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BEFORE ROB,  
THERE WAS IGGY  
PAGE 14

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

**POLONIA'S MATERNAL SPIRIT • HONORS FOR BENETAR • MAHER CALLS IMPRUDENT BUSINESS PLAN "POLISH"**  
**CHRZANOWSKA BECOMES FIRST R.N. TO BE CONSIDERED FOR SAINTHOOD • OWN A PIECE OF POLISH ART HISTORY**  
**KRASZEWSKI GIVES MICKIEWICZ'S DZIADY A NEW AUDIENCE • POLONIA PLACES: ST. CASIMIR'S CHURCH, KENOSHA**

## Newsmark

**POLAND SIGNS DEAL TO BUY AMERICAN AIR-DEFENSE SYSTEM.** Poland has signed an historic deal to buy American Patriot air-defense systems for \$4.75 billion. The first Patriot systems are expected to reach Poland by 2022, followed by additional deliveries in 2024.

The contract was signed by Polish Defense Minister Mariusz Blaszczak at a ceremony in Warsaw attended by President Andrzej Duda, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, and the U.S. ambassador to Poland, Paul W. Jones.

Duda said the deal for the anti-aircraft and anti-missile system marked a "historic moment." The U.S. Embassy website called the agreement "the culmination of our two countries' efforts over the past few years," and is a direct result of a meeting between President Trump's and President Duda in Warsaw last July.

**SOLIDARITY WITH BRITAIN.** Poland expelled four Russian diplomats over the poisoning a former Russian spy and his daughter in Britain. Polish Foreign Minister Jacek Czaputowicz said the diplomats had to leave the country by April 3.

"Showing solidarity with Britain and other countries is the most important thing," said Czaputowicz. "There are diplomatic costs to that, but they are worth it."

Shortly after Poland's announcement, Russia retaliated. Poland's Ambassador to Russia, Włodzimierz Marciniak was told by the Russian federation's foreign ministry that four Polish diplomats, having been "recognized as undesirable persons" were ordered to leave Russia by April 7.

**ISSUES WARNING ON BREXIT.** Poland's member of European Union warned the EU is "underestimating Brexit."

Speaking at a conference on the EU's future, Danuta Hubner, chair of the Parliament's Regional Affairs committee and a member of its Brexit Steering Group, said "we are underestimating the consequences of Brexit in all of its dimensions, for the European Union and also the regions and the local communities that are linked strongly with our British partners on different levels of cooperation."

The Steering Group's purpose is to coordinate and put together Parliament's deliberations, resolutions and considerations relative to British withdrawal from the European Union. Hubner has voiced concern regularly over the risks and complexities of Brexit, over next year's European Parliament elections, and Poland's fragile relation with Brussels.

**BUSINESS UPGRADE.** Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki told a joint press conference in Warsaw that a new chamber of commerce known as PolCham USA, would help the country enter a new stage of enhanced Polish-U.S. relations.

"The establishment of the Polish-U.S. chamber is yet another milestone on the road towards building a strong presence of our business on the American continent, but also towards strengthening the presence of U.S. entrepreneurs in Poland," said Morawiecki.

At the news conference attended by U.S. Ambassador Paul Jones, Morawiecki said that Poland's strong economy was attractive to foreign investment, including that from American companies.

**POLAND'S OLDEST MALE, DEAD AT 108.** A firefighter and World War II veteran, said to be Poland's oldest male, died recently at the age of 108, the website of the Volunteer Fire Brigade in the village of Toporzysko reported recently.

A resident of the village of Czarnowo in northern Poland's Kujawy region, Jerzy Żurek, was born in 1909 and was among the founders of the local fire brigade. He fought against the invading Germans in the World War II Battle of Bzura, was captured, sent to a POW camp, and later to forced labor on a farm in Germany.

"All the men in my unit got killed. I survived only because I had been sent off on a reconnaissance mission," Żurek said.

## Orchard Lake Schools Names Polish Mission Director

ORCHARD LAKE, Mich. — The Orchard Lake Schools announced its selection of Dr. Arkadiusz Gorecki as its Director of The Polish Mission. The purpose of The Polish Mission is to preserve and promote Polish and Polish-American culture, tradition, and history for present and future generations. It organizes programs, courses and events that highlight Polish and Polish-American culture and accomplishments, and ensures a repository for artifacts, archival materials, works of art, and publications.

Dr. Gorecki was born in Olsztyn, Poland, currently lives in Chicago, and is a U.S. citizen. The world renowned musician received the highest degree, a Professional Diploma in Music Performance from the Roosevelt University in Chicago, with a concentration in Orchestral Studies

See "Gorecki," page 4

## Recognition Well-Deserved



Polish Ambassador **Piotr Wilczek** (left) presents **Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada** with a "Nominations Diploma," which certifies the noted historian as an elected foreign member of the Polska Akademia Umiejętności (Polish Academy of Arts & Sciences) based in Kraków. He is now part of the Academy's Section II History and Philosophy.

The presentation took place March 27, at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. Arrangements were made by Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in Raleigh, Dr. Alvin M. Fountain.

Dr. Gromada is Professor Emeritus of History of New Jersey City of History. During his tenure at NJCU he pioneered the Multi-Ethnic and Immigrations Studies program. In addition he was closely associated with the New York based Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America (PIASA) where he served as Secretary General, Executive Director and later as President. Dr. Gromada also served as President of the Polish American Historical Association for two terms.

Special to the Polish American Journal

## Holocaust Remembrance Law Puts Poland on the Wrong Side of the Global Left

No Polish family was left untouched by the Nazi death machine. As a result, when Poles hear the words "Polish death camps" or "Polish Holocaust" they bristle.

by Matthew Tyrmand

(JERUSALEM POST / March 10, 2018) — As the global media has highlighted *ad nauseam*, Poland recently passed through the legislature a bill that seeks to criminalize the holding of the Polish state complicit for the German Nazi crimes of the Holocaust and the attendant German atrocities during World War II. Currently the bill is being looked at by Poland's Constitutional Tribunal after Polish President Andrzej Duda sent it for review to make sure it complies with the Polish Constitution.

This bill, known as "Ustawa IPN" ("Institute of National Remembrance Law"), was motivated by Poles' desire to correct historical inaccuracies regarding Poland's image and the purported role Poland played during this dark time in history. Poland suffered more than any other country during this period as the Nazi plan was to extinguish Polishness and Poland from the map in the hegemonic expansion of the Third Reich, in addition to their "Final Solution" *vis a vis* European Jewry.

Widely accepted estimates of loss of life in Poland suggest six million Poles perished — three million Jewish and three million non-Jewish Poles. No Polish

family was left untouched by the Nazi death machine. As a result, when Poles hear the words "Polish death camps" or "Polish Holocaust" they bristle. Only in



Nazi soldiers lead a group of Polish women into a forested area to be shot. Location and date unspecified. Poland was literally the only country in Nazi-occupied Europe that never demonstrated any complicity with the fascist Nazi occupiers. German law decreed immediate execution of Poles who protected Jews.

recent years did the international media formally change their style guides to strike "Polish death camps" from the press lexicon (and in a fitting display of how widespread this ignorance was,

even such a supposedly liberal, sensitive, worldly, cosmopolitan, nuanced ivory-tower academic elite as Barack Obama used the term, referencing Auschwitz in a speech in 2012, to such widespread consternation that it served as a final straw on this issue).

**NON-COMPLICIT.** Poland was literally the only country in Nazi-occupied Europe that never demonstrated any complicity with the fascist Nazi occupiers (we all remember the Vichy regime in France and the Quisling one in Norway, which were closer to the norm than the ex-

ception in continental Europe). Poland operated a government-in-exile in London, never had a single SS volunteer,

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## Almanac

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## May ☺ Maj

"By the age of nine, I had a thorough knowledge of contemporary Polish literature as well as of foreign literature in Polish translation, and I began to write poems in honor of a lady of thirty years. Naturally, she knew nothing about them."

— **Wladyslaw Reymont** (b. May 7, 1867), Polish novelist and the 1924 laureate of the Nobel Prize in Literature.

- 1 **ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER**  
1576. Coronation of **Stephen Batory** and **Anna Jagiellon**.
- 2 1921. **Third Silesian Uprising** begins.
- 3 **FEAST OF MARY, QUEEN OF POLAND**  
**ŚWIĘTO TRZECIEGO MAJA**  
*Polish Constitution Day.* Poland's Constitution of 1791 is the second oldest democratic constitution in the world.
- 4 1870. Birth of **Zygmunt Stojowski**, friend of Peter Tchaikovsky and student of Ignacy Jan Paderewski.
- 5 1846. Birth of novelist **Henryk Sienkiewicz** (d. 1916).
- 6 1648. Battle at **Zolty Wody-Bohdan**: Chmielricki's Cossacks beat John II Casimir.
- 7 1794. Issuance of **Proclamation of Połaniec**, which partially abolished serfdom in Poland, granting substantial civil liberties to all the peasants.
- 8 **VE DAY (U.S.)**  
**ST. STANISLAUS**
- 9 1667. Death of **Marie Louise de Gonzague-Nevers**, French Queen of Poland (1645-48).
- 10 1034. Death of **Mieszko II Lambert**
- 12 1670. Birth of **August II the Strong One** (d.1733), King of Poland and elector of Saxony.
- 13 **MOTHER'S DAY (U.S.)**  
1889. Founding of the **Polish Singers Alliance of America**.
- 15 1942. Founding of the **Polish Institute of Sciences in America**, in New York.
- 16 1940. Authorization of AB Action, the second stage of the Nazi German campaign to eliminate the intellectuals and the upper classes of Polish society across the territories slated for eventual annexation.
- 18 1792. Russian troops invade Poland.  
1920. Birth of **Karol Wojtyła** in Wadowice, Poland, named Pope John Paul II, October 16, 1978.
- 19 **ARMED FORCES DAY (U.S.)**
- 21 1674. Coronation of **Jan III Sobieski**, who defeated the Turkish Armies during the battle of Vienna in 1683, the "Defender of Christendom."
- 22 1898. Founding of the fraternal benefit society, the **Polish Women's Alliance**.
- 24 1543. Death of **Nicholas Copernicus** (Mikolaj Kopernik), Polish astronomer.
- 25 1861. Death of **Capt. Constantine Blandowski**, first foreign-born officer to die in the Civil War.
- 26 **MOTHER'S DAY (POLAND)**
- 27 1953. Defection to the West of Polish pilot **Lt. Francis Jarecki**.
- 28 1883. Death of poet **Cyprian Norwid**.
- 29 1792, Great Sejm, which ratified Poland's Constitution of May 3, 1791 ends
- 30 **MEMORIAL DAY (U.S.)**
- 31 **CORPUS CHRISTI**  
*Boże Ciało*, a free day in Poland, the religious feastday is marked by Eucharistic processions down streets and country lanes.

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## Remembrance Law: Poles Were Executed for Hiding Jews

continued from cover

and saw penalties for hiding Jews more severe than anywhere else (whole families, such as the Ulma family in Markowa, Poland, were executed for doing the right and honorable thing).

The government-in-exile made it a crime for Poles to give up Jews to the Nazis, under penalty of death, and the "Council to Aid Jews" (Żegota) was set up by the Polish resistance in 1942. Poland had more "Righteous Among the Nations" than any other nation according to Yad Vashem – which makes sense as Poland was ground zero for European Jewry for many centuries, which in turn is why Hitler's Final Solution was so predicated on a network of death camps being built in Poland. To this day there are more stories of the hiding and saving of Jews by Poles in Poland being continually unearthed and honored.

Poles valiantly kept fighting throughout the war, under the worst of circumstances, against the longest of odds (all should read about the legendary Warsaw Uprising, which U.S. President Donald Trump spoke of eloquently in his July 2017 open-air Warsaw speech) and despite the largest loss of life nominally and on a per capita basis of any nation in Europe fighting to maintain its existence. What was the result of this unparalleled sacrifice? Despite an Allied victory, Poland lost its independence yet again when it was traded away to another tyrannical hegemony-seeking despot in Josef Stalin and the Russian Soviet communists by FDR at Yalta in 1945.

So while the German industrial machine was being rebuilt by American taxpayers, affording Germany the ability to pay reparations and reform its image as a bastion of cosmopolitan elitism (and a multi-generational proponent of Eurocentrism, globalism, progressive leftism, multiculturalism, cultural relativism and post-modernist social theories) Poland was suffering for five more decades under the jackboot of Iron Curtain Sovietism.

**A NEW MANDATE.** Fast-forward to 2015 when Poland elected, with an unprecedented-in-scale democratic mandate, its first purely conservative (and nationalist populist) government: Law & Justice (PiS). This party had no ties to the communists or the corrupt post-communist petty oligarchy that, fully amnestied by Lech Walesa, had successfully exploited the transition after 1989 for personal gain and to the detriment of the Polish people/nation, often allying with the EU in ceding Polish sovereignty to Brussels. The Law & Justice government, with its pro-nation state sovereignty mandate, found itself in direct opposition to the EU's centralization of power project and its designs on introducing supranational governance to an open-border super-state. We have watched this nasty, ideologically-driven international media war play out for over two years.

Given this historical context, one can understand why this Polish government, with the paramount motivation to correct the historical record regarding Poland's wartime history, would draft a bill such as "Ustawa IPN." It was cronyist looting more than governing or correcting false historical narratives that took precedence for PiS's Eurocentric predecessors, Civic Platform (PO), the party of Donald Tusk and Radoslaw Sikorski. When this was exposed during the infamous hidden tapes scandal Aferatasmowa (printed transcripts demonstrating the

extent of PO's brazen back-room corruption published in Polish news weekly *Wprost*) it led rightfully to its being ignominiously turfed out of power, much to their Brussels partners' chagrin, and to Law & Justice receiving its overwhelming mandate from a fed-up Polish electorate.

That being said, Law & Justice has not made it easy on itself in the way this bill was constructed and with regard to utilizing the necessary diplomacy to communicate its goals while treading into this highly (and justly) sensitive topic.



During the night of March 23, 1944, German police came to Markowa, Poland, where they found the Jews on a farm owned by Jozef Ulma and his wife, Wiktoria (above). The Jews were shot to death. Following a standing order from Berlin, Jozef, Wiktoria (who was seven months pregnant), and their six small children were executed. On September 13, 1995, Yad Vashem recognized Jozef and Wiktoria as Righteous Among the Nations.

**DOUBLE STANDARD.** The criminalization of speech, with the threat of up to three-year prison sentences for violating the proposed law's rather vague precepts, for which the Polish government is currently under attack, does not deviate that greatly from similar pieces of established law in Germany, Scandinavia, France, the UK, and Israel in their own treatments of Holocaust denial and that era's tragic history.

(This author believe all these laws violate the fundamental human right to unfettered free speech, which is inextricably linked to the ability of free societies to remain optimally free and ultimately innovative and prosperous. Under the rubric of policing "hate speech" – which can never be fundamentally defined and as such offers a plethora of slippery slopes toward censorship and thought crime as per Orwell – there is a European societal standard applied in contravention of this natural right.)

In the case of the Polish law there exists a clear double standard. Moreover, there is massive disinformation circulating on what the law is actually meant to police – so massive in fact, that it seems that this is being used as an opportunity to undermine the Polish good faith motivations behind this law's support in order to coercively play politics.

The law explicitly states that the criminal action pertains exclusively to the allegation of Polish state complicity, not the complicity of individual Poles, some of whom, during wartime (and before and after, as any society will see) did atrocious things and are worthy of the historical condemnations that have been levied and will continue to be researched and highlighted.

**DESIGNED FOR EFFECT.** The roll-out of the law, as with its wording and the communications that surrounded it, was particularly egregious. After sitting on it the entire first half of this government's term, the Polish Justice Ministry pushed it to the Sejm (the lower house of Polish Parliament — the first stop for new legislation) for a vote on Friday January 26 – one day before International Holocaust Memorial Day. I have written in the past in about the rogue justice minister (Zbigniew Ziobro) with his own political agenda (factions exist in every political party and movement) and in this case the timing was too guaranteed to create a diplomatic crisis to be anything but an inside operation.

This came on the heels of newly elevated Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki's successful trips to Brussels and Davos, where he handled himself with aplomb with Eurocrat Jean-Claude Juncker and the Davos international media elite. Morawiecki successfully put a new face of centrism, pragmatism, rationality, worldliness and reasonableness on this Polish government. The internal faction of hardline nationalists, which Justice Minister Ziobro founded and leads (Solidarna Polska) and its supporters were displeased to see Morawiecki's collective Polish success abroad, which undermines their own electoral aspirations. Hence the deliberately provocative timing of this bill.

Not surprisingly, given the timing, and the fact that the coming Israeli electoral cycle is currently heating up, Israeli politicians flocked to this issue to paint this law as an example of legislating fallacious historical revisionism and a form of Holocaust denial (by shifting potential culpabilities), and thus a re-institutionalization of what they allege is Polish cultural antisemitism. This has now escalated with the entrance into the fray by the international media cohort, American legislators, the U.S. State Department and many others of the global political classes who have since weighed in on this issue.

**The Law & Justice Party has not made it easy on itself in the way this bill was constructed and with regard to utilizing the necessary diplomacy to communicate its goals while treading into this highly (and justly) sensitive topic.**

**FUEL TO THE FIRE.** As with Ziobro's botched initial judicial reform, put forward this past summer, he again, evidently not a believer in Harry S. Truman's "the buck stops here" aphorism, went absolutely invisible for the month since the brouhaha commenced. Instead, as also had played out previously with this past summer's judicial reform, he sent his lackey deputy minister, Patryk Jaki, to be the public face of the ministerial defense of this bill, its structure and wording, and its timing (all very tough to defend – especially given the diplomatic crisis that was birthed from its release ... as outcomes in politics matter).

Morawiecki added fuel to the fire in Germany for the Munich Security Conference when he fielded a question from Ronen Bergman, an Israeli journalist (and a *New York Times* contributor), who seemed less interested in a breakdown of the actual mechanics of the law than in spinning a validation of his preferred depiction of it for his partisan readership and preening his own moral high ground against the Polish Prime Minister.

Bergman floridly emotes: "[Morawiecki] stares at me as if he is examining some kind of nuisance"

in his accounting of the prime minister's response to his question. Said response (using the word "perpetrators" to refer to other groups during the war, including Jews) was admittedly not well constructed to assuage legitimate sensitivities. As one who knows the Polish prime minister and his pragmatism personally, this was probably more owed to the nuance of linguistics in word choice than a desire to be malicious, which clearly does no good for anyone. Bergman continues: "These comments left me flabbergasted. My eyes were filled with tears of pain and rage. I was glad I had at least helped reveal his true colors with my question."

Hardly the journalistic presentation of one who wants to report news.

(Lest this 100% Jewish author be labeled an antisemite, again, for not adhering to whatever the "acceptable" sensibilities might be in describing this above incident as prescribed by the global media elite, like Mr. Bergman's family mine, too, was dramatically and forever impacted by the Holocaust, as my Polish father's line was all but extinguished by the Nazis in the Warsaw ghetto and Majdanek death camp in Lublin, Poland. Moreover, these issues regarding Polish-Jewish relations and history are ones I have thought and exposted on deeply. N.B.)

**STRONG TIES.** One month after the initial vote, the justice minister came out of hiding to declare in an interview (and formally state on the ministry's website) that, with the bill passed, there will be no freezing of its enforcement, in a direct move to undermine ongoing talks and the review to soften its language and structure and make it more palatable to critics. This was clearly an attempt to prevent diplomatic resolutions from being consummated and a sabotaging of the Polish-Israeli dialogue that was to commence in coming weeks.

The great and tragic irony of this diplomatic crisis – propelled further by those (internally and exter-

nally) who have a strong political interest in seeing Poland and this conservative nationalist populist government, not pliant to Brussels' diktats, weakened — is that heretofore Polish-Israeli relations were the strongest of any EU nation's relations with the Jewish state. These strong modern-era relations have been predicated on shared history and identity; hundreds of years of Polish-Jewish cohabitation; a large number of Polish Jews being instrumental in the creation of the Zionist state (with Polish one of the first languages utilized in the Knesset); existent strong contemporary trade ties with a material amount of modern Warsaw being developed by Israeli business concerns; congruent political alignments (especially now with both countries being governed by true conservative parties) on border security and the shared distrust and willingness to call out radical Islam (which clearly differs from the majority of the political classes of Western Europe); relatively few incidents of actual antisemitic violence in Poland (starkly juxtaposed with the regularity of such incidents in France, Germany, Scandinavia,

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# Remembrance Law: Outcry Drives Wedge Between Allies

continued from page 2

and the rest of the progressive leftist Western continent which continues to appease Islamist political cohorts); and most recently, the abstention by Poland at the United Nations vote condemning the United States in the moving of its embassy to Jerusalem (where predictably every EU nation from Germany westward voted to condemn President Trump's action).

Also telling is that in 2008, on the fortieth anniversary of the 1968 university purges of Jewish students, president Lech Kaczynski (the president when Law & Justice last dominated Polish politics), led the initiative to symbolically restore Polish citizenship to those Jews who were ejected and consequently fled Poland.

**OVERREACTION.** It is clear, given the double standard on widespread pan-European laws censoring speech regarding these sensitive historical issues, that the politically oriented motivation for this dramatic attack on Poland's iteration of this sort of law extends beyond European political actors.

Recently, the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center loudly and publicly issued a call for Jews to limit their travel to Poland, that reads: "In wake of the controversial new Holocaust Law in Poland and the anti-Semitism it has unleashed that has left the Jewish community shaken, the Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC) is considering issuing a

Travel Advisory for world Jewry."

Despite such a dramatic statement there does not seem to be any evidence of this "unleashing" of antisemitism by any empirical metric. Can such "unleashed antisemitism" be similarly disproven against the empirical reality of seeing robust antisemitic activity in France, Ger-

**WORK IS NEEDED.** We have seen Poland under attack this way from the global elite time and again since this government took power. Recently, the annual march in Warsaw this past November 11 celebrating Polish Independence Day was painted by the global media as an assemblage of fascists and Nazis, despite

its current form. Diplomacy is built around getting the other side to see and understand your viewpoint and goals through dialogue and discourse. There needs to be a serious reworking of the structure of this bill, something that appears may be currently in the works (as long as the Polish justice minister is not able to quash such efforts), where the violations and the enforcement mechanisms are clearly delineated and communicated and found to be acceptable to more than just the far-right domestic Polish political base.

If this does not occur, then the globalist Left political cohort will have won (with some domestic assistance) in successfully driving a wedge in relations between Poland and its U.S. and Israeli allies – all helmed by governments that share much in policy philosophy. This would be an unacceptable failure with long-term negative implications for Poland's ascendant standing in the European political order along with a negation of the concomitant opportunities for the American and Israeli allies' deeper engagement with Poland on a myriad of shared interests.

❖ ❖ ❖

*Matthew Tyrmand is a journalist and dual Polish and American citizen actively involved in commenting on politics across multiple media in both places.*

*He writes a weekly column for Polish newsweekly Do Rzeczy and has contributed to Breitbart, Forbes, and other outlets in the English language.*

**Polish synagogues, both actively attended ones and historical sites (frequently refurbished due to their cultural importance), do not need 24-hour armed protection. Can the same be said in Berlin, Germany? Or in Copenhagen, Denmark, or Gothenburg and Malmo, Sweden? The selection of Poland as a focus of consternation and intervention by organizations, foundations and advocacy groups reeks of this uber-politicization.**

many, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Holland, Belgium, *et al.*, perpetrated by hostile third world migrants and refugees from the Islamic third world, many of whom stridently believe in the theological dictates that include death by jihad to worldwide Jewry?

Polish synagogues, both actively attended ones and historical sites (frequently refurbished due to their cultural importance), do not need 24-hour armed protection. Can the same be said in Berlin, Germany? Or in Copenhagen, Denmark, or Gothenburg and Malmo, Sweden? The selection of Poland as a focus of consternation and intervention by organizations, foundations and advocacy groups reeks of this uber-politicization.

the fallacious manufacture of this allegation. It further indicated Poland is under attack for political reasons and held to a far different, and non-merit-based, standard by those coordinating the undermining campaign. When a far-left "charitable" foundation engages in provocations to drive negative media coverage and test the viability of enforcing this proposed law, and internal political opposition (such as Donald Tusk represents) can bludgeon externally from Brussels perches, then it also indicates the existence of such a campaign.

But outcomes do matter in geopolitics and as such, it is worth reconsidering the negative diplomatic implications of following through with passage of this law in

## Polish-Jewish Relations

### Highs and Lows in Recent Exchanges

**HIGH.** Polish President Andrzej Duda and his Israeli counterpart Reuven Rivlin led over 10,000 young Jews from Israel and elsewhere in the 30th annual two-mile March of the Living, paying tribute to Holocaust victims. Duda told a joint press conference: "Our joint presence here shows the world: never again anti-Semitism, genocide, or Holocaust."

**LOW.** New York State Assemblyman Dov Hikind (D-Brooklyn) launched a website called Poland-MurderedJews.com "in defiance of the law recently passed by Poland, which forbids discussion of Poland's role in the Holocaust."

The website, which opens with a video of Hikind discussing "the need for historical accuracy, will display facts about Poland's official atrocities before, during and after World War II," said Hikind.

"As Polish diplomats have pointed out for decades, the extermination camps established on Polish territory during World War II were created and operated by the German Nazi regime, not by Poles," said *The Washington Post*.

"Though the vast majority of their victims were Jews, many ethnic Poles died in them as well. So to call the camps 'Polish' is misleading, at best.

The *Post*, however, disagreed with Poland's legislation which calls for three years imprisonment for anyone who uses it, a point Hikind misunderstands. Discussion about Nazi-built concentration camps in Poland is permitted by law; saying Poland built them is not.

Hikind can be contacted at his District Office at 1310 48th St., Brooklyn, NY 11219, (718) 853-9616; or at his Albany Office, LOB 551, Albany, NY 12248, (518) 455-5721.



**GRAPHICS IDENTIFY DEATH CAMPS AS "GERMAN."** The website [germandeathcamps.us](http://germandeathcamps.us) is making available free, downloadable artwork for trucks and cars, which places the blame for killing centers built in occupied Poland during World War II on Nazi Germany. To date, a tractor trailer owned by a Polish transportation company in Chicago has applied the graphic, and has been seen delivering cargo around Chicago and its suburbs. Soon the truck will appear in other states and will visit the largest American metropolises, say organizers, the Union of Soldiers of the National Armed Forces, the Circle of Chicago.

Visit the website to learn more about the campaign.

**HIGH.** Poland has established a new memorial day honoring Poles who saved Jews. Film screenings, exhibitions, and other events were held to mark a new memorial day honoring those who aided, hid, and saved Jews from the Nazi Germans during World War II.

The new holiday was signed into law by President Andrzej Duda. It will be observed March 24 each year, the anniversary of the 1944 murder of the Polish family of Józef and Wiktoria Ulma, who were sheltering Jews in the village of Markowa in southeast Poland. German Military Police shot dead the entire Ulma family and the Jews they were sheltering, a total of 16 people.

The new holiday was created to pay tribute to Poles who saved their Jewish neighbors from extermination at the hands of Poland's German occupation forces during the war.

**LOW.** The United States has expressed misgivings over Poland's anti-defamation law which, has strained its relations with Israel. But it has simultaneously called on Tel Aviv to tread lightly so as not to disrupt ties with Poland, a key ally of both Israel and the United States.

Barak Ravid, a journalist for Israel's Channel 10 news, cited an

official as saying the Americans had told Israel that Poland was an important ally. "A senior official at the Israeli foreign ministry told me: 'The Americans made clear they don't like the Holocaust law, think it is unacceptable and asked the Polish government to fix it,'" Ravid wrote on the [axios.com](http://axios.com) website. He quoted the official saying "at the same time they told us Poland is an

important U.S. ally, especially in NATO, and also an Israeli ally and therefore there is a need to deal with the crisis carefully and not damage the alliance."

The U.S. administration conveyed messages via several channels both to the Israeli government and to opposition leaders and asked them to "temper their public rhetoric against Poland."

### Lawsuit Seeks to Stop Distribution of Pro-Nazi Books

Three Polish World War II survivors are suing the Polish publisher of books written by a late Nazi. Wojciech Kozłowski, an attorney in the Warsaw office of an international legal firm said the lawsuit recently filed against the Katmar Publishers is the first suit ever in Poland. In 2016, that publisher released two books authored by the now-deceased Belgian Nazi collaborator and SS officer Leon Degrelle. Editor Andrzej Ryba is a co-respondent.

Although Degrelle was a war hero to the Nazis, to his Belgian countrymen he remains a traitor to this day.

The plaintiffs are in their eighties and wish to remain anonymous. One was a Polish resistance fighter and all were rescued as children from the Warsaw ghetto, but lost

their family members during the Holocaust.

The plaintiffs "are seeking a court order to stop distribution of the books, 'The Age of Hitler 1' and 'The Age of Hitler 2. Hitler the Democrat,' and 40,000 zlotys (\$12,000) in damages for the alleged violation of their personal rights and lack of respect for their wartime suffering," said Kozłowski.

Both books written by Degrelle glorify Adolf Hitler and Nazism while denying the "genocide of the Holocaust," said Kozłowski. He added that, although Holocaust denial is a crime in Poland, prosecutors to date have not succeeded in investigating similar publications. He said it will take public outcry and pressure to change the outcome.

## POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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## Just Between Us

## Polonia's Maternal Spirit

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

by Mark Kohan

Mother's Day is upon us — a time of celebration with our mothers, grandmothers, and godmothers. And a time to remember those who are sharing the day with their mothers in Heaven. It is a time to reciprocate for years of love and caring. It is a day to reflect on the sacrifices made by the generations of women in our families, and the women of our community.

We call to mind the women of Poland during World War II, who fought in the Home Army, were members of the Polish Underground, or worked with Żegota, the Polish Council to Aid Jews. Whether they have instant name recognition — like Irena Sendler, who saved the lives of over 2,500 Jewish children from almost certain death in the Warsaw Ghetto — or remain unacknowledged, it is their commitment to community, family, and faith that defines Polonia's maternal spirit.

Some did not have the chance (or choice) to become heroines. Their sacrifices are equally important. One was Jozefa Zalewska Hodorowicz, who was one of millions of Polish slave laborers, forced to work for Germany's Nazi government during World War II. Her plight, but more importantly her will to endure, is documented in Sophie Hodorowicz Knab's *Wearing the Letter P*.

The strength and courage of Polonia's women spans centuries. We sometimes forget about the sacrifices made by our own family members. Yes, we all might remember that one great aunt who loved to dance and tell jokes, but do we realize what she gave up to come to the United States? How many of our relatives said goodbye to family and friends in Poland, knowing they might never see them again? Separated by generations, it is easy to forget the depth of their voluntary hardships, all for the benefit of their children. Once settled in North America, many — in addition to raising families — worked outside the home in every profession imaginable: in textile and glass factories; as farm laborers; as cleaning women, cooks and more. They joined religious orders and became teachers. As immigrants, they knew very little, if any, English. Yet they persevered, and for that, they deserve to be recognized and remembered.

**ONE TOUGH COOKIE.** Like a lot of us, it wasn't until I was older that I fully appreciated my mother's experiences. Born with poor eyesight, she nonetheless excelled at school, and became a voracious reader. When my sister and I came along, she worked a full-time job

(and at times a second job) to help make ends meet. Until my father earned higher seniority as a railroad engineer, my mom would go days without the help of her husband, leaving her to get us ready for school, get herself ready for work, then help with homework, dinners, and baths. And when help was needed, it was her mother who stepped in.

My dad died far too young — at the age of 47, and my mom lived alone for the rest of her life. She accepted her grief, but did not let it consume her. With family and friends at her side, she became a traveler, joined social and senior clubs, and took advantage of what life had to offer. She taught us resilience and perseverance, that it was good to laugh, and okay to cry. While her faith was unbending, she had no problem expressing disagreement with her priest, bishop, and at times, the pope himself. My mom was one tough cookie and this Mother's Day, our first one without her, will not be the same. But to all the Moms — Polish Americans and others alike — enjoy your day, you've more than earned it.

**LEARN MORE.** There are so many good books that examine Polish and Polish American mothers, and the women whose real-life experiences shaped our national character. Do yourself a favor and delve into their personalities. Whether real or fictionalized based on history, here are just a few to give you a better understanding of role of women in Polonia's history, and ultimately, a better understanding of the women in your own family:

- *An Ellis Island Christmas* by Maxinne Rhea Leighton
- *Coal Miner's Bride: The Diary of Anetka Kaminska* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti
- *Hoopi, Shoopi Donna* by Suzanne Strempek Shea
- *Immigrant Train* by Natalie Petesch;
- *Last Year's Jesus* by Ellen Slezak;
- *Love is Love* by Maria Bello;
- *Pears on a Willow Tree* by Leslie Pietrzyk;
- *Rodzina* by Karen Cushman;
- *Something of My Very Own to Say: American Women Writers of Polish Descent* by Thomas S. Gladsky and Rita Holmes Gladsky;
- *The Grainski Girls: The Choices They Had and the Choices They Made* by Mary Patrice Erdmans;
- *The Hundred Dresses* by Eleanor Estes;
- *The View from Three Windows* by Elaine J. Shaw;
- *Traitors & True Poles: Narrating a Polish-American Identity, 1880-1939* by Karen Majewski; and
- *Trees Call for What They Need* by Melissa Kwasny;

Some of the above might be out of print, but could be available on used book sites, or on auction sites, like eBay.

## Honors for Benetar

ANAHEIM, Calif. — **Pat Benatar** (nee Patricia Mae Andrzejewski) was honored at the 6th annual She Rocks Awards held during the National Association of Music Merchants Show, January 26.

A four-time Grammy Award winner, Pat Benatar first landed on the charts and in homes across America during the early days of MTV in the 1980s. Together with producer, guitarist and songwriting partner, Neil Giraldo and a jaw-dropping, classically-trained voice and fierce determination, they ruled the radio with hits such as "Love Is a Battlefield," "Heartbreaker," "We Live for Love," "We Belong," and the signature "Promises in The Dark." After three decades, the duo has sold over 30 million albums worldwide, cementing their place in rock history. Married for 36 years and musical partners for 38 years, they continue to wow audiences during sold-out concerts.

"Pat Benatar's talent and contributions to rock music are an inspiration to women everywhere, whether they are fans or aspiring artists themselves," said Laura B. Whitmore, president of the Women's International Music Network. "We are truly honored to recognize her at this year's She Rocks Awards."

Benatar joined a host of 2018 honorees including Melissa Etheridge, The B-52s members Cindy Wilson and Kate Pierson, Exene Cervenka of X, and Fanny.

## Defamation

## Maher Calls Imprudent Business Plan "Polish"

LOS ANGELES — HBO *Real Time* host Bill Maher took a shot at Poles while making fun of President Donald Trump's lawyer, Michael Cohen.

Maher said Cohen is the type of lawyer who advertises on billboards, and attributed Cohen's lack of clients to what might be poorly written advertisements.

"Jewish Name. Italian Attitude. Polish Strategy," read Maher from the graphic of a fake billboard on his April 20, 2018 show.

Maher said that Cohen looks as if "he takes his meetings on a park bench. And every consultation ends with the words, 'this never happened,'" evoking an expression used by Mafia stereotypes.

Cohen, who made payoffs to women alleging sexual relationships with Trump during his presidential campaign — including the \$130,000

Cohen says he paid to adult-film actress Stormy Daniels — was forced to reveal all of his clients by a Manhattan court judge handling the case. In addition to Trump, who denied the affairs, Cohen was working for a former Republican Party fundraiser who impregnated a Playboy model, and Fox News host Sean Hannity.

Hannity has said that he paid Cohen no more than \$10, to which Maher ridiculed: "Michael Cohen: Your \$10 attorney. And worth it!"

Cohen "is a pretty bad lawyer," and "might be the worst lawyer since Ted Bundy represented himself," said Maher.

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## Ironic Finale



PHOTO: MARTY BINAJSZ

**THE FORMER CHOPIN CLUBROOMS**, highlighted in last month's "Polonia Places," fell to the work of wreckers assigned to the task by the City of Buffalo on Dymgus Day this year. The Kosciuszko Street site was Ground Zero for modern Easter Monday celebrations, reinstated by the Chopin Singing Society in 1961. Just a handful of the thousands who lined nearby streets for this year's Dymgus Day Parade were aware of the building's flattening. The clubroom was sold to a church years ago, which later abandoned it.

## Gorecki: Active in Polish and Polonian Culture

continued from cover

and Management of Cultural Cultural Institutions. He also received his Doctorate in Music Performance from the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris - Paris, Île-de-France, France concentrating in Solo Trombone Study, and a Master of Arts Degree from the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw, Poland. He is fluent in English and Polish and also speaks French.

Gorecki is a recipient of many international musical awards and recognitions. He has performed with The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra, Simfonia da Camera, Glenview Symphony Orchestra, and the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra, to name a few.

Dr. Gorecki is an active promoter of Polish, Polish-American and American culture, values and traditions. It is his stated goal to continue to make important contributions to the Polish-American and American cultural landscape. As an individual with experience in both artistic and administrative fields, he promotes and implements organizational goals and objectives and continually improves his effectiveness by exploring a variety of different approaches and long range planning to achieve those goals and objectives. He has an appreciation of the vital role of the arts and culture in the community. He is familiar with both the artistic and commercial worlds, and the culture of various governments. He is also a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus.

He is currently the Executive and Artistic Director of World Music Production, Co. in Chicago. In this capacity, Dr. Gorecki organized many concerts and cultural



events collaborating with renowned artists from Poland such as: Stanislaw Soyka, Aga Zaryan, and Golec uOrkiestra, a very popular Polish folk-rock group.

His cultural leadership also includes his roles as Executive Director of the Catholic Cultural Foundation in Chicago, and serving as a member of the Committee within the Consulate General of Poland in Chicago where he has been responsible for advising and organizing key events promoting Polish culture, history and heritage, and the Committee within the Consulate General of Poland in Chicago responsible for advising and organizing events related to the Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Poland's Independence.

Very Rev. Canon Miroslaw Król, Chancellor, Orchard Lake Schools, is very pleased with Dr. Gorecki's appointment. Fr. Król wishes to significantly enhance the Polish and Polish-American cultural presence nationally and internationally, and is confident that with Dr. Gorecki's leadership, this objective of The Orchard Lake Schools and The Polish Mission can be accomplished.



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## A Family Affair



**JOHN NIEDZIELEK** proudly holds granddaughter Amelia Grace, who will become the fifth generation family member to be baptized at St. Casimir's Church in Cleveland. Two years ago, her younger sister, Elizabeth, was baptized there.

St. Casimir's was closed by Bishop Richard Lennon in 2009, but prayer vigils, letter-writing campaigns, and an appeal to the Vatican reversed the decision. The Congregation for the Clergy ruled that Lennon failed to follow church laws and procedures, and the church reopened in 2012.

When the church reopened after 139 weeks, Niedzialek said he and parishioners holding vigil outside "in all kinds of Cleveland weather" found solace in Pope John Paul II words, "Be Not Afraid."

## Four Million Visited Jasna Gora Last Year

CZĘSTOCHOWA, Poland — The **Black Madonna Shrine** at Jasna Gora Monastery attracted four million visitors in 2017. A revered icon of the Virgin Mary, a four-foot painting, is housed at the Jasna Góra ("Bright Hill") Monastery in the southern Poland city of Częstochowa. Many Polish Catholics make annual pilgrimages there.

Beginning in 1711 and continuing into the present, a pilgrimage has left Warsaw every August 6th for the 140-mile nine-day walk. During the German Nazi occupation of Poland, pilgrims stealthily crept through the night, risking their lives to reach the shrine. Pope John Paul II visited it secretly when a student during World War II.

Pilgrims, tourists, religious leaders flock to Częstochowa from about eighty countries. The most numerous of visiting nationalities are Italians, Germans, Americans, Spaniards, and the French.

2017 also saw a record 1.7 million visitors to the **Wieliczka Salt Mine**, almost 200,000 more than in 2016. Founded mid-13th century, the mine features a several-mile-long tour route for visitors that includes nine chambers, an underground lake and a wellness complex. The mine's stunning St. Kinga's Chapel, about 300 feet underground, is illuminated by crystal chandeliers and adorned by extraordinary altars and a floor that is a work of art in its own right. In 1978, the Wieliczka Salt Mine was included in the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites.

## Holy Rosary Roof Appeal

BALTIMORE, Md. — Holy Rosary Church (408 South Chester St., 21231), is in need of a new roof, and appeals to both the local and national Polonia to support its fund drive. The 90-year-old roof has been repaired many times over, but is now beyond repair and in need of replacement.

For decades, Holy Rosary has been an anchor of quiet stability in this community's shifting demographics. Once the largest church in Baltimore built by Polish immigrants, Holy Rosary remains an important landmark in the Fells Point Community. The parish continues to serve the religious, cultural and social life of the Polish American community. At the same time, Holy Rosary extends its hospitality to other communities such as Cristo Rey School, St. Vincent de Paul's Beans & Bread, United Way, 211 Food Pantry, Future Care, and Al-Anon.

"Our efforts to preserve this beautiful church with its awe-inspiring architecture can't be done without your support," said Pastor Fr. Richard Czerniak, SChr. "I am humbly asking if you would consider a donation towards this endeavor."

Donations can be sent to the above address, Attn: Roof Fund, or can be made on parish's "Raise the Roof" G o F u n d M e page.

## Modlitwy

**PUBLICATION OF PRAYERS.** The Polish American Journal gladly accepts prayers ads for publication. They must be received by the 10th of each month, prior to the month of publication, and must be pre-paid at the cost of \$15.00 each, which can be paid by check or charge. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please call 1 (800) 422-1275 or (716) 312-8088. Send to: Polish American Journal, P.O. Box 271, N. Boston, NY 14110.

**NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.** On my knees before the great multitude of heavenly witnesses I offer myself, soul and body, to You, Eternal Spirit of God. I adore the brightness of Your purity, the unerring keenness of Your justice and the might of Your love. You are the Strength and Light of my soul. In You I live and move and am. I desire never to grieve You by unfaithfulness to grace and I pray with all my heart to be kept from the smallest sin against You. Mercifully guard my every thought and grant that I may always watch for Your light and listen to Your voice and follow Your gracious inspirations. I cling to You and give myself to You and ask You by Your compassion to watch over me in my weakness. Holding the pierced Feet of Jesus and looking at His Five Wounds and trusting in His Precious Blood and adoring His opened Side and stricken Heart, I implore You, Adorable Spirit, Helper of my infirmity, so to keep me in Your grace that I may never sin against You. Give me grace, O Holy Ghost, Spirit of the Father and the Son to say to You always and everywhere, "Speak, Lord, for Your servant heareth." Amen. J.K.

## Religion

## Chrzanowska Becomes First R.N. to be Considered for Sainthood

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

KRAKOW — On April 28, Polish-born Hanna Chrzanowska became the first lay registered nurse to be beatified in the Roman Catholic Church.

This step toward sainthood took place in the Sanctuary of the Divine Mercy in Krakow, where the future Pope — and now Saint John Paul II — said Chrzanowska's funeral Mass after her death there on April 29, 1973.

The road to recognition of the sanctity of this Polish nurse, born in 1902 in Warsaw, began in 1993 when the efforts to initiate the beatification process began at the request of the nurse Sofia Szlendak. Franciszek Cardinal Macharski, archbishop of Krakow, took up the cause in 1995 and opened the cause formally after preliminary investigations in 1998, with Fr. Antoni Soltysik designated as the postulator. Her heroic virtues were confirmed by Pope Francis in 2015 when she was given the title Servant of God. Recognition of a miracle at her intercession in July 2017 by Pope Francis culminated in the issuance of a decree of beatification in December 2017 by Krakow's Archbishop Marek Jędraszewski setting the date for her beatification on the eve of the 45th anniversary of her death.

A biographical feature in the publication of the World Federation of the Catholic Medical Association summed up her career of devoted service to the sick under the most trying of circumstances. Her father, Ignacy, was a professor of Polish Literature in Warsaw and her mother, a Lutheran, came from a family of industrialists. Her aunt founded a children's hospital in Warsaw and both her families were renowned for their philanthropic works.

The family moved to Krakow in 1910, where her father taught at the Jagiellonian University. Hanna graduated from an Ursuline high school and took a Red Cross course in order to help the victims of the Polish-Bolshevik war. In 1920 she returned to Warsaw to study at a newly-established school of nursing there. After studying nursing in France and Belgium, she returned to Krakow to teach nursing. She was a leader of the Polish Association of Professional Nurses and contributed to the formation of the Catholic Union of Polish Nurses in 1937.

At the start of World War II, Chrzanowska volunteered to work in Krakow with the Polish Welfare Committee, caring for refugees, prisoners, orphans, including Jewish children whom she helped find shelter in foster families. Experiencing the atrocities of Nazi and Russian occupation of Poland (her father died at the concentration camp at Sachsenhausen and her brother was shot along with other military officers at Katyn forest), she found the need for deep personal prayer and appreciation of the Eucharist. Her spiritual growth manifested itself in tireless work of love for her neighbor.

After the war, Chrzanowska headed the department of Community Nursing in Krakow's School

of Nursing. After a scholarship to study in the United States, she lectured on community health to nursing teachers in Warsaw, with an emphasis on educating the young nurses in the practice of authentic service to the sick, and paying attention not only to the physical but also to the spiritual needs of their patients. The communist government fired her from her position in 1957. After years of work in a psychiatric hospital near Krakow, that school was closed down and Chrzanowska took early retirement.

All through the dark years of Stalinist communism, she did not hesitate to manifest her faith, which prompted respect from her colleagues and pupils but contempt and repression from communist authorities. In retirement she organized nursing care for the lonely, abandoned, elderly, disabled and chronically ill through church structures. With the encouragement and support of Father, and later Bishop, Karol Wojtyla, she organized parish nursing throughout the Krakow archdiocese. Nurses, religious sisters, priests, seminarians, physicians, professors, and students gathered around her as volunteers to offer retreats, holidays, home masses, and pastoral visits to the homebound ill. She also organized retreats and conferences on her nursing philosophy of spiritual care to younger nurses. Her work with Karol Cardinal Wojtyla led to her being awarded the *Pro ecclesia et Pontifice* medal by Pope Paul VI.

"We thank you Miss Hanna that



In World War II, Chrzanowska volunteered to work in Krakow with the Polish Welfare Committee.

you were among us," said then-Cardinal Wojtyla in his homily, "... an embodiment of Christ's beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount, especially the one saying 'Blessed are the merciful.'"

In the biography "Colors of Fire: the Life of Hanna Chrzanowska," author Gosia Brzykczynska notes that she is the first registered nurse to be considered for sainthood in the Catholic Church. Hanna herself had poor health, principally respiratory and immune system deficiencies and sought cures in sanatoria and hospitals throughout the Europe. Her own experience of illness led her to iden-



Chrzanowska was a leader of the Polish Association of Professional Nurses and contributed to the formation of the Catholic Union of Polish Nurses in 1937.

tify with her patients, whom she preferred to minister to directly, one on one. She became a Benedictine Oblate aspiring to follow St. Benedict's example of following the Gospel in order to draw closer to God. Diagnosed with cancer in 1966, several operations failed to stop the spread of the disease and she died in 1973. In addition to the papal medal she also received the Polish government's Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta in 1971.

The prayer for her eventual canonization reads: "God, who in a special way called your servant Hanna Chrzanowska to the service of the sick, poor and abandoned, grant that she who answered your call with all her heart should be counted among the saints while encouraging us with her example to bring help to our neighbors. Through her intercession grant us the grace ... for which we pray in faith and hope. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be..."

Learn more about Chrzanowska's graces obtained through her intercession at: Postulate's Office: Parafia Sw. Mikolaja, 31-034, Koprernica 9; www.parafiamikolaj-krakow.pl/index.php/nasz-adres.

**CORRECTION.** In last month's PAJ, my reference to the bishops' support of unions, I mistakenly referred to the payments of non-union workers who benefit from union bargaining as "dues." In reality, they are not "dues" since they are not fees for membership in the union. Rather, they are "agency fees," which are financial support in return for the union's care that contracts are respected and other contractual matters are maintained for the benefit of all workers, both union and non-union.

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## Books in Brief

# Kraszewski Gives Mickiewicz's *Dziady* a New Audience

by Mary E. Lanham

## FOREFATHERS' EVE

by Adam Mickiewicz

Translated by Charles S. Kraszewski  
Glagoslav Publications subsidized by the  
Polish Book Institute, 2016, 413 pgs.  
Glagoslav.com

For those who are familiar with Polish history and culture, Adam Mickiewicz needs no introduction. With the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland's Ministry of Culture and National Heritage Adam Mickiewicz Institute headquartered in Warsaw, and the Adam Mickiewicz Library and Dramatic Circle in Buffalo, New York, it's safe to say that the poet, activist, essayist, and professor of Slavic literature is embedded quite firmly into the Polish identity.

A new translation of one of Mickiewicz's best-known works is now available thanks to efforts of Charles S. Kraszewski. *Dziady* (Forefathers' Eve) along with *Pan Tadeusz* are the works for which Mickiewicz is best known. Composed in four parts *Dziady* is a poetic drama written in the 1820s and '30s. In this work, Mickiewicz reflected back Poland's

plight at the time; one of the main themes is the fight for Polish freedom.

Kraszewski gives *Dziady* a brand new audience with this translation. The excerpt below from Part III is an excellent example of his deft way of interpreting the words of the original author.

"This rain so sweet and calm and fresh, like dew— / Yet whence falls it? Behold the heavens blue, / the cloudless blue! / Green drops like lovely grasses, lush / Rose, lily garlands plush / Wind me about— Ah, such a fragrant breath / This dream wafts me— may I so dream till death!"

*Forefathers' Eve* by Adam Mickiewicz and translated by Charles S. Kraszewski is definitely a much-needed volume on your bookshelf.

Look for my review of Kraszewski's translation of *Acropolis: the Wawel Plays* by Stanislaw Wyspianski in an upcoming issue.

Charles S. Kraszewski was the editor-in-chief of *The Polish Review* from 2008 to 2011. He has written two books of poetry and has also published collections of verse translations and essays including Rosetti's Armadillo. He was awarded the Literary Prize for the Propagation of Polish Literature and Culture by the Union of Polish Writers Abroad. Kraszewski is a professor of English at King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

## Scholarships

## Polish University Club to Award 2018 Scholarships

LOS ANGELES — The Polish University Club of Los Angeles will present its annual education scholarships for this year's recipients on June 17, 2018. The awards banquet will be held at Kellogg West Conference Center (on the campus of California State Polytechnic University) in Pomona, Calif.

The organization is a nonprofit, charitable association which grants scholarships to deserving students of Polish descent who are residents of Southern California. Over 270 educational scholarships totaling more than \$400,000 in financial assistance have been awarded since the organization was first established in 1947. The main purpose of the PUCLA is the disbursement of scholarship funds to qualified students at the university level to assist them with financing their educational goals. In 2017 a total of 20 scholarships were awarded to students enrolled in undergraduate and advanced degree programs. Recipients of the scholarships are studying at institutions which include UCLA, the University of Southern California, Boston College, and the Jagiellonian University Medical College in Krakow, Poland.

Originally organized to serve the Polish community through programs promoting the culture of Poland, today, with support from the Potasz Trust and other charitable foundations, donations, and fundraising events, the PUCLA's primary focus is its Scholarship Program. Annually, the PUCLA awards over \$25,000 to Polish-American college students from all areas of Southern California.

Scholarships are open to all qualified students with Polish ancestry or those who have a special interest in Polish culture or studies. The PUCLA was founded on the belief that the future of Polonia depends upon an educated youth, fully conversant with its heritage.

For more information, visit [www.pucla.org](http://www.pucla.org).

## PWAA Deadline June 30

CHICAGO — The Polish Woman's Alliance of America (PWAA) Charitable and Educational Foundation has issued requirements for its 2018 Remkus-Sochacki Academic Scholarship.

Two \$5,000.00 scholarships are available.

Applicants must have a 4.5 on a 5 pt. scale and 3.5 on a 4 pt. scale to apply for this award. If you are a high school senior you must have a 3.5 cumulative grade point average on a 4 pt. scale from your high school.

Applicant may apply as an incoming freshman through incoming senior in fall 2018. Only undergraduate students accepted in an accredited university or college on a full-time basis will be considered. Applicant must be a U.S. citizen (proof required – birth certificate, U.S. naturalization papers, passport).

An essay is required with the application.

The completed application, required essay, official transcript and scale, photo and media form must be postmarked no later than June 30, 2018 and should be sent to PWAA Charitable and Educational Foundation, P. O. Box 1196, Park Ridge, IL 60068.

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Many of the plots, motifs, and structural elements in these Slavic tales are found in other stories told around the world.

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### SEASONS OF THE SLAVIC SOUL: A Quest for an Authentic Polish Spirituality

by Claire M. Anderson  
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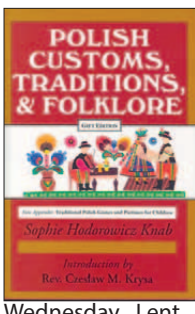
ACTA Publications  
2017, p.b., 106 pp., 5x7 in.

What makes Slavic, and specifically Polish, spirituality unique and compelling today? The rich and long Slavic spiritual tradition holds that everyday holiness thrives on different seasons—through Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter and from consolation to desolation and everything in between. Claire Anderson, of Polish descent and currently the Director of Siena Retreat Center in Wisconsin, explores this tradition and expands it by connecting these seasons to the rhythms and practices in her own Polish cultural tradition and the physical world around her.

### POLISH CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS & FOLKLORE

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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, nameday celebrations, and birth and death rituals. Line illustrations enhance this rich and varied treasury of folklore.



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 Wadowsky-Bak, with more of her work throughout the book.

### POLISH FOLKLORE AND MYTH

by Joanne Asala  
\$12.95  
Item 2-679  
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 Wadowsky-Bak.

CHORAL PATRIOTISM: THE POLISH SINGERS ALLIANCE OF AMERICA, 1888-1998  
by S. A. Blejwas  
Item 1-660  
\$22.50  
Boydell & Brewer,  
2005. 396 pp., ill.  
6.20 x 9.30 x 1.20

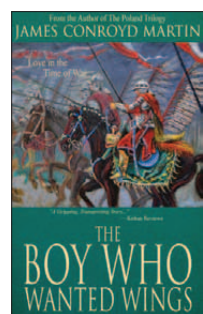
This book examines the history of the Polish Singers Alliance of America as an ideological organization, documenting the extent to which the politics of the homeland engaged an immigrant and ethnic community over a century.

"A superb treatment of the formation and expansion of the oldest Polish-American cultural organization in North America." — Frances Gates



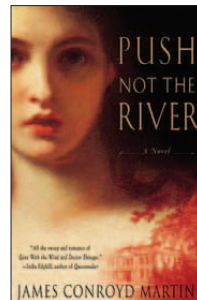
POLAND: A HISTORY  
by Adam Zamoyski  
\$19.95  
Item 1-659  
pb. 426 pp., 5.5 in. x 8.5 in.

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."



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

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  
Item 2-609  
Hussar Quill  
Press. 496 pp., pb.

Maps & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

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



AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY  
Book 2 of Martin's Poland Trilogy  
by James Conroyd Martin  
\$15.95  
Item 2-610  
St. Martin's Press  
369 pp., pb. Map &

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

THE WARSAW CONSPIRACY  
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, matriarchs Anna and Zofia attempt to steer the clan through ever-muddying waters.

FROM PADEREWSKI TO PENDERECKI  
*The Polish Musician in Philadelphia*  
by Paul Krzywicki  
\$24.95  
Item 2-151  
Lulu Publishing 2016; pb. 396 pp., 6"x1"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.

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Polonia Places

# St. Casimir's RC Church, Kenosha

*St. Casimir's R.C. Church*  
1009 Washington Rd, Kenosha, Wisc.  
Status: Closed

by Gregory L. Witul

The shores of Lake Michigan are home to two of Polonia's great epicenters, Chicago and Milwaukee. But scattered around the lake are smaller cities that are equally proud of their Polish heritage, and in Kenosha, Wisconsin, St. Casimir's Roman Catholic Church served as a core of the community for nearly a century.

In the 1890s large numbers of Poles and Lithuanians began settling in the emerging industrial center of Kenosha. These early Slavs and Balts attended the German Catholic Church of St. George. By 1898 there were about 50 Polish families with a desire to build a parish of their own, and to organize their efforts they formed the Society of St. Casimir. Father Dreis of St. George's, encouraged the Poles and Father Kruska of Milwaukee helped them organize. It would take three years, but on Nov. 16, 1901, the Roman Catholic Parish of St. Casimir was formally organized and incorporated.

To celebrate Mass, the parishioners of St. Casimir used the hall at St. George's church. Lacking both a permanent pastor and home, the parish began saving to build themselves a church. After buying two lots on Washington Road, architect H.A. Kulas of Milwaukee was hired, and on Oct. 1, 1902 construction of St.

Casimir began.

When the blessing of the cornerstone was held that November 9th, it was the largest Polish celebration the city of Kenosha had yet seen. Over 1,000 members of Polish societies from Milwaukee and Racine led a parade that included three marching bands. Following them were another 500 men from the Polish societies of Kenosha, as well other local dignitaries and religious. When they reached the foundation of the St. Casimir's, they joined 3,000 parishioners, visitors, and friends holding flowers and waving flags. Overseen by Father Elskamp of St. George, the sermon of the Mass was delivered by Father Domachowski of St. Stanislaus in Milwaukee with Vicar General Schinner giving the benediction.

When the building was completed in April of 1903, Rev. Casimir Ambrozajty, a Lithuanian priest became the first pastor. Father Ambrozajty would only remain a few months until Rev. Wiktor Zareczny, a Pole, replaced him. Almost as soon as he took over Fr. Zareczny began working towards building a school for his parish. This goal would be achieved by Father Bieniarz in 1909. In time, the campus of St. Casimir would include a rectory, convent, school and, with a 1911 addition, an enlarged church. The parish also established a cemetery for itself in 1906 by purchasing ten acres of the farmland in Somers, Wisc.

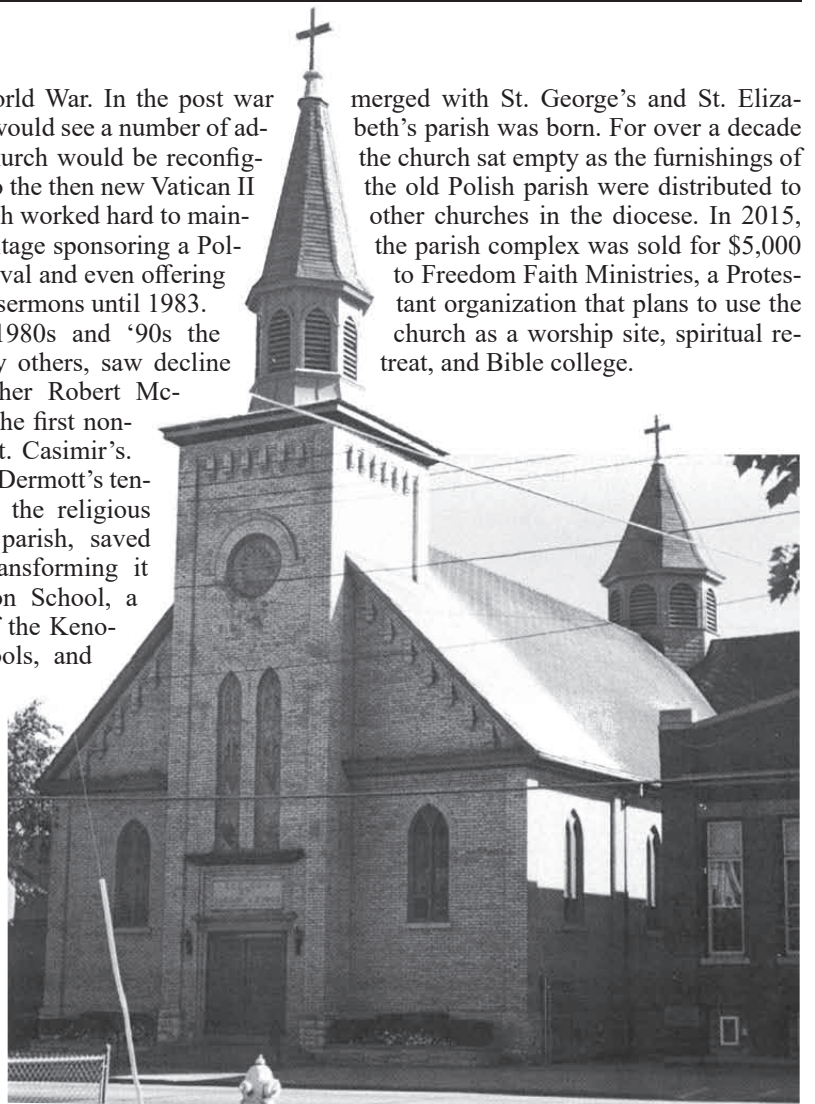
Over the years, the parish would be headed by Father Francis Czerwinski, Father Leonard Sarnowski and Monsignor Leo Kierstein, who had cleared the parish of debt by the end

of the Second World War. In the post war years, the school would see a number of additions and the church would be reconfigured to conform to the then new Vatican II policies. The parish worked hard to maintain its Polish heritage sponsoring a Polish American festival and even offering Mass with Polish sermons until 1983.

Through the 1980s and '90s the church, like many others, saw decline and in 1992 Father Robert McDermott became the first non-Polish priest of St. Casimir's. During Father McDermott's tenure, he enhanced the religious devotion of the parish, saved the school by transforming it into the Brompton School, a Charter School of the Kenosha Unified Schools, and worked tirelessly to maintain the shrinking flock.

After eight years of struggle, Father McDermott celebrated the final Mass at St. Casimir's Church on January 1, 2000 at 11:30 a.m. Later that day the parish was formally

merged with St. George's and St. Elizabeth's parish was born. For over a decade the church sat empty as the furnishings of the old Polish parish were distributed to other churches in the diocese. In 2015, the parish complex was sold for \$5,000 to Freedom Faith Ministries, a Protestant organization that plans to use the church as a worship site, spiritual retreat, and Bible college.



## Chicago Polonians You Should Know

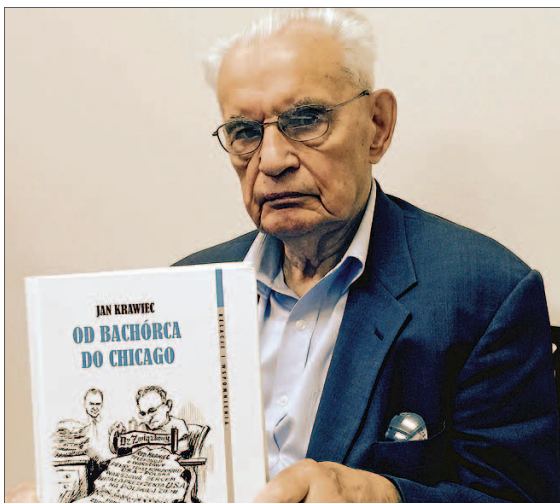
# Survivor, Freedom Fighter, Activist, and Journalist: Jan Krawiec

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

The sixth person in my series "Chicago Polonians You Should Know" is Jan Krawiec, a World War II Polish freedom fighter, survivor of two concentration camps, a Polish activist, journalist, and retired editor-in-chief of the *Dziennik Zwiqzkowy* (The Polish Daily News).

Jan Krawiec's life began on June 15, 1919, in the small village of Bachórzec in the Małopolska region of Poland. The son of Michal and Jadwiga, he attended a Polish army cadet school and, upon graduation, was commissioned a corporal. In August 1939, he was assigned to the 38th Regiment Infantry in Przemyśl, and in September, serving as second lieutenant, he participated in the September Campaign, the September 1, 1939 German invasion of Poland. After the Nazi invasion of Poland, Krawiec worked with the Polish underground resistance press. As was pointed out, no radios were permitted, so the only news available was received through the Polish underground press and propaganda from the Germans.

He recalls that one day in May 1943, while he was waiting in line to purchase a train ticket, a heavy hand grabbed his shoulder. It was the Gestapo. They tied his hands behind his back and kicked him mercilessly, then took him to a basement, where the torture continued. His hands were tied again with a rope, and he was hung via a hook from the ceiling. As he hung, he could not feel the floor below him. The Gestapo left, came back to interrogate him again, and decided that Krawiec was not the man they were looking for. He had been held for two days without water or food. Once he was taken down, he lay on the floor where the Gestapo continued to beat him, trying, once again, to get additional information from him. Krawiec said not a word. He



In 2015, with the cooperation of The Institute of National Remembrance (*Instytut Pamięci Narodowej*), a Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation, Krawiec published *Od Bachórcza Do Chicago*, his Polish-language autobiography.

revealed nothing.

His silence sealed his fate. He was transported by train with about 200 other Poles crammed into two train cars. Destination: Auschwitz-Birkenau, where he became #153156. He felt that he was lucky. There wasn't enough work at Auschwitz, so after three weeks of being quarantined, he was transported to Buchenwald. He was imprisoned at Buchenwald until April 13, 1945, where he was liberated by U.S. troops.

Following the war, he decided not to return to Poland. Krawiec stayed in Germany until 1949, but then moved to Chicago. From 1950 to 1959, he worked as a mechanic at the Canfield Beverage Company, while perfecting his English-language skills. From 1959 to 1963, he began his journalism career as a writer for the *Dziennik Chicagowski*, a Chicago-based Polish-language newspaper (1890-1971), while attending Loyola University Chicago, where he received his bachelor's degree in political science. From 1963 to 1967, he pursued a career as a social worker for Cook County, Illinois. In 1967, he continued his

journalism career by joining the *Dziennik Zwiqzkowy*, and in 1968 became its editor-in-chief, a position he kept until his retirement in 1985. In 1972, he was the only Polish American to join the American press corps on President Richard Nixon's visit to the U.S.S.R.

In 2015, with the cooperation of The Institute of National Remembrance (*Instytut Pamięci Narodowej*), a Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation, Krawiec published *Od Bachórcza Do Chicago*, the Polish-language autobiography. In it, Krawiec tells the story of his childhood, his days with the Polish underground press and resistance movement; his capture by the Nazis in 1943; his life as prisoner # 153156 in Auschwitz-Birkenau and Buchenwald; his liberation by U.S. Army troops; and his journey to America. Pan Krawiec's book is filled with detailed stories of people he met and the multitude of experiences that crossed his life's path.

As he approaches his centennial year, Krawiec has slowed down. His activities in the Polonian community and the Chicago Council of Foreign Relations are very limited. For many years, he was a regular volunteer at the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie, where he regularly met with students to tell them about what is not written in textbooks. His recollections have been heard by thousands of young people.

As an author, he has written four publications: *Zagadnienia Chlopskie* (1947); *Najtrwalsza Konstytucja* (booklet, 1987); *Naród*

*w walce 1939-1945*, (editor, 1990); and *Od Bachórcza Do Chicago* (2015).

In May 2016, Krawiec was honored as Chicago's 125th Polish Constitution Day Parade Grand Marshal.

Perhaps his memoirs will soon be translated into English. They hold a part of Polish history that cannot be forgotten and are of immense interest to historians. Some of Krawiec's memoirs may turn out to be controversial because Krawiec says what he thinks, unafraid of differing opinions, even if some consider his comments to be politically inconvenient.

We invite you to join the American Council for Polish Culture and help preserve an environment that contributes to the development of our Polish culture.



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## Happenings: Chicago Style

# Pulaski Day at Pappas' Office

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — On March 12, approximately 30 representatives from Chicago's Polish American organizations and media gathered at the office of **Maria Pappas**, Cook County Treasurer. This invitation-only event provided a post-Casimir Pulaski Day celebration and an opportunity to hear about the newest developments in the Treasurer's Office. Additionally, Ms. Pappas presented Polish Consul General, Piotr Janicki, with a special proclamation paying tribute to Casimir Pulaski.

Her presentation began by explaining that the Treasurer's Office is offering Polish language online services and giving examples of how these online services work. A number of those in attendance noticed and mentioned that the online Polish translations were not accurate and that the careful use of the Polish language is necessary for such an important service. Pappas stated that her office was using Google translate, but several guests suggested that Google does not always give correct translations. Pappas then assured everyone that the Polish translations would be reviewed and corrected. **Adam Steinberg**, radio talk show host of WNVI-1080AM — "Nie tylko dla Studentów - Not Just For Students" offered free editing for the Polish used in the Cook County Treasurer's Polish online services.

Treasurer Pappas lauded Polish Americans and pointed out that they are the largest number of property owners in Cook County. She emphasized that it's worthwhile to let the general public learn about the important role of Poles in American society. After the Treasurer's presentation, Consul General Janicki spoke of Pulaski's contribution.

Much to the surprise of those at the gathering, Pappas presented Certificates of Excellence to those in attendance for their outstanding

contributions to Chicago Polonia. Although some well-known members of Polish American leadership received this honor, there were others who are behind-the-scenes Polish Americans who do much but are rarely acknowledged. It was refreshing to note that Treasurer Pappas presented certificates to members of the journalistic arena, including **Lidia Kowalewicz**, executive director of *Narod Polski*; **Sergiusz Zgrzebski**, anchor and reporter for Polvision; **Bogdan Dola**, photo journalist for TVP Chicago; **Bogusław Kwasny**, journalist from 92.7FM and 99.9FM; **Andrzej Baraniak**, photo journalist for Polish media; **Adam Steinberg**, radio host; **Oleg Gasiuk**, cameraman for Polvision; and **Geraldine Balut**

on March 10, at the Lone Tree Manor in Niles, Ill.. Ten young women competed for the title, including Olivia Borawski, Karolina Koszczuk, Carolina Kukulski, Aleksandra Mi-erzejewska, Natalia Ptaszek, Beata Soltys, Magdalena Tolwińska, Wictoria Wasilewski, Kamila Wilczek, and Emilia Wójciak.

Over 500 audience attendees spent the evening watching and hearing these young ladies display their talents and intelligence. Considering that eight of the young ladies were born in the United States, this competition had an interesting twist. It gave the finalists the opportunity to display their Polish language skills — one of the "Queen" requirements. The audience was impressed as it listened to the candi-

tury of Poland's independence?"

After lengthy deliberations, the jury made its decision, naming 18-year-old **Magdalena Tolwińska**, a senior from John Hersey High School, Palatine, Ill., the Queen of the Parade to be held on May 3, 2018.

Magdalena will attend Lake Forest College studying chemistry, music, and the Spanish language, with a future goal of becoming a pediatrician. The First Lady-in-Waiting is **Emilia Wójciak**, a freshman at Loyola University Chicago, studying psychology and Spanish. The Second Lady-in-Waiting is **Natalia Ptaszek**, a junior from Chicago's Whitney Young High School. The Polish media attending this event selected Natalia as Miss Photogenic, and the audience awarded Miss Congeniality to **Kamila Wilczek**.

The Queen received a \$2,000 scholarship, donated by Montrose Food Mart and Deli owners, Halina and Stanisław Urbaniak. The First Lady-in-Waiting was awarded \$1,500 from the Polish-Slavic Federal Credit Union (PSFCU), and Joanna Piątek of Forum Mortgage Bancorp honored the Second Lady-in-Waiting with a prize of \$1,000. Miss Photogenic received a check for \$500 from Alex Super Deli, and the Polish American Hunting Club-Ostoja rewarded Miss Congeniality \$500. LOT Polish Airlines also presented the 2018 Queen with a trip to Poland.

The jury was composed of Dr. Łucja Mirowska-Kopec, principal of Arthur E. Carty Grammar School- CPS; Małgorzata Bąk-Guzik, Polish Vice Consul; Marcin Krępa, real estate agent; Robert Radkowski, PSFCU- Midwest Manager; Bogdan Gromek, vice-president PACBA; Marta Almodovar, attorney of the Office of Accessibility and Education Outreach, Office of the Chief Judge, Circuit Court Cook County; and Sławomir Budzik, editor-in-chief of Radio



Piotr Bialecki and winning painting.

Deon, WNVI-1080AM.

A special *dziękuję bardzo* to Jan Kopec, president of the Alliance of Polish Clubs Association, for making this event possible and to Ewa Rumińska, its organizer and coordinator. This year the parade will pay tribute to 100 years of Poland's independence and to the Illinois Bicentennial.

### PACC HOSTS ITS 81ST EXHIBIT.

The opening of the 81st Painting and Sculpture Exhibition of the Polish Arts Club of Chicago (PACC) was held on March 18. Approximately 200 art lovers and enthusiasts filled the Sabina Logisz Great Hall of The Polish Museum of America (PMA). Sixty pieces of artwork created by 31 Chicago-area artists using various styles and mediums were on display.

Prior to the presentations of awards, **Anne "Happy" Oerke**, president of the PACC, greeted all and expressed her gratitude to the guests for attending, to those who helped organize the exhibit, and to the sponsors for their support. She also thanked PACC members who made this event possible, including Piotr Wołodkiewicz, Kasia Szcześniewski, Ed Kunzman, Michael Pavina, Jolanta Pawlikowska, Tadeusz Więcek, and Geraldine Balut Coleman. The curator of this year's exhibition was Piotr Wołodkiewicz, Second Vice-President of PACC, and Kasia Szcześniewski presented this year's awards.

Wołodkiewicz expressed what he felt was the importance of this event: "Each year I see outstanding works. For those artists who come back to us, I see their progress. What I like the most is the message of each work, the maturing of artists visible in the work."

A jury selected this year's winners. First prize went to **Piotr Bialecki** for his painting, "Spring I," second prize was awarded to **Diane Nawrocki** for her "Our Neighborhood," and third place was given to **Jolanta Szymański's** "Nature II." Bialecki was honored twice at this year's opening, not only as the first prize winner, but also for his 27 years of continuous participation in the PACC's exhibits.

Out of gratitude for his years of supporting the PACC, Bialecki was also honored with a special section at the exhibition for the eight works of art he submitted.

This year's jury consisted of Jan Śliwinski, painter and scenographer; Paweł Kupiec, Wright College art teacher; and Agnieszka Ziemacka-Master, art critic and historian. The exhibition can be viewed at the PMA until May 8.

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(l. to. r.): Wójciak, Tolwińska, and Ptaszek.

**Coleman**, reporter and writer for the *Polish American Journal*. Also receiving the honor were **Mario Mikoda**, president of the Copernicus Foundation, **Ted Przybyło**, treasurer of the Copernicus Foundation, and members of the Polish Teachers Association.

**QUEEN CHOSEN FOR 2018 POLISH PARADE.** The selection of a queen for the 127th Annual Polish Constitution Day Parade took place

dates converse in Polish with excellent command of the language.

In addition, candidates answered questions posed by the jury and presented their talents. Beautiful dance skits, recitations, and dramatic folklore performances were rewarded with thunderous applause. One of the contestants, **Beata Soltys**, surprised the audience by painting a portrait of Józef Piłsudski in five minutes! The painting so appealed to the guests that a decision was made to auction it. The portrait was sold for \$2,250!

As part of the requirements since 2003, the young ladies modeled evening dresses, and danced the Polonaise wearing white gowns. Finally, all candidates were asked to answer the question: "If you were to become the 2018 Parade Queen, what would you do to involve the youth in the celebration of the cen-

### Own a Piece of Polish Art History

CHICAGO — The Polish Genealogical Society of America (PGSA) recently received a generous gift of

vintage Polish advertising posters from the collection of a serious collector. As advertising posters, they were displayed in public areas on billboards, kiosks, walls, fences . . . any place with an open surface in clear view of the general public.

Dating from 1938 to 1985, (and one from 1985), the gift covers a range of themes including opera, travel and Polish and American movies that represent the artistic styles and cultural moods of Poland from pre-war independence through phases of the Communist period. Being advertis-

ing posters, only a fraction of those produced survived.

The PGSA has decided to make these posters available through a silent auction, fund-raising event.

Each winning bidder will enjoy a beautiful example of Polish art and history while assisting the Society in its mission to provide the highest level of research services to its members.

A catalog of the posters can be viewed and downloaded from the PGSA website at [pgsa.org/polish-poster-auction/](http://pgsa.org/polish-poster-auction/).

The Auction has officially begun and will conclude at the PGSA Conference on September 15, 2018.



FAUST (Opera poster, 1964). Jan Lenica 1928 Poznań-2001 Berlin.

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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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## Minnesota Voice

# New Exhibit, Book, Tell Saga of the Freedom Train of Poland's Next-door Neighbor

by Mark Dillon

One road to renewed independence for Poland involved a Russian rail line. On Sept. 26, 1908 a train robbery catapulted the careers of Jozef Pilsudski and three future Polish prime ministers. A Jesse James-like heist of the equivalent of \$8 million in tax revenue from the train that the czar had extracted from Warsaw endeared Pilsudski to Austrian-Hungarian officials in Vienna, who were supporting his Botowki partisans.

Neighboring Czechoslovakia was also built on Russian rails a decade later during World War I. The 5,000-plus mile story of how this happened in Siberia is the focus of a new exhibit that opened April 7 at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. It is called "Guts and Glory: The War Train that Shaped a Nation" and runs until Dec. 31.

With two dozen, large interpretive panels, virtual reality features and three replica rail cars, the exhibit brings to life a story expertly told in print by Philadelphia author Kevin J. McNamara in his book *Dreams of a Great Small Nation* (Perseus Books, 2016).

McNamara was the opening day keynote speaker to a multiethnic, multistate Midwest crowd that included Hynek Kmoníček, the ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States, and Jozef Polakovič, deputy chief of mission at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington, D.C. McNamara then traveled north to give two talks about his work in St. Paul and Mendota Heights, Minn. sponsored by the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota.

"The story of the Legion has a lot to do with the destruction of Austria-Hungary, and everything to do with the liberation of the Czechs



Author Kevin J. McNamara spoke in St. Paul on April 8 to Minnesotans about his work *Dreams of a Great Small Nation* about the Czecho-Slovak Legion during World War I. The work is the subject of a new multimedia exhibit at the National Czech & Slovak Museum in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. To learn more, go to [ncsm.org/exhibits/guts-and-glory/](http://ncsm.org/exhibits/guts-and-glory/)

and the Slovaks, as well as the Yugoslavs and the Poles and other peoples" McNamara told Minnesota audiences.

Whereas Pilsudski focused on fighting the Russians with the help of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire to form three Polish legions, McNamara and the Iowa museum explain why tens of thousands of Czechs and Slovaks decided the Habsburgs were the blackest of the three imperial eagles.

The Czecho-Slovak Legion believed Russia, France and the United States would help them create a new nation — Czechoslovakia — if they took up arms against the Central Powers and trekked eastward around the world to the trenches of France. France and American immigrants, sent money to help. In Washington, President Woodrow Wilson would eventually send a legion of 10,000 U.S. troops to the Asian coast of Russia to help get the

Czecho-Slovak Legion out.

Through material gathered over two decades, McNamara offers the human drama and first-hand experience of Czechs and Slovaks who were initially taken as World War I prisoners of war — many in the failed military campaigns of fall 1914 and winter 1915 in Poland and Ukraine. His research involved a trip on a bedbug-ridden Trans-Siberian Railway in 1993. The journey provided access to documents and interviews that might not be possible now in Putin's Russia.

In 1918, civil war in Russia would make the Czecho-Slovak Legion's transcontinental challenge of exiting Siberia via the port of Vladivostok a delayed and bloody nightmare. It would take more than two years for 67,730 people to be evacuated across the Pacific and Atlantic by train and steamship. Among them were 2,433 women, McNamara writes, citing a Czech report.

For a Polish reader, McNamara's work and the exhibit have lot of relevance. For it was largely in the Galician Poland where conscripts were subjected to an incompetent, abusive Austrian-Hungarian military. McNamara explains how this planted the seeds of resentment that would play out in Siberia, finally sparking a rebellion after a deadly brawl between Czech and Hungarian POWs at a rail station in Cheljabinsk.

In the disease-plagued POW camps, Czechs and Slovaks found they had merely traded one form of suffering for another. "Out of the 200,000 prisoners shipped to 30 camps across Central Asia, 45,000 never returned," McNamara writes. "Final estimates for death among Austria-Hungarian POWs (of all nationalities) range from 375,000 to 450,000."

McNamara brings to light several stories about Czech soldiers surrendering to Russia in the Polish Carpathian foothills. For example, amid the extended subzero winter of 1915, at the Ropa River near Gorlice, emaciated soldiers of the 89th Infantry Regiment saw comrades in arms tied to trees as punishment, and were apparently glad to be captured by Czech-speaking Russians while on a patrol mission, he writes.

At the Dukla Pass, less than a

month before the German-led May 1915 Gorlice-Tarnow offensive that pushed Russia out of the region, some 1,850 men of the 2,000-man Czech 28th Infantry Regiment surrendered to the Ceska Druzina, the military unit that czarist Russia had organized to lure persons of Czech heritage to their side.

Czarist Russia became Communist Russia in late 1917 and the new regime began to renege on promises of safe train passage for the Czecho-Slovak Legion, McNamara writes. Bureaucrats confiscated supplies and weapons, and Leon Trotsky would order the Legionaries to be killed. Still, the Legion persevered across Siberia. Among their adventures: turning over to the Bolsheviks some \$210 million of the former czar's gold reserves that came into their possession after the Legion seized control of the rail line, McNamara notes.

Czechoslovakia was an entirely new concept a century ago, when Poland was put together at Versailles after World War I after being torn apart by three powers. The Iowa exhibit and McNamara's book memorialize the struggle and sacrifices of men who helped forge the spirit of a new nation amid the worst of times. Both also bring to attention Russia's contradictions, flaws and brutality at the birth of Soviet Union.

## Polish Co-Productions at Jewish Film Festival

BETHESDA, Md. — Two Polish co-productions will be shown at the Washington Jewish Film Festival.

"Back to Berlin," will be shown Sat., May 5, 4:30 p.m. at the Bethesda Row Cinema, 7235 Woodmont Ave., Bethesda; and again on Wed., May 9, 8:30 p.m. at the Edlavitch Jewish Community Center, 1529 16th St NW, Washington, D.C. It is co-presented by The Kosciuszko Foundation, German Historical In-

stitute, and the Polish American Arts Association.

"The Dybbuk" will be shown Sun., May 13, 12:30 p.m. at the AFI Silver Theatre, Address: 8633 Colesville Rd., Silver Spring, Md. Directed by Michael Waszynski, the 1937 film is in Yiddish with English subtitles.

For more information, visit [www.wjff.org/film/dybbuk/](http://www.wjff.org/film/dybbuk/)

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

As a national newspaper serving Polish immigrants and their descendants since 1911, the Polish American Journal has a unique perspective on the shortfalls — primarily funding — that have prevented many great projects from getting off the ground. We also have grown increasingly frustrated to see students — future leaders, who are passionate about Polonia — seek other areas of study because they could not secure something as simple as airfare to study in Poland or abroad. Likewise, we see so many talented academicians, scholars, artists, folk groups — the list goes on — whose special projects or areas of study have been dropped for lack of funds. In many cases, state or federal arts or cultural funding is available, but these groups cannot afford processing fees to meet

application requirements. It is time to start helping our own.

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veteran's group; scholarship fund; dance group, etc. Our board reviews these suggestions and creates a ballot of the most-requested causes/recipients, which will then be voted on by current members. (Membership is yearly, starting with the date of your most recent

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

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## Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes

## Bishop Buffalo to Call Former St. Stanislaus Convent Home

by Mike Pietruszka

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Two valuable properties, including an E.B. Green-designed mansion, will be put up for sale by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo to help fund two programs, including the one it recently launched to assist past sexual abuse victims, church officials announced.

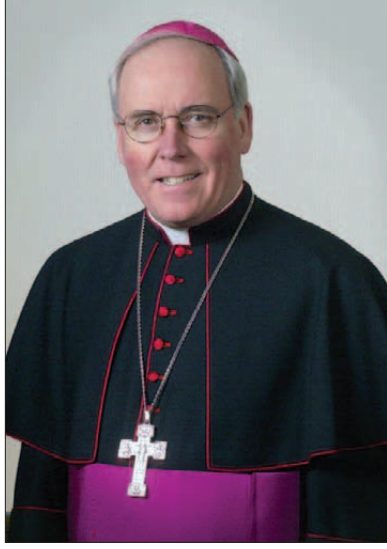
The Bishop's Residence, or Episcopal Residence, at 77 Oakland Place in Buffalo will be placed on the market by the Catholic Diocese of Buffalo this summer. Proceeds from the sale of the will go toward the Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program, which was announced in March to aid victims who have previously come forward with accusations of childhood sexual abuse at the hands of clergy.

Bishop Richard J. Malone, who lived at the Oakland Place house along with priests serving on his staff, will move into the former convent of the St. Stanislaus Parish on Townsend Street in Buffalo's Broadway-Fillmore neighborhood.

"I am proud to move to the heart of Buffalo's Polonia, especially as a way to be a small part of the renewal that is happening in so many ways in the Broadway-Fillmore neighborhood," said Malone.

St. Stanislaus is the oldest Polish church in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo and holds the title of "Mother Church of Polonia" for Western New York.

The parish was established on June 8, 1873 by Rev. Jan Pitass and the Society of Saint Stanislaus. The original church was a two-story, wood frame church that was built in 1874. That church was converted to a school shortly after the present-day church was completed in 1886. In 1904, the church's parish was among the largest in the United States, with close to 20,000 parish-



Bishop Richard J. Malone: "I am proud to move to the heart of Buffalo's Polonia."

ioners and nearly 2,000 children were enrolled in the school.

**POLONIA TIDBITS.** **Dyngus Day** was celebrated across WNY, April 2. Check [www.dyngusday.com](http://www.dyngusday.com) or the "Dyngus Day Buffalo" Facebook page for photographs of the festivities ... Special Dyngus Day events included the Dyngus Day Parade through Buffalo's Historic Polonia District and the release of a special beer, **Grodziskie**, by the 12 Gates Brewing Company.... The Broadway Market hosted its **Dyngus Day Best Kielbasa Contest** again this year. The 2018 winners were: Dash's Market (Best Fresh Commercial), Polish Villa II (Best Smoked Commercial), Mark & Keith Bernardz (Best Fresh Homemade) and (Best Non-traditional Homemade), Michael Martinez (Best Smoked Homemade) and Polish Villa II (People's Choice).

Toronto marked April 2nd as **Saint John Paul II Day** ... The **Polish Student Association** of the State University of New York at Buffalo

held its 8th annual Swieconka and Easter Presentation in the Newman Center at the university's North Campus in Amherst on the 8th ... Also on the 8th, organ virtuoso Witold Zalewski performed in **The Memory Never Dies**, a concert devoted to the memory of the victims of the Katyn Massacre and Smolensk plane crash, at St. Paul's Bloor Street Church in Toronto ... **Sharon Siejak Voigt** spoke about her recent trip to Poland at the Polish Genealogical Society of NYS's April 12th meeting in the Villa Maria College cafeteria in Cheektowaga ... **Yvan Baker**, the member of the Ontario Parliament representing Etobicoke Central, filed a motion calling on the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to condemn the Katyn Massacre as an act of genocide carried out against the Polish nation ... Polish rock legends **Czerwone Gitary** performed at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga, Ontario on the 13th ... On April 14th, the Polish Canadian Salon of Poetry, Music and Theatre presented Zbigniew Herbert's **Piekno i Dobro** at the Maja Prentice Theatre in Mississauga ... **Paul Lubieniecki, Ph.D.** presented his paper entitled "American Interpretations of the Initial Catholic Social Encyclicals," April 14 at Syracuse University at the conference of the Eastern International Region of the American Academy of Religion. Dr. Lubieniecki is an adjunct professor of Church History at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora ... Also on the 14th, the "**Poles in the Canadian Mosaic: 150 Years of History**" exhibit opened at the Mississauga Central Library. The exhibit runs until June 11.

On April 15th, **St. Stanislaus Church**, the Mother Church of Buffalo's Polonia, celebrated its 145th anniversary with a Mass celebrated by Buffalo Bishop Richard

Malone and a reception at the Fr. Justin Knights of Columbus Hall in Cheektowaga ... On April 19th, the Skalny Center for Polish and Central European Studies sponsored a panel discussion: "**Memory of the Shoah in Europe**" in the Rush Rhees Library on the University of Rochester campus; and pianist **Justyna Gabzdyl** released her new CD, "Szymanowski, Chopin and ... Gershwin," at the Polish Consulate in Toronto.

The *Am-Pol Eagle*, WNY's Polish American weekly newspaper, honored its Citizens-of-the-Year, Haller's Blue Army, and World War II Polish Army Veterans at St. Adalbert's Basilica in Buffalo on the 28th ... New Direction provided the entertainment for the Spring Polka Night at the Knaus AMVET Post in Depew on the 28th ... Also on the 28th, ZNPK hosted its **Burlington Polish Heritage Day** at the Burlington, Ontario City Hall and Polish Hall ... On April 29th, the **Kalina Singing Society** held its 117th Anniversary and Scholarship Award Dinner at Cheektowaga's Millennium hotel. Mezzo soprano Arianna Tombolesi was awarded the Joanne E. Goldman Scholarship at the dinner.

**CELEBRATING EASTER.** The WNY Association of **Priests for Polish Affairs** celebrated its Swieconka, and the **Buffalo Polka Boosters** held it Swieconka with music by John Gora & Gorale at the Polish Falcons' Hall in Depew, April 18 ... The WNY Division of the **Polish American Congress** hosted its "Traditional Swieconka and Installation Luncheon" in the St. Stanislaus Social Center in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District, April 22 ... Also on the 22nd, Buffalo's **Corpus Christi Church** marked the 120th anniversary of its establishment of a parish ... The Polka Variety Social

Club hosted its Swieconka with music by Special Delivery on the 25.

**UPCOMING.** On May 3rd, Polish-Canadian singer/songwriter **Iлона Anna Kowalik** will perform with a ten piece band at the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga ... The Syracuse Polish Home will host a **Polish Constitution Day Ceremony** marking the 100th anniversary of the PLAV on May 3rd, as well ... The **Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College** will offer a Mass of Remembrance on the 10th anniversary of the death of Irena Krzyzanowska Sendler at St. Michael's Church on May 12th. The Mass will be followed by a viewing of Mary Skinner's film, "In the Name of Their Mothers" ... On May 13th, the Skalny Lecture and Artist Series at the University of Rochester will present **The Best of Polish Piano Music** featuring Katrzyna Musial in Hatch Hall at the Eastman School of Music in Downtown Rochester ... The **Professional & Business Women of Polonia** will hold its Scholarship Dinner at Kloc's Banquet Facility in West Seneca on May 17th ... **Carassauga, Mississauga's Festival of Cultures**, will be held from May 25th through 27th. The Polish Pavilion will be located at the Mississauga Valley Community Centre Arena.

**Andrzej Wajda's** film, "Pan Tadeusz: The Last Foray in Lithuania," will be shown at the Dryden Theatre in Downtown Rochester on June 2nd as part of the Skalny Lecture and Artist Spring Series ... The **Buffalo Pints and Pierogi Fest** will take place at Buffalo Riverworks on June 3rd ... **Mississauga Polish Day** will be held in Celebration Square on June 9th ... The **101st Annual Pilgrimage** to the Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario historic military cemetery of General Haller's Blue Army recruits will be held on June 10th ... The **64th Annual Syracuse Polish Festival** will be held in Clinton Square, June 22-24 ... The Brantford, Ontario **45th Annual International Villages Festival** will take place July 4-7. The festival will include events at the "Polish Warszawa" and "Polish Polonaise" Villages ... The **Buffalo Polka Boosters** are planning its Annual Picnic for July 15th at Fontana's Grove in Cheektowaga. Special Delivery will provide the entertainment ... The Town of Cheektowaga announced that its **40th Annual Polish-American Arts Festival** will take place the weekend of July 20-22 at the Town Park on Harlem Road, and will feature Special Delivery, the Original Krew Brothers, New Direction, Lenny Gomulka and the Chicago Push, The Boys, Buffalo Touch, and Jr. Poland ... The Buffalo Bisons Baseball team announced that **Mira Szramel** will be awarded this year's Polish American of the Year honors, and **Matthew Kushner** will be given the Leadership Award at the team's **Polish Festival Night** on August 7th ... The **Roncesvalles Polish Festival** in Toronto will be held on September 15th and 16th ... The Daemen College Center for Polish Studies in Amherst will sponsor a conference entitled **For Your Freedom and Ours: Polonia and the Struggle for Polish Independence** on September 21st and 22nd.

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 6th for the June issue) to [pietruska@verizon.net](mailto:pietruska@verizon.net).

## The Pondering Pole

## "That's my business! That's my name!"

by Ed Poniewaz

For many years Kenny Piekutowski was the face of Saint Louis' Piekutowskis, and my go-to sausage place for various personal and community events. Ken passed away on January 4, 2018.

Ken was a familiar and important figure in Saint Louis Polonia and really in the metro area because he was a producer of the most delicious kielbasa, made from a recipe handed down to him and his brother from their father, who opened Piekutowski's in the 1940s.

Kenny, a good guy, will be missed. We are blessed to have his brother Ted and their family still manning the fort.

Like Ken, Ted is extremely proud his Polish roots. To wit, a recent interview in St. Louis' *Riverfront Times*:

"People always said, 'Why do you keep that long name? Why don't you shorten it to something?' I said, 'Hell no! That's my business! That's my name! They'll remember that!'"

Piekutowski's sausage enjoys an international reputation.

"In 1969, Pope John Paul II (then a Cardinal) was here in St. Louis to try to get money for the church in Poland. He lived in Poland at that time. He was here visiting different Polish communities in the United States. He came to the Polish church downtown, St. Stanislaus,



Ted Piekutowski

(Kostka Polish Catholic Parish, St. Louis, Missouri) to try to get money for the people over there in Poland" said Ted in an interview in the online magazine *Umission*.

"He was there and the housekeeper at that time came to our store. She got sausage ... and made it at the meal for him. It was the Polish sausage.

"Right before he was ready to come to St. Louis in 1999, some people from St. Louis were in the Vatican ... and they did get to talk to him. They asked him if he was coming to St. Louis and what was the thing he remembered most about coming to St. Louis. He said, 'I remember that sausage I had at that church down there and it was the best I ever had - better than even in Poland.'"

**POLISH OR NOT?** *The American Side* is a 2016 movie about a Polish American "low rent" detective who unravels a conspiracy to build a revolutionary invention. Written and directed by **Greg Stuhr**, *The American Side* stars Polish actress **Alicja Bachleda**. I haven't seen it but welcome your criticism. *The American Side*, good Polish film, or not? Greg Stuhr, Polish or not?

Canadian **Adrienne Pieczonka** is a soprano singer who has performed on "the leading concert stages in Europe, North America, and Asia."

Said Pieczonka: "My father is 100% Polish. He was born in Poland and came to Canada as an 8-year-old boy with his parents and siblings. They settled in Saskatchewan, in the Canadian prairies, like many Ukrainian and Polish families."

She has won numerous awards over her 30-year career including the Paul de Hueck and Norman Walford Career Achievement Award in 2014. Read more about Adrienne on her website [www.adriennepieczonka.com](http://www.adriennepieczonka.com).

Prince Harry of England and the American Meghan Markle are engaged to be married and the person they have chosen to make their wedding cake is **Claire Ptak**. Originally from California, Claire is a food writer, food and prop stylist, recipe developer, consultant, and the owner of a small bakery called *Violet* located in East London.

"I started my business as a market stall on Broadway Market, cooking from home before opening the café in 2010. All of my cakes are baked with organic flour, sugar, milk, and eggs. Many of the other ingredients are organic as well, like our Madagascan vanilla pods and pure cane molasses."

Quite a woman Claire Ptak but, Polish or not?

**Jess Macallan**, born Jessica Lee Liszewski, is an American actress known for her role as Josslyn Carver in the ABC drama series *Mistresses* and as Ava Sharpe for The CW network in the show *Legends of Tomorrow*. Jess's paternal grandfather was Walter Theodore Liszewski, the son of Walter Theodore Liszewski and Josephine Bronakowska. Walter and Josephine were born in Poland.

**Jo Jo Siwa**, is a 15-year-old American dancer, singer, actress, and YouTube personality. She has appeared on *Dance Moms* with her mother Jessalyn Siwa. Jo Jo, rising star, Polish or not?

If you have a thought about this month's topic, have a question, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: [EdwardPoniewaz@6432marmaduke.com](mailto:EdwardPoniewaz@6432marmaduke.com), 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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**POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE** (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 32nd year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

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

Polish Chef

Polish Cuisine Q&A

by Robert Strybel

POPPYSEED NOODLES

Q: I'd like to know how to make "kluski z makiem" (poppyseed noodles). Would you have a recipe?

SATRI PENCAK  
spencak@yahoo.com

A: Here is an easy way to prepare that old treat. 1 lb pkg of wide or medium-wide egg noodles a little longer than package directions. Polish noodles should be more tender and less rubbery than than al dente. Dot hot, freshly-drained noodles with a little butter and stir in 1 c ready-to-use poppyseed pastry filling. Use more or less filling depending on how intensive you want the dish to be. 1/2 c plumped, drained raisins may be added. Toss gently to distribute ingredients evenly. May be served warm, room temp or chilled.

NAPOLEONIC POLISH FOOD

Q: I am a researcher for the Travel Channel television series "Bizarre Foods with Andrew Zimmern," and for an upcoming episode we will explore the foods Napoleon's armies ate while marching through Poland in 1806 and 1807. The episode will also feature foods available to Poles at the time, as well as traditional Polish foods that are still eaten today. Can you advise me on this?

AMY THOMPSON  
AThompson@tremendousinc.com

A: With the passage of time, any rations brought from France would have been exhausted and the army would have had to live off the land. In Poland the staples included much rye bread as well

as rye, barley, wheat, buckwheat groats, millet, root vegetables (such as beetroot, parsnip, celeriac and rutabaga), as well as cabbage and sauerkraut. Back then potatoes were still relatively new. Meat was mainly pork and poultry. Dried sausage would have been ideal since it keeps without refrigeration. Soups have long been a military mainstay eaten with a hunk of rye bread on the side. Typical soups would have included vegetable barley, sauerkraut, yellow split pea, sorrel, bean and tomato. French soldiers would have loved Polish flaczki (tripe soup), but whether army cooks tackled so time-consuming a dish for marching troops is debatable.

BROWN GRAVY

Q: Does anyone cook stuffed cabbage with brown gravy? I was taught to use tomato sauce, but my husband says it should be brown gravy.

LINDA ABRAMSHE BEECHER  
New York, N.Y.

A: Some form of tomatoes — sauce, puréed, diluted concentrate, stewed, canned tomato soup sometimes enhanced with a little ketchup — is by far the choice of most PolAm cooks. But there are also family variants including sour-cream sauce, golden brown fried fatback nuggets (skwarki), the brown gravy you mentioned and creamed mushroom sauce, which is especially good. I'll bet your husband would enjoy the latter! Smacznego!

DRY KISZKA?

Q: My wife is from a Polish farm family in central Wisconsin, her Grand-

parents on both sides came over from Poland. Her maternal Grandmother made a wonderful dry sausage that was full of potatoes, flour, onions, drippings, and a little meat, stuffed into casing — her Grandfather used to put it in his pocket to eat in the fields — of course, she never wrote down the recipes, and we have never been able to find it. She called it Dry Kiszka. I was hoping that you might be able to help me find a recipe for this sausage — I would love to be able to make some for my wife.

JOHN ENLOE  
jbenloe@comcast.net

A: Sorry, I couldn't find anything called "sucha kiszka," so "dry kiszka" was probably a term your wife's babcia thought up. The food of the Polish peasantry was a make-do cookery — the farm-wife cooked whatever was available and never wrote it down. A typicality peasant dish in Poland was once a potato kiszka which may contain any of the ingredients you mentioned and more. Here is one "recipe": Dice about 3/4 lbs thick-sliced bacon and fry up with 3 medium chopped onions to a nice golden brown. Add to 4.5-5 lbs cold boiled potatoes and mash well mixing to spread bacon and onions. Add 2 eggs and 2-3 buds crushed garlic Stir in little flour (1-2 tablespoons) and season generously with salt, pepper, paprika, and marjoram. Stuff casings with mixture, make pin pricks all over kiszka, so it doesn't burst during cooking. Bake in well-greased pan in moderate oven about 1 hour, turning over midway through. Leave in oven until cooled to room temp. It can be eaten hot or cold. Some use grated raw potatoes.

Teen-Produced Play About Warsaw Uprising on Stage in Saratoga Springs

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. — Ad Astra Theatre Troupe, Ltd. presents Uprising, an original play based on the Warsaw Uprising by Grace Alberti, Låle Davidson, and Catie LeCours. The play is directed by Grace Alberti.

Uprising begins the day before W-Hour, the start of the Warsaw Uprising. Seventeen-year-old Halina (Hela) and her thirteen-year-old sister Elżbieta (Elża) work for a German family who has appropriated their family's small pharmacy in Warsaw's city center, having lost both their parents in the years prior. Hela is getting ready to sneak out to a secret resistance meeting, which is disguised as a dance. Elża begs her to come along but Hela flatly refuses, knowing the risks of going out after curfew. The mischievous and brave Piotr, however, knows a back entrance to the venue where the audience will meet Hela's battalion.

Ad Astra Theatre Troupe is all about empowering local teenagers to make a meaningful contribution to their community through the arts. Their choice of subject matter is important because it is all about

how young people, many of them teenage women, contributed to an important chapter in history. Ad Astra hopes that its production will inspire young people to understand their potential to make the world a better place.

Show times are Fri., June 8 at 7:00 p.m., Sat., June 9 at 7:00 p.m., and Sun., June 10 at 2:00 p.m. PM at the Saratoga Springs High School Teaching Auditorium, 1 Blue Strak Way, Saratoga Springs. Please use the parking lot near the football field and enter through the rear entrance for easiest access to the Teaching Auditorium. Tickets are \$15. Students and senior citizens 62 and older have a discounted ticket price of \$8.

Playwright and director, Grace Alberti is a junior at Saratoga Springs High School. Playwright Låle Davidson is an award-winning author and a professor at SUNY Adirondack. Playwright Catie LeCours is a senior at Niskayuna High School. Poster Artist, Tess Davidson-Brown, is a junior at Saratoga Springs High School. Grace and Catie are of Polish heritage.

Learn more at [www.AdAstraTroupe.org](http://www.AdAstraTroupe.org).

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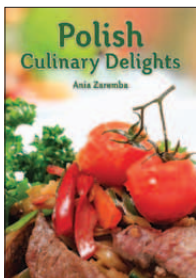
**TREASURED POLISH RECIPES FOR AMERICANS**  
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hc 5.5" x 8.7" x 0.50"; 172 pp.;  
English language version with U.S. measurements  
475 Recipes

Edited by Marie Sokolowski and Irene Jasinski; Illustrated by Stanley Legun

First published in United States in 1948, this book was the first complete book of Polish cookery in the English language. Chapters on Appetizers, Soups, Meats, Poultry and Game, Fish, Vegetables, Mushrooms, Dairy Dishes, Pastries and Desserts. Recipes are included for famous Polish barszcz, for bigos, czarnaia, pierogi, naleśniki, paszteciki... and hundreds of other interesting Polish foods.

It contains brief stories of Polish festivities and customs such as Christmas Eve (Wigilia), Harvest Festival (Dożynki) and others.

POLISH CULINARY DELIGHTS



\$24.95  
Item BK 2572  
by Ania Zaremba  
sc., 6.5" x 9.25" x 0.5";  
224 pp., color photographs, index; English language version with U.S. measurements.

Polish Culinary Delights was written to bring authentic Polish recipes of the past few generations to the North American kitchen. Besides finding the

usual "traditional Polish" fare, this book includes unique recipes created by Ania and others in her family (grandma, grandpa, uncle, etc.).

More than 175 recipes, from soups, appetizers, entrees and side dishes to desserts. Easy-to-follow instructions with helpful tips make it simple to prepare such traditional Polish favorites as pierogi, blintzes, sauerkraut, cabbage rolls, bigos, horseradish sauce, paczki, angel wings, mazurka cakes and many more.

PLEASING POLISH RECIPES



by Jacek and Malgorzata Nowakowski  
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This little cookbook features a great variety of regional foods, such as hot beer, vegetable soup, leek salad, graham bread, bigos, 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.



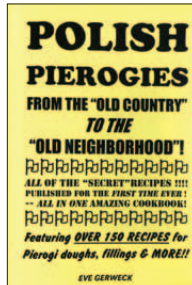
**POLISH COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK**  
by Sophie Knab  
\$19.95  
Item 2-632. 337 pp., sc;

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.

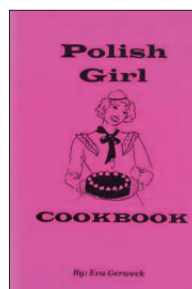
The Polish Country Kitchen Cookbook gives its readers priceless historical information such as the type of utensils used in Poland at the turn of the century, the meaning behind the Pascal butter lamb, and many other insightful answers to common questions asked by descendants of Polish immigrants.

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



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48 pp., sc.

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**POLISH GIRL COOKBOOK**  
\$10.00  
by Eva Gerweck,  
Item 2-301  
44 pp., sc.

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

potato salad, pastries, babka, breads, and more.



**POLISH RESTAURANT COOKBOOK**  
\$10.00  
Item 2-302  
by Jonathan Becklar, 44 pp., sc.

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

POLISH HOLIDAY COOKERY

Published at \$16.95

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST: \$9.95

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.



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# Wilson, Paderewski, and the Re-Birth of Poland

by John Radzilowski

The re-birth of a free Poland after 123 years of foreign partition and colonial subjection was one of the most improbable yet important events of modern history. While the Poles themselves should get most of the credit, the United States played a key role in Poland's rebirth and it was the first country to establish diplomatic relations with the new Poland. Few countries strongly supported Polish independence and those that did had some ulterior motive. America, though, had no strong or abiding interest in east-central Europe or in Poland. Her involvement was based on idealism, not realpolitik.

During the First World War, Poland first emerged in American politics as a humanitarian issue. The war had already caused massive destruction in Poland as Russian, German, and Austro-Hungarian armies marched across the land, destroying villages, farms and industry. Hundreds of thousands were made homeless or left destitute. In America, Polish Americans mobilized as never before to raise funds for Polish relief. A key player in this effort was pianist Ignacy Jan Paderewski who, by 1914, was the single most famous musical celebrity of his day. Already in 1915,

Paderewski was able to meet U.S. President Woodrow Wilson through the offices of the president's friend and advisor, Edward House. Thanks to Paderewski, the Polish relief effort drew in more than just immigrant workers but caught the attention (and the wallets) of many wealthy and well-connected Americans.

However, by 1916, it was clear that aid for Poland was going nowhere due to the war situation. Yet, ironically the humanitarian failure opened the door to political action. President Wilson was finding himself increasingly hard pressed to keep America out of the war. And once the United States did enter the war on the side of Britain and France (in France), he became an advocate about how America could use her financial, political and military clout to bring the war to an end. But his aim went beyond victory on the battlefield. Indeed, by 1918, thanks to Europe's self-inflicted wounds, Wilson had emerged as the most powerful and influential politician in the world. Ever the idealist, Wilson's vision was that victory should not only bring a just and lasting peace. It should lead the victorious powers to address the underlying causes of Europe's deep crisis. It was as Wilson was trying to think through the problems of what such a peace would look like that he again

met Paderewski. The two men took a liking to each other.

Paderewski for his part was a genuine Polish patriot, like Jozef Pilsudski and Roman Dmowski, but unlike them he was no professional politician. He led no political party and had little grasp of policy. His jealousy and status consciousness — fairly common with many celebrities — made it hard for him to work with others. His vision of Poland's future was vague and somewhat Romantic. Yet, this is precisely what appealed to an idealist like Wilson. The president was uninterested in determining the exact future of Poland, how it might become independent, or what its borders might be. Thus, Paderewski's eloquence and idealism were what got him Wilson's ear. Because of this, Poland became Wilson's best example of what he felt had gone wrong in Europe and what needed to be corrected if peace was to be achieved. In January 1917 — a year before the famous Fourteen Points — Wilson gave his "Peace without Victory" speech which laid out his vision for the future of Europe. In it, he mentions only one country by name: Poland. Although Poland wasn't the only trouble spot in Europe Wilson wanted to address, it was the one he highlighted most clearly and consistently.

Thanks to Wilson (and Paderewski) Poland became more than just a pawn on the chessboard of European politics. Although Wilson left aside the details of how Poland would be re-formed, which contributed to a long series of post-war disputes, his intervention on behalf of a Poland restored to independence set the stage for the re-creation of a country that had disappeared from the map for over a century.



*Dr. John Radzilowski is an historian with degrees from Arizona State University specializing in Modern U.S. History, Public History, Russia/East. Currently, Dr. Radzilowski is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Alaska Southeast. Among his many activities, Dr. Radzilowski is a fellow at the Piast Institute: A National Center for Polish and Polish-American Affairs and past president of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota. He is also a contributing editor for the Encyclopedia of American Immigration (second edition), plus the author or co-author of 13 books. This is the second in a series of bi-monthly statements issued by the Polish American Congress regarding the centennial year of Poland's Independence, November 11, 1918 – November 11, 2018.*

## May 3rd and Independence Celebrations

### Minnesota's Autumn of Independence Galas

Minnesota Polish, Czech, Slovak and Carpatho-Rusyn groups are planning 100th anniversary galas highlighted by performing arts concerts in Minneapolis and St. Paul plus festivals in smaller communities this fall to mark the rebirth of Poland and the establishment of Czechoslovakia.

At the Minneapolis Institute of Art on Nov. 10, several Polish groups have banned together to host an evening Polish baroque chamber and classical music concert featuring the works of Fryderyk Chopin, Henryk Wieniawski and Ignacy Paderewski. The event is expected to be accompanied by Polish folk dancing and historical exhibits.

Polska Szkoła Swobotia, PoleSom, Sister Cities International, Twin Cities Polish Festival, PACIM, Polska Biblioteka, the Polish American Club of St. Paul and others are partnering to plan and fund the event through a new non-profit group formed in January, the Poland Independence Celebration Committee (PICC) a 501(c)(3).

"This gala is not intended just for local Polish Americans, but also friends and supporters of Poland in the wider Midwestern area," says co-organizer Kasia Litak, a Minneapolis area physician. "We strive to celebrate Poland's independence with dignity and pride. Our goal is to inspire thoughts about Poland's history but also how would you like to see Poland in the future, just like Poland's President Andrzej Duda."

Minnesota's Czech and Slovak communities are reach-

ing out with a year-long series of anniversary cultural and educational events and a website that serves as an information portal for events, book discussions, articles and Central European history — [www.czechslovakcentury.org](http://www.czechslovakcentury.org)

On Oct. 13, Sokol Minnesota is hosting Slovnost, an afternoon and evening festival of music, dance and anniversary-related cultural activities at the C.S.P.S. Hall in St. Paul, the longest serving Czech-Slovak hall in continuous use in the United States.

Czech Country Minnesota, which comprises the towns of Lonsdale, Montgomery, Veseli, and New Prague, is hosting a weekend of activities on Oct. 27 and 28 to mark the 100th anniversary of Czechoslovakia, 50 years since the Prague Spring reform movement, and 25 years since the formation of the Slovak and Czech Republics.

The weekend will feature area cemetery and church tours, a Czech language Mass, a battle of the bands and Taste of Czech and Slovak Cuisine.

On Oct. 27, Minneapolis' Kenwood Symphony Orchestra and the Carpatho-Rusyn focused Timo Foundation are performing a multimedia version of the Psalm of the Sub-Carpathian Land as part of its "Centennial Celebration of the First Czechoslovak Republic" in Bloomington, Minn., at Ives Auditorium near the Mall of America.

— Mark Dillon

### ILLINOIS

CHICAGO — The Polish Independence 10K Run/Walk will be held at Montrose Harbor, Grove 16, Sun., Nov. 11 at 11:11 a.m.

The race will commemorate the 100th anniversary of Poland's resurgence as a sovereign country on November 11th, 1918. The Chicago race is a part of bigger endeavor that includes 100 races held around Poland and abroad on the same date.

All finishers will receive a custom medal and there will be prizes for winners of different age/gender divisions. Registration is now open at [wpna.fm](http://wpna.fm).

### MASSACHUSETTS

NORTHAMPTON — A celebration of Polish Constitution Day and 100th Anniversary of Poland's Independence, sponsored by the Polish Heritage Committee of Northampton and St. Valentine's Church, will be held Thursday, May 3, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. with Holy Mass of remembrance at St. Valentine's Church, 127 King St.

Following the Mass, at 6:45 p.m., in the Parish Hall, Rev. Adam Czarnecki, pastor, will make a short presentation on the Polish Constitution and the 100th Anniversary of Poland's independence.

The program is open to the public free of charge — all are welcome. Refreshments will be served. For more information, you are invited to call Father Czarnecki at (413) 584-0133.

### NEW YORK

NIAGARA FALLS — Niagara Falls will be illuminated white and red in honor of Poland, Sat., July 21, as Western New York celebrates the 100th Anniversary of Poland's Independence that weekend.

Scheduled events include the 80th Annual General Pulaski Parade, a gala celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Poland's Independence, the 40th Annual Cheektowaga Polish American Arts Festival, and guests from Poland and across American Polonia.

### Sagely Advice

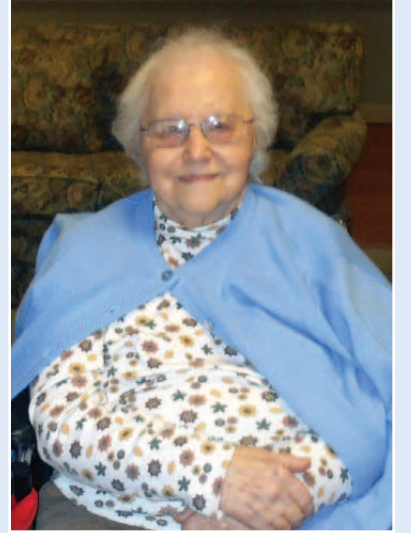
**Eleanor Brion**, the daughter of a Polish immigrant who came to Pennsylvania to work as a coal miner, is pictured here on her 99th birthday. Looking toward her 100th birthday, she offered this advice when asked to share the wisdom of her years: "I say work hard, do the best you can, and God will take care of you."

Brion said growing up with three brothers and three sisters in Morris Run, Pa. made her strong. "Raising five children made me stronger," she said. "Prayers, faith, and believing provide a great strength for life. Never give up!"

Brion also credits the lessons of her Polish heritage for her longevity: "Your character will make all the difference. Learn to laugh at yourself as mistakes are made. Help others and help will come your way. Be patient, respect the gift of life."

Finally, she said offered the words of John as an inspiration to her:

"I am the resurrection and the life; whosoever believes in me, though he should die, will come to life, and whoever is alive and believes in me will never die."



### Student Works on Flint Water Solution



GROSSE POINTE, Mich. — For Michal Ruprecht, the love of science is deep.

So deep, he was invited to give a presentation at American Chemistry Society regional meeting.

Inspired by what happened in Flint he decided to use his passion of chemistry and develop a way to remove harmful elements from water.

What makes this even more extraordinary is he was the

only high schooler at the meeting; everyone else at that meeting was in college.

"We eventually created a Ligand, which is a molecule that bonds to other molecules. And it has the potential of removing harmful substances from water. So how we like to think of it is like an arm claw. Our Ligand comes in and it grabs the harmful substance out," Ruprecht said.

To cover costs associated with travel to the conference, applications fee, etc., Ruprecht applied for a grant and was surprised to have received it.

"I look at the email and it says 'Congratulations Michal. You've won the ACS travel grant in green chemistry,' and I was like, whoa," he said.

So he's on his way. The only high school student leading his team in a sea of graduate students pushing an idea to help fix the issue in Flint.

Visit [michalruprecht.com](http://michalruprecht.com) to learn more him and about his work.

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## Sports

## Quartet to Enter Polish Sports Hall of Fame

by Tom Tarapacki

Former Pro Bowl offensive guard **Conrad Dobler**, gold medal-winning swimmer **Rachel Komisarz-Baugh**, former basketball player and current University of Utah coach **Larry Krystkowiak**, and national golf long-drive champion **Evan "Big Cat" Williams** are all heading to the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame this summer.

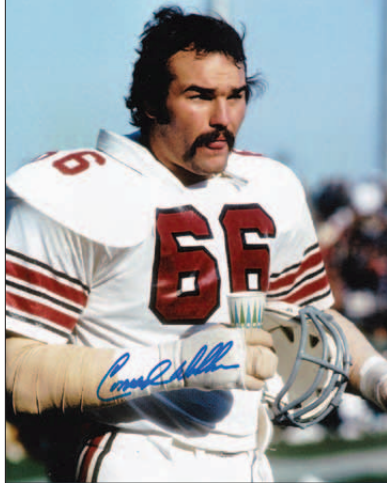
**Dobler** was variously described as the meanest, toughest and dirtiest man in pro football. A fifth round pick of St. Louis out of Wyoming in 1972, he was cut by the team as a rookie. However, he was brought back due to injuries, and with grit and determination soon became a big part of one of the best offensive lines in the game. Playing right offensive guard, he was named to three straight Pro Bowls from 1975 to 1977. His 1975 Cardinals set the NFL record for fewest sacks in a season, allowing just eight the whole year.

In a 1977 cover story *Sports Illustrated* named Dobler the dirtiest player in the NFL. He reveled in the reputation, saying that it helped intimidate or distract his opponents.

Battling injuries, Dobler was traded to New Orleans in 1978 and then to Buffalo two years later. "They've started calling me an inspiration," Dobler noted at the time. "That's quite a transition, isn't it, from the meanest man in football to a medical wreck to an inspiration? Someday I'd just like to be known as a football player." The rebuilding Bills made the playoffs both of his seasons. When he retired in 1981 he had started every game but four in his 10-year career, despite his arthritic knees. Dobler stayed in the public eye by appearing in a series of popular Miller Lite commercials as a "famous troublemaker."

Born in Chicago and raised in

California, Conrad's father was German and Irish and his mother, the former Clara Broniecki, was the daughter of Polish immigrants. In his autobiography *They Call Me Dirty* Dobler recalled that she worked as a cook in Chicago. "Her best customers included none other than the notorious mob boss Al Ca-



**HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES.** Clockwise, from above: Former Pro Bowl offensive guard **Conrad Dobler**; former basketball player and current University of Utah coach **Larry Krystkowiak**; national golf long-drive champion **Evan "Big Cat" Williams**; and gold medal-winning swimmer **Rachel Komisarz-Baugh**.

pone and his cronies, who apparently enjoyed good, authentic Polish food."

**Larry Krystkowiak** was probably the greatest player in the history of University of Montana basketball. The 6-9 forward was named conference MVP three times (1984-86) and was a two-time Academic All-American. To this day the Shelby, Montana native still holds the school career records for points and rebounds.

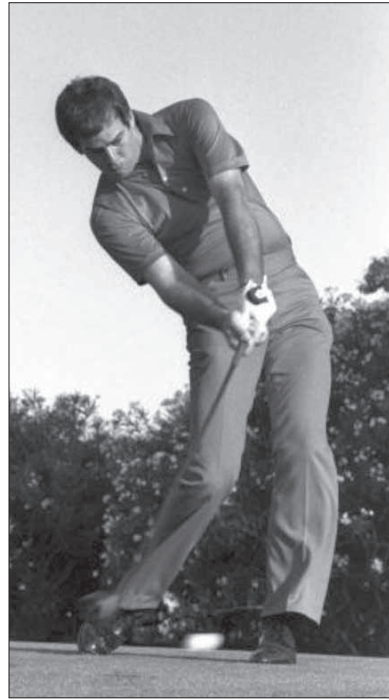
The rugged 6-9, 220-lb. forward was selected by the Chicago Bulls as the 28th pick in the '86 draft. De-



spite a serious knee injury, "Krysko" played nine seasons in the NBA with the Spurs, Bucks, Jazz, Magic, Bulls and Lakers where he averaged eight points and five rebounds per game.

Later Krystkowiak later coached Montana, leading his alma mater to two conference tourney championships and two NCAA tournament appearances. He then joined the Bucks as an assistant before becoming head coach in 2007. After leaving Milwaukee he coached briefly with New Jersey before returning to the college ranks. He took over

the helm at Utah in 2011 and has achieved great success there, including making the Sweet Sixteen in 2015. His Utes were runners-up in the 2018 NIT.



**Rachel Komisarz-Baugh** won a gold medal in the women's 4x200-meter freestyle relay, and a silver medal in the women's 4x100-meter medley relay at the 2004 Olympics. Rachel was also a member of the U.S. National team that won 13 World Championship medals. In the 2003, 2004 and 2005 World Championships, Komisarz-Baugh won Gold medals in the women's 4x200-meter freestyle relay, and in the 2008 World Championship won Gold in the women's 4x100-meter medley.

A native of Warren Mich., she took up swimming as a high school senior when a gymnastics injury left her with two fractured vertebrae. She attended the University of Kentucky and became a seven-time All American swimmer and three-time SEC Champion. Swimming free-

style and butterfly, she was named SEC swimmer of the year in 1999.

**Evan "Big Cat" Williams** won back-to-back U.S. National Long Drive Championship titles in 1976 and 1977. His drive of 353 yards bested a field that included Jim Dent, considered the longest driver on the PGA tour. Williams' winning drive stayed on the books as the championship record for 18 years. The 6-6, 215-lb. Big Cat helped popularize long drive competitions, taking part in exhibitions in 26 countries. He also won national long drive titles in the U.S., Australia and Bermuda.

According to *Sports Illustrated*, the New Jersey native played two years of basketball at Canisius College in Buffalo "where in a moment of glory his freshman team defeated St. Bonaventure's—and he out-jumped a fellow named Bob Lanier for the tipoff." *SI* added that "After two years, he transferred to tiny Franklin (Ind.) College, where he set records in golf, basketball, football and track and gained a reputation for irreverence."

The 46th Annual Induction Banquet will be Thursday, June 21, 2018, at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, Michigan. Tickets for the banquet, which begins at 5:30 pm., are \$125 and can be ordered by calling (313) 407-3300. Information on the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame is available at [www.polishsportsportshof.com](http://www.polishsportsportshof.com).

**HALL OF FAME APPAREL.**

There's a new way to support the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame and show off your Polish heritage at the same time. The Hall is now offering its own line of apparel with its distinctive logo. That includes hats, pullovers, t-shirts, jackets and polo shirts. Just go to the website and click on "NPASHF Apparel."

## Ken Kal's Dream Comes True

When he was a boy in the 1960s, **Ken Kal** dreamed of calling Detroit Red Wings' games. In 1995 his dream came true. After 11 seasons broadcasting University of Michigan hockey games, he was hired to replace longtime Red Wings' announcer Bruce Martyn and has been with the team ever since.

Ken, whose full name is Kalczynski, was featured in the *National Catholic Register* where he credited God for the good things in his life.

"I grew up in Detroit, and we had a pond in the backyard that would freeze over," he recalled in the article. "I loved to skate out there and think about being the Red Wings' announcer one day. Well, around age 10, my father bought me a tape recorder that I used to tape games from TV or radio. Then I would take the recorder outside and play the games as I skated along, joining in on the announcing."

So how can you make your dreams come true? Three things that helped Kal were diligent preparation, simple repetition or practice, and taking small steps. Kal has served as president of the Detroit Sports Broadcasters Association, and in 2007, he received that group's "Ty Tyson Award for Excellence in Sports Broadcasting." He also has been an active member of the board of directors of the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame.

To read the article go to: <http://www.ncregister.com>.



"Ken Kal" Kalczynski

**COACHES CORNER.** Former Duke guard **Bobby Hurley** led Arizona State into the NCAA Tournament, but the Sun Devils lost to Syracuse. Bobby's brother, **Danny**, led Rhode Island to the second round, where he lost to Duke. Danny later agreed to become UConn's coach. He was 113-82 in six seasons with the Rams, who went 26-8 this year. **Steve Wojciechowski's** Marquette team made it to the NIT, where it lost to Penn State in the quarterfinals. Wojo has built a solid program — with a lot of fan support — in his four years there.

**WAIT TILL NEXT YEAR.** **ike Krzyzewski** and Duke fell one game short of the Final Four, losing to Kansas in overtime, 85-81.

The Jayhawks were led by the three-point shooting of Ukrainian-born Sviatoslav "Svi" Mykhailiuk. Coach K has served as the head men's basketball coach at Duke since 1980, where he has won 1,100 games. He has led the Blue Devils to five NCAA Championships and 12 Final Fours.

**SOSINSKI SOARS.** One of the surprise contributors on the Kansas Jayhawks Final Four roster was **James Sosinski**. A tight end on the football team, James made the hoops squad as a walk-on. His strength made him a valuable practice player, but he also got to see some game action, including scoring four points in Kansas' NCAA tournament quarterfinal victory against Oklahoma State.

After starring as an all-state quarterback at Hamilton High in Chandler, Ariz., Sosinski signed with UMass to play football. After breaking his foot, he came back to Arizona, transferring to South Mountain Community College. There he played basketball, averaging 19 points and 13 rebounds and drawing interest from Washington State to play hoops. However, the 6'7", 250-lb. Sosinski impressed observers on the football field with his size and speed and decided to try tight end. He signed with Kansas, but also still had the passion for basketball. James was able to earn a spot on the team, largely because he was the only Jayhawk able to



RJ Urzendowski

defend Udoka Azubuike, Kansas' 7-foot, 280-pound center.

After taking a little time off, the redshirt sophomore will join KU's spring football practices, but he's not sure if he'll be playing hoops again next season.

**TRUE CHAMPION.** **RJ Urzendowski** ended his college career by helping North Dakota State get back atop the FCS. The Bison won their sixth national title in seven years by beating defending champion James Madison 17-13. It was RJ's third title.

Urzendowski was an impact receiver since he arrived from Omaha. He got in the lineup as a true freshman and stayed there. That year in the 2014 FCS Championship game against Illinois State he made key receptions from QB Carson Wentz

of 32, 13 and 33 yards on a six-play, 78-yard game-winning drive. Overall, he had five catches for 100 yards in the title game victory.

RJ caught at least 30 passes in each of the past four years. On the school's all-time charts, "Ol' Reliable" is fourth in career receiving yards (2,414), fourth in career touchdowns (22) and sixth in career receptions (146). This season he led the team in catches (35), receiving yards (589) and TD receptions (eight).

The 6-foot, 194-lb. receiver earned Second Team All-Conference honors. He was an honor roll student, majoring in construction management with a minor in business.

Renew on-line at [www.polamjournal.com](http://www.polamjournal.com)

## Before Rob Gronkowski There Was Iggy

by Tom Tarapacki

Rob Gronkowski is considered one of the top tight ends in pro football, but his great-grandfather also was among the best in his sport, which was cycling.

Ignatius J. Gronkowski was an outstanding cyclist in the 1920s who held five world records and also competed for the United States in the 1924 Olympics. Iggy, as he was often called, was born in 1897 to Franciszek Gronkowski and the former Mary Bayger and grew up on Buffalo's Polish East Side.

Cycling was hugely popular in Buffalo and throughout the country at the time, and "Iggy" was one of the best by his early twenties. Local newspapers proclaimed his exploits with headlines like, "Gronkowski Lowers Two Bicycle Records at Indoor Games" and "Polish Biker Smashes Two World Marks." Iggy raced both indoors and outdoors, but he was at his best on the indoor track, where he set five records in distances of two miles and under.

Gronkowski became eligible to



Rob Gronkowski's great-grandfather Iggy Gronkowski was an Olympic cyclist.

try out for the 1920 US Olympic team but needed to raise the funds to make the trip to the trials. Coming to Gronkowski's aid was one of the city's oldest Polish parishes, Corpus Christi. The Corpus Christi Athletic Club, for which he often competed, initiated a fundraising effort. Led by members Joseph Lupa and Stephen Zablonki, and aided by business people like former Alderman Frank Nozkwitalski, it generated enough money to send the 23-year-old Gronkowski to New Jersey in July 1920. Unfortunately, Gronkowski failed to qualify.

Gronkowski returned to Buffalo and continued to race. When he married the former Helen Majchrzak in October 1922 at the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Church, many thought that he might stop racing. Gronkowski later told the *Buffalo Enquirer* that "he heard the rumors but never entertained such a thought." A month after the wedding he was back on the local tracks.

In May 1924 Gronkowski was again able to qualify for the U.S. Olympic Trials, and went on to Pat-

erson, N.J. where, by finishing second, he earned a spot on the American team.

Before he left for Europe, Gronkowski was feted at the Dom Polski Hall on Broadway, where he was presented a silver cup donated by the Pierce Cycle Company honoring him as the city cycling champion. He was later escorted by a parade that took him from the "Polish District" to the train station downtown to begin his journey to Paris.

The Paris Olympics of 1924, featured in the 1981 movie "Chariots of Fire," presented some challenges for the American cyclists. According to author Peter Joffre Nye, Gronkowski and his six teammates ended up sleeping in a barn outside Paris. "The riders complained that they were often rudely awakened every night when horses kicked the walls of their stalls, stomped around, and were noisy when they munched straw," Joffre Nye wrote.

The American team had hoped to challenge European dominance in the 188-km (about 116 mile) road race, or "cycling marathon." "The

course went out into the countryside, and riders were on their own in traffic and dealing with intersections and railroad crossings," according to Joffre Nye.

Gronkowski finished 45th among 72 starters, in 7:34:41.8, and second among the four U.S. riders. The U.S. team finished 12th out of 22 teams. Gronkowski was the only American entered in the sprint competitions as well as the road race, but he was scratched from the sprints when they were held a couple of days later.



Rob Gronkowski

In 1924 Ignatius J. Gronkowski had a son, Ignatius T. Gronkowski, who later had a son he named Gordon. Gordon had five sons, all of whom became accomplished athletes.

One of them played professional baseball and four played in the NFL, including one of football's best, Rob Gronkowski.

## Resistance

## Variance Of An Order

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.*

**CONCLUSION.** At Home Army headquarters in Warsaw, General Bor reviewed the current issues. There was good news—and bad.

By the fall of 1943, the Germans were suffering huge losses. Hitler's pomposity was losing its power, like a hot air balloon being bought down to the ground. The severe loss of military life in Stalingrad took its toll. The German citizens were beginning to doubt the hyperbole being fed to them by the military propaganda machine. Protestors were rising in Germany's major cities. Security Police found it difficult to keep in check the anti-Nazi handouts that were accumulating in

public places. The text of the leaflets targeted the current battles being lost and the cost of lives and ammunition, to say nothing of the ground being surrendered.

The historic battle of Kursk, July 5 to 23, 1943, the largest tank battle to take place, was won at a ratio of three Soviet casualties to one German. However, the Russians were able to re-coop their losses; the Germans could not.

Hitler's machine was breaking down.

This was the good news that bolstered General Bor's resolve. On the dark side was the abrupt cessation of air-drops into Poland by the Western Allies. The government in exile was told that it had become technically unfeasible. There was no mention about when they might resume.

North Africa had been liberated and the allies were busily engaged in offensive action in Italy. Reports of the possibility of a second front, to overtake the Nazis in Eastern Europe, were conspicuously absent, leaving the Poles stuck in the predicament of when and how to employ the long awaited Operation Tempest.

Meanwhile, Soviet General Rokossovsky's Sixty-Ninth Red Army was racing toward the Vistula River of Poland.

At the end of November, Cou-

rier Zamski left Warsaw and headed north for his trek over the Carpathian Mountains to Slovakia and through to Hungary. The trick was to avoid the German frontier patrol on the borders.

There was no denying the fact that the communist organizations were already apprised of the underground leadership in Poland.

In his pouch was the delayed response from Bor. A final resolution had been agreed upon between the commanding general of the Home Army and Jankowski, the chief delegate of Civil Resistance.

General Bor-Komorowski took issue with Commander in Chief Sosnkowski's instructions that covered the event of unsettled diplomatic relations with the Soviet and Operation Tempest. The C in C recommended that the troops of the Home Army should go into hiding after battling the retreating Germans. This precept was antithetic to what was actually going on in the political and military arena of Warsaw. Bor found the proposition of going underground, should the Russian troops approach, unfeasible.

The commanding officer of the

Home Army was at variance with the Commander in Chief. He issued orders to all provinces and districts in Poland. All units were to emerge into the open after taking part in operations, in order to establish the existence of the Republic of Poland. He concluded the orders with the proviso that the operation was to engage in battle with only the German troops remaining in Warsaw. There was to be no confrontation with the Russians entering the territory—unless it was a matter of self-defense.

On his visit to London, Chief Delegate Jankowski, upheld General Bor's position. There was no denying the fact that the communist organizations in Poland, with the sophisticated intelligence system of the NKVD, were already apprised of the underground leadership in Poland. What purpose would be served to have the Home Army go back into hiding after doing battle with the retreating Germans?

Just before noon, on Christmas Eve, Michal was treated to an unexpected visit. Kaminski showed up at the office.

"Come, I'll treat you to eggnog and lunch at the Nectar."

Michal got most of the update on Kaminski's hot story over beer and Schmorgericht. "The Nazis have moved their rocket operations

to Blizna, where it's safer for them to continue, uninterrupted by Allied bombing."

"Have they torn down their laboratory in Peenemunde?"

"No, that operation continues, although I'm certain in a more modified mode."

"How did you discover the whereabouts of the new test site?"

"The Home Army has known about it since construction began in early November."

Out on the street, Kaminski reached out for a handshake. "Michal, I don't know when, or if, I will see you again. The allies are committed to opening a second front, and if they do, we Poles will be responsible for dealing with the exiting Germans from our country. Meanwhile, I am involved with matters in Blizna, and I depend on you and Jerzy to keep the Journal going. Maintain communication with Virski and Kumor. We will continue to work together via radio messages. I'm like the Holy Spirit, I'll never leave you on your own."

Michal tightened his grip on Kaminski's hand. He did not respond, an image of total destruction flashed across his mind's eye. The next year would see the decisive end of the war. Would Poland achieve her long awaited Independence?

*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."*

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**Genealogy**

# Naturalization of our Ancestors: Establishing our Roots in America

by Stephen M. Szabados

The naturalization of our ancestors establishes our family roots in America. Our ancestors may have delayed applying for citizenship because some harbored thoughts of returning to their homeland. However, many found it hard to leave once they saw how much better their lives were in America. Also, remember that naturalization was considered a privilege and not a requirement to stay in America. In the 1800s and early 1900s, the primary motivation for naturalization was the right to vote. In 1906 and 1921 immigration and naturalization laws changed and becoming a citizen became necessary to live here.

The naturalization act was passed in 1790 and provided a path to citizenship to anyone who wanted to become a citizen. Over the years, naturalization laws changed, but generally speaking the process required a Declaration of Intention and then five years later a Petition for Naturalization could be filed to become a citizen. The only requirement was five years of residency in the United States. In 1906, the naturalization process changed and a few requirements were added to become a citizen. First more details identifying the immigrant were required on the declaration and petition forms. Also added was the requirement to speak basic English. Forms prior to 1906 included country of origin, date of naturalization and the court where they were naturalized. Naturalization petitions submitted after

1906 listed many more details. New details included the applicant's birth date, birthplace, date of arrival, place of arrival and the name of the ship. If the immigrant was married, the petition also listed this information for their spouse and any children.

**Driven by the Nativism Movement, immigration laws changed drastically in 1921 when quotas were introduced for the first time.**

Driven by the Nativism Movement, immigration laws changed drastically in 1921 when immigration quotas were introduced for the first time. Immigrants had to wait in line to gain an entry visa. Those with naturalized relatives in the United States were given preference and put at the head of the line. Now the citizenship of a close relative could mean obtaining a visa to enter the United States faster than waiting in line for a quota slot to be available. Turmoil in Europe put pressure on relatives in America to become citizens and become a sponsor to their European family members for entry into the United States. Learning English became a priority because of the stricter naturalization requirements.

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 immigration to America as their last

chance. There were obstacles getting from their village to the ships and hardships crossing the Atlantic. Then, when they got off the ship, they had to prove they were worthy to be admitted to the United States by passing the medical and legal examinations. 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 their daily work helped build the United States.

I believe that our role should be to leave something that will help our children remember their ancestors.

Research and record the details of their journey to arrival and naturalization. It is an important part of your heritage. Capture the memories by writing your family history. If not you, who will do it?

❖ ❖ ❖  
*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."*

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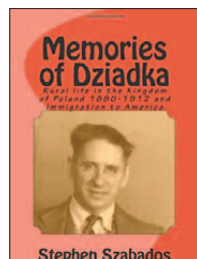
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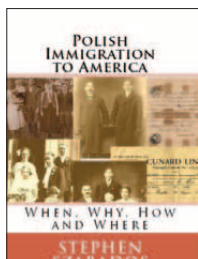
**POLISH GENEALOGY:**  
*Four Easy Steps to Success*  
by Stephen Szabados  
\$19.95 / Item 2-668  
164 pp., pb.

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



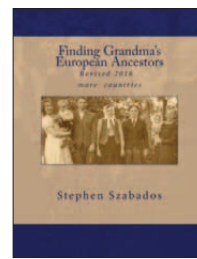
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by Stephen Szabados  
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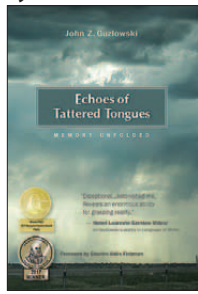
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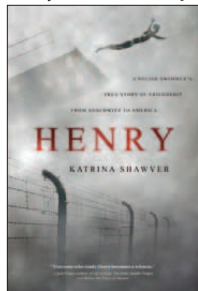
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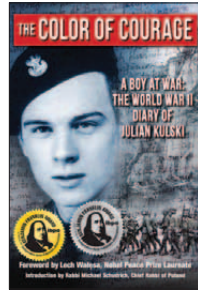
HENRY. A Polish Swimmer's True Story of Friendship from Auschwitz to



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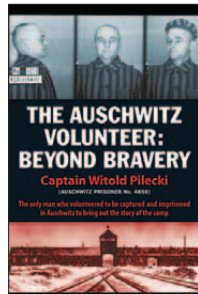
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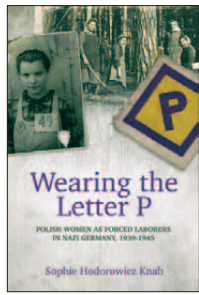
In 1940, the Polish Underground wanted to know what was happening inside the recently opened Auschwitz concentration camp. Polish army officer Witold Pilecki volunteered to be arrested by the Germans and report from inside the camp. His intelligence reports, smuggled out in 1941, were among the first 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."



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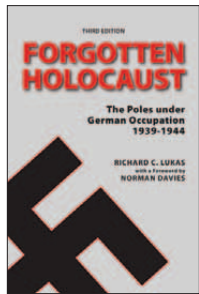
old Krystyna Sklenarz. In the middle of the night, the KGB deported her family from Poland to Siberia. She experienced two years there, and faced starvation, typhus, an opium den, being torpedoed, and living through the Nazi Blitz in the London subway. Through it all, Krystyna refused to give up. This is her journey from Siberia to her entrance into medical school at only 17.



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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.



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"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.



One of Munch's illustrations of the novelist Przybyszewski.

PART XXX. In the Fall 1944, I went to the district to ask for a permission to visit Sophie who was in a mental hospital. She was one of our women that was unable to take care of her children. On the way in a train from Poland to Kazakhstan, she tried to strangle one of her sons. I received a permit and I hitchhiked all the way to Kostanay. Then, I had to take a train to another town, but I don't recall its name. The building was grey, cold and unpleasant looking, but clean. The medical personnel brought Sophie to me. Sophie was emaciated, with shaven head and in a grey coat. I had trouble to recognize her. She also did not recognize me. She thought that I was a wife of Stanislaw Przybyszewski, a Polish writer.\*

Sophie was very talkative, but she did not ask about her husband or her sons. I also didn't mention them. If she forgot about them, maybe it is better this way. After some time, she stopped talking, and then she asked me to give her best wishes to Mr. Przybyszewski and left.

The hospital's head told me that her health state is poor. There is a little chance she would improve or survive more than a year. I went home saddened by the news. But the ordinary life in the village - daily work in the kolkhoz, storing the woods for winter, finding anything useful for exchange was filling our lives, so there was not too much time for any other worries and analysis. We even shortened our daily prayer to "Our Father", "Hail Mary" and "Beneath Thy Protection" which we prayed only once a day, before going to sleep. We didn't pray in the morning anymore, except sometimes at work during the recess.

Christmas of 1944 came. We thought that this was our last Christmas in Kazakhstan. Since I and Marysia always hosted all the other Poles, we decided to prepare more to eat than usually. We had mushroom soup with pasta, roasted crucian (fish) in sour cream with pota-

atoes, and tea with bread. The Polish Christmas carols were our dessert, as usual.

Year 1945 began with good news - Polish and Soviet troops are already in Polish territory. We were like on a hot fire waiting for more news with impatience. We hoped to go back home very soon. In April, I went back to work in the kolkhoz. On May 9th, 1945, while going to Pieszczany, I have heard that the war is over. I felt tremendous joy. I hugged and kissed unknown Kazakh farmer and did not know whether to go farther towards Pieszczany or go back home. I decided to go back home. All Polish women came, we were crying, laughing, and we felt a tremendous joy. Andrzej, my son, pulled the suitcase out from under his bed. He started packing all his cloths and everything he had under his hand since he was convinced that we are leaving now. Unfortunately, we had to stay one more year, uncertain what to do. The life went on as usual. In the meantime, we continued working in the kolkhoz, storing wood, trying to exchange products to survive another winter. We had to spend Christmas Eve on December 24, 1945 still here in Kazakhstan. But, this was the last one, God bless.

\* Stanislaw Przybyszewski was a Polish-German novelist, dramatist, and poet of the bohemian decadent naturalistic school. He was known for his flamboyant and scandalizing style. He was portrayed several times by his friend, the famous Norwegian painter of "The Scream," Edvard Munch.

continued next month  
— Reprinted courtesy of Jaga's Polish Culture Website at: www.polish-site.us



"Kronika Bukowsko"  
BILINGUAL TRANSCRIPT BOOK ON CD

by Kazimiera Kochańska  
translated by Roman Kaluzniacki  
published by Deborah Greenlee

\$23.50  
POSTPAID

146 pages including an index, Polish transcription, English translation, and photos.

All of the proceeds go to the Bukowsko kindergarten school. Bukowsko is one of the poorest gminas in Poland.

The "Kronika Bukowsko" (historical non-fiction) is a transcript in both Polish and English of a diary kept by the principal of the Bukowsko, Poland, school from 1945-1977. It records school and civic events in the village and includes many illustrations and photographs. Of particular interest, however, is the history of the village during the postwar period when the area was dealing with the conflict between the Ukrainian Insurgent Army and the new Communist controlled Polish government, which ended with Akcja Wisła.

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by Existence Wave  
Music by Izzy Doroski

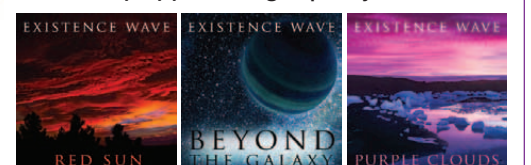
This album is the music to the science fiction story "The Inverted Mask" written by author and musician Izzy Doroski. Izzy's futuristic and imaginative compositional skills have trail blazed a new frontier in today's contemporary electronic music. He creates a visionary sound that enters realms of ambient spatial dimensions and flight line rhythms that transcend modern music. You can listen to all of Izzy's songs from his four albums live on bandcamp.com.

Visit theinvertedmask.com for more info on the Sci-fi book.



CD available from Amazon.com. Digital album available from bandcamp.com, which includes unlimited streaming via the free Bandcamp app, and high-quality downloads.

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## Dance Time

# A Report from the Dyngus Day Capital

by Jennifer Pijanowski

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Buffalo Polish pride swelled as tens of thousands turned out to celebrate Dyngus Day 2018. Polka lovers started the party early by attending one of three local events. Private Leonard Post, Potts Banquet Hall, and Salvatore's Hospitality all drew fans who wanted to maximize their intake of polka music. Val Bakowski celebrated his 29th year of Dyngus Day events with **Dynabass** and **The Boys**. Opening his event as in past years was the original blessing of the instruments and traditional Polish dancing by Harmony Folk Ensemble. Val's event draws both locals and out of town polka lovers to revel at the end the Lenten sacrifice and the start of the Easter celebration. Beautifully adorned Salvatore's transforms a typical polka dance into a truly memorable occasion. The bands played their hearts out adding to the cheerful atmosphere and the anticipation of the big event on Monday. Huge congratulations to Val for continuing his yearly tradition and devotion to polka music.

This year Potts Banquet Hall presented a customer appreciation dance with **Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push** and **The Knewz**. Customers packed the hall as this event was free of charge and the music was spectacular. Lenny is a fan favorite and getting to end your Easter Sunday listening to his symphonic voice was a true gift. Fans danced, drank, and enjoyed the generosity of Danny Potts and his family sponsoring this free performance. The guys in **The Knewz** had the hall dancing and singing along with them as well, not allowing any lulls during this joyous evening. Thank you to all of the musicians who gave up family time to travel and entertain us on Easter Sunday. I know that I speak for everyone who attended any of the three events, as we are truly grateful that you sacrificed so that we could enjoy your talents.

**OVER 65,000 PEOPLE** joined the celebration in the Dyngus Day Capitol, Buffalo, Polish flags, decorations, and volunteers filled the typically quiet streets of East Side Polonia to prepare for the afternoon and evening of joyful chaos. My first music stop was at Polish Villa II for a spicy Bloody Mary and music by **New Direction**. There, I got the chance to say hi to some Chicago friends who had just arrived via train to enjoy 15 hours of polka music before heading back on the train at midnight. Patrick Henry, Diane Bulanda, Lori Lewandowski, and her mom Karen Hudy were enjoying some breakfast before their day's journey to savor the entertainment.

Next venue was the Clinton Bar

and Grill where the **Dyngus Jam Band** was just beginning to play. The lineup speaks for itself: Eric Bakowski, Matt Lewandowski, Jackie Libera, Dave Walters, and Frankie Liszka joined forces for the day. It was a testament to talent and musicianship to hear these gentlemen play together for one day but sound like a well-rehearsed seasoned band. As you can image, the



Rebecca Borowski, George Smolen, and Peter Niewiadomski.

you watch people jump and fight to grab a vacuum-sealed kielbasa? The parade is quite an experience as everyone is decked out in their Polish apparel honoring their ethnicity. I walked the parade route to enjoy the people watching, en route to St. Stanislaus Social Center. **Mon Valley Push** had the crowd riled up, dancing and tapping the dancers with pussy willows as they swirled



Chris and Kristin Gregory.

Joe Oberaitis, and standards take on a life of their own with **Brave Combo**. An unexpected treat was original band members **Bubba Hernandez** and **Jeffrey Barnes** joining the band for this performance. **Brave Combo's** passion for polka music is evident and contagious as thousands of fans packed into the tent to enjoy their music.



Emma Bogdon and Val Bakowski.

day May 20, 2018 at Pulaski Park Picnic Shelter, 40 Belchertown St., Three Rivers, Mass. The afternoon of music will begin at 2:00 p.m. and will feature the **Jimmy Sturr Orchestra**, **Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push**, and the newest younger generation band, **Polka Method**. Tickets are available for \$18 in advance or \$20 at the door with children under 12 being free. You can contact Ernie Daigle (413) 592-0367 for tickets and further information. Pulaski Park events are held rain or shine as they have a spacious outdoor picnic shelter with a large dance floor. Bring your lawn chairs to relax in the sun — delicious food and beverages of your choice will be available for purchase throughout the day.

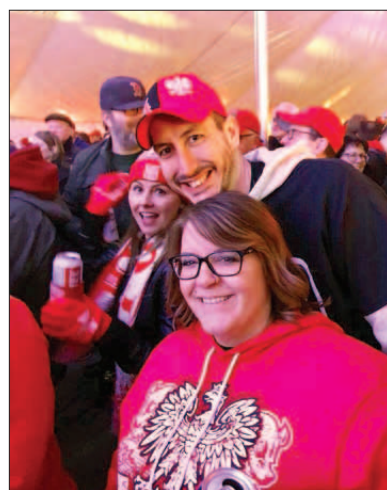
**MAY KICKS OFF** the road trip season for many polka lovers. One of the most anticipated events of the year is the **USPA** convention held on Memorial Day weekend in Cleveland. This year **USPA** commemorates 50 years celebrating the best bands, musicians, and fans in polka music. Four days of polka music events begins on May 24th at Holiday Inn Cleveland South 6001 Rockside Rd., Independence, OH. The Kick off Lounge Party, showcasing **Jimmy K & The All Stars**, offers free admission to convention goers who can't wait to begin this festive weekend. Friday night's lineup starts with **Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push**, **Freeze Dried**, and **DynaBrass** with the **Trel Tones** providing additional music in the lounge. On Saturday, things continue with multiple activities including **USPA** music awards, Junior and



Diane Bulanda and Lori Lewandowski.



Brandon, Tom, and Aaron Kacala.



Tiffany and Todd Schueler, and Diane Pietraszewski.

melodic harmonies of Jackie and Frank set the tone for a polka lover's dream afternoon.

**BACK TO THE EAST SIDE.** After a quick stop across the parking lot to Polish Villa II to see a few songs by **Buffalo Touch**, I was off to the East Side to experience the transformation. I couldn't contain myself as I entered the tent at Pussywillow Park to watch **Box On** for their first appearance of the day. Cold temperatures commanded the band play their sets in hats and winter coats but that didn't take away from their powerful sound. Playing to the cheers of the crowd, this talented family embraced the significance of Dyngus Day. With their set over and fans wishing for more, the band was off to play their second gig at Buffalo's historic Corpus Christi Church.

The parade was beginning so I made my way through the sea of onlookers spraying water from anything imaginable, from small squirt bottles to large super soakers. **Wardinski's Sausage**, who makes their home on the East Side, heaved wrapped sausages from their decorated float. Where else can

around the floor. Their high energy provided a party atmosphere to the jam-packed hall. Next **Stephanie & her Honky Band** took the stage as they have been doing for a number of years at St. Stan's. I always look forward to watching Stephanie in her element, entertaining fans and playing off the liveliness of the crowd. As the parade ended, lines grew as spectators were making their way into the music venues.

A walk with a few stops at local taverns brought us to enjoy the rest of our evening with the Grammy Award Winning band. **Brave Combo** was founded in 1979 in Denton, Texas, and even after 40 years, they still exhibit the same fire and enthusiasm for their craft. Playing waltzes, obereks, and polkas in their radically different polka style, you could not see a better show. Sharing bits of information about polka favorites, the band offers a clear mission of their musical approach. The band played songs originated by **Dynatones** and spoke highly of their love and adoration for Buffalo's own **Scrubby** which ushered roars from the audience. Other polka favorites from **Eddie B**, **Larry Chesky**,

**IF ONLY TIME** would have allowed me to visit more venues — there are so many bands I would have liked to see. I believe this year's celebration must have broken a record for the amount of bands performing in one area in a 24-hour period. The list of bands who played in Buffalo for Dyngus Day included: **Mon Valley Push**, **Stephanie & Her Honky Band**, **Tony's Polka Band**, **Brave Combo**, **Those Idiots**, **Box On**, **John Stevens' Doubleshot**, **Buffalo Concertina All Stars**, **Special Delivery**, **Rare Vintage**, **Melody Lane**, **Tom Mroczka & the Music Box**, **Dyngus Day All-Star Jam Band**, **Phocus**, **The Knewz**, **Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push**, **The Boys**, **Dynabass**, **Buffalo Touch**, **the Piatkowski Brothers**, **The New Direction Band**, **The Twy-Lytes**, **The Pyramid Band**, **Polka Country Musicians**, **Kielbasa Kings**, **John Gora & Gorale**, **Stacy Morris & the Nutones**, plus appearances by **Jackie Libera** and assorted members of the **Krew Brothers**.

**THE ANNUAL NEW ENGLAND POLKA FEST** will be held on Sun-

Teen Miss Pageant, and jam sessions before the doors open to the main hall event. There, attendees can dance the night away to **Maestro's Men**, **The Knewz**, **The Boys**, and **Box On**. During the evening hours, The Music Company will be supplying the entertainment lounge side. Begin Sunday morning with a Polka Mass (music by **Eddie Forman**) then head to one of my favorite events of the weekend, the Pro Am Jam Kids Jam in the Lounge. If you have not gotten the chance to see one of these incredible jam sessions, make sure they you arrive early to enjoy the talented youth in polka music of **Randy Koslosky**. It will definitely boost your excitement as you head to enjoy Sunday's lineup of music compliments of **Polka Country Musicians**, **The Project**, **Eddie Forman**, and **Polka Family**. This 50th anniversary blowout is one you will not want to miss. Rooms are currently sold out at the Holiday Inn, however, your name can be placed on a wait list. **USPA** has also secured rooms right across the parking lot at Spring Hill Suites. Visit [www.uspapolka.com](http://www.uspapolka.com) for all updated information.

## Jammerthon 2018 Exceeds Goal

CHICAGO — The Polka Jammer Network wants to thank all the people in the polka industry that donated during Jammerthon 2018. It was a historic weekend, with over \$55,000 raised in 53 hours of special programming. The Jammer was overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of its listening audience and appreciates everyone that took the time to donate. The funds raised will help the network upgrade equipment, pay streaming fees and assist with all the administration

costs.

If you missed out and still want to pledge, that can be done through the Polka Jammer's homepage, [www.polkajammernetwork.org](http://www.polkajammernetwork.org). There are gifts available for all donations. If you missed any of the weekend shows or want to relive the excitement and magic that happened, you can listen by accessing the Polka Jammer archives. Representatives also want to thank listeners for making the Polka Jammer Network the leader in polka entertainment.

## Popular Polka Fest returns to Toledo in 2019

TOLEDO, Ohio — TOPOMO, LLC announced the return of Holy Toledo Polka Days, scheduled for April 5-7, 2019. Holy Toledo '19 will be held at the Renaissance Toledo Downtown Hotel, located at 444 N Summit Street in Toledo, Ohio.

Toledo Polka Days, which originated in 1992, has been one of the most popular polka festivals in the United States. The event had been held annually every April at the Quality Hotel & Conference in South Toledo through 2004, when the hotel proprietor sold the property to a church, the 2005 event was cancelled.

"At that time, the intention was to find a new venue and continue the festival in 2006. Never in my dreams did I think it would take 14 years to find a viable hotel/ballroom facility in Toledo to host the event," said Joe Zalewski, event founder.

"I am beyond excited to finalize

the plans for Holy Toledo '19. This event is going to attract polka fans from all over the United States and Canada," said Zalewski. "They will experience a revitalized downtown Toledo along with the best that polka music has to offer. We are going to kick off the 2019 polka festival season in a big way."

2019, will mark just about 15 years to the day since the last polka was played at Holy Toledo Polka Days and is the beginning of a new era with the dates already set for 2020 and 2021. Plans are underway to book the polka industry's top entertainers. The event schedule, band lineup, admission prices and hotel reservation information will be released shortly.

For more information, visit [www.holytoledopolkadays.com](http://www.holytoledopolkadays.com), or contact Joe Zalewski at (419) 351-5031; email at [joez@holytoledopolkadays.com](mailto:joez@holytoledopolkadays.com).

## DJ, Promoter, and Philanthropist Chet Shafer

CHICAGO — Chet Shafer, 95, owner of the polka label Chicago Records, died a few days short of his 96th birthday, April 10, 2018.

Chet Schafer was born Chester Aloysius Szafranec in 1922 in Chicago to Karolina and Henryk Szafranec, who were recent Polish immigrants. After completing military service during World War II, he took journalism and broadcasting classes at Northwestern University on the GI Bill. He married Dolores Mendenyral in 1950 and together they raised a family of thirteen children. Chet spent many years working a day job as part-owner of Hollywood Press, a Wicker Park printing firm, with his brothers Tony and Frank.

Schafer's radio career spanned over 65 years. He got his start co-hosting a polka program with musician Lil' Wally Jagiello on Chicago station WCRW in 1950. In 1952, Chet started his own "Polka Hit Parade" program on LaGrange station WTAQ, using the popular TV program "Your Hit Parade" as a model. In 1954 he expanded to another radio show on WTAQ, on which he held the first polka band popularity contest in the Chicagoland area, receiving over 22,000 pieces of mail for the contest. Starting in 1986, the Sunday afternoon "Chet Schafer Show" was broadcast on WCEV until November 2017. Known as the "Dean of Chicagoland's Polka Broadcasters," he is believed to have had one of the longest-running radio careers in the Chicago area and one of the longest-running polka radio shows in the country. Chet was also the first in Chicago to produce live polka stage shows: variety shows which featured live bands, vocalists, dancing groups, and comedy skits. Chet performed live broadcasts of his radio show at local polka dances and outdoor festivals, and co-hosted the polka segment of the "Polonia Today" TV show in WCIU Channel 26 in the 1980s.



Schafer's radio career spanned over 65 years. He got his start co-hosting a program with musician Lil' Wally Jagiello on WCRW in 1950.

In addition to his radio activities, Chet owned the Chicago Polkas recording label since 1952, producing more than 100 recordings by artists such as Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push, Pala Brothers, 47th Street Concertina Club, Li'l Richard, Casey Siewierski, The Naturals, Skaja Sisters, Marion Lush, "Joe Pat" Paterek, Marisha Data, Eddie Zima, Mattie Madura, Jolly Stan Lee, John Zurawski, the Hi Notes, and the Harmony Kings. One of Chicago Polkas' last recordings was an album of music composed by and for the Polish and American war hero Thaddeus Kosciuszko.

Throughout his life, Chet was active in a number of community organizations, including the Polonus Philatelic Society, the International Polka Association (IPA), the Senior

Polka Association (SPA), the Polish American Cultural Club, and the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. He wrote articles for such publications as *Polka Guide*, *Polka World*, and *I.P.A. News*. Chet donated a 1794 handwritten document by Polish military and American Revolutionary War hero Tadeusz Kosciuszko to the Polish Museum of America. In 2004, Chet and Dolores received the Polish Spirit Award from the Polish Museum of America. That same year, Dolores passed away. Chet married Geraldine Ryndak in 2010 at the age of 88, showing that he never gave up on life, love, and happiness. Geraldine passed away in 2013. Chet remained active with his radio show and recording label until his health declined in 2017.

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## Polka Calendar

Compiled by  
John Ziobrowski

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

### MAY 1

- Lenny Gomulka. Leelanau Sands Casino. Suttons Bay, Mich. 12-4. (413) 583-4544

### MAY 4

- Eddie Forman. Congregational Church. Putnam, Conn. 6:15-8:30
- Joe Stanky Alert Fire Hall. Emigsville, Pa. 7-11. (717) 764-1148

### MAY 5

- Dennis Polisky. Polish Cultural Foundation. Clark, N.J. 7-11. (201) -694-2330

### MAY 6

- Lenny Gomulka PACC. Ludlow, Mass. 2-6. (413) 583-6385
- Joe Stanky. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-5. (570) 472-1152
- Polka All Stars. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
- John Gora. Roselawn Banquets. New York Mills, N.Y. 2-6. (315) 736-5030
- Stephanie. Blue Top Hall. Stevens Point, Wisc. 2-6. (715) 344-8420
- The Eastern Sound. Seashell Stage. Hampton Beach, N.H. 7-9:30

### MAY 12

- Dennis Polisky. St. Joe's Polish Society. Colchester, Conn. 5:30-10. (860) 537-2550
- Mike Surratt. Saengerbung. Newark, Del. 5-9. (302) 366-9454
- John Stevens. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-5. (570) 472-1152

### MAY 13

- Special Delivery. Clinton Bar & Grill, West Seneca N.Y. 5-8.
- John Stevens. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-5. (570) 472-1152
- Melotones. Polish Club. Belleview, Fla. 2-5. (352) 854-6193
- Sounds of The South. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
- Nu Soundz. Pulaski Club. Holiday, Fla. 2:30-5:30. (727) 934-0900
- p.m.

### MAY 16

- The Special Delivery Band. Polish Falcons. Depew, N.Y. 8 p.m. (716) 684-2373

### MAY 18

- Chmielowski Funtime / Alaska Polka Chips / Bill Koncar / Gary Bruegen. Grand Casino. Hinckley, Minn. 12-10. (612) 597-8116

### MAY 19

- DynaBrass. WSKG TV. Vestal, N.Y. TV Taping (607) 729-0100
- Special Delivery. Buffalo Distillery Krupnik Party II. 860 Seneca Street, Buffalo N.Y.
- Chmielowski Funtime / Gary Bruegen / Ryan Herman / Rod Cerar / Malek's. Grand Casino. Hinckley, Minn. 10-10. (612) 597-816

### MAY 20

- Penna. Villagers. VFW. Dupont., Pa. 2-5. (570) 472-1152
- Nothern lites. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
- DynaBrass. Polish Falcons. Erie, Pa. 2-6. (814) 452-6146
- Jimmy Sturr / Lenny Gomulka / Polka Method. Pulaski Park. Three Rivers, Mass. 2-7. (800) 724-0727
- Malek's / Dale Dahmen / Leon Olsen. Grand Casino Hinckley, Minn.

10-6. (12) 597-8116

### MAY 24

- Jimmy K. Holiday Inn. Independence, Ohio. 9-1 (440) 345-5437

### MAY 25

- Lenny Gomulka / Freeze Dried / DynaBrass / Trel Tones. Holiday Inn. Independence, Ohio. 5-2. (440) 345-5437

### MAY 26

- Dennis Polisky / DynaVersaStick-ToneAires / The Knewz / The Boys / Box On / Music Company. Holiday Inn. Independence, Ohio. 2:30-2 a.m. (440) 345-5437

### MAY 27

- Eddie Forman / Polka Country Musicians / The Project / Polka Family. Holiday Inn. Independence, Ohio. 1 p.m.-1 a.m. (440) 345-5437
- George Tarasek. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-5. (570) 472-1152
- Polka Classics. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (38) 258-7059

### MAY 28

- John Gora. Pulaski Park. Three Rivers, Mass. 2-6. (413) 592-0376

### JUNE 1

- Eddie Forman. St. Stans. Fall River, Mass. 5-9. (508) -672-0423

### JUNE 3

- Dennis Polisky. Warsaw Park. Ansonia, Conn. 1-5. (203) 734-0005
- Swingmasters. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-5. (570) 472-1152
- Special Delivery, Phocus, Touch. Buffalo Pints & Pierogi Fest.
- Buffalo Riverworks. 11:00-6:00 p.m.

### JUNE 9

- The Special Delivery Band / Honky Express. Sava's Picnic Grounds. Parma, Ohio. 2-8. (216) 496-0223

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### May Polka Birthdays

Birthdays courtesy of John Nalevanko, host of Li'l John's Polka Show, WAVL Radio 910 AM and 98.7 FM, Saturday 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Live streaming at [www.PA\\_Talk.com](http://www.PA_Talk.com). For information, write to: 121 Seminole Dr., Greensburg, PA 15601; (724) 834-7871; [johnnalevanon@aol.com](mailto:johnnalevanon@aol.com).

2	Dave (Nigel) Kurdziel	1968	Musician (Bass) / Vocalist	Grand Rapids, Mich.
4	John Stanky	1939	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Nanticoke, Pa.
5	Erik Volek	1978	Musician (Drums)	N.Y.
6	Al Soyka	1922 4-5-13	Bandleader / Musician	Conn.
10	John Demerski	1935 6-2-15	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Conn.
10	Lenny Zielinski		Bandleader / Musician	Chicago
12	Allen (Abe) Carrick	1948	Musician (Drums)	Pa. / Ariz.
13	Big Joe Siedlik	1934 1-1-15	Promoter / DJ	Omaha
14	Stacey Morris		Musician / Vocalist (Nutones)	Pa.
16	Gary Krupski (Krew)		Musician / Vocalist (Krew Bros.)	Cheektowaga, N.Y.
16	Eddie Korosa Jr.	1958	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
16	Chris Bogdon	1971	Musician / Vocalist	Pa.
17	Ray Kovac	1936	Bandleader / Musician (Al Ray Combo)	Ohio
17	Dave Pietrzak	1945	Musician / Vocalist	Cleveland
18	Don Evans	1927 4-24-04	Polka DJ. (WEEP)	Pittsburgh
18	Eddie Swiderski	1939 4-19-71	Musician / Arranger (Naturals)	Chicago
18	Robyn Mrozinski	1976	Musician / Vocalist	Minneapolis
19	Karl Lukitsch		Bandleader / Musician	Pa.
20	Ryan Ogrodny		Musician / Vocalist	Pittsburgh / Nashville
21	Mitch Biskup		Vocalist / Raconteur (Golden & New Brass)	Ludlow, Mass.2
22	Chet Schaffer	1922- 4-11-2018	DJ / Producer (Chicago Polka Records)	Chicago
22	Ray Soyka	1924	Vocalist ( Al Soyka-Orch.)	Conn.
22	Greg Novak		Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
22	Tom Kula	1936	Musician / Vocalist (Ampol-Aires)	Chicago
22	Steve Fornek		Bandleader/Musician/ Vocalist	Chicago
22	Henny Jasiewicz	1945 4-25-17	Bandleader Vocalist (Henny & Versa-Js)	McKeesport, Pa.
23	Vinny Horoschock		Musician (Stanky & Coalminers)	Nanticoke, Pa.
23	Matt Gregg Jr.		Bandleader / Vocalist	Pa.
24	Ann Golembewski		Promoter / DJ	Conn.
24	Rich Suckiel		I.J. (Polka Jammer)	N.J.
24	Jas Prasnyski	1925 1-4-96	Musician / Vocalist (Conn. Twins)	Conn.
24	Stas Prasnyski	1925 11-24-14	Musician / Vocalist (Conn. Twins)	Conn.
26	Marisha Data (Mary Gribac)	1910 10-12-72	Musician / Arranger / DJ	Chicago
26	Jimmy Soldridge	1942 10-10-09	Bandleader / Musician / DJ	Pa.
27	Jersey Polka Richie	1958	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Fla.
29	Louie Jedlowski	1947 7-30-07	Musician (Trumpet)	Chicago

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## American Polonia at a Glance



**PILGRIMAGE DATE SET.** The Annual Pilgrimage to the grave site of General Haller's Recruits, Niagara-On-The-Lake, Ontario, is set for June 10, 2018

The steering committee (pictured above) for the annual pilgrimage is made up of representatives from the Canadian Polish Congress and the Polish American Congress.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the cemetery, which was created in 1918 as a result of the Spanish Flu Epidemic. The epidemic ravaged the training camp of 22,000 volunteers to General Haller's Army, claiming the lives of 43 recruits. It claimed the lives of 1 percent of the world's population in 1918, more lives than World War I itself. Haller's recruits went on to fight alongside U.S. forces in the battlefields of France, ultimately procuring the independence of Poland by War's end 100 years ago.

### CONNECTICUT

**HARTFORD** — The **Hartford Polish Saturday School, Inc.** has been a cornerstone of the city's Polonia since 1938. This year, the School celebrated its 80th Anniversary, April 22, starting with Mass at Ss. Cyril & Methodius church, followed by a banquet at the Polish National Home.

### NEW YORK

**NEW YORK** — Heather James Fine Art New York, 42 East 75th St., is presenting its inaugural exhibition, "Wojciech Fangor: The Early 1960s," until June 30, 2018. This is the first solo exhibition in the United States in more than 25 years of paintings by Wojciech Fangor (1922-2015), one of Poland's pre-eminent Post-War abstract artists.

In 1970, Fangor was the first Polish artist to have a solo exhibition at the Guggenheim Museum, New York.

The exhibition, curated by Polish art historian Patryk P. Tomaszewski, is accompanied by an illustrated cat-

alogue with an essay by Tomaszewski.

To learn more, visit [www.heatherjames.com](http://www.heatherjames.com).

### OHIO

**CLEVELAND** — The 44th Biennial National Convention of the **Polish Legion of American Veterans (PLAV)** will be held Sept. 27-30, 2018 in Cleveland (Middleburg Heights) at the Crowne Plaza Cleveland Airport Hotel.

PLAV Department of Ohio has initiated preparations for this event. Mailings soliciting ads and articles for the convention book will be available in late spring.

The main speaker at the Installation Banquet will be His Excellency Piotr Wilczek, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the United States of America.

To learn more, write or call: PLAV USA, P.O. Box 609066, Cleveland, Ohio 44109; (216) 314-7654.

### WASHINGTON

**SEATTLE** — The **UW Polish**

**Studies Endowment Committee** presents a documentary movie "Kosciuszko: A Man Ahead of His Time," directed by Alex Storozynski, May 23, 7:00 p.m.

The film is based on the biography of the Polish and American hero Kosciuszko, and the *Age of Revolution*, also written by Storozynski. Both the director and the leading actor Olek Krupa will be present at the Q&A session after the screening.

The screening will be held in Thomson Hall, Room 101 at the UW campus, Seattle. Admission is free.

**SEATTLE** — The 13th **Pierogi Fest**, May 12, 11:30-5:00 p.m. at the Polish Cultural Center, will bring the usual Polish dumpling extravaganza serving several kinds of pierogi: meat, potato and cheese, blueberry, etc. with 10 pierogi for \$10.00. Also available will be sausage and sauerkraut, Polish beer, tea, coffee, soft drinks, and desserts. Free attractions include folk group performances: Polish Choir at 1:00 and 2:30 p.m., and the Pawel & Olimpia Duo at noon, 2:00, and 3:00 p.m. Eat leisurely, listen to Polish music and have a good time. On sale: Polish cutout art, Polish t-shirts, Polish sports scarves.

**SEATTLE** — On May 8 and 9, the **Consulate General** of the Republic of Poland in Los Angeles will visit Seattle to process passport applications. The Consul will be available at the Polish Cultural Center, by reservation only, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, and 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday. To make a reservation, send an email to [losangeles.kg.paszporty@msz.gov.pl](mailto:losangeles.kg.paszporty@msz.gov.pl) stating your name, DOB, the PESEL number and a preferred time.

## Golik Appointed Honorary Consul

**ST. LOUIS, Mo.** — On the 26th of February 2018, the Official Registry of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland announced the decision of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jacek Czaputowicz on the re-establishment of the Consulate of the Republic of Poland in St. Louis, covering the territory of the state of Missouri and headed by an honorary consul.

The new Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in St. Louis is **Dr. Wojciech L. Golik**, professor of mathematics and associate dean at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Miss.

The duties of the new consul will include: working for further development of friendly relations and economic, cultural and scientific-technical cooperation between the Republic of Poland and the United States of America; assisting of Polish citizens residing in the consular district; providing help and protecting the rights and interests of these citizens; and protecting the rights and interests of the Republic of Poland in the consular district.

Golik, president of the Missouri Division of the Polish American Congress, is a native of Wielkopolska. He studied theoretical mechanics at the Poznan University of Technology earning a master's degree in engineering. He came to the United States in 1983 to pursue



Dr. Golik

a doctorate in applied mathematics at New Mexico State University, receiving it in 1988. Since then he has been working in St. Louis — first at the University of Missouri in St. Louis, and from 2001 at Lindenwood University. In 2002 he was nominated professor, in 2005 he was elected chair of the Division of Mathematics and Computer Science, and in 2015 he became associate dean at the School of Sciences, Lindenwood University. In 2016 he co-founded the Polish American Congress — Missouri Division, a non-profit 501(c)(4) organization focused on cultural, educational, social welfare, and political activities on behalf of the Polish American community.

## Latham's 16th Annual PolishFest Offering a Variety of Entertainment

**LATHAM, N.Y.** — PolishFest returns June 1-3, 2018, an eclectic sampling of Polish and Polish-American food, music, art and history to the Capital District. The event is hosted by the Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa Church, 250 Old Maxwell Rd., Latham.

Admission is \$5, with a \$1 discount for Price Chopper Advantage Card holders. Children 12 and younger are admitted for free. Seniors 62 years old and up are admitted for free on Sun., June 3.

From a gourmet pierogi bar, to the Polish Platter, PolishFest will give you many ways to enjoy Polish cuisine. You can even get a slice of the famous PolishFest Pizza (pagacz) at the bar, with an imported Polish beer.

PolishFest will be showcasing many genres of entertainment this year. Among the highlights are:

Polka headliners the Rymanowski Brothers (Fri., June 1), Fritz's Polka Band and Tony's Polka Band (Sat., June 2) and the Polka Brothers (Sun., June 3);

St. Adalbert's Dancers will per-

form Polish folk dances and polka moves on Sun., June 3;

There will be a Chopin Piano Concert showcasing the winners of the 2016 Capital District Council for Young Musicians (CDCYM) Chopin Piano Competition Winners on Sat., June 2;

Stanley and Barbara Chepaitis will have an evening of Lithuanian Solstice Celebration music and storytelling on, Sat., June 2;

On Sun., June 3, Spa City Vioa/Violin Studio, a Saratoga Springs based youth group, will perform a concert of Slavic Folk Music. Expect to see strolling violins throughout the day on Sunday;

PolishFest workshops and lectures are a wonderful place to learn more about Polish history — and your own personal history. Samplings include: Genealogy Workshops; Cooking Demonstrations with Chef John Kowalski; a preview of "Uprising," an original play about the Warsaw Uprising (Learn more at [www.AdAstraTroupe.org](http://www.AdAstraTroupe.org)); Slovak Hand-Craft Demonstrations with David and Zuzana Lundeen; and The Partitioning of Poland and 100 Years of Independence Historical Exhibit.

The vendor hall will be full of hard-to-find imported Polish and Slavic gifts. From Polish Pottery to Baltic Amber Jewelry to Wood Carvings, there are many items that cannot be found elsewhere in the Capital District. There will also be T-shirts, books, sports jerseys and many other items available for purchase.

Kids 12 and under are admitted for free and children's activities at the festival are free of charge. Also: Polish Folk Tales with Crazy Christine Balloons Sat., June 2 and Sun., June 3; Sean the Prankster Magician Sat., June 2 and Sun., June 3; and Polish Folk Dance Lessons with Michelle Kisluk Sat., June 2.

For more information, go to [www.polishfest-ny.org](http://www.polishfest-ny.org); on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/PolishFestNY>; or on Twitter @PolishFestNY.

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