

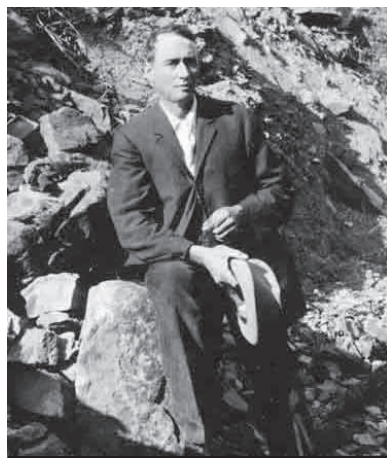
# POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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REMEMBERING PULASKI AND "THE BIG BURN" PAGE 16

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

**POLAND MAY SUE AUTHOR GROSS • PASB TILE CAMPAIGN UNVEILING • "JEDLINIOK" TOURS THE EASTERN UNITED STATES**  
**HEPI FĘKSGIWIŃG! • A LOOK AT POLAND'S LUTHERANS • FR. MAKA ENLISTS IN NAVY • NOVEMBER HOLIDAYS**  
**DO WIDZENIA OR WITAMY AMERIKA? • FATHER LEN'S POLISH CHRISTMAS LEGACY • WIGILIA FAVORITES MADE EASY**

## Newsmark

**US SUPPLY BASES IN POLAND.** Warsaw and Washington have reached agreement on the location of five U.S. military supply bases in Poland. The will be established in and around existing Polish military bases Łask, Drawsko Pomorskie, Skwierzyna, Ciechanów and Choszczno. Tanks, armored combat vehicles and other military equipment will form part of NATO's quick-reaction spearhead. Siting the storage bases in Poland is expected to facilitate swift mobilization in the event of an attack. The project is being jointly financed by Poland and the United States, thanks to a \$1 billion grant provided for that purpose by President Obama.

**RUSSIAN ENVOY CHANGES TUNE.** (REUTERS) Russia's ambassador to Poland on September 28 withdrew an assertion that Poland was partially responsible for the 1939 Nazi invasion and the outbreak of World War II - comments that stirred anger at a tense time in Polish-Russian relations.

Ambassador Sergey Andreyev was summoned by the foreign ministry after telling private broadcaster TVN24 on September 25 that Poland was partly to blame because it had repeatedly blocked formation of a coalition against Berlin in the run-up to the invasion.

"I have explained that it was an erroneous interpretation," Andreyev told reporters: "I did not mean to say that Poland is co-responsible for the outbreak of World War II."

Spats over the interpretation of common history have further complicated relations soured by a pro-Russian rebellion in eastern Ukraine. Nazi Germany invaded Poland in September, 1939, and the Soviet Union moved to occupy parts of eastern Poland two weeks later under a secret agreement between Moscow and Berlin.

For 45 years after the end of the war, Poland remained firmly under Moscow's control as part of the Warsaw Pact.

**NUN BEATIFIED.** Sister Clara Ludmilla Szczesna (1863-1916), the co-foundress of the Congregation of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, was beatified in Kraków, Poland, Sept. 27.

Cardinal Angelo Amato, the prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, presided at the Mass of Beatification.

Stating that Blessed Szczesna manifested "charity without limits," the prelate preached that she was ready "to accept the will of God and to care for the needy, especially children and the sick, with special charity."

At his regular Wednesday public audience on September 29, Pope Francis welcomed pilgrims from Poland who were celebrating the beatification. He said that Blessed Szczesna "taught us about giving oneself to God, humble service to neighbors, life according to the spirit of the Gospel, and sensitivity to the poor."

**EXPLOSION AT CONSULATE IN UKRAINE.** An explosive device was left in a bin outside Polish Consulate in Lviv, Western Ukraine, and detonated October 8.

Spokesman for Poland's foreign ministry, Marcin Wojciechowski, said no one was hurt.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's interior ministry said "the reason for the explosion is being investigated."

Poland has been among Ukraine's staunchest allies since President Viktor Yanukovich was ousted from power in February 2014.

Warsaw vehemently criticized Russia's annexation of Crimea in March 2014, and it has backed Kiev in its struggles with pro-Russian separatists in Eastern Ukraine.

Lviv is a city with considerable Polish heritage as it was a part of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth before being annexed by the Habsburg Empire in 1772. When Poland re-emerged as a sovereign state following World War I, the city became part of Poland again after battles with Ukrainian forces. Polish rule ended with the Soviet invasion of 1939.

## Makes First US Visit



**POLISH PRESIDENT DUDA ADDRESSES UN ASSEMBLY.** "International law is a fundamental value and a fundamental tool to build peace in the world."

NEW YORK — Safeguarding peace and the rule of law were just two of the issues addressed by Polish President Andrzej Duda at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, September 28.

"We, Poles, know perfectly well that peace is not given once and for all," the Polish head of state said, pointing to the Nazi attack on Poland on September 1, 1939 and the Soviet invasion 17 days later. "But Poles are a proud nation and did not surrender because they cherish freedom above all and fought till the end on the side of the free world," Duda told world leaders gathered at the U.N. General Assembly.

The Polish president said that one of the first victims of World War II was international law. Human rights came next, he went on, stressing that, whenever a country attacks another one, the international community is duty-

See "Duda ...," page 3

## Fired Investigator Says House Probe Is Partisan

WASHINGTON — A former investigator for the House Select Committee on Benghazi says he was unlawfully fired in part because he sought to conduct a comprehensive probe into the deadly attacks on the U.S. compound instead of focusing on Hillary Rodham Clinton and the State Department.

Air Force Reserve Maj. Bradley F. Podliska discussed his allegations with the *New York Times* and CNN.

Podliska, who described himself as a Republican planning to vote for the GOP nominee for president, said the House committee was engaged in a partisan investigation of the Benghazi attack. Four Americans, including the U.S. ambassador to Libya, were killed when the consulate came under fire on Sept. 11, 2012.

Podliska said the committee turned all of its attention to Clinton and the State Department after it was revealed that she used a private email server as secretary of state.



Podliska

The move de-emphasized other agencies involved with the attacks and their aftermath, according

to a draft of the complaint.

In a statement, the committee denied Podliska's accusations and said it "will not be blackmailed into a monetary settlement for a false allegation made by a properly terminated former employee." The committee also said that Podliska had shown bias in his investigative work.

Podliska was fired after 10 months on the committee. He disputed what he said were the reasons given for his termination: using work email to send a social invitation to colleagues, assigning an "unauthorized project" to an intern and allegedly putting classified information on an

See "Podliska ...," page 3

## Once Again, NBC Takes Cheap Shot at Poles

NEW YORK — The premier of NBC's "Saturday Night Live" 2015-16 season took a cheap shot at Poles during its "Weekend Update" pretend news segment:

"October is Polish Heritage month. To find out more, you can Google it by sticking your finger on your computer and have two other people move the keyboard up and down."

The network has a history of mocking Poles and Poland.

There was immediate response from viewers and others, including Tweets from the Polish Embassy:

"Tasteless Polish joke from @nbcnl again? What year is it? It's the 21st century, time to catch up #SNL."

Poles and Polish Americans are asked to boycott NBC sponsors until an apology is presented.

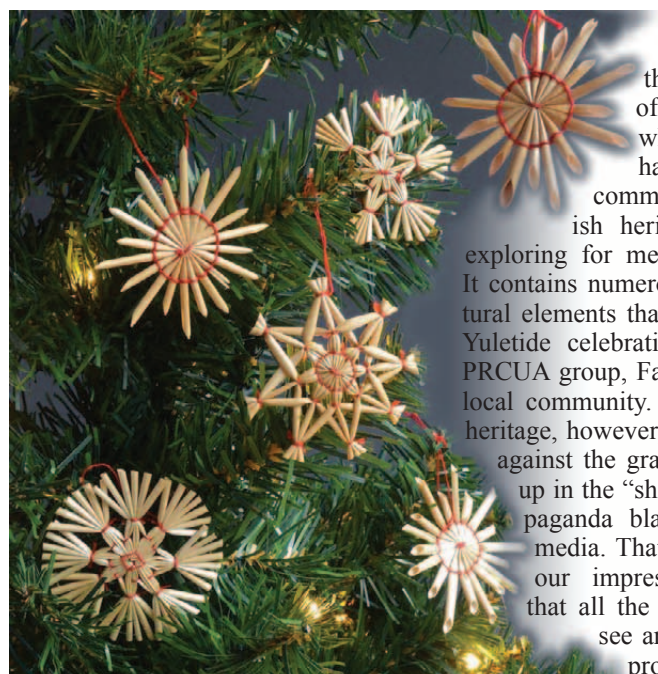
ogy is presented.

Guests on the show included former Secretary of State Hilary Clinton and Miley Cyrus, neither of whom expressed any displeasure with the negative stereotype of Poles.

Steve Burke is CEO of NBC Universal. Letters of protest can be sent to him at 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112.

## Adding ethnic flavor to your holiday routine

## Re-discover your Polish Christmas Heritage



by Robert Strybel

If you are among the growing number of Polish Americans who believe Christmas has become far too commercialized, your Polish heritage may be worth exploring for meaningful alternatives. It contains numerous spiritual and cultural elements that can help enrich the Yuletide celebrations of your family, PRCUA group, Falcon's nest, parish or local community. To benefit from that heritage, however, it is necessary to go against the grain and not get swept up in the "shop till you drop" propaganda blaring forth from the media. That includes convincing our impressionable youngsters that all the grinning Santas they see are nothing more sales promoters out after their

parents' credit cards. Here are some of the ingredients and suggested activities of the season:

**ADVENT (Adwent).** This is a roughly four-week period of spiritual preparation for Christmas and a good time to remind our youngsters that the Christmas spirit is more than getting presents from Santa. It should also be a time to share our time, effort and abundance with those less fortunate: the poor, homeless, lonely, elderly and housebound. The media will be working overtime to convince people that this is mainly the time for house-cleaning, shopping, decorating and partying, so keep telling yourself and those around you not to forget to do good deeds.

**GOOD DEEDS (dobre uczynki).** That idea can be instilled in preschoolers

See "Rediscover ...," page 10

## ALMANAC



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## November Listopad

"On an exhausted field,  
only weeds grow."  
— Henryk Sienkiewicz

- 1 **ALL SAINTS DAY**  
1777. Casimir Pulaski joins U.S. forces.
- 2 **ALL SOUL'S DAY**  
*Dzien Zaduszny* or *Zaduszki*. A national holiday in Poland to memorialize the deceased.
- 3 1930. First regular broadcast of the weekly *Fr. Justin Rosary Hour*, now the oldest Polish language radio program in the United States.
- 4 1790. Birth of violinist Karol Lipinski.
- 5 1734 *Dzików* Confederation formed, a military organization of supporters of Stanislaw I during the War of the Polish Succession, which sought political independence from Saxony and Russia for the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.
- 6 1860. Ignacy Paderewski born.
- 7 1867. Birth of chemist and physicist Marie Sklodowska Curie.
- 10 1673. Death of Michael Korybut Wiśniowiecki, ruler of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth as King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania from September 29, 1669, to his death.
- 11 **ST. MARTIN**  
*Na Marcina, gęś do komina*. On St. Martin's Day the goose (the traditional meal of the day in Poland) goes in the oven.  
1918. Independence of Poland is reestablished by the Central Powers during World War I.
- 12 1892. Birth of Stefan Pawel Mierzwa, founder and first director of the Kosciuszko Foundation.
- 13 **ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA**
- 15 1916. Death of Henryk Sienkiewicz, 70, Polish novelist
- 17 1370. Coronation of Louis of Hungary
- 18 1655. Swedes besiege the Jasna Gora monastery.
- 20 1815. Krakow declares itself a free republic.  
1914. Birth of Polish actor-director Henryk Tomaszewski.
- 21 1920. Birth of Stan Musial, famed baseball star with the St. Louis Cardinals.
- 23 1933. Birth of composer Krzysztof Penderecki, in Debica.
- 25 **ST. CATHERINE**  
1764. Coronation of Stanislaw August Poniatowski, St. John's Cathedral, Warsaw.
- 26 1938. Poland renewed non-aggression pact with the USSR to protect against a German invasion. The treaty was violated shortly after Germany's invasion of Poland on Sept. 1, 1939.  
1940. A half-million Jews of Warsaw forced by the Nazis to live within a walled ghetto.
- 27 1815. Adoption of Constitution of the Kingdom of Poland.
- 28 1806. French forces led by Joachim Murat, Marshal and Grand Admiral of France, entered Warsaw.  
1058. Death of Casimir I the Restorer.  
1948. Birth of Polish film director Agnieszka Holland.
- 29 **ST. ANDREW'S EVE**  
*Andrzejki* brings a fortune telling for mostly unmarried young ladies. Rituals predict which female in the household will get married next or help to describe the man they will marry.
- 30 1926. Birth in Wilno, Poland of Andrew Schally, winner of 1977 Nobel Prize in Medicine.

This paper mailed on or before **October 30, 2015**  
The December edition will be mailed on or before **December 1, 2015**.

## VIEWPOINT

## The Upcoming "Year of Poland"

In two years, Poland will mark the 100th anniversary of its independence. On November 11, 1918, Poland returned to Europe's map after 123 years of subjugation at the hands of Russia, Prussia, and Austria.

The next hundred years would not be easy. After barely a generation of freedom, Poland again fell under Teutonic and Soviet boots in 1939. The German occupiers were evicted in 1945; the Russians stayed until 1989. In all honesty, in a century of independence, Poles have really only been free for two generations.

And, with Vladimir Putin thinking he has a right to redo European borders unilaterally, some folks should be scared.

In that century, we have achieved a lot, both in terms of reconnecting with our earlier, pre-Partition history as well as living in the modern world. And that should be a cause for pride.

We can be proud. But most people know little, if anything, about Poland. I remember being told a few years ago that, in the ceremony when a new junior American diplomat assigned to Poland, his wife leaned over to ask a friend whether a city practically in the center of Europe experienced the *biale noce* of the Arctic. When her friend jokingly responded "yeh, and they have polar bears, too," the wife took her seriously.

So Poland's centennial of independence should not just be a cause for pride but a chance for education, for getting the word

out about Poland — its history and culture, its geography and tourism, its problems and its friendship.

Two years away from that Centennial, we call on all of Polonia's organizations to start planning now on how to celebrate that anniversary, both internally and with our fellow Americans at large. We specifically call on the larger organizations to work with the Polish Embassy and Consulates in the United States to develop a systematic plan that makes 2018 the "Year of Poland." We call on the Polish Government to work with the American travel and tourist industry to make 2018 in Poland what 2013 was in Ireland: the "Gathering" of the family — come home to Ireland. Let's think big: why shouldn't we have press pieces, radio and television programs, movie festivals, cultural exhibitions? Why not have Polish art at the Smithsonian, the Met and the Chicago Art Museum? Why not push local universities and colleges to find Polish partners? Why not get more Polish products into American stores? Why not plan for how to make the Polish presence in America — both the old country and our diaspora — strong and vital again?

Now is the time to promote Poland: its culture, its hospitality, its history, its interest, and its good name. A well-planned, well-executed campaign leading up to November 11, 2018 could do Poland—and American Polonia—a world of good.

## Poland May Sue Gross

## Author Claims Poles Killed More Jews than Germans During War

LONDON (Agence France-Press / AFP) — Princeton University professor Jan T. Gross faces possible lawsuit by the Polish prosecutors over his remarks

Gross may be sued by Polish prosecutors for claiming Poles "did kill more Jews than Germans during the war."

Polish prosecutors opened a libel probe against Gross on October 15.

In September, the German newspaper *Die Welt* ran an article by Gross in which he sought to explain Poland's wariness of accepting Syrian migrants streaming into Europe by referring to anti-Semitism during the war.

"The Poles, for example, were indeed rightfully proud of their society's resistance against the Nazis, but in fact did kill more Jews than Germans during the war," wrote the 68-year-old Jewish historian.

The Warsaw prosecutor's office has since received more than 100

complaints from individuals and organizations saying they found Gross's claim offensive, according to office spokesman Przemyslaw Nowak.

Nowak told public television that the office was acting under a paragraph of the criminal code that "provides that any person who publicly insults the Polish nation is punishable by up to three years in prison."

Foreign ministry spokesman Marcin Wojciechowski said Gross's article was "historically untrue, harmful and insulting to Poland."

Warsaw historian Andrzej Paczkowski told AFP "there are no reliable figures regarding the number of Jews killed by Poles and the number of Germans killed by Poles."

But Paczkowski, who is also a council member of the National Remembrance Institute (IPN) that is charged with investigating Nazi and Communist-era crimes, said he "would not be totally surprised if Gross were right."

"But his vision of things runs counter to the heroic image Poles have of themselves."

Gross is well known in Poland, where he caused shock in 2001 with

his book "Neighbors," in which he revealed that in 1941 during the Nazi German occupation, several hundred Jews were massacred by their Polish neighbors in the town of Jedwabne. (*Editor's note:* The IPN found that the "utter passivity" shown by the majority of Jedwabne's population is very different from the statement on page 7 of "Neighbors," in which Gross stated "half of the population of the town murdered the other half." The majority of Jedwabne residents, the IPN said, did not participate in the pogrom. Furthermore, to date, the involvement of German paramilitary forces of the SS and Gestapo in the massacre remains unclear, a fact obfuscated by the sensationalism created by Gross' writing. The IPN concluded the killings were instigated by German Nazis).

Prosecutors had twice already looked into whether Gross defamed Poland in his earlier books "Fear" and "Golden Harvest".

But those preliminary investigations in 2008 and 2011 were shelved after prosecutors found no evidence of a crime.

## Serves at PNA Convention



**THE PAJ'S RICHARD P. POREMSKI** served as an elected delegate to the Polish National Alliance's (PNA) 47th Quadrennial Convention in Cleveland, Aug. 23-26, 2015 on the Alliance Publications and Communications Committee (APCC).

Previously, Poremski had attended the pre-convention APCC meeting in Chicago. There, the committee examined various reports and held pertinent managerial interviews concerning the PNA-owned Polish language newspaper *Dziennik Zwiastkowy* (*Polish Daily News*), and radio station WPNA - 1490 AM. PNA's *Zgoda* membership publication was not in the purview of this committee. The APCC's report was presented on the convention floor and fully approved by all the delegates, absent any dissent.

Poremski is vice president of PNA Council 21 and a Lodge 238 officer of the PNA in Baltimore, Md. He heads the PAJ's Washington, D.C. Bureau, and is also chairman of the National Katyn Memorial Foundation.

## SPEAK UP

## Recipe for a Polish Christmas?

Can you decorate a tree with beautiful Polish handmade ornaments? Thanks to my grandparents and family, I have a deep love and knowledge of Polish culture.

Like making soup from a nail, I need your help. I would like to teach classes, "make and take," which means that you would make the ornaments, and then take them home. Since Christmas is a celebration for all, the classes may be open to all ages. I live in Buffalo, do not have personal transportation, but offer my number (716) 882-3819.

**Barbara Frackiewicz**  
*Buffalo, New York*

**TAX DEDUCTION.** With the year's end upon us, we ask our readers to consider a donation to the Polish American Journal Foundation. It is a 503c non-profit organization, the funds of which are used for the promotion of Polish American culture. Learn more by turning to page 5 in this month's edition.

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# PASB Tile Campaign Unveiling



PHILADELPHIA — The Polish American String Band (PASB) is holding a Tile Campaign to help offset the cost of operating its clubhouse in the city's Port Richmond section.

Following this year's Pulaski Day Parade, the Band unveiled two walls of tile markers. Pictured at the ceremony are (l. to r.): Walt Wojcik, publicity director PASB; Ed Pawlowski, mayor of Allentown, Pa.; Marie Hujnosz, president of Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia; Joseph Zazyczny, one of the founders of PHS and former Philadelphia councilman; Regina Wnukowski, supporter of Polish organizations and wife of Joseph Wnukowski, one of the founders of PHS; and Marti Zazyczyn, supporter of Polish organizations and wife of Joseph Zazyczny.

For a donation of \$100, you will receive a 6" x 6" tile or for \$400, you will receive a 12" x 12" tile with a custom message to be permanently displayed in the band's club house.

All donations are tax-deductible and proceeds go toward the preservation and growth of Polish American String Band. If you can, please help us keep music, heritage, and tradition alive and thriving in Philadelphia.

You can order a Polish American String Band commemorative tile at: <http://polarengraving.com/PolishAmericanStringBand>. Any questions can be sent to [sales@polishamericanstringband.com](mailto:sales@polishamericanstringband.com).

## Makes First US Visit

continued from cover

bound to reject the facts that result from such actions.

"On behalf of Poland, I would like to express opposition towards a vision of a world divided into spheres of influence and aggression from those who in their own interest ignore international law," Duda said.

"The emphasis on respect of international law as well as unconditional penalization of those responsible for war crimes, was meant to be one of ways and means to prevent bloody conflicts in the future. As Pope John Paul II observed 'Peace and international law are closely linked to each another: law favors peace.' Unfortunately, international treaties are still violated, solemn pledges are neglected, and human rights are commonly trampled," he said.

"We should constantly recall this fact. There is never too much of reminding that international law is a fundamental value and a fundamental tool to build peace in the world."

**VISITS GROUND ZERO.** Upon arriving in the United States, the Polish head of state visited Ground Zero — the site of the World Trade Center — and paid tribute to the victims of the September 11, 2001 attack on the site.

This was the first destination of President Duda in the United States on his first official visit to the country since being sworn into office.

**THANKS POLONIA.** Duda visited New York's Greenpoint district, which is home to the second largest Polish community in the United States (after Chicago). There, he took part in a Mass celebrated at the St. Stanislaus Kostka parish.

Duda paid tribute to Polish Americans during the last evening of his U.S. visit.

During a meeting at the Polish Consulate in New York, Duda noted that many of the older generation of Polish Americans had fought for Polish independence during World War II, and that the Polish diaspora had spent decades concerned with the fate of the country.

The president said that thanks to the end of communism in 1989, Poles were able "to throw off the shackles and start to repair the republic."

"I say start because the process lasts and the republic continuously needs to be repaired."

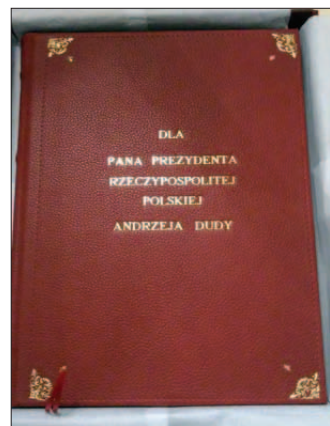
"You are constantly taking part in that process," he added, noting that he hoped that Polish Americans felt that they could return to their homeland.

— Compiled from Radio Poland and other news sources.

The Perfect Christmas Gift! A subscription to the Polish American Journal. Call 1 (800) 422-1275.

## Polonia Congratulates Polish President in New York

NEW YORK — Polonian activists presented Polish President Andrzej Duda with a book of congratulatory messages on September 28 in New York City. Polish Americans from 11 states and the District of Columbia signed the congratulations. The Polish president was clearly moved by the messages and by the handwritten signatures of over 1,500 members of American Polonia.



**CONGRATULATORY** messages were bound in a red leather book, embossed with gold lettering. Signers ranged in age from grade-schoolers to centenarians. They included: Solidarity activists; World War II veterans; survivors of German forced labor; survivors of Russian deportations to Siberia; elected officials; professors; journalists; doctors; lawyers; farmers; businesspeople; clergy; and students. Signers represented California, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Washington, D.C.

The congratulatory book began as a grassroots effort among Washington, D.C., Polonia and rapidly spread. Ursula Armstrong, a third-generation Polonian in Minneapolis, Minnesota, commented after she and her granddaughter signed that "it's important for the Polish president to know that Polish people in America care about what's happening in Poland."

Małgorzata Rogoyska, one of the Washington, D.C., organizers expressed a similar view: "President Duda needs to know that despite various announcements to the contrary, reports of American Polonia's death are greatly exaggerated," she said.

"Despite difficulties we struggle on, and as long as we live, Polonia has not perished!"

**LAST CHANCE.** As many of you know, to celebrate our 104th anniversary, we are giving away 104 digital subscriptions to new readers. We have almost reached our goal. If you know someone with computer savvy, who may be interested their heritage, this is an ideal way to introduce them to the PAJ. The files are generated in Adobe PDF format, which can be read on almost any device. All we need is your name, address, and email address. Send to: [info@polamjournal.com](mailto:info@polamjournal.com), and indicate "104th Anniversary" on the subject line.

## JUST BETWEEN US / Mark Kohan

# Readers Share Opinions

Here are some items that struck a chord with some of our readers:

**FIRST, LEARN THE FACTS.** We received several reports about folks who were up in arms over "showers" placed outside the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum during a summer heat wave in Poland.

After a number of articles were published in international media — almost all calling the museum insensitive — the museum published a statement to explain the water misters (not showers) were installed to help visitors cool off during an exceptionally warm summer. (In August, temperatures in Poland reached as high as 99° F). The museum said that visitors often have to stand in the sun for a long time when they line up to enter the memorial, "without any possibility of hiding in the shade." Some visitors fainted from the heat, it said.

The museum said it could understand how the misters could be interpreted as a distasteful reference to the Nazi gas chambers disguised as showers, but the mist sprinklers do not look like showers.

Historians pointed out the fake showers installed by Germans inside some of the gas chambers were not used to deliver the deadly Zyklon B gas, which was dropped inside the chambers in a completely different way — through holes in the ceiling or airtight drops in walls.

**CHUCKING CHEESE.** Pierogi Fest, held each July in Whiting, Indiana for the past 21 years, draws a quarter of a million people to this Polish and Slovak enclave of about 5,000 near Chicago. They dance the polka and feast on ever-expanding varieties of the traditional dumpling.

Eastern Europeans and their de-

scendants from across the upper Midwest come to enjoy all aspects of their heritage, as well as pierogi from about 20 vendors, offering everything from potato, cheddar, sweet cheese, and sauerkraut pierogi to fruit-filled and even pizza pierogi.

The weekend ends with what has become a highlight of the festival: The Buttered Pierogi Toss.

Similar to a balloon toss, the event featured about 10 pairs of competitors, who faced each other in parallel lines. Each person's arms were dunked in vegetable oil and the pierogs were given a similar treatment. After each successful catch, both partners took a step back. The winners are the last pair to successfully catch the airborne dumpling.

A few readers were saddened that folks are tossing food around — pierogi or not, and said perhaps contestants can donate their potential missiles to a nearby homeless shelter. A few suggested they chuck dumpling look-alikes made of play dough, wax, or silicone. Who knows? Maybe someone will win an award for the best aerodynamically-designed pierogi!

**HEALTHY CHOICE.** The European Union last March granted countries permission to opt out of growing genetically-modified organisms (GMOs) if their doing so is aimed to protect consumer preferences as well as human health and the environment. Poland is the fourteenth European country to opt out, joining Serbia, Slovenia, Croatia, Italy, Latvia, Scotland, Germany, Wales, Lithuania, Austria, Ireland, France and Greece — all banning Monsanto's controversial crops in their respective countries.

Congrats to Poland on this decision.

## Podliska: Fired After 10 Months on Committee

continued from cover

unclassified system. He contended that another reason he was fired was for taking leave because of a deployment; such a dismissal would be illegal.

Podliska said he decided to come forward because the committee's skewed focus is detracting from the objective of uncovering the truth surrounding the deaths of four Americans, including U.S. Amba-

sador Christopher Stevens. "What happened was wrong," Podliska said.

"I'm scared. I'm nervous. I know that this is, you know, I'm going up against powerful people in Washington. But at the end of the day I need to live with myself," he said. "I told my wife, I will view myself as a coward if I don't do the right thing here."

— From AP and CNN reports

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## “Jedliniok” Tours the Eastern United States

by Richard Poremski

BALTIMORE – Poland’s Youthful Cultural Diplomats. The throngs attending the Holy Rosary Church Polish Fall Festival, Sept. 26-27, were delighted with the elegant and energetic performances by “Jedliniok” — a student folk dance ensemble from Wroclaw University in Poland. The group of 15, which included four musicians, was led by Director Henryk Brzezicki. Their name — “Jedliniok” — is derived from the Lower Silesian dance Jedlinioka originating in Jedlina Zdroj. Although specializing in the folk dances of Upper and Lower Silesia, they also expertly perform Poland’s national dances such as the Polonaise, Mazur, Kujawiak and Krakowiak. The cultural dances of the Nowy Sacz and Opoczno regions are also included in their repertoire.

The local Polish communities — churches, clubs, societies, fraternal organizations, etc., — supported Jedliniok during this particular tour that stretched from upper New York State to Miami, Fla., which visited a score of cities on their September 4th to November 1st itinerary. The mentioned Poloniae provided housing, meals and varied support for the performers, often in local homes. Expenses were paid for by the selling of performance tickets, raffles and monetary donations. Their interstate travel was by Greyhound bus on which they carted their personal luggage and various costumes — no small feat. The transatlantic airfare was paid for personally by each par-



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

The student body folk dance ensemble “Jedliniok” from Poland’s Wroclaw University performed in Baltimore for the local Polonia and greater appreciative community at a Polish fall festival.

participant.

After Jedliniok’s four weekend performances in Baltimore, the group expressed a dream of visiting nearby Washington, D.C. on their concluding free-day. Consequently, a convoy of three vehicles set off for a full day’s tour of all the major monuments and sights in our nation’s capital — all to the group’s delight. After that evening’s reception and dinner back in Baltimore, the tired students again boarded the Greyhound just after midnight,

glory bound to Spartanburg, S.C. There was a brush with Hurricane Joaquin that caused their Greenville, S.C. performance to be cancelled due to dangerous flooding. Luckily, their show in Georgia and the six in Florida were not affected by Joaquin.

Academic Song and Dance Jedliniok was founded in 1975, with the University of Agriculture (now University of Life Sciences) taking full operational control and responsibility for it in 1980. The mission statement was the

promotion of Polish culture in the country and abroad. It is the only dance troupe in Poland that includes in its repertoire the folk dances and songs of the sub-regions of Silesia.

More than 3,000 students have participated in Jedliniok since its inception.

Today’s Jedliniok is formed by approximately 50 or more dancers, soloists, singers and musicians who are students or graduates from all of the universities in Wroclaw. They naturally become kindred colleagues — koledzy — in the greater Jedlinioka establishment, and some later launch and operate their own folk music and dancing teams, thus initiating many interesting endeavors for Poland’s cultural posterity.

Jedliniok has an international and global reach: It has performed in Europe, Scandinavia, Central and Far East Asia, North Africa, all across the United States and Canada, Central and South America, Mexico, Australia and New Zealand, and more — really on every continent except Antarctica.

Over the past 40 years of its existence, Jedliniok has been awarded numerous medals, awards, certificates, diplomas, etc., for its artistic accomplishments and excellence in the folklore genre. But the greatest honor bestowed upon them is the gratitude and endorsement of the Polish people, being very proud of these youthful student diplomats — *dplomaci studenckie* — who promote Poland’s culture, good will and friendship to many diverse peoples around the world.

### SYBIRACY / Stefania Borstowa

## Memories from Deportation to Kazakhstan – Dealing with NKVD and Journeys for Oil

### Part IV

*Memories is written by Stefania Borstowa. Borstowa, her children and Marysia, a home servant, were deported from Lvov to Krutoyarka, a small village in Kazakhstan. Soon after Soviet Union invasion, her husband was sent to the labor camp in Eastern Siberia and died of dysentery, but she did not know about it until after World War II.*

*Excerpt from the letter August 15, 1940*

“Each day I go to work 6 km one way, in the past it was 9 km, on foot. My feet are swollen, heels are cracked and bloody since I have to run on roads and Kazakh steppe. I could stay in a mobile house called ‘Balagan’ (means “messy place”) where some workers stay. But ‘Balagan’ is a very dirty place full with insects. It also serves also as not official bordello. Gladly the insects are not welcome in our house since we kill them on the daily basis. Oiling heads with petroleum helps also to keep worms away. (...) Tomorrow I’ll wake up at 4 a.m. to bake lepyoshki, prepare breakfast and lunch, then I’ll walk 6 km to work. I’ll spend the whole day on the dark

and hopeless steppe, in a wind that blows away the hay from my pitchfork.

“I received a summons to NKVD (Soviet Secret Police). They informed me that I could return to Poland, but only if I sign a soviet ‘volksliste.’ I needed some time for consideration. All Polish women including Marysia were persuading me to sign it. It was a difficult dilemma, I am here with two small children, uncertain future and desire to go back home and be with the family. But my pride prevailed. I didn’t sign it. The NKVD commissioner stood up and saluted when I told him about my decision. He shook my hand and kissed it telling: ‘I always thought that all Poles are betrayers. Thank you.’ He promised that he would help me in everything I need.”

*Excerpt from the letter August 28, 1940*

“I finally obtained the address of Edward, my husband, from NKVD in Stanyslaviv (now Ivano-Frankivsk in Western Ukraine). He is held in Chernihiv (North Ukraine) under the guard (...) I have had malaria attacks for the last 5 days. I am

taking quinine which you sent me. I am feverish, about 102.2°F in the evenings. The kolkhoz require me to work, no sick days, so I have to work there although I have vertigo and feel dizzy and weak.”

*Excerpt from the letter September 8, 1940*

“It is the evening right now, I am writing this letter on a swaying pseudo-table. The only light I use is a so called ‘stub.’ It is a handmade oil lamp with no lampshade. These lamps consist of a bottle or a jar with a wick inside, made of cotton thread. It smokes like a steam engine but it stinks terribly. I ‘heroically’ steal the kerosene from tractors or harvesters.

“In order to have enough lamp oil I had to organize thief journeys. One journey lasts 3-5 km and it gives me always chills. When I am already on the farming field, I approach a driver of the tractor and pretend to be very interested in the machinery. They are really impressed with my thirst for knowledge. But I just want to know which knob I have to turn off to get some oil to the bottle. (...)

“My father-in-law is pursuing with success his efforts to get a per-

mit to return back to Poland from Berlin according to his letter. (...) In the beginnings of September they took us Polish women to help with grain harvest in the district. An old orthodox church serves as a granary.

From there, we were loading wheat into sacks, each weighting 75 kg. Since this was for bread for Germans, which in that time were Soviets friends we were trying to ‘diversify’ the content of the sacks. One

could find there iron pieces, dead small animals, dry dung, feces etc.

We decorated some of these ‘surprises’ or gifts with red ribbons. We were glad that we could show our resistance to Soviet-German friendship at least in that way. Luckily, nobody caught us doing this mischief.”

❖ ❖ ❖

*Baba Jaga Corner: Visit Jaga Polish Culture Website at: [www.polishsite.us](http://www.polishsite.us).*

### Twins, Separated After War, Reunited

LOS ANGELES — Two twin brothers who were separated at birth at the end of the Second World War, have been reunited by the Red Cross after almost 70 years apart.

George Skrzynecky and Lucian Poznanski, 69, were born in Germany after their Polish mother was sent to a forced labor camp.

She gave birth to two boys after being liberated from the camp but was too ill to look after them.

The twins, who were born in Kassel in 1946, were then taken to Poland and adopted separately. Their adoptive families did not tell either of them they had a twin.

Poznanski found out he was adopted when he was drafted into the army as a young man. Skrzynecky discovered the truth about his birth from documents he found when he was 17-years-old.

The realization that Skrzynecky’s adoptive parents had kept knowledge of his brother from him caused a rift and eventually he moved to California to start a new life.

The pair were reunited in their home country of Poland after a search by the Red Cross Restoring Family Links Program led them to each other.

— *The Independent*

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## Helping the Poor, Sick, and Infirm

SPRINGVILLE, N.Y. — For the past nine years, donors to the “Spirit of St. Nicholas” humanitarian appeal have embodied the Pope’s message — “... do not forget the poor, the sick, the infirmed, the needy...” — by contributing to the fundraiser that provides Christmas gifts to approximately 40 disadvantaged children in a home and educative center in Jaroslaw, Poland. Many of these children have minor disabilities, and have been abandoned by their parents. Many supporters also contribute to the “Special Children with Special Needs” appeal, which helps to provide for approximately 60 severely disabled children living in a nursing home in Brzozow, Poland.



Pope Francis blesses on of Brzozow’s special needs children.

when you contribute to either or both of these humanitarian appeals. Please make out your check to: the Polish Heritage Festival Charitable Fund, and mail to fundraising chairman: Christine Jozwiak, P.O. Box 115, Springville, NY 14141-0115. On the memo line of the check write: Spirit of St. Nick and/or Special Children w/ Special Needs.

The Polish Heritage Festival is a 501 (c)3 non-profit charitable organization. Donations are tax deductible. The Polish Heritage Festival covers

the administrative costs, so 100% of donations goes to this e appeal.

The Sisters who care for these children pray daily for the special intentions of their benefactors and are most grateful to all who remember them.

### POLISH SINGERS ALLIANCE NEWS / Barbara Blyskal

## An Update from District 7

NEW YORK — Now that summer is gone and the Koszalin Experience is but a memory, member choruses of the Polish Singers Alliance of America’s Seventh District from Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania are preparing for a busy and interesting year ahead.

The District 7 contingent at the **Pulaski Day Parade** on October 4 in New York City was represented by members from Chopin #182 of Passaic, NJ; Jutrzenka #226 of South Brooklyn, Oginski #283 of Hempstead, N.Y., Aria #303 of Wallington, N.J.; and Hejnal #323 of Greenpoint-Brooklyn. This year’s contingent co-marshals were Ed Blyskal supporting member of Chopin and Barbara Blyskal, president of Jutrzenka. Aides to the co-marshals were Yaga Chudy, president of District 7 and Izabella Kobus-Salkin, general director of the PSAA.

Collaborating with the Polish

Slavic Center at 177 Kent Street in Greenpoint, N.Y., Izabella Kobus-Salkin organized a concert celebrating young artists entitled “**Polonia Wspiera Talenty,**” which was held October 18, 2015.

Jutrzenka is preparing to lead in song as well as sing at Council 84’s **Veteran’s Day Commemoration** to be held on Saturday, November 7, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. in the gardens of the Grande Prospect Hall, 263 Prospect Avenue, Brooklyn, where stands a World War II monument listing over 700 names of Polish American Brooklynites who served in the Armed Forces. Come and see if your relative’s name is listed. Expected to participate are the members of the Edward Lukowski VFW Post # 7096 and Ladies Auxiliary; the Polish Scouting Organization; Children of Our Lady of Czestochowa-St. Casimir’s Polish Supplementary School; borough president, the Honorable Eric L. Adams; and Our Lady of Czestochowa-St. Ca-

simir’s administrator, the Reverend Janusz Dymek, who will offer the Invocation and Benediction for the ceremony. All are cordially welcome to attend.

Jutrzenka will be singing at the **Confirmation Ceremonies** at St. Rose of Lima R.C. Church in Far Rockaway, N.Y., Fri., Nov. 20 at 7:00 p.m. His Excellency, the Right Reverend Bishop Witold Mroziowski, will officiate.

On May 21, 2016 the singers of District 7 are looking forward to their **65th District 7 Convention**, at which time choral competitions, Mass, concert and an awards banquet will fill the day’s events. Keep the date in mind and plan to attend. Jutrzenka Female Chorus #226 will be hosting the convention at Our Lady of Czestochowa-St. Casimir Parish in South Brooklyn.

For further information, call (718) 720-6089, (917) 913-3133 or (201) 681-7980.

### Poles Among El Faro Crew

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board has launched an investigation into the sinking of container ship *El Faro* off the Bahamas on October 1.

“In this case, it’s a major marine casualty, so the NTSB has an agreement with the Coast Guard, and we’ll be looking at all the factors that affected the safety (of the ship and) why it happened, to prevent it from happening again,” said NTSB Vice Chairman Bella Dinh-Zar at a press conference.

“We’ll look at the voyage data recorder,” she noted.

The container ship, which is run by American firm Tote Services, was engulfed by Hurricane Joaquin while sailing from Jacksonville, Florida, to San Juan, Puerto Rico.

A notification that the vessel was in distress was received by the U.S. Coast Guard on the it was reported missing, but no further contact was made.

There were 33 personnel on-board, including five auxiliary crew members from Poland.

One of the Polish nationals was 28-year-old Piotr Krause, a maintenance technician on the ship and father to a one-year-old.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

#### Enroll Now for 2016/2017 Awards

NEW YORK — The **Kosciuszko Foundation**, recently released its Fall 2015 Newsletter announcing the names of the 2015/2016 scholarship winners, their university affiliations and scholarships awarded to each. KF scholarships are awarded to Americans of Polish descent for graduate level studies in the United States and for Exchange Programs including funding to Americans for study and research in Poland and to Polish citizens for research and teaching in the United States. Thus far, funding in the amount of \$860,000 has been awarded for academic year 2015/2016.

The KF’s Tuition Scholarships are awarded to Polish American students for graduate level studies in the United States. Applicants who have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and expect to be enrolled in full-time graduate level studies are eligible to apply. Funding is also available to students who expect to attend English schools of medicine in Poland and the masters in Central European Studies at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland.

Tuition Scholarships supports all majors. The Scholarship programs also supports non-Polish Americans who are majoring in Polish language, history and literature. Scholarships range from \$1,000 to

\$7,000. For details regarding eligibility, selection criteria and application materials for a 2016/2017 scholarship, see [www.thekf.org/scholarships/tuition/ts/](http://www.thekf.org/scholarships/tuition/ts/) or send an e-mail to [Addy@thekf.org](mailto:Addy@thekf.org) and asked to be placed on the 2016/17 Tuition Scholarship mailing list.

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## PAJF Polish American Journal Foundation

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

As a national newspaper serving Polish immigrants and their descendents since 1911, the Polish American Journal has a unique perspective on the shortfalls — primarily funding — that have prevented many great projects from getting off the ground. We also have grown increasingly frustrated to see students — future leaders, who are passionate about Polonia — seek other areas of study because they could not secure something as simple as airfare to study in Poland or abroad.

Likewise, we see so many talented academicians, scholars, artists, folk groups — the list goes on — whose special projects or areas of study have been dropped for lack of funds. In many cases, state or federal arts or cultural funding is available, but these groups cannot afford processing fees to meet application requirements. It is time to start helping our own.



Your tax-deductible donation to the Polish American Journal Foundation supports our efforts to keep the Polish American community strong for generations to come.

**MEMBERSHIP.** Donations are accepted in any amount. All donations will be acknowledged and may be used as charitable contributions on your tax return. 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 reviews these suggestions and creates a ballot of the most-requested causes/recipients, which will then be voted on by current members. (Membership is yearly, starting with the date of your most recent donation). All members reserve the right to abstain from being a voting member.

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

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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

## Bishop Defrocks Gay Priest

Vatican Radio reports a Polish clergyman who came out as a practicing homosexual on the eve of the opening of the Vatican's Synod on the Family has been defrocked by his diocesan bishop in Poland. The move follows the dismissal of Krzysztof Charamsa from his post as second secretary of the Vatican's International Theological Commission at the beginning of October.

According to the decision of Bishop Ryszard Kasyna of the Pelplin diocese in northern Poland, Charamsa is now forbidden from wearing a cassock or celebrating mass.

Charamsa held a press conference in Rome on October 3 with his partner, named only as Eduard.

"This is a very personal, difficult and tough decision in the Catholic church's homophobic world," he said after coming out.

Priests take a vow of celibacy on entering the Roman Catholic Church. The question of homosexuality remains highly incendiary.

Bishop Peter Doyle, one of the attendees of the Synod on the Family, said on Vatican Radio that participants were avoiding the subject.

"I'm a little concerned that we haven't faced up to those issues," he said.

### ALTAR DEDICATED AT ST. JOHN PAUL II NATIONAL SHRINE.

Stanislaw Cardinal Dziwisz former secretary to St. John Paul II, joined Washington, D.C.'s Donald Cardinal Wuerl and Baltimore's Archbishop William Lori in dedicating the altar at the new Redeemer of Man church and reliquary chapel at the St. John Paul II National Shrine near Catholic University in Washington, D.C. The altars feature sculptures of the 12 apostles and hold relics of 11 saints connected to St. John Paul II or the evangelization of the American continent. The mosaics on the walls are the work of Fr. Marko Rupnik, S.J. Visitors to the shrine can view the exhibit "A Gift of Love: The Life of St. John Paul II," which brings pilgrims

through the major events of the life and major themes of John Paul II.

**JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HOSTED IN PHILADELPHIA.** Fr. Adam Rosinski, S.J., who teaches at Philadelphia's St. Joseph's HS, organized accommodations at St. Joseph HS and nearby Gesù School for hundreds of pilgrim students from Jesuit high schools and Cristo Rey schools from as far away as Houston, Dallas and San Juan, Puerto Rico coming to Philadelphia for the papal visit and World Meeting of Families.

### MONUMENT TO ST. FAUSTINA'S SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR.

Sisters from the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, St. Faustina Kowalska's congregation, and Fr. Jakub Kolacz, S.J. dedicated a monument to commemorate Fr. Józef Andrzej, S.J., the spiritual director of St. Faustina Kowalska. The editor of the Messenger of the Sacred Heart and director of the Apostleship of Prayer served as St. Faustina's confessor and adviser while she lived in Kraków. He started the public devotion to the Divine Mercy in the Divine Mercy Sanctuary and directed the painting of the Image of the Divine Mercy by Adolf Hyla. St. Faustina mentions him many times in her diary.

### PROTESTING CHILD ABUSE.

Mr. John Wojnowski has been protesting sexual abuse by Catholic priests outside the Vatican embassy in Washington, D.C. for 17 years. Abused by an Italian priest when he was 15, the 72-year-old Wojnowski decries the lifetime damage done to young people. He commented on Pope Francis that "he seems to be much better than the previous one" (Pope Benedict XVI).

### CHANGE NEEDED IN MARRIAGE PREPARATION.

John and Claire Grabowski, who serve on the Pontifical Council for the Family, have been helping young people with marriage preparation for 20 years. John has also taught on mar-

riage and the family at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. They note that seminarians go through 6-10 years of preparation for the life as priests or religious while couples preparing for a lifetime of marriage have six evenings, a weekend, or a Saturday afternoon. Members of the council are working to develop ongoing formation for couples, both pre-Cana and post-Cana formation. The Grabowskis note that Catholic preparation has gotten more challenging after fertility within marriage was removed with widespread contraception, permanence was removed with the legalization of no-fault divorce, and the redefinition of marriage with the Supreme Court decision on gay "marriage." They see a growing response among young people today in response to these national trends in their choice of natural family planning, having large families, and getting involved in the church. John Grabowski serves as an expert at the current Synod of Bishops.

### STOLATTO ... Fr. Edward Kilian-

ski, SCJ, on his election as provincial superior of the U.S. province of the Priests of the Sacred Heart. The Buffalo, N.Y. native last served as pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Houston, Tex., a national parish for Mexican American Catholics ... Sr. Judith Marie Kubicki, CSSF, on being chosen as the keynote speaker at the Church Musicians' Guild of Buffalo "Convocation 2015." Sr. Judith works with the choir and liturgy at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, N.Y.

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ... St.

Andrew Parish in Sloan, N.Y., celebrating 100 years. The parish was formed in 1915 under Fr. Andrew Garstka to serve Polish Americans who had to walk several miles to the nearest church, St. John Kanty, in Buffalo. Using a rented Protestant church at first, the first pastor, Fr. Francis Kaluzny, was named, and laid the cornerstone of the church, convent and school building within the year.

## "Michigan Thumb" Priest Enlists in U.S. Navy



Major Kozak and Rev. Maka.

**by Geraldine Balut Coleman**  
ANCHORVILLE, Mich. — Located at the northernmost point of Michigan's Lake St. Clair and the southernmost portion of Michigan's "Thumb District" lies Anchorville. It is here that Rev. Tomek Maka was pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish. What makes this newsworthy is that Father Maka recently made the decision to leave pastoral ministry and to enlist in the chaplain corps of the United States Navy (USN). On August 9, at Immaculate Conception Church, Fr. Maka took his oath of office and was commissioned as a lieutenant in the USN. At the present time, he is the only active-duty chaplain from the Archdiocese of Detroit. Fr. Maka's sister, Teresa, and her husband, U.S. Army Major Ken Kozak, were present. Kozak officiated at the oath of office ceremony.

### BORN IN POLAND.

Tomek came to the United States in 1998, as part of a foreign-exchange program with Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit. After his ordination he served on the faculty of Ss. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, Michigan. He later was appointed to pastoral ministry as associate pastor of the National Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak, Michigan, followed by assignments to St. Patrick

Parish in White Lake, Michigan, and then Immaculate Conception.

Fr. Maka had at one point in his life considered joining the U.S. Merchant Marines, but opted to attend seminary. He never lost his desire to be at sea, so enlisting in the USN as a chaplain was a perfect fit.

After finishing officer training school in Newport, Rhode Island, Lt. Maka will travel to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, for Chaplain School. Once he completes Chaplain School, his destination will be in the hands of the USN.

Major Kozak feels there is a pressing need for more priests to enlist as chaplains. In the USN, there are approximately 80,000 active-duty Catholics, but only 48 active-duty Catholic chaplains. It should be noted that these USN chaplains also serve the U.S. Marines, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the U.S. Merchant Marines.

### THE NEED FOR PRIESTS

to serve as active-duty chaplains is paramount for the Archdiocese of Military Services, USA. This fall, it held its first discernment gathering for Catholic priests to encourage them to consider becoming military chaplains. The "For God and Country: A Call to Serve Those Who Serve" was held in Washington, D.C., on October 5-9, 2015.

## Polish Episcopate Condemns Anti-Semitism as "A Sin"

(RADIO POLAND) — The Polish Episcopate has published an extensive condemnation of anti-semitism on the 50th anniversary of a landmark Vatican declaration on relations with non-Christian religions.

In a special pastoral letter entitled "The shared spiritual heritage of Christians and Jews," the Episcopate stressed that "anti-semitism and anti-Judaism are sins against the love of thy neighbor."

The letter notes that the Church organizes an annual "Day of Judaism," affirming however that "Christian-Jewish dialogue must never be treated as 'the religious hobby' of a small group of enthusiasts, but it should 'increasingly become part of the mainstream of pastoral work.'"

The Polish clerics also acknowledged that the Holocaust, which was planned by "Nazi Germany and largely carried out on the territory of occupied Poland," nevertheless "sometimes met with indifference among certain Christians."

According to the Episcopate, "if Christians and Jews had practiced religious brotherhood in the past, more Jews would have found help and support from Christians."

In that respect, the Episcopate particularly praises the "Righteous among Nations," who "risked their

lives and those of their loved ones, heroically rescuing Jews" during the war. Under the Nazi occupation, giving shelter to Jews by Poles was punishable by death.

"In many places in our country there are no Jews, only traces of their religion and culture, often in neglected cemeteries," the letter notes.

"The Love of thy neighbor, and the spiritual bond with our older brothers in the faith obliges us to care for the places that bear witness to the centuries-long presence of Jews in Poland and the memory of their contribution to the culture of our multinational and multireligious country."

The document pays tribute to the conciliatory efforts of previous members of the Roman Catholic

Church, including Polish pontiff Pope John Paul II, who was the first pope to visit a synagogue, and a committed leader of dialogue with Jews.

The so-called *Nostra aetate* (In our time) declaration made during the Second Vatican Council 50 years ago under Pope Paul VI is regarded as a breakthrough regarding relations with non-Christian religions.

During the communist era, academic debate concerning the Holocaust was largely frozen in Poland.

An anti-Zionist campaign led by the controlling communist government in 1968 compelled several thousand Polish Jews who had survived the war to emigrate. After that, Jewish issues were taboo in many aspects of officially endorsed Polish culture.

### MODLITWY

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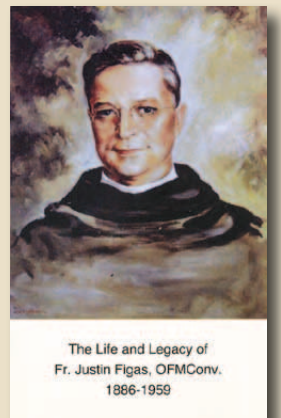
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SPOTLIGHT ON LONG ISLAND / Barbara Szydłowski

## All Saints, All Souls, and other November Holidays

November is Latin for ninth (it was the ninth month of the ancient Roman calendar) and has been called “the month of blue devil and suicides,” but if you are Polish, listopad can be an exciting month.

**TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS. Wszystkich Świętych /All Saints Day** (November 1) has been associated in Polish legend with ghosts and wayward souls. In ancient times when death entered a peasant’s home, all doors and windows were opened at the moment of passing. Sometimes even a part of the roof was removed in order to liberate the soul. Mirrors were also turned to the wall so the soul would not be captured in the room. The last rite included a funeral banquet, which usually took place during the night watch. The vigil lasted until the burial in order to protect the dead soul from evil spirits.

However, November 2 — **Zaduszny/All Soul’s Day** — is by tradition the Day of All Souls. It was believed that the unhappy souls of the dead would return to their former homes. On the eve of All Souls it was customary to keep kitchens warm and leave food on the table overnight for the visiting spirits. Soul cakes were given to visitors and distributed to the poor. Hence, the origin of the custom of going “souling” at the end of October or first day of November, is still practiced by children in various parts of England. Children go from house to house singing and collecting bits of

food or money, no doubt the origin of the American “trick or treat” tradition now associated with Halloween.

**Independence Day** (November 11) “Święto Niepodległości” is a national day in Poland celebrated on the 11 of November to commemorate the anniversary of the restoration of Poland’s sovereignty as the Second Polish Republic in 1918, after 123 years of partitions by Prussia, Austria and Russia. It is a non-working day in Poland,

The restoration of Poland’s independence was gradual. The 11 November date selected is the one on which Jozef Pilsudski assumed control of Poland. The holiday was constituted in 1937 and celebrated only twice before World War II. After the war, the communist authorities of the People’s Republic removed Independence Day from the calendar. In 1989 as Poland emerged from Soviet influence, the original holiday was restored November 11.

November 11 is also America’s Veterans Day. World War I, known as “The Great War,” officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919 in the Palace of Versailles. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when a temporary cessation of hostilities between the Allied nations and

Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For this reason, November 11, 1918, is regarded as

with an opportunity to share together in a meal with different food. The Little Servant Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary who care for the children, take time to educate them about the important message of Thanksgiving. On Thanksgiving Day, the children are encouraged to reflect on the blessings in their lives. They come to understand that their lives may be difficult, but they have people who care for them. For orphans, this is an especially moving and potentially life changing day.



PHOTO: ENCYKLOPEDIA WIEDZY

The first day of November is a holiday in Poland. As many people make journeys to visit the burial places of their relatives, heavy traffic develops and accident statistics peak. Most commercial activity also ceases. Streets are filled with silent and solemn crowds, and cemeteries glow with thousands of candles, presenting a unique and picturesque scene.

the end of “the war to end all wars.”

A year later President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day.

**THANKSGIVING DAY.** Do people in Poland celebrate Thanksgiving Day? Not really, but there is a Thanksgiving Dinner Program for children that is held at the Pope Pius XI Orphanage in Chotomow, a small town about thirty kilometers from Warsaw. This is a special day for the children, participating in a typical American holiday, providing them

with the turn of the nineteenth century, and it did not become the traditional main course until the 1860s. Moreover the Turkey Day tradition firmly became established only after World War II.

**FORTUNATE FEW.** On the feast day of St. Andrew “**Andrzejki**” (November 30), girls would gather together and tell each other’s fortunes by pouring hot, melted wax into a bowl of cold water. The unusual shapes formed by the suddenly hardened wax were held against the light, so that the shadows on the

wall could reveal what the future held in store for the young lady who poured the wax. Naturally, the fortune depended on the imagination of the teller.

If the shadow on the wall resembled something used by a man, it meant that the young lady would marry soon. However, if the shape on the wall reminded one of women’s accessories, a bad omen.

Later, the girls would take off their shoes and put them alternately in a row from the stove to the door. The girl whose shoe went over the threshold first would be the first to marry.

**ON LONG ISLAND.** The **Polish American Museum** on Long Island recently celebrated “Grandparents Day” on September 13 with a Fall Classical Concert featuring the young ladies of the **Paderewski Quartet**. A proclamation from the Town of North Hempstead was signed by Supervisor Judi Bosworth and her associates congratulating the Museum on this day.

The priest and parishioners of **St. Ladislaus RC Church**, in Hempstead celebrated its 100th anniversary with a Mass and gala banquet recently.

I recommend a visit to the **Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center** of Nassau County, which is a museum, and was once a private estate. The Museum features seven rooms with oversized photos, documents and artifacts pertaining to the holocaust, as well as a library.

THE PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

## Do Widzenia or Witamy Amerika?

I am considering starting a movement called “Polish Lives Matter” or “All Lives Polish, Matter.” What do you think? You with me? The truth is, I’ve been a “Lives Matter” for Polonia for many years and I don’t see that changing any time soon. You with me?

With all of the hubbub in the early presidential election about illegal immigrants and 14th amendment anchor families, I am experiencing a number of emotions: one is understanding all of the commotion about the new “invasion,” empathy or disdain for the new invaders, and the other is an inner search and justification for my current citizenship and really, Polonia’s fate and good luck.

Along with Donald Trump, the writer and analyst Ann Coulter has been out front in the debate and discussion about the purpose and the significance surrounding the United States current immigration policies. Ann’s lightning rod book *Adios America!* (Regnery Publishing, Washington, DC, 2015) is at the center of the storm. Don’t want to get political here, but as the ancestors of immigrants (and not settlers), the issue is relational and this should be of interest to us or at the least touch a nerve.

So are you having second thoughts on whether you belong here? I am not an expert on immigration law but for the most part, the United States didn’t have too much in the way of establishing formal citizenship until well into the twentieth century except to document where you came from or where you were born. To my knowledge, the Chinese, Irish, German, and southern and eastern Europeans showed up and signed the register at the port of entry to then build railroads, walk the beat, or work in the factories, mines, or slaughterhouses. Most of us second and third generation children of the Polish ghetto were born in the United States and by the signature on the disembarkment form, we claim citizenship. That has to be the case because look, I’m too far into this to be deported. I’ve got season tickets!!

What about whether the immigrant is the best and brightest? As Ann Coulter has said, why would we continue to let those with

no education or skills come into the United States? Good point. We keep hearing that all of our manufacturing is going overseas but the truth is we have lots of manufacturing; it just doesn’t take a lot of people to produce it. Now we use robots, sophisticated machinery, and technology to do what thousands used to do.

The big rub on both sides of the debate is the *checking in* part. The thing that sets previous immigrations apart from this one is the adjective “illegal.” You can claim compassion on religious grounds but even Jesus, Mary, and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem to register for the census. We do try to help refugees from political or civil strife but in those cases the new arrivals are documented and we limit the number of displaced individuals and families seeking asylum.

The Statue of Liberty says that the United States takes the tired and hungry and we Poles have been very tired and very hungry and very homeless during certain periods in our history. I thank the Lord that during the times when our people came for work, asylum, or searching for opportunity there was room for us in this great inn. I hope that there is more room for Polonia and others to come here free and legal in the future as well. The ultimate hope for humanity is that they will be coming just to visit.

**SON OF POLAND, SON OF EAST ST. LOUIS.** Seen in an interview on one of our local news stations was **Ken Kwapis**, a movie and television director who was born in East St. Louis, Illinois, and grew up in Belleville, Illinois. Both of these cities are across the river from St. Louis and are part of the greater metropolitan area. Wikipedia and IMDB show this home boy as being of “Polish descent.”

I originally discovered Kwapis a while back when his name popped up as the director in some of *The Office* episodes. He is a busy man that Kenny Kwapis, and the endeavor that brought him to the news room this time is his directorship of *Walk in the Woods* starring Robert Redford and Nick Nolte. One of

the news anchors commented on Ken’s familiarity with these two big stars as he casually remarked about “Bob” and “Nick” during the interview. Check out the lengthy list of television and movie stints for Kwapis on IMDB.com. His body of work and accomplishments are quite extensive. I nominate him for a star on the St. Louis walk of fame.

**A TASTE OF POLAND, WHERE?** An amazing immigrant story also set in the Midwest is that of **Café Poland**, 807 Locust Street, Columbia, Missouri. Except for the University of Missouri, Columbia, in the middle part of the state, is just another medium to small country town, the same kind that John Mellencamp sings about. When you wonder about the feasibility of a Polish restaurant, Café Poland is a great example that proves the case and goes beyond. Determination and love are the key ingredients at the root of this business plan.

Café is owned by Iwona Burlinska and her son Robert. Her other son Krystian, despite being disabled, also occasionally helps out around the restaurant. The Burlinskis came to Missouri to attend Columbia College and opening the café was a way to finance it.

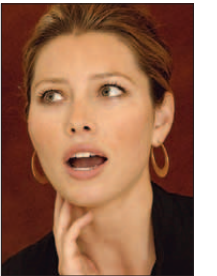
The family is from the northwest Polish city of Swinoujscie, near the Baltic Sea. They moved from Poland to Alaska about 10 years ago. There, Iwona ran a restaurant that was frequented by American soldiers. When they all shipped out to Iraq in 2007, she lost her business. They moved to Austin, Texas, but could not find work and could not afford the college tuition, she said. So, they moved to Columbia, where Robert will complete his degree in science in May. Iwona is working on a degree in human services.

You can read the brief story of the Iwona, Robert, and Krystian in an article that appeared in the *Columbia Tribune*.

If ever in Columbia, Missouri, stop in for a pierogi at Café Poland!

**POLISH OR NOT?** So **Jessica Biel** finally shows up on the EthiCelebs.com website. In a

distant past Pondering Pole I was wondering if “Biel” was short for Bielawski or Bielicki. In my humble opinion Mrs. Biel has a very Eastern European face. Per EC though, she has no Polish roots but she does claim Hungarian Jewish ancestry. Here it is.



Jessica’s paternal grandfather was Donald Arthur Biel (the son of Edward L. Biel and Carrie L. Rasmussen). Edward was born in Illinois, the son of Moritz/Morris Biel and Otilie Morskovitz, who were Jewish immigrants from Žilina (then in the Kingdom of Hungary, now in Slovakia).

I am still going to claim a partial win on this one.

**Joe Pyne**, the original “shock-jock” talk show host, Polish or not?

**Kristin Voda**, still counting laps as a NASCAR host and reporter, Polish or not?

**Brooks Koepka**, young, Slavic-looking professional golfer playing well on the PGA Tour, Polish or not? Brooks has been a bright spot on the tour this year and I am feeling he is going to just get better.

**Sybille Szaggars**, the wife of Robert Redford, “Bob” who is a friend of Ken Kwapis. Does Sybille have a Polish connection with that Polish looking name?

Hope you had a great October Polish Heritage month. With all of the talk about refugees and immigrants, we really do have much to be thankful for not only as Poles, but as Americans. Wherever it is I hope you keep even a small piece of the Polish culture and memory alive in your heart or better yet on your chest.

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

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**POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE** (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 30th year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

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

## POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

# Upcoming Polish Cinema Offerings

The **Skalny Center for Polish and Central European Studies** will present its annual Polish Film Festival, Nov. 1-9. The festival program is broken into two parts. The first part, Polish Classic Movies, includes the screening of Jerzy Hoffman's film "Deluge Redivivus," at the Dryden Theatre at Rochester's George Eastman House, Nov. 1. The Grand Opening, which begins the second part of the festival, will include the presentation of Krzysztof Zanussi's "Illumination" at the Dryden Theatre on the 4th. Polish Vice-Consul Alicja Tunk, and movie directors Michal Oleszczyk and Jan Komasa will attend the Grand Opening reception. The remainder of the festival films, including Jan Komasa's "Warsaw 44," Borys Lankosz's "A Grain of Truth," Kinga Debska's "These Daughters of Mine," Maciej Migas' "Life Must Go On," Malgorzata Szumowska's "Body," Karolina Bielawska's "Call Me Marianna," and Lukasz Palkowski's "Gods," will be presented at the Little Theatre in Downtown Rochester from November 5th through 9th. More information is available at <http://www.rochester.edu/SKALNY>.

The **Ekran 2015 — Toronto Polish Film Festival** will take place at the Revue Theatre in Toronto's Roncesvalles neighborhood beginning on November 9th and continuing through the 15th. This festival will present Maciej Bochniak's "Disco Polo," Malgorzata Szumowska's "Body," Jan Komasa's

"Warsaw 44," Borys Lankosz's "Grain of Truth," Jerzy Skolimowski's "11 Minutes," Michal Rogalski's "Summer Solstice," Jacek Bromski's "Anatomy of Evil," and Jacek Lusinski's "Carte Blanche". This festival's final schedule can be found at <http://ekran.ca>.

The **Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College** will present its 9th Polish Film Festival from November 12th through the 15th. This year's offerings include Waldemar Krzystek's "The Photographer," Henryk Szaro's "Strong Man," Marek Tomasz Pawlowski's "The Touch of an Angel," Kinga Debska's "These Daughters of Mine," Aleksander Hertz's "The Polish Dancer" and Lukasz Palkowski's "Gods". The films will be screened at the Montante Center on the Canisius College Main Street campus in Buffalo. Additional details can be found at <http://www.canisius.edu/polish-chair/polish-film-festival>.

These films will be presented in the Polish language with English subtitles.

**POLONIA TIDBITS.** The Corpus Christi "Dozynki" Polish Harvest Festival Committee announced the winners of its 8th Annual Buffalo's Best Pierogi Contest. In the Traditional Category, the winners were **Donna Darling** (First - Sauerkraut), **Kristen Sikora** (Second - Sauerkraut) and **Victoria Zach** (Third - Cheese). The winners in the Non-Traditional Category were **Brian**

**Marek** (First - Hopped Up Beer Chicken), **Paula Sepanik** (Second - Philly Cheese Steak) and **Diane Rejman** (Beef on Weck). In the Dessert Category, honors went to **Paula Calleri** (First - Fruit Nut), **Nancy Konieczny** (Second - Apple Harvest) and **Sharon Dombek** (Third - Elvis Presley).

New club seating at the University of Buffalo Stadium in Amherst has been named in honor of **Dr. Edmond Gicewicz**, a member of the UB Athletics Hall of Fame and General Pulaski Association supporter ... The Niagara Polish Cultural and Historical Society recently hosted a lecture by historian **Gregory Witul** on "The History of the Poles in North Tonawanda" at the Niagara Falls Public Library ... Rochester's **Polish Language School** is offering adult Polish language classes at **St. Stanislaus Kostka Church** this Fall ... **St. Adalbert's Cemetery** in Lancaster will soon open its new St. John Paul II Garden.

The Polish baroque orchestra **II Giardino d'Amore** performed "Venetian Heroes, Pirates and Nymphs" at Canisius College's Montante Center in Buffalo on October 1st and 4th. The events were sponsored by the Polish Singers Alliance of America District IX, Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College, and the Canisius College Music Department ... Buffalo's historic Broadway Market presented its "Taste of Market" event on October 2nd ... The **Pallottine Fathers** provided a priest to serve as pastor of our Lady of Czestochowa Parish in Cheektowaga and St. Bernard Parish in Buffalo's Kaisertown neighborhood in early October ... "Polanie" performed at the "Kolorowe Liscie" Dance at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga, Ontario on the 3rd.

The **Jackie Schmid Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser** was held at the Lily of the Valley Hall in Cheektowaga on October 3rd as well ... The **Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY** and the **Radosc-Joy Singers and Dancers** from Mississauga, Ontario participated in Assumption Parish's 7th Annual international Harvest Festival in Buf-

falo's Black Rock neighborhood on October 4th.

**Buffalo-Rzeszow Sister Cities, Inc.** President Jim Serafin and local Polonia businessmen Marcin Ostrowski of Pol-Tek Industries participated in the "American Culture and Business Week" in Rzeszow, Buffalo's Polish Sister City, from October 4th through 11th. More information can be found at the "Buffalo-Rzeszow Solidarity Group" Facebook page. ... The parishioners of **Corpus Christi Church** in Buffalo held an outdoor October Rosary Procession marking the Feast of our Lady of the Rosary on the 7th ... **Mary Jane Masiulionis** spoke on "Polonia's Migrant Voices" at the October 8th meeting of the Polish Genealogical Society of NYS at Villa Maria College ... **St. John Kanty Parish**, in Buffalo Historic Polonia District, hosted its annual Harvest Dinner and an Alumni/Polka Mass, with music by "Rare Vintage"; and West Seneca's Clinton Bar and Grill presented "Special Delivery" at its "**Pulaski Day Polka Party**" on October 11th.

Polish musical star **Zbigniew Gorny** was celebrated at an anniversary gala held October 16th at the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga ... The Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary held an October Bazaar and Rummage Sale at **St. John Gualbert Parish** Hall in Cheektowaga on October 17th ... The **Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School** celebrated its 60th anniversary with a banquet at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga on October 17. Music was provided by "Polanie."

Also on the 17th, the Youth Group of Our Lady of the **Sacred Heart Parish** in Orchard Park celebrated a Polka Mass and held a Polish Dinner in support of the parish's World Youth Day Pilgrims; and **Polish Villa II Restaurant** held its 9th Annual "Sweetest Dyngus/Halfway to Dyngus Day Party" featuring the Piatkowski Brothers featuring new Polka Hall of Famer **Mark Trzepacz**.

The **Chopin Singing Society** presented its 116th Annual Concert with the Amherst Chamber Orches-

tra at Assumption Church in Buffalo's Black Rock neighborhood on October 18. The theme of this year's concert was "On the Wings of Polish Song" ... Polish composer **Piotr Rubik** performed "Wiara Nadzieja Milosc" at the Rose Theatre in Brampton, Ontario on the 23rd and 24th ... **Dr. Andrzej Rozbicki's** Celebrity Symphony Orchestra and Polish rock star **Natalia Kukulska** presented their "Film Music Gala" at the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga on October 24th ...

Also on the 24th, **St. Stanislaus Parish** in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District celebrated a special Mass with Buffalo Auxiliary Bishop Edward Grosz as a tribute to St. John Paul II and hosted a special concert featuring the Quo Vadis Choir and the Camerata Group from Canada ... The WNY Division of the Polish American Congress hosted its Second Annual **Zupapalooza Polish Soup Festival** at the Fr. Justin Knight of Columbus Hall in Cheektowaga on October 25th.

**UPCOMING.** The AAA of Central and Western New York continues to offer a nine day **Christmas Market Tour** including Krakow, Wroclaw and Kutna Hora during November and December of this year ... On November 6th, **Paul Pacanowski and Friends** will perform "All Saints Jazz" at the Sweet Breeze Cafe in Brampton ... On November 7th, **St. Adalbert Basilica** will celebrate a Mass of Remembrance to honor deceased loved ones. The Villa Maria Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Ireneusz Lukaszewski, will perform at the Mass ... The **Villa Maria Circle of Friends** will host its Annual Holiday Luncheon and Basket Raffle to benefit Villa Maria College in Cheektowaga at the Millennium Hotel on November 8th ... Polish veterans organizations from across the area will mark **Polish Independence Day** on November 11.

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 issue) to [pietruska@verizon.net](mailto:pietruska@verizon.net).

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

## Karbala, Poland's Box Office Hit, Comes to Chicago

CHICAGO — *Karbala*, a long-awaited new movie by director **Krzysztof Lukaszewicz** which scored record-breaking attendance throughout Poland, will be shown twice during the 27th Annual Polish Film Festival in America. Chicago viewers will be able to see this film Sat., Nov. 14, at 7:30 p.m. or Sun., Nov. 15, at 5:00 p.m. at the Muvico 18, located at 9701 Bryn Mawr Avenue in Rosemont. Lukaszewicz is scheduled to be present at the first screening.

The film is set in the middle of the Gulf War, on April 3, 2004, the Day of Ashura. The militias of the Shiite cleric, Muktada As-Sadr, supported by the jihadists, start an uprising in the Polish stabilization zone. The U.S. command orders the Poles to hold the City Hall in Karbala, the seat of the local authorities and police loyal to the stabilization forces. Eighty Polish and Bulgarian soldiers remain on the battlefield. The situation leads to one of the most heroic battles fought by Poles since World War II. Facing death, the soldiers went through four days of hell. Their heroic attitude, determination, and will to fight, helped the Polish-Bulgarian forces win this battle without the loss of a single soldier.

Leading roles are played by Bartłomiej Topa, Antoni Krolikowski, Tomasz Schuchardt, Leszek Lichota, Piotr Glowacki, and Lukasz Similat. The film's cinematographer is Arkadiusz Tomiak; the music is composed by Cezary Skubiszewski, a Polish composer residing and working in Australia. The film was produced by the Warsaw-based Feature and Documentary Film Studio with Włodzimierz Niderhaus as a producer. *Karbala* had its Polish premiere on September 11. The film's running time is 110 minutes, and dialogue is in English, Arabic, and Polish with English subtitles.

Muvico 18 has ample complimentary parking with a parking ticket validation. Tickets for the *Karbala* screenings can be purchased via general seating or reserved seating. These tickets can be purchased online at [www.pffamerica.com](http://www.pffamerica.com) or by calling 773-486-9612, using any major credit card. VIP section seating is very limited.

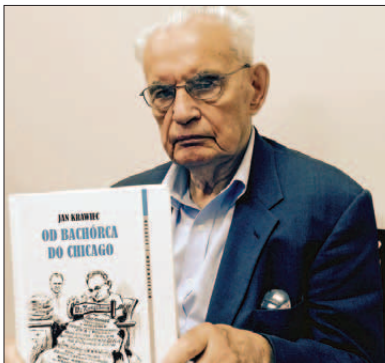
The main sponsors of the 27th Polish Film Festival in America are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, the Polish Film Institute, Star-Tech Glass, Inc., Ivy Hotel, Country Financial, and The Society for Arts. The main media sponsors are iTVN and Polski FM. A full schedule is available on the Festival website, [www.pffamerica.com](http://www.pffamerica.com).

### OD BACHÓRCA DO CHICAGO.

The Institute of National Remembrance (*Instytut Pamięci Narodowej*), a Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation, has just published *Od Bachórcza Do Chicago*, the Polish-language autobiography of 96-year-old, **Jan Krawiec**, a local Chicago journalist. Krawiec tells the story of his childhood days in the village of Bachórzec; his days with the Polish underground press and resistance movement; his capture by the Nazis in 1943; his life as prisoner # 153156 in Auschwitz-Birkenau and Buchenwald; his liberation by U.S. Army troops on April 13, 1945, and his journey to America. Pan Krawiec's book is filled with detailed stories of people he met and the multitude of experiences that crossed his life's path.



*Karbala* is set in the middle of the Gulf War.



Jan Krawiec

Jan arrived in Chicago in 1949. From 1950 to 1959, he worked at the Canfield Beverage Company, while perfecting his English-language skills. From 1959 to 1963, he began his journalism career as a writer for the *Dziennik Chicagowski*, a Polish-language newspaper (1890-1971), while attending Loyola University Chicago, where he received his bachelor's degree in political science. From 1963 to 1967, he pursued a career as a social worker for Cook County, Illinois. In 1967, he continued his journalism career by joining the *Dziennik Związkowy*, and in 1968 he became its editor-in-chief, a position he kept until his retirement in 1985. In 1972, he was the only Polish American to join the American press corps on President Richard Nixon's visit to the U.S.S.R.

Since that time, he has been active in the Polish American community and the Chicago Council of Foreign Relations. However, he spends much time volunteering at the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie, Illinois.

His memoirs are certain to be of interest to Polonian historians. Some may be controversial because Krawiec says what he thinks, unafraid of differing opinions, even if some consider his comments to be politically inconvenient.



(l.to r.): Kukoč, Sonnenberg, Kiciński, Komorowski, Walesa, and Paxson.

**CHICAGO BULLS AND CINKCIARZ.PL PARTNERS.** On October 5, an agreement was announced between the NBA Chicago Bulls and *Cinkciarz.pl*, enabling one of

Poland's leading currency exchange companies to serve as the official foreign currency exchange for the Chicago Bulls. Several guests attended the public announcement, including former presidents of Poland, Lech Wałęsa and Bronisław Komorowski. Also, in attendance were Ryszard Schnepf, Polish Ambassador to the U.S., Paulina Kapuścińska, Consul General in Chicago, Toni Kukoč, Special Advisor to Michael Reinsdorf, John Paxson, Executive VP of the Bulls, and Scott Sonnenberg, VP of Corporate Sales for the Bulls, and Piotr Kiciński, VP of *Cinkciarz.pl*.

Since 2010, *Cinkciarz.pl* has been successfully functioning on the financial technology market. It serves companies and institutions, as well as individual clients. The company is a member of the SWIFT organization, which includes the largest banks and financial institutions in the world.

The agreement between *Cinkciarz.pl* and the Bulls, Chicago's professional basketball team, marks the team's first global partnership. *Cinkciarz.pl* will serve as the Bulls' official foreign currency exchange partner and will hold the title of Official Partner of the Chicago Bulls. Financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed. *Cinkciarz.pl* announced that its first North American office, which will be located on Chicago's Michigan Avenue, will open its office in 2016.

"The Chicago Bulls are honored to welcome *Cinkciarz.pl* to Chicago and into the Bulls' family. This partnership marks the Bulls' first international business relationship and is a significant step forward in our long-term strategy for business growth. The Bulls are fortunate to have a strong global fan base, and we are excited to be able to join with an industry leader in *Cinkciarz.pl* to engage fans both in the U.S. and around the world," said Michael Reinsdorf, President and COO of the Chicago Bulls.

"This is a historic moment for Polish business," said Marcin Piore, CEO, *Cinkciarz.pl*. "We are the first European-based company to partner with the Chicago Bulls. The Chicago Bulls represent American history. The team is a pop culture icon, a symbol of success and reflects the spirit of sports competition. We

share common values. These are: persistence, diligence and engagement. This is why the relationship of *Cinkciarz.pl*, the most ambitious European financial technology company, and the legendary NBA team will succeed."

With the number of Americans of Polish descent in the state of Illinois standing at 1 million and in the Midwest region at approximately 3.2 million, the Bulls and *Cinkciarz.pl* plan to annually conduct basketball programs for children in Chicago's Polish community. Program details will be announced during the 2015-16 regular season.

### ZANUSSI VISITS THE MIDWEST.

On September 9, **Krzysztof Zanussi**, world-renowned film director and writer, visited the University of Notre Dame to deliver a lecture

at the Nanovic Institute for European Studies. The lecture was titled "Strategies of Life: How to Have Your Cake and Eat It Too." Additionally, Zanussi delivered remarks about his experiences with Boris Yeltsin and Vladimir Putin.

On September 10, he introduced his latest film, *Foreign Body*, at a public screening at the University's Browning Cinema at the DeBartholo Performing Arts Center. On September 11, he concluded his Midwest visit as a guest of the Polish Consulate General in Chicago where he met with the local Polish American community and media representatives. Later that day, at the invitation of the Nanovic Institute, Zanussi met with the audience at the Gene Siskel Film Center in downtown Chicago for a screening of the film followed by a question and answer session.

His world famous movies include: *Family Life* (1970), *Camouflage* (1974), *Constans* or *The Constant Factor* (1980), which received the Jury Prize at the 1980 Cannes Film Festival, and *Revisited* (2009). These films reflect moral anxiety and psychological issues.

Born in 1939, Zanussi attended Warsaw University, majoring in physics, and later Jagiellonian University, majoring in philosophy. In 1966, he turned his attention to cinema, and, in 1967, graduated from the prestigious National Film School in Łódź. In 1980, he became artistic director, producer, and eventually president of TOR, one of Poland's top state-owned film studios. Today, he is still a director. In addition, he is a professor of European film at the European Graduate School in Saas-Fee, Switzerland where he conducts a summer workshop and at the Silesian University in Katowice.

Zanussi has received several prizes and awards, including the David di Donatello Prize of the *Accademia del Cinema Italiano*, the Cavalier's Cross of the Polonia Restituta Order, and the *Cavalier de L'Ordre des Sciences et Lettres*.

### KOŚCIUSZKO: A MAN AHEAD OF HIS TIME.

On October 1, 2015, Chicago's PBS affiliate, WTTW, presented the national premiere of the documentary, *Kościuszkowski: A Man Ahead Of His Time*. Based on Alex Storozynski's award-winning book, *The Peasant Prince: Thad-*

*deus Kosciuszko and the Age of Revolution*, the documentary tells the story of the Polish officer, who became an American Revolutionary War hero and a champion of human rights.

With a moving narration by actor Blair Underwood, *Kościuszkowski*'s story is told through reenactments at West Point, Saratoga, Philadelphia, and Poland, along with dramatic readings by screen actor, Olek Krupa. The film is written and directed by **Alex Storozynski** and produced by **Eve Krzyzanowski**. It includes interviews with experts such as Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, former U.S. National Security Advisor; Dr. Gary Nash, UCLA Revolutionary War Historian; Professor James Pula, Purdue University Historian; and Alex Storozynski, a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist.



Krzysztof Zanussi

An interesting and little-known fact is that *Kościuszkowski* gave his American Revolutionary War salary to Thomas Jefferson, and requested that he buy slaves and then free them. The film also points out that *Kościuszkowski* fought for the rights of slaves, Jews, Native Americans, women, and serfs. "The purest son of liberty, I have ever known," said Thomas Jefferson.

A superb military and engineering strategist in George Washington's army, *Kościuszkowski* designed the defenses of the West Point garrison from 1778 to 1780 during the height of the Revolutionary War.

After Jefferson established the academy, General William Davie requested that *Kościuszkowski* write the manual, "Manoeuvres of Horse Artillery," which became a textbook at West Point. *Kościuszkowski*'s engineering skills helped American patriots win the Battle of Saratoga — the turning point of the war. He designed Fortress West Point, which Benedict Arnold tried to sell to the British in the most infamous act of treason in American history.

**Alex Storozynski** is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, Polish Chair of Central European Institute at Quinnipiac University, and President Emeritus of the *Kościuszkowski* Foundation.

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In tribute to Rev. Prof. Leonard Chrobot (1938-2014)

## Father Len's Polish Christmas Legacy

by Robert Strybel

It was my distinct privilege and pleasure to have worked at my first Polish-teaching job under Father Leonard Chrobot, then academic dean of St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake, Michigan. Father Len loved his Polish ancestral roots and worked hard to promote ethnic appreciation and cultural pluralism in the then still fairly WASPish America of the "Polack joke" 1960s. He served as president of the Polish American Historical Association was one of the founders of the National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs in Washington, D.C.

Father Len's extensive writings included "Strengthening character, family bonds and faith," in which he highlighted the Polish Christmas heritage – an appropriate read at this time of year. "People without an awareness of their origins, the place they came from and the price their ancestors paid for them to be here, are subject to the most destructive ideologies and fads of our consumer and materialistic culture drugs, gangs, crime and addictions," the PolAm sociologist wrote and pointed out our Polish heritage as an antidote to rootlessness.

"For PolAms, knowing where we came from means family, filled with fun, faith, and food with meaning,"

wrote the PolAm sociology professor. "The sacred rituals of a Polish Christmas Eve are much more than nostalgia and quaint traditions. Survey the following faith-formed practices that will fortify your kids, teens, and parents with merry memories and Gospel vision:

**SIGHTING THE FIRST STAR.** Empowering a small child to begin the feast is an exciting and memorable ritual. Telling a toddler how Jesus was once a Child, and that is why they have a special place to announce the beginning of the festival, makes a child feel very important at a too often, adult table.

**HUMILITY HAY.** Rather than terminate or litigate undesirables out of his life, God chooses the lowliest birth, among smelly, unhygienic animals. Placing hay under your tablecloth or Wafer napkin proclaims real power in humbling oneself to serve another.

**DELICATE WAFER.** Relationships are among the most fragile realities we live. Sharing the opłatek, the Holy Wafer is unspoken, yet communicated forgiveness. Sharing heaven's bread in the home is healing salve and medication for broken hearts and spirits, easing the ap-



The late Fr. Chrobot's extensive writings included "Strengthening character, family bonds and faith," in which he highlighted the Polish Christmas heritage.

proach to the holiday table.

**BREAD OF AFFIRMATION.** Adults really spend a lot of time judging and trying to correct others, especially children and youth. This is a night to build and affirm character. As you break the wafer tell each person at least one characteristic that you really appreciate in them. What is good in others is of God,

because good minus one letter "o" equals God.

**A WHITE TABLECLOTH** celebrates women and mothers. Pure white simplicity recalls Mary's veil, which became Jesus' first bedding and clothing. Laying on the strong, supportive table symbolizing the carpenter Joseph, a white tablecloth recalls a courageous marriage bond, against the odds of a seemingly unwed-mother. It celebrates mom and grandma who do more than cook: they lay their life on the table.

**EMPTY PLACE.** Few holiday traditions make place for the sadness of loss at Christmas. Think of how the Christ Child was born to die before his sorrowful Mother by execution, only to bring us everlasting Resurrection. There is no beauty without pain, no loveliness without suffering. Polish Christmas does not hide or deny human sorrow. Setting an empty seat profoundly reveals Gospel love that no death can take away. **SOCIAL JUSTICE** Unlike their greedy, superiority-obsessed neighbors, the Nazis and Soviets, Poles have always championed the weak and suffering. Welcome for the stranger and lonely, as Jesus himself, is a value celebrated by the empty setting at the Christmas Eve

table. **GREEN CELEBRATION.** The goodness of the earth and our roles as un-wasteful stewards emerge, as the family draws its best for this Holy Eve. Bounty comes from the four corners of the world: fish from the streams, grain from the fields, fruit from the orchards, and mushrooms from the forest. Verbalizing gratitude to God, the Creator, for the goodness of the past year is key here.

**DRAWING STRAWS.** All generational play is key to full family ritual. Drawing a blade of hay or straw from under the tablecloth or napkin centerpiece foretells the twists and turns of the future, or length and width of prosperity in the New Year. A lively exchange of hopes and dreams ensues.

**HEALTHY CAROLS.** A resilient, tradition-loving household will not be ashamed to sing. Why? Because it knows singing is healing, playful, it strengthens the immune system, and is a delightfully powerful prayer. The same is not true for iTunes or CD recordings. Health flows from tuning the human voice. No Polish celebration is complete without music and song.

## Re-discover your Polish Christmas Heritage

continued from cover through "the hay of good deeds" ("sianko dobrych uczynków"). The child receives a handful of hay (or dried grass clippings). He or she is told to place one strand of hay into an empty manger each time he or she performs a good deed: helps someone, shares something, helps around the house, etc. The more good deeds, the softer the bed Baby Jesus will have on Christmas Eve. Older youngsters can help prepare food baskets for the needy or pay visits to needy neighbors or nursing homes.

**ST. NICHOLAS DAY** (*Dzień Świętego Mikołaja*) is a good way to teach children the deeper meaning of the season: spirituality and charity. At a St. Nick celebration on or around his feast day (Dec. 6), the kindly old bishop quizzes youngsters on their prayers, charitable acts and good deeds and may ask them to sing a kolęda before rewarding them with treats. Why promote the already grossly overpublicized Santa, the unsaintly patron of greedy sales promoters, when our own heritage has a far better alternative?

**POLISH CHRISTMAS GREETINGS**, which you may want to add to your English Christmas card or a letter you send in November December to family in Poland, might read: "Wesołych Świąt i szczęśliwego Nowego Roku" (the standard short greeting). Or you can expand it to read: "Zasyłamy serdeczne życzenia radosnych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia oraz dobrego zdrowia i wszelkiej pomyślności w Nowym 2016 Roku!" If you want to email loved ones in Poland but lack Polish characters on your keyboard, just visit <http://polish.typeit.org/> and your problem will be solved. Just type your greeting in the typeit

box, copy and paste it into your e-mail message.

**AN UNIQUE POLISH CHRISTMAS TREAT** can be experienced by you and your loved ones, especially if you happen to live in the Cleveland, Detroit or Chicago area. Polonua's fabulous Lira Singer and Dancers, this year celebrating their golden anniversary, will be presenting Lira Singers, Lira Dancers and Lira Symphony will present "Joyous Jubilee – 50 Years of Polish Carols, Song and Dance" with folk customs narrated by Lira co-founder, Lucyna Migala. They perform in Cleveland on Saturday, November 28, 2015, 8:00 p.m., at the Connor Palace Theater, in Detroit on Sunday, November 29, 2015, 3:00 p.m., at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts; and in Chicago on Sunday, December 13, 2015, 3:00 p.m. at St. Mary of the Angels Church. Tickets may be purchase from Lira at (800) 547-LIRA, (773) 508-7040 or at the door.

**POLISH HOLIDAY FAIR** (*kiermasz świąteczny*) is a great fundraiser that helps to promote our heritage. One reason some PolAms drift away from their heritage is the local unavailability of the necessary "fixings." A Polish holiday fair, Christmas bazaar, bake sale, etc. can go a long way to remedying the situation by bringing it all together in one place. Such an event may feature opłatek, hay (for placing under the table-cloth), Wigilia foods, baked goods, imported delicacies, cultural artifacts (books, kolędy [notes, lyrics, recordings], Christmas cribs), gift items (amber, crystal, folk-crafts), etc.

**POLISH EVERGREEN DECORATION** (*podłaźnik, podłaźniczka, sad*), known long before the Christ-

mas tree made the scene, consists of the peak-side-down top of an evergreen or an evergreen branch suspended from the ceiling or rafters, often over the dining-room table. It can be decorated with fruit, nuts, marzipan (almond-paste) confections and sweets in shimmering wrappings as well as home-made ornaments. It is worth promoting in our Pol-Am parishes, clubs and businesses and is great for small apartments because it does not take up any floor or table space.

**POLISH CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP.** Depending on available human resources (qualified instructors, publicity chairmen, volunteers) and local interest, such a project could focus on one or more aspects of our Polish Christmas heritage. It might include lectures coupled with videos, slides and practical demonstrations pertaining to folkcrafts (Kraków cribs, home-made tree ornaments, wycinanki, mobiles, caroling costumes and artifacts), customs, food preparation and/or choir carol practice. This is a good occasion to stress the importance of the Wigilia heritage to Polish Christmas celebrations (see next entry).

**CHRISTMAS EVE SUPPER** (*wieczera wigilijna*), Poland's single most important family gathering is rife with beautiful symbolism and age-old customs. Hay is scattered on the table beneath the table-cloth, and the meal begins when the evening's first star appears in the sky. It comprises (depending on local tradition) either a dozen or an odd number of meatless dishes. The meal begins when the evening's first star appears in the sky with the sharing of opłatek. After the meal, kolędy are sung and gifts are exchanged, after which the family attends Pasterka (Midnight mass).

**CHRISTMAS WAFER** (*opłatek*) is a white unleavened wafer imprinted with nativity motifs and sometimes referred to as "angel bread" ("chleb anielski"). It is the single most important artifact of Polish-style Christmas, without which the celebration would be unthinkable. Traditionally bits of the wafer are shared amid an exchange of best wishes with all present as a sign of love, forgiveness and reconciliation.

**O**platek is sometimes referred to as "angel bread" ("chleb anielski"). It is the single most important artifact of Polish-style Christmas, without which the celebration would be unthinkable.

**OPLATEK GATHERING** (*spotkanie opłatkowe*) is the name of a Christmas get-together which involves breaking and sharing opłatek at church, work, school, your Falcons nest or toerh lodge, veterans' post, PolAm club or community center. Often carols are sung and light refreshments may be served, but usually not a full meal.

**CHRISTMAS EVE FOOD** (*potrawy wigilijne*) is 100% meatless. Typical dishes include: herring (pickled, creamed, in oil, in salads); soups (clear beet with mushroom-filled dumplings, clear mushroom with noodles, mushroom-ryemeal soup, fish chowder), fried, baked, poached and/or jellied fish, sauerkraut dishes, pierogi (filled with sauerkraut, cabbage, mushrooms, cheese and potatoes); sweet dishes (poppyseed noodles, wheat pudding [kutia], dried-fruit compote, etc.) and Christmas cakes.

**COMMUNITY WIGILIA**, often referred to in Polonia as an "Opłatek Dinner," can be little more than but a simple meal (fried fish, sauerkraut and mushrooms, pierogi, poppyseed cake) or may be a full multi-course supper. Usually it is held before Christmas some time during December, but holding the event on Christmas Eve itself should be considered especially in places where people have drifted away from the home Wigilia tradition or where there are many elderly people living alone with no-one to prepare things. A parish hall would be the ideal venue for such a supper, followed by community caroling and finally attendance at Midnight Mass.

**CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA** would a "glorified community Wigilia." In addition to the opłatek-sharing and Christmas Eve meal, however simple or elaborate, this get-together can also feature a variety of side events enhancing the overall heritage experience. These could include a Polish Christmas food and bake sale, a craft and gift bazaar, a cooking demonstration showing how to prepare Polish Christmas dishes, community caroling, a kolędy choir concert, Christmas play, and even a visit by the real Saint Nicholas, the kindly old bishop Święty Mikołaj, who quizzes kids on their prayers and good deeds before rewarding them with treats and gifts.

**A GIFT OF HERITAGE** is something that will remind those on your gift list of our beautiful Polish traditions. It could be a book, recording, DVD, decorative item, something in amber or crystal, a wood-carving, wall-hanging, framed paper cut-out (wycinanki), etc. Check out what's available by visiting the PAJ's website at [www.polamjournal.com](http://www.polamjournal.com).

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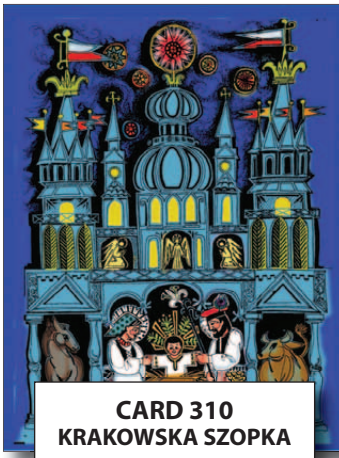


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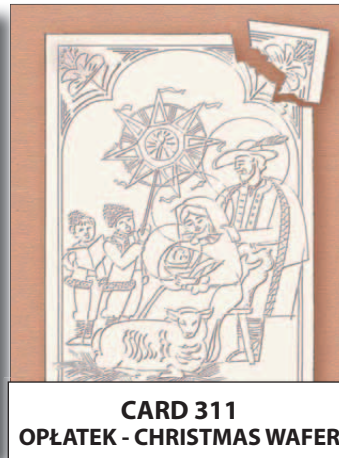
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Sing-along to 37 of the most popular Polish Christmas Carols. This 90-page spiral-bound book contains the words and music plus English translations. Published in 2003, the book also contains a message from the Rosary Hour director, an explanation (in Polish and English) of Polish Carols by the late Msgr. John R. Gabalski of St. Stanislaus Parish in Buffalo, N.Y., plus Pope John Paul II words about the importance of koledy to the Polish nation. Published at \$7.00, available now for only **\$5.00**

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**VOL. I or II — \$12.00 each**



**A POLISH CHRISTMAS EVE**

**A POLISH CHRISTMAS EVE Traditions and Recipes, Decorations and Song** by Rev. Czesław Michał Krysa, S.L.D.

Everything you need for Wigilia or Christmas Eve Vigil Supper! Bi-lingual carols with musical notation, Wafer sharing messages, heritage photos, ornaments, and ritual decorations, the origins of Wigilia, poetry, literature, etc.

This book is a quick and easy reference, step-by-step guide and international collection of folklore, stories, recipes, carols and decorations with never before published photos and black and white illustrations, glossary, pronunciation guide, and a regional map of Poland. This is a wonderful book and a must for every Polish-American family.

300 pp., sc., illustrated, 8.25 x 10.75. **\$26.95**



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**MORE BOOKS AND GIFT ITEMS ON PAGES 12, 13, AND 14**

## Traditional Straw Ornaments



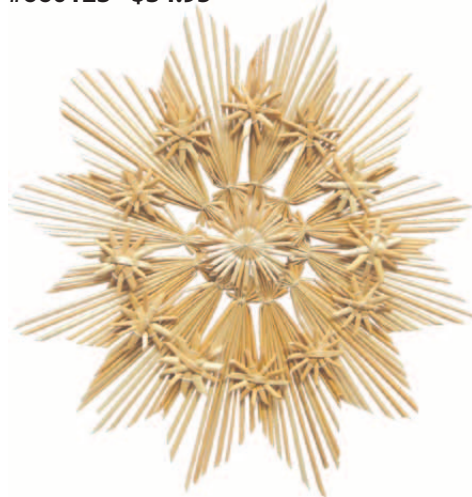
**Set of 44 pieces, Glitter Stars**  
Ornaments measure 2" H - 2.3" H.  
#660103 - \$29.95



**Set of 48 pieces, Silver Finish**  
Ornaments measure approx: 2.4"  
#660123 - \$34.95



**Set of 20 pieces & Wicker Basket**  
Ornaments measure approx: 2.4". Wicker Basket measures 7.9" L x 7.9" W x 1.6" H  
#660127 - \$22.95

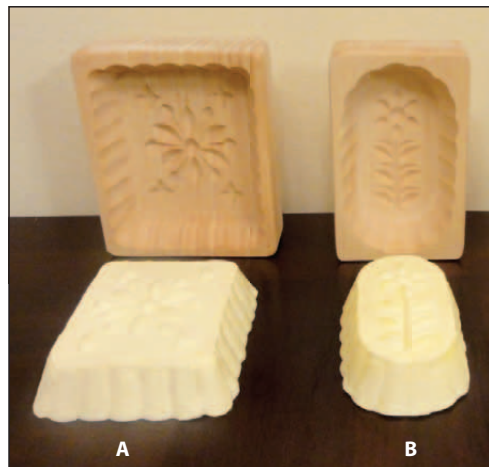


**Large 11" Straw Ornament**  
Based on traditional Polish straw ornaments held together by string.  
#660112 - \$12.95

## Butter Molds



**Foldable Christmas Square**  
This beautiful mold features popular Christmas motifs on each side: a Christmas tree, a shooting star, a candle with holly, and a fish. Measures 2.7" L x 2.7" W x 2.8" H  
#KOR110 - \$49.95



**A. Rectangle w/Star Top**  
Measures 5.0" L x 4.25" W x 1.25" H  
#KOR112 - \$34.95

**B. Osełka Butter Mold**  
Measures 5.0" L x 3.0" W x 1.25" H  
#KOR109 - \$29.95

## Religious Figurines



**Virgin Mary: Our Lady of Grace**  
Resin statue measures 7.75" H.  
#435178 - \$19.95

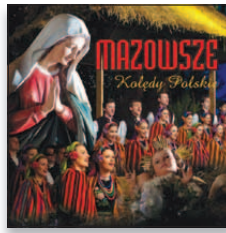


**Virgin Mary: Immaculate Heart**  
Resin statue measures 8" H.  
#435177 - \$19.95



**Virgin Mary: Our Lady of Lourdes**  
Resin. Measures 5.9" H.  
#435176 - \$14.95

## Christmas Carols on CD



**Mazowsze Ensemble on CD- Kolędy Polskie**  
19 of the most well known Christmas Carols performed by Poland's most popular folk music group  
**Songs include:** *Bóg się rodzi, Gdy się Chrystus rodzi, Wśród nocnej ciszy, Pójdźmy wszyscy do stajenki, Jezus malusiński, Dzisiaj w Betlejem, & more.*  
#MAZCD003 - \$24.95



**Harfa Mens Choir - Najpiękniejsze Kolędy Polskie**  
These 18 Polish Christmas songs were preformed by the Harfa Men's Choir directed by Jan Węcowski. Recorded in the PWSM Concert Hall in Warsaw, February 1997.  
**Songs include:** *Wśród nocnej ciszy, Dzisiaj w Betlejem, Gdy się Chrystus rodzi, & more.*  
#MTJ10046 - \$19.95



**Bayer Full - Ida Swieta, The Holidays Are Coming**  
9 Polish Carols performed by the Bayer Full group. **Songs include:** *Świąteczny remix, Idą Święta, Wspaniała matka, Zimowa miłość, & more.*  
#GM16021 - \$19.95



**Piech & Sinski- Wesolych Swiat koledy tradycyjne**  
12 Traditional Polish Christmas Carols performed by Anna Piech & Włodzimierz Siński. **Songs Include:** *Anioł pasterzom mówił, Cicha noc & more.*  
#NSM011 - \$19.95

## Christmas Greeting Cards

Each set of cards displays a Polish sentiment on the inside. Designs vary, so you may not get exactly what is shown. Envelopes included.



**Cards with 3-D pop-up pictures, Set of 4**  
#PCS703 - \$14.95



**Religious Christmas Cards, Set of 5**  
Cards Measure: 4.7" x 6.5"  
#PCS722 - \$13.95

## Christmas Books



**Polish Holidays: An Introduction**  
This handy introductory guide to Polish holidays provides factual information in an easy to digest packet. Contained within is information, recipes, and/or songs for the Harvest Festival, All Saints' Day, St. Nicholas' Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas, New Year's Eve, Three Kings, Carnival, Fat Thursday, and Easter. SoftCover. 8.5" x 5.5", 28 pages. English.  
#BK2573 - \$9.95



**Polish Carols Songbook with CD**  
Holding on to the beautiful tradition of singing Polish Christmas carols, we give you a large collection of the most beautiful Polish carols. You will find in it lyrics and musical notes to 51 compositions.  
**Songs include:** *Wśród nocnej ciszy, Dzisiaj w Betlejem, Gdy się Chrystus rodzi, W żłobie leży, Anioł pasterzom mówił, Bracia patrzcie jeno, Hej, w dzień Narodzenia, & more.*  
#BK2706 - \$19.95

## Religious Gifts



**St. Joseph Silver Plated Box**  
Measures: 2.75" D. x 1.9" L.  
#ARP465 - \$29.95



**Scented Rosary with Crucifix**  
Measures 17" L.  
#A642 - \$24.95



**Hand-Carved Wooden Triptych**  
Measures 11" x 10".  
#700111 - \$59.95

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**COOKBOOKS**

**PIEROGI LOVE**  
*New Takes on an Old World Comfort Food*  
By Casey Barber  
\$19.95  
Hc; 128 pp.  
8.3 x 8.1 inches  
Full color photographs

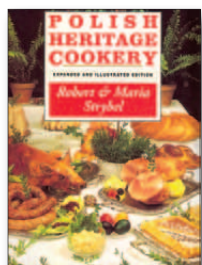


This tasty tribute to the pierogi takes a familiar wrapping and stuffs it with a host of unconventional, innovative, and decidedly non-traditional fillings. With 60 sweet and savory recipes that include everything from the classic Polish cheese and potato offerings to American-inspired Reuben pierogie and fried apple pie-rogies to worldly fillings like falafel and Nutella, there's a pierog for every party and every palate! Each recipe comes with a charming story from Barber's extensive explorations in pierogi flavors.

Casey Barber is a freelance food writer, photographer, and editor of the critically acclaimed website Good Food Stories.

on the market."  
— *Polish Cultural News*

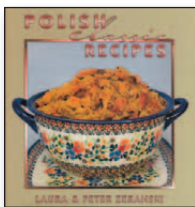
A perennial bestseller, *Polish Heritage Cookery* is the most extensive and varied Polish cookbook ever published. More than 2,200 recipes use easily available American ingredients and measurements. Modern Polish cuisine is a blend of hearty peasant dishes and more elegant gourmet fare, incorporating a broad cross-section of cultural influences. The book includes numerous cultural notes, historical accounts of Polish culinary traditions, and descriptive line drawings. Its expanded edition includes information on Polish products available in the United States, such as plum butter, honey mushrooms, and kielbasa, and their culinary uses.



incorporation in the Polish American mainstream culture.

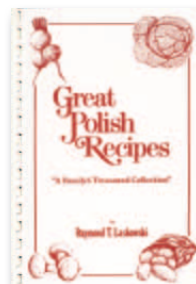
*Polish Holiday Cookery* covers holidays such as Christmas and Easter, as well as celebrations year-round. Ideas for banquets, picnics, dinners, and family favorites abound throughout, ensuring that cooks have a selection of dishes for any occasion.

**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.



**GREAT POLISH RECIPES**  
by *Raymond T. Laskowski*  
\$10.00  
Spiral bound, s.c.  
62 pp., index  
8.5 x 5.5 in.

Published in 1980 and rediscovered this year, this is a collection of four generations of recipes from kitchens in Poland and the United States. Includes appetizers, soups, salads, vegetables, breads, noodles, sauces, stuffing, kielbasa, entrees, and desserts. Straight-forward, easy-to-follow recipes for beginners and experienced cooks alike.



**POLISH CLASSIC DESSERTS**  
\$16.95  
By *Laura and Peter Zeranski*  
2013, 96 pp. 8 1/2 x 8 1/2. 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 CHICAGO: OUR HISTORY, OUR RECIPES**

\$29.95  
by *Joseph W. Zurawski*  
240 pp., hc., 720 photographs  
*G. Bradley Pub.*

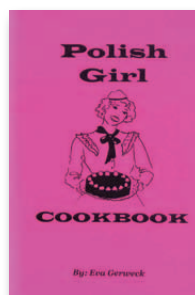
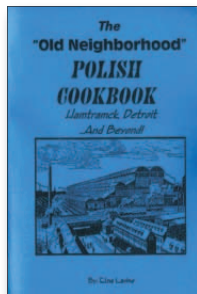
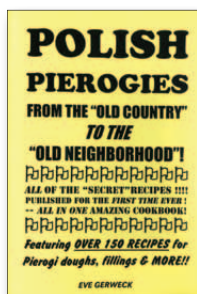
Since the 1830s, millions of Poles have come to Chicago. This work recounts by vivid prose, rare photographs and poignant anecdote the amazing story of these indomitable people. The volume turns a spotlight on 36 Polish American restaurants and families who opened up their kitchens to share time-tested, delectable Polish recipes.

**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.

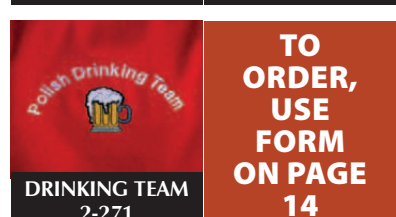
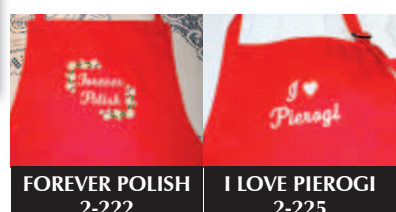
**POLISH RESTAURANT COOKBOOK**  
\$10.00  
by *Jonathan Becklar*, 44 pp., sc.

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.



**APRONS**

**\$20.00 each plus \$5.95 s&h**  
Proclaim your Polish heritage with this lovely restaurant-style apron. 100% Cotton, with two generous pockets. Quality red cloth with machine-embroidered lettering and design. One size fits all!



**HANDTOWELS**

**\$9.50 each plus \$5.95 s&h**  
Hanging towels. Machine embroidered designs. Useful and attractive. Red with white towel (cloth may vary).



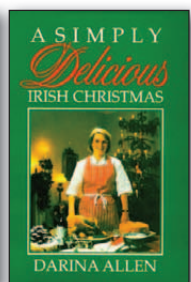
**STO LAT** 2-275  
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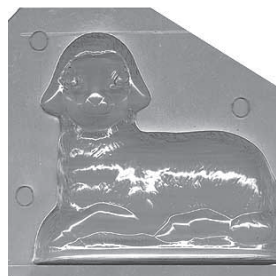
**SEASONS AND CELEBRATIONS: Cooking Secrets of Italian Villages**  
by *Rosalie Fuscaldo Gaziano*  
Paperback, 144 pp.  
was \$12.95  
now \$10.95



**A SIMPLY DELICIOUS IRISH CHRISTMAS**  
by *Darina Allen*  
Paperback, 100 pp.  
was \$12.95  
now \$8.95

**EASTER BUTTERLAMB MOLD**

**EASTER BUTTERLAMB** Easy to use! To make with butter, simply coat the mold with vegetable oil (spray type works best), press in softened butter, clamp halves together, place and refrigerator until hardened and you're done. For chocolate, just pour and let harden. It's that easy! Clean with soap and warm water.



**Small (#1-600)** 3-1/2" width by 3" tall — \$4.95  
**Large (#1-601)** 5" width by 4" tall — \$7.95

\$4.00 S&H ON ALL MOLDS / \$1.00 each additional mold

**GLOSS-COATED POLISH RECIPE CARDS**

Twelve of 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, and — as a stocking stuffer — an ideal way to introduce Polish cooking to family and friends!  
**# 2-261 — \$5.00**



**"STO LAT" BIRTHDAY CARD and "JAK SIĘ MASZ" BLANK NOTE CARD**

New for the PAJ Bookstore - Designed by Poppfield Press



**CARD 402 — "Sto lat."** ("Happy Birthday — May you live 100 years") 4 1/4" x 5 1/2" Full color design with poppy, "Sto lat" lyrics in Polish and English, and role of poppy in Polish culture. Inside left blank for personalization. Printed on 4-1/4 x 5-1/2 glossy stock.

- 75¢ each
- 10-pack \$6.00
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**SHIPPING (IF ORDERING CARDS ONLY)**  
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**CARD 403 — "Jak się Masz?"** 5 1/2" x 4 1/4" "Jak się masz?" — This good-natured Polish expression of greeting and expression of good will can be heard when friends, neighbors, and family meet. From "How have you been" and "How's everything?" to "How do you do?" a lot of questions are packed into these three little words.

Full color design with "dziewięćsił" (Alpine Everlasting Thistle Flower), the card comes with a blank inside for personalization. Printed on 4-1/4 x 5-1/2 glossy stock. Ideal "Money Card" for gifts, etc.

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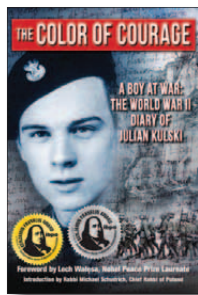
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**NEW! THE COLOR OF COURAGE**  
*A Boy at War: The World War II Diary of Julian Kulski*  
Paperback by Julian E. Kulski  
\$19.95  
Aquila Polonica Publ., 2012

496 pp., 6" x 9", pb,  
"If there is going to be a war, I do not want to miss it." So wrote Julian Kulski a few days before the outbreak of World War II, in this remarkable diary of a boy at war from ages 10 to 16. Kulski wages his own private war against the Germans with small acts of sabotage. At age 12, Kulski is recruited into the clandestine Underground Army by his Scoutmaster and begins training in military tactics and weapons handling. At age 13, he meets with leaders of the Jewish Resistance. Arrested by the Gestapo at 14, he is rescued and at 15 fights in the Warsaw Uprising of 1944.

The University of Toledo Press published American Originals as part of its series on the various ethnic groups who settled in Toledo. Previous titles include Hungarian American Toledo, The Irish in Toledo, and Aran Americans in Toledo.



**NEW! LOVE IS LOVE**  
List price \$25.95  
**PAJ Bookstore price \$19.95**  
By Maria Bello  
240 pages, 5.5 x 0.8 x 7.2 inches  
Dey Street Books, 2015

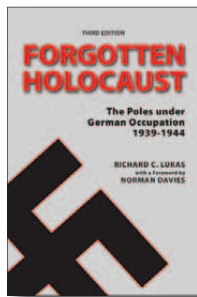
The daughter of a working-class Roman Catholic Italian American father and Polish American mother, Mario Bello majored in political science at Villanova University. Following graduation, she honed her acting skills in a number of New York theater productions before moving on to become one of today's most successful actresses. Bello speaks often and highly of the influence her Polish American grandmother had on her.

In 2013, Bello was recovering from a life-threatening illness when she made a discovery that changed her life: She was in love with her best friend, a woman named Clare. In her new book, she examines the myths that so many believe about partnerships. She explores how many different relationships helped define her life.



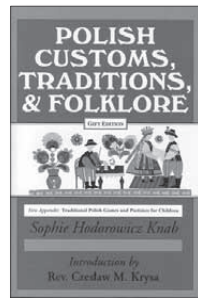
**POLISH GENEALOGY: Four Easy Steps to Success**  
by Stephen Szabados  
\$19.95  
164 pp., pb.

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



**FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST: The Poles Under German Occupation, 1939-45. Third edition**  
\$19.95  
358 pp. pb.  
Hippocrene Books.

*Forgotten Holocaust* has become a classic of World War II literature. As Norman Davies noted, "Dr. Richard Lukas has rendered a valuable service, by showing that no one can properly analyze the fate of one ethnic community in occupied Poland without referring to the fates of others. In this sense, *The Forgotten Holocaust* is a powerful corrective." The third edition includes a new preface by the author, a new foreword by Norman Davies, a short history of ZEGOTA, the underground government organization working to save the Jews, and an annotated listing of many Poles executed by the Germans for trying to shelter and save Jews.



**POLISH CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS & FOLKLORE**  
\$16.95  
by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab  
340 pp., pb.  
Hippocrene Books

Polish Customs, Traditions, & Folklore is organized by month, beginning with December and Advent, St. Nicholas Day, the Wigilia (Christmas Eve) nativity plays, caroling and the New Year celebrations. It proceeds from the Shrovetide period to Ash Wednesday, Lent, the celebration of spring, Holy Week customs and superstitions, beliefs and rituals associated with farming, Pentecost, Corpus Christi, midsummer celebrations, harvest festivities, wedding rites, nameday celebrations, and birth and death rituals. Line illustrations enhance this rich and varied treasury of folklore.



**NEW! MY WAGGING TAIL**  
by Stanley Bednarczyk  
\$19.95  
476 pp., p.b.

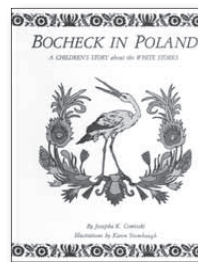
There comes a time in life when one begins to look backward instead of forward. The story of growing up in Camden, N.J. as the son of Polish immigrants (and the youngest of five children) Bednarczyk, an 81-year-old Depression baby, recalls his life on the streets as a youth and as a letter carrier. "A member of the so-called Silent Generation, he has something worthwhile to say." (Mary Latham, *Polish American Journal*).



**BE NOT AFRAID**  
by Heather Kirk  
\$19.95  
Borealis Press,  
276 pp., pb.

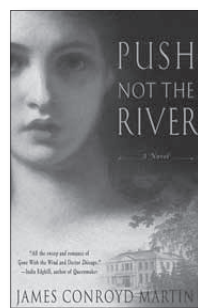
Want to learn something about Poland and the movement that started the end of the Cold War in an easy-to-read, well-written book? *Be Not Afraid* is an introduction to the Polish non-violent resistance movement, "Solidarity." It involved ten million people over a period of ten years, freed Poland from Soviet domination, and contributed to the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. It

killed no one.



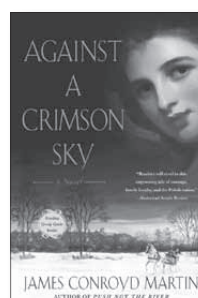
**BOCHEK IN POLAND**  
\$11.95  
54 pp., Polonie Publishing

A First Prize winner in a literary contest sponsored by the American Council of Polish Cultural Clubs, this is a delightful, captivating children's story about the life of storks and many of the Polish customs they encounter. Beautifully illustrated and educational, it will be thoroughly enjoyed by adults as well as children.



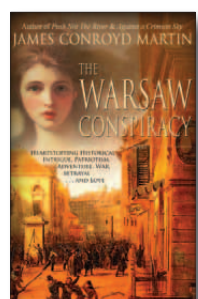
**PUSH NOT THE RIVER**  
\$15.95  
St. Martin's Press,  
496 pp. pb. Maps & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

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



**AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY**  
\$15.95  
St. Martin's 369 pp. pb. Map & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

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



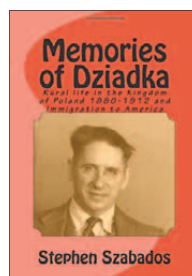
**THE WARSAW CONSPIRACY**  
Hussar Quill Press,  
508 pp., pb.  
\$17.99

Portraying two brothers in love and war, *The Warsaw Conspiracy* completes the trilogy. You need not have read the others to enjoy this family saga set against the November Rising (1830-1831). With Siberia or emigration heart-rending contingencies, matriarchs Anna and Zofia attempt to steer the clan through ever-muddying waters.



**NEW! THE AUSCHWITZ VOLUNTEER**  
by Witold Pilecki  
Translated by Jarek Garlinski  
\$34.95  
Aquila Polonica Publ., 2014  
460 pp., 6" x 9", pb.

In 1940, the Polish Underground wanted to know what was happening inside the recently opened Auschwitz concentration camp. Polish army officer Witold Pilecki volunteered to be arrested by the Germans and report from inside the camp. His intelligence reports, smuggled out in 1941, were among the first eyewitness accounts of Auschwitz atrocities. Pilecki's story was suppressed for half a century after his 1948 arrest by the Polish Communist regime as a "Western spy."



**MEMORIES OF DZIADKA**  
*Rural life in the Kingdom of Poland 1880-1912 and Immigration to America*  
by Stephen Szabados  
\$14.95

pb. 134 pp.  
6 x 9 inches

This book is about the life of a Polish immigrant, from his birth in the Russian partition of Poland: the customs and traditions he grew up with; his decision to leave his family and the land of his birth; the trek across Poland to the port of Bremerhaven; his voyage across the North Atlantic Ocean; arrival in America; and his life in America. Through the story of one man, you will learn and understand the hardships of a typical Polish immigrant in the early 1900s.

**FINDING GRANDMA'S EUROPEAN ANCESTORS**  
by Stephen Szabados  
\$14.95 / 128 pp., pb.

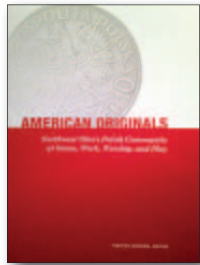
This is a "must have" book to find your European ancestors. The author uses his experience to help you identify the available resources that you can use to find your own ancestors. The book includes many sample docu-



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POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

## Wigilia Favorites Made Easy

Now is the time to plan your holiday meals, and for Polish Americans, one of the most important ones is on Christmas Eve, the vigil meal, better known as wigilia.

Here are some tried and true recipes that been part of the celebration for centuries.

### HERRING IN OIL *śledź w oleju*.

Drain 2 oz. jar marinated herring, discarding onions and spices. If desired, cut herring into smaller pieces. Place in clean jar and drench with salad oil to cover. Refrigerate overnight. When ready to serve, remove herring with fork to serving platter. Top each piece with a little very finely chopped onion. Decorate platter with parsley sprigs. Serve with rye bread or boiled potatoes.

### CREAMED HERRING WITH APPLE *śledź w śmietanie z jabłkiem*.

Drain a 14-16 oz jar of marinated herring, discarding onion and spices. Cut herring into 1½ inch or so serving-size pieces, plunge into a large pot of cold water for 1 min. Drain well in sieve until all dripping stops. Arrange pieces of herring on serving dish. Drizzle with juice of 1 small lemon (through a sieve to catch the pits). Coarsely grate 1 cored, peeled, small tart apple and mix with herring pieces. Arrange on serving dish. Slice 2 small onions wafer thin, break into rings and intersperse with herring. For-blend ½ - 1 c sour cream, 1 t confectioner's sugar and 1 T prepared horseradish and pour over herring. Refrigerate covered several hrs before serving with boiled potatoes or rye bread.

### CLEAR BEETROOT SOUP *czysty barszcz czerwony*.

In pot combine 3 c. beet juice (from canned beets) and or to taste and season to taste with a little garlic powder, liquid mushroom extract, pepper, sugar and a pinch of marjoram. Simmer a few min., switch off heat and let stand a few min covered for flavors to blend. Note: This soup can also be made with liquid beet concentrate (koncentrat barszczu), available at Polish delis. There you can also find Krakus and Hortex brand heat-and-eat barszcz in 1-liter cartons. Serve with hot, hand-held pasties (below)

**PASTIES *paszteciki*.** Open a can of refrigerator crescent-roll dough. Place a spoonful of filling on each piece, roll up, pinch sides shut and bake according to package directions. For the filling, combine 1 c. cooked rice, 5 chopped hard-cooked eggs 2 diced onions sautéed in 2 T. butter until lightly browned. Combine ingredients with 1 small beaten uncooked egg, 1 - 2 heaping T. chopped fresh or frozen dill and salt & pepper to taste.

**FRIED FISH *ryba smażona*.** Wash and dry 2-3 lbs fresh or thawed fish fillets (pike, carp, walleye, lake perch, catfish, bass, cod, hake, pollock, haddock, etc.), sprinkle with lemon juice, intersperse with onion slices, salt well and refrigerate several hrs or overnight. Rinse and pat dry, salt & pepper, dust with paprika, sprinkle with a pinch of sage and either:

1) Dredge in flour, shaking off excess, and fry on both sides in hot oil until golden brown on the outside and fully cooked on the inside. 2) Roll fillets in 50-50 mixture of plain bread crumbs and flour and fry as above; or 3) Dredge in flour, dip in egg wash and roll in bread crumbs before frying as above. Drain fried

fillets on absorbent paper before serving. Serve with horseradish sauce (below).

**HORSERADISH SAUCE *sos chrzanowy*.** Instead of Anglo-Saxon tartar sauce, fork-blend ⅓ c. mayonnaise, ½ c. sour cream and 1-2 heaping T. prepared horseradish. Season to taste with lemon juice, sugar and a pinch of salt.

**CREAM-BAKED PIKE *szczupak zapiekany w śmietanie*.** Rinse well and pat and dry 2 lbs northern pike, walleye or sea pike (hake) fillets, sprinkle with juice of 1 lemon, salt well and refrigerate several hrs or overnight. Pat dry. Place 1 T. butter in casserole and heat in oven. Place fillets in casserole and roll in the hot butter to coat all sides. Bake in 375° oven uncovered about 15 min. Meanwhile, in saucepan melt 2 T. butter, stir in 1 T. flour. Remove from heat, stir in ¾ c. fork-blended sour cream, add ¼ t. salt, return to and simmer until bubbly, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and stir in 1 t. lemon juice. Pour sauce over fish and bake about 15-20 or until fish is fully cooked. Dust with paprika and garnish with chopped parsley just before serving.

### CHEESE & POTATO-FILLED PIEROGI *pierogi z kartoflami i serem ("ruskie")*.

For pierogi dough, sift 2½ c. flour onto board, sprinkle with ½ t. salt, deposit whole egg and 1 T. salad oil at center and blend ingredients. Add about ½ c. cold water a little at a time, working the dough constantly to absorb it. Knead dough until smooth, roll it into a ball and let it rest beneath a warm inverted bowl 10 min. Meanwhile, prepare the filling: cook 1 lb potatoes in lightly salted water until tender. Drain and cool. Add ½ lb crumbed farmer cheese and mash together with the potatoes until mixture is uniform. (If you like, you can whirl ½ lb dried cottage cheese in food-processor to a fine powder and use it instead of the farmer cheese.) In 2 T. oil lightly brown 2 chopped onions and add to mixture. Mix well and salt & pepper to taste. Roll out dough thin on floured board, cut into rounds with glass or biscuit-cutter, and place a spoonful of filling at center of each round, fold in half, pinch edges together to seal. Cook in batches in a large pot of boiling salted water. Cooking time is roughly 10 min. but test one for doneness just to be sure. Serve with melted butter, sour cream or butter-fried bread crumbs (Polonaise topping).

### SAUERKRAUT & MUSHROOMS

***kapusta z grzybami*.** Drain 1 qt sauerkraut, reserving juice. Swish sauerkraut around in a large pot of cold water, drain in colander, press out moisture, and chop. Place sauerkraut in pot, scald with boiling water to cover, add a small bay leaf, bring to boil, then reduce heat and cook uncovered on med. heat about 1 hr. Replace water that evaporates and stir occasionally. While sauerkraut cooks, in 3 T. oil fry up 8 - 12 oz. diced fresh portobello mushrooms and 2 chopped onions on med. high heat, stirring frequently, until fully cooked and browned (about 15 min.). Combine drained sauerkraut and mushrooms, crumble in 1 mushroom bouillon cube, and thicken with 1 T. of flour, season with a little pepper and ½ t. caraway seeds, transfer to casserole and bake covered in 350° oven 1 hr. If not as tart as you like, sour with some of the reserved sauerkraut juice. This can be made a day ahead and reheated just before serving.

### SAUERKRAUT & PEAS *kapusta z grochem*.

Drain and cook 1 qt coarsely-chopped sauerkraut in water to cover, adding 1 bay leaf, 5 peppercorns, and 1 mushroom bouillon cube 1 hr. Separately drain 1-2 c canned chick pea, cover with boiling water and cook covered on low 30 min. In skillet fry 8 oz washed, diced Portobello mushrooms and 1 med chopped onion until nicely browned. Add the mushrooms & onion to the sauerkraut, drain and add chickpeas and continue cooking on low in the same pot 1 hr, stirring occasionally, or transfer to baking dish and bake in oven 1 hr or so at 350°F. Season to taste with salt, pepper, a little sugar and several pinches marjoram. Instead of chickpeas, you may use beans (navy, great northern, lima or pea-beans) These require no cooking – just drain and add to sauerkraut.

### SAUERKRAUT & NOODLE SQUARES *kapusta z lazankami*.

Prepare sauerkraut as in preceding recipe but omit chickpeas or beans. Cook a pkg of lasagna longer than directions on package indicate, so it is no longer "al dente" (rubbery), but fully cooked. Drain, rinse under cold running water in colander, drip dry and cut into squares. Combine with the hot sauerkraut and serve.

### DRIED-FRUIT COMPOTE *kompot wigilijny z suszu*.

Soak 2 c. mixed dry fruit, ½ c. diced dried figs and ½ c raisins in water to cover water 2



**CLEAR MUSHROOM SOUP *czysta zupa grzybowa*.** Wash well, drain and dice 6 oz. fresh Portobello mushrooms, simmer with a small chopped onion in 2 T. butter 10-15 min. or until fully cooked. Place in pot, add 6 c. water and 1 mushroom bouillon cube and simmer covered 10 min. Season to taste with salt, pepper and a dash of vinegar. Garnish with a little fresh chopped parsley, if desired, and serve over cooked egg noodles or lasagna cut into 1" squares.

hrs. Add a little more water if all has been absorbed and cook about 15 min. A pinch of cinnamon may be added before cooking. Serve chilled in dessert bowls. **Note:** To serve as a fruit drink, dilute with as much pre-boiled water as you like. Add a sprinkle of lemon juice for added zing.

### NOODLES & FRUIT *kluski z kompotem*.

The above compote (as is or thickened with 1 t cornstarch when cold and then briefly brought to boil) may be served over cooked, well-drained egg noodles, dotted with butter, as one of the sweet dishes of Wigilia.

### FRUIT & GRAIN OR RICE DISH *kasza lub ryż z owocami*.

Numerous sweet dishes combining some form of grain with fruit toppings have long been Wigilia favorites. You can spoon your home-made compote (above) over hot cooked rice or barley or use canned apple-pie or cherry-pie filling for the purpose. Or cook several peeled, cored, diced cooking apples with sugar to taste in a little water until tender, add a pinch of cinnamon and spoon over the grain. Fruit preserves of choice may also be used.

### GRAIN & POPPYSEED DESERT *kutia/kucja*.

Prepare 1-2 c. bulghur wheat according to pkg directions. Leave wheat in pot until cooled to room temp. Stir in about ½ - ¾ c. store-bought poppyseed filling (more or less to taste), 1 - 2 T honey and ½ t. vanilla. Optional: ¼ - ½ c. ground or chopped almonds or walnuts and/or ½ c. plumped raisins may be added. Variation: Substitute cooked rice or barley for the wheat.

### POLISH APPLE PANCAKES *racuszki z jabłkami*.

Peel, slice thin and dice 2-3 tart cooking apples and sprinkle with a pinch of nutmeg or cinnamon. Use store-bought pancake mix for this recipe and prepare according to instructions on pkg., using a tad more milk or buttermilk than directed, but omitting the oil. Into large skillet pour oil to a depth of ¼" and heat until fairly hot. Spoon batter into hot oil, place a spoonful of diced apples on each pancake and cover with a little more batter. When batter on top is no longer wet, flip over and fry on the other side to a nice golden-brown. Pancakes should measure roughly 3." Add more oil as needed to maintain the ¼" depth. Transfer fried pancakes to absorbent paper.



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## SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

## Remembering Pulaski and "The Big Burn"

The recent devastating forest fires in the western United States bring back memories of the famous "Big Burn" of 1910, a wildfire that burned about three million acres in the northwest and killed 85 people over two days. Ed Pulaski is remembered as an iconic hero of that disaster, and for developing the firefighting tool that bears his name.

Pulaski was born in Ohio in 1868. His father, Rudolph, was born in Poland and was said to be related to Revolutionary War hero Kazimierz Pulaski. "Big Ed" grew to be 6'4", eventually moved west and became a miner, railroad worker and ranch foreman before signing on with the Forest Service in 1908 at the age of 40.



"Big Ed" Pulaski

The "Big Burn" began on August 20, 1910. From Wallace, Idaho, Pulaski led a group of men into the woods to meet the fire. As huge walls of fire moved quickly, Pulaski's crew, like many others, became trapped. He rounded up all 45 of his men and, being familiar with the trails, directed them through the smoky darkness to an old abandoned mine shaft. All but one of his men made it. With intense heat and smoke entering the mine, Pulaski ordered the frightened men to lie down. One man panicked and tried to rush out, but Pulaski stopped him at gunpoint. "The first man who tries to leave this tunnel I will shoot," he said.

Using water from the mine floor, Pulaski extinguished the burning timbers as his men lay under wet blankets, crying or praying or both. As the inferno raged outside many passed out from the heat, smoke, and fumes. Pulaski battled the blaze at

the mine entrance until he, too, lost consciousness. Early the following morning he heard someone say, "Come outside, boys, the boss is dead." Pulaski popped up and shouted: "Like hell he is!" As the fire abated the survivors stumbled out and were eventually met by rescuers. Five men never regained consciousness, however. The others were mostly hurt or burned, and Pulaski himself was temporarily blinded and had serious burns on his hands.

Pulaski was regarded as a hero for his leadership, calmness and selfless acts during the "Big Burn." However, he was more concerned about the men who died. He lobbied the Forest Service for twelve years



The Pulaski tool

until it agreed to erect grave monuments for them.

The year following the fire, Ed developed the device that became known as "The Pulaski Tool" or simply "The Pulaski." To eliminate the need to carry two tools to fight a forest fire, he combined an axe and a grub hoe. It is still in use as basic firefighting equipment, as well as for trail maintenance and other purposes. Pulaski served as District Ranger until retiring 1930. He died in 1931.

Pulaski's tunnel and escape route were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. In 2002, an effort was organized to restore and improve the trail to what is today known as the Edward Pulaski Tunnel and Placer Creek Escape Route in the Idaho Panhandle National Forests.



**ONE DOOR CLOSSES ...** Ray Manzarek (left), who died in 2013 at age 74, is remembered as the founder of and keyboardist for the legendary

rock band The Doors. However, if his athletic career had worked out a little differently there might have been no Doors.

Ray was a native of Chicago, the son of Helen (Kolenda) and Raymond Daniel Manzarek, Sr. (Ray

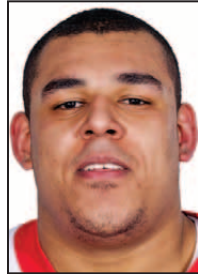
dropped the "c"). He attended St. Rita High School on the Southwest side, and had an appreciation for his Catholic education there and later at DePaul University. However, something happened in high school that changed his life — and rock history.

Ray was a talented high school basketball player. At 16, his coach insisted that he play point guard. However, Manzarek wanted to play forward or center, where he could attack the basket. As a result, Ray promptly left the team and focused more on his music. He later said that he likely wouldn't have formed The Doors if he didn't have that conflict with his coach. The Doors became a legendary rock band, and Manzarek's classically influenced flowing melodic style (in songs like *Light My Fire*) was an integral component of the band's unique sound.

**PERKOSKI'S NOTEBOOK.** Pitcher **Mat Latos** was released by the Dodgers and signed with the Angels ... **Pawel Sobek**, Polish soccer player who later had a great career in Australia, died at 85.... **Aleksander Mandziara**, Polish soccer player and coach, died at 75 ... **Tom Obarski**, who was a Division II All-American at Concordia and kicked a school-record 59-yard field, was a late cut of the Cincinnati Bengals ... **Mike Yastrzemski** hit .406 in the postseason as the Bowie Baysox captured the Double-A Eastern League title.... True freshman **Brett Rypien** threw for 321 yards and three touchdowns without a turnover in his first start for Boise State in a 56-14 win over Virginia. He's the nephew of Super Bowl XXVI MVP **Mark Rypien**.

**BYE-BYE BABS.** America is saying goodbye to **Babatunde Aiyegbusi** — at least for now. At 6'9" and 351 pounds, Aiyegbusi was a dominant offensive lineman in Europe. Unfortunately, his age — he's 27 — and lack of experience against top-flight competition hurt him.

The Polish import announced on Facebook that his "purple dream ends up right here." Aiyegbusi signed with the Vikings in March after playing in European leagues, and became a bit of a celebrity in the United States with his unique status and quick wit. He appeared on "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" and was featured in a story on the front sports page of *USA Today*.



**LEWANDOWSKI SCORES!** Robert Lewandowski has been a scoring machine this year, and now he's equaled the record for goals in European Championship qualifiers. Lewandowski matched David Healy's record of 13 goals, which he set for Northern Ireland in the Euro 2008 qualifying campaign. His heroics ensured that Poland qualified for Euro 2016.

The Polish captain tallied his 13th goal of his country's Euro 2016 qualifying campaign with a header during a 2-1 Polish victory over the Republic of Ireland. Lewandowski scored 15 goals in his last six games to cement his reputation as Europe's most feared striker. Earlier this year Lewandowski recorded the second-fastest hat-trick ever in European Championship history, scoring three goals inside four minutes in a Polish victory in a Euro 2016 qualifying match against Georgia.

Lewandowski also keeps breaking records in Germany's Bundesliga league. The Pole achieved the fastest ever hat-trick in league history when he recorded three in less than five minutes in Bayern Munich's drubbing of Wolfsburg. He went on to score two more in the match, making five goals in less than ten minutes. To top it off, he reached a total 100 German top flight goals quicker than any foreign player — just 168 appearances.

At 6-ft., 172-lb. the Warsaw native possesses great athleticism, speed and technical skill. Lewandowski takes his recent extraordinary success in stride, saying: "It's nice when they're going in but you cannot stop working hard because of that."

The son of a Polish mother and a Nigerian father, he started off playing basketball in Poland. Eventually he took up football, and played in Polish and German leagues. At one point some U.S. college teams were interested in him, but because he had played professionally in Europe he was ineligible.

"It was a great experience being with the Vikings," said Aiyegbusi, nicknamed "Babs." "I'm staying humble and waiting for my next opportunity. I'll give it a shot if I'm given another shot." It's a long shot at best at this point, as he is 27 years old and apparently isn't quite ready for the NFL yet.

**SEPTEMBER CALLS.** When September rolls around major league teams can expand their rosters, either to bolster their lineups or audition young talent. Here are a few of this past September's call-ups:

**Max Kepler-Rozycki, who goes by Max Kepler now, made his big league debut with Minnesota.** Many think that the outfielder could become the major leagues' first star who was born and raised in Europe. Max's mother, American-born Kathy Kepler, met her future husband, Polish native Marek Rozycki, when both were dancing ballet in Berlin. Marek had fled Poland dur-

ing martial law. In 2009 at age 16, Max received an \$800,000 bonus to sign with the Twins, a record for an amateur position player outside the U.S. and Latin America.

The Mariners called up reliever **Tony Zych**, breaking a 105-year-old record of sorts. Zych became the last player alphabetically in MLB's all-time player registry. Previously holding that position was Dutch Zwilling, who made his debut with the White Sox in 1910.

The Angels brought up **Kyle Kubitz**, who many think is their third baseman of the future. The Texas native has a younger brother, Austin, who is pitching in the Tigers organization.

**SPORTS JEOPARDY WINNER.** Aurora, Ill. resident **Justin Shibilski**, 39, took home about \$55,000 after being crowned the first "Sports Jeopardy!" champion on the Crackle show hosted by Dan Patrick. It's the only game show on a streaming network online.

"A lot of people don't realize how hard this was, given there were about 30,000 individuals trying out for spots on the show and 150 made it," he said. "You're competing against the best people in the country." The father of a young son, Shibilski said his wife has been very supportive of his interest in sports — in fact, they met at a football game. Justin is the son of well-known Polka DJ **Bill Shibilski**.

You can see the winning clip on Crackle's streaming service or at [www.Crackle.com/Sports-Jeopardy](http://www.Crackle.com/Sports-Jeopardy).

**SOONER THAN YOU THINK.**

We are in the middle of our annual Christmas sales campaign. You will see four pages of books, gifts, music, and other items in the center pages of the paper.

The PAJ's existence depends on Bookstore sales, which increase tenfold between October and mid-December. Do yourself, the PAJ, and those on your shopping list a favor and support the newspaper and its Bookstore. Please order early, as it helps us with the rush that comes at the beginning of December.

## Polish National Bowling Teams Preparing for 2016 International Competitions

## Need Your Support

LAKE WALES, Fla. —USBC Gold Coach **Joe Slowinski** is currently working with the Polish National Bowling teams, preparing them for a very busy and important 2016 season. Slowinski is one of only twenty-five Gold Coaches in the world and has travelled the world coaching bowling.

The Polski Zwiasek Kreglarski hired Slowinski on a part-time basis to prepare the Adult and Youth National Teams for the 2016 season. In 2016, the European Championships for Men and Women will be held but these also simultaneously function as qualifiers for the 2017 Combined World Championships. So, only a fraction of the nations will qualify for the World Cham-

pionships and Poland hopes to be one that does. It is also hoped that the Youth Team can be sent to the European Championships (Iceland) as well as Nebraska for the World Championships.

The Adult and Youth teams have a great desire to be prepared to represent the country with competence and pride. Accordingly, frequent team training is essential to improve in time for these events and the annual budget is very limited. Additional funds must be raised to cover training and competition travel expenses.

Accordingly, Slowinski is asking for your help to raise funds for the Polish National Teams so he can help them be better prepared for international competition and can represent the country with more

confidence and pride. Raised funds will go towards training, travel and competition costs.

You can support the team with a purchase of a t-shirt at [www.booster.com/support-the-polish-national-bowling-teams](http://www.booster.com/support-the-polish-national-bowling-teams). The Booster campaign also accepts additional donations and the team would welcome all support. Please include a note of support for the teams in Polish or in English. The team is also looking for sponsors for the 2016 season. Contact Slowinski if you would be interested in sponsoring the team in any manner.

You can also purchase a subscription to ESPN the magazine to support the team. In this generous program, for each 2-year subscription for \$40, the team keeps \$30. In addition to a 2-year hard copy of the

magazine, you also receive access to content via a computer and the ESPN app for iPad, a \$152 value. Contact Slowinski if this is an option you want to do to support the team.

Slowinski trained the teams in September, and will return to train the teams at the beginning of December and February. With additional funds, more training can be provided before the major tournaments as well as supplement travel to these important international tournaments.

Donations may be made to Joe Slowinski. Please add "Polski Zwiasek Kreglarski" or "Polish National Team" on the memo line, and mailed to Polish National Team, 23 Northeast Ln., South Portland, ME 04106.



## POLISH CAN BE FUN / Robert Strybel

## Hepi Fęksgiwyńg

Extending the common greeting “Happy Thanksgiving” may seem like no big deal to someone raised in an English-speaking environment. But to our Polish immigrant ancestors, who first landed on these American shores in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, that was a real tongue-twister. Probably as much so as “Szczęśliwego Święta Dziękczynienia” would be to many an English-speaking PolAm.

The “happy” part was not a problem and came out pretty close as “hepi,” but it was the “th” sound that caused the most dismay. Since no similar sound exists in Polish (and many other languages for that matter), it came at as “Fanksgiving,” “Tanksgiving” and even “Sanksgiving.”

The name of the occasion was so formidable a mouthful, that some pre-World War I Polish immigrants preferred to call it “Cziken Dej” (Chicken Day). That was long before today’s cheap, industrially produced fryer-broilers, when chicken was reserved for Sunday and holiday dinners. After all, in the pre-Depression period President Herbert Hoover promised “a chicken in every pot.”

Although tied to their native tradition, Polish immigrants took to Thanksgiving more readily than to such alien celebrations as Halloween or Valentine’s Day. Probably because it was and continues to be so family-oriented, it reminded some of the Polish Wigilia when the closest of kin just had to be together. And the notion of thanking God for a bountiful harvest had long been a Polish tradition.

Roast turkey was easy enough to like, especially since in the Old Country that was something only the lord of the manor would

feast on, and cranberries known as “zurawina” were a familiar condiment. At first, sweet potatoes were a



Babcia nadziała i upiekła dużego indyka.

bit exotic to the Polish peasant palate, but eventually most got used to them and even got to like them. Let us then look at some of the things one can say about this holiday.

- **“Thanksgiving” łatwiej polubić niż wymówić!** — Thanksgiving is easier to like than to pronounce!
- **Święto Dziękczynienia spędziliśmy u dziadków na farmie.** — We spent Thanksgiving at my grandparents’ place on the farm.
- **Najpierw oglądaliśmy wielką paradę świąteczną w telewizji.** — First we watched the big Thanksgiving parade on TV.
- **Babcia nadziała i upiekła dużego indyka, ciocia Zosia ugotowała bigos a moja mama upiekła szarlotkę.** — Granny stuffed and roasted a big turkey, Aunt Sophie made the bigos (Polish hunter’s stew) and my mom baked an apple cake.

## Discover the Meaning of Your Polish Name

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- **Po obiedzie panowie oglądali mecz amerykańskiego futbolu i grali w karty, a kobiety z dziećmi poszły na spacer do lasu.** — After dinner the men watched a football game and played cards, while the ladies and kids went for a walk in the woods.
- **Wszyscy się dobrze ubawili, a potem rozjechali do domów** — Everyone had a good time and then headed on home.

## WORDS OF WISDOM. Indyk myślał o niedzieli, a w sobotę leb mu ścięli.

P.S. Reader input is most appreciated. If you have any questions, remarks or suggestions, please feel free to email them to: [strybel@interia](mailto:strybel@interia) or airmail them to: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

## All Galicia Database Adds Search-By-House Number Feature

The All Galicia Database has added another search parameter to its search engine: searching by house number within any town with more than 25 records. This means that analysis of events taking place in the same house over nearly one hundred years—based on any type of record where a house number was noted (birth, death, tax, school, landowner, notary, etc.)—can now be made with the data at the site, which is located at <http://search.geshergalicia.org>.

For example, searching for persons named Horn living in Buczacz produced a house number of 118. Going back to the search engine and now searching for anyone associated with house #118 produced the names of other persons living at that location.

The All Galicia Database now has 320,394 records from 138 different sources. Its search engine has a large number of ways to search the database including given name, surname, located within a given number of kilometers from a specific town, house number in a specific town, and recently added records only. It is also possible to sort the results in a variety of ways.

## GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

## Ports of Departure for Polish Immigrants

Once in the port, what was next for our emigrants?

At each departure port, the emigration process was similar but the facilities were different.

In all ports, officials of the shipping companies gave emigrants medical tests and reviewed their papers to ensure that they would be admitted into the United States. However, the emigrants who departed from the ports of Bremen and Hamburg were allowed to be housed and fed in facilities built by the companies in the early 1900s. At the other ports, the emigrants had to find their own housing as they waited for their date of departure.

Waiting in the ports could be expensive and scheduling their arrival at the port was important to minimize the wait time. One emigrant reported that “for room and board we paid one mark per day.” Whatever the rate was, any monies spent by the emigrants left less available to start their life in America. Most emigrants refused simple comforts to save as much as possible for their new start in America.

The earliest emigrants leaving European ports were mostly German and they went down the Rhine River and left from Rotterdam. Passenger traffic increased dramatically about 1830 and the emigrants expanded their departures to German, Dutch, Belgian, French, and Danish ports. Emigrants also began using Bremen in 1830 and Hamburg became a departure port in 1850. Significant emigration from eastern Europe began about 1850 and Raymond Wright summarized emigrant departures between 1850 and 1891 and listed that 41 percent of eastern Europeans emigrants left through Bremen, 30 percent via Hamburg, 16 percent via Le Havre, 8 percent left via Antwerp, and 5 percent left via several other ports. Note that the country of origin of the passengers was recorded on the ship departure lists but the number of Polish emigrants is difficult to estimate because Poland did not exist as a country during this period. The levels of emigration increased in the early 1830s as European peasants gained more freedom from the feudal lords and economic conditions worsened

in various countries. Polish emigrants began leaving the Prussian controlled partition about 1860 and were joined in the 1890s by Polish emigrants from the Russian and Austrian controlled partitions.

Business relationships between American and European businessmen were based on goods such as cotton, tobacco, grain and timber flowing from America to Europe and then the cargo holds were filled with finished goods and emigrants for the return trip from Europe to America. Agents in the European ports where these products landed offered emigrants cheap fares for passage to America. Companies recognized that they could add significant profits by offering cheap fares and began competing to fill the steerage area of their ships. They recruited agents in the villages to sell packages that included train tickets to the port for the voyage and train tickets in America.

Bremen and Hamburg were the major ports of departure for Polish emigrants. However, as the number of emigrants grew in the late 1800s, the competition for cheap passage became intense between the companies. The tickets sold in the villages directed the emigrants to specific ports which allowed the ports to increase their share of the emigrant traffic. Note that before 1919, it is difficult to identify the exact number of Polish emigrants because they were usually classified as German, Russian or Austrian.

Danzig was the only port near Poland but companies did not try to develop passenger traffic. Poland began building the port of Gdynia in the 1920s and initiate passenger travel in 1928 upon completion. Gdynia then became the primary departure port for Polish emigrants, but this was interrupted by World War II.

Future articles will cover how the Polish emigrants traveled to the ports and the availability of records for the departures.

Stephen M. Szabados is the author of four books, “Finding Grandma’s European Ancestors,” “Find Your Family History,” “Polish Genealogy,” and “Memories of Dziadka.”

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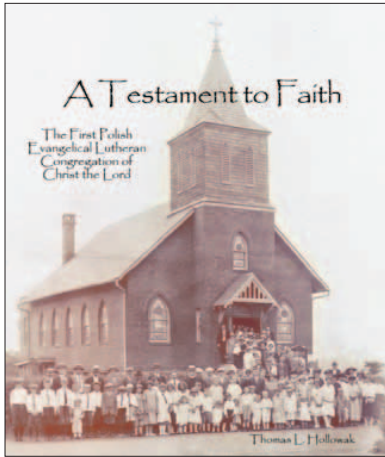
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## BOOKS IN BRIEF / Mary Lanham

## A Look at Poland's Lutherans

**A TESTAMENT TO FAITH**  
*The First Polish Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Christ the Lord*  
 by Thomas L. Hollowak  
 Historyk Press, 2015, 277 pps.  
 7 Dendron Court  
 Baltimore, MD 21234  
 Historykpress.com



Although most Poles identify as Catholic, some Polish people and those of Polish descent identify as members of other religious groups such as the Polish National Catholics, Baptists, and Evangelical Lutherans. *A Testament to Faith* is about one such group of Polish Lutherans who left Poland and settled in the suburbs of Baltimore, Maryland and their legacy, the First Polish Evangelical Congregation of Christ.

The First Polish Evangelical Congregation of Christ the Lord was founded in 1904 by a group of Polish immigrants who came from the Łomża and Suwałki territories of Poland. They were compelled to leave for economic reasons, namely a severe lack of land available to farm. Once these individuals arrived in the United States they settled in Colgate, Maryland where, according to census records, many found employment as farm laborers. However, they found that they were a religious minority in America just as they were in Poland. As the majority of Lutherans in the United States were German, the new immigrants decided to found a Polish Lutheran Church that would give services in the Polish language. The church continued to hold Polish language services until 1988.

This important text discusses not only the history of the church building itself, but through correspondence, newspaper articles, and family oral histories gives us a peek inside the interesting lives of the founding congregants, their descendants, as well as the lives and families of the several pastors who answered the call to minister to the congregation.

Hollowak complements his

extremely well-researched history tome with dozens of black and white and color photographs of parish members, of stained glass windows, and the church itself. He has also provided images of research documents such as hand-written letters, programs, and meeting minutes. One set of interesting images contains various sketches and blueprints of the proposed enlargements and extensions of the church in the 1950s and 1960s. In addition, genealogies of the founding members, endnotes, bibliography and an index are included.

Hollowak's text is incredibly detailed and one that others writing church histories should seek to emulate. *A Testament to Faith: The First Polish Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Christ the Lord* is available from Historyk Press at historykpress.com.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR.** Thomas L. Hollowak has recently retired from the University at Baltimore as the associate director for special collections, where he worked for over twenty years. He has researched and written about the Polish community of Maryland for over thirty years. Hollowak's articles have been published in *Polish American Studies*, *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly*, and *Maryland Historical Press* among others.

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## POLONIA PLACES

GREGORY L. WITUL

## Saint Stanislaus Kostka RC Church

700 South Ann Street  
 Baltimore, Maryland  
 Status: Closed

While Poles leaving the homeland for the U.S. in the 19th century did not settle in the Mid-Atlantic states in large numbers, there were geographic pockets into which they migrated; Baltimore was one of those areas. Starting in the 1860s, a small trickle of Poles took up residency in the city. In the early 1870s it grew into a steady stream and by the end of the decade it was a flood. With a large community developing, the Catholic Poles of the city would soon need a parish to call their own.

The seeds of Baltimore's first Polish church were planted in 1875 when Father Francis Braszcz organized the St. Stanislaus Kostka Society. Formed by the city's pioneering Polish Catholics, the society had the hopes of taking care of the Polish community and establishing a parish for their countrymen. It would take the arrival of Father Peter Koncz to get the parish off the ground. At first, Father Koncz performed Mass in the modest homes of the society members, but as the



The interior of St. Stanislaus Church as it appeared in 1931.

community grew to over 500 families, funds were raised and a church building was planned. It would take a year but on June 26, 1881 the completed church of St. Stanislaus Kostka was dedicated and the parish was officially born.

As Poles continued to move into the Fells Point neighborhood, the

der the Franciscans the parish grew to over 6,000 souls and a school with 800 students under the tutelage of the Felician Sisters. Over the next ten years the Franciscans expanded the parish campus with a day nursery and established the St. Francis Home for the aged.

Throughout the twentieth cen-



On the left is St. Stanislaus Church with the parish priory on the right. The priory was demolished in the summer of 2006.

tiny wooden church could no longer hold the congregation. It would fall onto Father Koncz's successor, Father John Rodowicz to build a church fitting the now robust parish. On November 3, 1888 the new church, with its imposing steeple, was dedicated.

In 1905, the Archdiocese of Baltimore decided to turn St. Stanislaus Kostka over to the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor Conventual with Father Francis Pyznar taking over. Un-

der the Franciscans the parish grew to over 6,000 souls and a school with 800 students under the tutelage of the Felician Sisters. Over the next ten years the Franciscans expanded the parish campus with a day nursery and established the St. Francis Home for the aged. Throughout the twentieth century, the church would be repainted, remodeled, expanded upon, and restructured. Over the same period of time, the congregation would start to slowly decline. Because of that decline the parish was paired with St. Casimir in 1995, but to no avail. It was announced that St. Stanislaus would be closed, prompting protests, rallies, and pleas, but with no effect. On May 7, 2000, the last Mass at St. Stanislaus Kostka was celebrated. In attendance was former parishioner, U.S. Senator Barbara Ann Mikulski who said "This is the community that built Baltimore and built America, and when everyone was fleeing to the suburbs, they stayed."

After the closing, the church was given protected status in 2009 by the Baltimore City Planning Commission, preventing the Franciscans from razing the church. As the Fells Point neighborhood became a hotspot for developers, the church was sold. It was redeveloped and is now Sanctuary Bodyworks, a gym that offers personal training, group classes, yoga, and equipment Pilates.

## POLAND AND WORLD WAR I / Martin Nowak

## Aftermath of the War

In the wake of World War I Poland was reborn, but the task of resurrecting the nation was enormous. A litany of sad statistics bears this out. And here we consider numbers from within the borders of Poland as they existed between the two world wars.

The population of Poland on the eve of the war is estimated at 24 million and by war's end in 1918 it was reduced by more than three million. Of those, about one million were war dead and the others were displaced for various reasons.

Two million Poles served in the three belligerent countries of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Russia. About 400,000 of them died and another million were wounded.

Six hundred thousand Polish civilians died during the war that raged on their lands, about one third from direct violence and the rest from famine and disease engendered by the war. Of the more than two million displaced persons, about 1.2 million fled or were forcibly evacuated to Russia proper. As many as 800,000 voluntarily or forcibly worked in Germany. A couple hundred thousand were still held as prisoners of war when hostilities

ceased.

Material losses were estimated to be about ten percent of material wealth or \$2.5 billion. That may not seem like a huge sum in today's world where we tend to measure things in the trillions of dollars, but a hundred years ago it was a very substantial figure. Less than ten percent of the destruction was due to direct warfare. The rest came as a result of the wartime policies of Russia, Germany and Austria-Hungary, mainly in Russian Poland.

War had been waged on ninety percent of Russian Poland and more than half of Austrian Galicia, about 400,000 square kilometers. It was particularly concentrated on about one quarter of that area.

It was the Polish and Jewish villages and small towns that suffered the most destruction, many of them completely burned to the ground. The larger towns and cities, with a few exceptions, suffered little physical damage because the Russians typically evacuated from them ahead of the superior German or Austrian forces. The villages, however, often found themselves in the paths of advances and retreats, shelled during fighting or

burned down as part of the armies' scorched earth policies. Indeed, the vast majority of Polish civilian deaths occurred in the smaller towns and villages. Throughout Poland, it is estimated that about two million homes and farm buildings were destroyed.

But once the fighting ceased, it was the city residents, particularly those in Russian Poland under German occupation, that suffered more than the countryside. The Germans, and to a lesser degree the Austrians, put in place harsh policies in the cities.

When the Germans, who occupied most of Russian Poland, took control of a city, they found most of the factories and shops stripped of all machinery, furniture and supplies. Then they took to Germany much of what the Russians had left behind.

In the countryside the Germans and Austrians were keen on encouraging agriculture because they wanted to take the fruits of Polish farmers' labors to make up the food shortages being felt by their armies and civilian populations. Many Polish farmers had remained on their land throughout the war.

If their homes had been destroyed they made do living in huts or dugouts as they worked the land and tended to livestock. As a result, the Poland that emerged from the war was largely an agricultural country, because the cities were stripped of their industry.

And the Central Powers' need for lumber was insatiable. About one third of the forests of Russian Poland were cut down or destroyed during the war.

After the war, Józef Piłsudski became the leader of a nation that had been materially ruined and the majority of whose people were suffering from the ravages of war physically, mentally and emotionally.

Poland was being reunited from the ruins of its three partitioning powers, hence the Polish people were accustomed to three different economies and three different legal and administrative systems. These had to be integrated into one cohesive unit.

Piłsudski needed to form a functioning government, no small task considering several regional authorities and Roman Dmowski's conservatives were not ready to acknowledge his supremacy. His

small army had to be strengthened by absorbing Polish veterans from the defunct German, Austrian and Russian forces, as well as Haller's Army from France.

In addition, the new Poland's borders were not defined, the economy had been wrecked, and its infrastructure was in shambles. There were severe food shortages, ethnic conflicts with non-Polish minorities, the lingering presence of foreign troops and fear of a Russian re-occupation.

It seems to be a miracle that an independent Poland reemerged in 1918 after 123 years of foreign occupation, that the obstacles were overcome and a functioning government established in reasonably short order. There would be terrible trials to endure during the next century, but after everything, a proud, free Polish nation still exists today. As the Poles would say, "Jeszcze Polska nie zginęła." Poland has not yet perished.

❖ ❖ ❖

This concludes the series on *Poland and World War I*. In January, Nowak will begin his new series, "Our Polish Saints."

POLONIA NEWS / Staś Kmieć

## Polonia Foundation Honors



Aundrea Cika-Heschmeyer. One of four "Heritage Recognition" award recipients.

The Fifty-second **Pulaski Scholarship and Recognition Awards Banquet** was held on October 4 at St. Michael's Woodside Center in Broadview Heights, Ohio. Sponsored by the Polonia Foundation of Ohio, the event was held in conjunction with the 235th memorial observance of the death of General Kazimierz Pulaski.

The goal of the Foundation is to provide Americans of Polish descent with opportunities to advance their education through scholarship grants and fellowships. Nineteen Students received scholarships to pursue careers in varied studies.

The recipients were: Adam Martin Chalasinski, Kaitlyn Rose Cooper, Anthony Dedic, Kornel Daniel Foremski, William Guter-muth, Benjamin Gotzky, Rosemary Holtz, Elizabeth Ann Jankowski, Rachael Kapusta, Sara Katrenich, Nicole Koscielski, Marek Kowalik, Jonathon Bradley Mileski, Brooke Elizabeth Mostar, Ernest Mariusz Oleksy, Conrad Paganinni, Antonin Procheroff, Nicholas Santino, and Allison Scalfano.

Among this list, several stood out in their display of "Polishness":

- **Adam Martin Chalasinski**, a junior at the University of Cincinnati School of Engineering and Applied Sciences distinguished himself as the only awardee to deliver his acceptance speech entirely in Polish.
- A dancer with *Living Traditions*

*Folk Ensemble*, **Sara Katrenich** is majoring in History and Slavic Studies as a junior at The Ohio State University.

- **Ernest Mariusz Oleksy**, a freshman at Cleveland State University majoring in Biology, accepted the scholarship in the "true spirit of Polish resilience" – as instilled in him by his grandmother.
- A freshman at Parsons The New School of Design and is majoring in Architectural Design, **Antonin Procheroff**, is a former dancer of *The Piast Dancers* of Cleveland. In his speech he noted that "We are American, but we are still of Polish background."

Four Polish Americans were chosen as exemplary citizens and role models to receive the Heritage Recognition Award. These individuals possess "qualities that will leave a mark of distinction on this generation as they have in generations past."

The Honorees were: **Aundrea Cika-Heschmeyer** – Director of *Polish Youngstown*; **Allan Szuflada** – Director and Knight of Pulaski of the *Polonia Foundation of Ohio*; **Theresa Krysiak** – Ladies Auxiliary of the *Polish Legion of American Veterans USA*; and **Raymond Vargas** – Director and Choreographer of *Syrena Polish Folk Dancers* of Cleveland.

Raymond Vargas encouraged to "Giving to your Polish Culture" – to learn things, engulf yourself in it, and share it with your family and friends.

Aundrea Cika-Heschmeyer, among her Polish activities in Youngstown, Ohio such as *Ostatki*, *Kulig*, *Polish Day* and *National Pierogi Day*, created *Zatańczmy: A Celebration of Polish Folk Dance, Simply Slavic* – a collaborative Eastern European Festival, and the Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa at St. Columba Cathedral – to provide ethnic recognition to the merged Polish Parish of St. Casimir's Church.

Cika-Heschmeyer is a graduate of Alliance College, a former dancer of *Kujawiaki*, and has worked

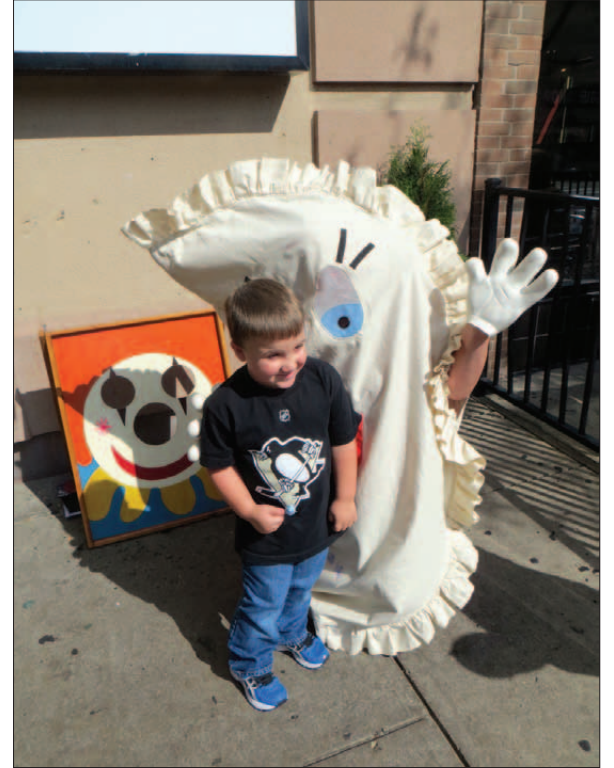


**CHEF TAD SIEMBIDA** of *Polska Kuchnia* presented live pierogi-making demonstrations.

professionally as a television and newspaper journalist, and magazine editor. She is only the fourth from the Youngstown area to receive the honor.

Aundrea gave an inspiring and passionate speech: "As an adult I took a little Polish with me wherever I went. Reporters in South Dakota learned how to do the *polka*; writers in Connecticut learned all about *Wigilia* traditions; and with my friends in Virginia and DC we began an annual *Pierogi Pinch-off*, which continues to this day... [When I returned to the area] luckily there were a few people that felt the same way I did and Polish Youngstown was created to use our combined skills to share the news of all things Polish in the Mahoning Valley with a larger broader audience... We find it fascinating that 'being Polish' means something different to each and every one of us ...

"The common bond for this group is keeping the lively colorful spirit of our heritage alive and to educate younger generations about why they should be excited about it too!"



**"STAN THE PIERÓG"** danced and greeted guests on National Pierogi Day.

**PIEROGI DAY – YOUNGSTOWN STYLE.** At first, a family food among the immigrants in the United States, *pierogi* soon found its way in ethnic restaurants, and by the 1960s, pierogi could be found in the frozen food aisles of grocery stores.

On October 8 to celebrate "National Pierogi Day and beginning of *Polish Youngstown*," The Federal opened its doors at 11:30 a.m. to the event.

The downtown restaurant, which specializes in ground beef, turned to Krakus Deli to pinch and provide traditional and inventive pierogi in the varieties of: Buffalo Chicken, Blueberry, Cabbage, Kraut, Lekvar, Meat (Pork) and Potatoes with Cheese.

"Stan the Pieróg" danced and greeted guests at the door, while samplings were provided at the sidewalk entrance. There was polka

music, and Chef Tad Siembida of *Polska Kuchnia* presented live pierogi-making demonstrations. His specialty was a family recipe from eastern Poland of cheese, potato, onion and mint.

The festivities continued at Youngstown State University, where Auggie Heschmeyer – the reigning "Mr. Pieroguy" led a "pierogi beanbag toss" and the "Pierogi eating contest." After work, *Polish Youngstown* celebrated its 8th Birthday where it all began with "Polish Happy Hour."



The "Pompanski" was a hit at Polish Happy Hour.

Polish beer and two cocktails – "The Polish Bullet" (Sobieski Vodka, honey syrup, apple juice) and the "Pompanski" (Vodka, Vermouth, Triple Sec, grapefruit juice) were served.

The organization was toasted with a round of "Sto Lat," and the festivities continued until 9:00 p.m.

CULTURAL TELEGRAM / Kasia Romanowska

## South Korean Seong-Jin Cho wins Chopin Piano Competition

WARSAW — South Korea's Seong-Jin Cho, 21, has won the prestigious 17th international Frederic Chopin piano competition in the Polish capital.

As well as prize money of \$33,600, this opens the way to performances in some of the world's best-known concert halls.

The competition, held every five years, is one of the few in which pianists play pieces by a single composer. It has been a launching pad for many internationally-renowned pianists.

Canadian Charles Richard-Hamelin won the second prize, and third place went to Kate Liu of the United States.

"It became my dream to participate in the competition and I cannot believe this moment," said Seong-Jin Cho after the results were announced.

"In the first round I was out of control," he said. "I didn't remember how I played so I checked on YouTube."

But by his final performance of Chopin's *Piano Concerto in E minor, Opus 11*, he said he was "not so

nervous."

The Paris Conservatoire student also won a \$3,400 prize for the best performance of a Chopin polonaise.

The competition has been running for 88 years. Previous winners include Maurizio Pollini, Krystian Zimerman and Martha Argerich, who was a judge at this year's competition.

In this year's competition, some 78 young pianists took part from 20 different countries. The contestants spent three weeks playing works by Polish composer Frederic Chopin in a series of concerts.

**POLISH PAVILION AT EXPO IN MILAN.** Poland's Pavilion, a project by studio 2PM, was presented at Expo Milano 2015 entitled "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life." The Pavilion was formed with wooden boxes referring to the ecological and simple form of apple boxes, which also relates to one of Poland's top agricultural exports apples.

Visitors can spend time in a magical garden, enjoy the art installation of an enormous apple, as well as animated graphics and projections.

They can also visit an onsite store, where they can find regional products and taste Polish cuisine while sitting in a Pavilion restaurant.

**HAS IN BROOKLYN.** From October 15-27, the Brooklyn Academy of Music and the Polish Cultural Institute in New York presented a retrospective from renowned Polish director and screenwriter Wojciech Jerzy Has. Titled "The Waking Dreams of Wojciech Has," the screening featured 14 films including, among others, "The Hourglass Sanatorium," "The Saragossa Manuscript," and "How to Be Loved."

**FILM FESTIVAL IN GDYNIA 2015.** The jury of the 40th edition of the International Film Festival in Gdynia gave the statuette to already well-known movie "Body/Cialo." "Excentrics," applauded by the festival audience, was awarded with the Silver Lion. This year the closing ceremony was held in a shorter version, because of the death of Marcin Wrona, the director of "The Deamon," a movie shown in the main competition at the Festival.

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## OBITUARIES

## Edward F. Rybka, Advocate for Improved Relations between Polish Catholics and Jews

Edward F. Rybka, who died on April 24, 2015, ten days after celebrating his 87th birthday, developed a personal legacy to re-build a bridge of understanding and reconciliation between Polish Catholics and the Jewish community.

What started with attendance at the ceremonial installation as a Rabbi of a family friend, Harry Rosenfeld, at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati became a personal quest for knowledge about the Jewish religion, including the study of the Torah. Rybka and his wife, Irene, became fixtures at the weekly Friday Sabbath services at Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple in Beachwood. To further his knowledge of Judaism, he completed a two-year course at the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School of the Cleveland College of Jewish Studies.

Rybka became a featured speaker on the topic of Jewish-Christian relations. Further evidence of his multi-faceted involvement with Ju-

daism took place in December 1987. Rybka accompanied a Fairmount Temple delegation to Washington D.C. and joined 200,000 others in a demonstration on behalf of Jews in the Soviet Union.

A Roman Catholic with a special devotion to the Marymount Convent Shrine in Garfield Heights, because of his personal engagement with the Jewish community, in 1988, Rybka was bestowed with the Fairmount Temple Brotherhood Award. Ten trees were planted in his name in Israel. His work with Christians and Jews led to Roman Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, Bishop Anthony M. Pilla, appointing Rybka to the Diocese Interfaith Commission in 1989. In 2000, the Fairmount Temple Brotherhood and the Jewish Chautauqua Society honored him for his "countless years as a crusader for Polish-Jewish understanding."

Born in Cleveland's Slavic Village neighborhood to immigrant

parents from Poland, Rybka graduated from Garfield Heights High School in 1946 and received the honor of Alumnus of the Year. Rybka earned a college degree from Fenn College, now Cleveland State University, in 1962.

While working as an accountant at American Steel and Wire in 1952, Rybka noted the sale of the Empire State Building in New York City. The realtor for that transaction earned a \$1 million commission. Motivated, Rybka commenced a career in real estate sales and on February 1, 1956, founded Rybka Realty, Inc. in Garfield Heights. The company grew to ten offices. With the opening of an office in Parma in 1964, Rybka Realty Inc. became the only local real estate broker operating simultaneously on both the east and west sides of Cleveland.

A member of the national "Real Estate Broker Masterminds" group, Rybka pioneered development of training programs and was

an instructor of real estate sales at Cuyahoga Community College and for the National Real Estate Board. In 1971, Rybka authored a bestseller book on sales published by Prentice Hall, "The Number One Success System to Boost Your Earnings in Real Estate." In 1979, the Cleveland Area Board of Realtors recognized Rybka as "Realtor of the Year."

Proud of his Polish heritage, Rybka was a member of several Polish fraternal groups and served as President of the Cleveland Society of Poles. He was honored as the organization's "Good Joe" in 1995. In 1967, Rybka was the recipient of the Pulaski Day Award bestowed by the Polonia Foundation of Ohio and was designated a "Knight of Pulaski" in 1990. As a guest of President Bill Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore, in 1996 Rybka participated in the "Celebration of Ethnic America" event at the White House.

Rybka served on the Board of Trustee for Marymount Hospital,

president of the Advisory Board of Jennings Home for the Aged and Trustee at Notre Dame College in South Euclid. A member of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus in Garfield Heights, in 2014, he was honored by the Moses Cleveland Assembly of the Knights of Columbus for his 50 years of involvement.

After chairing a successful school levy campaign, Rybka was honored by the Garfield Heights Chamber of Commerce in 1968. In 1973, he served as Forman of the Cuyahoga County Grand Jury.

A veteran of the United States Navy, Rybka served as past President of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Commission and was the recipient of the Commission's Annual Veterans' Day Award in 1987.

In 2012, Rybka's name was added to the "Wall of Tolerance" in Montgomery, Alabama "in recognition for his contributions to the ongoing fight against hatred and intolerance in America."

## Cory Wells, Singer with Three Dog Night

LOS ANGELES — Singer Cory Wells (nee Emil Lewandowski), a singer best known as one of the three lead vocalists in the band Three Dog Night, died Oct. 21, 2015.

Wells was born February 5 1942 in Buffalo, N.Y. He grew up in a rough neighborhood and hailed from a musical family. Wells' father died when he was a little boy and his mother struggled for a while before getting remarried. In the early 60s Wells played in a few local bands in the Buffalo area. Wells joined the U.S. Air Force immediately after graduating from high school. He formed a multi-racial group during his stint in the Air Force. Following his military tour of duty Wells returned to Buffalo and joined a garage rock called the Vibratos.

He traveled to California with the group. The Vibratos changed their name to the Enemies and performed in clubs in Los Angeles, San Diego, Las Vegas, and Sacramento. The Enemies were the house band at the legendary Sunset Strip club the Whisky-a-Go-Go for a year. They appear as themselves in the movie "Riot on Sunset Strip" and in an episode of the TV series "The Beverly Hillbillies." Moreover, the Enemies had minor hits with recordings of "Hey Joe" and "Sinner Man."

In 1967 Cory moved to Arizona and formed the group the Cory Wells Blues Band. He moved back to Hollywood in 1968 and became a founding member of the hugely popular 70s rock group Three Dog Night. Three Dog Night went on to enjoy enormous success throughout the early to mid 70s before eventually breaking up in 1977. In 1978 Wells recorded the solo album "Touch Me" for A&M Records.

Outside of singing, Wells was known as an avid fisherman.

## Rev. Canon Joseph L. Sredzinski, Radio Host, Chaplain

(GREENBURG TRIBUTE REVIEW)

— Rev. Canon Joseph L. Sredzinski, 71, a retired priest of the Diocese of Greensburg, died unexpectedly in his sleep, Oct. 10, 2015, while visiting Krakow, Poland, with high school classmates. He was a priest for 45 years.

Fr. Sredzinski was born March 19, 1944, in Connellsville, to the late Louis and Josephine Ann (Kois) Sredzinski. As a child, he attended the former St. Joseph School, Uniontown, and St. Anthony of Padua High School in Watkins Glen, N.Y. He earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy from St. Mary's College, Orchard Lake, Mich., and a master's of divinity from Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake. He was ordained a priest by Bishop William G. Connare on May 9, 1970, at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg. Fr. Sredzinski also did graduate work at the Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D.C., and the Pontifi-



cal North American College, Rome. He served as a deacon with St. John Paul II at Orchard Lake, Mich., and also met with him at the Vatican.

He was named an honorary canon of Lublin Cathedral in Lublin, Poland, by Archbishop Joseph M. Zycinski on July 23, 2007. Cardinal Adam J. Maida, then archbishop of Detroit, announced this honor during a ceremony at the John Paul II Cultural Center, Washington, D.C.

"He was a priest forever," said his sister, Patricia Brensy. He loved his work and sharing it with people, and he also enjoyed traveling and experiencing new adventures, she said. "And he kept his ties, and he always knew where his roots were from," Brensy said. She noted that her brother was the first priestly vocation from St. Joseph Parish, Uniontown.

"My parents were so very proud of him," she said. "He loved his mother and his dad, and the faith that they instilled in (Fr. Sredzinski) filled him with an everlasting love for his God," Brensy said.

Fr. Sredzinski served as associate pastor at St. Margaret Mary Parish and its former mission, St.

John Bosco, Lower Burrell (1970-72); the former Holy Rosary Parish, Republic (1972-74); St. Mary of Czesochowa Parish, New Kensington (1974-79); and St. Peter Parish, Brownsville, and its former mission, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Newell (1979-84). Fr. Sredzinski was pastor of the former St. Stanislaus Parish, Calumet (1984-89); St. Joseph Parish, Everson (1989-1999); and St. Hubert Parish, Point Marion (1999-2007). He also had pastoral responsibilities at Sacred Heart and Ascension parishes, both in Jeannette (2010-retirement.) Fr. Sredzinski served as chaplain at St. Emma Monastery and the State Correctional Institute (2007-10), and Westmoreland Manor (2007-retirement), all in Greensburg.

In addition, he served as Deanery VIII representative to the Priests' Council. He had served as national chaplain to the Polish Falcons of America since 1981. Fr. Sredzinski also served on the board of the Polish American Priests' Association and initiated a Polish Heritage Club in Uniontown where he served as chaplain. He spoke three additional languages: Polish, Italian

and French.

Brensy said Fr. Sredzinski enjoyed broadcasting his weekly WMBS (Uniontown) radio program, "That You May Believe," to more than 6,000 listeners over the Internet and local radio stations.

Fr. Sredzinski retired from all pastoral and chaplain responsibilities July 1, 2015. Father Lawrence L. Hoppe, a retired priest of the Diocese of Greensburg, was one of Fr. Sredzinski's closest friends. "He always dressed as a priest, and I admired that in him," Fr. Hoppe said. "He was always out to help others in whatever way he could," he said, whether it was helping immigrants or men recently released from prison. "And he loved all the sacraments and things relating to the Polish culture," adding that Fr. Sredzinski traveled to Poland nearly 20 times in his lifetime.

Fr. Sredzinski is survived by brothers, James (Patricia) Sredzinski and Charles Sredzinski; and sisters, Patricia (Michael) Brensy and Sister Jolenta Sredzinski, Sisters of the Holy Spirit; many nephews and cousins, two uncles, one niece, great-nephews and a great-niece.

## Danuta Mikolajczyk, Office Administrator

Danuta S. Mikolajczyk, 77, an office administrator at Georgetown University's medical school for 38 years before retiring in 1995, died Aug. 27 at a nursing home in Catonsville, Md.

Mikolajczyk was born Danuta Sinkowski in Marynki, Poland. She came to the United States in 1949 from a refugee camp in Germany and lived in Boston before moving to the Washington area in 1956. She was a resident of Silver Spring, Md., where she was a member of the rosary group at Our Lady Queen of Poland Catholic Church.

## Norman F. Walawender, City Court Judge, U.S. Army Veteran

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Norman F. Walawender, former Lackawanna City Court judge and corporation counsel for the city, died October 15 in Mercy Hospital after a brief illness. He was 85.

An attorney with a background in governmental law, he also had a general practice.

Walawender, a lifelong resident of Lackawanna, attended Canisius College and the University of Buffalo, and went to law school at St. Mary's University in Texas.

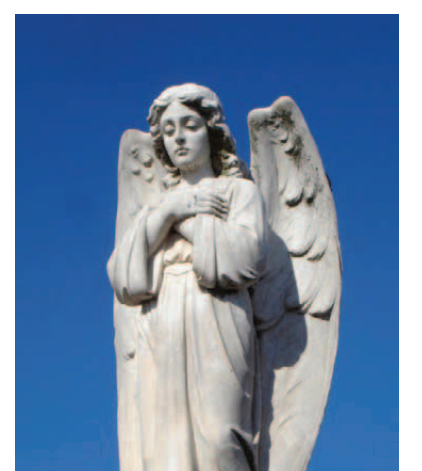
He was drafted into the Army during the Korean War, and earned his law degree while stationed in Texas.

He was a member of the Erie County, New York State, American and Federal bar associations, the Advocates Club, American Judges Association, American Trial Lawyers Association, Catholic Lawyers Club, Phi Delta Phi and Professional and Businessmen's Association. He also belonged to the American Horticultural Society, Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens Society, Father Baker Knights of Columbus, Chopin Singing Society and Polish Home Association.

Walawender was elected to three terms as Lackawanna City Court judge, and served 16 years as corporation counsel and assistant city

attorney in Lackawanna.

An amateur horticulturist, he was proud of his gardens, particularly his black walnut trees, which he grew from seeds from Poland.



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# Polka MAGAZINE

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POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

## Sturr Performs for Full House — Twice



Jimmy Sturr and the Orchestra played back-to-back full house performances at the Tioga Downs Casino, October 3, 2015. With over a 12,000 admissions sold, Sturr took to the stage twice to accommodate the two large crowds. People began lining up at the gate an hour before the event.

From the opening notes, the Sturr orchestra was virtually flawless. Starting with their on-stage pre-checks, to the jokes, to the mixture of musical selections, Sturr and each musician play at the top of their game to entertain the crowd and the large hall was enjoying every minute.

Probably one of Sturr's trademarks is their ability to play to please the entire audience, and so

they did on this Saturday. Covering a cross-section of music that included polkas, big-band standards,

obereks, rock-n-roll, country, they left everyone in the audience with a smile on their face and music in their hearts.

The Tioga Downs Casino venue has become the "go-to" place for those throughout New York's Southern Tier, as they offer an almost endless variety of entertainment. Their entire staff works hard to please everyone who visits, ensuring that your first visit will not be your last. Between the entertainment, the lounges, the buffet, and more, the entire complex has something for everyone.

Jimmy Sturr and the Orchestra and all their fans are looking forward to a return appearance at Tioga Downs Casino.



### POLKA NEWS

#### A Sturr Christmas

FLORIDA, N.Y. — Jimmy Sturr and the Orchestra will be celebrating two performances, one on December 5 at the Paramount Theatre in Middletown, NY and another on December 6 at the State Theatre in Easton, Pa. For more information email: jspolka@warwick.net.

#### New Phaze at the Pulaski Club

PHOENIX — The Pulaski Club will present "2 Days of fun in the Sun," with Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze Band from Chicago, Nov. 7 and 8, 2015.

The Saturday and Sunday afternoon polka parties start at 2:00 p.m. and continue until 6:00 p.m. Door open each day at 1:00 p.m. There is a \$12.00 admission at the door. Children under 12 are admitted free of charge. This is not a BYOB affair. The Pulaski Club has a full bar available and the Polish Kitchen will be open.

For more information, contact David Bonczkiewicz from Phoenix at (602) 741-8214, nickcity\_dave@yahoo.com; or Tony Blazonczyk at (815) 530-5917, newphaze@yahoo.com.

Hotel reservations may be made at the Holiday Inn & Suites Phoenix Airport North, 1515 N. 44th St. in Phoenix, (602) 358-0908.

The Pulaski Polish American Club is located at 4331 E. McDowell Road. For information, call or

visit (602) 275-9329; www.pulaski-clubaz.org.

To learn more about the New Phaze band, visit www.newphaze.com.

#### Hotel Hosts 27th Annual Polka Party

ROCHESTER, Minn. — The Kahler Grand Hotel will host its 27th annual Polka Party, Nov. 6-8, 2015.

For years, polka lovers from across the country have flocked to The Kahler and Rochester Marriott to experience the event. The hotel boasts comfortable accommodations, ballrooms with wooden dance floors, and easy accessibility to all of downtown Rochester.

Guests can look forward to music that includes German/Czech polkas, waltzes, big band, country, and more. The band line-up includes: Becky's Ivanhoe Dutchmen, Zweifel Brothers, Top Notchmen, Barry Boyce Band, Larry Rysavy's Out of Town Czechs, Goodtime Dutchmen, Gary's Ridgeland Dutchmen, Malek's Fishermen, Dale Dahmen & the Polka Beats, Leon Olsen Band, Bill Koncar Band, Ryan Herman w/ Karl Hartwich,

For more information, call (800) 533-1655.

#### Cleveland Style Nominees

VERONA, N.Y. — Fritz Scherz and Gabe Vaccaro, remaining founding members of Fritz's Polka

Band, from Verona, have been nominated for national awards by the Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame in Euclid, Ohio.

Accordianist Scherz and bassist Vaccaro both have been nominated in the "Musician of the Year" category.

Scherz is also nominated in the "Vocalist of the Year" category.

## Poland Spring Tour May 2016 with Gomulka and Biskup



Mitch Biskup



Lenny Gomulka

LUDLOW, Mass. — Each year, polka legends Lenny Gomulka and Mitch Biskup tour beautiful Poland. With so much to see, so much to enjoy and do, Lenny and Mitch have again targeted key regions within the Fatherland that will strike a chord, especially with their upcoming Poland 2016 Spring Tour, May 20-May 31, 2016.

With flights departing from Toronto, Chicago and New York, visiting Northern Poland means experiencing the warm sights of the Baltic Sea region, along with the excitement of Gdansk, Gdynia, and Sopot. You will adventure through historical Bialystok and Torun on the renowned Vistula River; party, shop, wine and dine in the Kashubian Region and throughout the Ma-

zurian Lakes area. Especially enjoyable will be 3-nights in Vilnius, the capital city of Lithuania.

All costs are included in this trip. Lenny and Mitch always help you celebrate in the most jubilant manner as they play, sing, and join the musicians and entertainers of Poland. Joining Lenny and Mitch will be Buffalo's own musical aficionado, Ted Szymanski. Ted will join the group with his accordion and voice to add his signature to the group of entertainment during the tour.

Write or call for more information, as this tour is filling in quickly: Lenny (413) 374-7096, lennygomulka@aol.com; or Mitch (617) 899-5895, m.biskup@comcast.net. (See ad this month's edition).

## It's Anniversary Time for Polka Time

HUGO, Minn. — *It's Polka Time!* with Craig Ebel will celebrate 25 years on the air with a dance at the historic Withrow Ballroom in Hugo, on Saturday, March 19, 2016. Dancing will be from 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. with music provided by The Boys from Baltimore, and The David Austin Band from Madison, Wisconsin.

Admission is \$12 per person; kids age 16 and under are free. The evening will include door prizes, giveaways, and a huge parade of musicians.

A 2012 Inductee to the International Polka Hall of Fame, Craig Ebel, will also celebrate his 35 years of broadcasting. A graduate of Brown Institute School of Broadcasting, Ebel has worked in all facets of radio broadcasting including announcer, reporter, board operator and producer. In 1981, while attend-

ing classes at Brown, his first job as an announcer was on "Polka Polka" 1010 WMIN (formerly WJSW) in Maplewood, Minn. The station was only on from sunrise to sunset, but its format included 80 percent polka music.

*It's Polka Time!* with Craig Ebel made its debut on February 2, 1991, on a Brooklyn Park radio station, AM 1470 "Real Country KCW." The station was formally known as KANO. When it changed its call letters to KCW it also changed its format and added an hour and a half of polka music to the Sunday morning schedule. Later KCW added a three-hour Sunday afternoon show called Polka Time! PM.

The show has been heard in the Twin Cities area over WDRY, KMOM, WIMN, WEZU, WMGT and KLBB. Email: itspolkatime@hotmail.com.

### TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

## Polka Boosters of America Celebrates Anniversary

Congratulations to the members of the **Polka Boosters of America**, who recently celebrated their 48th anniversary with a successful dinner dance on September 20th in Wyandotte, Mich. This club has been bringing quality Polish style music to the Midwest for almost a half century and this dance was evidence that the tradition will continue.

A group from Toledo traveled up I-75 to the PRCUA Hall for an afternoon of dinner and dancing in one of the best venues in the Midwest. **Ray Jay & the Carousels** provided the musical entertainment, always a pleasure. PBA members enjoy many Toledo dances, so it was nice to reciprocate at this most special time for their organization.

Special congratulations goes out to the officers and members of PBA who have traveled to Toledo many times over the years to attend dances. Here's to many more successful years to come. Check out the Polka Boosters of America on Facebook for more information about upcoming dances.

Cruising into the winter months, it is time to look forward to the holidays and the subsequent events occurring in Toledo.

Beginning in November, Toledo Area Polka Society presents **John Stevens' Doubleshot** on Sat., Nov. 22.

This dance will take place at Conn-Weissenberger Hall located at 2020 W. Alexis Road in North Toledo. Music is from 7:00-11:00 p.m. and doors open at 6:30 p.m. Christmas dances in Toledo include the IMA Dance on Sunday December 6th with **Duane Malinowski**, and the following Sunday, December 13, when TAPS presents **Randy Krajewski** for the Annual Christmas Dinner Dance. All dances are held at CW Hall.

The Toledo Polish Cultural Center Committee continues to advance efforts to raise money for a center in Toledo reminiscent of cultural centers in other big cities with strong Pol-Am populations. To this end, the Advisory Committee will travel to Cleveland to learn about the Polish Cultural Center located there. Stay tuned for more information.

The Ohio Theatre in the Old North End is also going strong, bringing movie events such as the Glass City Film Festival Preview held October 14 and the *Rocky Horror Picture Show* on Halloween Night. November 14, the Theatre presents *Birds Of Chicago* with Ragbirds, Antivillains, and Jeff Stewart.

So if you are in or near Toledo during the months of November or December, consider adding any or all of these events to your calendar.

**POLKA CALENDAR / John Ziobrowski**

To list your event, please send date, band, location, times, and contact number to johnzz@cox.net.

**NOVEMBER 8**

- John Stevens/Walt Groller/Polka Quads. Allentown Fairgrounds. Allentown, Pa. 12-8. (610) 433-7541
- Polka Country Musicians. Pineview Acres. Pottsville, Pa. (570) 628-3207
- Dennis Polisky/Ray Henry Tribute Band, K of C. Saratoga Springs, N.Y. 2-6. (518) 899-3061
- TBA. Appreciation Dance. Roosevelt Hall. Norvelt, Pa. 2-6. (724) 423-8558
- Nu Sounds. Pulaski Club. Holiday Fla. 3-6. (727) 934-0900

**NOVEMBER 10**

- Fritz's Polka Band. Finger Lakes Gaming & Racetrack. Farmington, N.Y. 11-2. (585) 924-3232

**NOVEMBER 14**

- Eddie Derwin Polka Naturals. Chamber Hill Fire Dept. Harrisburg, Pa. 7-11. (717) 985-9461
- Lenny Gomulka. St. Joseph Polish Society. Colchester, Conn. 6:30-10:30. (860) 537-2550
- Fritz's Polka Band. Utica Maennerchor. March, N.Y. 7-10. (315) 7355882
- Buffalo Concertina All Stars. Potts Banquet Hall. Cheektowaga, N.Y. (716) 983-4815

**NOVEMBER 15**

- Lenny Gomulka. German Club. Pawtucket, R.I. 2-6. (401) 569-6427
- The Special Delivery Band. Polka Mass. St. Andrew's RC Church. Sloan, N.Y. 14212 / Clinton Bar & Grill, West Seneca, N.Y. 4:30-7:30 (716) 768-3246

- Phocus. Anchor Inn. Cheektowaga, N.Y. 5-9. (716) 692-9675
- Tony Blazonczyk. PACC. Ludlow, Mass. 2-6. (413) 583-6385
- John Stevens. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-9104
- 5 Bands TBA, Benefit Dance. Roosevelt Hall. Norvelt, Pa. 2-7. (724) 423-8558
- Bee Sharps. Pulaski Club. Holiday Fla. 3-6. (727) 934-0900
- Eddie Forman. PACC. Lynhurst, N.J. (201) 543-9297
- The Continentals. Elks Club. Fairfax, Virg. 7:30-11:30 (703) 274-9179
- Brad Turk. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059

**NOVEMBER 18**

- The Special Delivery Band. "Polka Buzz" WBBZ Television Show. Grattwick Hose. North Tonawanda, N.Y. 7-?. (716) 692-9675

**NOVEMBER 19**

- Rare Vintage. Polish Falcons. Depew, N.Y. 8-10:30. (716) 684-2373

**NOVEMBER 20**

- John Stevens. Asbury Festhalle. Asbury Park, N.J. 8-12. (782) 997-8767

**NOVEMBER 21**

- John Gora/The Knewz. Polish Hall. Burlington, Ont. (905) 639-3236
- The New Direction Band/Crash Cadillac. Potts Banquet Hall. Cheektowaga, N.Y. 7-12. (716) 675-6588

**NOVEMBER 22**

- The Boys. PACC. Ludlow, Mass. 2-6. (413) 583-6385
- Special Delivery. Nite Cappe Pre-Thanksgiving Polka Party. 1769 Abbott Rd. Lackawanna, N.Y. 4:30-7:30 (716) 825-9488
- The Continentals. Sacred Heart Hall. Cornwall, Pa. 2-6. (717) 273-1574
- Matty Rock/Johnny Jay. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-9104
- Dynasonics. Roosevelt Hall. Norvelt, Pa. 2-6. (724) 423-8558
- Jimmy Sturr. The Grandview. Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 1-5. (845) 486-4700
- Don Czailkoszewski. Pulaski Club. Holiday, Fla. (727) 934-0900
- Polka Classics. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059

**NOVEMBER 28**

- John Gora. Polish Hall. Brantford, Ont. 8-1. (519) 753-0414
- The New Direction Band/Auslanders. Potts Banquet Hall. Cheektowaga, N.Y. (716) 675-6588

**NOVEMBER 29**

- The Slovenian Boys. Pulaski Club. Holiday, Fla. 3-6. (727) 934-0900

- The Boys. Roosevelt Hall. Norvelt, Pa. 2-6. (724) 423-8558
- The Golden Tones. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-9104
- TBA. PACC. Ludlow, Mass. 2-6. (413) 567-1961
- Bailey's Best. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059

**DECEMBER 1**

- Eddie Forman. Aqua Turf. Plantsville, Conn.. 10:45-3:30. (860) 621-9335

**DECEMBER 4**

- John Stevens/Alex Meixner. Best Western. Matamoros, Pa. 6:30-? (570) 660-7859

**DECEMBER 5**

- Dennis Polisky. PNA / Quovadis Club. Worcester, Mass. 5-9. (508) 361-2860
- The Continentals. Firehall. Emigsville, Pa. 7-11. (717) 292-3723
- John Stevens. Polish Community Center. Binghamton, N.Y. 6-10. (607) 729-0901

**DECEMBER 6**

- Dennis Polisky. PACC. Lyndhurst, N.J. 2-6. (201) 803-0909
- Joe Stanky Cadets. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-9104
- Eddie Forman. German Club. Pawtucket, R.I. 2-6. (401) 569-6427
- Ray Jay Carousels. Slovenian Hall. Yukon, Pa. 3-7. (724) 722-9700
- Henny Versa J's. Roosevelt Hall. Norvelt, Pa. 3-7. (724) 423-8558
- John Stevens. Freeland Center. Freeland, Pa. 2-6. (570) 636-0400
- Mellotone Band. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. (386) 258-7059

**DECEMBER 12**

- The Special Delivery Band. Buffalo Polka Boosters Christmas Party. (Reservation only). Polish Falcons. Depew, N.Y. 8-11. (716) 771-1076
- The Continentals. Fidelitas Club. Baltimore. Md. 1-5. (410) 256-4178
- The Continentals. Saengerbund Club. Newark. Del. 7:30-11:30 (302) 366-9454
- Dennis Polisky/Eddie Forman. Ukrainian Am. Club. Cohoes, N.Y. (518) 233-9265
- Mon Valley Push. Slovenian Hall. Yukon, Pa. 5-11. (724) 722-9700

**DECEMBER 13**

- The Special Delivery Band. Clinton Bar & Grill. West Seneca, N.Y. 4:30-7:30. (716) 681-2400
- Dennis Polisky. St. Joseph Polish Club. Colchester, Conn. 2-6. (860) 537-2550
- Eddie Derwin. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 722-9700
- Golden Tones. Sacred Heart Parish Center. Cornwall, Pa. 3-7. (717) 273-1574
- Rich Bobinski Orch. Polish Community Ctr. Albany, N.Y. 3-7. (518) 283-0129
- Eddie Belinsky. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059

**DECEMBER 20**

- Brad Turk. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059

**DECEMBER 21**

- Special Delivery. Nite Cappe Polish Christmas Party, 1769 Abbott Rd. Lackawanna, N.Y. 7-10. (716) 825-9488

**DECEMBER 22**

- Fritz's Polka Band. Finger Lakes Racetrack. Farmington, N.Y. 11-2. (585) 924-3232

**DECEMBER 23**

- Walt Groller. Holy Family Club. Nazareth. Pa. 2-6. (610) 759-4728

**DECEMBER 27**

- The Swingmasters. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- Trel Tones. Roosevelt Hall. Norvelt, Pa. 2-6. (724) 423-8558

**DECEMBER 31**

- Walt Groller. Liederkrantz Club. Reading Pa. 9-1. (610) 373-3982
- The Special Delivery Band/Polka Country Musicians. Millennium Hotel. Cheektowaga NY. (716) 681-2400
- John Gora. Polish Hall. Burlington, Ont. (905) 639-3236
- Bob Turcola. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. Evening. (386) 258-7059

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 Polka Party at  
 The Nite-Cappe

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Known for its hospitality, food, drinks, and atmosphere, the Nite Cappe is the place to spend this non-Bills game day, getting yourself in shape for pumpkin pie, stuffing, and that second helping of Ciocia Marynia's ambrosia! Delish!

Special Delivery is one of Buffalo most versatile bands, playing everything from ethnic favorites to popular dance tunes of all types.

The Nite-Cappe, located at 1769 Abbott Road in Lackawanna, N.Y. is owned and operated by the Sabuda family, the best cooks this side of the Smokes Creek. Well known for its outstanding dinner and lunch menu, the Nite Cappe will feature a fare of Polish American favorites for the polka party. The kitchen will be open at noon.

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DANCE TIME / Jen Pijanowski

# Nickel City Meets the Windy City



Shawn and Emily Mazurek



Kathy and Ron Urbanczyk and Les and Marz Motyka



Dorothy Maffitt and Keith Stras



Lori Urbanczyk and Kayla Rosinski, celebrating Kayla's 22nd birthday.



Diane and Mike Nowakowski



The Knewz

Ed Guca, Ray Kanoza, Rick Rzeszutko, Mike Stapinski, and Dan Mateja

**BUFFALO, N.Y.** — A last minute change in plans afforded us the opportunity to jump on the bus trip with the **Concertina All Stars** to Youngstown, Ohio for an enjoyable day trip with fellow polka fans.

We made a two-hour stop at Presque Isle Casino where several people in our group were lucky and many came out at least a few dollars ahead. As we loaded the bus, we started our drive to Kuzman's Lounge for an evening packed with fun and wonderful music. Buffalo Concertina All Stars were joined on the stage by Keith Stras' **Polka Confetti** from Chicago for the dance which was billed as: "The Nickel City Meets the Windy City."

In usual Kuzman's style we were treated like family by owners Larry and Dorothy Maffitt. The music started and the festivities continued through the evening as these two bands keep the crowd's energy high. A load of fans came from Chicago to support their local band which gave all of us the pleasure of hearing these talented musicians.

It's easy to enjoy yourself at Kuzman's and just as easy to understand why this establishment has been hosting polka bands for the past 60 years.

**SURPRISE!** Those attending Buffalo Polka Boosters got a treat as the obscure **Surprise Band** played the September "Pot Luck" meeting. The band which is comprised of Robin Pegg, Mark Kohan, Jim Kaminski, Ray Barsukiewicz, and Ricky Pijanowski is a boisterous put-together group of musicians who wanted a chance to get together and just play the songs they love.

Jim Kaminski belted out several tunes throughout the night while playing concertina with passion and enjoyment. It is easy to see that these gentlemen have a camaraderie that goes far beyond just being bandmates.

As they laughed, joked, and genuinely enjoyed playing together, their admiration for polka shined through. Those in attendance took to the dance floor even after eating to their heart's content. Bologna and

onion sandwiches were provided by the club and members filled over 40 feet of tables with their homemade dishes to share with one another.

**RONCESVALLES OR BUST.** After thinking that I was going to miss it this year, things worked out that I was able to drive up and savor just one day at the **Roncesvalles Polish Festival** in Toronto. This two-day event, which draws over 300,000 people, celebrates Poland's music, art, food, and culture.

There was a bit of rain when we arrived on Saturday afternoon, however, the festival did not suffer as hundreds of attendees were huddled under umbrellas enjoying the non-stop entertainment.

This year's PolkaManiac Stage hosted **John Gora & Gorale, Pan Franek & The Polka Towners, Freeze Dried**, and **IPA Tribute Band** with special guest **Hank Guzevich** from Polka Family.

Unfortunately, I arrived too late to see Pan Franek — I have never seen them in person and I was looking forward to it. Rumors have been swirling that they may be playing in Buffalo next year, so hopefully I can catch them on that occasion.

John Gora was playing his last set when we arrived to faithful polka fans who were dancing about in the rain. Gora is one of my all-time favorites, always quick to read the audience and make them feel part of the action. His personality, vocals and commitment to always hire the best musicians make him a crowd pleaser anywhere he performs.

As we headed off to dodge the rain and grab a bite to eat we stopped at by Zagloba Restaurant. My husband and I discovered this place several years ago as we were walking back to our hotel late on a Saturday night. Since then, we cannot make a trip to Toronto without stopping there. It is a small café serving Polish food and hospitality.

On Saturday evenings a gentleman plays Polo Disco while patrons take turns dancing around the small dance floor. It is very common to have someone grab you mid-bite to join them out on the dance floor for

their favorite song. Everyone in this restaurant speaks Polish and they treat you as if you are a long lost relative. It is a bit overwhelming at first for someone like me who only understands a bit of the language, but their affection is contagious.

After eating some dinner and dancing, we walked back to find Freeze Dried already performing in full force. They possess the ability to grab the attention of any music fan with their innovative style of polka music. They had quite a crowd in front of them; even a few of my non-polka friends joined in dancing in front of the band and felt truly entertained.

Next, IPA Tribute Band took the stage showcasing the essence of polka music and playing those loved standards. It was fun to watch the band flawlessly shift their styling to the music of Polka Family as Hank took center stage. Hank is a true showman, always capturing his audience and energizing the crowd.

With Zywiec and Sobieski sponsoring the event, the evenings become quite enjoyable as many let down their inhibitions and really begin to experience the music. The night quickly came to an end as we scurried to watch Eddie Guca play to the largest crowd at the festival at the yearly "Dance Under the Stars" on the main stage. Hundreds of people dance throughout the streets to their favorite Polish music performed so beautifully by Ed and his highly skilled musicians.

This event is always the highlight of the festival and an ideal ending to my day at the Roncesvalles Polish Festival.

**REMEMBERING JACKIE.** Special Delivery was the perfect band to entertain the crowd who gathered to support the **Jackie Schmid Scholarship Fund** at the Lily of Buffalo. This is the third annual event which raises funds for scholarships given to five high school seniors with a Polish background in Cheektowaga, N.Y.

Jackie was a constant supporter of polka music, especially our local bands and Polish culture during her

lifetime. This event is a reminder of what she did for our Polish community before her untimely passing.

This year's event offered several large prizes to bid on as well as over 100 Chinese auction baskets to support the fund. Special Delivery played to the crowd's every whim offering a mix of polkas, waltzes, contemporary, and even rock music. Even though they are a polka band, it is nice to have a mix of music at large events such as this as to satisfy the likes of the masses. The professionalism and wide range of genres makes them a crowd pleaser at any type of event.

Another event was scheduled on the same day just down the street so I stopped in afterwards. **The Knewz** held their yearly Bills' Pre-game

Polka party. Several Knewz fans from out of town made the trip for this annual event and although there were quite a few Bills shirts and jerseys, I was beyond thrilled to see some black and gold Steelers' gear donned at this dance.

As is customary for this popular band, the Knewz sounded amazing keeping the dance floor packed song after song. Each of these musicians is a class act but it is impossible not to mention Andy Bojczuk's vocals when talking about the band. It is easy to understand why he has been given multiple male vocalist awards.

The band's intensity leaves fans always wanting more as was evident with a full floor when the dance ended at midnight.

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## AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

## ILLINOIS

CHICAGO — The **Polish Genealogical Society of America** (PGSA) will hold its meeting on Sunday, Nov. 15 at 2:00 p.m. in the Hendrickson Room of the Arlington Heights Memorial Library, 500 N. Dunton Ave., Arlington Heights, Ill. (847) 392-0100. The topic will be "Poland in World War II."

Poland was the first nation to fight German aggression in World War II. It supplied the fourth largest Allied armed forces behind those of the United States, United Kingdom and the Soviet Union. In addition, it organized the largest resistance movement of the war and made other substantial contributions to the Allied victory.

Presenter, James S. Pula, is a professor of history at Purdue University. He has authored more than a dozen books and is the editor of *The Polish American Encyclopedia* and the academic journal *Polish American Studies*.

To provide for adequate seating, the Library asks those planning to attend to register at: <http://www.ahml.info/attend/events/all/2015-11>.

If you wish to participate in a Webinar of this program, go to:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8318223648111441153>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing additional information about joining the session.

CHICAGO — Holiday performance tickets for the **Lira Ensemble** are on sale now. These include shows in Cleveland (Connor Palace on Playhouse Square, Nov. 28); Detroit (Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, Nov. 29); and Chicago (St. Mary of the Angels Church,

Dec. 13).

The company will present its anniversary production "Joyous Jubilee: 50 Years of Polish Carols, Song and Dance," with special guest, jazz vocalist Grazyna Auguscik.

For tickets to any event, call the Lira office at (800) 547-LIRA. All tickets available at half price for children to age 16.

## MASSACHUSETTS

NORTHAMPTON — The **Polish Heritage Committee** of Northampton had a few things going on in recognition of Polish American Heritage Month. On Sept. 27 the Polish Heritage Committee, along with St. Valentine Polish National Catholic Church, sponsored a Polish American Sing-along with patriotic, religious hymns, folk and military songs. On October 12, the Committee held its annual Pulaski Day Celebration with a Memorial Mass, officiated by Rev. Piotr Calik, native son of Poland. The Mass was followed by a parade of some 500 marchers, units and floats.

## MICHIGAN

ORCHARD LAKE — **Marcin Chumiecki** (inset), director of the Polish Mission at the Orchard Lake Schools, received a Polish presidential award



In July, then-president of the Republic of Poland Bronisław Komorowski, decided to bestow upon Chumiecki the Cavalier's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Polish Republic. The award is given in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the Polish Republic.

## Art for Heart 2015

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — The Polish Museum of America (PMA) and Gift from the Heart Foundation (*Dar Secra*) celebrated their 5th anniversary combined fundraiser, **Art for Heart 2015**, in the beautiful setting of contemporary art, held in the Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall of the PMA. The event was held in three stages: an opening gala on Sept. 19, followed by a multi-organizational networking evening on Sept. 23, and a singles night on Sept. 25.

Many highly talented artists answered the call for artists to participate. The exhibit provided a unique opportunity for Chicago-based Polish and Polish American artists to showcase their art. The event attracted over 350 attendees. All original artwork, as well as less expensive prints, were available for sale. The event presented an opportunity for the Chicago artistic community to socialize, expand networking, and to mingle with the artists, to view, and to purchase their works.

The Gift from the Heart Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that helps children with disabilities receive medical treatment. *Dar Secra* brings seriously ill and disabled children from European countries to the U.S. and helps those children receive high-quality medical care and treatment that are unavailable in their home countries.

The Polish Museum of America, a 501(c)(3) cultural institution, is one of the oldest and largest ethnic



PHOTO: GERALDINE BALUT COLEMAN

The sale of works by Polish and Polish American artists, such as this piece by Voytek Glinkowski, benefited the Gift from the Heart Foundation, and the Polish Museum of America.

museums in the United States. It offers visitors a range of exhibits, resources, and activities related to Polish art, history, and culture, as well as Polish-American history. Its all-inclusive exhibits and cultural events are both educational and entertaining. Its library and extensive archives have rendered valuable services to historians, researchers, students, and genealogists.

The Ambassador of Poland, His Excellency Ryszard Schnepf, presented Chumiecki with the award during his visit to the Polish Mission, October 29, 2015.

## NEW YORK

NEW YORK — The **Marie Skłodowska Curie Professional Women's Association** will be holding its 20th Dinner Dance, Fri., Nov. 13, 2015 at Princess Manor, 92 Nassau Avenue in Brooklyn, commencing with cocktails at 7:00 p.m., and dinner at 8:00. Agnieszka Chwatko, Staten Island's Branch Manager of Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union, is planning a delightful evening as chairperson of the event.

Everyone is invited to attend. Music will be supplied by DJ Stefan Bieliski.

For details on making a reservation, please call (718) 748-9676 or visit [www.curiewomen.org](http://www.curiewomen.org).

NEW YORK — Members of New York City's Polonia community have set up a new initiative to celebrate bilingualism at Christmas, aimed at promoting the Polish language among children of America's Polonia.

The initiative aims to promote the Polish language among American children living among the Polonia diaspora.

"At home we speak Polish," is the campaign's name and is being carried out by the Polish community portal Okay Polish School.

As the organizers say, these children are the best future ambassadors for Poland.

## PENNSYLVANIA

PITTSBURGH — A "family-oriented festival" of Polish and Lithuanian music, song, dance, and culture will be presented Sun., Nov. 8, 2015 from noon to 5:00 p.m. at the University of Pittsburgh, Cathedral of Learning. The event, "**Celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Lithuanian and Polish Nationality Rooms**," is free and open to the public.

Continuous activities planned include live folk dance entertainment, cultural displays, a Polish Gift and Import Mart, Lithuanian and Polish cooking and folk art demonstrations, children's "make-n-take" folkcrafts, a Polish Bakery, ethnic foods, and polka music.

Among those participating in this year's event are folk artist Radoslaw Fizek, Frania's "Polka Celebration," the "Echos of Lithuania" radio program, Lithuanian Citizen's Club, Bociiai Lithuanian Folk Group, the Lajkoniki Dance Ensemble of McKeesport, Pa., the Living Traditions Folk Dance Ensemble of Cleveland, and the Polish Falcons of America.

Proceeds benefit the University of Pittsburgh Polish Room Scholarship Fund. This event is partially funded by the Polish Falcons of America.

For information, call or email (814) 969-5940; [lgk505@aol.com](mailto:lgk505@aol.com).

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Knights of Columbus and the National Polish Apostolate Committee celebrated **St. John Paul II Day**, Sat., Oct. 17. The celebration memorialized the pontificate and

legacy of St. John Paul II. This day was chosen because of its proximity to the election date of Cardinal K. Wojtyla to the See of St. Peter.

The Papal Day began with a tour of the renovated shrine and museum dedicated to the Polish Pope. The pilgrimage program provided the opportunity to hear presentations by a few lecturers: Most Rev. Janusz Stepnowski, Bishop of Lomzy, Poland; Ambassador to the Republic of Poland Ryszard Schnepf; Fr. Jonathan Kalisch, senior chaplain, Knights of Columbus of New Haven; as well as Prof. Thaddeus Radzilowski, director of the Piast Research Institute, Michigan.

Following the lectures, guests assembled at the Chapel of John Paul II to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Guests then attended a Solemn Mass, with Bishop Edward Grosz, Auxiliary Bishop of Buffalo, N.Y. as main celebrant and homilist together with other concelebrating bishops and clergy.

The Mass was celebrated in the new church built by the Knights of Columbus, which was consecrated October 3 by Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz and Archbishop of Washington Cardinal Donald Wuerl.

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## CHRISTMAS 2015 EDITION

Dear Fellow Polish American:

It is at this time of the year that we call upon our loyal friends and supporters to participate in the Christmas editions of the Polish American Journal.

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With the passing of each generation, with jobs that take loved ones out of state, and with the closing or merging of our Polish parishes, some of our Polish traditions may become lost.

It is at these times that Polonia turns to its press to keep these practices alive, to keep this heritage alive. We count on you to help us in this effort.

Please complete and return the form below in the handy envelope we have provided. Deadline for placement in the Christmas issue is Tuesday, November 17. Tear sheets (pages with your advertisement on them) will be mailed by December 15.



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