of Poland: the customs and traditions he grew up with; his decision to leave his family and the land of his birth; the trek across Poland to the port of Bremerhaven; his voyage across the North Atlantic Ocean; arrival in America; and his life in America. Through the story of one man, you will learn and understand the hardships of a typical Polish immigrant in the early 1900s.

FINDING GRANDMA'S EUROPEAN ANCESTORS



by Stephen Szabados
\$14.95
128 pp., pb.

This is a "must have" book to find your European ancestors. The author uses his experience to help you identify the available resources that you can use to find your own ancestors. The book includes many sample documents, current websites and books that will be useful for your genealogical search. Even if you are not a beginner, this book will give you helpful tips that may be the one you need to locate that missing relative.

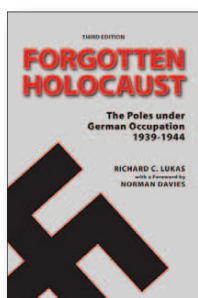
POLISH GENEALOGY:
Four Easy Steps to Success
by Stephen Szabados
\$19.95
164 pp., pb.



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.

The book outlines a simple process that will identify where your ancestors were born and where to find their Polish records. Traditional sources are covered but it also discusses many new sources for Polish records that have been implemented by genealogy societies in Poland. The book covers the most up-to-date collection of sources for Polish genealogy.

FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST: The Poles Under German Occupation, 1939-45.



Third edition
\$19.95
358 pp. pb.
Hippocrene Books.

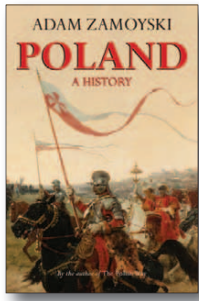
Forgotten Holocaust has become a classic of World War II literature. As Norman Davies noted, "Dr. Richard Lukas has rendered a valuable service, by showing that no one can properly analyze the fate of one ethnic community in occupied Poland without referring to the fates of others. In this sense, *The Forgotten Holocaust* is a powerful corrective." The third edition includes a new preface by the author, a new foreword by Norman Davies, a short history of ZEGOTA, the underground government organization working to save the Jews, and an annotated listing of many Poles executed by the Germans for trying to shelter and save Jews.



LAROUSSE POCKET POLISH-ENGLISH/ENGLISH-POLISH DICTIONARY
by Larousse
Published at \$6.95
PAJ Bookstore Price: \$5.50

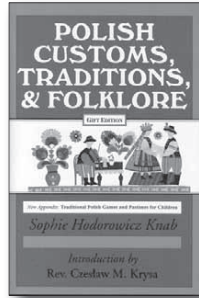
608 pp. pb.
For anyone speaking, reading, or studying, the Larousse Pocket Dictionary is the ideal dictionary for everyday use. With its handy, portable, paperback format, great price and clear, easy-to-use layout it's filled with up-to-date vocabulary in all subject areas.

55,000 words and phrases and more than 80,000 translations; hundreds of usage examples; abbreviations, acronyms, and proper nouns.



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. No nation's history has been so distorted as that of Poland. "...excellent and authoritative" ... "fresh, different, and brilliantly readable"



POLISH CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS & FOLKLORE
\$16.95
by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab
340 pp., pb.
Hippocrene Books

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. It proceeds from the Shrovetide period to Ash Wednesday, Lent, the celebration of spring, Holy Week customs and superstitions, beliefs and rituals associated with farming, Pentecost, Corpus Christi, midsummer celebrations, harvest festivities, wedding rites, name-day celebrations, and birth and death rituals. Line illustrations enhance this rich and varied treasury of folklore.

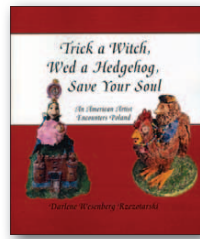


TREASURED POLISH SONGS WITH ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS
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Polonie Publ.

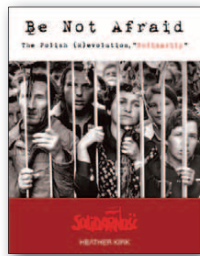
A magnificent collection of Polish songs with musical scores for voice and piano accompaniment. Included are folk songs, lullabies, religious, art songs and ballads, solo and quartet arrangements and more. Enhanced with colorful Werten illustrations, the book features authentic Polish lyrics with beautiful English translations. Ideal for both musician and appreciative listener alike.

TRICK A WITCH, WED A HEDGEHOG, SAVE YOUR SOUL: An American Artist Encounters Poland
by Darlene Wesenberg Rzezotarski.

Wecker Press, 2012. 88 pp., pb. \$19.95
After the fall of Communism, Rzezotarski's husband had an amaz-



ing first meeting with Polish cousins, introducing the couple to the rich world of Polish and familial history, so intertwined as to become a microcosm. Rzezotarski brings an outsider's appreciation and an artist's intuition through tales of family, of national identity, and of the enchanted world of fairy tale and myth. Profusely illustrated in color.



BE NOT AFRAID
by Heather Kirk
\$19.95

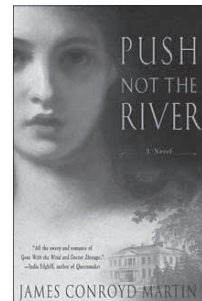
Borealis Press, 276 pp., pb.
Want to learn something about Poland and the movement that started the end of the Cold War in an easy-to-read, well-written book? *Be Not Afraid* is an introduction to the Polish non-violent resistance movement, "Solidarity." It involved ten million people over a period of ten years, freed Poland from Soviet domination, and contributed to the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. It killed no one.



BOCEK IN POLAND
\$11.95
54 pp., Polonie Publishing

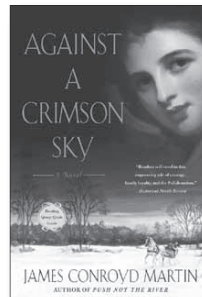
A First Prize winner in a literary contest sponsored by the American Council of Polish Cultural Clubs, this is a delightful, captivating children's story about the life of storks and many of the Polish customs they encounter. Beautifully illustrated and educational, it will be thoroughly enjoyed by adults as well as children.

BE SURE TO CHECK OUR COOKBOOKS AND KITCHEN ITEMS ON PAGE 11!



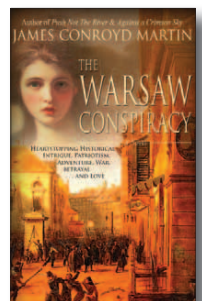
PUSH NOT THE RIVER
\$15.95
St. Martin's Press. 496 pp. pb. Maps & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

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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GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

The Next Step in Your Genealogy Research

What is your next step? You have found the shoe boxes with the old papers and pictures. You have talked to your family members and recorded the family stories. What information do you have and what are you missing? You have tried to show your precious documents to your family but most do not care. What do you plan to do with this information?

I have experienced the same questions and frustrations. My next step was to develop a process that helps me answer many of these questions and also gets my family interested in what I have found.

When I began compiling quick reference sheets that list the information that I find for each person, my research efforts were more successful. The information that I found for each person is now found in one document. Reviewing the reference sheet allows me to focus on what to do next and where to go for the next

search for a specific ancestor. This lets me review what information I have and what I do not have. Using the quick reference sheet speeds up my research because I need to look at one document for the facts needed for that next search. Grabbing the quick reference sheet for the person allows me to see when they were born, married and died. It lists the name of their spouse and their children. It also lists where they lived. I do not waste time searching multiple folders and the original documents for the information. I can perform new searches faster.

My reference sheets could also be called summaries because they list all the information that I have found for each ancestor. When looking at the summaries, the story of their lives begins to emerge. When my family started reading the summaries, they became interested in my research. Family gatherings included more discussions of family

histories and more family stories were brought out and more pictures and old documents were volunteered.

I enjoy a number of benefits from using summaries in my genealogical research:

- I can quickly focus on what to do next
- I can quickly find the facts needed for the next search
- The stories start to emerge
- The summaries are readable documents that increase the interest of family members
- Summaries can easily be used to publish a family history

Genealogy is not just the collection of names. Your ancestors were living human beings who interacted with the people around them. Organizing your information in a format that can be read by all the members of your family both present and future will make your research more enjoyable for your family.

POLISH CAN BE FUN! / Robert Strybel

Half-na-Pół or “grosernia na kornerze”

Frank Wodziński of Elizabeth, New Jersey recently wrote to say he enjoyed my previous column on “Polglish” or “Half-na-Pół” and added some tidbits of his own: “Jasiu, idź do sztoru i kup paczkę bułków do hardoksov Jak będziesz krosował strytc, waciuj zeby kara cię nie hytła. W sztorze pofiluj bułki, zeby nie były twarde.”

Frank also added: “Mucha flajuje po silingu.” That’s one I’ve never heard. But the fact remains that many of the late-19th and early 20th-century immigrants did speak a unique brand of Polonized English or Anglicized Polish which many readers still recall. One reason is that many of them encountered new and unfamiliar things in America which had to be called somehow. Most typically, Polish endings were added to English nouns and verbs.

Although they may have heard the word *ulica* (street), the dusty, muddy, rutted lane that ran through their Old Country village was nothing like the street they lived on in America, so they readily called it a *stryta*. Their humble rural cottage may have had only a *klepisko*

(beaten earth floor) and their first house with a wooden floor was in America, so they said *na florze* for on the floor rather than *na podłodze*. Some more examples:

- GIEJTA: gate; proper Polish: *furtka, brama*
- KARA: car; proper Polish: *samochód, auto*
- TROK: truck; proper Polish: *ciężarówka, samochód ciężarowy*; Note: post-World War II immigrants tended to call it a *trak*.
- GROSERNIA: grocery; proper Polish: *sklep spożywczy*
- BUCZERNIA: butcher’s shop; proper Polish: *masarnia, rzeźnik*
- DRUKSZTOR: drug store, pharmacy; proper Polish: *drogeria, apteka*
- BALBIERNIA: barber shop; proper Polish: *fryzjer, zakład fryzjerski*; Note: this appears to be a corruption of the obsolete Polish term *balwierz* for barber.
- SZTOR: store, shop, retail outlet; proper Polish: *sklep*; earlier on – *skład*.
- BARA: bar; proper Polish: *bar*; in old rural Poland, from which

most early Polish immigrants hailed, they were mainly familiar with the *karczma* or *gospoda* (inn); bars were found only in cities.

- FAJERMAN: fireman; proper Polish: *strażak*
- BUTLEGERKA: female bootlegger or bootlegging as an occupation; proper Polish: *bimbrowniczka, bimbrownictwo*
- NORSKA: nurse; proper Polish: *pielęgniarka*
- DRAJWOWAĆ KARE: to drive a car; proper Polish: *prowadzić samochód*
- KLINOWAĆ BEDRUMY: to clean the bedrooms, proper Polish: *sprzątać sypialnie*
- PEJNTOWAĆ STEPSY: to paint the steps; proper Polish: *malować schody*
- SKIEJFOWAĆ SIĘ: once used in the America’s coalfields; *skiejfowało się* meant “there’s been a cave-in”.

P.S. If you know other examples of Half-na-Pół, please email them to: strybel@interia or airmail them to: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

ALL ABOUT POLAND’S NOBILITY / Robert Strybel

How Poland’s Nobility Came into Being

Part I

The Polish heraldic system displays many similarities to that of other European countries, but it is far from being identical. The Polish nobility or gentry trace back to the knight class (*rycerstwo*). The knights started out as warriors who during the reign of Bolesław Chrobry (crowned Poland’s first king in 1025) were provided with weaponry, horses, money and land. In exchange they were to defend their monarch and local lords

Feats of exemplary battlefield valor were often rewarded with a coat of arms which meant ennoblement. Often these incorporated symbols which the knight had used to identify his troops. In the Middle Ages, long before armies were identified by their uniforms, there had to be a way of distinguishing friend from foe, especially true in the thick of battle with arrows flying, battle-axes swinging, horses rearing and kicking up dust.

No-one was born a knight. Every baptized male could try out for that profession by proving his strength, endurance, ability to wield weapons, horsemanship and general sense of honor, piety and virtue. In time, only the offspring of knights were accepted into knightly service. Eventually the descendants of knights became known as the *szlachta* (gentry), the well-born or “blue-bloods”, a process that largely evolved between the 14th and 16th centuries. They derived their wealth and prestige not so much from the spoils of war but from the land they possessed and the crops, livestock, timber and other assets it produced.

Some of the things that were unique about the Polish *szlachta* can be best presented point by point:

EQUALITY. In legal terms at least, all members of the *szlachta* were equal. With the advent of an elective monarchy every nobleman, regardless of how rich or poor, had one vote. Hence the saying: “*Szlachcic na zagrodzie równy wojewodzie*” (roughly translatable as “an impoverished gentleman farmer is the equal of any governor”). It was not until the partitions (late 18th century to 1918) that titles such as count, viscount and baron were introduced by the occupation forces.

A Gift Idea for Father’s Day

by Robert Strybel

A large group of Polish last names were derived from place-names: **Wiśniewski** was “the guy from Wiśniewo (Cherryville), **Kamiński** came from Kamień (Rockton) and **Nowak** was “the new guy in town”. Surname’s ending in “-ak” and “-wicz” were of patronymic origin indicating who one’s father was. **Stasiak** was the son of Staś, and **Michalski**’s dad had been baptized Michał. Other surnames pointed to different traits: **Garbacki** (hunchbacked); **Kulej** (limpy). Still

COLLECTIVE ENNOBLEMENT. Individual peasants or often entire villages were ennobled (elevated to gentry status) for serving their king, defending the local lord’s castle against an enemy attack or rendering some other public service. In effect, there were many impoverished petty gentry, often no better off than their peasant neighbors, but all of them had a heraldic emblem and sword to prove their noble status.

STRATIFICATION. Although formally all the well-born were equal (there did not exist any official titles differentiating individual groups of nobles), that did not mean that they had equal wealth or political clout. There was a vast chasm separating the hard-scrabble gentleman farmers (small-holding rural petty gentry) and the magnates (*magnaci*) or landed aristocrats. These nobles were extremely wealthy, owned vast tracts of land (the size of entire countries such as Holland or Scotland), including towns, villages, cropland, lakes and forests. They had their own powerful armies and played a leading role in the public life of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth as senators and royal officials. The Potocki, Zamoyski, Tarnowski, Radziwiłł, Lubomirski, Sapieha, Poniatowski, Tęczyński and Ossoliński families were among the most powerful and influential noble breeds.

PROLIFERATION. Like Hungary, Poland had a larger percentage of nobles than most other European countries. Poland’s heraldic/clan system began emerging in the 13th century. A knight was usually ennobled by the king as a reward for some feat of battlefield valor. That meant that he was granted a coat of arms and started his own clan. That clan-name (which was also the name of the coat of arms) indicated the clan someone belonged to through patrilineal inheritance (from one’s father’s line), ennoblement, adoption or marriage, and many variously surnamed and unrelated individuals shared the same clan-name. On average, from 10-12% of Old Polish society was of noble rank, meaning that the vast majority were commoners.

others reflected the tools, crops, animals or situations people were associated with: **Lopata** (spade); **Świder** (drill); **Wróbel** (sparrow); **Chmiel** (hops); **Stępień** (married into money) and **Niedziela** (born on Sunday).

If interested in finding out what your Polish surname means, how it originated, how many people use it, where your namesakes live and more, please airmail a \$19 personal or bank check or money order to: Robert Strybel / ul. Kaniowska 24 / 01-529 Warsaw / Poland.



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TRAVELOGUE – 5 Days in Poland / Staś Kmieć

The Ancient Heart of the Warsaw

Part XIV

continued from last month

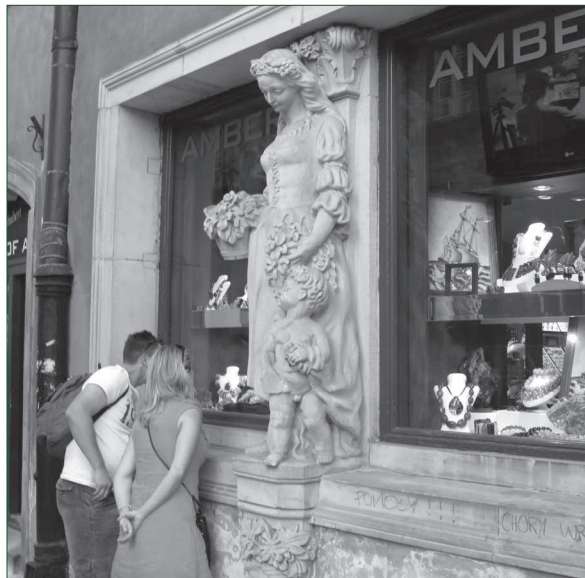
I was elated as I spilled out onto ul. Świętojańska with the packages of Polish delicacies I had purchased at *Klasyka Smaku* secured in my carry-bag. Now an exchange for the camera and I was off to one of my favorite destinations – Warsaw’s Old Town. Although in my mind it does not compare to Kraków’s Stary Rynek’s scope, openness and majesty, it tells the story of Warsaw’s post-World War II rebirth and survival and is “must” visit on every trip to Poland.

The *Stare Miasto* collectively with the New Town – known as *Starówka*, is the oldest part of the capitol city. This ancient heart of Warsaw often resembles a quaint provincial town. Fitting, because for almost three hundred years that is what it was. A fortified town of modest stature, Warsaw was founded by the Dukes of the Mazowsze region in the late 12th century.

The Dukes of Masovia were the sons and descendants of **Bolesław III Wrymouth** (inset, right) (Krzywousty) – a Prince of Lesser Poland, Silesia and Sandomierz from 1102-1107, and over all of Poland between 1102-1107. In accordance with his last will and testament, his lands were divided among his sons into hereditary provinces upon his death. A royal province of Kraków was reserved for his eldest, who became a High Duke of all of Poland.



The town originally grew up around their castle, which was transformed into the royal seat in 1569 and became the most important edifice. The Market Square (*Rynek Starego Miasta*) was laid out sometime in the late 13th or early 14th



THE ARCHITECTURE of the Old Town represents the elegance of Poland’s Golden Age. Above, left, a mother-and-child statue are part of a shop’s exterior design. Right: A metal dragon identifies Restauracja Bazyliżek (The Bazyliżek Restaurant), the dragon of Polish folk lore, who was king of serpents and lived in the cellars of old Warsaw.



left a legacy of buildings regarded as gems of Poland’s Baroque architecture. The current buildings were reconstructed between 1948–1953 to look as they did in the 17th century, when it was mostly inhabited by rich merchant families.

In the early 1910s the location was the home of the prominent Yiddish writer Alter Kacyzne. His 1929 novel “The Strong and the Weak” depicted life there at a time when it was a slum neighborhood, with poor families – both Jewish and Christian. They lived in very crowded subdivided tenements which had once been aristocrats’ palaces. Parts of it were bohemian, with painters and artists having their studios, while some streets were “Red-light districts” housing brothels.

In 1918, the Royal Castle once again became the seat of Poland’s highest authorities for the president and his chancellor. In the late 1930s, the municipal authorities began refurbishing the Old Town and restoring it to its former glory.



POD MURZYNSKIEM, the entrance to the North Side of the Marketplace.

most care and reverence. As many of the original bricks were reused as possible. The rubble was sifted for decorative elements, which were reinserted into their original places. Bernardo Bellotto’s 18th-century highly detailed large-scale paintings, as well as pre-war architecture students’ drawings, were used as essential sources in the reconstruction effort.

In 1971, a national fund raising campaign was initiated with the purpose of collecting money to finance the rebuilding project. People were encouraged to send in old photographs and drawings of building exteriors and interiors to assist the architectural restoration team. The project was finally completed in 1988. Warsaw’s Old Town was placed on the UNESCO’s list of World Heritage in 1980 – as “an outstanding example of a near-total reconstruction of a span of history covering the 13th to the 20th century.”

The four house sides of the 295 by 240 ft. marketplace square are still named after one of their famous inhabitants:

- **Zakrzewski** (Mayor) – the south side (numbers, 1–13)
- **Barss** (Solicitor) – the east side (numbers, 2–26), where you can find the Adam Mickiewicz Lit-

erature Museum honoring the 19th century Polish poet in house number 20.

• **Kollataj** (Priest) – the west side (numbers, 15–31)

• **Dekert** (Mayor) – the north side (numbers, 28–42), where you now find the Warsaw Historical Museum in house number 42. The entrance is in a building called “The Negro” (*Pod Murzynkiem*, nr 36), after the traditional sign

to be continued



GREAT ATTENTION was paid to detailing the Old Town’s buildings. Above: a clock serves both style and practicality, while a bas relief of a ship suggests the building owner’s trade.



century, along the main road linking the castle with the New Town to the north.

Fragments of the old city walls still survive, and within the Old Town there are many landmarks to explore.

Here the representatives of guilds and merchants met in the Town Hall (built before 1429), and fairs and the occasional execution were held in this center. The houses around it represented the Gothic style until the great fire of 1607, after which they were rebuilt in late-Renaissance style, and eventually in late-Baroque style by Tylman van Gameren (Gamerski) in 1701.

Gamerski was a Dutch-born Polish architect and engineer who, at age 28, settled in Poland and worked for Queen Maria Kazimiera, wife of Poland’s King Jan III Sobieski. He

These efforts were brought to an end by the outbreak of World War II.

Like the rest of Warsaw, the Old Town was completely destroyed in the closing phases of the war. Some of the hardest-fought battles of the Uprising took place here. From a site of rubble and destruction, it was rebuilt meticulously and with the ut-

Wieliczka Salt Mine Sets Record Year

KRAKOW — The historic salt mine in Wieliczka near Kraków attracted 1.29 million visitors last year, 80 thousand more than in 2013 and an all-time record.

Director of the mine, Kajetan d’Obryn, told the Polish Press Agency that foreigners account for a half of visitors, the most sizeable groups coming from Britain, Germany, Italy, France and Spain. Tourists from nearly 200 countries visited the site.

The Wieliczka Salt Mine was

founded in the mid-13th century.

The mine was opened to tourists at the end of the 18th century and currently features a 1.5-mile route for visitors, which includes over 20 chambers with historic statues, a large chapel, and an underground lake. There is also a private rehabilitation and wellness complex.

In 1978 the Wieliczka Mine was included in the original UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites.

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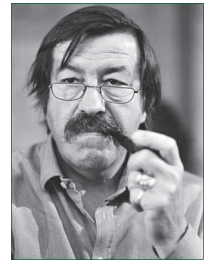
Gdańsk-born Writer Gunter Grass, 87

Nobel Prize-winning German writer Gunter Grass, 87, died of a lung infection.

Grass was born in 1927 in what was then known internationally as the Free City of Danzig, which had a majority of ethnic Germans. Nazi Germany annexed the city and occupied Poland in 1939. After the Second World War, ethnic Germans were expelled and the city was officially renamed Gdańsk.

The author's most famous work remains his novel *The Tin Drum* (1959), the first volume of his so-called Danzig Trilogy.

Grass cultivated close ties with his native city in recent years, attending many cultural events. There was some controversy in 2006 when the author belatedly revealed that he had served in Hitler's Waffen SS. However, Grass's Polish biographer Norbert Honsza has repeatedly stressed the author's efforts to further Polish-German reconciliation.



Grass

— *Deutsche Welle*

Donald F. Mushalko, Promoted Appreciation of Poland

Donald Mushalko was a long-time music teacher at Fanny Edel Falk Laboratory School and the University of Pittsburgh, who promoted an appreciation for the Polish culture and language in Western Pennsylvania and abroad.

At least one former student credited the 84-year-old with inspiring him and his sister to pursue careers in theater and music.

"Without him, I can't even

imagine what our lives would have been," said Rob Marshall, director of the Academy Award-winning film *Chicago* whose sister, Kathleen, is a Tony Award-winning director/choreographer.

At age eight or possibly even earlier, Mushalko started taking violin lessons, then learned to play piano by ear. His sister Jean M. Jasiewicz recalled, "There was always music in our lives."

His other great love was the Polish language, which he and his siblings learned as children from their grandparents, who emigrated from the Eastern European country. Mushalko visited Poland at least eight times.

A graduate of McKeesport High School, Mushalko attended what was then the Carnegie Technical Institute of Technology, studied violin and music education and served as concert master of the school's orchestra for five years there. He spent the first 10 years of his teaching career in the Baldwin-Whitehall School District before moving to Falk, the K-8 campus laboratory school affiliated with Pitt, from where he received his master's and doctorate and where he taught music methods.

At Falk, he taught music classes and directed the annual middle school musical. David Ross, assistant director of the Falk school, described his colleague as a gifted musician who could, extemporaneously, transpose songs in various keys for middle schoolers whose voices were "all over the place."

In addition to teaching, Mushalko, who lived most of his life in McKeesport, was director of the Polish Board United Choirs of the Polish National Catholic Church and performed with that group throughout the U.S. and Canada. He also served as director of the song

and dance group Karuzela Chorus and organized "Bal Polonaise" through the Pittsburgh Polish Cultural Council.

— *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

Francis X. Grabowski, Prominent Attorney

Francis X. Grabowski, 68, of Hilltown Pa., a founding partner of Grabowski Associates, a law firm focusing on commercial, corporate, and municipal law, died of a heart attack at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

His family said his goal was to open a client-defined practice in Perkasié. He achieved that, and for 40 years argued cases before a variety of state and federal courts.

Grabowski also appeared before the Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Delaware River Basin Commission.

His advocacy ranged from serving as a boardroom corporate counselor to negotiating collective bargaining agreements for labor unions.

Grabowski served as solicitor for Hilltown Township, Hilltown Township Water and Sewer Authority, Milford Township, Milford Township Water and Sewer Authority, and West Rockhill Township.

Born in Perkasié, he was a 1965 graduate of Pennridge High School in Perkasié, and in 1969 earned a bachelor of arts degree in political science from Michigan State University. He earned a degree from Villanova Law School in 1972.

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POLAND AND WORLD WAR I / Martin Nowak

Walcott's Account

One of the more striking reports about Germany's mistreatment of the Poles in the areas they conquered during World War One is that of Frederick C. Walcott of the Rockefeller Foundation, a member of the U.S. Commission to Poland. The Commission was sent to Russian Poland before U.S. entry into the war and was allowed to travel around for several weeks in 1916 because America was still officially a neutral country in the conflict.



F.C. Walcott

Walcott's account has been criticized by some as mere wartime propaganda to stir up hatred of the Central Powers, especially Germany, because it was published after the U.S. entry into the war against those countries. Walcott's observations cannot be specifically verified, but enough other reports read with a general similarity, and it should be pointed out that the atrocities attributed to the Germans seem to foreshadow some of the things they would do during the Second World War.

WALCOTT REPORTED that about 400,000 Polish civilians had died and that a million had been made homeless. Some 300,000 were housed in hastily built refugee camps where they were kept ill-clad, starving and sick. He saw a proclamation by a German commander ordering every able-bodied Polish man to go to Germany to work, under penalty of Germany military law. No matter if your family was starving and destitute. Leave for Germany and forced labor so that a German workman may be free to join the very army that is occupying and oppressing your country. Work to feed and supply that army.

Walcott was told by a German general that this policy was in place because the German state was everything and Germany was destined to rule the entire world. Conquered peoples had no place in those plans, so their plight did not matter. "Starvation is here," said the general. "By

starvation we can accomplish in two or three years in East Poland more than we have in West Poland, which is East Prussia, in the last hundred years. This country is meant for Germany... We propose to remove the able-bodied working Poles from this country" and replace them with Germans.

Walcott was told by a German general that this policy was in place because the German state was everything and Germany was destined to rule the entire world. Conquered peoples had no place in those plans, so their plight did not matter.

Walcott reported that the main evacuation road from Warsaw extended eastward to Pinsk in Russia, a distance of two hundred thirty miles. Along the roadside were strewn the bones of thousands of people, picked clean by animals. In Walcott's own words he described this horrible situation: "With their usual thrift the Germans were collecting the larger bones to be milled into fertilizer, but finger and toe bones lay on the ground with the mud-covered and rain-soaked clothing. Wicker baskets were scattered along the way, the basket in which the baby swings from the rafter in every peasant home. Every mile there were scores of them, each one telling a death. I started to count, but after a while I had to give it up, there were so many."

THE POLISH REFUGEES who stayed ahead of the Germans and survived the evacuation into Russia often were often only half alive. They were scattered eastward into the interior, as far as Siberia and Kazakhstan in some cases, and put to work as farm laborers.

Walcott reported that the devastation of Poland was complete almost everywhere he went. "The country is a waste, and the people are flat on their backs."

to be continued

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Polkas Return to Ocean Beach Park in New London, June 24-27, 2015

NEW LONDON, Conn. — Polkas are returning to this beautiful seaside town for the second annual “Ocean Beach Park Polka Days” taking place June 24 thru the 27, 2015.

Richie, Wally and Jarek Dombrowski of Polka Country Enterprises and the Polka Country Musicians (PCM) of Jewett City, Conn. are happy to be hosting this event. PCM will be your host band for the weekend, once the site of the former “Polkabration” and “Polka Jam” days. Until PCM’s highly-successful three-day event last year, Ocean Beach Park had not seen polkas for more than a decade. Because of that

p.m., with music by the D-Street Band and Matt Rosinski’s USPA All Star Jam Band in the beachside pavilion. Listen to live polkas, work on your tan and dance all day long. In the evening, music continues in the beautiful, spacious ballroom starting at 6:00 p.m. up until 12:00 a.m. with the sounds of The Jimmy Sturr Orch. and Polka Family.



WALLY (left) and **RICH DOMBROWSKI** with **DICK PILLAR**, original Ocean Beach polka promoter.

Friday will again start off at 10:00 a.m. with The Boys and the IPA Tribute Band in the pavilion. That night, the ballroom will be rocking with PCM, Eddie Forman Orch., and the Knewz from 5:30 p.m. until

your tickets at the gate on the appropriate day to receive free parking for the event Thursday is free admission — just pay parking when you arrive at the park.

Each day along with a great line up of polka bands (and a chance to play a little beach volleyball), we’ll have surprise giveaways. You can also meet polka personalities from the USPA, IPA, the Polka Jammer Network, 24/7 Polka Heaven, Polish New Castle Radio, as well as local radio and TV stations.

DJs and IJs will be doing live remote broadcasts all weekend long from the pavilion and the ballroom so you’ll have a chance to be “on the air” with them.

Make your plans to attend this brand new polka fest.

30 Years for Sunshine Records

BUFFALO — Buffalo-based Sunshine Records is celebrating its 30th anniversary bringing polkas to the masses. Formed in 1984, the first recording released on the Sunshine label was “Heat” by Scrubby & Sunshine. That was followed by the Dynaton’s album “XV & IX.”

With Mike Nowakowski at the helm, the first few albums were distributed on cassettes and vinyl records. John Gora & Gorale’s album “Ready for Takeoff” was the first compact disc offered on the label.

1998 brought the first Sunshine album nominated for a Grammy award, with John Gora & Gorale’s “Duty Free Polkas” nominated for

IPA Announces Winners

CHICAGO — The results of the 2014 International Polka Association Hall of Fame and Music Awards have been announced. Winners are as follows:

Hall of Fame Inductees:

Mark Trzepacz
Randy Koslosky
Chester Budny (deceased)

Favorite Band:

Dennis Polisky & The Maestro’s Men

Favorite Male Vocalist:

Lenny Gomulka

Favorite Female Vocalist:

Mollie Busta Lange

Favorite Album:

“Love Notes” - Kevin Adams

Favorite Song:

“The Roads We Travel” -

Polka Country Musicians

Presentation of awards will be made this Labor Day Weekend at the IPA Festival at the Millenium Hotel in Buffalo, N.Y.

POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

Looking Back

In 1968, while in Ruda’s Record Store in Buffalo, N.Y. I purchased a copy of Stan Saleski’s *Polka News* and never realized it would become an integral part of the next 47 years of my life. From that point forward, my articles and columns appeared in *Polka Scene* of Cleveland, the *Michigan Polka News*, the *Polish American World* of Baldwin, N.Y., the *Ampol Eagle* of Buffalo, *Polka Insight* of Utica, N.Y., *Polonia Reporter* of Buffalo, N.Y., *Polish American Voice* of Buffalo, and establishing my permanent home with the *Polish American Journal*. Traveling back 25 years, here is a Polka Insider column from the polka past:

The death of Henry Jasiewicz of the Versa Js, on December 30, 1989, creates a void in polka music and in our hearts. Mr. Jasiewicz was one of those unique individuals who truly loved what he did. His ability to share his musical talents with an audience while making everyone feel like an old friend, was familiar to all who knew “Mr. J.” He will be dearly missed by family and friends but, have no fear, Henry Jasiewicz is still playing that fiddle in the “Grandest Polka Band of All.”

The Scranton, Pa. area radiates a feeling of ethnicity that seems unaffected by time. Tune in WARD polka radio on any weekend and you’ll hear folksy chatter between the callers and the on-air personality. Youngsters with a dedication for their Babcia’s birthday, get well wishes to a neighbor in the hospital, requests celebrating a Name Day, or inquiries about the DJ’s little boy are all common occurrences. If you’ve never spent a weekend in places like Yatesville, Dunmore, Throop, Dupont, Dickson City or Mayfield, maybe you should.

When I place an ad in the Polish American Journal, wrote a promoter, all I look for is some inquiries or phone calls from the readers. The advertisements are here, among the pages, and they keep this paper alive. Have you, the reader, answered an ad? You are a necessary part of the cycle.

An Orlando, Florida Polka festival offered approximately 100 three-day dance tickets to local fans. The Insider will bet they could not wait to join the “Polka Tour People” from up North and enjoy the \$6.50 pitchers and a portable dance floor.

PENNSYLVANIA POLKA

Upcoming events in the

Keystone State:

HARRISBURG — Sat., May 9. Polka Dance, Chambers Hill Fire Hall, 6400 Chambers Hill Road. Music by Polka Who Band. 7:00-11:00 p.m. Info call Sandy Smith (717) 752-7013.

CORNWALL — Sun., May 17. Patriotic Polka Dance, Sacred Heart Parish Center, Cornwall Road & 419. Music by Polka Who Band, 2:00-6:00 p.m. Info/tickets call Joe (717) 566-5704.

EMIGSVILLE — Sat., June 6. Polka Dance, Emigsville Fire Co., (Alert Fire Hall), George Street. Music by Making Memories Trio Band, 7:00-11:00 p.m. Info call Betty (717) 292-3723.

HARRISBURG — Sat., June 13. Polka Dance, Chambers Hill Fire Hall, 6400 Chambers Hill Road. Music by Request Band. 7:00-11:00 p.m. Info call Sandy Smith (717) 752-7013.

Wanted: Polka Correspondents

Is there an upcoming polka event in your area? Want to share news about a band’s great performance at a festival? Want to let others know about a dance or festival you really enjoyed? Got a photo you think other polka fans might like to see? Well here’s your chance to share that good news and promote polkas.

Drop us a line at info@polamjournal.com or call (800) 422-1275. No experience necessary (but a fondness for the music is a nice attribute).



There is plenty of room for dancing at Ocean Beach Park.

success, this year they are expanding it to four days.

Featured for this weekend will be eleven of the nation’s finest polka bands: Polka Country Musicians (Conn.), The Jimmy Sturr Orch. (N.Y.), The Boys (Baltimore), The Knewz (N.Y.), Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push (Mass.), Eddie Forman (Mass.), Dennis Polisky & the Maestro’s Men (Conn.), Matt Rosinski’s USPA All Star Band (Mass.), The IPA Tribute Band (Ill.) and the D-Street Band (Ill.) This superb band line up will provide more than twelve hours of music each day.

Wednesday night starts off with PCM on the boardwalk with a free admission show for your listening and dancing pleasure from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. A special feature on Wednesday will have The Polka Jammer Network doing a live broadcast right on location.

Music continues on Thursday starting at 10:00 a.m. up until 4:00

1:00 a.m.

Saturday once again starts off in the pavilion at 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. with the sounds of Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, and The Knewz. In the ballroom that night it will be Dennis Polisky & the Maestro’s Men, PCM, the IPA Tribute Band and The Boys from 5:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m.

Please visit our web site at: www.oceanbeachparkpolkadays.com for all up-to-date information on our polka fest and feel free to email us at: oceanbeachpolkas@yahoo.com with any questions.

Admission is: \$20/pp on Thursday and Friday and \$22/pp on Saturday.

Tickets are available from: Polka Country Enterprises / Rich Dombrowski, Ocean Beach Park Polka Days, PO Box 247, Versailles, CT 06383

Please remember to purchase your tickets in advance and show

POLKA MEMORIES / Steve Litwin

If you have a special Polka Memory photograph to publish, email it with a short description to: pajpolka@verizon.net.



(left) **Dave Brudzinski**. Michigan 2004. (center) **Billy Belina** with the Bay State IV. Connecticut 1982. (right) **Jerry Darlak**, **Frank Staniszewski**, and **Steve Litwin**. “Squeeze Box Jam.” Cheektowaga, N.Y. 1992

DANCE TIME / Jen Pijanowski

There's Nothing Like Dyngus Day in Buffalo

BUFFALO — After families celebrated Easter attending church, indulging in Świąconka, and finding their Easter eggs, early Dyngus celebrations were heavily attended. Pvt. Leonard Post hosted **Buffalo Touch** and **Buffalo Concertina All Stars** for an evening of non-stop entertainment. The Post has hosted a Pre-Dyngus celebration for many years and it remains a mainstay for polka fans on Easter night. This haunt is a stop where you are guaranteed to always run into friends that you haven't seen in quite some time and out of town visitors.

The bands kept the dancers packing the large dance floor throughout the evening. Buffalo was lucky enough to have two additional venues for Pre-Dyngus celebrations as well. Next, I made a stop to Salvatore's Italian Gardens to enjoy **Polka Country Musicians** and **Polka Family**. These are two of my favorite bands and as you can imagine, the amount of energy at this venue was incredible. Polka Country was on stage upon arrival and of course, the dance floor was mobbed as was the front of the stage. The versatility of this band is absolute bliss to watch. While their country-inspired polka music is the core of this band's existence, the Polish polkas are spot on. Polish lyrics in my opinion are the heart of the music and hearing them from PCM has become a personal favorite.

Next the crowd shifted as Polka Family took the stage. As Hank pulled a few audience members onto the stage, the crowd went wild. It sounded as though everyone was screaming to be picked to join the band. The musicianship and entertainment value of this band makes them a polka fan favorite. This venue was decorated beautifully with large Polish flags over the stage reading Smingus Dyngus. This is the first time that Salvatore's has hosted a polka event and I hope they continue supporting polka music and the Polish culture.

The third and final stop was Millenium hotel and Pre-Dyngus sponsored by the Chopin Singing Society. **Lenny Gomulka** along with **Special Delivery** supplied the music for this event. Lenny who is considered by all a polka legend always showcases the best musicians and this was no different. With Special Delivery's versatility and ability to read the audience, it is no wonder this band has a full playing schedule. The Millenium hotel has



Robin Pegg, Dave Granza, and Dave "Scrubby" Seweryniak at the Millenium Hotel.

become a hub for both local and out of towners to stay during the Easter and Dyngus Day activities. I am glad to see this location remaining a stronghold for Dyngus Day energy.

Finally Dyngus Day had arrived and my first stop was Polish Villa II for **New Direction**. The music started at 10:00 am and a breakfast buffet was served. Upon dropping by at 10:30, the venue was already hopping. The band provided a honky beat that is very easy to listen to and even more fun for dancing. The bar and dining room were filled with Dyngus goers sipping on Bloody Marys, Screwdrivers, and Mimosas while whipping around the dance floor to the steady honky beat of the band. It was here that my husband and I ran into Canadian polka super fans **Angela** and **Adam Biskup** as well as **Alice** and **Les Kapuscinski**. After enjoying the fine sounds of New Direction, we decided to invite our Canadian friends to a few east side taverns before the craziness began. We made our way to R&L Lounge where owner **Ronnie Pikuzinski** was busy stocking the bar, while his daughter **Camille** was serving the bar already full of patrons. Mom **Lottie** was hard at work in the kitchen cooking Polish delights from scratch for the many hungry people who would pass through this establishment that day. She took a few minutes to come out and wish us a Happy Dyngus day and then quickly disappeared back into the kitchen. Owners **Ronnie** and **Lottie** always have some polka videos and music on hand for a quick impromptu dance around the barroom. Their establishment truly embodies the essence of Polish life

on the east side of Buffalo.

Onward and a short trip just a few blocks down, we stopped at **Arty's** where polka music was blasting so loud you could hear it outside. Every member of the family as well as many friends were there assisting in getting ready for the day's events. Every bar stool and table except one had been cleared out to make room

for the hundreds of Dyngus Day groupies that would file through this corner tavern for the celebration. The only remaining table in the bar was proudly reserved for Mrs. K who has been the bar owner since 1972. She is a legend on the east side and her table was left by the door so that she could visit with everyone making their way through the tavern doorway.

After a bite to eat, it was time to start enjoying some more live polka music. The Firehouse is a small locally owned establishment on the border of Buffalo and Cheektowaga. **Phocus** was playing in the back of the bar and it was jammed to capacity with polka lovers. I was greeted by many friends from Albany, Rochester, Binghamton, and Canada. A makeshift dance floor was filled by couples, children, and many girls with pussywillows in hand. **Phocus** sent out dedications to their loyal fans as the party had just begun.

I then headed just a few blocks away back to Polish Villa II where the **Buffalo Touch** had taken the stage. At this point Villa was completely packed as was a tent which was set up directly in front of the restaurant. Music filled the air as everyone donned their red and white apparel and got in celebration mode. **Nick Koryluk** was filling in on accordion, concertina and even trumpet with the Touch for the weekend. His talent added another dimension of rhythm to the band. Polish Villa II is the perfect place to meet up with friends before catching the Pussywillow Bus to head to additional venues.

Dyngus Day festivities at St. Stan's have been a part of my life

since I started coming to Buffalo. This church, which serves as a pillar of Polish life and culture in Buffalo, embraces the meaning of this cultural celebration. **Fr. Ted Bocianowski**, the pastor of St. Stan's, offered a blessing upon the food, beverages, and crowd at the beginning of the activities. Parishioners volunteer and work hard to make this event run smoothly.

Hundreds of people scurried into the hall as **Stephanie** and her honky band took the stage. America's Polka Sweetheart is always filled with high energy, keeping the attention of this diverse crowd. Dyngus party-goers are dressed in everything from red tee shirts to crazy outlandish costumes and many are also armed with squirt guns and pussy willows. **Buffalo Concertina All Stars** alternated with Stephanie for the perfect accompaniment of high energy honky music. This band supplies a blend of fun interaction and a traditional "from the heart" beat. This fundraiser attracts a large array of devotees many whom are multi-generational families. To me, this is what makes this stop so special. I adore watching these families celebrate together and embrace the pride of their Polish heritage.

On this gorgeous night on the East side of Buffalo, I took a walk to several taverns to take in the revelry before heading to the Millenium hotel for my final destination. Upon entering, the **Buffalo Touch** was on stage with **Johnny Karas** joining them in song. The venue was jumping with party goers who were enjoying the music, food, and beverages. Johnny began singing "Alice" which is always a fan favorite especially for the "younger" crowd. The Touch, who are celebrating their 20th anniversary this year, continue to memorialize their founder Jerry Darlak through their sound. Next **Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push** took the stage with their powerhouse vocals and musical talents. The fans never tire of seeing this legend on the stage and hearing all of those fabulous Lenny tunes that we all love so much. Of course, "Dyngus Day in Buffalo" was a highly requested song throughout the evening and the crowd sing-along with it was quite a scene.

For one extended set, beloved Buffalonian polka hero **Dave "Scrubby" Seweryniak** grabbed the spotlight. I stood back and watched as the front of the stage became mobbed with everyone wanting to get close to watch him sing

along with the band. His personality, humor, and vocals are something no one can mimic. He commands the audience with his endearing personality and love that he puts into each note. The harmonies between **Scrubby**, **Larry Trojak**, and **Lenny Gomulka** are ones that are rare to hear in polka music today. These moments were a time capsule of days and music from times gone by.

Fans were vying for a spot to snap pictures and take videos of these monumental moments. For those of us who were there, we realize how lucky we were to be celebrating among friends in the glory of this heartwarming music. Dyngus Day 2015 will go down in the books as another successful heritage-inspired event. It is growing every year here in Buffalo and I am very grateful to be a part of this enthusiastic cultural phenomenon.

UPCOMING

- May 2.** Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, Dinner Dance, Valley of Buffalo Hall, 2759 Union Rd. Cheektowaga, N.Y. 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. \$15.00 advance/\$20.00 door (includes plated Polish platter). Call (716) 822-4908
- May 3.** Polish Happy Hour, Polish Constitution Day, Adam Mickiewicz Library, 612 Fillmore Ave. Buffalo. 1:30 p.m. to ? Free admission.
- May 8.** Spring Polka Dance featuring John Gora and Special Delivery, John Paul II Hall, 4300 Cawthra Rd., Mississauga, Ontario. Call John for info (905) 336-3055
- May 12.** Buffalo Touch, River Grill, Aqua Lane, Tonawanda, N.Y. 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Free admission.
- May 15.** Buffalo Touch, Collins Library, Main St., Collins, N.Y. 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Free admission.
- May 22-24.** USPA Convention, Holiday Inn, 15471 Royalton Rd. Strongsville, Ohio featuring Polka Family, The Boys, The Music Company, The Knewz, Eddie Forman, Freeze Dried, Ray Jay & the Carousels, Henry & the Versa Js, New Brass Express, Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, and Polka Country Musicians. Call Barb for info (440) 886-6157
- May 26.** Buffalo Polka Boosters, New Direction, Polish Falcons, 443 Columbia Ave., Depew, N.Y. 8:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. \$7.00 members/\$10.00 non-members
- May 27.** Polka Variety Meeting, Buffalo Touch, Pvt. Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga, N.Y. 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. \$9.00 first-time members/\$8.00 members
- May 31.** Special Delivery. Diane-agains, 2460 Clinton St., Cheektowaga, N.Y. 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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SCHEDULE OF BANDS

Wednesday, June 24

7 pm – 10 pm
On The Boardwalk

Polka Country Musicians

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\$6.00 Parking Fee



Thursday, June 25

10 am – 4 pm
In The Pavilion
6 pm – 12:30 am
In The Ballroom

D-Street

Matt's All Star Jam Band

Jimmy Sturr Orchestra

Polka Family

\$20.00 Adults
Kids 16 & Under FREE
When Accompanied By An Adult

Friday, June 26

10 am – 4 pm
In The Pavilion
5:30 pm – 1 am
In The Ballroom

Polka Country Musicians

The Boys

The Knewz

Eddie Forman

IPA Tribute Band

\$20.00 Adults
Kids 16 & Under FREE
When Accompanied By An Adult



Beach Party On The Boardwalk

7 pm – 10 pm
D-Street

Saturday, June 27

9:30 am – 3:30 pm
In The Pavilion
5 pm – 1 am
In The Ballroom

Polka Country Musicians

The Boys

The Knewz

Lenny Gomulka &

The Chicago Push

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Band Line-Up Subject To Change
By state law, you may not bring your
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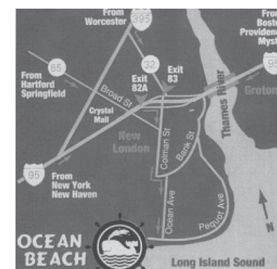
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TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

Resurrection of a Tradition: The Summer Polish Picnic

Summer is right around the corner, (it truly is!), and that means we are all looking forward to our favorite outdoor events. Time has seemed to whittle away many of the parish festivals with which we grew up. As it has been across the country, so it has been this way in Toledo as well. From celebrations nearly every week-end in past years, to a handful currently, the concept of the parish festival has changed and evolved. Many no longer go for multiple days, nor have live bands, instead economizing with a one- or two-day event, and perhaps a DJ.

But others have managed to create successful festivals and/or keep theirs alive. An example of a new festival is St. Hyacinth, and an ongoing festival is Regina Coeli, both held in August and both featuring live polka music.

The leadership of the Toledo Area Polka Society evaluated its schedule of events, and as a result decided to eliminate the May dance and start what will hopefully be-

come an annual summer tradition, an old-fashioned summer picnic.

TAPS is proud to present the First Annual Polish Summer Picnic on Saturday, June 20, 2015, at the Oak Shade Grove Pavilion in Oregon, Ohio. This dance will take place from 3-11 p.m. and features John Gora & Gorale, alternating with Randy Krajewski & Badinov. Admission is \$8.00 per person, \$6.00 for ages 60+, and kids under 16 will be free.

Many readers know Oak Shade Grove as the home of the very successful German American Festival held in August for three days. The pavilion features a wooden dance floor, ample seating, nearby parking, and bar amenities. The picnic will feature several food vendors, raffles, and much more. Oregon is conveniently located off I-280 and is accessible for polka fans from all directions.

For more information, contact 419-276-1600, or TAPS.Toledo@bex.net.

“Polka Dreams All-Star Band” Members Names and Cruise Details Revealed

PITTSBURGH — “A Dream Trip 4 U” is excited to announce the details about its next polka cruise adventure in sunny paradise. “Polka Dreams @ Sea 2” Polka Cruise will set sail January 30 thru February 6, 2016, to the Eastern Caribbean from Ft. Lauderdale onboard the enchanting Emerald Princess. Be sure to mark your calendar for this one as it promises to be the best cruise of the year. (Please note: If you have seen a flyer with later dates, they have been changed to these dates.)

Featured bands this year are two of the best on the polka scene: The NuTones from Pennsylvania and the DynaBrass from Michigan. Stacey Morris, USPA “Female Vocalist of the Year” for two years running (and nominee again for 2014) is the leader of The NuTones. There will also be the Polka Dreams All-Star Band, featuring some of the biggest and hottest polka stars in the country: IPA Polka Hall of Famer Eddie Siwiec (New Brass Express, TPM); Jeff Mleczo (DynaBrass, TPM);

Dave Morris (The Nu-Tones, The Boys, The Sounds); Rich Zebrowski, (Nu-Tones, TBC, The Sounds); Paul Krywy (DynaBrass, New Brass Express, Big Daddy Lackowski, Duane Malinowski, Kielbasa Kings, The George Brothers Band) and one more member to be announced. It will be “the best of the best” in live polka music all week long on one of the biggest dance floors at sea.

There will also be a Polka Jam session where guests can be the star; fun themes such as “Hawaiian Night,” “Red & White Night,” “Ladies Night Out,” “Sports Night,” and more.

As usual, the affable polka “DJ@Sea” Kenny Olowin will spin some of your favorite polka tunes, and our “Priest@Sea” Fr. Tom Aleksa will be there to conduct a Polka Mass. In between all the polka excitement, adventures will take us to the exotic tropical islands of Grand Turk, St. Maarten, St. Thomas and Princess’ private playground *Princess Cays*. This state-of-the-art ship features all

of the latest innovations including a unique atrium with restaurants, Crooner’s Lounge, and other meeting places; The Piazza - a casual street of cafés, the Vines Bar, and shops; The Sanctuary (an adults-only haven of serenity); and the outdoor “Movies Under the Stars,” which features first-run films.

The food on the Emerald Princess is considered some of the best in the cruise industry

There will also be a welcome party the night before the cruise in Ft. Lauderdale, so plan to attend. This will be open to anyone, even if you are not going on the cruise. (Location and price still being determined).

For more information and to get a cruise brochure, contact Helga Leonard of “A Dream Trip 4 U”; at 724-234-2033 or email Helga at helga@adreamtrip4u.com. You can also download a brochure at www.polka-cruise.com.

Polkas Lose “The Platinum Voice”

NORWICH, Conn. — Vocalist, musician, arranger and composer Edmund “Eddie” Skinger passed away March 17, 2015 at home.

Born in Willimantic, Skinger married Sophie Rembowski and after a tour in the U.S. Army. He went on to become a tool and die maker. A move to Norwich and a Master’s Degree helped him move up the ladder of success.

It was his love of music, however, that occupied the greatest majority of his life. Becoming an accomplished and well-respected vocalist, musician, arranger and composer he went on to be known as “The Platinum Voice” of polkas. In 2001 he was inducted into the International

Polka Association Hall of Fame. Eddie Skinger has performed and recorded for some of the greatest polka bands in the industry including: Frank Wojnarowski, Frank Yankovic, The Connecticut Twins, Dick Pillar, Bud Hundenski, Polka Country Musicians, Happy Louie, Walt Jaworski, Ray Henry, Jimmy Sturr, Gene Mendalski and The G-Men, Dennis Polisky and The Maestro’s Men, Stas Golonka, The King Brothers, Chet Dragon, Gene Wisniewski, Charlie Hyatt, Jas Przasnyski, John Demerski, Joe Toriskie, and The Casuals.

Skinger’s accomplishments in the music field include recording on many labels including RCA, Sesac, Dana, Steljo, Windsor, Starr, and Sunshine. Eddie wrote and arranged for Ray Henry, Dick Pillar, Dennis Polisky and The Maestro Men, Polka Family along with his own orchestra. “From Me To You Polka,” “Move It Oberek,” “My Mother Waltz” and “Who’s There Polka”



are just some of his many original compositions.

Eddie is survived by his wife Sophie; son Paul (Patty) Skinger of Greeley, Colorado; daughter Marie Skinger of Sterling; granddaughter Danelle Skinger of Glendale, Arizona; grandson Ben Skinger of Fort Collins, Colorado; sister Leona Gowac of Moodus; brother John Skinger of Bristol and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

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