

# POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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AN EVENING WITH SENATOR HAGEL • DRIVE UNDERWAY TO CONVERT HISTORIC WASHINGTON STATE CHURCH  
PIASA TO HONOR NOBEL LAUREATE • WIGILIA PLANNING PART 1 • HALLER'S ARMY AND ARMISTICE DAY



**DIVERSITY THROUGH DANCE AT HUNTER COLLEGE**  
PAGE 12

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

## NEWSMARK

**RUSSIAN HAS NO PLANS TO ATTACK POLAND.** Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov, told the BBC that Moscow has no plans to attack Poland or any other country in the region.

"We are not going to start a war or attack any country. Right now, in fact, Russia isn't fighting any war at all. If you analyze how many wars the United States and Britain are fighting, it's quite different," he said.

"In a few years a new military threat will be very close to our borders. But that doesn't mean, of course, that we are planning a nuclear attack on the Czech Republic or Poland. That's total rubbish."

He was responding to questioning about a Russian general's comments that Warsaw and Prague are "now targets" after both capitals finalized, earlier this year, a deal to house the U.S. anti-missile system."

**KAMINSKI ELECTED PAC VP.** Bozena Kaminski was elected National Vice President for the Polish Agenda of the Polish American Congress at its October 2 National Directors Meeting.



The meeting was held at the Marriott Williamsburg (Virginia) Hotel during the visit of the Polish American Congress to Jamestown to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Polish settlers to Jamestown.

This is the second time Kaminski will serve as a PAC officer. She served one term as its treasurer several years ago. She is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Downstate N.Y. Division of the Congress.

Kaminski is also president and CEO of the Polish & Slavic Center, which provides social services to the Polish American community of New York City.

**GERMAN RESTITUTION CLAIM REJECTED.** (Deutsche Welle). The European Court of Human Rights has rejected a land claim by ethnic Germans who lost homes in Poland during World War II. The decision was welcomed by the leaders of both countries.

The claim was filed by a private company, the Prussian Claims Society, representing 23 Germans. It accused Poland of violating the rights of Germans who were expelled from their pre-war homes when borders were redrawn in 1945 at the end of the war.

Judges at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg however ruled that modern Poland bears no responsibility for the expulsion of ethnic Germans by the Soviets after October 19, 1994 because it had no governmental control of the land.

The court also said it had no jurisdiction to rule on the issue because the expulsion of the Germans from their Polish homes took place before either country had signed the European Convention on Human Rights.

According to the Court, Poland thus has no obligation "to enact laws providing for rehabilitation, restitution of confiscated property or compensation for property lost by the individual applicants."

The land claim has been a source of friction between the two countries, with Polish politicians accusing the group of Germans of trying to reverse the outcome of World War II.

**TWO MORE EXCOMMUNICATED AT ST. STANS** (St. Louis Post-Dispatch). Two more members of St. Stanislaus Kostka church have been declared excommunicated.

Richard Lapinski and Janice Merzweiler were elected to the board of St. Stanislaus Kostka church in August.

In declaring Lapinski and Merzweiler excommunicated, Bishop Robert Hermann, the administrator of the St. Louis archdiocese, said the two had committed "the delict of schism," according to the declaration, published on the archdiocese's website, by joining the St. Stanislaus board.

Schism is defined in church law as "the refusal of submission to the Roman Pontiff or of communion with the members of the Church subject to him."

**NEW LEM WORK DISCOVERED** (thenews.pl). A satirical drama by the late Stanislaw Lem, Poland's most famous science fiction writer, has been discovered among the writer's papers.

Entitled "The Roots," which was believed to have been lost, it is a satire on the future of communism and the genius of Stalin and was meant for performance in the narrow circle of the writer's friends. It is to be included in a forthcoming publication of Lem's entire output.

Lem died in 2006 at the age of 84. His most acclaimed books include "The Astronauts," "The Cyberiad" and "Solaris." Lem's books have been translated into 41 languages and published in 27 million copies.

## Pioneering Spirit



**Re-enactors, including Walter Bochenek and Mary Anselmo, portray Jamestown settlers in "Jubilee of 400 Years of Poles in America," at the Polish National Alliance.**

CHICAGO—On October 3, the city of Chicago began Polish American Heritage Month festivities with a "Flag Raising Ceremony" along with commemorating the "400th Anniversary of the Arrival of the First Poles to America." Held at the Daley Plaza and hosted the Polish American Congress (PAC), hundreds listened to Polish, Polish American and non-Polish dignitaries remarks on the importance of the richness of the Polish culture, Polish American History, and pride in being of "Polish" ancestry. Mary Sendra Anselmo, representing the PAC, welcomed everyone. Susan Smentek of the Lira Ensemble sang both the Polish and United States National Anthems. The Polish folk dance troupes of Wici Ensemble, Wesoly Lud Dance Troupe and Szumni Polish Highlanders entertained the crowd with lively Polish dances.

The following day, the Polish American Congress, the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland along with the Polish-American Jamestown Committee continued to hold festivities at the PNA national headquarters. The Jamestown Committee presented its authenticity-made Jamestown settlement, which displayed a glass house and blacksmith shop. Additionally, a film on the Poles of Jamestown was shown. Naturally, a Polish American event would not be complete without wonderful Polish delicacies.

*More Chicagoland celebrations on page 9.*

—Geraldine Balut Coleman

## Poland Left Off Visa Waiver List

**White House Passes the Buck, Blames Congress**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Despite repeated requests and despite Poland's close ties to the United States, both currently and historically, that country was left off the list of states whose visa requirements were waived. President Bush announced the countries involved—Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, and South Korea. The restrictions will be lifted in about a month.

Poland is angered by their exclusion. Equally offensive are the remarks made by the President in the Rose Garden ceremony: "These close friends of America told me that it was unfair that their people had to jump through bureaucratic hoops that other allies can walk around," he added. "I told them I agree with them."

Poland has been the Bush administration's strongest ally in Central and Eastern Europe, was the most vocal supporter of the Iraq war and sent troops early on. "There is a sense of disappointment on our part," said Pawel Kotowski, counselor at the Polish Embassy in Washington. "We hope the next administration will take up this issue as a top priority."

Twenty-seven countries, mostly in Western Europe, are part of the See "Waiver List," page 5

## November 2—All Soul's Day Zaduszki, Dziady: The Day of the Dead

**The Pagan Roots Behind the Ancient Tradition to Honor the Deceased**

by Denice Szafran

Since the earliest of times, Poles have honored the dead in celebrations and special ceremonies. Since it is not a common practice to believe in reincarnation, ancestors are honored highly for their guidance and wisdom, and at these times they are invited to rejoin those who still walked in human form. It is felt that twice yearly the spirits of the deceased had easier access to the world of the living ... in the spring, right before Equinox, which was rife with ritual bidding death farewell, and at this time of the year, which corresponds roughly to the timing of Samhain in the Celtic traditions.

Unlike many other pagan traditions, however, this does not mark the turning of the new year, which occurred for the pagan Pole at Yule, when Solstice day if the shortest day of light ... and all days following it mark the rebirthing of the Sun, and hence the new year. This time of the year is magical and special, the time of spirits and souls, divination and remembrances.

Days are shorter with every pass of the sun, now, and ruby red sunsets are followed too quickly and too

See "Zaduszki, The Day of the Dead," page 4



**ZADUSZKI** (also *dzień zaduszny*) is a Polish tradition of lighting candles and visiting the graves of the relatives on All Souls Day. Its origins can be traced to the times of Slavic mythology.

The tradition of lighting candles comes from ancient Slavic *Dziady* feast and originally would take place on All Souls' Day. However, it is performed nowadays mainly on All Saints Day, but, in that case is not called Zaduszki. The word Zaduszki originates from *dzień zaduszny* which can be translated as the day of the prayer for souls, and thus is more closely related to All Souls' Day.

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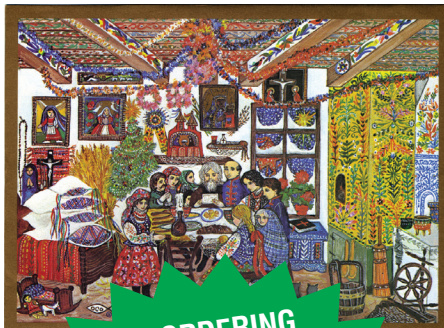
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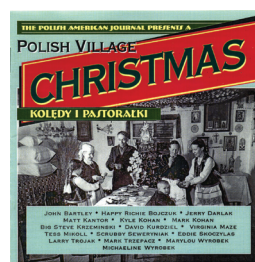
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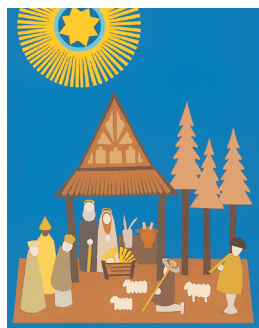
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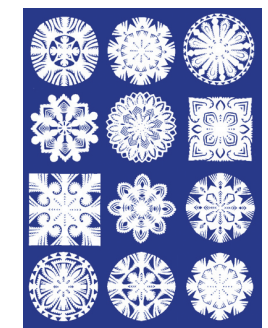


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22 Christmas Caroler

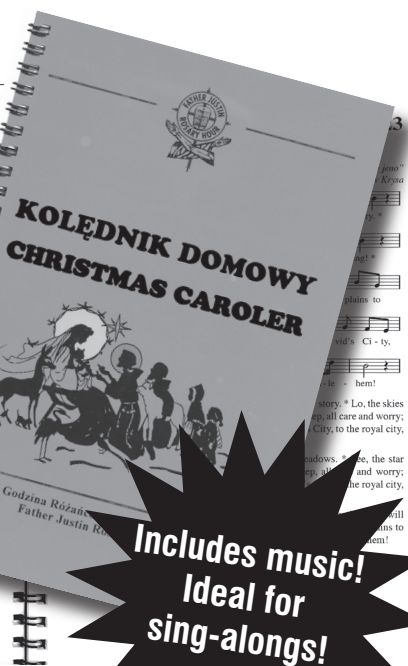
**7. Bracia, patrzcie jeno**

Tekst i mel. według Teofila Klimoskiego



1. Bra - cia, patrz - cie je - no, jak nie - bo - go - re - je! \*  
Znać, że coł dzie - no - go w Bet - le - jem się dzie - je. \*  
Rzuć - my budy, warty, sta - da; \* Nie - chaj ni - mi Pan Bóg wle -  
ci. \* A my do Bet - le - jem, a my do Be - le - jem!

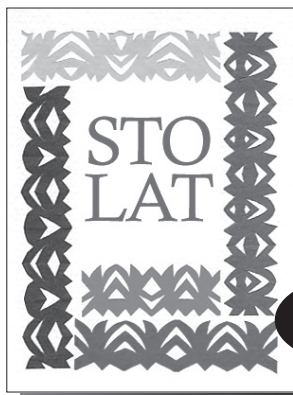
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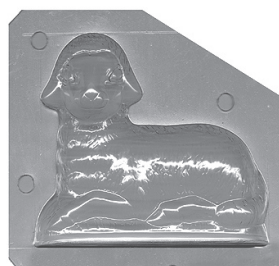
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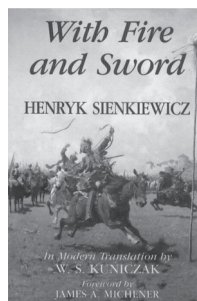
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## ALMANAC

November • Listopad

- 1 **ALL SAINTS DAY**  
*Wszyscy święci niezgoda,  
wiatry z śniegiem zawioda.  
All Saints in discord,  
winds with snow  
will disappoint.*  
1777. **Casimir Pulaski** joins U.S. forces.
- 2 **ALL SOUL'S DAY**  
Dzien Zaduszny or Zaduszki. A national holiday in Poland to memorialize the deceased.  
1788. **Piotr Stadnicki** loans United States \$15 million and forms the Holland Land Company.
- 3 **ST. HUBERT**  
Traditional beginning of hunting season in Poland.  
1930. First regular broadcast of the weekly **Fr. Justin Rosary Hour**, now the oldest Polish language radio program in America.
- 4 1937. Birth of television, film and stage actress **Loretta Swit** (M\*A\*S\*H).
- 5 1370. Death of King **Casimir the Great** (Kazimierz Wielki).
- 6 1860. Birth of **Ignacy Jan Paderewski**.
- 7 1867. Birth of Polish chemist and physicist **Marie Skłodowska Curie**, in Warsaw, Poland.
- 8 1946. **Fr. Karol Wojtyła** (Pope John Paul II), says first mass at his parish church in Wadowice.
- 10 1444. Death at Battle of Varna of **King Wladyslaw III**.
- 11 **ST. MARTIN**  
*Na św. Marcina  
Najlepsza gesina  
Patrz na pierś i na kości  
Jaka zima nam zagłści  
The bone of the goose  
is the best way to predict this  
winter's test.*  
1918. **Independence of Poland** is reestablished by the Central Powers during World War I.
- 12 1892. Birth of **Stefan Pawel Mierzwa**, founder and first director of the **Kosciuszko Foundation**.
- 13 **ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA**
- 17 1891. **Ignacy Paderewski** gives his first concert in America.
- 18 1655. Swedes besiege the **Jasna Gora** monastery.
- 19 1438. Death of sculptor **Wit Stwos**.
- 21 1855. Founding of the **Felician Sister** order.  
1920. Birth of **Stan Musial**, famed baseball star with the St. Louis Cardinals.
- 23 1933. Birth of composer **Krzysztof Penderecki**, in Debica, Poland.
- 25 **ST. CATHERINE**  
A day of fortunetelling for young men.  
1764. Coronation of **Stanislaw August Poniatowski**, St. John's Cathedral, Warsaw.
- 26 1855. Death of Polish poet and author **Adam Mickiewicz** in Constantinople (b. 1798).  
1961. "Pic-a-Polka" live television show premieres on WGR TV Channel 2 in Buffalo, N.Y.; with host Joe Macielag (currently president of the Western New York Division of the Polish American Congress). It would air Sundays at 5:00 p.m. for four years and become one of the station's most popular programs.
- 27 1815. Establishment of the **Free Republic of Krakow**.  
1939. Death of **Gabriel Suvulewski** (b. 1866), builder of hundreds of miles of tourist routes in California's Yosemite National Park.
- 28 1948. Birth of Polish film director **Agnieszka Holland**.
- 30 **ST. ANDREW**  
1926. Birth of **Andrew Schally** in Wilno, Poland, 1977 of Nobel Prize in Medicine.

This paper was mailed on or before **November 1, 2008**. The December edition of the paper will be mailed on or before **November 29, 2008**.  
Deadline for Christmas Advertising reservations is **November 14**

## Zaduszki: The Day of the Dead

continued from cover

early by the appearance of the looming harvest moon, low to the horizon. Looking out into the horizon shows evidence of the death and dying of nature around the people of the fields ... plants that have yielded their last fruits now lay withered on the ground. The time of the babie lato (crone's summer), that short period of warmer weather after the first killing frost, has long since departed. Bright scarlet and orange speckles the trees, where even the slightest whisper of a breeze now sends them into flight. The gentle dew that drips onto the ground quickly turns to frost, as the nights become tinged with a hint of the winter that is to come. Bundling around the fires to keep warm against the lowering temperature, there, in the darkness, watching the shadows dance against the walls ... it is in this time that every sound, readily identifiable by light, soon become the voices of the deceased ... stillness embraces the countryside, a vast contrast to the hum of activity of creatures and people a mere month ago.

Zaduszki is a solemn celebration, for it is believed that at this time the souls of the dead return to visit their homes. At twilight the family lights candles, to shine a beacon to the souls as they return. Extra places are set at the table for the evening meal so that the invisible guests might join in the breaking of the ritual bread, made of rye and shaped in long loaves that uncannily resemble a wrapped body. Invocations are spoken, imploring the ancestors to partake of the feast that is to be served, and welcoming them in love. Among the foods served for this repast are very old generational dishes, such as kasza (buckwheat groats), so that all would enjoy and partake of the feast, even those souls that had been gone for centuries. As the meal is passed around the table, the first servings go always onto the plates reserved for the spirits, and vodka is poured in their honor as well.

After the meal is consumed, all food that remains is wrapped up, and the family proceeds in the inky darkness to the cemetery. Here they offer the food to the deceased (where the stories of picnicking on the grave sites comes from, by the way), and light candles in their honor. In the midst of the solemnity, in old times at least, the beggars would step forth, playing an integral part in the ritual. All families who attended grave site rites brought food

and drink for the beggars; in return, the beggars agreed to help them get messages to the deceased.

Beggars, in old society, played an important part in the faith-life of the community. Most often, people were beggars not because they didn't feel like working or settling down, but because they were special, touched lightly by the hand of the divine. It was said that they more than most talked to the spirits, and connected with the souls ... it is my opinion, shared by few, that this tradition arose around those individuals who were nomad types, the (for want of a better term here) saintly folk, and around those as well that were "different," not in their appearance, which by virtue of being alone and without a home was naturally disheveled, but different in the sense of being ... less worldly, less preoccupied with the material plane, those for whom talking to the Mother was an accepted everyday occurrence, those who heard voices and saw spirits. Shamanic? Perhaps.

In several places in Poland it is customary to launch candles onto the waterways to send messages to the spirits. Wax is melted into half walnut shells, set to flame, and gently launched onto the river. From here they travel to the other world bearing greetings, asking for guidance, and announcing the coming of the colder times to those who live out-of-time (amazingly, there is a belief in Slavic tradition in a place that exists with us, but out-of-time ... a world that once was part of ours, but was so disgusted with this place that they "disappeared,"—phased out—and only those who truly seek it and live a life in connection with the all-that-is can find it. It sounds vaguely like the legends I have heard of Avalon, home of the gods in Celtic cosmology.)

After the cemetery rites are completed, it is time then to return home, and speak both to the past and to the future, for it is at this time that this world and the spirit world are in closest touch. These are the times of augury and divination.

Traditionally Poles did not use Tarot, depending more often on natural symbols and the rune-like symbols used on items such as pisanki (hand-decorated eggs) for their messages. It is great fortune to find a natural runic symbol this eve, either in the formation of a tree or in the pattern of color on an animal's fur ... or in the way the moon rises over the hill. Animals, it is said, can tell us many things, and since their forms are far

older than ours, it is believed that they are wiser, and should be listened to. This day in particular, house-hold pets are either the bearers of good news, or dreaded as the harbingers of ill tidings. They are watched carefully, and every nuance is noted and interpreted ... and woe be it to the person whose animal friend sleeps the entire day away!

It is great joy to be confronted this night with an animal or plant spirit, one that perhaps you have an affinity with, or one that is to teach you a new lesson ... so carefully watch the shadows as you walk this night, for maybe, just maybe, there is a coyote sitting ... waiting ... and laughing as you pass.

**Zaduszki is a solemn celebration, for it is believed that at this time the souls of the dead return to visit their homes. At twilight the family lights candles, to shine a beacon to the souls as they return.**

Poles practice natural folk magics ... candles, herbs, signs in nature, food magic, sympathetic rites and all times of the year have their special rituals. It is not surprising then that one of the most common forms of divination this night is a candle rite. In an otherwise dark room, two mirrors are placed facing one another, and a candle is lit between them. The person seeking to see what is to pass stares intently at the candle flame, and nowhere else, in absolute silence of environment, thinking no thoughts. (You try it ... it's not easy). When all thought has ceased, and the candle flame seems to have a life of its own, move your gaze to the pitch black corner of the room, and study the shadows within it. Here then, you will see what is to pass.

Perhaps one of the most simple candle divinations done this is as follows: melt some wax in the bowl of a spoon, preferably beeswax, and then pour it slowly into a glass of water. The shapes it takes as it falls, and then hardens, will tell you what the future brings you, if you carefully discern the runes and shapes it



**Poles practice natural folk magics ... candles, herbs, signs in nature, food magic, sympathetic rites and all times of the year have their special rituals. It is not surprising then that one of the most common forms of divination this night is a candle rite, which is said to allow one to see what is to pass.**

makes. I have been told that some Germanic folks of my acquaintance do this divination as a family tradition every New Year's with melted lead ... perhaps a natural growth from this practice?

Beeswax is sacred to the Poles. The bee has an honored household member status because it is Melissa, the Mother in Bee Goddess from ancient times, and making also the linden tree, their favorite home, sacred as well. The month of July (Lipiec) was named for the Linden. Beeswax is used in almost all magics, most notably the crafting of pisanki in the spring time, the blessings of fields, the making of thunder candles in February, and the canning of crops in the fall.

On this special night dreams are of critical importance, more so than any other night, for they too will show you where you are to be, and give you messages from other planes. All who attempt this particular form spend a long period of time before retiring in meditation, asking for guidance, and opening their souls to be receptive to what is to be said.

Owls silently pass overhead ... and we listen to the sound. Mother Moon breaks through the trees ... and we watch her reflection for a sign. Dreams that were respectfully requested dance in our souls until the light of morning peaks into our windows ... and we try to remember what we have learned. The souls of our departed ancestors and family members return once again to the place where all is interconnected ... and the family cat turns from sage back into household mouser, as the time of Dzien Zaduszki has passed for another turning.

♦ ♦ ♦

*Denise Szafran is assistant editor of the Polish American Journal.*

## POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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JUST BETWEEN US / Mark Kohan

## Church Founders Must Be Recognized

Hats off to Joseph Zazyczny, who took the time to contact PHILADELPHIA'S CATHOLIC STANDARD AND TIMES of Philadelphia, which, in a story about the closing of St. Peter's of Pottstown, and in another about the anniversary of Our Lady of Calvary in Philadelphia, failed to mention the parishes were founded by Polish Americans. Zazyczny says—and we agree—that the contributions of Polish Americans are too often overlooked and taken for granted.

In his letter, Zazyczny also noted that Philadelphia Cardinal Regali refused to meet with members of St. Laurentius Parish, who proposed a historic designation for the church building as the first Polish Roman Catholic Parish in Philadelphia.

Once a building is granted historical recognition, it is governed by a set of rules that dictate any changes made to the structure. The diocese, says Zazyczny, said that repairs would require astronomical costs.

**OUR READERS SUGGEST ...** Although not all recently published, here are some books that readers have mentioned in recent telephone calls and letters: "The Great Country Houses of Poland" by Michael Pratt; "A Traveler's History of Poland" by John Radzilowski (available from the PAJ); "The Food and Cooking

of Poland: Traditions Ingredients Tastes Techniques Over 60 Classic Recipes" by Michalik Ewa; "The Polish Way: A Thousand-Year History of the Poles and Their Culture" by Adam Zamoyski; and "Heart of Europe: The Past in Poland's Present" by Norman Davies.

**VOTE YOU MUST.** Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4. Make sure you exercise your right to vote.

**THANK YOU, VETERANS.** Please remember to fly the flag on Veteran's Day, Tuesday, Nov. 11.

**IN THE NEWS ...** CNN presented a week-long series on Poland, Oct. 6-10. "Eye on Poland: Country at the Crossroads" was a CNN International series focusing on the "color and contrast of one of Europe's fastest developing nations; from business and politics to pop culture."

The show offered a series of wide-ranging reports on this complex country tackling a time of transition; from Warsaw to Sopot, to Gdansk, Krakow and Lodz. Viewers were then asked to log on to CNN's website to respond to several questions about the series and country.

**Don Samull** has released his 2009 Polish Heritage Day by Day Calendar, which includes listings of famous events in Polish history and

recipes, is available from Samull at 1312 N. Drexel Ave., Dearborn, MI 48128 .... NASA astronaut Col. Douglas H. Wheelock was a guest speaker at the **Kopernik Astrofest 2008**, sponsored by the Kopernik Observatory & Science Center in Vestal, N.Y. Wheelock, who recently returned from the International Space Station, spoke at the Polish Community Center Sept. 18, and at the Kopernik Observatory, Sept. 19.

**STAFF NEWS.** Our Florida Bureau's correspondent, **Lydia M. Kordalewski** has written another book, this time a personal story of her son's journey from an orphanage. "The Mom with the Red Lipstick" is an emotional story told by Lydia's little adopted son's memories of his earlier life in a Bulgarian orphanage on the way home to the United States with her. Lydia shares her emotions, struggles and unconditional love of a little boy who became her beautiful son on a wonderful spring day in Bulgaria. Her adoption is truly a blessing and she encourages other families to adopt. The book also includes many photos from the orphanage. For more information, contact MomRedLipstick@aol.com.

**Sophie Hodorowicz Knab** was among the guest speakers at the Smithsonian Institution's series of events titled "Poland: A Rich Tapestry." Sophie, a Grand Island, N.Y. resident and author of numerous books on Polish culture, shared the customs of Poland ranging from celebration of holy days to marriage customs to harvest festivals.

Congratulations to **Jennifer Moskal**, who tied the knot with Ryan Trowbridge, Sept. 27 in Holyoke, Mass. Jennifer edits our "Honors and Achievements" and "In Memoriam" columns, in addition to other assignments. We wish her and Ryan much luck, happiness, and good fortune.

## NYPAC Wraps up 2008 Vote Drive



**NEW YORK**—The Downstate N.Y. Polish American Congress sent several of its mobile registration units to four different Long Island locations to close its 2008 Voter Registration Drive by the target date of September 28.

Shown above is the group headed by Chairman Chris Rybkiewicz (seated at right) at St. Isidore R.C. Church in the Polish Town U.S.A. section of Riverhead along with Ted Rybkiewicz.

Other locations covered by the deadline date were Our Lady of Poland Church, Southampton (led by Bozenna Urbanowicz-Gilbride); St. Hyacinth Church, Glen Head (Richard Brzozowski) and Our Lady of Ostrabrama, Cutchogue (Kaz Nietupski).

The PAC drive began in early

April and covered Brooklyn, Manhattan, Staten Island and Queens in New York City. The latter part of the six-month-long campaign concentrated on various locations in the Nassau and Suffolk counties of Long Island.

The Congress decided to focus its efforts on all the Polish Catholic parishes in these areas to get out the Catholic vote as well as the ethnic vote, according to Chairman Rybkiewicz.

Many of the Polish Americans we registered once lived under the repression of atheistic Communism, some even under the tyranny of the German occupation in World War II. They registered to make sure government officials do not ignore their moral and ethical values as well as their ethnic interests," he said.

## Visa Waiver

*continued from cover*

so-called visa-waiver program, excluding the newcomers. Congress now requires that less than 10 percent of the visa applications by a country be rejected before it qualifies for membership, and Poland stands at 13 percent.

Frank Spula, president of the Polish American Congress, sent a letter of concern to Presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama expressing his concern over the omission. "There is no need to reiterate all of the facts that show how Poland has been for years one of the most reliable and consistent allies of the United States in many arenas, as well as the fact that Po-

land not only does not pose any kind of terrorist threat, but has done a lot to combat this international menace. I am certain that you already know all of those arguments.

"... I urge you, either as the next president of our great nation or on the Senate floor, to do what the previous administration has been promising Poland and Polonia for years but has never delivered – make sure that Poland joins the privileged ranks of the visa free travel as soon as possible."

Spula and other Polonian leaders asked all Polish Americans to contact their senators and congressmen about the matter.

## PAC-White House Conference Call

White House representatives blame failure to include Poland on Congress

In response to a letter to President George W. Bush regarding the Visa Waiver Program, Polish American Congress president Frank J. Spula received an invitation to a White House conference call to discuss the issues. The call took place Oct. 21 between Spula; Adam Sterling, director for Central and European Affairs, National Security Council, and Brian McCormack, special assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Public Liaison at the White House.

The White House representatives assured the Polish American Congress that, "President Bush is a supporter of Poland, as well as of Poland as a part of the Visa Waiver Program; the President was disappointed that this not happen." They blamed the failure to include Poland in the bill signed by Bush on the actions of the U.S. Congress.

Spula emphasized that Poland has always been a friend of the United States from the very beginning of the American republic. He

underlined the importance of the relationship between the two peoples from a historical perspective as well as from the perspective of contemporary Polish American patriotism.

Spula also mentioned the fact the number of Polish troops in Iraq are same number as originally deployed, rather than less as was the case of a number of other U.S. allies, as well as the recent agreement between the United States and Poland to place the Missile Shield Defense System on Polish territory.

The White House representatives assured Spula that they would share the concerns of the Polish American Congress, as well as the Polish American community as a whole, with President Bush.

Spula also noted that the President has two and a half months remaining in his administration and that, during that time, it would both useful and appropriate for him to suitably acknowledge, in deed if possible, the many contributions of the Polish community in the United States, as well as those in the Polish homeland to the security and prosperity of the United States of America.



We thank you in advance for your support.

**YES!**

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## CHRISTMAS 2008 EDITION

We cordially invite our readers to participate in the Christmas 2008 edition of the Polish American Journal. We are always proud to carry a message at Christmas from our readers and supporters to others of Polish heritage across the country. To us, it is not only financial assistance (we are not a profit-making venture), but a demonstration of the good will that exists between all Americans of Polish descent and the newspaper published solely in their interest.

## VIEWPOINTS / Frank Milewski

## Guess Who Came to America Before the Pilgrims Did?

When you sit down for your Thanksgiving turkey, just remember the Poles got to America before the Pilgrims did.

Despite the Statue of Liberty's appeal to "give me your tired and your poor," those who trace their American roots to New York's Ellis Island might tell you these noble words of welcome were not always the fact.

The new arrivals of a century ago were often given special names. The names were invented by those who claimed "we were here first" or, at least, that "we got here before you did."

Or, so they thought.

The vocabulary of that era was often peppered with derogatory epithets like "kike," "dago," "honky" or "Polack," among others. Today, our assumed civility and political correctness compel us to refrain from such expletives and refer to them as the "K-," "D-," "H-" or "P-" words.

It's no wonder organizations like the Jewish community's Anti-Defamation League and, more recently, the Anti-Bigotry Committee of the Polish American Congress became a necessity.

Now comes the surprise: The name-callers who thought "we got here before you did" most likely did not. In reality, those who were called these nasty names probably got here ahead of the name-callers. At least as far as the Polish Americans were

concerned.

When we sit down for our family dinner on Thanksgiving Day, how can we not reflect on the days of early America and the time England's Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock in 1620.

History clearly records them as one of America's "firsts."

But another Englishman named John Smith came to America's shores before the Pilgrims did when he landed at Jamestown in 1607 to start the Virginia Settlement.

Now here's what the name-callers who gave the Ellis Island immigrants such a hard time never learned in school.

In 1608, when Captain Smith needed skilled craftsmen to help develop the new Virginia Colony, he invited a group of Polish artisans to

come to Jamestown and bring their technical skills with them. The first factory in America was the glass-works the Polish settlers established at Jamestown.

Their contribution to the growth of Virginia became an essential element of its success. Despite the recognition they earned for their vital input to the colony's prosperity, they were refused the right to vote when elections were to take place.

What was the reason for the denial? It was because they were Polish. The Englishmen felt only the English should have a say in Virginia's government.

So how did the Poles react? They simply stopped working. The economic pressure of their stoppage was effective and they were finally permitted to vote.

The Poles not only made their point but they also established a precedent. They had succeeded in organizing the first labor and civil rights strikes on the shores of the New World.

To pay tribute to the historic achievements of Jamestown's Polish workers, the Anti-Bigotry Committee, along with the rest of the Polish

American Congress and other major Polish American organizations, held special commemorative ceremonies at Jamestown on October 1, exactly 400 years to the day the Poles arrived in 1608.

When you sit down for your Thanksgiving turkey, just remember the Poles got to America even before the Pilgrims did.

It's entirely possible, therefore, that the first Thanksgiving Day may have actually been celebrated in Virginia rather than in Massachusetts. Some people in Virginia say it was. However, nobody could say if turkey was the main dish that day.

The Polish settlers came to Jamestown nearly two centuries before the American Revolution and the formation of the United States out of the original thirteen colonies. The story of Jamestown is a basic and integral part of American history.

And now, as the noted radio commentator Paul Harvey would say, "you know the rest of the story."

◆◆◆

Frank Milewski is chair of the Anti-Bigotry Committee of the Polish American Congress.

The Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College presents:

## Polish Film Showcase 2008 November 6 - 9

Thursday, November 6 - Canisius College - Regis Room  
Student Center, 2001 Main St., Buffalo

### 6 pm - Stone Silence / Kamienna Cisza

In 2005 in Northern Afghanistan a woman accused of adultery was killed. According to various accounts, 25-year-old Amina was stoned to death, strangled, died of a heart attack or committed suicide ... Various accounts of the event cross and contradict each other. It seems that nothing will break the conspiracy of silence.

Director / Krzysztof Kopczynski

### 7 pm - First Day / Pierwszy Dzień

From a remote tundra sixty pupils arrive in school in Siberian Aksarca by ship or plane. Devoid of the support of parents, children of nature must face the town's reality. "The First Day" tells a story of one of the most important moments in life, the first frontier crossed on their way to maturity.

Director / Krzysztof Kopczynski

Festival Guest: Krzysztof Kopczynski, Director and Producer  
FREE EVENT

Friday, November 7 - Canisius College - Regis Room  
Student Center, 2001 Main St., Buffalo

### 7 pm - Twist of Faith / Korowod

Bartek is a student. He earns his living by writing master's theses. Moral perplexities are absent from his life. One day from the train's compartment that Bartek sits in, a passenger disappears leaving his coat and a briefcase. When Bartek hears a cell phone ringing in the coat's pocket, he does not hesitate to answer it. From now on his life changes...

Director / Jerzy Stuhr

### 9 pm - Lejdis

A comedy about four women who try to get along with their crazy lives, which don't look like they have planned them. For years they lived in the same Warsaw tenement house, playing on the same well-liked yard where they went to school. Now their friendship helps them to survive.

Director / Tomasz Konecki

General Admission: \$5 • Students & Senior Citizens: \$3

Saturday, November 8 - Palace Theatre  
31 Buffalo Street, Hamburg • 649-2295

### 7 pm - Katyn

On Sept. 17, 1939, the Soviet Union invaded Poland. Polish officers were taken captive and imprisoned in camps in Kozielsk, Ostaszewo and Starobielsk. In April and May of 1940, about 22,000 Polish officers, soldiers and police were murdered by the order of Stalin. In 1943 in Katyn, Germans discovered the graves of those murdered by the NKVD. Soviets accused the Germans of this crime and fabricated false pieces of evidence which was convenient to the allies too. In communist Poland, telling the truth about Katyn resulted in persecutions. Families of the murdered had to face the tragic news about their relatives' horrible death, but also to bear a cynical lie - the official version of the tragic events.

Director / Andrzej Wajda

General Admission: \$7 • Students & Senior Citizens: \$5  
Festival Guest: Prof. Dr. Slawomir Jozefowicz

Sunday, November 9 - Adam Mickiewicz Library  
612 Filmore Ave, Buffalo

### 2 pm - 52%

Alla wishes to become a ballet dancer. Trying to be admitted to the Russian Ballet Academy in St. Petersburg. The entrance exams are extremely tough for her. Alla must lengthen her legs because her proportions are not accurate. 52% is the perfect ratio of the legs' length to the height.

Director / Rafal Skalski

### 2:30 pm - When the Sun Was A God / Stara Basn

The film takes place in ninth-century Europe, when various Slavic tribes lived in lands that would later become the nation of Poland; at a time when each tribe worshipped its own dieties. A cruel prince, Popiel, and his scheming wife will do anything in their power to pass control of this land to their son. The commander of Popiel's army, Piastun, opposed to the crimes and intrigues that Popiel orders him to commit to guarantee the succession, turns on Popiel.

Director / Jerzy Hoffman

General Admission: \$5 • Students & Senior Citizens: \$3 • Children: FREE

All films will feature English Subtitles

All tickets available at the door

For additional information about each film, visit: [www.canisius.edu](http://www.canisius.edu)  
and enter "Polish Chair" into the search and look up "Upcoming Events"

## An Evening With Senator Hagel

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The full title of the well received, hard hitting and common sense book is "America—Our Next Chapter ... Tough Questions, Straight Answers," authored by U.S. Senator Charles "Chuck" Hagel (R., Nebraska). To its great credit, the totally non-partisan book deals intellectually with the many domestic and global challenges that America must face in the 21st century, with an optimistic eye on our nation's future.

The presentation, interview and discussion, which took place at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland on September 17, 2008, was hosted by Ambassador Robert Kupiecki in cooperation with the Jan Karski Institute. A large audience—including many distinguished guests—was in attendance.

Sen. Hagel's book deals with confronting and solving many pressing problematic domestic issues affecting us all. Leading the list is health care, immigration, Social Security, Medicaid, the economic health of the country, the national debt, and national security.

He also considers equally critical, such global matters as the responsible conduct of our foreign policy, eradicating third world poverty, defeating terrorism, the Iraq War that has divided our country, stopping/controlling nuclear proliferation, maintaining mutually beneficial international organizations and military alliances, reaching out to the world's youth, and the specter of global climate change.

During the interview, moderator Mariusz Brymora steered Sen. Hagel in the direction of Poland. In response, Sen. Hagel made the point (noted in his book) that Poland was



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

**THE SENATOR INTRODUCES HIS BOOK.** Senator Chuck Hagel is pictured above, left, at the Embassy of Poland being interviewed by Cultural Counselor Mariusz Brymora. Under discussion is Sen. Hagel's recently published book "America, Our Next Chapter."

able to defend against communism because the communists were never able to strip the soul out of the Poles. Poland was the one nation that stubbornly clung to its religious faith and culture, which eventually defeated the communist.

In the Q&A session, Sen. Hagel replied to a question about the recently concluded U.S.-Poland Missile Defense Agreement by saying that it troubled him ... it seemed to be slapped together quickly before the present administration leaves office. He questioned if the risk/reward factor was completely thought out...if it was good for the Poles and the Czechs (also a party to the Agreement). Hagel said he was not 100% convinced that it's a wise thing to do.

At the Embassy, on October 2, 2007, Ambassador Janusz Reiter presented Sen. Hagel, a friend and supporter of Poland and Polonia, with the Commander's Cross—With Star, Of the Order of Merit, Of the Republic of Poland. This day he returned to introduce his book which deals with many crucial matters affecting both the United States and the world. No doubt family matriarch—"Grandma Konkelewska"—who emigrated from greater-Poznan, Poland to Nebraska, would be proud of her accomplished great-grandson, Chuck Hagel, on both notable accounts.

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## Luminous Mysteries in Detroit Church

Fr. Nicholas Zukowski, pastor of St. Mary Queen of Creation RC Church in New Baltimore (Archdiocese of Detroit), Mich., and newly-appointed vicar of the diocese's Blue Water Vicariate, proudly boasts that his parish is the only one in the diocese with sculptural representations of the Luminous Mysteries of the rosary. Unable to find any representations in the usual religious goods sources, he turned to a woodcarver, John Marovich, in Troy, Mich. The 78-year-old became a woodcarver after he left his profession as an automotive tool-and-die design engineer for GM. His woodcarving hobby became more public when he was commissioned to carve angels for SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Sterling Heights. This was followed by other church commissions, the Luminous Mysteries being the most recent. Those mysteries were added to the rosary devotion by Pope John Paul II and include the Jesus' Baptism, Miracle at Cana, Transfiguration, Proclamation of the Kingdom, and Institution of the Eucharist.

**ST. FAUSTINA'S PILGRIMAGE ROUTE.** Pilgrims coming to Kraków will be able to follow the steps of St. Faustina on a pilgrimage route recently established to bring them to the most important places associated with the saint. The route starts at the hospital where she was treated for tuberculosis, visits the Mariacki church in the Market Square and other churches where she worshipped and worked, the publishing house where the first "Jesus I Trust You" images and fragments of her diary were printed, and ends at the Sanctuary of the Divine Mercy in Łagiewniki, with the convent where the saint lived, died and was buried. St. Faustina's route joins the already existing John Paul II route, one of the top pilgrimage attractions in Poland.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ... St. Stanislaus Kostka RC Church** in Rochester, NY, on the 100th anniversary of the dedication of their church. The restoration of the historic church was completed in 2004. A new shrine to Our Lady of Czestochowa, which includes a

commissioned portrait of John Paul II accompanies the anniversary celebrations.

**The Polish National Union of America (Spojnia)** fraternal benefit society celebrating 100 years.

**Holy Trinity PNCC** parish in Kewanee, Ill., celebrating 80 years.

**St. Casimir's RC Church** in Newark, N.J., on their 100th anniversary. Polish-born Fr. Andrew Ostaszewski, the pastor, notes increasing parish membership and strong support of the parish's activities.

**St. Adalbert Basilica** in Buffalo, N.Y., celebrating 100 years as a basilica. The parish was recently embroiled in a controversy with the diocese over whether it was actually designated a basilica at all. Documents surfaced in Rome which supported the pastor, Fr. Thaddeus Boncianowski's and his parishioners' contention that it was. The parish has been linked with nearby St. John Kanty parish in the diocese's recent program of closings and mergers.

**Sr. Jeanne Marie Akalski, CSSF**, celebrating her golden anniversary as a Felician Sister. She serves in the Worcester, Mass. Diocese and the celebration was held at Our Lady of the Angels Provincial House Chapel in Enfield, Conn. Present for the celebration was Sr. Jeanne's twin sister, **Sr. Mary Valenta, CSSF**, a member of the Felicians in Lodi, N.J. The two sisters were born in the Bronx, NY and attended St. Adalbert's School, where Felician sisters taught.

**Sr. Elizabeth of the Trinity, O.C.D.**, a Discalced Carmelite celebrating her 25th anniversary of profession. Her cousin Pallotine Fr. and Canon Andrzej Kurowski celebrated the anniversary Mass. Celebrating her 60th anniversary was **Sr. Mary Francis of the Infant Jesus, O.C.D.**, one of the founders of the Carmel in the diocese of Harrisburg, and recipient of the Prince Gallitzin Cross in 2002. The anniversaries were celebrated at the Monastery of St. Therese of Liseux in Loretto, Pa.

**Fr. Jan Bernas, SDB**, chaplain of St. Joseph's Senior Home in Woodbridge, N.J. on his 50th anniversary of ordination. Celebrat-

ing anniversaries with him were **Srs. M. Agatha Golis, M. Beatriz Wiczorek, M. Emily Mentell, and M. Emilia Jamroz** (50 years); **M. Bernadette Olech** and **M. Teresa Pawlaczek** (60 years).

Jubilarians Srs. of the Holy Family of Nazareth **Benedette Olszewski, M. Ernest Budzinski, Jane Zaborowski** (75 years); **Virginette Rypniewski** (50 years); **Joanna Chrobak** (25 years).

**TRADITIONAL LITURGY AND SACRED MUSIC.** Fr. Mark A. Borkowski, parochial administrator of St. Joseph RC Church in Detroit, Mich., has scheduled traditional Church choral music in Latin, sung by the Cappella Parish Choir, throughout the coming year. The sacred music and Gregorian Chant accompanies the traditional Tridentine and Novus Ordo Latin Masses celebrated at the parish.

Newly ordained **Fr. Jonathan Romanoski** of New Cumberland, Penn., celebrated the first Solemn High Mass in the Harrisburg diocese cathedral of St. Patrick in 45 years. The ceremony took nearly two hours and was celebrated in Latin. The Mater Dei Community rents St. Lawrence Chapel on State St. where a Latin Mass is regularly celebrated on weekdays (7:30 a.m.) and Sundays (10:30 a.m.).

**STO LAT TO ... Rev. Lisa Demkowski** on her installation as Associate Minister at Plymouth Congregational Church in Wichita, Kan.

**Fr. George Kosicki, CSB**, a retired Basilian priest and Novice Master for the newly established Congregation the Companions of the Lamb. Among the members of the community are Founder and Moderator **Fr. Jack Fabian, Fr. Bohdan Kosicki**, retired priest from the archdiocese of Detroit, and **Marc Wysocki**, a novice.

**Fr. Leon Dobosiewicz** on being raised to the honor of Monsignor by Pope Benedict XVI in the Diocese of Orlando, Fla. A native of Erie, Pa., Msgr. Dobosiewicz was ordained in 1946. The 88-year-old priest is the oldest active priest in the Orlando Diocese, serving over 25 years of his 62 years as a priest in retirement.

pastor.

No other church in the diocese has received such a designation.

Pope Benedict announced the Year of St. Paul, a special jubilee year dedicated to the saint, that runs from June 28, 2008, to June 29, 2009, to mark the approximately 2,000th anniversary of his birth.

Periodically, the Church sets aside a year to encourage people to focus on an important aspect of the faith.

Fr. DiMascola said it is exciting to celebrate the parish centennial with the Year of St. Paul. "For the past decade, our parish has been involved in efforts of evangelization, and with the Year of St. Paul, the great evangelizer, we are going to offer more and intensify some of the programs we have been working on," Fr. DiMascola said.

The parish evangelization efforts

include a cable television program to explain the faith called "Chronicles of Czestochowa," weekly televised Masses, two web sites and a booth at the Franklin County Fair.

"We hope to explore other public outreach to share the faith as St. Paul would," Fr. DiMascola said.

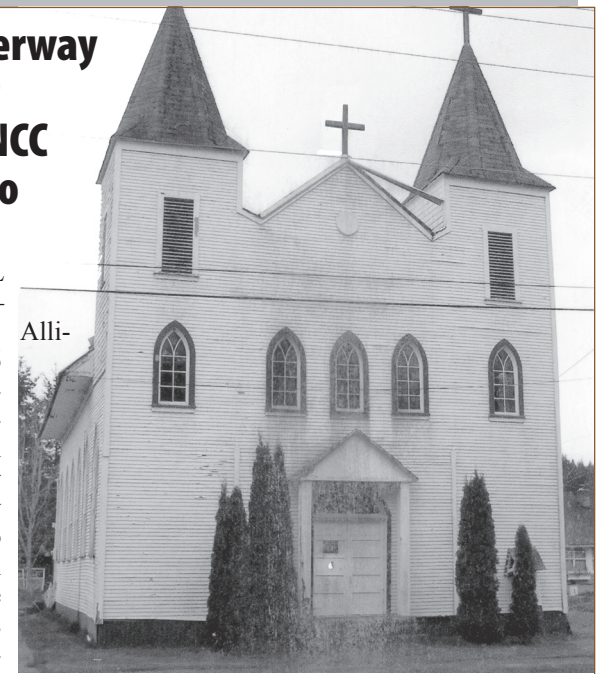
"The times require that we not sit back. We don't have the luxury of sitting back anymore," he said. "For too long we have been satisfied with what we had. There was no need, it seems, to most Catholics to reach out beyond the people in the pew. But we cannot become pew potatoes."

He said the world has become more aggressively anti-Catholic and anti-Christian, and that the message that "Jesus Christ has come to show us the way to live here and now so we might live with Him in perfect joy forever" is not being heard. "It's

## Drive Underway to Convert Historic PNCC Church into Museum

FEDERAL WAY, Wash.—Polish National Alliance Lodge 156 of Seattle-Tacoma has committed to a program of raising money to restore Holy Cross Church to a safe museum building. The church, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is located in Pe Ell, Wash., was built in 1916, and is a testament to the will of the Polish immigrants to provide a place of worship, Polish language, and culture for its families. The church is the only Polish National Catholic Church ever built in the Western United States. The church is owned by the remnants of the congregation left in Pe Ell.

Those who wish to contribute and/or just want more information on the church can call toll-free (888) 762-0156, and a brochure will be mailed to them.



He is also the first Polish American priest to be elevated to monsignor in the Orlando Diocese.

**MAJOR RESTORATION FOR SHRINE.** Fr. Richard Baranski, acting pastor of Cross in the Woods shrine in Indian River, Mich., has begun a capital campaign to restore the cross, altar and stairs at the popular shrine in Indian River. Although some work was done 10 years ago, it was not done correctly and deterioration and rot threaten the entire complex. The wood for the 14-ton cross, believed to be 2,000 years old, came from Oregon and was fashioned in Roscommon, Mich.

**NEW DIVINE MERCY SHRINE.** After nine years of planning, prayer and work, a new monstrance was unveiled in St. Stanislaus Kostka RC Church in Chicago, the official shrine to the Divine Mercy devotion in Chicago. The 9-foot monstrance is hand-carved and painted, featuring Mary atop a gold-leafed ark all sheltered by the wings of two kneeling golden angels. Special 12-inch hosts were made for veneration within the monstrance. The mon-

strance, believed to be the world's largest, was created by the Polish sculptor Stefan Niedorezo and was paid for by anonymous donations and proceeds from the sale of the book "A Mother's Plea," the memoirs of Resurrectionist Fr. Anthony Bus, St. Stanislaus Kostka's pastor.

### MODLITWY

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

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

## OLC Designated "Pilgrimage Site" for Year of St. Paul

Parish to also Celebrate 100th Anniversary

by Cori Fugere Urban

TURNERS FALLS, Mass.—Our Lady of Czestochowa Church was designated a pilgrimage site for the Year of St. Paul, just as the parish was beginning the celebration of its centennial.

Paul was one of the great saints and founders of the early Church.

"In the anniversary year of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in Turners Falls, I formally designate the parish church as a pilgrimage site for the Year of St. Paul in which the indulgences granted to the faithful by Pope Benedict XVI may be obtained, provided the conditions set forth by the Holy Father are met," Springfield Bishop Timothy A. McDonnell wrote in an August letter to Fr. Charles J. DiMascola,

being drowned out by a secular and militant atheistic society," he said. "The urgency of St. Paul should be the same urgency that we share in announcing the truths of our faith, understanding that it is a matter of eternal life and eternal death. And a casual and do-nothing approach will be our condemnation."

The theme of Our Lady of Czestochowa's Year of St. Paul and centennial celebrations will be "Open Wide the Doors to Christ."

The centennial celebration begins with Forty Hours Sept. 19-21. The parish always celebrates that devotion near the Sept. 29 Feast of St. Michael, the day on which the parish was established 100 years ago.

During the Forty Hours devotions in September, a holy year reliquary featuring two doors and a picture of St. Paul, used as a symbol of

the centennial and Year of St. Paul, was opened.

The centennial year will include an opening banquet in November and a series of breakfasts called "Eggs and Ecclesia" throughout the year with noted guest speakers who will talk about matters of faith and scriptures.

Fr. DiMascola also hopes the centennial celebration will include a concert series, a series of talks on the letters of St. Paul and a series of special services that focus on St. Paul. He also would like to host a program on the Polish legacy of the parish.

The centennial celebration will conclude with Forty Hours in September 2009 and a banquet the week before with Bishop O'Donnell.

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The Polish Gift of Life, Inc. would like to thank all of our generous supporters, who, for over 28 years, have made it possible for us to help sick Polish children. Many children have been brought to the United States for live-saving heart surgery, which was not available to them in their own country. This year, we sent therapy equipment and medical supplies to an Orphanage, also an EKG machine was sent to a rehabilitation center. We provided much-needed medical equipment and supplies to several hospitals in Poland. A 24-hour ambulatory blood pressure monitor with software, cuffs, battery charger and batteries, an ambulatory Doppler machine, and a pulsometer was sent so that more children can be helped. Your financial support will allow us to continue to give Polish children the precious "gift of life." Thank you.

KULTURA / STAŚ KMIEĆ

## A New Play about a Polish Holocaust Rescuer

REVIEW: IRENA'S VOW

"God put me at a crossroads and offered me a choice between a moral and an immoral life, between complicity and redemption, between death and life."

—Irena Gut, in a line from Irena's Vow.

Among the 22,216 Holocaust rescuers honored in Yad Vashem's *Righteous Among the Nations*, Poland is represented by 6,066. With 45 countries, the next entry is from the Netherlands with 4,861. There are many stories of the heroic efforts of rescuers who risked their lives to save others, and there are even more stories untold.

The story of Irena Gut (aka Gutówna) has been told in two books and countless lectures, yet most Poles, even those living in Poland, know nothing about her. For the first time, the extraordinary, heroic events of her life have been

dramatized on stage in the The Invictus Theater Company World Premiere of *Irena's Vow*, which recently opened Off-Broadway at the Baruch Performing Arts Center.

Produced by The Directors Company in association with Power Productions NY and The Polish Cultural Institute, playwright Dan Gordon's biodrama is based on the true story of a Polish Catholic who was forced to work for a high-ranking German Major during the occupation of Poland. While serving as his housekeeper, Irena ultimately hid 13 Jewish Poles in the officer's villa for about two years and saved them from certain death in Nazi concentration camps.

Motivated by simple decency and moral responsibility, Irena relied on her exceptional looks, her warm heart and her limitless understated courage. It was her blonde hair, blue eyes, fluency in German and German sounding surname that attracted the attention of Major Edu-

ard Rugemer. When her mysterious secret was discovered she was given a dramatic choice. She decided to sacrifice her personal dignity in order to save the dignity of other people's lives.

In the hands of actress Tovah Feldshuh, the production of *Irena's Vow* soars. Feldshuh's *tour de force* performance embodies and exemplifies Irena's defiant braveness of spirit and dominates every moment of the play. Director Michael Parva ultimately succeeds in building this play into an engrossing, near pitch-perfect production.

Framed as a recollection before a student assembly, the play begins as the elderly Irene Gut Opdyke looks back on crucial and defining moments in her life. With a simple hair maneuver Feldshuh transforms from the 70 year old Irene to Irena in her youth. By the power and illusion of the theatrical stage, Feldshuh is able to suspend age, matching Irena's 4 foot-11 inch stature and with a gentle accent, she gives a nuanced and powerfully emotional depiction of the heroine and her plight, guiding the audience through a believably spellbinding, invigorating, and tense evening.

The play transcends the black-and-white photos that are prominently shown in projection and embodies the deeper feelings and emotions of consciousness of that period in time. *Irena's Vow* shows an aspect of Poland's role in the Holocaust that is infrequently portrayed or documented. The relationships of Poles and Jews during the desperate times of World War II have been a topic of controversy. There certainly was sympathy toward Jews among the Poles and antipathy toward the Germans; however everyone reacted differently and most were concerned about their own survival.

Over 50,000 acts of heroism by Polish citizens who reached out to save victims of the Nazi terror have been recorded, resulting in the 100,000 Jews that somehow survived in Poland. Poland was the only country where simply giving a glass of water or piece of bread to a Jew was punishable by death — for the giver as well as for his/her family. Polish people caught helping Jews in any way were strung up in the



Tovah Fedshuh and the cast of Irena's Vow

town square, along with their family and the Jews they had assisted. Public executions of citizens in the streets were commonplace and residents were forced to witness these horrifying acts.

In the most arresting moments of the play Irena vividly recalls her firsthand observation of a Jewish mother and her baby being murdered, and of the bodies of a hanging Gentile and Jewish family. Paralyzed with horror, the course of Irene Gut's life was clear and her shock at the atrocities built the foundation of her heroic resistance. Irena states: "God put me at a crossroads and offered me a choice between a moral and an immoral life, between complicity and redemption."

Gordon's powerful account is simply and well written, descriptive, emotional and eloquent in its understatement. For theatrical purposes, dramatic license has been taken with the timeline of certain events and for the efficiency of an ensemble cast, only three of those hidden are portrayed. Gordon occasionally drops from the time period with occasional contemporary references and language. Given the subject matter, ironically the play remains upbeat and inspirational and is punctuated with just enough humor and emotionally heart-warming moments to make the overriding tension bearable.

Parva directs the production with admiration and respect through effective and authentic staging. This fast paced production keeps you at the edge of your seat and never lags in propelling the story forward.

The supporting ensemble is cohesively solid and believable. John

Stanisci as the Nazi Rokita relays the systematic death plan of Jews through a succession of restriction methods with a chilling and unsettlingly calm delivery. His starched, staunch rigidity is countered by Thomas Ryan's Major Rugemer, whose arc of character peaks with the discovery of the hidden Jews. Maja Wampuszyc (Ida Hallar) and Tracee Chimo (Fanka Silberman) stand out with nuanced acting moments, authentic accents, pale complexion and deep hollow eyes, as does Steven Hauck who gives humanity to the character of Schultz.

Kevin Judge's simple representational set of platforms, skeletal doorways, beams, crates, stools, and period furniture accents allows the play to effectively travel to many settings; Alex Koch's projections maintain a sense of place and historic validity; and through the violin strains, Quentin Chiapetta's original music supports the transitions and his effective sound design enhance plot moments unobtrusively.

This Holocaust chronicle about a deeply religious, courageous woman, told from the "rescuer's" perspective, is one that should not be missed.

At a displaced persons camp after the war, Irena Gut met her future husband, a U.N. staffer named William Opdyke. They settled in southern California. Her memoirs appeared in the books: *In My Hands* written with Jennifer Armstrong, and *Into the Flames: The Life Story of a Righteous Gentile* written with Jeffrey M. Elliot, Mary A. Burgess.

PBS is planning to film a documentary about the production of the play, which hopes to move to Broadway after its run at Baruch.

### "Irena's Vow" opens Off-Broadway



Following the performance, the opening night of Off-Broadway's *Irena's Vow* was celebrated at The Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York, hosted by Consul General Krzysztof W. Kasprzyk.

Survivor Roman Hallar, portrayed in the play, traveled from Germany to attend the opening, along with Irena's daughter, Jeannie Opdyke Smith from Seattle.

*Irena's Vow* was produced by The Directors Company in association with Power Productions NY and The Polish Cultural Institute.

At the opening night celebration of the *Irena's Vow*: (l. to r.) Monika Fabijanska, director of the Polish Cultural Institute; Playwright Dan Gordon; Tovah Feldshuh (Irena); Roman Hallar (Irena's survivor); Jeannie Opdyke Smith (Irena's daughter); and Agata Grenda, Deputy Director of the Polish Cultural Institute.

## Highlighting Polish Contemporary Culture

### A Complete Film Retrospective of Andrzej Wajda to be shown

The Polish Cultural Institute of New York has been busy with an opening production Off-Broadway and a year full of exciting and ambitious programs and events celebrating contemporary Polish culture.

#### Visual Arts

• *Truth or Dare*: The films of Andrzej Wajda. A Complete Retrospective. For the first time in America, all 35 feature films, several shorts and documentaries of the Honorary Academy Award for Lifetime Achievement recipient will be shown in one series. (through Nov. 13. The Film Society of Lincoln

Center, Walter Reade Theater, 70 Lincoln Center Plaza, New York)

• *Exhibition* by painter Sylwia Górak, known for landscape paintings that introduce man-made objects (through Nov. 23. Headlands Center, 944 Fort Barry, Sausalito, Calif.).

• *Video Installation* by Ewa Luczak (through December 1. Headlands Center, 944 Fort Barry, Sausalito, Calif.).

• *Cutting Realities*. Gender Strategies in Art contains the works of 15 artists including Kwikulik, Natalia LL and Artur Żmijewski (through Nov. 29. Austrian Cultural Forum, 11 E 52nd St. New York).

• *Conceptual and documentary photographer*, Nicolas Gropierre, of Polish descent presents the multimedia installation, The Library (through December 31. Location

One, 26 Greene St. New York).

#### Theater

• *Made in Poland*, an exuberant, funny, and fierce play, which premiered in Legnica, Poland will appear in English translation by Obie Award winning The Play Company. Polish audiences and critics, alike hailed the hit as the best of 2004/05 season. (through Nov. 30. 59E59 Theaters, 59 East 59th St., New York).

• *The Theater of the Eighth Day*. The Files. Premiering in Poland in 2007, the play uses Secret Police records on the actors of the famous Theater of the Eight Day written during the Communist era. (Performed in English through Nov. 9. 59E59 Theaters, 59 East 59th St., New York and Nov. 13-15. Indiana University Waldron Arts Center,

122 So. Walnut St. Bloomington, Ind.).

• Michał Walczak's *Sandbox* and *The First Time* staged in translation by The Immigrants' Theater Project (through Nov. 30. 59E59 Theaters, 59 East 59th St., New York).

• *The Art and Theater of Tadeusz Kantor*. Screenings (Nov. 10-16. La Mama E.T.C., 66 East 4th St., New York) Exhibition (Nov. 9. February 1. The Jewish Museum 1109 Fifth Avenue, New York)

#### Music

• *Warsaw Philharmonic* (Nov. 17. Metropolitan Museum of Art/Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium, 1000 Fifth Ave, New York)

The Polish Cultural Institute was established in New York in 2000, as a diplomatic mission to the United

States, serving under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland. The Institute is dedicated to nurturing and promoting cultural ties between the United States and Poland, both through American exposure to Poland's cultural achievements, and through exposure of Polish artists and scholars to American trends, institutions, and professional counterparts.

The Institute is headed by Director, Monika Fabijanska (Visual Arts, Literature, and Historical Programming), Deputy Director, Agata Grenda (Theatre and Dance Programming), Anna Perzanowska (Music Programming) and Lenka Panak (Film and TV Programming). For more information visit: www.PolishCulture-NYC.org



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**HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman**

## Chicago Public Library Joins the Celebration

CHICAGO—Continuing with Polish American Heritage Month celebrations, the Chicago Public Library (CPL) has, and will provide to all interested in Polish and Polish American culture, an opportunity to experience that which is Polish. During the month of October, the Library will host lectures, workshops, Polish book discussions, and folk dance presentations throughout Chicago's branch libraries as well as holding events at the Harold Washington Main Library. Lucyna Migala, Emmy award broadcast journalist and artistic director of the Lira Ensemble, will present "The Beauty of Poland." Norman Conard and Megan Stewart-Felt, ensemble members of "The Irena Sendler Project," will discuss the upcoming film "Life in a Jar" as well as their personal experiences in creating this moving tribute to Irena Sendler.

### PADEREWSKI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PLAYS TO HONOR.

On Oct. 4, the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra of Chicago held a multimedia extravaganza "Piesni Wolnosci: Songs of Freedom!" at the Rosemont Theater, a Chicago suburb. This event was held to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Polish settlers arriving to Jamestown, Virginia as well as to commemorate the 90th anniversary of Poland's independence. The concert had at least 180 performers, including internationally-acclaimed Polish opera stars Mirosława Sojka-Topor, Adam Zdunikowski, Artur Ruciński, Przemysław Firek and Jacek Wojcicki. Adding to the entertainment of the day were choirs and dance troupes, which performed to music from Oginski to Vangelis to Williams. This event was sponsored by many, including the Senate, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the Republic of Poland, and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland.

**EAT AND MEET.** On Oct. 10, the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance, held its second annual "Bigos Dinner" in conjunction with its "Meet the Candidates" Night.

Held at the Copernicus Foundation, this event gives voters the opportunity to mingle with perspective



Hosts, Mariola and Andrew Golota, and six perspective debutantes.

### 70TH BALL SEASON BEGINS.

The Legion of Young Polish Women began its 70th debutante ball season by holding its first Debutante Tea on September 28 at the home of Mariola and Andrew Golota. Six perspective debutantes, their parents,

past debutantes, and ball committee members attended this event. Grazyna Migala, Chair of the Ball, announced that the 70th Annual White & Red Ball, *Bal Amarantowy*, will be held on February 21, 2009 at the Hilton Chicago.

candidates aspiring to become local and/or state officials, as well as to enjoy an evening of Polish American hospitality and a great Polish meal.

### MARIA CIESLA PRESENTS UNIQUE PWAA HISTORY.

Group 819 of the Polish Women's Alliance (PWAA) held its 20th Anniversary on Sept. 21 at Przybylo's House of the White Eagle in Niles. Group president, Marlene Gill, welcomed guests to the afternoon festivities. Maria Ciesla, president of The Polish Museum of America (PMA) and member of Group 819 spoke of the historical and supportive relationship between PWAA and PMA. Mrs. Ciesla spoke of the history behind the focal showcase painting located in the Museum's Great Hall. The painting, "Pulaski at Savannah," painted by Stanisław Kaczor-Batowski and measuring approximately 11 feet by 15 feet, "was originally brought from Poland to be displayed at the Chicago's 1933 Century of Progress World's Fair." This magnificent painting was then purchased by the Art Institute of Chicago. During 1939, the PWAA purchased the painting from the Art Institute and on October 9, 1939, on

"the eve of the 160th anniversary of Pulaski's death in the American War of Independence," PWAA President Honorata Wolowska and other officers of PWAA presented the painting as a gift to The Polish Museum of America.

### SEARCH FOR MISS POLAND 2009.

Applications are now being accepted for the title of Miss Poland International 2009, an official preliminary to the Miss International Pageant that will be held at the North Shore Performing Arts Center in Chicago, July 20-25, 2009.

The woman selected will serve as an ambassador for Poland and receive an official crown and sash.

Competitions will include private interview, fitness wear, fashion wear, and evening gown. Women between the ages of 19-29 who hold Polish citizenship, or were born in Poland, and are interested in applying should call Mary Richardson, National Director at (540) 989-5992, or e-mail director@miss-international.us. Competition will also be held for the title of Mrs. Poland International 2009, which is open to married women ages 21-56. Contact Mary Richardson at the above number, or at mrsintlpag@aol.com.



Polish exchange students and their hosts.

### POLISH EXCHANGE STUDENT PROGRAM.

Loyola Academy, a Jesuit College Preparatory High School, located in Wilmette, participated in its third annual Polish Student Exchange Program. Once again, eight students from the *Piotr Skarga, SJ Gimnazjum Akademickie* of Nowy Sacz, Poland, had the opportunity to attend an American Jesuit High School in order to im-

prove their English language skills, to experience differences as well as similarities in their educations, and to enjoy the exchange of cultures. The Academy's parents have continued to support this program by hosting the Polish students. This program has been coordinated by Dr. Geraldine Balut Coleman of the Academy and Artur Demkowicz, SJ, of Krakow.



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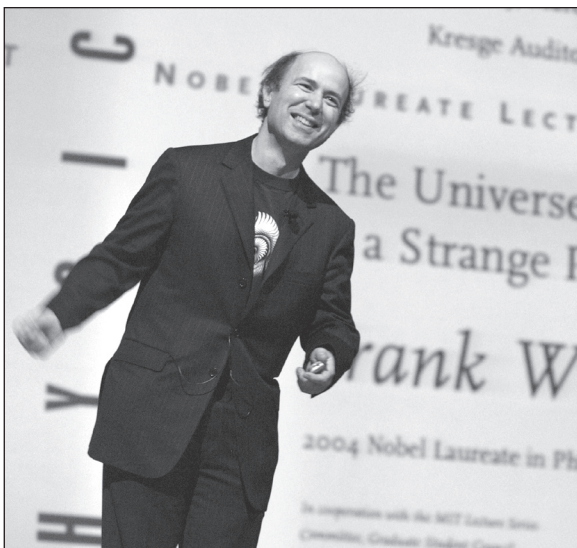
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## Polish Institute to Honor Nobel Prize Laureate, Dr. Frank Wilczek

NEW YORK—Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada, President and Executive Director of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America (PIASA) announced that the Casimir Funk Natural Science Award will be presented to Dr. Frank Wilczek, 2004 Nobel Laureate in Physics and Herman Feshbach professor of Physics at M.I.T. on Tuesday, December 9, 2008 at the Consulate General of Poland in New York City (233 Madison Avenue at E. 37th St.). The \$1000. award named after the discover of vitamins, one of the early charter members of PIASA, is awarded biannually to an American of Polish origin who has made an extraordinary contribution in the field of natural science.

A native of Queens in New York City, Dr. Wilczek is a member and

fellow of the Polish Institute. He is also an author of "Fantastic Realities and The Lightness of Being." The presentation of the award will be made by Dr. Roald Hoffmann, a Nobel Prize laureate in Chemistry 1981, professor of Chemistry at Cornell University. Following the formal program a cocktail reception will follow. Since space is limited, reservations to this event must be made by December 1. Please write



JUSTIN KNIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY

to PIASA 208 East 30th St., New York, N.Y. 10016 or e mail to [tgromada@mindspring.com](mailto:tgromada@mindspring.com).

## HAMTRAMCK BEAT / Michelle Odrobina-Jiompkowski

## Polonia Fetes Outstanding Polish Americans and Celebrates Anniversaries

As certain as the falling leaves and snowfall, autumn and winter bring a plethora of banquets to Hamtramck and the metro Detroit area. Individuals, organizations and institutions are recognized and praised publicly for their successes. Here is a sampling of the testimonial events.

**CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.** St. Florian Roman Catholic Parish will celebrate its 100th anniversary with a special Mass at 11 a.m., November 23, followed by a banquet at the American Polish Century Club in Sterling Heights. Cardinal Adam Maida and The Very Rev. Tomasz Sielicki, Superior General of the Society of Christ Fathers and a former St. Florian's pastor, will say the Mass. Banquet tickets are \$50 each or \$450 for a table of 10.

**SLASK CONCERT.** Also, starting in November, tickets will go on sale for a performance of the vocal ensemble of Slask, 7 p.m., December 17, who will be in concert at St. Florian. Slask, the national song and dance ensemble of Poland, comprises a 30-piece orchestra and a 60-member vocal ensemble. For ticket information to both events, call the parish office at (313) 871-2778 or e-mail inquiries to: office@stflorianparish.org.

**PAC ROAST.** While usually held in the summer, the Polish Day Parade Roast will be held this year, November 13, beginning at 5:30 p.m., with Parade Chairman Judge John M. Chmura being roasted at DeCarlo's Banquet Center in Warren. Tickets are priced at \$65 per person. Warren Judge Chmura has headed the Parade committee for many years. Sponsored by the Polish American Congress, Michigan Division, the parade is held annually on Labor Day in Hamtramck and the roast is the major fund-raiser. For more information, contact (586) 574-4925.

**CENTRAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE.** The organization honored Polonian activists with the Pulaski Day banquet held October 26 at the Polish National Alliance Banquet Hall. Honorees for 2008 include Jerzy Czaja, chairman of the Polish Scouting Organization in Michigan; Sr. Mary Danatha, one of the founders of Madonna University; George Kristy, publisher of the "Main Street" newspaper and head of the Hamtramck Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Polish Day Parade Committee; Christine Kryszko,

director of the Polanie Folk Dance Group; Edward Kuczynski of the Polish Engineering Society; Michael Ostrowski of the American Polish Assistance Association which sends care packages to Poland for Polish orphans; Helen Sawicki, active in Wyandotte, Michigan, as Polish Roman Catholic Union of America Secretary #162, also associated with Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, PWA and PLAV; and a former Wyandotte city council member; Virginia Skrzyziarz, Piast executive director; and Frank Stella, generous donor to Polish causes.

**PNA COUNCIL TURNS 90.** The officers and members of the Polish National Alliance Council 122 celebrated its 90th anniversary with a banquet held October 11 at the PNA Hall. Don Horkey, a long-time officer for the council wrote a history of the council.

**ANNIVERSARY OF POPE'S ELECTION.** Led by Msgr. Stanley Milewski as its president, the Priests Conference for Polish Affairs sponsored a prayer service, 3 p.m., October 26, at St. Ladislaus Roman Catholic Church, 2730 Caniff. His Eminence Edmund Cardinal Szoka celebrated the 30th anniversary of the papacy of Pope John Paul II. Afterwards, Professor Thomas Noble, head of the History department at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana, presented a lecture on the papacy. Rev. Andrew Wesley, St. Ladislaus pastor, hosted the event which included a reception in the church hall.

**PRCUA BANQUET.** In observance of the fraternal's 135th anniversary, the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America group attended a Mass, October 5 at St. Albertus Roman Catholic Church, according to Barb Toboy, PRCUA national director, District #10. St. Albertus was the birthplace of the PRCUA, according to Toboy. A dinner followed at the Knight of Columbus Cardinal Mercier Council 2723 in Hamtramck.

**FILMING OF MOVIES.** Two Hamtramck women, Bernice Phillips and Mary Urbanski became movie extras during the filming of Clint Eastwood's upcoming movie, "Gran Torino," during the summer. They were on-site at St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church in the Grosse Pointe area, where some of the scenes were filmed. Urbanski works in the rectory of St. Ambrose. Phillips was singled out by Eastwood

himself via an assistant director to play a scene in the church where she wakes up a snoozing parishioner during a funeral Mass. The movie has a December 2008 premiere and Gran Torino refers to the Ford car. Urbanski found being an extra a thrilling experience.

**OTHER MOVIE-MAKING NEWS.** Filming of another Hollywood movie, "Whip It" was held right on Hamtramck streets during two days in the summer, August 26 and 27. Drew Barrymore directed the film, a story about a young woman who joins a roller derby league. Ellen Page and Jimmy Fallon star.

**LOCAL FILMMAKER.** Charles Cirkenski, a filmmaker and former Hamtramck councilperson explained that the state incentives for making films in Michigan drew him to return to Hamtramck from New York. Filmmaker Cirkenski has, among his credits, a HBO showing of his movie, "Stardust," a fantasy about a living vacuum cleaner that was filmed in Hamtramck and released in 1998. "Stardust" may be purchased on amazon.com.

**ACHIEVEMENT ACKNOWLEDGED.** Marian Krzyzowski of the University of Michigan won the Diversity Business Leader award, along with other recipients, in a competition sponsored by "Corp!" Magazine. Krzyzowski was lauded for his six-year study of the Chene Street History as well as his other accomplishments throughout his long and distinguished career with U of M. He was recognized at a breakfast held October 14 at the Troy Marriott for all of the award winners.

**BRAZILIAN BEAT.** With Hamtramck ties, pianist Rich Kowalewski of Sterling Heights, Michigan, has released his group's latest CD called "Brazil and Beyond Classical." His group of the same name Brazil and Beyond won the 2006 and 2004 Detroit Music Awards winner in the "Outstanding World Recording" category.

On the group's fifth release, music of such composers as Bach, Chopin and Vivaldi are featured along with the works of Brazilian classical composers Ernesto Nazareth and Chiquinha Gonzaga.

Kowalewski credits his strong ties to Polonia to his mother, Helen Zibron Kowalewski, who was born and raised in Hamtramck and attended St. Florian Church and School. According to him, she expressed

her love of music through her piano playing, especially the works of her favorite composer, Chopin.

"Brazil and Beyond Classical" will be released at the concert of the Redford Michigan Civic Symphony Orchestra at 3 p.m., November 16, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Road in Livonia. There is no charge. The group's CD may be purchased online at CD Baby, amazon.com, the band's Web site and www.brazilandbeyond.com.

**ONE-MAN SHOW.** An active member of the Friends of Polish Art and a social worker with the Detroit Public Schools, Leonard T. Zabawski, LMSW, of Canton, Michigan, had an exhibit of his paintings recently. His pen/ink and watercolor paintings were featured in his one-man show during September and early October at the University Liggett (Upper) School in Grosse Pointe, Michigan. Zabawski's show entitled "Great Lakes/Atlantic Lights," showcased lighthouses across Michigan.

He worked in the past as a case-worker at the International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit, a social services agency that helps newly arrived immigrants with the English language and job seeking skills. He saw clients from 1982-1986 at the office of the Polish American Congress, Michigan Division. Many Poles have been assisted through the agency and its team of social workers that comprises a mini-United Nations. Among his other interests, Zabawski heads the Progressive Artists & Educators Committee. With his family, he also marches with the Polish National Alliance Centennial Dancers in the Polish Day Parade.

To learn more about the Great Lakes show, visit www.myspace.com/greatlakelights or contact Zabawski at lajkonik11@msn.com.

**SYMPATHY EXTENDED.** A deep loss in Detroit Polonia was felt with the death of Bruno Nowicki who passed away August 7 at age 100. According to Carolyn Meleski, president of the Friends of Polish Art, "Bruno was a person who did not look for the spotlight, but did things in his own quiet way. Detroit area monuments to Kosciuszko, Pulaski and Pope John Paul II were made possible because of this one man who set about a task and followed it through until it was finished."

Sebastian Szczepanski, newsletter editor for the Polish American Congress, Michigan Division, and

editor/publisher of the CZAS POLSKI/POLISH TIMES, wrote, "Nowicki was well known for his monuments around Hamtramck and metro Detroit that paid tribute to his Polish heritage. His monuments were testaments to Revolutionary War Generals Casimir Pulaski and Thaddeus Kosciuszko as well as the statue to Pope John Paul II in Hamtramck's Pope Park. At the Detroit Main Public Library, visitors can view the Copernicus statue, whose placement was orchestrated by Nowicki. His monuments of Szymanowski and Chopin at Interlochen and to Paderewski at the Orchard Lake Schools immortalize the contributions of Poland to classical music."

The editor noted that Nowicki had an equally distinguished career in newspaper publication. He began his career as a reporter in 1927, working for Polish publications in Pittsburgh and Chicago before moving to Detroit, where he published the "Dziennik Polski"/"Polish Daily News." The native of Sosnowiec, Poland, was admired. Sympathy is extended to his son Richard; and to Mr. Nowicki's longtime friend, Patricia Bargowski.

**PERSONAL MUSINGS.** One of the best pieces of career advice I ever received was from Henry Pawlowski, a designer, and a member of the Friends of Polish Art. He told me about registering with a temporary agency for work in proofreading which I did. In an e-mail, he wrote, "I too was helped by a temp agency. Before Aquent came along, there was MacTemps. That landed me a permanent textile designer position at Kmart and when Kmart design went to New York, I got a new position with Dillard's in Little Rock, Arkansas (Pulaski County no less!)"

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Besides Thanksgiving, one of the festive events I look forward to in November is the open house held during the weekend of November 23 by the Polish Art Center, *A Treasury of Polish Heritage*. For more information, contact the Bittner family at www.polartcenter.com or call their toll-free number at (888) 619-9771.

## PAHA

www.polishamericanstudies.org

The Polish American Historical Association was established in December 1942 as a special commission of the The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America to collect, compile and publish information about Polish Americans. In October 1944, it was reorganized as a national American society to promote study and research in the history and social background of Americans of Polish descent. The Association, which was incorporated under the laws of Illinois in 1972, strives to assist and cooperate with all individuals and organizations interested in Polish American life and history. Contributions in support of the work of the Association are tax-exempt. Regular one-year membership to the Association is \$30.00.

I am interested in becoming a member of PAHA. Enclosed is a check or money order for \$30.00 made payable to the Polish American Historical Association.

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**POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka**

## Ambassador Visits Western New York

BUFFALO, N.Y.—His Excellency **Dr. Robert Kupiecki**, the new Polish Ambassador to the United States, was the guest speaker at the WNY Division of the Polish American Congress' annual banquet at the Potts Banquet Hall on October 25. This was the ambassador's first visit to WNY, which also included a visit to the Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School.

The PAC banquet honored Polish American Women of Distinction. The honorees included: **Renee Harzewski**, **Christine Jozwiak**, **Eileen Koterak**, NYS Supreme Court Justice **Ann Mikoll**, **Christine Nowak**, **Hon. Alfreda Slominski**, **Dr. Joan Sulewski**, and **Mira Szramel**.

**POLONIA TIDBITS.** A fire at the former Norm Skulski's Pump Inn in Buffalo's Kaisertown neighborhood destroyed 4,000 signatures that had been collected in support of the campaign to name Buffalo's new federal courthouse in honor of **Lt. Col. Matt Urban** ... Artists Jeremy Dabrowski, Brett Despotovich, Agnieszka Foltyn, Lucas Geronimas, Adam and Mars Horodyski, Elzbieta Krawecka, Julia Olesiak, Chris Parker, Natalia Paruzel, Beata Raczynska and Mack Ross participated in the Canadian Polish Arts Initiative exhibit, "**Concurrence**" at the SPK Hall in Toronto on October 4 ... Also on the 4th, "Writers and Books" presented "The Shawl" by **Cynthia Ozick**, a Polish Holocaust survivor, at the Rochester Academy of Medicine, and Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push appeared at Fredonia's **1891 Opera House** ... **Jan Borkowski**, the Polish Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, met with members of the University of Toronto Polish Student Association at the Munk Centre on the 7th ... The **Echo Society** of Niagara Falls has a new mailing address: P.O. Box 2734, Niagara Falls, NY 14302.

The **Polish Student Association** of the University of Toronto elected the following officers for the 2008-2009 academic year: Jennifer Ploski (president), Wojciech Golab (vice president), Agnieszka Fraczek (treasurer) and Natalia Jankowski (secretary) ... PAJ columnist **Martin Nowak** gave a talk on the history of Buffalo's Polonia to the Ladies' Club of St. Josaphat Parish in

Cheektowaga on October 8 ... Also on the 8th, the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College presented a lecture and book signing by **Andy Bienkowski** and **Mary Akers**, the authors of "Radical Gratitude" ... **Janet Stanek** of Stand Advertising lived on the roof of West Herr Chevrolet in Orchard Park to promote Goodwill Industries' "Operation Donation" project ... **Tom Dudzick's** play "Over the Tavern" was presented at the Lancaster Opera House during mid-October ... On October 12, **Gene Golomb** spoke on "Two Anniversaries—400th Anniversary of Poles in America and 90th Anniversary of the Polonia Civic Center" as part of Rochester's Pulaski Day Commemoration at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church ... **Felician Sisters** Paula Marie Skalski, Mary Raymond Kasprzak, Mary Louis Rustowicz, Mary Kevin Szeluga Maureen Helak and Mary Ambrose Wozniak recently marked their 50th anniversaries of religious life.

**Dr. Ireneusz Lukaszewski**, the founder of the "Quo Vadis" Choir and music director of the Villa Maria Chorale, was recently honored by the mayor of Gdansk for his contributions to Polish culture ... The Polish Arts Club of Buffalo held its "**Evening in Warsaw**" Grand Polonaise Ball at Shanghai Red's Restaurant and the Polish Falcons held their district bowling tournament at Mancuso Lanes in Batavia on the 18th ... On October 19, the **Chopin Singing Society** presented its 109th annual concert at the Montante Cultural Center on Buffalo's Canisius College campus. This year's event featured a concert version of Moniuszko's light-hearted opera "Flis" and was dedicated to the president of the Chopin Ladies' Auxiliary, Evelyn Pietrzak ... Director Wanda Koscia's BBC documentary film, "**Battle for Warsaw**" was screened at Toronto's Emmanuel College on the 20.

Polish classical guitarist **Marcin Dylla** performed at Buffalo's First Presbyterian Church, Andrzej Rozbicki's Celebrity Symphony Orchestra presented the "Golden Operetta" at the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga, Ontario and the Dunkirk **Kosciuszko Club** hosted its "Polish Night" on October 25 ... Also

on the 25th, the **Syracuse Polish Home** sponsored a Polish Heritage Month exhibit at the Hazard Branch Library. Robert Synakowski spoke on the history of the Polish Home and Marian Poczobutt lectured on the 400th Anniversary of the Poles landing in Jamestown ... The Polish Heritage Society of Rochester held its **Krakow Creche Workshop** at the Rochester Museum and Science Center on October 25 and 26 ... Rochester's **Polonia Civic Center** observed its 90th anniversary with a dinner at Keenan's Restaurant on the 29th ... The 15th anniversary of **Kabaret "Pod Banka"** was celebrated at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga at the end of October ... The **Broadway Market** Management Board dissolved itself as of October 31. The City of Buffalo is taking steps to provide for the continued existence of the historic East Side landmark ... Steps are being taken to revitalize the **Buffalo-Rzeszow Sister City Committee**.

If you have any item for this column, please send the information to me by the 6th day of the month preceding the month (i.e. November 6 for the December edition) at: POLEGL, P.O. Box 223, Niagara Square Station, Buffalo, NY 14201-0223. My e-mail address is pietruszka@verizon.net.

For more information on what's going on in the Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes, including a calendar of upcoming events, an organizational directory and interesting links, visit my website at: www.polegl.org.

### Another Church Closes

CONNELLSVILLE, Pa.—Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, organized in 1903 as a Polish congregation, closed its doors October 30.

At its founding, Holy Trinity had 180 families, mostly from the Austrian and Russian partitions of Poland. They were employed in the area's coalmining and agriculture industries.

According to the Diocese of Greensburg website, as of June 30, 2007, the church had 93 households with 167 individuals.

"It's a big loss, but we have to accept it," said Julia Goretsky of the Holy Trinity.

### Credit Union Issues Warning

CHICOPEE, Mass.—A scam is targeting customers of the Polish National Credit Union, who are contacted through telephone calls, emails, and text messages.

Marjorie Tkacz got one of those phone calls. "I pick up the phone and the voice says, 'This is the Polish National Credit Union calling. This is a very important call. Your credit card has lapsed. If you want to reactivate it press one.'"

But since the phone call came at 6:30 in the morning Tkacz knew it couldn't have been from the credit union, and hung up.

She contacted both the credit union and the police, and that's when she learned that other credit union customers had also been contacted. As it turns out, the phone number that showed up on Tkacz's caller ID had a Delaware area code. In a press release, the Polish National Credit Union says they will never ask for personal financial information through e-mails, text messages, or telephone calls. They also say, if an individual responded to the e-mail, they were directed to a fake banking site or phone number which asked them to submit their

credit card number and pin in order to reactivate their account. If you did give out your personal information contact the credit union immediately.

### "Dream Come True"

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, Ill.—Arlington Heights has a little piece of Poland in the form of Agnes Zietek's new Brama Restaurant. The Polish immigrant's pierogi were such a hit at her Brama Bread, a mere three months old, that she decided to change the name to better describe the eatery that serves three meals daily.

Ms. Zietek, 42, moved to the United States six years ago, and "This (restaurant) was my dream. My family had a restaurant in Poland. I wanted to serve Polish food here in Arlington Heights," she said. "Everything is made from scratch. I try to keep things healthy," said the owner of the 50-seat restaurant. The idea is to show customers a good, home-cooked meal," she said. For more information, call (847) 222-1510 or check out www.bramabread.com.

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## How Will You Be Remembered?

Many people talk about leaving gifts to worthy causes, but don't have a will, and do not realize it requires a will to do so. The laws of most states make it quite clear that personal property goes automatically, by law, to your nearest relatives, even if they are quite distant ones, unless you have a legal will that says otherwise. If you have no relatives, it goes to the state. More than half of all adult Americans die without having made their wills. Most of them undoubtedly planned to do so, but never got around to it. Some had wills but didn't keep them current. When you have a will, you should update it every few years as conditions change. Also, always name an executor who will carry out your wishes. Besides money, non-cash possessions can also be used as contributions and various donation plans can be carried out. Be a philanthropist: leave your stocks, bonds, real estate, art, valuable collections or insurance to continue the Polish American traditions. Your will is the most important way of giving. When you are gone, it is a legacy that is not forgotten. In your will, you can specify what you would like your donation to be used for. For help in making your will, contact a competent lawyer. **The National Polish Center, Inc.** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that needs your help and legacy.

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## The Polish Union of America

would like to congratulate the  
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### Christine Jozwiak

for being honored by the Polish American Congress as a  
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## SPEAK UP / Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Great article about Jon Shea in the September edition!

I might add that the United Polish Genealogical Societies (UPGS) Seminar, hosted by the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan (PGSM) held what is believed to be the first virtual "cooperative activity between a U.S.-based Polish American genealogical society and one based in Poland" during its April 2008 seminar in Salt Lake. We conducted three lectures with Polish genealogists.

Genealogist and techie Tomasz Nitsch, owner of the Polish genealogical site GenPol site, arranged for us to have a real time lecture and Q&A with Adam and Ewa Kaminski of the of the Pomeranian Genealogical Association (Pomorskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne). Please see United Polish Genealogical Seminar Wrap Up at <http://upgs.blogspot.com/search?q=Tomek>. A printed story about the conference is in the current PGSM Polish E-glet journal.

Tomek calls Adam and Ewa "the most genealogical family in Poland." They head a group of researchers in indexing Catholic and Evangelical vital records, [www.ptg.gda.pl/index.php/certificate/action/main/](http://www.ptg.gda.pl/index.php/certificate/action/main/)

Using the software known as SKYPE, we listened to Dr. Marek Jerzy Minakowski, a Polish philosopher, historian and genealogist. Currently Minakowski is focused on building the database of descendants of all members of the Great Sejm This is available at [www.przodkowie.com/](http://www.przodkowie.com/).

Our last virtual lecture and Q&A was with Lukasz Bielecki and Kasia Grycza. Owners of Discovering Roots, they have helped many North Americans find records and visit Poland. Lukasz is head of the extraction database Poznan Project, and will be the guest speaker at the PGSM seminar this month. For more information, visit [www.pgsm.org/](http://www.pgsm.org/)

index\_039.htm. Our other featured speaker is Thaddeus Radzilowski, Ph.D.

Ceil Jensen  
[cjensen@mipolonia.net](mailto:cjensen@mipolonia.net)

**ONE FINE ISSUE.** I just received the PAJ August 2008 issue. You are to be commended for producing one of the finest issues I have seen. It is filled with many interesting and informative articles.

Of particular interest I would like to cite the article on "The Martyrdom of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth." I had never heard of these heroic women and their inspirational story until reading your article. You have done a great service to Polonia by presenting their story!

On a lighter note, I found the article on "Polish Kissing, Hugging, Hand Gestures, and Body Language" to be quite enjoyable. Please keep up your excellent work!

Ronald E. Marec  
*Shaker Heights, Ohio*

**KEEP DIVISIVE RHETORIC OUT OF PAJ.** I enjoy your newspaper. Living in a southern community where there are not many aspects of our wonderful Polish culture, the Journal really helps me connect to my Polish roots and feel proud of being Polish.

However, I really do wish that your editors and contributors would not put forth their political opinions. This is not what we read the Journal for, and some of the things are offensive to people who do not hold those same opinions. For example, Robert Strybel recently mentioned Senator Barack Obama's "liberal, leftist homosexual agenda." Another news item when speaking of a running mate for Senator John McCain's mentioned his "liberal" policies.

I do not agree with these comments, and feel that they are inappropriate and divisive.

Why do you assume that your readers will agree with these com-

ments? My political opinions, and many of my Polish American friends, support Senator Obama, and feel that Senator McCain's political ultra-conservatism will not be good for our country. However, as I said before, that is not why I subscribe to the Polish American Journal. These issues are readily available for reading in many other media. They are not suitable in a newspaper that is "dedicated to the promotion and continuance of Polish American culture." Polish American culture does not stipulate who one votes for and how one approaches the important political discussions of the day.

Please stick to what you do best and keep the divisive political rhetoric out of the Journal.

Elaine E. Roberts  
*Tallahassee, Florida*

**BETTER LATE THAN NEVER?** Permit me a few comments about Ellye Slusarczyk's article on Martha Stewart ("Self-Made Entrepreneur," PAJ, Sept. 2008).

Stewart certainly has many capabilities and her efforts have been a positive thrust for the Poles worldwide. Slusarczyk's well-written article certainly testifies to her life's hard work and successes.

However, for Stewart, who has about \$738 million, to only recently visit Poland for the first time in her 66 years—and this was the occasion to support her book and business in Poland—is unconscionable.

I am proud of Stewart's accomplishments. I am not proud of her late life visit to her family's homeland, Poland. The best that might be said is that at last she went.

Richard R. Rogowski  
*Via e-mail*

**POLAND'S FORGOTTEN MARTYRS.** As Polish Americans, you might find the following of interest, and that you, some organization, or someone you know, might be able to assist in some way to get the message out about the disappearance

of about 2.5 million Poles between 1941-1942, people who were arbitrarily arrested and ruthlessly deported to the wastelands of Siberia and the furthest outer reaches of the former Soviet Union—for which no evidence can be found of their fate. Nor is there any inclination to assist any of the 115,000 survivors and their children, some of whom are still alive and who reluctantly continue to live in exile abroad.

Like hundreds of thousands of others, I lost aunts, uncles and my great-grandparents who needlessly died of starvation and in unbelievable pain caused by disease, the unforgiving and inhospitable climate and the arduous hard labor required to be performed in order to earn a meager supply of bread.

Those who survived the deportation are still seeking justice, recognition, responsibility, restitution, and recompense with respect to those events that happened between 1941-1942 to those 2.636 million patriotic Polish Martyrs who guarded Poland's Eastern Borderlands (Kresy) from the desires and tyrannical clutches of Communism.

Not one of the perpetrators of these "Crimes Against Humanity" has ever been brought to justice, even though their names are documented and known.

The Polish Government still avoids fully acknowledging the initial events of 1941-1942, and those events that occurred subsequently. It seems that the agenda of the government is to drag things out as long as possible in the certainty that most

potential claimants will die without any resolve for themselves, their children, and grandchildren; and that many potential claimants will simply give-up in because of bureaucratic requirements, limitations and exclusions.

For information on the activities of survivors and their children, please go to:

- [www.Kresy-Siberia.org](http://www.Kresy-Siberia.org)
- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Kresy-Claimants/>
- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Kresy-Siberia/>

For further information on numbers deported:

- [http://www.antoranz.net/CURIOSA/ZBIOR5/C0502/15-QZD05024\\_wywozki.HTM](http://www.antoranz.net/CURIOSA/ZBIOR5/C0502/15-QZD05024_wywozki.HTM)
- [www.comunistcrimes.org/en/Database/Poland/Historical-Overview](http://www.comunistcrimes.org/en/Database/Poland/Historical-Overview)

Wieslaw George Helon  
*Post Office Box 88  
Toowoomba Queensland 4350  
Australia  
PH/FAX: + 61 7 4634 0045*

**PAST PRESIDENT, TOO.** In your August 2008 edition, Geraldine Balut-Coleman identified Stanley Jendrejec as the past president of the PNA. I feel a correction is in order, as Edward J. Moskal was the past president until his death.

Irene Moskal Del Giudice  
*Schiller Park, Illinois*

*Editor's note: Mr. Jendrejec was referred to as a past-PNA president, not the immediate past president, the position held by Mr. Moskal and currently held by Frank Spula.*

## Diversity Through Dance



Stas Kmiec and members of the Hunter College Dance Company in NYC during the Polish Dance seminar of "Diversity Through Dance."

NEW YORK—Hunter College Dance Company offered Polish Dance as part of their "Diversity Through Dance" program which offers workshops and classes that are outside of Western theatrical dance forms. Guest artist Stas Kmiec, a noted authority in Polish Dance, presented the intensive workshop lecture to 40 students. Kmiec was recommended to the College by Poland's Mazowsze Song and Dance Company as the best suited at teaching this style of dance. In addition to the dance workshop, Mr. Kmiec gave an overview of Polish dance and the distinct background of the dances which were taught. He brought costumes and distributed informational booklets on Polish Dance as part of

the curriculum.

The Hunter College Dance Program, headed by Dr. Jana Feinman offers an opportunity to pursue a B.A. degree in dance within the context of a strong liberal arts education. The cultural diversity of the student population, together with the wide range of program opportunities, qualifies the Hunter College Dance Program as the "hidden jewel" of New York City.

Through the joint efforts of the College and The Kosciuszko Foundation, the Polish Studies division offers courses in Polish heritage, literature, and language. The Division of Russian and Slavic Languages sponsors the Polish Club.

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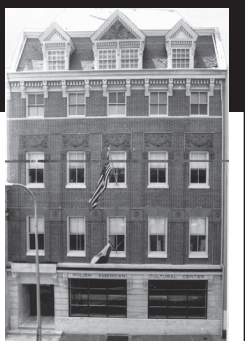
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# Polka MAGAZINE

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN MUSIC

## Gomulka, Biskup, to Tour Poland in 2009

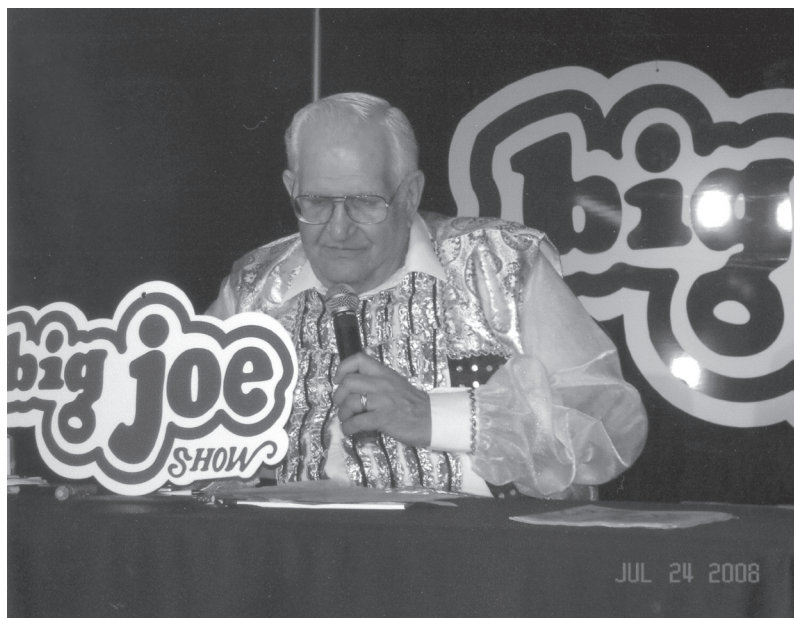
LUDLOW, Mass.—Those who have traveled and toured Poland in the past know that there's much to take in, a lot to see, questions to be answered and a jubilant time awaiting you. On the other hand, first time Poland travelers are being informed that it's important to select just the right group to travel to Poland with. The itinerary, Polish and English speaking guides, sight-seeing and, if applicable, free time to yourself for exploring, are all ingredients making up the value of a perfect Poland vacation. Lenny Gomulka and Mitch Biskup have organized their third trip to Poland coming up in 2009, taking a group from the United States and Canada and it promises to be a trip to remember.

This exciting Poland adventure is scheduled from May 28 through June 7, 2009. Flights are arranged from Chicago and New York City into Warsaw where you'll be greeted, informed and pampered for the next ten days. The sights of beautiful Poland will take your breath away with visits to Warsaw, Lublin, Krakow, Rzeszow and Zakopane, relaxing at luxurious hotels.

Polka parties with Lenny and Mitch, tours to Czesztochowa, a visit to the salt mines, and jam sessions with the Gorale are all just a part of this exciting Tour to Poland 2009 vacation with Lenny Gomulka and Mitch Biskup. Get all the details and find out the additional attributes that make this the Poland Trip of choice.

Call or write: PAT Tours, 1285 Riverdale Street, West Springfield, MA 01089 or call toll-free (800) 388-0988. You can also obtain a printable flyer and registration form on-line at [www.chicagopush.com](http://www.chicagopush.com).

## Free Polka CD or Cassette



BIG JOE SIEDLIK

OMAHA, Neb.—As a special “thank you” to all polka lovers, dancers, radio listeners, promoters and TV viewers of the “Big Joe Polka Show,” Big Joe is offering a free CD or cassette.

The recording features twenty-two different bands, 22 different full-length polkas with no commercials. Listening time is 58 ½ minutes.

Big Joe's only request is you pay for the shipping and handling, \$3.75. This was first offered on national TV, RFD-TV, Wed., Sept. 10, 2008.

Mail your check or money order to PC of Nebraska, P.O. Box 3643,

Omaha, NE 68103, or order from his website [www.polkacatalog.com](http://www.polkacatalog.com).

Please allow 6-8 weeks for shipping. Indicate your choice of CD or cassette. If no choice is made, a CD will be sent.

Big Joe says thanks to all who support his show, and encourages all the spread to word to all club members and ethnic organizations that polkas are a great way to keep part of your ethnic heritage alive.

The Big Joe Polka Show can be seen four times a week CST on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.; Thursdays at 8:00 a.m.; Saturdays at 9:00 p.m.; and Mondays at 3:00 a.m.

## After-Thanksgiving Polka Dance

BUFFALO, N.Y.—The annual “After Thanksgiving Polka Dance” will be held on Saturday, November 29, 2008, at the Lily Of The Valley Banquet Hall, 2379 Union Road, Cheektowaga, New York 14227, from 7:00 until 11:30 p.m. Featured will be Buffalo's own “Dancing With the All Stars” polka band, The

Concertina All Stars.

A complimentary sandwich platter will be served by Crownview Catering. Admission is \$8.00 at the door. There will be no advanced ticket sales. No B.Y.O.B. (Cash bar available). For more information call Art at (716) 668-2692 or Bob at (716) 992-9569.

## Buffalo Mourns Passing of Musician, Promoter Larry Chadwick

BUFFALO, N.Y.—Buffalo's polka community was saddened to learn of the passing of Lawrence “Larry” Chadwick, who died in his Hamburg, N.Y. home, Oct. 13, 2008.

A vocalist and bass guitar player, Chadwick was the founder and a member of the Nickel City Notes. He was a long-time member of the City Side polka band, and also played bass with Jan Cyman & the Musicalaires, and the New York Sound. Chadwick filled in with many bands, and could be seen playing with Jersey Polka Richie for many years as well.

As a promoter, and ran numerous dances in Western New York.

Chadwick performed on numerous recordings, including City Side's “Perfect Harmony,” “Just Like Downtown,” “Buffalo Past and Present,” and most recently, the Nickel City Notes “Spare Change,” which he also produced.

He is survived by his wife Geraldine (nee Zagorski); children



Matthew, Nicholas, Brandy, Philip, Justina and Eric; grandchildren Gabrielle and Dakota; mother Eleanor Chadwick; brother Michael, sister Christine; and many nieces and nephews. His brother, drummer Edward Chadwick, died last year.

Chadwick was the member of numerous national and local polka organizations.

## Classics Release “Dancers’ Choice”

NEW ULM, Minn.—Since the release of “Simply Honky” in 2004, the dancers have asked John & The Classics to showcase their musical talents and release a CD with American variety music. The dancers' wishes are full-filled with twenty-four songs and over 72 minutes of the best variety music by The Classics on “Dancers’ Choice.”

The favorites included on this CD: “Number 5” polka, “Apples, Peaches, Pumpkin Pie,” “Polish Traditions” plus a few more polkas and waltzes. Some of the other songs include: “Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain,” “All I Need is You,” “I Love You Because,” “Sweet Marianna,”

“When The Snow is on the Roses,” “Storms Never Last” and a beautiful arrangement of “The Waltz You Saved For Me.”

With this recording The Classics reveal the diversity in musicianship that allows them to continuously keep the dance floor filled with their superb variety of solid, danceable music. The selections of fox trots, waltzes, a few old country songs and polkas on this recording are truly, the “Dancers’ Choice.”

For information regarding this CD, visit [www.johnandtheclassics.com](http://www.johnandtheclassics.com) or call (612) 987-5811 or email John at [jfjlipczak@grantsburgtel.com](mailto:jfjlipczak@grantsburgtel.com).

## Post-Thanksgiving Hop at Glendora

CHICAGO RIDGE, Ill.—K&C Entertainment presents a Post Thanksgiving Polka Hop featuring the Polka Family Band, Fri., Nov. 28, 2008 at Glendora Banquets, 10225 S. Harlem. Doors open at 2:00 p.m. with music from 3:00-7:00 p.m. Glendora's kitchen will be serving a varied menu and there will also be a holiday prize raffle and more. Call (847) 468-0112.

## Recordings Sought For IPA's Annual Music Awards

CHICAGO—Recording companies and polka bands that have released recordings during the calendar year of 2008 are strongly urged to notify the International Polka Association. This is to determine eligibility for the 41st Annual Polka Music Awards which will be presented during the annual festival at the Polka Music Hall of Fame Banquet.

Registered companies will receive affidavits which MUST be completed and returned to the IPA by the deadline of February 14. Only those recordings which were produced during 2008 will be accepted.

These awards are presented on behalf of the entire polka music industry. The recordings, which are determined eligible, will be placed on a master list, mailed to the IPA electors, and then be selected to receive the favorite song and favorite album of the year for 2008.

The IPA electors represent the various geographical areas within the United States as well as Canada.

The awards have been presented for the past 40 consecutive years to deserving bands and vocalists. It is advisable that copies that are eligible be sent to the IPA if this has not been already done during the actual release.

Please forward all correspondence to: Leon Kozicki, Chairman of the Polka Music Hall of Fame, 13405 Tall Pines Lane, Plainfield, IL 60544.

## POLKA JUKEBOX / Steve Litwin

## The Music of “The Golden Voice” Lives On

Marion Lush, the Golden Voice of Polkas, is no longer with us but he lives on in his music, his vocals and the newly re-released collection of material by K-C Entertainment, *Marvelous Memories of Marion*.

This certainly isn't the entire collection of Marion Lush, but it is an excellent 30-track offering and one that everyone in polka music should have in their collection. Lush's trademark tunes like “Moonlight Polka,” with its grindy, simple-line, concertina work and great riffs and drive; “Na Zdrowie,” almost always his first song from the stage; “High Bounce”; “Young Years”; and “Our Break Up” make this a memory magnet for the listener's mind. I can't even begin to count the number of times the crowd at Litwin's Blue Room sang “I Wish I was Single Again” along with the Lush version on the jukebox and, like all Lush tunes, it took me back each time I listened to it on this CD. Of course, many say Lush interpreted a waltz like no other vocalist in polkas,

and here you'll find “Matka,” “In the Evening,” “Play Little Gypsy,” “Our Mary” and others.

Do not pass this one by. If you were there when Maniu was on stage, there are memories here for you in these timeless songs by The Golden Voice of Polkas. Contact: [www.kncenterains.com](http://www.kncenterains.com) or call: (847) 468-0112.

As a side note, the pictures on the CD cover came from my personal collection of Marion Lush photos and it was an honor to have them used on this fabulous CD.

**FAMILY TRADITION.** The musical mastery of Alex Meixner on button box and accordion is a gift he gives to the listener. Seeing him perform, at the Polka Fireworks this past July, revealed the passion and in-depth spirit he has for his music. Family Tradition, the new release by Meixner, offers an eclectic performance offering everything from “Peanuts,” to the original “Zoey Lynn” waltz, to Gury's “Pennsylvania Hills” polka,

to “Jux” polka, and with 19 tracks, the variety of music has something for everyone.

Gathering melodies from four generations of Meixner music, Alex honors not only the heritage of the family but the music he lives with in his everyday life. Meixner manages to retain what was, yet bridge it to his generation and season it like a fine chef with a unique musical flavor. Alex, on piano accordion and button accordion, is joined by Mike Fortunato on clarinet and sax, Jerry Lynn on violin, Jon Asbath on guitar, Matt Tolentino on clarinet and Glenn Mayer on button box.

*Family Tradition* was recorded at Rivers Bend Recording of Laurys Station, PA and mastered at Ranch Recordings, Nashville, TN. On the internet visit: [www.alexmeixner.com](http://www.alexmeixner.com). The CD is available online at: [www.cdbaby.com/meixneralex](http://www.cdbaby.com/meixneralex) and in the mail from Meixner Music Productions, 3440 Lehigh St #245, Allentown, PA 18103.

**POLKA LIFE.** It's 22 years old and *Polka Life* from the Sunshine and Scrubby era is now available on CD. This one is as fresh today as it was then, an excellent recording with unique studio touches and musical power that grabs the listener from the very first song. The concertina, horns, beat and crispness in the sound is timeless.

“Zosia's Picking Berries,” “First Time” as only Scrubby can do it, “At the Bar,” and my personal favorite “Trim Trim” make this dozen-track CD a superb recording.

The Polka Life edition of Sunshine had Tom Picciano and Michael Burka on horns, Dave “Scrubby” Seweryniak on concertina, Mike Nowakowski on accordion. David “Nigel” Kurdziel on bass and Hank Marzuchowski on drums.

Even if you have this on vinyl, you need this CD in your collection. Contact Sunshine Records, SDE., P. O. Box 652, West Seneca, NY 14224.

## NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

## Cyman has Homecoming with New Phaze

BUFFALO, N.Y.—Hi everyone. Hard to believe that the Fall season is here and you know what follows.

**AROUND THE TOWN.** Linda and Art Gayler told me The Concertina All Stars enjoyed their gig at the outdoor Polka Fest in Toronto the weekend of Sept. 13.

Kathy and Ron Urbanczyk said the John Gora and Lenny Gomulka Dance at the Polish Hall in Burlington, Ontario on September 19, had 400 in attendance. Nice to hear such good news.

On Sept. 20, **New Phaze** took the stage at the Harvey Moran Post in West Seneca and played to a moderate-size crowd. It was nice to see **Jan Cyman** again, as he plays trumpet with the band. Watching **Tony Blazonczyk**, the leader and bass player, perform brought back so many precious memories of his dad, Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr. Tony, who resembles his dad very much, said his dad is doing okay. It was enjoyable to hear a new band to this area and the great selection of music they played. Robin Pegg filled in with the band for this gig.

**John Kozak** informed me that there was a nice turnout for the Polkas and Pasta Party on Oct. 5 at the Lily of the Valley Hall. The Trel Tones sounded excellent and the pasta served by Mike Kurdziel and Jan was a tasty treat.

The dates for **Ronny Dombrowski's** trip to Germany in 2010 have been changed. The tour now

departs on September 11, 2010. It looks like a great one.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Jerry Darlak on his retirement from the Town of Cheektowaga.

**NEW RELEASES.** John Suita, leader of the former Cavaliers Polka Band from Niagara Falls, has released a compilation CD of the band's two LP recordings, recorded in 1959 and 1960. The band played all the polka spots popular during that time in New York, Pennsylvania, and Canada. In the late 1960s, the 10-piece group disbanded, and Suita formed a quartet. No recordings were made with the smaller group, which folded in 1982. The CD contains 18 Eastern Style songs, all originals, including "Twin Rivers" polka, written by the band's accordion player Richie Golaszewski, who many of you know was a member of the Steel City Brass from 1982 until that band broke up in 2005.

**Stephanie Pietrzak** has released another tribute to her mom and polka stars Marion Lush, Li'l Wally and Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr., this one called "Polka Memories." On the Bel-Aire label, it features Pietrzak on concertina and vocals, Eddie Madura on clarinet and sax, Jim Sierzega on trumpet, Sudy Cerajewski on piano, Nigel Kurdziel on bass, and Wayne Sienkowski on drums.

**CONDOLENCES.** In addition to



Tony Blazonczyk, left, leader of New Phaze, and Robin Pegg.



George Borsuk and Jan Cyman of New Phaze's horn section.

our thoughts and prayers to the family of Larry Chadwick (see page 13), our sympathy goes out to **Mary Ann Sroka** and family and friends of Thaddeus (Rocky) Sroka who passed away on September 18. May he rest in peace. Please remember him in your prayers.

**GET WELL WISHES.** Get well wishes go out to **Bob Bykowicz** who had knee replacement surgery on Oct. 6. Hope to see him on the dance floor as soon as he is all better.

**GOBBLE, GOBBLE!** I'd like to wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving Day. Hope you have a wonderful day with your families. In spite of many problems we all are faced with, there are still many things for

which to be thankful.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Nov. 5.** Polka Variety Social Club meeting at the Lily of the Valley Hall, 2379 Union Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Music by Quality Sound. Call Len at (716) 896-1476 for more information.

**Nov. 8.** Polka Family from 8:00 till midnight at the Lily of Valley Hall, Cheektowaga. Call 348-8849.

**Nov. 8.** Stas and Stella's Mostly Traditional Polish Wedding with Cityside presented by the Lancaster Opera House at the Elks Lodge, Lancaster, N.Y. Call (716) 683-1776.

**Nov. 20.** The Polka Boosters Club meeting at the Polish Falcons Hall, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew, N.Y. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Music

and refreshments. Everyone welcome. Call Chris at 892-7977.

**Nov. 23.** Jerry Darlak & the Touch play at 4:00 p.m. at the Sportmen's Tavern on Amherst St, in Buffalo.

**Nov. 26.** Pre-Thanksgiving Dance with the Knewz at a place to be announced. Listen to the polka shows on the radio for more information.

**Nov. 29.** Polish-German Christmas Dance at the Club Lorelei on Southwestern Blvd. in Hamburg, N.Y. Music by Cityside and the Auslanders. Call Ted at 668-9101.

**Nov. 29.** After Thanksgiving Day Dance at the Lily of the Valley Hall, 2379 Union Rd. Featuring the Concertina All Stars from 7:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Complimentary sandwiches served by Crownview Catering. For info call 668-2692.

## POLKA PATTERN / Prepared and Distributed by the Polonia Media Network

Wondering who makes up Squeezebox? You may have seen the musicians in the Squeezebox band, based out of Ohio, with the Jim Busta Band, Toledo Polkamotion, Karl and the Country Dutchmen, John Gora and Gorale, Polka Family, Gary and the Ridgeland Dutchmen, Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones, the former Marv Herzog Band or other famous groups. To learn more about Squeezebox visit <[http://www.squeezebox-](http://www.squeezebox-band.com)

band.com>. There are even musical clips available at the site.

- Wackie Jackie of "Polka Party Express" on WMNF (88.5 FM, Tampa) announced the winners of his Polka DJ for a Day Contest on-air on September 14, 2008. They ranged in age from 5 to 25 and came from Tampa, Parish and Lakeland in Florida.
- Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones, Dennis Polisky & The Maestro's Men, The Knewz, and Polka

Family have been scheduled for the 12th Annual Adirondack Polka Festival in beautiful Old Forge, New York, Memorial Day weekend, Saturday and Sunday, May 23-24, 2009. Dave Sychtysz of Syracuse, New York is host of this event sponsored by the Central Adirondack Association at the spacious Hildebrandt Recreation Center. A large dance floor, Polish American food and beverages will be available. Call (315) 699-

1708 for details.

- "Back to Back Hall of Fame Polkas" of Polish and Slovenian polkas with Jerry Darlak & The Touch, Walt Ostanek's band and Bob Kravos' band became available in mid-September. It's a new concept from Sunshine Records and many Hall of Fame Musicians can be heard on this CD.
- Lead Polish Muslims guitarist

and vocalist Dave recently broke his wrist in an undisclosed athletic activity. According to other band members when Dave asked the orthopedic doctor if it would make his guitar playing worse, the doctor replied, "Well Dave, let's just hope it makes it a little better." Dave just sighed and took his pain pill. A real trouper, the injury did not stop him from playing with the band.

- Francis "Frank" Samoraj was about as Chicago South Side Polish as they come. From speaking only Polish until the age of ten to hosting his own polka radio show on what was then WOPA (now WPNA), he remained proud of his Polish heritage. He died of heart problems at 69 on Sept. 20, 2008, near his home in Orland Park, Illinois.
- Fans will soon be able to hear "The Polkas For Snowbirds Show" with Danny Mack on the Polka Jammer Network. It will be a weekly one hour polka variety show originating from Palm Harbor, Florida.



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We believe the following information to be correct, but it should always be verified before traveling long distances or expending funds.

**NOVEMBER 7**

- **Ontario.** John Gora & Gorale and Polka Family at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd., Mississauga, Ont., Canada, 8:00 p.m.
- **Pennsylvania.** John Stevens & Doubleshot at the Disabled American Veterans Hall, Dickson City, Pa., 3:00-7:00 p.m.

**NOVEMBER 8-9**

- **Ohio.** Fall Polka Weekend. Bands include Frank Moravcik (11-8) and The Casuals (11-9). American Czechoslovakian Club, 922 Valley St., Dayton, Ohio. Fri, 7:30-11:30 p.m.; Sat. 3:00-7:00 p.m. Tickets \$14.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8**

- **Michigan.** Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones at the PRCUA Hall, 1430 Oak St., Wyandotte, Mich., 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m., \$10, students \$6, children \$5, under 10 free.
- **New Jersey.** Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men at Bayway Polish Home, Elizabeth, N.J., 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.
- **New York.** Eddie Forman Orchestra at the Polish Home, Riverhead, N.Y., 6:30-11:30 p.m.
- **New York.** Polka Family at Lily of the Valley, 2379 Union Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y., 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.
- **Pennsylvania.** Polka Country Musicians at St. John's Center, Mayfield, Pa., 7:30-11:30 p.m.
- **Pennsylvania.** John Gora & Gorale at a Polonaise Ball, Heinz History Center, Pittsburgh, Pa. 8:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9**

- **Arizona.** Varitones at the Social Hall, 19403 N.R.H Johnson Blvd., Sun City West, Ariz., 1:00-5:00 p.m.
- **Florida.** Melotones at a Thanksgiving Dance, General Pulaski Citizens Club, Belleview, Fla., 12:30-5:00 p.m.
- **Florida.** Polka Generation at the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, 1343 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 2:30-4:00 p.m., \$7.50; music 4:00-7:00 p.m., \$5 members, \$7 non-members.
- **Massachusetts.** Polka Family at the Polish American Citizens Club, 355 East St., Ludlow, Mass., 3:30-7:30 p.m.
- **Pennsylvania.** Shoreliners at the VFW Hall, 403 Main St. Dupont, Pa., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Wisconsin.** Duane Burclaw & the Golden Aces at Monster Hall, B4864 Highway F, Unity, Wis., 1:00-5:00 p.m.
- **Wisconsin.** Concertina and Brass at Bullshooters, 7802 Meadow Rock Dr., County X and Western Ave., Weston, Wis., 2:00-6:00 p.m.

**NOVEMBER 11-13**

- **Pennsylvania.** Jolly Joe (Alex Truskowski) & the Bavarians at the Waterfront, Lake Wallenpaupack, Pa. Daily 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

- **Massachusetts.** Eddie Forman Orchestra at a Pork-Chop Dinner, St. Mary Church, Ware, Mass., 6:00-10:00 p.m.
- **Ohio.** Polka Country Musicians and Laredo at Polka Meets Country, Doubletree Hotel Cleveland South, 6200 Quarry Ln., Independence, Ohio, 7:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14**

- **Pennsylvania.** Stanky & the Coalminers at the Disabled American Veterans Hall, 516 Storres, Dickson City, Pa., 7:00-11:00 p.m.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

- **Connecticut.** Eastern Sound at the St. Joseph Polish Club, Colchester, Conn., 7:00-11:00 p.m.
- **Massachusetts.** Eddie Forman Orchestra at a Pork Chop Dinner, St. Mary Church, Ware, Mass., 6:00-10:00 p.m.
- **Ohio.** Polka Country Musicians and Laredo at a dance of the United States Polka Association, Doubletree Hotel Cleveland South, Independence, Ohio, 7:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

- **Florida.** Danny Mack SunCoast Syncopation at the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, 1343 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 2:30-4:00 p.m., \$7.50; music 4:00-7:00 p.m., \$5 members, \$7 non-members.
- **Massachusetts.** "Thank God I Am Alive" Dance to benefit St. Stanislaus School of Chicopee. Bands include Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men, Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, Eddie Forman Orchestra and Johnny Prytko. Full Polish dinner and carving stations. Castle of the Knights on Memorial Ave., 12:00-6:00 p.m. For details call (410) 551-5253.
- **Massachusetts.** John Stevens & Doubleshot at the Polish American Citizens Club, 355 East St., Ludlow, Mass., 3:00-7:00 p.m.
- **Michigan.** Natural Tones at Pinsetters Lounge, 1205 Washington Ave., Bay City, Mich., 4:00-8:00 p.m.
- **New York.** Eastern Sound at the PACA Ballroom, Pulaski Place, Port Washington, N.Y., 3:00-7:00 p.m.
- **Ohio.** Big Daddy Lackowski at a dance of the International Music Association, Conn-Weisenberger American Legion Hall, 2020 Alexis, Toledo, Ohio, 2:00-7:00 p.m.
- **Pennsylvania.** Pennsylvania Villagers at the VFW Hall, 403 Main St., Dupont, Pa., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Pennsylvania.** Eddie Derwin & the Polka Naturals at the Lebanon Polka Fest, Sacred Heart Church Hall, Cornwall, Pa., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- **West Virginia.** John Gora & Gorale and Polka Family at the Mountaineer Casino Resort, Chester, W.V., from 2:00 p.m.
- **Wisconsin.** Pat Zoromski & the Boys From Illinois at Bullshooters, 7802 Meadow Rock Dr., County X and Western Ave., Weston, Wis., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Wisconsin.** Duane Burclaw & the

Golden Aces at Romy's Nitengale, Black Creek, Wis. Check locally for details.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20**

- **New York.** John Gora & Gorale at the Buffalo Polka Boosters, Polish Falcons Hall, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew, N.Y., 7:00 p.m.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21**

- **California.** Full Circle at San Clemente, Calif. Check locally for details.
- **Michigan.** DynaBrass at the American Polish Century Club, 33204 Maple Ln., Sterling Heights, Mich., 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22**

- **Arizona.** Varitones at the White Eagle Restaurant, 16846 W. Bell Rd., Surprise, Ariz., 5:00-9:00 p.m.
- **California.** Full Circle at the Sons of Italy Hall, 9420 Sierra Ave., Fontana, Calif., 6:00-10:00 p.m.
- **Connecticut.** Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men at a dance honoring Sophie Krzys, full turkey dinner, Polish Home, Alden Ave., Enfield, Conn., dinner 6:00 p.m., music 7:00-11:00 p.m.
- **Michigan.** Ted Lange & Squeezebox at the St. Rita Parish Hall, 9243 Maple City Rd., Maple City, Mich., 7:00-11:00 p.m.
- **New Jersey.** Polka Family at Bayway Polish Home, Elizabeth, N.J., 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.
- **Pennsylvania.** Joe Stanky & his Cadets and the George Tarasek Orchestra at St. John's Center, Mayfield, Pa., 7:30-11:30 p.m.
- **Pennsylvania.** Ray Jay & the Carousels at the Jeanette American Legion, Jeanette, Pa. Check locally for details.
- **Quebec.** John Gora & Gorale at the TRC Hall, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, 8:00 p.m.-2:00 a.m. Check locally for details.
- **Wisconsin.** Prime Time Band at

Bullshooters, 7802 Meadow Rock Dr., County X and Western Ave., Weston, Wis., 2:00-6:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23**

- **California.** Full Circle at the Sons of Italy Hall, 9420 Sierra Ave., Fontana, Calif., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Connecticut.** Eddie Forman Orchestra at the Polish Home, Bristol, Conn., 3:00-7:00 p.m.
- **Florida.** Sounds of the South at the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, 1343 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 2:30-4:00 p.m., \$7.50; music 4:00-7:00 p.m., \$5 members, \$7 non-members.
- **New Jersey.** Jimmy Sturr & his Orchestra at the Bayway Polish Home, Elizabeth, N.J., 4:00-8:00 p.m.
- **Pennsylvania.** John Stevens & Doubleshot at the VFW Hall, 403 Main St., Dupont, Pa., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Pennsylvania.** DynaBrass at the Polonia Solidarity Association, Goodwill Association Ballroom, 100 Madison Ave., Hyde Park, Reading, Pa., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Connecticut.** Eddie Forman Orchestra at the Polish Home, Bristol, Conn., 3:00-7:00 p.m.

**NOVEMBER 28-29**

- **Wisconsin.** Thanksgiving Polka Weekend. Bands include Twin Cities Soundz, Stephanie Pietrzak, Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones, and The Knewz. Tango Ballroom, 8808 Townline Rd., Wausau, Wis. Fri. 5:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.; Sat. 4:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m. Tickets \$15 daily; 2-day pass \$25; children under 16 free with adult. For details call (708) 594-5182 or visit <http://www.polkaweekend.com>

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28**

- **Illinois.** Polka Family at a Post-Thanksgiving Polka Hop, Glendora Banquets, 10225 S. Harlem Ave., Chicago Ridge, Ill., 3:00-7:00 p.m., \$15.

- **Michigan.** Dynasticks Reunion at Holy Cross Lounge, 4381 Larkina St., Detroit, Mich., 7:00-11:00 p.m.
- **Pennsylvania.** Joe Stanky & his Cadets at the Disabled American Veterans Hall, 516 Storres St., Dickson City, Pa., 7:00-11:00 p.m.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29**

- **Arizona.** John Filipczak & the Classics at the Sunrise RV Resort, 1403 W. Broadway Rd., Apache Junction, N.J., 5:00-10:00 p.m.
- **Ohio.** Polka Family at the Turkey Trot of the Cleveland Polka Association, Plaza Hotel, Engle rd. and Bagley Rd., Middleburg Heights, Ohio., 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30**

- **Arizona.** John Filipczak and the AZ Classics. The Pulaski Club, 4331 E. McDowell Rd. 2:00-6:00 p.m. (602) 275-9329
- **Florida.** Northern Sounds at the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, 1343 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 2:30-4:00 p.m., \$7.50; music 4:00-7:00 p.m., \$5 members, \$7 non-members.
- **Massachusetts.** Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men at the Polish American Citizens Club, 355 East St., Ludlow, Mass., 3:30-7:30 p.m. New Jersey. Stanky & the Coalminers at the Haluski Fest, Bayway Polish Home, Elizabeth, N.J., 4:00-8:00 p.m.
- **Michigan.** Duane Malinowski at the Ida American Legion Post, Hickory Park, 11601 Lewis Ave., Ida, Mich., 3:00-7:00 p.m.
- **Michigan.** Natural Tones at Pinsetters Lounge, 1205 Washington Ave., Bay City, Mich., 4:00-8:00 p.m.
- **Pennsylvania.** Joe Stanky & his Cadets at a Post Thanksgiving Dance, VFW Hall, 403 Main St., Dupont, Pa., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Pennsylvania.** Polka Family at Hunter's Lodge, 20652 Rte. 119, Punxsatawney, Pa., 4:00-8:00 p.m.

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POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

## Three-Course Wigilia Suppers

Part 1 of 2

Traditionally the five-course Wigilia supper was once the most modest spread, found even in the poorest of homes. Seven, nine and 11-course suppers were standard in better-to-do households, and in some parts of Poland a 12-course meal was typical. However, many Polish American households nowadays comprise only one or two members, and do not do much cooking anymore, so even a three-course supper may be quite a challenge to some.

**1 COUNTRY-STYLE MUSHROOM SOUP (zupa grzybowa po wiejsku).** In 2 T butter or oil cook 8-12 oz chopped fresh portobello mushrooms and 1 chopped onion until lightly browned. Place in soup pot, drench with 6 c water, add 2 peeled diced potatoes and 1 mushroom bouillon and cook until potatoes are tender. Cream with ¾ c sour cream fork-blended with a heaping T flour. Salt & pepper, sour to taste with sauerkraut juice or cider vinegar and simmer a bit longer.

**HERRING IN OIL (śledź w oleju).** Drain 12 oz. jar marinated herring, discarding onions and spices. Plunge into cold water, drain and pat dry. Place in clean jar and drench with salad oil of choice to cover. Refrigerate overnight. When ready to serve, remove herring with fork to serving platter. Top each piece with a little very finely chopped onion. Serve with plain boiled potatoes or rye bread.

**DRIED-FRUIT COMPOTE (kompot wigilijny z suszu).** Soak 2c. mixed dry fruit, ½ c diced dried figs and ½ c raisins in water to cover water 2 hrs. Add a little more water if all has been absorbed and cook about 15 min. A pinch of cinnamon

may be added before cooking. Serve chilled in dessert bowls. Note: To serve as a fruit drink, dilute with as much pre-boiled water as you like. Add a bit of lemon juice for zing.

**2 FRIED BREADED FISH (ryba smażona w panierce).** Wash and dry 2 -3 lbs freshwater or ocean fish fillets. Sprinkle with lemon juice, intersperse with onion slices, salt well and refrigerate several hrs or overnight. When ready to use, dry fillets on absorbent paper, dredge in flour, dip in egg wash and roll in bread crumbs, pressing breading in so it adheres. Fry on both sides in hot oil until golden brown on the outside and fully cooked on the inside.

**EASY SAUERKRAUT AND PEAS (latwa kapusta z grochem).** Drain, rinse if very sour and chop coarsely 1 pt or more sauerkraut, transfer to pot, add cold water to cover, 1 bay-leaf and 1 mushroom bouillon cube and bring to boil. Reduce heat and cook 30 min uncovered, adding more water as it evaporates. Add 1/2 t caraway seeds, cover and cook another 30 min or until tender. While it cooks, fry up 3-4 oz washed and diced portobello mushrooms and 1 chopped onion in 2-3 T butter until lightly browned and add to sauerkraut along with 1 c drained, canned chickpeas and 1 t sugar. Simmer another 30 min or longer. Season with pepper and marjoram to taste.

**GROATS OR NOODLES & FRUIT (kasza lub kluski z owocami).** Place hot cooked buckwheat groats, barley, rice or well-drained egg noodles on serving dish, dot with butter and over them ladle fruit topping of choice: dried-fruit compote (above), home-made or store-bought preserves or even canned apple- or cherry-pie filling.

## Święto Dziękczynienia (Thanksgiving Day)

by Robert Strybel

Thanksgiving Day (this year Nov. 27) is celebrated in the United States on the fourth Thursday of November. While certainly not a traditional Polish-rooted holiday, it has been eagerly observed by Poles and Americans of other ethnic backgrounds as far back as anyone can remember. There is something very universal and appealing in the notion of gathering with one's nearest of kin, thanking God for our numerous blessings and sharing a festive holiday meal.

Several years ago, Pol-Am columnist Andrzej Hetnal wrote in Chicago's Polish-language daily *DZIENNIK ZWIĄZKOWY*: "Thanksgiving is above all the holiday of the 'wayward traveler' who made it over to this safe haven known as the United States (...) It reaffirms America's immigrant heritage and inclines every inhabitant of this country to briefly reflect upon not only the uniqueness of that first Thanksgiving, but also upon all the other such feasts that followed with the participation of newcomers from alien and distant climes."

Thanksgiving is probably America's most family-centered holiday, even more so than Christmas. On

Thanksgiving it is the family circle that reigns supreme. In some ways, Thanksgiving is closer in spirit to the Polish Wigilia than any other American gathering. Like Christmas Eve, the menu is also rather structured: roast turkey, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, etc.

We Polish Americans and our fellow-citizens with different ethnic roots have all enjoyed taking the kids to Thanksgiving Day parades, or at least watching them on TV. And we have all enjoyed the roast turkey with all the trimmings. But, this being a land of immigrants, many of us have enriched the festive spread with the distinctive delicacies of our own heritage.

In addition to the turkey, some Polish American families also serve bigos, kielbasa, meatballs in mushroom gravy, pierogi, gołąbki and other favorites. Besides the pumpkin pie, szarlotka (apple cake), babka, placek, sernik or placek may also turn up on the holiday table. Americans with links to Italian, Hispanic, German, French, Scandinavian and other traditions do likewise.

Some Polish American parishes hold Thanksgiving dinners for those living alone, the poor, elderly and others who might otherwise be de-

prived of this traditional celebration. That is a practice worth propagating, especially if the younger generation gets involved in the effort. Taking ready-to-eat Thanksgiving dinners to shut-ins is another possibility. A community parish or club Dinner open to the public might also prove successful in places with many temporary residents, retired couples or people living alone. Perhaps the officiating clergyman's or emcee's remarks could recall the fact that Polish immigrants were no newcomers to this country, especially in this the 400th anniversary of the Polish presence in America. It should also be remembered the Pilgrims, whose legend became the basis of the Thanksgiving holiday, had come to America to seek religious freedom. But only for themselves, for they denied it to other Protestants, Quakers, Anglicans, Catholics and others who worshiped God differently than they did. The message of the Jamestown Poles, who had arrived 12 years before the *Mayflower*, was quite different. They believed that all people should enjoy the right to vote regardless of their nationality or creed and staged America's first civil-rights protests to prove their point.

## St. Stanislaus Holds 53rd Annual Homecoming Bazaar

by James Smock

ANDERSON, Texas—St. Stanislaus Catholic Church held its 53rd annual Homecoming Bazaar, where Polish Texans from all over came to celebrate their roots. This year's bazaar was dedicated in honor of re-

tired pastor, Fr. Louis Sikorski, who served more than 28 years, and to the memory of Maxine Lee, parish secretary, who served for more than 30 years. Fr. Sikorski co-celebrated Mass with current pastor, Fr. Raul Marterior.

The weather was good and a large crowd came to enjoy the day. Delicious barbeque brisket and sausage with all the fixings, home made deserts, and ice tea were served. The food line was long but well worth the wait.

There were lots of booths for the adults as well as games and activities

for the kids. The "Babusha's Porch" booth, always a favorite, had plenty of homemade food, crafts and decorative items. Tommy Scymczak and his auction crew sold lots of great items, and there were many raffle prizes.

For the twentieth consecutive year, Brian Marshall & Texas Paradise Band entertained the crowd with foot-stomping Polish music. As usual, the dancers had a good time and really worked up a sweat. One of the musical highlights of the day was Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz playing his concertina accordion.



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## BOOK REVIEW / John Grondelski

## Understanding the Needs of Elderly, Ethnic Patients

Larry D. Purnell and Betty J. Paulanka  
**Transcultural Health Care: A Culturally Competent Approach**  
Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Co.  
2008. PB, pp. 427. \$48.95  
To order: [www.fadavis.com](http://www.fadavis.com)  
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What are the rules in order to provide kosher meals to Jewish nursing home patients?

What is the role of the eldest son when a Japanese parent passes away?

What cultural factors could affect the sexual life of an Iranian couple if the wife had surgery for heart valve replacement?

What herbs are commonly used as popular remedies for chest congestion among the people of Appalachia?

Patients who come into contact with the American health care system bring with them lots of cultural baggage. That should surprise no one: culture is, after all, an intrinsic aspect of being human. Vatican II pointedly taught that people have a right to culture. Once upon time, however, patients might have been expected to surrender their values and cultural convictions in favor of the prevailing culture that dominated health care, especially when it labeled itself "scientific."

Happily, however, the days when health care professionals thought they could effectively care for patients regardless of the patients' cultures are passing. The book seeks to help health care professionals understand the cultural worlds of the patients with whom they come into contact in a typical American clinical setting today.

The book's 19 chapters treat as many groups and, among them, there is a chapter-long discussion of "People of Polish Heritage." (Others include Russians, Germans, Jews, and African-Americans). In addition to these chapter-long studies, the book contains briefer, two-page "abstracts" of 11 other groups (including Lithuanians, Greeks, Irish, Italians, and Puerto Ricans).

This reviewer's focus is on the 17-page long Polish chapter. That chapter, like the others, is divided into several standard subunits: an overview of the ancestral homeland and its history; the structure and organization of the diaspora community and reasons for emigration to America; a socio-economic profile of the group in the United States; patterns of communication; family roles, including behavioral expectations of youngsters and adolescents; "biocultural ecology," including common diseases and group health conditions; general nutritional patterns; birth and death rituals; the role of religion; and health care practices, including attitudes towards medical professionals.

The treatment of the Poles is solid and provides a good overview of that group for American health care practitioners. The authors' perspective is balanced and culturally competent. Take the discussion of food: the authors recognize that the Central European diet is not necessarily heart healthy, and give this advice in trying to modify patients' eating habits. Poland's climate can "create a craving for hot stews, soups, and foods that produce a feeling of satiety . . . [which unfortunately] are [also] high in carbohydrates, fat, and sodium . . . Health-care providers need to assess how the Polish clients' dietary habits influence their weight, blood pressure, and overall health status and then structure a diet that is culturally acceptable, promotes healthy food choices, and is sustainable" (p. 347). Briefly put, nobody's going to give up pierogi for water cress, even though "in 2000, cardiovascular diseases caused 56 percent of all deaths in Poland" (p. 346).

Health care providers are also warned about the Polish proclivity to "tough it out," avoiding the doctor until conditions grow very serious. This general tendency, especially when encountered in immigrants who lack health insurance, is often responsible for the progress of medical conditions that could have been treated more successfully much earlier.

There are some minor mistakes in the text (e.g., a suggestion that Lech Walesa appeared on the Polish scene in 1970-p. 338) but, by and large, the chapter is accurate and its profile of Polish health and patient behavior on target. Sometimes, however, a greater distinction between the habits of recent immigrants and more settled second, third, and fourth generation Polonusi would have helped.

What makes this book a fascinating read is that it offers similar, in-depth profiles of many other groups. It is illuminating just to pick it up and read at random. The book should be a part of the educational training of every health care professional, especially doctors, nurses, and dietitians. It would be a welcome gift for friends or relatives studying those fields.

The reviewer only wished that a similar book on culturally-competent spiritual and pastoral care be written for seminary formation, with gift copies sent to every Catholic American bishop.

"One size fits all" works neither in the emergency room nor the parish.

Alas, still too many bishops imagine that a typical "American" territorial parish is a-cultural and the goal towards which ethnic parishes should tend. For their penance, such bishops should read this book and chapter 2 of *Gaudium et spes*.

## BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes, MLIS

### UNDERSTANDING INTELLIGENT DESIGN

by William A. Dembski and Sean McDowell  
Harvest House Publishers, 2008,  
199 pp., \$13.99

Darwinism has been entrenched in science as a truth. Scientists who dispute his writings are denied tenure and promotions. School children are taught Darwinism, against many a parent's will. Tell a lie enough times and it is perceived as a truth.

It is a hard concept for some to say Darwin was right—right as far as he went—with microevolution, i.e.: small changes that took place over the centuries in a species. He claims natural selection—survival of the fittest—led to an emergence of a new species. He did not recognize macroevolution, a radical change to produce a completely new species. And he never could not explain where the first cell came from.

Antony Flew, the world's most famous intellectual atheist, reversed his thought in 2004 with a shocking revolution that the universe must be the work of an intelligent designer.

Why?

The discovery of DNA was proof to him that a higher intelligence must have been involved in getting these extraordinary diverse elements together. The information storage in DNA surpasses the most powerful electronic memory systems known today.

Creationism holds that the universe was created by a supreme being, based on interpretation of the book of Genesis in the bible. Intelligent Design begins by investigating the natural world, relying not only

on theological knowledge, but on reliable methods within the scientific community. There had to be some supreme being to design a universe so uniquely crafted for us, providing exact conditions to support life.

Why should we believe in intelligent design? Where did the origin of life come from? How could a perfect universe be created to allow life to exist? A Creator who had the intelligence to create the sun and moon, the earth and sea, humans and animals, in a never-ending universe we take for granted.

I am pleased to see this educational book written in layman's language and at a price anyone can afford. It is a serious thought-provoking book. Read and ponder—where do you stand?

### COURAGE WAS MY ONLY OPTION

An Autobiography of Roman Kent by Roman Kent  
Vantage Press, \$26.95

Kent tells an inspiring story of his life, with animosity toward no one. The book covers his early years in Lodz, Poland, when the German Army destroyed his youth, and he lost many family members. He and his brother managed to stay together in the labor camps and eventually were released at the end of the war. As orphans they were sent to the United States and placed with two families before beginning their new life.

The hard-earned lessons of survival helped him become a successful business man and an internationally-known voice for Holocaust survivors. He has worked with presi-

dents, senators, ambassadors and foreign dignitaries to restore the rights and lost dignity of his fellow survivors. He has received many honors for his work and his compassion for his fellow man.

A fascinating study of one man's survival and determination to overcome horrendous obstacles.

### RECOMMENDED READING.

There aren't very many times when a Polish American hits the *NEW YORK TIMES* best seller list.

David Wroblewski's book, *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*, has skyrocketed to first place in a short time. It is a story of a young mute boy coming to grips with reality when he takes to the woods with only his three loyal dogs after his father has been killed. Edgar thinks his uncle is the killer. He survives in the woods by his ability to communicate with the dogs in his own brand of sign language. It is a story of learning to survive, to trust each other, and strangers, culminating in his return home to face his uncle.

The background of the book is similar to Wroblewski's, who grew up on a dairy farm with his family in rural Wisconsin. His father raised dogs which were companions to Wroblewski. He includes a section in which grandfather Sawtelle raised dogs that could be attuned to human needs. This, in fact, had developed into the Seeing Eye Dog program.

Wroblewski's first book took ten years to write and get published. While writing he worked as a computer designer in Colorado. Pick up a copy, you won't be sorry.

"Ethnic Extravaganza, 75 singing, dancing and instrument playing  
Ambassadors of Polish Culture..." Chicago Tribune

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**U.S. WAR PAINTING RESTORED.** A 360-degree panorama of the Battle of Gettysburg painted by French artist Paul Philippoteaux, after over 100 years of exposure to moisture, rot and fire, was restored recently.

Five years ago the Gettysburg Foundation launched a conservation project, and found Ryszard Wojtowicz, a Pole who had restored panorama paintings in Poland, Hungary and the Ukraine. Over two years, a team of 25 artists and conservators reinserted a missing part of the panorama, touched up the sky, covered up cracks, and hung the painting with a canopy at the top and a 3-D landscape at the bottom to give the never-ending, total-surround feel intended by the artist.

"I have a feeling that the movement around the world's panoramas will become very dynamic and panoramas will become more fashionable again," Wojtowicz said after the rejuvenated Battle of Gettysburg was unveiled.

## ACROSS POLONIA

## Kowalczyk Exhibit

CLEVELAND—The Northeast Ohio Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation and the Polish American Cultural Center present a photography exhibit by Tomasz Kowalczyk opening on Nov. 7, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. with a reception. The show, held at the Polish American Cultural Center at 6501 Lansing Ave., features Tomasz's photographs as they reflect his search for harmony, mystery, and a hidden order in nature and illustrate his interest in the interplay of light and shadow. For further information call the Center at (216) 883-2828 or Tomasz at (216) 321-0632.

## Old-Fashioned Goodness

BUFFALO, N.Y.—Since 1933 Mazurek's Bakery has occupied a storefront on South Park Avenue in Buffalo's First Ward. Jack Mazurek was born in the building, grew up there, met his wife-to-be while working there. With only one day off a week, and two weeks away a year, he tends to the everyday and cyclical needs of his patrons.

Mazurek is the last Polish baker to run a neighborhood shop. Many others closed their establishments, some opened only in the Broadway Market, others have changed hands and changed focus. The neighborhood, once alive with the sounds of Polonia, is changing. Factories closed, and with them many of the other businesses are gone as well. St Valentine's Catholic Church is shuttered, a reminder of the Diocesan downsizing.

Not long ago two armed teenagers stole the money from the cash register. Yet Jack Mazurek still believes. If you see fear around you, you'll feel fear. If you believe in a friendly city, that's the one you get.

## Mementoes of World War II Pilot Come to Warsaw

WARSAW—Mementoes of one of the pilots of Poland's legendary World War II Flight Squadron 303,

Gen. Witold Urbanowicz, were presented in New York to director of the Warsaw Army Museum, professor Janusz Cisek.

Cisek received among others a decorative pistol, medals and photographs belonging to the squadron leader. The memorabilia was shown at a special exhibition for the pilot's 100th birth anniversary, March 30.

Urbanowicz was one of the best pilots in the Battle of Britain, shooting down 17 Nazi planes but never taking a single shot himself. In 1943 he joined the U.S. Air Force with the "Flying Tigers" 75th Squadron. After the war he settled in New York. He died in 1996.

## New Britain's Broad Street Bow "Little Poland"

NEW BRITAIN, Conn.—The common Council unanimously passed a resolution marking Broad Street as "Little Poland" in recognition of the contributions of Polish Americans in blending their heritage with commerce, culture and community.

Appropriate signage is being created to mark the designation.

Several council members said Broad Street is the true Main Street of New Britain—high praise, given the level of commitment the city has shown to developing downtown.

## Guggenheim for Zavatsky

NEW YORK—Poet Bill Zavatsky was awarded a 2008 Fellowship in Poetry by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. Guggenheim Fellowships are awarded, on a competitive basis, to enable advanced professionals in the sciences, humanities, and creative arts to pursue research or creative work of their choice.

Zavatsky grew up in Bridgeport, Conn., and holds BA and MFA degrees from Columbia University. He has worked as a journalist and published three collections of poetry, the most recent of which is "Where X Marks the Spot."

## Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England Honors Polish Armed Forces

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A virtual regiment of highly-decorated military attachés representing countries from around the world gathered on September 9, 2008 at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland to celebrate Polish Armed Forces Day. Also attending were many Polish military officers, Polish veterans, honored guests and Polonia. The five branches of the U.S. military were also well-represented.

The annual celebration was hosted by Ambassador Robert Kupiecki, with co-host Brigadier General Leszek Soczewica. Defense, Military, Naval and Air Attaché. The guest of honor was U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England.

After a welcoming address and toasting of the Polish military by Ambassador Kupiecki, Secretary England delivered his remarks. He spoke of the strong and friendly relationship between the U.S. and Poland that began with the great military contributions of Polish Generals Tadeusz Kosciuszko and Casimir Pulaski to the cause of freedom in the American Revolutionary War against the British.

Sec. England noted that Polish



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

**POLISH ARMED FORCES DAY AT EMBASSY.** The national anthems of the United States and Poland were by soprano Dr. Laura Kafka (r.). Also participating is U.S. Dep. Sec. of Defense Gordon England (l.) and Ambassador Robert Kupiecki (c.).

soldiers have served shoulder-to-shoulder with the U.S. military. He added that now both countries are fully cooperating dealing with many critical issues such as modernizing the Polish military, security between our countries, and the recently-signed Missile Defense Agreement.

Sec. England ended his speech by thanking the Polish people for the "strong, wonderful relationship that we have between our countries," and saying "that by partnering together, together we are ensuring a safer world."

## Chojecka Completes Pulaski Documentary Film

by Peter Obst

After four years in the making, the film is complete and the results show.

Last October, at the Pulaski Conference in Warka, Poland, Jolanta Chojecka premiered her documentary to the general acclaim of the audience. Taking advantage of the latest discoveries about Pulaski's life and times, hers is the most authoritative and complete Pulaski documentary made to date. Running just under an hour, it manages to present Pulaski's military career in Poland and, in the second half, his vital role in the creation of the United States Cavalry, and his sacrifice for American independence on the battlefield in Savannah, Georgia.

Jolanta was able to place footage from historical re-enactments into



the film and incorporate interviews given by various historians, including Edward Pinkowski, the late Col.

Francis Kajencki, Fr. Edward Batko and others. She utilized many actual locations of battles to illustrate the story. Historian Colonel Tadeusz Krzastek of the Polish Air Force assisted in creating a factually-correct background narrative (in both Polish and English versions), that was combined with an appropriate musical score to accentuate the action.

Though certain incidents had to be summarized, no effort was spared to make the filmed story of Pulaski's life understandable to both Polish and American viewers. Computer animations show the course of events in the important military struggles in which Pulaski took part. Archive footage at the end references the military connection of Pulaski to the Polish cavalry before World War II. The film is a significant achievement in the art of documentary film making, and a fine way to pay tribute to the memory of General Pulaski.

The American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) was one of several major sponsors who supported the film. Those wishing to obtain a copy on DVD (both English and Polish versions on one disk) should reference the ACPC website: www.polishcultureacpc.org.

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In 1971, 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.

Donations to the PAJ Press Fund are also used to support our reader services (postage, telephone, research, etc.), provide newsclippers with stamps and envelopes, and cover extraordinary expenses in producing the paper. **The Polish American Journal is not a profit-making venture.** Thanks to its dedicated staff, the PAJ is published as a "public service" for American Polonia.

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## SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

## Goodbye, Killer

The sports world lost one of its legendary figures recently, when **Walter "Killer" Kowalski** died at the age of 81. Kowalski became one of professional wrestling's biggest stars and most-hated villains when wrestling became a national sensation in the early years of TV.

Despite his nickname—and his reputation in the ring—Killer's widow remembered him as "a wonderful man, never drank, never smoked, and he was a vegetarian for almost 60 years."

Born in Canada, he was studying electrical engineering in college while working at the Ford plant in Detroit to help pay his way. With his size (6-7, 275-lb.) and athletic ability, he soon found the wrestling ring as a good way to make a few bucks. He rose to the top of the wrestling world rather quickly.

Kowalski turned villain after hurting Yukon Eric during a match in Montreal in 1952. Kowalski accidentally ripped off a part of Yukon Eric's ear while performing a knee drop. Eric's ears were already badly cauliflowered from his many years in the ring. Killer visited his opponent in the hospital, and the pair began laughing at how silly the bandages looked. However, newspaper reports stated that Kowalski showed up at the hospital and laughed at the



injury he caused, and that helped cement his reputation as a villain. After a long and successful career, Kowalski retired in 1977, and opened a wrestling school in Malden, Mass. His students included WWE star Triple H, Chyna, and Chris Nowinski. He sold the business in 2003.

Kowalski was inducted into several wrestling halls of fame, including the WWF Hall of Fame and the

Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum. It was also good to personally see Killer get inducted into the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame in 2007.

**BACK TO DUKE.** It didn't take long for **Mike Krzyzewski** of Duke to return to college recruiting after leading the U.S. men's basketball team to an Olympic gold medal in Beijing. Krzyzewski, 61, added a dimension to a résumé that includes three NCAA titles.

He became a catalyst in restoring the image of the United States as a world powerhouse, which had faded since it won gold at Sydney in 2000. The Americans won bronze at the 2004 Athens Games. They also won bronze in 2006 worlds and finished sixth in the 2002 worlds.

With the Olympic championship, "there's a sense of more confidence in who you are and what you do," said Krzyzewski. The U.S. players draped their medals around his neck after beating Spain, an unplanned show of respect for their coach, as coaches do not receive Olympic medals.

One recruit he already has at Duke is forward **Olek Czyz**. Krzyzewski said the 6-8 native of Poland "is still learning the game, but he's a tremendous athlete." Czyz wasn't con-

sidered an elite recruit, but recently led all scorers with 23 points to earn MVP honors at the Capital Classic all-star game.

**HE SHOOTS, HE SCORES.** Cincinnati forward **Matt Syroczyński** scored a power-play goal less than a minute into the third period of game 6 of the ECHL finals, giving the Cyclones the lead as Cincinnati went on to beat Las Vegas 3-1 and win the Kelly Cup Finals. The game was played before a crowd of 12,722, the largest in playoff history for the ECHL and the Cyclones.

The 25-year-old appeared in 60 games for the Cyclones last season, netting 30 goals and 20 assists for 50 points and 70 penalty minutes. In the playoffs he tallied eleven points (8-3-11) in postseason contests, including the title-clinching goal.

Soon afterwards, the 2008 Kelly Cup champions announced that they re-signed forward Matt Syroczyński for the 2008-09 season "Matt has developed into one of the ECHL's better power forwards," Cyclones Head Coach Chuck Weber said. "We look forward to having him take on even more of a leadership role with this team in 2008-09." He was the first player from the championship team to re-join the team.

The 6-5, 225-lb. native of Ham-

burg, New York, previously played professionally in 2006-07 with Fort Wayne (UHL). Syroczyński collected 20 goals, 21 assists and 41 points in 73 games for the Komets during his rookie season as a professional. Prior to joining Fort Wayne, Matt played at the University of Vermont for two seasons

## THEY SAID IT

"I never would have dreamed that people in Poland actually cared about what I do so much. So many big fans. I thought maybe my last name was 'Williamsowski.'"

—American tennis star **Venus Williams**, when asked by a Polish reporter asked if she liked playing in Poland.

**PERKOSKI'S NOTEBOOK.** Baseball great **Carl Yastrzemski** has recovered from triple-bypass surgery ... Denmark's **Caroline Wozniacki**, the daughter of Polish parents, picked up her third title this year after beating Estonia's Kaia Kanepi in three sets to win the \$175,000 Japan Open Tennis Championships ... **Tricia Zubrowski** was named women's lacrosse coach at Bridgeport College.

## Orchard Lake Eaglets to Meet Marquette for Charity Match

ORCHARD LAKE, Mich.—The night before Thanksgiving, the Eaglets of Orchard Lake St. Mary's and the Redmen of Marquette will pick up where they left off in March, tied as state hockey champs. This time a state championship will not be at stake, however, but perhaps, something just as meaningful. The two teams will open their respective 2008-09 seasons playing to benefit children through the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The puck will drop for the Champs for Charity game at 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 26, at the St. Mary's Athletic Center Hockey Arena in Orchard Lake.

Last March, St. Mary's and Marquette shared the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Division 1 Hockey title after an epic eight-overtime marathon ended in a 1-1 tie. The game marked the

only tie in the history of Michigan's hockey finals and was the longest high school hockey game in U.S. history in the number of minutes played.

It also served as a rematch of the 2007 state final, in which St. Mary's took home the trophy with a 4-2 win over Marquette.

DETROIT FREE PRESS reporter Chris Lau likened the latter periods of the epic on ice to a pee-wee league skirmish. "Guys were so exhausted that they were falling over without even being touched. And they were almost unable to get up ... Yet they were still skating as hard as they possibly could—diving after pucks, making hits, and going back to block shots. It was really something to see."

Lau recalled the standing ovation from the thousands still in attendance when the co-champion deci-

sion was announced by the MHSAA through the public address system.

"It was pure joy in the arena. Everybody was standing up and cheering for both teams. It was what was best for everybody; it made sense."

It became the second longest game in periods played in national hockey history, trailing only an 11-overtime game in 1955 that Minne-

apolis South won over Thief River Falls, 3-2, according to records provided by the MHSAA. The game was also the first time in the history of MHSAA-sanctioned hockey that a state title game had gone beyond three overtimes.

Reports of the game made the national news with coverage by the Associated Press, ESPN, and EPSN.

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## Hartford Gets Ready for Annual Szopka Festival



Stunning Christmas creches will be on display.

HARTFORD, Conn.—The annual Szopka Festival sponsored by the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford is being held at the Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Avenue, Sun., Nov. 30, 2008 from 9:30 to 3:00 p.m. There will be an opportunity to purchase holiday items, books and cards, Polish imports, Polish food and baked goods, amber jewelry, and Polish stoneware pottery at the many booths in the ballroom. Among the booths will be a special game for children and an ever popular raffle table offering many beautiful and valuable gifts. The proceeds from this event is used to support the Scholarship Fund of the Polish Cultural Club awarded to college bound students.

The feature each year from which the festival derives its name is the competition and the display of original display of original szopkas designed following the ancient Krakovian model by students from St. Cyril and Methodius School in Hartford and the Sacred Heart School in New Britain. The students have been guided and instructed by the well known Polish artist famous for his religious icons, Marek Czarniecki of Conn. Who directs them to observe the guidelines which the Krakovian szopka (creche, manger) requires. The Krakovian szopka, “traditional Polish folk art,” had roots of origin which began formally in the 19th century. The folk art created by the local peasantry in Poland pictured an elaborate castle designed to pres-

ent a more beautiful birthplace for the Christ child than the stable in which he was born. Among other household items, the student artists are required to use colored paper, “shiny foil,” and other goods in order to adorn the typical towers and colorful workmanship that marked many Renaissance buildings in Poland and at the Wawel Castle in Krakow.

On the afternoon of the Festival, the judges will award modest prizes to those students whose entries follow best the Krakovian style for originality, style, and beauty. All the students’ szopkas will be on exhibit on the stage.

This year the Szopka Festival is being chaired by Louis Maglaty of West Hartford and Edward Farley of New Britain. All proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund of the Polish Cultural Club. Admission is free and the public is cordially invited to attend this colorful and meaningful holiday event where you are sure to enjoy all the many activities of the day. For those wishing to relax and enjoy good Polish cooking, the well known restaurant at the Polish Home will begin serving at 11:30 a.m. Ample parking is available.

For further information involving the event, you may call Mary Heslin at (860) 236-5023.

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford is an affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture, a national organization.

### BABA JAGA'S CORNER / Jagoda Urban-Klaehn

## What Does It Really Mean to be “Pro-Life”?

### Reflections from a trip to Romania

Since I came to America in 1993, I never understood the logic behind “pro-life” versus “pro-choice” catchphrases, but their real meaning is different from their wording. We have the hot election season coming, so it is an appropriate time to ponder it.

“Pro-life” is usually used and also sometimes overused by GOP party to show their human and pro-values. However, its meaning is very limited. It indicates that the party is against abortion and believes in the sanctity of life before the child is born. The official stance of the party is much more cynical and can be described by a following sentence: “we care for life until the baby is born, but after the baby is born it is on its own.” So, the pro-life attitude of GOP party is very limited, although the party likes to boast their pro-life credentials.

The “Pro-choice” term is embraced by Democrats. The word “choice” is easy as well as cruel and can be described as “to kill or not to kill.” The mother of the baby has an alternative between keeping the baby or killing it. It is not a very nice choice. Democrats insist that the baby is a part of woman’s body and a woman has a right to decide what to do with her body. The role of a man in the process of making a baby is never taken seriously until the baby is born. But Democrats should deserve a credit with so called “value” voters because unknowingly they also propagate pro-life programs. Democrats in their party platform stress the care for education, health care and welfare systems as well as their general anti-war and anti-lobby stances. These are “pro-life” programs, although they are not called this way.

Unfortunately many people who go to vote are only one-issue voters. They would vote for “pro-life” slogan without understanding the complexity of the “pro-life” issue. My elderly neighbor just told me that she cannot vote for Obama because he allows killing of the babies. I

asked her “what about senseless killing of adults in Iraq? (Iraqi civilians and American soldiers). Are adults not important?”

My point is, if we are for the sanctity of life, we should protect one’s whole life, not only life until the time a baby is born?

In general it is easy to see that there is no fully “pro-life” platform in any of the two major parties in the United States. Both parties are only partly pro-life. People like me, who are really pro-life miss, the platform to express their opinions and beliefs.

### My point is, if we are for the sanctity of life, we should protect one’s whole life, not only life until the time a baby is born?

The extreme “pro-life” stance reminds me Romania in 1980s. During that time Romania was ruled by Nicolae Ceasescu, an absolute despot. He also tested his people to the extreme. When I visited Romania it was an impoverished country. I could see its former splendor but it was a sad country with no cars on the roads, no milk in the stores, and no light after dark, since electricity was very limited. Ceasescu wanted to pay all foreign debts at the expense of the well-being of his citizens. He ordered the export of much of the country’s agricultural and industrial products in order to repay its debts.

To add to the hardships, Romania had a policy of banning abortion and forcing women to have many children. If you did not have any children after the age 25, you paid a huge tax, whether you were married or not. The inability to procreate due to medical reasons did not make a difference. The women who had ten children or more were declared “heroines of the nation.”

I visited Romania with the group of Polish tourists twice in 1980s. We traveled in a tour bus. Whenever our bus stopped in the center of small or big towns we were surrounded by wild groups of children of different ages. Some were still very

small but able to walk or run. There were no adults nearby, as if all these kids were growing up on the streets. These children were hungry for the attention. They were touching us, our clothes, anything which was available—rings, necklaces, beads—since they did not have any toys. Their parents, if they had any, were probably busy working, since the working week for people in Romania was longer than anywhere else. These scenes were very sad, we were not prepared for it, and did not know how to help. I remember a mother with a small child who wanted to buy powdered milk for her baby. We did not have any. In the stores in Romania it was easier to buy a beer than milk in that time. I remember ghostly empty roads and then a tractor pulling a trailer. The trailer was overcrowded with children, probably having a ride to school. When these kids saw our bus, they all crowded to one side of the barrier of the trailer. It was a scary picture. We were afraid that the barrier would just give up and all the kids would fall down.

The Romanian orphanages became notorious for being crowded and filthy without sufficient care. It shows how dangerous the extreme policies are which force people to have babies but do not give them enough resources to care for them.

People need to understand that any policy building needs to be done in a comprehensive way. If we want children, we need to be prepared for their coming. Life is too precious to be mishandled. I remember reading in “Idaho Catholic Register” that it is hard to find real pro-life politicians and lobby them in Washington, i.e., politicians who embrace not only anti-abortion stance but also anti-poverty ideas.

Until we will have a real “pro-life” party here I will carry an unusual and seemingly contradictory sticker on the back of my car which reads “Pro-life Democrat.”

Pro-life Democrats have even their website. You can visit it at: [www.democratsforlife.org/](http://www.democratsforlife.org/)

◆ ◆ ◆

Visit Jaga’s Polish Culture Website at [www.culture.polishsite.us](http://www.culture.polishsite.us).

### YOUTH CORNER / Robert Strybel

## Fun on St. Andrew’s Eve, Andrzejki

In Polish tradition, the evening of November 29th, the day before the feastday of St. Andrew, has long been associated with fortune-telling games played by the younger set. This might be an interesting, “something different for a change” theme for your fall frolic, disco, youth-club function or other late-November get-together. Parishes named after St. Andrew should especially take

notice. Let’s start by learning how to pronounce Andrzejki: First say “on” (as in off & on), “jay” (as in blue jay) and “kee” (as in key) and you get on-JAY-kee.

One of the typical just-for-fun activities said to show whom a girl will get engaged to and marry is wax-pouring. Each girl gets a turn pouring a portion (perhaps about 1/4 cup) of molten beeswax into a basin

of cold water. The wax may be heated until it melts in a metal dipper or ladle over a stove or candle flame. On contact with the cold water the wax immediately hardens into one shape of another. Either the shape itself or the shadow it casts when held up to a strong light is said to predict her matrimonial future. The shape may resemble the person’s head or something object associated with

him. Traditionally the molten wax is poured in a thin stream through the eye of large, old-fashion key which is said to unlock the future.

Another game is the shoe line. All the eligible girls present take off their left shoe and place it in a pile near a wall. One of the boys may be asked to do the honors and line the shoes up heel-to-toe pointing towards the nearest door. The girl whose shoe complete clears the threshold is the first expected to marry and should get a suitable prize. Something humorously “housewifely” like an embroidered apron, carved wooden spoon, rolling-pin or broom should get a good laugh.

The pot game is prepared in advance by the party’s hosts. Each girl taking part is led individually to a series of pots, bowls, boxes or other non-transparent containers placed upside down on a table. Various objects said to predict the girl’s future are concealed under each of them. For instance a ring (means imminent marriage), a baby toy (pregnancy), a rosary (becoming a nun), apron (housewife), a cake (abundance), book (old maid), money (career

woman), wine glass (drunk), a piece of sod (death), etc. The first container the girl points to is said to reveal what the future holds in store.

Another Andrzejki game is the apple-peel toss. Each participating girl peels an apple so the entire comes off in a single strand. If it breaks, she is disqualified. She then flings the unbroken peel over her shoulder. The peel often lands on the floor and assumes the shape of a letter which is said to indicate the name of her future fiancé or husband. If it appears to resemble the letter “S” that could mean Steve, “L” might indicate Leo, and so on. If the peel does not resemble any recognizable letter, that means the peel-tosser will not get engaged for quite some time.

Finally there is the cake jump. Cakes such as pączki, donuts, pier-niczki or Danish are suspended from the ceiling on strings at a height of several inches above the top of each participant’s head. In order to bite into it, the participant must jump up. Those that succeed on the first try are the first ones said to go to the altar.

### BRUSH UP / Prepared and distributed by the Polonia Media Network

#### Grocery Shopping VI

Phonetic hh is like ch in loch • Phonetic ai is like eye  
m, n, f denotes male, female, neuter

jablko.....(YAHP-koh) <i>n</i>	orzech kokosowy .....	(OH-zhehh koh-koh-SOH-vih) <i>m</i>
apple .....	coconut	
morela.....(moh-REH-lah) <i>f</i>	figa .....	(FEE-gah) <i>f</i>
apricot	fig	
banan.....(BAH-nahn) <i>m</i>	winogrono .....	(vee-noh-GROH-noh) <i>n</i>
banana	grape	
porzeczka .....	grejpfrut.....(GRAYP-frut) <i>m</i>	
currant	grapefruit	
jagoda.....(yah-GOH-dah) <i>f</i>	cytryna .....	(tsih-TRIH-nah) <i>f</i>
blueberry	lemon	
wiśnia.....(VEESH-nyah) <i>f</i>	pomarańcza .....	(poh-mah-RAYN-chah) <i>f</i>
or	orange	
czereśnia.....(cheh-REHSH-nyah) <i>f</i>		
cherry		

—continued next month—

# Haller's Army and Armistice Day: Times to be Remembered

by Paul S. Valasek

In 2008, we have the 90th observance of Armistice Day, called Veteran's Day since 1954. We of course are remembering those veterans who served our country and the millions who gave their lives for our freedom. This is honorable and worthy of our attention. Unfortunately, as generations pass and history is continually diminished in our minds, many do not know the reason for November 11th as a national holiday as well as the roles Polish Americans played in the cause of freedom.

November 11th, specifically, on the 11th hour, of the 11th day of the 11th month, as a child, we were instructed to stand and face east for a moment of silence. This was not in the '30s or '40s, but the 1950s and '60s. The significance of 11/11/11 is found in history, unfortunately, as life progresses, its importance is being lost in time.

For it was at that moment back in 1918, that a general Armistice was observed ending the fighting of World War I. Exactly at that hour, the guns stopped, men came out of the trenches, looked around, and met with their adversaries, some only yards away. The war to end all wars, i.e. the Great War, was over. Well, at least on the Western front

I say that because what is commonly called Haller's Army, (Armia Hallera), the Polish Army in France

(Armia Polska we Francji), and the Blue Army (Blekitna Armia), was just finishing chapter two of their service and entering into the main story of their legend.

The concept of an army made up of Poles living abroad was started as early as 1910-1911, and supported by members of Polonia living in North America. Because of our freedoms, the concept of a "Kosciuszko Army" was openly created with expectations of 100,000 Polish men joining from the US and Canada. Unfortunately, this number was enthusiastically high but nearly 33,000 men did attempt to sign up through 44 recruitment centers in the United States and four in Canada. Alongside the men were approximately 50 women from Buffalo's Polonia who entered service in the role of nurses, "Grey Samaritans," working alongside with the American Red Cross and the Polish White Cross aid societies.

Out of this total of volunteers, nearly 24,000 were accepted and shipped to Ontario, specifically Niagara on the Lake and Camp Borden for training by the Canadian Armed Forces. Some attrition took place during training, but over 23,000 Polish recruits, under U.S. guidance, trained by Canadians, outfitted by the French and shipped overseas in American, French and Russian ships set out for battle in December

1917.

After arriving at French ports, camps were set up at Le Mans, Mamers, and other facilities with the main camp at Sille le Guillaume, outside of Paris. Fighting action was limited while in France, but time was well spent as estimates of 50,000 Poles living in France joined into this army as well as 40,000 Polish POWs taken out of Italian prison camps, 10,000 volunteers from Holland and smaller numbers from England and even Brazil and Siberia. The anticipated 100,000 number was surpassed and many accounts state this force was Poland's best trained, best outfitted and most effective in fighting.

After the Armistice, some Polish Americans were shipped home to the States, but the majority was waiting to fulfill their mission, to set up a free and independent Poland. In April 1919, in spite of opposition by the conquered German nation, special trains were outfitted to send what now is commonly called Haller's Army into Poland to fight those Germans and Austro-Hungarians who did not respect the Armistice, but more importantly, the



GEN. JOZEF HALLER

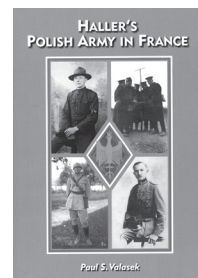
menace of the Bolsheviks who were spreading chaos and mayhem from the east with plans of conquering Europe with their ideologies.

Now joining in with the Polish Armies of Pilsudski, the enemies of Poland were defeated and the rebirth of a Polish Nation once again put Poland on the map after disappearing since the third partition of 1795. This being completed in 1921, more than 2 years after the Great War was "over."

Many Polish Americans have forgotten the role their ancestors played in this army, or for many, were never told of this historic time in Polish and Polish American history. Yes there were Polish Americans in the U.S. army in World War I, but they were subject to the U.S. draft. Men of Haller's Army were volunteers, though many faced "unofficial" drafting through heavy persuasion of their families, friends, communities, parishes, and neighbors. These men were to have been non-U.S. citizens, over the age of 18, single, and not the sole source of their family's support. Through data basing the army from recruitment records, I have found exceptions to all of these rules, but let us say, if your family was living in the United States or Canada before 1917, and were not yet U.S. citizens, there is a very good chance you have some form of a relative in this army. All

of the largest and many smaller cities and towns of Polonia were represented in this recruitment process. The largest centers for applicants were Chicago with 5779, followed by New York City 3256, Detroit 2839, Pittsburgh 2376, Buffalo 1824, Milwaukee 1395, Philadelphia 1343, Cleveland 1285, and Wilkes-Barre 1082.

For those who had family and have not yet, contacted me, I would be very pleased to hear from you. For others who want me to check on any possibilities, I would also be glad to check my database. Please send an email: Hallersarmy@aol.com. For additional information, please visit www.polishroots.org.



Dr. Valasek is the author of "Haller's Polish Army in France," a compilation of original materials both from North America and Europe relating the story of Haller's Army. 100% in English, many materials have never been translated into English or are easily available. To order, send \$40.00, which includes media mail throughout the United States, to: Paul S. Valasek, 2643 W. 51st St., Chicago, IL 60632-1559.

CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin S. Nowak

## Polish Courland and its Colonies

The territory of today's Baltic States. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania played an important role in the history of Poland. In the 14th century, Poland and Lithuania united in a commonwealth, with Poland the dominant partner. Eventually, this extended Polish territory to the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea. North of Lithuania along the Baltic lay a collection of principalities and duchies with names such as Esthonia, Livonia, Semigallia, Samogitia and Kurlandia.

The Balts, who originally settled these lands, were caught in the middle of rivalries among strong area powers: Prussia, Sweden, Russia, Poland and to a lesser extent Denmark. The German Prussians settled in cities along the coast and in manors inland, subjugating the native peasants. Russia pushed from the east, eager for a window on the Baltic. Sweden wanted to expand southward and Poland northward. The prizes were excellent ports and harbors, great natural resources, and control of the Baltic Sea.

Livonia, ruled by ethnic Germans of the Livonian Order of Knights and comprising what is now Latvia and southern Estonia, was constantly threatened by invading barbarous Muscovites. Grand Master Gothard Kettler secured the protection of Poland against the Russians by agreeing to become a vassal under the Polish crown in 1561. King Zygmunt promised Kettler autonomous control of the southern third of Livonia, creating the Duchy of Courland (Polish: Kurlandia). It was to remain a part of the Kingdom of Poland until the latter's final partition in 1795. At one point, it would count among its military guards a young Kazimierz Pulaski.

While nominally a part of Poland, the Duchy's ties to the Kingdom were very loose. The Poles wrote and imposed a constitution and a set of statutes on Courland. But the Duchy retained the right of

neutrality. It was not forced to supply soldiers for Polish wars. It did not pay taxes to the crown. And the Duke was not personally subordinated to the Polish King.

Courland's greatest leader was Duke Jacob Kettler who ruled from 1641-1682. He developed the state's industry and agriculture and turned it into a maritime power with a huge fleet that traded with countries all over the world. The little dukedom had much to offer including high quality grain, timber and iron products.

Before long Duke Jacob became interested in establishing overseas colonies to compete with the western European powerhouses. He had his eye on Tobago in the West Indies, which had previously been claimed by the Dutch. After a couple of failed attempts at colonization, in 1654 an armed Courish ship carrying soldiers and eighty families of colonists, many of them ethnic Latvians, arrived at the island. The captain claimed it for Courland. Known as New Courland, it was rapidly developed and supplied Courland with sugar, coffee, spices and tobacco. But just five years later the Dutch chased off the Courlanders. Competition among maritime powers for bases was intense.

Duke Jacob was in no position to defend Tobago. In the great war between Poland and Sweden (1655-1660), in large part fought for control of the eastern Baltic, he rejected Swedish calls to align himself with that country, which incensed Sweden to invade and almost totally destroy Courland. Jacob was taken prisoner and held for two years until the treaty of Oliwa ended the war. Courland was restored to Polish control, but it would never regain its former glory. Tobago was returned to Courland but the colony was under constant attack from the Dutch, Indians and pirates. In 1689 it was turned over to the rival British.

Also, from 1651 to 1664, Cour-

land held St. Andrew's Island at the mouth of the Gambia River and a small piece of land on the nearby West African mainland. The Courlanders were interested in cashing in on the slave trade. From here they

were also forced out by the British.

These colonies were directly under the control of the Duke of Courland. Poles never occupied nor visited them. The flag of Courland flew over their fortresses. Yet as auton-

mous and independent as Courland was, it was still a vassal state subject to the Polish crown. Technically, Tobago and St. Andrew's were for a short time Poland's only overseas colonies.

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Christmas  
Boże Narodzenia

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Pasterka

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Święty Mikołaj

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Wigilia

Manger Scene  
Szopka

Christmas Wafer  
Opłatek

Christmas Carols  
Kolędy

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Star  
Gwiazda

Christmas Play  
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## THE PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

## The Race is On

It was definitely not "politics as usual" this election year and for all the political junkies out there: *cieszyć się* (enjoy)! I generally eat debates and position papers for breakfast, and the 2008 Presidential election was pretty good stuff.

My interest in the American political culture is in the maneuvering and competing for ideas to gain an advantage with the people. For many, the posturing and pandering is distasteful; for me it is the essence of a free and democratic society. I am so thankful for the privilege to have been born in this great country and to be able to vote. If you really want to get something done or make sure you get all the votes, have a dictatorship. I prefer the system we have despite all the drawbacks and challenges. We have the best system, not a perfect system.

Politicking is second nature to every human being. Everyone negotiates, makes deals, compromises, and makes decisions on behalf of somebody else at some time. Maybe it is even more so for every Pole. Poland and central Europe are like Missouri and the Middle East; everything converges there and friends and enemies switch depending on how the wind is blowing. I can recommend two excellent, recent books that illustrate this point.

The first is the new book by Patrick J. Buchanan titled "Churchill, Hitler, and the Unnecessary War" (Crown Publishing, New York, 2008). Buchanan's premise is that the Poles could have prevented World War II by making a deal with Germany and Hitler for Danzig and Britain should not have pledged to

declare war on Germany if it attacked Poland.

You can come to your own conclusions. For the record, I disagree with Buchanan on a number of points but one of the real highlights of his research for us Poles is the tremendous ordeal Colonel Jozef Beck, the Polish Foreign Minister went through in order to stave off Hitler and Stalin and preserve the life of his country without going to war. Whether Beck's approach was right or wrong, it was politics and diplomacy on an intense level.

The other book is the "Rites of Peace, The Fall of Napoleon and The Congress of Vienna," by Adam Zamoyski (Harper Collins Publishers, New York, 2007). Zamoyski studies the political dealings between the major powers in Europe towards the end of Napoleon's rule for the purpose of realizing stability and a lasting peace.

One of the main questions discussed was what to do with the Grand Duchy of Warsaw and the Poles. Alexander, Tsar of Russia and friend of Prince Adam Czartoryski, wanted some kind of autonomy for the Poles but could not get acceptance of a free Poland from Britain. Czartoryski lobbied for a "reunification of its severed portions...He had a vision of Poland as a more or less autonomous province of, possibly even a kingdom within, the Russian Empire" (page 18).

These two distressed eras in the life of Poland required major efforts in the art of politics. Question for November, who is the greatest Polish politician?

Always in the race is NASCAR

Nationwide Series driver Brad Keselowski. Brad is in 2nd place in the point standings and has had some very impressive finishes this year. From the Brad88 web site:

Brad was born and bred into a strong and passionate racing family. KAutomotive is a family-run, family-owned team based in the shadow of DaimlerChrysler World Headquarters in Auburn Hills, Mich.

(<http://www.brad88.com/profile.htm>)

St.Louis is NASCAR country and I keep hearing good things about this Keselowski guy driving hard in the #88 Navy car. Check out his web site and keep an eye on him as his engine is revved for bigger and better accomplishments.

## READERS RESPOND—RYAN

**NEWMAN.** Also in the race with a part Polish face is Ryan Newman, winner of NASCAR's 2008 Daytona 500. Ryan has won 13 times since 2002 when he joined the circuit as a regular driver. Newman is originally from South Bend, Indiana as is the reliable source of this tip, Tom Hoffman, who tells me that Ryan's mom is a Buczkowski from home. Keep going Ryan, and thank you Tom.

## READERS THAT KNOW AND LOVE TOMATOES RESPOND.

PAJ reader Francis Drybala sent in this information on the Tomato Growers Supply Company located in Fort Myers, Fla.

You can call them to order Polish tomato seeds at (888) 478-7333 or check out their web site at [www.tomatogrowers.com/index.html](http://www.tomatogrowers.com/index.html).

Here are a couple examples of the Polish Beefsteaks:

**Polish #5417** (30 seeds) \$2.25 Large, brick-red fruit grows to 1 lb. and more and has exquisite flavor. Vigorous plants set fruit well even in cool weather. Heirloom variety from Poland. Indeterminate. 85 days.

**Soldacki #5491** (30 seeds) \$2.25 A very good tasting variety that yields plenty of dark pink fruit that weigh about 1 lb. Tomatoes are flattened, with solid flesh and great flavor, which is intense yet sweet. Very vigorous, tall plants are potato-leaved. Heirloom variety originally from Poland. Indeterminate. 75 days.

**Zogola #5616** (30 seeds) \$2.25 Crimson red beefsteak fruit weighs in over 1 lb. and is luscious, brimming with juice and sweet, full flavor. Tomatoes are huge, at least 4-1/2 inches across, and borne in great abundance. While fruit is the typical beefsteak shape, it is not rough, except for some fluting at the shoulders, making for a very pretty shape. Heirloom variety from Poland. Indeterminate. 85 days.

I received a letter from Walter Piatek of Berlin, New Jersey which is near Camden. Here are a few lines about the "Jersey tomatoes":

Camden, New Jersey is the home of Campbell Soup, biggest soup maker in the world ... In the summer starting in May all the way to mid-September, the farmers would truck their tomatoes to the Campbell plant. We really were the Garden State then. Hundreds of farmers would stack their trucks with baskets of

tomatoes and the trucks would line up to be unloaded so that the waiting line stretched for 5-6 miles...We Polish people lived on tomatoes, butter, and sliced bread sandwiches all summer. It was good also on our Polish kwasny rye bread but better on white sliced bread.

Pomidory, pomidor, or as they used to call 'em in Camden, "tomejdy"; another summer of homegrown tomatoes is just a memory.

## RECIPE CONTEST WINNER

## PASTA HOUSE COMPANY

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

"The Great Chlebowski," created by Tricia Chlebowski of Beaufort, Missouri. Chlebowski is made with Shrimp linguine, sundried tomatoes, and lemon in wine sauce. I tried it and it is *wismienity* (delicious)!

**THANKS!** Dziękuję bardzo to Francis Drybala, Walter Piatek, Audrey and Ron Mueller (moja matka i ojciec), and Tom Hoffman for the tomato, Keselowski, and Newman information.

If you have an answer to the question this month, a previous month's question, have a question of your own, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke, St.Louis, MO 63139 or eMail [alinabrig@yahoo.com](mailto:alinabrig@yahoo.com)

Please note: if you eMail me, put a reference in the subject line about the Polish American Journal or the Pondering Pole. I will not open an eMail if I do not recognize the subject.

## HERITAGE

## A Majorcan Love Affair

by Ellye Slusarczyk

Frederick Chopin began a very serious love affair in 1837 with a noted French woman novelist. Living in Paris at the time, Chopin was in very delicate health. His sister had died from tuberculosis and now this disease was plaguing him, also. He was fragile and delicate and it became obvious that consumption was taking a toll on his life.

George Sand was infatuated with the dreamy and well-bred young pianist. Chopin did not like women writers at all and initially avoided Sand above all other women. Consequently, she made the first advances and gradually the twosome developed a love affair.

At the time Sand was concerned about the health of her son, Maurice, and was equally concerned about Chopin's health. She decided to take the two, to have an extended stay on Majorca. The decision did not turn out well for the patients. Housing was not available, furniture was scarce, no wood was available, one's clothes mildewed while they were being worn, food was rancid and indigestible. Chopin's health continued to deteriorate under such very poor conditions. To make matters worse he continued to cough up basins of blood. Meanwhile, Sands nine-year old daughter roamed the Majorean hills dressed as a man and the locals could not accept her, her mother, and Chopin. So the despondent group returned to the mainland.

Chopin's love affair with George Sands ended with his funeral in 1847. His health had worsened and he died on October 7, 1849, at the age of 39, in total poverty.

## OBITUARIES / Jennifer Moskal

**ROBERT R. MALINOSKI**, 84, of Camp Hill, Pa., a decorated World War II veteran and considered to be one of the greatest railroad photographers of the 20th century.

Born in Ashland, Pa., he was the son of the late John and Dee Pulaski Malinoski.

He attended schools in Shamokin, Pa., New York City (now the site of Lincoln Center) and special courses at the American University in Washington, D.C.

Malinoski entered the U.S. Army, assigned to the Army Air Corps, and was a trained radio operator on B29s and saw more than 30 combat missions in the Pacific Theatre. He became the recipient of the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross. After moving to New York City to work as a railroad conductor, his photography career began at Grand Central Station and Penn Station. The five passenger terminals on the New Jersey side were sheer utopia. This interest in photography led to him becoming a rail photographer, exhibiting in national and rail magazines, plus lectures, for more than 50 years and the publishing of two books: First book in color in 1991: "A Golden Decade of Trains: The 1950s," covering over 50 different roads during this time period. A second book in color was published in 2001: "Tracksides Around New York City-1953-1968."

In 2002, he was honored by the Pennsylvania Railroad Technical & Historical Society, with Mayor Reed declaring May 5, 2002, as "Bob Malinoski Day" in Harrisburg.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Harrisburg Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, 637 Walnut St., Harrisburg, PA 17101-1924.

**THOMAS MURZYNSKI**, 64, of Alden, N.Y., a route manager for Schwan Food Co. and former owner of an optical laboratory, died after being stricken on the job. Born in Buffalo, Murzynski was

a graduate of Iroquois High School. From 1977 to 2002, he owned and operated Resin Optics, a family wholesale optical laboratory. He also owned Opti-Sport, a sports vision supplier, for 20 years. the past several years, Murzynski was a route manager for Schwan's Home Food Delivery Service, where he received numerous awards. His territory included the communities of Bennington, Cowlesville and Java. Murzynski was a past president of Elma Kiwanis.

**MSGR. HENRY J. STACHEWICZ**, a Catholic priest for 61 years and former pastor of St. Augustine Church in Depew, died in Harris Hill Nursing Facility, Lancaster, after a brief illness. He was 87.

The Buffalo native was a graduate of St. John Kanty High School in Erie, Pa., and St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake, Mich. He did his theological studies at Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, Mich., and at Christ the King Seminary at St. Bonaventure University.

Monsignor Stachewicz was ordained to the priesthood in 1947 by Bishop John O'Hara in St. Joseph New Cathedral.

After a brief assignment to the missionary apostolate, he was appointed assistant pastor of Assumption Parish in 1948. From 1950 to 1961, he served as an assistant pastor at parishes in Buffalo, Jamestown, Batavia and Depew.

He stayed in Depew at St. Augustine Church for 14 years, first as assistant pastor, then as administrator.

He received his first pastorate in 1966 at St. Valentine Church in Buffalo. He then became pastor of St. Andrew in Sloan, a post he held for 12 years before returning to St. Augustine, where he served as pastor until his retirement in 1997.

Monsignor Stachewicz was named an honorary prelate of His Holiness in 1980. He also had served as vice chaplain of the Polish Union of America.

## THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



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# PAFDC Presents 70th Anniversary Concert



NEW YORK, N.Y.—The Polish American Folk Dance Company (PAFDC) of Brooklyn, New York invites all to a concert of Polish folksong and dance, Sat., Nov. 15, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at Peter Norton Symphony Space, 2537 Broadway at 95th Street in Manhattan.

For the past 70 years, PAFDC has graced the stage with its energetic performances of authentic Polish folk songs, dances and skits. This company, with its longstanding

tradition of cultivating Poland's folk culture, will celebrate by hosting its 70th Anniversary concert on Broadway titled "Celebrating the past 70 years, dancing into the future!"

The PAFDC will showcase three generations of dancers, which include a children's group, a junior group, a chorus and the adult group. This event, designed for everyone's enjoyment, will take you on a festive tour of Poland's rich, folkloric heritage with vivid representations

of its diverse regions. There will be a variety of dances presented from the slow-paced, graceful polonaise, to a vibrant, flowing mazurka to an energetic "Goralski" or highlander dance that promises to reverberate from the stage to the seat.

The PAFDC enjoys a worldwide reputation as an energetic dance and music ensemble that strives to preserve authenticity in its repertoire. The Company boasts more than 50 active members from age five to adulthood. The dancers bring their own individual dance experiences to the group, which creates a company as colorful as the many brilliant costumes they wear.

Artistically, the Company prides itself with a current repertoire of over 30 folk dances. This past summer, they invited two guest choreographers from Poland, Magdalena Ciastek-Zalipska and Piotr Zalipski of the world-renowned "Mazowsze" folk dance ensemble, to conduct an intense, two-week dance workshop. Through the workshop, five additional dance numbers were added to the already extensive program. These newly choreographed dances

will be debuted at the 70th anniversary concert performance.

The Company maintains a sizeable costume wardrobe of over 600 pieces. Most of these resplendent costumes are hand-embroidered and made in Poland. The elaborate array of spectacular colors and textures vividly enhances the aesthetic mood and language of each dance.

Under the direction of newly appointed Executive Director Margaret (Gosia) Pawelkiewicz, Artistic Director Ryszard Sudol, and Assistant to PAFDC Kids Alice Karpinski-Bajno, the company strives to preserve its strong foundation steeped in tradition while anticipating the future with eager enthusiasm.

"Our dance group is a wonderful experience. You can learn to dance,

have fun, learn about our culture, perform on stage, travel nationally and beyond" said Margaret Pawelkiewicz. "This is a hobby for all of us and yet it is so much more."

Ticket prices are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children under 12, students, and seniors. Tickets are available at the Symphony Space Box Office located at 2537 Broadway, New York, NY 10025; online at [www.symphonyspace.org](http://www.symphonyspace.org) or by calling (212) 864-5400. Additionally tickets will be available soon at the Polish National Home, 261 Driggs Ave, Brooklyn, N.Y. at (718) 387-0505 and MegaPol Music, 661 Manhattan Ave, Brooklyn, N.Y. at (718) 389-0202 or through PAFDC at 907-6199.

# "A Polish Christmas" at UB Center for the Arts

BUFFALO, N.Y.—The Lira Ensemble of Chicago, known for its performances of Polish music, song and dance, brings its new holiday concert to the UB Center for the Arts Mainstage in suburban Amherst this year. The Ensemble opens the holiday season with beautiful Polish carols, music of Chopin and other Polish master composers, and Polish folk songs and dances performed in colorful, authentic folk costumes.

"A Polish Christmas—Carols, the Polish Masters & More" will take place Sun., Nov. 30, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. at the University at Buffalo Center for the Arts on Coventry Circle in Amherst.

"A Polish Christmas" is an extremely popular and highly-praised Polish American holiday event, which programs different Polish music and dance each year. This year, it offers musical masterworks by Polish composers Frederic Chopin, Stanislaw Moniuszko, Henryk Wieniawski, and Witold Lutoslawski. The second act of "A Polish Christmas" features gorgeous Polish carols and Polish folk songs and dances from central Poland, from the Polish mountains, the Krakow region and from the Kaszubian region of Northern Poland, all performed in a variety of authentic folk garb from these regions.

You do not have to be Polish to enjoy this event because the entire concert is narrated in English by Lira's artistic director and general manager, Lucyna Migala, who adds



a bit of information about Polish and Polish American history and traditions and demonstrates some Polish customs.

The performance is conducted by Paul Dijkstra, music director of the Lira Orchestra and is choreographed by Iwona Puc, director of the Lira Dancers.

Free parking at the UB Arts Center is located directly in front of the entrance. Lira recordings as well as Polish crystal and folk art will be on sale in the lobby before the performance, at intermission and after the concert.

Tickets for "A Polish Christmas" range from \$50 to \$25 and half price for children under 18. They may be purchased through Ticketmaster at (716) 852-5000 or by calling the Lira Ensemble at (800) 547-5472. Tickets may also be purchased by

mail by sending a check payable to the Lira Ensemble with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: The Lira Ensemble, 6525 N. Sheridan Rd. CH-LL Chicago IL 60626. For more information, visit [www.liraensemble.com](http://www.liraensemble.com) and [www.ubcfca.org](http://www.ubcfca.org)

"A Polish Christmas" by the Lira Ensemble will also be presented in downtown Cleveland at the State Theatre in Playhouse Square on Saturday, November 29 at 7:30 pm.

In its home town of Chicago, this holiday season, the Lira Ensemble presents a concert which will be a milestone in Polonia history: "Polish Carols at Holy Name Cathedral," presented the Polish way—after Christmas, on Sunday, January 4, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.

For tickets and more information, please call the Lira Ensemble at (800) 547-5472.

## TRIVIA TIME / Elyse Slusarczyk

- The Union of Horodio was between Poland and a) Estonia b) Lithuania c) Latvia
- Composer Krzysztof Penerecki was born in a) 1870 b) 1933 c) 1951
- Dzien Zaduszny* remembers a) the deceased b) veterans c) orphans
- Darlowo Castle was built for a) a monument b) Napoleonic supporters c) Pomeranian princes
- Tychowo is a large a) tree b) rock c) fortress
- At Kolobrzeg is a monument dedicated to a) sailors b) nurses c) teachers
- Originally, the monks at Cis-

- tercian Abbey in Kolbacz, came from a) Latvia b) Russia c) Denmark
- The town of Chojna is located in a) Western Pomerania b) Warsaw's outskirts c) the Carpathian Mountains
- Poland's largest sea island is a) Rawal b) Ploty c) Woli
- Forested sand dune splits are also known as a) mirage dunes b) Baltic dunes c) mobile dunes

**ANSWERS.** 1.b Lithuania 2.b 1933 3.a the deceased 4.c Pomeranian princes 5.b rock 6.b nurses 7.c Denmark 8.a Western Pomerania 9.c Wolin 10.c mobile dunes

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