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STAŚ KMIĘCŃ REVIEWS "THE ZOOKEEPER'S WIFE" PAGE 10

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

ACHIEVING A POLISH SEAL OF BILITERACY • CHICAGO SOCIETY WELCOMES TRIBUNE REPORTER  
 NATIONAL POLISH AMERICAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2017 NAMED • GHETTO RISING  
 THE DENVER ARTISTS GUILD • SEEKING POLISH FILMS • CONSULATE TRADE MISSION VISIT TO OHIO IS SUCCESSFUL

## Newsmark

**SUPPORTS RETALIATION AGAINST SYRIAN REGIME.** Polish President Andrzej Duda expressed support for U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to fire upon the Shayrat Air Base in response to Syria's use of chemical weapons against civilians. Dozens of people, including children, were killed in the regime's assault. "In the face of this act of unimaginable barbarity, the civilized world could not remain indifferent," Duda said in a statement. "Poland strongly condemns crimes committed against civilians and calls on the entire international community to engage even more strongly in the restoration of peace in Syria, to stop the madness of war and interrupt the spiral of violence."

**POLAND HAS REJECTED SUGGESTIONS** that it may be punished politically and financially by the European Union for not accepting refugee/migrants. After hordes of migrants poured into Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel, who had initially welcomed them, prevailed upon the EU to force other countries to admit specific quotas. Poland's previous government agreed to take some 7,000 but was soon voted out of office. The present Polish government contends that it has issued work and residence permits to 1.3 million Ukrainians who have found jobs and housing and — unlike Muslim migrants — create few problems. Any Middle Eastern/African migrants accepted by Central-East European countries would soon find ways to move on to Germany, Britain or Sweden, known for generous welfare handouts.

**POLLUTION APPEAL PLACED.** Poland has lodged an appeal to the EU's Court of Justice against a bloc-wide directive to lower air pollution, said the PAP news agency.

The appeal was sent to the Luxembourg Court in March. In December 2016, the EU approved new rules aimed at drastically reducing air pollution in the region. The regulations set maximum limits for the emission of sulphur dioxide, particulate matter and nitrogen oxides, which are produced by power plants, automobiles, and households. Poland is heavily reliant on coal for electricity production.

Poland is questioning both the way the new rules are being implemented and the distribution of the burden among EU member states.

**2010 SMOLENSK AIR DISASTER CONTINUES TO GENERATE CONTROVERSY.** The seventh anniversary of the 2010 plane crash that killed all 96 people on board including Poland's First Couple, was marked across the country with assemblies, memorial masses and marches. The tragedy also continues to generate controversy and conflicting explanations. Marek Kuczyński, who heads the government's new investigative team, said his findings have shown that two Russian air traffic controllers and a third person in the control tower willingly contributed to the disaster by issuing false information to the Polish pilots of the approaching aircraft. There are also suggestions that the plane started breaking up in mid-air and that a thermobaric explosion might have occurred on board. An earlier Polish investigation found that both pilot error and control tower behavior shared the blame, while a Russian probe blamed only the Polish pilots.

**CONSULATES IN UKRAINE REOPEN.** Polish consulates in Ukraine reopened, almost a week after a grenade attack on a consulate in the north-western city of Lutsk.

The foreign ministry in Warsaw said Ukraine has taken "measures necessary to ensure the security of both Polish foreign service staff and Polish diplomatic and consular missions."

Warsaw decided to close consulates in Ukraine after a grenade was fired at its consulate in Lutsk March 29. No one was injured. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko strongly condemned the attack.

Speaking after being called in by the Polish foreign ministry, Ukraine's ambassador to Warsaw claimed Russia was behind the incident.

## Belle of the Ball



PHOTO: GOSIAS HEART PHOTOGRAPHY

Friends, family, and representatives from Polonian organizations across the United States gathered to celebrate the 100th birthday of renowned choreographer, author, teacher, artist, and Polish American living legend Ada Dziewanowska. The celebration, held at the Wisconsin Club in Milwaukee, was the focus of this year's Bal Maskowy (Masquerade Ball), presented by the Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble. *Story on page 4.*

## Tatra Eagle Observes 70th Anniversary

by Thaddeus V. Gromada

In present day Poland, Professor Anna Brzozowska-Krajka at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin is one of the foremost scholars who has devoted much of her research on the folk culture in Podhale, the Tatra mountain region.

But what makes her more unique is that she has also done serious research on what happens to góral (highlander) folk culture when it is transplanted to America by góral immigrants. She has taken the trouble to visit diaspora góral communities nine times, for shorter and longer periods in the Chicago metropolitan area as well as in Northern New Jersey in the Passaic-Garfield-Clifton areas from 1997 to 2012. During that time she used a research

See "Tatra Eagle ..." page 4



Tatrzański Orzeł (The Tatra Eagle) is credited with keeping Poland's Podhale culture alive in the North America.

## Centennial Service: General Rowny Turns 100

WASHINGTON, D.C. — April 3rd marked the 100th birthday of General Edward L. Rowny, who — at this milestone — has not lost his drive to serve.



Rowny is president of the American Polish Advisory Council, and has been involved in many philanthropic activities, like running the Paderewski Scholarship Fund which provides scholarships to Polish students to study at Georgetown and George Mason Universities.

General Rowny is this year's Kosciuszko Foundation Medal of Recognition recipient. The award was presented during the KF Annual Ball, April 29 at the Plaza Hotel in New York City.

**POLISH HERITAGE.** Edward L. Rowny was born April 3, 1917 in Baltimore, Maryland. His father was a Polish emigrant and his mother a first generation Polish American. In 1933 he entered Johns Hopkins University, where, in his junior year the Kosciuszko Foundation sent him to study at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. While there, he attended the 1936 Olympics in Berlin.

**DUTY CALLS: WORLD WAR II.** Alarmed by the goose-stepping Nazis, he saw that war was imminent. In 1937

## The Roots of Haller's Army Recalled

by David Matejczyk

CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS, Pa. — This year marks the 100th Anniversary of a unique army that fought alongside the United States and its allies in World War I. Known both as "Haller's Army" and the "Blue Army" this force with ties to the former Alliance College, and Cambridge Springs fought courageously with United States troops and its allies in World War I.

An announcement in Poland that 2017 will mark a year of honoring General Jozef Haller for his role



Officers at the PNAC (Rider Hotel) entrance. This year marks the 100th Anniversary of World War I Haller's Polish Army Officer Training Academy in Cambridge Springs.

See "Haller's Army," page 5

See "Gen. Rowny," page 4



## Almanac

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### May ☺ Maj

"Good mathematicians see analogies. Great mathematicians see analogies between analogies."  
— **Stefan Banach**, considered one of the 20th century's most important and influential mathematicians.

- 1 **ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER LABOR DAY (POLAND)**  
1908. Birth of Krystyna Skarbek, who became a spy for the British Special Operations Executive during World War II.
- 2 1978. Polish mountain climbers reach the South Kanchen peak in the Himalayas.
- 3 **FEAST OF MARY, QUEEN OF POLAND POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY**  
1846. Birth of Nobel Prize for Literature winner Henryk Sienkiewicz.
- 7 1794. Issuance of Proclamation of Połaniec by Tadeusz Kościuszko. It partially abolished serfdom in Poland, granting substantial civil liberties to all the peasants.
- 8 **VE DAY (U.S.) ST. STANISLAUS**  
1667. Death of Marie Louise de Gonzague-Nevers, French Queen of Poland (1645-48).
- 10 1573. Henry of Anjou (Henry Walezy, Henry of Valois), became the first elected king of Poland.
- 12 1364. Founding of Jagiellonian University
- 13 1981. Pope John Paul II shot by a would-be assassin at public audience in St. Peter's Square.
- 14 **MOTHER'S DAY (U.S.)**  
1942. Founding of the Polish Institute of Sciences in America, in New York.
- 16 1850. Birth of Johannes von Mikulica-Radecki, Polish surgical pioneer.
- 17 1025. Death of King Boleslaw Chrobry (Boleslaus the Brave).
- 18 1920. Birth of Karol Wojtyla in Wadowice, Poland, named Pope John Paul II, October 16, 1978.
- 19 1674. John III Sobieski elected King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania.
- 20 **ARMED FORCES DAY (U.S.)**  
1881. Birth of Polish General Wladyslaw Sikorski. (d. 1943) He lead the Polish government-in-exile during World War II.
- 22 1993. Death of pianist Mieczyslaw Horszowski, (right) internationally acclaimed pianist and music teacher whose performances were widely recorded. Horszowski was also a teacher at the Curtis Institute and continued to teach and perform until shortly before his death in Philadelphia in at the age of 100.
- 23 1939. Hitler proclaims he wants to move into Poland.
- 25 1861. Death of Capt. Constantine Blandowski, first foreign-born officer to die in the Civil War.
- 26 **MOTHER'S DAY (POLAND)**  
*Dzień Matki*
- 27 1993. Death of Andrzej Wasowski, pianist, in Washington, D.C.
- 28 1981. Death of Polish Primate and staunch anti-communist Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński.
- 29 **MEMORIAL DAY (U.S.)**  
1913. Birth of Tony Zale (Zaleski), middleweight champion from 1940-48.
- 31 1972. Visit of President Richard Nixon to Poland, the first visit by a U.S. president.



This paper mailed on or before **April 28, 2017**. The June 2017 edition will be mailed on or before **June 1, 2017**

## Just Between Us

# Petition to Keep Kosciuszko House Open

by Mark Kohan, PAJ Editor

The *Philadelphia Inquirer* reports that President Trump's cuts will shutter the National Kosciuszko Museum. This is where Kosciuszko met with Thomas Jefferson and others to discuss ending slavery, the future of America's military, and other issues.

An on-line petition has been set up to ask President Trump to reverse his budget decision to close the Tadeusz Kosciuszko museum in Philadelphia.

During the American Revolution, Kosciuszko devised the strategy that won the Battle of Saratoga, the turning point of the war. He also designed and built Fortress West Point. And it was Kosciuszko who persuaded Thomas Jefferson to turn the Fortress into the United States Military Academy.

Kosciuszko fought for the rights of Americans, European-Serfs, Af-

rican-Slaves, Jews, Native-Americans, Women and all who were disenfranchised. His vision of liberty for all is not one that can be shuttered by budget cuts. Instead, Kosciuszko's story should be taught in American schools.

UNESCO has declared 2017 the "Year of Kosciuszko" because he is a worldwide hero.

To sign the petition, visit: [https://www.thekf.org/kf/our\\_impact/museum-petition/](https://www.thekf.org/kf/our_impact/museum-petition/)

**"POLISH JOKES" ON DYNGUS DAY.** On Easter Monday, the "Morning Bull Show" (WGRF 97 Rock, Buffalo, N.Y.) prepared for Dyngus Day in an offensive manner: it spent a good portion of the program soliciting and telling Polish jokes.

"Funny, I don't recall them devoting their show to Irish jokes on St. Patrick's Day, blonde jokes on International Women's Day, Black jokes during Juneteenth, or LGBTQ

jokes during Pride Week," remarked PAJ columnist Michael Pietruszka.

Send your letters of protest to: 97 Rock/WGRF – 96.9-FM, 50 James E. Casey Dr., Buffalo, NY 14206; (716) 881-4555.

The General Manager is Steve Bearance: [steve.bearance@cumulus.com](mailto:steve.bearance@cumulus.com).

Please send a copy of your complaint to: Federal Communications Commission, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Consumer Inquiries and Complaints Division, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20554.

The station did apologize to the community at large. At press time it was not known if the local Polish American Congress had acknowledged the expression of regret.

**A FEW CHANGES.** You may have noticed this month's PAJ has a different feel to it. We have updated our department headings and have

changed our headline font to give the paper a new look. We hope to update our website's appearance this summer.

**OUR APOLOGIES.** Several dozen renewal notices were mailed without return envelopes. Thank you for using your own envelope to submit your payments.

**THE GENERAL THEORY OF NOT-GARDENING.** As many of us start preparing our gardens for the year, I want to share one of my favorite quotes on the topic. It is by Leszek Kolakowski (1927-2009), a Polish philosopher and historian of ideas:

"Those who hate gardening need a theory. Not to garden without a theory is a shallow, unworthy way of life. The alternative to not-gardening without a theory is to garden. However, it is much easier to have a theory than actually to garden."

## The National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa

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Children's Day

**Sunday, May 28**

11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Siege of Jasna Gora

**Monday, May 29**

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## Issues

## Achieving a Polish Seal of Biliteracy



Owinski

Polish Language Fluency by American Students can and should be recognized on High School Transcripts

An Interview with **Marzanna Owinski** of the Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools

**M**arzanna Owinski has a Master's degree in Polish language from Warsaw University, and a Master's degree in PR and Organizational Communication from Wayne State University. She is a principal of Father Jozef Dabrowski Polish Language School in Orchard Lake. A certified teacher in Polish language in Michigan, she teaches Polish at St. Mary's Preparatory, a catholic high school. She also teaches Polish as second language to students age 6-13 and adults.

Since summer of 2016, Owinski has worked as a Polish Language Coordinator for The Polish Mission.

by Frank J. Dmichowski

#### What is the Seal of Biliteracy, and why is it so important?

The Seal of Biliteracy is the award given by a school district or a school to the students who attain a high level of language proficiency. The award is given on a voluntary basis. Students need to achieve proficiency at least in two languages, one of which must be English. The Seal of Biliteracy appears on their transcript or diploma of a graduating senior.

The Seal of Biliteracy was originally introduced in California in 2008 by a coalition of parents, teachers and education advocates. Today it is in twenty four states such as Illinois, New York, Minnesota, California, Florida. Several others are working on its implementation. The Seal of Biliteracy is recognized by employers as a sign of multilingualism and is often honored by colleges and universities for college credits.

#### Why do we need the Seal of Biliteracy? Don't we have outstanding Polish language proficiency tests already in use?

Currently Polonia has two excellent language tests. One was prepared by Columbia University and another by M. Curie-Sklodowska University in Lublin. They are excellent, exceptionally high quality tests. Unfortunately, they are not recognized by all American educational organizations. American educational organizations require all language tests to be developed by nationally recognized assessment test developers. This insures that all tests are consistently developed.

Currently nationally recognized tests have been developed and are in use for Arabic, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Russian, Portuguese, Spanish etc. There is no such a developed test for Polish language. Once a test for Polish is developed by one of these recognized language assessment institutions, it will be automatically accepted by all states that have the Seal of Biliteracy.

#### How does preparation for the Seal of Biliteracy differ from the

preparation that Polish language schools are doing today?

There is no difference in preparation and no change in the school's curriculum. The Seal of Biliteracy's goal is to measure proficiency in everyday communication.

This measures the same general knowledge that our students receive at Polish language schools and often use in their everyday communication at home. This will allow them to pass this test without any problem.

The test for the Seal of Biliteracy consists of four categories: speaking, listening, reading and writing. The combination of learning at Polish schools and communicating in Polish language at home creates an immersion program that is so effective in learning Polish.

#### What are benefits of the Seal of Biliteracy for Polish language students and Polonia in general?

First, there are many known cognitive benefits of being bilingual such as improved memory and attention, problem-solving capabilities, primary-language comprehension and ability to empathize with other cultures and people, more effective communication. Second, Polish language under the Seal of Biliteracy will be recognized by American educational organizations on the same level as other languages taught at American schools. Polish language students will be awarded for their proficiency in our lan-

guage. They will be able to receive college credits.

In our global world bilingualism is increasingly recognized by employers. Achieving fluency in Polish helps in learning another language such as Spanish or German, etc. There also will be more interest in learning Polish as a second language and this will increase the interest in attending Polish language schools.

#### Who is going to prepare the test and how much will it cost?

I have been working on the selection of a nationally recognized institution that can offer us the best conditions and price for the test. The test will be prepared by American language assessing institution that has been developing nationally recognized language tests since 2001. The organization we are considering offers already tests for several other languages and its tests are on the language list in all states. The cost of the test development is \$30,000 and Polish community needs to purchase 500 copies in the year of its release, \$25 per each test. The test should be available in spring 2018 and the exact date will be known soon.

#### How can Polonia help?

We have five months to collect money for the project. While I already have one very generous sponsor who offered me \$5000, I need help from other Polish organizations and individuals to support the project. I hope that Polonia understands the value of the Polish test for the good of Polish language students. Polish educational portal, Dobra Polska Szkoła, published the interview with me about the Seal of Biliteracy and the Polish language test. The interest and approval of the

project from different regions were huge. In 48 hours over 1,000 people read the article and many of them left positive comments.

People who are interested in the project can find the detailed presentation on The Polish Mission website: <http://www.polishmission.com/>.

For those who want to help financially, please send contribution by a check to The Polish Mission (write Biliteracy Polish Test in a lower right corner of the check, its address you will find below) or by making donation online [www.polishmission.com](http://www.polishmission.com) by choosing destination: Polish Biliteracy Test. Every contribution will be deeply appreciated.

I believe that a standardized computer assessment test for the Polish language will greatly benefit the Polish community, our language will be recognized at the national level, drawing more interest for Polish language schools and promotion of Polish language, history and culture. I talked to people responsible for tests for Seal of Biliteracy at the Department of Education from Illinois, New York, Minnesota and Wisconsin and all of them told me that the test is much needed for the Polish community. That is why I am asking for full support in raising funds to cover the cost of exam.



Readers wishing more information may contact Owinski at: The Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools, Polish-American Art and Cultural Research Foundation, 3535 Commerce Rd., Orchard Lake, MI 48324, (248) 683-0433; [mowinski@orchardlakeschools.com](mailto:mowinski@orchardlakeschools.com), [www.polishmission.com](http://www.polishmission.com).



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## Tatra Eagle Observes 70th Anniversary

continued from cover

technique favored by cultural anthropologist namely participant observation. Her meticulous research, much of which was presented in her book, *Etnokultura w diasporze: Między regionalizmem a amerykanizacją (Ethnoculture in Diaspora: Between Regionalism and Americanization)*, Lublin: 2012; 352 pp.), led her to conclude that the Polish highlanders in America have retained their identity by maintaining elements of their folk culture in urban American civilization. She uncovered strong evidence that they found a way to harmoniously co-exist with their folk culture in America's multi-ethnic urbanism. It was based on manifestations, processes and ethnic markers that included music, song, dance, family customs, religious observances, folk art and architecture, that she observed in Góral-American communities.

Interestingly enough, she credits two institutions that played a major role in the life of the Góral Diaspora in America. First of all, she pointed to the Polish Highlanders Alliance of North America (Związek Podhalań w Ameryce) a fraternal, cultural organization based in Chicago with close to ninety circles (koła) in several states. It was founded in 1929 by góral immigrants, following the example of their brethren in Podhale. Góral elites in newly resurrected Poland organized in 1919 the "Związek Podhalań" (Highlanders Alliance) in order to lead and consolidate a cultural regional movement "Ruch Podhalański" (Highlander Movement). Inspired by Władysław Orkan, a góral, poet and novelist, the movement was designed to raise the consciousness of Polish highlanders and make them proud of their folk culture. It was Orkan in his "Directives to the Sons



PHOTO: KAREN MALIEWSKI

The *Tatra Eagle's* message — delivered in both Polish and English — is that by becoming an American, one does not need to cease being a highlander (góral) and give up a rich cultural heritage. Above: a Highlander Party at the Polish National Alliance Hall in Hamtramck, Mich.

of Podhale" (Wskazania dla synów Podhalan) who said, "Do not cut the roots that unite you with your native land, even if you find yourself at the ends of the earth." There is no doubt that the Polish Highlanders Alliance of North America is largely responsible for the vitality of góral communities that Professor Brzozowska-Krajka recently observed in America.

Naturally, the co-editors of *Tatrzański Orzeł/The Tatra Eagle* (TO/TTE), a sister and brother team, (Janina Gromada Kedroń and yours truly) are both flattered and humbled by Prof. Brzozowska-Krajka's view that our journal has been the "Ideological Backbone" (Ideologiczny kościół) of the Góral diaspora and has served as the "Forge of Góral Thought in the World" (Kuznię myśli góralskiej na cały świat). Thus, has contributed greatly to the maintenance of góral identity and folk culture in America and even in Communist dominated Poland during the Cold War period. These are very high accolades and

praise that may be a bit too generous, but they are welcomed by the present co-editors who were at the creation of the journal in 1947 when they were still completing their high school studies in Passaic, N.J. For seven decades inspired and supported by our góral immigrant parents, Jan and Aniela Gromada, we labored in the vineyards to publish our quarterly periodical and provide cultural nourishment to our góral and non-góral readers not only in America but also in Poland, Canada, France, Great Britain and Italy. It may be a modest publication by some standards but we have proven that it is not a *słomiany ogień* (short-lived enthusiasm; literally, a "straw fire"). The plaudits of appreciation that we have received from Prof. Brzozowska-Krajka and others, some of whom will be mentioned below, have given us encouragement to continue our labor of love. But it must be emphasized that the surprising longevity of *Tatrzański Orzeł/The Tatra Eagle* is due primarily to the tenacity and stead-

fastnes of Janina Gromada Kedroń. Without her dedication, pro bono labor and editorial skills we would not be celebrating the 70th anniversary of our publication.

From its very beginning *Tatrzański Orzeł/The Tatra Eagle* was designed to help góral immigrants and their descendants to remember their roots by becoming more conscious and appreciative of their Podhale folk culture and to become aware of how this folk culture significantly impacted on Poland's "high" culture. Our message, in the Spirit of the New Ethnicity movement advocated by Michael Novak, delivered in both Polish and English was that by becoming an American one does not need to cease being a highlander (góral) and give up a rich cultural heritage.

It was also very rewarding to know that our quarterly, which was carefully distributed in Podhale, in Communist-dominated Poland, played a positive role in lifting the morale of our fellow highlanders. The Communist regime was not sympathetic to the *Ruch Podhalański* (Podhale Movement), and at first did not allow the publication of the *Gazeta Podhalańska*, and later severely restricted its appearance. As early as 1952, Dr. Michał Dusza wrote that the TO/TTE "has assumed the distinguished role which the *Gazeta Podhalańska* played in pre-war Poland and is now the only authentic, regional, highlander periodical." Editors of *Ziemia (Land)* an ethnographic journal, wrote in 1958 that they are "hopeful that Związek Podhalań in Poland which is slowly being reborn, will eventually have a periodical similar to the *Tatrzański Orzeł*."

In 1973 Włodzimierz Wnuk a distinguished author and journalist wrote in the scholarly journal *Problemy Polonii Zagranicznej*

(*Problems of Polonia Communities Abroad*): "The *Tatra Eagle* has become a periodical for Tatra Highlanders in both hemispheres."

On our 35th anniversary, Wnuk further wrote in his book *Obrazki Zakopiańskie (Zakopane Pictures)* "Among the enlightened highlanders in Poland, there is no one who would not know about the *Tatra Eagle* and its creators, the Gromadas and Kedrons, and who would not recall their names with gratitude."

The *Tatra Eagle* has also reached góral political emigres in Great Britain among them Jan Walewski former deputy to the Polish Parliament. In his letter to us in 1957 he wrote, "When the *Tatra Eagle* arrives from distant Passaic, N.J. to foggy London, when the days are cloudy, filled with sorrow and strong longing for my homeland, I turn the pages of this cheerful publication and feel as though a ray of sunshine has surprisingly penetrated my loneliness."

It is such appreciative reviews and letters from our readers, cooperation of the editorial staff and contributing editors and generous financial support from our patrons that has inspired, motivated and encouraged us during the past seven decades. We thank you all, very much.



Orders for a one-year subscription (\$20 in the United States; \$25 outside the U.S.) can be directed to *The Tatra Eagle Press, 31 Madison Ave., Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604* or [jkedron@gmail.com](mailto:jkedron@gmail.com).

Związek Śpiewaków  
Polskich w Ameryce  
Zaprasza

### A Festival of Polish Song

May 27-28, 2017

during the 51st International  
Convention of the  
POLISH SINGERS  
ALLIANCE OF AMERICA



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MARCELLA KOCHANSKA  
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DINNER DANCE

Saturday, May 27, 2017  
Sheraton Society Hill Hotel  
Penn's Landing

HOLY MASS AND GALA CONCERT  
Sunday, May 28, 2017  
St. John Cantius Church

Additional Information  
and Reservations

SATURDAY, MAY 27

DINNER DANCE

6:00 pm to 11:00 pm  
Sheraton Society Hill Hotel  
One Dock Street - Philadelphia, PA 19106

Tickets - \$100 per person

Reservations may be made with

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Please make all checks payable to the  
Marcella Kochanska-Sembrich Chorus  
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The deadline for dinner dance  
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SUNDAY, MAY 28

HOLY MASS

11:30 am

St. John Cantius Church  
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2:00 pm

St. John Cantius Auditorium  
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The MASS AND GALA CONCERT will  
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[www.PolishHome.com/MKSchorus](http://www.PolishHome.com/MKSchorus)  
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## Rowny was chief negotiator for the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks

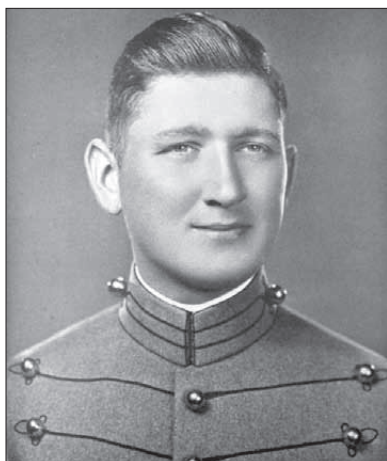
continued from cover

he graduated with a B.S. in engineering and was appointed second lieutenant in the U.S. Army reserves. Now convinced that war was certain, he applied for West Point. In 1941 he earned a second B.S. degree and became a second lieutenant in the regular Army. Graduating just six months before Pearl Harbor, Rowny was in one of the first units to go overseas.

After a year in West Africa, Rowny returned to the United States to be a member of the newly-formed 92nd Infantry Division. By the summer of 1944, he had risen to the rank of Lt. Colonel and commanded a combat engineer battalion. The 92nd Infantry Division was deployed to Italy where it joined the offensive against the Germans along the winter line in the Alps. Combat casualties were so heavy that Rowny was transferred to the infantry. The division took part in the spring offensive and by VE Day had reached the Italian border. Rowny had earned two Silver Star medals for gallantry in action and two Legions of Merit for extraordinary service.

**THE COLD WAR BECOMES HOT: KOREA.** After a year in the Pentagon, Rowny went to Yale where he earned two masters degrees: one in engineering and one in international relations. In the fall of 1949 he was dispatched to Japan where he joined General Douglas MacArthur's planning staff.

When South Korea was invaded on June 25, 1950 General MacArthur appointed Rowny as his official spokesman. For the next several



**At West Point.** Graduating just six months before Pearl Harbor, Rowny was in one of the first units to go overseas.

months Rowny was one of the three planners of the Inchon invasion. Rowny, as the X Corp engineer, was promoted to the brevet (temporary) rank of Brigadier General even though his regular rank was that of Lieutenant Colonel.

He built the first bridge across the Han River and was part of X Corp in its advance to the Yalu River. When the Chinese surrounded U.S. forces in the vicinity of the Chosin Reservoir, Rowny dropped a bridge from the air to the beleaguered troops. This bridge crossed a gorge at the Reservoir and permitted the troops to escape. He then planned the evacuation from Hungnam.

**FROM TACTICAL INNOVATIONS TO STRATEGIC SECURITY.** In 1951 Rowny commanded the 38th Infantry Regiment where he fought in the vicinity of Heartbreak Ridge and Bloody Ridge. Here, he earned a third Silver Star and another

Legion of Merit. In the summer of 1952, he became the head of a department at the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia. From 1955 to 1958 he was Secretary of the General Staff to Generals Gruenther and Norstad, the commanders of U.S. Forces in NATO.

Rowny attended the National War College, where he was graduated in 1959. After a short stint in the Pentagon, Rowny was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General and assigned as the Assistant Division Commander of the 82nd Airborne Division. He simultaneously was the director of tests for the Howze Board which studied the possibility of using armed helicopters in combat. After the successful completion of the test, the Army sent General Rowny to command ACTIV in Vietnam, a unit which studied how to shorten the war in Vietnam including the use of armed helicopters. The helicopters were so successful in fighting the Viet Cong that the Army decided to create an Air Mobile Division. Rowny was put in charge of organizing the division which was subsequently deployed to Vietnam as the First Cavalry Division (Air Mobile).

From 1966 to 1968 he commanded the 24th Infantry Division in Europe. In 1971 he was promoted to the rank of Lt. General and was assigned to command the ICORP in Korea. From 1973 to 1979 he was the Joint Chiefs of Staff representative to the SALT II negotiations. He resigned from the Army in protest in June, 1979 when President Carter signed the SALT I Treaty, which Rowny believed was fatally flawed. As a result of his efforts, the treaty

was never ratified by congress.

### DIPLOMATIC ACHIEVEMENTS.

From 1981 to 1985, during President Reagan's first term, he became the chief negotiator for the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START). During President Reagan's second term he was appointed Special Advisor to the President on Arms Control. As such, he briefed the chiefs of our allies. During this time he also briefed heads of the Warsaw Pact States and on four occasions, John Paul II in the Vatican.

President Reagan awarded Rowny the Citizens Medal for being one of the "chief architects" for "Peace Through Strength." Since retiring, Rowny has continued to act as an advisor on national security and homeland defense and has engaged in several philanthropic activities. Among these is the Paderewski Scholarship Fund, which he established to enable outstanding Polish students to attend summer courses at Georgetown and George Mason universities, as well as intern in an organization of their choice in the nation's capital.

— [www.edwardrowny.com](http://www.edwardrowny.com)

### Royal Visit Planned

**WARSAW** —The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge will make an official visit to Poland in July — the couple's first visit to Poland on behalf of Queen Elizabeth. Plans to date include a meeting with Poland's Prime Minister, Beata Szydło, and a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau, Nazi Germany's largest concentration and extermination camp, located near the industrial town of Oświęcim, southern Poland.



## Haller's Army: Training academy opened March 19, 1917

continued from cover

in fighting for a free and independent Poland, and specifically for his heroics on the battlefield, resulted in a newfound appreciation for Haller's Army.

In a recent "Heard and Seen" article by Janet Beanland of *The Meadville Tribune*, the reporter had a column reviewing what was "making news" in Cambridge Springs in 1917. Among the items was a notation that on March 23, 1917, there was a "gathering at the Polish National Alliance College welcoming Polish Falcons who were training for active duty in World War I."

The Polish Falcons of America formally opened a training academy for future officers of Haller's Army at the Polish National Alliance College in Cambridge Springs on March 19, 1917.

Over the next two years over 400 future officers and enlistees in Haller's Army were housed in the

and Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada. A large commemorative marker is in the downtown of the Canadian town. Each year a memorial service is held in the community.

It is not known if the Polish film crew will visit Cambridge Springs, which played a unique role in Haller's Army.

Unfortunately, the role and connection of Cambridge Springs and Alliance College to this historic army are often overlooked, and long forgotten.

**S**ome history is in order. The formation of Haller's Army paralleled the entry of the United States into World War I in 1917. Future Polish Prime Minister Ignacy Paderewski had formed a warm relationship with United States President Woodrow Wilson. Paderewski submitted a proposal to the president calling for the acceptance of Polish American volunteers for service on the Western Front.



General Jozef Haller

Military Mission in Washington received notification of the first casualty of Haller's Army, Lieutenant Lucien Chwalkowski. The *Times* noted Lieutenant Chwalkowski was a 30-year-old Polish immigrant who was a military instructor at the Polish Falcons officer training camp in Cambridge Springs. He would be the first of many casualties from Haller's Army.

**O**ne of the recruiters for Haller's Army was Stanley Luter. Residents of Cambridge Springs, and virtually all alumni of Alliance College fondly remember "Mr. Luter." Luter served with distinction as a lieutenant in Haller's Army. An expert swordsman, he engaged in some of the fiercest battles of the war. Luter in 1925 returned to Cambridge Springs, and worked at the college for the next several decades. Unfortunately, the college's museum which included Luter's sword, medals and other items relating to Haller's Army were destroyed in the Rider Hotel fire in 1931. In 1934, General Haller visited Cambridge Springs and where he was a guest of honor at Alliance College.

Ironically, Cambridge Springs would play one last coincidental side note as to Haller's Army. One of the World War I Polish Army's Chaplains, Father Jozef Jaworski, visited Cambridge Springs in January of 1962. While visiting the college the 81-year-old priest fell ill and died.

At the last Alliance College reunion it was noted that, at one time, a memorial to Polish Americans who trained in Cambridge Springs and fought along American troops in Haller's Army existed at the top of Thomas Street. It was removed when the college closed. A discussion at the alumni presentation focused on the possibility of locating the World War I memorial to Haller's Army (or creating a new plaque) and returning it to Cambridge Springs.



Polish Army Training on Ross Avenue Field, 1917.

old Rider Hotel, and trained on the Ross Avenue field and throughout the Alliance College campus. They were eager to fight for their new country the United States, and at the same time be fighting for independence of their homeland of Poland.

During last year's Cambridge Springs Sesquicentennial Celebration, photographs and a history of the training of future officers in the Polish army who would serve in Europe during World War I were shown and discussed during the Alliance College History Night. Many of the photographs and materials were from the archives of the Cambridge Springs Heritage Society.

At a presentation during the recent Alliance College Reunion Weekend, the history of Haller's Army and its connection to Alliance College and Cambridge Springs were presented. Included in the photographs of the troops was a striking photograph of soldiers training on Ross Avenue field in the shadow of the former Rider Hotel (then known as the Polish National Alliance College). Helen Dziob, an Alliance alumnus who was the daughter of one of General Jozef's Haller's closest aides, Captain Frank Dziob was introduced. Captain Dziob was the Polish Falcons director of the officer training program held in Cambridge Springs. He was also instrumental in establishing a very large training camp at Niagara-on-the-Lake in Canada.

It was recently announced that, in the coming months, Polish Public Television will be filming a documentary in the United States and Canada on Haller's Army, focusing on the military actions of Polish Americans in 1917 and 1918. Over 20,000 troops were recruited in the United States and Canada for service in Haller's Army. A recent press release noted the film crew will visit various cities in the United States

In 1917, President Wilson would issue formal approval: "That recruitment to the Polish Army all those who do not fall in the category of potential recruitment into the United States forces is hereby approved without impediments." The soldiers were mostly recent Polish immigrants who were not yet American citizens.

Paderewski the year before was in Cambridge Springs. He believed the Polish National Alliance College was a natural choice for the training academy. He stayed on campus at the former Rider Hotel and addressed the 1916 graduates of the college.

Haller's Army would first see battle in France while relieving the Tennessee "Wildcat" 81st Division at the front in the Battle of Champaign. It would become the first time the colors of the United States and Poland would fly together in battle in World War I.

The *New York Times* in a dispatch on the war noted that the French

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Fr. Justin's weekly message of spiritual guidance, encouragement and hope was an influence on generations of Polish immigrants, their children, and grandchildren. His broadcasts, begun in 1931, continues today as the longest continually running religious radio program in the world.

USE FORM ON PAGE 7 TO ORDER

## Religion

# States Freed from Funding Planned Parenthood

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

The Obama Administration's order, delivered in the waning days of Obama's presidency, to prohibit states from transferring funds from Planned Parenthood to women's health clinics was repealed by the senate. Only two Republicans joined the Democrats in trying to prevent the repeal, one of whom was Alaska's Senator Lisa Murkowski.

a large sonography space, administrative offices, and a sky-lit waiting room. It is located near INOVA Fair Oaks hospital where its doctors deliver babies. He called the new space "a perfect complement to not only helping people find good options in behavior and in health and with their families" but also showing patients "that there is light and that there's joy and that there's clarity."

**RUSSIA WAS CONSECRATED TO MARY'S IMMACULATE HEART: SR. LUCIA.** Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz of Minsk, Belarus, reported that, when he met Carmelite Sister Lucia dos Santos, one of the three Fatima visionaries, in 1991 she told him that Russia had been consecrated to Mary's Immaculate Heart, as Mary called for in one of her appearances. Popes Pius XII, Paul VI, and John Paul II all entrusted the world, and Russia in particular, to Mary. The archbishop sent a statue of Our Lady of Fatima to Patriarch Alexei II of Moscow and saw the statue on his table "several times." The archbishop also noted that he is working with the Orthodox Church in an application to open counselling centers in abortion hospitals. He also thanked Americans for their continued support of the Catholic Church in the former Soviet Union where the reconstruction and renovation of churches has become possible.

**FROM SCHOOL TO APARTMENT BUILDING.** Detroit officials are working with the Catholic Church to turn the former Transfiguration School into a mixed-income apartment building. The vacant school, part of a former Pol-Am parish in the Banglatown neighborhood, will contain 15-25 units, 20% of which will be affordable housing. The church was active for 80 years before its close in 2005.

**GRANT TO AID STUDENTS.** Villa Maria College, a Felician college in Buffalo, received a grant from the St. Francis Fund of Felician Services, Inc., to help low-income and at-risk students move from access to college to graduation. The grant will focus on Buffalo's East Side with its large African-American and immigrant and refugee population. The college is noted for its success at moving underserved students through college work to a successful career.

**CATHOLIC SERVICES IN MICHIGAN HIGHLIGHTED.** A television ad campaign by the Michigan Catholic Conference highlights Catholic Church services in health, education, and charitable systems throughout the state. David Maluchnik, vice-president of communications for the Catholic Conference, noted that the Catholic Church is the largest provider of social services, education and health care, after the government. "Catholic institutions are administered and staffed by persons who do not leave their faith at the doorstep when serving others—it is who they are from morning to night," he said.

**CHURCH OPPOSES CLOSURE.** The St. Mary Polish American Society has taken steps to prevent its absorption into St. Matthew's parish and its eventual sale and demolition. No grave reason for the planned absorption, i.e. structural weakness or financial hardship, exists for the church in Montgomery County, Penn. Nonetheless, the Polish American Society faces a stand-off with Philadelphia's Archbishop Chaput and his staff, with their proposals and financial plans for the church all rebuffed.

**PRO-LIFE CLINIC OPENS IN VIRGINIA.** Dr. John Bruchalski performed abortions during his medical residency but stopped after hearing the voice of the Blessed Virgin Mary imploring him to stop. Now he is staunch pro-life advocate. He just opened the Tepeyac OB/GYN and its charitable arm Divine Mercy Care in Fairfax, Virginia. The light, airy space includes 12 exam rooms,

**FREE SPEECH BUS VANDALIZED.** Joe Grabowski of the National Organization for Marriage explained that the bus advocating open dialogue about traditional values as opposed to gender ideology in society today had been vandalized with spray paint and damaged with a hammer when parked in New York City.

Grabowski noted the irony of the fact that the bus was violently attacked by people claiming that it would inspire violence against transgender people. Some twitter users cheered the defacing of the bus.

**STO LAT TO... Fr. Scott Pilarz, S.J.** on his appointment as president of the University of Scranton. He is the current president of Georgetown Prep in Washington, D.C. ... **Fr. John C. Wronski, S.J.** on his appointment as Provincial Assistant of Formation for the Maryland and U.S. Northeast Provinces of the Jesuits ... **Elizabeth Kubiniec** of Assumption parish in Buffalo, N.Y., on being given the Manus Christi Award at the Diocesan Youth Convention. The award is given to graduating seniors in recognition of their outstanding moral character, commitment to parish ministry and youth ministry dedicated leadership, academic success, and witness to their faith.

## Modlitwy

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

**PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN.** (Never Known To Fail). Oh, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart and succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you. Grateful thanks, A.D.

**ST. JUDE NOVENA.** May the Sacred Heart of

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

**PRAYER TO SAINT PEREGRINE.** O great St. Peregrine, you have been called "The Mighty," "The Wonder-Worker," because of the numerous miracles which you have obtained from God for those who have had recourse to you. For so many years you bore in your own flesh this cancerous disease that destroys the very fibre of our being, and who had recourse to the source of all grace when the power of man could do no more. You were favoured with the vision of Jesus coming down from His Cross to heal your affliction. Ask of God and Our Lady, the cure of the sick whom we entrust to you. Aided in this way by your powerful intercession, we shall sing to God, now and for all eternity, a song of gratitude for His great goodness and mercy. Amen. M.K.J.



## Books in Brief

## The Denver Artists Guild

reviewed by Mary Latham

*The Denver Artists Guild: Its Founding Members; An Illustrated History*  
by Stan Cuba  
Colorado Historical Society, 2015, 260 pps.



bition.

The book features a great number of full-color reproductions of paintings and other works of art by the founding

members. The variety of art created by the guild's founders runs the gamut from surrealist paintings to ceramic pieces to bronze sculpture to murals and more. The guild's fifty-two original members have a variety of backgrounds as well. Only sixteen were from Colorado, six were immigrants, and the rest had migrated to the area from all over the country. Some studied art abroad and some got degrees from U.S. universities. Most could not make a living selling their art, so they had to support themselves as art teachers, museum staffers, and commercial artists.

The Denver Artists Guild is still going strong today, known by its more inclusive name, the Colorado Artists Guild, and holds exhibitions, lectures, and workshops to support its members. Cuba aptly pieces together the history of the guild as well as the varied biographies of the founders. *The Denver Artists Guild: Its Founding Members; An Illustrated History* by Stan Cuba is available to purchase from Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.

Following the Second World War there was a movement in the art world towards modernism. However, the majority of the guild resisted the movement, instead advocating for more realistic pieces. In 1948, this disagreement came to a head when those that were for the new movement, split from the more traditionalist members. These modernists formed the Fifteen Colorado Artists. They were fed up with the dominant conservatism of the guild as well as "some members' disdain for modern art." The two groups had a dual exhibition in adjoining galleries that winter. The Fifteen Colorado Artists ultimately dissolved in 1970 but the break had a positive influence on the guild. In the 1950s it saw the rising popularity of modern art added an award category for abstract pieces at their annual exhi-

bition. The book features a great number of full-color reproductions of paintings and other works of art by the founding members. The variety of art created by the guild's founders runs the gamut from surrealist paintings to ceramic pieces to bronze sculpture to murals and more. The guild's fifty-two original members have a variety of backgrounds as well. Only sixteen were from Colorado, six were immigrants, and the rest had migrated to the area from all over the country. Some studied art abroad and some got degrees from U.S. universities. Most could not make a living selling their art, so they had to support themselves as art teachers, museum staffers, and commercial artists.

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**ABOUT THE AUTHOR.** Stan Cuba has written a number of articles for the *Polish American Studies*, *Western Art Digest*, and *American Art Review*, coauthored *Sandzen in Colorado*, curated and written the catalogs for *Jozef Bakos: An Early Modernist* and *Olive Rush: A Hoosier Artist in New Mexico*. Cuba holds a master's degree in History from Columbia University in New York and is associate curator of the Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art in Denver.

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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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## Polonian Places

## Polish Falcons Nest 146

by Gregory L. Witul

**Polish Falcons Nest 146**  
105 West Miller Street, New Castle, Pennsylvania  
Status: Open

From Massachusetts to Missouri, the Polish Falcons of America have established hundreds of nests in their 130-year history. With so many Poles settling across Pennsylvania, it should come as little surprise that the Keystone State has one of the highest concentrations of nests in the country. The city of New Castle, where the Mahoning meets the Shenango River, was once home to a number of nests, but today only



The exterior of Falcons Nest 146 as it appeared in 1959.



The interior of Falcons Nest 146 as it appeared in 1959.

Nest 146 prevails.

Polish Falcons Nest 146 was born out of a meeting of Polish National Alliance Group 411 in early 1909. At that gathering, the group decided that a Falcons youth organization, that could function under the auspices of the PNA, was needed for the area. On April 4, 1909 in Walenty Cekowski's Hall, Gabriel Boron and John Tomaszek held the first organizational meeting of the Polish Falcons of New Castle. The board members of PNA Group 411 were elected as the overseers of the Falcons and when all the paperwork was sent to the Falcons in Chicago, the New Castle Nest was designated 146.

The first years of the nest consisted of fundraising and simple gymnastic classes as the members began to promote the club. In 1911, Nest 146 was stable enough to separate from Group 411 and a second Falcons Nest, numbered 338, was organized in the city. At the same

time the nest began collecting funds with the hopes of building a hall for themselves. This effort saw a minor setback as another nest, Nest 463, was organized in New Castle, but by the end of 1913, 146 began construction of their own home.

On April 26, 1914 Nest 146 held a grand opening for their Polish Falcons Hall at 103 West Miller Street. Seeing that the Falcons would be better off as one organization in New Castle, Nest 146 merged with Nest 463 in 1916, and Nest 338 joined them in 1919. With the outbreak of the First World War, members of Nest 146 joined the armed forces. Twenty men joined the U.S. Army to defend America while 37 signed up for Haller's Blue Army and fought to free Poland. Of the 57 men who joined up, only Ignacy Kosin never returned home.

Through the 1920s the Falcon Hall became the de facto Polish Home of New Castle. Church societies, veterans associations, so-

cial clubs, drama circles, and civic groups like the White Eagles Citizens Club all used the Falcons' facilities for their meetings. By 1930 the Falcons membership was reaching record numbers and the nest incorporated under the laws of Pennsylvania. Through the 1930s the Nest's sports teams took home some major championships, including a stunning upset against Alliance College which led to 146 becoming the Division Champions of District IV in 1936.

With the onset of the Second World War the Falcons worked with the USO allowing them to use the hall to host dances for the soldiers at Camp Reynolds. The nest also installed an Honor Roll for the soldiers that suffered and died for the cause of freedom. After the war, the membership saw a boost and their athletic achievements continued.

In the afternoon of November 7, 1955 a fire broke out in the Falcons Hall. Despite the best efforts of the New Castle Fire Company the two-alarm blaze gutted the building. Planning began immediately to build a bigger and better Nest 146. The remains of the old building were repaired and a new addition extended to property to 105 West Miller Street. Just as the nest was readying for its grand opening another fire damaged the property, but the smaller blaze only set them back a few months.

In the ensuing years another addition would be included on the site and the entire structure would be redecorated and remolded. Today Nest 146 is still going strong, even hosting the Falcons National Golf Tournament in 2016.

## Spotlight on Long Island

## Poland's 3rd of May Constitution

by Barbara Szydłowski

The 3rd of May is Constitution Day, Poland's national and public holiday. The holiday celebrates the declaration of the Constitution of May 3, 1791, considered one of the most important achievements in the history of Poland despite being in effect for only a year, until the Russo Polish War of 1792. Historian Norman Davies calls it, "the first constitution of its type in Europe," while other scholars refer to it as the world's second oldest constitution.

**MOTHER'S DAY.** In 1908, Miss Anna Jarvis, who dedicated her life to taking care of her mother, launched a campaign to celebrate Mother's Day throughout the United States. The first Mother's Day was held in West Virginia as a religious service. Miss Jarvis brought carnations to the service to make it more festive. Mother's Day became an official holiday throughout the

nation in May 1913.

In Poland, Mother's Day in Poland is annually observed on May 26. Unlike other countries, Poland celebrates this unofficial holiday on a fixed day. The U.S. holiday spread to many countries of the world during World War I and World War II. The first celebration of Mother's Day in Poland took place in Krakow in 1923, but the holiday did not become popular and the tradition was soon forgotten.

Today, schools organize special events to celebrate the day.

**OF INTEREST.** Recently at the Polish Slavic Federal Credit Union, Greenpoint, Brooklyn there was the exhibit "Anders Army — Trail of Hope." This exhibit was created under the patronage of Prime Minister Beata Szydło, and was first presented at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister in Warsaw, where it was opened by Senator Anna Maria Anders, daughter of General

Wladyslaw Anders.

**THE NEW POLAND THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN.** In 1834, the U.S. Congress granted a roughly 35-square-mile tract of land in the state of Illinois to 245 Polish exiles who had to flee Poland after the collapse of the 1831 anti-Russian insurrection. Some 70 set out to their anticipated New Poland, but were plagued by illnesses, starvation and lack of money, so many decided to settle down in cities along the way.

Only a handful of exiles actually made it through only to find the land they were granted had already been claimed by squatters.

**ON MEMORIAL DAY,** we sometimes seem to forget what we should be observing. This day is set aside to honor all the men and women who died fighting for our country. Let us remember them with a silent prayer or visit a cemetery and place a flag or flower on their grave.



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**NEW! FROM PADEREWSKI TO PENDERECKI**  
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by Paul Krzywicki  
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Item 2-151  
Lulu Publishing  
2016; pb. 396 pp., 6"x9"

Extraordinary stories and accomplishments of 170 Polish musicians whose presence in Philadelphia influenced music in America. Paul Krzywicki, a native of Philadelphia, was a member of the Philadelphia Orchestra for thirty-three years, performing in over four thousand concerts, more than 60 recordings and presenting master classes throughout the world. He is currently on the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music. A full biography is in Part I

**WEARING THE LETTER "P"**

*Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany, 1939-1945*



by Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab  
\$19.95  
Item 2-642  
pb. 304 pages  
6 x 9 inches

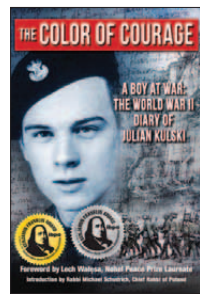
An unflinching, detailed portrait of a forgotten group of Nazi survivors. Written by the daughter of Polish forced laborers, *Wearing the Letter P* gives a voice to women who were taken from their homes as young as 12 years old and subjected to slave labor conditions, starvation, sexual exploitation, and forced abortions and child separation—all while Nazi propaganda depicted them as well-cared-for volunteers. Knab provides an important contribution to World War II history, based on archival and family records, war crime trials, and victim accounts.



**TWO TRAINS FROM POLAND**  
by Dr. Krystyna M. Sklenarz  
\$19.95  
Item 2-604  
183 pp., photos, pb.

A midnight knock at her door changed everything for 6-year-old Krystyna Sklenarz. In the middle of the night, the KGB deported her family from Poland to Siberia. She experienced two years there, and faced starvation, typhus, an opium den, being torpedoed, and living through the Nazi Blitz in the London subway. Through it all, Krystyna refused to give up. This is her journey from Siberia to

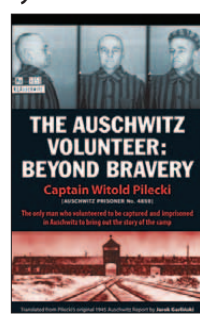
her entrance into medical school at only 17.



**THE COLOR OF COURAGE**  
by Julian E. Kulski  
\$19.95  
Item 2-674  
Aquila Polonica Publ., 2012  
496 pp., 6"x9," pb.

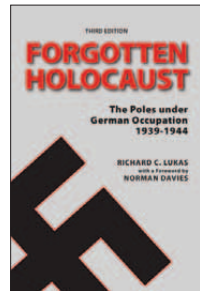
"If there is going to be a war, I do not want to miss it." So wrote Julian Kulski a few days before the outbreak of World War II, in this remarkable diary of a boy at war from ages 10 to 16. Kulski wages his own private war against the Germans with small acts of sabotage. At age 12, Kulski is recruited into the clandestine Underground Army by his Scoutmaster and begins training in military tactics and weapons handling. At age 13, he meets with leaders of the Jewish Resistance. Arrested by the Gestapo at 14, he is rescued and at 15 fights in the Warsaw Uprising of 1944.

**THE AUSCHWITZ VOLUNTEER**



Translated by Jarek Garlinski  
\$34.95  
Item 2-673  
Aquila Polonica Publ., 2014  
460 pp., 6"x9," pb.

In 1940, the Polish Underground wanted to know what was happening inside the recently opened Auschwitz concentration camp. Polish army officer Witold Pilecki volunteered to be arrested by the Germans and report from inside the camp. His intelligence reports, smuggled out in 1941, were among the first eyewitness accounts of Auschwitz atrocities. Pilecki's story was suppressed for half a century after his 1948 arrest by the Polish Communist regime as a "Western spy."

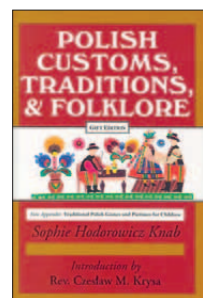


**FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST:**  
*The Poles Under German Occupation, 1939-45. Third edition*  
\$19.95  
Item 2-647  
358 pp. pb.

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

*Holocaust* is a powerful corrective." The third edition includes a new preface by the author, a new foreword by Norman Davies, a short history of ZEGOTA, the underground government organization working to save the Jews, and an annotated listing of many Poles executed by the Germans for trying to shelter and save Jews.

**POLISH CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS & FOLKLORE**



\$24.95  
Item 2-643  
by Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab  
340 pp., hc.

Polish Customs, Traditions, & Folklore is organized by month, beginning with December and Advent, St. Nicholas Day, the Wigilia (Christmas Eve) nativity plays, caroling and the New Year celebrations. It proceeds from the Shrovetide period to Ash Wednesday, Lent, the celebration of spring, Holy Week customs and superstitions, beliefs and rituals associated with farming, Pentecost, Corpus Christi, midsummer celebrations, harvest festivities, wedding rites, name-day celebrations, and birth and death rituals. Line illustrations enhance this rich and varied treasury of folklore.



**POLAND: A HISTORY**  
by Adam Zamoyski  
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pb. 426 pp., 5.5 in. x 8.5 in.

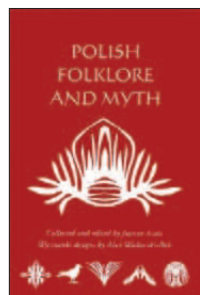
A substantially revised and updated edition of the author's classic 1987 book, *The Polish Way: A Thousand-Year History of the Poles and their Culture*, which has been out of print since 2001. No nation's history has been so distorted as that of Poland. "...excellent and authoritative"... "fresh, different, and brilliantly readable."



**HIPPOCRENE PRACTICAL DICTIONARY**  
POLISH-ENGLISH ENGLISH-POLISH  
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by Iwo C. Pogonowski  
682 pp., pb. 7x4.5 inches  
15th edition

Over 31,000 entries for students and travelers; a phonetic guide to pronunciation in both languages; a glossary of the country's menu terms; a bilingual instruction on how-to-use the dictionary; and a bilingual list of

abbreviations.



**POLISH FOLKLORE AND MYTH**  
by Joanne Asala  
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6x9 in  
118 pp., pb.

This book of engaging folk stories includes such tales as "The Violin," "The Headache Cure," "Midsummer's Eve," "The Flower Queen's Daughter," "The Legend of the North Wind," "The Flaming Castle," "The Village Dance," and "The Unfinished Tune." The stories were collected by Joanne Asala, with wycinanki (paper-cutting) illustrations by Polish-American artist Alice Wadowski-Bak.



**POLISH WYCINANKI DESIGNS**  
by Frances Drwal  
\$7.95  
Item 2-680  
8.5x11 in., 48 pp., pb.

In Poland, the art of creating beautiful designs by cutting paper into intricate shapes—called wycinanki—has been one of the national pastimes.

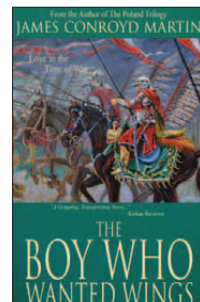
In this book, wycinanki is discussed and illustrated with patterns. The designs in this book can be used in many different ways, from applique to wallpaper.



**POLISH PROVERBS**  
by Joanne Asala  
\$14.95  
Item 2-681  
6x9 in., 64 pp., pb.

Poles are gregarious, cheerful, hard-working, and earnest—qualities reflected in their proverbs, collected here by author Joanne Asala. Some examples: "Love enters a man through his eyes and a woman through her ears." "Without work, there is no bread." "Do not push the river; it will flow on its own accord."

The back and front covers feature stunning illustrations of paper cuts by the late Polish folk artist Alice Wadowski-Bak, with more of her work throughout the book.



**THE BOY WHO WANTED WINGS**  
by James Conroyd Martin  
Author of "Don't Push the River"  
\$14.95  
paperback / Item 2-612 pb  
\$25.95 hardcover / Item 2-612 hc

Aleksy, a Tatar raised by a Polish peasant family, holds in his heart the wish to become a hussar so that he could battle the Turks at Vienna (the first 9/11, in 1683). As a Tatar and a peasant, this is an unlikely quest. When he meets Krystyna, the daughter of a noble, winning her love seems just as unlikely a quest. Under the most harrowing and unlikely circumstances, one day Aleksy must choose between his dreams.

**PUSH NOT THE RIVER**

Book 1 of Martin's Poland Trilogy  
by James Conroyd Martin

\$15.95  
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This book club favorite is based on the real diary of a Polish countess who lived through the rise and fall of the Third of May Constitution years, a time of great turmoil. Vivid, romantic, and thrillingly paced, the novel has been called "Poland's Gone with the Wind."

**AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY**

Book 2 of Martin's Poland Trilogy  
by James Conroyd Martin

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

**THE WARSAW CONSPIRACY**

Book 3 of Martin's Poland Trilogy  
by James Conroyd Martin

\$17.99 Hussar Quill Press  
508 pp., pb.  
Item 2-611

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

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## Happenings: Chicago Style

## Chicago Society Welcomes Tribune Reporter



Ted Makarewicz, Steve Rakowski, Mary Wisniewski, and Charles Komosa.

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — Fifty members of the **Chicago Society (CS)**, Lodge 1405, of the Polish National Alliance (PNA), held their March 15 meeting at the White Eagle Restaurant and Banquets in Niles, Illinois. The guest speaker was **Mary Wisniewski**, transportation reporter and “Getting Around” columnist for the *Chicago Tribune*.

Wisniewski presented commentary on her recently published biography, “Algren, A Life,” about writer Nelson P. Algren and his relationship with Chicago’s Wicker Park Polish community. She described how some Polish American organizations, including the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA), had ostracized him because of what they perceived as anti-Polish narrative, so much so that influential Chicago Poles of that time convinced Chicago’s Mayor Ed Kelly to have “Never Come Morning” (1942) banned from the Chicago Public Library (CPL). In 1943, the CPL did purchase the book, but had it available by request only. However, not all agreed with those anti-Algren sentiments.

Wisniewski’s book has received glowing reviews by the *Chicago Review Press*, the *Newberry Library*, and the *New York Times*. Her presentation was warmly received by CS members, who asked numerous questions and acquired a new perspective on a writer few knew and his relationship with the Polish community of the 1940s and 1950s. Subsequently, Chicago’s Polonia has embraced Algren to the extent that, in the heart of the old Polish neighborhood (Milwaukee, Division, and Ashland), at the triangle of land officially designated as the “Polish Triangle,” a fountain has been dedicated to Nelson P. Algren.

Wisniewski also has written a recent article in the Chicago Tribune’s “Getting Around” column, entitled “Bridge-builder’s work spanned continent,” focusing on the engineering feats of Polish-born engineer, Ralph

Modjeski.

Previously, Wisniewski spent a number of years as a Reuters’ investigative reporter covering Midwest crime, politics, natural disasters, schools, and health issues, followed by a number of years as the transportation and business reporter for the Chicago Sun-Times and writing the popular weekly column, “The Ride.” She frequently appears on local television and radio and is a frequent panelist on “Chicago Tonight: The Week in Review with Joel Weisman” on PBS-WTTW, Channel 11.

**LYPW HOSTS ITS 78TH BALL.** Over 325 guests filled the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton Chicago to enjoy the formal festivities of the **78th White and Red Ball (Bal Amarantowy)** hosted by the Legion of Young Polish Women (LYPW). Considered the oldest and most

marks by the LYPW’s President **Bozena Hasztrakiewicz**, followed by **Catherine Napierala**, past debutante, singing the national anthems of Poland and the United States. **Beata Pawlowski** gave the invocation. After dinner, **Alexandra Ciesla Cornwell**, past debutante, introduced 16 Legion members and their partners dancing the traditional *Polonez*. **Cherilyn Smoron Denisiuk**, Chair of the 78th Ball, introduced this year’s master of ceremonies, **Conrad Miczko**.

Miczko has been a strong supporter of the LYPW from a very early age. His mother, Eugenia, was a founding member of the Legion and was a very active member, serving as its president and Ball chair.

Miczko presented each



Maya Szlembariski Singing anthems.



Debutantes with Denisiuk, Miczko, and Hasztrakiewicz.

prestigious of all formal charitable events in Chicago Polonia, the White and Red Ball and its guests gathered to witness the presentation debut of seven young Polish American women. This year’s debutantes were **Lianna Wisneski**, Queen; **Madeleine Hodgson**, First Runner-up; and **Julia Stokowski**, Second Runner-up, along with **Kamila Bochenek**, **Alexandra Grudek**, **Sylvia Tolcyk**, and **Marlena Hadas**.

The evening began with welcoming re-

ceptions to the guests prior to their formal waltz with their fathers and escorts.

Following the crowning of the Queen, and the announcement of the runners-up, 12 post-debutantes and their dance partners performed the very lively *Bialy Mazur*.

The event’s choreographer was **Richard Owsiany**, and the **Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra** provided the evening’s wonderful dance music. Proceeds from the Ball will be allocated to various charities.

PHOTO: VICTOR STUDIO

**PAC-IL CELEBRATES PULASKI.**

The Polish American Congress-Illinois Division (PAC-IL) held Casimir Pulaski birthday celebrations on March 6 in the Herbert Hall of Chicago’s Copernicus Center. Approximately 100 people attended on this Illinois state holiday to honor General Pulaski, including representatives of the Polonian community and local politicians. The celebration began with the singing of the national anthems of Poland and United States led by **Maya Szlembariski**. **Romuald J. Poplawski**, president of PAC-IL, mentioned that Pulaski Day can also be a day to reflect on the outstanding people of Polish descent who have contributed to building America in the areas of the arts, industry, government, and science. **Konrad**

**Zieliński**, Polish Vice-Consul, thanked all for continuing the Casimir Pulaski holiday tradition.

In 1977, the State of Illinois designated the first Monday of March as Casimir Pulaski Day and made it an official state holiday in 1986, making it the only state that officially celebrates Pulaski.

As part of the event’s program, a portion of the film “Casimir Pulaski: Hero of Two Countries” was shown, and a violin-piano concert was performed by children of the Chicago Academy of Music of the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra.

**PAC-IL ELECTS NEW OFFICERS.**

The Polish American Congress-Illinois Division held its annual elections of officers on March 27. The elections were held at the Copernicus Center to accommodate the large number of anticipated voters. Normally, this election is held at the Polish National Alliance building, but parking there is limited.

With Romuald Poplawski, president of PAC-IL, unexpectedly withdrawing his name from the ballot, the election results for the executive board of the PAC-IL were as follows: president, **Mirosław Niedziński**; first vice-president, **Bogdan Strumiński**; second vice-president, **Stanisława Rawicka**; treasurer, **Ewa Cholewińska**; financial secretary, **Jolanta Grocholska**; recording secretary, **Jan Plachta**; and sergeant-at-arms, **Walter Bochenek**. The office of corresponding secretary was left vacant for now.

Six other vice-presidents will take on other responsibilities. They are: **Irena Hercik**, **Jolanta Kaczmarek-Waltos**, **Piotr Wyszowski**, **Mark Grzymała**, **Stefan Cheliński**, and **Halina Zawadzka**.

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## Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes

## Easter and Dyngus Day Events Dominate Buffalo Media

by Michael Pietruszka

WNY has a new Polish folk group. Lisa Florczak has started "Polish Cadets Rodzina," which meets at the Polish Cadets' Hall in Buffalo's Black Rock neighborhood on Friday evenings ... April 1st, Rev. Czeslaw Krysa led a "Egg Writing Retreat and Palm Weaving" at the St. Casimir Social Hall in Buffalo's Kaisertown neighborhood; and St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Tonawanda held its **8th Annual Polish Festival** featuring the Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble and Joe Macielag's Pic-A-Polka Orchestra ... The life and accomplishments of **St. John Paul II** were remembered in numerous observances across Southern Ontario as Canada marked "St. John Paul II Day," April 2nd ... Also on the 2nd, the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland sponsored an organ concert commemorating the anniversary of the **Katyn Massacre** and the **Smolensk Plane Crash**, featuring Roman Perucki, at Toronto's Our Lady of Sorrows Church ... Skalny Visiting Professor, **Dr. Piotr Marecki**, spoke on "10 Things You Did Not Know about Polish Electronic, Experimental and Otherwise Unconventional Literature" on the University of Rochester's River Campus, April 5th ... Also, April 5th, the Bar Association of Erie County's Assigned Counsel Program awarded its Practitioner-of-the-Year Award to **Lana Tupchik**, and a Special Service Award to **Anthony Kowalski** ... The Screening Room Cinema Cafe in Amherst screened Agnieszka Smoczynska's bold, genre-defying horror-musical mashup "**The Lure**" from April 6th through the 14th ... **Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish** in Mississauga, Ontario presented the "Mystery of the Passion of Christ", April 7th and 9th ..., April 8th, **St. Stanislaus Parish** in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District hosted an Easter Egg Hunt in the Pitass Center Garden ... **Polish Falcons of America Nest 6** in Cheektowaga hosted a Sabres Hockey Night, April 8th, and held its General Meeting, April 19th ... On Holy Thursday, Broadway Fillmore Alive sponsored its 11th Annual "**One Night and Seven Churches**." This year's churches were Saint Stanislaus, Corpus Christi, Saint Adalbert Basilica, Saint Luke's Mission of Mercy, Saint John Kanty, Saint Casimir, and Saint Bernard ..., April 15th, the Flying Bison Brewery in Buffalo hosted its "**Pils, Pierogi and Polka**" Party, introducing its new Polonia Pils ... Polonians across the area crowded into churches to have their baskets of Easter foods blessed on **Holy Saturday** ... **Dyngus Day** celebrations erupted across our area, April 17th. For photos of the festivities, please visit [www.dyngusday.com](http://www.dyngusday.com).

The **Permanent Chair of Polish Culture** at Canisius College presented "The Good Samaritans of Markowa: The Ulma Family Exhibit," documenting the efforts of the Ulma family in saving Jews during World War II, at Canisius College, April 18-30 ... Pianist **Jolanta Ziemska** and guitarist **Maciej Ziemiński**, "Duo Klavitarre," performed the music of Chopin at the Hochstein School of Music and Dance in Rochester, April 22nd ...



**BY THE BOOK.** Spectators begin to line up in front of the Adam Mickiewicz Library and Dramatic Circle, Inc. (also known as "Mickie's" or "Mickiewiczze"), to secure a good spot to view Buffalo's annual Dyngus Day Parade. Area police departments estimate between 50,000-60,000 lines the streets of Buffalo's historic Polonia district on Easter Monday. Floats and marching groups were sponsored by area churches, veteran's groups, social and fraternal organizations, labor unions, and everything in between.

The Adam Mickiewicz Library and Dramatic Circle, at 812 Fillmore Ave., is a non-profit membership-based organization founded in 1895. It is the oldest Polish American organization in Western New York, and is the oldest surviving Polish library in Buffalo. The library holds approximately 12,000 volumes, with 400 hand-copied plays. The bar serves over 50 different imported beers with a large Polish selection. The "Circle" is home to most of Torn Space Theater's productions and a large annual Dyngus Day party, as well as other cultural events. It is open for business every Friday and Saturday from 7:00 p.m. all year long.

The Niagara Branch of the **Canadian Polish Congress** and the **Polish American Congress of WNY, Inc.** co-sponsored a Jubilee Banquet celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Canada and the 100th Anniversary of the opening of the Polish Army Training Camp (Camp Kosciuszko) at Niagara-on-the-Lake, at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 418 Hall in St. Catharines, Ontario, April 22nd. More information can be found at the "Haller's Blue Army in Niagara" Facebook page ... The **Polish American Congress of WNY, Inc.** hosted its "Swieconka and Awards Dinner" at Kotecki's Grandview Grove, April 23rd. The honorees this year were the **Cichocki Family**, **Alina Kisluk**, the **Podhale Youth Association**, and **Brian Rusk**. The Bronislaw Durewicz Award was presented to the **Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY**. ... Toronto's "Hot Docs" **Canadian International Documentary Festival**, presented six works by Polish filmmakers at this year's event starting April 27: Zofia Kowalewska's "Więzi"; Monika Kotecka and Karolina Porzyżala's "Wolta"; Paweł Ziemiński's "Miejscy kowboje"; Marcin Lesisz's "Goran the Camel Man"; Anna Zamecka's "Komunia"; and Norman Leto's "Photon" featuring Polish actor Andrzej Chyra.

"T.Love" and the **Ania Cyzon Konsorcejum** performed at the Opera House in Toronto on the 28th ... The *Am-Pol Eagle*, WNY's Polish American weekly newspaper, presented its Citizens-of-the-Year Awards at St. Adalbert's Basilica in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District on the 29th ... On April 30th, the documentary film, "Joseph's World," about the **Ulma Family** in Poland during World War II was screened at the Canisius College Student Center.

**UPCOMING.** A "Tribute to Andrzej Zulawski," one of Poland's great cinematic writers and directors, featuring screenings of three of his films, will take place in the Dryden Theatre in Rochester on May 2nd ("Possession"), May 18th

founding of Camp Kosciuszko will be held at noon in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario ... The 63rd Annual **Syracuse Polish Festival** will be held June 23-25, in Clinton Square in Downtown Syracuse. Find out more at <http://polishscholarship.org> ... On June 28th, the Syracuse Chiefs baseball team will host the Scranton/Wilkes Barre RailRiders at NBT Bank Stadium for the team's "**Polish Night**" ... This year's 39th Annual Cheektowaga **Polish American Festival** will take place in the Town Park on Harlem Road from July 13-16. The musical groups scheduled to perform include the Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra, Special Delivery, The Touch, Rare Vintage, Villa Maria Chorale, Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, The Boys, Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY, and The Beat .

The St. Stanislaus **Polish Arts Festival** will be held on the parish grounds in Rochester on August 4th and 5th ... The Buffalo Bisons baseball team will honor **Rev. Daniel Palys** as its "Polish American of the Year," and **Ed Reska** with its Polish Community Leadership Award, at its "Polish Festival Night" at Coca Cola Field in downtown Buffalo on August 15th. The Bisons will play the Indianapolis Indians and group tickets are available from Mark Gordon at (716) 846-2018 ... The 2017 **Roncesvalles Polish Festival**, North America's largest celebration of Polish culture in Toronto, will take place September 16-17. More information can be found at <http://polishfestival.ca> ... The **Niagara Historical Society Museum** in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario will present an exhibit "Camp Kosciuszko: The Polish Army at Niagara Camp, 1917 - 1919" from Nov. 1, 2017 through Nov. 15, 2018.

❖ ❖ ❖

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 [pietruszka@verizon.net](mailto:pietruszka@verizon.net).



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## Artsbeat

## Film Review: The Zookeeper's Wife

by Staś Kmieć

**STAGE AND SCREEN.** When it came to saving lives during World War II, Oskar Schindler had his factory in Kraków, Leopold Socha had the Lwów sewers, and Jan and Antonina Żabiński had the Warsaw Zoo – transforming abandoned cages into the unlikely sanctuaries.

Imagine being executed for simply offering a glass of water to a Jewish person. That was the real life consequence that the zookeepers faced when Nazi-Germany invaded Poland, but the couple embarked on a much bolder act of rebellion than offering a glass of water. For three years, they chose to hide and shelter approximately three hundred Jews, along with political insurgents at their zoo – *Miejski Ogród Zoologiczny w Warszawie* (The Warsaw Zoological Garden).

History is a loosely knotted net, through which many lives and stories are lost. A feature film, *The Zookeeper's Wife*, starring Jessica Chastain, now brings this extraordinary and relatively unknown story to the big screen.

It is based on naturalist writer Diane Ackerman's 2007 non-fiction book of the same title. The author wove together memories, recollections, accounts, interviews with the Żabiński family, and Antonina's 1968 memoir *Ludzie i Zwierzęta* (People and Animals) to provide a meticulous account of their efforts to save Warsaw Jews from Nazi extermination.

Hollywood has a history of spicing up every true story they use as the basis for a film script. The amount of fiction in the movie is quite surprising considering that the real story is already so extraordinary. After seeing the film, I went through the book, which had been unread on my bookshelf.

Key elements from the book are missing in the film script by Angela Workman. Other stories, such as the plight of Janusz Korczak and his orphaned children, and well-known happenings in wartime Warsaw are borrowed to embellish an already substantial plotline. Workman just didn't trust the source material. The misconstrued facts create fictitious accounts, situations and scenarios.

Characters are interchanged in the storyline and one character did not exist, at all. But despite these flaws, at the heart of film is the incredible story – a portrait of strength and heroism.

Many cages in the zoo had been emptied of animals during the Germans' September 1939 bombing campaign on Warsaw, and zoo director Jan Żabiński used them as hiding places for fleeing Jews. Over the course of three years, hundreds of Jews found temporary shelter in these abandoned animal cells, located on the eastern bank of the Wisła River, until they were able to relocate to places of refuge elsewhere. In addition, the Żabińskis sheltered Jews in their two-story private home on the zoo's grounds.

They executed their private rescue project like a well-planned military operation, under the noses of the Germans, who stationed an army unit on the grounds. The zoo, which housed some 1,500 animals, was an ideal location for underground activity, a perfect place to hide weapons. The obscure corners of the zoo were familiar only to Żabiński and his wife.

At one point, Lutz Heck, the director of the Berlin zoo and a former friend of the Żabińskis, paid a visit to the occupied city. He carried an order to transfer all the living animals to Germany. Żabiński, who wanted to stay in control of the vacated zoo grounds, persuaded Heck to use the site as a pig-breeding farm for sustaining the troops of the Third Reich stationed in Warsaw.

The pig farm in the zoo began to operate in March 1940; the animals were fed with leftovers from restaurants and hospitals, and from garbage Żabiński collected in the ghetto. He smuggled some of the pig meat to his friends in the ghetto – something the Jews had allowed themselves to eat due to the Nazi starvation policy of 187 calories per day.

Jan was deeply involved in the Polish Resistance – smuggling weapons, building bombs, overthrowing trains, and even poisoning meat that was being fed to the Nazis. Żabiński could enter the ghetto on the basis of a permit he received from the municipal authorities be-



Antonina Żabińska (Jessica Chastain), cares for lion cubs.

cause of his new task: general supervisor of the public parks in Warsaw. Even though the ghetto had nothing for him to "supervise," he was able to move about freely. This marked the onset of the large-scale Jewish escape plan, in which he played a key role. A sort of "Underground Railroad" was born. The couple transformed their home, basement cages, and underground tunnels into a channel for refugees.

*The Zookeeper's Wife* has the sweep of an epic motion picture – covering the period from before the war to after it with grace, it is visually sumptuous and unabashedly romantic. Yellow stars, striped pajama-uniforms, cattle cars inhumanely packed with people, and barbed-wire fences have been the images of Holocaust films. *The Zookeeper's Wife* introduces a new set of symbols that is entirely surprising, yet historically accurate – lions and tigers wandering empty city streets. Animals are the backdrop to the film's theme – that all creatures deserve dignity and respect, and that humans can be both the kindest and the cruelest animals of them all.

Beginning with the title's perspective, *The Zookeeper's Wife* is a woman's take on World War II – directed by a woman, it stars a woman, with a script written by a woman that is based on another woman's book.

There is great attention to period, and detail, but somehow it appears not exactly authentic. Filmed in Prague and directed by New Zealander Niki Caro, it is missing a certain Polish "feel" and sensibility. The actors, with the exception of Chastain, are Flemish, German, Israeli, and Czech, and there is a host of Euro inflections and accents – none of them Polish. An occasional Polish word pops up and signs are written in Polish. Chastain (with the assistance of dialogue coach Joan Washington) adopts the obligatory "Polish accent" that movies insist on, even though people don't speak with accents in their own language. Her speech inflection is soft and occasionally unintelligible. The memorable score was composed by Henry Gregson Williams.

Out of the 300 people the

Żabińskis saved, only two died during the war; all the others remarkably found refuge and safe passage elsewhere. The Warsaw Zoo officially reopened in 1949 with some of its old animals that survived the war, but with Stalinism casting a shadow over the grounds, it had lost its pre-war luster. Jan resigned as director two years later. The zoo would not shine again until after the fall of Communism in Poland in 1989.

In 1968 the state of Israel honored the Żabińskis with the title of "Righteous Among the Nations" – a recognition that was given to those brave citizens who helped save Jews during the Holocaust.

Thoroughly refurbished, the villa on the grounds of the Zoo has been turned into a museum and contains numerous photographs, books and personal memorabilia of the Żabiński family. In rooms recreated to evoke the wartime, there are sculptures of animals made by the Jewish artist Magdalena Gross, who stayed there during the war. Visitors are able to see the basement chambers where Jews took shelter, as well as the narrow tunnel they crawled through to reach an abandoned pheasant enclosure.

The exhibits include the grand piano on which Antonina Żabińska played an arrangement of Offenbach's "La belle Hélène" to warn the Jews of approaching Germans and using this musical code warned them to be quiet. Another tune indicated that the danger was over.

The Museum of the History of Polish Jews – *POLIN* has opened a virtual exhibition (<http://wystawy.sprawiedliwi.org.pl/wystawa-en/zydzi-ukrywani-w-zoo/>), which presents the stories of the Jews who survived thanks to the zoo. Launched as an online exhibition, it describes the Zoo's history in the days of occupation, the history of its owners and of some of the people that the Żabiński family saved. "The House under a Wacky Star," as the Villa was called was an asylum for among others writer Rachel Aurbach, boxer Samuel Keningswein, and Szymon Tenenbaum, an entomologist.

The film, *The Zookeeper's Wife* is

an important document that brings this story to the forefront of public attention. Reading Diane Ackerman's book or Antonina Żabińska's memoir is the best way to get to know the real story – as the real story is even more incredible and thrilling than its Hollywood version.

**FILM FESTIVALS.** The annual *New York Polish Film Festival* will present its 13th annual showcase of Poland's most riveting trends and developments in Polish cinema – May 4-7. This year's festival will honor the memory of world cinema legend, Andrzej Wajda, N.Y. Polish Film Festival Honorary Patron for many years, who passed away just a few days after the premiere of his latest film *Powidoki* (Afterimage). In addition to many awards and recognitions for his films, he received an honorary Academy Award in 2000.

The Festival will present *Powidoki* at the opening night gala celebration at Directors Guild of America with a tribute by director Martin Scorsese, as well as a screening of his classic *Ashes and Diamonds* (1958).

Screenings of some of the best new films from Poland will include: *The Last Family* by Jan P. Matuszyński; *United States of Love* by Tomasz Wasilewski; *The Lure* by Agnieszka Smoczyńska and the Polish blockbuster comedy *Singles Planet* by Mitja Okorn, among many others.

For more information: [www.nypff.com](http://www.nypff.com)

**The 8th Annual NYC Indie Film Festival** – May 1-7 will host an incredible lineup of over 250 films from over 30 countries. There will be one film from Poland in the festival this year. *ID*, directed by Filip Zaluska is a solo project of Wojtek Urbanski, a music producer and co-founder of project "Rysy." It will screen on May 6 at 10:30 pm.

For more information: [www.nycindiefest.com](http://www.nycindiefest.com)

## FILM PROJECT ON POLISH

**EASTER.** Fr. Czesław Krysa and Andrew Golebiowski are assembling a series of videos about Polish Easter traditions that include tutorials, stories, context and explanation of symbols. The three-year project received seed money from the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College, and is seeking matching funds from individuals and organizations to be able to produce the videos. The videos are being produced by Daybreak TV Productions of the Diocese of Buffalo.

Donations can be sent to: St. Casimir Church 160 Cable St. Buffalo, N.Y. 14206 Note: For more info on Easter Videos, contact Fr. Czesław Krysa at [ckrysa@cks.edu](mailto:ckrysa@cks.edu) tel: 716-824-9589.

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Polish Chef

Polish Mother's/Father's Day and Festival Favorites

by Robert Strybel

**PART I.** What better way to honor Mom and Dad on their days than to treat them to a home-cooked Polish brunch or dinner. The recipes presented here also go over well at Polish festivals, and parish picnics. N.B. Increase the quantities in the following recipes as required.

**GOŁĄBKI/STUFFED CABBAGE (gołąbki).** Combine 1 lb raw ground meat (pork, pork & beef, pork-veal-beef combination, or pork & 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 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 mixed with 1/2 c spicy-style ketchup. Bake covered in preheated 375° oven 30 min.. Reduce heat to 350° and cook another 2-1/2 hrs. Switch off heat and leave in oven another 20 min for flavors to blend.

**PIEROGI DOUGH (ciasto na pierogi)** METHOD 1: Sift 2-1/4 to 2-1/2 c flour onto bread-board. Sprinkle with 1/2 t salt. Deposit 1 small egg at center and use knife to mix outlying flour into egg. Gradually add about 1/2 fairly hot water in a thin stream and work mixture by hand into a dough, gradually working in 1-2 T salad oil. Knead well until dough is smooth and elastic and no longer sticks to hand. On lightly floured board, roll out thin 1/3 of the dough, leaving the remainder under a warm inverted bowl so it doesn't dry out. With drinking-glass or

biscuit-cutter cut dough-sheet into rounds. Place a spoonful of filling just off center of each dough round, cover filling with larger dough flap and pinch edges together to seal. METHOD 2: Combine 2 c flour, 1 c dairy sour cream, 1 small egg and 1/2 t salt. Work ingredients together to form a smooth dough and knead briefly. Roll out and proceed as with the recipe above. This recipe produces and extremely nice and soft dough which does not get tough even if the cooked pierogi are later refried in fat.

**MEAT-FILLED PIEROGI (pierogi z mięsem):** Soak a crumbled-up stale bread roll in water. Dice 1" square pork fatback and brown lightly with 2 finely chopped onions. Grind 3/4 lb cooked (boiled or roast) beef together with the onions and squeezed-out roll. Mix well and salt & pepper to taste. Add 2 T bouillon/water mix if very dry. Other cooked

meats (pork, veal, dark-meat turkey, etc.) can also be used instead of or together with the cooked beef.

**CHEESE & POTATO PIEROGI (ruskie pierogi):** Cook 1 lb peeled potatoes in boiling salted water until tender, drain, mash and set aside to cool. To potatoes add 1/2 lb farmer cheese or dry cottage cheese, mashed with potato-masher or processed to a ground-like consistency in processor, 2 finely chopped onions sautéed in 2 T oil or butter until tender and lightly browned. Mix ingredients well and season with salt & pepper. As toppings, provide sour cream (or plain low-fat yogurt for dieters) or skwarki.

**CHEESE-FILLED PIEROGI (pierogi z serem):** Combine 3/4 lb farmer cheese or dry cottage cheese, pulverized to a powder in food-processor, 1/4 t salt, 1 t sugar, 1 lemon juice and 1 raw egg yolk into a smooth filling. The cooked pierogi may be

served with melted butter, confectioner's sugar, sour cream or plain yogurt (for weight-watchers). For sweet cheese pierogi (*pierogi z serem na słodko*): Increase the sugar in the preceding recipe to 3 T and add 1/2-1 t vanilla extract. Optional: 1/2 c plumped raisins may be added. Serve as above.

**POTATO & ONION-FILLED PIEROGI (pierogi z kartoflami):** Cook 6-7 med potatoes until tender, drain well, steaming off moisture, and mash thoroughly are put through ricer. Dice 3-4 slices thick-sliced bacon and brown with 2 finely diced onions. Note: For fast-day (or vegetarian) pierogi, fry the onions in 2-3 T butter or oil.) Add fried mixture to potatoes, stir in 1 egg and (optional) 1 T bread crumbs. Salt & pepper to taste. 1-2 T chopped chives, parsley or dill or a combination thereof may be added to filling. Serve with sour cream or plain yogurt.

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**POLISH HOLIDAY COOKERY** \$16.95 by Robert Strybel Item 2-644 248 pp., pb., Hippocrene Bks. Polish Holiday Cookery acquaints readers with traditional

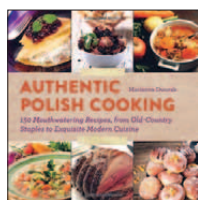
Polish foods associated with various occasions and furnishes countless cooking tips and serving suggestions. This "instruction manual for the culturally aware Polish American" offers more than 400 recipes, along with a lexicon of basic foods and culinary concepts, ingredients and procedures, and sample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

ful and delectable desserts, and yes, meat and potato fare, this cuisine consists of a wide variety of dishes incorporating a broad selection of cultural and regional influences that will have you licking your lips.

Organized by course, this cookbook features more than one hundred recipes, including beet soup, cucumber salad, potato pancakes, Hunter's Stew, pork and rice stuffed cabbage leaves, traditional "babka" cake, and of course, pierogi! Numerous recipes for veal, chicken, kielbasa sausage, pork, and beef dishes make this a great and thorough cookbook that is a fantastic addition to any kitchen.

With easy-to-follow instructions for simple as well as more intricate dishes, a section on traditional holiday meals, estimated cooking times, and suggestions for healthy ingredient substitutions, this cookbook will teach anyone how to cook delicious Polish food. For those wishing to re-create their grandmother's favorite recipe, or those wanting to experience a new cuisine, Authentic Polish Cooking will bring a bit of Eastern Europe to your home.



**AUTHENTIC POLISH COOKING** by Marianna Dworak \$15.99 Item 2-677 7.5x7.5 in., 176 pp., p.b.

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**PLEASING POLISH RECIPES** by Jacek and Malgorzata Nowakowski \$8.95



Item 2-678 5-1/2 x 3-1/2 inches 160 pp., spiral bound

This cookbook features a great variety of flavorful regional foods, such as hot beer, vegetable soup, leek salad, graham bread, Polish hunter's stew, stuffed baked turkey, potato pancakes, dill pickles, nut roll, gingerbread, and royal mazurkas.

Readers also will find a table grace and information on dyeing traditional

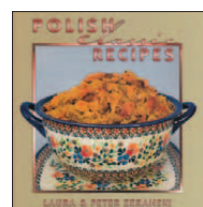
brown Easter eggs.



**PIEROGI LOVE** New Takes on an Old World Comfort Food By Casey Barber \$19.95 Item 2-675 Hc; 128 pp.

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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 pierog and fried apple pierogi 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.



**POLISH CLASSIC RECIPES** \$16.95 by Laura and Peter Zeranski Item 2-656 2011, 96 pp., h.c., index, 100 color photographs by Matthew Aron Roth

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**POLISH COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK** by Sophie Knab \$19.95 Item 2-632 337 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.

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## Sports

# National Polish American Sports Hall Of Fame Class Of 2017 Named

by Tom Tarapacki

NFL Coach **Gary Kubiak** and NBA referee **Steve Javie** won election to the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame in nationwide balloting for the Class of 2017. In addition, Olympic women's basketball star **Juliene Brazinski Simpson** and fencing coach **Janusz Bednarski** were selected for induction by the Hall's veterans committee. They will be inducted in June.

Kubiak was the leading vote-getter by far in the Mayor Sports category, finishing ahead of Conrad Dobler and Mark Grudzielanek in his first year on the ballot. In the All Other Sports category Javie edged swimmer Rachel Komisarz. Last year, Javie finished second to Ann Meyers Drysdale.

Kubiak's Polish roots go back to his great grandfather who came to Texas in the 1880s from the Poznan region of Poland. Gary grew up in Houston and was a star quarterback in high school and at Texas A&M, then played for the Denver Broncos for nine seasons before entering coaching. He served as head coach of the NFL's Houston Texans from 2006 to 2013 and the Broncos in 2015 and 2016. After leading Denver to victory in Super Bowl 50 he retired due to health issues.

Javie was preceded in the Hall by his father, Stan, a 30-year NFL official who worked four Super Bowls. Stan's parents (the original name was Jaworowski) came from Poland and settled in Philadelphia. Steve played baseball at Temple, and later umpired. He eventually went on to referee in the NBA for 26 years, where he earned a reputation as a tough but outstanding official. Currently he provides analysis for the TV broadcasts of the NBA Finals.

**Brazinski Simpson** was a women's basketball standout who led the U.S. to silver in the first ever women's Olympic basketball competition in 1976. The New Jersey native was also co-captain of the squad. The talented point guard was a four-time All-America player and led John F.



NFL Coach **Gary Kubiak**

Kennedy College to national championships in 1973 and 1974. "Jules" was selected to represent the United States in 11 international competitions.

**Bednarski** was head coach of men's and women's fencing at Notre Dame for 12 seasons, winning NCAA Team Championships in 2003, 2005 and 2011. His pupils won 14 individual championships including two gold medals in the 2008 Olympics. The Warsaw native previously served as head coach of Poland's Olympic team from 1978-88, with team members winning 11 medals between Olympic Games and World Championship competitions during that era. He received the prestigious Polish Silver Cross of Merit for his coaching accomplishments.

The inductions will be held on Thursday, June 22, 2017, at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, Michigan. Tickets for the banquet are \$100 and can be ordered by calling (313) 407-3300. For more information go to: [www.polishsportshof.com](http://www.polishsportshof.com).

**WIELKI BIZON.** Przemek Karnowski won the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Award, which is given to college basketball's best center. Karnowski had a tough final game as his Gonzaga team lost to North Carolina in the national final, finishing with nine points and nine rebounds. He's played in more NCAA Tournament games than any other player in Gon-



zaga history and was a key part of the squad that took the Zags to the school's first-ever Final Four. The 7'1", 300 pound Polish center is known as "Big Bison" in his homeland but, despite his size, he's very graceful and skilled. According to Sports Illustrated "he's developed into the best low-block passer in college hoops - with a killer lefty jump hook as well." He had already graduated with a degree in Sports Management and an MBA, and was named to the West Coast Conference 2016-17 All-Academic Team.

**HE'S BACK.** Remember **Babatunde Aiyegbusi**? He's the 6-9 and 351-lb Polish-born offensive lineman who had a tryout with the Minnesota Vikings in 2015. He had only played American football in Europe, though he was a dominant player who helped his Wroclaw team win two Polish Bowl titles in three seasons. "Babs" was a colorful character who attracted a lot of attention in the US, but at age 27 he wasn't advanced enough to earn a roster spot.

The Big Pole has returned to the U.S., hoping to forge a career as a professional wrestler. He signed with the WWE and is currently with its development group, NXT.

**LEWANDOWSKI STRIKES AGAIN!** Robert Lewandowski scored as Poland secured its top place in Group E with a 2-1 victory in a 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifying match over Montenegro in Podgorica. The Polish captain started the scoring, and **Lukasz Piszczek** broke a tie to give Poland the win and a six-point lead in its group with 13 points, since Montenegro and Denmark both have seven.

Today he's one of soccer's best, but Lewa was so small as a teen that many wondered if he'd make it in the sport. "His legs were so thin; I kept urging him to put some weight on and eat more bacon sand-

wiches," said Krzysztof Sikorski, Lewandowski's old junior coach at Varsovia Warszawa. "It didn't stop him being a prolific scorer, though. I remember one season we scored 158 goals, and he got half of them."

**FIRST POLISH WOMAN SKIS TO SOUTH POLE.** Polish cave-explorer **Malgorzata Wojtaczka** has become the first Polish female to make it to the South Pole on cross-country skis. The 51-year-old adventuress set out on November 18th of last year, pulling a 220-pound sled containing food and supplies. She was in daily contact by satellite phone with family, friends and well-wishing Poles and thanked them for their support. During her trek, she braved temperatures as low as -31°F which strong winds whipped into a wind-chill factor of -49°F. It took her 69 days to cover the more than 800-mile route full of treacherous glacial crevices. Wojtaczka moved non-stop the last 24 hours to make it to the Antarctic Logistics & Expeditions tourist base before it was closed for the season.

**WINNING AGAIN.** Coach **G.P. Gromacki** did it again! He just won his second NCAA Division III National Championship with the Amherst College Women's basketball team. In the final, the team defeated Tufts by a final score of 52-29 to complete a perfect 33-0 season.

The Purple & White has reached the NCAA Division III tournament in each of the 10 years that Gromacki has been the head coach. Gromacki has compiled a 295-24 record during his decade at Amherst, and his teams have not lost more than four games in any season. In six of those seasons, the team won 30 or more games. His career record is 458-62, and his winning percentage of .880

is second among all active coaches in Divisions I, II and III, behind only Geno Auriemma

The South Deerfield, Mass. native studied business at Ohio State before launching his coaching career in 1998 at Saint Lawrence, leading the Saints to their first 20-win season. In all six of his years there, he won at least 20 games and took the team all the way to the national championship game in 2002. He then spent two years as an assistant at Division I Temple, helping the Owls to back-to-back Atlantic 10 titles. He then returned to D III, leading the Hamilton team to a 20-win year and a first-ever NCAA berth in his only season before going to Amherst.

**PHOENIX RISES.** Wrestling great **Beth Phoenix** was recently inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame. Phoenix, a Divas champion and three-time WWE women's champion, who retired in 2012 at age 31, joined her husband, Adam "Edge" Copeland, as the only spouses in the Hall. *USA Today* proclaimed that that her "dominating physical style was a precursor to the current women's wrestling revolution."

She was born Elizabeth Kocian-ski in 1980 in Elmira, N.Y. to Polish immigrant parents, and her interest in wrestling was spurred by her grandmother's passion for wrestling star **Ivan "Polish Power" Putski**.

**THE PRESIDENT'S BRACKET.** Back in 2009, when President Barack Obama started announcing his NCAA men's basketball tournament picks on ESPN TV, many were a bit surprised. That included Duke University men's basketball coach **Mike Krzyzewski**. Coach K was miffed when Obama, a serious basketball fan, didn't choose Duke for the Final Four, saying "as much as I respect what he's doing, really, the economy is something that he should focus on, probably more than the brackets." As it turned out, the president was right: Duke didn't make the Final Four that year, and Obama's pick for overall winner, North Carolina, won it all.

When Duke won the title in 2015 the champion Blue Devils visited the White House. There was some good-natured ribbing over the President's bracket choice — he had picked Kentucky to win it all. The president said that he could find some similarities between his popularity and that of the Duke team. "I can relate to this program," Obama said. "Does well in the classroom. Won twice in the past four years. Knows what it's like for people to oppose you no matter what you try to do. When I flip on ESPN and I see a documentary about how people still 'hate' Christian Laettner — a guy who played for Duke 23 years ago. I realize, well, maybe I don't have it so bad. Or I think this is going to be a long 23 years."

Krzyzewski told the President: "You've been an amazing leader for our country. And it's not just you, but your family and the sacrifices. So thank you very much for your service ... on behalf of our Duke community, we want to thank you for serving our country over these last two terms."



Become a member today

## Polish American Historical Association

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

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

**Polish American Historical Association**  
Central Connecticut State University  
1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06505  
[www.polishamericanstudies.org](http://www.polishamericanstudies.org)

## POLISH AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

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## Resistance

## Ghetto Rising

by Regina Szamborska-McIntyre

*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 Gudzinski, aka Dysthmus, delivery man of contraband items to underground units; and Michal Bednarek, attorney at law, who tries to remain neutral and uninvolved.*

**CHAPTER XIV.** The continuous bombardment within the Ghetto walls raged on for weeks, without respite. Father Lipinski's homilies for the last month were based on the Old Testament and the Israelite's belief in one omniscient God. "The foundation of Christianity".

Just before dawn on Sunday morning, the perpetual bombardment of the ghetto ceased. It ended as abruptly as it began. Father's homily at mass that morning was a requiem for the Jews.

The mailbox on the wall of Michal's office held a newspaper wrapped in a large red label.

He lifted it from the rack and felt an ominous swelling in his chest. This was Tuesday. The Polish Journal was delivered on Thursday.

He dropped his briefcase and the mail on his desk, and tore at the label that bound the issue.

**SPECIAL EDITION  
POLAND'S JOURNAL  
May 18, 1943  
GENECIDE**

On April 19, 1943, the Gestapo entered the Ghetto quarter, prepared to liquidate the population of Jews still remaining in the compound. It was the evening of the Old Testament's celebration of the Jewish Passover. It was Easter Monday of the Christian celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord. The Polish flag and the Star of David waved high in the breeze above the walls of the Ghetto.

The Germans broke into the homes of the Jews and dragged them into the streets. The brutal roundup of victims had occurred many times before. The scene was repetitious in its process. Men, women, and children, were herded into lines that followed a maze of streets, encased by high walls. The inhabitants were then prodded and shoved along the final walk from their homes. Cattle cars, with the enduring stench of former victims, waited for yet another consignment of desper-

ate people to be transported to the death house of Treblinka.

This time, however, the usual submissive resignation of the condemned was disrupted by the sound of heavy firing. Hand grenades flew from all directions. Shell fire flew from doors and windows to blast the Germans in their tracks.

S.S. reinforcements forced their way into the Ghetto, only to be fired at by machine gun fire at close range. The indomitable presence of armored vehicles was unable to withstand the onslaught. Several of them were destroyed, the others withdrew.

As invading batteries of German forces broke into the main street of the Ghetto, the walls of homes in surrounding Warsaw shook from the bombardment. When the rebels' supply of ammunition dwindled, the fighters resorted to torching the factories within the confines of the Ghetto.

The Germans adopted the tactic. They began to set fire to the homes. Tear gas and poison gas were used to route the Jews from their hiding places. Those that remained alive, were collected and funneled through the maze to Umschlag Platz. There, the noxious cattle cars awaited their victim's final journey to Treblinka.

Sporadic fighting continued. When the

Jews ran out of ammunition, they resorted to rocks and clubs to pound on the Germans.

May 16, saw the end of the carnage. The compound was obliterated. The last Jew was killed.

The smoking ashes of the Ghetto stand as a tribute to a people who looked at evil and saw it for what it was. They preferred to die fighting, rather than submit to an inevitable death as sacrificial lambs.

They were our compatriots. Warsaw suffers a great and tragic loss.

Michal laid the newspaper on his desk and wiped his eyes, grateful that he was able to read the article in the privacy of his office. Kaminski had been badgering him to offer his service to the Secret Court, where the Polish Judicial System maintained the pre-war court procedures to sentence and convict collaborators and Nazi officials who had performed brutal acts of violence against Polish citizens. It was time for him to commit to the resistance. No intelligent Pole could do otherwise.

**continued next month**

*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."*

## Sybiracy

## Year 1943 – Encounter with a Wolf

*"Sibracy" (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 Kazakstan. 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.*

**PART XXIII.** In the beginning of February, a postman brought a letter from the district with information that countess Burzynska died and there is nobody to bury her. Before the morning light I was ready to go on the road, equipped with dry bread and cooked potatoes.

Halfway there I saw a moving animal. First I took it for a calf, then I thought it was a big dog, then it got to me that this was a wolf and I was taken by fear. I remembered an advice of our Kazakh host, so I made some noise with the belt buckle, but the wolf was still approaching me. Then I made a big cigarette from the newspaper and tobacco, after some time the flint and tinder produced some smoke and scathing smell, but the wolf was

closer and closer. I realized that we would be eye to an eye soon. I remembered the locals telling us that the wolf attacks people from behind, with the paws pulling down the arms and then caught the throat. Then, I didn't see the wolf anymore, I am afraid to look away, so I started praying "God, under your protection."

I was trying to bend down envisioning that if the wolf would attach me from behind, it could not be able to flip me to my back, and then I'd pull my fist deep into its throat to choke it. I was still slouching, trying to walk forward, finally I turned around and realized that the wolf is not there anymore. It walked behind me to the other side of the road calmly back to the steppe.

This was such a traumatic event that I could not anymore control myself. I sat on the edge of nearby *kurgan* (burial mound) with all of my body shaking. I could not calm myself down, I ate some snow, I twisted a new cigarette, but I could not turn it on since my hands were trembling so badly. Then I saw a horse sledge driving from the direction of the village towards me. I had to wait about a half an



A *kurgan* (burial mound).

hour before the sledge approached so that the driver could see me.

A young man from NKVD (Soviet secret service) was the driver on the sleigh. He asked me why I am sitting there, I told him about an encounter with the wolf. He recognized from my accent that I am Polish and then started insulting me: "you are a traitor like all you, Poles; you are leaving our Russia with Anders's army. Maybe it would be better if wolf ate you... at least I can hit you with

the horsewhip." In that moment he threw the whip at me, but he did not hurt me since the whip just wrapped around my belt. Still he made me mad that he dared to hit me. I ripped the *knout* from his hand, took my belt off and hit him with it. He was stunned. I summoned him to take me to his warden chef, since I had to report what he did to me. He took me with him on the sledge.

On the way, we talked, smoked cigarettes and in the best moods approached the NKVD warden. The chief was sitting there. I told him that his worker is a good and helpful man who took me here. My "executioner" was quite surprised again.

I took off to countess Burzynska's house. There was nobody there, but the body was laid on the wooden board in the lobby. The sun was shining through the windows and it was irradiating her silver hair and the face. She looked like a saint with a halo over her head.

**continued next month**

— Reprinted courtesy of Jaga's Polish Culture Website at: [www.polishsite.us](http://www.polishsite.us)

## Growing Up Polish American

## Practicing the "Comeback"

by Barbara Betlejewska

**PART V.** I didn't know the techniques of tease-proofing in adolescence, but since have learned a system I practice as an adult. When I am told a "Polack" joke, I confront the person with a joke about their own ethnicity or race.

Everyone group has idiosyncrasies, and once you study them, it is easy to ridicule them. I do not take cheap shots. I find something about that person's group that is historically true, yet very inappropriate. Look for something that makes them feel guilty about an event or act their people did. This will remind them they are not perfect, and in no position to make jokes about you because you are Polish.

Had I known enough in high school to respond with a comeback joke every time someone told me a "Polack" joke, the harassment would probably have quick-

ly stopped. As I've mentioned, bullies need to be avoided when possible and confronted when not. And it's still taking me the better part of a lifetime to unlearn acting like a "nice" girl, and finally learn to act like an adult who expects respect, and who treats others respectfully, but who immediately institutes appropriate boundaries for protection against the many who transgress.

**continued next month**

*Barbara Betlejewska left her childhood farm in Ohio at age 18, and lived in many places throughout the United States and abroad for nearly 30 years. Her grandparents, who had emigrated from the partitioned areas of Poland in the 1910s, purchased the farm during the Great Depression to grow food to feed their family. Barbara gained enough emotional healing to come full cycle and return to the family farm 15 years ago.*

## Donation to Help Preserve Costumes

PHILADELPHIA — An all-volunteer Polish dance ensemble that owns one of the largest collections of authentic vintage Polish folk dance costumes in North America has achieved the first step in its costume preservation efforts with a \$2,500 grant from an anonymous donor.

**Janosik Dancers** (<http://www.janosikdancers.org>) will use the donation to employ a couture seamstress knowledgeable in historically accurate techniques to repair the most critically damaged items in its collection of more than 1,000

individual pieces. The age of some of the antique garments, as well as the physical stress put on costumes in active use, has necessitated the repairs. The garment repair is part of a larger, multi-phase effort that includes construction of a climate-controlled storage facility to protect the ensemble's 350 costumes.

The group also hopes to eventually digitize the collection for documentation and educational purposes.

The oldest costumes were dowry pieces handed down through generations and entrusted to Janosik by the families who donated them.

## Wojcik to Lead Philadelphia's 2017 Pulaski Parade

PHILADELPHIA — The Polish American Congress, Eastern PA District, announced that **Dr. Teresa G. Wojcik** will be the Grand Marshal of the 2017 Pulaski Day Parade.

Dr. Wojcik is an Associate Professor of Education (tenured) in the Department of Education and Counseling at Villanova University. She is also an assistant director of the Teaching English in Poland summer camp program through the Kosciuszko Foundation, as well as

co-chairperson of the Polish American Festival at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, and has served as president of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation for 13 years.

Wojcik was selected by the Polish American Congress in recognition of her many years of participation with the Polish American Congress, Eastern PA District, the Pulaski Day Parade in Philadelphia, and supporter of organizations in

Polonia. Other costumes are from the personal collection of the group's founder, Dr. Morley Leyton, who collected pieces during trips to Poland. A substantial addition of costumes is credited to Michael Tabisz.

Janosik is run by Monique Legare, Dr. Leyton's widow. Christine Weisel McNaull, assistant director and costume mistress, is spearheading the costume restoration and preservation effort. The ensemble is a non-profit cultural organization that welcomes new dancers, regardless of race, creed, ethnicity, or national background.

Polonia.

The Pulaski Day Parade, October 1 in Center City Philadelphia, is one of the many events in the Philadelphia area held in recognition of the National Celebration of Polish American Heritage Month.

For more information, visit [PolishAmericanCongress.com](http://PolishAmericanCongress.com) or [PulaskiDayParade.com](http://PulaskiDayParade.com), or call the Polish American Congress office at (215) 739-3408; eMail [Info@PulaskiDayParade.com](mailto:Info@PulaskiDayParade.com).



## American Polonia At A Glance

### MASSACHUSETTS

**NORTHAMPTON** — The **Polish Heritage Committee** of Northampton will observe Polish Constitution Day on Wed., May 3, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the community room at St. Valentine's Polish National Catholic Church, 127 King St.

The Committee will screen the film "Why Celebrate May 3, 1791 — Europe's First Constitution?" a presentation by Professor Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski.

Light refreshments will be served.

### NEW JERSEY

**CAMDEN** — Sun., May 7. **St. Joseph History Society** Annual Armed Forces Day Mass & Flag Blessing, St. Joseph Church, 1010 Liberty St., 9:45 a.m. Refreshments following Mass in the parish upper hall. Info call Henry Szychulski (609) 313-2433.

**CAMDEN** — Mon., May 29. **St. Joseph Church (Camden) Memorial Day Mass**. St. Joseph Cemetery, Chews Landing. 10:00 a.m. Info call rectory (856) 963-1285.

### NEW YORK

**BUFFALO** — A mother from Cheektowaga, N.Y. has partnered with a national organization to raise \$100,000 for the National PKU Alliance — the first national non-profit organization to unite all those involved in the PKU community. Phenylketonuria, or PKU, is an inherited disorder affecting about 1 in 10,000 infants born in the United States.

**Staci Stincelli-Kasprzyk** along with her husband Eddie Kasprzyk noticed the lack of information, support, and resources available to them when their daughter Norah was born with PKU.

"Shortly after the birth of our pre-

vious daughter, Norah, we received the news that she has a rare metabolic disease called PKU. Without unimaginable dietary restrictions, she would become developmentally, intellectually and neurologically disabled in less than two years."

A person with the disorder lacks the liver enzyme needed to process phenylalanine, a common part of most food, and it builds to toxic levels in their central nervous system, particularly the brain. Prior to the first newborn screening programs of the 1960s which looked for PKU, untreated children suffered mental retardation. Early detection and treatment now spare families from the worst of PKU's consequences but living with the disorder requires constant vigilance and monitoring. A lifelong low-protein diet and dietary medical supplemental foods is the established treatment for PKU but it can be difficult to sustain into adulthood.

To make a donation, or to learn more about PKU, email Staci at [ltl-buffalo2017@gmail.com](mailto:ltl-buffalo2017@gmail.com) or call at (716) 725-3212.

### PENNSYLVANIA

*Pennsylvania listings courtesy of PolishAmericanNews.com*

**CHESTER** — Wed., May 3. **Polish Constitution Day Commemorative Program**, Historical 1724 Court House, Avenue of the States, 10:00 a.m. Sponsored by the Polish American Heritage Association of Delaware County. Guest speaker will be Adam Smolij. Info call Judy Kucinski 610-494-6948.

**DOYLESTOWN** — Sun., May 7. **Polish American Congress Polish Constitution Day Mass** and Youth Program, National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Ferry Rd. Mass at 12:30 p.m.; Youth Program at 2:30 p.m. Info call (215) 739-



**SPARKLING AGAIN.** Two large bronze plaques affixed to New York City's Kosciuszko Bridge in 1939 shine brightly once again.

The plaques, which are historic elements of the bridge, have been fully restored and will soon be placed on the new bridge. Special recognition goes to the Victoria Consulting & Development, Inc. in Brooklyn for the professional restoration efforts carried out pro bono.

The New York Governor's Office has confirmed the new bridge will keep its name: The Kosciuszko Bridge. The opening of its first, eastbound part (under construction since 2014), took place last month. Once the old bridge is demolished, a new westbound cable-stayed bridge will be built on its site in the next three years. (source: *The Kosciuszko Foundation*)

3408

**DOYLESTOWN** — Sun., May 7. **Polish Heritage Society** of Philadelphia Annual Mass & Scholarship Awards Luncheon, National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Ferry Rd. Mass at 11:00 a.m., followed by the luncheon. Info/reservations call Irene Musman (215) 914-2284.

**SINKING SPRING** — Sat., May 13. **Polish American Heritage Association** of Berks County 9th Annual **Polish Open Golf Tournament**, Manor Golf Club, 153 Bran Rd. 1:00 p.m. Info call Marilyn Wlazecki (610) 779-5523.

**PENN'S LANDING** — Sat., May 27. **Polish Singers Alliance of America** Dinner Dance, hosted by Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Chorus #321, Sheraton Society Hill Hotel, One Dock St. 6:00-11:00 p.m. Info/tickets call Debbie Majka (215) 627-1391 by May 5.

**PHILADELPHIA** — Sun., May 28. **A Festival of Polish Song Gala**

**Concert** by the Polish Singers of Alliance (hosted by Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Chorus #321), St. John Cantius Parish Hall, 4435 Almond Street, Bridesburg section. 2:00 p.m. Free admission. Info call Debbie Majka (215) 627-1391.

**PHILADELPHIA** — June 22-24. **St. Adalbert Parish Annual Festival**. Thompson Street & Allegheny Avenue, Port Richmond section. 6:00-10:00 p.m. Thursday music by Polish American String Band; Friday music by DJ Patty Pat and Alumni Night; and Saturday Continental Polish Music. Games of chance, Polish food, refreshments, and more. Info call rectory (215) 739-3500.

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

Polish tenor **Piotr Beczala** and pianist Martin Katz will perform Wed., May 3, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at the Theatre of the Arts at the University of D.C. The Gerald and Ann K. Perman Memorial Recital will

include selections by Schumann, Karłowicz, Dvořák, and Rachmaninov. Beczala sang at the Metropolitan Opera, Vienna State Opera, and Paris Opera in leading roles in operas by Verdi, Puccini, Tchaikovsky, and other composers. He has also begun to concertize in recent seasons to wide praise at Vienna's Musikverein, Salzburg Festival, the Schubertiade in Hohenems, and at Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall.

For tickets and information, call (202) 669-1463.

### Seeking Polish Films

**NEW YORK** — In previous years, numerous Polish films were included in the Margaret Mead Film Festival program. Event organizers would like to keep this tradition alive and have the most promising artists represent Poland at this prestigious event, held at the American Museum of Natural History, Oct. 19-22, 2017.

The Mead Film Festival screens documentaries that increase understanding of the complexity and diversity of the peoples and cultures that populate the planet. It has evolved with the times while maintaining its important history and has grown steadily to reflect the ever-evolving incarnations of storytelling, technology and growing access to communities near and far. The Festival presents the best in documentary, experimental films, animation, hybrid works, and more.

Submissions are now open. For more information, visit <http://www.amnh.org/explore/margaret-mead-film-festival/submissions>.

## The Pondering Pole

# A Classless America? A Classless Polonia?

by Ed Poniewaz

If you are bored, you could go to a Charles Murray speech at the local university and protest him (before hearing one word) for being a racist or a sexist. Come on, it'll be fun!

Charles Murray is an American political scientist, sociologist, author, columnist, and — to some — a brilliant man. He doesn't make up conditions or trends; he analyzes and presents them based on his study of facts and statistics. You can question or debate his ideas and I am sure he would welcome that.

He is best known for his lectures and books, in particular *The Bell Curve*, *Intelligence and Class Structure in American Life* (written with Richard J. Herrnstein, Free Press Paperbacks, New York, New York, 1994) and most recently *Coming Apart, The State of White America, 1960-2010* (Crown Forum, New York, New York, 2012). Most of the protesting is generated by his speaking engagements for *Coming Apart*, partly because we are in an era of constant protesting, but also because this book has the words "White America" in the title.

What does this book and subject, intelligence and class structure, have to do with Polonia? Murray says outright in the Prologue:

"The trends I describe exist independently of ethnic heritage."

Even if they do not specifically pertain to ethnicity, those of us with European roots are part of "White" America, and are connected by general European culture and society.

According to Murray, American culture changed drastically on November 22, 1963, the day President Kennedy was assassinated. This date is symbolic, not of how America became classless, but rather how the upper and the middle/lower classes changed and behaved and how they perceived themselves and each other. Prior to the era of the "sixties," Americans, no matter how rich or how poor, how educated or skilled they were, shared common ground in a number of value-based fronts such as community, religiosity, and finances. There was them and us back then but — except for the wealth and status — them and us were singing out of the same values hymn book about most things.

Following Kennedy's assassination, the upper and middle/lower classes gradually transformed into what Murray describes as the "cognitive elite." This was when even working class families recognized "the increasing market value of brains" and the perspective of educated Americans shifted away from the traditional ways and mores of the parents and grand-parents.

For the record, the median household income for Polish Americans in 2015 dollars is \$68,843 while the average median household income for white Americans is \$59,698. With *Coming Apart* as a backdrop, it does seem that some Americans and Polish Americans view and treat some people and things in high culture and low culture terms. We hear a lot of talk about fairness in opportunity and income. It seems to me that what Murray is positing in his

book seems to be true, but what will come of it?

Should Americans and Polish Americans not become more educated and strive to do better financially? Should they not be free to choose whatever cultural course they desire? I do believe that the "cognitive" gap that exists now will diminish in the future and my proof of this is the number of younger Polish Americans that are reawakening and rediscovering an ancestral connection. They are doing this while drinking a Starbucks, or a microbrew, or texting on their smartphone riding in their auto-piloted vehicle. Just like their other "white" American counterparts.

**POLISH OR NOT?** On Charles Murray's *Bell Curve*, **Lana Zak** has the perfect mix for material and social success in America. She is half Asian and half White. More specifically, her mother is Korean and her father is Polish American. She is a reporter and producer for ABC News and one of her big breaks came from working with Diane Sawyer on "Good Morning America" and "ABC World News."

Among her assignments with Sawyer were the cholera crisis in Haiti, the shooting and recovery of Arizona U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, and the school shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary in Connecticut.

One of the great hardships in being The Pondering Pole is the incredible amount of time I have to spend trying to find super models with Polish ancestry. Tough job but

the hours and hours of research paid off again. From Ethnicelebs.com and Wikipedia, I present **Rachel Leigh Hilbert**, an American model, best known as the official spokesmodel for Victoria's Secret clothing line PINK. She has also done work for Urban Outfitters, Delia's, Macy's, and Kohl's and you might have seen her's beautiful Polish face in the pages of *Cosmopolitan*, *Elle*, or *Marie Claire*.

Rachel was born in Rochester, N.Y., to Charles "Chuck" Hilbert and Tiffany A. Piekunka. Tiffany is the daughter of Thomas Piekunka, the son of Harriet Mary Bartles and Leo J. Piekunka. Both Harriet and Leo were the children of Polish parents.

As a noted Polish culture observer once said, "scratch an East German and you will find some Polish." I would say, give me any social or historical phenomenon and I can find some Polish person or connection. If you like Hip-Hop and especially if you like Bruno Mars, then go figure, you will be amazed to see and listen to Danny Saucedo, a sensation in Sweden but becoming more popular outside of his country of birth. You can hear his music and enjoy his dancing ability in a variety of YouTube videos.

This guy is very good looking and has a nice and appealing personality. Danny Saucedo's mother is Bolivian (Patricia Saucedo) and his father, Piotr Grzechowski, is of Polish descent. Danny is a singer, songwriter, and musician. He speaks Swedish, Spanish, Polish, French, and English. If you are Polish, you

are required to speak three to six languages.

Hope you have a great Constitution Day.

❖ ❖ ❖

If you have a thought about this month's topic, have a question, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; email [alinabrig@yahoo.com](mailto:alinabrig@yahoo.com).

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

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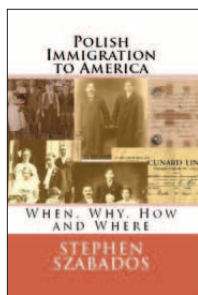
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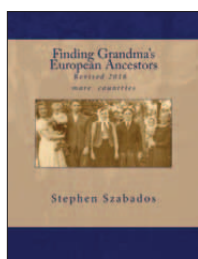
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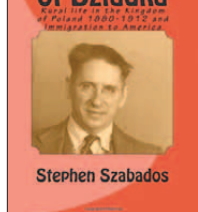
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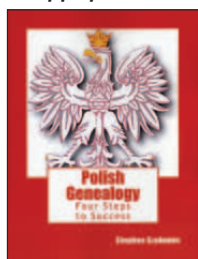
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This book is about the life of a Polish immigrant, from his birth in the Russian partition of Poland: the customs and traditions he grew up with; his decision to leave his family and the land of his birth; the trek across Poland to the port of Bremerhaven;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

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

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

## Write-down Your Family Memories for Future Generations

by Stephen M. Szabados

It is important for us to save our memories for future generations, especially for parents and grandparents, because writing down the stories is a great way to personalize our family history narratives. Below are a few of the memories of my grandmother that I included at the end of my narrative for her. Using the first-person voice seems to bring the memory more to life.

After I had started at St Pat's School, I began walking with my grandmother the two blocks to St Patrick's Church for Sunday Mass. This walk was always a pleasant walk in good weather, and I would ramble on with stories of various topics that she would patiently listen to and sometimes comment. She was always very patient with me.

Dinners at the Zuchowski table were very basic. Grandma did not bring any Polish recipes with her from the old country. Our meals consisted of meat, potato, and a vegetable. However, I was picky about what foods I liked to eat, and grandma would usually make something special for me. Later as an adult, I was frustrated when my children were picky, but I have a special love

for my grandmother for spoiling me.

In the late 1950s, Grandma worked in the kitchen at Auth's, which was a local restaurant. One night she brought home a catfish dinner that was left over from their weekly fish fry. This was the first time I had catfish, and I liked it. After that, I would occasionally stop at the kitchen door of Auth's when she was working to get another taste of catfish.

We need to think about our ancestors and the memories we want to pass along to our children and grandchildren. We need to write them down and save them, so they will not be lost.

Our ancestors were simple people. Why are their stories important? Their lives were more than names, dates, and places on a chart. More importantly, their lives do matter in our perspective of history. We need to capture family stories that will bring them to life for our children and grandchildren.

Our ancestors were part of the wave of emigration that left Europe with the hope of finding work and a better life. It was not easy to immigrate to America. They saw the move to America as their last chance. There were obstacles getting from their village to the ships

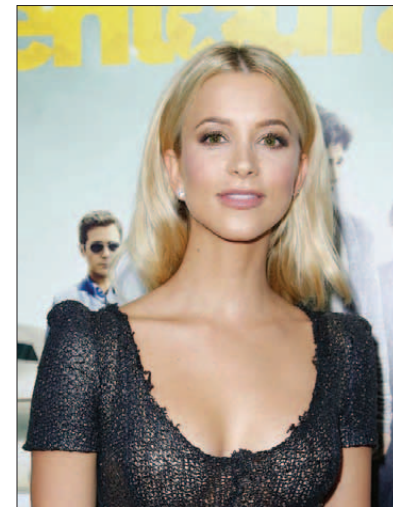
and hardships crossing the Atlantic. Then they had to prove they were worthy to be admitted to the United States. Once here, they faced challenges and discrimination to find work and make the better life they were seeking. Our immigrant ancestors are the foundation of our roots in the United States. Our lives would be much different if they did not endure the challenges of immigration to America.

Do not underestimate their contributions. They may have left us some material wealth, but the most important contribution they left is their family and their role in the factories and farms of the United States. Their lives were building blocks in the growth of their new country. Remember that they made many sacrifices for us and helped build the United States. I believe that our role should be to leave something that will help our children remember them. Capture the memories by writing your family history. If you don't, who will?

❖ ❖ ❖

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."

## Sabina Gadecki, Model and Actress



**Sabina Gadecki** (b. Sept. 28, 1983 in Chicopee, Mass. to Irena and Richard Gadecki) is an actress, known for *Entourage* (2015), *Outlaw Prophet: Warren Jeffs* (2014) and *Inside Amy Schumer* (2013). She also appeared alongside Christian Slater and Billy Burke in the feature film adaptation of an Elmore Leonard novel called *Freaky Deaky* (2012). Gadecki has also appeared in TV shows such as *Law & Order*, *White Collar*, the Showtime series *House of Lies*, and *The League* for FX.

Gadecki graduated from Chicopee High School in Chicopee, then attended Holyoke Community College for two years. After earning her associate's degree, she moved to New York City and was accepted to Fordham University, where she majored in international business and communications. She was two classes short of graduating when she made the decision to leave school in order to accept more modeling jobs, but eventually returned to Fordham to get her degree in International Business and Communications.

As a model, she gained notice as the host of *The World Poker Tour* on The Travel Channel, and went on to sign with Ford Models. She has modeled for the likes of Saks Fifth Avenue, Oil of Olay, and Jimmy Choo.

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## Obituaries

### Marilyn Jean Piurek, Active in Democratic Party, PolAm Politics

Marilyn Jean Piurek, 73, of Old Saybrook, Conn., died at home, March 27, 2017. She was the daughter of the late John "Whitey" Piurek and the late Marion Premo Piurek, of West Haven. She is survived by her husband of 40 years, Christopher "Kip" Bergstrom, and her children, Elizabeth Bauzá and Ramon Bauzá, from her first marriage to the late Ramon Bauzá Higuera, of San Juan, Puerto Rico. She is also survived by her brother, John Piurek, and her three granddaughters, Dylan Bauzá, Lilly Bauzá and Serena Bauzá.

Piurek died after a valiant 10-year battle with a rare form of cancer, for which she was one of the longest living survivors and a pioneer and partner in her treatment with the team at the Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale New Haven.

Piurek earned a BA in Urban Studies from the State University of New York at Buffalo with an honors thesis, *Ethnicity: Locus of Political Culture*, which foreshadowed a lifetime of engagement with ethnic politics. In 1974, she became a member of the first democratically-elected Board of Education in Buffalo, New York and, in 1975, was appointed by Secretary of State Mario M. Cuomo as the lead local government liaison for western New York State.

Piurek returned to Connecticut in 1978 and, over the course of her nearly 20-year tenure with the City of Hartford, worked as Director of Health Planning and Development, Director of Human Service Planning and Development and Director



Piurek

of Hartford Public Schools Grants and Development. In her last role, she won for Hartford the highest level of federal grants of any mid-sized city in the United States.

After leaving government, Piurek set up a consulting business to provide strategic planning and grants acquisition assistance to non-profit organizations, with a focus on educational innovation and community and organizational development.

Piurek is probably best known for her work in politics and efforts in

democracy building, which she pursued as a volunteer in parallel with her work career. She served as the liaison between the administrations of President Clinton and President Obama and the Polish American community, where she was instrumental in the admission of Poland to NATO. Piurek served as an elected Delegate to the Democratic National Committee, and co-chair of the National Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Council, during which time she wrote several op-ed pieces for the *Polish American Journal*. She was the organizer of many national ethnic leadership committees, including the American Polish Advisory Council and Polish Americans for Obama. Piurek was also a founding member of the White House Conference on Ethnicity and Pluralism in the 21st Century and a delegate to Vital Voices: Women in Democracy in Vienna, Austria.

Perhaps even exceeding her passion for politics was her love of dogs, most notably the Portuguese Podengo Pequeno, the breed which she introduced into the United States. She established the first club in the United States dedicated to the breed and her efforts helped popularize the breed throughout the

country and abroad.

Those who wish to honor her memory are encouraged to contribute to the Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale New Haven or The Potter League.

— *Hartford Current*

### Walter J. Wojcik, Polonia Leader

Walter Joseph Wojcik, 67, a dedicated member of Philadelphia's Polish American community went to his eternal reward, March 16, 2017 after struggling with pancreatic cancer.

Wojcik graduated from Cardinal Dougherty High School and Drexel University. In his professional life, he worked as a mechanical engineer for the Department of Defense. He inspected firefighting systems on U.S. Navy war ships, including numerous battleships and aircraft carriers. His work conducting safety inspections on U.S. ships took him to Japan, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Italy, and other places.

Wojcik was a passionate advocate of Polish causes and a member of several Polish American organizations including the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia, the

Kosciuszko Foundation, and the Associated Polish Home. He was also a supporter of the Polish American Cultural Center and Museum on Walnut Street in Philadelphia. An avid musician, he was a devoted member of the Polish-American String Band for nearly 15 years, playing saxophone and serving as Publicity Director. Walt was inducted into the Polish American String Band Hall of Fame.

Since young adulthood, Wojcik played with The Tempos, a band founded by his uncle, Walter Seterus. Upon his uncle's death, Wojcik assumed leadership of the band and entertained at countless church functions, weddings, anniversaries, and other social events.

Wojcik and his family supported the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa and volunteered annually at the shrine's Polish American Festival.

Walter and his wife Teresa were married in 1973 at St. Ladislaus Church in Nicetown. They moved to Bensalem and joined St. Ephrem Church, where both served as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist for several years. The Wojciks initiated the Polish Dinner at St. Ephrem five years ago.

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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.



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ed 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.

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## Toledo Polonia

## Trade Mission Visit to Toledo is Successful

by Margaret  
Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

In mid-March, after a great deal of preparation, a delegation of officials from Poland visited Ohio in an effort to develop the potential for trade between the two. Toledo was the first stop on a multi-city tour of Ohio dubbed the Polish Trade Mission.

The Toledo portion of the Polish Trade Mission began with a private reception held Sunday, March 12 at the home of Jim and Anna Hartung to welcome Polish Trade Commissioner Sabina Klimek and General Consul Maciej Golubiewski. Approximately 25 people attended including Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks Hudson; City of Toledo Chief of Staff Mark Sobczak; Anwer Ali, M.D.; David Jackson, Bowling Green State University Associate Professor of Political Science & radio host; Paul Zito VP of Development for the Regional Growth Partnership; Brad Moffitt, Director of Market Development & Membership for Ohio Corn and Wheat; Margaret Mastroianni, Assistant Vice President for Foreign Exchange, Fifth-Third Capital Markets; Christine Weisfelder; Betty Osenbaugh Zaleski, Advanced Color Consultant, Mary Kay Cosmetics, and Matt Zaleski, Past President, Polish-American Community of Toledo (PACT).

The Poland Trade Mission spent March 13 visiting various facilities and locations in Toledo. Klimek and Golubiewski met with Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks Hudson and received a proclamation. The delegation participated in a 90 minute business meeting with area business owners and participated in presentations by James Hartung, Toledo Sister

Cities International; Paul Zito, VP of Development, Regional Growth Partnership; Brad Moffitt, Director Market Development & Membership, Ohio Corn and Wheat; and Joseph Cappel, VP Business Development, Toledo Lucas County Port Authority. The delegation toured the Anderson's facility at the docks on the Maumee River, before heading to the Toledo Club for a Meet and Greet with Polish leaders from Toledo.

**“Richard Konik, a logistics consultant from Lorain, and Jim Hartung, President of Sister Cities International in Toledo, had an idea of creating a synergy between the Cleveland and Toledo Polish Community,”**

The Toledo Club Meet and Greet was attended by approximately 50 people including Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks Hudson; Chief of Staff Mark Sobczak; Lucas County Treasurer Wade Kapszukiewicz; Toledo City Council Members Theresa M. Gabriel and Tom Waniewski; Tom Sorosiak of the Toledo Poznan Alliance, Stan Machosky, President, Toledo Poznan Alliance, Ruth Koons & Jacqueline Koralewski Konwinski of the Toledo Polish Genealogical Society, Jack Sparagowski & Billy Peneff of the Polish American Community of Toledo, Tom Jesionowski & Dan Tyburski of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America; Brad Borkosky of Glassline Corporation, Reverend Monsignor William J. Kubacki, Kathy Grabel, Betty Osenbaugh Zaleski, and Matt Zaleski, Past President, Polish-American Community of Toledo

(PACT), and members of the Polish Cultural Center Advisory Board.

After visiting Toledo, the delegation took an air tour of the western basin of Lake Erie before traveling to Marion, Akron, and Lorain, Ohio, where they toured businesses such as Marion Corn and Wheat, Whirlpool, the Akron Rubber Development Laboratory, and the University of Akron Department of Civil Engineering.

“Richard Konik, a logistics consultant from Lorain, and Jim Hartung, President of Sister Cities International in Toledo, had an idea of creating a synergy between the Cleveland and Toledo Polish Community,” said past PACT President Matt Zaleski. “At the same time they wanted to develop this trade mission in the hopes of finding local companies that wanted to do direct trade with Poland. It is Mr. Hartung’s hope one day to have a Polish Consulate in Toledo, similar to what we seen in other cities like New York, Pittsburgh, Chicago, etc.”

This trip was especially organized to tour the northern part of Ohio. Both the organizers and the delegation would like a return trip to Northwest Ohio. There is the potential for a return trip later this year.

“I have been in touch with Consul General Golubiewski and Trade Commissioner Klimek who were thrilled with Toledo’s potential as a partner in future developments and warmed by our friendship and hospitality,” said Mr. James Hartung, President, Sister Cities International.

Although not organized as a Sister Cities event, the Polish Trade Mission was an invaluable first step towards building a long-term business relationship between Ohio and Poland.

## Stops in Cleveland, other Cities, May Lead to Advantageous Business Partnerships



PHOTO: MATTHEW HATCHER/THE MARION STAR

Davin Kozlik, right, operations manager of the Wilson Bohannon Lock Company in Marion, Ohio, presents padlocks to Sabina Klimek of the Trade and Investment Section of the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, and Maciej Golubiewski, head of the Consulate General in New York. The Polish delegation stopped in Marion County, and is considering adding the county to its trade mission planned for July and August of this year.

CLEVELAND — On March 12, 2017, Consul General Maciej Golubiewski began a five-day visit to Ohio during which he met local governments and discussed investment opportunities with President Trump’s Agricultural and Rural Advisory Committee member and Ohio economic development organizations. Joining the consul general was Sabina Klimek, the head of the Trade and Investment Section of the Consulate.

During the visit, Golubiewski met with government officials, business entities, scholars and local Polish American communities in Toledo, Akron, and Cleveland.

The visit was welcomed by proclamations from the Ohio Governor, John Kasich, the Ohio Senate, the Ohio House of Representatives, the Council of the City of Cleveland as well as from the mayors of Toledo and Cleveland.

The Ohio tour started in the city of Toledo (see accompanying article), and made stops in Akron,

Amherst, and Avon.

Golubiewski concluded his visit to Ohio in Cleveland. After meeting with Polish organizations and local officials, he visited the Polish American Cultural Center and Museum where, on behalf of the President of Poland, he awarded Eugeniusz Bąk, Alina Czernec, and Anna Nowak with the Siberian Exiles Cross. The next day, Golubiewski met with Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson and City Council President Kevin Kelley. During his visit, Golubiewski visited places significant to the Polish American community such as the Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland Cultural Gardens and the Kosciuszko Monument.

Following the sightseeing tour, Golubiewski met with Dr. Edward Horowitz and Dr. Greg Sadlek of Polish Studies at Cleveland State University to speak about the future of Polish American education and Polish programs at U.S. universities.

## Poland

by Robert Strybel

**FINED FOR THEFT.** Two British teenagers were found guilty of stealing from the German Nazi Auschwitz Death Camp during a school trip in June 2015.

Museum guards caught Ben Thompson and Marcus Bell in possession of pieces of glass, buttons, and hair clipper parts. A district court in Krakow fined both individuals about \$625 USD and mandated that they pay approximately \$1876 USD to an Auschwitz survivor memorial fund.

The court said their act was “reprehensible.” The youths had pleaded guilty and were fined, but later withdrew their guilty plea upon learning they would have to stand trial.

**TO HELP WAR-TORN SYRIA AND IRAQ REBUILD.**

Prime Minister Beata Szydło has announced that her government plans to spend some four million zlotys (about \$1 million) to help rebuild homes in war-torn Syria. The *ad hoc* aid package is to be implemented in cooperation with the Church in Need organization. “The Polish government is not indifferent to what is happening in parts of the world engulfed by war,” Szydło said.

Poland’s Middle East aid to Syria nad Iraq amounted to 12.8 million zlotys (\$3.2 million) in 2015, rose to 46 million zł (\$11.5 million) in 2016 and is expected to exceed that figure this year. Polish volunteers in the Middle East help build schools, hospitals and housing as well as dig wells.

**MOSCOW’ INSPIRATION SUSPECTED.** A series of anti-Polish vandal attacks made to look like the work of Ukrainian nationalists have been noted so far this year in Ukraine.

An unknown attacker damaged the Polish Consulate in Lutsk (Łuck) with a grenade launcher, several Polish war memorials have been vandalized and the Polish Consulate in Lviv (Lwów) got splashed with red paint. Some 150 demonstrators posing as Ukrainian Poles tried to block access to the Ukrainian-Polish border, waving placards that read “Stop genocide of Poles.” It turned out that none of the marchers were actually Polish.

Both Poles and Ukrainians strongly suspect Moscow’s inspiration in the attacks, apparently designed to derive a wedge between the two nations.

**STIFF CHILD-PROTECTION MEASURE SIGNED INTO LAW.**

President Andrzej Duda has signed into law tougher penalties for serious crimes against minors such as abuse, abandonment, abduction, and trafficking. He said the new rules will protect the most vulnerable and those who find it hardest to get help when needed.

Under the new law, anyone physically and psychologically abusing children in their care faces up to five years and, if particular cruelty is involved, up to 10 years in prison.

The minimum penalty for trafficking children under the age of 15 will increase from three to five years in prison.

## Lighting Up Katyn Memorial

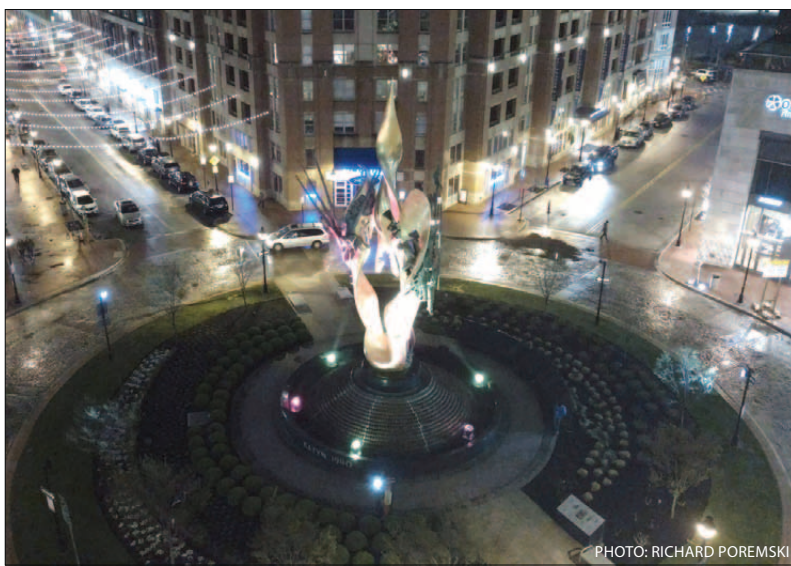


PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

The National Katyn Memorial, as illuminated by a kaleidoscope of changing colored lights from six surrounding projectors on the rainy opening festival night.

by Richard Poremski

BALTIMORE, Md. — The Second Annual Light City Baltimore Festival, which ran from March 31 to April 8, 2017, eclipsed last year’s 400,000 visitors. It was decided to extend the festival to the Harbor East neighborhood, where the National Katyn Memorial is the prominent focal point and centerpiece.

Light City Baltimore is the first large scale, international light festival in the United States. Light City is a free festival that transforms Baltimore with large-scale light installations, performances, music, and innovation. Central to Light City is the BGE Light Art Walk along Baltimore’s Inner Harbor, featuring more than 50 attractions including

illuminated sculptures, projections, interactive technologies, food vendors, and a children’s area.

Baltimore’s Polonia is pleased with the inclusion of its Katyn Memorial this year. It is a very valuable opportunity to educate visitors about the tragedy, and to impart pertinent Polish historical information from the large, illustrated on-site signage.

**ZOSIA’S BLOG.** If you are interested in Polish customs, traditions, and food you may be interested in the words and works of long-time PAJ contributor Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab. Her most recent book is about Polish women during World War II.

You can learn more about Sophie by visiting her blog, <http://www.sophieknab.com/>.

## Names in the News

**Heidi Przybyla**, 44, has been a senior political correspondent for USA Today in Washington D.C. for almost two years, and had a major focus on Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign.

Prior, she worked for Bloomberg News for 16 years. Przybyla was a regular contributor at Bloomberg, and guest-hosted “With All Due Respect” with John Heilemann-Mark Halperin. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and German from Michigan State University, and another B.A. from Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, a public research university located in Freiburg im Breisgau, Baden-Württemberg, Germany.

**Paulina Mary Jean Gretzky** was born Dec. 19, 1988 in Los Angeles, Calif. She is the eldest child of the legendary Canadian ice hockey player Wayne Gretzky and the American actress Janet Marie. Today, Gretzky is mostly known for her reality TV appearances and magazine covers. She is also an aspiring actress and singer, and is signed to the AO Recordings label.

**Maggie Sajak** was born Jan. 5, 1995 in Baltimore, Md. She is the daughter of *Wheel of Fortune* host and former WSM-TV Nashville news reporter Pat Sajak and photographer Lesly Brown Sajak. A singer and guitar player, Sajak is known in Country and Pop music circles. In 2011, she released her first single “First Kiss,” an upbeat country pop song. Sajak is currently attending Princeton University.



## Dance Time

## USPA Opens Summer Polka Season

by Jennifer Pijanowski

BUFFALO, N.Y. — April showers may bring May flowers but for polka fans, May welcomes the summer polka festival season. Memorial Day delivers the opportunity to attend one of the biggest polka events of the year, the **United States Polka Association Convention**. This year the lineup is one that you will not want to miss and it all starts with a welcome party Thursday night featuring Jimmy K and the Cleveland All Stars. The event will be held from May 25-28, 2017 at the Holiday Inn Cleveland South 6001 Rockside Rd. Independence, Ohio. **Lenny Gomulka, Freeze Dried, and The Knewz** will kick off Friday in the hall with nonstop music from 5:00 p.m.-2:00 a.m., while **Buffalo Concertina All Stars** entertains in the lounge from 8:00 p.m. -12:00 a.m. A newly installed dance floor will give you plenty of room for dancing and watching your favorite band up close.

With just a few hours to rest, Saturday events start at 10:00 am with the USPA Polka Awards Banquet. Those who choose to sleep in will want to get motivated in time to attend **Brian Kurdziel's All Star Band**, which will play in the lounge from 1:00-3:00pm. Immediately following the lounge party will be the Jr. and Teen Miss USPA Pageant. The entertainment doesn't stop there, as music will already be playing in the hall from 2:00 p.m.-2:00 a.m. starring **Maestro's Men, Box On, The Project**, and the highly anticipated **Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatone Reunion**. I was so disappointed that I was unable to attend this reunion in Chicago so I will be center stage as these musicians take the stage for this legendary perfor-



Marcelline Orzano and Francine Pawlicki.

It won't be hard to get yourself out of bed to attend Sunday Mass as **John Gora** will be providing inspirational polka music. Afterwards the fun continues with the spirited **Kid's Jam** from 12:30-1:30 pm in the lounge. This young talent is something that you will definitely want to witness; it is guaranteed to rejuvenate and inspire your fondness of polka music. Another phenomenal day of music also begins in the hall at 1:00 p.m. and goes non-stop until 1:00 a.m. Sunday's lineup includes **The Boys, Polka Family, John Gora & Gorale** and **Polka Country Musicians**. For the first



Tina and Nicole Hayest.

year's USPA Convention is going to be one for the record books. I cannot wait to hear all of the great music and enjoy many laughs with my polka family. If you haven't already, make plans to attend this event. As of now, the Holiday Inn is sold out but there are rooms available at nearby Spring Hill Suites. Call (216) 264-4049 and mention USPA polka weekend to receive their special rate of \$105.00/night which includes a complimentary breakfast. You can also contact Joanne Piotrowski at (330) 410-5568 to purchase a discounted 3 day pass for \$47.00/person before 05/12/17.



Delphine Kuhar, Mindi Tietz, Paul Kuhar.

time in over 20 years, Polka Country Musicians will be recording their new CD entitled "Live ... and Jam II" on Sunday evening. This is your opportunity to be a part of polka history and be live during the CD recording.

It is unquestionable that this

**HOMECOMING.**

Growing up in West Virginia, polkas were never a part of my life, so it was thrilling when I was able to walk into the hall where I had my prom, and hear the sounds of **Lenny Gomulka** wafting through the air. The 6th annual **Wheeling Polka Festival** was held March 24-26 in Glessner Auditorium at Oglebay Resort and Conference

Center. I have attended many events at this beautifully appointed hall over the years but never did it feel as full of life as it did at this polka festival.

The resort was bustling with local and out of town polka lovers who took advantage of this breath-

taking resort to listen to their favorite bands. **Henny & the Versa Js, John Gora, The Boys, Lenny Gomulka, and Stephanie**, headlined this fantastic weekend. Hundreds turned out for this successful event ensuring that it will on Oglebay's agenda once again next year. I was lucky enough to combine a trip to visit family into the weekend so I could soak up some of the amazing entertainment.

Friday night at midnight the hall was still packed with attendees dancing the night away to polkas, obereks, and waltzes with Gomulka and Chicago Push. It was wonderful to see friends from Michigan, Buffalo, Chicago, Pennsylvania and beyond in my home town.

The Penn-Ohio area holds a very special place in their hearts for old time honky music, so Stephanie's performance was highly anticipated. The energy during her performance arouses the love for her showmanship and the respect she has for her fans. Each band evokes something different in each polka fan and it is entertaining to watch. The mountain resort is almost like a mini Seven Springs with a cabin like feel and a beautiful hall for dancing. You may even forget your aren't at Seven Springs when you are lucky enough to get a chance to chat with Kathy Blazonczyk, who was busy selling CDs from Bel-Aire Records over the course of the weekend.

Visitors were able to take advantage of the incredible surrounding landscape and amenities which allows for other activities including golf, horseback riding, spas, and restaurants.

**DYNGUS DAY.** Back in Buffalo, while we were getting revved up for our gigantic Dyngus events, there were many opportunities during the Lenten season to see our beloved local bands. The Broadway Market, which is bustling during this time of year supported the importance of polka music in Polish American heritage by showcasing music throughout the season. **Phocus, Special Delivery, New Direction, Dave Gawronski, Docenko Family, and Fritz Scherz** all lent their talents to entertain market goers. It is enjoyable to watch those shopping — even the vendors stop and tap their foot or dance around as soon as they hear the polka music. It would not be the Easter season in Buffalo without the buoyant sound of polka bands echoing through this 127 year old Polonia landmark.

Doug King and Jes Klaich-Snoke  
Congratulations to the administration of the market for embracing the importance that polka music plays in the Polish heritage of Western New York.

David Bezdziecki and Mike Gryczko.

**MULTI-ETHNIC FARE.** The yearly St. Patrick's Day, Dyngus Day, and St. Joseph's Day event was held at the Buffalo Irish Center. The combination of these three heritage based holidays allows a welcome opportunity for outsiders to hear ethnic music from diverse backgrounds. **Special Delivery** kept the Polish room loaded with both devoted and new polka fans. Their infectious beat is hard to ignore as you are walking from room to room. This continues to be a very popular event where many of us go to support not only our culture but the others that make Western New York an area filled with much tradition and pride. Of course, in my opinion, the polka band is always the best entertainment at this event.

Next month, I will chronicle my full 2017 Dyngus Day experience as there is so much to cover and so much stellar entertainment. I strive to visit as many venues as I can but each year it is growing and it is impossible to get to every one of them.

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## Pulaski Polkas in Pasadena

PASADENA, Calif. — The Pulaski High School Band of Pulaski, Wis., made its third trip to the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade this past January. Included in its performance was the "Pulaski Polka," a medley of "Roll out the Barrel," "Clarinet Polka," and the "Red Wing" polka. The Pulaski band has played a polka at each of its visits to Pasadena (2007, 2012, and 2017), each time featuring an accordion player. This year, a concertina was added for the first time.

The band plays the "Pulaski Polka" at football and basketball games. They enjoy playing it, and the song is a crowd favorite.

Pictured above are accordionist John Hackett and concertina player Karter Maroszek.

**POLKA CORRESPONDENTS WANTED.** Is there an upcoming polka event in your area? Want to share news about a band's great performance at a festival? Drop us a line at [info@polamjournal.com](mailto:info@polamjournal.com) or call (800) 422-1275. No experience necessary (but a fondness for the music helps!).



**Polka Calendar**

Compiled by John Ziobrowski  
To list your event, please send date, band, location, times, and contact number to:  
[zjziobrowskijohn@gmail.com](mailto:zjziobrowskijohn@gmail.com)

- MAY 6**
  - John Stevens. Festhalle. Asbury Park, N.J. 4-8. (782) 997-8767
  - Walt Groller. Fire Hall. Emigsville, Pa. 7-11. (717) 235-4667
- MAY 7**
  - Special Delivery Band. Clinton Bar & Grill. Buffalo, N.Y. 4:30-7:30. (716) 768-3246
  - Lenny Gomulka. PACC. Ludlow, Mass. 2-6. (413) 567-191
  - Swingmasters. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 654-5504
  - John Stevens. Roosevelt Hall. Norvelt, Pa. 3-7. (724) 423-8558
  - Sounds of The South. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
  - Nu Soundz. Pulaski Club. Holiday, Fla. 230-5:30. (727) 934-0900
- MAY 9**
  - Buffalo Touch. River Grill, Tonawanda, N.Y. 6:30 (716) 873-2553
- MAY 13**
  - Alex Meixner. Leiderkrantz, Reading, Pa. 5:00 p.m. (610) 373-3982.
  - The Boys. Monaghan Fire Hall. Dillsburg, Pa. 7-11. (717) 458-5286
  - Dennis Polisky. St. Joe Polish Club. Colchester, Conn. 6:30-10:30. (860) 537-2550
  - Jimmy Sturr / Eddie Forman. Pulaski Park. Three Rivers, Mass. 2-6. (413) 592-0367
- MAY 14**
  - John Stevens. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
  - Ray Jay. Polish Club. Connellsville, Pa. (724) 628-6761
  - Melotones. Polish Club. Belleview, Fla. 2-5. (352) 245-9378
  - Polka All Stars. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-6059
  - Danny Mack. Pulaski Club. Holiday, Fla. 2:30-5:30. (727) 934-0900
- MAY 16**
  - John Stevens. Best Western. Matamoras, Pa. 11:30 a.m. (518) 491-2400
- MAY 17**
  - John Stevens. Best Western. Matamoras, Pa. 11:30 a.m. (518) 491-2400
- MAY 18**
  - Buffalo Touch. Potts. Buffalo, N.Y. Buzz Taping. 6 p.m. (716) 675-6588

- MAY 19-21**
  - Jimmy Sturr / Versa Js / Treltones / Mel Sinchak / Joe Maloy / Frank Stanger / Jack Tady / Dick Tady. Convention Center. Monroeville Pa. 19th 5-11; 20th 12-11; 21st 1-8. (412) 373-7300
- MAY 20**
  - The Special Delivery Band. Our Lady of Czestochowa. N. Tonawanda, N.Y. 4 p.m. Polka Mass. (716) 693-3822
  - John Gora. Ukrainian Hall. Reading, Pa. 6-10. (610) 207-7875
  - Walt Groller. Fire House. Mt. Bethel, Pa. 4-8. (610) 588-7538
- MAY 21**
  - Polka Who Band. Sacred Heart Parish Center, 2596 Cornwall, Cornwall, Pa. 2-6. (717) 566-5704
  - Lenny Gomulka. Evergreen Country Club, 415 Hartz Rd., Fleetwood, Pa. 2-6. (610) 944-7501
  - John Gora. Roselawn Banquets. New York Mills, N.Y. 3-7. (315) 736-5030
  - Penna Villagers. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
  - John Stevens. PLAV. Pine Island, N.Y. 2-6. (845) 258-4168
  - Rex Tanieri. American Legion. Rosister, Pa. 2-6. (814) 938-9891
  - Northern Lites. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
- MAY 23**
  - The Knewz. Polish Falcons, Depew, N.Y. 7:30-? (716) 684-2373
- MAY 25**
  - Jimmy K. Holiday Inn. Independence, Ohio. 9-1. (216) 524-8050
- MAY 26**
  - Lenny Gomulka / Freeze Dried / The Knewz / Concertina All Stars. Holiday Inn. Independence, Ohio. 5-2 (216) 524-8050
- MAY 27**
  - Brian Kurdziels All Stars / John Gora / New Horizon / Dennis Polisky / Versatones / Box On / Nutones / The Project. Holiday Inn. Independence, Ohio. 12-2. (216) 524-8050
- MAY 28**
  - John Gora / Polka Family / Polka Country Musicians / The Boys. Holiday Inn. Independence, Ohio. 1-1 (216) 524-8050
  - George Tarasek. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5584
  - Polka Classics. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 259-7059

**Henry “Henny” Jasiewicz, Leader of the Versa Js**



PITTSBURGH, Pa. — Henry David Jasiewicz, 71, of McKeesport, Pa., died Tuesday April 25, 2017 at home after a courageous battle with brain cancer. He fought until the end.

The leader of Henny & the Versa Js, Jasiewicz, he performed profes-

sionally since he was nine years old. He started his polka career playing trumpet for Leo Gibala & The Bell Hops, and performed with that group for several years.

He started Henny & The Versa Js in 1979. The group performed locally, nationally, and in Poland.

Topping off a list of accomplishments was a 2004 Grammy award nomination. Jasiewicz was also the recipient of many awards and commendations, including recognition from: the International Polka Association (inducted into the IPA Hall of Fame in 2011); United States Polka Association; 24/7 Polka Heaven; and a proclamation from the city of McKeesport, making the month of May “Henny & The Versa Js Month.”

He was the owner/operator of Renzie Auto Center, and was known as a “people person.” Jasiewicz was a member of the 11th Ward club, the PNA Club #352 in McKeesport, Pittsburgh Musicians, Cleveland Polka Association, United States Polka Association, and International Polka Association.

He was born May 22, 1945 in McKeesport and was the son of the late Henry T. and Josephine Balawadger Jasiewicz. A 1963 graduate of McKeesport High School, he married Joan A. Wirth on April 8, 1967, and was the father of Teri Jasiewicz (John) Binkiewicz of Pickerington, Ohio and Henry J. “Butchie” (Teresa Whitney) Jasiewicz of Hempfield Township, Pa. He also survived by sister Diane “Dee-Dee” Jasiewicz Ogradny (late Stas) of Nashville, Tenn.; six grandchildren: Justin, Jayna and Anna Binkiewicz, and Julia, Emma, and Jacob Jasiewicz; nieces, nephews, and several cousins.

The family would like to thank Henny’s many care-givers including: Hillman Cancer Center, Dr. Drappatz, Dr. Lou DiToppa and all of the nurses/staff for their support and help to get him through his battle. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at Corpus Christi Church, and he was laid to rest at St. Mary’s Polish Cemetery, White Oak, Pa.

Condolences may be made at [gilbertfuneralhomeandcrematory.com](http://gilbertfuneralhomeandcrematory.com).

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# What We Remember are the Wonderful Years

Celebrating  
Ada Dziewanowska's  
100th birthday

by Katarzyna Murawska

A rare occurrence took place on the 11th of February 2017 at the Wisconsin Club in Milwaukee. It is true that every year the Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble presents its annual Bal Maszkowy (Masquerade Ball), but this year it was exceptional. The event was sold out and the attendance was to capacity, as many came to this esteemed event to pay tribute to Pani Ada Dziewanowska on the occasion of her 100th birthday. They came from local Polonia organizations, family from near and far, friends and guests, who traveled for this event from many sides of the United States and from Poland.

At the entrance of the Ballroom, the guests were greeted with a beautiful portrait surrounded by a collage of miniature portraits of Pani Ada, dressed in a kontusze costume with a crown on her head, made by Chicago photographer Marcin Murawski. I believe that such a crown in this case is not an element of the national costume of Poland, but in recognition of her merits and accomplishments.

For such a well-deserved birthday recipient, the group's organizing committee prepared a royal feast. Each guest chose a mask symbolizing their own features. Hidden behind this persona, they could visit the bar serving spirited drinks that included Polish honey liquors and fine wines. With a glass, conversations flowed, so before the main dinner all the guests, old regulars and those who came for the first time were befriended. My place was, for me, a special honor, because it was at a table of "friends."

It is true that "man does not live by bread alone." But the dinner prepared by the organizers exceeded



The guest of honor, Pani Ada.

expectations. It consisted of Polish wild mushroom barley soup, a trio of Polish salads, main dishes of caraway salmon and Angus tenderloin, a strawberry schaum torte, and a buffet of Polish pastries – all handmade by the Syrena Ensemble. All in attendance raised a glass for a toast to Pani Ada, extending their sincere congratulations and wishes for many, many years of healthy life. The Mayor of Milwaukee, Tom Barrett gave his personal regards and a congratulatory letter from the Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, Robert Rusiecki was read.

Pani Ada with her son, Jaś, led the guests in a communal polonez, with her daughter Basia and grandsons Steven and Alex following. Dance music was provided by the Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra from Chicago.

As a special tribute, an artistic presentation chronicling the life of Pani Ada was performed by the Syrena Ensemble in three parts throughout the evening, and it was exceptional. "Tad and Friends" (Tad Melon, Emilka Melon, and Paweł Dubaniewicz) – a trio of two violins and a guitar from Warsaw – provided the musical accompaniment.

Projection imagery of vintage photos was shown.

The first section depicted Ada as a young child (Susanna Wormbacher) with her sisters in Poland, as she first became exposed to folk culture. In a swirling entrance she became Ada as a teenager (portrayed by Angela Michalski) dancing in front of a mirror and attending her first society ball. Michalski wore a replica of Ada's original pale blue gown. She dances with a young suitor who invites her to a masked ball.

The second section evoked the period when Ada listened to the popular music of the 1930s and became transported to the place she could only dream about – the Warsaw Cabaret scene at Quid Pro Quo. The climate from that period was expressed in the scenes, dances and songs of the era. The character of the pianist Władysław Szpilman playing *Nocture No. 20 in C Sharp Minor* was portrayed by Fabian Qamar. With distress we listened to the torch song of Hanka Ordonówna's "Miłość ci wszystko wybaczy" (sung by Lynn Dziadulewicz), in which she pledges that "love will forgive everything," and then to Eugeniusz Bodo making a contract to "meet at 9:00" in the playful



The Lancer's Mazur.



(Left) Ada Dziewanowska at her first society ball, and (right) — re-enacting exciting time — Angela Michalski in a replica of Ada's original pale blue gown.

"Umówiłem się z nią na dziewiątą (sung by Nick Jawdosiu). The exotic *Tango Milonga* and the Foxtrot-Charleston "Ada to nie wypada" were danced.

The last section followed Ada as she leaves war-torn Poland for a life in Sweden, London, and Boston – where she is seen in rehearsals as the choreographer of The Krakowiak dancers, and finally in Milwaukee as the Artistic Director of Syrena. The program closed with Chopin's song *Życzenie* (G-dur op. 74 nr 1) and Ada's *Lancer's Mazur*.

All this we were able to see through the careful direction and choreography of Staś Kmiec of New York.

Pani Ada was serenaded by a round of "Sto Lat - Dwieście Lat – Wielki Lat." and received a multitude of roses and flowers. The Polish School children presented a giant card with spoken verses in English and Polish. Friends from Chicago recited a poem with imaginative folk dance references, as each presented a single red rose. Stanley Pelc, former director of the



Micheline and Richard Jaminski (Wesoly Lud PRCUA, Chicago), Edward Rajtar (Dolina Dancers, Minneapolis), Donna and Tom Tom Skurski (Wawel Dancers, Detroit) and Edward Hoffman (Krakusy Dancers, Los Angeles) expressed their wishes, and a plaque from the Polish Folk Dance Association of the Americas was given.

The dance floor was filled with couples dancing to a repertoire that consisted of social dances, among them the most famous and most beautiful tangos and waltzes, overlapped with Polish folk and recreational dances.

As the evening came to an end, guests said farewell and were able to leave their autographs and thoughts on the specially prepared portrait poster. It was difficult leaving such an extraordinary ball, as an entire year will pass before the next one. But it will be a different ball, as this was a 100-year celebration. Thank God that He has kept Pani Ada in health, and let her continue for many long, long years.

In conclusion — paraphrasing the words of Adam Mickiewicz — "... i ja tam z gośćmi byłam, miód i wino piłam" (...and I was there among the guests, honey and wine I drank) and what we are most lucky for is to remember those wonderful years from the past. Pani Ada, as I told you — "co zostało z tamtych szczęśliwych lat."

Polish American Folk Dance Company of New York sent a ribboned signature white rose. Polish folk dance directors and choreographers:

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**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Festival Chairman: David Kopala

E-mail: davidkopala@gmail.com

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