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REMEMBERING THE NFL'S "FEISTY LITTLE REDHEAD" PAGE 12

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

**CHURCH PRESERVATION BATTLE IN PHILADELPHIA • CONSULATE HOSTS NATO SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS
DUDA AND OBAMA MEET IN PRIVATE • NEW CHAIRS FOR THE WHITE HOUSE • WHO MAKES THE BEST KIEŁBASA?
NOW IS THE TIME TO PLAN YOUR SUMMER PICNIC MENU • POLAMS HONOR THE SAINTS • WAS POPEYE POLISH?**

Newsmark

POLISH FOREIGN MINISTRY SUMMONS RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR ABOUT FLYBY. The Polish Foreign Ministry in Warsaw has reportedly summoned Russian ambassador to Poland, Sergey Andreyev, for a meeting over Russian "provocation over the Baltic."

According to sources close to the Niezalezna.pl website, the summons is of "high priority."

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said April 14 the U.S. Navy ship that was buzzed by two Russian warplanes in the Baltic Sea this week could have opened fire under U.S. military rules of engagement.

The *USS Donald Cook* (DDG-75) was conducting flight operations with a Polish helicopter April 11 when two Russian Su-24 attack aircraft came within 1,000 yards of the destroyer, flying just 100 feet off the ground. The following day, a Russian jet came within 30 feet of the destroyer.

A U.S. defense official described the maneuvers to Fox News as a "simulated attack profile."

"We condemn this kind of behavior. It is reckless. It is provocative. It is dangerous. And under the rules of engagement that could have been a shoot-down," Kerry said.

The US European Command said that "as a safety precaution," flight operations involving the Polish helicopter were suspended until the aircraft left the scene.

HEAD OF PROTEST MOVEMENT MEETS WITH U.S. LEADERS. The leader of Poland's Committee for the Defense of Democracy (KOD) participated in talks with U.S. senators and representatives of the State Department concerning the rule of law and human rights in Poland, April 5.

The talks coincided with the vice president of the European Commission's appeal to the Polish government to implement rulings by the country's Constitutional Tribunal, amid a deadlock between the court and the government.

Head of KOD Mateusz Kijowski met with Senator Jeanne Shaheen (Democrat) of the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on European Affairs, as well as Republican John McCain and Democrats Ben Cardin and Richard J. Durbin. The latter three wrote a letter to the Polish prime minister on February 10, calling on the Polish government to "recommit to the core principles of the OSCE and the EU, including respect for democracy, human rights, and rule of law."

MARCH OF THE LIVING TO DRAW THOUSANDS. Some 8,500 people, mostly young Jews from over 40 countries and their Polish peers, are expected to take part in the annual March of the Living in southern Poland, on May 5. They will take an approximately two-mile-long route from the brick barracks of the former Nazi German concentration camp of Auschwitz to the crematoria of Birkenau.

The March of the Living was launched in 1988 and is primarily an educational project coinciding with Holocaust Memorial Day (Yom-ha Shoah).

PARTIAL ABORTION PLAN PROTESTED. Thousands gathered outside Poland's lower house of parliament afternoon to protest against a possible complete ban on abortion that is supported by the prime minister and the Church.

Prime Minister Beata Szydło stated that she is in favor of a complete ban. Her comments followed an open letter signed by the head of the Polish Episcopate Archbishop Stanisław Gądecki, calling on parliamentarians to vote through a complete ban.

Poland currently has among the most stringent abortion laws in Europe, meaning that a culture of backstreet abortions has emerged, likewise a syndrome whereby women have the operation over the border, commonly in Slovakia or the Czech Republic.

Abortion is only permissible if a woman's life or health is jeopardized by the continuation of a pregnancy, if the pregnancy is a result of a criminal act such as rape, or if the fetus is seriously malformed. The abortion must be carried out within the first 25 weeks of the pregnancy.

Celebrating a Cradle of Catholicism



PHOTO: CZAREK SOKOLOWSKI / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE VATICAN SECRETARY OF STATE, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, center, presided at a Mass, as part of Poland's celebration of 1,050 years of the nation's Catholicism at the 10th-century cathedral in Gniezno, in western Poland, April 14, 2016. Poland's bishops opened religious and political celebrations that mark 1,050 years of Christianity in Poland with a debate on its significance for the nation. The church and the conservative government jointly organized the three-day ceremonies that opened April 14 in the western town of Gniezno, considered to be the cradle of Poland's Catholicism. *Story and related articles on page 3.*

The Eyes of the World on Poland

This July Warsaw hosts Poland's first NATO summit

Young Catholics joining Pope Francis at World Youth Day

INCREASES SECURITY AGAINST POTENTIAL TERRORIST THREATS

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW—For a few days in July stories with a Warsaw or Kraków date-line will make headlines around the globe. On July 8-9, Warsaw will be the site of the first ever NATO summit hosted by Poland. Towards the end of the month, Kraków will be the focus of World Youth Days (July 26-31) attended by Pope Francis. In view of stepped up terrorist activity across Europe, both those events will involve a massive security operation.

The NATO gathering will be attended by the heads of state and government of its 28 member nations including President Barack Obama, and Poland hopes it will significantly bolster the alliance's eastern flank. At a North Atlantic Council (NAC) meeting in Brussels, defence ministers agreed to establish NATO's "forward presence" in the new member states. Ideally, Warsaw would like to have permanent NATO bases on Polish soil as a deterrent to Russia's neo-imperialist advances. The Poles have advocated tough sanctions against its giant neighbor as well as beefed-up security measures following the Kremlin's 2014 annexation of Crimea and stoking of separatist strife in eastern Ukraine.

But Germany, a key player in the See "All Eyes on Poland," page 4

New Ulma Family Museum Honors Family for Sacrifice in Sheltering Jews

by Staś Kmiec and Geraldine Balut Coleman

Rescuing Jews in Nazi occupied Poland was an exceptional challenge and equaled risking one's own life, as well as the lives of an entire family. Tragically, many of those who gave shelter to Jews were caught and killed, as were those whom they sheltered.

Poland's first museum honoring Poles who rescued Jews during World War II recently opened in Markowa, a town in southeastern Poland. The patron of the museum is the Ulma Family. The murder of this entire family that was killed together with the Jews they were hiding — has become a symbol of Polish sacrifice and martyrdom during the German occupation.

The new museum showcases historical documents and exhibits that detail the Ulma family's heartbreaking story. It also houses monuments in memorial to the Jews murdered in the area, as well as one in memory of the Poles, who paid with their lives for their rescue attempts and sacrifices.

"The heart of the place is the recreated house of the Ulma family," said director Mateusz Szpytma. "The dark red rust on the walls has a symbolic dimension here."

"We have a huge body of iconographic material," Szpytma said. "Józef Ulma was a photographer and took pictures

of his family, neighbors, and Jews." A photograph that Ulma took of his Jewish neighbors that was stained with the Jewish victims' blood during the 1944 killings is among the items on display.

The stories of Poles who helped Jews



Jozef and Wiktoria Ulma, along with their children, were murdered by Nazis for helping Jews — a direct violation of orders of the German government.

during the war are featured. Doors with bullet marks from the 1943 execution of five members of the Baranek family, which was sheltering four Jews in the village of Siedliska are also shown. Future events will include film screenings, museum lessons for school pupils, discussion meetings, and conferences.

The opening observances began with Jewish and Catholic prayers at the wooded cemetery near the village of Jagiełła, where the slain Jewish members are buried. Prayers were said and wreaths were laid also at the Markowa cemetery where the Ulma family is laid, See "Ulma Family Museum," page 10

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May ☺ Maj

*Nie ta matka co urodzi,
lecz ta co wychowa.
She is not the mother who bears,
but the one who rears.*

- 1 **ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER. LABOR DAY (POLAND)**
- 3 **FEAST OF MARY, QUEEN OF POLAND**
Polish Constitution Day (Święto Trzeciego Maja), commemorating the world's second modern written constitution (the first being that of the U.S.).
- 4 1870. Birth of **Zygmunt Stojowski**, friend of Peter Tchaikovsky and student of Ignacy Jan Paderewski. Stojowski was a brilliant concert pianist, known for being an outstanding professor, teaching countless students in New York until the end of his life. He became a champion of the newly independent Polish nation in 1918.
- 5 1819. Birth of composer **Stanisław Moniuszko**. (d. 1872)
- 6 1983. Birth of actress **Adrienne Palicki** in Toledo, Ohio, to Nancy and Jeffrey Palicki.
- 7 1794. Issuance of **Proclamation of Połaniec** issued by Tadeusz Kościuszko, which partially abolished serfdom in Poland, granting substantial civil liberties to all the peasants.
- 8 **VE DAY (U.S.)**
MOTHER'S DAY (U.S.)
ST. STANISLAUS
Poland's patron, Stanislaus, an early Bishop of Krakow, was slain by King Boleslaw Smialy while celebrating Mass in 1079. His body lies in the cathedral of Wawel Hill in Krakow, Poland. Hundreds of Polish churches across the world are named after him.
- 9 1667. Death of **Marie Louise de Gonzague-Nevers**, French Queen of Poland (1645-48).
- 10 1034. Death of **Mieszko II Lambert**.
1573. **Henry of Anjou** (Henry Walezki, Henry of Valois), became the first elected king of Poland.
- 12 1970. Death of World War II Polish Gen. **Wladyslaw Anders**.
- 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 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**.
- 21 **ARMED FORCES DAY (U.S.)**
- 22 1898. Founding of the fraternal benefit society, the Polish Women's Alliance.
- 23 1930. Birth of artist **Richard J. Anuszkiewicz**.
- 24 1543. Death of **Nicholas Copernicus** (Mikolaj Kopernik), Polish astronomer.
- 25 992. Death of **Mieszko I**, first Duke of Poland.
- 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.
- 29 1913. Birth of **Tony Zale** (Zaleski), middleweight champion from 1940-48.
- 30 **MEMORIAL DAY (U.S.)**
- 31 1972. Visit of President Richard Nixon to Poland, the first visit by a U.S. president.

This paper mailed on or before **April 29, 2016**.
The June 2016 edition will be mailed on or before **June 2, 2016**

VIEWPOINTS

Two Different Polands?

*For Centuries, as Today,
Pro- and Anti-Foreign
Attitudes Polarize Poles*

by **Robert Strybel**

Celebrations, such as this year's 1050th anniversary of Christian Poland, tend to idealize historical milestones. But the acceptance of Christianity didn't happen overnight, nor as smoothly as might be expected. Initially, the warriors of Duke Mieszko I encountered resistance when they destroyed the pagan idols and shrines in an effort to establish the new faith. One can only speculate how many pre-Christian Poles lost their lives in the process.

Eventually Christianity became firmly entrenched. Although the country was overwhelmingly Catholic, it also became a rare oasis of religious tolerance. Fortunately, Poland managed to avoid direct involvement in the 17th century's senseless Thirty Years War, a Catholic-Protestant religious conflict that soon evolved into a continent-wide bloodbath claiming eight million lives.

In Poland people of different faiths could freely worship rather than being burned at the stake as heretics. The only denomination ever expelled from Poland were the Aryans, but the expulsion was not for religious reasons: they had betrayed Poland by collaborating with the invading Swedes.

FOREIGN INFLUENCE. Over the centuries, in Poland it was attitudes towards outside powers and things foreign in general that largely determined the progressive-conservative divide. During the turbulent 17th century, opposition arose between the lifestyles, dress, and even eating habits of Sarmatians and (for want of a better term) Westerners

The latter readily aped fashions and customs from the West, while the Sarmatians considered themselves the true Polish-Slavic breed. They made fun of the "Frenchified" wine-drinkers in foppish wigs and white stockings, extolled *barszcz*, *bigos* and mead, and prided themselves in the "arch-Polish" *kontusz* (nobleman's robe) which was actually of Turkish origin.

Polish-foreign antagonism took on a more serious dimension in the early 18th century, when Polish King Stanislaw Leszczyński was dethroned and forced to flee the country by the German August II of Saxony. The saying "Jeden do Sasa, drugi do Lasa" reflected the split

between supporters of the foreigner Sas (the Saxon) and native son Las (Leszczyński).

In the 20th century, there emerged the concept of Poland A and Poland B. The former — west of the Vistula River — was better off, better developed and more receptive to foreign influence. Poland B to the east of the Vistula was and remains underdeveloped and less well-to-do but more closely tied to traditional Polish values including Catholicism.

In the 1980s, the world looked on in amazement as Poland's 10-million-strong Solidarity union defied the Soviet-imposed Jaruzelski regime, survived martial law and eventually peacefully dumped communism in 1989. Less known to the outside world was the friction sparking between two wings of *Solidarność*: the leftist, anticlerical, cosmopolitans of the dissident Workers Defense Committee (KOR) and the conservative, patriotic, pro-Polish and pro-Catholic "Prawdziwi Polacy" (True Poles) faction.

Such battle lines, in some ways similar to America's liberal-conservative divide, have persisted. Today's conservative Law and Justice Government is against the European

Union imposing refugee quotas on countries and is less Euro-enthusiastic in general. It wants to build an economically stronger and more sovereign Poland and is suspicious of Poland's traditional foes (Russia and Germany), but is very pro-American.

By contrast, the liberal opposition tends to be more Eurocentric than pro-American, more globalist than pro-Polish, generally pro-German, more willing to seek a *modus vivendi* with Moscow, more receptive to accepting refugees and therefore in favor of multiculturalism,

If your ancestors had not migrated to America and you were still living in Poland today, which faction would you tend to side with?

PAPER LATE. Many readers received the April 2016 edition several weeks later than usual. The PAJ was delivered March 31 to the main Buffalo USPS office, which recently opening new loading and sorting facilities, and was still "working the bugs out" of its system. Readers are reminded the paper's mailing date is always printed at the bottom left-hand corner of page 2.

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SPEAK UP

Subscription to PAJ is a Blessing

Dear Editor:

Last year, my uncle/godfather Tadz Puzio gifted me a subscription to your newspaper. What a blessing it has turned out to be.

Each month, I look forward to reading all the news and features. I get inspired by some, humbled by others, and enlightened by all. (I still believe that a good newspaper is the best cheap entertainment you can find.) The Almanac, Viewpoints, Forum, Sybiracy, The Pondering Pole, Polish Can Be Fun, Sports, Culture and Recipes always teach me something worth learning.

I also appreciate the Polish American Journal's reporting of Polish news from Poland and America. It's straight-forward reporting of issues that most major U.S. newspapers either pass over or refuse to touch (because it speaks of Polish nationalism and sovereignty, and especially because it is unabashedly conservative and Christian in its value system).

Thank you for such a swell publication; I enjoy it very much. My Polish-American mother, Sonya [Puzio] Sacks, was the first person in her family born in the United States. She taught me much, and most of our family's customs come from her. Now that she's gone, it's nice to read the Journal each month because it reinforces my heritage in a genuine, professional way, and it somehow keeps me connected.

Dave Sacks
Annapolis, Md.

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Editor in Chief Mark A. Kohan
editor@polamjournal.com

Senior Associate Editor Larry Wroblewski

Associate Editors Benjamin Fiore, S.J., Mary E. Lanham, Michael Pietruszka, Stas Kmiec, Steve Litwin, Walter J. Mysliwicz, Thomas Tarapacki

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Poland Marks 1,050 Years of Christianity

WARSAW — President Andrzej Duda said the adoption of Christianity by Polish ruler Mieszko I 1,050 years ago was the single most important event in Poland's history.

Duda was speaking at a special joint session of both chambers of the Polish parliament — the central event of celebrations marking the 1,050th anniversary of Christianity in this country.



MIESZKO I

The joint body, known as the National Assembly, met in Poznań, western Poland, a city considered to be the cradle of Polish statehood. It was the first such meeting to be held outside Warsaw.

"The baptism of Mieszko I is the most important event in the whole history of the Polish state and nation (...). That decision by our first historical ruler decided the whole, later future of our country," Duda said. He added that the adoption of Christianity was key in shaping a Polish national identity.

"We said then that we are ready to build a nation and... our own state, to create it, defend it, and when necessary die for it."

The anniversary events were attended by top Polish politicians, diplomats and church officials.

POPE PRAISES POLAND'S FIDELITY. Pope Francis named Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican's Secretary of State, as his legate to commemorations in Gniezno and Poznan (see photo, cover).

In his letter for the occasion, *Poloniam semper fidelem* [Poland always faithful], Pope Francis praised Poles' "fidelity toward the Magisterium of the Church and the Successors of Peter," the influence of the Church on Polish culture, and the heritage of Polish saints, including Saints Adalbert, Stanislaus, Maximilian Mary Kolbe, Faustina Kowalska, and John Paul II.

Pope Francis also praised Polish clergy and religious, who in the most difficult moments of the nation's history "faithfully suffered with the people."

An Open Letter to Polonia from Polish American Bishops

"Each emigration from Poland has brought with it a new richness as well as new problems. There have been and there continue to be cases of harmful divisions, even splits, which have impeded Polonia in the United States from playing the full role of which it is capable in both the religious and spiritual spheres, and the social and political spheres."

— Pope St. John Paul II in *Hamtrack*

In the movie, *Karol, a Man Who Became Pope*, we see a young woman who is a member of the then Father Wojtyła's circle of young student friends. She is distraught because she and her husband are about to flee Poland because of the harassment of the communist authorities. Fr. Wojtyła consoles her. Wherever you are, he assures her, you will still be Polish.

In the spirit of Easter, we, the American Bishops of Polish descent, extend the peace and joy of the Resurrected Christ to all Catholics of Polish descent. *Wesołego Alleluja!* We address you in a spirit of solidarity, to bring to your attention several events which are occurring this year and their impact on the life of our Polonia.

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY. We are in the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, where the eyes of Catholics are focused on the unfathomable mystery of God. Many Catholics have revived devotional practices, such as pilgrimages to designated churches. For those who cannot pass through the Holy Doors of St. Peter's in Rome, local churches throughout the United States have been designated as pilgrim destinations including many revered by our Polish communities. Also, the celebration of World Youth Day in Kraków will bring hundreds of thousands of pilgrims to our fatherland, including many Polish American youth who travel to encounter the Holy Father but also to experience the land where their ancestors were formed within a culture friendly to the Catholic Faith. This Jubilee Year of Mercy is a time for Polish Christians and Christians everywhere to open their hearts to the grace of God and return to the roots of their faith.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAPTISM OF POLAND. The Year of Mercy falls providentially during

the 1050th anniversary of the Baptism of Poland (966 AD), when Prince Mieszko I, ruler of tribal Polanie, accepted Christianity with his entire household. By this very action Poland became a new nation, entered into a new Latin civilization and developed a new Christian identity. The first missionaries helped to Christianize the nation. For the first time, the cross was erected over the vast terrain as a sign of a new beginning. From that time, the sacrament of baptism and the cross were visible signs of God's blessing for kings, knights, and peasants. Churches and monasteries were built to replace ancient pagan shrines spreading the light of faith and a new hope throughout the country. Over the centuries, Poland developed a unique spirituality, strong faith, and total trust in Jesus Christ. To that extent, faith became a way of life and permeated the culture. Today, a deep faith in the Eucharist, frequent participation in the sacrament of Penance, and devotion to the Blessed Mother are a few examples of how this faith manifests itself in common devotional practices. The Church in Poland will celebrate the anniversary of receiving baptism on a national level in Gniezno in June and many diocesan and parish celebrations will follow.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN for Polish-Speaking Catholics in the United States? Polonia, which is an integral part of the Polish nation, will celebrate this milestone event in Orchard Lake on Wednesday, June 22, 2016 with a Mass in the presence of many bishops, priests, and laity. This unique event raises important questions of how we carry out our Baptismal promises in a multi-cultural and secular society. Past generations provided for us a living testimony of faith, supporting the mission of the Church, and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ with words and deeds. The spirit of cooperation between pastors and the faithful resulted also in the building of magnificent churches, Catholic schools, convents, etc. The first generation of our ancestors' courageous missionary work, faith, and generosity produced an impressive history of success of Polonia in our country. As members of Polonia we should continue to embrace the beautiful traditions established by our parents even as we face chal-

lenges and opportunities that may be different than those of our parents' generation. We encourage you to observe this anniversary in your local community and reflect who we are and what is the significance of our Baptism for our generation.

NATIONAL JOHN PAUL DAY IN WASHINGTON. A pilgrimage to our nation's capital will take place on October 15th in the name of Polonia in the United States to celebrate St. John Paul II on the anniversary of his election as Pope. It is the second national celebration whose purpose is to keep alive his memory for future generations of Polish American Catholics. It is also an occasion to relive the memory of his pontificate which is depicted in an impressive way in his Shrine in Washington D.C. and there offer prayer for our personal, family and Polonia intentions.

There is a constant flow of people praying at his altar at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. To give Polonia the opportunity to renew spiritual life and then strengthen their faith, a special triptych of John Paul II was designed which is presently on a pilgrimage with his relics to Polish American parishes across the country. Our generation had the privilege of witnessing the charismatic pontificate of the Polish Pope, St. John Paul II, who had an enormous impact on the Universal Church and the world and therefore, Polonia has an obligation to pass on his legacy.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF POLISH CHAPEL. This year we will also celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Polish chapel of Our Lady of Częstochowa at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. The chapel was dedicated in 1966 on the occasion of the millennium of the Baptism of the Polish nation. The chapel has been renovated several times through the generosity of Polish American bishops, clergy and Polonia. This chapel is a living testimony to the special devotional esteem which Polish people have for the Blessed Mother.

It is no coincidence that the first Polish hymn of the 11th century, *Bogurodzica*, was dedicated to the Blessed Mother. The first Polish permanent settlement in the United States — Panna Maria, Texas, 1854 — is named after the Virgin Mary

and its parish, Immaculate Conception. The devotional practices across our land in Polish parishes, such as May devotions, October Rosary services, and the coronation of the Blessed Mother are the hallmark of Polish American Marian spirituality. The Our Lady of Częstochowa Shrine in Doylestown, Pa. is yet another sign of Marian spirituality of Polonia. Pope John Paul II had a special devotion to the Blessed Mother and whatever country he traveled to he always celebrated a Mass in the Marian shrines. In many homes, there is an icon of Our Lady of Częstochowa next to a crucifix which adorns your walls. We want to encourage you to keep devotions to the Blessed Mother, who leads us to Christ.

FINAL THOUGHTS. Polonia is not an isolated, independent entity but is a part of a larger American society and is affected by economic, cultural and religious changes in our country. A secularist culture, indifference, relativism, and a misunderstood sense of freedom have had negative consequences in all of society, including Polonia. St. John Paul II during his visit to the Archdiocese of Detroit made this statement to Polonia:

"There is always an issue of integration which has a double connotation. It is important to know about the growing awareness and maturity of Polonia within itself and integration of Polonia in relation to the country where you are now living. The more you are aware of your identity, spirituality, history and Christian tradition from which your forefathers originated and from which you grew up, the better you will serve your new homeland, and multiply the common good of America."

The major anniversaries and celebrations of this year provide Catholics of Polish ethnicity with the opportunity for self-examination of our attitudes and efforts to deepen our faith and love for God and His Church. In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, we look for inspiration and strength from our forefathers to renew the spirit of evangelization, strengthen our Catholic identity and pride in our cultural and religious heritage. The Millennium celebration of Poland's Christianity in 1966 was preceded by The "Great Novena" of nine years preceding Poland's Millennium and had as its theme, *Fidelity to God, Cross, Gospel, Church and her Shepherds*.

Fifty years later, may the same theme guide our pastoral programs. We encourage all the members of our Polish American community to be engaged in religious and cultural activities, and thus write a personal chapter of our generation's history not only with a pen but with our deeds and hearts.

Renewed in faith through this Jubilee Year of Mercy may we rediscover our roots, even while we, as "missionary disciples" share with others the Joy of the Gospel. For this challenging, missionary work of spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ, we impart our fraternal blessings.

Msgr. Anthony Czarnecki
Polish Apostolate Committee
Mercy Sunday, April 3, 2016

Msgr. Anthony Czarnecki is national coordinator of the Polish Apostolate Committee, an affiliate with the Bishops Committee on Migration of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (PCMR), dedicated to serve the Catholics of Polish origin.

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The PAJF is a non-profit 501c3 organization established to promote Polish and Polish American culture and traditions among members of the public and other Polish and Polish American groups. It does this by organizing and supporting special events, networking, and providing consultation to individuals and groups, which seek to learn more about the Polish community in the United States.

As a national newspaper serving Polish immigrants and their descendants since 1911, 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.



Your tax-deductible donation to the Polish American Journal Foundation supports our efforts to keep the Polish American community strong for generations to come.

MEMBERSHIP. Donations are accepted in any amount. All donations will be acknowledged and may be used as charitable contributions on your tax return. 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 reviews these suggestions and creates 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.

Since 1911, the Polish American Journal has been an advocate for Poles and their descendants in the United States. Help us utilize over 100 years of the Polish American experience to support those who share our core values of strong family, faith, and community.

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Consulate Hosts Poland-U.S. NATO Seminar Participants

CHICAGO — Polish Army officers along with representatives of some of Poland's civilian agencies visited Chicago April 4-7, 2016 to take part in the joint Poland-U.S. NATO Summit Lessons Learned Seminar organized by the Illinois National Guard. Polish experts worked with their U.S. counterparts to exchange experience and good practices from the 2012 NATO Summit in Chicago and ahead of the 2016 NATO Summit in Warsaw, July 8-9.

At the invitation of the Consul of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, Robert Rusiecki, participants in the seminar paid a visit to the Consulate to sum up the seminar and meet with Polish veterans of World War II or members of the Polish Army Historical Association.

Addressing those gathered, Consul Rusiecki underscored the productive 23-year-long cooperation between the Polish Army and the Illinois National Guard. He also stressed the important role of the Polish-U.S.

military cooperation and Poland-U.S. bilateral relations.

Brig. Gen. Michael Zerbonia emphasized the crucial role of Poland among NATO members and praised Poland as "the best among the United States' allies" while the Polish General Adam Joks, expressing thanks for the seminar, admitted that it offered many new invaluable perspectives ahead of the 2016 Warsaw NATO Summit.

Poland has been a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization since March 12, 1999.



Consul Rusiecki

Duda: Held Private Meeting with President Obama

continued from cover

trymen and women who were so proudly singing the Polish national anthem, in which he participated.

The president expressed his gratitude, and that of the Polish nation, for all that the Polish Diaspora has done — and continues to do — for Poland. He cited the U.S. Polonia's efforts that resulted in Poland's becoming a NATO member, "teaching the Polish language, promoting Poland's heritage and culture, and faithfully promoting the good name and image of Poland."

Duda specifically asked for "continued assistance in the area of dispelling myths, falsehoods and misunderstandings about Poland and her people, particularly during World War II. Defending Poland's good name is the Polish governments' duty. A good example is the recent opening of the museum remembering Poles who saved Jews in Markowa (southeast Poland). The Nazi Germans executed the Polish family of Josef and Wiktoria Ullman, including their children, for protecting and housing Jews during the Holocaust extermination."

Duda noted that "at the Yad Vashem Memorial in Israel there are over six thousand trees memorializing Poles who saved Jews (during the Holocaust). This is our pride, with that we should feel honored, and this is how the falsified history is exposed." The president reassured that the Polonia can count on support from the President and the government of Poland in this matter.

Duda closed by saying that "Today Poland is a free and democratic nation even though there are disagreements among elected officials, much as we see here in the U.S.,



PHOTO: RICHARD KOENIGSKI

PROUD PATRIOTS. Poland's President Andrzej Duda, at left, and Polish Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf are pictured singing *Jeszcze Polska Nie Zginela* - Poland's national anthem, at the Embassy of Poland on the eve of the International Nuclear Security Summit in Washington.

but Poland remains dedicated to the ideas of freedom and democracy." His overall remarks were very well received by the audience and he was rewarded with thunderous applause as he exited the podium.

After the reception and during the dinner, Duda was readily available and eager to converse with the guests — with numerous photo opportunities abounding. He personally greeted "those seniors present who have given so much of themselves to the Polish cause and continue to be a shining example to the next generations," namely Walter Zachariasiewicz, General Edward Rowny, Lady Blanka Rosensteil and Kaya Mirecka-Ploss.

While in Washington, Duda optimized his limited time by addressing the National Press Club on the critical and multifaceted matters of NATO solidarity and European security, especially in the face of a resurgent, militarized and overtly

aggressive Russia. He reassured that "Poland is a proud and responsible member of NATO," and that it is ready to fully keep its commitments to members of the defensive military alliance.

Duda also had a private, peripheral meeting with President Obama in the White House during a dinner for the Summit-assembled heads of state. The two spoke mainly about nuclear issues, the forthcoming NATO Summit in Warsaw, as well as the current controversial and heated political situation surrounding the Constitutional Tribunal in Poland, said Presidential Minister Krzysztof Szczerski.

Duda informed Obama about the latest developments in Poland, and about a meeting of parties to seek compromise regarding the Tribunal. Obama thanked Poland for its achievements and in the non-proliferation of nuclear arms, said Szczerski.

All Eyes on Poland

continued from cover

alliance, has extensive economic ties with Russia and is reluctant to unduly antagonize Moscow by supporting permanent NATO bases in the USSR's former captive nations. Moreover, NATO is now faced with other problems such as the growing ISIS threat and the migration crisis. Unless Poland does a superb job of lobbying in July, it may have to settle for a rotating NATO presence: permanent infrastructure in Poland and other ex-Soviet-bloc states but manned by NATO troops contingents rotated every six months. According to Warsaw, that impairs the combat readiness of such troops.

World Youth Days, an event pioneered by St John Paul II, will be a gathering of an entirely different nature. It is expected to attract up to 2.5 million young pilgrims from around the globe. Highpoints will include liturgies celebrated by the Holy Father in Kraków, Częstochowa and Wieliczka. Youthful participants will also do a lot of sightseeing and souvenir-shopping in Kraków and take part in prayer vigils, discussion

groups, and religious sing-alongs around traditional bonfires. Pope Francis is also scheduled to pay a visit to Nazi Germany's horrific Auschwitz death camp.

Thousands of Polish families have volunteered to provide free room and board in their homes to foreign pilgrims, many of them students on a shoestring. A "buy a ticket for a brother" fund-raising drive has been launched to provide train fare to Kraków for the even poorer young people from former Soviet republics.

The NATO summit and World Youth Days are totally different gatherings, but both could tempt potential terrorists who know high-profile events guarantee maximum publicity for their atrocities. Some 2,500 NATO delegates and throngs of journalists will meet at Warsaw's ultra-modern National Stadium built for the 2012 European Soccer Championships, Accessible on all sides, that facility will be relatively easy to protect, but transporting the VIPs to and from the site will be a major security challenge.

The Catholic youth meet-up may prove more difficult, since it will involve huge crowds in the streets and the Supreme Pontiff of a Church despised by Muslim fanatics. Secret-service agents will circulate among the crowds of worshipers and the proceedings will be closely monitored from rooftops and balconies as SWAT teams tucked away in neighboring streets will be ready to spring into action at the first sign of trouble. If terrorist threat level were to unexpectedly increase, the Youth Days could get called off altogether, according to National Security Bureau chief Paweł Soloch.

Poland hopes to enact a tough new anti-terrorist law in time for the July events and during that period border checks will be reintroduced to screen out potential troublemakers. Whether such measures suffice to prevent any unforeseen developments is difficult to predict, but one thing is certain. Polish officials will breathe a big sigh of relief once both events end without incident and their participants have safely returned home.

RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Church Preservation Battle in Philadelphia

The 130-year-old St. Laurentius church, the first one built for and by Polish immigrants in Philadelphia, was slated to be demolished until a group of preservationists and historic landmark agencies intervened to stop the process. The Philadelphia Archdiocese asked a city panel to reject a request that artwork in the church be granted landmark status but the committee sided with the preservationists. The archdiocese reminded clergy that it opposes layperson involvement in having church properties designated historic, arguing that such actions infringe on freedom of religion while exposing the church to unfair financial burdens. Similar controversy embroils closed Protestant churches in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

GROSS GRILLED. A Polish prosecutor questioned Jan Tomasz Gross to determine if he committed the crime of insulting Poland with a statement on violence against Jews during World War II.

Gross, a professor based at Princeton University, told The Associated Press he was questioned for five hours April 12 in Katowice, but does not yet know if he will be charged with the alleged offense, which can carry a prison term of up to three years.

Gross was questioned after multiple complaints were filed with prosecutors by Polish citizens over an article published last year in which Gross said Poles killed more Jews than Germans during the World War II German occupation of Poland.

Gross made the comparison in an article published by Project Syndicate in September critical of how Poland and other Eastern European countries have reacted to the migrant crisis. He decried the region's opposition to accepting refugees as "heartless" and argued that the attitude is rooted in the region's "murderous past."

In the most controversial section, Gross wrote: "Consider the Poles, who, deservedly proud of their society's anti-Nazi resistance, actually killed more Jews than Germans during the war."

President Andrzej Duda is considering stripping Gross of an Order of Merit he received in 1996.

His spokesman, Marek Magierowski, said the president has not yet made a decision.

BISHOP STIKA VS. TENNESSEE'S STATE BOOK. Bishop Richard Styka of the RC Diocese of Knoxville, Tenn., opposed the state senate's decision to designate the Holy Bible as the official state book. While he affirms the belief in the bible as the inspired word of God, he noted that "we live in a pluralistic society, and we have a mixture of different faiths." He is concerned that the designation could "cause division within the state."

Also worrying the bishop is the fact that the bill does not say which version of the Bible would be the official book. The Roman Catholic Bible has seven or more Old Testament books than the Protestant bible. This echoes the earlier Catholic opposition to public schooling in the 19th century when prayer and bible reading were common. These were all Protestant oriented and led to the founding of the Catholic school system.

Bishop Stika attended the funeral of Mother Angelica. He appeared on Mother Angelica Live on EWTN in 2000 where he discussed the importance of Eucharistic Adoration.



THE INTERIOR OF ST. LAURENTIUS. The Archdiocese sold the church to a developer for \$1. This developer has proposed converting the space into apartments or condos. Parafia św. Wawrzyńca was established in 1882, and largely served people of Polish background in the Fishtown neighborhood of Philadelphia. It is the oldest Polish Roman Catholic Church within the city and Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The building was closed at the end of March 2014 due to "structural issues," and all functions were relocated to Holy Name of Jesus Church, two blocks away.

VATICAN SPLENDORS ON DISPLAY IN SIMI. Hundreds of artifacts from the Vatican are on display at the Ronald Reagan Library and Museum in Simi, Calif.

The 10,000 square-foot exhibit was originally inspired by St. John Paul II, who shared Vatican treasures in museums around the world for people who could never make it to Rome.

PROFESSOR CALLS COPS ON ROTC EXERCISES. University of North Dakota English Professor Heidi Czerwec called 911 when she noticed ROTC students in camouflage with guns outside her window. They were practicing drills. Unabashed by her mistake, the

enraged professor vowed that she would do the same every time the ROTC conducts drills on campus.

BUILDING A PRAYER GARDEN AND A COLLEGE CHAPEL. Ed Trojanowski of All Saints Council (Knights of Columbus) 9485 in Mesa, Ariz., helped build a prayer garden at All Saints Church. The garden includes the Stations of the Cross, a small pool and waterfall. Benches and lighting will be added in the future.

The K of C Western Metroplex Chapter in the RC Diocese of Fort Worth, Tex., built a new chapel for the St. John Paul II University parish community which serves students, faculty and alumni at the Uni-

versity of North Texas and Texas Women's University.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO... Fr. John J. Mitka celebrating his 50th anniversary of ordination. Born in Salamanca, N.Y., Fr. Mitka has served a wide number of parishes in the Buffalo Diocese and is now senior parochial vicar at St. Gabriel Parish in Elma, N.Y.

Bishop Chad Zielinski is entering his third year of service as bishop of the Fairbanks, Alaska, a diocese twice the size of Texas but with only 10,000 Catholics in 46 parishes. The Detroit, Mich., native was raised on a farm in Alpena, Mich. and after ordination in 1996 served from 2002 as Air Force chap-

lain at bases in the US, Iraq and Afghanistan. His Air Force experience serves him well now in a diocese where most of the parishes can be reached only by plane.

PILGRIMS WALK IN NEW JERSEY. Carrying a 7-foot by 12-foot wooden cross, stopping for meditative moments, and singing hymns, faithful Pol Ams walked five miles from St. Michael the Archangel Church in Lyndhurst to Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Wallington, N.J. Parishioner Ewa Kirszt noted that this year's pilgrimage focused on the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

A pilgrimage, coupled with the sacrament of penance, Holy Communion, and prayer for the pope's intentions opens up the possibility of a plenary indulgence for participants. Chris Kwolek, one of the pilgrims, said, "It's an opportunity to grow deeper in your faith, and trust in its mercy."

MORE ABUSE REVELATIONS IN ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN. Three provincial superiors of the Franciscans are alleged to have assigned a Franciscan athletic trainer to Bishop McCort HS in Johnstown and then reassigned him to other ministries with access to children after charges of abuse surfaced.

Bishop Mark Bartchak, current bishop of the diocese responded to the grand jury's determination in a letter for a call to mercy. He explained, "Please do not think for one moment that it simply means to forgive and forget. There is a lot more hard work to be done in identifying and responding to the misery of our diocese at this time, including the wounds of all our brothers and sisters."

He added that the grand jury report was "filled with the darkness of sin ... I deeply regret any harm that has come to children, and I urge the faithful to join me in praying for all victims of abuse."

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THANKSGIVING PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT. Father, as a Church Family, we are grateful to You for sealing us with the promise of Your Holy Spirit. We are thankful that the same power (Holy Spirit) that raised Jesus Christ from the dead is now working in us to do Your good will and pleasure. Holy Spirit, we thank You for being our Helper and living in us forever. We thank You for teaching us all things and bringing to our remembrance all things God, our Father, has said. Thank You, for leading us and guiding us into all truth. Thank You for freeing us from the bondages of our fleshly desires; for to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Holy Spirit, thank You, for producing in us the fruit of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control as we walk in You. Holy Spirit, because of You, we have the power to love unconditionally; power to perform miracles and healing; and the power to cast out demons. We can do all things through Jesus Christ because of You. J.K.



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Polish American Historical Association

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

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

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POLONIA PLACES
GREGORY L. WITUL

Saint Adalbert Catholic Church

1511 Valley Street, Dayton, Ohio
Status: Open

The Midwest is home to hundreds of thousands of Polish Americans. From the farms of Minnesota and Wisconsin to the industrial centers of Chicago and Detroit, Poles settled Middle America in droves. In southwestern Ohio, Poles began finding work in the factories and foundries in and around Dayton. By the turn of the twentieth century these pioneers desired a church of their own, and the struggle for St. Adalbert's Church began.

The small band of Polish immigrants that first moved into Dayton found the language barrier at the local churches to be insurmountable. To attend Mass they would travel to a Polish parish in Toledo or St. Stanislaus' Church in Cincinnati where the group met Father Ladislav Lipski. With the help of Father Lipski the Society of Our Lady Czestochowa was formed on September 16, 1902 and Father Hahne of Em-

manuel Church opened his school's chapel to the Poles to use. In October of 1902, Archbishop William Elder asked Father Boleslaus Strzelczok to take a census of the Poles of Dayton and report if a parish was warranted. After celebrating Mass, meeting with his fellow pastors and talking with the Czestochowa Society, Father Strzelczok reported to the Archbishop that a Polish church was needed. On January 5, 1903 the Archbishop authorized Father Strzelczok to stay and "act as pastor of the Polish Catholics in Dayton and vicinity"

new church was laid. Designed by architect Frank Sutter as a combination building, the first floor of St. Adalbert's has rooms for a school, an assembly hall in the basement, and a 300-seat church on the second floor. The church also boasted a simple Romanesque-styled exterior that was juxtaposed with an ornate Gothic interior, highlighted by a white, steeled altar inset with a painting of St. Adalbert and flanked by two niches for statues. When the completed and furnished structure was dedicated on April 30, 1905, the total cost came to \$40,000.

In September school started for the handful of pupils enrolled.



Saint Adalbert's church as it appears today.



The original St. Adalbert's building, now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

and establish St. Adalbert's Church.

Worshipping out of the Emmanuel chapel, the congregation began to raise funds for their own building. It would take over a year and a half to gather the money, settle on a location, and secure a contractor, but on September 4, 1904 the cornerstone of the

At first, organist Vincent Chalecki served at the teacher, but he was replaced by the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. They would oversee the school until its closure in 1978. The congregation grew through the 1910s and '20s and the campus expanded. Under the leadership of Father Paul Frydrych the parish was completely free of debt by 1930. Over the next 30 years the parish began to accumulate a sizable cash reserve and by the time of the Polish Millennium in 1966, plans were underway for a new and modern St. Adalbert's.

On May 8, 1967 a groundbreaking ceremony was celebrated for the new church. Planned by W. W. Wurst, the new St. Adalbert's would be in accordance with the Second Vatican Council, having a fan shape that increased the interaction between priest and congregation. To add some Polish touches, an altar to the Black Madonna was installed and two stained glass windows by Botti Art Glass depicting Polish dancers were added to the main doors.

The finished church was dedicated April 23, 1967. Nearly a half century later, St. Adalbert's keeps the flame of Polonia strong in Dayton, Ohio



A stained glass window from the new church.

BOOKS IN BRIEF/ Mary Lanham

A Teenager's Perspective on War

MY BOYHOOD WAR: WARSAW 1944

By Bohdan Hryniewicz
Spellmount, 2015, 256 pps.
The History Press
The Mill, Brimscombe Port
Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 2QG
TheHistoryPress.co.uk

The Warsaw Uprising began on August 1, 1944 and ended 63 days later on October 2. The Uprising known as Operation Storm was fought by the Polish Home Army within the city to overthrow the Nazi occupiers and to prevent the advancing Soviet forces from taking control of the city. These 40,000 citizens fought against the occupation by attacking German military installations as well as other strategic points. The resistance members, consisting of men, women, and teenagers, were poorly armed but strongly supported by most of the city. In response, the German military conducted mass executions killing an estimated 200,000 civilians as well as thousands of resistance members. At the end of the Uprising, around 15,200 resistance members were killed or missing, 5,000 were wounded, and 15,000 were sent to POW camps. The rest of the civilians were sent to concentration camps or sent out to the country. One quarter of Warsaw's buildings and infrastructure were destroyed during the operation and most of the city was destroyed by the end of World War II. In *My Boyhood War: Warsaw 1944*, Bohdan Hryniewicz gives his perspective as one of the teenage resistance members who fought against the German occupation.

At only thirteen years old, Bohdan and his older brother, Andrzej, joined the resistance. They were made into runners, tasked with giving and receiving messages between units. One time, he was sent back to his home unit carrying ammunition with another runner.

"We decided to crawl through the square. It was awkward and difficult for me because of the weight of the

backpack and the PIAT container in my hand. Halfway there, I indicated to Mocny that I wanted to sprint the rest of the way. He agreed and on his signal we both got up and ran. As a flare went up and illuminated the square, the machine guns from the ghetto opened up, blindly spraying the square."

For this and other brave actions, in September of 1944, Bohdan was promoted from private to corporal by the captain of his battalion.

Composed of seven parts, Hryniewicz meticulously details the Uprising and his own contribution to the resistance and the sacrifices he made. He lost his home and several friends and family members including his own brother. Somehow, he and his mother managed to survive and escape not only attacks from the German forces including frequent Stuka bombings, but being shipped off to a concentration camp. After the war, he and his mother escaped Poland and eventually immigrated to the United States.

My Boyhood War: Warsaw 1944 by Bohdan Hryniewicz is available on Amazon.com.

About the author: Bohdan Hryniewicz was educated in Poland, England, and the United States. In 1955, he earned his graduate degree in civil engineering from MIT. Shortly after, he became partner with a few other classmates in the firm: Symmes, Maini, Hryniewicz & McKee Architects and Engineers. He has lived in several places including Boston, Stockholm, and Puerto Rico, often traveling back to Poland. In 1994, Bohdan was appointed Honorary Consul of Poland in Puerto Rico. Later, the President of Poland awarded him the Commander Cross, with Star, of the Order of Merit. He now lives in Florida with his wife.



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NEW BOOKS

Help for Breastfeeding Mothers

DERWOOD, Md. — Polish American pharmacist Dr. Frank J. Nice has practiced as a consultant, lecturer, and author on medications and breastfeeding for over 35 years.

Nice and his wife, Myung Hee, have pulled together over 200 recipes featuring major and minor galactagogues (a substance that promotes lactation) in a new cook-book, *The Galactagogue Recipe Book*.

The recipes include many old family favorites passed down from their Polish and Korean ancestors.

Included are dosages, uses, and cautions about each of the galactagogues.

"If you are a new mom struggling with milk supply or if you just want to ensure that your milk supply

stays strong, try some of these recipes," said Nice.

Nice is also the author of *Non-prescription Drugs for the Breastfeeding Mother*, a guide for the use of over 1,700 nonprescription drugs and herbals.

Nice has organized and participated in over three dozen medical missions to the country of Haiti. He retired from the U.S. Public Health Service after 30 years of service as a commissioned officer and pharmacist. He served 20 years of that time at the National Institutes of Health's Clinical Neurosciences Program as assistant program director.

His books are available from amazon.com, or by visiting his website www.nicebreastfeeding.com.

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Remembering Those Who Fought Communism



Polish Underground participants remembered.

Two predominantly Polish parishes, **St. Ferdinand** and **St. Ladislaus**, both on Chicago's Northwest Side, participated in nationwide celebrations of remembrance to pay tribute to those in the Polish underground who participated in anti-communist and anti-Soviet activities from 1944-1963 within the pre-World War II borders of Poland. The involvement of those Poles confirmed that the ideals and values that they struggled to preserve are still alive and current.

Each National Day of Remembrance celebration took place on March 6, beginning with a solemn mass celebrated by **Fr. Jason Torba**, pastor of St. Ferdinand, with many Polish dignitaries representing their constituents. Special guests, such as Lieutenant Vaclav Wierzbicki, an officer under General Władysław Anders' command, as well as Krystyna Kołacińska and Bogdan Horoszowski, participants in the Warsaw Uprising, were invited to speak. Father Torba quoted from a message of Andrzej Duda, President of Poland: "Thanks to historians, writers, journalists, and all those who took the trouble to investigate, document, and write the history of this second conspiracy.... Thanks to this work, the Polish nation has fulfilled the duty of memorializing their real citizens..."

The celebration of the National Day of Remembrance at St. Ladislaus began with a mass in tribute to the dead and living soldiers who combated Soviet aggression and the forcibly-imposed Polish communist regime. **Father Robert Fedek**, Pas-

tor of Our Lady of Victory and chair of the Archdiocese Polish Ministry Council (*Rada ds. Duszpasterstwa Polonijnego*) concelebrated, along with **Father Marek Janowski, S.J.**, pastor of St. Ladislaus, and **Father Joseph Birecki, S.J.**, father superior of the Polish Jesuits in Chicago.



Ada and Grand Marshal Krawiec.

ing) and intends to pursue speech therapy as her college major.

UNVEILING OF RESTORED KOŚCIUSZKO. On September 18, 2015, East Chicago's 76-year-old statue of Tadeusz Kościuszko was sawed off above the feet and hauled



Unveiling of Kościuszko's statue

POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY PARADE QUEEN AND GRAND MARSHAL. On March 19, the Jolly Inn Banquet Hall on Chicago's Northwest Side, hosted the 18th annual Polish Constitution Day Parade Queen competition. The six candidates included: **Ada Eźlakowska**, **Karolina Godlewski**, **Magdalena Jasińska**, **Aleksandra Kozakiewicz**, **Gabriela Sokolowska**, and **Alexandra Soltys**. The judges, Barbara Bilszta, Sławomir Budzik, Lucas Figiel, Zbigniew Jaremkiwicz, Marcin Krempa, Kornelia Król, M.D., Dr. Łucja Mirowska-Kopeć, Marek Ogórek, and Małgorzata Tys, chose **Ada Eźlakowska** as the 2016 Polish Constitution Day Parade Queen, **Gabriela Sokolowska** as First Lady of the Court, and **Aleksandra Kozakiewicz** as Second Lady of the Court. Each young lady received a monetary scholarship award donated by the Urbaniak family of Montrose Deli, the Polish and Slavic Federal Credit Union, and the Quality Building Supply Company.

This year's Grand Marshal is **Jan F. Krawiec**, 96, Auschwitz-Birkenau and Buchenwald concentration camp survivor, former editor-in-chief of Chicago's Polish Daily News, *Dziennik Zwiazkowy*, and a frequent speaker at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Educational Center.

Ada Eźlakowska, along with her parents and nine siblings live in Des Plaines. She is a senior at Maine Township West High School, where she is editor-in-chief of the school's newspaper and vice-president of the school's government body. She is active in *Harcerstwo* (Polish Scout-

off by vandals. However, a witness reported that he saw the statue being dragged into a garage. Once the police officers arrived, they found two men attempting to saw off the statue's head. The garage owner pleaded guilty to theft charges and faces deportation from the U. S., and the other man's theft charges are still pending. The men wanted to sell the statue for scrap metal.

By the end of the year, the city of East Chicago agreed to have the statue restored by sculptor Barry Tinsley of New Carlisle, Indiana, for approximately \$10,000. Extensive damage had been done to the statue's face, neck, clothing, and the bottom portion of the statue. Tinsley restored the statue by installing a special stainless-steel security brace and repairing, detailing, sandblasting, and patinating the entire statue.

On March 29, surrounded by residents of East Chicago, Munster, and Indiana and Illinois dignitaries, General Tadeusz Kościuszko's restored bronze statue was unveiled in a rededication ceremony. Many learned that day of Kościuszko's motto "For Your Freedom and Ours," and that this Revolutionary War hero left his entire estate to the freeing of slaves. Robert Rusiecki, Council of the Republic of Poland, mentioned that East Chicago's Polish community had originally dedicated this statue on September 3, 1939, two days after Germany invaded Poland at the start of World War II.

Mayor Anthony Copeland stated that this destructive incident was a wake-up call and that security cameras will be installed in all of East Chicago's parks.



77TH WHITE AND RED BALL (l. to r.): **Olivia Szpindor Remissong**, **Natalia Machaj**, **Natalie Wytrzymalski**, 2015 Queen **Aneta Ciepiela**, **Alexandria Smoron Winsor**, **Claudia Mazur**, and **Zuzanna Bartel**. Since 1940, the Legion of Young Polish Women (LYPW) has been holding its annual White and Red Ball (*Bal Amarantowy*). This year the ceremonial cotillion presented five young women of Polish heritage to Chicago's Polonia and beyond. This is the LYPW's major charitable event and is considered the social event of the year within Chicago's Polish community.

The 77th White and Red Ball was held at the Hilton Chicago on March 12, 2016, with over 300 guests witnessing the crowning of the 2016 Queen of the Ball, **Alexandria Smoron Winsor**. The Ball's first runner-up was **Natalie Wytrzymalski**, and its second runner-up was **Claudia Mazur**. Also presented were debutantes **Zuzanna Bartel**, **Olivia Szpindor Remissong**, and **Natalia Machaj**.

Welcoming all to the Ball was the LYPW's President **Bożenna Haszlakiewicz**. **Catherine Napierała** sang the national anthems of Poland and the United States. The **Most Rev. Andrew P. Wypych**, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago, gave the English-language invocation, and **Rev. Mark Lesniak**, visiting from Poland, gave the Polish-language invocation.

After dinner, **Alexandra Ciesla Cornwell**, the Ball's 1998 Queen, introduced the dancing of the Polonaise by 16 Legion members and their partners. Then, **Lori Hilson Cioromski**, Ball chair, introduced this year's mistress of ceremonies, **Anna Morzy**, president of the Polish American Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Morzy, in turn, introduced the debutantes. After the crowning of the queen, **Morgan Gaede Cioromski**, the Ball's 2009 queen, introduced 16 past debutantes and their partners as they began to dance the lively *Biały Mazur*. The choreographer of this entire evening's event was **Richard Owsiany** and the **Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra** provided the music.

New Chairs for the White House

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Presidents come and go from the White House, but Kittinger Furniture Co. is a constant at America's most famous address.

The Clarence, N.Y.-based manufacturer is continuing a relationship with 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. dating to 1970. The company is about to ship 16 chairs for use in the Roosevelt Room, a staff meeting room just steps from the Oval Office in the West Wing.

The new chairs will replace the current 12-year-old set — also produced by Kittinger — in the room. "They really use the furniture a lot," said **Raymond C. Bialkowski**, Kittinger's president.

Kittinger employees built the chairs from scratch, with high-quality mahogany. They are upholstered with leather supplied by Garrett Leather, another Western New York company. The White House opted to maintain the butterscotch color of leather the current set of chairs has,

so staffers who use the room might not even notice a difference.

This is the latest in a long line of White House-related work for Kittinger.

The company made furniture for the Cabinet Room when it was renovated, and for the majority of the West Wing offices. Presidential libraries have asked Kittinger to create duplicates of White House furniture.

Kittinger does not take its White House relationship for granted, Bialkowski said. "I fully believe it is a great honor and all our craftsmen here take a great deal of pride being involved in a project like that," he said.

And of course, there is great attention to detail: the president's chair in the Roosevelt Room is two and a half inches higher than the rest of the set.

Kittinger this year is celebrating 150 years of business history in the Buffalo area.

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POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Who Makes the Best Kielbasa?

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Many contestants in this year's "Buffalo's Best Kielbasa Contest" believed that they had the best kielbasa in Buffalo. Those claims were put to the test on Dyingus Day at Buffalo's Historic Broadway Market. There were a total of 23 types of kielbasa from seven Homemade entrants and 3 Commercial entrants.

A panel of local judges selected winners in two categories: The Best Homemade and The Best Commercial. The winners in each category were: The Deli Shoppe (Best Overall Commercial, Best Fresh Commercial, Best Fresh Holiday Commercial, Best Non-Traditional Commercial, People's Choice for Commercial); The Market in the Square/Dubel's (Best Smoked Holiday Commercial, Best Smoked Commercial); Michael Martinez (Best Smoked Homemade, Best Non-Traditional Homemade); and Greg Baran (Best Fresh Homemade).

POLONIA TIDBITS. The tie in the WNY Division of the Polish American Congress' election for national director has been amicably resolved. Incumbent national director Steven Flor conceded the election to fellow incumbent Richard Mazella. Flor was then invited to fill an impending vacancy in the position of national director representing the Polish Falcons of America, which he accepted ... Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra (BPO) Executive Director Daniel Hart recently returned from a BPO concert tour planning trip to Poland ... The State University of New York at Buffalo Polish Student Association celebrated its "Swieconka" at the UB Newman Center in Amherst; and the WNY Division of the Polish American Congress held its "Swieconka, Installation and Awards Dinner" at the Polish Falcons Hall in Depew, April 2nd ... Also on the 2nd, the young people from St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Mississauga, Ontario sponsored a dance at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, and the Buffalo Touch performed at St. Gregory the Great Parish in Williamsville, to raise funds for their respective trips to World Youth Day in Krakow ... The Polish Cadets of Buffalo serve Polish dinners at their clubrooms in Buffalo's Black Rock neighborhood every Friday evening.

The Professional & Businessmen's Association Memorial Mass was held at St. Philip's Church in Cheektowaga, April 3rd ... Lucyna Dziedzic started her new semester of Polish language classes for the Spring semester at the Binner Educational Center of the Maryvale Schools in Cheektowaga, April 4th ... The Skalny Center for Polish

and Central European Studies at the University of Rochester presented a lecture, "The Europeanization of Holocaust Memory in Eastern Europe" by Dr. Marek Kucia, April 5th; a concert, "Music of Poland: Chopin Favorites and Modern Masterpieces," by pianist Johnandrew Slominski, April 10th; and a lecture by the Hon. Urszula Gacek, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York, on "Grassroots Democracy in Poland," April 15th, all on the university's River Campus ... Polish journalist, academic lecturer, movie director, screenwriter and politician Grzegorz Braun spoke at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga, Ontario on the 10th.

Forgotten Buffalo offered its "Pride of Polonia Tour," April 11th ... The Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Toronto and Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation of Canada hosted author Sabina Baral at the consulate, April 11th ... Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz, of Hopkinton, Mass., discussed Polish genealogical research at the April 14th meeting of the Polish Genealogical Society of NYS in the Villa Maria College cafeteria ... Dr. Kazimierz Braun directed his play, "Tales of Pola Negri," at the Polish Theatre of Toronto, April 16th ... An all-star cast of Toronto's best Polish Canadian performers took part in "Dotyk Milosci," a concert of inspirational music, at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, April 17th ... The Polish Arts Club of Buffalo presented a concert video, "The Lodz Festival: The Dialogue of Four Cultures," featuring vocal groups from the city's Polish, Jewish, German and Russian Communities, at its April 20th meeting ... John Gora & Gorale performed at the Buffalo Polka Boosters' "Swieconka" at the Polish Falcons clubrooms in Depew, April 21st ... The Am-Pol Eagle Citizens-of-the-Year Mass and Awards Presentation was held, April 23rd at St. Adalbert's Basilica on Buffalo's East Side.

The Miss Polonia Pageant was held in Brantford, Ontario on the 23rd ... Also on the 23rd, Związku Narodowego Polskiego (ZNP) w Kanadzie marked its 85th year with a banquet at the Polish Banquet Hall in Burlington, Ontario ... The Kalina Singing Society marked its 115th anniversary with a scholarship dinner at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga on the 24th ... The Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College and Buffalo and Erie County Public Library continued to present "1989: End of a System," an exhibit chronicling the fall of communism in Central and Eastern Europe, at the



PHOTO: LAURENCE WITUL

MASSMOB ORGANIZERS HONORED. The Western New York division of the Polish American Congress celebrated its Annual Swieconka, Installation and Awards dinner on April 2, at the Depew Polish Falcons. This year's honorees included radio personalities Ron Dombrowski and Norm Skulski, as well as the organizers of the Buffalo Mass Mob. Presenting the awards were (l. to r.) newly-elected President James L. Lawicki and Vice President Irena M. Woszczak to Mass Mob founders Christopher Byrd, Danielle Huber, Gregory Witul, and Mark Kogutowski, representing his brother Arthur (insert), who could not attend. The Mass Mob took the opportunity to announce that it will be mobbing the mother church of Buffalo's Polonia, St. Stanislaus on December 11, 2016. Detailed information on the event will be forthcoming.

Main Branch Library in Downtown Buffalo until April 24th ... PhoCus performed at the Polka Variety Social Club "Swieconka" at the Pvt. Leonard Post VFW in Cheektowaga on the 27th.

On April 29th, the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Toronto hosted a talk by Marcin Baraniecki, author of "Kasa Kobiety I Inne Opowiadania," at the consulate ... "Krzysztof Orzel," a patriotic program of music and literature, marked the 1050th anniversary of Poland's conversion to Christianity at the Polish Banquet Hall in Burlington, Ontario, April 30th ... Also on the 30th, the Professional & Business Women of Polonia hosted a bus tour of locally owned businesses in Niagara County for its members.

UPCOMING. Slawomir Grunberg's film, "Karski and the Lords of Humanity" will be shown as part of the Buffalo Jewish Film Festival '16 at the Amherst Theatre on May 9th and 11th. The Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius is sponsoring the film along with the Holocaust Resource Center of WNY ... Local opera impresario and performer Valerian Ruminski will appear as poet Charles Bukowski in "An Evening with Charles Bukowski: Love, Hate and Tears" at the newly renovated Varsity Theatre in Buffalo on May 13th ... Forgotten Buffalo is offering its "Pride of Polonia Tour" of Buffalo on May 14th ... The Chopin Singing Society

will host a benefit for St. Stanislaus Church, the Mother Church of Buffalo's Polonia, featuring Toronto's White Eagle Dancers, in the Villa Maria College auditorium on May 15th ... Distinguished Polish veteran and current WNY resident Stanley Markut will serve as Grand Marshal of the Annual Polish Veterans Pilgrimage Parade in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario in June ... For information about the Syracuse Polish Fest to be held the weekend of June 10th through 12th, please see <http://polishscholarship.org> ... Polish Day in Mississauga will take place at Celebration Square on June 25th. More information is available at <http://mississaugapolishday.ca>.

The Polish Union of America will be accepting scholarship applications until July 10th. For more details, please visit www.polishunion.com/scholarships.html ... The General Pulaski Association Parade will take place in Cheektowaga on July 17th ... On December 3rd and 4th, distinguished Polish composer and conductor Krzysztof Penderecki will conduct the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra in a performance of works by Dvorak and Beethoven as well as his own Concerto for Violin and Cello in Kleinmans Music Hall.

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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.

SPOTLIGHT ON LONG ISLAND / Barbara Szydłowski

Pulaski Association Honors Senator Lesniak

The Pulaski Association of Business & Professional Men, Inc., held its 2016 Man of the Year Gala Testimonial Banquet in the Inn at New Hyde Park. This year's honoree was Raymond J. Lesniak, senator, 20th District, New Jersey.

The evening commenced with the singing of the Polish and U.S. national anthems, followed by an invocation by Reverend Father Marek Sobczak, pastor of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, Brooklyn. Artur Dybanowski, president of the Businessmen Association, presented a plaque to the senator in recognition of his legislative efforts to clean up hazardous sites. He sponsored the following legislation: the New Jersey Spill Compensation Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act as well as the Environmental Cleanup Responsibility Act. In 2004, the senator was grand marshal of the 67th Annual Pulaski Day Parade.

A "Lifetime Leadership" award was presented to Assemblyman Joseph Lentol, New York State 50th Assembly District, for his service to the Greenpoint community. As a member of the legislature he served as chair of various committees as



Artur Dybanowski (left), president of the Pulaski Association of Business & Professional Men, Inc., poses with honorees (l. to r.) Assemblyman Joseph Lentol; Iwona Wisniewska, representing her parents Margaret and Adam Skarzyński; and Sen. Raymond Leśniak.

well as on the Election Modernization Task Force. In 2002, Lentol was elected to lead the Brooklyn Assembly delegates responsible for the decisions on boroughs advocacy and activities funds.

The Humanitarian Award was presented to Adam and Malgorzata

Skarzynski for their generous support at various Polish organizations in the New York metropolitan area. Adam was born and educated in Poland, earning a degree in economics. He arrived in New York City in 1984 and formed his own business, Adams European Contracting,

which specializing in renovating landmark and historical buildings.

The master of ceremonies was Richard Mazur and entertainment by Zambrowiaczy.

ŚWIĘTO KONSTYTUCJI 3 MAJA.

Poland's May 3rd 1791 Constitution was adopted by the Great Sejm of the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth, a dual state comprising Poland and Lithuania ruled by a common monarch. Drafted over 32 months since October 6, 1788 and adopted as a Government Act, the document was designed to redress political defects of the Commonwealth; the system of "Golden Liberty" had conferred disproportionate rights on the nobility and over time had corrupted politics. The adoption of the Constitution was preceded by a period of agitation for gradual reforms beginning with the Convocation Sejm of 1764 and the election of Stanislaw August Poniatowski as the Commonwealth's last king.

The Constitution's adoption met with political and military responses from the Commonwealth's neighbors.

The 1791 document remained in

force for less than 19 months, it was annulled on November 23, 1793. By 1795, the Second and Third Partitions of Poland ended the existence of the sovereign Polish state. Over the next 123 years, the Constitution of May 3, 1791 was seen as proof of successful internal reform and as a symbol promising the eventual restoration of Poland's sovereignty.

MUSEUM DOINGS. The month of March was busy at the Polish American Museum in Port Washington with many distinguished guest visitors including Teresa Kaczorowska, the author of "Oblawa Augustowska," who presented an autographed copy of her book to the museum.

REMEMBER THEIR SACRIFICES. Memorial Day is a day of parades, oratorical elegies, and wreath-laying to honor the dead of all wars.

According to historian Robert Myers, in 1866 in the village of Waterloo, N.Y., Henry Wells suggested to veterans organization that the graves of the dead be decorated with flowers. Decoration Day (as it was then known) was celebrated for the first time on May 5 and spread throughout the country.

“They Paid the Ultimate Price” – The Story behind the Ulma Museum

by Staś Kmieć

Józef Ulm (Ulma) completed a primary education, and went on to take agricultural training in Pilzno. He worked in vegetable and fruit growing, beekeeping, silk farming, and bookbinding. His farming methods aroused the interest not only of the fellow villagers, but also of Prince Andrzej Lubomirski, the entailer from Przeworsk, who paid a visit to the farm in order to examine silkworms and mulberry trees.

Józef's greatest passion was photography. He took thousands of photographs chronicling the life of Markowa residents, including weddings, christenings, and amateur theatre performances. Among the most appealing are the photos of his wife and children. He was active in a Catholic youth organization, and then joined the Polish Rural Youth Union *Wici*, where he was a librarian and head of the horticultural section.

His chosen one was Wiktoria – twelve years his junior. They met during the rehearsals of the local amateur theater company, in which they both performed. The couple was well-matched and was married. Soon, they had numerous offspring.



Wiktoria and the Ulma children pose with animals from the family's farm.

PHOTO: ULMA FAMILY MUSEUM

due to its influence, a new contingent of open-minded peasants running farms, while attached to their Catholic faith, and evangelical values emerged. In such a political and social atmosphere, Józef and Wiktoria were raised.

In the summer and autumn of 1942, the Germans murdered most Jewish inhabitants of Markowa. Some managed to escape, and went into hiding in the surrounding area. Like other residents, the Ulmas had witnessed the execution of the Jews from their small town. Through the

Josef (Jan) Kokkot, a Czech Volksdeutsche from Sudetenland serving with the German police, they surrounded the house. The cart drivers were ordered to witness the execution, so that they would know what the punishment was for all those who hid Jews.

There are conflicting accounts to the details of the execution. The following is primarily by Władysława Ulma, Józef's niece: The Jews were cornered in the attic and shot to death. The Ulmas were taken outside. In reprisal, the six children were put to death. They were killed one by one, the youngest, a baby was smashed against a tree – as their father and mother were forced to watch. They started with the oldest child: Stasia (age 8), followed by Basia (7), Władzio (6), Franuś (4), Antoś (2 1/2) and Marysia (18 months). Wiktoria, pregnant, tore herself from the captors' hands and tried to escape. They shot her, and lastly shot Józef.

Edward Nawojski, saw Josef Kokott killing three or four children himself. He remembered very well the words that the Germanized Czech spoke in Polish to the cart drivers: “Patrzcie, jak giną Polskie świnie, które pomagają Żydom!” (“Look how Polish swine die for concealing the Jews”).

The village leader Teofil Kielar was summoned and ordered to bring a few men to bury the victims in a mass grave. He asked the commander Eilert Dieken, whom he had encountered from the frequent inspections, why the children were killed? Dieken gave him a cynical answer: “not to trouble the village with them.”

Having committed the crime, the Germans began to plunder.

Under the cover of the night on January 11, 1945, in spite of German prohibition, the closest family disinterred the bodies to properly bury them in the cemetery and found that the seventh child had been born during the execution of the mother.

AFTERMATH. The atrocity did not have the desired effect on the townspeople of that the Nazi's had hoped for. The Ulma's ultimate sacrifice only encouraged other families to pick up where they'd left off. As a result 17 Jews survived the purge in Markowa.

Seven members of Wetz family were hidden in a barn of Dorota and Antoni Szylar. Jakub Einhorn and a three-person family of his friends were hidden by Jan and Weronika Przybylak, and the Jakub Lorbenfeld family were hidden by Michał Bar. Two girls from Reisenbach family were initially hidden by Stanisław Kielar, before joining the rest of their five member family in the house of Julia and Józef Bar.

A young boy from Radymno, Abraham Segal, survived the war in hiding, staying with Helena and Jan Cwynar, pretending to be a cattleman. Today, he lives in Israel, hav-

Włodzimierz Leś – with whom the Szalls had left their belongings, turned them in in order to take over their property.

During the night of March 23, 1944, German police came to Markowa from Lancut. At dawn, the policemen reached the house. Under the command of a 23-year-old



To mark the opening of the museum, The Polish Consulate and The Polish Cultural Institute of New York presented *A Tribute to Polish Righteous Among Nations*. The story of Irena Gut Opdyke, a Polish Catholic rescuer was told by her daughter **Jannie Opdyke Smith** (above). The incredible account inspired the Broadway play “Irena's Vow,” which was staged in 2009 in collaboration with the Polish Cultural Institute New York. The event took place in the Consulate, and gathered a large Polish Jewish American audience, including two Holocaust survivors: Bronisław Bergman and Luna Kaufman.

ing three sons and a dozen grandchildren. He maintains relations with the citizens of Markowa and remains interested in the life of the village. Through his engagement, numerous youth tours from Israel visit Markowa.

After the war on September 10, 1944, the Underground forces carried out a death sentence on Włodzimierz Leś. The only criminal to be tracked down and judged was Josef Kokkot. In 1957 he was captured in Czechoslovakia. In 1958 the court in Rzeszów judged him guilty of numerous murders and sentenced him to life imprisonment, and then to 25 years detention. He died in prison in 1980.

On September 13, 1995, Józef and Wiktoria Ulma were posthumously bestowed the titles of “Righteous Among Nations” by Israel's Yad Vashem. The Holocaust remembrance institute has bestowed the title on around 6,600 Poles who saved Jews during the Holocaust — more than any other nationality.

Irena Steinfeldt, director of the Righteous Among the Nations department concedes that the real number of Poles who saved Jews was higher than the number recognized to date. “We add about 50-70 new Poles to the list every year,” she says. Proof is required that a person endangered himself to save Jews in order to receive recognition. The necessary proof is lacking in many cases. “I definitely presume there are those who should receive the title but we don't know about them,” she says.

In Rzeszów, there is the Ulma Center for the Life of Family, and in the parish church in Brzezinka near Oświęcim (Auschwitz) one of the stained glass windows depicts the Ulma family. Their images are also

placed among the Polish servants of God in the Licheń Basilica, as well as on the front door of the Przemysł Cathedral.

Six million European Jews were killed, mostly in the extermination



President Andrzej Duda and his wife Agata Kornhauser-Duda light a candle to officially open the Ulma Family Museum of Poles Saving Jews.

camp. Half of them were Polish citizens. During World War II approximately three million Poles were murdered, as well and the Ulma family is just one of the Polish families that paid the ultimate price for helping Jews.

SOURCES

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- *Those who helped Polish rescuers of Jews during the Holocaust* compiled by The Commission for the Investigation of Crimes Against the Polish Nation - The Institute of National Memory, and The Polish Society for the Righteous Among Nations. 1997
- *Assistance to the Jewish Population in South-Eastern Poland*. Tadeusz Bida. 1983
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- *Rzeszowskie pod okupacją Hitlerowską*, Stanisław Zabierowski. 1975

Ulma Family Museum

continued from cover

and a brief ceremony remembering the Jewish and the Polish victims was held at the synagogue in the region's main town of Łańcut.

Polish President Andrzej Duda and Israeli Ambassador Anna Azari took part in the formal opening of the Museum. “We Poles may be proud that among us were those who were not afraid to help others, even at the price of their life, who were true heroes,” Duda said during the opening ceremony.

The concept for the museum is connected with a broader political and national process in Poland, in which its citizens are re-examining their culture and collective memory regarding the horrors of the Holocaust. For the Polish government, the Ulma family symbolizes the

lesser told story of Poles who sacrificed their lives for a noble cause. Those supporting the museum say commemorating those like the Ulma family means making a step toward correcting old injustices and misconceptions about the nation.

The museum was an initiative of regional authorities but supported by the national government and cost about 8 million złoty (\$2 million; 1.9 million euros).

The museum has aroused some controversy. Officials say the museum rights a historic injustice, but there are critics who say it distorts reality. The situation is complicated. “History is not black and white,” Sebastian Rejak, the Polish Foreign Ministry's envoy to the Jewish Diaspora, told reporters.



AT THOMPSON CENTER. The exhibit “They Risked Their Lives: Poles Who Saved Jews During the Holocaust” ran for five days, March 14-18 in Chicago's Thompson Center Atrium. This exhibit was part of the March 17, 2016 official opening of the “Ulma Family Museum of Poles Who Saved Jews During World War II.”

Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner and Robert Rusiecki, Consul of the Republic of Poland, hosted the live streaming of this opening ceremony at the Chicago Office of Governor Rauner. In Poland, President Andrzej Duda, Israeli Ambassador Anna Azari, and dignitaries from the governments of Germany, Israel, and the United States were in attendance. Poland's chief rabbi, U.S. born and educated, Michael Schudrich, said Hebrew prayers for the dead and placed a mezuzah at the Museum's door entrance.

In seven years, Wiktoria gave birth to six children, and only the tragedy of spring 1944 prevented them from having a seventh child.

THE CLIMATE OF JEWISH RELATIONS. About 3.5 million Jews, or 10 percent of the country's population, lived in Poland before World War II.

Before the war, Markowa – located in the Diocese of Przemysł, near Łańcut in the Rzeszów district, was one of the biggest Polish villages. The community in a 90% majority was Catholic, however about 120 citizens (nearly 30 families) were Jewish.

Poland was the only Nazi-occupied country where saving Jews carried the death penalty. In October 1941, Hans Frank – the General Governor of the occupied Polish territories issued a regulation, in which any citizen accused or suspected of supporting Jews was executed. Even giving a Jew a drink of water in was punishable by death, let alone hiding them.

The relations between Poles and Jews were satisfactory; they were living side by side and cooperated with each other. The peasant movement had an important impact on a local community, and

window of their home, one could see the place of execution, where at least several dozen Jews had been shot.

Józef was known for his kindness toward Jews. Earlier, he helped three Jewish women and one child to build a dugout in a creek ravine, in which to hide. Unfortunately, the shelter was discovered, and the women were murdered.

While the hunt for Jews was happening in the area, Saul Goldman (who went by the name “Szall”) and his four grown-up sons from Łańcut, as well as two daughters and a granddaughter of the Ulmas' neighbor Chaim Goldman – Lea/Layka Didner with her daughter, and Genia/Golda Gruenfeld asked the Ulmas for refuge. They lived in the attic of the home and worked on the farm alongside the Ulmas. The farm was seen as a safe haven, and there they existed for two years.

MURDER IN MARKOWA. Although the Ulma house was several miles outside of town, the Jews' presence on the farm was soon discovered. It is not certain who denounced them to the Germans, but there are reports that a constable of Ukrainian origin from the so-called “Navy-Blue” Police, by the name of

POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Now is the Time to Plan Your Summer Picnic Menu

Summer is the time many Pol-Ams look forward to annual Polish festivals, parish picnics, harvest fests and other such meet-ups. One of their main attractions are the traditional Polish comfort foods many people don't enjoy that often anymore but never seem to get enough of. If your club, lodge, nest, veterans' post or parish is sponsoring or participating in some such event, consider some of the following dishes which are real winners!

GOŁĄBKI - STUFFED CABBAGE (gołąbki). Combine 1 lb raw ground meat (pork, pork & beef, pork-veal-beef combination, or ground turkey) with 4-6 c undercooked rice, 1-3 chopped butter-fried onions and 1 egg. Mix ingredients by hand and salt & pepper to taste. Other seasonings can include: 2-3 dashes of garlic powder and/or Tabasco, or a sprinkling of chopped fresh parsley or dill. Use meat-rice mixture to fill pre-wilted cabbage leaves. Before

filling and rolling, cut out or shave down the thick central vein near the base of the cabbage leaves. Place gołąbki snugly in roaster no more than 2 layers and drench with 3 c tomato juice (plain or containing 1/2 c spicy-style ketchup). Bake covered in preheated 350° oven 1 hr. Reduce heat to 325° and cook another 1-2 hrs. Switch off heat and leave in oven another 20 min or so for flavors to blend. These can be kept hot in the electric roaster in which they were cooked and served as needed. Serve with rye bread or as a complete meal with mashed potatoes and mizeria (see below).

MUSHROOM GOŁĄBKI FOR VEGETARIANS (gołąbki postne z grzybami). It's not a bad idea to provide something at our summer doings for the increasing number of younger PolAms who now prefer a vegetarian diet. Here is a delicious alternative to meat gołąbki that even non-vegetarians will enjoy. In 4 T

butter, margarine or oil sauté 12-16 oz fresh, washed and chopped Portobello mushrooms with 2 medium chopped onions. Combine with 4 c preferably slightly undercooked rice, barley or buckwheat groats. Add 1 raw egg and mix to blend ingredients. Salt & pepper to taste and garnish with 1 T chopped fresh parsley and 2 T chopped dill. Fill pre-wilted cabbage leaves as usual, drench with 1 10½ oz can cream of mushroom soup combined with 3 c boiling water in which 1 mushroom bouillon cube has been dissolved, and bake in preheated 350° oven at least 2 hrs.

HOT KIEŁBASA (kielbasa na gorąco). This is the most convenient way to serve kielbasa to a large crowd. Cut smoked kielbasa into 3-5" serving-sized pieces, place in a large pot, cover with boiling water and cook until boiling resumes. Reduce heat to low, cover and remove portions as needed. Provide rye

bread, horseradish, ćwikła (beetroot & horseradish) and brown Polish-style mustard.

GRILLED KIEŁBASA (kielbasa z rusztu). Cut smoked kielbasa into 3-5" serving-sized pieces or use the smaller grillers (wiener-sized 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.

KIEŁBASA IN A ROLL (kielbaska w bulecze). Grillers (thin wiener-sized Polish sausage) or lengths of hot kielbasa served in a crusty split roll into are always popular and fairly easy to serve. Rye-bread rolls are ideal if you can get them! Provide Polish-style brown mustard and white and/or red horseradish.

KIEŁBASA-KEBABS (szaszłyk 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 pepper, marjoram, garlic powder and sweet paprika and cook on rotisserie or grill, making sure that all sides are evenly cooked. They are ready when the onion is tender.

KISZKA (kaszanka w bulce). Kiszka (groat sausage) may be served in 4-5" lengths within their casing and fried in a greased skillet until browned on the outside and heated through. It can be sliced (leaving the casing on) into 1" rounds and fried in a greased skillet until crusty-browned on both sides or it can be removed from casing and fried hash-style. Good accompaniments include fried onions, brown mustard, horseradish, dill pickles and sliced tomato slices. It can be served with potatoes and mizeria as a complete meal or on a crusty bun as a "kiszka-burger."

continued next month

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COOKBOOKS



NEW EXPANDED EDITION: POLISH COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK
by Sophie Knab
\$19.95
337 pp., sc;

From top-selling author Sophie Hodorowicz Knab comes an expanded edition to a best-selling book that combines recipes for favorite Polish foods with the history and cultural traditions that created them. Arranged according to the cycle of seasons, this cookbook explores life in the Polish countryside through the year.

The Polish Country Kitchen Cookbook gives its readers priceless historical information such as the type of utensils used in Poland at the turn of the century, the meaning behind the Pascal butter lamb, and many other insightful answers to common questions asked by descendants of Polish immigrants.

The over 100 easy-to-follow recipes are all adapted for the modern North American kitchen. Lovely illustrations and pearls of practical wisdom ("Household Hints") from the old Polish kitchen marvelously complement this book.

PIEROGI LOVE

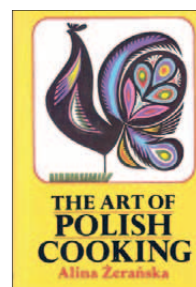
New Takes on an Old World Comfort Food
By Casey Barber
\$19.95
Hc; 128 pp.
8.3 x 8.1 inches
Full color photographs



This tasty tribute to the pierogi takes a familiar wrapping and stuffs it with a host of unconventional, innovative, and decidedly non-traditional fillings. With 60 sweet and savory recipes

that include everything from the classic Polish cheese and potato offerings to American-inspired Reuben pierogie and fried apple pie-rogies to worldly fillings like falafel and Nutella, there's a pierog for every party and every palate! Each recipe comes with a charming story from Barber's extensive explorations in pierogi flavors.

Casey Barber is a freelance food writer, photographer, and editor of the critically acclaimed website Good Food Stories.



THE ART OF POLISH COOKING
By Alina Zeranska
Pub. at \$22.95
PAJ Bookstore
Price: \$15.95
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 HOLIDAY COOKERY

\$24.95
by Robert Strybel
248 pp., pb.,
Hippocrene Bks.

Polish Holiday Cookery acquaints readers with traditional Polish foods associated with various occasions and



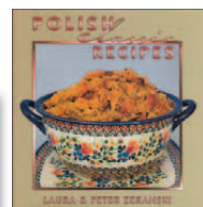
furnishes countless cooking tips and serving suggestions. This "instruction manual for the culturally aware Polish American" offers more than 400 recipes, along with a lexicon of basic foods and culinary concepts, ingredients and procedures, and sample menus. The clearly-written recipes facilitate the 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.



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 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 mazurkas 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 PIEROGI:

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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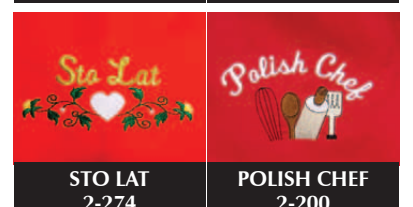
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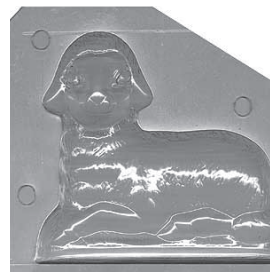
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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

“Feisty Little Redhead” Played Central Role in Colts History

When **Harriet Pogorzelski** was born to poor Polish immigrants in Chicago in 1921, no one would have dared predicted that she would become one of the most influential figures in a pro football franchise. In fact, by the time she died in 2008 she not only had a far-reaching impact on the Colts NFL franchise, but was a strong supporter of Polish culture as well.

Harriet was the wife of Robert Irsay and the mother of Jim Irsay. Both of them owned the Colts, but both were very different men. Robert Irsay had a reputation as a tight-fisted tyrant, and the Colts experienced a lot of turmoil during his tenure. On the other hand, his son Jim has been a popular and successful owner; since he took control of the franchise in 1997, the Colts have captured nine division championships, 13 playoff berths and a Super Bowl championship.

Harriet was born Polish immigrants Peter and Josephine Pogorzelski in the Bucktown section of Chicago, the second youngest of five children. Her father was a tailor and her mother a maid. She graduated from Wells High School in 1939. After school she found work as a secretary. In 1946 Harriet married Robert Irsay, and a few years later helped her husband start a sheet metal and air-conditioning business. Robert was from a Hungarian Jewish family (though his son Jim did not know about his father's Jewish heritage until he was a teenager).

Jim was born in 1959 near Chicago. He had an older brother, Thomas, who was born with a mental disability and died in 1999, and a sister, Roberta, who died in a car accident in 1971.

“FEISTY LITTLE REDHEAD.”

By 1970, the Irsays had one of the most successful heating and air-conditioning companies in Chicago, worth an estimated \$150 million. In 1972 Robert Irsay decided to become a pro football owner, buying the Los Angeles Rams for \$19 million and then swapping the team for the Baltimore Colts in a prearranged deal. While her husband was out



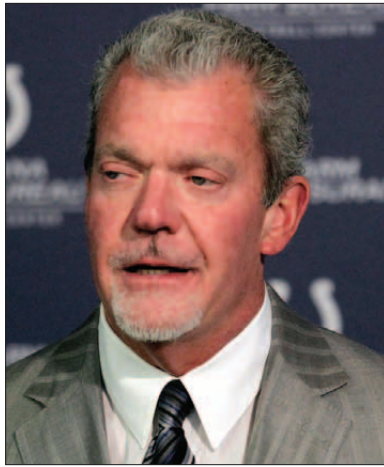
Harriet Irsay

of town finalizing the deal, it was Mrs. Irsay who signed the check in a Chicago bank that closed the deal. “He wasn’t born in the business, he didn’t understand it as well,” Jim Irsay said of his father. “She (Harriet) tried to counsel him as much as she could.” Jim Irsay once described his mother as a “feisty little redhead” who became the team’s matriarch and one of its biggest fans.

As a team owner Robert Irsay didn’t know much about football. He also was considered meddling, some and short-tempered, and had a serious drinking problem. Not surprisingly, when Irsay took over the Baltimore Colts in 1972, the year after winning Super Bowl V, the franchise declined dramatically. The team had such a bad reputation that, when his Baltimore Colts drafted the future Hall of Famer John Elway, Elway refused to report to the team and was dealt to Denver.

MARCHIBRODA TURNS IT AROUND.

Baltimore did experience some success when Ted Marchibroda became coach in 1975, taking a 2-12 team to 10-4. Despite that, Irsay and General Manager Joe Thomas tried to take power away from him, leading to Marchibroda’s resignation. That resulted in a revolt by the players and public, so Irsay brought him back with a new contract and assurances that Ted would run the show. Irsay insisted that he and Marchibroda were still friends, telling the *Chicago Tribune*: “He’s



Jim Irsay

been to my house. My wife is Polish and so is he. We’re both Catholics, not that that means anything.”

As a teen, Jim did odd jobs for the Colts, like washing the team’s laundry, and became close to the players and coaches. After an exhibition loss, his father went on a drunken tirade blasting the team, almost coming to blows with some players. Jim hopped on the first team bus, the one with all the veterans, and apologized for his father. When Marchibroda saw the 16-year-old’s eyes begin to well up with tears, the coach comforted him and told him to return to his dad. Jim later joined the team’s professional staff after graduating from SMU, where he played football as a walk-on.

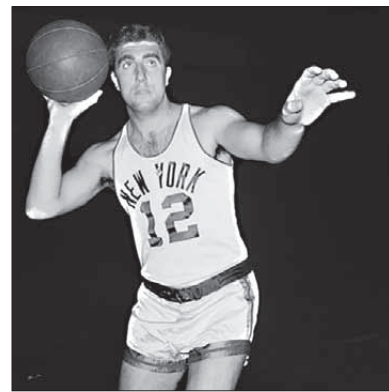
Jim recalled that his was his mother’s strength that helped the family get through tough times, such as when his sister died in 1971. Her strength was also important when Robert Irsay suddenly decided to move the Colts to Indianapolis in 1984, making him one of the most hated people in pro football.

In 1988, the Irsays divorced after 38 years of marriage. Their settlement ensured ownership of the team would transfer to Jim. Despite a later legal challenge by his father’s second wife, Jim became the youngest NFL team owner at age 37. Under his ownership, the Indianapolis Colts have had great success and stability. Unlike his father, Jim hired top talent like GM Bill Polian and allowed them to do their jobs. He was willing to pay for talent, and was very involved in the community. Among the moves helping ensure the Colts’ success on the field was drafting QB Peyton Manning in 1998, and then eventually replacing him with Andrew Luck in 2012. Cutting Manning loose was a difficult move, however, and Irsay openly shed tears when he did so.

SUPPORTER OF POLONIA. Harriet died of natural causes in 2008 at the age of 87 in her home in Winnetka near Chicago. Just a few months earlier, despite her failing health, she went to rainy Miami to see the Colts defeat the Bears in Super Bowl XLI. She was proud of her Polish heritage throughout her life. Harriet served on the Board of Directors for the American Institute of Polish Culture in Miami since it started in 1972, and she established the Harriet P. Irsay College Scholarship through the Institute in 1992. Many Polish organizations benefited from her generosity, including the Chopin Foundation. Mrs. Irsay also was an advocate for people with disabilities.

Jim Irsay has had his own demons, including a serious substance abuse problem. However, his experience in running the team is a direct contrast to his father’s. He learned from his mother’s wisdom and his father’s mistakes, becoming one of

the NFL’s best owners.



BORYLA PASSES. Basketball great **Vince Boryla** recently died at age 89 on Easter Sunday. A basketball All-American at both Notre Dame and Denver universities, Boryla went on to two decades of pro basketball success as a player, coach and general manager.

He was born in East Chicago, Ind.; both his father, a bricklayer, and his mother, the former Felixa Pilipczuk, were Polish immigrants. Vince was a freshman All-American at Notre Dame, and a member of the 1948 U. S. Olympic Gold Medal team in London. After the Olympics, Boryla enrolled at Denver where he was the nation’s fourth leading scorer and a unanimous All-American. He played for five years with the New York Knicks in the NBA, then coached the team and served as its general manager and chief scout. He was also the chief operating officer of the NBA’s Denver Nuggets.

Boryla was later a very successful real estate developer in Colorado. “I’ve always been very close with my money,” he once said. “I never looked at what I was making, but what I came home with. That was my simple Polish command.” Boryla gave much of his earnings to needy causes, although most of his contributions were made anonymously.

He was elected to the Polish American Sports Hall of Fame in 1984. His son Mike played quarterback in the NFL, mostly with Philadelphia.

PUDZIANOWSKI IN THE NEWS.

Mariusz Pudzianowski, a five-time World’s Strongest Man winner who is now an MMA fighter, was involved in controversy after refugees were found inside his trucks in the French port of Calais. Mariusz, who runs an international shipping company called Pudzianowski Transport, was fined the equivalent of about \$56,000 when French officials caught eight refugees inside his trucks bound for Great Britain. In addition, the refugees apparently caused about \$32,000 worth of damage to goods inside the truck. Mariusz called the refugees “human garbage” on social media, and also posted a picture of himself holding a baseball bat on Facebook warning that he would be waiting for them the next time. Also posted were pictures of the refugees.

That led to an investigation of Mariusz by Polish prosecutors, as he was accused of inciting hatred and racism by the anti-racist group HejtStop (Stop Hatred). Joanna Grabarczyk, the group’s campaign coordinator, said: “No matter what happens, nothing justifies anyone to incite or commit a crime especially in such a delicate matter as refugees.” Pudzianowski insisted that he works with all people but will “not tolerate robbers, rapists, burglars.”

The 39-year-old athlete has said that he considers sports a hobby because the prize money in Strongman and MMA is not great. Here

are some things you might not know about him: Mariusz holds a master’s degree in international relations from the Academy of Management in Łódź; in addition to his transport company, he has various real estate holdings and a school for bodyguards; he sometimes sings with his brother’s rock band, Pudzian; despite weighing around 260-lb., he has competed in the Polish version of *Dancing With The Stars*, or *Taniec z Gwiazdami*, and finished second; and, he once served 19 months in Łowicz prison in 2000 and 2001 for beating up a local crime boss that Mariusz said had assaulted a teenage boy.



Smoliga

SMOLIGA SETS NCAA RECORD.

Olivia Smoliga, a junior at the University of Georgia and a resident of Glenview, Ill., recorded a record-setting performance on March 17, during the NCAA Championships at the McAuley Aquatic Center on the Georgia Tech University campus. Olivia won the 50M freestyle in 21.21 seconds, a new NCAA record. Smoliga is now the second-fastest American performer of all time in the 50M freestyle. She trails only Abbey Weitzeil’s record of 21.12 seconds by a tenth of a second according to American and U. S. Open records. She also went on to win the NCAA 100M freestyle title in 46.7 seconds. Her next step will be competing in the U. S. Olympic tryouts. (G.B.C.)

PERKOSKI’S NOTEBOOK. Soccer star **Robert Lewandowski** was chosen Polish Sports Person of 2015 in a poll of the readers of *Przegląd Sportowy* and viewers of public broadcaster TVP ... Polish cyclist **Michał Kwiatkowski** pulled off a stunning win at the E3 Harelbeke race in Belgium by outsprinting Slovak rider Peter Sagan with about 300 meters remaining.

The 17th World Junior Ultimate Championships will be held July 31-August 6, 2016 in Wrocław, Poland, and is expected to host 40 Frisbee teams and 1,000 athletes ... **Edmund Piątkowski**, who was a multiple Polish champion in the discus and took part in three Olympics, died at 80 ... former World Flyweight Boxing Champion **Henryk Średnicki** died at 61 in Piórków Trybunalski.

Duke basketball coach **Mike Krzyzewski** recently underwent full knee replacement surgery, but still intends to coach the US Basketball Team in the Rio Olympics this summer.

Polish women have qualified for the Rio Olympics in the women’s team sabre event after finishing fifth in the World Cup in Belgium, but the Polish women’s handball team, but will not go to Rio after finishing third in their tournament held in Russia.

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

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A sincere “THANK YOU” for your donations to the PAJ PRESS FUND: **Virginia Mazurek**, Sterling Heights, Mich.; **Edward Podgurski**, Huron, Ohio; **Richard and Pearl Wilgosz**, Hollywood, Fla.; **Regina Wnukowski**, Philadelphia; **Irene Wrobel**, Cheektowaga, N.Y.; and one **Friend of the PAJ**. Dziękujemy wam wszystkim! The PAJ thanks all who donated to the Press Fund.

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 31st year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

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

SYBIRACY / Stefania Borstowa

Surviving the First Winter 1940-1941

"Sibiracy" (Poles exiled to Siberia during World War II) is written by Stefania Borstowa. Borstowa, her children and Marysia, a home servant, were deported from Lvov to Krutoyarka, a small village in Kazakhstan. Soon after the Soviet Union invasion, her husband was sent to the labor camp in Eastern Siberia and died of dysentery, but she did not know about it until after World War II.

Excerpt from a letter written in winter 1940:

I invited all Polish people to our house to celebrate the first Christmas Eve in Kazakhstan together. We shared bread, prayer, and good wishes. I don't remember the details of all what we ate, but we had so-called "wapshe" – noodles cooked in water and whitened with milk. We had crucian (carp), baked in the oven with potatoes; tea and lepyoshki (round breads) with carrots and forest raspberries. Everything that we prepared was eaten as we expected, since people were hungry and food was good. We knew this would happen, so we stored some extra food for us for the rest of Christmas under our beds.

Local people celebrated the Or-

thodox Christmas just two weeks after our Catholic Christmas. They celebrated it in style but this was a "hungry" Christmas for them with very limited food. I had lots of appreciation to the way locals remember the religious feasts and orthodox calendar, especially the elderly, in spite of the fact that formally Soviet Union did not adhere to orthodox calendar for the last twenty years.

Excerpt from a letter written on January 19, 1941:

I don't know how to express my admiration for the content of the parcel which you sent us and even the way it was packed. This parcel would make even a sybarite happy and it was done with such mastery. Sugar is a luxury for now, just like it was when we still lived in Poland. Children did not even dream about nougats (a chewy or brittle candy containing almonds or other nuts and sometimes fruit) or candies. I did not even imagine that I would eat barley soup here in Kazakhstan rather than after we came back to Poland.

Recently the deputy came to the village and he ordered the kolkhoz director to pay Poles for the work they did last year. We received 8 ki-

lograms flour and 2 kilograms meat for every week we worked. Additionally, if we did the daily norm we received 1 ruble and 10 kopecks for our work. This is not much, but it helps to repair the budgets especially for some needy families. In the past we did not receive any payments in flour, meat or money. The meat was not even available to buy anywhere in the village. Some local people kept some chickens or sheep. If they killed a sheep, this had to last for a couple of months for the whole family.

Referring to Edward, my husband, I did not receive any replies to my letters to him or the ones which I sent to NKVD in Chernichov. Apparently, the communication with prisoners is prohibited. It is freezing here, down to -55C (-67F), the cold temperatures lasts usually 4-5 days, after the cold spell it warms up to between -30C (-22F) and -35C (-31F). The cold with a temperature -55C (-67F) was the lowest we experienced until now.

Excerpt from a letter written on February 20, 1941:

It is awfully boring and I try to kill the feeling of boredom but I don't know anymore how. I knitted a



lot, but I used the whole wool I had. I undid old socks and stockings and knitted new ones, which tear again. We have no books to read. Daily I carry water, cut the wood, cook the "soup on the nail" (soup done on the water, not on meat bullion or bone). I miss working in the kolkhoz, sun, fresh air and the outdoors. It is still very cold with the temperature about -45C (-49F). Yesterday we had a strong snowstorm, so when I was going for milk, I had to stop ten times on the way. I had a feeling that I am watching an American horror movie, but this was an awful reality.

Marysia has a gift of socializing. I am almost a bit jealous. She knows everybody in the village. She is a friend of everybody. She gives some

advice, she is also a good listener and she participates in some local gossip and is able to bring something which we need at home. She is starting to help people with medical problems. Our roles have changed now, she is a doctor and I am a fortune teller, since Marysia tells me about any village stories and news and I just try to figure out how to predict a future from these available information. For this fortune telling I receive a half of the liter of milk or 1 kilo of wheat or some other food products.

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Reprinted courtesy of Jaga's Polish Culture Website at: www.polishsite.us.

RESISTANCE / Regina Szamborska-McIntyre

Aid from Western Allies

Resistance is a story about the conditions which led to the Warsaw Uprising during World War II, and how the courageous and tenacious people of Poland fought the Nazi occupation, only to be decimated by the political vagaries of war.

Three main characters drive the story: Zygmunt Kaminski, publisher of an underground newspaper; Marek Gudzynski, aka Dysthmus, delivery man of contraband items to underground units; and Michal Bednarek, attorney at law, who tries to remain neutral and uninvolved.

CHAPTER 2. Some smuggling was better conducted during the night, and Marek Gudzynski, aka Dysthmus, had gone through the week with promises of catching up on his sleep. It was near the curfew hour, after a particularly vexing day of covert deliveries, and he was on his way home to fulfill his promise, after a quick drink at Kazek's bar.

An old sot, who went about town begging for the price of a drink, was the only one left in the place. Kazek was trying to rouse the old man so that he could lock up.

"I won't stay long, Kazek. I need to get some sleep. I just need a drink and a word with a friend."

"Don't push your luck. I'm not feeling very friendly tonight, and I want to get out of here." He pulled a bottle of vodka off the shelf and poured his pushy customer a drink.

Dysthmus sipped his vodka. "I have to get a work certificate", he mused, "The doctors in town will no longer write prescriptions for me. They say I've had every ailment known to man." He drained his glass and pushed it forward for a refill.

"Do you know where I can get a

job?"

The old sot lifted his head, "Try the Labor office. They need slaves to labor for them in Germany."

Kazek was surprised that the old man was awake and coherent. "Okay, Jozef, you've had enough." He lifted him from his seat and struggled to get the old drunk out the door.

Ryk, from the secret radio station pushed in on them. "Dysthmus, I thought I'd find you here." His tone was not pleasant. "I stopped by your room and spoke to your neighbors; no one knew where you were."

"They never do!"

"I have to get back to Praga before curfew. I could get caught. I'm on duty for the night." He looked intently at Dysthmus, as if to gauge his level of sobriety. "The BBC just signed off with the signal tune for an expected air-drop. The others are already on their way to the site. I have to get back." He turned to leave, "You better get a move on." He flung the warning over his shoulder.

The strafing of the airport by the Luftwaffe, during the invasion of 1939, inflicted major potholes on the runways. The Germans saw no need to restore the landing field for future use and the potholes remained. A sharp eye in daylight might determine the remnant of the main landing strip.

Dysthmus was in for a long wait. He tried to fall asleep, but he was too unsettled. He rationalized that a slug of vodka might act as a stimulant, change his focus, and add some comfort to an unpleasant situation. There was more than half a bottle left under his seat. He periodically measured off a few drams at a time, as if he were following a prescription. Relief came slowly as he drift-

ed into a deep sleep.

The noisy drone of a low flying plane woke him. A surge of adrenaline sparked him into action. He hopped out of the truck.

The belly of the plane opened and the billowing parachutes drifted gracefully to the ground to deposit the heavy artillery and ammunition. The rhythmic thump, thump, of the objects as they hit the ground soon became the only sound to be heard, as the plane continued on its flight. There was a mad scramble as five agents quickly gathered the loot.

The others took off, leaving two guns and a large packet of unknown contents behind for Dysthmus, who ran toward the large packet; there might be American dollars inside. The sound of approaching vehicles ignited the panic button in his belly. He flung the package into the truck, shoved the tailgate in place, and ran around to the cab. Once inside, he jammed the accelerator to the floor and muttered a fervent prayer as he fled the scene.

He caught the flashing lights of two autos in the reflection of his rear view mirror. At a sharp curve, Dysthmus jerked the wheel sharply to the right and rammed the accelerator to the floor. The truck careened off the shoulder of the road and bounced along the strip of underbrush until it burrowed into a hammock of trees. He cut off the engine and listened for the sound of the roaring motors as they sped on down the road.

Regina Szamborska-McIntyre is a retired Speech Pathologist who currently facilitates memoir workshops at her local library. She is the author of two books of historic fiction, "An Altar of Sod" and "Yesterday's Pupils."

Polish Cuisine Meets Connecticut's Crafts



HARTFORD, Conn. — The Polish National Home of Hartford held another successful, unique food, beverage and entertainment event with its "CT Beer and Polish Food Pairing Night," March 19.

Fashioned after their first-ever "Connecticut Game Dinner & Pairings Night," this event also featured Connecticut craft beverages paired with unique Polish cuisine and live entertainment throughout the evening by the talented group of performers from Theatre of Imagination Novum.

Guests were treated to a beer samplings hour. Three courses were served and before each serving, the hosts provided a description of the dish, the pairing and introduction to a set of songs to be performed during the course.

The chefs received a round of applause for their creations of: Kielbasa Mousse appetizer; Chrupki Pan paired with City Steam Naughty Nurse Ale; Karkowka Sauerbraten paired with Black Hog Ginga Ninja IPA; and a fresh-made, Chocolate Chip Cookie Ice Cream Sandwich encrusted with pretzels, peanuts and potato chips, served with a chocolate stout ganache and paired with Back East Imperial Stout.

The Hartford PNH has been an anchor and focal point in the com-

munity since its opening in 1930. Established to educate and celebrate Polish heritage and culture, the club also supports the local culture within its shared community. This year marked the Home's 85th anniversary.

The Hartford PNH was designated a national historic landmark in 1983.

For more information about the Polish National Home of Hartford and upcoming events, please contact them at info@PolishHomeCT.org, (860) 247-1784 or at Facebook.com/HartfordPNH.

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109 Rosemead Lane
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(716) 892-5975
andywbuffalo@yahoo.com

Savannah and Warka Observe Pulaski's Birthday

by Peter Obst

SAVANNAH, Ga. — This year's annual birthday ceremonies honoring Revolutionary War General Pulaski, the Polish cavalryman known as "The Father of the American Cavalry," took place March 5 on Monterey Square in Savannah, at the foot of the monument dedicated to the Polish and American hero. Edward Krolkowski, from Savannah's Gen. Casimir Pulaski Committee, was master of ceremonies. In this role, he wore a historically correct replica of the dragoon's helmet standard the commander of the Pulaski Legion, the mixed cavalry-infantry unit organized by Pulaski.

National Hymns were sung to the accompaniment of the Benedictine Military High School band. Congressman Earl "Buddy" Carter and Mayor of Tybee Island Jason Buelterman spoke briefly, addressing the debt of gratitude toward Pulaski and the values he personified. Such values are still present in the exemplary service performed by our armed forces. Peter Obst read a letter from Darisuz Gizka, Mayor of Warka Poland, where a museum dedicated to Pulaski stands on that family's former

estate. Then wreaths from the Poles in America Foundation, the American Council for Polish Culture, the Savannah Gen. Pulaski Committee, the Polonia Club of Korona, Florida and descendants of the Pulaski family of Pulazie, Poland now living in Greenville, S. Carolina, were placed at the monument.

On command, a musket salute was fired in honor of Pulaski's sacrifice on the Savannah Battlefield. This completed the formal ceremonies but a number of people lingered at the site conversing with historian Edward Pinkowski and his son Jack about the research that was done on the bones found in the monument and reinterred in 2005. Though not confirmed by a DNA study which was inconclusive, forensic evidence shows that those were the mortal remains of Casimir Pulaski. Mr. Pinkowski and his son, who is the president of the Poles in America Foundation, came from Florida where the elder Pinkowski is in semi-retirement but still doing historical research.

Some of the attendees re-assembled later at the Plantation Club

Ballroom for a Polish-style banquet. Among the speakers were Eric Norton, Deputy Superintendent of Ft. Pulaski National Monument (National Park Service), writer Mel Gordon, and Jack Pinkowski. Since this year (on August 12, 2016) Edward Pinkowski will be 100 years old, a cake was served and various version of "Happy Birthday" in Polish and English sung. The tribute was well-deserved as Pinkowski has devoted most of his life to research and writing about Polish American heroes and history. The Poles in America Foundation he founded, where his son Jack is president, is intended to carry this legacy well into the future.



A 36-page book will tell the story of Pulaski as a fighter for independence. An English version is planned for later this year.

CELEBRATION IN POLAND. During this same weekend, Pulaski's birthday was also observed at the Pulaski Museum in Warka, Poland. Wreaths were laid at the statue of Pulaski which is a twin of the one found in the city of Buffalo, N.Y.

In addition, this year, in time for this 271st anniversary of Pulaski's birth, his story was re-told in the form of a comic book — what today is also called a "graphic novel." Written by Remigiusz Matyjas and illustrated by Jacek Przybylski this 36 page book tells the story of Casimir Pulaski as a fighter for independence, in Poland and in America. A figure which is given prominence in the story is Franciszka Krasinska, who according to some sources, was also the only significant feminine influence (or perhaps a love interest) in Pulaski's life. In the history of 18th century Poland she is also known as the wife of Duke Charles Wętylin of Courland and a leading light in the Bar Confederation, an armed movement which Józef Pulaski, Casimir's father, co-founded. An English version of this biographical comic book is planned for publication later in the year. Those wishing to see more information on this subject may access in Pulaski Museum website at: www.muzeumpulaski.pl/html/komikspulaski2016.html

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

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OUR POLISH SAINTS / Martin Nowak

PolAms Honor The Saints

Part V

No Polish Americans have been canonized by the Roman Catholic Church. But from the start of the mass migration of Poles to America in the late nineteenth century, those immigrants established strong parish communities with grand church buildings. Almost every Polish American community of any size had a parish church named after either St. Stanislaus, St. Adalbert or St. Casimir, and in many cases one for each of them.

ST. JOSAPHAT

Jozafat Kuncewicz
1580-1623

Canonized: 1867

Feast Day: November 12

Grave: St. Peter's Basilica, Rome, Italy

Born in Lithuanian Poland into a distinguished family, he entered a monastery at age twenty-four, became a priest, headed different monasteries and eventually was consecrated a bishop. He lived in a time and place where the schism between the Roman Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church was still a very contentious matter, in Ruthenia, present day western Ukraine. Raised Orthodox, he became a Uniate, one who believed that Orthodox and Catholics should unite under the pope. Rome wanted him to become more Catholic, and Orthodox Christians resented his acceptance of the pope as leader. Often accused of petty oppressions by the anti-Unites, he was murdered by them in 1623. Patron saint of Ukraine.

ST. CLEMENT HOFBAUER

Klement Hofbauer
1751-1820

Canonized: 1909

Feast Day: March 15

Grave: Maria am Gestade Parish, Vienna, Austria

A Czech born priest of the Redemptorist Order, he is also known as Clement or Clemens Dworzak or Dvorak. Serving in Vienna, when a crackdown on religious orders began he went to Warsaw where he helped re-invigorate Catholicism in the Polish capital. He was very successful, founding a home and school for orphans. Preaching peace, he was considered a traitor by most Poles, who were then struggling against foreign occupation. Thrown out of Poland once Napoleon's invading forces gained power and established the Duchy of Warsaw, he preached in Vienna where he established a church and a Catholic college. Patron saint of Warsaw and

Vienna.

ST. ANDREW BOBOLA

Andrzej Bobola

1591-1657

Canonized: 1938

Feast Day: May 16

Grave: Shrine of St. Andrew Bobola, Warsaw

Called "the hunter of souls," he was a Jesuit priest, teacher, preacher and missionary who served in various capacities in Polish Lithuania. Andrew was credited with converting whole towns and villages from Protestantism and Eastern Orthodoxy to Catholicism. He was a heroic caregiver of bubonic plague victims at the risk of contracting the disease himself. He was killed by Cossacks during an uprising by them in what is now Belarus. His body was placed in different tombs over the years and finally returned to his native Poland in 1938. Patron saint of Poland and Warsaw.

ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE

Maksymilian Kolbe

1894-1941

Canonized: 1982

Feast Day: August 14

Grave: Exact location unknown, ashes scattered within Auschwitz-Birkenau

He was a Franciscan monk who promoted the veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Maximilian founded the monastery of Niepokalanów which operated a seminary, radio station and publishing

house for church publications on its grounds. He also founded a similar monastery in Nagasaki, Japan that miraculously survived the dropping of the atomic bomb on that city in 1945. During World War II he hid Jews, was caught by the Nazis and sent to Auschwitz where he volunteered to take the place of a condemned inmate. He was first placed in a starvation chamber, then fatally injected with poison. Patron saint of drug addicts, prisoners, journalists and the twentieth century.

ST. ALBERT CHMIELOWSKI

1845-1916

Canonized: 1989

Feast Day: June 17

Grave: Rakowicka Cemetery, Kraków

Popularly known as Brother Albert, he was born Adam Chmielowski near Kraków. He lost a leg fighting in the 1863 Insurrection against the Russians, fled to Belgium and became an artist. Returning to Poland, he felt a need to serve the less fortunate, abandoned painting and lived among the poor and destitute in Kraków. He joined the Franciscans and soon founded his own order, the Albertines. He worked with Blessed Bernardina Maria Jablonska to serve the poor while continuing to live among them. His life was an inspiration to Karol Wojtyła, the future pope, to seek a priestly vocation. Patron saint of Puławy and Sosnowiec.

THE PONDERING POLE / Ed Poniewaz

Popeye the Polish Sailorman?

For turyści (tourists) coming to St. Louis this summer who are looking for a place to relax and enjoy lunch or dinner after a ride up in the Arch, here are a couple of suggestions. You will not be disappointed:

The Fountain on Locust (www.fountainonlocust.com) is a really neat, old-time ice cream parlor and restaurant and has two special offerings: the ice cream martini and Polish Dill Pickle soup. Joy Grdnic is the heart and brains behind this St. Louis success story. Prominently posted on the menu, the dill pickle soup is from a "secret family recipe." So, if you come to St. Louis, visit at The Fountain on Locust. Smacznego!

Fountain is just west of the downtown area. **Le Grand's Market & Catering** is located in South St. Louis, and it features Piekutowski Fine European Style Sausage. Piekutowski's is St. Louis' oldest and best Polish sausage shop. I would say it ranks with the best in the country — maybe even the old country!

There is a story that when Pope John Paul II — then Cardinal Wojtyła — visited St. Louis in the 1960s, he made a comment that Piekutowski's krakowska was better than his hometown stuff. You can't beat that testimonial.

You can get a Stan Musial sandwich at Le Grand's, which features Piekutowski krakowska. You can also buy regular Piekutowski kielbasa from the butcher case. Websites for Le Grand's and Piekutowski's: are <http://legrandsmarket-catering.com/> and <http://piekutowskis.com/>.

POLISH OR NOT? Sarah Helen Parcak is an American archeologist, Egyptologist, and a space archeologist. Her claim to fame is using satellite imaging to locate

ancient sites. It is fascinating stuff, and for that technique last year she was the recipient of the TED award (<http://www.ted.com/>), a one million dollar prize given "annually to an individual with a creative, bold vision to spark global change." Parcak: Polish or not?

Where does he find them? A guest on *Stosiel* was **Mike Michalowiec**, an author, entrepreneur, and lecturer. His philosophy is "based on the notion that only can one start a business with fewer resources, but that having fewer resources can actually work to your benefit." Spoken like a true Pole. Is Mike Polish or not?

If you do visit St. Louis, you can also take a side trip South on the other side of the Mississippi to Chester, Illinois, the home of E.C. Segar, the creator of *Popeye the Sailor Man*. A number of people have asked whether the real man behind the character, **Frank "Rocky" Fiegel**, is Polish. This would be large Pondering Pole research accomplishment. If you are looking for a challenge, Frank Fiegel, the man who would be *Popeye*, Polish or not?

HAPPY TRZECIEGO MAJA! (Polish Constitution Day). Take just a little time this month to meditate on our freedom.

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If you have a thought about this month's column, have an answer to the questions, have a question, or 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.

GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

What Laws Affected the Admission of my Grandmother at Ellis Island?

The journey from Poland to American shores was very arduous, but once here, there was still a risk that our ancestors would not be admitted.

The first immigration law that directly affected Polish immigrants was the Act of 1882 which was influenced by welfare agencies. The last half of the 1800s saw a significant increase in the arrival of European peasants who had little money. The welfare groups asked for rules be enacted to refuse admission to immigrants who might become public charges. The agencies feared that they would be overwhelmed by requests for aid by impoverished immigrants. This legislation was explained by these words: "If on such examination there shall be found among such passengers any convict, lunatic, idiot, or any person unable to take care of him or herself with-

out becoming a public charge, and such person shall not be permitted to land."

The undesirable category included pregnant or single women, the disabled, the sick, or the poor. This act required many single women to be met by a male member of their family and pregnant women to be met by their husbands. The disabled, sick and the poor found it very difficult to be admitted unless they found a sponsor that would guarantee to support them. Also excluded in this act were those with certain illnesses that were considered contagious such as cholera, insanity, tuberculosis, or epilepsy. These restrictive rules affected not only those who were refused entry but also those family members who had traveled with them. If one family member was refused, their family members had to make the diffi-

cult and heartbreaking decision to stay or to return to Europe. What would you do if your brother or son was told they were being returned to Europe? The other family members had only minutes to give their decision.

The Immigration Act of 1882 was the first piece of immigration regulation to contain this kind of comprehensive subjective restriction, and it set the stage for more restrictive immigration legislation that was enacted in 1921 and 1924. The Emergency Quota Act of 1921 and the Immigration Act of 1924 established quotas by nationality that restricted immigration into the United States from most countries. The 1921 act set annual immigration from a given country to three percent of the number of people from that country that were living in the U.S. as counted in the 1910 census

figures. The 1924 Act lowered the quotas that had been set in the 1921 Act. The 1924 Act used two percent of the country of origin, and this number was based on information from the 1890 Federal census. This change reduced the effect of the high immigration levels from eastern Europe between 1890 and 1914. In 1927, the quota levels were again changed with allocations by country based upon levels of national origins according to the 1920 Census, which raised the quota levels for Eastern European immigrants.

The immigration quotas that began in 1921 were meant to restrict the number of immigrants entering mainly from southern and eastern European countries. It aimed to reduce the overall number of unskilled immigrants and to prevent immigration from changing the ethnic distribution of the Ameri-

can population. The 1927 changes made the quotas more relative to the 1920s population, but they still restricted the number of possible immigrants from Poland.

Our ancestors suffered through the journey and entry process to establish our roots in America. Their names are not found in the history books, but they were important to the history of our nation because their labor was needed to build this country. Knowing the risk, they took making their trek to America and their difficulty in gaining entry should give you a better appreciation for your immigrant roots.

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Stephen M. Szabados is a prominent genealogist, and the author of four books, "Finding Grandma's European Ancestors," "Find Your Family History," "Polish Genealogy," and "Memories of Dziadka."

POLISH CAN BE FUN / Robert Strybel

Family Doings, Ties, and History

Except for actually visiting Poland, many Polish Americans who still know a little Polish say that about the only time they get to speak it is with elderly relatives — maybe even old neighbors or total Polish-speaking strangers. When that occurs, family matters are usually high on the agenda. Who is where, with whom and doing what is the stuff of conversation with relatives. Explaining your Polish connections might be more typical during chats with non-relatives. Here are some of the things that might be raised during such encounters:

WHAT'S NEW IN THE FAMILY?

- *Co słycać u was w rodzinie?* What's new in the family?
- *Nic nowego, to samo co zawsze. Nic się nie zmieniło od naszego ostatniego spotkania.* Nothing new. Same old thing. Nothing has changed since we last met.
- *Dużo ciekawych rzeczy.* Many interesting things.
- *Janek wyjechał do Kalifornii na studia. Studiuję informatykę.* Johnny has gone to California to college. He's studying computer science.
- *Ania wyszła za mąż za dentystę z Buffalo, który jest pół-polakiem. Nazywa się Majewski.* Annie has married a dentist from Buffalo who is half-polish. His name is Majewski.
- *Tomek i Marysia się rozwodzą. Ich trójka dzieci bardzo rozpacza.* Tom and Mary are getting divorced. Their three kids are really broken up about it.
- *Edek dostał dobrą pracę w Nowym Yorku, ale jego żona nie chce się wprowadzić z Cheektowaga.* Ed got a good job in New York, but his wife doesn't want to move out of Cheektowaga.

- *Kasia wreszcie zaszła w ciążę.* Kathy has finally become pregnant.
- *W zeszłym roku jej siostra ewa urodziła bliźniaki.* Last year her sister eve had twins.
- *Ciocia Zosia umarła wkrótce po bożym narodzeniu. Miała 88 (osiemdziesiąt osiem) lat.* Aunt Sophie died shortly after Christmas. She was 88.

ANCESTRAL TIES

- *Rodzice urodzili się w Ameryce ale są polskiego pochodzenia.* My parents were born in America but are of Polish extraction.
- *Moi pradiadkowie wyjechali z polski i osiedlili się w Chicago.* My great grandparents left Poland and settled in Chicago.
- *Potem przenieśli się do Pensylwanii.* Later they moved to Pennsylvania.
- *Ciocia hela to kuzynka mojej babci.* Aunt Hela is my grandma's cousin.
- *Rodzina mojego męża też jest z Białegostoku, ale osiedliła się koło Detroit.* My husband's family is also from Białystok but settled near Detroit.
- *Niektórzy mówią, że nasz przodek walczył pod Sobieskim w Wiedniu, ale nie wiem, czy to prawda.* Some say our ancestor fought under (King Jan) Sobieski in Vienna, but I don't know if that's true.

WORDS OF WISDOM

Rodzina to najważniejsza!

DO MIŁEGO! - TILL NEXT TIME!
Please send all questions and comments to: strybel@interia or airmail them to: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

GENEALOGY NOTEBOOK

PGSA MEETING. May 15, 2016, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Schaumburg Township District Library. Rasmussen South Room, 130 S. Roselle Rd. Schaumburg, Ill.

When the Ellis Island database went online in 2001, researchers entered a new generation in searching for ancestors' arrival records. Additional ports including Baltimore, Boston, New Orleans, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Galveston, and Castle Garden have been made available to genealogists around the world via the internet.

A lecture, "Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors' Arrival Records Online," provides the basics for searching these databases using case studies to illustrate various techniques. A case study of finding a Polish immigrant will be included.

Presenter Mike Karsen has given over 300 talks on genealogy topics locally, nationally, and internationally including the Newberry Library and the Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership in Chicago. He is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), The Genealogical Speakers Guild (GSG), and is Past President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois.

The Schaumburg Library asks

that you register to attend because of limited seating. To sign up go to: <http://schaumburglibrary.org/>. This presentation will also be offered as a Webinar. To register go to: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/49616935335564036>

20 YEARS STRONG. Cyndi's List is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Originally created in 1996 by professional genealogist Cyndi Ingle, it is a list of links to other websites of value to genealogists. It currently has more than 330,000 links.

Cyndi's List is a free jumping-off point and a catalog for the immense genealogical collection that is the Internet. It is all done not by software, but by a live human being. Every link found on Cyndi's List is personally visited, titled, given a description, categorized, and cross-referenced across the site. Cyndi Ingle is the creator and owner of Cyndi's List. The site is a one-woman enterprise in which Cyndi often works 10-12 hours each day, many times seven days a week. Users of Cyndi's List are encouraged to submit new links and report broken links, all in an effort to keep Cyndi's List as current as possible. And, it is still offered for free. Go to: <http://www.cyndislist.com/>

SURNAME CORNER

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Consider a unique and memorable Christmas gift of Polish heritage. Giving a loved one the story of his or her Polish family name is a gift that will long be remembered and appreciated. It will explain the surname's meaning, how it came about, how many people share it, where they are from and whether a coat of arms goes with it.

The recipient will also get a useful genealogical contact chart which will put you him/her in touch with genealogical researchers who can help track down your family records in Poland as well as photograph and/or videotape ancestral homesteads and graves.

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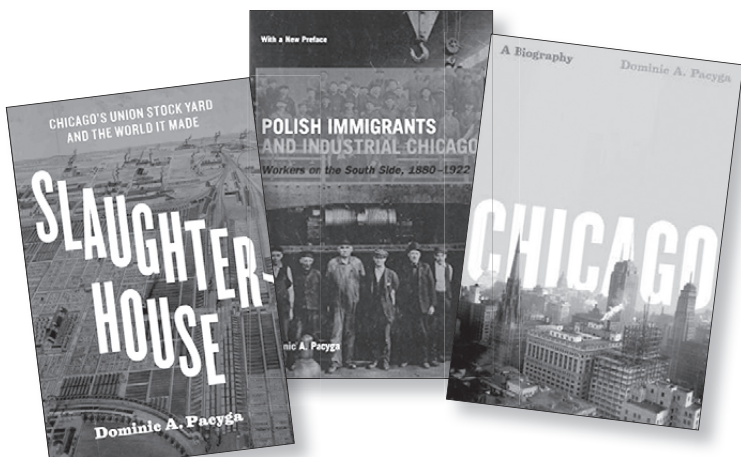
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Chopin Competition Winner Adds to Composer's Birthday Observance

by Jean Joka

PHILADELPHIA — On Sunday, March 6, 2016, the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia held its Annual Frederic Chopin concert at the Sister Francesca Onley Education Center at Holy Family University. This was the celebration of Chopin's birthday. Guest pianist was Kate Lui, bronze medal winner at the 2015 Chopin International Piano Competition in Warsaw, Poland.

Deborah Majka, concert chairperson and honorary consul for the Republic of Poland for the southeastern region of Pennsylvania opened the program by welcoming everyone and introducing Liu.

In introducing Liu, Majka quoted the performer, who said she feels "at home with Chopin's music."

"Really it's all about passion, just playing out your heart," said Liu.

The theme of the program was "A Classical Odyssey From Mozart to Chopin." Liu's first selection was Mozart's *Sonata in B-flat major*.

"I love Mozart's work in gen-



KATE LUI, bronze medal winner at the 2015 Chopin International Piano Competition in Warsaw.

eral because of its purity and joy — or mostly joy — as well as its possibility for an exquisite tone of sound," said Liu.

The audience cheered and gave her a "bravo" with a standing ovation. At the end of the recital, in keeping with Polish tradition, Liu was presented flowers by two young children from the audience.

In addition, Majka presented a painting of Chopin's home in Zela Zowa Wola, as a remembrance of her participating in the Chopin's International Competition.

A reception followed the performance.

Babiak Earns "Meritorious Service" Award

BAYONEE, N.J. — On April 6, 2016, the Sons of Poland Benevolent Foundation (SPBF) honored Eugenia T. Babiak, M.D. with a "Meritorious Service" award for being "the epitome of community membership."

"Dr. Babiak belongs to an extraordinary number of Polish American organizations, including being an insured member of the Sons of Poland Council of the Royal Arcanum. She has been actively involved in the fraternal life of the Sons of Poland, serving as a Delegate to many Quadrennial Conventions and attending all fundraising events," said the SPBF.

The dinner in her honor was held at the Wallington Exchange in Wallington, N.J. Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Dayle Vander Sande, who served as Director of the Association of the Sons of Poland for the past fifteen years. The Society's vice president, Louis J. Gill presented an engraved silver tray award to Dr. Babiak. The goal for this evening was also to raise funds for stipends to be distributed

to the high school seniors who belong to our council.

The SPBF has hosted an award reception each year since 2008 as a way of expressing gratitude to an individual or organization, whose efforts reflect our commitment to the education of our children for the benefit of society and the future. The first recipient was Seton Hall University Professor, Dr. Richard J. Hunter; then the Kosciuszko Foundation was acknowledged; followed by Mrs. Christine Kuskowski of the Teaching English Program; the Polish University Club of New Jersey; The Marie Sklodowska Professional Women's Association; Ms. Celeste Oranchak; Mr. Gregory Komeshok and Ms. Frances X. Gates.

Dr. Babiak has devoted her life's mission to the promotion of Polish heritage, and the value of organizations within our ethnic community, many of which have existed for over a century, like the Association of the Sons of Poland, which has recently merged to become the Sons of Poland Council of the Royal Arcanum.

Copernicus' Birthday Reveals the Date of His Death

by Aziz Inan

Nicolaus Copernicus — born Mikołaj Kopernik on Feb. 19, 1473 in Toruń, Poland and died on May 24, 1543 in Frombork, Poland at age 70 —

ISKIERKI

was a Renaissance mathematician, astronomer and Catholic cleric.

Copernicus (his Latin name) formulated a model of the universe that placed the Sun rather than the Earth at the center of the universe. The publication of his model (called the heliocentric model in his book *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium* — On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres) just before his death in 1543 is considered to be a significant contribution in the history of science which led to the Copernicus Revolution.

This past February 19, 2016 marked Copernicus's 543rd birthday and interestingly enough, his birthday this year possesses a unique numerical property which reveals the full calendar date of his death.

How so?

Note that Copernicus's birthday number 543 coincides with the rightmost three digits of 1543, the year he died. Additionally, if 1543 is split into 1 and 543, the difference of these two numbers yields 542 (which is Copernicus's last birthday number) and reverse of 542, namely 245, put side by side with 1543 yields 2451543 representing calendar date 24 May 1543, the day Copernicus died.

Furthermore, the sum of the prime factors of 543, which are 3 and 181, equals 184 and 5 times the reverse of 184, namely 481, result in 2405, that is, 24 May, the day Copernicus died in 1543.

Lastly, 2016 also marks the 473rd anniversary of Copernicus's death where 473 coincides with the rightmost three digits of his birth year, 1473.

And who said math was boring?



Aziz Inan is an Electrical Engineering professor at the University of Portland, in Portland, Oregon. He regularly shares brainteasers and profiles of famous scientists with his students.

OBITUARIES

Judge Roman Gribbs, Former Mayor of Detroit

Former Detroit Mayor Roman Gribbs died at age 90 after a battle with cancer.

Gribbs served as mayor from 1970-74, and after that was a long-time judge on the Michigan Court of Appeals, from 1983 until his mandatory retirement in 2000. Afterward, known for his dedication to law, he continued to serve as an arbitrator for the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

"He was really well known as a colleague that you wanted to sit with, and a man with a warm smile and a kind word. He was always well-prepared, calm, thoughtful and pleasant," said Michigan Court of Appeals Chief Judge Michael Talbot, who served with Gribbs after joining the Court of Appeals in 1998.

"And you'd listen to Ray when



ever he shared a thought or concern on the bench because you knew he'd put a lot of thought and reason into it," Talbot said.

In a statement, incumbent Mayor Mike Duggan called Gribbs "the textbook definition of a dedicated public servant" over nearly half a century, in various roles.

"(I)n his roles as an assistant prosecutor, a respected judge, and as sheriff and mayor, he admirably served Detroit — a city he loved dearly. I am grateful for his service, and my heart goes out to his family."

Gribbs is also remembered for being mayor when construction

began on the Renaissance Center in 1971, and declining to reside in the historic Manoogian Mansion after defeating Richard Austin in the 1969 election, instead maintaining a residence in the city's Rosedale Park neighborhood during his administration.

Gribbs did not seek a second term as mayor. He was succeeded by Coleman A. Young, the city's first African-American mayor.

Born in Detroit on December 29, 1925, Gribbs was raised on a farm near Capac, Michigan. His parents were Polish immigrants, who were basically farmers, though his father also worked on the Ford assembly line.

He earned undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Detroit in 1952 and 1954.

Jane Kardas Kobos, LYPW Director

Jane Kardas Kobos, 67, who succumbed to cancer on March 16, 2016, was born in Maaseik, Belgium on February 12, 1949, to the late Emil and Maria Kardas. In 1955, the Kardas family moved to Chicago with the help of Catholic Charities and family members living in Chicago. She attended Chicago's St. Helen Grade School and graduated from Holy Family Academy. She met and married the love of her life,



Mitchell Kobos, on October 11, 1980.

Kobos spent years working for various shipping import export companies, the last being

OOCL, as an import customer service specialist. For over 25 years, she served as an active and out-

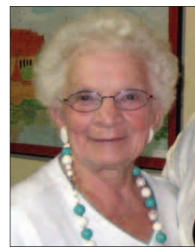
standing director and member of the Legion of Young Polish Women, volunteering in every capacity. Kobos was an expert on Polish cuisine, an avid gardener, and a classical music and opera enthusiast. But her main passion was caring for and spending time with her family. She is survived by her son, Adam Kobos, and daughter and son-in-law, Marianne Kobos Kozelka and Ted Kozelka. (GBC)

Felicia Krupinski, Active in Many Organizations

Felicia Krupinski, 93, was born in Chicago on January 25, 1923, and passed away on March 18, 2016. She was the daughter of the late Joseph and Mary Ostry, the wife of the late Richard Krupinski, and the mother of the late Renee Krupinski Lamaka.

She always spoke proudly of her grade school years at the Geneva Center, a one-room schoolhouse, in South Haven, Michigan.

Proud of her Polish heritage, Krupinski was very active in the Polish American community and belonged to many Polish American organizations for almost 70 years. She served with distinction as a member of the board of directors of The Polish Museum of America (PMA) and the Knights of Dabrowski, as a past president of the Polish Women's Civic Club, as well as a member of the Polish Women's Alliance of America, the Legion of Young Polish Women, and the Polish Arts Club of Chicago. She



was also a Life Member of the PMA.

Not simply a member of each of these clubs, Krupinski was a perfect example of a tireless and a hard-working volunteer who did everything with true passion. She served them all well and with dedication.

Krupinski was a straightforward, gentle, but, on the other hand, tough petite lady, full of wit, sparkle, and pride. She was an ideal candidate as Mrs. Santa Claus, and, for many years, at many Christmas gatherings within Polonia, Krupinski realistically and affectionately became Mrs. Santa Claus. She delighted everyone with her infectious smile, her charming wit, and mischievous elfish twinkling eyes. Her goal was to pass on beloved memories of Polish Christmas customs.

She is survived by many nieces and nephews and was the great aunt of many. (GBC).

Joseph C. Mandel, Philanthropist

Joseph C. Mandel, 102, a philanthropist who donated tens of millions of dollars to Jewish schools, passed away at his winter home in Palm Beach, Fla., March 22. Along with his two brothers, Mandel co-founded the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation in 1953. The brothers have since donated millions to several schools and civic programs in their native Cleveland and around the world.

Mandel was born in Poland in 1913 and immigrated with his parents to Cleveland at the age of seven.

The family "wasn't poor, but was on a lower economic strata," his brother said. "He never forgot where he came from," said his daughter, Penni Weinberg.

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Polka MAGAZINE

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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Polkas Return to Ocean Beach Park in New London



THE CROWDS inside the Ballroom (left) and in the park's pavilion (right).

NEW LONDON, Conn. — Polkas are returning to beautiful Ocean Beach Park in New London, for the Third Annual "Ocean Beach Park Polka Days," June 22-25, 2016.

Richie, Wally, and Jarek Dombrowski of Polka Country Enterprises and the Polka Country Musicians (PCM) of Jewett City, Conn., are happy to be featuring this event at the beautiful Ocean Beach Park. PCM will be your host band for the weekend at the site of the former "Polkabration" and "Polka Jam" days.

Featured for this weekend will be ten of the nation's finest polka bands: Polka Country Musicians, The Boys, The Knewz, Polka Family Band, Eddie Forman, Dennis & the Maestro's Men, Matt Rosinski's USPA All Star Band, The IPA Tribute Band, and Freeze Dried along with our special guest Larry Trojak of the Dyna-Tones. This superb lineup will provide over twelve hours of music each day.

Wednesday night starts off with PCM on the Boardwalk with a free admission show from 7:00-10:00

p.m. The Polka Jammer Network will broadcast the event live, right from the PCM's board.

Music continues on Thursday, starting at 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. with Matt Rosinski's USPA All Star Jam Band in the pavilion on the beach. Listen to live polkas, work on your tan and dance all day. In the evening, music continues in the big, beautiful ballroom starting at 5:30 p.m. until 12:30 a.m. with the sounds of The Polka Family Band, the Maestro's Men, and a set by Larry Trojak with PCM.

Music will start at 10:00 a.m. on Friday with The Boys from Baltimore and the IPA Tribute Band from Chicago in the pavilion. In the ballroom will be PCM, Eddie Forman Orchestra, The Knewz, and Freeze Dried from 5:30 p.m.-1:00 a.m.

Saturday once again starts off in the pavilion at 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. with Freeze Dried and The Knewz providing the music. In the ballroom will be PCM, IPA Tribute Band, and The Boys from 5:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Visit [www.oceanbeachparkpol-](http://www.oceanbeachparkpolkadays.com)

[kadays.com](http://www.oceanbeachparkpolkadays.com) for all up-to-date information, and feel free to email oceanbeachpolkas@yahoo.com with any questions.

Admission is \$20.00 per person each day Thursday and Friday; \$22 per person on Saturday.

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

Please purchase your tickets in advance and show your tickets at the gate on the dated day to receive free parking. Thursday is free admission — just pay parking when you arrive at the Beach.

In addition to the great line up of bands, there will be surprise giveaways. And if that's not enough, you can meet polka personalities from the USPA, IPA, Polka Jammer Network, 24/7 Polka Heaven, Polish New Castle Radio, local radio and TV stations, and even play a little beach volleyball. DJs and IJs will be doing live remote broadcasts all weekend long from the pavilion and the ballroom, giving you the chance to be on the air with them.

TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

And the Road Begins

When you have spent a good deal of time traveling the polka circuit, as countless numbers of us have, creating new polka memories in the vast array of good times can be a challenge. Some events are too far way, or at times inconvenient for personal schedules. Some events last for only a few years, when circumstances come into play that prevent them from growing into long-lasting events.

Occasionally, the timing is right: dates and schedules and people come together, the polka gods smile down from above, and fabulous memories are made.

So it was for those of us who traveled on the Toledo Area Polka Society Bus to the 5th Annual Wheeling Polka Festival, March 12-14. Many were first-time attendees, meaning new adventures were in store, no matter what. We rolled away from Toledo and after the usual camaraderie, fellowship, joking and laughs on the trip, we pulled into the resort amid spring rain and a gentle mist in the hills just outside of Wheeling, West Virginia.

Having never been to this venue, I was excited to read about the historical background of Oglebay and how it has evolved over time from its beginnings as the brainchild of Earl W. Oglebay, co-founder of the Oglebay-Norton Company. Oglebay, who died nearly a century ago, deeded the park to the city of Wheeling for recreational purposes. In 1930, it became a museum and to this day, multiple buildings on the property serve as a testimony to the founder's vision.

Wilson Lodge is the premier banquet and special event facility on the property, fitting for a festival with the main purpose being to enjoy great polka music in the company of family and friends. The dual-level lay-

out of the main hall was just right - each band took the stage in front of enthusiastic crowds, and played for a full dance floor surrounded by tables a few feet above the dance floor.

The hospitality was top-notch for the entire weekend. From the special events staff serving drinks and snacks and the organizers of the festival, to the diocesan priest and musicians who provided a touching Sunday Mass, everyone made us feel as welcome as it gets.

The music was the reason we were there, and it was some of the best in land: the sounds of the **Polka Family Band, the Knewz, Stephanie, The New Brass Express, and Ray Jay & the Carousels** made it all worthwhile.

As they always do, good things come to an end, and before we knew it, the highway beckoned and we were heading for home. As the miles rolled away, talk was in the air of doing this trip again in 2017, when the Wheeling Polka Festival will be in its sixth year.

LOOKING AHEAD. It is May and time to pull out the calendar and mark down the **Second Annual Polish Summer Picnic** presented by TAPS. TAPS is proud to sponsor this two-day event June 17 and 18 at the renowned Oak Shade Grove in Oregon, Ohio. Picnic entertainment includes legendary Toledo band, **A Touch of Brass** doing their first-ever reunion on Friday, **Ray Jay & the Carousels**, and also **Randy Krajewski and Badinov** on Saturday, with a performance by the Echoes of Poland. Add to this ethnic food and refreshments, kids' activities, raffles, and more, and you have the makings of a new event to attend. For more information, visit PolishToledo.com, or call (419) 276-1600.

IPA Winners Announced

CHICAGO — The International Polka Association (IPA) announced its 2015 Hall of Fame Inductees and Award Winners. They are:

Hall of Fame Inductees

Living Category

- Stanley "Stas" Golonka — Illinois
- Carl Finch — Texas
- Dean Hansen — Nebraska

Deceased Category

- Don Jodlowski — Illinois

2015 IPA Award Winners

- Favorite Female Vocalist: **Mol**

lie Busta Lange

- Favorite Male Vocalist: **Lenny Gomulka**
 - Favorite Band: **The Knewz**
 - Favorite Polish Polka Album: **"Breaking Knewz"** by The Knewz
 - Favorite International Polka Album: **"Thank You Music Lovers,"** Steve Meisner
 - Favorite Song: **"Root Beer Rag,"** The Knewz
- The IPA Hall of Fame and Awards Banquet will be held Sat., Sept. 3, 2016 at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga, N.Y.

POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

Polka Palooza III



Joe Stanky

NICHOLS, N.Y. — Polka Palooza III packed Tioga Downs Casino on April 2nd with polka fans from surrounding areas, as four different bands brought a variety of musical styles to those in attendance. Sharing two stages, Joe Stanky & The Cadets, Fritz's Polka Band, Salt City Brass and John Stevens & Double Shot provided eight hours of solid, crowd-pleasing music.

The Coasters Lounge was filled to capacity as Joe Stanky and the Cadets from Pennsylvania — fueled by Joe's distinctive fiddle work — kept the dance area filled.

Fritz's Polka Band used their unique combination of instrumen-



John Klocek of the Salt City Brass

tation in the main hall to keep both dancers and listeners alike wanting more. Playing the tunes that have made them one of the area's most popular groups, Salt City Brass from Syracuse were "a solid bet," while John Stevens & Double Shot pushed out some driving polkas to finish out the evening.

MCs for the event were local radio personalities, Roger Neel and Bill Flynn. When not dancing, the crowd took in the great buffet, the casino, and all that Tioga Downs has to offer. With the success of event, watch for Polka Palooza IV in the future. Tioga Downs is located at 2384 W. River Rd.

POLKA SHORTS

Festival Draws New Names and Talent

HINKLEY, Minn. — Billed as "Patty C." and "Molly B.," Patty Chmielewski and Mollie Busta are the headliners at the **38th Annual International Polka Fest** scheduled for May 20-22 at the Grand Casino in Hinckley, Minn.

The "old time music" festival will once again also feature polka icon and event founder, Florian Chmielewski, as well as his well-known Chmielewski Funtime Band.

For tickets, lodging, and other information, visit www.funtimeband.com or call Patty Chmielewski at (612) 597-8116.

Polka Fireworks Number 42

CHICAGO — The Blazonzczyk Family invites polka fans to its 42nd annual **Polka Fireworks Festival** at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Champion, Pa., Wed., June 30-Sun. July 3rd, 2016.

Entertainment will be provided by sixteen bands, including: The Nu-Tones; Polka Family; Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push; Ray Jay & the Carousels; Henny & the Versa Js; The Knewz; Jeff Mleczko's Dyna-Brass; Buffalo Concertina All Stars; Tony Blazonzczyk's New Phaze; Box On; John Gora & Goral; Jimmy K & Ethnic Jazz; Eddie Forman Orchestra; Steve Futa All

Star Band; Mon Valley Push; and The Boys.

Other highlights include: pool-side polka parties with DJ Ken Olowin; the Concertina Jam hosted by Paul Futa; Big Dan's Polka Pool Party Extravaganza with live music by The Boys; after-hours jam sessions; Sunday morning Polka Mass; and exciting events planned for the teens and tweens.

For daily schedule and admission prices, please visit www.polkafireworks.com.

Joseph Tomaszewski Passes

MINNEAPOLIS — **Joseph Tomaszewski** (Tomas), a founding member of the Jolly Brothers Polka Band, died, March 30, 2016.

He was 76.

Tomaszewski worked in the transportation industry for 55 years, and was also a founding member of Joe Tomaszewski's Polish Show Band.

The original Jolly Brothers Bands included brothers Joe, Gene and Fred, plus other musicians. The Jolly Brothers recorded ten albums and from 1969 to 1971, also performed for KSTP TV's "The Polka Beat Show" which aired on Saturday afternoons.

The band was inducted in the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame in 2005.

DANCE TIME / Jen Pijanowski

Buffalo Proves Why it is the Dyngus Day Capital

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Getting yourself in Easter holiday mode is simple when you make a trip to the historic Broadway Market in Buffalo. For a few weeks, this market transforms into a shopper's paradise with Polish goods, foods, wine, apparel, and everything to prepare for your Easter celebration. Although the market may not be a frequent stop for most Western New Yorkers throughout the year, just about everyone continues to support this landmark institution of Buffalo's Polonia for Easter. As the delicious scents saturate the air, nothing adds to the atmosphere like hearing live polkas while you are shopping. The management of Broadway Market took full advantage of our local polka talent by hosting **Buffalo Touch**, **Special Delivery**, **Knewz**, and **New Direction** during this busy season. It is rewarding to see the businesses both in and around the East Side Polonia come to life during this time. As we visited a small pub in the area, I began talking to a group of friends and family who meet at the market every Palm Sunday.

As we celebrate Easter Sunday with my family in West Virginia, it is always a race to get back in Buffalo for the pre-Dyngus events. This year, I made my way to Val's Pre-Dyngus Day celebration at **Salvatore's Italian Gardens**. The hall was gorgeously transformed as Polish flags, pussy willows, and banners adorned the space. Two bands headlined this year's event drawing 500+ to this Easter Sunday party. **The Beat**, who had not been in Buffalo for several decades, was welcomed with open arms by polka fans. Mike Costa's distinctive voice is a key piece of the Beat's solid sound. The robust music this group of musicians provides leaves the audience wanting much more. Another Powerhouse band, **The Boys** kept pace as Dyngus enthusiasm heightened throughout the evening. This seasoned group of lifelong polka musicians didn't miss a beat providing top notch entertainment. The

only disappointment was I missed those powerhouse vocals of Frankie Liszka. Suffering from laryngitis, he was not able to sing but focused on his trumpet skills.

AS DYNGUS DAY, the most anticipated day of the year, began, it became a struggle to decide where to go as the number of venues grows each and every year. My first stop of the day to hear polkas was at a small corner bar called the Firehouse. I arrived 30 minutes before the music started and it was already standing room only for the featured band. The **Dyngus Jam Band** consisted of Jackie Libera, Robbie Pitkowski, Matt Lewandowski, John Zelasko, Eric Bakowski, and Chris Bukowski. With the credentials of these accomplished musicians, it



Mike Evan, Rayanne Bakowski, and Jeff Yash.

was no surprise that every polka lover in Western New York showed up to catch at least one set. This ensemble pulled off playing like a well-rehearsed band.

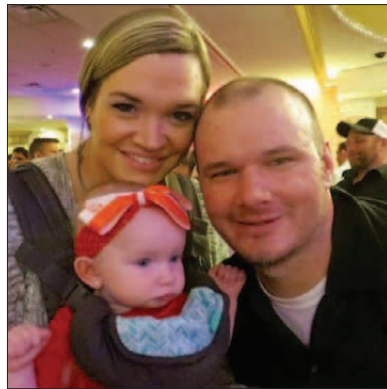
Hustling to get to my next venue, I was off to Polish Villa II. Always a popular spot for locals and out of towners, the Villa has non-stop entertainment for Dyngus Day. I managed to get there in time to enjoy the last set with **New Direction** and the first set of the **Buffalo Touch**. There was no limit to the amount of festivities happening both on and off the dance floor. Literally shoulder to

shoulder, it is impossible not to run into a familiar face at Polish Villa.

PARADE TIME. You can find the epitome of a true Dyngus Day celebration on the East Side of Buffalo. The exhilaration of the crowds is something that everyone should experience. This year, it was cold and windy but that did not stop thousands of people from braving the elements to participate in the annual parade. Floats, music, dancers, and hundreds of Polish flags disguise the decay that is typically evident in this neighborhood. For me, it is a gleaming hope that growth will return to this area and make it a source of Polish pride once again. Generations of Polish families are drawn to their roots on this celebratory occasion. After seeing a portion of the parade, I could not wait to make my way to St. Stanislaus social center. I have been going to this event since participating in my first Dyngus Day event. **Stephanie** and honky band along with **Buffalo Concertina All Stars** play this venue each year. My group of friends always meets in front of Stephanie to cheer her on during her first set. Buffalo Concertina All Stars are the perfect compliment for this affair, playing honky style music that packs the dance floor.

I was lucky enough to run into friends from Canada who were taking **John and Diane Gora** on a whirlwind tour of as many locations as they could possibly attend. **Adam** and **Angela Biskup** along with **Les** and **Alice Kapuscinski** were in the midst of their Dyngus Day marathon hitting 13 different locations before heading back to Burlington. Gora, who usually plays at IV Stallions, took this year as an opportunity to enjoy the events and his hosts made sure they made their rounds.

Chopin's is credited for starting Dyngus Day celebrations in Buffalo in 1961 and they are still going strong. A very quick stop to Millennium made me wish that there were more hours in the day. Chopin's



Cristin Filipski, Eric Bakowski, and Lidia.

hosted its there this year and it was quite a spectacle. **Pan Franek & the Polka Towners** as well as **Eddie Guca** provided entertainment. I had never seen Pan Franek so I stopped in for a quick peek to see what I was missing. The audience was enthralled watching and dancing to this family band. The venue was filled to capacity and buzzing from the energy this group provides, and Chopin's once again had a successful event.

After hours of polka music, it was time for the final stop of the night: Leonard Post's brilliant pairing of **Polka Country Musicians** and **The Knewz**. One of my favorite bands, there's no denying that even

a non-polka bystander would enjoy Polka Country Musicians. They maneuver from Polish lyric to country-inspired polka sounds. It was apparent that it's impossible to stand still as fans were packed on the dance floor and in front of the stage during their sets. The strong musicianship and vocalists in The Knewz draw in polka lovers of every age group. The two bands were an impeccable duo to savor as a finish to a successful Dyngus Day.

I am so grateful that each venue had crowds, success, and the joy of what Dyngus Day means. I would have loved to have stopped by to hear each band, but it has become completely impossible. It looks like Buffalo will continue to reign as the Dyngus Day capital.



Chris Sikorski, Kevin Dzuiba, "Blender Bob" Wolinski, and Christy Nowakowski

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June 22, 23, 24, 25, 2016

SCHEDULE OF BANDS

<p>Wednesday, June 22 7 pm – 10 pm On The Boardwalk</p> <p>Polka Country Musicians Open To The Public FREE Admission \$6.00 Parking Fee</p> <p>Thursday, June 23 11 am – 3 pm In The Pavilion</p> <p>Matt's All Star Jam Band 5:30 pm – 12:30 am In The Ballroom</p> <p>Maestro's Men Larry Trojak With PCM Polka Family</p> <p>\$20.00 Adults Kids 16 & Under FREE When Accompanied By An Adult</p>	<p>Friday, June 24 10 am – 3 pm In The Pavilion</p> <p>The Boys IPA Tribute Band 5:00 pm – 1:00 am In The Ballroom</p> <p>Eddie Forman The Knewz Polka Country Musicians Larry Trojak With PCM Freeze Dried</p> <p>\$20.00 Adults Kids 16 & Under FREE When Accompanied By An Adult</p>	<p>Saturday, June 25 10 am – 3 pm In The Pavilion</p> <p>Freeze Dried The Knewz IPA Tribute Band Polka Country Musicians The Boys</p> <p>\$22.00 Adults Kids 16 & Under FREE When Accompanied By An Adult</p> <p>Band Line-Up Subject To Change. By state law, you may not bring your own food or beverages into the ballroom.</p>
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Food Concessions Available Daily – Special Drink Prices Throughout The Weekend

Ticket Information
 Thursday, June 23: \$20 pp
 Friday, June 24: \$20 pp
 Saturday, June 25: \$22 pp
 Three Day Ticket Package: \$55 pp

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NOTE: All tickets are non-refundable.
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Polka Festival Location
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POLKA CALENDAR / John Ziobrowski

MAY 1

- The Knewz. PACC. Ludlow, Mass. 2-6. (413) 567-1961
- John Gora. Roselawn Banquets. New York Mills, N.Y. 3-7. (315) 736-5030
- New Direction. Polish Nook. Niagara Falls, N.Y. 3-7. (716) 282-6712
- The Special Delivery Band. Clinton Bar & Grill. West Seneca, N.Y. 4:30-7:30. (716) 768-3246
- Stanky Coalminers. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- Nu Sounds. Pulaski Club. Holiday, Fla. 3-6. (727) 934-0900
- Polka All Stars. Polish Club. St. Petersburg, Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908
- TBA. Polish Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059

MAY 7

- John Stevens. Pilsner Haus. Hoboken N.Y. 7-11. (201) 683-5465
- Walt Groller. Emmigsville Fire Hall. Emmigsville, Pa. 7-11. (717) 235-4667
- John Gora. Polish Hall. Delhi Ont. (519) 582-1520
- Joe Stanky. Freeland Event Ctr. Freeland, Pa. 3-7. (570) 636-0400

MAY 8

- Matty Rock/Johnny Jay. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- Continentals. Old Stein Inn. Edgewater, Md. 4-8. (410) 798-6807
- Mellotones. Polish Club. Belleview, Fla. 3-6. (352) 345-9378
- Polka Pals. Polish Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
- TBA. Pulaski Club. Holiday, Fla. 3-6. (727) 934-0900

MAY 10

- Buffalo Touch. River Grill. Tonawanda, N.Y. 6:30-9:30. (716) 873-2553

MAY 14

- New Direction/Dynabrass. Potts Banquet Hall. Cheektowaga, N.Y. 7-12. (716) 675-6588
- Dennis Polisky. St. Joe's Polish Club. Colchester, Conn. 6:30-10:30. (860) 537-2550
- John Stevens. WVIA TV. Pittston Pa. Taping 1 p.m. (570) 626-6144
- Lenny Gomulka/The Boys. Monroeville Convention Cts. Monroeville, Pa. (800) 747-5599
- Mike Surratt. K of C. Richmond, Va. 8-11. (804) 377-9110
- John Gora. Polish Hall. Burlington. Ont. (905) 545-2115
- Joe Stanky Cadets. Monaghan Fire Hall. Dillsburg, Pa. 7-11. (717) 697-8012

MAY 15

- Jimmy Sturr/Eddie Forman/Polka Country Musicians. Pulaski Park. Three Rivers, Mass. (800) 724-0727
- Northern Lites. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
- TBA. Pulaski Club. Holiday, Fla. 3-6. (727) 934-0900
- Eddie Derwin. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504

MAY 20

- John Stevens. Pilsner Haus. Hoboken, N.J. 7-11. (201) 683-5465

MAY 21

- Continentals. German Am. Society. York, Pa. 7-11. (717) 292-3869
- Buffalo Touch. VFW. Angola, N.Y. 8-12. (716) 549-5798
- Jimmy Sturr. Arts Center. Bethal, N.Y. 7 p.m. (866) 781-2922
- John Stevens. PLAV. Pine Island, N.Y. (845) 258-4168
- Walt Groller. Mt. Bethel Fire Hall. Bethel, Pa. 4-8. (610) 588-7538

MAY 22

- Middlesex Express. PACC. Lyndhurst, N.J. 2-6. (201) 438-9723
- Joe Stanky Cadets. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5505
- John Stevens. Festhalle. Asbury Park, N.J. 2-6. (782) 997-8767
- Sounds of The South. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059

MAY 24

- New Direction. Polish Falcons. Depew, N.Y. 8-10:30. (716) 684-2373
- Fritz's Polka Band. Finger. Lakes. Racetrack. Farmington, N.Y. 11-2. (585) 742-7301

MAY 25

- Concertina All Stars. Leonard Post. Cheektowaga, N.Y. 7:30-10. (716) 684-4371

MAY 27

- Polka Family. Holiday Inn. Independence Oh. 7 p.m.. (216) 524-8050. Ext. 298

MAY 28

- The Knewz/Maestros Men/The Boys/Ray Jay. Holiday Inn. Independence Oh. 2 p.m. (216) 524-8050. Ext. 298
- Eastern Sound. Seashell Stage. Hampton Beach. NH. 7-9:30. (603) 642-4134

MAY 29

- Polski Swingmasters. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- Polka Country Musicians. Holiday

- Inn. Independence Oh. 1 P.M. (216) 524-8050. Ext. 298
- Melotones. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
- Tony's Polka Band. PLAV. Pine Island, N.Y. 2-6. (845) 258-4168

MAY 30

- John Gora. Pulaski Park. Three Rivers, Mass. 2-6

JUNE 3

- Polka Family. St. Mary Church. Johnstown, Pa. 7 P.M. (800) 237-8590
- Eddie Forman. St. Stanislaus. Fall River, Mass. 5-9. (508) 672-0423

JUNE 4

- Dennis Polisky/Polka Country Musicians. PACC. Webster, Mass. 5-11. (860) 537-3539
- Lenny Gomulka/Polka Family/Alex Meisner. St. Mary Church. Johnstown, Pa. 2 P.M. (800) 237-8590
- John Stevens. PLAV. Pine Island NY. 7-11. (845) 629-7477

JUNE 5

- Special Delivery. Clinton Bar & Grill. West Seneca, N.Y. 4:30-7:30. (716) 768-3246
- Polka Family. Evergreen CC. Fleetwood, Pa. 2-6. (610) 944-7501
- New Direction. Club Lorelei. Hamburg, N.Y. 3-7. (716) 648-1283
- John Stevens. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- Lenny Gomulka/Golden Tones. Pinewick Acres. Pottsville, Pa. 2-7. (570) 436-2322
- Continentals. Old Stein inn. Edgewater, Md. 4-8. (410) 798-6807

JUNE 10

- John Stevens. Main Street. Edwardsville, Pa. 4-7. (570) 239-9594
- Chris & Ronnie Polka Band. St. Stan's. Meriden, Conn. 6-10. (203) 237-1005

JUNE 11

- Jimmy Sturr. Clinton Square. Syracuse, N.Y. 3-7. (315) 687-1076
- Eddie Forman. St. Mary's. Ware, Mass. 6:30-10:30. (413) 967-9728

JUNE 12

- Maestro's Men. St. Mary's. Ware, Mass. 2:30-6:30 (413) 967-9728
- Eddie Derwin. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- John Gora. Clinton Square. Syracuse, N.Y. 12-5. (315) 473-4330

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AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES — The Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Polish Republic was presented to **Adam Kiernik**, for outstanding contributions to the democratic changes in Poland, and for activities to preserve Polish heritage.

Kiernik was a former coordinator for the California chapter of POMOST, a humanitarian aid agency which, during the Solidarity era, solicited support for a free Poland from both the ethnic and mainstream committee in the United States and among local, state and national officials.

In the name of President Andrzej Duda, the order was presented by the Chief of the President's Cabinet, Adam Kwiatkowski, during a ceremony held at the Presidential Palace, March 10.

"I accept this great honor on behalf of POMOST the organization, because the truth of the matter is that we were only successful and respected by U.S. political leaders because of our solidarity and working together as one team," Kiernik told Minister Kwiatkowski.

"At the same time all of us knew that the true patriots and heroes of the cause were the people of Poland who not only created one of the greatest revolutions the world has ever seen, freed many of the captive nations, but also brought pride to Polonia.

"For us living in the Western world, political activity was easy. We did not have to be concerned about a knock on the door in the middle of the night, internment, or other forms of repression. Thus, I remain so grateful for the great accomplishments of the Polish people."

Kiernik thanked fellow POMOST volunteers, and said the greatest credit belongs to the founder of the organization, Krzysztof

Rac, who "united hundred, in fact many thousands of people on behalf of the cause not only in the United States but around the world."

He also cited Janusz Szymanski, who headed up POMOST's 1984 Olympic Committee, which was responsible for thousands of pro-Solidarity posters being posted throughout Los Angeles, planes flying up and down the Southern California Coast tagging banners stating "Solidarity Lives - Renounce Yalta," as well as a large sign stating the same being held in front of the famous "Hollywood" sign on the last day of the Los Angeles Olympic games.

"Szymanski was in fact the motor of POMOST Los Angeles," said Kiernik.

He also thanked Andrzej Dabrowski, "who not only supported POMOST actions but all positive actions on behalf of a free Poland."

MASSACHUSETTS

SPRINGFIELD — The first annual **International Food Fest** at the Eastern States Exposition Center will take place during Memorial Day weekend, celebrating culture from over 50 different nations by demonstrating their faiths, crafts, clothes, beers, wines, and foods. Doors open at 4:00 p.m. on May 26.

In addition to food and refreshments, the festival will feature professional fireworks displays every night, over 30 carnival rides and games for all ages, live music featuring over 50 bands from throughout the world, eating contests, dragon parades, visual arts, dancing and over 100 different craft vendors. Attendees can expect to hear a variety of sounds and styles that range from polkas and Latin dance parties to Mediterranean classics, Chicago house music and authentic roots reggae - just to name a few.

This year's event will include food from over 30 different countries, with tours of kielbasa, ba-

General Rowny Celebrates His 99th Birthday

by **Richard Poremski**

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The extended and blended family of General Edward L. Rowny - spanning three generations - hailing from across the United States, along with close friends, gathered at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland to celebrate the exceptional 99th birthday of General Rowny. Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf thoughtfully organized the special reception "for this great friend of Poland and Polish-America."

In his welcoming remarks, Schnepf emphasized and expounded on Rowny's engagement concerning Poland and Polish American issues such as promoting Poland's entry into NATO, strengthening Polish American relations, establishing the Paderewski Scholarship Fund to support young Polish musicians, and his leadership in the influential Polish American Advisory Council.

Rowny led a very successful military career in the U.S. Army, retiring in 1979 with the rank of Lieutenant General. He served in World War II, Korean, and Viet Nam Wars. He was a military advisor to five U.S. presidential administrations: Nixon, Ford, Carter, Regan and Bush, Sr. In 1972, President Ronald Regan appointed Rowny with the rank of U.S. Ambassador to negotiate the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) with the USSR.

Rowny said that a crowning achievement occurred in 1992, when he fulfilled a fifty-year ambition to return the remains of Polish Premier Ignacy Jan Paderewski from Arlington National Cemetery to Poland, where the great, late statesman and concert pianist received the full pomp and circumstance of a state funeral.

The singing of the traditional Polish birthday song "Sto Lat" ("100 Years") was deferred in favor of



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

FAMILY GATHERS TO HONOR PATRIARCH. Pictured is General Edward Rowny and his wife Betty, both seated, surrounded by their extended family at the Embassy of Poland to celebrate his landmark 99th birthday at the invitation of Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf.

"Dwiescie Lat" ("200 Years"), as suggested by Ambassador Schnepf, which the guests sang with gusto, followed by "Happy Birthday" thrown in for good measure. This, and all the evening's activity was captured by a producer and film crew from Poland for a documentary concerning the retired general.

A beautiful oil painting of the Polish Embassy Building was gifted to Rowny by Schnepf, saying that "it is a special place for Poles and Polonia, and a place where General Rowny is a frequent and welcomed guest." The general thanked the ambassador for organizing the celebration on the occasion of his birthday, and underscored how much he values matters related to Poland, the country of his ancestors.

Schnepf concluded his remarks by speaking "that even at the age of 99, General Rowny continues to be very active. General, I wish you another 100 years full of health. I hope you stay with us, because you are needed."

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Each day features different themes, like International Biker Night and Kielbasa Festival, as well as different parades, contests and special events.

Go to KFestFoodFest.com for a band schedule and a breakdown of all the theme nights.

MICHIGAN

TRAVERSE CITY — Hamtramck's **Polish Art Center** has purchased the former Cedar City Market building, and plans to open an extension of the popular Polish import shop in Hamtramck by Memorial Day. In addition to folk arts, and crafts imported from Poland, the new location will offer fresh organic produce.

MINNESOTA

WINONA — May 7, 2016. **Constitution Day Mass** St. Stanislaus Basilica, 601 E. 4th, at 4:00 p.m., followed by preprandials at 5:30 and banquet at 6:00 p.m. in the Polish Museum's Morrison Annex, 363 E. 2nd St. For details, call or write: (507) 454-3431; info@polishmuseumwinona.org

DULUTH — Annual Spring "Majowka" **May Day Celebration**. Sat., May 7. Holy Family Catholic Church, 2340 West Third St., Social hour 6:30 p.m.; Polish dinner 7:00 p.m.; music from 8:00 p.m.-midnight. Advance Tickets Only. Call Mark at (218) 727-2697.

OHIO

CLEVELAND — **Eugenia Stolarczyk** was inducted into the Cleveland International Hall of

Fame on April 26, 2016.

Inductees must have made significant and lasting contributions to one or more ethnic communities in Cleveland or to the overall ethnic diversity of the community.

Over 150 nominations were received this year. Stolarczyk and six other outstanding individuals will make up the 2016 Class.

Stolarczyk is known for her tireless work on Polonia's behalf. For decades, there was hardly an event in the Polish community without the participation of Eugenia and Jerzy Stolarczyk, who passed in 1983. Eugenia continues the work they started together in 1961 by airing their Polish program each Sunday on WERE AM radio.

She has received numerous honors and awards for her work with the Polish American Cultural Center and other organizations.

Stolarczyk was inducted by a very special guest, Consul General Urszula Gacek from New York, who made her first visit to Cleveland.

Stolarczyk is the fourth Polish inductee into the Cleveland International Hall of Fame. She joined Irene Morrow (2010); Helen Karpinski (2010); and Eugene Bak (2014).

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA — On Sunday, May 1, 2016 the **Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia** will hold its Annual Mass and Scholarship Awards Luncheon at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA. Mass at 11:00 a.m., followed by luncheon in the cafeteria. For reservations contact Irene Musman at (215) 914-2284. Cost of luncheon is \$12.00 per per-

son.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Polish Library is asking for help to complete its "Class of 1926" project.

In 1926, Poland sent the United States a "birthday card" that is now in the manuscript collection of the Library of Congress.

"Perhaps there has never been a more extraordinary gift given by one nation to another than the 111 volumes presented to the United States by Poland on the 150th anniversary of American independence," said Ania Firsowicz, treasurer of the Polish Library.

"These volumes consist of a declaration of admiration signed by an estimated

5,500,000 Polish citizens, representing more than one-sixth of the total population of Poland in 1926."

This year, while celebrating the 90th anniversary of the declaration and its 25th anniversary, the Polish Library launched a project to scan the volumes (over five million student signatures), and make them available online. You can check whether your ancestor's signature is in the first 13 volumes (scanned by the Library of Congress and cataloged by the Polish Genealogy Society): at www.deklaracja.genealogy.pl

Many of the students who signed the book lost their lives during World War II.

To donate, visit www.polishlibrary.org/Class_26.htm.

