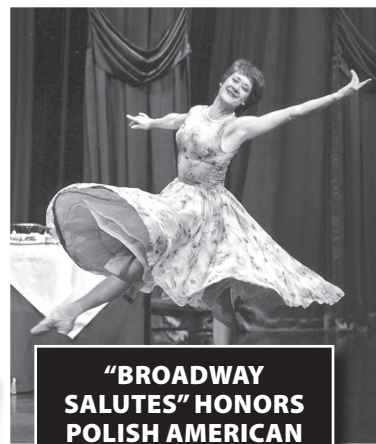


# POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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"BROADWAY SALUTES" HONORS POLISH AMERICAN THEATER PROFESSIONALS  
PAGE 16

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SAINTHOOD FOR ZYGMUNT SZCZĘSNY FELIŃSKI • A LESSON IN DIPLOMACY • NEW SERIES: 70 YEARS AGO IN POLAND  
PLANNING AHEAD FOR YOUR WIGILIA TABLE • CENSUS BUREAU SEEKS POLISH AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS  
PRESIDENT KACZYNSKI HONORS POLONIA AT CONSULATE • POLISH LEGACY PROJECT OFF TO A GREAT START

## NEWSMARK

**POLAND WELCOMES NEW U.S. MISSILE BASE.** Following meetings with U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said his country ready to take part in a revised U.S. missile defense plan.

Tusk told Biden Poland was "ready to participate."

Poland will now host a small U.S. base equipped with short-range missiles. It replaces a much bigger system favored by former President George W. Bush.

Biden insisted the new system was better than the old version and would mean "better security for Poland."

President Barack Obama's decision to scrap Bush-era plans to build a defense system in Poland and the Czech Republic caused some alarm in those countries.

The White House's decision to reset its relations with Moscow, which had vehemently opposed the plan, led some to wonder whether Washington was still listening to Central and Eastern Europe's concerns about Russia. Biden's visit was meant to reassure those countries that America's commitment is unwavering.

"We appreciate Poland has stepped up and agreed to host an element of the previous missile defense plan, and we now appreciate that Poland's government agrees with us that there is now a better way ... with new technology and new information, to defend against emerging ballistic missile threats," said Biden after meeting the Polish prime minister.

"Simply put, our missile plan is better security for NATO and is better security for Poland."

The new missile system could be installed by 2015.

SOURCE: BBC NEWS

**POLES ONLY LEND 200 SOLDIERS.** Following General Stanley McChrystal's warning to President Obama that the war in Afghanistan was "getting worse," Poland declared that the number of Polish troops will not be increased over those already prepared.

"For a short period of time ... 300 soldiers could go to Afghanistan, but they would have to return soon. We cannot afford more," said a government official.

Currently, the Polish contingent counts 2,400 troops.

Gen. Janusz Bronowicz, the new head of Polish troops in Afghanistan, said the Polish troops will be reinforced with 200 additional soldiers during this coming winter.

The Polish army has lost 13 soldiers in Afghanistan.

SOURCE: WARSAW BUSINESS JOURNAL

**SZOSTAK AMONG NOBEL WINNERS.** Americans Elizabeth H. Blackburn, Carol W. Greider and Jack W. Szostak won the 2009 Nobel Prize in medicine for discovering a key mechanism in the genetic operations of cells, an insight that has inspired new lines of research into cancer.

The trio solved the mystery of how chromosomes, the rod-like structures that carry DNA, protect themselves from degrading when cells divide.

The Nobel citation said the laureates found the solution in the ends of the chromosomes — features called telomeres that are often compared to the plastic tips at the end of shoe laces that keep those laces from unraveling.

**PSFCU PLANS BRANCHES IN WINDY CITY.** The \$1.24 billion New York-based Polish and Slavic Federal Credit Union has signed site contracts to open four new branches in roughly the next two years, the credit union confirmed.

A spokesman for the credit union said the first two branches would open in the Chicago area late in 2009 or early in 2010. The others would follow later, he said. This will be the farthest expansion of the ethnic credit union away from its Brooklyn, New York home ever, though the credit union has previously opened branches in New Jersey and Long Island.

Marion Ponanta, director of marketing for the credit union explained Polish and Slavic has seen its pool of potential new members steadily shrink as the flow of immigrants from Poland has diminished, leading the credit union to seek more members elsewhere.

## Lucky Guy!



BUFFALO, N.Y. — 88-year-old Ben Wojciechowski, a regular at Tosh Collins Community Center, got a rare double run playing pinochle, the odds of which are well over 30 million to 1. He plays about three times a week. Wojciechowski is a World War II veteran, and a long-time umpire in Western New York.

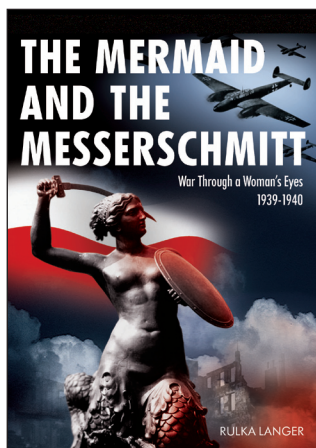
## By the Book

LOS ANGELES — A new publishing house interested in Polish experience in the Second World War has been established.

Aquila Polonica is the name of a new publishing enterprise formed by lawyer Terry Tegnazian of Los Angeles, and marketing and web design specialist Stefan Mucha of the United Kingdom. It seeks to make known to the world works of fiction and scholarship dealing with the Polish struggle against the double enemy in the Second World War.

"The Polish experience in World War II is perhaps the most heroic and most tragic of all the Allies. Yet when the Allied story of World War II is told in the West, Poland's role remains in the shadows," Tegnazian says.

Mucha adds: "We feel it is time to bring the Polish experience into the light, and for Poland to take its rightful place in the story, alongside the United States, Great Britain, France and the other Western Allies."



**AQUILA POLONICA**, a new publishing house focused on the Polish experience in World War II, debuts with "The Mermaid and the Messerschmitt"

Tegnazian, who practiced law in Los Angeles, is not at all Polish. Her interest in this topic stems from research she was doing for a novel. Reading memoirs of Poles caught up in the war, she felt incredibly moved and inspired by the heroism and honor with which they faced unimaginable horror amidst insurmountable odds. To explain her otherwise inexplicable interest in the war, she felt "Aquila ...," page 5

## Pulaski on the Road to Honorary United States Citizenship

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Brigadier General Kazimierz Pulaski has been granted honorary posthumous American citizenship by the United States House of Representatives. The resolution was passed unanimously as a reward for Pulaski's service during the American Revolutionary War.

It now moves for reconciliation with a Senate bill. Once the text is agreed upon, the bill will be given to President Obama for consideration.

Under congressional rules the House bill (H.J. Res. 26) and the Senate bill have to be reconciled, even though the verbiage is the same. It was hoped the president could have signed the bill on October 15, the date now known as the date on which Pulaski died in Savannah.

Pulaski first fought for the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth against Russia, before emigrating to the United States to fight against the British on behalf of the colonists.

He is known as the "Father of the American Cavalry," and fought at Brandywine and Charleston, South Carolina, among others, before being mortally wounded at the battle of Savannah, Georgia.

Benjamin Franklin recommended George Washington to accept Pulaski as a volunteer,

and Pulaski later rewarded the decision by saving Washington's life at Brandywine in 1777. After the battle, Pulaski was promoted by Washington to the rank of Brigadier General of the cavalry. He went on to form the Pulaski Cavalry Legion in 1779.

Thought to have been buried at sea, his remains were discovered in the monument bearing his name in Savannah, Georgia by historian Edward Pinkowski.

Only six others have been granted honorary citizenship.

## Gabreski's Image Now Among Peers



GABRESKI

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — On Wednesday

morning, Sept. 30, a historically significant event occurred that sounded a resounding note for all Poles: a life-sized bronze bust of Colonel Francis "Gabby" Gabreski was formally dedicated and installed in the Cadet Honor Court of the U.S. Air Force Academy. It now shares the space with such aviation dignitaries as General "Hap" Arnold, the father of the U.S. Air Force, and the Wright Brothers, the pioneers of U.S. aviation.

See "Gabreski ...," page 5

## Pawlenty Gets a Warm Welcome in Washington

ST. PAUL — Tim Pawlenty, who has decided against running for a third term as Minnesota's governor in 2010, will spend the next two years traveling the country to see if he can build enough support to run for president in 2012, according to associates.

The Republican, who is expected to play up his humble roots and past in a populist bid against President Obama, will decide in 2011 if there is enough of a base on which to build his campaign.

Those close to him said that his focus is the presidency, not a vice presidential nomination or an effort to raise his name recognition en

route to a bid in 2016.

GOP officials believe that he is likely to face Mitt Romney, Sarah Palin, Mike Huckabee, Newt Gingrich, and others in the early primaries and caucuses if he decides to run.

Pawlenty received four standing ovations during an impassioned speech in the nation's capitol that focused largely on his socially conservative views and offered a searing criticism of the president's agenda.

Pawlenty addressed a packed room of about 2,000 people at the Values Voter Summit, a conservative conference hosted by the

See "Pawlenty ...," page 5



**PRESIDENT PAWLENTY?** Minnesota governor is testing the campaign waters.

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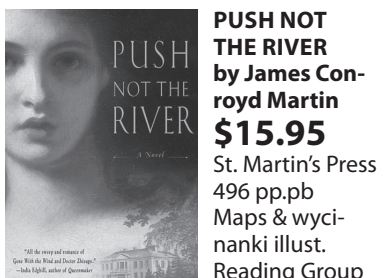
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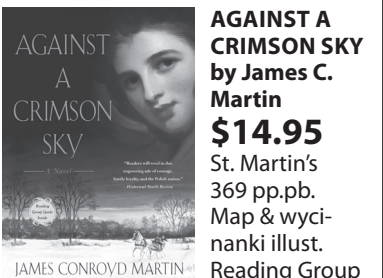
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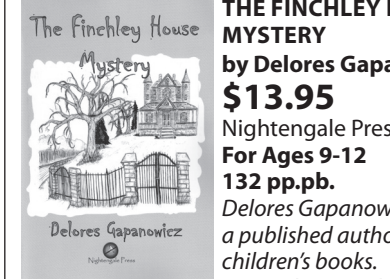


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**AUTOGRAPHED!** This book club favorite is based on the real diary of a Polish countess who lived through the rise and fall of the Third of May Constitution years, a time of great turmoil. Vivid, romantic, and thrillingly paced, the novel paints the emotional and memorable portrait of the metamorphosis of a nation—and of Anna, a proud and resilient young woman, and Jan, her soldier-husband. Critics have called the story Poland's Gone with the Wind. "The story is well paced and compelling, the historical detail plentiful yet not overwhelming, and the characters engaging and true to the period." ~The Historical Novels Review. The author is the winner of the 2007 Gold Medal for Literature from The American Institute of Polish Culture.

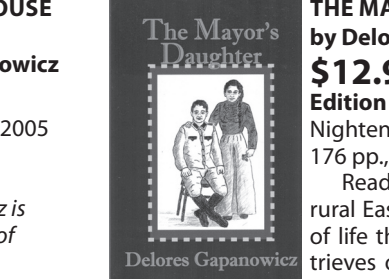


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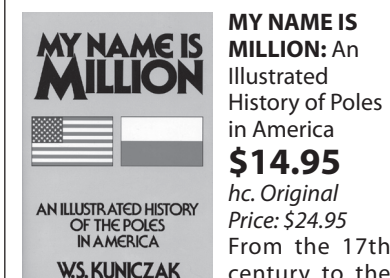


**THE FINCHLEY HOUSE MYSTERY**  
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 Nightengale Press, 2005  
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 Delores Gapanowicz is a published author of children's books.  
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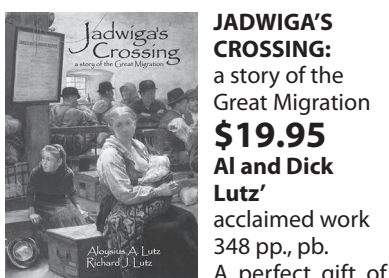


**THE MAYOR'S DAUGHTER**  
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 Nightengale Press, 2007  
 176 pp., pb.  
 Readers will discover what life was like in rural Eastern Europe before World War I, a way of life that has changed forever. This book retrieves one family's heritage and allows us all to connect with our own. Gapanowicz wrote "The Mayor's Daughter" about her parents because she wanted the grandchildren in her family to have some idea of the life in Eastern Europe before her family emigrated. The stories were told to the author by her parents before they passed away. These tales show that young people on farms in Europe didn't spend their time only milking cows and picking potatoes. They played tricks on friends, went to wedding celebrations and dances, and flirted with other people their age. They also experienced tragedy and loss. Their lives were a mixture of the sweet and bitter, not unlike the lives of people everywhere.

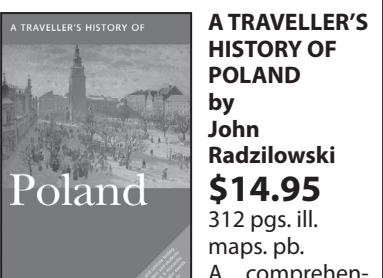
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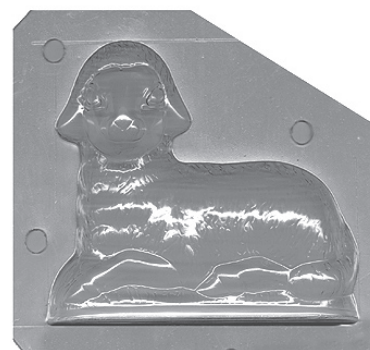
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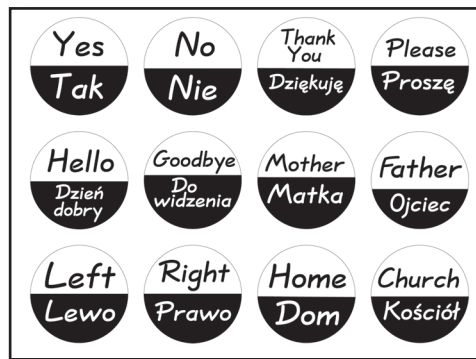


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## ALMANAC

## November • Listopad

"A painter paints his pictures on canvas. But musicians paint their pictures on silence. We provide the music, and you provide the silence."  
— **Leopold Stokowski** (1882-1977)

- 1 **ALL SAINTS DAY**  
*Wszyscy święci niezgoda, wiatry z śniegiem zawiada.*  
*All Saints in discord, winds with snow will disappoint.*  
1777. **Casimir Pulaski** joins U.S. forces.
- 2 **ALL SOUL'S DAY**  
*Dzień 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.  
1910. First edition of *Głos Polek*.  
1930. First regular broadcast of the weekly **Fr. Justin Rosary Hour**, now the oldest Polish language radio program in America.
- 5 1370. Death of King **Casimir the Great** (Kazimierz Wielki).
- 6 1860. Birth of **Ignacy Jan Paderewski**, pianist, statesman and prime minister, in Kurylowce, Poland (d. 1941).  
1939. Nazis arrest 182 instructors at **Jagiellonian University**, who are then sent to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp.
- 7 1867. Birth of Polish chemist and physicist **Marie Skłodowska Curie**, in Warsaw, Poland.
- 10 1444. Death at Battle of Varna of **King Władysław III**.
- 11 **VETERAN'S DAY**  
Not gold, but only man can make a people great and strong; Men who, for truth and honor's sake, stand fast and suffer long. Brave men who work while others sleep, who dare while others fly — they build a nation's pillars deep and lift them to the sky.  
—"A Nation's Strength," Walt Whitman
- 12 **ST. JOSEPHAT**  
1842. Birth of **Blessed Frances Siedliska**, foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth.  
1892. Birth of **Stefan Pawel Mierzwa**, founder and first director of the **Kosciuszko Foundation**.
- 13 **ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA**
- 15 1916. Death of **Henryk Sienkiewicz**, 70, Polish novelist ("Quo Vadis"), 1905 Nobel literature prize winner, in Vevey, Switzerland.
- 16 1916. Death of author **Henry Sienkiewicz**, first Pole to win Nobel Prize.
- 17 1891. **Ignacy Paderewski** gives his first concert in America.
- 18 1655. Swedes besiege the **Jasna Góra** monastery.
- 19 1438. Death of sculptor **Wit Stwos**.
- 20 1914. Birth of Polish actor-director **Henryk Tomaszewski**.
- 21 1855. Founding of the **Felician Sister** order.  
1920. Birth of **Stan Musial**, famed baseball star with the St. Louis Cardinals.
- 25 **ST. CATHERINE**  
A day of fortune telling for young men.
- 26 1855. Death of Polish poet and author **Adam Mickiewicz** in Constantinople (b. 1798).
- 27 1815. Establishment of the **Free Republic of Krakow**.
- 28 1948. Birth of Polish film director **Agnieszka Holland**.
- 30 **ST. ANDREW**

This paper mailed on or before **October 30**.

The December edition will be mailed on or before **Nov. 27**.

## JUST BETWEEN US / Mark Kohan

## Horse and Cart Placement: A Lesson in Diplomacy

Poles are breathing a sigh of relief, as Vice President Joseph Biden's late October trip to Warsaw has reassured Poland the United States still considers the country one of its closest allies.

Biden's four-day PR sortie marked the first high-level Obama Administration presence in Poland, Romania, and the Czech Republic since the president's September announcement that he would not proceed with an anti-ballistic missile shield in Eastern Europe. Poland and the Czech Republic agreed to host elements of a larger, long-range, Bush Administration system.

Poland will now host a small U.S. base equipped with short-range missiles to protect Eastern Europe against "rogue" states.

The past two months have been lesson in diplomacy for the Obama Administration. When the initial defense plans were dropped, Polish leaders were concerned Washington was trading favors with Moscow and forgetting their long-time ally. And, as history so often does repeat itself, Poles saw themselves as pawns in a bigger game. A missile base — something the majority of Poles were not in favor of — would be, and now is, a talisman of America's commitment to Poland.

While it looks like the United States and Poland are once again buddies, it still does not excuse the Obama Administration for its poor diplomacy. The bottom line — as we see it — is that Biden, Obama, or Hillary Clinton should have made

a trip to Warsaw before the United States announced it was pulling the pin on the defense system. By not doing so, it placed over 200 years of allegiance in jeopardy. Breaking the news on September 17 — the 70th anniversary of Russia's World War II invasion of Poland — shows either Obama does not understand Poland, or he was doing Moscow a favor in its delusional hopes of once again controlling Eastern Europe.

**ZADUSZKI**. "Zaduszki" or All Souls' Day is the traditional name given to the Catholic practice of remembering the dead. It falls on November 2nd, one day after All Saints' Day. On this day Catholics pray for all those who have left this world and now find themselves in purgatory.

According to Polish tradition, All Souls' Day began back in the 12th century and, by the end of the 15th century, was known throughout the country. In 1915 Pope Benedict XV, at the request of the Benedictine abbot, gave permission for every priest to perform three masses on this day: one for a cause put forward by the faithful, one for all of the faithful who have passed away and one for a cause put forward by the Pope.

On All Souls' Day, Poles go to the cemeteries to visit the grave of those members of their families who have passed away, go to Mass and pray for the dead. There is a tradition on this day to light candles at the graves of the dead and also to place flowers, wreaths or another

kind of decoration symbolizing remembrance of the dead.

Take time to keep this tradition alive in your family. It is an opportunity time to teach young ones about their ancestors and our shared customs.

**THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT**. We encourage you to become a part of our annual Christmas edition. Your patronage not only helps us produce this special edition of the PAJ, but helps us defray costs throughout the year.

We also ask that you consider giving a family member or friend a gift subscription to the PAJ. You will notice the postcard placed in your copy of the paper. Simply fill out the card and mail the top part to announce your gift, and return the bottom portion with your payment to us.

It's a great present that keeps on giving, and you will be doing your part to help keep alive our heritage in the United States. If you have any questions, just call our office at (800) 422-1275, M-F, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**MIXED BLESSINGS**. My apologies to writers and contributors whose stories have been bumped to upcoming issues. The Fall/Winter editions of the PAJ are always packed with articles on the upcoming holidays. Add the recent events in Washington and Warsaw, and we have had an overrun on copy. We appreciate your understanding.

## QUOTES / compiled from news sources

"It's going to meet it with proven technology that will cover more of Europe, including Poland, and will do it more efficiently than the previous system could have or did."

— **U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden**, in Warsaw, on the newer, smaller U.S. missile system that will be installed in Poland.

◆◆◆  
"Who, Obama? So fast? Too fast — he hasn't had the time to do anything yet. For the time being, Obama's just making proposals. But sometimes the Nobel committee awards the prize to encourage responsible action. Let's give Obama a chance."

— **1983 Nobel peace prize winner Lech Walesa**, on President Obama's Peace Prize.

◆◆◆  
"This is a matter which obviously involves an outstanding Polish

director, and did happen many years ago. But this is a matter which involves rape, having sex with a child, and we cannot mix politics into it."

— **Donald Tusk**, Poland's prime minister, calling on ministers to express "greater restraint" over Roman Polanski's travails.

◆◆◆  
"Poland's commemoration earlier this month [September, 2009] of the liquidation of the Lodz ghetto was a poignant and powerful example of the Polish government's actions to honor the victims and those Poles who risked their lives to protect them. Poland has passed and is implementing legislation restoring Jewish community property, and committed to pass legislation to establish a claims resolution process for privately-owned property seized by the Nazis and held onto by the Communist Party.

"If confirmed, I will support U.S. efforts to encourage enactment of that legislation ..."

— **Statement of Lee Feinstein**, Ambassador-Designate (and now Ambassador) to the Republic of Poland, September 15, 2009, to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

◆◆◆  
"As you know, you're gathered here because you share a belief in values. Those values are under attack. These are not just conservative values; our values are American values."

— **Minnesota governor, Tim Pawlenty**, in his address to a packed room of about 2,000 people at the Values Voter Summit, a conservative conference hosted by the Family Research Council in Washington, D.C. Pawlenty is testing the waters for a presidential bid in 2012.

## Census Bureau Seeks Partnerships with Polish American Organizations for 2010 Census

The Piast Institute, the largest research center in the U.S. devoted to Polish American affairs, is partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau in an effort to include the Polish-speaking community in the upcoming 2010 Census count. The Census Bureau seeks to develop over 100,000 partnerships with organizations, religious institutions, businesses and schools to increase awareness of the 2010 Census in hard-to-count communities.

The Director of the Piast Institute, Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, has been a consultant to the census since the 1980s. Radzilowski says it is essential for other organizations to become partners to support the 2010 Census efforts. "The census should be used as a springboard in the Polish community to discuss issues of the urban elderly, immigration and special education for children of immigrants," he adds.

Polish American organizations are able to educate their audiences about the benefits of participating in the 2010 Census. Census results directly affect the development of critical community services such as hospitals, schools, and roads as well as ensure a complete count for projections of congressional figures. In addition, census results guide how \$435 billion dollars in federal funds is allocated yearly for states; the areas with the highest population counts receive the most funding.

Radzilowski points out that the Polish community is a very patriotic society, and will choose to take part in the 2010 Census because it is a national event inclusive of every U.S. resident, regardless of whether they are eligible to vote or what their status is. "We come together every 10 years to tell the world who we are and for the Polish community it is important. Many programs that are important to civic life are directly impacted by the census," adds Radzilowski.

The Census Bureau guarantees total privacy and confidentiality. The answers to the ten easy questions are not shared with anyone, including any other government agency. The Census Bureau hopes that partnering with Polish American organizations will bring a greater sense of inclusion to recent or established Polish immigrants.

For more information about the 2010 Census, visit <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>

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Editor in Chief Mark A. Kohan

editor@polamjournal.com

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## Aquila Polonica: Appealing to Wider Audience

continued from cover

cable part in Aquila Polonica, she truly feels that she has been led by a higher power, step by step, to undertake this mission.



TEGNAZIAN



MUCHA

Warsaw during that period. To date, the books for which we have acquired rights include some by Zbigniew Zieliński, former Polish Secretary of State for Veterans Affairs; noted historian Jędrzej Tucholski; General Stefan 'Starba' Bałuk; Virtuti Militari recipient Maria Sobocińska; noted author Józef Garliński; and the beloved Squadron 303 by Arcady Fiedler."

Mucha's interest is more personal. He is half Polish — his father was born in Warsaw, he saw the Nazis shoot his parents, and was dragged off to a German forced labor camp as a 14-year-old. Because of his extremely traumatic experience, his father severed all emotional ties with his Polish roots, and raised his children as completely British.

Neither of the two partners can speak or read Polish. Yet both are committed to telling this amazing story in a way that will reach out, not only to the Polish community, but beyond, to the rest of the English-speaking world.

Mucha explains: "Aquila Polonica is publishing books that originally appeared in English but have been out of print for many years, translating from Polish to English books that have never before been translated, and in some cases acquiring original manuscripts. We also intend to carry DVDs, artwork and other material related to Poland in World War II."

"We decided to form Aquila Polonica in late 2005, and to date, we have been entirely self-financed. During the first three years of our existence, we concentrated on acquiring rights to more than thirty books, in order to give us a starting base for our catalogue," said Tegnazian. We've made several trips to

Because this September was the 70th anniversary of the beginning of World War II, Aquila Polonica thought it would be appropriate to start its publishing program with a book that covers the beginning period of the war. The first of its books to be published, "The Mermaid and the Messerschmitt: War Through a Woman's Eyes, 1939-1940," by Rulka Langer, does just that — spanning a six-month period from the end of the last peacetime summer, through the Nazi German invasion of Poland, the Siege of Warsaw and the first months of the Nazi occupation.

"We were particularly drawn to this book, an exceptionally well-written eyewitness account originally published in English in the United States in 1942, because it presents an unusual viewpoint of modern war — that of a Polish civilian, career woman and mother — which is both universal and timeless, and therefore still of relevance today," says Mucha.

"Our new edition includes more than 100 historical photos (some never before published), maps and

## Pawlenty: Testing the Waters

continued from cover

Family Research Council. The Minnesota governor offered a rundown of several "values" that he said need to be translated into results.

"As you know, you're gathered here because you share a belief in values," he said. "Those values are under attack. These are not just conservative values; our values are American values."

Pawlenty listed some examples,

beginning by saying that "at every turn, at every gathering, we should start first things first by thanking and acknowledging God. ... This is not politically incorrect, it's not politically sensitive, this is what our nation was founded on."

Pawlenty criticized Obama for nixing the missile defense systems in the Czech Republic and Poland and cutting the defense budget.

SOURCE: MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE

## Gabreski Bust on Prominent Display

continued from cover

Col. Gabreski (born Franciszek Gabryszewski) now has a well-deserved place in Air Force history. This bust of "our bohaty," a Polish American, will now serve as an inspiration to all cadets who enter and attend the Academy.

Nearly 100 people attended the ceremony which was hosted by the Academy and conducted by Paul Martin, the Curator for Collections. In the audience were the General Staff of the Academy, distinguished guest donors, members of the Gabreski family, representatives of the Polish Club of Denver, and members of the Polish and American communities who listened to moving narrations of his heroism, devotion and honor.

Chester Lipinski, who chaired the project introduced the key players in the project: Paul Martin, Curator of Collections; Al Koproski of Stamford, Conn.; Jozef Witkowski, sculptor of the bust, and his fellow collaborators Ronald Tanski and Peter Gzowski. He offered special thanks to Jack Radgowski of New York for donating half of the needed funds at a time when fund raising was lagging.

Lt. General Terri Gabreski, his daughter-in-law and Donald Gabres-

ki his son (and an Academy graduate) offered tributes and memories. Honorary Consul Tomasz Skotnicki read an official letter from the Consul General of Poland. Lt. General Michael Gould, Superintendent of the Academy accepted the Gabreski memorial on behalf of the Academy.

## Atlas Savings is Awarded Five Stars by Bauer Financial

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — Atlas Savings and Loan Association received a Five Star Superior rating for financial strength and stability from Bauer Financial, Inc., Coral Gables, Fla., the highest rating attainable from Bauer, the nation's bank rating firm, and are based on the overall financial picture of the institution.

Atlas Savings was established in 1900 by a group of Polish immigrants as a state chartered full service community bank. In January 2009, Atlas Savings has introduced a new web-site and on-line banking solution to help customers keep track of their accounts. Atlas Savings is a member of the FDIC and is an Equal Housing Lender. Questions about products and services can be answered by calling (718) 768-4800 or by visiting www.atlasbank.com.

**THE MERMAID AND THE MESSERSCHMITT**  
*War Through a Woman's Eyes 1939-1940 (Second Edition)*  
Aquila Polonica Publishing  
info@aquilapolonica.com  
(310) 470-0770  
ISBN 978-1-60772-000-3  
Hardcover, 468 pages, 6" x 9"  
Cover price: \$29.95



LANGER

Second edition adds more than 100 black & white photos (some never before published), maps and illustrations, and other supplemental material not included in the original.

September 1, 1939 is an infamous day in 20th Century history, the start of World War II.

But how many of us today know what happened when Nazi Germany invaded Poland, unleashing its military furor for the first time?"

These are the words of Fontayne Holmes, City Librarian, Los Angeles Public Library (2004-2008) in her review of Aquila Polonica's first book, "The Mermaid and the Messerschmitt."

"Seventy years later, a new edition of The Mermaid and the Messerschmitt, a personal narrative by a young mother and journalist who lived through the Nazi bombardment and invasion of Warsaw with her two small children, does what no other book has done."

illustrations, as well as other supplemental material. The original edition had no photos or illustrations at all," he added.

"We spent more than a year researching and licensing such photos and illustrations," said Tegnazian. "We were greatly assisted by Warsaw historic photo expert, Zygmunt Walkowski, who gave generously of his time, expertise and personal collection of photos. In addition, we licensed numerous photos from three other private collections. We also obtained photos and other illustrations from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration; and in Warsaw, from the State Archive of the Capital City of Warsaw, the National Library, and the Museum of the Polish Army."

The new edition of "The Mermaid" was recently chosen as a selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club, the History Book Club, and

the Military Book Club — three of the largest and best-known book clubs in the United States

Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski of the Center for Strategic & International Studies in Washington, D.C. gave an endorsement for the back cover of the Aquila Polonica edition of the book, as did the recently retired head of the Los Angeles Public Library, one of the ten largest public library systems in the United States.

The partners tell us that they have also licensed, and are able to offer to purchasers of the book, the rarely seen 1940 Academy Award-nominated newsreel *Siege*, consisting of original film footage of the Siege of Warsaw filmed by American photojournalist Julien Bryan, the last neutral journalist to remain in Warsaw during September 1939.

"This is a great start for our mission of getting the true story of Poland in World War II into the wider English-speaking world," said Mu-

Author Rulka Langer (1906-1993) came from a family of distinguished Polish intellectuals, writers and statesmen.

After graduating from Vassar College in 1928, she returned to Poland and worked at the J. Walter Thompson advertising agency in Warsaw. In 1930, she married Olgiard Langer, a graduate of the University of Lwow and the Harvard Business School, who is credited as the father of modern advertising in Poland.

A modern "career woman" before that concept was fashionable, after her marriage Mrs. Langer, the mother of two young children, became a political and economic writer in Warsaw, worked for Polish Radio and in the Economic Research Department of the Bank of Poland.

Fleeing Nazi-occupied Poland with her son and daughter, ages 8 and 3, in early 1940, Mrs. Langer joined her husband, who was at that time a member of the Polish diplomatic corps posted in the United States.

She soon became a popular lecturer, and wrote *The Mermaid and the Messerschmitt* in 1942 as part of her effort to explain to Americans the devastation of World War II for the average, ordinary human beings caught in it. After the war, she continued her career in radio and advertising in the United States.

Mrs. Langer also specialized in translations from Polish to English, of which the best known is Zofia Kossak's novel, "Blessed Are the Meek."

cha. "We hope that the Polish community around the world will support us in this mission, by buying our books and spreading the word to friends and colleagues."

## Named New JFR Associate

NEW YORK — The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR), a non-profit organization that identifies, honors, and financially supports aged and needy non-Jews who risked their lives to rescue Jews during the Holocaust, recently welcomed **Agnieszka Perzan** as a program associate. Prior to joining the JFR, Perzan worked at SOS International, a government agency where she translated and transcribed phone calls from Polish to English. Previously, she worked in the office of U.S. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY), assigned to the Immigration and Foreign Affairs Department.

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KULTURA / Staś Kmieć

## Travelogue – Adventures in Poland

Part IX

### The Treasures of Kościół Mariacki

With the *Hejnal Mariacki* bugle call ritual complete, I find myself standing before the tall and graceful *Kościół Mariacki* (also known as *Bazylika Mariacka*) with its asymmetrical facade that dominates the Old Town Square.

The magnificent Church of St. Mary of the Assumption was built in the 14th century and is a splendid example of Polish Gothic style. The towers are of unequal height. The higher one (250 feet) is adorned by a golden crown of fine workmanship.

According to legend, the towers were built by two brothers. The younger one, envious of the other's rapid progress in building his tower, killed him with a knife. The tower of the elder brother was never achieved. Upon completing his tower and realizing what he had done, the young brother climbed his tower and threw himself from one of the windows. The knife with which the crime was allegedly committed is on view above one of the doors of the nearby *Sukiennice* Cloth Hall.

The lower one topped by a Renaissance dome, serves as a bell tower and holds five bells. The taller one has traditionally been the property of the city and functioned as a watch tower. It was given a gilded

stands slightly askew from the main square. The original Romanesque structure was almost completely destroyed during Tatar invasions in 1241, 1259, and 1287. Reconstruction of its present gothic-style exterior utilized the foundations and walls of the previous church and the three-aisle basilica was begun in 1355 and completed more than 50 years later.

**ENTRANCE TO THE CHURCH** is through an elaborate Baroque vestibule (1750-53, by Francesco Placidi), incongruous against the blank Gothic walls. The nave was built in 1392-97 under the direction of Niklas Wernher of Prague and has the same width and height as the chancel built in 1355-65. Both nave and chancel are adorned with wall paintings designed by Jan Matejko, which are in harmony with the medieval character.

The beautiful angels in the chancel are praising Our Lady with words from the litany. Elsewhere the walls display the symbols of Kraków guilds and of the various Polish lands. The decoration was executed in 1889-92 by Stanisław Wyspiański, Józef Mehoffer and Włodzimierz Tetmajer, among others.

Upon entering the cavernous expanse, the mysterious dark interior is illuminated by small amounts of



According to legend, the towers of Church of St. Mary of the Assumption were built by two brothers.

and Mehoffer.

The master carver from Nuremberg and a sculptor of genius, Veit Stoss (known in Poland as Wit Stwosz), embellished Kraków with many works of his chisel, the finest of which is the great altar. The city had been collecting funds for the altar since 1473. Stoss arrived in 1477 and completed the carving by 1486; painting, gilding and assembly were undertaken by apprentices and other craftsmen. It was solemnly consecrated and revealed in 1489.

**UNCANNY DETAIL.** The altar opens on hinges. It is 40 feet high and 33 feet wide. The basis for the altar is formed by a predella with a genealogical tree of Christ and Mary. The cabinet is ornamented by four wings, two of which are immobile. The cabinet opens to reveal the exquisite artistic scene of *The Dormition of the Blessed Virgin*, in which the graceful figure of Mary is shown reclining into her final sleep in the arms of the watchful Apostles. There is an uncanny mastery of human detail. The reaction of each Apostle is different — their faces contorted with grief, their golden vestments fall in heavy folds, as they wring their hands in despair.

At noon the wings of the cabinet open to expose the centerpiece and inner panels, with gilded polychrome reliefs of the Annunciation, Nativity, Adoration of the Magi, Resurrection, Ascension, and Pentecost. On Sundays and religious holidays it is opened for morning mass.

The altar is topped with the Assumption and Coronation of the Virgin and, on either side are statues of patron saints of Poland, St Stanisław and St Wojciech (Adalbert).

The largest altar of its kind in Europe, Stoss sculpted innumerable persons and objects portraying the virtues and sins of the dying Middle Ages, incorporating more than 200 figures. The figure in the bottom right-hand corner of the Crucifixion panel is believed to be the artist's self-portrait. Most of the figures are based on Stoss's contemporaries in Kraków and each was carved from a single tree trunk. The entire effect of the altar is spellbinding. The entire effect of the altar is spellbinding.

The altar was completed at a cost of 2,808 florins (equivalent to the municipal budget of an entire year). This sum was contributed by private donations from the Kraków burghers and the German com-

munity, for which it was a source of civic pride. To some writers it was understood as an aggressive statement of German culture increasingly under threat from the Jagiellonian kings. Stoss subsequently remained in the city for 20 years fulfilling commissions for the king and other Polish aristocrats.

The painting and guild work were uncovered after the war, when the altarpiece returned to Kraków in 1946 from Nuremberg, where it had been taken by the Nazis.

### HISTORIA ŻÓLTEJ CIŻEMKI.

Many of us grew up seeing the 1961 historical children's film, *Historia Żółtej Ciżemki* by director Sylwester Chęciński. I saw it on television as part of the "CBS Children's Film Festival," dubbed in English as *The Yellow Slippers*. The story is set in medieval times and follows the journey of a 10 year old sculptor Wawrzek. After a series of adventures, he finds work as an apprentice to Wit Stwosz. The story culminates in the unveiling of the altar masterpiece. The film was awarded the Silver Medal at International Film Festival for Children and Youth in Venice.

**ANOTHER STOSS MASTERPIECE** is a stone cross of 1491, which hangs in a Baroque altarpiece in the south aisle — a perfect psychological and anatomical study chiseled in stone. A huge crucifix on the rood beam (1490) is attributed to pupils of the master.

The church contains a wealth of many interesting furnishings and embellishments well worth discovering. Most of the altars date from the Baroque period including 26 made of black marble and five with paintings by Venetian Giovanni Battista Pittoni. The St. Stanisław Triptych in the chapel above the south porch is attributed to Stanislaus Stoss, the brother of Veit. The lavishly decorated Baroque choir stalls date back 1586 with reliefs on the back from 1635 and include the Councilors' Mayor's and Judge's pew. In the front porch one finds two early-Gothic holy-water basins.

The church includes a plethora of funerary memorials, monuments and tombs. The treasury, created around 1600, a Late Renaissance extension of the sacristy, contains a rich collection of 300 ancient embroidered liturgical vestments and metalwork, such as an early 15th century chalice.

The visit is not complete without climbing the 239 steps up the tower and seeing Poland's most beautiful panorama.

*Kościół Mariacki* served as an architectural model for many of the churches that were built by the Polish Diaspora abroad, particularly St. Michael's and St. John's Cantius in Chicago, which were designed in "Polish Cathedral" style.

I took a moment to light a candle, kneel and say a prayer for my Uncle, whose funeral I had missed and then step out into the sunlight of the busy *Rynek* marketplace.

to be continued

**POLAND FIGHTS**  
Douglas W. Jacobson

## 70 Years Ago This Month

A story appeared recently in a Belgian-American newspaper honoring a Polish veteran of World War II. At first, this may sound a bit strange. But when you know the story of Kazimierz Wiacek, it makes perfect sense.

When Germany invaded Poland on the first of September, 1939, followed two weeks later by the Russians, the twenty-four year old Wiacek, who'd been drafted into the Polish army, was thrust into a desperate struggle to the death against Poland's two historic enemies. By the end of September the bulk of the Polish army had been defeated, with thousands killed or wounded. But Wiacek did not surrender. Instead, he followed the orders sent to all surviving Polish troops to fight their way out of Poland by any means, and make their way to France to carry on the fight.

After managing to cross the Hungarian border, Wiacek was interned in a Hungarian camp from which he eventually managed to escape. In March of 1940, Wiacek crossed the Yugoslavian border then traveled by ship to Marseilles, France where he reported for duty and was assigned to the Polish 10th Motorized Brigade.

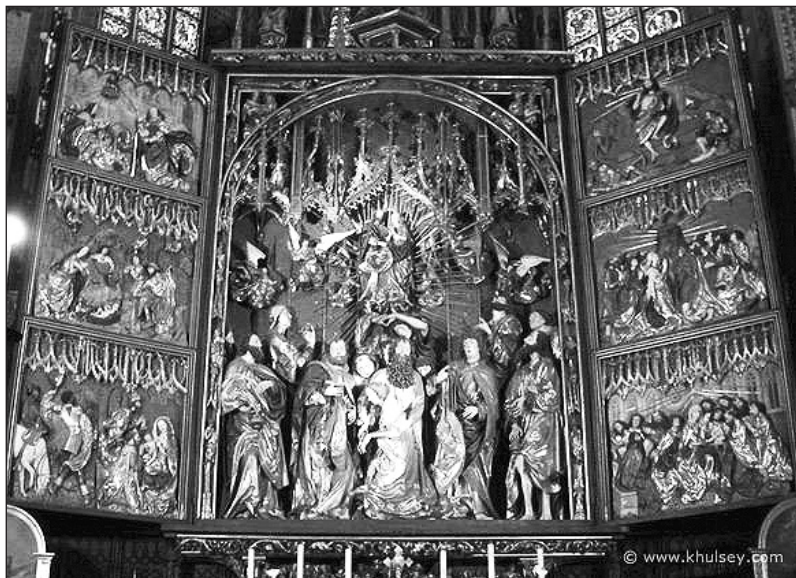
After the fall of France, Wiacek escaped by boat to Liverpool, England and from there to Scotland where he trained with the Polish 1st Armored Division. In July of 1944, Wiacek and his fellow soldiers of the 1st Armored Division landed at Normandy and played a crucial role in the battle of the Falaise Gap, taking thousands of German prisoners.

Pursuing the Germans through northern France, Wiacek entered Belgium in the autumn of 1945, helping to liberate the city of Ghent. He went on to The Netherlands where the 1st Armored Division liberated the Dutch city of Breda before finishing the war in Wilhelmshaven, Germany in May of 1945.

Is Kazimierz Wiacek's story unique? Not by a long shot. Following the capitulation of Warsaw, more than ninety thousand Polish soldiers refused to surrender and made their way out of Poland. Some, like Wiacek, trudged overland through Romania and Hungary while others managed to escape by sea across the Baltic to Scandinavia and then to France. The migration of Polish soldiers escaping captivity continued, and by 1943 the number of Poles fighting the enemy numbered more than a quarter million. They constituted the fourth largest of all the allied armies, and the only allied army that fought from the first day of the war until the last.

As we remember World War II during this 70th anniversary year, we must pay tribute to the enormous contribution of Poland's fighting forces during the entire course of the war. Each month in this column you will read about the actions of the Polish armed forces and the Polish resistance that helped to win the most catastrophic conflict in the history of mankind.

Douglas W. Jacobson is the Polish-American author of the award-winning book, *NIGHT OF FLAMES: A Novel of World War II*. Mr. Jacobson has been a frequent contributor to this newspaper and is currently finishing his second historical novel set in Poland during World War II.



The Great Altar. The carving took nine years to complete.

crown in 1666 — the gilded ball further up is said to contain the written history of the city.

Like so many churches in Kraków, it goes back to a foundation of Bishop Iwo Odrowąż in 1222. The development of the town sprang up around the church beginning in 1257, which explains why it

light from stained-glass windows: those in the chancel are originals dating back to the date from the Middle Ages (1370). The panels tell the story of the Old and New Testaments in the manner of *Biblia Pauperum*. Above the organ loft is the Art Nouveau work of Wyspiański

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The Polish Gift of Life, Inc. thanks our generous supporters, who, for over 30 years have made it possible for us to help sick Polish children. We are able to bring many children who needed life-saving surgery or procedures to the United States. This past year, 14 children have been operated on by Dr. Edward Malec, who has relocated to Munich, Germany, from Poland. We purchased needed equipment requested by Pediatric Hospitals in Poland. Once again, thank you, we were able to fill some of these heart-rendering requests received from orphanages throughout Poland. This list for aid is long, but with your continued support, we will be able to provide Polish children with the precious "Gift of Life." For more information, please call (516) 746-1532.

## President Kaczynski Honors Polonia at Consulate



**PRESIDENT KACZYNSKI**, surrounded by recipients, who were recognized for their service to Poland and American Polonia.

by Helen Klucz and Paul L. Smith

NEW YORK — On September 22, while on a three-day visit to the United States to attend the fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York City, President Lech Kaczynski met with approximately 300 representatives of the Polish community to present the medals to his countrymen living in the United States for activities in promoting Poland, building Polish-American relations, and charitable, scientific, and social acts.

The honors bestowed upon members of American Polonia for their accomplishments are as follows:

- **COMMANDER'S CROSS** of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland (Class III) was received by Professor **Andre Błaszczyński** for outstanding contribution in supporting the democratic changes in Poland. Błaszczyński is an economist, activist and politician living in the USA since 1962. He has been active as a lobbyist on Poland's behalf in NATO. Since 1987 he has been the assistant professor of economics at Tunxis Community College in Farmington, Conn.

- The **KNIGHT'S CROSS** of the Order of Merit of the Republic of

Poland (Class V) for outstanding contributions in Polish American activities went to:

- **Bogdan Chmielewski** — chief executive officer of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union, who rose rapidly through the ranks. He graduated with an MA in economics from Warsaw's Main School of Planning and Statistics.
- **Romuald Magda** — president of the Pulaski Association of Business and Professional Men in New York.
- **Pawel Pachacz** — co-organizer of the strike for Solidarity in Krakow in 1981, he is a past president of the Pulaski Association of Business & Professional Men.
- **Yolanta Reiss Von Riesenhorst-Bulyk** — an architect and activist of Polish community support. She worked with an architectural firm for the World Trade center.
- Knight's Cross for contributions in the popularization of music culture went to: **Izabela Krystyna Kobus-Salkin** — conductor and director of the Seventh District of the Polish Singers in America. She teaches private voice lessons in Forest Hills, Queens.
- Knight's Cross for contributions in the promotion of Polish culture and artistic achievement went to:

**Marian Żak** — following a career in Poland, Żak came to the United States in 1988, taught dance in New York and Rhode Island and later danced in Oklahoma. In 1998 he formed the New York Dance & Arts Innovations, Inc, which holds a "Chopin & Friends Festival" each year in Greenpoint. Since 1999 he has been a teacher at public schools in Brooklyn and Queens.

The **GOLDEN CROSS OF MERIT** for outstanding contributions in Polish American activities was awarded to:

- **Bogdan Bachorowski** — 2nd Vice President and former secretary, treasurer and president of the Pulaski Association of Business & Professional Men.
- **Richard Brzozowski** — a member of the USA Naval Academy, who fought in the Korean War.
- **Anthony Matrejek** — member and treasurer of the Downstate N.Y. Division of the Polish American Congress and active in several other Polonia organizations.
- **Piotr Pachacz** — co-founder of CRACOVIA General Contractor and Albatross Travel Agency, and past president of the Society of Polish American Travel Agents.
- **Andrzej Kazimierz Węciorkowski** — president of the School of Polish Culture and Language in Bridgeport, Conn., for his contribution to the development of Polish American education.

According to Polish television reporter Jacek Hurkała, this meeting with "the most important Polonia organizations" was attended by a "very small amount of young Poles."

The Consulate General of Poland held a ceremonial transfer to the president of a fifteenth-century misal seized during World War II from the Municipal Library in Wrocław.

President Kaczyński met with President Barack Obama at a gala dinner. According to NOWY DZIENNIK, Lech Kaczyński did not intend to argue about recent events at this meeting. The president believes that the idea of the abolition of visas for Poles as a form of compensation for the lack of anti-missile shield in Poland is not good. He added that although the Poles like to travel to the United States, it is not the only place where they could improve their finances. The president disclosed that he has a visa, issued in 1999, the validity of which expires shortly. "Of course I wanted to have abolished visas for Poles, but they are two completely different problems" — he stressed, adding, that the issue of visas is becoming less relevant, because the United States of America has ceased to be a destination for Poles trying to improve their financial situation.

Apart from the UN summit, the president officially opened the September 24th session of the New York Stock Exchange, and will meet with leading financiers in America. Kaczyński was invited to speak to the world's leaders at the Metropolitan Club. His speech touched on Polish achievements and challenges in a globalizing world.

First Lady Maria Kaczyńska met with Alex Storozynski at the Kosciuszko Foundation.

WORLD WAR II / Sophie Hodorowicz Knab

## Polish Legacy Project of Buffalo



(l to. r.): Henryk Scigala, Krystyna Romaniak Pienkowska, Julia Swacha Senko, Stanislaw Markut, and Zdzislaw Goralski.

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Who knows the story of what happened to the Polish people during World War II? Who knows about the atrocities committed against the Polish people by the Germans and Russians? The deportations to Siberia in cattle cars where Polish people died of cold and malnutrition? The forced labor in Germany where babies were taken away from their mothers and left to die of neglect and starvation?

This is a chapter in Polish history that has gone largely unnoticed and unattended in the United States. Many of the Polish people who experienced the trauma of World War II have largely remained silent about their experiences for many complicated reasons — not the least of which is the emotional pain of reliving the horribly painful events of the time. No one wishes to cause someone pain but it raises the question: How do the Poles take their rightful place as eyewitnesses and survivors of a holocaust if no one speaks of it? If no one writes down their account of the events? If there is no legacy for the next generation to remember?

"Untold Stories Come Alive:" Poland to Buffalo through World War II," a two day conference held in Buffalo the weekend of October 3rd and 4th, attempted to deal with those questions and issues. The conference was organized by the adult children of Polish survivors of World War II. They had heard the stories of their parents experiences in Polish and within the safety of the home but never shared with their English speaking neighbors. It was time, the organizers said, that the stories were told and told in English so that the next generation can understand what happened to their grandparents during the war.

Five brave individuals stepped forward and spoke of their experiences:

As a young man Zdzislaw "Jesie" Goralski saw his city of Warsaw destroyed by the Nazis and his neighbors murdered. He was part of the Warsaw Uprising in 1944 where only every fourth man had some type of weapon against the military might of the Germans — yet they held the Germans at bay for sixty

days.

Stanislaw Markut was a teenager when he and his family were told by the Soviet army that they had 30 minutes to pack their belongings. The family was deported to Siberia in a cattle car. He remembered hunger and severe winters in the deep forests of Russia.

Krystyna Romaniak Pienkowska as a young girl was also deported by cattle car to Kazakhstan by the Soviets. In telling her story once to a neighbor, the neighbor doubted the truth of what she was saying. The hurt she felt at the accusation kept her silent about her experience for decades.

Julia Swacha Senko recalled hiding in the fields in 1943 when German troops surrounded her village in Poland. Instead of being executed by the German soldiers, the family was shipped to the infamous Majdanek concentration camp. From there they were sent to forced labor camps in Germany.

Henryk Ścigala and his family were among the thousands of families who were given 30 minutes to pack, and rode for weeks in a cattle car, ending up in the Gorkovskaja province in Russia. At the age of 14, Ścigala was forced to work in the forest and fight for his life every day.

The conference was important in many ways. The conference gave individuals who have largely been silent about their gehenna — their hell — the opportunity to speak in an environment that was safe and supportive. That the conference was attended by many individuals who were not Polish American was especially encouraging and validates the fact that there are people who have a genuine interest in understanding the very many different experiences that occurred during that war. And lastly, the conference was videotaped in its entirety — preserved for posterity in the hope that it will be the first of many projects that collect and preserves the experiences of the Polish people during World War II in the English language.

For more information log on to and keep abreast of upcoming activities at: [www.PolishLegacyBuffalo.com](http://www.PolishLegacyBuffalo.com).

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A sincere "THANK YOU" for their donations to the **PAJ PRESS FUND**: **John Jagielski**, Brooklyn, N.Y.; **R.M. Jarka**, Park Ridge, Ill.; **Robert V. Ogodnik**, St. Louis, Mo.; **Tedd Pajak**, Fairview Park, Ohio and two "Friends of the PAJ." Dziękujemy! The PAJ thanks all who donated to the Press Fund.

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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

## Sainthood for Zygmunt Szczęsny Feliński



was canonized in St. Peter's Square by Pope Benedict XVI on October 11 along with three others.

**STO LAT TO ... Paul Cardinal Cordes**, president of the Pontifical Council Cor Unum on being awarded for his theological work with an honorary doctorate from the Catholic University of Lublin. He worked with Pope John Paul II in initiating the first World Youth Day in 1984.

**Bishop Anthony Kopka** on his installation as new Diocesan Bishop of the Western Diocese of the PNCC in All Saints Cathedral, Chicago.

**Agnieszka Perzan** on becoming an Associate for the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous. The foundation is a non-profit organization that identifies, honors, and financially supports aged and needy non-Jews who risked their lives to rescue Jews during World War II. The foundation was created in 1986 and supports more than 1,000 aged and needy rescuers in 23 countries, but the bulk of these are in Poland.

**Rev. John Renczewicz II** on his appointment as pastor of Holy Trinity PNCC Parish in New Castle, Pa.

**Christina Cieloszczyk** on her appointment as principal of St. Stanislaus Kostka School in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Detroit Archdiocese members **Gregory Formanczyk**, of Rochester Hills; **Alan Robert Gwozdz** of St. Clair; and **Joseph Urbiel** of Farmington, on their ordination to the diaconate in the RC church along with eight others.

### 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.

**THANKSGIVING NOVENA TO ST. JUDE.** Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near the kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent position. In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. (Say three Our Fathers, Three Hail Marys, Three Glory Be's). St. Jude pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Amen. Publication must be promised. This prayer is to be said for nine consecutive days. This novena has never been known to fail. My prayers have been answered. J.M.

**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. D.H.K.

**THANKSGIVING NOVENA TO ST. JUDE.** Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and

**GINGRICH ON JOHN PAUL II.** Former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives **Newt Gingrich**, a recent convert to Catholicism, is producing a documentary about Pope John Paul II's first visit to Poland in June 1979 and its impact on the fall of communism. "Nine Days That Changed the World" examines what happened during the pope's nine-day visit and what made it a liberating moment for Poland. Gingrich explained, "I hope people will see the film and think about their relationship to Christ and the importance of courage."

**ANTI-ABORTION AMENDMENT VOTED DOWN.** Michigan Republican **Rep. Bart Stupak**, who supports the Hyde Amendment which prohibits federal funding for abortion in the health care reform measures, will face an uphill struggle now that the Senate has defeated the amendment.

**PARISH RENAMED.** The parish of **Ss. Hedwig & Hyacinth** in Dunkirk, N.Y., has been renamed Blessed Mary Angela (Truszkowska) Parish, after the foundress of the Felician Sisters. Mrs. Lillian Halasinski, a native of Dunkirk, was healed of a leg injury at Blessed Angela's intercession, a miracle that helped her beatification go forward.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ... Our Saviour's PNCC Parish** in Woonsocket, R.I. celebrating their 85th anniversary at a Mass celebrated by Bishop Thomas J. Gnat of Manchester, N.H. ... Parishioners at **Our Lady of Czestochowa Church**, Turners Falls, Mass., who celebrated their church's 100th anniversary. There are many in the Franklin County Parish whose roots in the church go back to their birth. The centennial celebration provided the opportunity to display Pol-

ish culture in traditional costumes. Many of those costumes reflect the rich history dating back hundreds of year. Following the centennial mass came the Eucharist procession featuring Polish Hussars in full outfit.

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**AMERICAN SEMINARIAN'S PILGRIMAGE.** Bryan Zieleniecki, seminarian at Christ the King Seminary, East Aurora, N.Y., took part in the annual pilgrimage from Rzeszów to Czestochowa in August. The 260-mile 10-day trek gave him an appreciation for a people of strong faith and to Our Lady and to Jesus living with them in their daily lives. Among the pilgrims were three couples who were married at the send-off Mass and whose honeymoon was the pilgrimage itself.

He recalls how moving it was when the pilgrimage set out, "Every church bell was ringing in the entire city, people were leaning out of windows waving, businesses stopped briefly to wish the pilgrims the best on their journey. I soon realized that the pilgrimage was something that was not just about those walking the 260 miles in 10 days from Rzeszów, it was about those who ministered to us, and welcomed us along the way."

### MILESTONES

**REVEREND MONSIGNOR LEON WOZDIMIERZ DOBOSIEWICZ** celebrated his 90th birthday, Oct. 9, 2009. Msgr. Leon was born in Reynoldsville, Pa., and grew up in Erie, Pa; he was ordained into the priesthood in 1946 at St. Columba Cathedral, Youngstown, Ohio His mother, Mary Elizabeth Dlugolecki, descended from Polish nobility as part of the Grzymala coat of arms.

Msgr. Dobosiewicz retired from the Youngstown, Ohio Diocese and moved to Florida, settling in Lake Wales. He founded the Mission of St. Leo the Great in Nalcrest, Florida, to serve retired members of the postal service who live there. At his own expense, Msgr. had the Mission remodeled and gave it to the Orlando Diocese. At his own expense and personal hard work, he also remodeled St. William Academy, Ninth St., Lake Wales, which today is used for religious instruction and church-related activities. Msgr. Leo is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, active priests in the Diocese of Orlando. Besides his many parish obligations, he was a scratch golfer,

### Remembering a Martyr

**BROOKLYN, N.Y.** — Polish Americans observed the 25th anniversary of the murder of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the charismatic young priest with Poland's Solidarity movement which challenged the communist system the Russians forced on Poland and helped bring on its downfall in 1989.

A solemn mass in his memory was held Sun., Oct. 18th at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Brooklyn.

Following the mass, a delegation from the Polish American Congress lead a march to the Father Popieluszko monument at McCarren Park for a commemorative service.

### Western Pennsylvania Honors Patroness



**CHILDREN IN POLISH ATTIRE** greeted Canon Joseph Sredzinski at the August 26th celebration in Pittsburgh to honor the Patroness of Polish Americans.

**PITTSBURGH** — Over 1,100 gathered in the Cathedral of St. Paul for a Grand Celebration to honor Our Lady of Czestochowa at a Holy Mass led by the Most Rev. David Zubik, Ordinary of the Pittsburgh R.C. Diocese. Over 38 priests concelebrated the Mass, with both readings and Petitions in Polish and English taken by representatives of the four Polish women religious communities in Western Pennsylvania. Co-sponsored by the Pittsburgh Polish Clergy and the Polish Falcons of America, participants came by car, van, foot and seven buses. Led by Knights of Columbus, the procession included debutants, seven Pauline monks from Doylestown, children in colorful Polish regional attire, and young men dressed in 18th Polish military uniforms carrying the precious Icon of Our Lady.

This is a first for Southwestern, Pennsylvania, with a hope there will be more in the future, said Fr. Sredzinski.



DOBOSIEWICZ

certified scuba diver, had a private pilot license, enjoyed speedboating, downhill skiing, and traveling through Europe.

**SABINA TYL CURRAN** celebrated her 90th birthday on Aug. 16, 2009. Her family arranged for a grand celebration at the Rosemont Presby-



CURRAN

rian Village located in Villanova, Pa. where Sabina now resides. The celebration was attended by upwards of fifty relatives and friends including her sons, David, Gregory, Phillip and a host of nieces and nephews, some of whom came from traveled from significant distances.

Sabina, who continues in excellent health was clearly very pleased by the affair, shared her favorite poem with the gathering. The attendees were thrilled with the poem and thanked her for her words of wisdom.

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## AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

## CALIFORNIA

LAS ANGELES — American actor **Bruce Willis** will invest in the Sobieski vodka brand. The high-end vodka was originally distilled in the Warsaw suburb of Zyrardow, but is now owned by the French firm which also owns the Sobieski vodka label. The company, currently under bankruptcy protection in France, recently announced that Willis wants a seat on the board of directors and his official candidacy will be announced soon. The company's press release stated: "Bruce Willis, an international symbol of the Sobieski brand, has told the board that he would like to engage in the company personally and financially in order to speed up the development of Sobieski vodka and other brands belonging to the Belvedere group."

## FLORIDA

DAVIE — **St. Joseph's** Polish National Catholic Church, 5401 S.W. 64th Ave., (954) 581-5293, presents:

**Nov. 8:** Book reading, "The Mom with the Red Lipstick" celebrating National Adoption Month from 10:30-11:00 a.m.

**Nov. 15:** Hawaiian Luau Fall Festival from 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

MIAMI — **Polish American Club of Miami**, 1250 N.W. 22nd Ave., (305) 333-6945 presents the 71st Anniversary and Thanksgiving Celebration on Sun., Nov. 15 starting at 1:00 p.m.

## MARYLAND

BALTIMORE — **Stanislaw Mikolajek**, a native of Poland, went missing in December 1992 in Baltimore. His family is looking for him. Please contact ITAKA - Centre for Missing People in Poland if you have seen Stanislaw Mikolajek or have any information regarding him. You can call any time of the day: 00 48 22 654 70 70. You can also write on itaka@zaginieni.pl. ITAKA ensures discretion regarding its informants.

## MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS — **Dolina Polish Folk Dancers'** 60th Anniversary Concert will be held at St. Anthony High School, 3303 - 33rd Ave NE, St. Anthony, starting at 7:00 p.m., November 7. The concert will feature performances by Dolina Polish Folk Dancers, St. Mary's Balalaika Orchestra, Izvorasul Romanian Folk Ensemble, Sloneczniki Children's Polish Folk Dance Group, and Chabry Teen Polish Folk Dance Group. Ticket prices: Adults \$15.00,

Students \$12.00, Children under 12 \$10.00. Dolina will have a both with Polish folk art and Polish pride merchandise for sale, so bring cash or check book. Tickets available at individual dances, and at the door. Please see www.dolina.org for more information.

ST. PAUL — November 8, 2009. Featured artist **Joyce Yang** will perform at 3:00 p.m. at Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center, Macalester College, 130 Macalester St. Tickets range from \$12-\$20. For more information, contact the Frederic Chopin Society at (612) 822-0123 or email chopinsociety@aol.com.

MINNEAPOLIS — The **Topola Chór** will present a concert of soldier songs at the PNA Hall, 1204 Fourth Street NE, Minneapolis at 1:30 p.m. on Nov. 22. \$12 tickets for the concert and Polish dinner may be obtained by Kora Korczak at (763) 571-5041.

MINNEAPOLIS — The **Polanie Club** of Minneapolis and St. Paul wishes to share Poland's most beloved holiday celebration by hosting a traditional Christmas Eve dinner, Polish Wigilia, Sun., Dec. 6, 2009, at JAX Café, 1928 University Avenue NE. The cost for this non-profit event is \$35 per person and includes tax and gratuity. The social hour begins at 5:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m. followed by music and kolędy (the singing of Polish and American carols). For information and reservations please call Fran Chorzempa (651) 639-1464, Marie Tromiczak (763) 566-2132 or Marta Swica (651) 638-9577.

MINNEAPOLIS — The **Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota** will hold a traditional Wigilia dinner to benefit disadvantaged Polish children on Dec. 13, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at Gasthof Restaurant located at 2300 University Avenue NE. This community Christmas Eve celebration features sharing of the oplatki, eating traditional foods, and singing Christmas carols in Polish and English. Tickets are \$35.

## NEW YORK

BUFFALO — BUFFALO, N.Y. — **Jean Wactawski-Wende, Ph.D.**, professor and associate chair of the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine in the University at Buffalo School of Public Health and Health Professions, and adjunct professor in the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, has been appointed UB's vice provost for strategic initiatives.

She assumed the position last

month, replacing Alexander Cartwright, Ph.D., who was named to two new leadership roles — chair of the UB Department of Electrical Engineering and inaugural chair of UB's new Department of Biomedical Engineering.

NEW YORK — The **Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences in America (PIASA)** was presented with the coveted "Polish Heritage Award" during the 40th Annual Polish Heritage Award Gala, Oct. 4, 2009 at the Marriott O'Hare Hotel, Chicago Illinois. The annual event is sponsored by the Polish American Congress/Illinois Division. The Polish Institute was cited "for steadfast dedication to the cause of Polish Intellectual Freedom and human dignity in an era when those inalienable rights were profoundly endangered and for maintaining a strong center of learning and Polish culture in the capital city of the world." The presentation was made by the president of the Polish American Congress/Illinois Division, Kazimierz Casey Chlebek and Teresa B. Buckner Vice President of PAC and chairperson of the event.

Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada, president and executive director of the Polish Institute, accepted the award. He has been associated with PIASA over 38 years and served formerly as its Secretary General.

PIASA is an academic society founded in 1942 whose mission is to advance knowledge about Poland's intellectual and cultural heritage in America and Polish American contributions to America's pluralistic society. Its headquarters is a five-story townhouse on 208 East 30th Street, New York, NY 10016 which contains a reference library, archives, editorial offices, a gallery and a lecture hall. For more information visit the Institute's website: www.piasa.org

BROOKLYN — **Atlas Savings** is proud to be a sponsor and participant of the 75th annual Jutrzenka Singing Society event held at a local venue in the Bay Ridge section of Brooklyn New York.

Atlas Savings was established in 1900 by a group of Polish immigrants as a state chartered full service community bank. In January 2009, Atlas Savings introduced a new web-site and on-line banking solution to help customers keep track of their accounts. Atlas Savings is a member of the FDIC and is an Equal Housing Lender. Questions about products and services can be answered by calling (718) 768-4800 or by visiting www.atlasbank.com.

The Jutrzenka Singing Society is a Brooklyn-based all-women's choral group that promotes and preserves Polish culture through rehearsal and participation in concerts and performances. More information about the Jutrzenka Singing Society can be answered by calling (718) 720-6089.

## PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA — The **Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia** applied to, and received permission for, a historical marker to commemorate the lifetime achievements of Frank N. Piasecki, and aeronautical engineer and aviation pioneer in vertical flight. Plans are underway to unveil the monument in April 2010 at the site of his first office on

## Spirit of St. Nicholas

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Volunteers of the annual Polish Heritage Festival are once again asking for donations, which will be turned over to the Sisters in Service to Mary in Jaroslaw, Poland. The Sisters, who run an orphanage and school, care for and educate children who come from troubled families or who are orphans (some with minor disabilities).

All funds raised go directly for this project. The Polish Heritage Festival (a 501 c.3 charitable organization). Donations are tax deductible.

"Your contribution can make all the difference at Christmas to these less fortunate children," said Christine Jozwiak, who heads the fundraiser. "Your donation provides a gift of new, warm clothing selected specifically for each child."

Make checks payable to the Polish Heritage Festival, and mail to P.O. Box 115, Springville, N.Y. 14141-0115. On the memo line of your check write "The Spirit of St. Nicholas."



Calloway Street.

HAZLETON — **Jan Lewan**, convicted of bilking investors out of millions in 2004, is back home in Pennsylvania after serving more than five years behind bars.

Speaking before a live audience at WVIA studios in Jenkins Township, Lewan spoke about the events that eventually landed him in prison on fraud charges.

The man who once held international fame for his Grammy-nominated polka band is now trying to make amends, four months after his release from prison.

"Right now, any excuse doesn't count, I plead guilty, I did wrong, that far goes," said Lewan.

Now Lewan's goal is trying to get back on his feet and back into polka, which he plans to mix with the rap music he heard while in prison. He's also working on a book, based on his emigration from Poland to America, from stardom to prison. And he hopes to start making restitution on the \$5 million he owes.

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

Illinois Congressman **Mike Quigley** stood up for Poland on floor of the United States House of Representatives, and asked his colleagues to extend a permanent Visa waiver to Polish citizens.

"Poland unilaterally repealed the visa requirement for United States citizens traveling to Poland. Indeed, Poland has always stood by us, and though I'd like to say we have returned that favor, we have not," said Quigley.

"Madame Speaker, it's time to extend, and ultimately make permanent, the Visa Waiver Program. Our friends in Poland have proven their steadfast dedication to the cause of freedom and friendship with the United States. We must do the same."

The congressman reminded fellow legislators not to forget the major roles played by Poles, who have steadfastly stood by the United States numerous times, dating back to the American Revolutionary War.

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## Out of the Cross

### The 108 Martyrs of World War II

A newly published book retelling the little-known story of the canonized and beatified martyrs of World War II.

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## CHURCH CLOSINGS / MERGERS

## Saint Stanislaus' Passion

**PERHAM, Minn.** — Add this city's **ST. STANISLAUS** Catholic Church to the list of memories of Polonia's past.

A final Mass was given by Bishop John Kinney, Oct. 4.

The closure will mean the 147 families of the church will move on to other Catholic churches throughout the area. Many will move to Perham's second Catholic Church, St. Henry's.

The statues from the church, including the crucifix, will also be moved to St. Henry's.

St. Stanislaus began when three families from St. Henry's Church decided in 1883 to start their own Polish Catholic Church. The first priest to call the parish home was Fr. Peter Chowniec in 1885.

For over ten years, the church has shared priests with other churches in the county, including St. Henry's. At the time of closure, the priest for St. Stanislaus was Father Joe Herzog.

**LORAIN, Ohio** — It was a sad day for parishioners at **ST. STANISLAUS** Church on Elyria Avenue. Many church members stood outside holding signs that read: "Save our church." "Parish dis-membering in process." "Bishop Lennon open your eyes."

All explained that this was a very disheartening day for them, and they can't understand why a church with a 100-year history is being sold.

Members say St. Stan's is special because of its Polish heritage, and that family members have been attending for generations. Plus, the building was recently renovated.

Also holding its final mass the same day was St. Ladislaus Church which is just a few blocks away from St. Stan's.

**ADAMS, Mass.** — The Congregation of the Clergy in Rome has once again delayed a decision regarding the fate of **ST. STANISLAUS**, pushing back the date of its ruling until November 25.

But the some 200 parish members who have sat watch within the century-old church built by their Polish immigrant ancestors for the last nine months are not giving up hope. They believe the delay is a good sign.

"We received a letter from the Congregation of the Clergy," Laurie Haas, one of several congregants spearheading an appeal to the Vatican. "They gave themselves another extension until November 25."

She notified the Friends of St. Stan's at their weekly Monday meeting, and said they are guardedly encouraged by the news.

This is the second time the ruling has been postponed by the Congregation of the Clergy, which had previously rescheduled dates set in February and May.

The Diocese of Springfield announced it would consolidate the parish of Notre Dame and St. Thomas Aquinas in August 2008 as part of a regional consolidation that shut down several dozen churches in Western Massachusetts. St. Stan's, St. Thomas, and Notre Dame were consolidated into the newly-formed parish of Pope John Paul the Great, formerly Notre Dame Church.

While the Congregation of the Clergy is biding its time, Haas said the group isn't hinging all its hopes on the ruling or sitting by idly. Work continues on preparing an appeal to the Apostolic Signatory, the Vatican's "supreme court," should their appeal be rejected by the Congregation of the Clergy.

Haas said the group also is busy supporting other parishes in the

diocese who are considering the appeals process.

**BUFFALO, N.Y.** — Bishop Edward U. Kmiec has approved a plan that will link what were once two of Buffalo's most powerful Polish parishes, **ST. STANISLAUS** and **ST. JOHN KANTY**, following the Dec. 1 retirement of St. John Kanty pastor Fr. Antoni Lutostanski.

Parishes that are linked remain independent parish corporations but share a pastor.

Bishop Edward M. Grosz, pastor of St. Stanislaus and vicar general of the Diocese, will work full-time at the Chancery in the Catholic Center. "I am very grateful to Bishop Grosz who has labored tirelessly to strengthen St. Stanislaus Parish," Bishop Kmiec said. The bishop also expressed his gratitude to Fr. Lutostanski, "for his many years of dedicated service to St. John Kanty Parish."

Bishop Kmiec has also approved the designation of St. Stanislaus as a "shrine" and making it the site of a Polish Cultural Center.

A new pastor for the linked parishes will be named soon.

When Bishop Kmiec announced parish reconfiguration in Buffalo in July 2007, he said the independent status of both parishes would be revisited in two years.

In a message to parishioners read at Masses the weekend of Oct. 10-11, the bishop said, "I consider this a necessary structural change, an adaptation to the changing times and circumstances that have affected parish membership and neighborhoods."

The bishop said it is fitting that St. Stanislaus, Mother Church of Polonia, be home to a Polish cultural center. Founded in 1873, St. Stanislaus was the first Polish parish in the Diocese of Buffalo. At one time, it had more than 20,000 families with hourly Sunday Masses held simultaneously in upper and lower level worship spaces. The parish has 369 families today.

St. John Kanty Parish was founded in 1892. At its peak, it had about 3,000 families. Today there are 475 families in the parish.

**AKRON, Ohio** — **ST. HEDWIG** Church celebrated its last Mass, Sept. 26. The church was established on Jan. 10, 1912, by Akron's first Polish Catholics, who in the beginning celebrated Mass at St. John the Baptist, a Slovak community.

The parish community purchased property on Flowers Court and built a church, which was dedicated that same year. The community celebrated its first Mass at the Glenwood property on Christmas Day 1925 and the church was dedicated on June 6, 1926.

Cleveland Bishop Richard Lennon led the closing Mass before the church was decommissioned.

**INDIAN ORCHARD, Mass.** — Parishioners of **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** Church recently protested the Diocesan decision to close their church, gathering outside St. Michael's Church in Springfield to voice their disapproval. Mark E. Dupont, spokesman for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield, said the Most Rev. Bishop Timothy A. McDonnell understands that the church has filed an appeal and will look at it with an open mind.

After the protest, parishioners kept asking why their vibrant church is to be closed. They said they are the only Catholic presence in Indian Orchard and have very active members, many of whom take great pride in their Polish heritage.

## HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

## Polish Museum was a Federal Court

**CHICAGO** — The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in cooperation with the Polish American Association held a naturalization ceremony in the Great Hall of the **Polish Museum of America** (PMA) on September 17. The Honorable Martin C. Ashman, federal judge of the U.S. District Court of the Northern District, ruled on the motion to deem the PMA a Federal Court, administered the oath of allegiance to 107 individuals from 36 different countries, and presented each with his/her citizen certificate. Judge Ashman remarked on his pride in administering this oath, noting that his parents were immigrants. Grazyna Zajackowska, Director of Immigrant Services for the Polish American Association and Maria Ciesla, the Museum's president welcomed these new U.S. citizens. USA colors were posted and retired by the U.S. Marine Corps.

**POLISH MUSEUM: THE PLACE TO BE.** If Chicago is your destination, then American Airlines suggests that you visit The Polish Museum of America (PMA). When viewing its online reservation page, one notes that American Airlines selected a number of "must sees" and the Museum was on that list.

After 14 months of extensive updating, repair, renovation, painting and conservation, the Museum's Paderewski Room Renovation Committee, with generous *gratis* supplies and *pro bono*

services from qualified and dedicated contractors, tradesmen, craftsmen and artisans, is pleased to announce that the re-opening of the Paderewski Room will take place **Fri., Nov. 6, 2009**. Special tours of the Paderewski Room will also be given. This **by-invitation-only** gala will give those in attendance the opportunity to view precious photographs, documents, papers, other Paderewski-orientated memorabilia, and much more. From that point on, the Paderewski Room will be open to the public. The cost of attending this black-tie optional event is \$175.00 per person. Those interested in attending may contact Alicia Dutka at (847) 382-6339 or at [aldutka@comcast.net](mailto:aldutka@comcast.net).

**POLISH JESUITS CELEBRATE 75 YEARS.** On September 27, the Polish Jesuits celebrated 75 years of service to the Polish community of Chicago with a banquet at Przybylo's House of the White Eagle, Niles, IL. This event was the culmination of a three-day gathering which included



**POLISH JESUITS.** Standing: Stanislaw Czarnecki SJ (Rector) along w. Timothy Kesicki SJ, Provincial of Chicago/Detroit Province

station's classical music repertoire. Later that day, the City of Chicago's Public Library System (CPL) in cooperation with the Polish American Services Committee officially opened Polish American Heritage Month with a concert performed in CPL's Harold Washington Library's Cindy Pritzker Auditorium. The Megitza Quartet, an outstanding and innovative Chicago-based group led by vocalist/bassist Margaret Babiarz performed an array of original and folk-orientated musical pieces. The uniqueness of this quartet is its blend of Balkan, Brazilian, flamenco and gypsy music and styles, and the use of Tatra Mountain Highlander music traditions from Ms. Babiarz's home village of Banska Wyzna. The quartet's members include Andreas Kapsalis on guitar, Marek Lichota on accordion/bayan and Jamie Gallagher on drums. The CPL will continue celebrations throughout its system by conducting lectures which will reveal the contributions and achievements of Polish Americans through a series of programs which will include the contribution of Polish American architects to the architectural landscape of Chicago, "This Polish American Life ...," and Dominic Pacyga's presentation of Chicago's history from Joliet and Father Marquette's arrival in 1673 to the new wave of urban pioneers... all from a Polish-orientated perspective. Numerous Polish American authors and their books will be discussed; and documentary films including the "Battle of Warsaw" will be viewed. Extensive children's programs along with Polish folk dancing and art will promote Polish culture and heritage.

**UIC'S KOZIKOWSKI INVESTIGATES DEPRESSION DRUGS.**

The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) received a five-year, \$4.8 million federal grant to develop new drugs to treat depression. UIC Professor Alan Kozikowski is the grant project's principal investigator. He and his research team are working with nicotine-like compounds that target receptors in the brain. Kozikowski mentioned that the compounds can be modified to reduce their addictive potential while retaining their mood-balancing traits. His research may lead to a new family of antidepressant drugs. Dr. Kozikowski is a member of the UIC Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy and received his doctorate in organic chemistry from the University of California at Berkeley in 1974. The National Institute of Mental Health is funding this grant.



1928 Olympic poster.

**OLYMPIC POSTERS: POLISH STYLE.** Even though Chicago did not win its bid to host the 2016 Olympics, PMA hosted an exceptional exhibition of 69 posters dating back to 1894. This "Polish Sports and Olympics posters" exhibit, held at the PMA on September 27, was a small portion of the few thousands of posters lent to the PMA by Warsaw's Museum of Sports and Tourism. This exhibition is a representation of sports and Olympic events, bringing back memories of Polish sports history and the Olympics, as well as displaying the creative inspiration through Poland's graphic artists. Mr. Tomasz Jagodzinski, Director of the Museum of Sports and Tourism, was present to offer his support to the PMA for its efforts to make the PMA a "place to visit." An interesting note is that Poles use two descriptions for poster art. "Afisz," usually given to older posters, indicates that a poster gives specific information such as location, dates and costs of an event, and "Plakat" which implies more of an idea such as "Drink Milk" or to support the Olympics. Both of these types of posters were on exhibit. Paulina Jakubiec of the PMA was the curator of this exhibit.

**PADEREWSKI ROOM RE-OPENING ARRIVES.** The re-opening of the historic Ignacy Jan Paderewski Room has been a long-anticipated

symposium and Mass. Hosted by Stanislaw Czarnecki, SJ, Rector of the Chicago's Polish Jesuits, over 300 guests joined in this festive jubilee. Additionally there were over 20 Jesuits from the Chicago/Detroit and Krakow Provinces. Timothy Kesicki, SJ, and Wojciech Ziolk SJ provincials of the Chicago/Detroit Province and of the Southern (Krakow) Province joined in the celebration.

The Polish Jesuits presented a special "thank you," a miniature replica of the Jesuit Millennium Center's mosaic of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to the Migala family and its Radio Station 1450 AM for its 20-year support of the Jesuits. For over 20 years, the Migala family provided *gratis* airtime for the Jesuits' Sunday Mass.

The Chicago Province was given the same miniature replica for its continued support and legal guidance. Jan Krawiec, former editor of the Polish Daily News gave a 75-year historical overview of the history of Polish Jesuits in Chicago.

**CHICAGO CELEBRATES POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH.**

Polish American Heritage Month began early morning on October 1 with Chicago's Premier Fine Arts Radio Station WFMT-98.7 FM. For several hours Polish American "History" Month was celebrated with continuous Polish music from the

POLONIA EAGLE OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

## Labor Leaders Honored by Pulaski Association

BUFFALO, N.Y. — On September 13, the General Pulaski Association honored the following WNY labor leaders of Polish descent at their 37th annual banquet at Cheektowaga's Creekside Banquet Facility: **Joseph Lipowski** (Textile Workers Union of America); **John Helak** (Sheet Metal Workers); **Ray Struzik** (NYS Compensation Board); **Jeff Pietrzyk** (U.A.W. International Servicing); **John Kaczorowski** (Local 774 U.A.W.); **Tom Wisniewski** (International Association of Machinists); **Mark Kurkowski** (United Steel Workers Local 135); **Gerald Skrzeczowski** (O.P.E.I.U.); **Robert Miske** (NYS Basketball Officials); **Stephen Szymura** (Civil Service Employees Association); **William Misztal** (Buffalo P.B.A., Inc.); **Kevin Osinski** (West Seneca Central Teachers Assoc.); **Joseph Gredzicki** (A.F.S.C.M.E. Grievance Committee); and **Judith Matecki** (U.F.C.W. District Union Local One)

**POLONIA TIDBITS.** Buffalo Bishop **Edward Kmiec** was awarded the Mater Christi Award by Immaculata Academy in Hamburg ... The WNY Division of the **Polish American Congress** marked the 70th anniversary of the beginning of World War II with a Mass of Remembrance at the St. Adalbert Basilica on September 6 ... An exhibit entitled "Memory Spaces: Katyn, Charkow, Miednoje, Belzed, Treblinka, Majdanek World War II Memorials" was presented in Toronto's **Metro Hall** during the

first half of September ... The annual "Farewell to Summer" benefit for the **Orchard Lake Schools** in Michigan took place at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga on the 10th ... The Lancaster Opera House staged **Tom Dudzick's** play "Over the Tavern" September 11 through 20 ... **Atlas Stage Productions** presented "The Battle of Grunwald," a play commemorating the 70th anniversary of the start of World War II, in English and Polish at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre on September 11 and 12 ... The **Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School** of Cheektowaga started its new academic year, **Jasiu Klocek & the Salt City Brass** and **Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push** headlined the **Fourth Annual Fulton Polish Fest** at the Fulton Polish Home, and the City Side polka band played at **Batavia Downs** on September 12 ... **Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral** in Lancaster hosted its Fifth Annual "Dozynki" Polish Harvest Festival, featuring "PhoCus" and the Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY.

**Michael Rudzinski** of West Seneca was awarded a \$1000 scholarship by WNY AAA Insurance Agency ... **Lucyna Dziezic** started new semesters of Polish language classes as part of the Maryvale Community Education Program in Cheektowaga in mid-September ... The **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** presented SUNYaB librarian **Jean Dickson's** program, "U.B. Polish Library Collection: A Treasure of Polish Heritage" on the SUNYaB

North Campus in Amherst on September 16 and 23 ... The **Polish National Alliance** awarded scholarships to the following WNY, CNY and Western Pennsylvania students for the 2009-2010 academic year: **Meagan Adams** (Fayetteville), **Ryan Astemborski** (Erie, Pa.), **Carrie and Nicole Burgess** (Olean), **Dyzio Guzierowicz** (Rochester), **Eric Guzowski** (Erie), **Andrea Hiebica** (Johnson City), **Kelley Kowalczyk** (North Syracuse), **Monica Majkowycz** (Syracuse), **Patricia Mrozek** (West Seneca), **Patrick Newton** (Syracuse), **Mark and Stephanie Szymczak** (Lancaster), and **Philip and Nicole Wroblewski** (Erie).

**Robert Lonski**, the administrator of the Bar Association of Erie County's Assigned Counsel Program, recently received the Wildred O'Connor Award from the NYS Defenders Association ... Attorney **James Domagalski** has been elected the managing director of **Hiscock & Barclay, LLP's** 40-lawyer Buffalo office ... "**Kino Kultura**," Toronto's Polish film festival, offered "Katyn," "Pan Tadeusz," "Zakochany Aniol," "Dzien Swira," "Zemsta" and "Trzeci" at the Revue Cinema the weekend of September 18 through 20 ... The **Syracuse Polish Home** celebrated its 90th anniversary with a Mass at Sacred Heart Church and a banquet at its clubrooms on September 20.

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 [pietruska@verizon.net](mailto:pietruska@verizon.net). For more information on Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes, visit [www.polegl.org](http://www.polegl.org).

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## "Quiet American" Vies for Governorship

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — With numerous candidates campaigning for Illinois' highest office, Adam Andrzejewski is a Republican candidate for the governorship among six Republicans, three Democrats, and one each from the Constitution, Green and Independent parties. Andrzejewski's lack of political office experience may make him a better candidate in the wake of repeated scandals in Illinois government. "This is a leadership election not an experience election," he said.

Also, as Adam mentioned in his interview with John Kass, writer for the **CHICAGO TRIBUNE**, "My party needs to move away from Republican patronage and toward real Republican reform."

A second generation Polish American and the oldest of seven children, Adam was raised in the small rural town of Herscher, Ill. with a population of approximately 1600. He is a strong believer in the work ethic, having worked throughout his high school and college years as a farm laborer and construction worker to an office job in an insurance company.

After graduating from Northern Illinois University, Andrzejewski and one of his brothers started publishing hometown phonebooks, which matched the local residents to their corresponding local businesses. This unique publishing company grew to such an extent that within nine years, their company grew to nearly a \$20 million corporation with 150 employees. In January 2007, Andrzejewski sold his share in the company and founded the **ForTheGoodOfIllinois** organization. Its mission is to bring frugality, accountability, and efficient service within Illinois governments. He resigned from this organization prior to his announcement to run for Illinois governor.



ADAM ANDRZEJEWSKI

Andrzejewski candidacy focuses on anti-corruption and government accountability. With this in mind, he has posted his tax returns online. As of this date, he is the only candidate to do so.

His campaign is based on "People First" in which he believes that the citizens must have greater control of state government with their involvement in public policy. His promises are to return Illinois government to its people, and financial accountability. He wants to eliminate waste and fraud. His philosophy is to make all governments in Illinois, especially local, to focus on solutions and not on the importance of political power.

Andrzejewski's goals are to balance the budget; have affordable healthcare and a realistic public transportation system; eliminate corruption; stabilize property taxes; create job growth; and improve Illinois' educational systems.

For additional information about Andrzejewski contact [www.adam-forillinois.com](http://www.adam-forillinois.com).

## PUA Announces "Share the Treasure"

WEST SENECA, N.Y. — Polish Union of American president James P. Jozwiak announced a new effort to benefit the Society's Scholarship Fund and other charities.

"To continue to grow our philanthropic efforts, the Polish Union of America is launching a new campaign to increase donations. Called 'Share the Treasure,' the big drawing will take place during the 2010 Polish Heritage Festival. Tickets will be sold for \$5 each or five for \$20 making the person eligible to win up to 25%, 15% or 10% of the total dollars collected. If the first prize winner is present at the festival a bonus of \$100 will be given. In addition, there will be monthly drawings with \$100 given away each month."

In the last four years the PUA has awarded from 80 to 100 scholarships each year valued at \$10,000

to \$20,000 to area students seeking a college education. Since inception several hundred thousand dollars have been awarded. In addition, the Society has supported the orphanage and school in Jaroslaw, Poland with cash, clothing and needed school supplies. Likewise, local Polish American organizations, churches and the Lions Clubs have received donations

The PUA was founded in 1890 as a fraternal benefit society to serve newly arriving Polish immigrants. Fraternal activities grew with over 400 Lodges sponsoring social, cultural and civic activities for members. These included outings, bus trips, socials, Polish festivals, patriotic parades and many other events bringing together families. The Society offers insurance and annuity products as well as mortgages.

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HAMTRAMCK BEAT /Michelle Odrobina-Jiompkowski

## Hamtramck Gets a Shine On, Thanks to Lovers of the City

When you walk down Hamtramck's main street, Joseph Campau Avenue, you notice the names and dates of buildings that hail from the 1920s. Hamtramck became a city in 1922 and many of the buildings retain their historic character. Beyond that aspect, this is a viable and walkable downtown district, a place where it's a pleasure to shop and dine, thanks to dedicated city officials and business owners.

One of the mainstay businesses that helps in retaining that sense of history is the Kaczmarek Insurance Agency. Attorney Robert Kaczmarek related his background. "I belong to the third generation of Kaczmareks with Hamtramck ties. My grandparents came to Hamtramck as immigrants from Poland in the early years of the last century. My grandfather Joseph Kaczmarek opened a business selling real estate, insurance and new homes in the years of Hamtramck's rapid development.

"At one time, he became Hamtramck's building inspector. In the 1940s, he brought his sons into the family business which expanded to include the opening of a Law practice serving Hamtramck and Polish American community.

"In 1954, the business relocated to 2930 Holbrook, where eventually the third generation entered the family tradition of providing professional services to the community. When Kaczmarek partner and attorney Lucien Nedzi was elected to Congress, the family offices became a focal point for immigration issues and community political and social activity.

"After a short time with a downtown Detroit law firm, I came to the Hamtramck family business, where I have practiced law for the last 34 years. My practice has focused on real estate law, wills and trusts, probate and small business development. Needless to say, the law practice and real estate business have changed as the community and its needs have changed. Our family tradition has always been to treat clients with maximum respect and regard for their individual needs. I can honestly say that the Hamtramck people have been a very warm and appreciative client base. It has been a great pleasure sometimes working with three generations of the same family!"

**BUSINESS RELOCATED.** Robert Kaczmarek, also a real-estate broker, continued, "In 2008, the situation in the Joseph Campau building at 9307-9315 demanded attention. The Kaczmarek family had acquired this building from the Mroz family some 25 years ago. Henry the Hatter had vacated and the space originally occupied by Nichols Restaurant was now unoccupied. After some deliberation, we decided to relocate our family business from the 70-year-old structure on Holbrook Avenue to the nearly 100-year-old Joseph Campau building. " He and his cousin Carla Kaczmarek Poplawski, also an attorney, continue to provide professional legal services from this location.

On the façade of the building, all of the colors, blue, white and black are glass. "The replacement material is a type of plexiglas which is weather resistant and has black color impregnated in it. It was impossible to find matching blue or white. This means we had to modify the original use of the blue and white. The interior renovations were designed to deal with energy efficiency issues and the needs for contemporary digital technology. The challenges have been many, but the results are satisfying."

**NEW PUBLISHER.** A Hamtramck High School and Walsh College graduate, John Ulaj has become the new owner and publisher of "The Hamtramck Review" in June 2009. A licensed real-estate broker, Ulaj said, "I've lived in Hamtramck most of my life and proudly own one of the distinguished historical homes in the city. I am an American Albanian; my parents emigrated from Montenegro, Yugoslavia, in 1967 and moved to Hamtramck in 1977.

"Being bilingual has helped me understand the importance of diversity. Understanding people of different cultures is empowering both as an individual and in the corporate world. In truth, what's lacking in this world is communication skills and understanding of other cultures. I believe that if you mean what you say and do what you promise to do, you will win the hearts and trust of most people. That is key to success in both business and personal relationships." By owning the paper, Ulaj said he has access to a large audience and, therefore, possesses a powerful megaphone. Focus on the Polish heritage of the community

and important Christian holidays like Christmas and Easter is in his mission.

**PAC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS.** Congratulations go out to the 2009 Polish American Congress of Michigan Scholarship fund recipients. They are Anna Stala, Natalia Maska, Bartosz Maska, Christopher Adamczyk, Anna Cwalina, Jessica Paduchowski of Hamtramck, Anne Suchyta, Mateusz Wasiolek, Evan Tylenda and Christopher Tylenda.

**BOOK SIGNINGS.** Michigan author Kenneth K. Koskodan has written the book, "No Greater Ally" The Untold Story of Poland's Forces in World War II. Koskodan was at the Polish Art Center in September to autograph copies of his book. He wrote that he spent several years interviewing many Polish Army veterans, and their stories need to be heard – and never forgotten. "No Greater Ally" is available for purchase from Osprey Publishing at www.ospreypublishing.com. Koskodan and Hamtramck author Greg Kowalski will be on hand for book signings during the November reception at the unique gift shop. For more information, visit www.polartcenter.com.

Kowalski has also written a new book called "Hamtramck: Then and Now" which will debut the week of February 15, 2010. It contrasts historic sites around town with what they look like today. According to him, "St. Florian, for example, looks almost the same today as it did in 1928." The book will be published by Arcadia as part of the Images of America series. Kowalski also will start on another book to be published by The History Press. "Wicked Hamtramck: Forbidden Tales of Lust, Liquor and Lead" will recount Hamtramck's wild Depression and Prohibition-era days. "This is the book I've wanting to write for years," Kowalski said and added that late 2010 is the likely publication date.

**KUDOS EXPRESSED.** To friends: Dennis Orłowski, Hamtramck muralist, who retired from the Detroit Public Schools after 30 years as an outstanding art teacher. Also to Mary Zuk Domanski of West Seneca, New York, who completed hiking all 2,175 miles of the Appalachian Trail in August. She e-mailed, "What an adventure! Lots of sores, lots of nice people, lots of great views, lots of climbing, lots of challenges, all well worth it!"

Until my next column, Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas from Hamtown!

## Polish Armed Forces Day Observed at Embassy



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

**HIGH HONOR AWARDED.** Father Krzysztof Wieliczko, pictured center above, was awarded the "Officer's Cross – Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland" by Ambassador Robert Kupiecki (r.), attended by Brigadier General Leszek Soczewica (l.). Fr. Wieliczko is a former Provincial of the Pauline Fathers in America, and he also directed the imposing Czestochowa Shrine in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. The revered occasion of Armed Forces Day was utilized to honor Father Wieliczko for his ongoing lifetime achievements in his religious vocation.

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — There were enough generals, admirals and other high ranking officers present to staff the defense forces of a sizable country. They all rendezvoused on September 17, 2009 at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland to participate in the annual observance of Polish Armed Forces Day (PAFD), "Dzien Wojska Polskiego."

Most attendees were military attachés from practically every foreign embassy in Washington. The United States fielded a large contingent from the Pentagon. Polish officers also attended from NATO Headquarters in Norfolk, Virginia and the U.S. National Defense University. Polish Army veterans of WWII and the Polonia were also well represented, as were various governmental and diplomatic officials.

Ambassador Robert Kupiecki and co-host Brigadier General Leszek Soczewica - Defense Mili-

tary, Naval and Air Attaché, greeted the numerous guests. Ambassador Kupiecki, in his address, stressed the vital importance of PAFD – August 15th — because on that day in 1920 Polish forces defeated the invading Bolshevik Red Army at the very gates of Warsaw. Newly-resuscitated Poland, Germany and all post-World War I prostrated Western Europe was thereby saved from being swamped by the powerful communist wave arising from Russia. Kupiecki mentioned that this was the day in Poland to also remember all Polish veterans, and he led a round of appreciative applause in their honor.

The grand buffet, prepared by Chef Adam Holewa and staff, was a genuine pleasure to behold and experience. It proved to be the perfect vehicle for the evening's international camaraderie and professional military networking. After all, as Napoleon famously said: "An army marches on its stomach."

## Lobbying Firm Questioned

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Poland's Washington embassy is wasting hundreds of thousands of dollars employing a politically out of touch lobbying firm, says an analyst.

The embassy paid American lobbying firm BGR Holding over \$200,000 in 2008 to represent the interest of Poland in the Democratic-led U.S. Congress.

BGR Holding is, historically, an all-Republican lobbying firm and critics say the money is wasted as the Democratic Party currently rules the roost on Capitol Hill.

The political finance watchdog Center for Responsive Politics published the information on the

\$220,000 USD payment made by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland on its website.

"If Poland was seriously aiming to get aid from Washington, it would have been better to find a firm with Democratic connections," says Dr. Steven Billet, a political scientist from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and a specialist in political lobbying.

He said that BGR, which thrived under the George W. Bush administration, has fallen out of the sphere of political influence under Barack Obama's democratic administration.

SOURCE: THENEWS.PL

## 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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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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MAIL TO: PAHA, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT 06050



## 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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# Polka MAGAZINE

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN MUSIC

## Recordings Sought For Annual Music Awards

CHICAGO — The International Polka Music Hall of Fame and Chairman, Leon Kozicki, strongly urges any recording company and/or polka band who has released recordings during the calendar year of 2009 to notify and remit that recording to him as soon as possible. This is to determine eligibility for the 42nd Annual Polka Music Awards which will be presented at the annual festival at the Polka Music Hall of Fame and Music Awards banquet.

Registered companies will receive affidavits, which must be completed and returned to the International Polka Music Hall of Fame and Chairman, Leon Kozicki by the deadline of February 14. Only those recordings which were produced during 2009 will be accepted. 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 2009.

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

The awards have been presented for the past 41 consecutive years to deserving bands and vocalists. It is advisable that copies that are eligible be sent to the IPA if this has not already been done during the actual release.

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

## Knights of Columbus Benefit Features Stephanie

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. — Honky-style polkas by Stephanie will be the musical background for a polka dance to benefit the Saratoga Knights of Columbus.

The event will be held Sun., Nov. 8, 2009. Music will be from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. The bar and kitchen will be open for food and refreshments.

The Saratoga Knights of Columbus is located at Pine Road and Route 30 West.

Contact Steve or Cathy Coblisch at (518) 899-3061.

## IPA Hall of Fame Benefit in Wisconsin, November 8



Monica Snyder, Mike Matousek and Mike Ziemiński accept a check from Sobieski Vodka, a major sponsor of Polkamotion By The Ocean, presented by T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert. Matousek and Ziemiński organized the event held at the Convention Center in Rehoboth Beach, Del., Sept. 18-20. Sobieski is also sponsoring the IPA benefit.

CHICAGO (PMN) — The International Polka Association (IPA) will sponsor a Polka Hall of Fame Benefit Dance at Bullshooters Saloon in Weston, Wisconsin, on November 8, 2009, 1:00-7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

Bands performing at the benefit include Polish Connection, Aaron Socha & Live Wire, Paper City Sounds, Polish Memories and Norm Dombrowski's Happy Notes.

Sobieski Vodka is a sponsor of the event and a free tasting will be offered. Food will be available for purchase.

Bullshooters Saloon is located at 7802 Meadow Rock Dr., Weston,

Wis. There are two towns named Weston in Wisconsin, but Bullshooters is found south of Wausau, adjacent to Schofield and Rothschild, in Marathon County.

The IPA has arranged a bus trip from Chicago to Bullshooters. The fee is \$45 per person and includes admission to the dance. Reservations may be made by calling (312) 315-2215.

Also being planned are benefit dances in Buffalo, N.Y., and other cities. Information will be announced on the IPA Polka Show and the website at <http://www.internationalpolka.com>.

## Ohio Polka Dances

CLEVELAND — On Fri., Nov. 13, the Cleveland Polka Association presents a Friday Night Dance at The Ampol Hall, 4737 Pearl Rd. Music will be provided by The Honky Express from Cleveland, from 7:00-11:00 p.m. For more information call Doc at (440) 237-4118.

On Sun., Nov. 29, Maynard PNA Lodge 455, 71560 Hall Street, Maynard, Ohio, will offer a dance with music by The Honky Express from Cleveland from 2:00-6:00 p.m. For more information call Ann-Marie Gdula at (740) 635-3537.

## Kowalchuk Offers Free Music Downloads

CALGARY, Canada — Lacon Kowalchuk of Calgary is Polish/Ukrainian and recently funded a CD recording of traditional Ukrainian songs, as well as three originals he wrote: "Perogies and Champagne," "Dosta," and "Polka Fever." This CD was made for the public and not for profit. Kowalchuk would love to share his music with the world and has made it available for download on the internet at: [www.jaroslav.ca](http://www.jaroslav.ca). This website features the CD, lyrics and cover to download for free.

## Chicago Musician Still Busy

### Entertaining As He Celebrates His 90th Birthday

CHICAGO — Frank Gentile hails from the southeast side of Chicago. Known as a musician with an impressive list of personal accomplishments in the music world, Frank started playing the saxophone while in the seventh grade. He attended Calumet High School where he was a member of the school band.

Upon graduation, he became a member of the Illinois National Guard band. When the unit was activated, he became a member of a regular U.S. Army band.

When discharged from the Army, Frank continued his career in music and in 1947 he became affiliated with the popular Joe Pat (Paterek) Orchestra. As a member of the Joe Pat Orchestra, Frank made many recordings, played on several radio and television shows. The band played continental music which included polka, polonaise, ballroom, etc.

Frank Gentile traveled with the band when they performed in Poland. Traveling to Washington, D.C., Frank along with the band entertained two presidents: the elder George Bush and George W. Bush.

Through the years he has played at formidable and exquisite hotels, resorts and country clubs, convention centers as well as most of the Chicagoland polka clubs and ballrooms. There have been repeat performances at the Chicago Stadium, McCormick Place, Merchandise Mart, Bobby Vinton Show, the Auto and Boat Shows and the Electronic Show.

When Joe Pat (Paterek) died in

1981, Frank was selected by Mrs. Paterek to assume leadership and management of the Joe Pat Orchestra. He decided not to change the name which had become prominently known during the years. Frank has been continuously associated with the orchestra since 1947 — and for sixty two years has played clarinet and saxophone.

Through the years, the Joe Pat Orchestra has performed at numerous formal debutante and Red and White Polonaise Balls sponsored by national fraternal organizations at the Hilton Hotel and Towers in Chicago as well as other prestigious venues.

Besides playing dance music, he has a music unit (Joe Pat) that does specialty music at religious Polka masses. The group has performed with musicians and a five piece choral ensemble. This group has become one of the pioneer units providing music at various Catholic masses and other liturgical functions for over the last several decades.

Gentile is also the leader, manager and drummer of the 10-piece Frankie Greene Ballroom Dance Orchestra. The orchestra performs regularly at venues in Illinois, Iowa, Indiana and St. Louis, Missouri.

Frank has completed a lifetime of music, still going strong. Today, at age 90, it's not unusual for Frank to play several jobs in the same week.

He observed his birthday with a gala reception and celebration attended by his family, friends and, of course, many musicians.

## Pillar Plans Christmas Spectacular

PLANTSVILLE, Conn. — The excitement is mounting as polka fans from the East Coast are preparing for Dick and JoAnne Pillar's 11th annual Holiday Christmas Party. The beautiful Aqua Turf Ballroom — with a seating capacity of 1,200 people — is the holiday setting for this spectacular event to be held the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, December 1, from 10:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m..

Doors open at 10:00 a.m. and a "Welcome Coffee Break" awaits the arrivals. At 11:00 a.m. the Dick Pillar Polkabration Band provides all the polka and holiday music which

includes everyone's favorite Christmas music. A sing-a-long also takes place with Polish and American Christmas carols.

A gourmet all-you-can-eat dinner is served at noon, followed by more dancing and a visit by Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. Add the famous Pillar Door Prizes and beautiful Aqua Turf decorations and you will experience the perfect Holiday Season debut.

Individual along with bus and car groups are welcome.

For additional information call Pillar Enterprises at (860) 848 8171 or visit [www.dickpillar.com](http://www.dickpillar.com).

## Ostaneck Selected Grand Marshall of Thanksgiving Day Parade

KITCHENER, Ontario, Canada — Canada's Polka King, Walter Ostaneck, has been chosen to be the Grand Marshall of the Kitchener, Thanksgiving Day Parade.

A native of St. Catharines, Ontario, Ostaneck was aboard the "Save the Polka" float.

Ostaneck, 74, recorded his first album in 1963, and has been a fixture

at Oktoberfest for decades.

A member of Canada's Walk of Fame and polka halls of fame in both Cleveland and Chicago, Ostaneck has often been cited as the inspiration for John Candy and Eugene Levy's lovable Schmenge Brothers — themselves the parade's grand marshals in 1983.

## POLKA JUKEBOX / Steve Litwin

## For Ebel, Recording is a Company Affair

*A Company Affair* by Craig Ebel & DyVersaCo is the latest offering from this polka music corporation. A 15-track collection, Ebel and the office crew have created another unique array of tunes to please everyone.

"Polka Time is Here" has that Minnesota feel that takes you back to the sounds of Polka Soul. The country flavored "That's The Way I Feel," with plenty of fiddle, nice box work, and Craig on vocals, fits well in the variety-filled tracks of this CD. The smooth "Ring Dance" mazurka and the good-time mood on "Kiss Me" polka also deserve special mention. "Polish Home" polka may be the one that grabs those who love hard-driving eastern style polkas and certainly was a favorite

here. Add "Oj Duli Duli Do" oberek and the Richie Tokarz song, "Come Back To Me" and this package provides a full mixture of music for all.

DyVersaCo is Craig Ebel on concertina, piano and drums, Lori Ebel on fiddle and trumpets, Chuck Burak on drums, Gary Jasicki on clarinet, alto and tenor saxes and Mike "Julio" Sariego on bass. Special Guest David Austin does a superb job with the accordion on "Polish Home."

This one definitely grows on you with each play. Each listen brought something out that was missed on a previous play-through. Each time another track will become your favorite.

Recorded at Track Record Studios and

mixed by Gary Rhamy of Peppermint Studios, it is released on the band's DyVersaCo label. Email: [dversaco@hotmail.com](mailto:dversaco@hotmail.com) or visit their website: [www.itspolkatime.com/dyversaco.html](http://www.itspolkatime.com/dyversaco.html).

**ALEX MEIXNER** is a master and with his new CD, *Stay All Night*, he demonstrates his musical mastery to perfection, no matter what instrument he chooses. Piano accordion, diatonic button accordion, bass, keyboards, trumpet, slide trumpet, alphon, and flugelhorn are all given new life by Meixner, but it's his work with the bellowed instruments that never fail to amaze me.

With a full balance of music on this col-

lection, songs like "Donuts" polka, "Drunk Monkey" polka, and the Polka Family's "Fiddle Fiddle" are on one end, while the smooth flowing sounds of "The Moldau" ease things in another direction. Then with "Livin' Groove" Alex follows a slick jazz road only to change direction back to the traditional banjo and keyboard sounds of "Kimberly!" The 22 different tracks here give the listener a full dynamic range of music and talent.

Produced by Meixner Music Productions, *Stay All Night* is one for every Meixner fan and will definitely increase his constantly growing fan base. On the internet visit: [www.cdbaby.com/meixneralex2](http://www.cdbaby.com/meixneralex2) or [www.alexmeixner.com](http://www.alexmeixner.com).

## NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

## Four Days of Polkas with Big Joe

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Hi Everyone! I can't believe it's time to talk about the November holidays already.

I have to remind everyone to use their right to vote on Nov. 3. And, we cannot forget the dedicated men and women who have given their lives serving our country by keeping them and their loved ones in your prayers on their special remembrance day of Nov. 11. Later in the month, it's time to give thanks for all our blessings as we share Thanksgiving day with our families.

**BIG JOE COMES TO TOWN.** Well, we had a really big polka event in our area for four days at the beginning of October. The Big Joe Polka show had a taping for future TV shows at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center, Oct. 1-4. About thirty bands from various states, as well as several local bands took the stage and entertained for an hour for a future showing.

Many out-of-towners travelled to our area for this event. It was interesting to see different dance styles and many new faces. Big Joe Siedlik is the host, and hails from Omaha, Nebraska. He is a congenial gentleman, enthusiastic in his announcements and comments; always sporting a sparkling and colorful vest. Big Joe's motto is "Happy Music for Happy People," and how true that is!

I know I did hear some complaints about having to drive downtown and deal with parking, etc. But, the Convention Center does have the space to accommodate all the equipment needed to record the various segments of the show. Also, the set up was very comfortable. A large dance floor that was smooth and easy to dance on, reasonable refreshments prices and very good food. There were plenty of tables set up for patrons to sit at. One of the features of the show was when Joe's daughter, Janie, would interview a couple and then have them dance alone while the others stood in a half circle watching and clapping! After short while, Big Joe invited everyone to join in. Janie informed me her dad does tapings in different cities a few times a year. Not everyone has access to the channel this show is on but it's been said that Time Warner may carry it and that would be nice for many people!

**JPR AT POTTS.** On Oct. 3, Jersey Polka Richie took the stage at Potts Hall in Buffalo, NY. Backed by Bob "Flash" Krupka, Billy Barnas, and Jimmy Noga, Richie's music was what honky is all about! He sure can play that concertina! The musicians from Honky Express who played earlier in the day at the Convention Center, came to Potts to hear Richie and later on, some of them joined



Fred and Nancy Wisniewski of North Tonawanda, who recently celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary, enjoyed the music at the Convention Center.



All Smiles. (l. to r.): Andy Kuzmarski, John Gnojek, Big Joe, Stephanie Pietrzak, and Robin Pegg.



This was first Buffalo, N.Y. appearance for the Bob Uleck Band of Pennsylvania.

Richie on stage to make lots of great music together.

**GET WELL WISHES.** I would like to extend get well wishes to the following people and anyone else who has been sick—**Bob Wroblewski**, trumpet player for the Phocus band, **Veronica Wanderlich**, mother of musicians Sonny, Tom and Johnny, and to **Carol Kliszak**, wife of concertina player Casey Kliszak. Hope everyone is doing better now and

on their way to a full recovery very soon.

**CONGRATS!** Congratulations to **Mike Kurdziel** on the grand opening of his new bar and restaurant – Crownview Restaurant and Banquets, 5512 Transit Rd., Depew (for former Pentacle, for you locals). Mike manages the Lily of the Valley Hall and also Crownview Catering. Hope this new venture will be very successful. Watch for the announce-



Rocco Naples (right) did a great job reanimating the songs of the late Li'l Wally Jagiello. He was backed up a surprise band. Pictured are members Robin Pegg (trumpet) and Dave Miesowicz (saxophone).



Bobby Krupka, Billy Barnas and Jimmy Noga made up Jersey Polka Richie's backup band at Pott's Hall.

ments when polka bands and others will be appearing there!

#### UPCOMING EVENTS.

**Nov. 4.** Polka Variety Meeting at the Lily of the Valley Hall, 2379 Union Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., music starts at 7:30 p.m. Admission includes snacks, desserts, coffee, beer and pop. Call Len: 896-1476

**Nov. 6-8.** Seven Springs Fall Polka Festival featuring nine bands including The Knewz, Stephanie, and Concertina All Stars. For more info (708) 594-5182.

**Nov. 7.** Lenny Gomulka from 8:00 p.m. to midnight at the Queen of Angels Parish Hall corner of Electric and Warsaw in Lackawanna, N.Y. (This is the former St. Michael's Hall) call Dan 823-2794 or Ed at 648-0370.

**Nov. 14.** Polka Family at the Lily of the Valley Hall, 2379 Union Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y. Music from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. Call Mike at 348-8849.

**Nov. 19.** Polka Boosters meeting at the Polish Falcons hall, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew, N.Y. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Music at 8:00 p.m. Everyone welcome. Chris 892-7977.

**Nov. 21.** Old School is appearing at a pre-Thanksgiving Dance at the Club Monarch on Oriskany Blvd. in Yorkville (Utica) N.Y. from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. My polka friend and promoter, Dave Sychtysz, asked if I would mention this event. For more info, call him at (315) 699-1708.

**Nov. 28.** A Tribute to Big Steve – Polka Saturday Night dance at the Polish Falcons Hall, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew, with the Big Steve Bellares 1980's TV show band. Donation is \$10, which will benefit Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Chinese Auction, raffles and more. Call (716) 570-3611.

**Nov. 29.** Jerry Darlak & the Touch at the Sportsman Tavern, 326 Amherst, Black Rock. Music from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



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**POLKA PLATTER** / Prepared and Distributed by the Polonia Media Network

**THE POLKA JAMMER NETWORK** has announced the addition of Paul Romanowski of Charlotte, North Carolina, to its lineup. His program, called "Polkas From The South," airs on Tuesday nights from 10:00-11:00 p.m. EDT, Thursday afternoons from 3:00-4:00 p.m. EDT and Saturday mornings from 7:00-8:00 a.m. EDT. Romanowski has opted to air a brand new show each day.

**PBS** taped the Jimmy Sturr Show at the Polkapalooza event at Caesars Windsor Casino, Windsor, Ontario, Canada on Friday and Saturday, October 16 and 17. This Polkapalooza stars Jimmy Sturr & his Orchestra and features Polka Family, Marshall Lackowski & his Orchestra, Squeeze Box, Duane Malinowski & his Orchestra, Pan Franek & Zosia and Darrell Wetlin & the New Brass Express. The network PBS will be taping the Jimmy Sturr Orchestra segments to be made into an 80-minute television show that will air nationwide in March, 2010. Polkapalooza is a free event.

**THE BELL HOPS** appeared for a reunion at organized by Frank Powaski on August 30, 2009, at the American Legion Post in Jeannette, Pa. after four decades apart and just two short practices, the boys dusted off the bell hop caps and were ready to play the many songs that made them so popular. The Versa J's were also special guests at the dance.

**K-9 COLLEGE CRUISE** has invited polka clubs, dancers and enthusiasts from anywhere in the country to join the group on a singing, dancing, seven night Eastern Caribbean polka party cruise January 9-16, 2010, departing from Ft. Lauderdale. The cruise will feature dance lessons, cocktail party, Joe Stanky & the Cadets and John Stevens & DoubleShot.

**HONKY STYLE POLKA MUSIC** will return to the Bayway Polish Home this winter. The Associates will be back on stage on Sunday January 3, 2010. Performing once again will be Eddie Biegaj, Wally Dombrowski, Nick Koryluk, Bryan

Kurdziel, Andrew Krystopolski and Kevin Kurdziel.

**THE MICHIGAN STATE** Polka Music Hall of Fame inducted Virgil Baker of Rockford, Robert Kolo of Bloomfield Hills, Bob Osantoski of Bad Axe and Jeff Stasa of Corunna into the HOF on October 4, 2009.

**ON TOUR IN POLAND**, John Gora, bandleader of the Gorale, reports that the first day was great despite it being a little cool and there was some rain. The group had an evening of entertainment by ten members of the Mazowsze Song and Dance Ensemble gang ... plus the food is delicious and the beer is tasty.

**PAUL ROMANOWSKI** announced that he was starting a polka show on the Polka Jammer Internet Network in September, 2009. His goal on the show is to promote all bands, festivals and dances, and, of course, to keep polka music alive. He can be contacted at <promanowski@carolina.rr.com>, his personal e-mail address.

**THE GRAMMYS** dropped the polka category this year, suggesting bands submit entries in related fields. However, only four polka bands entered in the "Best Traditional Folk Album" category. There are only 31 entries in all and, if polka bands who released a CD this year had entered, polka would have dominated the category.

**POLKAMOTION BY THE OCEAN** in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, this past September was one of the most successful editions of the festival in years. Attendees report that all the bands were tremendous, the food was so good that it sold old some nights, the hall was packed almost to capacity two nights, the prices were so reasonable that the booze ran out at times. Mike Matousek and Mike Ziemiński were the organiz-

ers, and Sobieski Vodka, which has become a major supporter of polka music, was a sponsor.

**PETER DANIELCZUK**, also known as Polka Pete, has announced that his "Polka Celebration" show is currently on the air at its new time every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on WNHU (88.7 FM) from the University of New Haven, Connecticut. It can also be heard via <http://www.wnhu.net>.

**MIKESURRATT** of the Continentals says that, because polkasunited.com is doing so well and participation on the moderated newsgroup he started has cooled down, he has shut down the "polkasarecool" newsgroup. He hopes those who do not mind contributing thoughts and ideas on a moderated group will sign up at <<http://www.polkasunited.com>>. He says there are no spammers, just good discussions about polka music, and it is even has categorized message boards.

**FULL CIRCLE** will perform in Chicago at Polonia Banquets in Chicago on January 16, 2010, the night before the Festival of Chicago Polka Bands at Glendora Banquets in Chicago Ridge. The two events provide a good reason to plan an overnight stay in the Windy City. Full Circle members are Lenny Gomulka (Mass.), Jimmy Weber (N.J.), Al Piatkowski (N.Y.), Mike Stapinski (Ill.), Mike Matousek (Md.) and Roger Malinowski (Ill.)

**JIMMY STURR TRAVEL** and Royal Caribbean Cruises have put together new rates that will show substantial savings up to \$250 on selected categories for the Sturr's 35th Anniversary Cruise aboard the Liberty of Seas sailing from Miami on January 24, 2010, for seven nights to the Western Caribbean. Entertainment on board will include The Jimmy Sturr Orchestra, Ampol-Aires, The

Knewz, Matt and Elaine, Marshall and MaryAnn Lackowski and comedian Charlie Prose

**ERIC NOLTKAMPER** received the top vote with the Just Plain Folks Music Awards based in Nashville, Tennessee, on August 29, 2009. Coming in second to fourth, respectively, were "Bulletproof Polkas" by John Gora & Gorale, "America's Most Requested Polkas" by Jerry Darlak & The Touch and "Batteries Not Included" by Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones. The website is at <<http://www.justplainfolks.org>>.

**DJ SETH DRZEWICKI** reports that all the bands were great at the Summer Music Fest in Frankenmuth, Michigan, in August, but Jimmy K & Ethnic Jazz, Pan Franek & the Polka Towners, Polka Family, Jimmy Sturr and DynaBrass did an excellent job proving to the people who just came to see the Hubcaps that polka music is great, fun, happy music.

**YOU DON'T THINK** of Montana as a place to hear polkas? Think again. In September, Gary Brueg-

gen's Ridgeland Dutchmen made their first time ever appearance in Montana at the Big Sky Polka Fest in Billings. Brueggen reports that "polkas are very much alive and well here in Montana!"

**THE 2010 BAY AREA BABES PIN-UP CALENDARS** are out featuring Big Lou, the Accordion Princess, as Miss August. Last year the calendars sold out in two weeks. You can get them while they're hot at [www.accordionprincess.com/id47.html](http://www.accordionprincess.com/id47.html), but don't expect anything that would appeal to Hugh Hefner.

Big Lou, incidentally, had a gig in Gaborone, Botswana, with the Maru, a Pula school Marimba Band, which joined her for the "Chicken Dance." You can check out the remarkable video at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z1AoOZpE28I](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z1AoOZpE28I). After the performance, she donated her ancient Hohner accordion to the school, which has a strong music program, but a lot of the students are penniless orphans who attend the school on scholarships.

Those who are willing to help with old instruments can contact Lou at [xxx99lou@yahoo.com](mailto:xxx99lou@yahoo.com).

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## Celebrating 35 Years of the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland

by Richard Poremski

BALTIMORE — The Polish Heritage Association of Maryland, Inc., (PHAM) was founded on September 26, 1974 when founding president Stanley Ciesielski was 64 years-old. Today, he is 99 years-young and was the designated guest of honor at the anniversary event. Unfortunately, at the last moment, Stanley suffered a mishap that temporarily prevented his much anticipated attendance.

President Leshinskie, nevertheless, proceeded to remunerate all the many major contributions Stanley made to the organization, Polonia and Poland over the three terms and 28 years of his presidencies. He was granted a special honorary membership - with a scholarship to be given in his name, along with the bestowing of a unique memento of appreciation.

The mission of the 200-member-strong PHAM is to celebrate, promote and preserve Polish culture, history and heritage directly through its various programs and events, and in cooperation with other people and various organizations. Its very successful annual scholarship program has to date awarded over \$202,000 to students of Polish lineage.

MC Adam Mazurek conducted the well-attended program that included singer Josef Surowiec, nostalgic remarks from Stanley Tomaszewski about the local Polonia, and concluded with Krystyna Osowska remarking in Polish on the larger subject of our collective



**GALA EVENT MARKS ANNIVERSARY.** Victoria T. Leshinskie, current president of the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland, Inc., is pictured above being presented with a bouquet of roses from the appreciative membership after her keynote address at the dinner-dance.

responsibility in preserving Polish culture, traditions and Polish-American history.

The rest of the afternoon was spent dancing to the music of Joy — an aptly named polka-variety dance band: It did indeed prove to be a joyous way to celebrate the 35th birthday of the PHAM.

Sto lat dla Stowarzyszenia Polskiego Dziedzictwa w Maryland!

## Rutkowski Featured Pianist at Paderewski Festival, November 12-15

PASO ROBLES, Calif.

— The 2009 Paderewski Festival (www.paderewskifest.com) celebrates the legacy of Ignacy Jan Paderewski with four days of concerts and special events featuring internationally-renowned performers, young pianists from the Central Coast Region, wine tasting, lectures and exhibits of Paderewski memorabilia. The Festival will be held in several venues in Paso Robles, Nov. 12-15, 2009.

The Festival opens with a chamber music concert presented by the Denali String Quartet at Vina Robles Winery, in Paso Robles on Thurs., Nov. 12, at 7:00 p.m. The program will feature works by Henryk Górecki, Heitor Villa-Lobos, and Johannes Brahms. A wine reception begins at 6:00 p.m.

Pianist William Koseluk will present a program of piano miniatures by Edvard Grieg and Paderewski's monumental Piano Sonata Op. 21 at Cass Winery in Paso Robles on Fri., Nov. 13, at 7:00 p.m. A wine reception begins at 6:00 p.m.

Winners of the 2009 Paderewski Young Pianists' Competition will be featured in a recital at the historic Paso Robles Inn Ballroom on Saturday, Nov. 14, at 4:00 p.m. This year the emerging talents from San Luis Obispo County compete with young entrants from Santa Barbara and Monterey Counties for the privilege of appearing at this year's Festival. This event is free and open to the public.

The 2009 Paderewski Festival Gala Concert will feature pianist



**THE 2009 PADEREWSKI FESTIVAL GALA CONCERT** will feature pianist Hubert Rutkowski, prizewinner in numerous competitions.

Hubert Rutkowski, prizewinner in numerous competitions in Hanover and Hamburg, Germany, Barcelona, Spain, Warsaw, Poland and Vilnius, Lithuania. His program will include works by Paderewski and Chopin, as well as rarely heard piano compositions by Paderewski's piano teacher Teodor Leschetizky. The concert will take place at the Paso Robles Inn Ballroom on Sat., Nov. 14, at 8:00 p.m. The Gala Concert is part of the Paso Robles Elegant Evening event that takes place throughout the downtown district on this date. Wine reception begins at 6:30 p.m.

Paderewski memorabilia will be on display at Carnegie Library in the Downtown City Park and at the Paso Robles Pioneer Museum from Mon., Nov. 9 through Sunday, Nov. 15. Docent-guided tours of exhibits and special lectures on Paderewski will be scheduled during the Festival.

The weekend of music comes to a close with a Paderewski Festival champagne brunch at Vinoteca Wine Bar off the Downtown City Park on Sun., Nov. 15 at 11:00 a.m.

For information or to order tickets, go to www.paderewskifest.com or contact Steve at (805) 239-0873 or steve@casswines.com.

## New Polish Cultural Center for New England

FAIRHAVEN, Mass. — At the beginning of September in Fairhaven was a place for an inauguration of the Polish Cultural Center. The members of organizations of Polonia from as far as Boston and Worcester participated in a very interesting program of Polish Poetry reading in Polish and English, a display of Polish Contemporary Culture Photographic Exhibit coming from the Polish Embassy in Washington, D.C., and a performance of a very talented young singer, who studies music at Berkeley College in Boston, Julia Sokolowska. All participants enjoyed a variety of real Polish food.

The Polish Cultural Center Committee now is following this success and is preparing for an important celebration of Polish Independence Day, which is November 11. The event will take place on Sunday afternoon, November 15. There will be a concert of patriotic songs performed, again by a very young Polish singer from New York, who also is studying in Boston, Julia Paryka. Also there will be an introduction about a historical rebirth of Poland after 123 years of divisions among powerful and aggressive neighbors. One of the speakers will be a Solidarity member and hero who was wounded in 1981 by communist government militia in Gdansk, and almost died. The plans for Decembers are



**JULIA SOKOLOWSKA** and her pianist performed a popular Czeslaw Niemen song about Warsaw. also on the table.

The idea of such a center was nourished for many years by Francis Budryk. Today his plans have been realized at One Main Street, Fairhaven, Mass. The Center includes the Polish Manor Inn "Dwor Polski" and also includes a Café and gift shop. Because of this a new Polish Center has emerged. For further information check the web site www.PolishManorInn.com .

— Szymon Tolak, Center Director

### ART SCENE / Staś Kmieć

## Play about Chicago's Diverse Communities Opens on Broadway

Described as a provocative comedy set in the heart of one of Chicago's most diverse communities, *Superior Donuts* centers on **Arthur Przybyszewski**, a shop owner who inherited the donut business in the Uptown neighborhood of Chicago from his parents. Franco Wicks, a black teenager who is his only employee, wants to change the shop for the better. The play explores the challenges of embracing the past and the redemptive power of friendship.

The full cast from the original Chicago *Steppenwolf Theatre* production reprised their roles for the play's Broadway debut, including Michael McKean as Przybyszewski. McKean is perhaps best known for his portrayal of Squiggy's friend, Lenny Kosnowski, on the TV sitcom *Laverne and Shirley*.

*Superior Donuts* opened Oct. 1 at the Music Box Theater (239 West 45th Street, NYC) for an open-ended run. The play received good reviews and is expected to be a success — the playwright Tracy Letts penned last year's Tony-winning phenomenon — *August: Osage County*.

### "BROADWAY SALUTES" HONORS POLISH AMERICAN THEATER PROFESSIONALS . Broadway Salutes — a unique public celebration honoring the myriad artists who have made Broadway great for decades, took place in the heart

of Broadway theater district — Duffy Square. A wide-range of theatre professionals, who have dedicated their careers to the Broadway theatre industry were recognized. Among the almost 2,000 honored at the industry-wide celebration were a number of Americans of Polish descent.

Those known as Polish or with recognizable Polish names include: **Lee F. Iwanski, John Wolanczyk, Charles J Zarobinski, Kenneth J. Dybisz, Helen Olga Gorski, Albin E. Konopka, Tracy Malinowski, Walter Mazurek, Robert Nowak, Frances Obidowski, Thomas J. Oldakowski, Dave Ratajczak, Tom Ruzika, Joseph**

**Kaczorowski**, actress, singer and dancer, **Karen Ziemba** and **Walter Bobbie** (baptized *Władysław Babij*), a dancer, choreographer, theater director and occasional actor.

"Who would have thought watching **Walter Bobbie** in the 1972 Broadway production of *GREASE* that the mooning champ of Rydell High would one day be awarded the Tony for Best Director of a Musical — *Chicago*?" said event Co-Chair Laura Penn.

Polish American model and sometimes actress, **Joanna Krupa** was born in Warsaw and moved



**JON MICHAEL HILL** and Michael McKean in *Superior Donuts*.

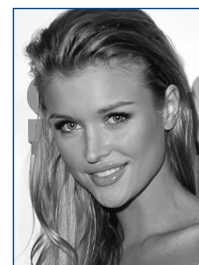
**Szymanski, Maria Szymanski, Michael J. Szymanski** and Tony winners: Lighting designer **Peter Kaczorowski**,



ZIEMBA

actress, singer and dancer, **Karen Ziemba** and **Walter Bobbie** (baptized *Władysław Babij*), a dancer, choreographer, theater director and occasional actor.

to Chicago with her family at the age of five. She has appeared on magazine covers and was named the "Sexiest Swimsuit Model in the World" in *Maxim*. PETA's "Id Rather Go Naked than Wear Fur" campaign featuring Joanna became a monster phenomenon. Krupa has proven to be a fine dancer, who studied dance only briefly as a child. Perhaps there is recreational polka dancing or a Polish folk dance group in her background? She is from Chicago.



KRUPA

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### DANCING WITH THE STARS' WARSAW CONNECTION.



SLIWIŃSKA

The popular reality Ballroom dance show — *Dancing with the Stars* returned to ABC with a double Warsaw connection.

Born in Poland's capitol, **Edyta Śliwińska** is the only professional dancer to appear on all nine seasons of the series, where she is known as much for her daring costumes as her dance moves. Edyta left her native Poland in 2000 to pursue her dream of becoming a world famous Latin-style dancer. She settled in San Francisco and partnered with Alec Mazo, who later became her husband.

Polish American model and sometimes actress, **Joanna Krupa** was born in Warsaw and moved

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BOOK REVIEW / John M. Grondelski

BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes, MLIS

## An American in Poland

**CLASSROOMS AND BARROOMS: AN AMERICAN IN POLAND**

by David Jackson

Hamilton Books, 2009.

131 pp., softbound, \$23.95

To order: <http://www.hamilton-books.com/order/> or (800) 462-6420

As a kid growing up in Central Jersey, I remember my father once saying that he thought South Amboy, New Jersey held the record for the most number of bars per square mile of any American city. A quick Wiki search claims that Clinton, Massachusetts actually holds that distinction, while others say that it is Hoboken. Whatever the answer, none of those towns is a hot tourist attraction, so the question is: what packs the people in? The answer, I think, can be found in the old theme song from "Cheers": "you want to go where everybody knows your name."

David Jackson discovered the same thing in Łódź. Like South Amboy, Clinton, and Hoboken, Łódź is hardly a tourist attraction: Jackson notes it's been called the "Manchester of Poland" because of its 19th century textile and industrial base. But Jackson, who teaches political science at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, found the Kresowa Bar in Łódź. That bar—along with the University of Łódź—became the focal points of this delightful little book about his impressions of teaching in that Polish city. The book is in fact arranged in alternate chapters between what happened during his days in Poland and his experiences at the Kresowa.

The author was awarded a U.S. Fulbright Fellowship to teach in Poland during the fall 2007 semester. Fulbrights, named after the Arkansas Senator who sponsored the legislation creating them, are intended to foster better understanding between Americans and nationals of other countries. While most contact involves scholars and students, the Fulbright program is not intended to limit contact to academe, and Fellows are urged to make broad contacts in the larger host society.

Jackson did that, and this record of the Polish American's experiences makes great reading. Some of those experiences come from being an academic. Polish universities function a lot differently from their American counterparts. For one thing, the beginning of the school year is often more of a phase than a particular date. For another, some student's ideas of "collaborative learning" might less euphemistically be called "cheating." But Polish students also carry heavier course loads, and are expected to master (some might say "regurgitate") a greater body of material than their American counterparts. Faculty, too, often teach a lot more (if only to supplement meager salaries). Jackson ran into all of that, and handled it with aplomb and wit.

**AS A POLISH AMERICAN**, however, Jackson brought a special lens lacking to other Fulbrighters: the experience of things "Polish," albeit in an American setting. My professor of sociology back in Orchard Lake, Fr. Len Chrobot, used to observe that he "never felt more Polish than when he was in America, nor more American than when he was in Poland." For most of us in the third, fourth, and even fifth generations removed from the immigration experience, going back to Poland can be both thrill and disappointment:

thrill, because as Jackson observes, you sometimes feel like you're "going home," disappointment because—as Thomas Wolfe claimed—"you can't go home again."

Jackson found that out. Poles and Polonians can share kielbasa but not polkas. FDR?—most Polish Americans love him, most Poles hate him. Good will notwithstanding, kitchen Polish really limits what you can say—especially to the redhead in the bar. One can find one's roots—and no doubt that woman sitting across the table upon which they just laid the fattened calf does look a lot like ciocia Marysia—but it's also hard to pick up the family conversation after a century's hiatus.

At the same time, Jackson discovered just how Polish he really was when he describes a side tour he took to England—a place where English posed no barrier—but where he also discovered the truth of Winston Churchill's adage that Americans and Brits are two peoples divided by a common language. "As I boarded the plane at Heathrow to return to Poland, I felt a little like I was going home, and that felt even better."

This book details the delights and quirks of Poland. The tours, where the Poles pour their hearts out to squeeze in everything—and your heart needs nitroglycerin after eight hours of exploring caves or musea or castles. Polish students, who hesitate at first to ask questions but, when they feel free enough, won't stop! Polish Wigilia, with all the wonderful memories of childhood—and the forced acquisition of a taste for thirteen ways of eating carp.

This fine (if a tad expensive) little book is filled with the impressions of a Polonian and an academic rediscovering his ancestral homeland. Delightful light reading, it will undoubtedly be enjoyable both to Polish Americans and to those who have shared the experience of teaching, working, or living in another culture.

## What Legacy will Humans Leave in the Rocks?

**BABY SIGNS**

A Pop-up Book by Robert Sabuda and Matthew Reinhart

illustrations and text by Jacqueline Rogers and Kyle Olmon, Orchard Books, 2009, \$19.99

How many times have you become frustrated in not being able to figure out what your baby wants? Before a child learns to talk there are simple ways to express himself. This pop-up is designed to show simple hand signals that you and your baby will quickly learn. Before a child learns to talk there are simple ways he/she expresses himself. And you can share hand signs with your child. Some of the baby signs illustrated here include such things as bed, blanket, drink, eat, I love you, yes and no. The book's pages include a pop-up, and a tab to pull, which illustrates the action.

A great book for new parents.

**THE EARTH AFTER US**

What Legacy will Humans Leave in the Rocks?, by Jan Zalasiewicz, Oxford University Press, 2009, index, bibliography, geological time line, 272 pp, \$34.95

Much has been written about the development of the earth and changes we humans have

caused. While the earth is many billions of years old, homo sapiens has only existed for a hundred thousand years. The earth shifts and explodes periodically. What will remain of our present civilization? Submitted to eras of heat or cold, our homes, cities, road and bridges will be reduced to rubble. Today's civilization will deteriorate. The human species has made its mark.

Geologists have been able to study the past in the deep canyons of the earth — rock layers, the tilt of the strata, the fossils. What will future geologists, Terran geologists, find?

Will the continents remain the same? Will oceans contain the same creatures? What about climate and our fossils—cars, cities, plastics, machines, and plastics? Ironically, things underground, buried in the sifting sand, silt and mud over time, will offer the Terran geologists or some alien forms more clues to our current time. Underground foundations of buildings, pipes, concrete foundations, tunnels and under-

ground cities will be buried in the shifting silt and mud, and deteriorate at a slower rate than things exposed to geological forces.

With his background Zalasiewicz is able to offer a serious thought-provoking hypothesis on the future. This detailed in-depth account makes one wonder what type of footprint we will leave.

Zalasiewicz is a field geologist, paleontologist and lecturer of geology and Earth history at the University of Leicester in England.

**A LONG, LONG TIME AGO AND ESSENTIALLY TRUE**

by Bridget Pasulka

Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt, 2009, 353 pp, \$25.00

This is a heartwarming tale which begins in 1939 and slowly morphs to the post Communist era, illuminating the resilience of the Poles. Set in a tiny village, Pigeon falls in love with Anielica Hetmanski at first sight and sets out to win her father's hand by offering to repair and rebuild his hut to prove his devotion through his hard work. He never talks to Anielica, who is terribly shy. All the huts of Half Village's 27 residents need repair and they watch with wonder. He rebuilds the home of Hetmanski, who as mayor is more affluent, into a three room mansion with a roof of tin, a proper wood floor and clear glass windows, something the 27 members of the village never knew existed, all for free. The following month he installs a kitchen sink, and toilet, with running water into the home. He and Anielica's brother, Wladyslaw, build a wall around the home, a primal instinct to fence and wall in what belongs to them: home, garden plots and even graves. When they finish with a cellar, Pigeon leads the family behind the house, where he brushes away some leaves, revealing a wooden panel. He and Wladyslaw pull aside the panel, revealing a hiding place, and lead the family down the hole. They are warned to keep it secret, "just in case".

Finally Pigeon gets up courage to ask Pan Hetmanski for Anielica's hand and a grand wedding is planned. But it is Wladyslaw that gets married to his Jewish sweetheart, Marysia. They soon have a child, Irena.

The antics of a Polish wedding take place in the woods nearby, with a great wedding bed made ready for them by the villagers.

Rumors of the German invasion had been buzzing around since spring and the villagers have made preparations. They stored food in barrels, buried them in holes deep in the woods, buried their valuables and waited. Now German planes bomb nearby villages. Unknown to them, the British dropped leaflets, urging the Germans to stop, the French pulled back. And the Americans—where were they? Pigeon, knowingly scoffs at the idea of outside help and states they must protect themselves.

When war comes, Pigeon works for the resistance, along with other villagers, setting ambushes and booby traps in the mountains. By the second year of the war Pigeon and Wladyslaw are away for many weeks at a time, secretly working with the Home Army.

When the Russians take over, Pigeon decides to take Anielica to Krakow to rebuild. Some family members decide to emigrate somewhere. Pigeon and Anielica finally get married in 1945. There are witch hunts, the Communists seeking the resistance workers.

He vanishes in 1947.

The chapters alternate with this time frame and years later in Krakow where Pigeon's granddaughter, Beata. She is given the nickname of Baba Yaga, due to her plain looks, and now lives with Irena. She had been brought up listening to the heroic tales of Pigeon. This section shows the "new Poland" promised by the Communists: of supermarkets, single-family homes and control of everything. The city runs on "zlatwice"—the ability to glean favors, friends of friends, bribes, gifts to get access to the unavailable. People feel no better off than before and resentment and corruption grows. Baba learns about the true lives of her parents and grandparents and decides to stay in the community in which her family has sacrificed so much, rather than emigrate to America.

The book is full of family, maintaining traditions, the struggle of a resilient people in a nation battered frequently by neighboring nations.

## DVD Explains Catholic Railway Churches

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — How many know that churches built into railroad cars once rumbled across the United States? Claude Wiatrowski's award-winning video program titled *Railway to Heaven* tells the story of thirteen churches in railroad cars that prowled rural America for more than half a century searching for souls to save. Operated by Catholic, Episcopal and Baptist organizations, these chapel cars were hauled by both freight and passenger trains from 1890 to the 1940s. Services were held and new churches started in over 3,000 towns. Priests and missionaries frequently ministered in rail towns where crime, gambling and prostitution were rampant, and faced opposition and suffered personal hardships. These railroad churches were caught in hurricanes, struck by lightning, set afire and surrounded by floods.

Father Francis Clement Kelley is credited with the idea to construct the first Catholic car, St. Anthony. The Chicago-based NEW WORLD newspaper reported on St. Anthony's first trip as follows. "The car

left the LaSalle Street Station at 6:30 Sunday evening on June 16, 1907 for Wichita, Kansas, where it will be at the service of Bishop Hennessey until next December. During this time the Bishop or a missionary priest will tour the branch lines of the railroads running through Kansas, stopping at towns where there are no Catholic Churches to administer the sacraments and bring the consolation of religion to the isolated members of the Faith." The Catholic Church Extension Society would build three chapel cars. The Catholic cars traveled through western and southern states delivering the sacraments and explaining the tenets of the faith to non-Catholics. Catholic car St. Peter was displayed, coupled to Baptist car Grace, at the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco.

*Railway to Heaven* includes rare color motion pictures of two existing cars: Catholic car St. Paul and Baptist car Grace. Father Kenneth Velo, president of the Catholic Church Extension Society appears as do representatives of the Episcopal and American Baptist

churches who also operated railroad churches. Many historic photos of these "chapel cars" survived and are included in the video. Railroad and history enthusiasts will love the historic motion pictures from the National Archives as well as rare motion pictures of a chapel car in service in Colorado in 1935. Professional narration and music round out this entertaining and educational 58-minute video.

You'll also get a 30 minute bonus program on the same DVD which gives a glimpse of sugar cane railroading in Hawaii. *Railway to Heaven* was produced by Claude Wiatrowski, author of the books *Railroads of Colorado*, *Historic Colorado and Railroads Across North America*—all of which were previously reviewed in PAJ.

❖ ❖ ❖

You can purchase the *Railway to Heaven* DVD for \$19.95 plus \$5.00 for U.S. shipping by calling 1-800-345-6120 between 10:30 and 5:30 eastern time, Monday through Friday. You can also order online at [www.railwayshop.com/mountain.shtml#76](http://www.railwayshop.com/mountain.shtml#76).

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POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

## Tried and True Suggestions for Your Wigilia Table

Now is the time to start planning your Christmas Eve menu. Here are some classic recipes for wigilia table, each more delicious than the next!

**CLEAR DRIED MUSHROOM SOUP (czysta zupa grzybowa).** Scald 1-2 oz dried bolete mushrooms with boiling water to more than cover and let stand 2 hrs, then cook in same water until tender. Remove and slice mushrooms into strips and return to stock. Peel and dice: 2 carrots, a slice of celeriac (or 1 stalk celery), and 1 parsley roots, 1 quartered onion, 1 bay leaf, 4 peppercorns and 2 grains allspice in 5 c water until tender. Strain, reserving veggies for salad (below). Add the mushrooms and their liquid and simmer briefly. Season to taste with salt, pepper and a little lemon juice and serve over cooked egg noodles. Garnish with a fresh chopped parsley.

**CLEAR FRESH MUSHROOM SOUP (czysta zupa grzybowa).** Cook 2 carrots, 1 stalk celery, 1 quartered onion, 1 bay leaf, 4 peppercorns in 7 c water until tender. Remove vegetables and use in some other dish. Fry up 4 oz washed, diced Portobello mushrooms with a small minced onion in 2 T butter about 15 min. Add mushrooms and 2 mushroom bouillon cubes to stock and simmer covered on low 10 min.

**HERRING IN OIL (śledź w oleju).** Soak 1 lb Matjas herring fillets in cold water 2 hrs or longer, changing water several times. (Matjas herring imported from Holland do not require a 24-hour or overnight soaking the way heavily salted herring do!) Pat herring dry, cut into 1-1/2" pieces fillets. Peel and slice thin 2 small onions and alternate in layers in jar with herring. Add a bay leaf, several grains allspice and peppercorns and drench with salad oil to cover. Seal jar and refrigerate overnight or longer. Drain herring and arrange on serving platter. Serve with boiled potatoes or Polish rye bread.

**VEGETABLE SALAD (salatka jarzynowa).** Combine the cooked vegetables from the soups above with 2 c cold, cooked diced potatoes, 2 peeled, diced apples, 1 diced onion,

2 chopped dill pickles, a small can of drained navy beans, a small can of drained peas & carrots and 1 T chopped fresh parsley. Toss gently and fold in sauce: fork-blend 3/4 c mayonnaise and 3/4 c sour cream and 1-2 T brown Polish-style mustard. If dieting, prepare less sauce. Optional: For a gourmet twist add 1 heaping T. capers. Chill at least 2 hrs before serving.



**KOMPOT 12 APOSTOŁÓW** (12 Apostles Compote) is a delicious addition to any Christmas Eve table.

**FRIED FISH (ryba smażona).** Wash and dry 2-3 lbs fresh or thawed fish fillets (pike, walleye, lake perch, cod, haddock, etc.), salt well and refrigerate several hrs or overnight. The fillets may be interspersed with onion and/or lemon slices. Rinse and pat dry, salt & pepper, dust with paprika and sprinkle with a pinch of sage, dredge just in flour or roll in 50-50 mixture of plain bread crumbs and flour and fry in hot oil until golden brown on the outside and fully cooked on the inside. Drain on paper towel and serve with horseradish sauce: fork-blend 2/3 c. mayonnaise, 1/3 c. sour cream and 1 heaping T. prepared horseradish. Season to taste with lemon juice, sugar and a pinch of salt. Serve fish with boiled potatoes and sauerkraut (below).

**FISH POLONAISE (ryba po Polsku).** Melt 3 T butter in skillet, remove from heat and add 4-5 finely chopped hard-cooked eggs, tossing to coat them thoroughly with the butter. Salt & pepper generously and set aside. In 4 c vegetable stock containing 1 T vinegar and (optional) 1/4 c dry white wine, cook 2 1/2 lbs freshwater fillets (perch, walleye, northern pike, whitefish, catfish, etc.) until tender and flaky (probably only a few minutes). Re-

move to serving dish with slotted spoon, pouring away any liquid that accumulates at bottom of dish. Into egg mixture stir 1 or more heaping T finely chopped fresh dill and spoon topping over fish.

**SAUERKRAUT & NOODLE SQUARES (kapusta z lazankami).** Prepare sauerkraut as in preceding recipe. Cook a pkg of lasagna longer than directions on package indicate, so it is no longer "al dente" (rubbery), as the Italians call it, but fully cooked and tender. Drain, rinse under cold running water in colander, drip dry and cut into squares. Combine with the hot sauerkraut and serve.

**STUFFED CABBAGE ROLLS WITH MUSHROOMS (gołąbki z grzybami).** In 3 T butter, margarine or oil sauté 12 oz fresh Portobello mushrooms, washed and chopped fine, with 2 med chopped onions. Combine with 3 - 3-1/2 c preferably slightly undercooked rice, barley or buckwheat groats, cooked with 1 mushroom cube. Add 1 raw egg and mix to blend ingredients. Salt & pepper to taste and garnish with 1 T chopped fresh parsley. Fill pre-wilted cabbage leaves as usual, drench with 3 c vegetable stock and bake in preheated 350° oven at least 2 hrs. Leave in oven until cooled to room temp and heat before serving. They will be even better if refrigerated overnight. Optional: The creamed mushrooms (below) may be spooned over the gołąbki on serving platter.

**POPPYSEED FILLING (masa makowa).** Although not a dish in itself, this filling is used in a number of typical sweet Christmas Eve dishes. In pot combine 3 c poppyseeds with plenty of cold water and swish around with hand. Pour off any impurities that float up. Drench with cold water again and drain through fine sieve. Place poppyseeds in pot, scald with boiling water to cover and simmer on low until poppyseeds disintegrate between fingers (about 40 min.). Drain in fine sieve, pressing out moisture. Pass through fine plate of meat-grinder twice or through special poppyseed-grinder once. Or

process them in food-processor several min. until puréed. In saucepan melt 3 1/2 T butter, add poppyseeds, 1 c sugar, 1/2 t grated lemon zest, 3 T honey and 1/3 c plumped raisins and simmer 15 min. or so, stirring frequently. About 1/4 t. vanilla extract and/or several drops of almond extract may be added. Note: Canned poppyseed filling is available, but it is nowhere as tasty as the real thing!

**NOODLES & POPPYSEEDS (kluski lub lazanki z makiem).** Cook 1 lb pkg of wide or medium-wide egg noodles or lasagna according to directions or until tender. If using lasagna, after it has cooked cut it into roughly 1" squares. Dot hot, freshly-drained pasta with a little butter and stir in 1 c or more homemade poppyseed filling (above) or the canned variety. Note: If using canned poppyseed filling, add 1/2 - 3/4 c plumped raisins and toss gently to evenly distribute. May be served warm, room temp or chilled. Some like to pour a little coffee cream over their portions

**RICE & PEAR CASSEROLE (ryż zapiekany z gruszkami).** Combine 4 c cooked rice (preferably cooked in milk or half water - half milk) with 4 peeled, cored, diced, firm pears and transfer to well-buttered

casserole. Sprinkle with a pinch of cinnamon or grated nutmeg, dot generously with butter and bake covered 45 min at 350°. Variations: 1/2 c plumped raisins may be added before baking. Just apples or a combination of pears and apples may be used. After removing from oven, dust with confectioner's sugar. Or, skip the sugar and provide cherry or raspberry syrup as a topping.

**STEWED PRUNES, FIGS & RAISINS (kompot z suszu).** In pot combine 1 c whole pitted prunes, 1/2 c chopped figs and 1/2 c raisins. Scald with boiling water to cover and let stand 1 hr. Add 1 thinly sliced, peeled lemon with seeds removed and cook 15 min, adding a little more water if all has been absorbed. Serve chilled in dessert dishes. Variation: Mixed dried fruit may be used instead of prunes, figs & raisins.

**12 APOSTLES COMPOTE/STEWED FRUIT (kompot 12 Apostolów).** Proceed as in preceding stewed-fruit recipe but include a little of the following: pitted prunes, dried apples, pears, cherries, apricots, peaches, pitted dates, dried figs, raisins and dried currants. Before cooking add a sliced orange and lemon (with rind scrubbed well and seeds removed).

### Po Obiedzie — After Dinner

**HONEY-SPICE COOKIES (pierniczki).** Beat 2 eggs with 1 c sugar until smooth and lemony. Add 1 c honey, 1 t baking soda dissolved in 3 T water and 1/2 t of the following: ground ginger, allspice, cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves plus 1/4 t pepper. Mix well, gradually adding 3 c flour, into a fairly stiff dough. Wrap in plastic wrap and set aside to 30 min. Roll dough out 1/2" thick and cut into circles, stars, diamonds, fish, etc. Place on parchment-lined baking sheet and bake in preheated 400° oven 10 min or until edges are lightly browned. When cook, store in airtight cookie tin. Serve as is or glaze as desired.

**POLISH PLUM COOKIES (kolaczyki z powidłami).** Cream 1 lb soft butter with 1 pt vanilla ice cream. Fold in 4 c flour and mix until blended. Scoop off heaping 1 t portions of dough, roll into ball and flatten, making an indentation at center with thumb. Into opening place a small dollop of thick powidła (Polish plum butter). Bake on greased baking sheet in preheated 350° oven about 20 min. Dust with confectioner's sugar after removing from oven.

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## Polish Christmas Concepts, Projects, and Tips

by Robert Strybel

The purpose of this column is to help fellow-Polish Americans explore and share various aspects of our beautiful Polish Christmas heritage in their family circles as well as in their clubs, parishes, neighborhoods or general community. Everyone must decide for themselves which of the entries are of only historical interest and which might be successfully introduced and cultivated in an American setting.

Each entry could be the topic of a school composition or essay and many entries could form part of a Polish trivia quiz. There are no copyright restrictions on this column, because the name of the game is sharing our Polish cultural legacy far and wide. Anyone so inclined is free to photo-copy or otherwise reproduce this article in full or in part in their club newsletter, parish bulletin, printed Christmas program or on the Internet.

**SETTING THE MOOD.** Are you in favor of today's holiday commercialism with its "born to buy" and "shop till you drop" mentality? If so, then be sure to constantly keep asking your kids and grandkids what they "want" for Christmas and make a big fuss about shopping for, hiding, and wrapping presents, presents and more presents. But if you feel the season should mainly be a time of love, peace, kindness and sharing our beautiful Christmas heritage, then tell your youngsters about it. If you're a bit rusty in that area, read on!

**"TREASURED POLISH CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS."** Although first issued by the Polanie Publishing Co. of Minneapolis in 1972, this richly illustrated book is still probably the best all-round English-language work on the subject. It includes Polish Yuletide customs, craft projects, a nativity play, recipes, kolędy (carols with musical notes as well as Polish and English lyrics) and much, much more. Available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

**"A POLISH CHRISTMAS EVE."** Written by Father Czesław Krysa of Niagara Falls, NY, one of Polonia's foremost authorities on Polish folk culture, this book is subtitled "Traditions and Recipes, Decorations and Song." It contains everything anyone needs to know about our Polish Wigilia (Christmas Eve) heritage and includes numerous stories and photographs illustrating these customs as practiced in Poland and across Polish America. Available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

**ADVENT (Adwent).** This is a roughly four-week period of spiritual preparation for



**SAINT NICHOLAS (Święty Mikołaj):** Unlike the goofy Santa character, Święty Mikołaj is wears the attire of a dignified bishop who visits children on his feastday (Dec. 6). His helper is a little angel or two. Before passing out treats, he first quizzes kids on their prayers, good deeds and behavior, and may ask them to sing a kolęda (carol). A St. Nicholas costume can often be stitched together using old household discards (drapes, capes, bedspreads, bathrobes, etc.).

Christmas that begins on a Sunday at the end of November or start of December (in 2009 on Nov. 29). It is similar to but less somber than Lent, for the prayerful mood is meant to make people look forward to Christ's coming. In Polish tradition it includes known the daily Roraty Mass that begins before dawn.

**TRUE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT.** This can be instilled in young children of pre-school age through "the hay of good deeds". At the start of Advent youngsters should be told to set aside one strand of hay each time he or she does a good deed or makes a sacrifice: helps someone, feeds the birds, puts their toys away, shares something with others, gives up a favorite TV program, etc. The more good deeds, the softer the bed Baby Jesus will have in His manger on Christmas Eve.

**ADVENT WREATH (wieniec adwentowy).** A wreath with four candles attached is suspended horizontally over the family dinner. In a count-down to Christmas, an additional candle is lit on each successive Sunday of Ad-

vent, accompanied by a suitable prayer. This custom was practiced more widely in parts of Poland that had been under German cultural influence. The wreath can be easily fashioned from evergreen branches, wire coat-hangers, perhaps a hoop and a little ingenuity

**SHEPHERD'S HORN (ligawka).** This curved, five-foot or longer horn, usually carved from willow or linden wood, was sounded during Advent in the Mazowsze and Podlasie regions of NE Poland and up into Lithuania as a call to piety. It reminded people of Christ's coming and was thought to symbolize the trumpet to be sounded by the archangel on Judgment Day.

**CHRISTMAS CRIB OR CRÈCHE.** In Polish tradition, a small, often thatched steep-roofed structure symbolizes the żłóbek or szopka (stable) of Christ's birth. Varieties include the shimmering, cathedral-like Kraków Crèche (szopka krakowska) and portable puppet stages carried house to house by carolers. A good family or group craft project!

**FOLK MOBILE (pająk):** The word "pająk" means spider but it was also applied to a chandelier and by extension to decorative mobiles suspended from the rafters of Polish peasant cottages long before Christmas trees were known. They are usually fashioned from string, straw, crêpe paper and balls of wool. Peas are also strung on strong thread and resemble loops of strung pearls when they dry. An interesting craft project for old and young alike!

**STAR (gwiazda):** This important Christmas symbol recalls the star that led shepherds and the Three Kings to the humble stable in Bethlehem where Jesus was born. In Polish tradition, another name for Christmas (Boże Narodzenie) is Gwiazdka (little star) which might be better translated as "Star-Feast". The first star of the evening on December 24th is the sign for the festive Wigilia supper to begin. And traditionally a star ornament graces the peak of many if not most Polish Christmas trees.

**CHRISTMAS TREE (choinka or drzewko).** Originally a German import, it did not appear in Poland until the 19th century and in many rural areas not till the mid-20th. Spruces and first are the trees of preference. Old-fashion Polish trees are trimmed with edibles and home-made decorations (see below), more modern ones with those fabulous hand-blow glass ball-type ornaments. In Polish tradi-

tion, the tree is set up and trimmed early on Christmas Eve, or on December 23rd at the earliest, but it remains up at least until Three Kings (Jan. 6th) or even until Candlemas (Feb. 2nd).

**EVERGREEN TOP OR BOUGH (podłaźniczka, sad [orchard]).** Sometimes called an "upside-down Christmas tree" in America, this is the peak of an evergreen, suspended upside down from the ceiling or rafters and decorated with fruit, nuts and sweets in shimmering wrappings and home-made ornaments which was around before the Christmas tree made its appearance. It can also be an evergreen bough (branch). Also, plain, undecorated evergreen twigs, protruding from behind pictures and mirrors or displayed in vases give the home a festive, fresh, woody scent.

**HOME-MADE TREE DECORATIONS.** Paper chains, straw and hollow-eggshell ornaments as well as walnuts wrapped in shimmering foil and tied with a red ribbon are among the traditional home-made ornaments used on Polish Christmas trees and evergreen tops alike. Making them could be a good home or club craft project. Detailed instruction on how to proceed are found in the books listed above.

**SHEAF OF GRAIN (snop zboża).** In the olden days a bound sheaf of unthreshed grain was placed in the corner of the cottage where the family was to gather for the Wigilia celebration. It symbolized the health, good fortune and bountiful harvest with which family hoped to be blessed. This ritual artifact may be worth re-creating at Polonian Christmas presentations, and a downsized version tied with a red ribbon could grace the family Wigilia table or some other prominent spot.

**STRAW (słoma).** Straw like that which serves as cattle bedding in cow sheds and stables was once strewn about the floor of the peasant cottage for the Wigilia supper. Straw was also tied around the legs of the Wigilia table. The symbolism alluded to the humble stable in which Jesus was born.

**HAY (siano).** This dried grass which serves as the principle cattle feed in the colder months also serves a ritual function on Wigilia. Handfuls of hay are scattered across the tabletop on which the Wigilia supper is to be served before being covered with a pure-white tablecloth. This is in memory of the hay-filled manger that served as Baby Jesus' cradle.

### Parish or Community Christmas Crib

Polish-American parishes nearly always arrange a nativity scene inside the church, usually at a side altar or other appropriate place. Some parishes have outdoor displays often housed in a small shed- or stable-like structure. Here are some basic versions on the Christmas crib meant for public display:

- **Static crèche:** Traditional plaster or wooden figures of the Holy Family, angels, shepherds and animals (whose dimensions usually range from 12" to live-sized) are arranged round a hay-filled manger in a usually rustic setting designed to resembling a stable. This is obviously the easiest display to create, hence it is the most common.
- **Moving (mechanical) crèche:** Some or all the figures are set into motion by electrical devices. For instance: Baby Jesus might be raising His hand in blessing, the Virgin Mary rocks the cradle, shepherds bow to pay their respects, the angel moves his trumpet, the cattle munches hay in the

background, etc. At Warsaw's best-known mobile nativity tableau at the Capuchin Church in Miodowa Street, a array of Polish religious of figures (saints, kings, national heroes, etc.) file past the static Holy Family. Secular elements (a windmill, children sledding, even cartoon characters) are depicted in different corners of the display for the benefit of young children visiting the crèche.

- **Static crèche with live animals:** Poland's biggest nativity tableau at the Shrine of the Black Madonna in Częstochowa features large figures of the Holy Family and shepherds surrounded by live donkeys, cows and other animals. Needless to say, this approach heightens the interest of youngsters and helps make the story of Christ's birth come alive in a way they can more easily understand.
- **Living crèche:** Warsaw's St Stanislaus Kostka Church is a good example of a portrayal featuring only live participants. Young married couples with babies take turns portraying the Holy Family, children play the part of shepherds and the animals in surrounding pens add a petting-zoo di-

mension to the traditional Christmas crib.

A few additional points to consider:

- Kolędy flowing from a loudspeaker can help create the proper mood for viewing the publicly displayed nativity scene.
- A recorded narration or a live narrator can give the main points of the nativity, touch upon the custom of setting up Christmas cribs as originated by St Francis of Assisi, explain how it developed in Polish tradition and possibly describe the history of the crèche currently being viewed.
- Since traditionally nativity tableaux are kept up in Poland until February 2nd, the figures of the Three Kings are not added until their feastday (Jan. 6). Polish-American parishes that keep the Christmas crib only until the Epiphany (Jan. 6) sometimes add the Three Kings earlier (around New Year's). An alternative would be to keep the display up until Candlemas (Feb. 2), the Polish way.

— Robert Strybel



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## IN MEMORIAM

## Tough, Courageous Ghetto Fighter Dead at 87

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW—Marek Edelman, the last surviving leader of the 1943 Warsaw Jewish Ghetto Uprising recently died in his Warsaw home at the age of 87. A supporter of the Bund (Jewish socialist party), during the Nazi German occupation of Poland, he helped set up the left-ist Jewish Combat Organization (Żydowska Organizacja Bojowa).



Following the suicide of its commander Mordechai Anielewicz, Edelman took over the command. He survived the crushing of the ill-fated rising and the liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto, which the Germans reduced to rubble. After his escape, he joined the underground Home Army (Armia Krajowa) and the following year fought in and also survived the Warsaw Uprising.

Since he had been born in Homel, Poland (now Belarus), located in the one-half of Poland annexed by Stalin and never returned, after the war Edelman gave his place of birth as Warsaw to avoid being sent to the USSR. He studied medicine, became a medical doctor and spent most of his life in the central city of Łódź.

Although communist Poland claimed to be building socialism, of which Edelman had been a life-long advocate, he soon became

disillusioned with life in a totalitarian state. When most of Poland's surviving Jews left the country in the wake of the communist party's 1968 anti-Semitic purge, Edelman stayed put. "Nobody is going to tell me what to do or where to go," he replied defiantly.

In the 1970s, Edelman joined the largely Jewish-led Workers Defense Committee (KOR), an anti-communist dissident movement. In 1980, he became a member of Solidarity and one of the leaders of the union's Łódź region, but when martial law was declared in December 1981 he was jailed by the Jaruzelski regime. He maintained his staunch anti-communist stance when he rejected the regime's offer in 1983 to join its committee to mark the 40th anniversary of the Ghetto Uprising. In 1998, he was awarded the Order of the White Eagle, Poland's highest decoration, for his life-long dedication to democracy, freedom and human rights.

But Edelman was also quite a controversial character. He frequently ruffled the feathers of fellow-Jews with his anti-Zionist views and harsh criticism of Israel's mistreatment of the Palestinians. He was also a vocal defender of war refugees from Bosnia and Kosovo as well as Gypsies who suffered discrimination in the Czech Republic.

He also offended Catholic sensibilities with his atheistic tirades. "People were killed in the ghetto not because God willed it, but be-

cause evil people committed those crimes," Edelman argued. "There is nothing in the heavens, neither brightness nor darkness, heat nor cold — pure nothingness."

Edelman readily gave interviews but often criticized and ridiculed his interviewers. "What a stupid question, are you really that naïve?" he would interrupt the questioner. "You must never have been starving. In the ghetto nobody was interested in any God. Everybody only wanted to survive."

Despite his bossy ways and prickly personality, Edelman commanded great authority across the ethnic and religious divide. His undiplomatic and often impolite remarks were readily forgiven in view of his uncompromising sense of commitment and what he had gone through.

"A great man of courage and truth is gone," said Israel's former ambassador to Poland Szewach Weiss. "I loved him greatly and will miss him very much. We had held many conversations in Yiddish which he knew very well."

Bishop Tadeusz Pieronek, a prominent Polish churchman called him "an icon of the presence of the Jewish world in Polish history and culture ... He was a witness to the extermination and I respect him greatly."

In deference to the deceased's atheist views, the bishop did not call for prayers but said: "I ask for a reflection worthy of his departure."

## Retired Brig. Gen. Thaddeus W. Maliszewski

WETHERSFIELD, Conn. — Brigadier General Thaddeus W. Maliszewski (Retired). Patriot, husband, father, advocate, judge, orator, writer, and poet. Passed into eternal life Sept. 14, 2009. He was born in Hartford, Conn. on January 10, 1922, and was one of thirteen children of Joseph and Apolonia Maliszewski. As a child, he helped to support his family during the Great Depression by shining shoes and selling newspapers. He was an avid reader, which was the foundation of a powerful, vigorous intellect that helped him to develop a lifelong interest in history, especially Polish history. The giants of the latter, notably Jan Sobieski and Tadeusz Kosciuszko, were his heroes and role models, and he forged a vital and tough mental ability, tremendous motivation, and a robust work ethic. He was a member of the Boy Scouts, and earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Despite poverty and hardship, he resolved to go to college.

He enlisted in the Army Air Corps, and fought honorably in World War II in the South Pacific. He participated in the landings at Leyte and Noemfoor, the Philippine liberation, and the occupation of Japan, and was awarded various medals for his military service, including the Bronze Star. After World War II, he earned a Bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University, and a law degree from the UCONN School of Law. He served in the Connecticut National Guard as Judge Advocate General in the 43rd Infantry Division and on the Military Staffs of Governors Ella Grasso & William O'Neill. Upon his final military retirement, he achieved the State rank of Brigadier General. In civilian life, Maliszewski had a private law practice in Hartford. He also served as a Senior Traffic Court Judge from 1955 to 1960. He was a member or officer of various civic, professional, and cultural groups, including the Polish American Congress.

## TRIVIA TIME / Ellye Slusarczyk

- Cardinal Dziwisz was John Paul's private secretary and closest aide for nearly: a. 7 years b. 31 years c. 40 years
- St. Jude Children's Hospital has benefited from the album entitled: a. *Listen, My Little Ones* b. *Polkas for Charity* c. *Polka All-Stars*
- Stas Golonka is affectionately known as: a. Chicago's Polka Prince b. King of Honky c. Captain Oberek.
- The Polish String Band of Philadelphia has given outstanding performances since: a. 1908 b. 1933 c. 1962
- Michael Lawicki of London who led the industrial group at Jamestown was originally a: a. nobleman b. peasant c. monk
- "Heaven Has a Blue Carpet" is a story about a suburban Polish housewife raising: a. goats b. cattle c. sheep
- Paszteciki* are: a. pastry turnovers b. vegetable omelet c. fruited drinks
- Many Polish coal miners worked in the Anthracite Coal fields of: a. West Virginia b. Northeastern Pennsylvania c. Central New York State
- The Polish-American Dance Company, for over 70 years, is located in: a. Detroit b. Brooklyn c. Baltimore
- Pudding made with grain, honey and poppyseed is: a. kutia b. kluski c. holiday compote

**ANSWERS.** 1. c 40 years 2. b *Polkas for Charity* 3. b King of Honky 4. b 1933 5. a nobleman 6. c sheep 7. a pastry turnovers 8. b Northeastern Pennsylvania 9. b Brooklyn 10. a kutia

## Alice M. Drejerski, Editor of PBA Edition of Polish American Journal

PHILADELPHIA — Alice M. (nee Sliwa) on Oct. 2, 2009. She was editor of the Polish Beneficial Association's (Philadelphia) edition of the POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL, and director of the fraternal benefit society.

Mrs. Drejerski was the wife of the late Theodore S. Drejerski, who

served the PBA as its president. She is survived by son Stephen T., sister Florence Malanik (the late Joseph), Edward Sliwa (Lucille), Walter Sliwa (Irene) and sister-in-law to Walter. Jean Tantara (Albert M., Sr.), Stanley (Madi), Anne DeMaria (the late Tony) and the late Joseph (Joan).

Funeral services were held at Our Lady of Calvary Church, Philadelphia. She was laid to rest at Resurrection Cemetery.

Donations in her memory to the Our Lady of Calvary School (11023 Kipling Ln., Philadelphia, PA 19154-4295, (215) 637-1648), would be appreciated by her family.

## Henry Victor Karolkiewicz, Funeral Director, Active in Organizations

WORCESTER, Mass. — Henry Victor Karolkiewicz, 86, a retired funeral director with over 50 years of service, died Sept. 16, 2009.

An overseas veteran of World War II, he enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard and was honorably discharged in 1946. He served aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Bibb, doing convoy duty in the European-as well as Pacific Theatres and participated in the invasion of Okinawa.

He graduated from Clark University in 1947 with a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree and from New England Institute of Anatomy, Sanitary Science, Embalming and Funeral Directing in Boston in 1948.

In 1948, Henry became a partner with his father Lucian and his brother Edward J. Karolkiewicz in the operation of Karolkiewicz & Sons Funeral Home on Richland St., Worcester. After his brother's death and his father's retirement, Henry bought the Funeral Home in 1955.

He constructed a new funeral home at 33 Ward St., Worcester, under the new name of Henry Funeral Service where he began operation in January, 1960.

Karolkiewicz was elected commander of the Polish-American Veterans of World War II, Inc. in February 1951. He was elected president of the White Eagle Association in December 1951. He is a past member of the National and Massachusetts Funeral Directors Associations, a life member of Our Lady of Czechochowa Church where he had been a lector for many years and the first recording secretary of its St. Mary's Boosters in 1957. A member of both the Henryk Sienkiewicz Society and the Archbishop Cieplak Society of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, a member of the Queen Hedwig Society of the Polish National Alliance, a member of the Polish-American Numismatic Association, and the Quo Vadis Club of Worcester where he was honored as

"Man Of The Year" in 1996. He was a Founding Trustee of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, D.C. from whom he received a "Pro Vita Ecclesia" (For the life of the Church) medal in 1997 and he is past Senior Vice President of the Pope John Paul II Foundation of New England in Webster, Mass. Having been honored by several private audiences with Pope John Paul II, in 1993, Henry received the Papal Cross from the Pope, "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" (For Church and Pontiff). It is the highest award a lay person may receive from the Vatican.

Henry's pride in his Polish heritage had motivated his 40 years of devotion to Polish numismatics. He had the finest private and most comprehensive Polish coin collection in the world.

Henry and his wife, Josephine E. (Ozierynski) Karolkiewicz, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 25, 1997.

## BRUSH UP

## Fauna, Animals II

królik	(KRUH-leek)	m	rabbit
zając	(ZAH-yohnts)	m	hare
świnia	(SHFEE-nyah)	f	pig
owca	(OHF-tseh)	f	sheep
bóbr	(buhbr)	m	beaver
borsuk	(BOHR-suhk)	m	badger
łoś	(wohsh)	m	elk
lis	(lees)	m	fox
świstak	(SHFEES-tahk)	m	marmot
jeleń	(YEH-layn)	m	deer, stag

Phonetic hh is like ch in loch  
Phonetic ai is like eye  
m, n, f denotes male, female, neuter  
saran .....(SAHR-nah) f  
deer, roe  
wąż .....(vohnsh) m  
snake  
żmija .....(ZHMEE-yah) f  
viper  
wilk .....(veelk) m  
fox  
dzik .....(djeek) m  
wild boar

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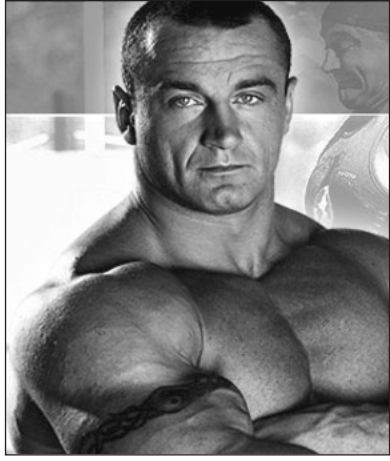
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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

## Super Mariusz Update



You won't see it on ESPN until the holidays, but **Mariusz Pudzianowski** (above) fell just short in his effort to win the World's Strongest Man Competition for the sixth time. He finished second to Lithuanian Zydrunas Savickas in the 2009 competition held in Malta. As usual, very few details are available at this point.

Mariusz, the world's most successful strongman competitor, has had a lot on his plate. He recently competed in Poland's version of the TV show *Dancing With the Stars*. In addition, he has been training for Mixed Martial Arts, and reportedly has a match lined up against countryman Marcin Najman.

Pudzianowski holds a fourth kyu green belt in Kyokushin kaikan Karate and has been a competitive boxer for seven years. He doesn't have any wrestling background, but with a few years of training he could become a big name in MMA.

**SOCCER COACH SACKED.** Poland's former national soccer head coach Leo Beenhakker said that he was shown little respect during his recent dismissal, and that the country lagged behind Europe because of lack of progress in schooling and training.

Beenhakker told the daily *Rzeczpospolita* he learned of his dismissal from a TV news reporter. He was fired after his team's 3-0 defeat in Slovenia in what the Polish football association (PZPN) head called one of the 'weakest games' for the team in a decade. The loss to Slovenia ended hopes that Poland would qualify for the 2010 World Cup finals in South Africa. The Dutch-born Beenhakker was the first foreigner to coach Poland in 2006, and took the team to the Euro 2008 finals. Stefan Majewski was named interim coach.

Beenhakker said that he worked well with former football association head Michal Listkiewicz., but problems occurred when the association elected new leadership who offered him little support. He added that football was stagnating in Poland while Europe and the rest of the world moved forward because they had proper training and football schooling. For example, he said that Poland still used a communist-era handbook from 1988 to school its trainers.

**ULATOSKI COMES UP BIG.** A big — and I mean big — reason for the success of the Texas Longhorns

football team **Adam Ulatoski**. The 6-8, 310-lb. lineman is a big and reliable force on the Longhorns offensive line, as well as a versatile player who can handle either tackle position.

Ulatoski was born in Naperville, Illinois but moved to Texas and attended Carroll High School in Southlake, Texas, where he was a Parade All-American. He then went to the University of Texas, where he was named a first-team Freshman All-American by THE SPORTING NEWS. He has gone on to start at both left and right tackle, and has earned All-Big 12 Honors.

Adam's also a two-time first-team Academic All-Big 12 selection. He graduated in December '08 with a degree in corporate communications and is now enrolled in graduate school for advertising.

In the beginning of the 2009 season, Ulatoski was listed at No. 11 on *Rivals.com*'s preseason offensive tackle power ranking. He was also named to the 2009 Outland Trophy watch list, and is considered a top prospect in the NFL draft.

**GRONKOWSKI OUT.** Arizona's **Rob Gronkowski**, one of the nation's top collegiate tight ends, will miss the rest of the season due to back surgery next week. Gronkowski, a junior, was a third-team All-American last season after making 47 catches for 672 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Rob's brother, Dan, played tight end at Maryland and is on the De-

troit Lions' practice squad. Younger brother, Chris, is an H-Back at the University of Arizona. Another younger brother, Glenn, is a stand-out high school football and baseball player that some think might be the best athlete of the bunch. Older brother Gordie was playing for the Single A Cedar Rapids baseball team before suffering back problems.

Their father, Gordie, co-founder of the G&G Fitness chain, set the boys up with fitness equipment and started them in the right direction, but didn't force them into sports. "I never pushed my kids," he said. "I said, 'I'll help you and if you don't want it I won't make you do it.'"

### GREAT ONE LEAVES PHOENIX.

**Wayne Gretzky** abruptly resigned as head coach of the Phoenix Coyotes amid the financial turmoil surrounding the team. Coyotes general manager Don Maloney had been preparing for Gretzky's departure, which had been rumored as the bankruptcy court battle between Canadian billionaire Jim Balsillie and the NHL over the sale of the team dragged on. However, insiders expect Gretzky to get another hockey job soon.

By the way, there's always some confusion about Gretzky's ethnicity. If you check out [www.gretzky.com](http://www.gretzky.com),

the website for Gretzky's foundation, it has a biography for Walter that describes him as the son of ethnically Polish immigrants.

**HONOR FOR LUBANSKI.** **Mike Lubanski**, a Malvern Prep senior has been named the 2009 Gatorade Pennsylvania State High School Baseball Player of the Year, following the footsteps of his older brother, Chris.

Lubanski, a 5-10, 180-lb. catcher/third baseman, led the Friars to a 22-6 record and led Malvern to its second Pennsylvania Independent Schools Tournament title in the past three years. He batted .354 with three home runs, 24 RBIs, 27 runs scored and a .505 on-base percentage. The First-Team All-Inter-Ac selection holds a career .371 average at Malvern and is regarded as one of the state's best defensive catchers. Off the field, Lubanski maintained a 3.3 GPA in the classroom and plans to attend Wake Forest University.

Mike Lubanski's older brother, Chris, was the 2003 Gatorade National High School Baseball Player of the Year and the first round draft pick of the Kansas City Royals that same year and currently plays for the Triple A Omaha Royals. Mike's younger brother, Joe, is a fine player for Malvern Prep.

CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin S. Nowak

## My November 11

Permit me to take on a more personal tone in this month's column. The 11th day of November marks an important date in the history of the United States of America, in the history of Poland, and in my own life.

The keeping of Polish traditions in my family was kind of hit and miss, I suspect not unlike that in many others. We were interested in becoming a modern American family rather than staying connected to the past. Yes, there was the Easter Świąconka and Catholic observances, and Polish goodies made from old family recipes that had been passed down from generation to generation. Polish was spoken in the family among my parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents, but it was never taught to the children except for a few words.

I did not know that November 11 was St. Martin's Day, my namesday, until I was a teenager. And it was not until years later that I learned that in the old Polish tradition a namesday is a more important personal day than a birthday. Neat. November 11 became a special day for me.

But then it was already special. November 11, of course, is observed as the federal holiday of Veterans' Day in America, which started out as Armistice Day in 1918, the day World War I ended. From the time I was knee-high I was taught the meaning of that day, not only at school but also by my father at home. He is a World War II veteran whose father and uncle were veterans of World War I. Veterans' Day took on a more personal meaning for me when I was discharged from the U.S. Army in the early 1970s after being drafted two years before. I now knew firsthand some of the sacrifices made by our servicemen and women. I realized that I was luckier than some, because I came back home uninjured either mentally or physically. For that, I thanked my lucky stars.

Maybe I should have thanked St. Martin, for he is the patron saint of

soldiers. St. Martin of Tours was a fourth century Hungarian-born Roman soldier who served in France. A Christian, he once stopped to give half of his cloak to a scantily clad beggar, and in a dream it was revealed to him that the beggar had actually been Jesus Christ. He subsequently left the army, devoted himself to the Church and became an important Catholic bishop.

**NOVEMBER 11** is also Poland's national day, its Independence Day. It was on that date in 1918, the same day that the First World War ended, that Marshall Józef Piłsudski, head of the Polish armed forces as appointed by the Polish Regency Council, declared in Warsaw the independence of the Polish nation.

Not that I knew any of this as a youngster. My knowledge of Polish history as a child was almost nonexistent. In my late teens I casually read a book about the history of Poland out of a sense of curiosity. Then about twenty years ago I became deeply interested in tracing my family tree. As anyone involved in genealogy will tell you, exploring your family history also involves exploring the history of the places where your ancestors lived. For me, all roads led to Poland. In middle age I seriously began to read books and articles about Poland and started to understand and revere my roots. I contacted relatives in this country and found cousins in the old country, and made visits to see them. So November 11 took on yet a third important meaning for me, a Polish American veteran named Martin.

Each November 11 brings to the forefront for me three things: through St. Martin's Day, the mysteries and traditions of Christianity; through Veterans' Day, the profound respect I have for America and the people who have sacrificed for it; and through Polish Independence Day, pride in my connection to the land of my forefathers, the ancient and honorable nation of Poland.

BABA JAGA'S CORNER / Jagoda Urban-Klaehn

## Poland Twenty Years After Communism

My first observation about my last visit to Poland: the new generation of Poles grew during the last twenty years!

I visited Poland this summer, and it was probably the most encouraging visit ever, there is just so much change for better! The new generation grew after communism. These young people have the same opportunities like their Western European peers. They know how to deal with the free market economy, many of them worked abroad, they are energetic, industrious, open-minded, many are entrepreneurs.

There were series of changes which led to the current situation. The year 1989 was crucial. In that year the last communistic cabinet of prime-minister Rakowski liberated the prices for food. Then the first free elections allowed establishment Mazowiecki's cabinet, the first non-communistic government.

The second but also very significant boost for Polish economy was Poland's entry to the European Union in 2004.

The defeat of communism in 1989 helped to build a free market. I still remember my big surprise when I was walking in downtown Krakow in the early '90s and saw so many newly-created small, private stores. They grew as fast as fresh mushrooms after the first rain! This was a big change after the dark '80s with empty stores and no hope for any economic or political change.

Joining the EU in 2004 led to the improvement of the infrastructure. EU institutions channeled the money into building the new roads, bridges, cleaning the environment.

The symbolic "thick wall," which separated Poland and other Eastern European countries from Western countries — both, politically and economically is gone, I hope forever.

For my generation each foreign trip was a problem. It was hard to get a passport, visa and money. Crossing the border between the East and the West was a shocking experience. They (the Westerners) seemed to have it all: good cars, roads, full stores, money and freedom. We — the Easterners — did not have anything. We were literally living on less than one dollar a day, since our monthly salary was equal to a couple of kilos of coffee.

The new generation of Poles is not any different than other young Europeans. They dress the same, they behave the same. Young Poles of today have similar challenges and opportunities like their Western European

and American peers. What is more important, they do not have these barriers and complexes we had!

Young Poles of today travel freely almost all around the world; they can work legally in other countries but then, they can come back legally more experienced.

**I wish that Polish young people could come to the United States without the need for a visa, like their Western European peers. Otherwise the strong bond, which Poland always felt for America, will get weaker.**

I remember, I was on a bus trip to Vienna in late '80s. Several young people grouped together in the back of the bus, drank heavily throughout the trip. Our bus home back from Vienna was half-empty. The same young people who were disturbing our peace on the way there were gone. They decided to stay there in Vienna illegally. Their alcohol over-consumption was caused by stress, since they already knew they'd stay abroad with all the consequences of no return. In that time this was a lifetime decision. Nobody knew that the Soviet system would be gone so quick!

My nephew just came back from a short trip to Egypt. He could pay for the travel, accommodations and the trip from his salary. When I went for a monthly trip to Scandinavia in late '80s we had to carry our tents, sleeping bags and a full supply of food for the whole trip. We were lucky that our bus, old "Jelcz" with low-powered engine made it through Scandinavian mountains and fiords.

My niece went to work in England legally. It was a good experience for her, but she chose to go back to Poland and finish her education rather than stay abroad longer. Now she works and studies in Poland. She also plans to marry soon and start a family. When I was in Germany for vacations, I worked as a hotel maid for a couple of weeks. It was illegal work and I got paid less than the minimum wage. Still, it was worth more than my full-time job in the scientific institution in Poland.

What a strange life we had! I am glad it all changed for the better. I wish that Polish young people could come to the United States without the need for a visa, like their Western European peers. Otherwise the strong bond, which Poland always felt for America, will get weaker.

Visit Baba Jaga on the web at [www.polishsite.us](http://www.polishsite.us).

## THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



DWARFED BY HIS SURROUNDINGS. Lublin, Poland – May 18, 1976.

## PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

## "This Survey Will Only Take A Few Minutes ..."

Don't hang up on me. And don't read this during dinner time.

Surveys are one method to collect data and produce statistics because we need the most credible data possible for decisions, plans, and opinions. Since I am such an analytical animal, I actually like to grade surveys, fill them out, and most importantly, am curious to hear the findings.

The Piast Institute ([www.piastinstitute.org](http://www.piastinstitute.org)), "the only Polish think tank in North America," is looking for Polish Americans to take their survey to obtain "information about the Polish immigrant experience, statistical information, cultural information, and much more." You can participate by linking to the address at: [piastudy.blogspot.com](http://piastudy.blogspot.com).

The Piast poll is comprised of a generous mix of generic and specific questions and I would encourage you to take the survey and then forward it to all of your Polish and Polish-American family and friends. We need the data and your input is very important.

The most interesting question on the survey is #45, "What do you consider to be the core Polish or Polish American values? (Please select up to five values.)" It is the most interesting because I believe what is valued by the group lays the foundation for the future existence and success of the community. If you understand this then you can understand where Polonia is headed.

These are the possible answers for #45:

1. Honor
2. Importance of family
3. Social justice
4. Sense of community
5. High value of status recognition inside of the community
6. Catholic faith
7. Uniqueness of Polish culture and historical experience
8. Commitment to freedom
9. Tenacity
10. Ethnic pride
11. Other (please specify)

Keep in mind, this is a great question and all of these answers are valid in one way or another for our ethnic group. My five picks though, are (8), Commitment to Freedom, (9), Tenacity, and then I had (11) Other, write-ins for Tolerance, Good Citizenship, and Sense of Responsibility and I will explain why.

I picked Commitment to Freedom (8) and I would interpret that as the Poles being very independent minded. There are plenty of examples that demonstrate this throughout history up to current. Because we tend to be more independent as individuals also, I don't see us being overly attached to the family (2) or to the community (4), at least not in the same way that other ethnics are. #8 cancels 2 and 4 for me.

Tenacity (9) is a core trait of the Polish people. You can think of all the ways the Poles have been fighters and then simply visualize the placement of the country on the map of Europe and how many times the people were tested for their very existence. You don't live sandwiched between the Germans and Russians without developing an inner fighting spirit.

The next three are not necessarily examples of core values but more like core characteristics that incorporate the values. Tolerance is another way to group the Polish version of (7) Uniqueness of Polish Culture and Historical Experience and (10) Ethnic Pride. Not many other ethnic groups in America would allow and endure the torment that the Polish people have endured regarding their history, culture, and ethnic identity. The reactive nature of our response (and it seems to me the typical response) in a way forces us to hold on to our uniqueness and pride. Because of this benign attitude, we back into our love of things Polish rather than ostensibly promote it. You can debate whether we have been more tolerant and accepting of other people, religion, etc., but I think we are.

The fact that we are good citizens (or members, or employees) and have a solid regard for respon-

sibility captures the other core values left on the board – Honor, Social Justice, High Value of Status Recognition, and the Catholic Faith. Think of Kosciuszko during the American and Polish Revolutions. You could say he was an honorable man, a man who based his life on social action, someone that wanted to be valued but not necessarily concerned about great accolades and praise, and one who was true to his country and his adopted country if not his Church.

Think of the movers and shakers of the Polish community and how many of them exhibit the characteristics of good citizens and responsible behavior. Think of your mom and dad. Our churches, fraternals, and other organizations would not have lasted as long as they have without it. There is honor, value, and dedication in good citizenship and responsible behavior.

There you have it, so pick a value, any value. Question for November: What would you choose as core values for Polonia and why?

**AND THE WHITE EAGLE GOES TO...** The Pondering Pole White Eagle for cinema and television excellence is based on how many pierogies are awarded to a work or individual. One pierogi means that the film or performer smierdzi (stinks). Five pierogi indicates arcydzieło (a masterpiece).

*Grand Torino*, movie. Clint "Slangmaster" Eastwood plays Walt Kowalski, a barbaric "polack" who is taught how to find meaning in life by the Ha-Mong (also known as the Hmong) tribesmen living next door in a run down neighborhood in Detroit. Even though Walt is beset by every vice and dysfunctional behavior known to social scientists and progressive Hollywood scriptwriters, he gains redemption by outsmarting a gang of bad Ha-mongs in a very implausible, but heart wrenching ending. (Grade: 1 pierogi)

*The Saragossa Manuscript*, movie. Directed by Wociech Has, this Polish film is a favorite of many famous film and non-film celebrities. This film is beset by every symbolic element and scene known to Polish scriptwriters and therefore I lost track and interest. Not a bad movie (I think) but can someone please explain to me what is going on? (Grade: 2 pierogies)

Alex Rudzinski, director, Dancing with the Stars. Alex proves that if you want your people featured, own the company, manage the festival, or direct the show. Joanna Krupa is the token Polski (but we'll take it) on this year's DWTS roster and she is making us proud. Good dancer. (Grade: 4 pierogies for Joanna, 4 pierogies for Alex, and 5 for DWTS)

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING** to all of the PAJ subscribers and dziękuję bardzo to Mirek Denisiewicz and Jakub "Jim" Przedzienkowski for the information and comments sent in to me.

If you have a thought about this 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; e-Mail [alinabrig@yahoo.com](mailto:alinabrig@yahoo.com). Please reference "PAJ" in your subject line if e-mailing.

## ASK ANDZIA ABOUT AMBER / Andzia Chmil

## A Brief History of Baltic Amber

## Part One

Amber stirs the soul, delights the eye, warms the heart and excites the world's scientific imagination. Amber, an organic plastic, has the unique & singular ability to encompass and preserve the organic materials it encounters, like the proverbial fly trapped in honey. Baltic amber is approximately 40-60 million years old and was held dear by many ancient cultures, treasured both for protective & decorative qualities. In modern western times, the movie Jurassic Park caused a surge of popular interest in this gemstone. However, amber has long commanded the hearts and minds of humans — in fact, it has commanded whole economies. Inside the plant material and insects it has encapsulated, strands of DNA — life's basic code — are also captured. This is why amber is often referred to as a "Window to the Past."

Common inclusions are plant materials such as oak leaf remnants

or tiny hairs from oak buds, pollen, spores, leaves, twigs and most famously of all — insects. At least 214 plant species have been identified through morphological analysis of amber. The scientific study of amber has yielded a bounty of priceless data about the ancient world which but for the golden fist of amber's preservation would have been lost to the ages.

The ancient amber trade routes brought faraway nations into contact with one another and served as a communications and trade hub. As a luxury item found only in a few widely dispersed areas, amber was one of the few products deemed worthy of transporting such long and arduous distances. From the Baltic Sea, down the Elbe River, and on to the Danube, one can trace the ancient amber trade routes.

Amber was one of the first commercial products, and has been traded for centuries. It has been found in the form of pendants dating from

the Paleolithic Era (c. 12,000 B.C.). Evidence of amber jeweler's workshops has been discovered by archeologists tied to the Neolithic period. It is during this time that caches of amber are also found embedded beneath the foundations of houses — possibly intended to ensure the good fortune of the occupants. Many cultures have a foundation stone and the fact that amber was used as such is another sign of its great significance to the ancients.

**THE ANCIENT AMBER WAY** led first from the North by water, from Jutland down the Elbe, from Western Pomerania down the Oder, to Bohemia, through Pomerania down the Vistula, and from the Samland Peninsula to the Black Sea Coast. Then, overland, through the Brenner Pass into Italy, the heart of the Roman Empire.

During the 1st-4th Centuries BC, it was the Celts who re-established what would have been even to them, much more ancient trade roads previously dominated by others, including the Phoenicians. Amber artifacts from various periods have been found in Mycenae shaft graves in what is now Greece as well as finds in Babylonia and Egypt — Tutankhamen's tomb being one of the most famous and as well as in Brighton, United Kingdom where a particularly famous amber cup from a burial mound is housed.

But in the 1st century A.D., Rome was next in line to become the undisputed center of the amber industry.

— Continued next month

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Have you ever wondered how your Old World ancestors may have acquired the Polish surname they brought over with them to America? Many started out as occupational nicknames: Kowal (blacksmith), Piekarz (baker), Kołodziej (wheelwright), Kaczmarek (innkeeper), Kościelny (sexton).

If you would like a custom-researched analysis of the meaning and derivation of your Polish surname, how many people share it, where they live and whether the name is accompanied by a noble coat-of-arms, please airmail a \$16 check (adding \$7 for each additional surname) to: Robert Strybel, ulica Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

HERITAGE / Ellye Slusarczyk

John of Dulka

In a quaint Polish village on the outskirts of the Carpathian Mountains, John of Dukla was born in the year 1414. His parents were very religious and were a positive influence for his lifetime choice – serving as a priest in various capacities.

At an early age, he joined the Order of Friars Minor Conventual. As time went on, he was greatly inspired by the good being done by St. John Capistrano. This saint's influence led John of Dukla to adopt strict regulations for the community he now served with much dedication.

He chose to live the virtuous life of a hermit until he was appointed guardian of the friary at Lvov. Then he sought permission to join the Bernadines. The Bernadine churches were all dedicated to St. Bernard – a saint John also was influenced by.

Ministry for John was pulpit-focused and also on the confessional. Unfortunately, John became blind in his old age. Consequently, he enlisted a novice to read biblical texts to him. This then inspired him to prepare his homilies.

Father John died in 1484 on September 29. This is now his feast

day. After his death, many miracles were reported at his tomb. Canonized in 1997, St. John of Dukla is a

role model and patron for preachers, penitents, confessors and the visually impaired.

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