

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN CULTURE



LIBERACE MUSEUM CLOSES ITS DOORS — Page 9

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

WIGILIA FOR BEGINNERS • DO WE NEED A POLISH THINK TANK? • KEEP STALIN'S BUST OUT
THE BOY WITH THE AMBER NECKLACE • "POLISH FOOTPRINTS" RESET DINOSAUR DATELINE
MAZOWSZE WORKSHOP IN OHIO • A HISTORY THAT JUST WON'T GO AWAY • A STROLL THROUGH HISTORIC KAZIMIERZ

NEWSMARK

MINNESOTA'S POLISH CHURCHES ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK. The Archdiocese of Minneapolis and Saint Paul announced its Strategic Plan which closes twenty parishes and merges several others. Polish parishes are amongst the hardest hit. In Minneapolis, both St. Hedwig (Jadwiga) and Holy Cross are to be closed and the congregations merged into St. Anthony of Padua in Minneapolis. All Saints will cluster with St. Boniface.

In St. Paul, St. Kazimierz will be clustered with St. Patrick. St. Wojciech (Adalbert) and St. Columba will join in "identified structured collaboration." St. Stanislaw will meet the same fate with St. James. (For more details see: <http://planning.archspm.org/>). Of the current seven historically Polish Roman Catholic parishes in the Minneapolis and St. Paul, only one — St. Phillip in North Minneapolis — will continue to exist as a separate parish.

Area Polish Americans are calling for action against the plan. In addition to prayer, they are urging all to write to the Archbishop John Clayton Nienstedt at Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, 226 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55102. E-mail is also suggested: www.archspm.org/about/contact-us.php.

John Lowell Armstrong, a Polish American Catholic from Minneapolis with deep Minnesota roots, called for a curbing of collections.

"The whole idea of closing parishes is wrong," Armstrong said. "It's what commissars and communists do, not bishops." He added, "this is plan is clearly the effect of terrible advice to Archbishop Nienstedt from people who just don't understand the vital importance of Polish parishes to the Polish American community ... without them many people will just stop going to church."

"Put in a note at collection that you are doing so because of the Strategic Plan," said Armstrong. "If you feel guilty for not supporting, give the money to another worthy Catholic, religious or Polish cause."

"We need to gird our loins and gather our forces, for this battle to save our Faith will be hard," he said.

ATTEMPT MADE ON KACZYNSKI'S LIFE. A crazed 62-year-old taxi driver stormed into the Łódź headquarters of the conservative Law and Justice (PiS) party, shooting dead one of the office workers and wounding another with a knife. "I wanted to murder Jarosław Kaczyński," the man shouted when being taken into police custody. A former black-market money changer and communist police informer, he moved to Canada when Poland regained its independence and returned in 2000. Named only as Ryszard C., the man told police he was dying of cancer and had only several months to live. The murder has further enflamed the already fierce animosity between the ruling Civic Platform (PO) of Prime Minister Donald Tusk and Kaczyński's PiS opposition party.

EPIPHANY NEW OFFICIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN POLAND. The Polish Parliament approved a draft amendment to the labor law on holidays. Added to the list of public holidays is January 6, the western Christian celebration also known as Three Kings' Day. The sponsors of the amendment maintain that the change will not impact the Polish economy negatively.

AVDEYEVA WINS CHOPIN CONTEST. Russian pianist Yulianna Avdeyeva surprised nearly everyone by winning this year's International Chopin Competition.

She won the gold medal and €30,000 (\$42,000) in cash at the three-week-long event held at Warsaw's Philharmonic Hall.

Austrian Ingolf Wunder had been the favorite of many but ended up with only the second prize. Russian Danil Trifonov came third, Bulgarian Evgeni Bozhanov was fourth and Frenchman François Dumont – fifth. Polish pianist Paweł Wakarecy was among the 10 top finalists but failed to win a prize.

Most Chopin competition winners have gone on to achieve impressive musical careers.

The event is held in Warsaw every five years.

Here They Come!



THE DĄBRÓWKA WIELKOPOLSKA bridesmaid and men's costume from the Lubusz district of Wielkopolska come alive on stage in this choreographed stylization of patterned intertwining garlands — representing the Grape Harvesting and Wine Festival from this region in western Poland. This popular audience favorite returns when Mazowsze tours the United States and Canada, November 14-December 12.

For tour information check www.pajtoday.blogspot.com or see schedule on inside back cover.

Empire State Building Owner Gives Poles the Brush Off

NEW YORK — The owner of the Empire State Building ignored a request by Polish American leaders to honor Revolutionary War hero General Casimir Pulaski. Anthony Malkin has yet to comment on why he would not light the landmark in red and white light for New York's Pulaski Day Parade.

"This is a blow to all Polish Americans," New York consul general of Poland Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka told the *New York Daily News*.

The building was lit up in the yellow, red and black of the German flag last month to honor that country's war hero, Gen. Frederick Von Steuben. The request to honor Pulaski with the Polish red and white was denied without explanation, according to the News.

"We are very saddened that the [building] is very selective in recognizing fairly the NYC ethnic groups, especially those parading in Manhattan," Junczyk-Ziomecka said, who noted the snub comes on the heels of a controversy over the building's refusal to honor Mother Theresa on her 100th birthday this past summer.

Colin Powell Honored on Polish Armed Forces Day

by Richard Poremski and Janusz Romanski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Polish Armed Forces Day was celebrated September 30, 2010 at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland. Military, diplomatic, governmental, civilian and Polonia guests were hosted by Ambassador Robert Kupiecki and Brigadier General Leszek Soczewica.

Ambassador Kupiecki welcomed everyone and said that Poland reserves this special day to honor its generations of armed forces who fought for — and defend — Poland. Today, a free Poland is an active member of NATO and the European Union. The U.S. supports Poland as a military partner with advanced training and modern equipment; and Poland currently cooperates with U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Poland's Minister of Defense, Bogdan Klich, was the guest of honor. His recent meeting here with Robert Gates, U.S. Secretary of Defense was described as "concise and useful." It focused on stationing U.S. Patriot missiles, transport aircraft, F-16 fighter planes, and possibly its special forces, in Poland. Klich addressed Poland's NATO military commitments in Afghanistan, and Poland's planned withdrawal from there in 2014 at the latest.

The highlight of the evening was the introduction of Colin Powell and his wife Alma. He was a U.S. General and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (1989-1993), which topped his long and fruitful military career. Powell later entered the

See "Powell: Commander's Cross," page 8

Missing Korean War Veteran's Remains Buried at Arlington

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The remains of U.S. Army Master Sgt. John G. Linkowski were buried in October at Arlington National Cemetery, nearly 60 years after he was listed missing in action following a devastating early battle of the Korean War.

The Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POW/MIAs and Pennsylvania State Sen. Andrew Dinerman, a Democrat, worked to identify the remains of Linkowski, born and reared in Buffalo. Linkowski's 92-year-old brother, Henry Linkowski, contributed DNA that aided the effort.

John Linkowski, then 31 and a World War II veteran, was a member of the 3rd Battalion of the 8th Cavalry Regiment that found itself surrounded by Chinese Communist forces on Nov. 1, 1950, in an area near China's border. "Pinned down by a barrage of rocket fire and running out of supplies, American soldiers staged one of the most valiant stands of the Korean War," wrote Senior Airman Nick Przybyciel on the U.S. Air Force Reserve's website, www.afrc.af.mil.

Linkowski was among 600 soldiers either killed or captured in that battle, according to historical accounts. He was presumed dead in 1953, according to sources.

His mother died while he was still a child, and the boy's father put John and two

See "Linkowski," page 8



Colin Powell, after being awarded the Commander's Cross with Star at the Polish Embassy.

PHOTO: JANUSZ ROMANSKI



SHE'S NUMBER ONE. Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki, is the daughter of Polish immigrants, replaced Serena Williams as women's tennis top athlete.

Story on page 19

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www.polamjournal.com

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Our Lady of Czestochowa Christmas Ornament Egg **\$12.00**

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- Back of Czestochowa ornament features floral design highlighted with glitter.
- Back of John Paul II ornament features gold Polish Eagle with "Polska" above.

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Wesolych Swiat / Merry Christmas



NEW DESIGN! Shown actual size

Proceeds to benefit Catholic Orphanage in Bialoleka, near Warsaw, Poland and Polish American Journal Press Fund. 1" x 2". 20 stickers to a sheet. Perfect for presents, our line of Christmas cards, etc. **\$5.00 per sheet.** (If ordering stickers only, shipping is \$1.00 per every four sheets).

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Easy to use! To make with butter, simply coat the mold with vegetable oil (spray type works best), press in softened butter, clamp halves together, place and refrigerator until hardened and you're done. For chocolate, just pour and let harden. It's that easy! Give your table some Polish flair!



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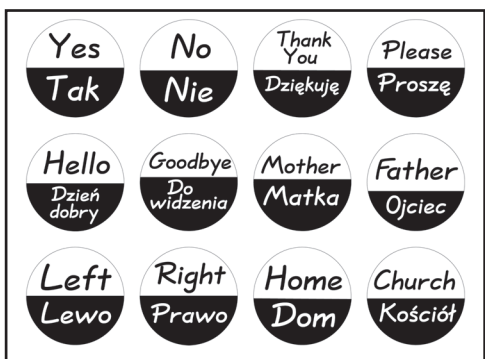
- Rye Bread • Pierogi
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- Pisanka
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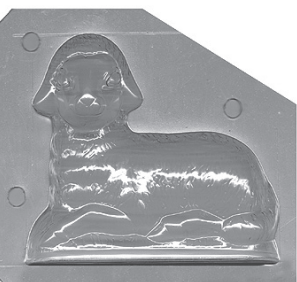


Includes:

- Yes and No
- Thank You
- Hello
- Goodbye
- Mother
- Father
- Left
- Right
- Home
- Church

LET'S LEARN POLISH EVERYDAY WORDS MOLD. \$8.95

12-coin mold. Each coin is 1-inch across x 1/4" deep.



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\$10.00 each. Bibs will be shipped separately from The Polish Peddler in Hinckley, Ohio



KOLEDY SING-ALONG BOOK

With Music and Lyrics in Polish and English

Published by the Fr. Justin Rosary Hour

Now you can sing-along to 37 of the most popular Polish Christmas Carols. This 90-page spiral-bound book contains the words and music plus English translations that can be substituted for Polish. Published by the Fr. Justin Rosary Hour in 2003, the book also contains a message from the Rosary Hour director, an explanation (in Polish and English) of Polish Carols by the late Msgr. John R. Gabalski of St. Stanislaus Parish in Buffalo, N.Y., plus Pope John Paul II words about the importance of koledy to the Polish nation. Thirty-seven songs in all.

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Greetings in Polish with English translation! Designed exclusively for the Polish American Journal by renown folk artists Doris Sikorsky (cards 301-304), Basia Frackiewicz (cards 201-206) and Daniel Haskin (cards 102 and 103), these 4¼" x 5½" full-color cards



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CARD 201



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CARD 301



CARD 302

Send Christmas greetings in Polish and English to friends across the miles!

Christmas Card Assortment Available 24 Cards (2 each + random) for \$13.95



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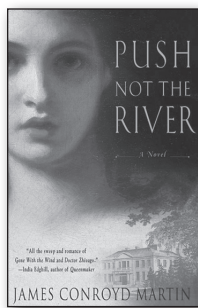


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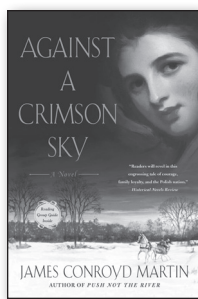
PUSH NOT THE RIVER

by James C. Martin

\$15.95

St. Martin's Press. 496 pp.pb. Maps & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide
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 author is the winner of the 2007 Gold Medal for Literature from The American Institute of Polish Culture.

"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*.

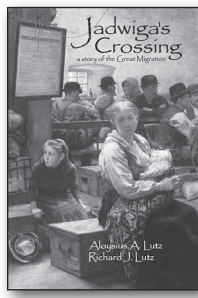


AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY

by James C. Martin

\$15.95

St. Martin's 369 pp.pb. Map & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide
AUTOGRAPHED! "You don't have to read *Push Not the River* to get the most from this sequel," says Suzanne Strempek Shea. The award-winning author picks up where *Push Not the River* leaves off, taking the characters 20 years into the fascinating Napoleonic era, highlighting the exploits of the glorious Polish lancers. Having narrowly escaped death amidst the chaos caused by the violent dissolution of their homeland, Anna and Jan struggle to raise a family in uncertain times. When Napoléon Bonaparte comes calling, hinting at independence one day for the country, Polish legions form up—Anna's friends and family members among them—and accompany Napoléon as he battles his way across Europe in an effort that culminates in the doomed 1812 winter march to Moscow.
 "A sprawling epic... entertaining." — *Publishers Weekly*.



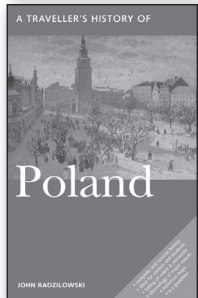
JADWIGA'S CROSSING:

A story of the Great Migration

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Al and Dick Lutz' acclaimed work

348 pp., pb.
 A perfect gift of heritage... The experience of late 19th Century immigration, as seen through the eyes of Paul and Jadwiga Adamik and what they went through to make America their new home. Appropriate for all ages 12 and up.

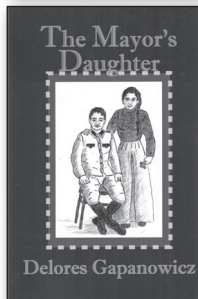


A TRAVELLER'S HISTORY OF POLAND

by John Radzilowski

\$14.95

312 pp. ill., maps. pb.
 A comprehensive historical survey guides travellers through a general history of the people and places of Poland from pre-history to today. Includes a full chronology, a list of monarchs and rulers, a gazetteer, historical maps.



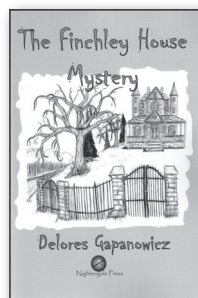
THE MAYOR'S DAUGHTER

by Delores Gapanowicz

\$12.95

Edition illustrated

Nightingale 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. The stories were told to the author by her parents before they passed away. These tales show that young people on farms didn't spend all their time milking cows and picking potatoes.



THE FINCHLEY HOUSE MYSTERY

by Delores Gapanowicz

\$13.95

Nightingale Press, 2005
For Ages 9-12. 132 pp. pb.

Is the Finchley House haunted or not? Are those ghosts flitting from room to room after dark? Or is someone secretly living in the old house and not wanting to reveal themselves? Could it be the rumors floating around Green Hills are actually true? *Delores Gapanowicz* is a published author of children's books.



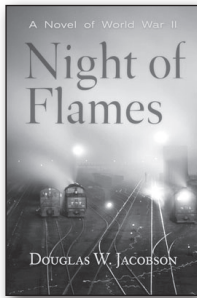
THE FORGOTTEN FEW

by Adam Zamoyski. hc. 239 pp.

\$14.95

Fleeing to Britain after the Germans captured their homeland, the pilots of the Polish Air Force played an important role in the Battle of Britain and the air war in the European theater. They shot down 745 enemy aircraft, with another 175 unconfirmed, and 190 flying bombs targeted at London. A story of the life and times of these airmen stationed in Britain. The story concludes sadly with an account of the development of anti-Polish feelings in Britain at war's end. Photos.

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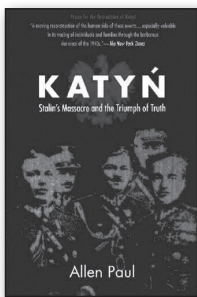
A Novel of World War Two

by Douglas W. Jacobson

\$16.95

384 pp. pb., McBooks Press
"The most powerful weapon on earth is the human soul on fire."
 In 1939 the Germans invade Poland, setting off a rising storm of violence and destruction. For Anna and Jan Kopernik the loss is unimaginable. She is an assistant professor at a university in Krakow; he, an officer in the Polish cavalry. Separated by war, they must find their own way in a world where everything they ever knew is gone.

Through the long night of Nazi occupation, Anna, Jan, and ordinary people across Europe fight a covert war of sabotage and resistance against the overwhelming might of the German war machine. The struggle seems hopeless, but they are determined to take back what is theirs.



NEW! KATYN: STALIN'S MASSACRE

AND THE TRIUMPH OF TRUTH

by Allen Paul

\$24.95

Northern Illinois University Press
 2010. 430 pp. pb. 9"x6.5"

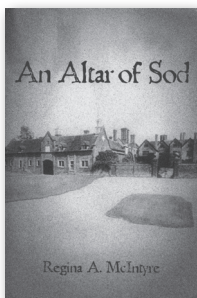
Marking the 70th anniversary of the Katyn Forest massacre, this edition exposes the crime and its cover-up. Twenty years ago, Allen Paul wrote the first post-communist account of one of the greatest but least-known tragedies of the 20th century: Stalin's annihilation of Poland's officer corps and massive deportation of so-called "bourgeoisie elements" to Siberia. Today, these brutal events are symbolized by one word, Katyn.

Paul's richly updated account covers Russian attempts to recant their admission of guilt for the murders in Katyn Forest and includes recently translated documents from Russian military archives, eyewitness accounts of two perpetrators, and secret official minutes published here for the first time that confirm that U.S. government cover-up of the crime continued long after the war ended.

Paul's masterful narrative recreates what daily life was like for three Polish families amid momentous events of World War II—from the treacherous Nazi-Soviet invasion in 1939 to a rigged election in 1947 that sealed Poland's doom.

"Not only a riveting human drama but a powerful historical exposé." — *Zbigniew Brzezinski*, former U.S. national security adviser

"Allen has given us the complete story of Katyn... a wonderful companion to my film!" — *Andrzej Wajda*, Academy Award-winning Director of Katyn.



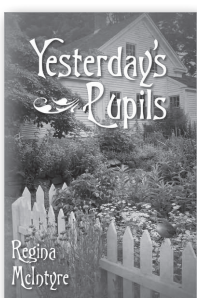
AN ALTAR OF SOD

By Regina A. McIntyre

\$19.95

Hats Off Books, 2001, 2010, 304 pp., pb

In 19th century Partitioned Poland, the village of Miska sits almost unchanged on the banks of the Vistula. This is the story of three families who are unforgettably joined by love, pain, struggle and hope. Rich in tradition, the story builds to a far-reaching conclusion.



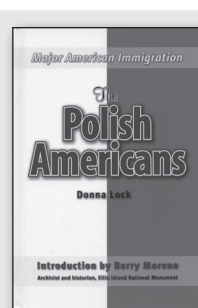
NEW! YESTERDAY'S PUILS

By Regina A. McIntyre

\$17.95

Create Space Books, 2010, 208 pp., pb

Sequel to "An Altar of Sod." At the turn of the 20th Century, three families emigrate from the same village in Poland. The Victorian era provides the style and mores that challenge these immigrants to adjust to that culture, and at the same time try to maintain their old world traditions and customs.



NEW! THE POLISH AMERICANS

from the "Major American Immigration Series" by Donna Lock

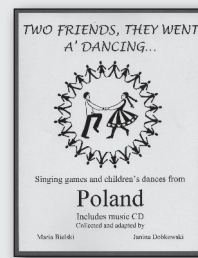
\$22.95

Full color illustrated. Ages 9-12
 Mason Crest Publishers. 2008. 64 pp. hc. 9"x6"

Polish emigrants left their homeland for many of the same reasons as did other ethnic groups: poverty, religious intolerance, hardship, and a strict government. Yet in America's melting pot, the Polish have maintained a stronger hold on their traditions and customs than most of the other immigrant groups that arrived in North America during the 19th and early 20th centuries. This is due in part to the closeness of the ethnic Polish neighborhoods that grew up in the industrial cities where many immigrants settled.

Today, prominent Polish American associations work to ensure that people with Polish ancestry will never forget their proud heritage.

"A good overview of mainstream European American experience..." *Booklist*.



TWO FRIENDS, THEY WENT A' DANCING

by Maria Bielski and Janina Dobkowski

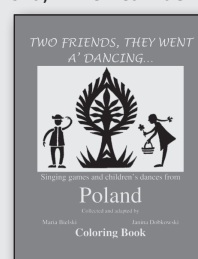
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Singing games and Children's Dances from Poland

INCLUDES MUSIC CD, LYRICS, AND SHEET MUSIC

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The book contains lyrics (in both English and Polish) of ten popular singing games, and a vocal music score with chords. Clear step-by-step movement and dance instructions are outlined precisely with the text. In addition, a CD of the recorded songs with accompaniment is included, so that parents, grandparents, teachers, and children can immediately enjoy the songs and games. Each page has an original "wycinanki" (Polish cut-out style) illustration, designed by the artist, Joanna Bielska, which can be reproduced for coloring or craft projects.



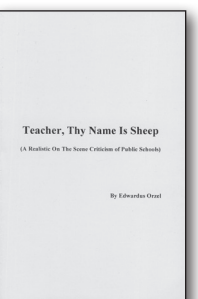
TWO FRIENDS, THEY WENT A' DANCING COMPANION

COLORING BOOK

\$4.00

by Maria Bielski and Janina Dobkowski

Using these "wycinanki" icons, you can draw the story of each song, color the enlarged full page cut-out, or reproduce any of these icons for educational purposes. Some craft ideas are included.



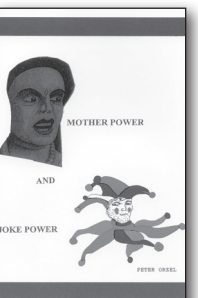
TEACHER, THY NAME IS SHEEP

by E.J. Kalinowski (NDP Edward Orzel)

\$9.95

Kalski Books, 2004. 132 pp., pb.

Why are American high school students so undisciplined? Read this book and judge for yourself. The author, a retired high school and junior high school teacher, first wrote his opinionated discourse in 1968, and updated it in 2004. Among his views are "Give me a Principal with Principles." "It takes good parents, and good teachers, not a village, to raise good students," and "TV is today's mother, father, and teacher" among others.



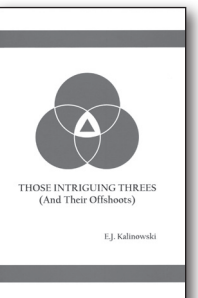
MOTHER POWER AND JOKE POWER

by E.J. Kalinowski (NDP Peter Orzel)

\$9.95

Kalski Books, 1998. 142 pp., pb.

Mother Power is a compendium of psychological sketches on personalities in various fields: politics, military, medicine, theater, and religion, written in a pertinent, pithy manner pointing out how mother influence determined the success of the famous and infamous. *Joke Power* stresses the deleterious effects jokes have in individuals and groups targeted for derision. The author is a retired high school and junior high school teacher, who has penned numerous polemic observations in community and regional newspapers.



THOSE INTRIGUING THREES

(and Their Offshoots)

by E.J. Kalinowski

\$9.95

Self published / Kalski Books, 2009. 166 pp., pb.

Why are there so many threes in the Bible — both the Old and New Testament? Creation abounds in threes? Have you noticed the amount of triadic construction in nature? The premise of this book is the prevalence of threes in our world and how apparent these triadic aspects are if one takes the time to observe them.



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Card 203		.75	6.00
Card 205		.75	6.00
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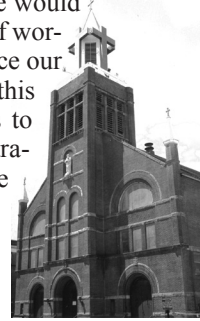
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PAJ Readies for 100th Anniversary
Join the Celebration!

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A SUBSCRIBER?
We are looking for the person who has subscribed to the PAJ the longest. If you have been a long-time subscriber, send us a note. We'd love to hear from you.

TIME TO SHOW OFF OUR CHURCHES. As part of our 100th year observations, we would like to reflect on the great houses of worship built by Polish Americans since our arrival here. The only way to do this successfully is to ask our readers to provide us with a photo and a paragraph or two on the parish. While we appreciate full histories, we do not have space to print them. Please provide us with a photo or two of the interior and/or exterior. We can accept digital photos via e-mail if they are of high resolution (300 dpi or greater). Please include: Name of church, year opened (year closed if no longer open), street and city, any identifiable people in the photo, and any special memory you may have of the church. Additional information may include: pastor, school status, or, if closed, name us



last pastor, name of new merged parish, etc. All denominations welcome.

POLISH CLUBS AND PICNIC GROUNDS, TOO. How many of you remember picnics at the PNA Polanka in New Jersey? Or Detroit's Warsaw Park? Or dances at St. John Kanty's Lyceum in Buffalo?



If you have photos from Polonia's past, we'd love to reprint them throughout our anniversary year. In addition to the photograph (We can accept digital photos via e-mail. See above), please include: Name and location of club, park, etc., year, church, year opened (year closed if any identifiable people in the photo, and any special memory you may have.

Send all information to: Polish American Journal, P.O. Box 328, Boston, NY 14025. Attn: 100th Anniversary Photos. All photos will be returned. If possible, please provide self-addressed return envelope.

NEWSWIRE

Mazowsze Dance Workshop

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio — During their upcoming tour Mazowsze will be teaching a Polish Folk Dance Workshop in Youngstown, December 5. This "once in a lifetime" opportunity has never been done in the United States.

The schedule will include: children's and adult dance, choral, orchestral, instrumental and lecture sessions For information call Polish Youngstown: (330) 744-1394.

Annual Heritage Ball Held

HAZLETON, Pa. — The 33rd Annual Polish American Heritage Ball was held October 17 at the Genetti Best Western Inn and Suites. Sponsored by the Greater Hazleton Area Polonaise Society, the annual event celebrates the culture, traditions, and heritage brought to these shores by immigrant ancestors from Eastern and Central Europe. It also serves to remind attendees of the

hardships and struggles endured by their grandparents, parents and other family members who came to Northeastern Pennsylvania to labor in the dangerous anthracite coal fields.

The guest speaker was the Honorable Judge Thomas I. Vanaskie, born in Shamokin, the grandson of coal miners. Vanaskie was recently appointed by President Obama and approved by the U.S. Congress to the United States Third Circuit Court of Appeals, Scranton, Pa.

A second highlight of the 2011 ball was a presentation on the life of the beloved Rev. Louis S. Garbacik, former pastor of St. Stanislaus Polish Roman Catholic Church for more than 23 years prior to his untimely death on January 1, 2010. Garbacik also served as chaplain for the local Pol-Am group for the same period of 23 years.

Another highlight of the ball was the Hazleton Philharmonic and the 15-piece Big Band directed by Rob-

ert Lagana.

Polish Priests Pilgrimage of Faith

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. — The Rev. Lawrence Hoppe, president of the Greensburg Fraternity of Polish Priests, said St. Mary of Czestochowa parish hosted the annual Pielgrzymka Wiary (Pilgrimage of Faith), October 17.

Priests were available for confessions in both Polish and English. A Concelebrated Holy Mass in Polish with Readings and hymns in Polish, was followed by food service in Friendship Hall. Marian Devotions were held after dinner.

This year's theme was based on the life and works of Blessed Jerzy Popieluszko, Martyr for the Truth, who was murdered by communist agents in October 1984 and Beatified in Warsaw, Poland on June 6, 2010.



Help Us Promote Our Polish Heritage! Be Part of Our

CHRISTMAS 2010 EDITION

We cordially invite our readers to participate in the Christmas 2010 edition of the Polish American Journal. We are always proud to carry a message at Christmas from our readers and supporters to others of Polish heritage across the country. To us, it is not only financial assistance (we are not a profit-making venture), but a demonstration of the good will that exists between all Americans of Polish descent and the newspaper published solely in their interest.

We thank you in advance for your support.

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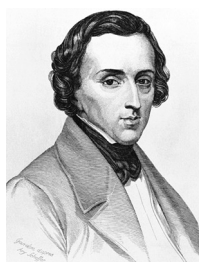
I want to do my share to keep alive our Polish traditions and customs by being part of the Polish American Journal's Christmas 2009 edition. Pplease find a contribution in the amount of: [] \$10 [] \$20 [] \$25 [] \$50 [] \$75 [] \$100 [] \$250 [] Other _____

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ALMANAC

November • Listopad



After playing Chopin, I feel as if I had been weeping over sins that I had never committed, and mourning over tragedies that were not my own.

—Oscar Wilde, 1891

- 1 **ALL SAINTS DAY**
Wszyscy święci niezgoda, wiatry z śniegiem zawioda. All Saints in discord, winds with snow will disappoint.
1777. Casimir Pulaski joins U.S. forces.
- 2 **ALL SOUL'S DAY**
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.
1231. Death of Władysław III Spindleshanks
1930. First regular broadcast of the weekly Fr. Justin Rosary Hour, now the oldest Polish language radio program in America.
- 5 1370. Death of Kazimierz III the Great.
- 6 1860. Birth of Ignacy Jan Paderewski, pianist, statesman and prime minister, in Kurylouwe, Poland (d. 1941).
- 7 1867. Birth of Polish chemist and physicist Marie Skłodowska Curie, in Warsaw, Poland.
- 8 1946. Fr. Karol Wojtyła (Pope John Paul II), says first mass at his parish church in Wadowice.
- 10 1444. Death at Battle of Varna of King Władysław III.
- 11 **ST. MARTIN**
Święty Marcin bloniem, jedzie białym koniem. St. Martin in the pastures rides a white horse.
1918. Independence of Poland is reestablished by the Central Powers during World War I.
- 12 **ST. JOSEPHAT**
- 13 **ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA**
- 15 1916. Death of Henryk Sienkiewicz, 70, Polish novelist ("Quo Vadis"), 1905 Nobel literature prize winner, in Vevey, Switzerland.
- 17 1891. Ignacy Paderewski gives his first concert in America.
- 18 1738. Treaty of Vienna concludes the War of the Polish Succession
- 21 1920. Birth of Stan Musial, famed baseball star with the St. Louis Cardinals.
- 23 1227. Assassination of Leszek I the White
- 25 **ST. CATHERINE**
A day of fortunetelling 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.
1939. Death of Gabriel Sovulewski (b. 1866), builder of hundreds of miles of tourist routes in California's Yosemite National Park.
- 28 1058. Death of Casimir I the Restorer.
- 30 **ST. ANDREW**
A night of fortune telling in old Poland.
Noc Andrzeja Świętego
Przyniesie nam narzeczonego
The night of St. Andrew
Will bring us our betrothed.
1926. Birth of Andrew Schally in Wilno, Poland, 1977 of Nobel Prize in Medicine.

This paper mailed on or before October 29, 2010. The December 2010 edition will be mailed on or before December 1.

VIEWPOINTS

Do We Need a Polish Think Tank?

The German Marshall Fund in Washington is a think tank dedicated to building trans-Atlantic relations in general and U.S.-German ties in particular. It does this in two ways. It has its own staff of experts, both Americans and Germans, who monitor issues. It also provides a venue for German and American politicians of all parties, when in Washington, to give speeches, to meet and make contacts, and to help shape both leadership and popular opinion. One reason U.S.-German ties remain stable is that the Marshall Center's bipartisanship gives all stripe of politician access to counterparts here and there: no matter if a government changes, some people know others on the other side.

The GMF Center started in 1972 as a gift of Chancellor Willy Brandt who, in a gesture of thanks for American reconstruction aid, gave 150 million marks to found the Center. A gesture of thanks—and an investment in his country's future with its most powerful ally.

The GMF is not limited just to German concerns. It addresses broader European issues. It brings together German parliamentarians and American Congressmen. It produces studies. It funds grants and fellowships for projects of interest to America, Europe, and Germany. Just take a look at its website to see the range of what the GMF does (www.gmfus.org).

Why is there no Polish Marshall Fund?

There is likely to be the usual lament about Poland's poverty. But Poland can hardly afford not

to have a permanent institutional presence in Washington. The Embassy is one thing: it represents official policy. But Poland desperately needs a place—especially as long as personalities remain stronger than parties—where all shades of the responsible Polish political spectrum can be in regular contact with their U.S. counterparts. Where the Washington-based media can turn for reliable information about Poland. Where both countries can build together for the long-term.

Putting all one's eggs in the EU basket can be dangerous both for Poland—for whom the country will likely long remain a junior partner—and for the United States, if we do not want to lose the broad Polish reservoir of pro-American sentiment on a continent long prone to anti-Americanism. Polish political maturity would be fostered if there was a place for the government and the loyal opposition to be able to keep abreast of issues. In Europe's established democracies, there is always a shadow cabinet keeping watch over policy and politics. That's something Poland could use.

Poland is entering a stage where its exodus from communism has now become "normal" – it's part of the European community of nations. To keep its identity in a Europe whose elites are bent, to greater or lesser degrees, on "integration" means a strong trans-Atlantic focus. A strong, bipartisan Washington presence can help that goal. The German Marshall Fund provides a compelling model. Is Warsaw ready to step up to bat?

Keep Stalin's Bust Out

The National D-Day Memorial Foundation has erred again, and badly. Its decision to remove the Stalin bust but to reinstall it in the future is an insult to the brave Americans and others who stormed the Normandy beaches in 1944. No Soviet troops participated in D-Day operations. It is also a serious misreading of the history of World War II, which was launched following the Stalin-Hitler pact of August 1939.

"There would have been no need for the D-Day invasion if there had been no cynical 'non-aggression' agreement between the Soviet and German dictators," said Dr. Lee Edwards, Chairman of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation

The D-Day Memorial Foundation said it would remove not only

the Stalin bust but all the busts of World War II leaders, including FDR and Churchill. It will then reintroduce all of the busts, including Stalin's.

"This plan is even worse that the original placement of the Stalin statue because grouping Stalin with FDR, Churchill and other allied leaders would give the Soviet dictator a moral as well as a political equivalence he does not deserve," said Edwards.

Stalin — who was responsible for more deaths in the 20th century than any other dictator save Mao Zedong — "has no place at a National D-Day Memorial," said Edwards.

We agree. Stalin's bust must go.

QUOTES

Empire State Building Keeps Polish Americans in the Dark

"I don't think its right. A lot of Polish Americans feel very hurt."

— Organizer of New York City's Pulaski Day Parade, **Richard Zawisny**, on Anthony Malkin's refusal to light his Empire State Building in red and white light for the Parade.

❖ ❖ ❖

"This year the night sky will show that the dim bulbs that run the Empire State Building chose to disrespect us, while honoring other ethnic groups."

— *Kosciuszko Foundation president Alex Storozynski, on the Building manager's decision to ignore New York's Polonia.*

❖ ❖ ❖

"I'm extremely upset about it. We all know his history, what a murderer he was and what he did to Russia and the satellite countries."

— **Robert Lindell**, who was fired from his volunteer position at the National D-Day Memorial for protesting the placement of a bust of Soviet leader Jozef Stalin at the site. *The bust has been temporarily removed.*

❖ ❖ ❖

[President Bronislaw Komorowski] "started the anti-church campaign currently ongoing" [and is a] "decided enemy of the church."

— *Leader of Poland's opposition party Law and Justice, Jaroslaw Kaczyński, referring to Komorowski's decision to move the controversial cross, which scouts had placed in front of the Presidential Palace in the days following the tragic April 10 plane crash in Smolensk in which President Lech Kaczyński and 95 others perished.*

❖ ❖ ❖

"Maybe the huge black holes at the center of the Milky Way and other galaxies are bridges to different universes."

Indiana University's Nikodem Poplawski, who has a novel theory about the expanding universe. He stressed that if that is true, there is nothing to rule out our universe itself being inside a black hole.

❖ ❖ ❖

"Just to drive myself crazy ... Every now and then, just to drive myself crazy, I dip into internet discussions of Polish-Jewish relations. These can be found on discussion boards, but also on Amazon customer reviews of books about Polish and Jewish matters.

"To really push myself over the edge, I read reviews of 'Maus.' Today I succumbed to temptation and

posted a rant about this book. Rant:

"It's mind boggling to read the reviews here by obviously political-correct reviewers bending over backwards to justify, even to sanctify, Spiegelman's hateful and racist depiction of Poles as pigs ...

"What is the real world impact of Spiegelman's depiction of Poles as pigs? Page through Amazon reviews. Readers use this Pulitzer-Prize-winning book, often assigned in schools, to learn that Poles are, well ... pigs. A high school student reports that he learned from this book that Poles turned Jews into the Nazis as a matter of course. Another reviewer cannot differentiate between Poland and Germany."

— **Danuta Goska**, on *Bieganski the Blog*, (<http://bieganski-the-blog.blogspot.com/>), September 6, 2010.

❖ ❖ ❖

"Don't be bashful about hyphenating your identity. Of course our nationality is American! However, you don't have to forget your ancestral background to prove your loyalty to anybody ...

"However, phobia against hyphenated identities is nothing new. President Woodrow Wilson, for example, proclaimed, 'Any man who carries a hyphen about him carries a dagger that he is ready to plunge into the vitals of this Republic whenever he gets ready.' ...

"Funny. A few weeks back when I was celebrating La Fete St. Jean Baptiste with scores of fellow Franco-Americans, I didn't hear anybody say anything about overthrowing the government. And I sincerely doubt if any Irish-Americans from the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick, or Portuguese-Americans from the Prince Henry Society, harbor any such nefarious thoughts."

— **Gerald Bourassa**, from his article "Hyphenated and no less American," a response to two pieces printed in *The Standard-Times of New Bedford, Mass.*, "How long to become American," and "Hyphenated nationalities divide America."

LAPSUS CALAMI. The caption on page 12 of the September 2010 issue which accompanies the article "Eastern Europe? Let's Go" is incorrect. The photo was taken in front of Krakow's Sukiennice (Cloth Hall).

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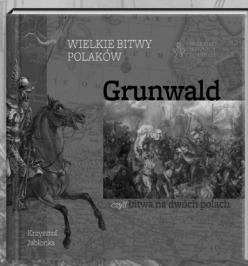
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Habitat Homes in Gliwice

David Zablotny executive director of Habitat Buffalo, announced the completion of 69 apartments for needy families in Gliwice, Poland. The Christian nonprofit organization Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty. It constructs housing for low income families throughout the world and since its founding in 1976, has built and renovated more than 350,000 houses for 1.75 million people. The families work together with volunteers to complete their homes. In Gliwice, land was donated to the organization in the early 1990s where the two-level 80 sq. meter apartments now stand. Land is now much harder to come by in Poland, with competition from private investors. As a result the organization in Gliwice will change its focus from new construction to renovations, with the first major renovation project to start next month.

STO LAT TO ... Bishop Joseph McFadden, newly appointed to the RC Diocese of Harrisburg. He had served for 11 years as secretary to **John Cardinal Krol**, Archbishop of Philadelphia. Upon his appointment he suggested to the Cardinal that he must have made a mistake since could never replace the former secretary who was going on in the Vatican diplomatic service. The Cardinal agreed and said, "Well, you're right, you can't replace Fr. Green. Father Green has many gifts and talents. But I expect you to be Fr. McFadden." He then added, "If we made a mistake, we'll soon correct it."

Dominic Ammon, member of Holy Family PNCC parish in McKeesport, Pa., on receiving the Eagle Scout Award. He is a member of Boy Scout Troop 295 in White Oak, Pa. and has won 28 merit badges. He is working on the PNCC God and Country Award as well as the Eagle Palm Award.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES FOR TRANSFIGURATION. The Church of the Transfiguration in Detroit, Michigan, recently celebrated three significant anniversaries. It was 85 years ago that Rev.

Simon Kilar founded the parish for Polish immigrants. A year later, 84 years ago, the **Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth (CSFN)** responded to the invitation to staff the school to teach the Catholic faith and Polish traditions to the children. 125 years ago, **Blessed Frances Siedliska** brought eleven sisters from her community to America, where they first settled in the Chicago, Illinois area. The Congregation flourished, and their regions of work in America soon expanded to Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Ohio, Michigan and Texas.

The solemn liturgy, celebrating these three events, took place at Transfiguration, Sunday, October 3, at 10:30 a.m. Adam Cardinal Maida officiated, along with his brother, Rev. Thaddeus S. Maida; Rev. Andrew Wesley, pastor; Rev. Edmund Kaszak; Rev. George Rutkowski and Rev. Mr. Paul Stevens, Deacon. In addition to the two CSFNs who still work at Transfiguration, six visiting sisters from Pennsylvania, Ohio and Chicago, and three former members gathered to commemorate their special anniversary. The processional into church was led by the Wawel Dance Troupe, who later performed at the reception that followed in the social hall.

SHOPPING AND SACRAMENTS. A new parish complex in Catanzaro, Italy, located at a huge shopping center, is named after **St. Maximilian Kolbe**. At the dedication, Archbishop Antonio Ciliberti pointed out that those who prefer to spend their Sunday afternoons at the shopping center now have the opportunity to enjoy a wealth of spiritual values. Both consumers and employees will be able to find a Sunday mass quite easily, as will other residents of the region.

ARCHBISHOP LISTECKI SIGNS LETTER ON LIFE ISSUES. The Roman Catholic bishops of Wisconsin wrote a public letter to provide Catholics with a "framework" of Catholic social teaching to help voters form their consciences in evaluating candidates and public policies. Issues discussed are the "right to

life" that society protects as the primary and most essential right, marriage of a man and woman as the "vital cell of society" that promotes the best interests of children, a "consistent life ethic" that recognizes Catholics' responsibility to help the poor and those in distress. Milwaukee's **Archbishop ListECKI** and the other signatories noted, "If Catholics continue to remain engaged, not just politically but also culturally, there is so much good that we will contribute to our nation and to our world."

JOHN PAUL II HS OPENS. The RC Archdiocese of Philadelphia's new high school, named for the late pope, replaces two nearby schools with a state of the art facility that can accommodate 1200 students. The new students number about 900 and will enjoy the schools new sports facilities, computer labs, science labs, and fine arts wing on a 84 acre campus. While the tuition is \$1,000 more than that in the system generally, the students see increased value in the school to warrant the extra outlay.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO... The **Very Rev. Fryderyk S. Banas**, pastor of Holy Cross PNCC Parish in Ware, Mass. on the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. He had served as assistant pastor in 1951-1953 and then as pastor in 1977-1979 at Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral in Buffalo, N.Y.

The Felician Sisters celebrating 80 years of religious life: in Michigan **Sisters M. Medard Babiuch, M. Michael Malek, M. Alexis Jachimowicz, SM. Lorenzo Walak, Caroline Marie Goik, M. Carmeline Bielawski**; in New Jersey **Sisters M. Hortulane Wierciszewska, M. Angelita Miescier**; in Illinois **Sister M. Hilarion Grochowski**; in Connecticut **Sister M. Phyllis Nowak**; celebrating 75 years in Pennsylvania **Sisters M. Miriam Patalski, M. Liliose Fien, M. Irene Grabowicz**; in New Jersey **Sisters M. Antonia Miodowski, M. Jeremiah Domozych, Bernice Marie Haduch, M. Euthalia Adamska**; in New Mexico **Sister M. Doloria Sawyer**; in Illinois **Sister M. Laetissima Smialek**; in New York **Sisters M. Constantine Hajduk, M. Gracille Ryby**; in Connecticut **Sister M. Rose Kruszewski**; celebrating 70 years in Illinois **Sisters M. Alphonsetta Haneman, Helene Marie Ulaszek**; in Connecticut **Sisters M. Jeanette Piorkowski, M. Adelia Markiewicz, M. Angelica Mycek**; in Michigan **Sisters M. Danatha Suchyta, M. Harold Lopata, M. Bertha Stamm, M. Elaine Machlik, M. Audrey Pawlak, Edith Marie Agdanowski**; in Pennsylvania **Sisters M. Julianne Pilewski, M. Mildred Moroz, M. Georgiana Bienkowski, Sr. M. Presentatia Wilamowski**; in New York **Sister M. Albinette Olowinski**; in New Jersey **Sisters M. Adalbert Wierciszewska, M. Cherubim Lubin, M. Tarcilia Juchniewicz, M. Alberta Zuber, M. Lucille Brodzinska, M. Fidelis**

assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart and succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you. Grateful thanks, M.R.

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

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. M.R.

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, as-



"THANK YOU FOR CARING." It was a cloudy and cool September day in Krakow, but not for long. It ended sunny and warm when twelve young residents of a nursing home in Brzozow and five Sisters, who are their round-the-clock caregivers, met with six representatives of Western New York Polonia. The guests traveled to Poland to deliver the results of their fund-raiser, the Polish Heritage Festival. Executive Director James P. Jozwiak, and Christine Jozwiak, fund-raising chairman, presented checks totaling \$30,500 (USD) to Sr. Agata, the supervising Sister in charge of the nursing home.

The Sisters told the children that they would now have new painted walls in their rooms. Immediately the children began to shout their favorite colors.

Sr. Agata gave Christine Jozwiak a book of photos of the children in the nursing home. She also gave information about each one: their health problems, the reasons why they were living in the home, and the type of therapy they need and receive. Sister promised to be very careful with the money, and would let the Festival Committee know how it would be spent.

The children presented Christine with hand crafted flowers that they made themselves. More hugs and smiles were exchanged and everyone enjoyed the conversation. John and Jane Klubek, and Richard and Anna Cieczka all helped with translation. Despite the language barrier, the message was loud and clear: "Thank you very much to everyone in the United States who care about us, and remember us!"

A video with the presentation of funds to Sister Agata can be viewed at www.polfunfest.com.

Gazda, M. Stephanie Wlazlowski, M. Joanne Ustaszewska.

Jubilarians of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth celebrating 75 years: **Sr. Jane Harriet Leszczynska**; 65 years — **Sr. Eunice**; 60 years — **Sr. Bernice Andrejczyk, Sr. Antonia Marie Chodkowski, Sr. Rosemarie Griffin, Sr. Jeanette Lawlor, Sr. Jude Niemiec, Sr. Francesa Onley, Sr. Hele Petela, Sr. Eileen Therese Przybylowski, Sr. Paul M. Rozanska**; 50 years — **Sr. Mildred Chesnavage, Sr. Xavier Kozubal,, Sr. Therese Tygielska, Sr. Frances Veitz, Sr. Regina Wiecezynski.**

St. Valentine's PNCC Parish in Philadelphia, Pa., celebrating its 100th year.

CHURCH REUSED. The former Polish American RC Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in East Conemaugh, Pa., was bought by Mount Sinai Institutional Baptist Church who needed a church to house its expanded congregation. Assumption Church had been merged with Sacred Heart Church to form the new Transfiguration Parish.

NEW MINISTRIES AS PARISH GROWS. Under the five-year leadership of **Fr. Leon Biernat**, pastor of Our Lady of Pompeii RC Parish in Lancaster, N.Y., the membership rolls have almost doubled with more than 50 ministries and programs now offered to the parishioners. While a merger with Ss. Peter & Paul Parish (Depew, N.Y.) accounts for some of the growth, the energy of the parish accounts for the rest. Among the new initia-

tives of **Fr. Biernat** are a junior high youth group, an expanded bereavement ministry, a family ministry and a social club. Overnight retreats for confirmation classes, a summer vacation Bible school, RCIA, ministry for caregivers and a liturgy committee are also on the list.

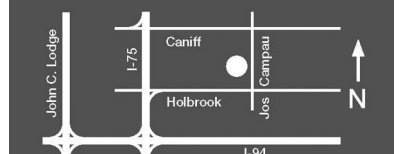
"When I arrived, there were a lot of people with a real hunger to do something," said **Fr. Leon**. "The merger had given the parish a whole new infusion of life. I experienced a real welcoming and a new desire to forge together a new community. I tried to set a positive tone from day one."

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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.

PCI and Komeda Project at 92nd St. Y Festival



THE POLISH CULTURAL INSTITUTE IN NEW YORK made its yearly appearance representing Poland at the 92nd St. Y Street Festival in New York City. At its booth, staffers handed out brochures about upcoming events, distributed books, brochures and information promoting Poland and various aspects of Polish culture.

Established in 2000, PCI is a diplomatic mission to the United States. One of 22 such institutes around the world, it serves under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland. The Institute is dedicated to nurturing and promoting cultural ties between the United States and Poland, both through American exposure to Poland's cultural achievements, and through exposure of Polish artists and scholars to American institutions, professional counterparts, and to currents in American culture.

In addition to their booth, PCI presented the Komeda Project jazz ensemble at the Festival.

For information on the Polish Cultural Institute's season check: www.polishculture-nyc.org. (Stas Kmieć)

"Polish Footprints" Reset Dinosaur Dateline

WARSAW — "The indisputably oldest fossils of the dinosaur lineage" were found in Poland, according to the researchers who carried out a study on the find.

The footprints, thought to be about 250 million years old, are from the early Triassic age, and date a few million years after what is considered the greatest mass extinction of all time.

"The Polish footprints prompt a substantial extension of early dinosaur history," said Stephen L. Brusatte, Grzegorz Niedzwiedzki and Richard J. Butler, scientists from the United States, Poland, and Germany, respectively. They said the prints provided important insight into the origin and early evolutionary history of dinosaurs, as well as suggesting that the origin of the animals occurred in the immediate

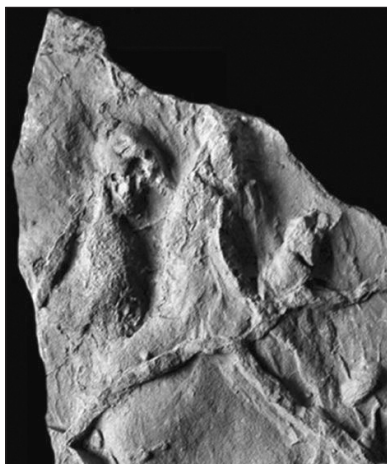


PHOTO: GRZEGORZ NIEDZWIEDZKI

aftermath of the mass extinction.

The prints indicate the earliest dinosaur relatives were very small animals, comparable to today's housecat. They had feet only three-quarters of an inch long, walked on four legs, and were very rare com-

pared to contemporary reptiles.

Over the next 50 million years, their class diversified astonishingly, becoming leviathan herbivores and fleet-footed carnivores that dominated the planet.

The team named the creature that made the footprints *Prorotodactylus*. They were uncovered in the Holy Cross Mountains of central Poland.

The devastating Permian-Triassic extinction eliminated as much as 95 percent of the planet's species. The new findings suggest the roughly 160-million-year-long Age of Dinosaurs not only ended in disaster, but might have begun because of one as well.

The research was published in *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, the flagship of biological research journals.

Al-Qaeda Suspect Takes Legal Action Against Poland

(news.pl) — Suspected al-Qaeda terrorist Abd al-Radim al Nashiri is taking Poland to court for his alleged imprisonment in a CIA prison, where he says he was tortured.

His legal representative has applied to the Prosecutors Office in Warsaw for a formal investigation, demanding that persons responsible for the secret rendition and transport of prisoners, their imprison-

ment and torture on Polish territory are punished. The terrorist suspect, currently imprisoned in Guantanamo Bay by the United States has also applied for the questioning of Poland's top politicians at the time of his alleged imprisonment and torture, which will include the then president Aleksander Kwasniewski, head of the SLD government Leszek Miller and other officials.

Abd al-Radim al Nashiri was charged with supervising a terrorist attack on the *USS Cole* in 2000, in which 19 people were killed and 39 injured. Although the charges were eventually dropped, he is still being kept as an "enemy combatant" in Guantanamo.

His name appears in Council of Europe and United Nations reports, in which he claims he was kept in a facility in Poland.

Since 2008 Polish prosecutors have been investigating the claims that a CIA prison was being operated in Poland between 2002 and 2005, which — if correct — overstepped human rights legislation in Poland and internationally.

So far investigators have only confirmed a number of flights to Szymany airport in northern Poland. Last July, the Helsinki Human Rights Foundation claimed that 20 prisoners from Afghanistan, Dubai and Morocco had been flown in to Szymany.

WARSAW WIRE / Robert Stybel

THE PERSONAL WEALTH OF POLES has tripled over the past decade and now stands at about \$28,600. per adult, according to the latest Global Wealth Report released by the Swiss financial institution *Crédit Suisse*. In Central-East Europe only the Czechs have higher per capita assets of \$31,800. But the average German is worth \$164,000, and the per capita estate of the French is nine times greater than Poland's. The richest country on earth is Switzerland whose per capita estate amounts to \$372,000. Also in the forefront are Norway, Australia and Singapore.

POLAND'S DEATH TOLL in Afghanistan has risen to 22 following a mortar attack on a Polish patrol. PFC Adam Szada-Borzyszkowski, 28, was killed and another soldier was wounded in the attack. The incident occurred in Ghazni province of which Polish troops are in charge. Poland currently has a 2,600-strong contingent stationed in the NATO-led operation to protect that country's fragile democracy against Taliban terrorists.

GERMANY'S LUFTHANSA is eyeing a possible the take-over of LOT Polish Airlines, according to recent

media reports. Christoph Franz, due to become Lufthansa's chairman on January 1st, is said to regard the acquisition of Poland's national carrier as one of his priorities. The Polish government intends to privatize the loss-making airline next year, and so far most major privatized assets have ended up in foreign hands. Lufthansa also has its eyes set on SAS (Scandinavian Airlines).

THE US HAS HELPED POLAND safely dispose of 1,000 pounds of highly enriched uranium (HEU) at a cost of some \$60 million. The fissile material has been moved in five shipments by train, truck and ship over the past year to a reprocessing center in Siberia. "We know that terrorists are actively seeking to acquire this material to target the United States," explained Andrew Bieniawski, A Polish American official of America's Global Threat Reduction Initiative. The quantity of HEU in Poland was enough to fuel 18 atomic weapons.

POLAND HAS CRACKED DOWN on designer drugs following recent deaths and poisoning caused by the synthetic psychoactive substances. Parliament has passed an emergency law allowing the authorities to close shops selling these so-called "legal highs" until their ingredients can be tested. The legislative move was preceded by a nationwide raid by 3,000 police and hundreds and health inspectors which shut down

1,100 "smart drug" shops. Many of the concoctions produce effects similar to or even more dangerous than conventional narcotics.

THE GOVERNMENT'S EQUALITY MINISTER, Elzbieta Radziszewska, has been fiercely attacked by leftists, feminists and gay activists after saying Catholic schools are not obliged to hire declared homosexuals. Radziszewska justified her comment with a European Union clause allowing religious schools not to hire teachers whose views or behavior run counter to the values espoused by the religious group operating the school. Prime Minister Donald Tusk has resisted pressure to fire his minister in charge of overseeing non-discrimination in public life.

VETERAN FILM DIRECTOR ANDRZEJ WAJDA has recently announced plans to make a film about Lech Wałęsa. "All those interested in what those times were like are invited to wait for my next film, which will be a story of Lech Wałęsa and his role in toppling communist rule in this country," the Oscar-winning film-maker said. He made the announcement at a ceremony conferring honorary citizenship of south-west Poland's Opole voivodship on the legendary Solidarity leader who ranks alongside Chopin and Pope John Paul II as the internationally best-known Pole.

Powell Honored by Poland

continued from cover

political arena and eventually served as U.S. Secretary of State from 2001-2005.

Now retired, at age 73, Powell was being honored by Poland for his ongoing military and political support over the years and promoting Poland's accession to NATO. Minister Klich decorated Powell with the distinguished Commander's Cross with Star of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, with hearty congratulations.

In his address, Powell thanked Poland and its people for the special honor they bestowed on him. He stressed the historical links between Poland and the United States,

mentioning the critical contributions of Generals Pulaski and Kosciuszko, and also statesman Ignacy Paderewski who, with major U.S. assistance, was able to reestablish Poland on the world map after 123 years of lost nationhood. On a personal note, Powell mentioned that he grew up in New York City in an environment of immigrants, including Polish, where he learned about pierogi and kielbasy.

"I'm a great friend of Poland for many years, and Poland has been a great friend of America for hundreds of years; and it's a great honor for me to be here today and receive this prestigious award," he said at the conclusion of the ceremonies.

Linkowski

continued from cover

other brothers, Henry and Raymond, all in Immaculate Heart of Mary Orphan Home, said a cousin, Dorothy Walters. She said John Linkowski joined the Army around age 18. During World War II he served in Panama and Europe, Walters said.

Linkowski never married. Because he lived briefly in Chester County, Pa., Dinniman became interested in his situation and helped the Coalition of Families identify remains of several soldiers recovered in North Korea. Testing was done at the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii.

— *Compiled from buffalonews.com and afrc.af.mil, website of the U.S. Air Force Reserve Command.*

*Czas ojcem prawdy.
Time is the father of truth.*

What Does Your Polish Name Mean?

Are you a Mazur? Chances are your family came from the Mazovian region of Poland. Zagan? Maybe someone in your family was a cattledriver.

To find out how many people in Poland use your Polish surname, how it came about and whether a noble coat of arms goes with it, please airmail a \$16 check to: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

You will also get a list of root-tracing contacts that can put you in touch with professional genealogists, genealogical groups and helpful Web sites, data bases, addresses and phone numbers. Speedy service is guaranteed, and the research is launched the same day an order is received.

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AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

HARTFORD, Conn. — The annual **Szopka Festival** sponsored by the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford is being held at the Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Ave., Sun., Nov. 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will be an opportunity to purchase holiday items, Polish food and baked goods, Polish amber and stoneware pottery and other less traditional items. The proceeds from this event are used to support the Scholarship Fund of the Polish Cultural Club.

The festival derives its name from the ancient Krakovian model of the (manger or creche) where the Christ child was born. The Polish local peasantry created the elaborate szopka or stable to provide the Christ child with an example of a more beautiful birthplace. A well known Polish artist of religious icons, Marek Czarnecki, is currently instructing students, in the art of creating a szopka that will go on display at the festival on the 28th of Nov.

This year the Festival is being chaired by Louis Maglaty of West Hartford and Edward Farley of New Britain. Admission is free and the public is cordially invited to attend. For those wishing relax and enjoy good Polish cooking, the well known restaurant at the Polish National Home will begin serving at 11:30 a.m.

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford is an affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture, a national organization. For further information, please contact Ursula Brodowicz at (860) 521-0201.

SMYRNA, Del. — A **Polish Dinner** will be held Nov. 13 at St. Polycarp R.C. Church, 135 Ransom Lane, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. For information, call Fr. Thomas Flowers at (302) 653-8279.

ST. PAUL, Minn. — A joint meeting of the **Polish Genealogical Society with Pommern Group** will be held Nov. 6 at 10:00 a.m. in the auditorium at 1185 N. Concord Street with a number of speakers from PGS-MN. There will be an optional noon lunch (approximately \$9). In the afternoon Jim Nuenfeldt will talk about his experiences in teaching English in Poland and show slides. Questions to Terry Kita at (612) 927-0719.

MINNEAPOLIS — The Bakken Trio Series at 4:00 p.m. on December 5 at Antonello Hall, MacPhail Center for the Arts, 501 Second Street, Minneapolis, will honor the 100- and 200-year mark of Chopin, Schumann and Barber with: Samuel Barber, *Souvenirs for Two Pianos*; Frederic Chopin, *Sonata in G Minor for Cello*, and Robert Schumann, *Piano Quartet, Opus 47*. Featured performers are Judy Lin & Claudia

Chen, piano; Arek Tesarczyk (Polish-born musician from the Minnesota Orchestra), cello; Ben Ullery, viola, and Stephanie Arado, violin. Single concert tickets are \$25.00 and may be purchased by calling (612) 374-3175 or using www.utazdesign.com/Bakken_Trio/schedule.html.

MINNEAPOLIS — **Wigilia Benefit Dinner** for Disadvantaged Polish Children. Join the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota in sharing a community dinner featuring the foods and activities of a Polish Christmas Eve, December 12 at 6:00 p.m. (traditional time of the first star), at Gasthof Restaurant, 2300 University Avenue NE. Tickets are \$35.00 (\$5 tax-deductible). To reserve a space, send your check made out to PACIM-PDD to Bernard Korsak, 5823 Xerxes Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55410. Be sure to include the names of the people in your party, your seating requirements, and your phone number if you wish him to confirm receipt of your check. (No actual tickets will be issued.) Space is limited. Reservation deadline is December 6. No tickets will be sold at the door. For more information, call (763) 571-9602.



LIBERACE. Star's museum closes its doors.

LAS VEGAS — One of Vegas's biggest spectacles has closed: the Liberace Museum.

Financial concerns were cited as the culprit by Liberace Foundation president Jack A. Rappaport, when asked about the fate of the two clay-tiled buildings located a few miles off the Strip.

The public had a last chance to check out the flamboyant musician's personal collection, including pianos coveted by Elton John, jewelry fit for a posse of hip-hoppers, a glitzy wardrobe, and world class car collection. Everything that created the image of "Mr. Showmanship" was part of the museum.

Wisconsin native Wladyslaw (Walter) Valentino Liberace sold 60 million records and was once the highest-paid entertainer in the world; yet many under the age of 40

offer a blank stare at the mention of his name, which would account for the museum's dwindling crowds. (It once drew as many as 450,000 visitors a year, as many as Hoover Dam. The board says the number is now 50,000.)

The showman himself opened the museum in 1979 to share his love of razzle-dazzle and to promote the profile of his foundation, formed three years earlier to foster new talent in the creative arts.

His legacy will live on in the Liberace Foundation, which has granted over \$6 million in scholarships for over 2,700 students. The collection's future, however, is less clear.

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Atlas Bank of New York, has introduced the First Time Home Buyers Club, an educational savings program that is designed to provide homeownership opportunities to first time homebuyers who have 80% or less of the area's median income.

"The development of First Home Club combined with our experience to assist qualified home buyers through this program will help make a difference in our community," said Danuta Sieminski, President/CEO of Atlas Bank.

Atlas Bank is affiliated with The Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, which launched the First Home Club to help income qualified first-time homebuyers save towards the purchase of a new home.

Atlas Bank is a United States federally chartered full service mutual savings bank dedicated to meeting the needs of all Greater New York City metropolitan area business professionals and individuals. Atlas Bank operates two full service bank office locations in the boroughs of Brooklyn and Staten Island. The Bank serves the greater New York City metropolitan area. Questions about products and services can be answered by calling (718) 768-4800 or by visiting www.atlasbank.com.

NEW YORK — The **Pro Arte League** of the Kosciuszko Foundation will celebrate its 40th Anniversary Fund Raiser with a luncheon at the Royal Manor in Garfield, N.J., Sun., Nov. 14. The event will be highlighted by Rita Cosby, CBS host and special correspondent, and author of "Quiet Hero," about her father's wartime experiences in Warsaw. As the Honorary Chairperson, Cosby will speak about her career in TV and broadcasting. A musical program will feature works of Chopin and Paderewski by renown violinist Walter Legawiec or Mountaintide, N.J. Halina Kalitka will be honored for years of providing music and song to the community.

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio — In celebration of its 75th anniversary, the **Polish Arts Club of Youngstown** is pleased to announce its sponsorship of an art competition open to all area high school students. Students enrolled in public or private schools or home schooled in grades 9 to 12 are invited to enter.

The theme for this contest is "Thaddeus Kosciuszko: Polish General, American Revolutionary War hero and friend of Thomas Jefferson."

The entry is to be no bigger than 11x16 inches, 2 dimensional and may be single or mixed media. It must be prepared to hang on a wall.

A completed application must accompany all art pieces. There is no cost to enter; however, participants are responsible for the supplies they use and for transporting their pieces to and from the Mall and the Butler. All entrants will have their art

Young Ambassadors of Culture in Virginia



by Andrew Korzan

VIENNA, Virg. — Over sixteen cultures and countries were represented by local and foreign groups during the 2010 International Children's Festival at Wolf Trap.

From the city of Lublin, Poland came the young Folk Song and Dance Ensemble, "Lublin." The children and instructors flew to the United States using their own private funds while their stay was sponsored by the Virginia schools. The group which came to the United States consisted of sixteen artists, ages 11 to 15.

During the two days of the September festival, the professionally run "Lublin" presented four stage performances of folk dances from different regions of Poland.

At the first performance on Saturday, September 18, the children presented beautiful dances from the province of Lublin, the vivacious tempo national dance "Obereczek" and the Lublin dance "Osa" (wasp).

At the second performance that day we saw the charm and grace of the young artists carrying on another national Polish dance called

"Krakowiak" and dances from the province of Rzeszow. Their costumes changed with respect to different dances.

The young ensemble offered an impressive display of vibrant colors, stripes and embroidery of traditional Polish costumes, dynamism and elegance of dances, and richness of music. Most of all, however, the vigor and professionalism of young artists made the show an unforgettable experience for the American audience.

The talented children also gave six performances at local Virginia schools. Those concerts were accompanied by a multimedia presentation about Poland, its history, and culture. Jan Twardowski, director of Lublin ensemble, said that it was a pleasure to see the American school children so fascinated and engaged in learning about Poland and Polish folklore.

It is amazing how such a powerful message can be sent by a dedicated group of so few.

For more information about the Lublin ensemble and to get their recordings, visit www.zpit.lublin.pl.

displayed at the Southern Park Mall during the week of January 23, 2011, where the public will be invited to vote on their favorites.

The top ten vote recipients will then be showcased at the Polish Arts Club annual Tea and Musical held at the Butler on Sunday, February 20, 2011, where the winners will be announced. In addition to cash and prizes, three winning entries will be put on display at the Butler Museum of American Art.

For addition information go to www.polishyoungstown.com/arts-club.

MANAYUNK, Pa. — Sat., Nov. 6. St. Josaphat **Christmas Bazaar**, Parish Hall, 124 Cotton Street. 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Games of chance, refreshments and much more. For info, call rectory (215) 483-4470.

PHILADELPHIA — Tues. Nov. 9 - **Polish American Heritage Society** of Camden County Lancaster, Pa. Bus Trip to Sight & Sound Theater performance "The Voices of Christmas." Leaving at 9:15 a.m. from K-Mart parking lot (Rt. 130 side), Browning Road, Brooklawn, N.J.. Tickets/Info call Larry Gasperone (856) 854-4610 or Dan Steiner (856) 468-1215.

PHILADELPHIA — Fri., Nov. 12 and Sat., Nov. 13. **Christmas Bazaar**, St. John Cantius Parish Hall, Almond & Orthodox Sts., Bridesburg section. Friday 6:00-9:00, Sat., 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. Games, Polish food and much more. Everyone invited. For info, call rectory (215) 535-6667.

CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa. — Sun., Nov. 14. **Christmas Bazaar**,

St. Mary Parish, Oak and West Elm Sts. 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Games of chance, Polish kitchen and much more. For info, call rectory (610) 828-0260.

PHILADELPHIA — Sat., Nov. 20 and Sunday, Nov. 21. **Holiday Bazaar/Flea Market**, St. Valentine Parish Hall, 2330 Margaret Street, Frankford section, Sat., 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Refreshments, holiday crafts, and much more. For info, call Fran Bonikowski (215) 632-1816.

PHILADELPHIA — On Sun., Nov. 21, there will be a **Polski Uniwersytet Ludowy Lecture** in the Polish language at the Associated Polish Home, 9150 Academy Road. 3:00 p.m. Speaker: Jan Milun. Topic is "Jan Pawel II W Muzyce." Another lecture will be held Sun., Dec. 5 with speaker Zofia Balczewska. Topic: "Polonia Na Internecie." Free. For info, call (215) 624-9954.

PHILADELPHIA — Sun., Dec. 5. **Christmas Bazaar**, St. Stanislaus Hall, 3rd and Fitzwater Sts., Noon-4:00 p.m. Games of chance, food and much more. Info call rectory (215) 468-1922. Open to the public.

READING — Sun., Nov. 21. **Christmas Bazaar**, St. Mary Parish, 12th & Spruce Sts., 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Crafts, games, rummage sale, Polish food, and much more. For info, call (610) 376-6321.

PHILADELPHIA — Sat., Dec. 11. **Polish Christmas Open House**, Polish American Cultural Center Museum, 308 Walnut St. 11:00 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. Free. For info, call (215) 922-1700.

Save the Date for the Polish Gift of Life

ALBERTSON, N.Y. — The Polish Gift of Life, Inc. is pleased to announce its 31st Annual Fund-raiser Luncheon/Dance, Sun., Nov. 21, 2010. The event will be held at the Inn at New Hyde Park, 214 Jericho Turnpike, New Hyde Park, N.Y. from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Donation is \$80.00 per person. Music will be supplied by The Abelman.

Since May of 1978, the Polish Gift of Life has been on a mission to help sick Polish children with heart problems get the assistance they need medically to lead

normal healthy lives. At present, surgeries are being performed in Munich Germany, by renowned pediatric cardiologist Dr. Edward Malec of Krakow Poland, who has relocated to Germany. So far this year, we have given eight Polish children a second chance to a healthy life.

The Polish Gift of Life has provided medical equipment to many hospitals in Poland, and also have helped orphanages throughout Poland.

For reservations and information call Caroline Kowalczyk at (516) 746-1532.

HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Głos Polek: One Hundred Years Strong



(l. to r.): Frank Spula, Antoinette Trela-Vander Noot, Helen Wojcik, Virginia Sikora, Judy Baar Topinka, Peggy Kusinski, Aurelia Pucinski, and Zygmunt Matynia

Approximately 150 guests attended the Polish Women's Alliance of America (PWAA) 100th anniversary celebration of its official publication: *Głos Polek*, held on September 26 at the Rosewood Banquet Hall, Rosemont, Ill. Adding to the evening's festivities was the filled with the wonderful music of the Carl Linden String Ensemble and performances by the youngest members of the Paderewski Symphony Youth Orchestra. This centennial's Mistress of Ceremonies was **Judge Aurelia Pucinski** and its guest speaker was **Peggy Kusinski** of NBC5 WMAQ TV and Chicago's Emmy awarding winning sportscaster. **Rev. Ted Dzieszko**, pastor of St. Constance Parish gave a musical invocation. Consul General of the Republic of Poland, **Zygmunt Matynia**, presented **Virginia Sikora**, President of the PWAA, with the *Krzyż Oficerski Orderu Zasługi Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej*, the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland. Mrs. Sikora was awarded this honor for her outstanding achievements as President of PWAA and the Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation, for her devotion to Polonia, and for the support she provided to the Polish/Polish American community. The PWAA will begin to display its centennial exhibit, "A Voice of Their Own," which will first open in Chicago, then, over the next two years, will travel to numerous venues throughout the United States and Poland.

augural Mass were PRCUA Vice-Chaplains: Rev. Canon Anthony D. Iwuc of Rhode Island and Msgr. Stanley Milewski of Pennsylvania. Rev. Timothy Whalen, Chancellor of Orchard Lake Schools, and Msgr. Władysław Podeszwik of Chicago also concelebrated. Approximately 320 attendees filled the Inaugural Banquet Room at the House of the White Eagle, Niles, IL. This 60th anniversary event was filled with music and dance performed by *Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Troupe*, the *Polonia Ensemble* and the *Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra*. The evening's guest speaker, **Donald Versen, Sr.**, Chair of the PRCUA's Long Range Planning Committee, presented a historical overview of the strong commitment of the PRCUA's founders and the importance of successful fraternalism. The PRCUA's new president, **Joseph Drobot, Jr.**, thanked all those attending and mentioned that the U.S. economic breakdown has affected the PRCUA, and that the PRCUA needs to review competitive insurance programs and its staff, as well as rejuvenate fraternal activities. Mr. Drobot spoke of instituting Town Hall Meeting throughout the districts with, not only directors present, but the President as well.

The following individuals were elected to the PRCUA's Executive Board, Chaplains, and National Directors. They appear in the photo shown below (front, l. to r.): Vice Chaplain Msgr. Stanley Milewski;

L. Bonin; District 5 Mitchell J. Bienia and Joan C. Sylak; District 4 Richard P. Turkiewicz; District 3 Edward F. Kaplaniak and Joanne I. Zajac

A FAREWELL TO SUMMER WITH CHOPIN. The gardens of the Polish National Alliance (PNA) headquarters were filled with enthusiastic members, friends, guests and devotees of Chopin's music. Even though autumn had officially begun, Saturday, September 25, was a perfect evening for "A Farewell to summer with Chopin" concert, sponsored by the PNA. The music of Fryderyk Chopin was performed by a mélange of young musical talent. The first part of the concert was performed by two prodigies: 17-year-old **Marcelina Suchocka** and 11-year-old **Daniel Szefer**. The second and main portion of the evening was performed by American pianist, **Michael Pecak**, the laureate of the esteemed Chopin Piano Competition in New York City, and an Indiana University Polish Studies Center artist-in-residence. The concert shifted gears as the third phase of the concert was presented by **Alizma**, the three-sister trio of violinists, Aleksandra, Izabella and Monika Okapiec, who flew in from Las Vegas to perform. Their pop interpretations based on Chopin's works were crowd pleasers. The concert's last performer was **Arek Religa**, the critically acclaimed guitarist, who along with his band played rock arrangements of some of Chopin's most popular pieces.

POLISH LITERATURE AND FOUND IN TRANSLATION. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) at the University of Illinois at Chicago invited academia, the Polish community and the general public to hear LAS's newest faculty addition, Polish intellectual and scholar **Michał Paweł Markowski**. On September 27, Dr. Markowski presented his first lecture, "What is Polish Literature?" He was recently named as the inaugural Stefan and Lucy Hejna Family Chair in Polish Language and Literature. Additionally, he is the newly-appointed Head of the Department of Slavic and Baltic Languages and Literature and Director of Graduate Studies of this department.

This event also included the presentation of this year's *Found in Translation Award*, presented by the Polish Book Institute in Krakow, the Polish Cultural Institute in London, the Polish Cultural Institute in New York, and the WAB Publishing House in Warsaw. This year's award was presented to **Danuta Borchardt** for her translation of Witold Gombrowicz's *Pornografia* (Grove Atlantic, 2009). This award is given annually to the translator of the finest publication of Polish literature in English. Additionally, the recipient received a monetary prize and a three-month residency funded by the Polish Book Institute in Krakow.

CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL. This year marks the 46th Annual Chicago International Film Festival. The festival, which lasts from Oct. 7-21, may have a few well-known artists, such as actor Edward Norton, Academy-award winning Director Danny Boyle and the festival's founder and artistic director, Michael Kutza in town and attending numerous films, but the festival will highlight several films that will attract the Polish community and beyond.

Three Polish films which will be viewed during this festival are: **Erratum**, directed by Marek Lechki; **Little Rose, Rozyczka**, directed by Jan Kidawa-Blonski; and **All That I Love, Wszystko co Kocham**, directed by Jacek Borcuch. The American made documentary, which *Time Out Chicago Magazine* recommends, is **Tony and Janina's American Wedding**, directed by Ruth Leitman. It tells the story of a Chicago area resident, U.S. citizen Tony Wasilewski, and his struggles and crusade to bring his deported wife Janina and his U.S. citizen son Brian back to the States. This film also highlights the injustices of current immigration bureaucracy and Wasilewski's testimony to Congress.

SO FAR AWAY - SO CLOSE BY. The Consul General of the Republic of Poland, Zygmunt Matynia, and the University of Illinois at Chicago held a reception and opened the exhibit, "Polish People's Republic: So Far Away - So Close By," on October 5 at the University's Richard J. Daley Library. The authors of this exhibit wanted to show, not only the physical and psychological battles against the Soviets, but also



1989 Solidarity March

the political, economic, cultural, sporting and academic events that Polish society endured and cheered. Paweł Sasanka of the Institute of National Remembrance (INP), one of the authors of this exhibit, presented "Milestones of Poland's History after the Second World War." This 47-panel exhibit of photographs depicts key events in Polish history from 1944 to 1989. The exhibit will be held at the Library only until October 17, 2010.

Baczewska plays at the Consulate

by Stas Kmiec

NEW YORK — The Consul General of Poland in New York and the De Lamar Mansion Salon of Arts & Ideas presented a piano recital — *Chopin and His Legacy* by **Magdalena Baczewska**, October 17. The program consisted of works by Chopin, Gershwin, Liszt, Paderewski, Ginastera, Szymanowski and Rachmaninoff.

As a winner of international piano competitions, Magdalena has appeared worldwide as a solo artist and in orchestral performances. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from

the Manhattan School of Music, along with Bachelor and Master's Degree from the Mannes College of Music, New School University. She is a faculty member at the John J. Cali School of Music, Montclair State University in New Jersey and at the International Keyboard Institute and Festival in New York City. She was among the jurors of the International Chopin Competition at Columbia University.

Her recordings and performances have been hailed as "eloquent and technically flawless" (*The Washington Post*).



SUPPORT THE PAJ PRESS FUND

In 1971, a voluntary fund-raising campaign was launched by a group of loyal readers of the Polish American Journal entitled "We Love the PAJ Press Fund" in order to help cover rising postage, material and production costs.

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

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A sincere "THANK YOU" for their donations to the **PAJ PRESS FUND**: **Rod Danilewicz**, South Bend, Ind.; **Anthony Grzebyk**, Toms River, N.J.; **R.M. Jarka**, Chesterfield, Mich.; **Marek Karski**, Bedminster, N.J.; **Walter Kazimier**, Las Cruces, N.M.; **Virginia Millar**, Port Orange, Fla.; **Jean Romanoff**, Moorestown, N.J.; **Stephen Sajewicz**, Wyandotte, Mich.; **William Sikorski**, Adams, Mass.; **Katherine Twarog**, Columbus, Ohio; and two "Friends of the PAJ." Dziękujemy! The PAJ thanks all who donated to the Press Fund.

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Newly-elected PRCUA officers, chaplains and directors.

PRCUA INUAGUARAL FESTIVITIES. Celebration festivities were in order for the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA). This past September 12, the PRCUA's newly-elected national officers and directors were officially installed. The inauguration festivities started with a concelebratory Mass held at St. Constance Church on Chicago's Northwest Side. The Rev. Ted Dzieszko, pastor, was assisted by the PRCUA's Chaplain, Rev. Walter J. Ptak, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Wyandotte, MI. Other priests assisting at this in-

Vice Chaplain Rev. Canon Anthony Iwuc; Chaplain Rev. Walter J. Ptak; Vice Pres. Robert L. Bielenda; President Joseph A. Drobot, Jr.; Resident Vice Pres. Anna Sokolowski; Sec.-Treasurer James J. Robaczewski; National Directors District 1 Marsha M. Mikuszewski; District 2 Gregory B. Olma.

(Back, l. to r.): District 10 Thomas Z. Lisiecki and Christopher J. Ozog; District 9 Elizabeth A. Grabowski; District 8 James A. Rustik and Krystyna J. Lech; District 7 Anna Kryszynski and Robert J. Bugielski; District 6 Constance

POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

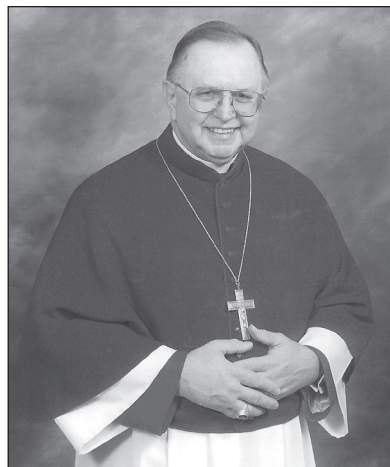
Polonia Piano

The piano and Polish composers were showcased across our area during October. This trend, which began with **Claire Huangci's** All-Chopin program at Buffalo State College in September, continued through the month. Many of these other concerts also featured the music of Chopin, in honor the 200th anniversary of the composer's birth. These concerts included "Schumann and Chopin" featuring the **Toronto Symphony Orchestra** at Toronto's Roy Thomson Hall and **Walter Burczynski's** Chopin piano recital at the Polish Consulate in Toronto on the 3rd; "Chopin on Period Piano" featuring **Janina Fialkowski** at St. Paul's Trinity Church in Toronto on October 7; "Dobry Wieczor Monsieur Chopin" at Mississauga's Living Arts Centre, **Piotr Rubik's** "Santo Subito" tribute to Pope John Paul II at Roy Thomson Hall and pianist **Igor Lipinski** in "Ignacy Jan Paderewski – Musician and Statesman" at the Rochester Memorial Art Gallery on October 17; Pianist **Berenika Zakrzewski** and the **Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra's** "From Poland With Love" at Buffalo's Kleinhans Music Hall on the 23rd and 24th; and, on October 29, the Fredonia Opera House's "Evening of Chopin and Liszt" featuring pianist **Thomas Pandolfi**. This pianofest will continue into November with **Jonathan Mann's** "Chopin/Schumann Bicentennial Celebration" at SUNY Fredonia on the 6th and 7th.

KATYN REMEMBERED. The 70th anniversary of the massacre in the Katyn Forest was the topic of an exhibit presented at the Buffalo and Erie County Central Library in Downtown Buffalo from September 29 through October 18. The exhibit, prepared by Andrzej Przewodnik, was brought to Buffalo by the WNY Division of the Polish American Congress, WNY Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation and the Polish Legacy Project – WWII. Andrzej Wajda's film "Katyn" was screened at the library on the 17th in conjunction with the exhibit.

POLONIA TIDBITS. The **Polish Student Association** of the State University of New York at Buffalo elected the following leadership for this academic year: Martin Kozicki (president), Oliver Kurzyp (vice-president), Arianna Kwiatkowski (treasurer) and Sebastian Malecki (secretary) ... The names of Buffalo Housing Court Judge **Henry Nowak**, Niagara County Legislator **Paul Wojtaszek** and Orchard Park Town Justice **Deborah Chimes** were added to the November general election ballot for seats on the NYS Supreme Court by their respective parties ... **Dr. Michal Kaczmarc-**

zyk, a sociologist from the University of Gdansk, is in residence at SUNY at Buffalo studying American social movements this semester ... **Dan Rusin** has been elected president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Local 930, which represents the blue-collar workers of the Erie County Water Authority ... **Our Lady of Czestochowa Church** in Cheektowaga was recently renovated using the designs of students of the Villa Maria College interior design department.



BISHOP PEPOWSKI. Retiring in 2011.

WGRZ-TV's meteorologist **Mary Beth Wrobel** hosted the second Annual International Festival held at Assumption Church in Buffalo's Black Rock neighborhood on October 3. The **Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY** and **Dr. Thomas Witakowski** were featured at the festival ... The 23rd General Synod of the **Polish National Catholic Church** was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Niagara Falls, Ontario in early October. **Bishop Thaddeus Peplowski** of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese of the PNCC announced that he will be retiring from his position on November 4th of 2011 ... **Corpus Christi Parish** on Buffalo's East Side hosted its fourth annual rosary procession on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7.

On October 17, the **General Pulaski Association** and **Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral** in Lancaster had their spaghetti dinners, the **Polish Falcons** in Depew hosted a Polish dinner and the **Villa Maria College President's Council** held a benefit dinner.

The **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo's** Cindy Baumgartner spoke on "The Mazowsze and Shea's Buffalo Theatre" at the Harlem Road Community Center on the 20th ... The **Chopin Singing Society** featured a concert version of Moniuszko's "Flis" during its 111th annual concert at the Villa Maria College auditorium ... **Tom Dudzick's** "Over the Pub" will be staged by

O'Connell and Company in the Spring of 2011. This play is a re-working of Dudzick's hit "Over the Tavern" with an Irish family from Cork replacing the Polish American family from Buffalo.

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If you have an item for this column, please send to: POLEGL, P.O. Box 223, Niagara Square Station, Buffalo, NY 14201-0223; pietruszka@verizon.net.

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For more information on what's going on in the Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes, and interesting links, visit www.polegl.org.

Community Service Recognized

SOPHIE POLAKOWSKI, a junior in the International Baccalaureate Magnet program at Campbell High school in Smyrna, Ga., was presented with the Junior League of Cobb-Marietta "Janet J. Street Youth Philanthropy Award" for 2010.



The award is given to recognize one young woman in the Cobb-Marietta community for exceptional service to the community in making a difference in the lives of others.

Pictured are Tracy Rathbone, vice president of community programs, and Polakowski.

\$30,500 Raised for "Special Children with Special Needs"!

Go online to: www.polfunfest.com to view the video presentation of funds to Sr. Agata, with some of the children from the nursing home in Brzozow, Poland.

Help us to continue to promote our Polish culture, charities, and scholarships. Make your donation to our new fund-raiser for an opportunity to receive **\$400 A MONTH FOR ONE YEAR**, or be the seller of the winning ticket and receive **\$50 A MONTH FOR ONE YEAR**. The drawing will be held at the Polish Heritage Festival in June, 2011. The winner and the seller will receive a one month bonus if they are in attendance! (\$400 for the winner and \$50 for the seller.) For more details go online to: www.polfunfest.com, or call 677-0220!



(L to R) Polish Heritage Festival President/NP James P. Jozwiak; & First Lady/Fund-raising Chairperson, Christine Jozwiak; Anna Cieccka (interpreter); and Sr. Agata



Polish Union of America

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Deputy Marshal, Consul General, Pays Visits



POLISH SENATE OFFICER IN WASHINGTON. Zbigniew Romaszewski (above, right), Deputy Marshal of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, visited the Embassy of Poland, September 16, 2010. He was the guest of honor at an intimate luncheon hosted by Ambassador Robert Kupiecki (left), attended by a score of regional Polonian leaders. The table conversation centered on the importance of the worldwide promotion of democracy and human rights, as championed by Marshal Romaszewski in his remarks.

Romaszewski was here to attend the Parliamentary Forum of the Community of Democracies to mark the International Day of Democracy and other linked functions on Capitol Hill before returning to his post in Warsaw.

—Richard Poremski



CONSUL GENERAL OF NEW YORK IN NEW BEDFORD. Madame Consul General Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka of the Consulate in New York, was a guest of the Friends of Poland at a Luncheon at the Wamsutta Club in New Bedford, Mass. This gave her an opportunity to meet the officers of the organization and to familiarize herself with the mission of the Friends of Poland. Discussion was centered on the past humanitarian efforts and the future endeavors.

Pictured are (l. to r.): Helen Arabasz; Consul General Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka; Jean Babiec; Edward Piszcz; Ted Cioper; Thad Irzyk.



SOLIDARITY PANEL AT KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION. *Solidarity: The Peace Movement that Brought Down the Berlin Wall and Ended the Cold War* — a panel discussion on Solidarity and a private screening of "Upadek Imperium" (Fall of the Empire) — a documentary by Andrzej Titkow took place at The Kosciuszko Foundation in New York City.

Following the screening there was a discussion by journalists who covered the changes in Eastern Europe: John Darnton (*The New York Times*), Andrew Nagorski (former senior editor at *Newsweek*), David A. Andelman (Editor of *World Policy Journal*) and moderated by Alex Storzynski.

—Stas Kmieć

Cornerstone for Papal Museum Dedicated

WADOWICE, Poland — Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, Pope John Paul II's longtime personal secretary, and Wadowice, Poland Mayor Ewa Filipiak laid the cornerstone for a museum at a wall of the pope's family home.

The museum, opening in 2012,

will showcase the family's apartment as it was in the 1920s when the young Karol Wojtyla lived there with his parents and elder brother.

Adjacent apartments will house exhibits documenting the Pope's life (1920-2005).

ARTSCENE / Staś Kmieć

Chopin with Jazz at Carnegie Hall

Frédéric Chopin's 200th Birthday Party — A Polish Jazz Celebration was presented at Carnegie Hall, October 4. This show was arranged to demonstrate the composer's source of inspiration — folk music, as well as his work being a source of inspiration of jazz and contemporary music. The ambitious concert was performed in Chicago, New York City and Inowroclaw, Poland.

The missing component of the program should have come between the inspiration source and the inspired invention and that was a representation and acknowledgment of Chopin's original compositions.

The inventive Jazz improvisations on Chopin's work were evidence of how revelatory his music is. A contemporary molding of Chopin's genius. Straying from the beaten path they attempted to forge a new language of Chopin. In some offerings a glimmer of Chopin could be heard, but often his contribution appeared unrecognizable to listening audience.

In spite of their efforts, musicologists have still not solved the precise sources of the quotations in Chopin's music. He was influenced by the folk music of Poland, but did not reproduce it, what he did was to compose his pieces in the spirit of folk music.

The **Janusz Prusinowski Ensemble**, in my opinion was the standout of the evening. Focused and concise, they offered the rural perspective of the music from the country side that influenced and inspired the great artist. With antique instrumentation they presented an expression of vitality and authenticity.

"Oj chmielu, chmielu" (their first selection) is the oldest known ceremonial wedding song, sung during *oczepiny*, when the bride symbolically passes into the state of married ladies and when a bonnet replaces her head wreath. From the scratchy, clear-toned folk violin to the emotional *shawm*, punctuated by the *baraban* cymbal-drum and the rhythmic foot step-stamp motif of the musicians, the tune resonated through the hallowed establishment of Carnegie Hall.

The *shawm*, a medieval and Renaissance musical instrument of the woodwind family made in Europe from the late 13th century until the 17th century was developed from the oriental *zurna* and is the predecessor of the modern oboe. The instrument gave the song a hypnotic



The Janusz Prusinowski Ensemble, was the standout of the evening.

transcendental quality.

The song is derived from pagan times, before the adoption of Poland's baptism in 966. Its tonality of the pentatonic and modal scale indicate an even earlier origin of the melody. The second piece was a suite of melodies that may have inspired Chopin including "Czemu nie orzesz, Jasieńku," which is reflected in Mazurka in G minor, Op. 24 No. 1 with its rhythmic rubato, minor scales and minor subtleties of melody and harmonic accompaniment. The accents of *przypup* stamping broke into dance by the final rendition of Chopin's Mazurka in D major, Op. 33, No. 2.

The national *mazur* is based on the folk *mazurek* (chłopskie mazur), but it represents a break with folk tradition. Compared to the rural version, it differs by being filled with dotted rhythms. At the end of the 18th century the *Mazurka* became part of the piano repertoire and it reached perfection in the hands of Chopin. Upon examination it becomes clear that these compositions contain a blend of various traditions, dominant among which are the national mazur and the folk kujawiak. A triple-time round dance with a crescendo rhythm, the kujawiak consisting of the slow "sleeping" ksebka, followed by the true *kujawiak odsibka* — a "whirling dervish" of a mazur or oberek rhythm.

A memorable New-Age performance was given by **Kwadrofonik**. Water-colored, airy and mysterious their modern compositions interpreted Chopin in a dreamlike, surreal exploration of rhythmic sound. African-American saxophonist **Azar Lawrence** visited Poland in 1974 and his impressions of the composer were expressed through improvisational technique reaching great emotion and depth. Jazz

powerhouse **Gunhild Carling** of Sweden offered welcome relief late in the program. She began on a humorous note blaring the Funeral March Sonata No. 2 (Op. 35) on the trombone and followed in a strong nuanced voice with a song improvisation alternating on the trombone, fife and trumpet.

Among the other performers were Krzesimir Dębski (Poland/USA) — emcee, music director, violin, Vocalists Agnieszka Wilczyńska (Poland) and Grażyna Auguścik World Sound (USA) with The Chicago International Trombone Ensemble, jazz pianist Sławomir Jaskulke (Poland) and the Andrzej Jagodziński Trio (Poland).

The two-hour concert at times meandered, particularly during the jazz riffs and individual improvisations, which at times appeared uninspired. For many acts abbreviated or single selections would have sufficed. Flow and format were not evident in the structure of much the presentation; however the free-for-all celebration aspect and variety was engaging and infectious.

MARIUSZ KWIECIEŃ AT METROPOLITAN OPERA. Mariusz Kwiecień's charismatic performing style, luxuriant baritone and good looks have made him a hands-down audience favorite in opera houses throughout the world. His upcoming New York City — Metropolitan Opera appearances are as follows: *Don Pasquale* (Dr. Malatesta) — November 2, 6, 10, 13, and 18, 2010 and February 4, 8, 11, 14, and 19, 2011.

The Polish baritone has been quoted as being surprised that he's considered a "barihunk." For information on Kwiecień and his performing schedule check: www.mariuszkwiecien.com.

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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Polka MAGAZINE

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN MUSIC

Salt City Brass Celebrates Four Decades of Music

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Salt City Brass, Syracuse's only recording polka band, celebrated its 40th year performing polka music. The feting was given by the United Polka League of the Mohawk Valley in Central New York.

President Bob Zyskowski and members presented Salt City Brass' leader, Jasiu Klocek with a plaque commemorating his accomplishment. Later in the evening, Klocek's son, John, and his daughter, Christine, gave him yet an-



President of the United Polka League Bob Zyskowski (right) presents Salt City Brass' leader, Jasiu Klocek with a plaque commemorating the band's anniversary.



Members past and present on stage.

other plaque. The evening spotlighted Klocek and the Salt City Brass. Black and gold balloons, the colors of Salt City Brass, dotted the hall, along with the traditional red and white balloons. Steak sandwiches, cake and coffee were served. Two huge picture collages of people attending Salt City Brass dances, picnics and other festivities were featured in a photo gallery, along with a poster of Klocek with his accordion and another of the entire band. To thank the attendees for their support over the years, Jasiu presented each with a Salt City Brass baseball cap.

The Salt City Brass consists of: Jasiu Klocek, accordionist; Dave Wilbur and Jeff Stockham, trumpets; Carl Borek, clarinetist; Caz

Witt, bass; Frank Sergott, drums, Susan Klocek, vocals; and Hank Sobkowicz, bells. However, this evening former members joined in also: Paul Riley and Slawek Figuel-accordionists; Frank Furgal and Jay Brandt-bass players; John Klocek, Jr., drummer; and Rob Piatkowski, trumpet player.

Klocek has just returned from performing as accordionist for Joe Stanky & The Cadets on their Caribbean cruise and with The Salt City Brass at the St. Petersburg Polish Club in Florida.

For upcoming performances, photos and other information, check their website at www.saltcitybrass.com or call (315) 689-7427.

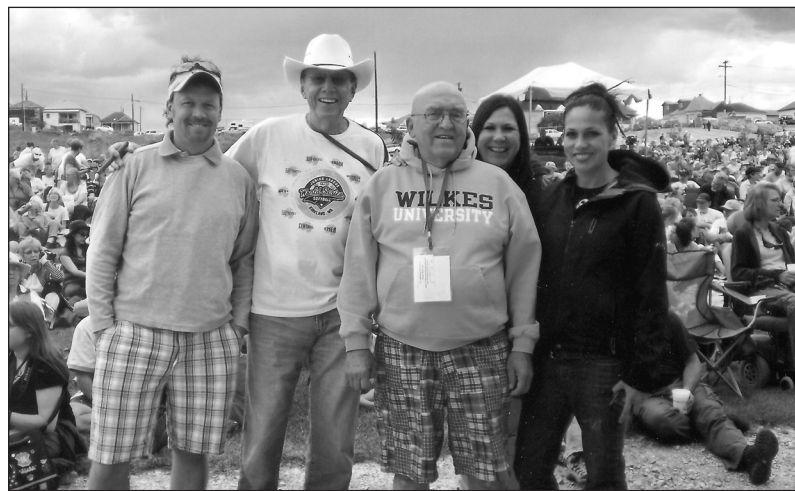
Polka Richie Radio Show

TEANECK, N.J. — Richard Wisniewski has a long history in the radio broadcast field with twenty years of polka shows on three different radio stations in the New York metropolitan area. Wisniewski has spun polka music on various New Jersey radio stations since 1986 and now his Polka Richie Show airs Sundays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. on WFDU-FM (89.1) in Teaneck.

The program features everything from the standards of Jimmy Sturr and Frankie Yankovic to the latest music by The Polka Family, Chad Przybylski, John Gora & Gorale, TPM Reunion Band, and Squeezebox.

Wisniewski encourages listeners to call in at (201) 692-2012.

At National Folk Festival



Stanky & The Coal Miners from Nanticoke, Pa. made front page headlines during their recent appearance at the "National Folk Fest" in Butte, Montana. The Coal Miner's performed for four shows during the weekend to over 200,000 festival goers who came from across the United States and Europe. Many different styles of music were performed by music groups as they appeared on four stages throughout the Folk Fest. The Coal Miners band consisted of John Stanky, his two daughters, Deborah Horoshack and Kimberly Bukowski, Mike Steinkershner and Norbert Wisniewski.

Pictured are (l. to r.): Steinkershner; John Stanky; Wisniewski; Horoshack, and Bukowski.

Knights of Columbus Benefit Features Maestro's Men

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. — The award-winning Maestro's Men from Connecticut, will be providing the music for a polka dance to benefit the Saratoga Knights of Columbus, Sunday, November 14, 2010. Music will be from 2:00-6:00 p.m.

with a bar and kitchen available.

The Saratoga Knights of Columbus is located at Pine Road and Route 29 West in Saratoga Springs.

For tickets and infomaton, contact Steve or Cathy Coblisch at (518) 899-3061.

POLKA JUKEBOX / Steve Litwin

You'll Want to Shell Out for Brave Combo's Latest

"The Peanuts" polka, or at least a minor key, Serbian-flavored version entitled "Kikiriki" is the lead track on *Kikiriki*, the newest audio CD offering by Brave Combo.

Can BC be any different? Of course they can. Try "Beethoven's Ninth" in a polka beat, or the Bee Gees' "Holiday" upbeat and polka-cized. Yet, they always stray close to the heart of polkas with Yankovic's "Just Because," "Big Head" ("Boli, Boli Glowa") polka, and Chesky's "Satellite" polka.

Probably one of the most powerfully interesting tracks for this writer is Combo's arrangement of the "Polish National Anthem" with the rumble of thunder as a background intro, covered by the accordion of Carl taking the melody.

Having seen Brave Combo at Polka Fireworks this past Summer, the reaction by the large stage-front crowd when the band performed the "Polish National Anthem" and "Boli Boli Glowa" demonstrates how this group can shift emotional gears with their music and capture a crowd.

Brave Combo is led by Carl Finch on accordion, keyboards, guitar and vocals; Jeffrey Barnes on sax, clarinet, flute and vocals; Alan Emert on drums; Little Jack Melody on bass and vocals; and Danny O'Brien on trumpet, valve trombone and vocals.

Kikiriki, the band's 31st recording, is a dozen tracks and is on the Dentone label. Brave Combo is on facebook, myspace, youtube and on their website at: www.brave.com/com.

CONCERTINA ALL STARS. They are The Concertina All Stars. They are all from Buffalo, although not all still live in the Nickel City.

Does it matter?

Not at all.

To those concertina players who never had a chance to play on stage, never played in a band, or never played on a recording, this band could be considered Concertina Heroes. So it is fitting that their most recent release is titled, *Concertina Hero*.

With an odd number of tracks, 17, this group manages to put together great traditional music, some originals by a long-time friend Bobby Zielinski, and more. "Lancers at the Window" polka, "Pretty Mary" polka, "Nasza Pani" polka, and "Dark Forest" polka find a comfortable home on this recording.

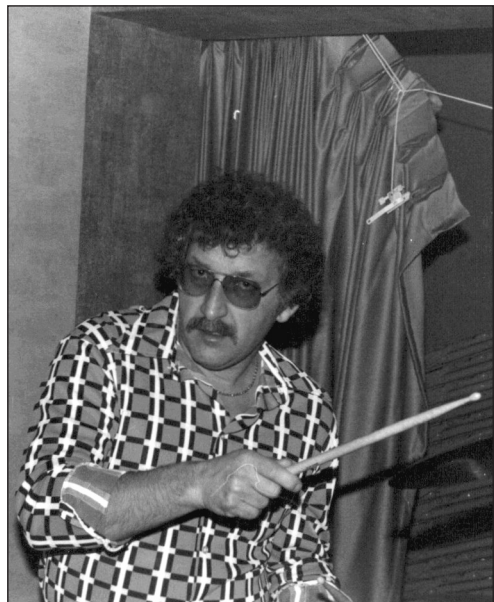
Anyone listening to internet radio is aware that "Sing With Me" polka from the CD is getting the most play. Greg Chwojdak handles this vocal as well as seven others on Concertina Hero. He also plays concertina. Bob Zielinski and Joe Ryn-dak are on concertinas while Dale Wojdyla is on trumpet. Ray Barsukiewicz covers trumpet, sax and clarinet with Art Gayler on accordion and piano. Robin Pegg is behind the drums and "Sonny" Wanderlich is Mr. Bassman.

Concertina Hero is on the Sunshine label.

If you like the concertina, you like Buffalo, and you like down-home, backroom, polka music, pick up Concertina Hero.

POLKA MEMORIES / Jimmy K and Steve Litwin

If you have a special Polka Memory photograph to publish in the Polish American Journal, email: pajpolka@verizon.net. For more Polka Memories visit www.polkamemories.com.



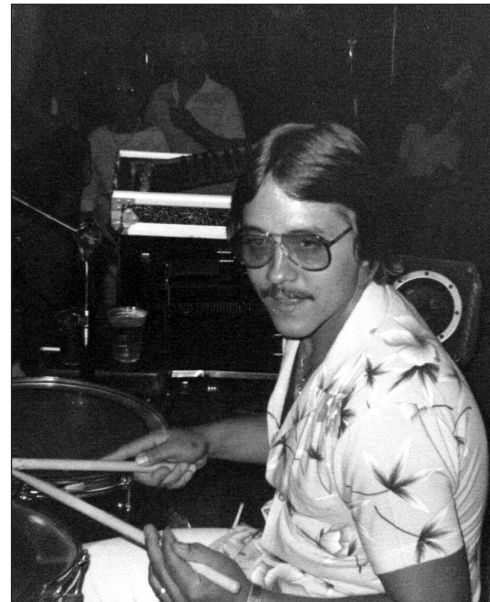
The late Ed Poudrier of Heavy Chicago. 1970.



Dave Morris on accordion with The Sounds. 1982.



Al Piatkowski with the Pennsylvania Merry Makers. 1977.



Bobby Zima on drums. Polka Fireworks, Champion, Pa. 1984.

NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

You Missed an Outstanding Band

BUFFALO, N.Y. — On Sept. 11, **Henny & the Versa Js** came to the Ukrainian Hall in Cheektowaga for a rather last-minute dance. Unfortunately — probably because of such a late booking and maybe not enough advertising — only a small crowd attended. However, those that did, heard some superb music played by a cordial group of guys, including many that are related. Leader Henny Jasiewicz plays the trumpet and his son, Butchie, plays the drums; bass player Erik Bogdan and trumpet player Chris Bogdan are brothers. They are joined by Frankie Gibala and his son Steve Gibala who both play sax and clarinet. Accordion man Randy Koslosky is a brother-in-law to Chris Bogdan! I asked Henny how Ryan Ogradny and his Mom Dee are doing and he said they are fine; Ryan is involved in country music in Nashville. It was good to see this outstanding band again!

Due to another obligation, I was not able to attend the dance at Potts on Sept. 18 featuring **Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze** band. John Kozak informed me there was a nice crowd on hand the band sounded excellent.

The Hearthstone Manor on Sept. 23 held a luncheon and polka show featuring the **Jimmy Sturr** band. Barb Zwawa told me there was a big crowd with many out-of-towners including several busloads. The show was sensational and enjoyed by all.

On Sept. 23, the **Touch** played at the Polka Boosters Meeting and the band, led by Ken Machelski, had a toast and saluted Jerry Darlak, their leader, who had recently passed away. Jerry's birthday was on Sept. 22 and he always wanted that month for his band to play for the meeting.

IN SYMPATHY. Our sympathy goes out to the family of **Willie Wisniewski** who passed away on



Leader Henny Jasiewicz (trumpet) and concertina player Steve Zelenak at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Hall.

September 22. Willie and his wife, Millie, were avid polka fans who attended many polka functions throughout the years. They were part of the fun group known as the Polka Pals. Willie also was as a Board member many years ago for the Polka Boosters Club. He will be missed ... to Eddie Olinski and family on the loss of his wife, **Christine**, on Sept. 23. They were married for 56 years. Ed is the leader of the Eddie O band which plays big band music. Please keep the departed in your prayers.

CONGRATULATIONS ... to **Tom Picciano** and **Katie Fitzgerald** who were married on October 16. A fabulous reception was held at Kotecki's Grove. Tom is the leader of the Knewz ... to **Dennis Danielski** on his retirement. A big party was held for him on Oct. 23. We wish him good luck and good health! ... to **Carol** and **Ken Machelski** on their 40th wedding anniversary.

GET WELL WISHES ... are going out to **Dave Miesowicz**, leader of

the **Bedrock Boys**. Dave had some shoulder surgery last month.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING. I would like to wish all you dear readers a very Happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy your meal and the time spent with your family. Such magnificent aromas fill the house on this day!

UPCOMING

Nov. 13. Queen of Angels Holy Name Polka Dance. Corner of Electric and Warsaw in Lackawanna featuring the Polka Family Band. Music will be from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. Advance tickets are \$11 and at the door \$13. Call Ed at 648-0370.

Nov. 13. Celebration of Life in honor of Jerry Darlak. It will be held starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Ukrainian Hall, 200 Como Park Blvd., in Cheektowaga, NY. A \$10 donation includes music, beer, wine, pop, pizza and wings. Proceeds will go to local charities. For tickets, call 564-9286.

Nov. 14. Sunday Polka Party at the Nickel Creek Café with New



Holy Trinity Hall in Cheektowaga is a great place to dance and hear some top bands.

Direction, 4717 Clinton Street, West Seneca, N.Y. (corner of Borden & Clinton). Music 4:00-7:00 pm. Free Admission. Dinner and drink specials. For information and table reservations call Mark: (716) 656-1112

Nov. 18. Polka Boosters Meeting at the Polish Falcons Hall, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew, N.Y. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments and music. Everyone welcome to attend. Call Chris at 892-7977.

Nov. 21. The Touch play at the Sportsmen's Tavern, 326 Amherst St., Buffalo, N.Y.

Nov. 24. The Knewz will be at the Polish Villa II, 1085 Harlem Rd., Cheektowaga. 7:00- 11:00 p.m. for a pre-Thanksgiving Polka party.

Nov. 27. 6th Annual German-Polish-American Holiday Dance at the beautiful Club Lorelei, S5895 Southwestern Blvd, Hamburg, NY 14075. Featuring the Aushlanders and New Direction. Dancing from 6:00-10:30 p.m. Features three language Christmas Sing-a-long. German and Polish Foods available. Admission \$7.00 advance, \$8.00 at the door. Call Ron 675-6588 for

tickets and table reservations.

Nov. 27. Buffalo Touch. Potts Hall. 826-6575

Dec. 18. Response to Love's 2nd Annual Koledy Night, featuring the St. John Kanty Choir and the Love Center Sisters' Trio. Potts Banquet Hall. 694 S. Ogden Street, Buffalo, NY. Admission \$10.00. Music from 7:00-11:00 pm. Food and drinks available. Special raffles and door prizes. Proceeds to benefit the Response to Love Center. For table reservations call Sister Johnice (716) 894-7030.

Note: The **Polka Variety Club** will not have meetings in November or December. They will be having their Christmas Party on Dec. 4 at the Leonard Post in Cheektowaga. Call Rich at 826-2281.

Also, the **Polka Boosters Club** will be having its Christmas Party on Dec. 11 at the Polish Falcons Hall in Depew This party is open to non-members who can attend as a guest but tickets have to be purchased ahead of time. Please call Chris for more information at 892-7977.

"It's Polka Time" coming to Time Warner Cable Public Access Channel 20

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Ron Urbanczyk, a local polka band leader and musician with the New Direction Band and his wife Kathy are happy to announce successful negotiations with Time Warner Cable of Suburban Western New York to air Polka Joe Trzeciak's "It's Polka Time" on Thursdays from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. beginning November 4, 2010.

Polka Joe, from Clifton Park, N.Y., has been videotaping and producing his polka show for 15 years and broadcasts his show on over 50 cable systems across New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. The Urbanczyks met Trzeciak several years ago and he urged them to present his polka show to Time Warner Cable and their local public access channel every time they met.

This Labor Day, while at Yesterday's Royal, a polka bar in Sylvan Beach, N.Y., Trzeciak asked the Urbanczyks to try again. After some research, meetings and paperwork, the show's

Thursday night time slot was announced.

Polka Joe can be seen at polka dances and festivals around the Northeast taping bands and polka fans for his programs. He always obtains written permission from the bands to tape them before producing a show. Trzeciak's productions focus on the polka fans, who are always the center of attraction, dancing and twirling to the music. You will see many of the polka fans, musicians and bands from the Buffalo area appearing on these shows. He recently taped three shows at the Buffalo Polka Boosters annual picnic in August; these shows will air in early 2011.

Each show features two polka bands from across the country.

The first "It's Polka Time" program will air on Thursday, November 4th from 7:30 – 8:30 pm on TWC's Channel 20.

Here is the complete line up for the first series of shows:

Nov. 4 – Eddie Forman Orchestra and the Maestro's Men at Honor's Haven Resort in Ellenville, N.Y.

Nov. 11 – Maestro's Men at Old Forge, N.Y. and John Gora and Gorale at Pulaski Park, Three Rivers, Mass.

Nov. 18 – Eddie Forman and Rich Bobinski's Orchestra at the Polish Community Center in Albany, N.Y.

Nov. 25 – Jersey Polka Richie and the Buffalo Concertina All-Stars at Roselawn, N.Y. Mills, N.Y.

Dec. 2 – The Mark VI and Polka Country Musicians at the Polish Community Center, Albany, N.Y.

Dec. 9 – Donnie P, Half-moon, N.Y. and the Misty Blues at Yesterday's Royal, Sylvan Beach, N.Y.

Dec. 16 – Buffalo Concertina All-Stars at Roselawn, N.Y. Mills, N.Y. and Mark VI at the Albany PCC

Dec. 23 – The Alliance at the Polka Fest, Latham N.Y. and the Maestro's Men at Old Forge N.Y.

Dec. 30 – Polka Country Musicians and the Mark VI at the Polish Community Center, Albany, N.Y.

Jan. 6 – Maestro's Men and Eddie Forman Orchestra at Honor's Haven Resort, Ellenville, N.Y.

Jan. 13 – Eddie Forman Orchestra and Mark VI at the Polish Community Center in Albany, N.Y.

Jan. 20 – John Gora and Gorale and John Stevens Orchestra at Yesterday's Royal, Sylvan Beach, N.Y.

Jan. 27 – Polka Country Musicians and the Eddie Forman Orchestra at the PCC in Albany, N.Y.

The Urbanczyks urge fans to write to Time Warner in support of the show.

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TOLEDO POLKA NEWS / Margaret Zotkiewicz

I.M.A. Presents Frank Marovcik

November polka events in and around Toledo: Sunday, November 7th, the International Music Association hosts its monthly dance featuring the Frank Marovcik band from Cleveland. I.M.A. dances are always held at the Conn-Weissenberger Hall, 2020 West Alexis Road, Toledo, Ohio 43613. Doors open at 1:00 p.m. lunch is served at 2:00 p.m., and music starts at 3:00.

Friendship Park Community Center is located in Point Place, the Toledo lakeside community just south of the Michigan-Ohio border. Saturday, November 13th, Friendship Park presents Polka Night, featuring Doc Lula & the Boyz from Toledo. This dance, sponsored by Aetna, will start with a Polish Dinner to be served from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Music entertainment is from

7:00-10:00 p.m. For more information and to RSVP for the dinner, call (419) 936-3079.

On Sunday, November 21, join the members of the Toledo Area Polka Society for a pizza party and dance at the Conn-Weissenberger Hall. Doors open at 1:00 p.m., pizza served at 1:30 p.m. and after the TAPS meeting at 2:30 p.m., Jimmy K & Ethnic Jazz entertain from 3:00-7:00 p.m.

The I.M.A. and TAPS organizations encourage all members to make reservations for the 2010 Christmas dances. The I.M.A. Christmas celebration features A Touch of Brass on Sunday, December 5th. Reservations may be sent to Patty Muszynski, 3702 Hazelhurst Toledo, OH 43612. The TAPS Christmas Party will be held Sunday

December 12th. Musical guests are The Czelusta Park All-Stars, with Randy Krajewski, Eddie Biegaj, Jim Mackiewicz, Jr., and Andrew Pawlak. For information, contact TAPS President Mike Marek at michaeldmarek@sbcglobal.net.

Randy Krajewski and Eric Hite are the newest IJs on the Polka Jammer Network. Their inaugural show was broadcast Monday October 4th at 7:00 p.m. Called "Sons of Lagrinka." This show will be sure to please fans of hard-driving polka music, ear-catching dialogue, and a bit of humor, too. As with all Jammer shows, Sons of Lagrinka will be rebroadcast and archived weekly. For more information, including a full listing of programs, re-runs, and archived shows check out the Polka-jammernetwork.org.

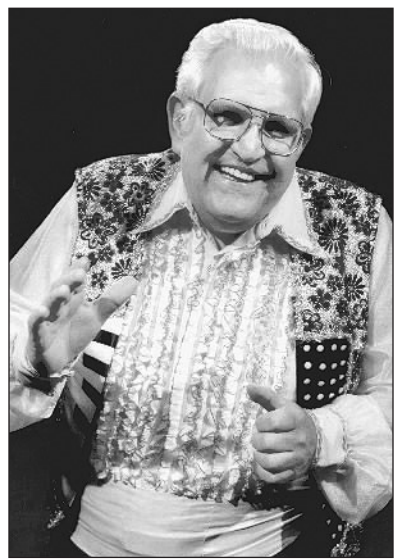
An Appreciative Big Joe Gives Away CDs and DVDs

OMAHA — "It's the biggest polka promotion of the century," says Big Joe Siedlik (right) of the Big Joe Polka Show and Polka Cassettes of Nebraska.

Big Joe is giving away a free polka CD with over 20 tunes by 20 different polka bands designed with a universal appeal of many different sounds and different nationalities making for enjoyable, easy listening pleasure. All tunes are full length.

His "Thank You 2" (CD 102) is being given away as a special way of thanking all who, in some way, went out of their normal day-to-day work and helped get others to listen to a polka radio show or come to a dance, and as a big "thank you" for passing the word on about the Big Joe Polka Show. The show has been on RFD-TV for almost ten years.

For your free CD, you need only pay the \$4.50 shipping and han-



dling. To order, mail to: P.C. of NE P.O. Box 3643 Omaha, NE 68103. Phone: 1 (800) 257-6552 Use your Visa or MasterCard or on the Web:

www.polkacatalog.com.

And — that's not enough — Big Joe is giving away a free polka DVD. The DVD is one full hour, and features 19 different bands and polka styles, two of which feature Janie's Dancers from the Big Joe Polka Show.

It's yours free. Just pay the \$9.95 processing, shipping and handling. Send to the aforementioned address. Just multiply processing and handling by quantity needed. Send us names, addresses and zip codes. We'll mail them for you.

To promote polka music in a bigger way, you may want to send these promotions to your friends, family, fellow workers or to those in Assisted Living Centers and Nursing Homes.

Big Joe says this is his way of helping to promote "Happy music for happy people: polkas!"

POLKA SHORTS

Peppermint Records Presents Resurgence

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio — Definitely a fan favorite among the polka crowd is the hot sounds of the Corsairs and the cold refreshing taste of Stoney's Beer. Both have been enjoyed for years. Both are unmistakable in quality. Both are crisp and clean, and both have remained consistent over time. If you've not sampled the Corsairs' sound recently, you'll be pleased to discover that the solid big-band sound and exciting arrangements you've come to expect from the Corsairs are present more than ever in this recording. Leader Bud Hundenski has always surrounded himself with musicians of unparalleled talent. For this recording, the band's superb instrumentation and Hundenski's writing and arranging skills are crowned with the unmistakable vocals of Eddie Biegaj. The combination is a match made in heaven.

Obereks, polkas, instrumentals and vocals, Polish and English, a medley and even a re-make of the award-winning Stoney's jingle assures that you will find a familiar song and a favorite song with this resurgence of Bud Hundenski and the Corsairs. So let the music play while we "Roll Out the Stoney's."

Inducted into SAMMY's Hall of Fame

VERONA, N.Y. — Fritz's Polka Band was inducted into the Syracuse Area Music Awards (SAMMY's) Hall of Fame, October 7, during a ceremony at the Dinosaur Bar-B-Que in Syracuse, NY.

"Mark Bialczak gave my band a great introduction, and we were truly thrilled with the great reception we received," said Fritz Scherz, bandleader of FPB.

Fritz's Polka Band has been performing for over thirty-one years and now has seventeen recordings to its name. For more info on FPB, go to: www.fritzspolkaband.com.

Host of Polka Program Dies at 92

NAUGATUCK, Conn. — So-

phie M. Zembruski, a local icon who entertained crowds with her polka music radio show for more than 70 years on WATR-1320 AM has died.

Zembruski, a Naugatuck native and longtime hostess of the Polish Eagles Radio Program, one of the longest running radio shows in the country, died Oct. 3, 2010 in Prospect after complications related to dementia. She was 92.

Tom Chute, the radio station's general manager and its morning show host, said Zembruski had a warm personality and was instrumental in the station's success.

"She and her husband, Victor, were really part of the fabric of the success of WATR," said Chute, who added Zembruski will be dearly missed.

— Paul Singley, Republic-American

BroadBand Polkas Now Heard on Polka Legacy

WINDSOR, Conn. — The Polka Legacy Network is proud to announce the addition of BroadBand Polkas to its line-up of internet polka programming. Hosted by veteran polka musician Kevin Kurdziel, the show airs Monday nights at 8:00 p.m. EST. Kurdziel's show was previously heard on 247polkaheaven.com.

"The move to Polka Legacy provides me with the opportunity to eventually expand my show to a two hour format," he said.

Kurdziel anticipates adding the extra hour to his show sometime before the end of this year. "I plan on adding more features to the program while keeping the show music intensive."

Bands wishing to have their recordings played on BroadBand Polkas can send promotional copies to BroadBand Polkas, P.O. Box 127, Bloomfield, NJ 07003. Promoters are encouraged to send information about their events, which will be announced on the air.

Polka Legacy streams polka music 24 hours a day, seven days a week, featuring both recorded and live programs. Their URL is http://www.polkalegacy.com.

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SPEAK UP / Letters to the Editor

Is Sobieski Rolling Over in His Grave?

Dear Editor:

One has to wonder: what Polish King Jan Sobieski (1629-1696) — hailed as the greatest warrior in Polish history, and the “savior of Vienna and Western civilization” from the invasion of Europe by Turkish Ottoman Moslem Turks — would think of the talk of the possible Moslem takeover of Europe by countries with large Moslem populations?

On September 12, 1683, Sobieski's Army of 81,000 men — composed of Poles, Lithuanians, Germans, and Austrians — faced the Ottoman Empire Army of 140,000 at Vienna. The Turks had already over-run Greece, Bulgaria, Rumania, and most of Hungary. If Vienna fell, most of Europe would be open for the picking. Most of Europe looked for Poland for support.

Sobieski's Army won the battle. He was praised as the savior of Christianity and civilization in Europe by the Pope and foreign dignitaries.

With their heavy Moslem population shifts, there is talk of a Moslem take-over of European governments. The Moslems did not come to these European countries like the Netherlands and France to assimilate themselves as a minority, but to impose themselves as a majority.

King Jan Sobieski could now be rolling over in his grave!

Stan Muzyk
Derby, Connecticut

FINAL WORD. My response to my critics (PAJ, Speakup, Aug. 2010 and Sept. 2010):

Regarding the withdrawal of the missile shield, my thrust was that Poland was betrayed in the face of Russia's bullying over the issue. In my opinion, Obama — like FDR — clearly conceded a Russian sphere of influence over Poland, whether the shield was actually intended against their missiles or not.

Concerning abortion: Mr. Sobczak takes Obama at his word, rather than his deeds. Obama's legislative record is one of unswerving support for even the most extreme abortion measures.

The previous administration did not create deficit spending, which goes back to the beginning of the Republic. Gross Federal Debt as a percentage of GDP was highest, however, under FDR and Truman, and now is again approaching those levels under Obama.

The divisive class-perspective claims that Republican policies support only the rich, and will create a two-class society in America errs in fundamental respects. Governments cannot create wealth; only the private sector can. Witness Buffalo or Detroit, where decades of tax-and-spend Democratic rule supporting party hacks and municipal unions have driven business away, leaving only decay and vacancy. Moreover, most jobs are directly created by small businessmen, not by the extremely wealthy, many of whom are

Obama supporters and contributors.

The increasing deficits and taxes to fund Obama's income-redistribution programs are forcing small businessmen away from creating jobs, and it will be that vicious circle that — if unchecked — will eventually destroy the middle class.

Nothing Obama has done to date has created a net private sector job, while he outspends FDR in record time. Belying the myth of Mr. Sobczak's “Economics 101,” two UCLA economists recently concluded the Great Depression lasted so long because of the FDR administration's meddling in market forces.

Our ancestors came to this country for freedom and economic opportunity. Each succeeding generation took pride in knowing that by hard work their children would have it better than they did. Now, for the first time since my grandparents ventured down the gangplank onto this continent, we are staring into the abyss of declining opportunity for our children and their progeny.

Edward J. Kurzanski
Leesburg, Virginia

Editor's note: We encourage open debate between our readers. However, space is limited to topics of solely Polish or Polish American interest. Responses to this letter will be forwarded directly to Mr. Kurzanski.

Poles Critical of Investigation

WARSAW — Russian pledges of goodwill and “full cooperation” have largely evaporated, and some 62 percent of Poles are now critical of how Moscow has handled the investigation into April's air disaster, a recent survey showed. The Russians have been reluctant to turn over the black boxes from the airliner in which 96 senior political and military figures perished in Smolensk and have been slow in providing documentation.

It took Russia half a year to finally cover the wreck to protect the evidence from further deterioration and to send the victims' autopsy reports to Poland. The wreck had been cut into smaller pieces and roughshod road-building machines were used to move its remains from the crash site to another part of Smolensk airport.

Cash to Returning Migrants

WARSAW — In an attempt to coax ex-pats back to the motherland, the city of Warsaw has announced it will give €11,700 (about \$16,000 in USD) to every Pole living abroad who returns home and starts a business in the Polish capital, the *Wall Street Journal* reports. The cash incentive is directed at the 1.87 million Polish citizens who currently reside abroad.

PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

Nobody Said it was Going to be Easy

As a group, Poles have probably fared no better or worse than most of the other nations in the history of the world. Hardships faced by our fellow ethnic groups are well-documented. Part of the reason America looks the way it does is due to the starving and oppressed masses that came to her shores. For the most part, we all have a lament or a struggle to tell.

Reading the various chapters of John Radzilowski's *A Traveler's History of Poland* (Interlink Books, Northampton, Massachusetts, 2007), there are — between the many battles, wars, and trying times of the Poles — many bright spots and stretches of gold, silver, cultural flowering, commonwealth, and rebirth. Not too long ago we Poles were riding high on the cassock of John Paul II. The good times spilled over to those of us living in the New World and despite some of the biased and hateful elements in this country, for the most part, we were oblivious, proud, and happy.

But for every hill, there is a valley, and now I'm getting a vibe that things might be turning around. Let me throw out a few examples and see if you feel the same way.

Jim Furyk is a pro golfer and someone I have been following closely in 2010. He had an outstanding year on the PGA tour. He certainly finished on top in at least

one category: annual winnings. The topper was winning the FedEx Cup and the Tour Championship with combined take worth over \$10 million for these two contests. For the win, he was up by three strokes with three holes left to play and “then came back-to-back bogeys, turning the final hole of the tournament — and the FedEx Cup — into a nail biter.” He nearly lost the advantage to go into a sudden-death playoff.

Did you ever think that maybe the Good Lord put the Polish people on the earth as an example to other groups that life is no bowl of cherries?

Many of you probably saw the open letter from Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski to Fox News Bill O'Reilly, host of *The O'Reilly Factor*. O'Reilly remarked how the Polish Army “collapsed” during the German and Russian invasion of Poland at the beginning of World War II. (Piast Institute, 11633 Joseph Campau St., Hamtramck, MI 48212-3046; (313) 733-4535). Please read it. You can use the information to counter the persistent and ignorant belief about how admirably the Poles performed in this part of the war. As Dr. Radzilowski tells O'Reilly, “Although Poland

was overwhelmed by the joint invasion of Nazis and Soviets in 1939, ‘collapse’ is probably not the best or accurate word to describe the character of the Polish resistance and its fidelity to its treaty obligations to its allies who tragically ignored their own obligations to Poland.”

The Miss Universe Pageant is great. I love to watch it and have no complaints this year except that our gal did not win. Not so much that she did not win, but the way Maria Nowakowska was “skipped” was an exercise in torment. Remember the scene in *Shindler's List* where the camp commandant walked around and shot all of the inmates surrounding the one that he actually wanted to confess to stealing extra food? In the Miss Universe Pageant, in the top fifteen group, the judges picked Czech Republic, Russia, and Albania, Eastern European countries, East, West, and South of Poland. Maria had to feel the pressure and even the embarrassment of being circled but not selected. What did she do? Steal a little extra food at the buffet that morning?

Would it kill a knucklehead like O'Reilly to cut us break, and for once praise the Poles for their will and behavior in a very noble cause ...

Did you ever think that maybe the Good Lord put the Polish people on the earth as an example to other groups that life is no bowl of cherries? Granted, a lost golf game cannot compare to the plane crash in Smolensk, but we are taking hits all over the place. Would it kill a knucklehead like O'Reilly to cut us break and for once praise the Poles for their will and behavior in a very noble cause, like defending themselves? Would it be too much to have the gods of beauty and style look kindly upon our angel?

The Irish shook off the “Murphy's Law” thing long ago. This kind of baggage seems to be part of our psychology and I often wonder how it has effected the way we approach and deal with life. The good

news, during this month of November, is that I do want to give heartfelt thanks to God for all of the great and wonderful things we have. I do also want all of you to join me in closing your eyes and imagine a lead in golf preserved and secured without strain, a talk show host speaking kindly, constructively, and approvingly of Polonia, and Miss Poland walking to get in line with the final fifteen. Meditate on this just a moment and remember our history is such that while events might sometimes seem bleak, they turn to gold, silver, and rebirth, eventually.

OF BARS AND “POLISH OR NOT?” BILLIONAIRES. I don't think a lot of people realize that Omaha, Nebraska has a historical Polish presence. Dinker's Bar & Grill is a link to that community and is the home of “Omaha's Best Burger.” The web site has this description:

In August of 1965, Frank “Dinker” Synowiecki opened Dinker's Bar & Grill, a small neighborhood bar in the heart of Sheely Town, a Polish immigrant area. Our staple was cold beer, good friends, and friendly service, second to none.

More than 40 years later, we're proud to say that while our staple has expanded from cold beer to cold beer and great food, the cornerstone of our business still remains the same. We are a friendly family establishment, serving up the best hamburgers and homemade specials in Omaha.

When in Omaha, be sure you visit Dinker's and try Grandma Rosie's chili. While there, find out why Frank Synowiecki is called “Dinker.”

From the management tab of the company home page, Terrance Pegula “is the founder of East Resources, Inc. and has held the position of president, CEO, and sole shareholder since the company's inception in 1983. He holds a B.S. in Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering from The Pennsylvania State University, and has over 35 years of experience in the oil and natural gas indus-

try.” He became a multi-billionaire recently when Royal Dutch Shell petroleum corporation bought East Resources. His estimated worth is around \$3 billion.

Is Terrance Pegula Polish? He looks Polish, is a Pennsylvania boy, and his executive staff at East Resources was heavy with Eastern European names such as Fustos as CEO, Sobol as Controller, Sieminski as General Counsel, Dudenas, General Manager, Engineering, and Phil Ondrusek, Operations Manager, E&P Group. If he is Polish, I believe he becomes the first Polish or Polish-American billionaire.

BUCKET LIST. This idea is for Poland and maybe it already is a reality. How about a monument to the “winged hussars,” legendary cavalry and defenders of the Commonwealth? The monument would be huge and comparable or bigger than the Chopin statue in Lazienki Park in Warsaw. If there is such a monument on Polish soil, I would like to hear about it.

POLISH OR NOT? Too many cooks. Kuchar and Kutcher. Matt Kuchar the golfer, we know is Ukrainian. Ashton Kutcher, the actor, producer, and husband of actress and cougar Demi Moore, Polish or not? According to Wikipedia, born Christopher Ashton Kutcher, dad is Lawrence and he grew up “devote” Roman Catholic. The clincher is he was a linebacker in high school, a popular position for Eastern Europeans, especially Polish guys.

Alina Wilson, contestant, Survivor: Nicaragua. Is she a Polish Alina, Romanian Alina, or what?

DZIEKUJE BARDZO to Jim Nowogrocki for the tip about Dinker's.

If you have a thought about this month's topic, have an answer to a 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. If you send e-mail, reference the Polish American Journal or the Pondering Pole.

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Pens Editorial of the Year

LAS VEGAS — The *Las Vegas Review-Journal* won several top awards at the annual Nevada Press Association's “Better Newspaper Contest.”

Assistant Editorial Page Editor Vin Suprynowicz won for editorial of the year. His winning article, “Firemen's pensions past due for reform,” took aim at the “artificially fattened up paychecks” Clark County Fire Department personnel receive immediately preceding their retirements “that substantially increase their retirement pay.”

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE CELEBRATES ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. Requested equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. For information call 732-680-0680 or 732-341-5044

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BOOK REVIEW / John Grondelski

A History that Just Won't Go Away

KATYŃ: STALIN'S MASSACRE AND THE TRIUMPH OF TRUTH

by Paul, Allen
Dekalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2010
PB, pp. 423, \$24.95.
To Order: 1-800-621-2736 or www.niupress.niu.edu

The tragic deaths of Polish President Kaczyński and 96 members of his entourage on April 10, 2010 en route to Katyń were but the latest page in a history that just won't go away. For 70 years efforts to deny Katyń, to falsify its story, to consign it to a conspiracy of silence, or to insist on changing the subject have foundered on what Allen Paul calls in the subtitle of this remarkable book "the triumph of truth." Paul has been laboring for that triumph for over two decades now, having published the first edition of this book in 1991. This third edition takes the story through 2009.

For the many people who first learned about Katyń when they heard of Kaczyński's death, this book offers a solid, complete, and very readable introduction. The book is especially valuable because of its personal focus: Allen tells the story of Katyń through the fates of five people whose lives were personally touched by that massacre. Msgr. Zdzisław Peszkowski, my teacher at Orchard Lake, was diverted at the last minute from the Kozelsk detention camp, and thus avoided a spot in Katyń's graves. Until the end of his life, Peszkowski was an indefatigable advocate for the Katyń families. Maria Pawulska Rasiej, whom I knew from the New Jersey Polish American Congress and the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences, lost her father in Kharkov.

THE HUMAN STORY makes this book both eminently readable and extraordinarily valuable: readable, because it puts human faces on the 4,143 corpses found in Katyń, valuable, because it details the human and national fates of those connected with Katyń. Maria Rasiej did not just lose a father. Paul explains how she lost a home, how at age 12 she and her mother were given 30 minutes to pack for deportation to Central Asia, just two victims of the Soviet Union's ethnic cleansing of places like her hometown, Łwów. Dumped on a train, Maria spent the next four weeks in transit, the last one aboard an ox cart that deposited her 200 miles from the Chinese border. For the next three years, her mother struggled to keep themselves alive on the Kazakh steppe. Maria was one of the "lucky" ones: she and her family eventually escaped the Soviet Union as part of the evacuation of Polish forces to Iran. Most Poles deported by Stalin in spring 1940 never left. By the time she was 18, Maria had passed through Iran, Iraq, Yemen, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and England. One memory of Rasiej's, recounted in the book, was particularly poignant. She discusses how her mother got the two of them aboard one of the last trains leaving Kazakhstan for Iran by bringing them to a staging point at some distance from where they were. Other Polish heads of household in that district journeyed alone to the stag-

ing point, believing that the train would pick up their dependents when it passed through their town. But when it did arrive, the Soviets kept the train closed and cordoned off loved ones waiting at the station. "The passengers could not get off and their relatives could not get on. For almost an hour the train sat at the platform engulfed in the din of parents and children screaming from both sides of the fence. It seemed like an eternity to Maria. Then came the first lurch; the train began to move. Mothers leaned as far as they could from the windows, arms outstretched, as if somehow they could touch the hands of their children reaching through the fence. At that moment, all knew: these frantic glimpses were the last they would ever see of each other" (p. 205).

Paul takes pains to set those individual stories in the historical context of the Soviet-German alliance, Stalin's ethnic cleansing, his duplicitous dealings with Poland's Government-in-Exile, his "allies" and his "enemies," and the general Soviet plan to impose a satellite regime on Poland after the War. Paul's explanations are balanced and fair. He concedes that the Western Allies were complicit in a "whitewash" of Soviet guilt, but also points out that, in the big picture of the need to defeat Hitler, *raison d'état* often dictated Western actions. To paraphrase Stalin, "how many divisions did Poland have?"

He concedes that the Western Allies were complicit in a "whitewash" of Soviet guilt, but also points out that, in the big picture of the need to defeat Hitler, *raison d'état* often dictated Western actions.

Two excellent histories of Katyń now exist in English. Anna Cienciala's *Katyń: A Crime without Punishment* (Yale UP, 2007) focuses precisely on Katyń and provides a comprehensive collection of primary source documents related to that massacre. Allen Paul's story, written with more popular appeal for a general audience, serves as a very human introduction not just to Katyń but to the fate that befell Poland from 1939-89; of which Katyń was a most apt symbol.

Paul's book ends with mention of his accompanying President Kaczyński to Katyń in September 2007. As events in April 2010 showed, the story has still not ended, and Paul should already be thinking of a fourth edition. That President Kaczyński lost his life at Katyń shows that the story of that tragedy continues to affect history seven decades later. As more and more people hear about Katyń, this book deserves widespread readership. It obviously belongs on Polish American bookshelves and should be placed by Polish Americans on the bookshelves of their local libraries.

BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes

Inside the World of Mika Brzezinski

RENEWAL

Poetry by Diana Kwiatkowski Rubin
Xlibris Corp. 2010, 103 pp., \$15.99

This slim book provides a collection of descriptive poetry providing a view of Rubin's world. This is not her first book, and she once again furnishes the reader with inspiring, soothing, colorful verse. She varies her verse, from cruelty in *War*, to love in *Past Love*, to getting old in *Getting Up There*, and a nighttime prayer, *Angel Guarding Me*. A book for gift giving as well as for renewing the soul.

ALL THINGS AT ONCE

by Mika Brzezinski with Daniel Paisner
Weinstein Books, 2010, photos, 232 pp. \$24.95

Mika had all things going for her. She had a job at CBS, a husband and children, a lovely home. She had what she wanted, but found herself running in circles. This autobiography offers a look into the life of a popular TV personality, who seems to work 24-7, raise a family and, presently, co-hosts the "Morning Joe" on MSNBC.

In a family of over-achievers, as the daughter of Zbigniew Brzezinski, she grew up in the shadow of the White House, and early on decided to pursue a career as a broadcast journalist. Working from the bottom, she finally reached a pinnacle in CBS News as a correspondent in "60 Minutes," only to be fired. First deciding to stay at home with her children, she realized she needed to work, not for money, but for the sake of being a successful career woman. When she returned to TV, she was wiser in decisions and balancing the triple load of career, motherhood and guilt.

The book was organized and collaborated with Dan Paisner to bring it to fruition.

LOOKING FOR MR. SMITH
Seeking the Truth Behind The Long Walk, The Greatest Survival Story Ever Told
by Linda Willis,
Skyhorse Publishing, 2010
index, 252 pp., \$24.95

Willis was interested in learning if the story provided by Slavomir Rawicz is true. His story was published in 1956 — a group of Soviet POWs escaping from a Siberian labor camp, walking thousands of miles out of Siberia and through the Gobi Desert, over the Himalayas and finally freedom in India.

Her research to learn the truth took many years, reading documents, interviewing people who knew about the journey and Rawicz's actual role in the trek for freedom. Who were these escapees? How did they manage to walk thousands of miles with little food or shelter? Where were the men now and who was the mysterious Mr. Smith, one of the group? Some of these are answered, others remain a mystery. She did find some contradictions in the stories by the survivors and their families. Who really made the walk? How did they do it? Even with her research there is a fine line between truth and memory.

The Long Walk has been made into a movie and due out late in 2011, entitled *The Long Way Back*.

THE BREAKING OF EGGS
by Jim Powell, Penguin Books, 2010, 342 pp., \$15.00

Felix Zuhovski and his brother Woodrow are shipped off to stay with an aunt and uncle in Switzerland, just days before the invasion of Poland by the Germans. Felix spends the next forty years of his life feeling abandoned and unloved by his mother for sending them away, and doubly so when Woodrow leaves to join the Resistance. He had promised to take care of him, but never made any contact.

After the war Felix joins the Communists, partly to allow him to continue in his work, partly because he believes the Communist government is the best hope for the future of the world. Moving to Paris after war's end, he develops a yearly travelogue of Eastern Europe, covering every country in the Soviet bloc, writing only the good in the places he visits.

In 1990 he receives a call from an American interested in purchasing his *Giude Jaune*, and his landlady encourages him to meet with him. Felix finally agrees and meets with Mike Martins.

His printer is going out of business and there are numerous Eastern Europe publications now that it is open to the West. Felix agrees to sell his travel guide to the American publisher, but he must go to New York to complete the deal.

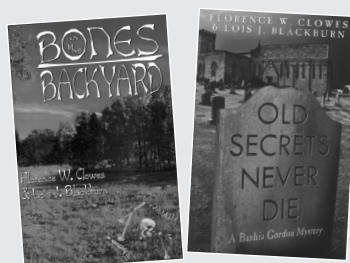
Felix is very political, having lived through the war, pondering changes of power in countries, France's and Poland's humiliation of defeat and his disillusionment with Communism after being lied to during a transaction in which he acted as a courier in spying. Everything he based his life on is crumbling. Opinionated, he has gone through life wondering what happened to his mama in Lodz, his brother Woodrow, never trying to contact either one, or the first love of his life, Kristen. When he applies for an American visa, a stranger gives him the address of his brother in Ohio.

In America, he concludes the sale of his magazine, and visits his brother and family. Overwhelmed, he learns his brother is a grandfather as well. America overwhelms him, with imitation theme parks, pristine hotel rooms and abundant tables of food. But he and his brother discuss what happened long ago, and learns Woodrow had written to Felix and his mother many times, never receiving an answer. Through the decades they never knew what happened to the other.

Woodrow tells Felix of his first love, a resistance worker who was killed during the war, Felix reveals his lost love, Kristen, and they both wonder what happened to their mother. Woodrow and his wife agree to visit Felix at Christmas. When Felix returns to Paris he is determined to find some information on his mother and Kristen. He receives addresses and visits people in Poland. There he receives a long letter his mother wrote when she was dying, telling her life story. At last Felix learns why they were sent to Switzerland. And he later learns where Kristen is and goes to Germany to find her.

A great book, dwelling on the feelings and reactions of ordinary people caught in circumstances beyond their control, tossed back and forth by political powers.

Murder ... Mayhem ... Mystery



Murder mysteries featuring Polonia's amateur sleuth, Bashia Gordon

by PAJ Book Reviewer
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THE POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Wigilia For Beginners

If you have been preparing the traditional Polish Wigilia (Christmas Eve supper) right along, then you surely have your own collection of family heirloom recipes. This column is more for those whose families have drifted away from the Wigilia tradition but might like to revive the tradition. Or those who have only heard about Wigilia and want to get an idea of what is like. Or maybe there is no longer a big crowd to cook for, but you would like to symbolically re-create this festive meal for old time's sake. Here are some super-easy recipes and hints, including convenient outsourcing calling for deli or heat-and-eat products that can make this a snap.

CHRISTMAS WAFER (oplatek): Wigilia begins with the sharing of the white Christmas wafer (oplatek), and the ritual is complete when everyone has broken off and shared pieces of oplatek with everyone else.

CREAMED HERRING (śledź w śmietanie): Creamed herring are available in jars ready to eat. Personally I prefer using a 12 - 16 oz.

jar of marinated herring, discarding onions and spices and, rinsing and drying, then interspersing with a few small onions sliced wafer thin and drenching with fresh fork-blended sour cream. Calorie-watchers can use plain unsweetened, low-fat yogurt instead.

EASIEST CLEAR MUSHROOM SOUP (czysta zupa grzybowa najłatwiejsza): Dissolve 2 mushroom cubes in 6 c boiling water and bring to boil. Season to taste with a little pepper and lemon juice. Serve over cooked egg noodles. Garnish with chopped fresh dill and/or parsley if desired.

EASY CLEAR BEETROOT SOUP (czysty czerwony barszcz latwy): If you lack the time and energy even to prepare the easy barszcz (above), do not despair. Krakus and Hortex brand barszcz is now available in 1-liter cartons at your nearest Polish grocery, deli or market. Just heat and serve. If you want to serve the borscht with the traditional little-ear dumplings (uszka), pick them up at your Polish deli.

FRIED FISH (ryba smażona): Rinse well and pat dry 2 lbs fresh or thawed frozen freshwater fillets (pike, walleye, whitefish, perch or catfish), salt & pepper dredge in flour and fry on both sides in hot oil until golden-brown on the outside and flaky on the inside. Serve with horseradish sauce (next entry).

HORSERADISH SAUCE (sos chrzanowy): Fork-blend 1/3 c sour cream, 1/3 c mayonnaise and 1/3 c prepared horseradish.

WIGILIA TABLE CHECK LIST.

In the Polish home, the Wigilia meal is the most sacred of meals. It is a meatless meal and the specific foods eaten at this meal are a tradition that goes back for many centuries. The foods represent the forest (mushrooms), the water (fish/herring), the orchards (compote), the crops (kutia/noodles), the fields (cabbage/beets/peas/beans/potatoes), the beehives (honey) and dairy (cheese/sour cream). Here is a checklist of traditional foods found on the Polish Christmas Eve Wigilia table.

- Mushroom soup with noodles or clear red beet soup with mushroom uszka (little pierogi)

FASTDAY PIEROGI/FILLED DUMPLINGS (pierogi postne): Unfortunately there is no short-cut way of preparing pierogi, so the next best thing is the store-bought variety. For Wigilia the most appropriate are those containing sauerkraut & mushrooms, just mushrooms, farmer cheese & potatoes and potatoes & onions. Good online suppliers include the Pierogi Palace of Pennsylvania (www.pierogipalace.com Toll Free: 877-727-8359).

STEWED FRUIT (kompot z suszu): Place fruit from 1 12 oz pkg mixed dried fruit in bowl and scald with boiling water to cover by 2". Let stand until cooled to room temp. Stir and refrigerate overnight. Serve in fruit bowls as a Wigilia dessert.

RICE & FRUIT DESSERT (ryż z owocami): Transfer 4 c hot cooked rice to serving platter, dot with butter and top with fruit topping of choice: stewed fruit (above), canned cherry or apple-pie filling, strawberry or cherry preserves or powidła (Polish imported) plum butter. Variation: Cooked barley may be substituted for the rice.

CHRISTMAS CAKES (ciasta świąteczne): Outsourcing from a Polish bakery or deli is the surest way for Wigilia beginners to serve such Christmas cakes as makowiec (poppyseed-roll), strucle w orzechami (nut-roll), piernik (gingerbread), kołaczki (fruit-filled pastries) or keks (fruitcake). These and other Polish treats can be ordered online from Polana of Chicago: www.polana.com; phone: 1-888-765-2621.

room uszka (little pierogi)

- Herring in oil, pickled herring, jellied fish, stuffed fish, and/or fried fish
- Sauerkraut with mushrooms or peas or beans, or red cabbage.
- Noodles or rice with poppyseeds.
- Kutia (a dish made from boiled bulgur wheat, poppy seeds and honey)
- Pierogi, traditionally with cabbage and mushrooms or cheese and potatoes
- Bread
- Compote beverage made from dried fruit
- Honeyspice cookies, poppyseed or nut roll, other desserts

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ASK ANDZIA ABOUT AMBER / Andzia Chmil

The Boy with the Amber Necklace

In the last few weeks, many of the major newswires have carried the intriguing scientific news about the boy with the amber necklace found but a mile away from Stonehenge.

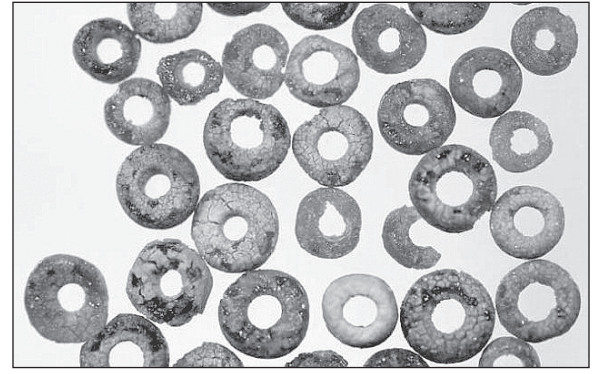
Immediately, scientific buffs and historical sleuths began drawing conclusions from the data recently released.

The scientific data dated the youngster's skeletal remains at about 1550 years before the Birth of Christ. Scientists also pinpointed the lad was definitely not a local, but — quite possibly — hailed from as far away as the Mediterranean. A great deal of excitement got a lot of folks' attention and the boy with the amber necklace began to take on larger than life attributes.

He's proof that Stonehenge attracted tourists and pilgrims millennia ago. He's an example of a family that quite possibly not only knew of the existence of the mysterious circle of stones but actually understood what they were meant to be used for. He has also been held up as part of a cast of characters that thought nothing of making their way over a long and perilous distance to be part of something much greater than themselves.

Some of the clues to the boy's origins came from his remains, particularly his teeth. And quite a bit of scientific evidence was extracted from the Baltic Amber beads around his neck. The style of the beads was not at all in keeping with other amber beads that have been found in the Stonehenge vicinity — they were of a type made exclusively in the Mediterranean region during the Bronze Age. The beads also played

an integral role in developing the hypothesis concerning the wealth of the family. The beads found on the boy were the sole reason he was declared part of an extremely well-to-



do family: only people of wealth in that far away time would have had the means to possess amber beads. It also suggests they had the means to own slaves. Some of these slaves were most likely used as bodyguards, allowing the boy to wear them in public places and to travel freely adorned in such opulence.

Perhaps the boy and his family came to Stonehenge for a healing of the body or the soul. Many think Stonehenge was a place of healing. Or perhaps the family came such a great distance to take part in rites having to do with sun worship or purification. Stonehenge has also long been associated to the ideals of a yearly calendar and also astrological signs and signals.

We can do nothing more with the story of the boy with the amber necklace except write our own versions. No matter which one we choose or imagine — the tale almost ends the same way. The boy was so loved that upon his passing, his family left him with something of great importance and comfort — an amber necklace.

Andzia Chmil is owner of *Andzia's Amber*; www.amberjewelry.com.

TRIVIA TIME / Ellye Slusarczyk

1. *Noc Świątojaniska*, June 23, is a night of: a. reverence and prayer b. merrymaking c. fasting
2. The first free elections held in Poland after World War II were held in: a. 1958 b. 1989 c. 2003
3. *Jaki ojciec, taki syn* translates to: a. like fair weather, like the sun b. like father, like son c. like mother, like daughter
4. The Duchy of Poland was set up by: a. Napoleon b. Paderewski c. Roosevelt
5. According to an old proverb, after three days, guests and fish: a. are happiest b. become a blessing c. stink
6. The Kosciuszko Bridge roadway runs from Brooklyn to: a. Manhattan b. Queens c. the Bronx
7. The Dell computer factory is located in: a. Lodz b. Sopot c. Wadowice
8. Fudge is very: a. *wesoly* b. *karassy* c. *słodki*
9. *Omlet z truskawami* is an omelet made with: a. blueberries b. currants c. strawberries
10. Louie Dusseaut is better known as: a. Lewis Tretone b. Happy Louie c. the Detroit Kid

ANSWERS. 1. b merrymaking 2. b 1989 3. b like father, like son 4. a Napoleon 5. c stink 6. b Queens 7. a Lodz 8. c *słodki* 9. c strawberries 10. b Happy Louie.

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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

She's Number One



Denmark's **Caroline Wozniacki** (above) replaced Serena Williams as women's tennis No. 1. Wozniacki, 20, was magnanimous, acknowledging that former number 1 Serena Williams has battled injuries. "Serena has been injured for a big part of the season. She's a great champion. What she has achieved in her career is a dream for me to achieve. I'll always see Serena as a big champion. For me right now though, I should just enjoy my moment."

Adept on all surfaces, Caroline is known as a defensive counter-puncher who forces opponents into errors. More recently he has become more aggressive and controlling of points. She has a powerful two-handed backhand that she effectively hits down the line.

Wozniacki is the daughter of Polish immigrants, Piotr and Anna Wozniacki. Her father was a professional football player in Poland, Germany and Denmark, and her mother, Anna, was a volleyball

player for the Polish national team. Caroline's older brother Patrik Wozniacki is a professional soccer player in Denmark. Her father serves as one of her coaches.

BACK ON TRACK. Five-time World's Strongest Man **Mariusz Pudzianowski** got back on the Mixed Martial Arts winning track, as he struck **Eric "Butterbean" Esch** into submission in Lodz.

Pudzianowski had slimmed down to 260 pounds, while his American opponent tipped the scales at over 400 pounds. Pudzianowski attacked him with low kicks before taking the fight to the ground with a single-leg takedown. Once he got Butterbean on the ground Pudzianowski battered him with punches. "Butterbean" submitted to strikes at the 1:16 mark in round one.

"Butterbean" is the former IBA Super-Heavyweight Champion and also held the WAA Heavyweight title. Esch's rotund body, bald head and mean scowl made him a cult figure in boxing.

"Pudzian" won his first 2 fights before losing in May to former two-time UFC Heavyweight Champion Tim Sylvia.

On the same card, light-heavyweight Jan Blachowicz beat Spaniard Daniel Tabera. The native of Cieszyn is regarded as one of Poland's most talented fighters, and there is speculation that the UFC may offer Blachowicz a contract to compete at the highest level of the

sport.

CLOSE WIN. **Krzysztof Wlodarczyk** retained his WBC cruiserweight title in Warsaw, but it wasn't easy. The champion, making his first defense, beat Jason Robinson on points over 12 rounds. Wlodarczyk improved his record to 44-2-1, with 32 knockouts, while his unheralded American challenger dropped to 19-6. Robinson wasn't highly regarded, but the awkward southpaw's style gave the champion more trouble than expected.

The 29-year-old Wlodarczyk won the title in May this year when he stopped Italian Giacobbe Fragomeni in the 8th round of a rematch after their first fight had ended in a disputed draw

DOBEK HONORED. The National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame announced that its annual Special Recognition Award will be named in honor of former Detroit Piston's executive **Matt Dobek**. The Special Recognition Award was established in 1989 to honor individuals who have demonstrated dedication, devotion and service to sports "above and beyond the ordinary."

Since its inception, 34 individuals have earned the award, including Dobek in 2003. The Central Michigan graduate served as long-time Public Relations Director for the Detroit Pistons. He played an instrumental role in the Piston's 1989,

1990, and 2004 championship seasons, and also served as communications director for the 1992 U.S. Olympic men's basketball team in Barcelona, Spain. Dobek served as a member of the Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame Board from 1985 to 1988.

Dobek's untimely and tragic death earlier this year at age 51 stunned many in both basketball and news media circles, where Matt enjoyed a reputation as an honest and dedicated professional who worked well with both players and the media. "Naming this award after Matt allows our organization to honor him as a person who exemplified dedication to sports, community, and Polish American heritage," stated Jerry Dettloff, Vice Chairman of the Hall.

BASEBALL NOTES. It's unsure at this point if the White Sox will keep first baseman **Paul Konerko** (who hit .319 with 39 home runs and 111 RBI this season) and catcher A.J. Pierzynski (who had low offensive numbers but was great behind the plate) ... Two-time All-Star Pitcher **Scott Kazmir** of the Angels ended a tough year at 9-14 with a 5.94 ERA. ... in his last outing Orioles rookie pitcher **Brian Matusz** held the Tigers to one earned run over six innings as Baltimore topped the Tigers 2-1. The lefty allowed just 10 total earned runs over his last eight starts, and wound up 10-12 with a 4.30 ERA ... In his final games of the

year Toronto's **Marc Rzepczynski** held the Twins to just an unearned run in 7 innings to record a win, finishing the year 4-4 with a 4.90 ERA ... infielder **J.J. Furmaniak** hit .264 with a .718 OPS for the Triple A Durham Bulls ... righty **Matt Zaleski** went 7-8 for the Triple A Charlotte Knights ... **Darin Gorski** had a 6-8 record for Class A Savannah ... pitcher **Mike Zagurski** started the 2010 season with the Lehigh Valley IronPigs, the Triple-A Affiliate of the Phillies, and was recalled to the major league club in June.

THEY SAID IT

"Lewa ręka niesie za sobą śmierć, a prawej sam się boję." (English translation: "The left hand brings death, but the right one even I am afraid of.")

—*Strongman Mariusz Pudzianowski, before his first Mixed Martial Arts fight last year against fellow Pole Marcin Najman.*

❖ ❖ ❖

"It's kinda a payoff for hard work. It's not like they cleared the way. They can always bring someone in at any time. You've always got to be on top of your game, ready for everything. I've just got to keep working."

—*Chris Gronkowski, who had been a longshot to make the Cowboys roster as an undrafted free agent, after the club recently released the player in front of him on the depth chart to leave Gronkowski as the only fullback on the roster.*

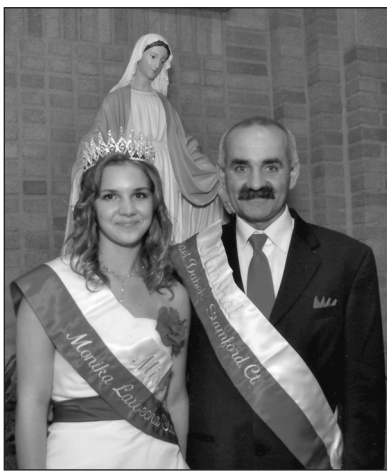
POLISH HERITAGE MONTH REPORT

OBAMA ISSUES PULASKI DAY PROCLAMATION. President Barack Obama proclaimed Monday, October 11, 2010, as General Pulaski Memorial Day. He encouraged all Americans to commemorate the occasion with appropriate programs and activities paying tribute to Casimir Pulaski and honoring all those who defend the freedom of our great Nation.

The proclamation outlined Pulaski's history both in Poland and in America. It noted the general's role as "father of American Cavalry."

"General Pulaski's legacy survives in a long line of proud Polish Americans, who have arrived on our shores seeking freedom and opportunity and have served in our Armed Forces to defend our Nation," stated Obama. "Polish Americans have carried with them values and traditions that have shaped our society, and their immeasurable contributions have strengthened our country. This proud community has been integral to our success as a Nation, and will play a prominent leadership role in the years ahead."

STAMFORD'S REPS. On Sept. 18, the Pulaski Day Parade Committee of Stamford held its Benefit Dance at the Holy Name of Jesus Parish and chose **Michal Dabek** (above, right) as the 2010 Marshal of the Stamford Contingent in the 73rd Annual Pulaski Day Parade, which was held Oct. 3 on Fifth Avenue in New York City. He was chosen for his support and involvement with the Polish Community and Holy Name of Jesus Church in Stamford.



Presented and crowned the 2010 Miss Polonia was **Monika Lawecka** (above), daughter of Robert and Maria Lawecki of Stamford. Currently she attends Westhill High School and is a student learning the Polish history. She also volunteers at the Polish Saturday School and is a lector and a member of the choir at Holy Name.

PAC HONORS PAST EXECUTIVE, NOW PRIEST. Father Wladyslaw (Vlad) Kubrak from St. Matthias Church in Ridgewood will be one of the special honorees at the Downstate N.Y. Division of the Polish American Congress' Annual Banquet, October 24.

Rev. Kubrak was known as Mr. Kubrak when he joined the Congress in the nineties and then advanced to become a member of its executive board.

"We were disappointed the day Mr. Kubrak came to tell us he was leaving us because someone was

offering him a more important position," said Frank Milewski, president of the N.Y. Congress.

"We had to agree it was an offer he couldn't refuse." Mr. Kubrak then went on to study for the priesthood and was ordained in 2006.

Joining him on the Polish American Congress honor roll that evening was Long Island's Polish Gift of Life, an organization which devoted many years to arranging life-saving heart surgery for children in Poland.

Also on the PAC's list of those selected for special distinction was Long Island's Chopin Foundation, whose present objective is to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of the great Polish composer, Frederick Chopin.

A sincere expression of the appreciation was also extended to Assemblyman Joseph Lentol who represents the Polish Americans of Greenpoint in the New York State Legislature. He and his late father, Joseph Lentol, have together done this for more than a half-century.

The 2010 Polish American banquet was held at the Polonaise Terrace in Brooklyn.

GRANHOLM ISSUES PROCLAMATION. On October 1, Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm proclaimed October as Polish Heritage Month in Michigan at the request of the Piast Institute. Polish Americans constitute almost 9% of the population of Michigan and number over 10,000,000 in the United States, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The national Polish population is

larger than the individual populations of 42 of the 50 states in the Union.

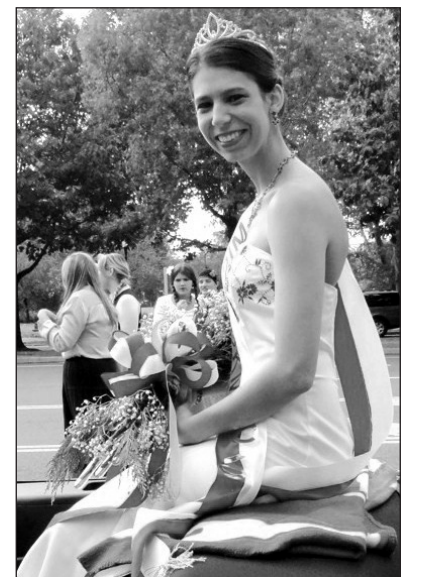
Granholm's proclamation highlights the contributions of Poles to the life, history, and culture of the United States.

To learn more about the Piast Institute call (313) 733-4525 or email Virginia Skrzyniarz at skrzyniarz@piastinstitute.org.

POLAND, OHIO HONORS GEN. PULASKI. Marianne Poprik, Polish Youngstown Community Outreach Coordinator, was joined Oct. 11 by members of the Poland, Ohio Village and Township community to recognize American freedom fighter Casimir Pulaski on the 331st anniversary of his death. The event was held in Peterson Park.

Poland township was first known as Fowler, after Johnathan Fowler and his family, who were the first permanent settlers in the area. According to historian Robert A. Wilkeson, the people of Fowler had the desire to honor two foreign heroes of the American Revolutionary War. These men were Pulaski and Kosciuszko. Rather than picking one of the names for the township, it was felt that using the name of their home country would honor both men.

In addition to the dedication, there was a documentary film presentation of "Casimir Pulaski, Polish and American Hero" by Jolanta Kessler Chojecka. The film was shown at the Poland Township Historical Society.



TERESA KRAKOWIAK IS MISS PKM. The P.K.M. Dancers — Polish Intercollegiate Club of Philadelphia (*Polskie Kółko Miedzykollegialne*) appeared at Philadelphia's Pulaski Day Parade on October 3, presenting their *Stara Warszawa* suite.

This year's Miss PKM is **Teresa Krakowiak** (above), a graduate of Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Security and Information Assurance. She has been a dance member of PKM for a year carrying on a family tradition; Teresa is the daughter of Cynthia and John Krakowiak, both PKM Alumni.

PKM will perform in the lobby of the Kimmel Center as a pre-show prior to the *Mazowsze* performance in Philadelphia on Sunday, November 14.

— *Stas Kmieć*

POLAND FIGHTS / Douglas W. Jacobson

The Genius of Zencykowski

“All warfare is based on deception”

— Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*

This ancient Chinese axiom played an integral role in Poland's six-year struggle against Nazi tyranny. Deception was developed into an art-form by the Polish lawyer and resistance operative, Tadeusz Zencykowski, whose code-name was Kania.

Born in Warsaw in 1907, Kania was educated as a lawyer and eventually became a member of the Polish parliament (Sejm). At the outbreak of the war in 1939, he fought with the resistance in the defense of Warsaw and was taken prisoner. He escaped captivity and, in 1940, joined the Armia Krajowa (AK), assigned to the Bureau of Information and Propaganda, where he was named chief of Action-N, specializing in anti-German subversive propaganda.

The main thrust of Action-N was to create confusion and erode morale among the German forces occupying Poland. One of the Action-N's main tactics was to create fictitious publications aimed at the German military, civilian authorities of the Third Reich, and Volksdeutsche officials. This extremely complex undertaking required the professional skills of lawyers, linguists, historians, and journalists. In order for the false propaganda to be credible, the publications had to be written in precise German language, with consideration for various regional dialects. The task required a complete and accurate understanding of the inner-workings of German military and governmental institutions.

The publications were designed to create the illusion that anti-Nazi sentiments existed among many German leaders, who predicted the imminent downfall of the Third Reich. Examples of these publications were:

Der Soldat, a monthly publication suggesting that anti-Nazi opposition existed within the German army, as well as conspiracies to assassinate high-level German officers.

Der Klabaftermann, a satirical publication illustrating Nazi genocide and terror-squads.

Der Hammer, a publication for

Germans promoting democratic political views.

The activities of Operation-N also included development of entirely fictitious German organizations to create the illusion that the Third Reich was crumbling from within, and defeat was inevitable.

Suddeutscher Freiheitsbund, was an organization supposedly active in Munich, which called for new elections to the Reichstag, and the defeat of the National Socialist party.

Soldatenbund "Hindenburg," was an alleged military group whose purpose was to convince German soldiers that it was impossible to defeat the USSR. This fictitious organization also called for the overthrow of Adolf Hitler.

Other fabricated German organizations called for an armistice with the Allies, warnings against the alliance with Italy, and protests against excessive labor and sacrifices for Germany's military industry. One group even created false orders sent to hundreds of German factories granting workers extra time off and holiday bonuses.

Operation-N continued its work of anti-Nazi subversion and false propaganda until 1944, when it became evident that morale amongst the German population in Poland had deteriorated in the wake of growing defeats on the battlefield. Operation-N then shifted its efforts to anti-Soviet activities.

Kania was captured by the Germans for the second time in 1944 during the Warsaw Rising. After his liberation in 1945, he became an editor of anti-communist periodicals. To escape Soviet domination, he eventually left Poland and initiated the Polish section of Radio Free Europe.

◆ ◆ ◆
Douglas W. Jacobson is the Polish American author of the award-winning book, *Night of Flames: A Novel of World War Two*. Mr. Jacobson has been a frequent contributor to this newspaper and has written a second historical novel set in Poland in *World War Two* which will be released in May, 2011.



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Zamość under German Occupation 1939-1945 / Sophie Hodorowicz Knab

The Zamość Camp

Part IX

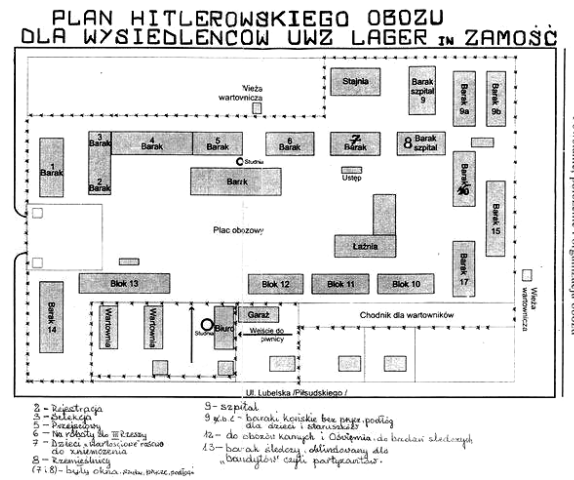
The transit camp where Zygmunt Węclawik and his family were taken (see last month's issue) on the night that his village of Skierbieszów was expelled was officially called *Umwandererzentrale* (abbreviated UWZ) Lager Zamość, a branch of the main Central Migration Office in Poznan. Initially, the camp and barracks had been an internment camp for Soviet prisoners of war after the Germans invaded Russia. In 1942, the compound was designated as the temporary holding place during the systematic expulsions of the people of the Zamość region.

In a document dated November 21, 1942 titled "Guidelines from SS Obersturmführer H. Krumei in the matter of the classifications of the expelled in the camp in Zamość":

1. Poles will be deported to the collection camp by horse drawn wagons or trucks;
2. Here there will be a division of the Poles according to the following criteria:
 - a. Poles designated to Group I and II will be sent — after being sent to the Race and Resettlement Office in Łódź — to Germany for the purpose of reGermanization;
 - b. Among the families and individuals designated to Group III — those suitable for work — will be picked out (meaning, separated from members of their family that may be unsuitable for work, such as children and elderly) and will be sent to Berlin in special trains;
 - c. Families who have a good reputation and ran excellent farms should be separated and held for filling various positions;
 - d. Individuals in Group III who are unfit for work, all children up to age 14 and all individuals above 60 will be transported via special transports to *retendorfer* (specially designated villages in the General Government);
 - e. Families and individuals considered to be Group IV will be sent to Birkenau (Auschwitz) for work.

(From: *Obozy Hitlerowskie na ziemiach polskich 1935-1945*)

To accomplish this task, the Poles brought into UWZ were segregated into various barracks and acted upon accordingly. See attached photo.



- Barrack 2 - Registration
- Barrack 3 - Race Selection
- Barrack 5 - Transit barrack
- Barrack 6 -Work in Germany
- Barrack 7 Children for Germanization
- Barrack 8 Tradesmen/Craftsmen. Barracks 7 and 8 had windows with glass, bunkbeds and floors
- Barrack 9 Hospital
- Barracks 9a, 9b, 16 and 17 were called the "horse barracks," which had previously been used to stable horses, without bunk beds and having dirt floors
- Barracks 12 sent to concentrations camps, Auschwitz and held for interrogation
- Barracks 13 holding "bandits (partisans) for interrogation

In the brief time period from November 28th to December 3rd, 1942, 9,771 individuals from 60 different villages passed through the barbed wire gates. From November 1942 to March 1943, 41,080 individuals from 116 villages were brought to Zamość camp, separated according to their "suitability" for becoming Germans, for their ability to work for the German Reich or considered useless and sent away to be beggars in other villages outside of Zamość or sent to various concentration camps. Families were separated. Infants and children were sent to be Germanized and would never know who they really were. Children and elderly were locked into trains during freezing temperatures and died before they could reach the villages where they were to live out the rest of their lives, alone and without means of support. Poles were sent to concentration camps where they either managed to survive or were sent to the ovens.

HERITAGE / Ellye Slusarczyk

A Very Special Day

There is a very special day in Poland, and more significant than one's birthday. Polish tradition has long been known to name a newborn child after a saint. Hence, a most celebratory occasion has evolved — *Imieniny*. Incidentally, imieniny is a noun that is spelled the same whether it be in singular or plural form.

Many saints have several feast days during the year. This occurs when a saint is honored for perhaps the day he was born, the day he died, the day he was beatified or

on the day he was canonized. Consequently, one often has several dates to choose from, to have as his name day choice. As an example, the name day choice for David can be June 26, July 15, December 29 or December 30.

The practice of name days originated during the Middle Ages. Because the Church felt that birthday celebrations were a pagan practice, saints names were strongly encouraged. Throughout the ensuing years, imieniny was no longer a religious happening, but a time for a party.

Nowadays, a person celebrating imieniny is over the age of thirteen. Celebrating includes an open house for friends and well wishers. Food and beverages abound.

Businesses prosper in Poland from name day festivities. Often dinners are held, special cakes are baked, floral arrangements abound, assorted gifts are purchased, and countless greeting cards are sold.

If you know of someone celebrating imieniny, call and wish them "Wszystkiego Najlepszego" — "All the best."

BRUSH UP / Prepared and distributed by the Polonia Media Network

Health Part 5

Mam(Mahm)
I have (a, an)

oparzenie słoneczne
..(oh-pah-ZHEH-nyeh swoh-NEHCH-neh)

udar słoneczny
..... (UH-dahr swo-NEHCH-nih)

sunstroke

grzybicę.....(gzhih-BEE-tseh)
thrush [mouth infection]

lokomocyjną.....(loh-koh-moh-TSEE-nah)
motion [travel] sickness

Co panu dolego?(Tsoh PAH-nuh doh-LEH-goh?)
What is the matter sir?

Co pani dolego?(Tsoh PAH-nee doh-LEH-goh?)
What is the matter mam?

Czy pan odczuwa jakiś ból?
..... (Chih pahn ot-CHU-vah YA-keesh buhl?)
Does mister feel any pain?

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

Czy pani odczuwa jakiś ból?
..... (Chih PAH/nee ot-CHU-vah YA-keesh buhl?)
Does mam feel any pain?

Gdzie pana boli?
..... (Gdjeh PAH-nah BOH-lee)
Where does mister feel pain?

Gdzie panią boli?
..... (Gdjeh PAH-nyohn BOH-lee)
Where does mam feel pain?

Czy pan ma gorączkę?
.....(Chih pahn mah goh-ROHWNCH-keh?)
Does mister have a temperature?

Czy pani ma gorączkę?
..... (Chih PAH-nee mah goh-ROHWNCH-keh?)
Does mam have a temperature?

— Continued Next Month —

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Stanley Z. Biernacik, Polish Army Veteran, PAJ Contributing Editor

Stanley Z. Biernacik, 90, a veteran of the Polish Army in World War II, active member in numerous veteran, social, and civic groups, and a Contributing Editor to the *Polish American Journal*.



Biernacik was born in Lwow, Poland in 1920. He was training to be an officer in his city's local infantry regiment when war broke out on September 1, 1939. He reported immediately for duty, however communication lines were knocked out by the Luftwaffe throughout the country which hampered quick mobilization. After the Soviet invasion of Poland on September 17th, Polish leaders called upon Air Force and Army units to make every attempt to escape to Hungary and Romania. The concept was for the men to be rearmed by England and France for a subsequent return to fight in Poland. Biernacik obeyed orders and crossed into Romania on September 21, and ended up in an internment camp near the city of Pitesti. After a few days at the camp, he managed to escape and reached Bucharest where he contacted the Polish Embassy. At that point the French Embassy was informed that some members of the Polish Air Force were also being held in the camp that Biernacik had escaped from. Upon confirming that information, the French then made strong efforts to get those valuable pilots to France. Biernacik was then made a courier to secretly deliver French visa documents to the interned Polish airmen. For the next two months he made numerous trips between Bucharest and Pitesti until ordered to report to the Polish officer's training school at Coetquidan, France.

Late in November of 1939, Biernacik arrived in Coetquidan and began training in the field artillery. Here thousands of other Poles who had escaped German captivity, as well as those who lived in other parts of the world, heeded the call to report for training so they could help in the eventual liberation of

their country. Following graduation on June 14, 1940 he was ordered to join the Polish forces near the Maginot line. France quickly capitulated however and established the Vichy government. Biernacik again escaped and arrived in the UK on July 9 where once again the Polish Army was being reformed. At this point, England, her dominions and Poland stood virtually alone against the Nazi onslaught.

In the footsteps of his previous military training, Biernacik was assigned to the Polish artillery being formed in Scotland. In 1942, the 1st Polish Armored Division was born and placed under the experienced and able General Maczek. Biernacik became the reconnaissance officer for the 2nd Motorized Artillery Regiment. The regiment's 25 pounder guns were towed by Morris ANT trucks. During the 1944 Normandy invasion, his job was to help navigate a way for the equipment to get where it was needed in a combat environment. As often happens in combat, maps are incorrect and roads that should be there are suddenly impassable due to bombardment. Lt. Biernacik often found himself in hostile territory in merely a jeep or even on a motorcycle while scouting roads for then artillery to pass.

At the end of 1944, the Polish 1st Corps in Scotland growing from

the influx of Polish volunteers and they needed his combat experience in training them. Biernacik was ordered to return to Scotland and assigned as an artillery training instructor for the newly formed 15th Field Artillery Regiment.

At war's end, the British government offered educational opportunities to their Polish allies. Biernacik first attended the School of Economics in London and later at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Upon earning his M.A. degree there he was accepted as a history teacher at St. Patrick's High School in Carlisle, England. Following four years of teaching there, he emigrated to the United States where he was first employed as a school teacher and later at commercial managerial positions in the Buffalo, N.Y. area. After his retirement Biernacik stayed very active in various Polonian, veteran and civic institutions around Buffalo. He was a member of Hamburg Knights of Columbus 220, Polish American Congress, SPK Post No. 33, Polish American Veterans Post No. 1, 1st Polished Armored Division Assoc., and SWAP. He was an avid bridge player and his interests included photography, writing and gardening. A prolific writer, he had many articles published in the *Polish American Journal*, where he was a contributing editor.

Biernacik received numerous Polish, British and French decorations and citations for his war service such as The Cross of the order of Merit, Cross of Valor, Service Cross First Army, 1939 War Cross, 1944 Normandy, Belgium and Holland Cross, Crois Des Combattants, The Defense Medal, 1939-45 War Medal, 1939-45 War Star, and the France and Germany Star.

He is survived by his wife, two daughters, two sons, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews in Poland.

Source: *World War Two Polish Living History Group*

THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



Enduring the Daily Grind. Krakow. May 23, 1976.

Alfreda B. Plocha, Active in Philadelphia Polonia

Alfreda B. Plocha, an active and distinguished member of Philadelphia's Polonia, shared her love for things Polish. She was born in Binadowa, outside of Gorlice in southeastern Poland in 1921. She came to Philadelphia in 1935 and moved into the family home on Pemberton Street in Queen Village. She would often say that her mother's sending her to this country spared her the ravages of war. Her brothers Edward and Thaddeus were in Nazi camps until they were liberated by Allied troops, and she brought them to the United States.

Plocha devoted her entire life to serving Polish Americans. She was an active parishioner of St. Stanislaus Church and a member of the fraternal organization, the Union of Polish Women in America (UPWA) since her youth. She served as the UPWA President General from 1977 to 1993. She also served as Financial Secretary for Group 9 from 1953 to 2009. In addition, she was President of the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and New Jersey Fraternal. She was a National Director of the Polish American Congress (PAC), Eastern Pennsylvania district, and also served as Chair for the Polish Fund on the PAC's Committee for the Restoration of the Statue of Liberty. Mayor W. Wilson Goode appointed her to the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations, where she served as Secretary. In

1976, she was honored with the Achievement Award for Service Activities to Polish American Youth. In 1981, John Cardinal Krol appointed Plocha to work with Deborah Heart Hospital in Browns Mills, New Jersey to bring children from Poland for heart operations that were not possible in Poland, thus saving hundreds of young lives. In 1982, the Polish Army Veterans Post #12 made Plocha an honorary member, and she was honored by the Chapel of the Four Chaplains in Philadelphia for her outstanding humanitarian achievements. In 1984, the Italian Press Knights Legion enrolled Plocha in the Honoris Causa. In 1985, Plocha became an honorary member of the Polish Air Force Veterans Association. Above all, she valued the Papal Honor, Pro Ecclesia Et Pontifice, bestowed upon her by her fellow countryman Pope John Paul II (whom she had met on numerous occasions, before and after his ascent to the Papacy).

Plocha was the wife of the late Zygmunt Plocha, and is survived by three daughters, two sons, and eight grandchildren.

OBITUARIES / Geraldine Balut-Coleman

Richard Lysakowski, Educator, Siberian Camp Survivor

Dr. Richard Stanislaw Lysakowski, 87, born in Warsaw, Poland, died August 23, while vacationing in Poland.

Dr. Lysakowski spent his teen years as a prisoner-of-war in Siberian labor camps. On Christmas Eve of 1941, he was released by the Soviets, but his death-defying survival journey continued. He eventually made his way to England and Scotland and served in the Polish Division of the Royal Air Force.

In January 1949, he came to the United States with a Scottish brogue and a scholarship from Ohio University in hand. After receiving a degree in business administration from Ohio University, he left for Chicago where he earned an MBA from DePaul University, followed by a Ph.D. in public policy analysis from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Lysakowski spent the first seventeen years of his professional career as an accountant and a financial analyst for Standard Oil Company. He left this accounting career to devote the next twenty years as a teacher with the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) of which the first eight years were spent teaching English language and literature, along with some accounting and business law classes. When CPS learned of his proficiency in the Polish language, he was invited to teach English-as-A-Second Language to Polish im-



migrant students at Foreman High School on Chicago's Northwest Side.

During his teaching career, Lysakowski published numerous articles in educational journals and authored his autobiography, *The Siberian Odyssey*, which recounts his experiences as a fifteen-year-old prisoner-of-war in Siberian death camps. He once mentioned that his first teaching experience amounted to reading whatever Russian newspapers could be found to Russian prisoners who could not read. "They'd all gather around me as I read the old newspapers. For this I was given extra food, usually bread. This helped keep me alive."

Lysakowski was proficient in Polish, Russian and English, Ukrai-

nian and Yiddish. He was most proud of his family, the United States, Poland, and his U.S. citizenship, and spent years helping other Polish immigrants gain U.S. citizenship. He was a member of the Council of Educators in Polonia, member and former president of the Polish Teachers' Association, a member of the Siberian Survivors Association, the Polish Air Force Veterans Association and the Polish National Alliance.

He is survived by two sons and a daughter.

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TRAVELOGUE / Staś Kmieć

A Stroll through Historic Kazimierz

Part XX

The best way to enjoy old Kraków is on foot. Leaving the trendy locations of “New” Krakow, I needed to get myself to the Ethnographic Museum - a fifteen minutes’ walk from the Old Town. Ulica Krakowska is the backbone thoroughfare to this outer district. Here one discovers the forgotten grandeur and impressive landmarks of **Kazimierz**, once Kraków’s medieval twin town. Its former Jewish quarter boasts both restored synagogues and energetic nightlife, courtesy of emerging clubs, cafes, bars, and restaurants.

To possess a full comprehension of our culture, one needs to look beyond the superficiality of what many consider to be Polish heritage. This should not be limited to pierogi, golabki and Polish-American polka; and it is not exclusively high-brow classical composers, themed lectures and debutante balls. An understanding of the many aspects of Poland — its culture and its complicated history encompasses many topics, traditions, and even religion.

My friend Larry Kozłowski, the last director of Alliance College’s *Kujawiaki*, and I once explored an Evangelical church, along with the synagogue and cemetery of Jewish Lublin back in the 1980s, in order to achieve a better understanding of the region and its past.

The market square (*Plac Wolnica*) is dominated the Renaissance Town Hall (*Ratusz*), now the home of the **Ethnographic Museum** (*Muzeum Etnograficzne*) at Krakowska 46 — a glorious archive of folk life, artifact and customs. On the ground floor are reconstructed interiors of rural homes; the first floor contains traditional costumes; and the top floor is devoted to woodcarvings and seasonal festivals.

Al and Mary Pierce with Regina Laszkowska from Boston’s *Krakowiak Dancers*, first brought me here when we traveled together prior to university studies, and I have been back each time I am in Kraków. As I approached the heavy wooden doors, I received an unwelcome greeting — the cursed sign — “Remont.” The museum was closed for remodeling ... some things never seem to change in Poland. I would have to miss the prized collection this time around, but there was plenty to explore in Kazimierz.

A BIT OF HISTORY. Kazimierz, which lies

to the south of the Royal Castle, was once a town in its own right. With its labyrinthine streets and low-standing houses, it feels like a different world to the Old Town, and one can easily get lost in the whole experience.

The town was founded in 1335 by King Kazimierz the Great, and as its splendid churches and synagogues evoke, it was once a world of prosperity and tolerance. Despite having set on such promising ground, the district was not to have an easy journey. After many ups and downs, the death-knell for Jewish Kraków was sounded in September 1939 with the Nazi invasion, and a vibrant world was swept away.

Much of Kazimierz was still in ruins as recently as 2000 — a crumbling shell of its former glory. Numerous houses initially gave the appearance of a squatters’ paradise. On closer inspection, whole floors had collapsed, rendering many areas highly dangerous. Kazimierz was known as a dirty and unsafe place, inhabited by stray dogs and morose alcoholics. In addition to this there was the highly emotive issue of post-World War II land reparation.

Today, Kazimierz has experienced a major renaissance. Both its Jewish and Christian heritage is being restored, and color has returned to its alleys and squares.

The old apartment buildings were reclaimed by their erstwhile owners and underwent fundamental renovations. The district has become newly fashionable in the recent decade. With its cafes and nightlife spots, it has become Kraków’s equivalent of London’s Soho, Paris’ Quartier Latin, and New York City’s Village. Kazimierz district’s recreated Jewish past and newborn reputation as a haven of artists and the young have made it trendy among tourists and the locals alike.

A delicious meal can be found at **Ariel Jewish Restaurant** on Szeroka Street. **Pub Stajnia** (ul. Józefa 12) not only boasts a period interior with traditional decor, but crazy night parties. The pub’s climate is created by its variety of world music including Latino’s rhythms and the sounds from the ’80s. Stajnia is a great place to enjoy dancing, salsa and tango lessons.

CHRISTIAN KAZIMIERZ. Many historical churches are housed in this adjoining locale and include the Gothic **St Catherine’s Church**, **Corpus Christi Church** (Gothic), and the Paulite **Church on the Rock** (*Skalka*).

The quiet *Skalka* sanctuary is the Poland’s holiest place after Czestochowa.

Here **St. Stanislaw**, Poland’s chief patron saint, suffered martyrdom at the hands of King Boleslaw II the Bold in 1079. The 17th-century Paulinite monastery in the form of a Renaissance castle adjoins the 18th-century Rococo-Baroque church whose crypt was turned into a mausoleum of great artists in 1880.

Corpus Christi (1340), with the adjacent monastery, towers over the northern corner of the square. The church boasts rich interior with remarkable stalls of 1629, the altarpiece of 1634, and the ornate mid-18th-century pulpit.

THE KAZIMIERZ JEWISH TOWN. In 1495 King Jan I Olbracht transferred Kraków Jews to the nearby royal city of Kazimierz (in Yiddish “Kuzmir”), which gave rise to its once bustling Jewish quarter and a major European center of the Diaspora for the next three centuries. With time it turned into virtually a separate and self-governed 34-acre Jewish Town — a model of every East European *shtetl*, within the limits of the gentile city of Kazimierz. As refugees from all over Europe kept coming to find the safe haven here, its population reached 4,500 by 1630.

Strolling old narrow streets of the eastern half of the district one still finds a unique atmosphere of the Jewish past of this area. Of particular mention are the still active **Moresque-Renaissance Tempel Synagogue** of 1862, ulica Szeroka — the heart of the old Jewish district, and the **Galicia Museum**.

The **Remuh burial ground** by the adjoining 16th century Re-



ARIEL RESTAURANT. The former Jewish quarter of Kazimierz is full of delightful restaurants and fashionable clubs.

zimierz Łatak.

In an interview Lewicki said: “First, a quarter of the town’s residents had to leave their homes and go to the closed-off area of Podgórze. Then the ghetto was reduced in size, and the people were divided according to whether or not they could work, whether they were sick or healthy, etc. As a result people were constantly resettling, bringing all their belongings with them. They also took chairs with them, the furniture closest to the body. When the ghetto was liquidated, the Jews had to move to the Płaszów camp, and anything that wasn’t needed remained in the square. We wanted to draw reference to that moment precisely. There must have been an incredible silence, it must have been completely empty.”

Jewish culture has been an integral part of Kraków life since at least the fourteenth century, when King Kazimierz the Great offered refuge to Jews fleeing persecution in other parts of Europe. By the outbreak of the Second World War, Krakow had a Jewish population of about 60,000, one of the largest in Poland, and a rich, diverse culture with strong elements of Jewish tradition.

Six hundred years of shared culture and history ended abruptly when Kraków fell to the invading German army on September 6, 1939. Shortly afterward, Governor-General Hans Frank began his project of ethnic cleansing. He declared his intention of making Kraków the “cleanest” city in the region.

At Number 18 on the south side of the former Zgoda Square stands **Apteka Pod Orlem** (Pharmacy under the Sign of the Eagle), whose owner, Tadeusz Pankiewicz, was the only non-Jewish Pole to resist resettlement and remain within the ghetto. His pharmacy became the center of resistance against the Nazis, and now houses a holocaust museum.

Just to the east of the square is **Oskar Schindler’s factory**, where about 1200 Jews were employed in an effort to save them from the horrors of the death camps. The factory has been converted into a museum that not only commemorates Schindler’s story and the tragedy of the ghetto, but also portrays occupied Kraków and the grim history of the war years.

Views of pre-war Kazimierz can be seen in the opening scenes of the classic, Yiddish movie, *Yidl mitn Fidl*, or *Yidl with His Fiddle*, which was filmed in 1936, directed by Joseph Green and Jan Nowina-Przybylski, and stars Molly Picon.

In 1993, Steven Spielberg shot his film *Schindler’s List* largely in Kazimierz (even though little of the action historically took place there) and this drew international attention to Kazimierz. Following the film there have been parallel developments in the restoration of important historic sites in Kazimierz and a booming growth in Jewish-themed establishments.

Since 1988, a popular annual **Jewish Cultural Festival** (*Festiwal Kultury Żydowskiej*) has re-introduced Jewish culture to a generation of Poles who have grown up without Poland’s historic Jewish community.

I depart the site of a lost era and make a finale trek into the Old Town, retracing my familiar path.

Next month: *the final day in Kraków continues*



The central square of the Kraków ghetto was refurbished at the end of 2005, and a modern sculpture composed of oversized illuminated chairs were inaugurated as a memorial for those who suffered here.



naissance **Remuh Synagogue** at 40 Szeroka Street was named after the nickname of famous 16th-century rabbi, religious writer and reputed miracle worker Moses Isserles. Even today pious Jews come to pray at his grave and the graves of their other great men who were buried here. The cemetery was used from 1551 to 1800. Its hundreds old tombstones, dating mostly from the Renaissance, as well as its history and surroundings make the Remuh Cemetery one of Europe’s most interesting. **The Wailing Wall** (above), composed of fragments from tombstones trampled by the Nazis, commemorates the tragic fate of the district’s inhabitants.

In March 1941 the German war administration forced all Kraków Jews to resettle in the newly created ghetto north of the Kazimierz area. The Nazis liquidated it only two years later on March 13, 1943. Most of the 17,000 ghetto inhabitants perished in the Nazi concentration camps, such as Auschwitz-Birkenau and Kraków’s Płaszów whose site has been turned into a commemoration park.

PLAC BOHATERÓW GETTA. Formerly *Plac Zgody*, this location served as the central square of the Kraków ghetto and a site for mass murders of Jews during 1941-43.

The square was refurbished at the end of 2005, and a modern sculpture composed of oversized illuminated chairs (33 altogether throughout the middle area, and an additional 37 at the edges) were inaugurated as a memorial for those who suffered here. The design is the work of architects Piotr Lewicki and Ka-

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