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**FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE IN POLAND • STOROZYNSKI TAKES ON BECK • 1954: THE YEAR OF TOSKI AND FURGOL
POLISH AMERICANS RALLY FOR UKRAINE AT THE WHITE HOUSE • ALL SOULS' JAZZ FESTIVAL — ZADUSZKI JAZZOWE
ST. JOSAPHAT'S REOPENS • BARITONE MARIUSZ KWIECIEŃ WOWS CHICAGO • NOVEL SIX FOR STREMEPEK SHEA**

NEWSMARK

POLAND ARRESTS ALLEGED RUSSIAN SPIES. (Reuters) Two men, a lieutenant-colonel and lawyer, were indicted on charges of spying for Russia in Warsaw. The charges come at a time of increasing tension between the two nations stemming from Russia's annexation of Crimea.

A high-ranking military officer and a lawyer who holds both Russian and Polish citizenship were charged with espionage in Poland, Oct. 17. Both men were then sent to prison to await trial. Although prosecutors were reluctant to name which country the men were accused of spying for, Polish parliamentarian Marek Biernacki referred to the unidentified lieutenant-colonel and the Warsaw-based lawyer as "two agents of the Russian state."

"This was definitely a successful shot aimed at GRU," Biernacki added, using the common acronym for Russia's Main Intelligence Directorate.

The officer worked for the Polish Ministry of Defense, according to the country's Internal Security Agency. A military prosecutor clarified that the officer was indicted for "collaborating with a foreign intelligence service ... and passing on sensitive information."

The men were arrested in simultaneous raids, Oct. 15. There was no proof the men were working in tandem.

EXAMINATION CONFIRMS CHOPIN'S CAUSE OF DEATH. The preserved heart of composer Frederic Chopin contains signs of tuberculosis and possibly some other lung disease, medical experts said, corroborating the Polish musician's 1849 death certificate.

Chopin died in Paris at the age of 39. His remains rest there, but — in keeping with a Romanticism-era practice — his heart was brought to Warsaw, where he grew up, and is kept as a national relic inside a pillar at The Holy Cross Church. Held in two cases and a sealed crystal glass jar, the heart was inspected in April by forensic and genetic experts to check the state of the preservation. One of them, geneticist Michal Witt, said the heart is "much enlarged, suggesting respiratory problems linked to a lung disease, and bears TB nodules."

He would not, however, speculate on what other disease the frail and frequently ailing Chopin could have suffered from.

Chopin is considered Poland's greatest composer, famous around the world for his piano nocturnes, preludes and other works for the piano.

BOMBER LIFTED FROM BALTIC BOTTOM. A U.S. World War II bomber was raised from the bottom of the Baltic Sea, seventy years after it crashed in northern Poland, near Gdansk. The Douglas A-20 bomber was first sighted last year during routine checks about four miles off Cape Rozewie, the northernmost point in Poland.

Raising the plane "... was a very ambitious challenge, requiring specialist knowledge, experience and the precise coordination of the project team," said said Iwona Pomian, chief of research of Gdansk's National Maritime Museum.

The Polish Navy assisted in the endeavor.

The bomber, which is in remarkably good condition, will be transported to the Aviation Museum in Krakow, where research and conservation will be undertaken.

CHARMING DISCOVERY. A meteorite was discovered among a large group of sacral objects in a remains of a Neolithic hut in Bolkow, northwest Poland, and may have been used for shamanic purposes, say academics.

Archaeologists from the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology in Szczecin found items including an amulet; a so-called "magic staff," fashioned from antlers and decorated with geometrical motifs; and an engraved bone spear.

They were made about 9,000 years ago.

"The meteorite was brought to the hut as an object of special significance, because it came 'from another world'," Professor Tadeusz Galinski told the Polish Press Agency.

The meteorite is about three inches high and two inches wide at the base.

"Na świecie jeszcze, lecz już nie dla świata"



STILL IN THE WORLD, BUT NOT OF THE WORLD. A line from Adam Mickiewicz's "Dziady" ("Forefather's Eve") describes the atmosphere in Polish graveyards on All Saints' and All Souls' Days. In the evening, cemeteries are decorated in the glowing, flickering, colorful lights of countless candles. Everybody is there to celebrate, to pray, and to participate in church services. See page 4 for more about this tradition.

Chemical Attraction

Carnegie-Mellon's Krzysztof (Kris) Matyjaszewski Changed the Way Plastics and Synthetics Are Made

PITTSBURGH — Krzysztof (Kris) Matyjaszewski may be the most famous Pole you do not know. A world renowned chemist from humble beginnings, he is rumored to be in line for a Nobel Prize. If you really want to know him, talk to his wife, Malgosia.

Some say it started at the Polish seaside some forty years ago as Malgosia Matyjaszewska peers at her new husband. The bubbly university student, at 20, is thrilled to be on her honeymoon. Unfortunately, her usually atten-



MATYJASZEWSKI

tive new spouse doesn't know she's there. Krzysztof is sitting on the sand, completely absorbed in a book for days now. Malgosia glares at the thick polymer chemistry text. How can she not be annoyed? Her new husband has been spending their honeymoon with the book's author, renowned Polish-born scientist Michael Szwarc, rather than with his new wife.

Although she's always known Kris as an excellent student, he's never acted like See "Matyjaszewski," page 3

Crime Scene Investigations Po Polsku

A Conversation with Dr. Andrzej Ossowski and Milena Bykowska on the Polish Genetic Base of Totalitarianism Victims

by John Grondelski

75 years ago, Poland suffered two coordinated, simultaneous totalitarian attacks: Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia. After six years of German and 45 years of Russian occupation, Poland remains littered with the bodies of their victims. Tell us something about the extent of the human victimization of the German and Russian occupations.

The Polish Genetic Base of Totalitarianism Victims (Polska Baza Genetyczna Ofiar Totalitaryzmów. PB-GOT) was established to identify victims of the two totalitarian regimes which

overran Poland in the 20th century. The project began on the basis of a September 28, 2012 agreement between the Institute of National Memory (Instytut Pamięci Narodowej) and the Pomeranian Medical University in Szczecin (Pomorski Uniwersytet Medyczny w Szczecinie). Our team has been involved in this kind of work for many years. The victims which we identify are primarily representatives of the Polish intelligentsia.

In some sense, uncovering the victims of Nazism and Communism seems to pose different tasks: the Germans See "Crime ..." page 4



DR. ANDRZEJ OSSOWSKI examines an artifact, which hopefully will lead to the discovery of a victim, or provide additional information to one already in the group's database. PB-GOT is a project based on the most modern technologies used in genetics, and has proven invaluable in identifying those murdered by Nazi Germany or Soviet Russia.

Notions, hints, suggestions, symbols, customs and artifacts

Enriching Christmas with Heritage?

by Robert Strybel

Tradition or commercialism? That is the question! And Christmastime is a good time to ask it. The following listing has been compiled to show how elements of our ancestral heritage can contribute to a richer, deeper, more meaningful celebration of Yuletide.

Advent is a time of spiritual preparation for Christmas. More frequent prayer, attending *Roraty* (Advent Morning Mass) if available in your area and doing good deeds for the needy are all ways to prepare. It is also the time PolAm parishes and clubs hold pierogi sales, fish fries, herring suppers and *opłatek* dinners as well as Christmas bazaars and bake sales allowing people to stock up for Wigilia. (This year Advent starts on November 30th.)

Introducing the kindly old bishop Saint Nicholas (Święty Mikołaj) to your parish, club or family is a good way to remind youngsters that the real St. Nick is neither an elf from the North See "Enriching ..." page 15

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November Listopad

"You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end each of us must work for his own improvement, and at the same time share a general responsibility for all humanity."

— Marie Skłodowska Curie, born the 7th of this month in 1867.

- 1 ALL SAINTS DAY 1880. Birth of Polish-born Jewish American novelist Sholem Asch...
2 ALL SOULS DAY Dzień Zaduszny or Zaduszki. A national holiday in Poland...
3 1716. Pacification Treaty of Warsaw...
4 1937. Birth of television, film and stage actress Loretta Suit...
5 1370. Death of Kazimierz III the Great...
6 1860. Birth of Ignacy Jan Paderewski...
7 1867. Birth of chemist and physicist Marie Skłodowska Curie...
10 1444. Death at Battle of Varna of King Wladyslaw III...
11 VETERAN'S DAY (U.S.) ST. MARTIN A winter weather forecast is then made according to the color of breastbone-white...
12 ST. JOSEPHAT 1939. Nazi Germany orders Jews in Lodz Poland to wear yellow star of David...
13 ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA 1916. Death of Henryk Sienkiewicz...
16 1794. General Tomasz Wawrzewski...
19 1438. Death of sculptor Wit Stwos.
20 1914. Birth of Polish actor-director Henryk Tomaszewski.
21 1855. Founding of the Felician Sister order.
22 1948. Death of Cardinal August Hlond...
23 1933. Birth of composer Krzysztof Penderecki...
25 ST. CATHERINE A day of fortunetelling for young men.
26 1913. Russia forbids Polish congregation of speakers.
27 THANKSGIVING DAY (U.S.) 1058. Death of Casimir I the Restorer.
29 ST. ANDREW'S EVE Andrzejki brings fortune telling for mostly unmarried young ladies.



This paper mailed on or before October 30. The December edition will be mailed on or before November 28.

JUST BETWEEN US / Mark Kohan

Omission is Reminder of Peperual Distortion

It is rare to have an idle hour at our office, but a few came up last month, and we were able to sort boxes of newspaper clippings and magazines sent to us by our readers.

In that mix was the April 1, 2014 edition The Trinity Tripod, the student newspaper of Trinity College in Hartford, Conn.

On Page 7 of the paper is an account of the Trinity Hillel (the Trinity chapter of the international Jewish student organization) visit to Poland.

As is all-too-often the case, it is not what Katzman says about her journey, but what she does not say that is a sore point for Poles and Polish-Jewish relations:

In recent months, dangers to religious freedom in America have been mounting. Barack Obama's attempt to force you to pay for your employees' abortions has been temporarily derailed by the Supreme Court's Hobby Lobby ruling...

If you think these assaults are unique to America, think again. Two recent cases from Poland show that the international culture of death and anti-Christian blasphemy is alive and well and will silence you if you dissent.

Dr. Bogdan Chazan is a 70-year old professor of gynecology and obstetrics who lost his job as director of Holy Family Hospital in Warsaw for refusing to perform an abortion.

out this clarification, anyone not familiar with the history of Jews in Poland would assume the acts she described were committed by Poles.

We can only hope this not intentional. Katzman, a college senior (and former Hillel president) demonstrated a lack knowledge, and specifically, the history of Jews in Poland.

It is not only Katzman's account of life in concentration camps in Nazi-occupied Poland that is troubling. She talks about a resurgence of Jewish life in Poland, as if post-World War II Poland (which was Soviet-controlled, another point eluded) outlawed all things Jewish.

"After the War, most Polish Jews were killed and the ones who didn't, fled," she wrote. "For good reason, Jewish people did not want to live in a place where they had been exterminated and harmed."

We find it hard to believe Kassow did not teach his charges that the pogroms following World War II were initiated by Moscow-controlled Polish Communist armed forces.

While a story in a student newspaper is hardly a history book, some mention of Poland's Righteous could have been made.

A lie, no matter how insignificant it may seem, needs to be quashed before it begets more falsehoods. Most examples of ignorance may fall on deaf ears — but not all do.

FORUM / Walter Ciekawarz

Freedom of Conscience in Poland

(He's also accused of delaying his diagnoses until the woman's child was beyond the gestational age for abortion in Poland). Under Polish law, a woman can obtain an abortion through almost the sixth month of pregnancy if her unborn child is handicapped.

Chazan (who used to perform abortions even in the 1990s until his change-of-heart) refused, since the "health benefit" was certainly no benefit to the child, who was not so much a patient as a target as well as the victim of discrimination because of his handicap.

Poland's second case involves Marek Cichucki. Cichucki is a 53-year-old actor who's been on stage since 1983. He was fired by the Pinokio Theater in Łódź for refusing to perform in "Golgota Picnic," a play staged throughout Poland this summer against protests that it is blasphemous.

"... the international culture of death and anti-Christian blasphemy is alive and well and will silence you if you dissent. You can think whatever you want."

The play, written by Argentine Rodrigo Garcia (who apparently handed out interviews like candy bars all over Poland this summer), is called by some a "critique of consumerism."

Wałęsa Loses Street in San Francisco



WARSAW — Poland's media have widely reported a recent decision by the San Francisco City Council which voted to remove the name of Lech Wałęsa (above) from one of its squares.

City Fathers have decided to rename "Lech Walesa Place" — "Dr. Tom Waddell Place," in honor of a gay activist who died of AIDS in 1987.

a naked pianist, of course.

Cichucki was accused of violating professional ethics when, on opening night June 28 in Łódź, instead of reading his lines he pronounced the play a "bełkot" (a bunch of babble) and refused to participate.

Poland has, of course, heard the usual noise about "freedom of speech" and "artistic expression." One can just imagine the howls of "insensitivity," however, if somebody tried to put on a reading of the Koran performed by 70 nude virgins.

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Piast Institute Awarded Community Grant



HELPING HAMTRAMCK. The Piast Institute in Hamtramck, Mich., has been awarded a 2014 Drug Free Community Grant for the Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition. The award announcement was made by the White House in conjunction with the President's designation of October as National Substance Abuse Month. This award is one of five new ones given in Michigan. It is the only new award in the Detroit Metropolitan area. Five other Michigan communities received continuation awards.

The DFC grant is for a total of \$625,000 spread equally over a five-year period. The Institute must provide a 100 percent match for the award to the HDFCC.

The purpose of the grant is to establish and strengthen collaboration among communities; public and private non-profit agencies; and federal, state, local, and tribal governments to support the efforts of community coalitions working to prevent and reduce substance use among youth. Doing so, it believes, will also help reduce substance abuse among adults by addressing the factors in a community that increase the risk of substance abuse and promoting those that minimize that risk.

For more information, contact Virginia Skrzyniarz at (313) 733-4535 or email her at Skrzyniarz@piastinstitute.org.

ANTI-DEFAMATION WATCH

Storozynski Takes on Beck

NEW YORK — Former Kosciuszko Foundation president Alex Storozynski has taken on political commentator Glenn Beck, who said America's apathy for crimes by Muslims against homosexuals in comparable to Poland's indifference toward the Nazi persecution of Jews.

"If you have those things in your heart, I'm willing to go into battle with you on anything," Beck said. "But ... if we're sitting here arguing about women's rights, and you want to condemn my faith on women's rights when we've got a planet that is going into horrid, horrid oppression—I mean, imagine. You know what we're turning into? We're turning into the Poles. The smoke is billowing out of the chimney and we're like, 'Geez, have you seen the potholes...?' They're burning Jews right down the street!" said Beck.

Beck's suggestion that Poland did nothing "is indefensible," said Storozynski, whose response was printed in the *Huffington Post*. "It's not OK to disparage Poland's

World War II record. No country fought Nazi Germany longer or sacrificed a larger percentage of its people to Hitler's death machine than Poland. Enough.

"No country did more to rescue Jews during the Holocaust than Poland. Check the facts. To date, there are 6,454 Poles honored at Israel's Yad Vashem. And each one of them had many more Poles who helped them carry out their mission."

In detail, Storozynski described Nazi Germany's orders to kill Poles who assisted Jews; the efforts of Jan Karski, Irena Sendler, and Witold Pilecki to save Jewish lives; and the Polish Undergrounds' hunting and killing of szmalcownicy, blackmailers and traitors who sold out Jews and those who hid them.

"Could Poland have done more to save Jews during World War II?" asked Storozynski.

"Yes," he said, answering his own question. "But no country did more than Poland during the war to save the Jews."

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Matyjaszewski: One of the World's Most-Cited Chemists

continued from cover

this—so obsessed by a single topic. She has no idea that this week marks the beginning of more than a marriage. It's also the start of her young husband's remarkable scientific career—one that will end in worldwide recognition.

One day recently, Kris explained his lifelong fascination, "Chemistry, in a way, is unique—and I think that's why it's challenging," he says. "In chemistry, unlike math, two plus two is not always four. It may be three or it may be six, so you can manipulate things the way you want, and can do things that otherwise wouldn't happen."

Matyjaszewski grew up with two older sisters not far from Lodz, and was raised by their mother and veterinarian father. He entered Lodz and during his two years there, had a crush on Malgosia, then a high school junior. He impressed her, bringing her flowers and writing her poetry.

After two years, he was offered the chance to complete his degree outside Poland at the Technical University of Moscow. Within three years, he finished his undergraduate and master's degrees in chemistry. Although glad for the experience, he was anxious to come home so he and Malgosia could plan their wedding.

TEN DAYS BEFORE THE WEDDING, Kris secured an interview at the Polish Academy of Sciences in Lodz. Finding a job in the Poland of 1972 was a challenge, and he was grateful for the opportunity. The meeting went well when the interviewer—and potential supervisor—said, "What do you know about polymers?" "Well, I know a little," he replied.

The interviewer gave him a book and said, "Come back in a month, and I will ask you about it." Which is why a few weeks later, Matyjaszewski spends his honeymoon with his bride and the book.

At the end of what Malgosia describes as their "kind of unusual" honeymoon, Kris returns to the university, prepared for a rigorous, in-depth discussion of the polymer chemistry text. "Did you like the book?" asks the interviewer.

"Oh, yes," says an eager Matyjaszewski, expectantly.

"Good," answers the interviewer. "You're hired." No tough questions and he began work immediately.

MATYJASZEWSKI'S RESEARCH quickly demonstrates encouraging results, but times are tough in the Soviet-bloc country. The Polish government institutes martial law in 1981; endless shopping lines of citizens clutching coupons for sugar, milk, and bread become the norm.

Kris's perseverance is rewarded in 1984 with a professorship at the University of Paris. This time, he can afford to have the family accompany him. He and Malgosia stuff their tiny Fiat with their two small children and four suitcases and head off to another world, optimistic about the future.

While in Paris, his publications attract attention and, while mulling over what to do next, he heard of a position at Carnegie Mellon University. The institution is well known to Matyjaszewski, and he is delighted to learn there is also an active Polish community in Pittsburgh. He interviews for the position, and soon afterward the family packs up again, this time Pittsburgh-bound.

As they settle into their new home in the United States, Kris throws himself into his work, keeping his habitual 12-hour-a-day schedule,

including many weekends. Malgosia keeps their life running smoothly—flowers and candles on the table each evening. She also keeps her husband well-dressed and comfortable, because, as she teases, "He never goes to a store. He thinks it's a waste of time."

Matyjaszewski, the world open before him, thinks, "What is the biggest challenge in polymer science?" He chooses a project of tremendous commercial interest, radical polymerization control—a process used to make polymers like rubbers, fibers, plastics and paints. He compares a polymer to a strand of pearls and the process to make them like stringing thousands of these "pearls," in a super-fast reaction. It's difficult to control, like trying to catch bullets from a gun. He sees a challenge to manipulate what's occurring and it's this challenge that drives him—and exactly what he manages to accomplish.

Matyjaszewski develops a pioneering process he dubs atom transfer radical polymerization (ATRP) and in 1995, publishes his breakthrough results, creating a revolution in the scientific community. ATRP opens up the possibility of making new polymers with new properties and uses. "Yesterday, they came in just three basic flavors—strawberry, vanilla, and chocolate," she says. "Now you have butter pecan, sherbet, and so much more."

ATRP technology is licensed for uses that include adhesives, cosmetics, and electronics. Matyjaszewski is a co-inventor on nearly 200 patents. "This is what makes chemists happy," he says simply. "You not only do good things, but do useful things."

Today, Matyjaszewski is one of

most-cited chemists in the world, having written 17 books, 83 book chapters and over 800 scientific papers. He has garnered numerous prestigious awards, including the 2011 Wolf Prize, the most significant award in chemistry, second only to the Nobel Prize, and Poland's highest scientific honor—the 2004 Prize of the Foundation of Polish Science.

Matyjaszewski, who'd once assumed he'd live his days in Lodz, now travels the world, Malgosia by his side. "We've been married more than 40 years, through good and bad," she says. "The first part of our life in Poland was really, really difficult, then things became so much nicer. Can you imagine that two Polish people from a communist country with two kids would spend time on the Champs-Élysées and then live in America?"

One particularly memorable event seemed to bring that life full circle. About five years after Matyjaszewski settled in at Carnegie Mellon and was hard at work researching, he was set to host a very distinguished visiting scientist. Kris had met the scholar — "a wonderful man" — a few times before and had invited the gentleman to join his wife and him for dinner. As the visitor introduced himself to Malgosia, her eyes grew wide. "I was with you on my honeymoon!" she blurted out. Michael Szwarc, the prominent author of that unforgettable book, stared at her, shocked. But as the Matyjaszewskis relayed the story, Szwarc burst out in laughter. Kris and Malgosia joined in. It was a fitting reunion.

— *Digested from a feature by Melissa Silmore in Carnegie-Mellon Today, July 2014.*

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 28th year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

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

All Saints' and All Souls' Day in Poland

by Jagoda Urban-Klaehn
culture.polishsite.us

ALL SAINTS' DAY, NOVEMBER 1 in Poland is a holiday for everybody except those involved in transportation and emergency services. In spite of its religious roots it was also observed during Communist rule as the Day of Deceased. The traffic on the roads and streets is very high since almost everybody has to commute to reach the family's graves.

Poles take flowers (especially fall flowers like chrysanthemums), wreaths, candles, and votive lights into the cemeteries with the graves of family, friends or national heroes.

It is worth mentioning that the cemeteries in Poland are different from those in most any other country. Graves and tombs are big and very individualized. There is usually a guard standing at military graves on that day. With the exception of military graves, no two graves look alike. They are either individual (for one person) or family vaults. They can be made of rock (granite, marble, sandstone, etc.), sand, and while some are completely covered with stone, others have soil with some planted flowers. They differ in their richness; some of them are taken care of on a daily basis. Many older women, mainly widows, visit cemeteries almost every day. Since Poland is a Catholic country, almost every grave has a cross standing or carved in stone.

Even the most forgotten graves are full of lights and candles on that day. It is believed that praying and

putting candles on these graves can help their souls.

Usually the weather cooperates on this day, offering sunny but cold weather, as the last few last rustle in the wind. Since this day is in late autumn, it reminds us that everybody's existence is temporary and everybody eventually will be gone, just like the leaves on the trees. When the day is gloomy and dark, it is said to reflect the sadness of death.

The day is also celebrated as a Memorial Day, a day to honor these who died in the wars, especially World War II. The guards in uniforms or scouts are present by the vaults of soldiers.

All Saints' Day is a time for reflection, especially on the passing year. It is a time of being close to family members remembering these who are gone. Nature plays its role: bare trees and fallen, grey leaves seem to say "slow down, calm down, relax, sit. Life is too short to worry about temporary things."

ZADUSZKI, NOVEMBER 2. November 2nd is called the "Day of All Souls," ("Zaduszki" in Polish) a day on which to pray for family members and those who have died but are still in purgatory waiting their time to enter heaven. Masses are held in the churches just like on All Saint's Day. Additionally, the names of the deceased are read by priests during the services and all pray together for these souls. This day is usually gloomier and more hazy and rainy than on November 1st. Who can explain this phenomenon?

All Souls' Day has been celebrated by the Catholic Church on November 2nd since the 10th century.

There is an old tradition with pagan roots celebrated in Belarus and Lithuania about four times a year. One of these times happened to be at the end of October, near All Saints' Day, All Souls' Day and Halloween. It is called *Dziady*. (*Dziady*, in Polish, means *grandfathers*, *forefathers* or just *old men*). This ceremony was described in detail in a poem of that title by Adam Mickiewicz. According to Mickiewicz, common people were gathering in abandoned houses or chapels near the cemeteries, with food and drink for the souls. The souls were then summoned back and their life and deeds were discussed and judged according to the folk wisdom rather than Christian biblical tradition. People were judged not only according to what they did in their lives, but also for what they failed to do, or what they lacked.

Though the ceremony described by Mickiewicz is a very poetic version, many parts are based on real tradition. For instance, in the past the villagers would gather together, share food with the deceased members of the community, remember them and pray for them. It is also true that they believed some magic words and spells could help the souls.

MICKIEWICZ'S "DZIADY." In the "Dziady" envisioned by Mickiewicz, villagers were able to see only the souls of those who were still un-



MICKIEWICZ'S "DZIADY" is popular on stages across Poland. Above: A production directed by Anna Kasprzyk took place last month in Tychy, in south central Poland.

able to enter heaven because they committed sins which had not yet been forgiven. So they were roaming between the realms of the live and the dead.

As mentioned, the concept of good and evil is a bit different from the Christian tradition. Not only is evil a sin but, so too is a lack of good will, inactivity, passivity and negligence. The degrees of each soul's sins were different.

In the poem, villagers first see the souls of two small children. The children are guilty only because they died so young that they were not able to experience bitterness and a real suffering in life like adults do. After receiving a grain of mustard seed (which has a bitter taste)

the children go to heaven since their "crime" was not that serious.

Then the ghost of a man who committed mortal sins — cruelty, greed, and pride — appears. He was a bad master who committed injustices towards his servants. He is beyond help: "Who was never a human — no human can help him," reads the poem."

Finally villagers see a young girl. Her sin is also not a mortal one. She broke a heart of a young man as she played with his feelings. She never experienced a real love or empathy. She lived an unreal life without "touching the earth" according to the common wisdom. Her punishment would last two years, then she would be able to enter heaven.

Crime Scene Investigations Po Polsku: PBGOT arose as a tool to struggle against totalitarian systems

continued from cover
diligently documented most of their crimes, while the Russians did their best to cover their tracks, e.g., denying their responsibility for Katyń long after it was indisputable.

The methods by which both totalitarian regimes acted were different. Finding victims of German crimes is, from a methodological viewpoint, easier. The Nazi system documented its activities very efficiently. Finding the burial places of victims of communism, on the other hand, is the harder because burials were secret. To this day, we are unable to establish many places of execution. That doesn't mean that the Germans didn't hide the crimes they committed on the territory of today's Poland, only that they had markedly less time to do so. We employ many contemporary technologies in our search work, from analysis of overflight and satellite images to georadar equipment, etc. Victims are found in both individual and mass graves.

When I lived in Warsaw in 2000, the secret burial of anti-Communists in Służew Cemetery was just coming out, and now you are busy exhuming remains at the celebrated Powązki Cemetery in Warsaw. Tell us something about these efforts.

PBGOT specialists took part in two stages of work at "Powązki," the Military Cemetery on Powązkowska Street in Warsaw. In the course of that work, we succeeded in locating 194 victims. We also took part in work on the land of the Investigatory Arrest Facility in Białystok where, to date,

approximately 250 victims have been found. The work in Białystok is being led by the local branch of the Institute of National Memory in connection with a prosecutorial investigation. The place is unique because victims of both totalitarianisms—Nazi as well as Communist—have been found there.

What is the Polish Genetic Base of Totalitarian Victims, and how did it come into existence?

PBGOT is a project based on the most modern technologies used in genetics. As part of the project, we collect genetic material from victims' relatives to create a database of comparative material. We also collect material from the remains of victims to create an evidentiary database. As a project, PBGOT works in many fields. We strive to reach the greatest number of victims' relatives in order to preserve genetic material from them because, within a few years, finding near relatives of the victims of the Nazis and Communists will practically be impossible.

PBGOT arose as a tool to struggle against totalitarian systems. We say that our work give victims back "faces," the most eloquent contradiction and opposition to totalitarian regimes. Those systems sought not just destroy individuals but also to obliterate memory of them. The anonymity of the millions of victims of totalitarianism in the twentieth century is terrifying. Thanks to our project, we are able to restore the identity and memory of victims to them. We understand that we are not capable of identifying them all,



BYKOWSKA. Appeals to members of victims' families — particularly those in the United States and Canada — to donate genetic material to the PBGOT database.

but every victim who is identified is a success and joy. This is not just a genetic project. It is a humanitarian project demonstrating that, even decades after their deaths, we can in some small measure restore memory of the victims.

How does modern forensic science assist in uncovering victims from even seven decades ago? How do you gather genetic material today when nobody even dreamed of such methods in the 1930s and 1940s?

Our methods are very up-to-date: we often are the first users of the latest technologies to reach the market. Some years ago, such investigations were practically impossible; today, we are freely able to identify victims. These investigations,

of course, are not simple: they are exceptionally time-consuming and costly. We had to create a separate research line built only around this work in order to do it.

It is a rather complex process. Our identification work starts when a burial place is found. Our task is to ensure that the remains are properly secured so as not to lead to any further destruction of genetic material and to protect them from contamination by foreign DNA. DNA material is taken immediately on site, following exhumation. Upon drawing, the material is frozen and sent directly to the laboratory. The arduous process of studying the DNA begins in the lab. It can last several months, with examinations of samples taken from an individual frequently repeated dozens of times.

What have been some of the discoveries you have made?

We have to date been able to identify approximately forty victims whose remains were found in Powązki in Warsaw. These investigations are, of course, ongoing. The work also has a research character, because of which we can test which methods are most effective in complicated cases of identifying individuals. Because of these studies, we are now ready to identify victims of large mass catastrophes.

What kind of support does the Polish Genetic Base of Totalitarian Victims have in Poland, particularly from the Polish Government?

The PBGOT project is a very complicated undertaking: given its various legal dimensions, we are

constantly in search of a permanent legal status as well as a permanent funding source, which is our biggest problem. We want in the future to establish a Polish Center for the Identification of Persons on the basis of experience gained in this project. To date, we have had the support of [former] Prime Minister Donald Tusk who, through Health Minister Bartosz Arłukowicz gave us money to buy a modern Genetic Analyzer, a device used in the analysis of DNA. We have also been supported in our work by the Bank WBK (Santander Group) and the "Niezłomni" and "Niepodległości" Foundations, as well as by many other institutions and private individuals. This has truly allowed us to carry on so much work in the past two years.

How can Poles (and others) here in the United States and Canada help?

Our most important task is reaching victims' relatives. Many of them emigrated abroad to flee Communist repression. It is hardest for us today to reach people living outside Europe, hence, we appeal to members of victims' families to contact us about donating genetic material to the PBGOT database.

We ask all those whose family members perished as a result of actions that took place on Polish territory by German or Soviet occupiers to contact the Polish Genetic Base of Totalitarianism Victims at (from the USA/Canada) 001-48-91-484-9873 or 001-48-60-627-0035.

We can also be reached by email: pbgotpum@sci.pum.edu.pl or forensicmedicine1978@gmail.com.

Polish Americans Rally for Ukraine at the White House



SUPPORTING UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE and demanding U.S. government action against Russian aggression, Polish Americans have energetically joined in rallies organized in front of the White House. Their participation reflects a growing concern among Polonians that the Obama Administration's response to Putin's invasion of Ukraine is inadequate.

Significantly, a notable number of American Poles participated in a multi-ethnic rally coinciding with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's meeting with President Obama, September 18. Among others, Marcin Żmudski addressed the crowd on behalf of the Polish American Congress. He urged continued pressure on the White House on behalf of Ukraine via emails, letters, and phone calls, stating that these "really count."

Żmudski stood in for PAC Washington representative Barbara Anderson, who could not attend due to a reported break-in at the PAC Washington office. PAC members and members of Solidarni 2010, as well as individual Polonians, joined the rally.

Belarusian, Georgian, Lithuanian and Latvian Americans also joined in the Washington, D.C. rally.

Kulski To be Honored at Gala

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Kosciuszko Foundation in Washington will hold its annual Gala, Nov. 2, at the Cosmos Club. Each year a prominent Polish American who is a recipient of a KF Pioneer Award is honored.

This year the Foundation will honor **Dr. Julian Kulski**, a renowned architect, writer and participant in the Warsaw Uprising.

Dr. Kulski is well-known for contributions to the Polish American community throughout his lifetime. His newest book, *The Color of Courage - A Boy at War*, a memoir about his experiences during the Warsaw Uprising, will also be available at the Gala.

For more information write to Basia Bernhardt at bbernhardt@thekf.org or call (202) 785-2320.

CULTURAL TELEGRAM / Kasia Romanowska

All Souls' Jazz Festival — Zaduszki Jazzowe

As Americans celebrate Halloween, Poles prepare themselves for *All Souls' Day*, still an extremely vivid tradition of commemorating the dead. In the first two days of November crowds of people gather at the graves of their loved ones to light numerous votive candles.

Although the tradition is not celebrated as broadly by the Poles living in America, there are plenty of events to follow, also outside of the cemetery. One of them is *All Souls' Jazz Festival (Zaduszki Jazzowe)* hosting internationally renowned jazz artists and talented young performers.

This year's event will take place on Monday, Nov. 10, from 7:00 p.m. at the Chopin Theatre in Chicago.

For more information log on: www.allsoulsjazz.com

SHAKESPEARE THEATER IN GDANSK. Gdansk is now home to the most modern theater in Europe. Designed by Venetian architect Renato Rizzi, the new building can seat up to 600 people and fits squarely into characteristics of this Polish northern city.

The major attraction is a retractable roof which can be open for performances under the sky.

The official opening took place in mid-September with the attendance of Polish ex-PM, Donald Tusk.

THE 26TH POLISH FILM FESTIVAL IN CHICAGO. The biggest Polish Film Festival outside of Poland is taking place in Chicago this month. From Friday, Nov. 7, until Sunday, Nov. 23, film goers will have occasion to see new Polish movies along with a special presentation of *Deluge Redivivus*, a new version of Jerzy Hoffman's *Deluge*, nominated for an Academy Award

in 1975.

The screenings will be held in three major cinematic venues in Chicagoland. The Official VIP Opening Night Gala is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 8, at 7:00 PM in the cinema multiplexes Muvico Rosemont 18.

For more information go on: www.pffamerica.com

NEW YORK MURAL COMMEMORATES WARSAW UPRISING.

Both New Yorkers and travelers visiting the city now have the opportunity to view a two-part mural commemorating the Warsaw Uprising. Funded by the Association of the Polish Army Veterans in America, the mural covers the walls of the Warsaw Polish National Home in Greenpoint on the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising.

The author of the work is Rafal Piszarczyk, a Polish-born painter and

graphic artist living in New York.

The mural was unveiled on Aug. 3, and will be changing every year remembering the uprising participants who ended up in the United States.

THE FLYING BEAR. Invented by Tomek Niedzwiedz, a new Polish adventure series may soon become a very popular cartoon. Co-financed by the Polish Film Institute, *The Flying Bear* tells a story of two siblings: six-year-old Gucia and eight-year-old Malwina who, along with a magic bear, try to prevent the kidnapping of the legend heroes.

With its modern plastic form and multicultural concept, the new production is designed for the international market. The first 13 episodes take place in Europe using myths and legends of its cultural area, for example, the Polish Dragon of Wawel (Smok Wawelski).

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POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL FOUNDATION



We invite you to become a member of the Polish American Journal Foundation. Established this year, the PAJF is a non-profit 501c3 organization. Our mission is to promote Polish and Polish American culture and traditions among members of the public and other Polish and Polish American groups. This will be done by organizing special events, networking, consultation, and gatherings.

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

OUR INITIATIVE

In this, our initial year of operation, we will solicit funds for our first funding project. In June 2015, we will ask our members how the PAJF's proceeds should be used. As a member, you can suggest any worthwhile cause: a donation to a local Polish American museum; veteran's group; scholarship fund; dance group, etc. Our board will review these suggestions and cre-



ate a ballot of the most-requested causes/recipients, which will then be voted on by current members. (Membership is yearly, starting with the date of your most recent donation). All members reserve the right to abstain from being a voting member.

MEMBERSHIP

Donations are accepted in any amount. All donations will be acknowledged and may be used as charitable contributions on your tax return.

"KEEP ALIVE THIS HERITAGE"

— Saint John Paul II,
Gniezno, Poland, June 3, 1979.

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

We would be happy to discuss all the various options available to you so that you can make a donation in a way that corresponds exactly to your own personal situation.

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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Deceit of Affordable Care Law Draws Criticism

Despite assurances from President Obama to then-Illinois Democratic Rep. John Stupak that abortion would not be funded by the government under the act, pro-Life Republicans and Democrats alike have voiced condemnation for the findings of a recent report from the Government Accountability Office, detailing federal subsidies for abortion coverage in the Affordable Care Act. Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-Ill.) co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Pro-Life Caucus said, "All of this is completely unacceptable." This report, which "makes absolutely clear that taxpayer funds are being used to pay for abortions," gives the lie to the president's pledge of an executive order that would halt abortion funding under the act. Obviously he, along with other congressional leaders, including the self-styled Catholic Nancy Pelosi, did not tell the truth about the law.

REVERSAL ON VATICAN REPORT PLEASES CONSERVATIVES. The head of the Polish Episcopate has welcomed the watered down final report of the Vatican's family synod, which dropped references to the "gifts" homosexuals can offer society.

Archbishop Stanislaw Gadecki, who attended the two-week assembly at the Vatican along with 200 other Roman Catholic bishops, said his vehement criticism of the initial draft document had been necessary so that the Church did not stray from its teaching.

Gadecki told Polish Radio that his critical views "expressed the sentiments of many fathers who were present at the synod."

He added that like-minded colleagues believed that the original text "put forward a thesis that seems to turn the Church's teaching upside down."

Gadecki argued that "without this [critical] voice, the final situation could have been a lot worse."

In the preliminary synod document, the Vatican stated that gays and lesbians have "gifts to offer" the Christian community and stressed that members of same-sex couples can give "precious support" to one another.

However, the final report removed these elements, as well as the section title "Welcoming Homosexuals," which was changed to "Pastoral care for Homosexuals."

VATICAN HELPS FUND AUSCHWITZ PRESERVATION. The Vatican joined 30 other states to help preserve the authentic remains of the former Nazi death camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau. The Vatican's modest sum of \$135,000 is part of the more than \$129 million raised so

far toward the \$162 million goal set by the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Museum.

STO LAT TO ... Sr. Marilyn Ann Dudek, CSSF, on her appointment as principal of Ss. Peter & Paul school in Hamburg, N.Y.. Sr. Marilyn has had 35 years of experience both in the classroom and in administration. She joined the Felicians in 1976 and began her ministry as a teacher at St. Josaphat School in 1976 ... **Mr. & Mrs. Francis E. Zagrobelny** who were honored by Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, N.Y., at the annual Curé of Ars Dinner. They received the Curé of Ars award in acknowledgement of their dedication of time and effort to help those in need, providing spiritual guidance, and having a track record of giving back to the seminary as well ... **Irena Sandler** (posthumously) and **Rabbi Joseph Potasnik**, executive vice president of the NY Board of Rabbis, on being honored by Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka, Consul General of the Republic of Poland, and the Polish Jewish Dialogue Committee with the Jan Karski Humanitarian Award.



FIFTY FOR REV. MAJKA. Rev. Canon Philip S. Majka (above), chaplain of Washington's Dulles International Airport, will observe the Golden Jubilee of his ordination, next May 3, at St. Mark's Church, Vienna, Virg.

Rev. Majka has been an active member of the Washington Metropolitan Area Division of the Polish American Congress from its start 40 years ago.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO... Holy Trinity School, Niagara Falls, N.Y., celebrating 100 years. The church, listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places, and the buildings on its grounds are now a 501c3 nonprofit organization run under the auspices of the Niagara Heritage of Hope and Service. The organization's effort is to



POLONIAN ARCHBISHOP CONFIRMS TWENTY. On October 5, at a standing room only Mass at Our Lady Queen of Poland Church in Washington, D.C., Archbishop of Miami Thomas Wenski confirmed twenty young Polish Americans. Wenski, who said the Mass and homily in Polish, came to the suburban Washington parish thanks to the efforts of Our Lady Queen of Poland's pastor, Fr. Jan Fiedurek, Sch. Polonian leaders, including the 103-year-old Władysław Zachariasiewicz, and Polish diplomats also participated in the Mass.

Our Lady Queen of Poland was established thanks to the efforts of St. John Paul II. The parish, the only church with regular Polish-language services in the Washington, D.C., area, is a key center for the growing Polish community in our nation's capital. This was Archbishop Wenski's first visit to the church.

Pictured above are Archbishop Wenski and Fr. Fiedurek, with the newly confirmed Polish Catholics.

maintain and restore the property of historic significance to the Polish community of Niagara Falls.

POLISH MASS IN CHARLOTTE. In honor of Our Lady of Częstochowa, the 3rd annual Polish Mass, hosted by St. Thomas Aquinas Church, was held in Charlotte, NC. Polish-born Fr. Matt Nycz, currently serving in the RC Diocese of Buffalo, celebrated the Mass and led the veneration of a relic of St. John Paul II after the Mass. Deacon James Witulski, a Buffalo native, and the knights of Columbus assisted at the Mass, which was organized by Deacon Witulski and his wife Mary. Polish foods were enjoyed after the Mass courtesy of the Charlotte Polonia and organized by Anna and Peter Mielcarek and their daughter Alex. The 4th Annual Diocesan Polish Mass is planned for August 23, 2015.

POLISH-BORN DEACON ORDAINED. Deacon Łukasz Kopala, born 34 years ago in Ropczyce in southeastern Poland, was ordained to the transitional diaconate for the Buffalo Diocese as he continues his seminary studies on the path toward priesthood. Sensing a vocation to the priesthood from high school, his vocation was fostered in a traditional Catholic family where all joined in prayer at meals and at the end of the day. Taking a break from his seminary studies in Sandomierz, Poland, he visited family in Hartford, Conn., where he learned of the need for priests in the United States and began seminary studies at Orchard Lake. While there he met Fr. Walter Szczesny, vocation director of the diocese of Buffalo, and assisted in various parishes in Buffalo during summers, all the while continuing his studies at Christ the King Seminary in the Buffalo diocese.

APOSTOLATE IN LAS VEGAS EXPANDS. St. John Paul II Polish RC Apostolate in Las Vegas has expanded to a second Polish Sunday Mass at a second parish staffed by the Society of Christ Fathers. Every Sunday there are two Polish Masses: 9:15 at St. Joan of Arc Church downtown and 1:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Las Vegas (3050 Alta Drive). The Polish Apostolate also has a Polish Saturday School and the "Pias" Polish Folk Dance Ensemble. The three priests from the Society of Christ who serve in Las Vegas are: Frs. Gerald Grupczynski, Wiesław Berydowicz, Richard Philiposki.

St. Josaphat's Reopens with Banner Support



IN GRATITUDE. A banner outside St. Josaphat's thanks all who donated to repairing its steeple, which was severely damaged last November.

DETROIT — Having attended Mass at St. Josaphat Church since its opening in 1889, the Wisniewski family had cause to celebrate when the historic Polish American Detroit church reopened its doors Sept. 13, following 10 months of closure due to a badly damaged steeple.

"My mom's mother grew up behind the church; I'm fourth generation," said Dean Wisniewski after the official reopening Mass at 5:30 that afternoon. The Mass, celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Francis R. Reiss, was attended by longtime parishioners and visitors alike.

"I'm so grateful; it's an answer to our prayers," said Dean Wisniewski's mother, Rita Wisniewski, who attended the Mass with her son.

St. Josaphat Church, one of three belonging to Mother of Divine Mercy Parish, was closed by the city of Detroit in late 2013 following a severe Nov. 17 windstorm, which had curved the 200-foot Gothic Revival structure.

Slate had been torn off by the powerful storm as well, and the steeple had become detached from its base, causing it to actually sway in the windstorm.

Kevin Piotrowski, president of Mother of Divine Mercy's parish council, told *The Michigan Catholic* in an interview the week before the reopening that the "structural integrity of the steeple was compromised."

"We had to move into an emergency phase to do something to ensure that the steeple would not fall or come down from the building," Piotrowski said.

The parish had "no idea even

what it would cost" to either remove the steeple and "cap" the roof, or, actually repair the steeple, Piotrowski explained; safety was the priority.

The parish began its "SOS — Save Our Steeples" initiative, hoping for donations and support from the community, without knowing how much insurance would cover the steeple repairs.

After the emergency work was done, "the next thing was to determine 'what are we going to do?'" said Piotrowski.

Requests for repair and restoration of the steeple, or the dismantling of the steeple were sent out in early January 2014, and by the end of the month, "there were six or seven different contractors who had submitted proposals for the work," said Piotrowski.

The church chose Detroit Cornice and Slate Company, Inc., which has been in business for about 125 years, and has done a lot of work for the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Today, the steeple is stronger today than the day it was built.

A final touch was repairing the cross at the top of the steeple. It's bright and shiny now, catching the eyes of all who see it while driving on I-75.

Piotrowski said the parish had received "almost \$100,000 from Save Our Steeples," but the parish continues to ask for support. Repairs are needed for Mother of Divine Mercy's two other churches, Sweetest Heart of Mary and St. Joseph, both in Detroit.

— Digested from a story by Elizabeth Wong Barnstead in *The Michigan Catholic*.

MODLITWY

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

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. With loving thanks, W.S.L.

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Baritone Mariusz Kwiecień Wows Chicago



Kwiecień in "Don Giovanni,"

Mariusz Kwiecień, Poland's superstar baritone, returned to the Lyric Opera of Chicago in the title role of Mozart's "Don Giovanni" on September 27. This was the opening of the Lyric Opera's 60th season. Between September 27 and October 29, 2014, Kwiecień joined internationally acclaimed artists in a new production of Mozart's *dramma giocoso* at Chicago's Civic Opera House. The new production was conducted by Sir Andrew Davis, Lyric's music director, and staged by the renowned Robert Falls, artistic director of Chicago's Goodman Theatre.

Before the *Don Giovanni* premier at the Civic Opera House, Kwiecień, the world's best *Don Giovanni*, and his fellow cast members sang the final scenes of *Don Giovanni* at the annual "Stars of Lyric Opera" free concert at Chicago's Millennium Park, Sept. 6, 2014.

In 2002, when he was 29-years-old, this Kraków native sang the title role of the unrepentant seducer in Tokyo with Saeiji Ozawa conducting. His Lyric Opera performances will be his 19th production of the Mozart opera, as he continues to discover new nuances about this complicated character.

Kwiecień debuted with and opened Chicago's Lyric Opera 2002-2003 season singing Silvio in a new production of Leoncavallo's *I Pagliacci*. He went on to sing the role of Dr. Malatesta in Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* with the Michigan Opera Theatre before making his 2003 debut with the Seattle Opera in that same role.

During an October 8 program at the Chicago Polish Consulate's Lake Shore Drive residence, the Polish Deputy Consul General hosted Anthony Freud, the Lyric's General Director, and Cayenne Harris, "Lyric Unlimited" Director. Harris introduced the evening's guests to the Lyric's world premiere of the klezmer opera, "The Property" by young Polish composer Wlad Manuhets. On Saturday, October 11, the Lyric Opera had its all-day radio marathon broadcast on WFMT 98.7 FM featuring live interviews with Kwiecień, Director Freud, and Deputy Consul Robert Rusiecki.

REMEMBER MARIA SIEMIONOW? She made international news on November 10, 2008, when she performed the first face transplant in the United States and led the multi-disciplinary group of six surgeons in the 22-hour surgery at the Cleveland Clinic Department of Plastic Surgery. Polish-born surgeon, **Maria Siemionow**, was the Director of Plastic Surgery Research and Head of Microsurgery Training at the clinic. She was also Professor of Surgery in the Department of Surgery at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner

College of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University.

In the spring of 2013, this pioneer surgeon accepted a professorship in orthopedic surgery at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). She specializes in the fields of tissue transplantation and nerve regeneration. As a reconstructive surgeon, hand surgeon and micro-surgeon, she specializes in the new field of reconstructive transplantation, such as face and hand transplants.

Educated in the Poland, Dr. Siemionow received her medical degree from Poznan Medical Academy in 1974, followed by a doctorate in microsurgery in 1985. She completed her hand surgery fellowship at the Christine Kleinert Institute for Hand and Micro Surgery in Louisville, Kentucky. From there she went on to become an associate professor of surgery at the University of Utah. She is multi-lingual, speaking five languages: Polish, Russian, German, English, and Spanish. Her son, Krzysztof Siemionow, is a spine surgeon at UIC, and her brother is a professor of anesthesiology in Poland.

Siemionow has received the Commander's Cross, Polonia Restituta, of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland. It was presented to her by Polish Ambassador Robert Kupiecki for her contributions to the development of microsurgery and transplantation medicine.

JEWS IN THE WARSAW UPRISING. October 2, 2014, marked the 70th anniversary of the end of the 63-day Warsaw Uprising of 1944. To commemorate this anniversary, Chicago's Polish Consulate and the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie, Illinois, presented Anna Ferens's documentary, "Jews in the Warsaw Rising 1944." This film recalls the valiant efforts of approximately 40,000 soldiers of the Polish Home Army (Armia Krajowa), many of whom were Jewish. The Warsaw Uprising was the largest single military effort by any European resistance movements during World War II. Some of the Polish soldiers of Home Army were later persecuted by the Soviet secret police, Narodny Komissariat Vnutrennikh Del (NKVD), and its communist security service, Urząd Bezpieczeństwa (UB), that was installed in Poland. But some fighters managed to escape the persecutions by emigrating to non-communist countries, including the United States.

Anna Ferens is an award-winning Polish documentary director,

screenwriter, and journalist, with degrees in from Warsaw University and the French Institute of Government in Warsaw. Some of her acclaimed films include *What Can Dead Prisoners Do?* (2010), *I Saw a Nation United* (2011), *The Art of Survival* (2012), *A Place To Stand* (2013).



(l. to r.): Dorothy Malachowski, pres., Rysia Skirucha, board member, Anna Krupka, pres., Junior Board

ART FOR HEART 2014. The Junior Board of the Gift from the Heart Foundation (**Dar Serca**), under chair, Anna Krupka, once again made the Art for Heart event a success for the fifth year in a row. Dar Serca joined The Polish Museum of America to present Art for Heart 2014. This year's benefit consisted of an Opening Gala on October 4th, then a Multi-Organizational Networking Evening on October 9th, followed by, something new this year, a Singles' Night on October 10.

The response from artists was so overwhelming that the jury had a difficult time selecting the 17 who would participate in this year's benefit. The event also brought together some of Chicago's talented Polish and Polish American artists to share their works, with a focus on bringing the community together to support two important Chicago not-for-profits.

At the exhibit opening, every guest had the opportunity to meet the artists: painters, jewelry designers, and photographers, and to view and purchase their works. The evening would not be complete without great music, and sampling great food and drink. The Multi-Organizational Networking Evening was supported by the Polish American Chamber of Commerce, the Chicago Business Club, and several other organizations. It was a great opportunity to expand networks of interesting people from many industries and organizations. Appetizers, music, and a cash bar, as well as an opportunity to purchase the beautiful works, completed the evening. The Singles' Night speaks for itself.

All original artwork and less expensive prints were available for sale. All proceeds will jointly benefit the Gift from the Heart Foundation (Dar Serca) and The Polish Museum of America.

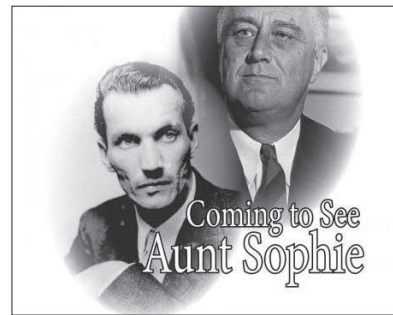
THE CHOPIN GARDEN BEGINS. On September 13, a perfect sunny summer day, almost 50 volunteers, with shovels, rakes, and other gardening equipment provided by the Chicago Park District, gathered near the intersection of Michigan Avenue and 11th Street at the future site of the **Chopin Garden** to symboli-

cally begin its creation. They came with containers of floral plantings and garden soil. The seven-year dream of the Chopin Foundation is becoming a reality. In true Polish tradition, Sava's Old Warsaw Restaurant provided Polish kanapes and fruits, while the music of Frederic Chopin was heard from speakers.

When the gardening and cleaning were completed, Wojciech Putz of the Chopin Foundation and Bob O'Neill of the Grant Park Conservancy gave short speeches about the history of the project and its future plan. The afternoon continued with live accordion, trumpet, and keyboard performances by the renowned Slawek Maciejczyk.

The cost of the garden is projected to be approximately \$1.5 million. The cost of casting the Chopin sculpture itself has a price tag of \$120,000. Those interested in learning more about the Chopin Garden project should visit www.chopinmonumentinchicago.com.

KARSKI AT CHOPIN THEATRE. *Coming to See Aunt Sophie*, an original new production dramatizing Jan Karski's historical mission during World War II, along with his lifelong agony over his perceived failure to compel the Allies to intervene on behalf of the doomed Jews of occupied Poland, completed a successful run at Indiana State University's Crossroads Repertory Theatre. *Coming to See Aunt Sophie* was presented at Chicago's Chopin Theatre at 2:00 p.m., September 20, and 6:00 p.m., September 21.



Coming to See Aunt Sophie poster.

The play has had a celebrated European run with productions in Mannheim, Germany and Łódź, Kielce, and Warsaw, Poland. In Warsaw, it was performed at the new Museum of the History of Polish Jews. It was brought to Poland as part of the celebration of the Year of Karski by the Polish History Museum under the sponsorship of Museum Director **Robert Kostro** and **Ewa Wierzyńska**, leader of the *Jan Karski, Unfinished Mission* educational and public awareness program.

Attending the play in Terre Haute, Indiana were **Wanda Urbanska**, president of the Jan Karski Educational Foundation, and **Bożena Nowicka McLees**, a board member. "Arthur Feinsod is a gifted playwright," commented McLees. "He has captured so beautifully the complex story, as well as the intensity of Polish patriotism that Karski and his peers felt at the outbreak of World War II."

Reviews indicated that the Indiana audience was mesmerized by what they saw on stage, with many in attendance having not heard of Karski or of the Polish underground's significant and heroic efforts on behalf of the Allies during the war. The Chicago audience was

overwhelmed by this production.

The play was presented in conjunction with the "Jan Karski Days in Chicago" conference at Loyola University Chicago. It focused on Jan Karski's legacy, concentrating on two major themes of his life that touch our world today: memory and responsibility. Loyola's Interdisciplinary Polish Studies Program and the Jan Karski Educational Foundation, along with the consulate general of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, sponsored the conference on September 19-21.

"*Coming to See Aunt Sophie*" is a tragic and heroic saga of the man who tried to stop the Holocaust. The title of the play refers to the code used by Polish underground courier Jan Karski in one of the most monumental missions of World War II: to inform Western European and American leaders, including President Roosevelt, about the Holocaust. As an emissary of the Polish Resistance, Karski carried classified and eyewitness accounts when he penetrated the Warsaw Ghetto disguised as a Jew and passed through a Nazi transit camp disguised as a guard. Tragically the Allies chose not to act on his report.

PULA TO DISCUSS THE KOSCIUSZKO SQUADRON. James S. Pula, professor of history at Purdue University, will speak on the famed Kosciuszko Squadron and its contributions in Europe during World War II, Sun., Nov. 9, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. at the Arlington Heights Memorial Library (Hendrickson Room), 500 N. Dunton Ave., Arlington Heights. The event is sponsored by the Polish Genealogical Society of America.

First founded by Americans volunteering to fly for Poland during the Russo-Polish War following World War I, the squadron later became a part of the Polish Air Force units guarding Warsaw in 1939. After the fall of Warsaw, the squadron was recreated in Great Britain where it was credited with the highest scoring record of any fighter squadron in the Battle of Britain. This presentation will trace the history of this famous unit to the end of World War II.

Pula has authored more than a dozen books and is the editor of *The Polish American Encyclopedia* and the academic journal *Polish American Studies*.

Those who cannot attend the meeting in person may want to consider its dual presentation on the internet. The library as well the webinar can accommodate up to 100 individuals and both are free.

Register at www.ahml.info/attend/events/all/2014-11. To register for the webinar, go to www.PGSA.org for instructions.

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POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES

Polish Cinema in the Spotlight

The Rochester Polish Film Festival will be broken up into two parts this year. Part One will screen Andrzej Wajda's "Czlowiek z Marmuru" ("Man of Marble") on November 1 and "Czlowiek z Zelaza" ("Man of Iron") on November 2 at the Little Theatre 5 in Downtown Rochester.

On November 5, the Rochester Polonia Community will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Creation of the Skalny Center for Polish and Central European Studies at the University of Rochester and the Grand Opening of the Rochester Polish Film Festival at The Inn on Broadway. Hon. Mateusz Stasiak, Deputy Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York, and Professor Andrzej Mania, Vice-Rector of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, will be in attendance at this celebration.

Part Two of the Rochester festival will run Nov. 6-10 at the Little Theatre 1, and include Wajda's "Walesa: Czlowiek z Nadziei" ("Walesa: Man of Hope"), Maciej Pieprzycza's "Chce Sie Zyc" ("Life Feels Good"), Roman Polanski's "Wenus w Futrze" ("Venus in Fur"), Anna Kazejak's "Obietnica" ("The Word"), Wojciech Smarzowski's "Pod Mocnym Aniolem" ("The Mighty Angel"), Pawel Pawlikowski's "Ida," and Jacek Bromski's "Bilet na Ksiezyc" ("One Way Ticket to the Moon"). Polish director Anna Kazejak, actress Agata Trzebuchowska and Michal Oleszczyk, Artistic Director of the Gdynia Film Festival, will be special guests of the festival. More information is available at www.rochester.edu/college/PSC/CPCES/.

Buffalo Film Seminars 29 will screen and discuss Roman Polanski's "Tess" at Dipson's Amherst Theatre, Nov. 4.

The 6th Annual Ekran Toronto Polish Film Festival will run Nov. 5-9 at the Revue Cinema on Ronces-

valles Avenue. This festival will feature Wladyslaw Pasikowski's "Jack Strong," a gripping Polish Cold War thriller based on the incredible true story of a chief military planner, Colonel Ryszard Kuklinski, who spied for the CIA. More information can be found at <http://ekran.ca>.

The Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College will host its **Annual Polish Film Festival** Nov. 11-17. This year's films will include Wajda's "Walesa: Czlowiek z Nadziei" ("Walesa Man of Hope"), Robert Gliniski's "Kamienie Na Szaniec" ("Stones for the Rampart"), Pieprzycza's "Chce Sie Zyc" ("Life Feels Good"), Pawlikowski's "Ida," Pasikowski's "Jack Strong" and two short animations.

KARSKI REMEMBERED. An exhibit honoring the life and efforts of Jan Karski, the Polish underground officer who presented his eyewitness testimony of the horrors of the Holocaust to the deaf ears of Allied leaders in 1943, entitled "The World Knew: Jan Karski's Mission for Humanity," opened October 9, and will continue until November 15 at the Downtown branch of the **Buffalo and Erie County Public Library**. The exhibit, which is sponsored locally by the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College and the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, was created by the Polish History Museum of Warsaw, in conjunction with the Jan Karski Educational Foundation, and sponsorship from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

In conjunction with the exhibit, the Permanent Chair presented a talk on Karski's recently reissued book "The Story of a Secret State" by Wanda Urbanska, Director of the Jan Karski Educational Foundation, on Oct. 18, and a screening of



WORKSHOP YIELDS FOCUS GROUP. On Sept. 27, 2014, several leaders from Western New York participated in a workshop "Breakthrough Polonia."

The workshop was facilitated by Dianna Derhak, J.D., MBA, founder of DNA International, a professional consulting organization that works with corporations, groups, and individuals.

The purpose of the workshop was to critically evaluate issues and opportunities in Polonia.

A result of the meeting was the formation of Polonia 2025, a group of community leaders that will meet on a regular basis to discuss WNY Polonia's future.

This event was organized and financially supported by Polish American Congress WNY Director, James L. Lawicki.

"The Labyrinth: The Testimony of Marian Kolodziej" on Oct. 25; and will present the film, "Irena Sender: In the Name of Their Mothers," on Nov. 9 at the library. Other local sponsors include the Polish Legacy Project, WNY Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation, Jewish Community Center, Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo and Daemen College.

POLONIA TIDBITS. Joe Bompczyk, guitarist for the new wave bands "The Enemies" and "The Restless"; David Musial, music producer and electronic music performer; and Jack Przybylski, jazz saxophonist with "Them Jazzbeards," were inducted into the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame, Oct. 2nd ... Peter Florczak, the general manager of the Buffalo Niagara Marriott, was named the 2014 Lodging General Manager of the Year at the

recent Travel & Tourism Beacon Awards luncheon ...

The Alden Christian Theatre Society presented Buffalo-born Tom Dudzick's play, "The Last Mass at St. Casimir's" Oct. 10-19 at the Beacon Theatre on Church Street in Alden ... The **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** screened "The Passenger: A Film about a World War II Concentration Camp" at its Oct. 15 meeting at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst. Prior to showing the film, Rzeszow native Tomasz Wdowik spoke about the story's author, Zofia Posmysz, who had been a prisoner at Auschwitz ... On Oct. 18, Rochester's Polonia Community marked the 95th anniversary of the **Polonia Civic Centre** with a Founders' Day Banquet and Ball at the St. Stanislaus Kostka Auditorium on Hudson Avenue, and Syracuse's **Polish Home** celebrated its 95th anniversary with a Mass at the

Sacred Heart Basilica and a banquet at its Park Avenue facility ... Buffalo State College presented a lecture entitled "Polish Americans Write to the Editor" by Dr. Anna Jaroszynska Kirchmann at the Butler Library, Oct. 19

UPCOMING. The WNY Division of the Polish American Congress will host its 1st Annual "Zupapalooza: Polish Soup Festival" at the Leonard Post in Cheektowaga, and students of Canisius College will host their second annual fundraiser for the orphanage in Zmiaca, Poland at Assumption Church in Buffalo's Black Rock neighborhood, Nov. 9 ... Also on the 9th, **Anna Maria Jopek** will perform in concert at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga ... **Julianna Bednarz** will speak on "Polish Poet: Wislawa Symborska" at the November 18th meeting of the Niagara Polish Cultural and Historical Society at the Niagara Falls Public Library ... Kosciuszko Foundation Teaching Fellow Dr. Piotr Derengowski will speak on "Poles in the American Civil War 1861-1865" at the November 19th meeting of the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo ... District IX of the Polish Singers Alliance of America will hold its "Annual Festival of Carols" at St. Stanislaus Church, the Mother Church of WNY's Polonia in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District, Dec. 7 ... The **Professional & Businessmen's Association** will hold its Christmas Party and Elections at Rizotto Ristorante in Williamsville, Dec. 8 ... The **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** will vote on bylaw changes at its Annual Meeting at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst, Dec. 10 ... The Polish Heritage Society of Rochester will hold its **Wigilia** in the Cleary Auditorium of St. John Fisher College, Dec. 13 ... Forgotten Buffalo will offer its "Polish Tavern Christmas" tour, Dec. 19 and 20 ... The Syracuse Polish Home's **Oplatek** is scheduled for Dec. 29 ... The **Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra** (BPO) is sponsoring an eight day VIP tour of Warsaw and Krakow with Maestro JoAnn Falletta and BPO First French Horn Jacek Muzyk during May of 2015.

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If you have an item for this column, please send the information by the 6th day of the month preceding publication month (i.e. November 6 for the December edition) to pietruska@verizon.net.

POLONIA PLACES / Greg Witul

The Moniuszko Social Club



THE MONIUSZKO SOCIAL CLUB as it appeared for much of the 20th century.

262 Lake Shore Drive East
Dunkirk, NY 14048
Status: Open

This has been a great year for the Poles of Dunkirk, New York as the Moniuszko Social Club celebrated its 100th birthday. To mark this wonderful occasion the Society has completely remodeled their clubhouse on the shores of Lake Erie inside and out. This accomplishment would have come as a great surprise to many of the founding members who nearly lost the organization shortly after it was formed.

The Moniuszko Social Club was born out of the men's choir at St. Hyacinth's Church after the church lost its music director Prof. Wlasysslaw Sorys. With the professor's departure to Niagara Falls, the choir decided to strike out on its own and on February 20, 1914 the Moni-

uszko Singing Circle was born. This group of men performed at every major function in Dunkirk's predominately Polish First and Fourth Wards, as well other locations around the city. Although popular, the organization struggled financially due to the small size of the group which never reached more than 20 members in the early years. By 1917 the group was in a sad state and the First Ward Falcons offered to incorporate the Choir into their society. A six month trial was agreed to, but in early 1918 the Moniuszkos voted 19 to 5 to stay separate.

This near death experience drove the club to expand and by August of 1920 they had enough members and money to buy their own club house. Located on Lake Shore Drive, not far from St. Hyacinth's Church, the Moniuszko Clubhouse was a build-

ing formerly owned by Leon Kittell. With members, money, and now a home the Moniuszkos incorporated May 16, 1921. The club continued to expand and in June of 1923 they built on to the building a new hall. With all the space the club held pinocle and pool tournaments as well as the Boy Scout Troop 8 Drum Corps, and members made up a basketball team and a baseball team for the organization. With stable membership and major expenditures, the Moniuszkos had a good head of financial steam when the Great Depression hit and was able to sail through the

turbulent time.

One hundred and seven members of the Society heard the call to serve in the Second World War and two made the ultimate sacrifice for God and country. Following the war, membership expanded and the Clubhouse was remodeled and added on to a number of times. The club also started sponsoring more athletic endeavors including Midget League Football and A League Softball teams. As a toast to their Polish heritage and namesake, the club holds a birthday party for Stanislaw Moniuszko on May 12.



FOUNDING MEMBERS of the club (standing, l. to r.): Frank L. Gestwicki, Stepiem A. Szymanowicz, Vincent J. Polowy, John J. Wojcinski, Valentine J. Gestwicki, Stanly F. Wojcinski, Joseph I. Andrzejewski; (seated) Frank J. Muszalski, and Alvin J. Domst.

THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



PAYING HOMAGE TO TADEUSZ KOSCIUSZKO. Wawel Castle, Krakow, May 23, 1976.

THE PONDERING POLE / Ed Poniewaz

There Was a Time...

I have written before about the importance of ethnic naming in a multi-national country like the United States. There is Germantown, Illinois; Dublin, Ohio; and New Prague, Minnesota. There is also Sandusky, Ohio and a Pulaski County in just about every state in the union. I like that and since we have a Warsaw in Missouri, I was curious about how it came to be named.

According to the official website of Warsaw, Missouri, it is believed the town was named Warsaw in honor of Tadeusz Kosciuszko, Revolutionary War hero and Polish patriot. They're not sure though. From the history section on the city website, "There is no written record of how the name "Warsaw" was chosen,

however, street names are mostly patriotic and it is believed that the name, which was the capital city of Poland, was chosen in honor of the Polish Patriot Kosciuszko."

Of course there is a story behind every story and so we wonder why this patriot was chosen when there were so many others available with all those cultural backgrounds more similar to the inhabitants of the area in which the city rests. Perhaps the person leading the search wanted something different or unique. Wouldn't you love to meet that guy?

From Warsaw, Missouri and across the state to the other side of the Mississippi lies Warsaw, Illinois. I bumped into this Warsaw while reading *American Crucifixion: The Murder of Joseph Smith and the Fate of the Mormon Church* by Alex Beam (Public Affairs, New York, 2014). This is a well-written book about a fascinating subject, and I recommend it. Warsaw was the downstream neighbor and competitor to Nauvoo, Illinois, the Joseph Smith newly created home of the Mormons after they had been chased out of Ohio and Missouri. The Warsawians kept a suspicious eye on the activities and beliefs of the Mormon contingent.

The people of Warsaw, Illinois — at that time more Westerners than Midwesterners — most likely kept a suspicious eye on the activities and beliefs of all of the people coming through, some staying and many others going north, west, or south. As queer as the Mormons were to them, the thought had to occur to all or some of them why their town was called Warsaw and not some English, Scottish, or Irish sounding name. At least one, John Hay (who would grow up to become Abraham Lincoln's personal secretary and later, Secretary of State), wondered why the name was changed from Fort Edwards and then Spunky Point said, "I lived at Spunky Point on the Mississippi river."

Hay later wrote:

"So named because some Indian rode by Fort Edwards on a spunky horse. This is a graphic and characteristic title of geographical significance, but some idiots just before I was born, who had read Miss Porter's novel "Thaddeus of Warsaw," thought Warsaw would be more genteel, so we are Nicodemussed [reduced by timidity] into nothingness for the rest of time.

"I hope every man who is engaged in this outrage is called Smith in heaven."

Reading this opinion on the validity and worth of the town's name I am vacillating between a good and bad impression. Though Hay felt distressed that the name Warsaw is common or boring, conversely and apparently there were some that held a high regard to the imagery and distinction of that place. In addition, my reaction was to wonder what the heck "Thaddeus of Warsaw" is all about. Overall, I was tickled with the idea of "Miss Porter" (Jane Porter the author of the book) thinking that the Warsaw of "Thaddeus of Warsaw" was a typical European enclave containing healthy amounts of "genteel" culture and society.

So in those days, Warsaw could be thought of as more sophisticated at least in Jane Porter's mind than any American city. Here is a brief description of "Thaddeus of Warsaw" from Wikipedia:

Thaddeus of Warsaw was an 1803 novel written by Jane Porter. It comprised four volumes and was

a groundbreaking work of historical fiction, "arguably the first English historical novel." The story was derived from eyewitness accounts of British soldiers and Polish refugees fleeing the failed revolts against the foreign occupation of Poland in the 1790s.

Porter wrote that her goal was "to exhibit so truly heroic and enduring a portrait of what every Christian man ought to be"; she felt obliged to look at the past and to Poland because such people were "extinct" within Britain in her time.

I have not read *Thaddeus of Warsaw*, but I did read some of the reviews of this book on Amazon, and I am further encouraged to get a copy. This one by "Song Sparrow," "... it'll really pull you around emotionally. It's a great story, great history and of course a lot of treachery and tragedy. I really enjoyed it," is enticing and similar to the others. If you read "Thaddeus of Warsaw," please share your thoughts about the book.

While it is refreshing that there is a lovely little river town called Warsaw, Missouri (a lovely little river town called Warsaw, Illinois, and a historical Gothic Romance novel called "Thaddeus of Warsaw," amongst other references), I don't think it is popular to name places or cities after famous European or worldly cities any longer. I am sure those unfamiliar with the Romantic notion of freedom-fighting 18th century Poles would find irony in naming a town "Warsaw" today. Perhaps we need to look abroad to find some virtues still present abroad that are missing from modern American culture. I wonder what Jane Porter would think?

POLISH OR NOT? Joe Kenda, star and inspiration for the television show *Homicide Hunter: Lt. Joe Kenda*. He's got to be Polish, because he looks just like one of my favorite Polish persons.



Dziękuję bardzo to Jack Dixon for the lead on Lyda Roberti. Said Jack, "Check out Lyda Roberti, Warsaw-born, Broadway and Hollywood star who tragically died at age 31 (1906 - 1938). YouTube has three clips of her singing with her comedic Polish accent. She has a magnetic personality and looks like a Polish Jean Harlow. Too bad she died at her blossoming career."

Fun and interesting gal. Please check her out.

Dziękuję bardzo also to all of the Lucerne County, Pennsylvanians that contacted me affirming that Polonia is very alive and well in this part of the country. About half the county emailed me so, yes, this is a predominantly Polish land. To Debbie, John, Ray, Sharon, and JC: "Na zdrowie," God bless, and keep up the great spirit I know you have!

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If you have a thought about this month's topic, have a question, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; email alinabrig@yahoo.com. Don't forget to visit The Pondering Pole blog, ponderingpole.blogspot.com.

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

POLAND AND WORLD WAR I / Martin Nowak

Trying to Win Over the Poles

In World War I the armies of Central Powers Germany and Austria-Hungary on one side and of Allied Power Russia on the other had within their ranks a total of about two million Polish soldiers. Also, the most important parts of the Eastern Front's battle lines ran through historic Polish territory occupied by millions of ethnic Poles. Therefore, it was imperative for both sides to try to win the hearts and minds of the Poles to insure their loyalty to the particular empire under which they lived, and to enthusiastically support the war effort. And to encourage Poles on the other side to turn against their regime.

To insure the cooperation of the Poles, during the war both the Central Powers and Russia dangled promises and proposals before them offering greater freedom and independence, couched in terms of an autonomous Poland, but one that would be not wholly independent.

In the late nineteenth century various groups of Poles had formed in Germany, Austria-Hungary and Russia — the regimes then occupying Polish lands — advocating for greater freedom, rights and even outright independence for the Polish people. By the eve of the First World War they had coalesced into two main groups, the National Democrats (ND) headed by Roman Dmowski, and the Polish Socialist Party (PPS) led by Józef Piłsudski.

Dmowski and the ND were conservative, devoutly Roman Catholic, favored a new Poland populated mainly by ethnic Poles, and thought that the best choice for Polish autonomy lay in an alliance with Russia. Piłsudski's PPS was socialist, anti-czarist and anti-Russian, and believed in complete independence for a new Poland, which would also include non-Polish ethnic groups in a federation. He was willing to use force to achieve that goal. Even before the war Piłsudski had raised a Polish private army of 10,000

men in Austria-Hungary with the understanding that it would fight alongside Austrian troops in case war should break out with Russia. In reality, Piłsudski had formed the core of an armed force whose real purpose was to liberate Poland.

Though the ND and the PPS differed philosophically they together

refused to take an oath of allegiance to it. His army, which then constituted as many as 20,000 Poles and had seen some action in the war against Russia, was disbanded by the Central Powers and he was imprisoned in Germany in 1917.

Meanwhile, Roman Dmowski

had spent many months early in the war in St. Petersburg lobbying the Russians for a resolution on the status of Poland, but he grew disillusioned and frustrated as the czar refused to make any meaningful strides toward Polish autonomy. From late 1915 he spent much of the war years in Western Europe trying to enlist the support of the French and British governments for an independent Poland, much as the great Polish pianist Ignacy Jan Paderewski was doing in America.

In summary, both the Central Powers and Russia sought to win over the Polish people to their side in the war by making concessions to them, laying before them promises of freedom, expanded rights and autonomy. But these fell far short of outright Polish independence, which was the ultimate goal of the Poles. And the Poles were savvy enough to realize that those offers were being made only to get their support during the war and were not truly sincere.

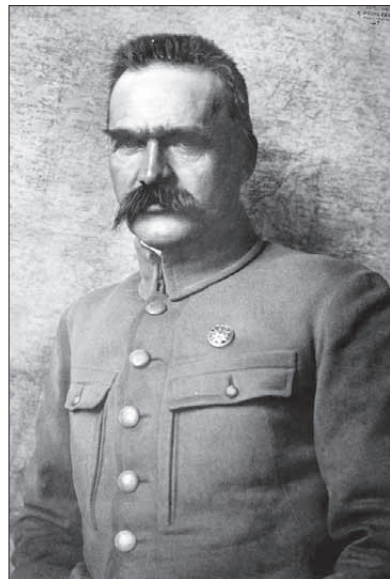
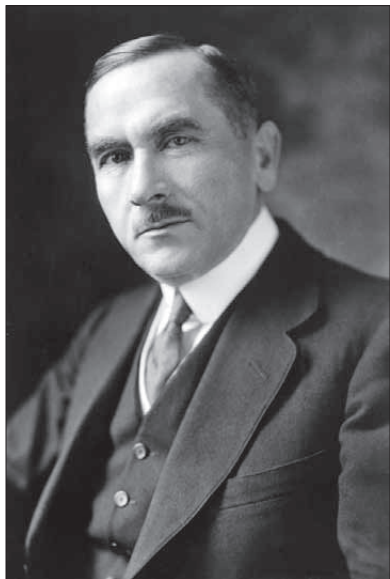
On the other hand, the Germans, Austrians and Russians no doubt had to be careful that the Poles, whose support was crucial, would not manipulate them, playing one side off against the other in some form of political chess game to gain an advantage either for themselves or the enemy. That the whole game was a sea of distrust is no overstatement.

constituted a potent lobbying force that influenced the attitudes of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Russia toward the Polish people during the war.

Already on August 16, 1914, soon after war had broken out, Russia's Grand Duke Nicholas issued a proclamation encouraging Poles of whatever state to support Russia with the promise of a free, united Poland, with religious and cultural freedom and use of the Polish language — but under the rule of the czar. Though the Central Powers also sought Polish support, no formal declaration of promises came until November 5, 1916, although some concessions had been made earlier to gain Polish support.

In the joint proclamation by Germany and Austria-Hungary, they actually formed a "Kingdom of Poland" only out of Polish territory taken from Russia (the Congress Kingdom), which was to be only semi-independent and under their "protection." A Council of State would make up the ruling body pending appointment of a monarch.

But Józef Piłsudski, seeing the proclamation as a false promise with no chance for a real indepen-



Dmowski (left) and the ND were conservative, devoutly Roman Catholic, favored a new Poland populated mainly by ethnic Poles, and thought that the best choice for Polish autonomy lay in an alliance with Russia. Piłsudski (right) and his PPS was socialist, anti-czarist and anti-Russian, and believed in complete independence for a new Poland, which would also include non-Polish ethnic groups in a federation.

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Gala Event Marks 40th Anniversary The Great Pułaski Hoax



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI
Victoria T. Leshinskie (l.), current president of the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland, is pictured with U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski and MC Thomas Hollowack, after member Sen. Mikulski delivered the keynote address at the celebratory dinner, Sept. 21, 2014.

by Richard Poremski

BALTIMORE — The Polish Heritage Association of Maryland, Inc. (PHA) was founded September 26, 1974. The ongoing mission of its present 150 members is to celebrate, promote and preserve Polish culture, history and heritage through its various programs and events, sometimes in cooperation with other various organizations and people. PHA has conducted a very successful annual scholarship program that to date has awarded \$350,000 to students of Polish lineage in Maryland.

Included in her address to the attending membership and guests, PHA President Victoria Leshinskie said that “an organization is only as good as its members ... we have lost many members lately due to age ... and today we will honor lifelong member Stanisława “Stella” Dernoga Hazard, an accomplished artist, who will be a spry 99 years young on November 2.” Mrs. Hazard, encircled by family members, was moved when presented with a bouquet of red-tinged white roses and serenaded with the singing of “Sto lat” by everyone present.

MC Thomas Hollowack introduced member Sen. Barbara Mikulski as the guest speaker. The

senator promptly proceeded to captivate the audience with her engaging oratory. She expressed her pride in PHA and noted its many storied accomplishments in regards to promoting and preserving Polish culture, heritage and history, saying that, “for 40 years it’s been keeping alive the Polish spirit and traditions, and providing many scholarships to help young people aspire to higher education.” Mikulski was rewarded with a standing ovation.

Baltimore’s own Polish folk dance group Ojczyzna capped off the Polish-themed banquet with an amazing display of dances from various regions of Poland, with the appropriate custom changes, much to the delight and acclaim of the audience.

The afternoon’s gala was a most fitting tribute to the quite active 40 years of the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland, Inc. – 40 years of making Polonia and others very proud of it.

“Sto Lat dla Stowarzyszenia Polskiego Dziedzictwa w Maryland!”

“One Hundred Years to the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland!”

by James S. Pula

Editor’s note: The debate over the remains of Polish-American Revolutionary War hero Gen. Casimir Pulaski — whether buried at sea or on land — continues. In this piece by historian James Pula of Purdue University, the author explains his argument against Pulaski’s temporary interment at Greenwich Plantation (today Greenwich Cemetery) in Georgia, following injuries received at the Battle of Savannah, and why he believes Pulaski was buried at sea.

Over the past two decades we have heard much speculation and not a little amount of outright assertion that the bones buried in the Pulaski Monument in Savannah, Georgia, are those of the famous general. It is time for a reality check.

There were several witnesses to the events surrounding Pułaski’s death. Capt. Paul Bentalou, on officer in the Pułaski Legion who was wounded along with the general, wrote that gangrene developed in Pułaski’s wound while on a ship headed for Charleston and his remains were “consign[ed] to a watery grave.” This was confirmed by Col. Daniel Horry who reported that Pułaski was “put on board an armed Vessel bound for Chtn. So. Carola, died at Sea and was thrown over board.” *The South-Carolina And American General Gazette* [Charleston, S.C.] informed readers that “The gallant Count Pulaski died at sea, on his return from Georgia.” Both Dr. James Lynah, who treated Pułaski, and the French officer Meyronnet de Saint-Marc reported that the general had been

placed aboard a ship bound for Charleston. Despite all of this eyewitness testimony, three-quarters of a century later William Parker Bowen claimed Pułaski was buried on a plantation previously owned by his family. No solid evidence of any kind was presented to substantiate this other than Bowen’s assertion of vague “oral traditions” in his family.

When the Pułaski Monument began undergoing renovations in the 1990s the question again surfaced. Some supporters of the “burial on land” claim point to a letter from Samuel Bulfinch, master of the brigantine *Wasp* on which Pułaski was transported, as proving the burial on land. The pertinent part read: “I took on board the Americans that was sent down one of which died this day and I have brought him ashore and buried him.” Of course, nowhere does Bulfinch identify the deceased as Pułaski. One would think that the death of such a prominent person would not go unrecognized when the captain of the vessel on which he died wrote to Pułaski’s American commanding officer. And the date specified in the letter was four days after the generally accepted date of the general’s death.

AS EVIDENCE that the unknown person who died aboard the *Wasp* was Pułaski, supporters point to a pension application from Martha Phillips which claimed that her husband, Eleazar, had constructed a casket for Pułaski. However, a review of the pension file reveals other interesting information that is conveniently ignored by those who argue for the “burial on land.” First,

the actual pension application states that “the gallant Pulaski being wounded at Savannah in October 1779 ... was put on board said Brig where he died, and was buried in the Ocean between North and South Edisto.” Further, a supporting letter in the file notes that Eleazar Phillips “was in service in the Brig *Wasp* at the Siege of Savannah, when the *Wasp* was ordered to proceed to Charlestown with the wounded general Count Casimer Polaski (sic).” If the *Wasp* was ordered to take Pułaski to Charleston, then clearly he was not buried at Greenwich Plantation near Savannah. But there is more. The same letter confirms that “Phillips was a cabinet maker and made a casket for Count Polaski’s body,” the statement the burial on land supporters cite as evidence. They fail to reveal that the same statement continues on to explain that this was done “when it was thought that his body might be brought to Charlestown after [h]is death on board the *Wasp* ... However, it seems that a storm prevented the Brig from arriving at Charlestown on scheduled time and Count Polaski was buried at sea” [the underlining was in the original]. While the burial on land supporters trumpet the finding that Phillips made a coffin for Pułaski, they conveniently ignore the other evidence that clearly supports Bentalou’s original claim that the general was buried at sea.



Detail of a painting of the *Wasp* following a mid-September 1778 encounter with South Carolina Privateer Ship *General Moultrie*. Modern painting by Mark Myers.

The committee formed to identify the remains in Savannah arranged to have DNA tests conducted, but the results did not match Pułaski’s known relatives — at best it could be said the results were “inconclusive.” Left with no evidence at all, the supporters of the land burial claimed that the height of the bones matched Pułaski — but they could also match any one of the other average three million Americans during the Revolution. Likewise, the argument has been made that the bones showed evidence of wear consistent with “life in the saddle.” Yet, this might also be typical of a wide swath of the population since the only means of land locomotion at the time were human feet, riding in a carriage, or riding a horse. Supporters of the land theory note that the skeleton had suffered a broken hand and Pułaski was known to have had such an injury; yet, this could also apply to any number of people. Further, two forensic anthropologists both noted that the bones had characteristics including the pelvic structure, lack of brow ridges, and small mastoid processes that were, in the words of one, “typically female in appearance.”

In the end, the final report of the investigation committee could only claim that because of a lack of reliable DNA evidence the identification of the bones as Pułaski could not be ruled out; they might also have said they could not be confirmed either. So, in the end, what we are left with is the original eyewitness account of Capt. Paul Bentalou, and several contemporaneous supporting observations, that recorded in a matter-of-fact manner the way in which the general was wounded, died, and was buried at sea. In the poetic words that Charles C. Jones wrote a century and a quarter ago, Pułaski “sleeps where the ebbing tide of the Savannah meets and comingles with the waters of the broad Atlantic.”

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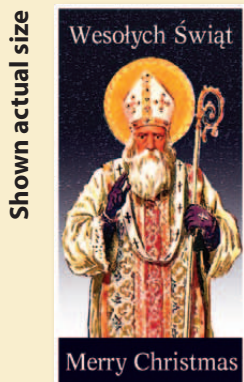


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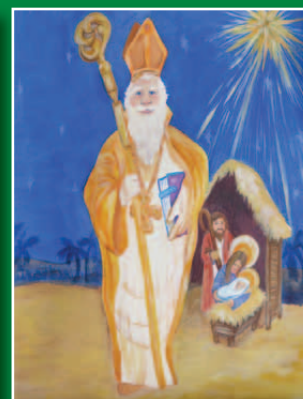
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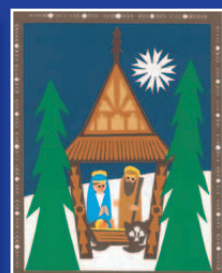
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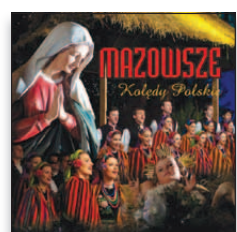
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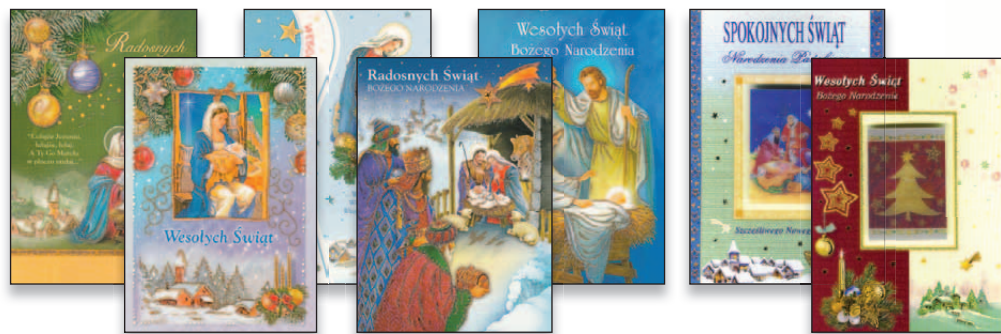


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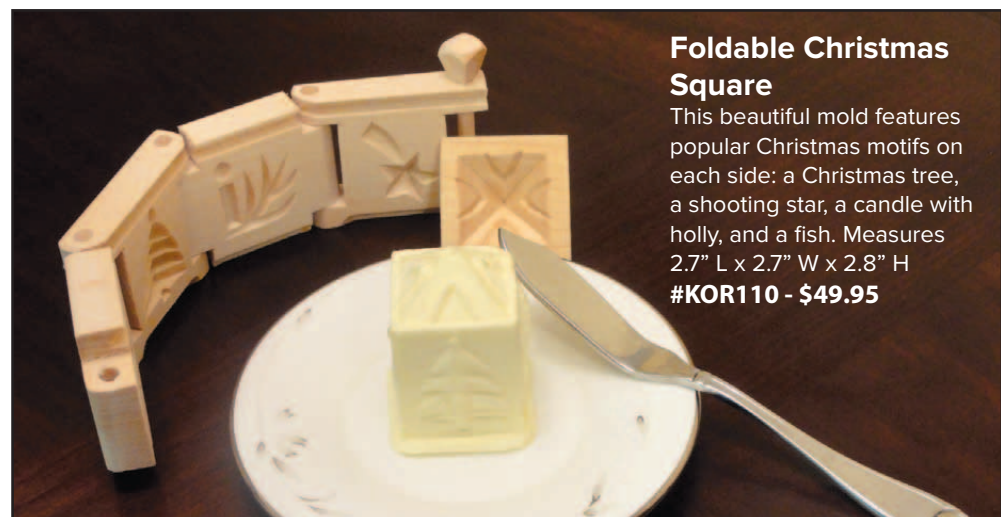
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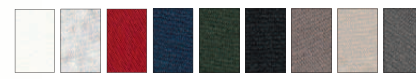
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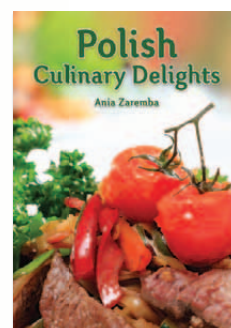
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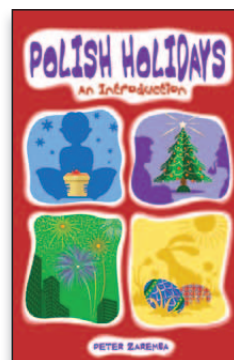
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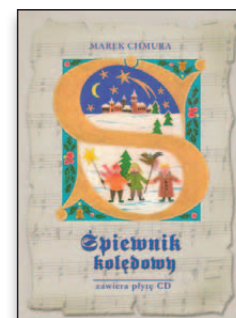
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The first complete, hard cover collection of Polish cookery in the English language published in the United States. Researched from old Polish cookbooks and recipes collected from the best Polish American cooks, it also contains stories of Polish festivities and customs such as Christmas Eve wigilia, Harvest Festival dożynki and the foods to celebrate them. Perfect for home cooks or to give as a special gift.

POLISH CLASSIC DESSERTS
\$16.95

By Laura and Peter Zeranski 2013. 96 pp. 8½ x 8½. Index. 100 color photos

Organized by type and with titles in both Polish and English. From mazurkas and babas to pastries and beverages, these recipes are designed for the modern kitchen but retain their traditional roots. Each of the forty-five desserts are tested to perfection and paired with mouthwatering photographs and notes on Polish history and customs.

POLISH CLASSIC RECIPES
\$16.95

by Laura and Peter Zeranski 2011, 96 pp., h.c., index, 100 color photographs by Matthew Aron Roth

Designed for the modern kitchen yet retaining traditional roots, each heritage recipe in *Polish Classic Recipes* has been tested to perfection. Accompanied by notes on Polish holiday customs, history, and menu pairing suggestions, these dishes offer a flavorful sample of the Polish dining experience, as passed down from generation to generation.

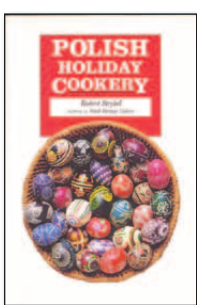
GIFT PACK 12 FAVORITE GLOSS-COAT POLISH RECIPE CARDS
\$5.00. by Polanie Publishing.



The most popular and treasured recipes, including Cabbage Rolls, Turkey Cutlets with Mushroom Sauce, Baked Apples in Red Wine and more. Handy for your recipe box— perfect as party favors or hostess gifts!

POLISH HOLIDAY COOKERY
\$24.95

by Robert Strybel
248 pp., hc. Hippocrene Bks.



Polish Holiday Cookery acquaints readers with traditional Polish foods associated with various occasions and furnishes countless cooking tips and serving suggestions. This "instruction manual for the culturally aware Polish American" offers more than 400 recipes, along with a lexicon of basic foods and culinary concepts, ingredients and procedures, and sample menus. The clearly-written recipes facilitate the preparation of the dishes and their incorporation in the Polish American mainstream culture.

Polish Holiday Cookery covers holidays such as Christmas and Easter, as well as celebrations year-round. Ideas for banquets, picnics, dinners, and family favorites abound throughout, ensuring that cooks have a selection of dishes for any occasion.

THE POLISH COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK
\$16.95. by Sophie Knab.
337 pp., pb., Ill.

This popular cookbook by beloved Polish American author Sophie Hodorowicz Knab is now updated with a new section on Polish Feasts and Festivals! Knab combines recipes for favorite Pol-

ish foods with the history and cultural traditions that created them. Arranged according to the cycle of seasons, this cookbook explores life in the Polish countryside through the year, giving readers priceless historical information to common questions asked by descendants of Polish immigrants. Lovely illustrations by Elliott Hutten and pearls of practical wisdom from the old Polish kitchen marvelously complement this book. This title includes over 100 easy-to-follow recipes, and a detailed bibliography and resource guide.

POLISH PIEROGI: From the Old Country to the Old Neighborhood
\$10.00 by Eva Gerwecki, 48 pp., sc.

A collection of "secret" recipes, tips, and more for not only fillings and toppings, but a variety of dough recipes as well. Over 150 recipes with regional variations, from California to New York!

THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD POLISH COOKBOOK:

Hamtramck, Detroit and Beyond — \$10.00 by Elna Lavine, 44 pp., sc.

96 recipes from the famed Polonia of Detroit. Breakfast, lunch, dinner pastries, pierogi, kluski, cream chipped beef, soups, desserts and more.

POLISH GIRL COOKBOOK
\$10.00 by Eva Gerwecki, 44 pp., sc.

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

POLISH RESTAURANT COOKBOOK \$10.00

by Jonathan Becklar, 44 pp., sc.

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

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WHO STOLE THE KISZKA? 2-201

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I LOVE PIEROGI 2-210

TOWELS NOT SHOWN:

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• I Love Paczki

• I Love Polish Music

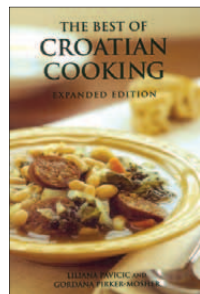


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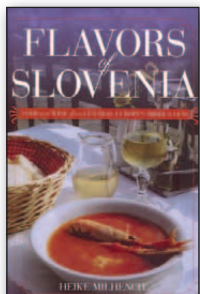
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Top of "I Love Czarnina" towel features yellow duckies.

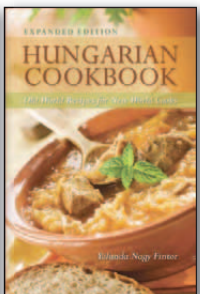
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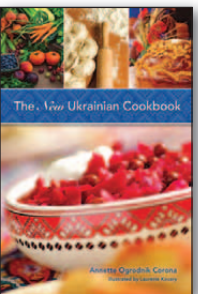
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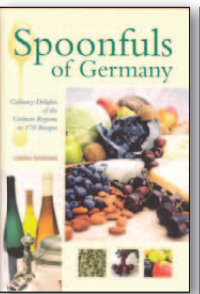
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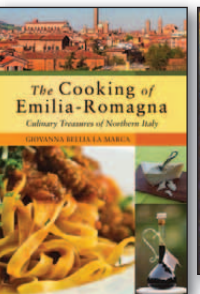
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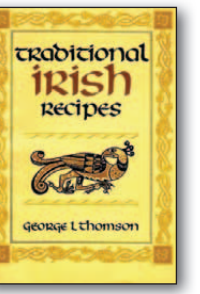
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Enriching Christmas with Heritage?

continued from cover

Pole nor an advertising gimmick thought up by the Coca-Cola Co. but a symbol of anonymous altruism, especially towards those in need. And, Święty Mikołaj does not hog the holiday limelight but comes mainly on his feastday (Dec. 6) and keeps Christ in Christmas. Learn how to go about it at: www.stnicholascenter.org.

THE GOOD-DEED GAME is another way of reminding youngsters that Christmas should mean being kind to others rather than being pre-occupied with “getting presents”. In the “hay of good deeds” (sianko dobrych uczynków), a youngster places one blade of hay in the manger each time during Advent he does something good (says his prayers, cleans his room, helps someone, gives something to a needy person, etc.). The more blades of hay in the manger, the softer will be Baby Jesus’ bed.

WHEN SENDING CHRISTMAS WISHES in traditional printed greeting cards or via email, be sure to add a Polish personal touch by penning in a few words of your own such as: “Życzymy Wam radosnych Świąt i obfitych łask Bożych w Nowym 2015 Roku.” To mailed greetings add a piece of opłatek, breaking off and eating a corner of it before sealing the envelope.

INTRODUCE YOUR FAMILY or community group to traditions (customs, foods, crafts, lore, etc.) you may have heard of, read about or seen practiced by others. You can read up on them in such books as Father Czesław Krysa’s *A Polish Christmas Eve, Treasured Polish Christmas Customs, Christmas in Poland and Polish Customs, Traditions and Folklore*. Or Google Polish Christmas or Christmas in Poland.

GIFTS OF CULTURAL HERITAGE could be a good way of getting out of the stereotypical gift-giving rut. Depending on your recipient’s interests and tastes, there are many different things that can remind him or her of their Polish ancestral legacy: books, recordings, folkcraft items, amber jewelry, crystalware, wycinanki, wall-hangings and even a bottle (Wyborowa, Sobieski or Chopin vodka, Polish honey wine, fruit cordials, etc.).

A POLISH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR or fair (Polski Kiermasz Świąteczny or Jarmark Gwiazdkowy) is both a good fund-raiser and an excellent way of promoting our heritage. Items should include: opłatek, hay, traditional decorations, kolędy (recordings, notes), Polish books and assorted gifts. Check with the following on what goods and quantity

discounts are available:

- Polish American Journal Bookstore, P.O. Box 271, North Boston, NY 14110-0271; (800) 422-1275; info@polamjournal.com; www.polamjournal.com.
- PolArt, www.polandbymail.com

THE 10 BEST-KNOWN POLISH KOLĘDY (carols) are probably “Wśród nocnej ciszy,” “Dzisiaj w Betlejem,” “Pójdźmy wszyscy do stajenki,” “Gdy się Chrystus rodzi,” “W żłobie leży,” “Śliczna Panienska,” “Bóg się rodzi,” “Anioł pastierzom mówił,” “Lulajże, Jezuniu” and “Mędrcy świata.”

FAMILY OR CLUB CRAFT PROJECTS that involve making a Christmas crib, caroling star, traditional tree ornaments (fashioned from paper, straw, opłatek, egg-shells, feathers, pine cones, etc.) or wycinanki (paper cuttings) may be a better alternative to staying glued to the TV or computer screen and buying all your decorations in a store. (Some Christmas crafts are described in the above-mentioned books.)

THE CHRISTMAS TREE AND CRIB are typical holiday decorations found in most PolAm homes. Although many PolAms feel pressured by the advertising establishment into rushing things, maybe this year you could opt for the traditional way and set up your Christmas tree and nativity set early on Christmas eve itself. Those that set Christmas things up right after Thanksgiving are usually sick of them by December 26th.

A POLISH CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION could encompass every imaginable facet of our holiday heritage. This time of year clubs, community groups, schools and individual teachers are on the look-out for those who can give interesting Yule-related talks or demonstrate Christmas crafts, food preparation and various customs. Look around and you may find such opportunities in your community. Let’s share our beautiful Christmas heritage with others!

TYPICAL WIGILIA FOODS include: barszcz czerwony z uszkami (clear beetroot soup with tiny, ear-shaped mushroom-filled dumplings), zupa grzybowa z łazankami (mushroom soup with noodle squares), śledź w oleju lub w śmietanie (herring in oil or sour cream), ryba smażona (floured, breaded or battered fish fried in oil), pierogi z kapustą i grzybami (dumplings filled with sauerkraut & mushrooms), kapusta z grzybami, grochem lub łazankami (sauerkraut with mushrooms, whole yellow dried peas or noodles), kluski z

makiem (noodles with poppyseeds), kutia (cooked wheat with honey and poppyseed), ryż z jabłkami (rice & apple casserole), racuszki z konfiturami (buckwheat pancakes with preserves) and kompot z suszu (stewed dried fruit).

THE OPLATEK-DINNER — also called Vigil Supper, Wigila or Polish Christmas Eve Party — is a Polonian community get-together usually held in a hall a week or so before Christmas Eve. This is a good way to introduce the uninitiated to our beautiful Wigilia heritage, especially if the organizers make an effort to do things up right in accordance with tradition. The event may also include a Polish Christmas pageant (jaselka, herody, kolędnicy) and/or a Christmas bazaar.

WIGILIA SUPPER FOR THE NEEDY, widely held throughout today’s Poland, is a practice our Polonia might do well to emulate. Unlike the typical opłatek-dinner, attended for cultural self-enrichment by those who can afford it, Christmas Eve suppers for the needy are for the poor, homeless, orphaned and lonely — all those deprived of family warmth at Christmas time. Food donated by parishioners, club members and local merchants plus volunteer labor to put it all together could turn this project into a beautiful act of Christmas sharing.

EXPLAINING WHAT IT’S ALL ABOUT is important at Polish-style Christmas festivities, since those of non-Polish background often marry into Polonian families, and those versed in their Polish heritage often mingle with PolAms who have drifted away. At organized Polish community events, the officiating clergyman or emcee should briefly describe the customs, symbols and foods or a printed program can be used for that purpose.

HAY IS SCATTERED BENEATH the table-cloth for Wigilia supper in memory of the Christ Child’s humble birth. If hay is not available at your parish or Polish import or specialty shop, try a local feed store. They might not even charge you for a handful of hay, and that’s all you really need. City-dwelling PolAms have been known to dry some grass clippings near a heating duct to produce their own hay.

REVIVE SOME CHRISTMAS traditions your immigrant ancestors may have once upheld but which over the years have fallen by the wayside. Take time to look up the oldest living ancestor — a great-grandparent, aunt or other elderly family member who may recall what things were like way back when. And, if you don’t ordinarily do so, invite that person to your Christmas

celebration.

A CHRISTMAS FOOD AND BAKE SALE

(*targ przysmaków świątecznych*) is an excellent way of making available the Wigilia and post-Wigilia Christmas foods most PolAms love but may find too involved and time-consuming to prepare. These are usually prepared by volunteers who donate their time and sometimes the fixings as well. Polish foods are

also available from professionals companies such as Polana, Inc. — soups, pierogi, gołąbki, sausage, traditional cakes such as makowiec, piernik & sernik delivered to your doorstep; phone: (773) 545-4900 or (888) POLANA-1; www.polana.com

A POLISH CHRISTMAS PRESENCE need not exclusively mean organizing a major All-Polish event from scratch. You and your friends might also consider setting up a Polish booth or renting a table at one of the many Christmas bazaars, craft fairs, bake sales or other events held in community centers, malls and various churches. Such items as imported Polish tree ornaments, wycinanki, amber and wood carvings not to mention Polish food and baked goods may well turn your stand into one of the event’s major attractions.

KOLĘDY AT THE MALL, IN THE TOWN SQUARE, at the community center, school, nursing home, etc. is a good way to share to beauty of Polish carols with the community at large. Where you perform, the size of your group, whether you go in street dress, choir gowns or in the attire of traditional Polish kolędnicy (star-bearer, King Herod, death, devil, etc.) depends on the availability of costumes and existing local conditions.

SHARE POLISH CHRISTMAS LORE with your family and community. It was once believed that on Christmas Eve animals could speak and the water in wells turned into wine at the stroke of midnight. It was considered bad luck if the first outsider to enter someone’s home on the morning of Christmas Eve was a female. The odd person (7th, 13th, etc.) joining the Wigilia supper was not expected to live to see another Christmas. Strands of hay from under the table-cloth were believed to foretell a girl’s marriage prospects.



The opłatek or Christmas wafer is probably the single most important Polish ritual artifact of the season. In the family circle it is broken and shared at Christmas Eve supper. Opłatek is also the name of a community get-together featuring the wafer-sharing tradition plus refreshments, kolędy signing or a more extensive Christmas program. Opłatek is available at Polish parishes. If there isn’t one in your area, contact the PAJ Bookstore, which has grown into one of the largest sellers of opłatki in the country — www.polamjournal.com or (800) 422-1275.

ON ST. STEPHEN’S DAY (Dec. 26), the second day of Christmas, worshipers in the countryside would throw oats at each other and at the priest as a sign of well-wishing; the custom originated to commemorate the first Christian martyr who was stoned to death for his faith.

ST. JOHN’S DAY (DEC. 27), traditionally the third day of Christmas, is the day priests bless wine in church. This might be a good occasion to hold a Polish wine-tasting party with refreshments, community caroling and other attractions. If a clergyman is present, he should first bless the wine and explain the origin of the custom: Enemies once served St. John the Apostle poisoned wine, but after he blessed it, he could drink it unharmed.

AT YOUR BAL SYLWESTROWY (New Year’s Eve ball), in addition to Auld Lang Syne be sure to sing “Jak szybko mijają chwile” when you ring in 2015. When the orchestra takes a break, it might be a good time to demonstrate the fortune-telling games that were once an important part of New Year festivities or perhaps have a group of traditional kolędnicy on hand to entertain the revelers.

KEEP YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE and manger up at least till January 6, the Feast of the Three Kings and be sure to inscribe your doorway with blessed chalk on that day: K + M + B 2015.

Whichever of the above ways you decide on, let’s hope 2014-2015 Christmas-New Year’s season is the time you add at least one genuine Polish tradition to your family and/or community holiday scene.

TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zatkiewicz-Dramczyk

Toledo’s Kielbasa Cook-Off

“Celebrate Polish Heritage ... Eat Kielbasa” was the theme of the 2014 Kielbasa Cook-Off sponsored by the Polish-American Community of Toledo. This year’s cook-off was held at St. Clement Parish Hall in West Toledo, Oct. 4. Having never ventured out to this particular event, I made my way over right around 4:00 p.m. — about an hour before the winners were announced.

How exactly does a kielbasa cook-off work? PACT advertises for amateur kielbasa makers to

enter authentic family recipes. Each contestant — and there were a total of seven this year — brings his or her roaster full of kielbasa for the audience to sample. A purchase of tickets is then used to buy samples of kielbasa from any of the vendors. Voting is done by paper ballot and three winners are chosen.

The first place winner this year was Polish Village Kielbasa; the second place winner was Polska Pryba (my personal favorite, as the sausage had a definite beer flavor), and the third place winner

was Dziadzia Busia Old-Fashion Recipe.

As I wandered around and sampled (more than once) from each of the vendors, I made the acquaintance of two contestants, Gene Nowak and Ron Pryba. Both gentlemen talked about growing up with strong Polish cooking traditions and hence their experience with making home-made sausage. Most of the sausage makers had turned this into a family event, with spouses, sons, daughters, in-laws, and

grandchildren joining in the fun. The camaraderie was enhanced by each team sporting a name and an identifying t-shirt “uniform” that added to the over-all festive nature in the hall.

In addition to the sausage vendors selling, PACT sold many Polish side dishes, desserts, and drinks. The addition of a silent auction for Polish American items plus 50/50 raffles made a success out of the 2014 Kielbasa Cook-Off.

Here’s to many more! Smaczno!

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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Pole Dancing in the End Zone

There have been many great Polish American players throughout the history of pro football, but September 22, 2014 probably marked a first; on that day, all the points in an NFL game were scored by Polish Americans.

In the game between New England and Oakland played in Foxboro, the men who scored were named **Gronkowski**, **Gostkowski** and **Janikowski**.

The Patriots scored on a six-yard TD pass to tight end Rob Gronkowski and three field goals (21, 20 and 36 yards) and one extra point by kicker Stephen Gostkowski. The Raiders' points came from field goals of 49, 37, 47 by Polish-born kicker Sebastian Janikowski. Gronkowski was still working his way back from a serious knee injury, but the Patriots called time out to get him in the game for the third down play on which he scored.

Tom Brady, the quarterback who threw that pass to Gronk, is part Polish as well. According to the website ethnicelebs.com, **Tom Brady's** maternal grandmother was of Polish descent, making Tom a quarter Polish. Bernice Theresa Obitz, was the daughter of Charles John Obitz and Anna Stish. Charles was the son of William Obitz and Maria Ulik; Anna was the daughter of Peter Stish and Katarzyna Anastasia Koslicki.

Brady's mother is also Swedish and Norwegian, and his father is Irish.

MARCOL'S MIRACLE. Green Bay kicker **Chester Marcol** didn't score

all of the points in a memorable 1980 opening day game against the rival Chicago Bears — just all of the Packers' points.

The native of Opole, Poland was one of the influx of foreign-born soccer-style kickers in the NFL at the time. He had begun his ninth season with the season opener against Chicago at Lambeau Field. The game went into overtime tied, 6-6, after Marcol and the Bears' Bob Thomas each kicked two field goals. The Packers drove down the field, and Marcol came in to try a game-winning field goal. The snap and hold were good, but Chicago's Alan Page broke through the line and blocked Marcol's kick. The ball bounced straight to Marcol, who grabbed it in mid-air and ran untouched into the end zone for the game-winning touchdown. Green Bay had a 12-6 win, and Marcol had all 12 of the Packers' points.

Marcol, selected in the second round of the 1972 draft, scored 128 points in his rookie year, leading the league in scoring, and was named NFC Rookie of the Year and All-Pro. Over his career he scored 525 points — including one memorable touchdown.

MIRACLE FINISH. Manager **Doug Mientkiewicz** led the Fort Myers Miracle to the Florida State League Championship with a win over the Daytona Cubs. Fort Myers is the High-A affiliate of the Minnesota Twins, the team Mientkiewicz started his major league playing career with. As a player, Doug was on the

2000 US Olympic gold medal winning team and the Red Sox 2004 World Championship squad.

One of Mientkiewicz's players was 21-year-old **Max Kepler-Rozycki**, who usually goes by Max Kepler now. Max's mother, American-born Kathy Kepler, met her future husband, Polish native Marek Rozycki, when both were dancing ballet in Berlin. An elite dancer and amateur soccer player, he had defected from Poland when martial law was declared. Max, their son, attended an international school in Berlin. There he played sports like football, lacrosse and baseball, and drew the attention of baseball scouts.

In 2009 at age 16, Max received an \$800,000 bonus to sign with the Minnesota Twins, a record for an amateur position player outside the U.S. and Latin America. A great athlete, the 6-4 outfielder has improved his skills but lately has suffered with elbow issues.

PERKOSKI'S NOTEBOOK. Delsea, N.J. Regional High School's pitcher **Bryan Dobzanski** signed with St. Louis, passing up plans to attend the University of Louisville when the Cards offered a \$700,000 signing bonus. Dobzanski also had one of the greatest wrestling careers in New Jersey high school history. As a senior he had a 43-0 season that culminated with a 3-1 double-overtime win in the final, giving him two state championships (220-lb.) & three region crowns, four district titles and a 155-8 record ... Hobart

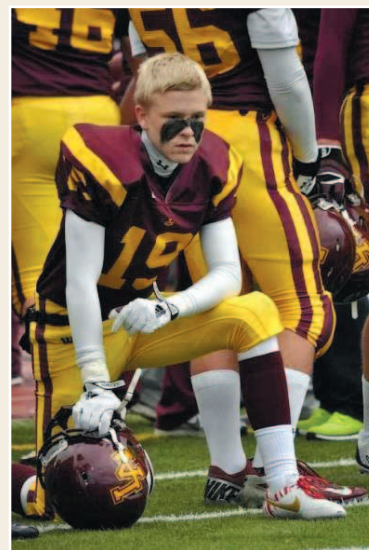
Perhaps, a Rarity!

Kurzydowski Brothers, Both Kickers, Score Game-Winners Within Moments Of Each Other



KAROL KURZYDŁOWSKI kicking the winning field goal.

CHICAGO — On October 4, 2014, on a wet and unseasonably cold Saturday afternoon, a rarity in Chicago sports occurred. At noon, the University of Chicago (U of C) Maroons played its NCAA Division III football game against the Rhodes College Lynx of Memphis, Tennessee. With 12 seconds left at the end of the fourth quarter, junior kicker **Karol Kurzydowski**, a former soccer player, sealed the win for Chicago with a 23-yard field goal. U of C won 17-14.



MIKE KURZYDŁOWSKI concentrating minutes before kicking the winning field goal.

On the same day, at 1:30 p.m., Loyola Academy (LA), a Jesuit College prep high school in Wilmette, Illinois, ranked #8 in the state, hosted #3 Providence High School of New Lenox, Illinois. It was Loyola's homecoming game. With two seconds left in the fourth quarter, Providence called for a time out to "freeze" the kicker. With those two seconds left, senior **Michal "Mike" Kurzydowski**, Karol's brother, nailed a 23-yard field goal and Loyola won, 10-7. Thus, each brother/kicker helped his team win in the final seconds.

— Geraldine Balut Coleman

1954: The Year of Toski and Furgol

The Polish immigrants who came to this country in the late 18th and early 20th centuries were largely working class, as were their children. Therefore it's not a great surprise that Polish Americans had a big presence in "working class" sports like football and baseball, rather than "country club" sports like golf and tennis that tended to require wealth and status to participate at that time. Yet sixty years ago, back in 1954, two of the men at the top of the golf world were sons of Polish immigrants.

In 1954, **Ed Furgol** won the US Open. He was working as a club pro in St. Louis when he qualified, and he played masterful golf and earned a one-stroke victory, winning \$6,000. It was the first televised US Open, so the 37-year-old Furgol gained a lot of notoriety for his achievement, as well as his remarkable story.

Edward Joseph Furgol was born to Polish immigrant parents in New York Mills, N.Y. near Utica. When he was a child he fell off a playground bar and seriously injured his left elbow. At one point doctors thought they might have to amputate. However, it never healed correctly and Furgol was left with a crooked arm that was 10 inches shorter and stiff from the elbow down. Since he couldn't play most sports, doctors suggested he try golf. He couldn't afford lessons, so he learned by "watching others and constant practice." He able to develop a swing that allowed him to compensate for his lack of power in



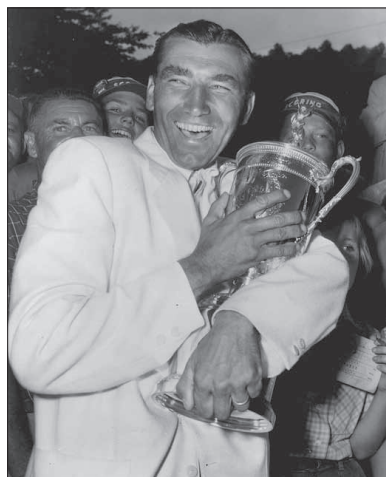
TOSKI

his left arm.

Furgol won six times on the PGA Tour including the 1954 US Open. He had four other Top 10 finishes in majors. He also played on the 1957 Ryder Cup team. He died in Miami Shores, Florida in 1997 at the age of 79.

Also in 1954, **Bob Toski** was the top money-winner on the PGA Tour. He won four tournaments that year, including the World Championship at the Tam O'Shanter Country Club in Chicago. The victory was worth \$50,000, then the largest first-prize purse in the history of golf.

He was born Robert John Algustoski, the eighth of nine children in Haydenville, Mass., Toski was one of four brothers who became a golf professional. His parents, Walenty and Mary Algutoski, were immigrants from Warsaw, Poland. He learned to play at Northampton Country Club, where he caddied



FURGOL

and two of his elder brothers were assistant professionals. After serving in the Army, he joined the golf tour in 1949, twice going broke before hitting it big in '54. Even though he was only about 5' 7" and less than 120-lb., "Mighty Mouse" was considered the longest hitter, pound-for-pound, on the tour. At 30 he left the tour to be with his young family, possibly because he lost his own mother when he was six.

He worked as a club pro. Known for his animated style, he then became a top golf coach, helping pros such as Tom Kite, Bruce Crampton and Judy Rankin. He also wrote several books, made some of the earliest golf instruction videos, and did TV commentary in the early 1980s.

Toski, who turned 88 in October, recently returned to his home state to be inducted into the Massachusetts Golf Hall of Fame.

— Tom Tarapacki

College sophomore **Michael Rusk** went 2-0 at No. 1 singles, earning Liberty League men's singles player of the week honors ... In the third annual CCM/USA Hockey All-American Prospects Game, **Eddie Olczyk's** team lost to Team Grier, 6-3. Team Grier's roster included starting goalie **Luke Opilka** (Effingham, Ill./U.S. National Under-18 Team) and defenseman **Zach Werenski** (Grosse Pointe Woods, MI, U of Michigan). Team Olczyk's Tanner Laczynski (Shorewood, Ill./Chicago Steel) scored a goal ... 24-year-old outfielder **Mike Yastrzemski** advanced through three levels of the Baltimore Orioles system in the 2014 season ... MMA fighter **Michael "The Count" Bisping** handily defeated **Cung Le** at UFC Fight Night 48, even though later testing revealed that Le had excess levels of Human Growth Hormone.

ZAPOROWSKI WINS SCHOLARSHIP FOR ETHICS. The Rochester (N.Y.) Area Business Ethnic Foundation has named St. John Fisher DL **Luke Zaporowski** a recipient of its 2014 scholarship. The scholarship recognizes students who exhibit high ethical standards, and also promotes the value of business ethics to a future generation of business leaders.

The 6'0", 285-lb. senior, is pursuing a degree in business management. As a student and an active member of the St. John Fisher football team, Zaporowski has been able to achieve exceptional academic standings. Through the football program, he has volunteered on numer-



ZAPOROWSKI. Grades, athletics, and volunteering spirit earn East Aurora native recognition and scholarship.

ous occasions for the Camp Good Days and Special Times organization.

Outside of school and sports, Zaporowski has developed a passion for helping children with disabilities. During the past ten years, he has volunteered at several different programs involving these exceptional individuals, such as the Moving Miracles dance program.

This past summer he completed a management trainee internship with Enterprise Rent-a-Car. His performance and lasting impressions on management at Enterprise earned Zaporowski a position with the company after graduation.

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Stevens Point's Dozynki Harvest Festival



Scholarship recipients

STEVEN'S POINT, Wisc. — Even if you did not live in the Stevens Point area, the festivities of the 11th Annual Dozynki Harvest Festival were worth the visit. This two-day event was held September 20-21, 2014, and drew over 500 people each day.

Continuous live polka music and popular Polish food delights were the fare both days, and — yes — Polish beers and the famous Point beer were on hand for those who enjoy a brew or two.

On Saturday, Stevens Point's Cynor Classics and Norm Dombrowski's Happy Notes greeted festival goers with their polka music. The festivities included a fun-filled *paczki* eating contest. Later that day, the Polish Heritage Awareness Society presented \$14,500 in scholarships, ranging from \$1,500 to \$500, to 18 high school juniors and seniors.

On Sunday, festivities began with a Polka Mass, attended by approximately 400 wor-

shippers at St. Stephen's with celebrant, Fr. Jerzy Rebacz. Fr. Rebacz also blessed harvest baskets. After Mass, the festivities continued with polka bands from Chicago — Keith Stras & Polka Confetti, along with Benji's Polka Pak.

A display illustrated Polish immigration to the Stevens Point area. Author Julita Szczepanska displayed her books, "Litka: A Memoir of the War" and "Litka II: Homeless Wondering." These autobiographies tell of her life in occupied Poland during World War II, her close encounter with death, and her journey to Stevens Point in 1967.

The festival was founded 11 years ago by Leon Ostrowski. The chairpersons who coordinated this year's successful event were Betty Parnham, Cassie DeGroff, and Leon Ostrowski.

— Geraldine Balut Coleman

GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

Revisit Your Sources

It is important to continue to revisit your genealogy resources. This is especially true for online databases because they are regularly adding records to their files. Some of the new records added to these databases may be for your ancestors or their siblings. Another important reason is that, as you continue your research, you will find more facts about your ancestors that you can use in the search boxes when you return to a past database. This new information may help find more records.

I also recommend that you try using a different method when you revisit an old source. Changing methods include:

- Using name variations not used in the previous search
- Dropping given names and using only surnames
- Using "wild cards"
- Adding information that was found since your last search on the database

One example of my success using only the family surname led to the names of brothers and sisters of one ancestor. I then researched the marriage records for these siblings and was able to identify their birthplace in Poland. Up until then, this had been a brick wall

because the birthplace did not appear on any documents for the direct ancestor. When I searched the Polish records, I was able to extend the family back three more generations.

Another example was when I found a 1935 biography of the brother of an ancestor. This had been added to an online family tree in the previous year. The biography included references to the name of the Catholic Church the family attended and when I called the church I found the marriage record for the ancestor. This record listed where the bride and groom were baptized in Poland and I was again able to extend the family back three more generations using Polish records.

These are only a few examples where I eventually was able to find information to breakdown some of my brick walls after I revisited my sources.



Stephen M. Szabados, a regular contributor to the Polish American Journal, is a prominent genealogist. In addition to numerous columns and papers, he is the author of three books, "Finding Grandma's European Ancestors," "Find Your Family History," and "Polish Genealogy."

POLISH CAN BE FUN! / Robert Strybel

All in the Family

The family has always played an important role in the life of Poles and Polonians, and those of us who had contacts with Polish in their early years usually did so with relatives. That's the reason behind starting this series with the names of family members. It would have been counterproductive to consult a dictionary, phrase book or the Internet, because the point was to establish how much you already know.

Actually, calling up words from memory is one of the hardest thing in a foreign language you aren't fluent in. A much easier task is recognizing Polish words. Today we are providing such a list. How many can you immediately recognize? How many aren't you entirely sure of? And which ones don't you recall every even encountering?

Matka, ojciec, dziadek, babcia, syn, córka, wnuk, wnuczka, brat, siostra, teść, teściowa, zięć, synowa, bratowa, wujek, ciotka, bratanek, bratanica, siostrzeniec, siostrzenica, brat cioteczny, siostra stryjeczna, kuzyn, kuzynka, ojciec chrzestny, matka chrzestna, chrześniak, chrześniaczka.

Now you can look up the meaning of the above terms in a dictionary. When you have done so, take out your "Polish can be fun" notebook and write the words you correctly guessed three times each. Those ones you

didn't know, please write five times. Next to the Polish write the English equivalent for rapid identification. For instance: brat — brother, dziadek — grandfather, kuzyn — cousin, etc. This is a tried and tested way of committing new vocabulary to memory.

Your homework for next time: use at least five of the above-listed family members in a simple sentence, showing what someone is doing. For instance:

- Babcia gotuje obiad. (Grandma is cooking dinner).
- Siostra czyta książkę. (Sister is reading a book).
- Brat bawi się z psem. (Brother is playing with the dog).
- Wujek pali fajkę. (Uncle is smoking a pipe).
- Kuzyn prasuje koszulę. (Cousin is ironing a shirt).
- Mój teść ogląda telewizję. (My father-in-law is watching TV).

WORDS OF WISDOM:

Bliżej ciała koszula niż sukmana!
(Do you know the English equivalent?)

P.S. Reader input is most appreciated. If you have any questions, remarks or suggestions, please feel free to email them to: strybel@interia.pl

SURNAME CORNER / Robert Strybel

A Christmas Gift of Polish Heritage?

This Christmas why not consider giving a loved one (or yourself) an interesting and unusual gift of Polish heritage: a custom-researched analysis of their Polish last name.

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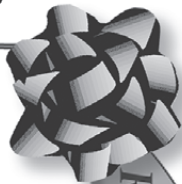
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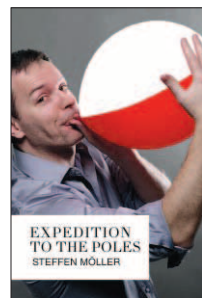
More information at our website—WWW.PGSA.ORG

BOOKS IN BRIEF / Mary Lanham

A Fun Look at Our Idiosyncrasies

EXPEDITION TO THE POLES
by Steffen Möller
epubli, 2013, 93 pps.

Expedition to the Poles is a look at Poland from the eyes of a German-born comedian. Stefan Möller gives us a glimpse into Polish life and the Polish people. He discusses topics such as language, history, economy, superstition, skepticism, compliments, and hospitality.



A statue of Adam Mickiewicz in Krakow, on Steffen's first visit to Poland for a two-week language course, sparks a lesson on Polish names — notably that Polish names can be changed based on the context of the sentence. When he reads the inscription on the statue he notes that it is, "Adamowi Mickiewiczowi Naród." He asks a nearby British tourist who Adamowi Mickiewiczowi Naród was. Unfortunately, the tourist can find no listing in his guidebook for that person. They wonder whether it was perhaps a cousin of the national poet, Adam Mickiewicz and finally conclude that it must have been some famous mayor of Krakow. The next day, in his language course, Möller, learns that he was mistaken about the statue when his teacher tells him about the different forms nouns can take.

Möller begins one of his chapters with this, "What are the three favorite pastimes of Poland? Firstly: picking mushrooms in the forest. Secondly: talking about mushrooms

from the forest. And thirdly: enjoying soup made from forest mushrooms one has picked oneself." What follows is an explanation of why mushroom picking is important in Poland. One, there are still poor people in Poland despite the economic growth and two, "products of the forest can be sold tax-free." Mushroom picking is also traditional; it is a deeply rooted part of the culture. It is even mentioned in Adam Mickiewicz's great work, "Pan Tadeusz."

His final chapter is devoted to saying goodbye. He lists off the various forms of saying farewell in Poland such as: *tymczasem* (so long), *do zobaczenia* (see you soon) and *wszystkiego najlepszego* (all the best).

A thoroughly entertaining read, *Expedition to the Poles* has finally been translated to English from the original German and is now available on Amazon.com.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR. Born and raised in Germany Steffen Möller is a teacher, actor, writer and comedian. When he was a student in Berlin he decided to take a two-week Polish language course in Krakow. So began his love affair with Poland. After graduation, Möller moved to Poland and taught German. Soon after, he became an actor, starring for five years in a soap opera, *M jak miłość* (*L is for Love*). He is also a standup comedian. Möller currently lives in Warsaw and Berlin. He has written several other books in Polish and German including *Berlin-Warszawa Express* and *Moja Klasykarna Paranoja*.

Solidarity Hero Wins Nike Literary Award

WARSAW — Poland's most prestigious literary award was presented to Solidarity hero Karol Modzelewski for his book "We'll Ride the Mare of History to the Ground: Confessions of a Bruised Rider." It is the first autobiography to win the Nike Literary Award.

The prize comes with a 1000,000 zloty (about \$300,000 USD) check and honors the author of the best book of the year.

Professor Modzelewski coined the name "Solidarity" for the anti-communist trade union movement. A professor at the universities of Warsaw and Wrocław, his career spans the political scene during and after very troublesome times in Poland. He was jailed together with Ludwik Hass, Jacek Kuron (known as the "godfather of the Polish opposition), Romauld Smiech and Kazimierz Badowski in the 1960s for penning "An Open Letter to the Party" which criticized the commu-



Karol Modzelewski nists in Poland. He was incarcerated again in 1981 when martial law was imposed in his country.

While speaking at the Nike Award ceremony, Modzelewski joked about the arrests saying: "I understood that writing was a serious when I was given my first prison sentence for writing."

Polish-Lithuanian Armies Illustrated

LONG ISLAND CITY — Osprey Publishing (ospreypublishing.com) has released Vol. 485 of its "Men-At-Arms" series, this one highlighting "Polish Armies of the Partitions 1770-94."

The book traces the story of the Polish-Lithuanian armies of the dramatic late 18th century, when the Polish Crown and the Grand Duchy were struggling for survival.

Researched by Vincent W. Rospund and fully illustrated by Rafaele Ruggaele, the 48-page paperback book sells for \$17.95 plus shipping. Osprey Publishing is at 43-01 21st St., Suite 220B, Long Island City, NY 11101; (718) 422-4402.

Author Claims "Ripper" was Polish Jew

LONDON — 126 years after a string of terrible murders, yet another author says he has uncovered the identity of Britain's most notorious criminal, responsible for at least five murders in East London during the fall of 1888.

According to Russell Edwards, the author of *Naming Jack the Ripper*, DNA testing allegedly shows Aaron Kosminski, a Polish Jew who fled to London in the 1880s, was the Ripper. He said he made the discovery after he bought a shawl — found near the body of the Ripper's fourth victim — at an auction house in 2007.

The evidence has not yet been independently verified.

"Spirit of St. Nicholas"



THE POLISH HERITAGE FESTIVAL CHARITABLE FUND, headquartered in Springville, N.Y., is once again collecting donations for disadvantaged children in Jaroslaw, Poland through its "Spirit of St. Nicholas" fundraising program.

The annual event, eight years in the running, uses raised funds to purchase Christmas gifts of new clothes for the children. This includes coats, or jackets, pants, jeans, shoes, sneakers, blouses, socks, etc.

The group is asking for your support. Please make your check payable to "The Polish Heritage Festival Charitable Fund," and mail to PHCF, Attn: Christine Jozwiak, P.O. Box 115, Springville, NY 14141-0115. The Polish Heritage Festival is a 501(c)3 charitable organization, therefore your donation is tax deductible. Administrative costs are underwritten by the Heritage Festival Committee, so 100% of donations go to the charitable program.

Strempek Shea "Makes a Wish" with Sixth Novel

GEORGETOWN, Mass. — An unemployed palm reader who plies her trade in a dying shopping mall is the main character of Suzanne Strempek Shea's latest book, *Make a Wish But Not For Money*. This first novel in ten years by the author, who also writes nonfiction, is to be published by PFP Publishing on Oct. 5. It tells the story of Rosie Pilch, whose lifelong job as a bank teller is lost in the recession and her subsequent depression ends only when a friend elopes, moves and leaves Rosie her palm reading business at Orchard Mall, once a groundbreaking shopping experience touted as "Main Street Recreated," now a sluggish "dead mall" in its last months of existence before the wrecking ball arrives.

Knowing nothing about palm reading, but needing to leave her house, Rosie becomes her friend's alter-ego, "Irene, Queen of the Unseen," who knows all and sees all. Rosie expects to know and see nothing but the outstretched palms bearing ten-dollar bills, but is more than startled to find she indeed can read palms, and inform about both the past and future. Her newfound ability attracts a steady line of customers, including the mall's maintenance man, Dennis Edwards, who causes Rosie to reassess her future with her self-centered fiancé. As the mall's few remaining tenants prepare for the end of their businesses, Rosie's abilities figure in a new start for them, the mall and herself.

The book is the second PFP title celebrated this year by Shea, who in April began touring with her tenth book, *This Is Paradise: An Irish Mother's Grief, an African Village's Plight and the Medical Clinic That Brought Fresh Hope to Both*, the story of an Irish former guidance counselor, Mags Riordan, and the clinic she founded in Malawi in honor of a son who drowned there.

A former reporter for The Springfield Newspapers and *The*



Suzanne Strempek Shea

Providence Journal who went on to write both fiction and nonfiction, Shea was inspired to write *Make a Wish But Not For Money* after a New York City palm reader in the mid-1990s said to her what would become the title of this book.

"I don't know what else she told me — she could have given me that night's winning lottery number but all that stuck with me was her question," Shea says. "I already was thinking what a great title it would make for a book about a palm reader. When I started the actual writing, I didn't know where I'd put my palm reader's booth. A trip to the movie theater at the 'dead mall,' which is what everyone in my neck of Western Massachusetts used to call a particular withering (and now demolished) shopping mall in Hadley, got me thinking how affordable one of the empty spaces in such a place might be, and how my fictitious palm reader indeed could be working there. And as unemployment became a fact of life for so many over the time I was writing this story, I thought I'd give my main character that jarring reality, and the need for routine."

In giving herself the assignment to write about a palm reader, Shea also returned to fiction, which was how she got her start as an author twenty years ago, with the critically acclaimed *Selling the Lite of Heaven*. Her subsequent novels were *Hoopi Shoopi Donna*; *Lily of*

Kosk-Kosicka Wins Annual Harriss Prize

BALTIMORE — Danuta E. Kosk-Kosicka was named winner of CityLit Press's fifth annual Harriss Poetry Prize for her chapbook manuscript "Oblige the Light."

Born and raised in Poland, Kosk-Kosicka is a scientist, bilingual poet, writer, poetry translator, photographer, and co-editor of the literary journal *Loch Raven Review*.

Her poems have appeared in the United States, Ireland, Sweden, and Poland in numerous literary journals and anthologies. Her translations of poems by three Maryland Poets Laureate — Lucille Clifton, Josephine Jacobsen, and Linda Pastan — have been published in Poland; her translations of poems by Lidia Kosk, Ernest Bryll, and Wislawa Szymborska have appeared in over 50 publications in the United States.

Launched in 2009, the Harriss Poetry Prize is named in honor of Clarinda Harriss, eminent Baltimore poet, publisher, and professor of English at Towson University.

the Valley; *Around Again*; and *Becoming Finola*. Shea also wrote the memoirs *Songs From a Lead-lined Room: Notes - High and Low - From My Journey Through Breast Cancer and Radiation*; *Shelf Life: Romance, Mystery, Drama and Other Page-Turning Adventures From a Year in a Bookstore*; and *Sundays in America: A Yearlong Road Trip in Search of Christian Faith*. She co-wrote *140 Years of Providential Care: The Sisters of Providence of Holyoke, Massachusetts* with Tommy Shea, and with author/historian Michele P. Barker.

Winner of the 2000 New England Book Award, which recognizes a literary body of work's contribution to the region, Shea began writing fiction in her spare time while working as a reporter. Her freelance journalism and fiction has appeared in magazines and newspapers including *Yankee*, *The Bark*, *Golf World*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Organic Style* and *ESPN the Magazine*. She was a regular contributor to *Obit* magazine.

Shea is a member of the faculty at the University of Southern Maine's Stonecoast MFA program in creative writing and is writer-in-residence and director of the creative writing program at Bay Path University in Longmeadow, Massachusetts.

She has taught in the MFA program at Emerson College and in the creative writing program at the University of South Florida. Shea lives in Bondsville, Massachusetts with Tommy Shea, most recently the senior foreign editor at *The National* newspaper in Abu Dhabi, and their dogs Tiny and Bisquick.

For information on the author, visit: www.suzannestrempekshea.com



Print copies of *Make a Wish But Not For Money* are available from independent bookstores everywhere, Ingram, Baker & Taylor, and Books-A-Million (BAM) as well as from Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Digital versions are available in Barnes & Noble NookBook, Amazon Kindle, Apple eBook and Kobo eBook formats.

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POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Now is the Time to Start Planning Your Wigilia Treats

To Poles everywhere, Wigilia supper on Christmas Eve is the single most important family gathering of the year. Since many readers today lack the time, energy, patience and know-how to prepare it all from scratch, most of the following recipes have been simplified and adapted to today's convenience-minded times.

PICKLED HERRING, STORE-BOUGHT (śledź marynowany kupny). Drain 12-oz jar of plain non-creamed marinated herring and serve as is or in any of the herring recipes below. Any herring can be served either with hot boiled potatoes or with rye bread.

CREAMED HERRING (śledź w śmietanie). Drain 12-oz can of pickled herring, discarding onions and spices, plunge into bowl of cold water and drain again. When dry, arrange on serving platter, interspersed with wafer-thin onion slices. Drench with ¾ c sour cream fork-blended with 1 t brown mustard or horseradish.

HERRING IN OIL (śledź w oleju). Drain, rinse and drain again 12-oz jar of marinated herring. Cut into bite-sized pieces and place in jar, interspersing herring with a layer of chopped onions. Fill jar with salad oil and refrigerate several hrs or over night. Drain off excess oil and turn out onto lettuce-lined serving platter.

EASY CLEAR BEETROOT SOUP (łatwy czysty czerwony barszcz). In pot combine 3 c beet juice (from canned beets), 2 c apple juice and 1/4 a mushroom bouillon cube dissolved in 2 c boiling water. Heat to boiling. Season with salt & pepper, a dash of garlic powder, a pinch of marjoram, 1 T dry red wine and a little lemon juice and (optional) sugar to get a balanced tangy, tart & sweet flavor. Hint. Diced the leftover canned beets and mix with horseradish to taste and a little lemon juice to prepare ćwikła, the ideal go-together with ham, kielbasa and other meats served on Christmas Day.

MUSHROOM TURNOVERS (paszteciki z grzybami). In skillet brown 8 oz. diced fresh Portobello mushrooms with 2 chopped onions in 3 T oil until fully cooked and



CHRISTMAS EVE GOŁĄBKI (gołąbki wigilijne). Core cabbage and wilt cabbage leaves in boiling water cored-side-down, remove wilted leaves and set aside to dry. Cut off the thick stem base. Chop and fry 16 oz fresh Portobello mushrooms and 2 onions in 3-4 T butter until tender and combine with 3 c slightly undercooked groats (buckwheat, barley, millet) or rice. Stir in 1 egg, salt & pepper generously and add a heaping T fresh, finely chopped dill and/or parsley. Form gołąbki and place snugly in no more than 2 layers in roasting pan or casserole. Drench with 2 mushroom cubes dissolved in 4 c hot water and bake covered at 350° 2 hrs or more. Combine pan drippings with a heaping T flour dissolved in milk to make a sauce.

nicely browned. When cool enough to handle, chop mushrooms & onion and stir in enough plain bread-crumbs to form a soft filling. Salt & pepper to taste. Open pkg of refrigerator crescent-roll dough, obliterate manufacturer's perforations by pressing down on them with floured thumb. Cut dough sheet into 8 rectangles, spread each with a little mushroom filling and roll up jelly-roll fashion, pinching ends shut and tucking underneath. Bake according to package directions and serve hot as a hand-held accompaniment to the clear beetroot soup.

FRIED FISH FILLETS (smażone filety rybne). Rinse well, drain and sprinkle with salt 1 lb fresh-water or ocean fillets. Sprinkle with lemon juice and intersperse with onion slices, cover and refrigerate overnight. Next day, rinse fillets, pat dry, season with pepper, dredge in just flour or flour-breadcrumbs mixture and fry in hot oil to a nice golden brown on both sides. Drain on absorbent paper and serve immediately. with horseradish sauce (below).

HORSERADISH SAUCE (sos chrzanowy). Fork-bend ¾ c sour

cream, ¼ c mayonnaise and 1 or more heaping T prepared horseradish, depending on the potency desired. Season to taste with salt, pepper, lemon juice and (optional) a pinch of sugar.

PERCH POLONAISE (okoń po polsku). Hard-boil 4-5 eggs. Rinse and pat dry 2-3 lbs lake perch, wall-eye or whitefish fillets and sauté in a little butter covered until fully cooked and keep warm. In saucepan sauté 1 small finely chopped onion in 3 T butter until tender, add the finely chopped or ground hard-boiled eggs and toss to coat evenly with butter. Add 2-3 T. fresh or frozen finely chopped dill and salt & pepper generously. Toss to blend ingredients. Sprinkle fish with lemon juice and top with hard-boiled-egg topping. Serve immediately.

SAUERKRAUT & MUSHROOMS. (kapusta z grzybami). Drain, rinse, re-drain and cook a (preferably Polish imported) 1-liter jar of sauerkraut and chop coarsely. Place in pot, scald with boiling water to cover, add 1 mushroom cube, 1 bay leaf and cook 1 hr or until it loses its crunch. In 3 T hot oil fry 8-12 oz fresh diced Portobello mushrooms and 1 large diced onion, stirring frequently until liquid evaporates and mushrooms begin to sizzle. Sprinkle with 1 heaping T flour, add several T sauerkraut liquid and simmer briefly. Stir into sauerkraut and simmer on stove-top or bake in 350° 1 hr. Season to taste with salt, pepper, a little ground caraway and/or marjoram and a 1-2 t sugar. Simmer a while longer.

NOODLES & SAUERKRAUT (kluski z kapustą). Cook 1 lb pkg of wide or medium-wide egg noodles according to directions or until tender. Drain well and combine with the sauerkraut & mushrooms (above), 50-50 or using less sauerkraut as preferred.

STEWED PRUNES, FIGS & RAISINS (kompot z suszonych śliwek, fig i rodzynek). In bowl combine 1 c whole pitted prunes, ½ c chopped figs and ½ c raisins. Scald with boiling water to cover and let stand 1 hr. Add 1 thinly sliced, peeled lemon with seeds removed and cook 15 min, adding a little more water if all has been absorbed. Serve chilled in dessert dishes.

NOODLES & FRUIT (kluski z kompotem). Cook 1 lb pkg of wide or medium-wide egg noodles according to directions or until tender. Drain well, dot with a little butter and stir in as much of the stewed prunes, figs and raisins as you like.

RICE & FRUIT DESSERT (ryż z owocami). Transfer 4 c hot cooked rice to serving platter, dot with butter and top with fruit mixture of choice. This can be dried-fruit compote (above), stewed prunes, canned

cherry or apple-pie filling, strawberry or cherry preserves or powidła (Polish imported) plum butter).

POLISH POPPYSEED COOKIES (ciasteczka makowe). Cut ¼ lb butter into 2-3/4 c flour with pastry blender or two knives. Work in 2/3 c confectioner's sugar, 2 slightly beaten eggs, 3 T sour cream and 3 T poppyseeds. Work into a uniform dough and knead until easy to handle. Add remaining ingredients and knead dough until easy to handle. Refrigerate for at least 30 min. Roll out dough 1/4 inch thick and cut into desired shapes (circles, diamonds, crescents, etc.). Bake 10 minutes at 375° or until edges begin turning brown. Remove, and either dust with powdered sugar while still warm or frost with a light powdered sugar icing when cool.

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OBITUARIES

Michael Preisler, Polish Catholic Auschwitz Survivor

NEW YORK — **Michael Preisler**, a Polish Catholic survivor of Auschwitz, died Sept. 28 in Richmond Hill, N.Y., the day before his 95th birthday.

In 1939, Preisler's entire family was evicted from their home by the Gestapo, in fulfillment of Adolph Hitler's order to his generals before they invaded Poland to "Kill without pity or mercy all men, women, and children of Polish descent or Polish language."

Preisler joined the underground Home Army, but was captured, tortured and imprisoned for four years in Auschwitz. He narrowly avoided the gas chamber by cutting short a hospitalized rehabilitation for typhoid fever and quickly returning to the work detail. The next day all patients of the convalescent center were sent to the gas chamber. His weight went down to only 85



Gestapo photo of Preisler. Auschwitz, October 1941.

pounds. He said he only recovered "with God's help."

After emigrating to the United States, he went on to serve as president of the Downstate New York Division of the Polish American

Congress and founded the Holocaust Documentation Committee. He frequently accepted invitations to speak about his personal Holocaust experiences at various schools and organizations.

When the Solidarity movement was formed under Lech Walesa, Preisler organized pro-Solidarity demonstrations on the streets of New York City. He also led fund raising drives to provide clothing and medical supplies for distribution in Poland through the church networks.

"Nowhere else is Holocaust history as distorted and as misrepresented as it is about Poland," said Preisler, who devoted himself to correcting distortions and misrepresentations about Poles and Poland during World War II.

One of the events that troubled him most during the years before

his presidency of the Downstate Congress ended was the campaign started in 1989 to oust Carmelite nuns from a convent they occupied at Auschwitz. He thought the effort was "unjustified." He also found it "shameful" that a commemorative cross erected at a nearby gravel pit also became another target for removal from its site.

Preisler often found it difficult to subdue his emotions when he spoke about all of the Polish prisoners the guards beat so brutally at that gravel pit, including himself. The Cross was their special symbol of hope in that place of dreary darkness. Some of them would even use their fingernails to try to scratch out a cross in the wood of the bunks where they slept, he recalled.

Preisler was laid to rest at the cemetery of the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pa.

Victor R. Greene, Professor of History

Victor R. Greene, University of Wisconsin/Milwaukee (UWM) Emeritus Professor of History, died on September 5 at the age of 80.

He was a noted scholar and teacher in the fields of American immigration, labor, and popular culture.

At UWM, he served on a number of important campus committees, and was a generous donor to the UWM Foundation and its programs that benefit students. He established a fund in honor of his own hero, former Milwaukee mayor Frank P. Zeidler, which presents an annual award to a history master's student interested in American history.

Recognizing Professor Greene's long dedication to undergraduate learning, the History Department named its award for the best paper written in a History capstone course the Victor Greene Award.

Greene was active in many professional and community history organizations. The former president and executive secretary of the Immigration History Society, in 2009 he received the society's Lifetime Achievement Award. He also served on the History Committee of the Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island Centennial Commission, and was on the editorial board of the *Journal of American Ethnic History* and *Polish American Studies*. He was a member of the executive boards of the Wisconsin Society for Jewish Learning, the Ko-Thi African American Dance Troupe, the Wisconsin Labor History Society, and the Milwaukee County Historical Society. He also lectured and taught widely around the United States, and in China, the Czech Republic, England, and Poland.

In 1981 he was recognized by the Polish American Historical Association with its Mieczyslaw Haiman award for sustained contribution to the study of Polish Americans.

Greene authored many acclaimed books. His Ph.D. dissertation on Slavic miners in Pennsylvania was published as *The Slavic Community on Strike: Immigrant Labor in Pennsylvania Anthracite* (1968). Other notable books followed, including *For God and Country: The Rise of Polish and Lithuanian Consciousness in America, 1860-1910* (1975), *American Immigrant Leaders, 1800-1910: Marginality and Identity* (1987), and two wonderful studies on popular immigrant music, *A Passion for Polka: Old-Time Ethnic Music in America* (1992), and *A Singing Ambivalence: American Immigrants between Old World and New, 1830-1930* (2004). He also co-edited, with UWM History Professor, Margo Anderson, *Perspectives on Milwaukee's Past* (2009).

Walter L. Sojka, Active in Religious and Community Organizations

Walter L. Sojka, the son of the late Peter J. Sojka and the late Elizabeth J. Wrzesinski Sojka, was born, raised, and lived in the Noble Street/Chicago Avenue area of Chicago. Sojka passed away on August 17, 2014 at the age of 84. He was the younger brother of the late Dolores, Sr. M. Ancilla Sojka, CSFN, and the late Peter J. Sojka, Jr.

Walter L., as he wished to be called, graduated from Holy Innocents Grammar School and Holy Trinity High School. After completing one year at the University of Illinois at Chicago, he enrolled at the Worsham College of Mortuary Science. His professional aspirations were interrupted by a two-year military stint with the U.S. Army in Korea. In 1953, he was honorably discharged with the rank of Sergeant First Class.

Walter L. then began his professional 60-year career, establishing the Walter L. Sojka Funeral Home in his childhood neighborhood. His neighbors and the businesses around the funeral home affectionately dubbed him the "Mayor of Chicago Avenue."

Walter L. volunteered his time and resources with various not-for-profit organizations. He was a member, director, and executive secretary of the Chicago Jaycees. Sojka worked with Saul Alin-

sky, a renowned national community organizer, with the Northwest Community Organization. In 1966, Sojka chaired and coordinated the transportation of police and firemen participating in Poland's Millennium of Christianity celebration, at Soldier Field and represented St. Boniface Church.

Walter L. continued his tradition of religious and community service by not only representing Holy Innocents Parish at the National Convention of the *Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland*, but also acting as its convention chairman. He represented St. Boniface Parish in the *Archdiocese Campaign for Human Development*, and, for six years, chaired the evaluation committee responsible for the proposed distribution of funds.

Sojka co-chaired the *1976 Eucharistic Con-*



gress banquet for Cardinal Karol Wojtyła and 18 other bishops. The soon-to-be Pope reciprocated by inviting Walter L., along with Cardinal John Cody, Bishop Alfred Abramowicz, and two other Chicago archdiocesan priests, as his guests for a two-week stay in Poland. In October 1979, John Paul II was the first Pope to visit Chicago, and Walter had the honor of chairing the lay welcoming committee at Five Holy Martyrs Parish.

A past treasurer of The Polish Museum of America (PMA), Sojka coordinated, along with the late Sabina P. Logisz, the first Museum Ball, accepting this position only on the condition that the museum hold this as an annual fund-raising event. As a life-long member of the Polish Roman Catholic Union, he attended its conventions for 45 years.

He also was a member of the Polish National Alliance and served as its treasurer for eight years. For decades, he was involved with the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth (CSFN) and was instrumental in founding the Friends of Nazareth Booster Club and the Friends of the Nazareth Annual Dinner. Walter L. Sojka was a true inspirational leader and volunteer. "Service to Others" was his motto.

—Geraldine Balut Coleman

Community, Organization Leader Kazimierz Joseph Olejarczyk

Kazimierz Joseph Olejarczyk, 94, a veteran of the Polish Air Force and U.S. Army Air Force, was engineer, teacher, and community leader in Michigan.

Kazimierz Olejarczyk was born in 1919 in Jersey City, New Jersey, but grew up in Warsaw. While studying engineering at the Warsaw Polytechnic Institute, Germany invaded Poland and World War II

began. Olejarczyk volunteered for the Polish Air Force in exile (RAF), and transferred to the U.S. Army Air Force in 1944, serving with the 586th Bomber Squadron.

At war's end, he moved to Michigan. He earned a BBA from the University of Michigan, an MBA and MA from the University of Detroit. In 1947 he married his childhood sweetheart, Bronislawa. He worked for General Motors Fisher Body for 33 years, retiring as a senior analytical systems engineer. He also taught mathematics and political science at the University of Detroit. He reported for the Voice of America and translated for Radio Free Europe.

Olejarczyk joined Polish American Congress, Michigan Division in 1965, serving as president for 16 years, beginning in 1969. During his terms, Olejarczyk brought the organization together and developed its leadership role among Polonia. During this time the Michigan Division of the PAC grew to 100 organizations and 200 individual members. It was able to purchase a building in Hamtramck, which continues to serve the Polish American community and the area. Under his leadership as president, then again as vice president for Polish Affairs (1985-2005), the division assisted the national PAC effort to help Poland regain its independence and become a member of NATO. He was a na-

tional director of PAC (1968-2007). His contributions are reflected in the first volume of the PAC Michigan division's archives recently published by the Orchard Lake Schools.

Olejarczyk was an active member of many organizations: Detroit Senior Chapter of the Polish Catholic Academic Association, "Veritas" (co-founder and several time president); American Polish Engineering Association (founding member); Polish Air Force Veterans Association and Post 7 of the Polish Americans Veterans Association; Polish American Congress of Michigan Federal Credit Union (founder and past director); PNA Group 1758;



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POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

A Sturr-rific Day at Tioga Downs Oktoberfest

NICHOLS, N.Y. — As the Jimmy Sturr bus pulled into the entrance of Tioga Downs Casino, valet parking was already backing up. Inside, two hours before the first note was played from the stage, chairs were already being filled with people from all around the region.

When the musicians kicked in with that familiar musical opening it was evident this was going to be a great afternoon.

Sturr and the orchestra are professional on stage and off. They know their audience and play for



Johnny Karas (l.) and Jimmy Sturr play to the crowd at Tioga Downs.



2013 Broadcaster of the Year Barb Mack of WNBF, on stage as M.C.

them and to them. Offering a complete mix of polkas, waltzes, ober-eks, and standards, Sturr highlights every musician in the band. Chris Caffery, of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, added his guitar magic with several tunes.

No matter what your musical tastes, it will be found in their per-



Frank on fiddle and Steve on accordion with the Sturr Orchestra.

formance. Their goal was to please everyone in the hall and they did that for two non-stop hours on stage. During the one band break, Jimmy made time to talk with many, share some stories, and take requests. It was a great way to spend a Fall afternoon with friends, family, fun and Jimmy Sturr and the Orchestra.

The Tioga Downs staff was quick to make more seating available for the second hour as the crowd seemed to never stop coming through the doors. It was a great venue for this event and the entire staff at Tioga Downs rose to the occasion to make it the total success it was.



It was a packed house at Tioga Downs' Oktoberfest with Jimmy Sturr & his Orchestra.

PENNSYLVANIA POLKAS

POTTSTOWN, Pa. — On Sunday, Nov. 16, a "Fall Blast of Polka Music," will be held at the Sunnybrook Ballroom, 50 Sunnybrook Rd., from noon-8:00 p.m. Polish food, music by Lenny Gomulka, Dennis Polisky, and the Osuch Rhythm & Music Band.

Info/tickets call (484) 624-5187 or Janet Osuch (610) 326-2915.

CORNWALL, Pa. — The Polka Pals are sponsoring a "Give Thanks to the Veterans" dance, Sunday, Nov. 16th, at the Sacred Heart Parish Center, Cornwall Road

& 419. Music by the Continentals Band from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

For info and tickets call Joe Yaklowich at (717) 566-5704.

CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa. — There will be a dance Sunday, Dec. 7, at the **Thaddeus Kosciuszko Club**, East Hector and Apple Streets with music by the Shoreliners Band from 3:00-7:00 p.m. Plenty of free parking and the admission price includes a meal. For info call (610) 828-9352.

POLKAJUKEBOX / Steve Litwin

Never Let Me Go

The **New Brass Express** always rides on the edge of the musical rail as they stoke the fire to the max with musical power, never-ending surprises and a station stopper that becomes the hot one. Of course, I am talking about *Never Let Me Go*, its latest CD, and also the first track, a 1964 Johnny Tillotson tune.

This is their fourth CD, and it just happens to offer a lucky 13 tracks of musical entertainment.

A great "Lush Medley," Blaz's "Rosanne," an Ampol Aires treasure, "Gold Digger," and "On Our Wedding Day," which is receiving plenty of air play/bandwidth with Dawn Rosinski and Eddie Siwec on vocals.

Musical arrangements come from the expertise of Darrell Weltin and Eddie Siwec, with Bob Douglas, John Rzyhak, Andy Pawlak, Jason Maurer, Jeff Ryers and Dawn Rosinski, handling instruments and vocals.

Check out their website at: newbrassexpress.com.

CHRIS AND RONNIE "LICKS." I've already run through **Chris and Ronnie's Licks** twice. Honestly, with the title, I expected a

small combo sound, but this CD offers a unique collection of music, performed smoothly, and with a pleasant mellow style. At the same time, surprises like "Got to Go" with Mitch Biskup singing the vocal made me hit repeat.

"It's That Time of Year Again" had me thinking of Christmas while shouting out "Ein Prosit." Another favorite is "It's Not a Carpet," with the band mixing melody and unique lyrics to produce something different and something new. Also featured are the originals "Polish Daughter," and, "Number 9." They are definitely not afraid to do things new, have fun with it, and give the audience a twelve-track product that the listener will definitely appreciate.

Chris and Ronnie are Chris Karwoski on accordion and Ron McIntosh on trumpet, along with Lee Elmowitz on horn, Tom Evans on bass, and John Daigle behind the drums.

Recorded by John Daigle at The Methlab, Gary Rhamy at Peppermint Studios did the mixing and mastering.

Visit the group at www.chrisandronnie.com/home.html.

DANCE TIME / Jen Pijanowski

Roncesvalles Festival a Wonderful Experience



Luke Malek and Mati Matuesz.

BUFFALO, N.Y. —For the past 15 years, my husband Rick and I have made our way to Toronto to shop, dine, and visit a quaint village called Roncesvalles. A few years after finding this lovely area, the **Roncesvalles Polish Festival** began. It has now become a yearly tradition to spend the second or third weekend of September in Toronto. Roncesvalles Ave., which is home to a very heavily populated Polish community, closes down a mile of this thoroughfare for a weekend of celebrating Polish heritage. This diverse village is a perfect mixture of trendy cafes, bookstore, and boutiques with the most amazing Polish shops, restaurant, and delicatessens sprinkled in between the trendy bistros. Roncesvalles Polish festival is the largest celebration of Polish heritage in North America. This weekend celebration which is organized in collaboration with St. Stanislaus-St. Casimir's Polish Parishes Credit Union and a multitude of other organizations draws over 300,000 people each year.

Upon entering the festival you are greeted with the sites, sounds and smells of the culture. Bigos, kielbasa, barszcz, pickles on a stick, and pierogi are offered from a variety of vendors that make it difficult to establish your dining decision. Every restaurant, delicatessen, and organization is on hand to offer an



Bartenders at the Polka Maniac Beer Tent.

amazing sample of anything your heart could ever desire. I always make it a personal goal of mine to try something new at this festival. This year, I decided upon smalec (Polish pork lard spread) on rye bread with a pickle. I wasn't completely sold on trying it but shockingly, it was absolutely delicious. The overall vibe of this village lends itself to offering an opportunity to embrace parts of the culture that we do not get to celebrate every day.

The entertainment at Roncesvalles is outstanding as well. Opening ceremonies start at the main stage at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday and from that point on there is constant entertainment at multiple venues throughout the event. The mile-long festival offers Polish goods, street performers, bakeries, shops, and exhibits all centered around the crown jewel of this street. A large bronzed statue of St. John Paul II overlooks festival goers as they immerse themselves in their heritage. Passersby frequently stop in front

of this statue to say a prayer, offer flowers, or light a candle before they continue exploring the street.

After opening ceremonies, we quickly made our way to the Sobieski Vodka-sponsored Polka Maniac stage where Polka Family was already stealing the show. Always energetic, Hank was using his charisma to encourage onlookers to stay and hear some music. Joining the Polka Maniac stage this year was Freeze Dried, IPA Tribute Band, New Direction, and John Gora & Gorale. It was truly a polka all-star weekend, as each band kept the energy up for the entire festival. What I enjoy most about this festival is the exposure to so many people who have never heard a polka. People stop, smile, tap their toes, and stay to enjoy the upbeat tempo before heading off to the next performance stage.

One of the interesting points of this festival is that it is truly a Polish festival. A large majority of the resi-

continued on next page



The Gora Family at Roncesvalles.

Dance to Benefit ALS Association

MILLVILLE, N.J. — Polka Pete & his Orchestra will be on stage providing the music for a fundraiser at the BPO Elks Lodge, 1815 E. Broad Street, Millville, Nov. 22, 2014.

There will be music, dinner and the opportunity to aid in this cause. Proceeds will benefit the Greater

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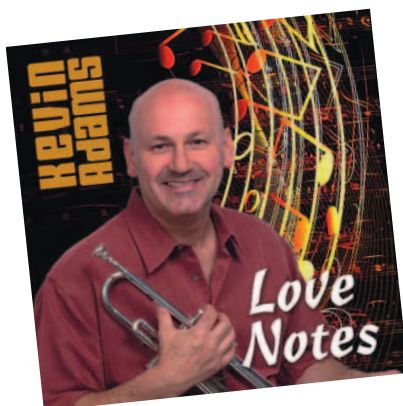
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Roncesvalles Festival: "Hey Sokoly" and "Wszystcy Polacy" are Crowd Favorites

continued from page 22

dents of the area, as well as visitors attending, speak only Polish. When John Gora takes the stage he commands the audience with his quick humor and fluency of the language. He has such unbelievable rapport with his audience that it is hard to walk away during his performance. It's obvious from watching him on stage that he is truly in his element when performing — and even more so here. I enjoy this authentic atmosphere which typically is not present at polka events.

Freeze Dried, IPA Tribute Band, as well as New Direction, all did an amazing job captivating the uniquely diverse crowd that attends this cultural celebration. There are families, young adults, and senior citizens all celebrating their love of things Polish. The bands utilized their talent and charm to keep the street packed with polka dancers all day and evening. The beer and vodka garden, which was adjacent to the stage, was at capacity throughout the festival as people enjoyed the sensational performances.

The highlight of the weekend event for us is enjoying Ed Guca playing on Saturday night at the main stage for "Dancing under the Stars." The street is absolutely mobbed as the crowds dance rampantly to their polo disco favorites. It is an astonishing scene to see so



Christopher and Kaitlyn Lydo.



David and Kimberly Rozanski.



Karen and Greg Hammer.



Rebecca Borowski and Michael Rodenhau.



John Killian and Colleen Mulvaney.



Jackie Schmidt Scholarship volunteers with Congressman Brian Higgins.

many people enjoying the music with so much affection and zest. The songs "Hey Sokoly" and "Wszystcy Polacy" bring the crowd to such an unbelievable roar that you are instantly infected by the enthusiasm of this event. It is impossible to describe the aura that is present at the Roncesvalles Festival until you attend. If you have never been there, mark your calendar for September 19-20, 2015.

A CLASS ACT. There is no denying the class and high-caliber performance of **Lenny Gomulka** each time he performs. The 2nd Annual Polish Night at the Knights of Columbus was no exception. Lenny and the Push alternated with Buffalo **Concertina All Stars** for an evening of remarkable music, friendship, and overall great time. The vocals and musicianship of The Push make them not only fun to listen to but fun to watch as well. The dance floor was constantly filled with everyone enjoying the carefree atmosphere of the evening. Even members of the **Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble** in full costume were enjoying dancing throughout the night. Buffalo Concertina All Stars were a tremendous match offering their honky selections. The evening was a musical reminder to make sure we support and keep this cultural music alive. It was great to see many friends that I don't get to see often enough. Thanks to the Knights of Columbus for presenting this annual event and supporting polka music.

CHEF BOBBY A HIT. Buffalo Polka Boosters typically hosts a pot luck dinner every September for its members. This year was a little different as **Bob Wilcox** prepared over 10 gallons of delectable homemade sauce for a spaghetti dinner. Members of the board worked tirelessly in the kitchen preparing salads, pasta, and meatballs to complete this dinner. The **Buffalo Touch** provided the heartwarming entertainment to the crowd so they could dance off their sizeable plates of spaghetti and meatballs. Tommy Wanderlich and John Formenko filled in with the band to provide a strong danceable beat. The crowd was also satisfied as they got to enjoy a humongous variety of sweets and baked goods

which were provided by the members. A special thanks to Bob as he put off having his knee surgery done so that he could make the sauce for a successful event. Our thoughts and prayers are still with him as he continues on his road to recovery.

GOOD CAUSE REWARDED. The 2nd Annual **Jackie Schmid Memorial Scholarship Dance** was once again a successful event for the community. Buffalo Touch and Phocus did a fantastic job providing the non-stop entertainment for this noteworthy event. The Memorial Scholarship is awarded to five students from Cheektowaga who are selected based upon their academic achievement as well as their celebration of Polish heritage and culture. Polish Villa II provided the delicious fare for this celebratory event. Over 100 baskets were donated for a Chinese auction to help raise money to continue these scholarships. The lovely evening left everyone satisfied from dancing, eating, and drinking the evening away in memory of Jackie. This memorial scholarship was started to honor the life of Jackie and her commitment to her heritage. To learn more about this scholarship, please visit www.jackieschmidsscholarship.org/

GOOD NEWS. We have many congratulations going out in the Western New York polka world, so I just want to take a few minutes to send some special wishes.

worked tirelessly even volunteering for several years. Her passion shows through and it is wonderful to see her earning her place at the Botanical Gardens. If anyone is looking to volunteer, contact Karen (716) 827-1584 and she will be happy to assist you.

Congratulations to all of you as you begin this new chapter in your lives.

UPCOMING

- **Nov. 2** — Buffalo Concertina All Stars, Polish Villa II, 1:00 p.m.-?
- **Nov. 16** — Special Delivery, Diane-again's, 2460 Clinton, Cheektowaga. 4:30-7:30 p.m. Free.
- **Nov. 20** — Polka Booster Meeting, Eddie Guca & Polish Canadians, Polish Falcons 445 Columbia Ave., Depew. \$7.00 members / \$10.00 non-members. 8:00-10:30.
- **Nov. 22** — New Direction Band, Turkeys and Polkas at the Broadway Market, 12 noon-3:00 p.m.
- **Nov. 29** — Polka Country Musicians and West of the Mark, Howdy's, 8166 Main St., Williamsville, N.Y. 7:00 p.m. (Doors open at 5:00 p.m.) \$10.00 advance, \$15.00 at door. Info available. DyngusNY@aol.com.
- **Nov. 29** — John Gora, Polish Hall, 71 Judson St. Toronto, Ont. 7:00 p.m. Dinner/dance for Baltyk ZHP. Contact John for details. johngora.com.
- **Dec. 14** — Special Delivery, Diane-again's, 2460 Clinton, Cheektowaga. 4:30-7:30 p.m. Free.

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A Record Setting Pierog



CHEFS AT PITTSBURGH'S RIVERS CASINO prepared and served what Guinness World Records have verified to be the world's largest pierog.

More than a year in the planning, the giant dumpling weighed 123 pounds, far exceeding the 110 pounds, 3 ounces needed to establish the record. It was so big that the casino's facility team had to craft a 27-by-36-inch stainless-steel vessel in which to cook it.

"This is the largest thing I've ever made, period," said executive chef Richard Marmion after Guinness adjudicator Michael Empric made it official at a news conference in the casino's second-floor lobby. "And I've made a lot of stuff."

The project was presented to the chefs a little more than a year ago by Shenandoah, Pa.-based Mrs. T's Pierogies, which six years ago founded National Pierogi Day (October 8).

The chefs started rolling out the 42-pound ball of dough at about 5:00 a.m. the day before judging. Shaping it by hand to fit the specialty vessel, they then filled the giant disk with 82 pounds of cheddar cheese-flavored mashed potatoes. Then they flopped the dough over on itself to create a half-moon dumpling. After rolling and crimping the edges by hand, the pierog was lowered into a kettle of hot water.

Of course, the title did not come without controversy.

Minutes after images of the giant, golden-brown pierog (one is a pierog; "pierogi" is plural) hit social media, PGH Pierogi Truck took to Twitter with a formal protest. "We have fundamental problems with this 'pierogi,'" read the tweet. "Because it isn't one."

He described what was made as a *pagach*, a traditional Lenten dish that truck owner Lynn Szarnicki described as a "pierogi calzone."

Except . . . it isn't. *Pagach* (pronounced puh-GHACH) — dough-wrapped bundles of mashed potatoes, sauerkraut or shredded sweet cabbage — always are made with a yeast dough, said Helen Mannarino of Pierogies Plus in McKees Rocks. Pierogi dough has flour, eggs, water and salt.

"Personally, I wouldn't do it" — bake them — said Mannarino, who emigrated from Poland in 1974 and has been making (and boiling) pierogi for 50 years. "But there are many different ways to prepare pierogi. Each country has its own recipe."

— *Digested from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*



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AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

DELAWARE

WILMINGTON, Del. — On Fri., Nov. 7, the Americans of Polish Descent Cultural Society will host its **Jesienny Bal** (Harvest Ball), at the Hotel du Pont 6:30 p.m.-midnight. Dinner, Open Bar. Music by Zambrowiaczy. Info/reservations call (302) 547-4668.

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS — The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM) will host its **26th Annual Soup Festival**, providing opportunities for guests to sample a variety of authentic Polish soups including favorites such as *zupa grzybowa* (mushroom soup), *kapusniak* (sauerkraut soup), and *zupa ogorkowa* (dill pickle soup). The event will also feature live music, a full bar, and vendors selling books, pierogi, cookbooks, and gifts from Poland — just in time for early holiday shopping. It all takes place Nov. 16 at the John P. Murzyn Hall, 530 Mill Street NE, in Columbia Heights. Price: adults \$15, PACIM members and students \$10, kids \$5

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA — A **Christmas Bazaar** will be held at St. John Cantius Hall, 4415 Almond Street, in the Bridesburg section of Philadelphia, Nov. 7 (6:00-9:00 p.m.) and Nov. 8 (4:00-9:00 p.m.). Polish food, game wheels, pictures with Santa, Christmas Caroling (Friday night), Christmas Shop and much more. Info call (215) 535-6667.

PHILADELPHIA — The Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia's **Annual Polonaise Ball & Awards Dinner** will be held Sat., Nov. 8 at the Associated Polish Home, 9150 Academy Road, Northeast Philadelphia. Cocktail hour at 6:00 p.m., buffet 7:00 p.m. Music by Dennis Ostopowicz Band. The Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Chorus will be honored. Info call Jean Joka (215) 483-0193 or Tiffany Loomis

(215) 292-4931.

PHILADELPHIA — Kosciuszko Foundation, Philadelphia Chapter, presents a poetry reading by the Overbrook Poets Society, Fri. Nov. 14. Polish American Cultural Center Museum, 308 Walnut Street, historic Philadelphia, 7:30 P.M. Free. Info call Katarzyna Newcomer (610) 688-6226.

PHILADELPHIA — **Holiday Bazaar/Flea Market**. Nov. 15 (9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.) and Nov. 16 (noon-2:00 p.m.). St. Valentine Parish Hall, 2330 Margaret St. Polish food, holiday crafts, and more. Info call Joyce Paluszkiwicz (267) 640-7340

PHILADELPHIA — The **Polski Uniwersytet Ludowy** will hold two lectures in the Polish language at the Associated Polish Home, 9150 Academy Rd.

On Sun., Nov. 16 at 3 P.M. Prof. Charles Krasicki, writer, and historian, will discuss "Methods of trying to destroy Polish poetry during the time of Solidarity." On Sun., Dec. 7, Anthony Krzywicki, Esq., will discuss "The greatness of a person is not measured by his wealth, but by who he is."

Both talks begin at 3:00 p.m. For info call (215) 624-9954. All are in-

vited to attend. Free admission.

PHILADELPHIA — St. Adalbert Polish Language School will present its **Andrzejki Dinner Dance**, Sat., Nov. 22 at St. Adalbert Hall, 3233 E. Thompson St. (Thompson & Allegheny Ave.). 8:00 p.m. Music by DJ Pawel Rodzik. Info/reservations at Ksiegarnia (Polish Book-Store), 2617 E. Allegheny Avenue, or call (215) 426-2767.

DOYLESTOWN — Our Lady of Czestochowa Polish Language School will hold the 15th Anniversary of **The Ball**, at 6:00 p.m. on Sat., Nov. 22. It all takes place in the Visitors Center at 654 Ferry Road, Doylestown. For info/reservations call Adrianna (267) 250-9164 or Sylwia (215) 869-0766.

READING — Sun., Nov. 23 is the date for the **Christmas Bazaar** at St. Mary Parish, 12th Spruce Streets. It starts at 10:00 a.m. and goes until 2:00 p.m. Crafts, games, rummage sale, Polish food, and more. Info call (610) 376-6321.

PHILADELPHIA — There will be a **Christmas Bazaar**, Sun., Dec. 7 at St. Stanislaus Hall, 3rd and Fitzwater Streets, from noon to 4:00 p.m. Games of chance, food and more. Info call rectory at (215) 468-1922. Everyone is invited!



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