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WHO'S GRANDMOTHER IS THIS AND WHAT'S WITH THE NUMBER? PAGE 18

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

TALKING TURKEY • "SPIRIT OF ST. NICHOLAS" • ST. CASIMIR'S WELLS, MINNESOTA • TEST YOUR POLONIAN IQ
LOVING VINCENT • "A POLISH HOLIDAY! CAROLS, SONG AND DANCE" • WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT WIGILIA?
WISDOM FROM FEASTS AND SEASONS • CAN ŁÓDŹ BEAT MINNEAPOLIS? • THE SUPERSTITIONS OF ALL SOULS DAY

Newsmark

POLAND, UK SIGN DEFENSE PARTNERSHIP. A Polish-British defense partnership treaty "combining all aspects of national security" will be signed in Warsaw in December, Polish Defense Minister Antoni Macierewicz has said.

Macierewicz was in London together with Polish Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski for talks with their British counterparts.

The Polish defense minister said talks focused on Polish, British, and global security issues, including cybersecurity (see below). Meanwhile, Macierewicz said a Russian cyber attack had been ward off in Poland.

Macierewicz said cybersecurity was being researched jointly by Warsaw's Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University and Oxford University.

The meeting also discussed the conflict in Ukraine and ties with Russia.

Macierewicz said that London confirmed its commitment to bolstering NATO's eastern flank under a decision taken at the alliance's 2016 summit.

NATO members agreed to deploy four multinational battalion battle groups to Poland and three Baltic countries which fear potential Russian aggression following Moscow's annexation of Crimea in 2014. (Radio Poland)

ANOTHER FALLS FROM GRACE. The Archdiocese of Boston, which closed St. Michael's Church in West Lynn, Mass. in 2006, has sold the parish property to a developer, who announced plans to convert it into condominiums.

The \$3 million project includes 20, two- and three-bedroom condos with more than one parking spot for each. Four units will be in the rectory, eight in the school, and eight in the church, said developer David Cutler.

The Archdiocese of Boston included St. Michael's on its list of churches slated for closing in 2004. It later gave it permission to remain open through 2006 so parishioners could celebrate its 100th anniversary.

Attorney Samuel Vitali, who represented developers at a City Council meeting, said his clients were mindful of preserving the character of the church and old school when they drafted their plans.

In addition to maintaining the original exterior, with the exception of adding windows and doors, a plaque commemorating the neighborhood's rich Polish history will be installed.

City Councilor Jay Walsh said the plan isn't the first that has been presented to him for redeveloping the property in recent years, but it's the only one that included preserving the history of the site.

The condos will be marketed around \$200,000 each, which he said is reasonable when compared to the housing market.

The project will take about nine months to complete once construction begins.

VIRTUAL DEFENSES. Poland's defense minister said the country will have a "cyber army" numbering at least 1,000 soldiers within several years, capable of waging warfare in cyberspace.

Antoni Macierewicz told the "Cybersec" European Cybersecurity Forum in Kraków, the country has earmarked about \$550 million (USD) for the new initiative.

Macierewicz said that in the modern world, cyberspace is theatre of combat "no less than [military operations] on land, sea, air, and in space."

He said the Ministry of Defense and other Polish government ministries were targeted by "troll factories" almost every day.

Macierewicz told the conference: "We are aware of how much responsibility falls on Poland because of the key role it plays on NATO's Eastern flank."

Polish Prime Minister Beata Szydło earlier announced a new department of cybersecurity would be set up in her office.

Calls to Attention



Ambassador Piotr Wilczek (left), Brigadier General Cezary Wisniewski, and Lieutenant Colonel Karol Sobczyk stand at attention while the Polish Army Band performs the national anthems of Poland and the United States. The occasion was held in celebration of Polish Armed Forces Day at the ambassador's residence. *Story on page 4.*

Archaeologists Unearth Mass Grave at Nazi Death Camp

ROGOZNICA, Poland (JNS) — Polish archaeologists have uncovered a mass grave of around 300 prisoners at the site of the former Nazi death camp Gross-Rosen in southwestern Poland.

The Gross-Rosen concentration camp was established in August 1940 and had about 125,000 prisoners, who were mostly Jewish. Overall, some 40,000 people were killed at the camp, which was considered one of the most notorious Nazi death camps. The camp was liberated in February 1945 by the Soviet Union.

"The discovery of human remains matches the account of one of the former prisoners of the camp, a Belgian man

See "Camp," page 2

Misnomer Riles PAC

HALFMON, N.Y. — The Thaddeus Kosciuszko Bridge is a pair of identical through arch bridges, made of steel, which span the Mohawk River between the towns of Colonie, Albany County, and Halfmoon, Saratoga County, in New York's Capital District.

Each span carries three northbound and southbound lanes of Interstate 87 between exits 7 and 8. The toll-free bridge opened in 1959 as part of the Adirondack Northway, a 176-mile highway linking Albany and the Canada-United States border at Champlain.

The bridge is named (using an anglicized form) in honor of Tadeusz Kościuszko, but local media more often refer to it as the Twin Bridges, or just "The Twins."

"On July 21, 1981, the New York State Legislation, in conjunction with the Department of Transportation, officially named the bridges ... the Thaddeus Kosciuszko Bridge," said the Central New York State Division of the Polish American Congress.

The PAC said local media must be reminded of its official title, as 2017 is the Year of Kosciuszko. For a list of Capital District newspaper, television, and radio stations, write to the PAC at 619 25th St., Watervliet, NY 12189; tel. (518) 272-5727.

My Favorite Things

Shopping Polish for Christmas

by Staś Kmiec

It should be easy to select a gift for me for Christmas, a birthday, or any other occasion — find something Polish! But, I guess not so easy is what to get? I have acquired so many books, CDs, DVDs and artifacts over the years and many travels, that one may not want to risk getting something I already have. When I receive something Polish, I am overjoyed.

These days, there is so much out there to choose from, and lots of stuff to pass over like pierogi sealers, and pseudo-Polish cookbooks by non-Poles or culinary experts intent on modernizing the ingredients of treasured classics.

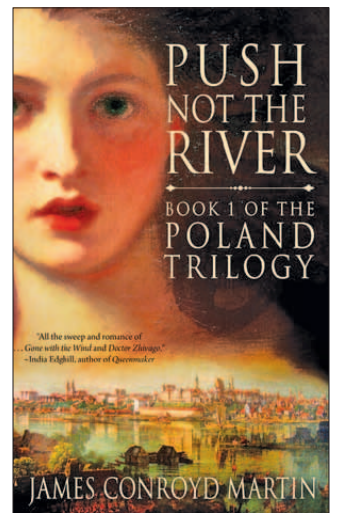
I will often purchase a coffee table book, like Beata Zatorska's *Rose Petal Jam: A Summer in Poland* or the follow-up *Sugared Orange: A Winter in Poland* for a family member or someone whose interests appreciate

Polish themes. These books go beyond the norm and in addition to great recipes, provide thoughtful and thought-provoking stories, history and information, with an artistic layout of photographic images.

For me, if it's Polish, it needs to be unique and ring true to the culture. I have been compiling an extensive "wish list" of items from Poland and from American import websites of "My Favorite Things." Though it is rare for me to receive a Polish gift, from this list I can at least buy gifts for myself.

The Polish American Journal On-Line Gift and Bookstore (www.polamjournal.com/Bookstore/bookstore.html) offers an array of items to enable you to shop Polish for Christmas. To ensure timely delivery, make sure to order early!

Any item in the PolArt catalog www.polandbymail.com is available directly from PAJ, as well. You can check the website and order these items by contacting: info@polamjournal.com or call 1(800) 422-1275.



From action figures to books, Polish-themed gifts will be welcomed by family and friends who have an interest in their heritage. Above: James Conroyd Martin's "Push Not the River." Left: A figurine of Jan Onufry Zagłoba, a beloved character from Henryk Sienkiewicz's *Trilogy*.

DOLLS AND ACTION FIGURES.

An assortment of folk costumed dolls and historical action figures will instill a sense of Polish pride and knowledge to any boy or girl.

Among the many doll collectibles, a newer item drew my attention. The *Polskie Stroje Ludowe (Polish Folk Costumes)* series of dolls is an extraordinary guide in the Polish language to the traditions of specific regions. The

See "Shopping," page 9

Almanac

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November Listopad

"So listen to them, heed them: Who never touch the earth, can never be in heaven."
— Adam Mickiewicz, "Forefather's Eve."

- 1 **ALL SAINTS DAY**
1777. Casimir Pulaski joins U.S. forces.
- 2 **ALL SOUL'S DAY**
Dzień Zaduszny or *Zaduszki*. A national holiday in Poland to memorialize the deceased.
1944. Nazis begin gassing inmates at **Auschwitz** in Occupied Poland.
- 3 1806. **Greater Poland Uprising** begins
1930. First regular broadcast of the weekly **Fr. Justin Rosary Hour**, now the oldest Polish language radio program in the United States.
- 4 1937. Birth of actress **Loretta Swit** (M*A*S*H).
- 5 1370. Death of **Kazimierz III the Great** (b. 1330).
- 6 1657. Signing of the **Treaty of Bydgoszcz**
- 7 1867. Birth of **Marie Skłodowska-Curie** (d. 1934) in Warsaw
- 8 1632. Election of **Władysław IV Vasa**
- 10 1914. **Joseph A. Rozan** appointed Polish interpreter to the Supreme Court.
- 11 **ST. MARTIN**
Na Św. Marcina Najlepsza gesina
Patrz na piersi i na kości
Jaka zima nam zagłści
The bone of the goose is the best way to predict this winter's test.
- 12 1842. Birth of **Blessed Frances Siedliska**, foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth.
- 13 **ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA**
- 14 1990. Signing of **German-Polish Border Treaty**
- 15 1916. Death of **Henryk Sienkiewicz**, 70, Polish novelist ("Quo Vadis"), 1905 Nobel literature prize winner.
- 16 1794. General **Tomasz Waurzecki** (1753-1816) surrenders to Russian troops, marking the end of the **Kosciuszko Uprising**, which began March 24.
- 17 1891. **Ignacy Paderewski** gives his first concert in America.
- 18 1655. Swedes besiege the **Jasna Góra** monastery.
- 19 1438. Death of sculptor **Wit Stwos**.
- 20 1815. **Krakow** declares itself a free republic.
- 21 1920. Birth of **Stan Musial**, famed baseball star with the St. Louis Cardinals.
- 23 1227. Assassination of **Leszek I the White**
- 25 **ST. CATHERINE**
1795. Abdication of the last king of Poland, **Stanislaw August Poniatowski**.
- 26 1961. "Pic-a-Polka" live television show premiers on WGR TV Channel 2 in Buffalo, N.Y.; with host **Joe Macielag**.
- 27 1939. Death of **Gabriel Suvulewski** (b. 1866), builder of hundreds of miles of tourist routes in California's Yosemite National Park.
- 28 1561. Signing of **Wilno Pact**.
- 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 **ST. ANDREW**

This paper mailed on or before **November 1, 2017**. The December 2017 edition will be mailed on or before **November 30, 2017**

Talking Turkey

by Mark Kohan

According to Britain's *The Independent*, the future of newspapers is "unclear at best."

Last year, *The Independent* gave up its print edition, and went to an online-only format. Fewer subscriptions and plummeting advertising revenues forced the change.

Those same forces are crushing Polonia's press. In the past decade, we have lost print editions of *Polonia Today*, *Polish American World*, and *Post Eagle*, to name a few. Some, like the *Post Eagle*, are available in digital format only.

For years, the *Polish American Journal* has weathered the storm, largely thanks to the support of Polonia's fraternal organizations, which used the PAJ as their official newspaper. Today, only the Polish Beneficial Association, headquartered in Philadelphia, still does.

All newspapers are facing these problems. But our readership is also affected by assimilation: each generation removed from Poland takes less interest in its roots. Yes, Easter and Christmas customs are still strong, and many still observe *Dzień Zaduszny* or have a bonfire on St. John's Eve, but for the most part, the innumerable obligations of 21st century life make keeping one's far too difficult. (By the way, I just read a great little book that addresses this. Claire M. Anderson's "Seasons of the Slavic Soul: A Quest for an Authentic Polish Spirituality," which is available from our bookstore, explores our traditions and their connections to the rhythms of the seasons. More on this later).

So what does this mean for the *Polish American Journal*? Simply put: we are in the same position as every other newspaper, ethnic or otherwise. To overcome increases in printing, production, and mailing costs, reluctantly, we have to increase our subscription price.

This is a matter we considered with much gravity. We recognize that many of our subscribers are senior citizens on fixed incomes. However, the change (from \$22.00 per year to \$25.00) amounts to only \$.25 per month, which while an increase, is far from a "budget-buster." This newspaper costs readers about \$2.00 per month — about as much as a cup of coffee today. Isn't

the 20+ pages of news about Polonia from across the United States and around the world worth two bucks?

To help offset that increase, subscribers can also take \$2.00 off each year's subscription by providing us with a valid email address, which will be used for renewal reminders (thus saving us postage), special promotions, or post-printing breaking news updates. The email addresses will not be sold or used by any other party other than the PAJ for the aforementioned purposes.

No one wants to raise prices, but, as those same seniors mentioned above will attest, costs continue to rise. Except for stipends to cover mailing and office expenses, our writers are volunteers. We publish this paper as a labor of love, not a money-making venture: we believe in Polonia, and believe Polonia needs a paper that talks about our issues and our concerns. And we think you share that same sentiment.

To lessen the chances of having to do this again any time soon, we taking steps to increase the public's awareness of the PAJ. For example, to broaden our outreach, we have established a digital edition to attract subscribers who prefer to read while online.

We realize the need for education in order for the heirs of Polish immigrants to identify themselves as Polish Americans. This is not an easy task, as family units are not as strong as they once were. Polish American neighborhoods are dissolving, and Polish parishes are mostly being consolidated or closed altogether. To counter this unfortunate momentum, we established a non-profit, the PAJ Foundation. Our hope is that the distribution of seed money to students and Polish organizations will yield new interest in Polonia and Poland, and ultimately, the *Polish American Journal*.

As far as advertising goes, we are in a double bind. Because we are a national newspaper, we have difficulty recruiting local advertisers, who (in many cases, justifiably) dedicate parts of their budgets to local Polish and general newspapers. On the other hand, as an ethnic publication, we are mostly shunned by larger advertisers who want to sell to a broader readership. Support from Polonia's religious, for obvious reasons, has de-

creased from the days when the PAJ could boast four solid pages of Christmas and Easter well-wishes from Polish American priests, churches, and religious organizations.

HOW YOU CAN HELP. Cliché as it may sound, if every subscriber signed up just one new subscriber, we would be well into the black rather than facing a continuing drift into the red. Also:

- We need our subscribers to urge their political, religious, historical, and organizational leaders to support the paper with patron advertising (holiday greeting ads), especially during Easter, Christmas, and Polish Heritage Month. A kind word about the PAJ at your local merchant may entice them to consider advertising with the paper. Word of mouth is the best marketing tool for any company.
- We ask subscribers to talk to members of their organizations about becoming subscribers.
- You can also help by sharing stories and links we post on social media, such as Facebook or Twitter. To receive these updates, just "like" our Facebook page.
- You can also make a donation to the Polish American Journal Foundation, which is a non-profit 501c3 corporation. All donations are tax deductible.
- Finally, donations made to the PAJ Press Fund are used for office expenses, which — of late — has been mostly postage. This fund also covers printer / scanner / photocopier / computer maintenance (our two PCs are more than 15-years old — ancient by today's standards), paper and ink, and other office supplies.

NIE PODDAWAJMY SIĘ! The roots of the Polish American Journal go back to 1911. We have no plans to go anywhere, as the saying goes: "until the last dog is hung." Given the issues continuing to follow Polish Americans, we do not see that happening in the foreseeable future. As the size of Polonia lessens, our mission — the promotion and continuance of Polish American culture — is more important than ever. Please help us see it through!

Newswire

HUNGARY STANDS WITH POLAND. Poland can always count on Hungary if it ever faces proceedings for sanctions by the European Union or other organizations, Hungary's foreign minister said.

Speaking on public Polish Radio 24, Péter Szijjártó said his country "will always vote against any sanctions or penalties for Poland because we think it is double standards."

Brussels is locked in a dispute with Poland over a number of is-

sues, including the country's refusal to accept migrants and judicial reforms.

WROCLAW GIVES REFUGE TO IRAQI POET. Iraqi poet and musician Umar Abdul-Nasser has been offered temporary shelter in the southwestern city of Wrocław, a member of the International Cities of Refuge Network Mosul-born, 32-year-old Abdul-Nasser specializes in spoken poetry, delivering his

verse to his own musical accompaniment.

He went into hiding in September 2014 after Islamic State militants threatened his life, saying his creative work violated Islamic law.

Wrocław Mayor Rafał Dutkiewicz said his city is one of freedom which remembers the dark days of communism and the repressions of local artists who were committed to the struggle for freedom.

THOUSANDS OF SOLIDARITY UNIONISTS demonstrated outside the European Union's Warsaw offices to protest what they regard as EU interference in Poland's social-security laws. EC Vice-President Frans Timmermans, who has been conducting a one-man anti-Polish crusade, added retirement age to his arsenal, and accused Poland of discriminating women. Under current Polish law, women may retire at 60 and men at 65.

"Mr Timmermans, that is not discrimination, that is a privilege," Solidarity leader Piotr Duda said. "A number of EU countries have different retirement ages for male and female workers, but only Poland has been singled out for attacks,"

SEEKING EXTRADITION. Poland will seek extradition from Italy of the four suspects, who gang-raped a Polish tourist on a beach, said Poland's Deputy Justice Minister Patryk Jaki.

The four also allegedly attacked the victim's partner at the Italian resort of Rimini in the early hours of Aug. 26, and later allegedly raped a Peruvian woman on the same night in a separate incident.

Camp: 300 prisoners buried at site

continued from cover

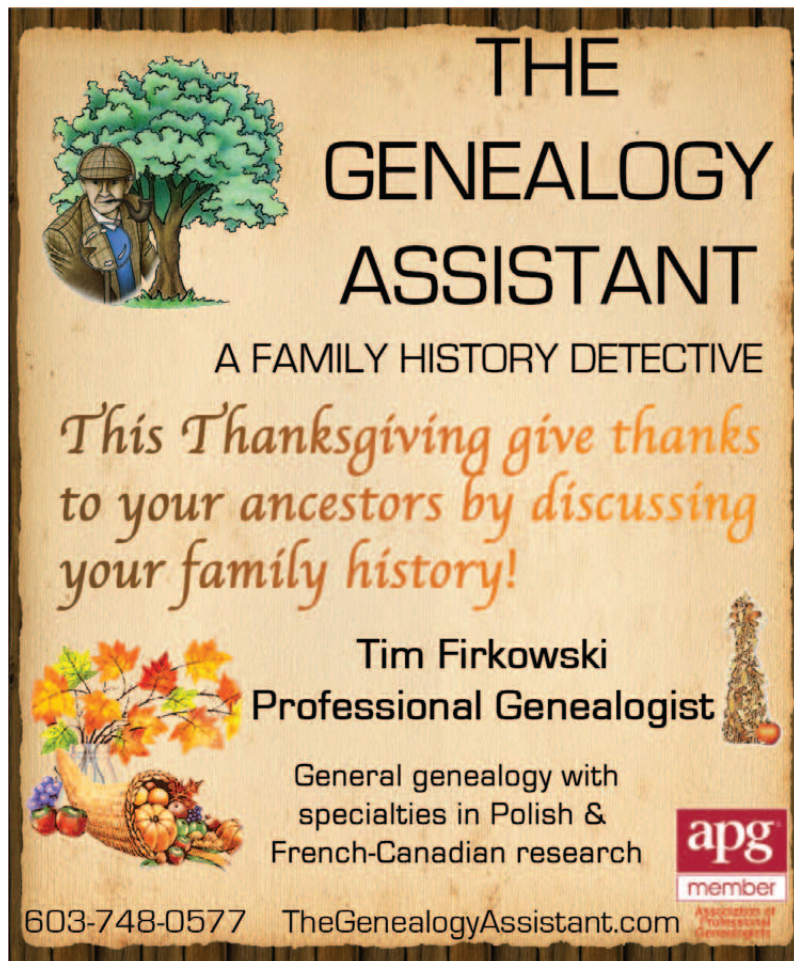
who was the camp doctor and was on the site during the last months before the liberation evacuation," said Dr. Katarzyna Pawlak-Weiss, a historian studying the concentration camps set up by occupying German forces in Poland, Reuters reported. "In his report, he mentioned 300 people buried here."

Survivor reports from the camp indicate that the bodies of prisoners who died of illnesses and starvation in the last days of the camp's operations were thrown into the pit. But archaeologists also found bullet wounds on the bones and will examine the remains further.

Archaeologists also are hoping to identify the prisoners. Unlike concentration camps such as Auschwitz that tattooed numbers on prisoners, Gross-Rosen used small metal plates with numbers sewn to prisoner uniforms. If the plates are found, historians might be able to use the numbers to figure out their names.

"After exhumation, the remains of the people we found in this pit will be transported to the Forensic Medicine Institute in Wrocław, where an inspection and autopsy will be performed. This will be done in order to determine their gender, age, health condition ... and the cause of death," said prosecutor Konrad Bieron from the Polish Institute of National Remembrance.

After the war, none of the three camp commandants or staff members faced the trials for their activity in Gross-Rosen, although some were tried for crimes committed in other locations.



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FAIRY TALES OF EASTERN EUROPE
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Joanne Asala
\$12.95
Item 2-636
6 x 9 inches
157 pp., pb.

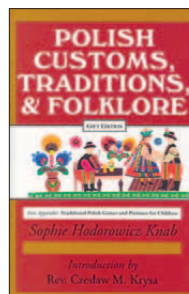
Many of the plots, motifs, and structural elements in these Slavic tales are found in other stories told around the world. An apple tree in the Slavic tale, "The Fruit of Everlasting Youth," evokes the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden. The ages of man described by the Fate Sisters are quite similar to the ancient "Riddle of the Sphinx." A snake impedes the function of the Tree of Everlasting Youth, again reminiscent of the Garden of Eden.

SEASONS OF THE SLAVIC SOUL: A Quest for an Authentic Polish Spirituality



by **Claire M. Anderson**
Item 1-675
\$14.95
ACTA Publications
2017, p.b., 106 pp., 5x7 in.

What makes Slavic, and specifically Polish, spirituality unique and compelling today? The rich and long Slavic spiritual tradition holds that everyday holiness thrives on different seasons—through Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter and from consolation to desolation and everything in between. Claire Anderson, of Polish descent and currently the Director of Siena Retreat Center in Wisconsin, explores this tradition and expands it by connecting these seasons to the rhythms and practices in her own Polish cultural tradition and the physical world around her.



POLISH CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS, & FOLKLORE
\$24.95
Item 2-643
by **Sophie Hodorowicz Knab**
340 pp., hc.

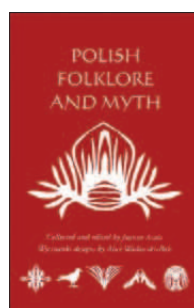
Polish Customs, Traditions, & Folklore is organized by month, beginning with December and Advent, St. Nicholas Day, the Wigilia (Christmas Eve) nativity plays, caroling and the New Year celebrations. It proceeds from the Shrovetide period to Ash Wednesday, Lent, the celebration of spring, Holy Week customs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

rituals. Line illustrations enhance this rich and varied treasury of folklore.



POLISH PROVERBS
by **Joanne Asala**
\$14.95
Item 2-681
6x9 in., 64 pp., pb.

Poles are gregarious, cheerful, hard-working, and earnest-qualities reflected in their proverbs, collected here by author Joanne Asala. Some examples: "Love enters a man through his eyes and a woman through her ears." "Without work, there is no bread." "Do not push the river; it will flow on its own accord." The back and front covers feature stunning illustrations of paper cuts by the late Polish folk artist Alice Wadowsky-Bak, with more of her work throughout the book.



POLISH FOLKLORE AND MYTH
by **Joanne Asala**
\$12.95
Item 2-679
6x9 in
118 pp., pb.

This book of engaging folk stories includes such tales as "The Violin," "The Headache Cure," "Midsummer's Eve," "The Flower Queen's Daughter," "The Legend of the North Wind," "The Flaming Castle," "The Village Dance," and "The Unfinished Tune." The stories were collected by Joanne Asala, with wycinanki (paper-cutting) illustrations by Polish-American artist Alice Wadowsky-Bak.

SALE! HIPPOCRENE PRACTICAL DICTIONARY

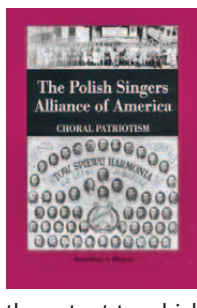


POLISH-ENGLISH ENGLISH-POLISH
Published at \$19.95. On sale now for \$9.95. While supplies last. Item 1-881 by **Iwo C. Pogonowski**
682 pp., pb. 7x4.5 inches
15th edition

Over 31,000 entries for students and travelers; a phonetic guide to pronunciation in both languages; a glossary of the country's menu terms; a bilingual instruction on how-to-use the dictionary; and a bilingual list of abbreviations.

CHORAL PATRIOTISM: THE POLISH SINGERS ALLIANCE OF AMERICA, 1888-1998

by **S. A. Blejwas**
Item 1-660
\$22.50



Boydell & Brewer, 2005. 396 pp., Ill. 6.20 x 9.30 x 1.20

This book examines the history of the Polish Singers Alliance of America as an ideological organization, documenting the extent to which the politics of the homeland engaged an immigrant and ethnic community over a century.

"A superb treatment of the formation and expansion of the oldest Polish-American cultural organization in North America." — Frances Gates

FROM PADEREWSKI TO PENDERECKI

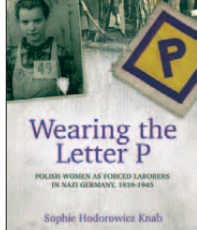


The Polish Musician in Philadelphia
by **Paul Krzywicki**
\$24.95
Item 2-151
Lulu Publishing
2016; pb. 396 pp., 6"x1"x9"

Extraordinary stories and accomplishments of 170 Polish musicians whose presence in Philadelphia influenced music in America. Paul Krzywicki, a native of Philadelphia, was a member of the Philadelphia Orchestra for thirty-three years, performing in over four thousand concerts, more than 60 recordings and presenting master classes throughout the world. He is currently on the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music. A full biography is in Part I

WEARING THE LETTER "P"

Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany, 1939-1945



by **Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab**
\$19.95
Item 2-642
pb. 304 pages
6 x 9 inches

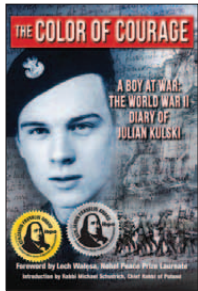
An unflinching, detailed portrait of a forgotten group of Nazi survivors. Written by the daughter of Polish forced laborers, *Wearing the Letter P* gives a voice to women who were taken from their homes as young as 12 years old and subjected to slave labor conditions, starvation, sexual exploitation, and forced abortions and child separation—all while Nazi propaganda depicted them as well-cared-for volunteers. Knab provides an important contribution to World War II history, based on archival and family records, war crime trials, and victim accounts.



TWO TRAINS FROM POLAND
by **Dr. Krystyna M. Sklenarz**
\$19.95
Item 2-604
183 pp., pb.

A midnight knock at her door changed everything for 6-year-old Krystyna Sklenarz. In the middle of the night, the KGB deported her family from Poland to Siberia. She experienced two years there, and faced starvation, typhus, an opium den, being torpedoed, and living through the Nazi Blitz in the London subway. Through it all, Krystyna refused to give up. This is her journey from Siberia to her entrance into medical school at only 17.

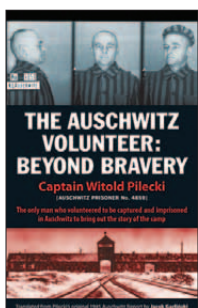
THE COLOR OF COURAGE



by **Julian E. Kulski**
\$19.95
Item 2-674
Aquila Polonica Publ., 2012
496 pp., 6"x9", pb.

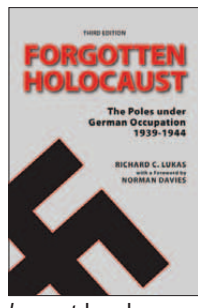
"If there is going to be a war, I do not want to miss it." So wrote Julian Kulski a few days before the outbreak of World War II, in this remarkable diary of a boy at war from ages 10 to 16. Kulski wages his own private war against the Germans with small acts of sabotage. At age 12, Kulski is recruited 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 AUSCHWITZ VOLUNTEER



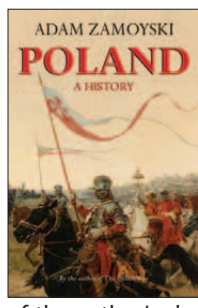
by **Witold Pilecki**
\$34.95
Item 2-673
Aquila Polonica Publ., 2014
460 pp., pb. 6x9 in.

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."



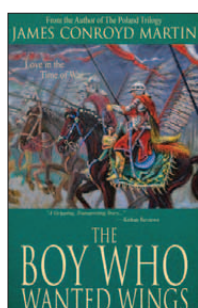
FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST: The Poles Under German Occupation, 1939-45. Third edition
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Forgotten Holocaust has become a classic of World War II literature. As Norman Davies noted, "Dr. Richard Lukas has rendered a valuable service, by showing that no one can 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.



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Solidarity and Medals on Polish Armed Forces Day

by Richard P. Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The few hundred guests met at the Ambassador's Residence on Sept. 28, 2017 to celebrate Polish Armed Forces Day. The event's co-hosts were Ambassador Piotr Wilczek and Defense Attaché Brig. Gen. Cezary Wisniewski, commander of the Defense Attaché Office and its Army, Navy, and Air Force attachés. Assistant Defense Attaché Lt. Col. Karol Sobczyk served as the event's architect and master of ceremonies. The invitees included representatives of the U.S. Armed Forces and government, diplomats, and military attachés from foreign embassies, Polish army veterans, and the Polonia.

After presentations of the national anthems of the U.S. and Poland, Ambassador Wilczek welcomed everyone and delivered his remarks. He focused mainly on the American-Polish alliance and NATO participation. The strong bilateral relationship between the two countries was emphasized. "Poland is meeting its NATO defense spending requirement and Polish forces are deployed abroad in many countries on NATO missions."

Wilczek continued that U.S. and NATO forces are defensively deployed in northeast Poland — dubbed Battle Group Poland — part of NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence strategy as a result of the



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

POLISH ARMED FORCES MEDALS AWARDED. Dale F. Denda, former national vice president of The Federation of Polish Americans, Inc., addresses the audience on behalf of all the awardees, after himself being awarded the Silver Medal. He recounted the many contributions — including trials and tribulations — of the Federation's strenuous efforts that greatly assisted in Poland's eventual accession into NATO.

threats that a now-resurgent and belligerent Russia poses to its neighbors. "Poland continues to support strong sanctions against Russia, especially in view of their use of force in Georgia and Ukraine in violation of international norms and laws. Without NATO the world would be a more dangerous place."

Gen. Wisniewski began his address by reminding everyone that

Polish Armed Forces Day is celebrated each year in Poland on August 15th to commemorate the 1920 Battle of Warsaw "when the invading Bolshevik (Russian) forces were stopped and defeated at the very gates of Warsaw, effectively stopping the spread of communism across the continent of Europe. The American airmen comprising the Kosciuszko Squadron played a crucial role in the battle. Only two years earlier Poland had just regained its independence (after 128 years) with the strong support of U.S. President Woodrow Wilson. Each year Poland always remembers this service and support."

Wisniewski continued with a comprehensive overview of Poland's increased defense spending and the ongoing modernization of its armed forces. As per NATO commitments, he said "we fight together when necessary, and we are currently operating on three continents via army, navy and air force deployments." He ended by saying "Working together we can preclude another war."

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Polish Armed Forces Medal to four individuals "For their efforts to strengthen the Polish-American relationship in the process of joining NATO." Recognized were Christopher "Kip" Bergstrom (on behalf of the late Marilyn Piurek) - Bronze Medal; Dale Denda

- Silver Medal; Roman Korzan and Richard Kosinski - Bronze Medals.

Denda gave a detailed account of the work of the Federation of Polish Americans — Political Action Committee (FPA-PAC) regarding Poland and NATO membership.

"It was thought that Poland's accession into NATO (on March 19, 1999) was inevitable, but it was not inevitable. It was a very hard-fought battle for four years, beginning in the House, before the final Senate confirming vote in 1998. Trial legislation was continuously blocked, short circuited or defeated. We [FPA-PAC] mobilized the Polish American community in multiple states to lobby their congressional delegations. We sought out allies in Congress, and they sought us out. Crucial bi-partisan (legislation) co-sponsors were recruited and eventually a large 80% margin consensus was reached in both houses. The White House was then successfully lobbied directly to the person of President Clinton."

Without a doubt, the Federation played a crucial role as Poland's advocate.

The reception was a delight in all respects. Guests mingled in the residence and outside on the lawn under the starlight sky, and the Polish Army band played on, as before the ceremonies began, featuring renowned Polish actress, entertainer and singer Malgorzata Lipka.

American Polonia at a Glance

CONNECTICUT

NEW BRITAIN — The S.A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish Studies and the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York will present "Ostatnia Rodzina" ("The Last Family"), Tues., Nov. 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

In Polish with English subtitles, it is the story of a well-known artistic family: legendary painter Zdzislaw Beksinski, his wife Zofia and their son Tomasz, a highly praised music critic and translator. Their lives were far from being normal.

The film will be shown it Tarp Theatre, located in Davidson Building CCSU, New Britain. Admission is free and open to the public. Public parking available in campus garages.

For further information, contact Polish Studies at (860) 832-3010 or jacquesm@ccsu.edu.

MICHIGAN

DETROIT — The Piast Institute will offer a lecture/discussion series on themes in Polish and Polish American history. These programs will explore, from new and unconventional perspectives, familiar themes that will give the audience new insights into the rich and complex story of Poland and the Polish diaspora. Four lectures will be given by Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, president of the Piast Institute and a scholar who has written and lectured on the history of Poland, Russia and East Central Europe and immigration and settlement in North America by Poles and other groups. One of the programs will feature Dr. Paul Radzilowski, associate professor of history at Madonna University. He is a specialist on the history of Late Medieval and Early Modern Poland.

The lectures/discussions will be held at the Piast Institute, Thursdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Scheduled upcoming lectures include:

Nov. 2. — Polish and other Immigrants and the Making of Americans

Nov. 11. — Themes & Conflicts

in Modern Polish-Jewish Relations Nov. 30. — Field Trip, Cultural Experience. Destination TBA

Dec. 7. — The Baroque: The Start of Modern Polish Music

OREGON

PORTLAND — The Polish Hall, 3832 N. Interstate Ave., (503) 287-4077, will present a concert "Young Artists of Polish Roots," on Nov. 10. The event is a fundraiser for the 15th Polish Teachers and Parent Council Members Conference to be held in Portland in May 2018. The program features performances by Aniela Erbe, Adrian Cisowski, Matthew Kaminski, Timothy Shortell and Sebastian Stenfert-Kroese.

Tickets are \$15.00. For more information, visit www.zjazzportland2018.com, or email Renata Dajnowska at zjazzportland2018@gmail.com.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA — Fri., Nov. 10 - Sat., Nov. 11. **Christmas Bazaar.** St. John Cantius Hall, 4435 Almond St. (Bridesburg section of Philadelphia). Fri. 6:00-9:00 p.m.; Sat. 4:00-9:00 p.m. Polish food, game wheels, pictures with Santa, Christmas Shop and much more. For info call (215) 535-6667.

PHILADELPHIA — Sat., Nov. 11. Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia **Annual Polonaise Ball.** The Chateau at Sugarloaf, Chestnut Hill, Pa. Chestnut Hill College. 6:00-11:00 p.m. Cocktails, dinner, and music by Dennis Ostowicz Band. For info call Marie Hejnosz (215) 487-0221.

PHILADELPHIA — Sun., Nov. 19. **Polaki Uniwersytet Ludowy Lecture in the Polish Language.** Associated Polish Home, 9150 Academy Rd., Northeast Philadelphia, 3:00 p.m. Speaker: Julian Kulski. Topic: "The Color of Courage - a young boy's heroic fight against the Nazi Germans during the Warsaw Uprising." For info call (215) 624-9954. All are invited to attend. Free admission.

On Sun., Dec. 3, Dr. Iwona Fijalkowska will discuss in Polish, "Blood function and disturbance of

the circulatory system," at the Polish Home.

CONSHOHOCKEN — Sun., Nov. 19. St. Mary Polish American Society **Christmas Bazaar.** TK Club, 500 East Hector St. Noon to 6:00 p.m. Music, Polish food, games of chance, raffles, and much more. For info call Dorothy Swedkowski (610) 630-0861.

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

PHILADELPHIA — Sat., Dec. 9. **Polish Christmas Open House.** Polish American Cultural Center Museum, 308 Walnut St. 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Snacks and refreshments, 12:15 p.m. magic show; 1:00 p.m. visit by Sw. Mikolaj, followed by and singing of koledy. Everyone is invited. Free Admission. For info call (215) 922-1700.

MANAYUNK — Sun., Dec. 10. Polish American Heritage Association of Manayunk-Roxborough **Traditional Wigilia Dinner.** St. Joseph Church Hall, 124 Cotton St., Manayunk, 3:00 p.m.; doors open 2:00 p.m. For info call Helen Cyzio (215) 482-3040.

CORNWALL — Sun., Dec. 17. **Christmas Dinner Dance.** Sacred Heart Parish Center, Cornwall Road & 419, Cornwall, PA. Music by Golden Tones Band, 1:30 to 7 P.M. For info/tickets call Joe Yaklowich 717-566-5704.

WASHINGTON

SEATTLE — The UW Polish Studies Endowment Committee (UW PSEC) announced **Dr. Justyna Budzik** as the Fulbright Lecturer of the Polish Studies at the University of Washington in the 2017 / 2018 academic year. Dr. Budzik is an assistant professor in the Department of Film and Media Studies at the University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland with an interest in cinema anthropology and archeology. Her UW fall course is on Polish contemporary photography.

SEATTLE — A **Fall Bazaar** will be held at the Polish Cultural Center, 1714 18th Ave., Nov. 4-5, from noon until 6:00 p.m. each day. The annual fall bazaar features booths with amber and silver jewelry; crafts; Polish books and CDs; Boleslawiec pottery; Polish crystals, as well as booths by local Polish American organizations. The Polish Choir Vivat Musica will perform on Sat. at 2:30 p.m. You can buy Christmas ornaments and wafers (oplatki), pierogi, homemade cakes, and enjoy a full-course dinner. Also available frozen pierogi and dinners to go. The event is organized by the Polish Women's Club. (206) 322-3020.

SEATTLE — Poland's **Independence Day** will be observed at the Polish Cultural Center, Nov. 12, in a program beginning with a Mass at St. Margaret's Church at noon, followed by a 2:30 program at the Polish Cultural Center. Presented by the Polish Home Association, the celebration includes a patriotic poetic program in Polish prepared by Barbara Strutynski, and a performance by the Polish Choir. Admission is free. For details, visit www.polishhome.org.

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Religion

Chesterton Conferences Held in Warsaw and Krakow

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

The G. K. Chesterton Institute for Faith & Culture at Seton Hall University, South Orange, N.J., and The Chesterton Review, held a conference series in Poland on the theme of "Chesterton and the Advancement of Humanity." The conferences are presented by the Chesterton Institute in collaboration with the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Warsaw; the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow, and the Piotra Skargi Institute of Krakow.

The conferences — in Warsaw on Oct. 9, 2017, and in Krakow, Oct. 11 — were designed to provide Polish intellectuals and political figures with a venue at which to address the re-vivifying of Poland's Catholic intellectual tradition.

For information about the Institute or The Chesterton Review contact chestertoninstitute@shu.edu.

SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDITS IN ILLINOIS.

Bishop Thomas John Paprocki of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois joined other Catholic officials statewide in applauding state education funding reforms that include a scholarship tax credit program designed to provide up to \$75 million a year in scholarships for qualifying students attending non-public schools.

"I appreciate the bipartisan efforts that went into the passage of this bill," said Bishop Paprocki. "I am hopeful that the scholarship tax credit program will benefit many deserving students in our state."

The new program allows taxpayers — individuals, corporations, partnerships or trusts — to donate to designated scholarship-granting organizations (SGOs) that distribute funds as scholarships to students from low-income households and others meeting specified requirements planning to attend a qualifying nonpublic school. In return, donors receive a state tax credit of 75 cents on every dollar they give, up to a maximum donation of \$1 million. Similar programs are in effect in other states with good results for students who can't afford to choose Catholic education.

A similar tax break, proposed in New York state, has been blocked by the public school supporters, and by the anti-Catholic and anti-private school lobby.

PRAYER RING. Ten of thousands of Poles prayed in numerous locations around the country's borders for a mass Rosary, October 7, which marked the anniversary of a Christian victory over Ottoman Turks at the sea battle of Lepanto in 1571.

People were bussed in from

more than 300 churches to points all along the border. They stood in lines, some on beaches on the Baltic Sea, some in fields, and some in towns.

"We come to the border of Poland to pray for the Poles and for the whole world," said one woman. "We want our Catholic faith to continue, to keep our children safe, that our brothers from other countries can understand that our faith is unwavering and that we feel safer, not only in Poland but also in the world."

Halina Kotarska, 65, said she was expressing thanks for the survival of her son in a car crash, but also praying for the survival of Christianity in Europe. "Islam wants to destroy Europe," she said, quoted by the Associated Press. "They want to turn us away from Christianity."

Some priests and Church commentators said the event could be seen as support for the government's refusal to accept Muslim migrants, a policy backed by a majority of Poles, but organizers said the prayer was not directed against anyone or anything.

FORMER SEMINARY SOLD TO MALANKARA CHURCH.

When it closed in 1982, the Scranton RC Diocesan St. Pius X seminary in Dalton, Pa., became the Fatima retreat Center, and functioned until the Center closed in 2010.

The 350-acre site has been sold to the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, which stretches from Ontario, Canada to South Carolina. Its new name is Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center and will serve the church that tradition holds was originally organized by St. Thomas the Apostle when he arrived in India in A.D. 52. He served there until his martyrdom in A.D. 72.

Metropolitan Zachariah Mar Nicholovos, bishop of the church's Northeast American Diocese, thanked Scranton's Bishop Joseph C. Bambera for facilitating the sale. The diocesan center, currently in Muttontown, N.Y., will soon move to the new center.

STO LAT TO ...

Philadelphia Archdiocesan priests on their new assignments: **Fr. Tadeusz Gorka**, from parochial vicar, Saint Helena Parish, Blue Bell, to pastor, Sacred Heart Parish, Royersford; **Fr. Walter F. Modryns, S.J.**, to pastor, Old Saint Joseph's Parish, Philadelphia; **Fr. Joseph S. Zaleski**, from parochial vicar, Saint Katherine of Siena Parish, Philadelphia, to faculty, Monsignor Bonner/Archbishop Prendergast High School, Drexel Hill; **Fr. Louis J. Kolenkiewicz** to parochial vicar, Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul, Philadelphia, with service to the Holy Spirit

Adoration Sisters who reside at the Convent of Divine Love; **Fr. Lawrence F. Kozak**, to parochial vicar, Saint Helena Parish, Blue Bell; **Fr. John Paul Kuzma, O.F.M. Cap.**, to parochial vicar, Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Philadelphia, and Holy Redeemer Chinese Catholic Church.

A STEP CLOSER TO SAINTHOOD.

Fr. Serafin Kaszuba, O.F.M. Cap ministered underground in the Soviet Union for nearly 40 years. Born in Zamarstynów near Lviv (formerly Lwów) in 1910 he became a Capuchin in 1928, was ordained in 1932, and studied at Kraków's Jagiellonian University ministering in Lviv and Volhynia under Nazi and then Russian occupation. He stayed by his parishioners during murderous assaults by Ukrainian Insurgents.

After registering as a priest in 1945 in Rivne, Ukraine, he ministered in Volhynia, Latvia and Lithuania until Soviet authorities stripped him of his right to perform priest functions in 1958. He continued in secret to serve in Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, Estonia, and Kazakhstan while working as a book binder.

He contracted tuberculosis and progressive deafness, had lung surgery in Wrocław in 1968 and returned to Kazakhstan in 1970 until his death in 1977. Honored by families he served in Kazakhstan, he has been given the title *Venerable*, a beginning step to sainthood.

WNY APPOINTMENTS.

The Most Reverend Richard J. Malone, Bishop of Buffalo, has made the following appointments: **Rev. Michael Czyzewski, OSPPE**, pastor, Corpus Christi Parish, Buffalo ... **Rev. James D. Ciupek**, pastor, Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Orchard Park ... **Rev. Thaddeus N. Bocianowski**, pastor, Saint Padre Pio Parish, Oakfield ... **Rev. Walter Grabowski**, pastor, Saint Gabriel Parish, Elma ... **Rev. Bernard U. Nowak**, pastor, Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Barker ... **Rev. Marcin Porada**, administrator of Saint Bernard Parish, Buffalo, and Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, Cheektowaga ... **Rev. Daniel J. Serbicki**, pastor, Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Corfu ... **Rev. Charles E. Slisz**, rector of Saint Joseph Cathedral, Buffalo ... and **Rev. Michael H. Burzynski**, appointed to the additional responsibility of administrator of Saint John Kanty Parish, Buffalo.

REAPPOINTMENTS.

Rev. Peter J. Karalus, pastor, Saint John Paul II Parish, Lake View ... **Rev. Jacek P. Mazur**, pastor, Divine Mercy Parish and Saint Mary of the Cataract Parish, Niagara Falls ... **Rev. Jerome E. Kopec**, pastor, Saints Peter & Paul Parish, Williamsville.

ASSIGNMENTS.

Rev. Dominik Jezierski has been assigned as parochial vicar at Saint John Gualbert Parish, Cheektowaga, and Saint John Kanty Parish, Buffalo.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

St. Michael Archangel National Catholic Church in Niagara Falls, N.Y., on its 100th anniversary ... **Corpus Christi Church**, Buffalo, N.Y. on the 100th anniversary of the laying of the church's cornerstone. The parish recently held its Harvest Festival (Dożynki), where the annual Buffalo's Best Pierogi Contest drew hundreds of guests.

"Spirit of St. Nicholas" Celebrates a Decade of Giving



ŚW. MIKOŁAJ hands out presents, provided from donations to the PHFCF, to special needs children in Jarosław, Poland.

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Polish Heritage Festival Charitable Fund (PHFCF) is observing its tenth anniversary.

In the past decade, the organization has helped to construct an addition to the home/school for children with special needs and their caregivers to Rome to receive a blessing from the Pope and visit the tomb of the Pope John Paul II; and provided new clothes and school supplies every Christmas to the children in Jarosław.

This year, the fund was able to send children for an overnight trip to Zory, where they visited an amusement park. Because of extra donations, the PHFCF also provided Christmas gifts for children (and some adults) with disabilities from St. Florian's Parish in Stalowa Wola.

Archer Discusses Family's Siberian Exile

HAMMOND, Ind. — Author/journalist Greg Archer had a busy October promoting his book, "Grace Revealed: A Memoir," throughout Northwest Indiana in recognition of Polish-American Heritage Month.

The book tells the story of Archer's Polish family's experience in a Siberian labor camp during World War II, and their subsequent journey to America.

The Chicago native was a guest speaker at the Portage Chapter meeting of the Polish-American Cultural Society of Northwest Indiana on Oct. 11. Archer's mother (Bernice Migut Gorder) and uncle (John Migut), both survivors of a Siberian labor camp, were also on hand to answer questions from the audience about their odyssey.

Archer was also a studio guest on Philip Potempa's "Of Notoriety" program, broadcast on WJOB Radio (Hammond, Ind.) on Oct. 3. In addition to discussing the book, the

"Each time we receive a letter of thanks from the Sisters who care for these special children," said the PHFCF's Christine Jozwiak. "We have also received a letter of gratitude from Pastor Marian Balicki of St. Florian's," who thanked donors for their "big hearts and concern for the needs of every person."

In appreciation for the gifts, the Sisters and children pray daily at 3:00 p.m. in their chapel. "So when you're having a bad day like we all do, remember there are people praying for you daily," said Jozwiak.

To contribute, please make your check payable to: The Polish Heritage Festival Charitable Fund. On the memo line of your check write, "Spirit of St. Nicholas" or "Special Children with Special Needs," and mail to: PHF Charitable Fund, c/o Christine Jozwiak, P.O. Box 115, Springville, NY 14141-0115.

two shared tales about their Polish heritage and their work as entertainment journalists.

Greg and his mother attended the Feast of St. Hedwig (Św. Jadwiga), held Oct. 15 at the Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine in Merrillville, Ind. Jadwiga was the name of Bernice's mother, who was also a survivor of a Siberian labor camp. Archer visited with the congregation during an informal meet-and-greet in the Millennium Hall following the Polish language Mass at the shrine.

More information on Greg Archer and his book can be found at www.gregarcher.com and www.gracerevealedbook.com.

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THANKSGIVING NOVENA TO ST. JUDE. Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near the kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent position. In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. (Say three Our Fathers, Three Hail Marys, Three Glory Be's). St. Jude pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Amen. Publication must be promised. This prayer is to be said for nine consecutive days. This novena has never been known to fail. My prayers have been answered. K.T.O.

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Polonian Places

St. Casimir's Roman Catholic Church, Wells, Minnesota

by Gregory L. Witul

*St. Casimir's Roman Catholic Church
Wells, Minnesota
320 2nd Ave SW, Wells, Minnesota
Status: Open*

Polish American communities can find their roots in many cities and villages across Poland. Your family may be from Poznan or Suwalki. But a few Polish communities in the U.S. can trace their entire population to a single town or village like the Poles of Wells, Minnesota who can trace their ancestors to Sycow in Lower Silesia.

Farming brought the first Poles from Sycow to Wells at the end of the 1870s. As these pioneers sent word to their families of the abundance of opportunity in America, more came. By 1880, there were enough Poles in Wells that a Catholic parish was needed to serve the community. With leaders like Thomas and Katherine Yokiel funds were raised and with the blessing of Bishop John Ireland of St. Paul, construction of St. Casimir's church began in 1881. Father Theodore Venn, a mission priest who had been serving the area would become the parish's first administrator.

Almost as soon as the simple wooden building was completed, it became apparent that a larger church would soon be needed for the growing population.



Over the next 17 years the parish would see four priests serve the church, including Rev. H. Jazdzewski, Rev. John Hanak, and Rev. John Kopera. Finally, Rev. John H. Cieszynski was given charge of the parish and in the winter of 1899 construction of the second St. Casimir's church began.

Dedicated on Thanksgiving of 1900, the second church was constructed of red brick with Jasper granite trimming and was large enough to serve the 153 families that made up the parish. The final cost of the 63' by 100' building was \$20,000. St. Casimir's would once again see a number of priests pass through its doors with Reverends Mikolai, Cieminski, and Stapleton each leaving their mark. It would be under the tenure of Father Mikolai that the parish would see a dream come true, the construction of a parish school. Completed in 1915 the school would see lay instructors, the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio and the School Sisters of Notre Dame all teach the children.

Over the years the parish holdings were added to with the inclusion of a convent for the sisters, a new rectory, and a new pipe organ donated by the Staloch family. In December of 1938, despite the Great Depression, the parish

paid off its mortgage, holding a celebration in the evening of August 17, 1946

a tornado ripped through Wells, touching down at St. Casimir's. The cyclone tore bricks from their mortar, caved in the roof, and shattered the stained glass windows. When the skies cleared the church building and school were in ruins. The parish used the public school's auditorium as a sanctuary while planning for a new church began.



On July 9, 1950 a ground breaking ceremony was held for the third iteration of St. Casimir's church. On October 26, 1952, the first Mass was celebrated in the newly finished church, complete with Staloch family organ which miraculously survived the tornado. Today St. Casimir's still serves the Poles of Wells as part of the Tri-Parish Catholic Faith Community of Faribault County.

Left: Today's St. Casimir was built following a tornado that destroyed the previous church in 1946. It was dedicated in 1952. Above: Following the expansion of the parish, the second St. Casimir was built in 1899 and dedicated in 1900.

Life has its headquarters in this church and darkness could not defeat it," he said. In a letter to participants in the ceremony, President Andrzej Duda described Poles who risked their lives to help Jews as "the nation's heroes."

Warsaw Church Named "House of Life" for Helping Jews

WARSAW (Radio Poland) — All Saints R.C. Church in Warsaw, which provided help to Jews in World War II during the Nazi German occupation of Poland, has been recognized as a "House of Life" by the an initiative by the Raoul Wallenberg Foundation, named after a Swedish diplomat who saved tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews while serving as Sweden's special envoy in Budapest in 1944.

A ceremony to unveil a commemorative plaque in the church was attended by representatives of the government and Jewish organizations, Catholic Church leaders, the diplomatic corps, and the International Wallenberg Foundation.

Located within the perimeter of what was the city's Jewish Ghetto during World War II, the parish provided wide-ranging assistance to Jews. It issued false baptismal certificates to hundreds of Jews who decided to escape from the ghetto, offered meals and accommodation on the parish premises and placed Jewish children in an orphanage set up in a Warsaw suburb in a house that belonged to the family of the parish priest, Fr. Marcelli Godlewski. In 2009, Fr. Godlewski was posthumously awarded a "Righteous Among the Nations" medal from the Yad Vashem Institute in Jerusalem.

Samuel Tenenbaum, the son of the founder of the Wallenberg Foundation, said after the German invasion of Poland, Fr. Godlewski could not stand idly by and "provided shelter and food to Jews within the walls of this church, even though he realized that offering any kind of assistance to Jews was punishable by death."

"Life has its headquarters in this church and darkness could not defeat it," he said.

In a letter to participants in the ceremony, President Andrzej Duda described Poles who risked their lives to help Jews as "the nation's heroes."

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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 descendants 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.

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 mem-



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

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“A Polish Holiday! Carols, Song and Dance” in Detroit and Buffalo

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Saturday, December 9, 2017

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103 Center for the Arts, Buffalo, N.Y.

CHICAGO — The renowned Lira Singers, Dancers, and the Lira Chamber Players, will travel east for two performances of “A Polish Holiday! Carols, Song and Dance.”

The new production includes beautiful Polish and American carols, music of major Polish composers, and an entire act of Polish folk song and dance, presented with multiple changes of authentic and colorful Polish regional folk attire.

This year, to honor International Kosciuszko Year in 2017, Lira will present patriotic music, including a medley of songs from the revolution Thadysz Kosciuszko led against the Russian occupation of Poland. This year, UNESCO is paying tribute to Kosciuszko because, during his lifetime, he was known internationally as a dedicated freedom fighter.

The Lira Singers will be conducted by Mina Zikri. Born in Egypt, Zikri is an accomplished violinist who has been a standing member of Daniel Barenboim’s West Eastern Divan Orchestra since 1999. He is a guest conductor for the Cairo Symphony Orchestra in his native Egypt. He has also played with both the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Chicago Civic Orchestra. Lira’s choreographer and dance director is Iwona Puc, who trained and performed in Poland before continuing her career as a choreographer in the United States.

As with all Lira performances,



The acclaimed Lira Ensemble of Chicago returns to Detroit and Buffalo with a new production, “A Polish Holiday! Carols, Song and Dance.”

the concert will be narrated in English by Lucyna Migala, artistic director and general manager of the Lira Ensemble. She will share some

of the Polish culture into American life. The concert is co-sponsored by the Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, the Lira Society-Group 816 of the Polish Women’s Alliance of America, the Polish American Jour-

nal, and with financial support from the Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelly Foundation, and the Kochton Foundation.

Both theaters have free adjacent parking. The theaters open at 7:00 p.m. for the concert. Lira recordings will be available for purchase in the lobby at discount prices.

The Lira company has been artist-in-residence at Loyola University Chicago since 1995. The Ensemble is the nation’s only professional performing arts company specializing in Polish music, song, and dance. Lira’s mission is to bring the best of Polish culture into American life.

TICKETS for “A Polish Holiday! Carols, Song, and Dance” are reasonably priced, so that families can attend (from \$35.00 to \$55.00), with discounts for groups of 20 or more, and half price tickets for children under age 16 in all price ranges.

Tickets for the Detroit performance are available from the Lira Ensemble at (773) 508-7040 or 1-800-547-LIRA, or visit www.liraensemble.org.

Buffalo tickets may be purchased by visiting www.ubcfa.org, by calling the box office at (716) 645-ARTS, or through Ticket Fly (877) -987-6487.

The Lira Ensemble of Chicago is a not-for-profit organization. To learn more, write, call, or visit: 6525 North Sheridan Rd., CH-052, Chicago, IL 60626; (773) 508-7040; www.liraensemble.org.

Artsbeat

“Loving Vincent” – the World’s First Oil-Painted Film

by Staś Kmiec

It took seven years and 65,000 hand-painted frames to turn a live action feature into a one-of-kind animated film about the last days of Vincent Van Gogh. *Loving Vincent* is the first fully oil-painted feature film.

Co-director Dorota Kobiela, a graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, was a painter working in animation and frustrated by a career that revolved around working on other people’s projects. Determined to make something of her own, she set out to combine her passion for painting and film. As a university student, she studied the intersection of psychology and art,



writing her thesis on the letters of van Gogh. Using this as a starting point, she came up with an idea for a seven-minute short film about the last day of van Gogh’s life.

She intended to paint the entire film herself; however once she expanded the project into a feature film, the task of writing and directing was such that she had to incorporate 95 painters from throughout Europe to complete the project.

One line from van Gogh’s letter – “We cannot speak other than by

our paintings” – became the guiding principal of *Loving Vincent*. “I took it literally,” said Kobiela. “I thought, ‘This is so amazing if I could actually do exactly that and make his paintings speak and tell his story.’”

The directors would use 94 of the artist’s paintings as the film’s settings, while also bringing to life the painting’s real-life subjects – friends and acquaintances of the artist – to piece together the mystery of van Gogh’s last days before his tragic death.

For two weeks, the 95-minute feature was shot with the cast – including notable actors like Saoirse Ronan and Chris O’Dowd and Polish actor Robert Gulaczyk – largely against green screens. Another two weeks were spent in Poland shooting backdrops and working with body doubles to gather the rest of the footage needed.

The directors composited the live-action footage with van Gogh’s paintings, and used computer-generated animation to give the still-life backdrop a three-dimensional realism. Once they had a final cut, painting began. For most of the film, the directors wanted actual hand-brushed strokes that captured van Gogh’s style. Computer animation would be unacceptable.

Loving Vincent was released in U.S. theaters on September 22 – capturing the world of van Gogh in a cinematic experience like no other.

INDECENT AIRS ON PBS – NOVEMBER 17. PBS will air Paula Vogel’s *Indecent*, Nov. 17 at 9:00 p.m. (check local listings) as part of its Great Performances series.

The play with music won Tony Awards for Best Direction and Lighting Design and was captured by eight high-definition cameras just before its final Broadway performance on August 6. It was reviewed in PAJ’s August issue.

Indecent is based on events surrounding Polish-Jewish writer Sholem Asch’s groundbreaking 1907 Yiddish masterwork *God of Vengeance* – from its inception in Warsaw and its evolution throughout Europe to its explosive run on Broadway in 1923 and beyond. The

run was cut short when the cast and producer were arrested on obscenity charges.

Based on the real-life “Ararat” Jewish Kleinkunst Theatre of Łódź, a theater troupe of actors rise from the ashes to tell the story behind their play.

TWO CROWNS – REVIEW

“We can build many churches, but if we do not have our own media, these churches will be empty.”

— St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe

This line stated in the new Polish-language docudrama *Dwie Korony* (*Two Crowns*) — with English subtitles — is significant in that the forward-thinking Kolbe was referring to spreading the teachings of Church through a mass-distributed booklet magazine.

It can also refer to the message this film has the potential of spreading worldwide.

The film by Michał Kondrat, which premiered in New York, prior to its official opening in Poland, is well-made and informative. It is more “History Channel” docudrama, than feature film in its style. The documentary aspects are intriguing and have a high educational value. Archival footage is utilized; still photographs come to life through 3D enhancement; and the animation aspects contribute greatly to the narrative. The film features anecdotes from people who knew Kolbe, the director’s commentary, and scenes depicting moments from the life of the future Polish saint.

Life action sequences have been staged to connect the story and to cut through the dryness of the documentary format – often incorporating elements of humor. Due to the structure, characters are not able to fully develop and remain one-dimensional. Nevertheless, Adam Woronowicz imbues a pious charisma and steadfast heroism into his role as Kolbe. Perhaps, the most

poignant scene of the film is when Fr. Kolbe leads the fellow starvation inmates in a cycle of prayer.

Of particular note is the solitary piano composition by Robert Jansen — movingly played by Bartek Szyz.

It is surprising that many people, even the youth in Poland do not know about Kolbe. Much of the information in the film can be found in Tomasz P. Terlikowski’s “Biography of the Holy Martyr,” but now it is visualized for another generation. Terlikowski appears in commentary



Two Crowns depicts the list St. Maximilian Kolbe.

sections, as well.

As a sort of “tour guide,” Kondrat explores the history and elements of Kolbe’s life, casting a new light on the motives, dilemmas and his difficult choices, while highlighting moments in the Franciscan’s biography.

Maximilian Kolbe, the Franciscan priest who gave his life as a prisoner in Auschwitz led an extraordinary life. It is interesting that he understood the essence of the mass media and the role of language as spoken to the faithful. An expressive, courageous and passionate publicist, he developed missions and literary media in both Poland and Japan.

Kolbe was nicknamed “Crazy Max,” because he was always working on new ideas. At age 21 (1912), he presented his patent for a spaceship. He also built a radio station and prepared a plan for defending the Polish city of Lwów.

Two Crowns is piece of evangelical cinema that depicts a man of ideas; a man of blood and bones, who was endowed with extraordinary spirituality and respect for his neighbor.

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Polish Chef

Now Is the Time to Plan Your Wigilia

by Robert Strybel

Here are some traditional (and some simplified) recipes for your Christmas Eve repast.

CHRISTMAS WAFER (oplatek). Wigilia begins with the sharing of the white Christmas wafer (oplatek) during which best wishes are exchanged. The ritual is complete when everyone has hugged, kissed, exchanged wishes and shared oplatek with everyone else present.

PICKLED HERRING (śledź marynowany). Soak 4-6 Matjes herring fillets in cold water 1-4 hrs. Taste a small piece after an hr of soaking to see if it is not too salty. If still quite salty, continue soaking. (Unlike traditional salt herring require overnight soaking and changing waters), Matjes herring are lightly salted and come packaged. While they soak, in saucepan combine 1 c 6% distilled vinegar and 1 c water 3 bay leaves, 10 peppercorns, 3 grains allspice, 1 t mustard seed and from 1 heaping t to 1 heaping T sugar. Bring to boil and simmer covered on low 10 min. Switch off heat and let stand until cooled to room temp. Dry fillets well on paper towel, slice into 1-1/2" pieces and layer with wafer-thin small onion slices in a jar or crockery bowl. Drench with marinade and seal jar or cover bowl and refrigerate at least 24 hrs before serving. Serve with rye bread or boiled potatoes.

EASIER PICKLED HERRING (łatwiejszy śledź marynowany).

When you lack the time and know-how to prepare them from scratch, buy a jar or pickled herring at your supermarket, drain and serve as above. Creamed herring and herring in oil are also available.

CLEAR BEETROOT BARSZCZ (czysty barszcz czerwony). Soak 2-3 dried bolete mushrooms in 1 c warm water several hrs, cook in same water until tender and set aside. Peel and coarsely grate 1 lb beets, pre-baked in oven until fork-tender and cool enough to handle, and combine with 5 c vegetable stock. Add the mushroom liquid (reserve mushrooms for your uszka below), Add 1 peeled, coarsely-grated apple. Bring to boil and simmer 2 min. Add 1 bud crushed garlic and (optional) 1/4 c dry red wine. Strain, discarding contents of sieve. Season soup to taste with salt, pepper, lemon juice and a little sugar until you achieve just the right tangy taste you want. Serve in bowls with traditional uszka (ear-dumplings).

EAR DUMPLINGS (uszka). Soak 1 slice French bread in 1/2 c warm water. Chop and sauté 1 small chopped onion in 2 T butter until golden-brown and tender. Pass cooked mushrooms (from preceding recipe), onion and squeezed-out pre-soaked bread through food chopper or process briefly. Add 1/4 c bread crumbs and 1 t fresh chopped parsley, stir in 1 egg white, salt & pepper to taste and mix well. Filling should be on the stiff side, so if it's mushy, stir in a little more bread crumbs and set aside. Sift 1 c flour

onto bread-board, work in egg yolk and just enough water (roughly 1/2 c) to bind ingredients into a dough. Knead until smooth, roll out very thin and cut into 1-1/2" squares. Place a little filling on each square, fold 2 opposite points together to form a triangle and pinch shut. Gently pull 2 ends of the triangle, join into a ring and pinch them together. Cook in lightly-salted boiling water without crowding until uszka float up. Remove with slotted spoon and add. 3 to 5 uszka to each bowl of clear red barszcz.

EASIEST BARSZCZ & EAR DUMPLINGS (najłatwiejszy czerwony barszcz z uszkami). Polish groceries, delis and supermarkets in the United States sell "heat & eat" clear red barszcz in one-liter cartons. Ready-to-use uszka should also be available.

FRIED FISH FILLETS (filety rybne smażone). Rinse well and pat dry 2 lbs fresh or thawed freshwater filets. (walleye, whitefish, pike, perch, catfish, cod, haddock, plaice, fresh herring, etc. are good.) Place in bowl, salt well and intersperse with 1 thinly sliced onion and 1 small sliced lemon. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Next day, discard onion and lemon, rinse filets and dry well on paper towel. Season with pepper and sweet paprika (the overnight salting may suffice), dredge in flour, shaking off excess, and fry in 1/2" hot oil to a nice golden brown on both sides. Drain on absorbent paper before serving.



MUSHROOM GOŁĄBK (gołąbki z grzybami): In 3 T butter, margarine or oil sauté 8-12 oz fresh Portobello mushrooms, washed and chopped fine, with 2 med chopped onions. Combine with 3 to 3-1/2 c preferably slightly undercooked rice, barley or buckwheat groats, cooked with 1 mushroom cube. Add 1 raw egg and mix to blend ingredients. Salt & pepper to taste and (optional) garnish with 1 T chopped fresh dill and/or parsley. Fill pre-wilted cabbage leaves as usual, drench with 3 c vegetable stock (in which 1 mushroom bouillon cube has been dissolved) and bake in preheated 350° oven at least 2 hrs. Optional: Thicken pan drippings with a little flour and sour cream, and as much vegetable stock as needed to get 2 c. Simmer stirring on low until bubbly and salt & pepper to taste. Pour over the gołąbki on serving platter.

SAUERKRAUT & MUSHROOMS (kapusta z grzybami). Drain and rinse 1 qt or liter sauerkraut, (preferably Krakus or other Polish imported brands in 1-liter jars), chop coarsely, place in pot add water to cover, bring to boil, reduce heat and cook uncovered about 60 min or until no longer crunchy to taste. In 3 T butter, margarine or oil brown 8 - 12 oz fresh, diced Portobello mushrooms with 1 chopped onion, stir in 3 T flour and brown lightly, diluting with several T liquid from

sauerkraut pot. When smooth, stir into sauerkraut. Add 1 bay leaf and 1 mushroom bouillon cube and cook on low flame covered another 60 min, stirring frequently. Season with salt, pepper, about 1 t sugar and (optional) 1/4 t bruised caraway seeds.

SAUERKRAUT & NOODLE SQUARES (kapusta z łazankami). To the above sauerkraut add 3-4 c hot cooked flat egg noodles or lasagna cut into 1" squares, toss and serve.

Quiz Time

Test your Polonian IQ

by Robert Strybel

See how many of these Polonian-themed questions you can answer. The correct replies are found at the bottom, but please don't surf the net for the answers. This is to test your actual knowledge, not your computer literacy!

- Where is the Polish neighborhood of Greenpoint located?
- Which of the following did not attract too many Old Polonian immigrants: coal-mining, entertainment industry, or steel-mills?
- The first small group of Poles to arrive in America in the early 17th century were mainly: Polish, noblemen, Polish craftsmen or Polish priests?
- What is the name of Detroit's once predominantly Polish enclave-suburb?
- A former senator from Maine and Secretary of State, who became the Democratic Party's presidential nominee, was the son of Polish immigrants names Marciszewski. What name was he best known under?
- One of the earliest groups of Polish settlers in America named their settlement after the Blessed Virgin and called it Panna Maria. What state was that in?
- If A Polish immigrant named Bednarski wanted to Anglicize his surname to something close in meaning, he would choose which of the following: Smith, Cooper, or Harrison?
- In which of these cities would

you find the fewest Polish Americans: Buffalo, Minneapolis, or Baton Rouge?

- What was the title of Bobby Vinton's pop song containing the line "Moja droga ja cię kocham"?
- Which is the oldest PolAm insurance fraternal: Polish Falcons, PNA, or PRCUA?
- What product should be on the dotted line in an old polka-beat novelty song that goes: "Who stole the from the butcher shop?"
- Which of these newspapers is no longer published?: *Gwiadza Polarna*, *Dziennik Związkowy*, or *Nowy Świat*?
- What was the name of President Jimmy Carter's National Security Adviser who helped overthrow communism in Poland?
- A tradition-minded PolAm family would most likely enjoy *pączki* on: Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, or Holy Saturday?
- Which saint would a typical Old Polonian parish probably not be named after: St. Stanislaus, St. Boniface, St. Hedwig?
- What is the Dyngus Capital of America?
- The Polish Falcons of America are headquartered in: Chicago, New York, or Pittsburgh.
- Angel wings and bowknots are among the American names given to a light, fried, sugar-dusted pastry known in Polish as
- Which "hero of two continents" was a military engineer who fortified West Point dur-

ing America's Revolutionary War – Tadeusz Kościuszko or Kazimierz Pułaski?

- The long defunct PolAm college set up in Cambridge Springs, Pa. in the early 20th century was known as: St. Mary's of Orchard Lake, Chopin University, or Alliance College?
- Which American administration was accused by Polonia of selling Poland down the river to Stalin?
- The Polish-Americans population of the United States is roughly estimated at: from nine to 12 million, four million to five million, or over 22 million?
- Rev. Leopold Moczygemba, OFM Conv. established a Polish American parish in Torrance, Calif.; Panna Maria, Texas, or Stevens Point, Wisc.?
- The Polish American Congress was founded in 1898, 1944, or 1973?

ANSWERS: 1. Brooklyn, N.Y.; 2. entertainment industry; 3. craftsman; 4. Hamtramck, Mich.; 5. Edmund Muskie; 6. Texas; 7. Cooper; 8. Baton Rouge; 9. "My Melody of Love"; 10. PRCUA; 11. *kiszka*; 12. Nowy Świat; 13. St. Boniface; 14. Shrove Tuesday; 15. St. Boniface; 16. Buffalo, N.Y.; 17. Pittsburgh; 18. *chruściki* (in Polonia) and *faworki* (in Poland); 19. Tadeusz Kosciuszko; 20. Alliance College; 21. FDR Administration craftsmen; 22. nine to 12 million; 23. Panna Maria, Texas; 24. 1944.

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7:00-11:00 p.m. • Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

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Wśród Noonej Ciszzy
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Traditional and sing-along
popular American carols,
polkas, waltzes, and dance
music for all ages!

Shopping Polish for Christmas

continued from cover

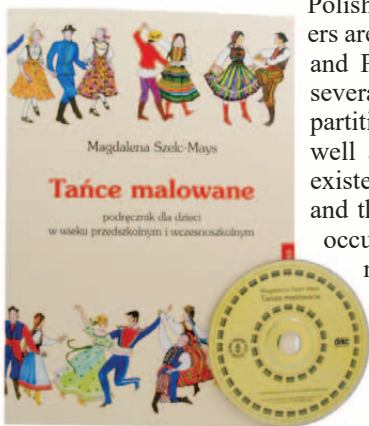
detailed porcelain doll comes with an informative booklet of folk rituals, habits of everyday life, forgotten dances, open-air museums, and a description of the costume. Available are *Podhalanka* from Polish Highlands, *Bamberka* from Poznań, and *Krzczonowianka* from Lublin region. (PAJ Bookstore through PolArt Gifts)

As the accompaniment to a gift of a historical novel such as Henryk Sienkiewicz's 17th century *Trilogy*, or Alex Storzynski's *The Peasant Prince*, you could include a military action figure of *Tadeusz Kościuszko*, a Polish *Hussar* from 17th Century, *King Władysław Jagiello*, an 1810 *Wisła Legion Lancer*, a 1944 *AK Soldier*, *Marshall Józef Piłsudski* or the literary characters of *Michał Wołodyjowski* and nobleman *Onufry Zagłoba*. (PAJ Bookstore through PolArt Gifts)

COLORING BOOKS.

A Polish dance coloring book for children which is formatted with music and verses on the left-hand pages and a sketch of a dance couple ready for coloring on the right-hand pages. The back of the book has corresponding dance moves for *Chodzony*, *Polonez*, *Mazur*, *Krakowiak*, *Kujawiak*, *Oberek*, *Trojak*, and *Polka Lubelska* clearly diagrammed for each song.

(PAJ Bookstore through PolArt Gifts)



Tańce Malowane with CD

Polskie Stroje Ludowe - Traditional Polish Costumes

Children will become familiar with the regional folk costumes of Poland – the left side of the two-page spread contains a full color image of the pair from the region, while the right side has a ready-to-color drawing of the same pair. (PAJ Bookstore through PolArt Gifts)



Kolorowanki Folkowa - Coloring Book of Polish Folk Designs

For the adult who wants to unwind and relax after the pressures of a grueling day at work comes this Polish-themed coloring book. Ideal for older students (12-14 years) the book is folk tour around Poland – beginning with nine of the most well-known folk costumes and then takes you to six Polish folk regions, featuring art and artifacts from each region. Color the Lublin Easter pisanki, the Kujawy chest, the Kraków szopka and Opole ceramics. (www.polartcenter.com)

BOARD GAMES

For the older youngster who's learning Polish, here are some Polish-language Board games that will exercise language skills, while making history and culture fun!

- Slawni Polacy - Famous Poles (above)
- Odkryj Wawel - Discover Wawel



- Bitwa pod Grunwaldem - Battle of Grunwald
- Kocham Polske - I Love Poland
- Czerwony Kapturek - Little Red Riding Hood (a children's game) (PAJ Bookstore through PolArt Gifts)

BOOKS

For those who seek Polish recipes or like to settle down with a "good read," PAJ Bookstore offers an array of cookbooks, historical novels, cultural and history books.

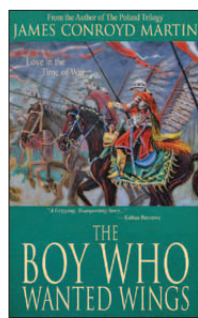
HISTORICAL NOVELS

Jadwiga's Crossing

The challenges and joys of the trans-Atlantic crossing made by millions of European immigrants in the late nineteenth century are explored in this meticulously researched work by Richard and Aloysius Lutz – a must-read for Polish-Americans. Viewed through the eyes of newlyweds Paul and Jadwiga Adamik, this compelling tale depicts the hardships encountered by a group of Polish immigrants. Readers are introduced to Poles and Polish folklore from several regions of then-partitioned Poland, as well as the tensions that existed between Poles and the three nations that occupied Poland in the nineteenth century: Prussia, Russia, and Austria.

BY JAMES CONROYD MARTIN

Sweeping in scope with a backdrop of Poland's stormy history, James Conroyd Martin has written four novels that will transport you to another time and another place.



The Boy Who Wanted Wings

A dark Tatar raised by a Polish peasant family, wishes to become a Polish hussar. When he meets the daughter of the noble who owns the land that his parents work, he falls hopelessly in love. Though she returns his love, race and class differences make this quest as impossible as that of becoming a hussar.

Push Not the River

Based on the real diary of a Polish countess who lived through the rise and fall of the Third of May Constitution years, this romantic novel paints the portrait of the metamorphosis of a nation.

Against a Crimson Sky

In this sequel to *Push Not the River*, Martin takes the characters 20 years into the fascinating Napoleonic era, highlighting the exploits of the glorious Polish lancers.

The Warsaw Conspiracy

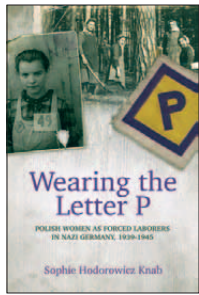
Completing the trilogy, the family saga continues – this time set against the November Rising (1830-1831).

Each novel stands alone, or you can get the "Trilogy Package" at an exclusive PAJ price. Vivid, romantic, and thrillingly paced, the novels have been called "Poland's *Gone with the Wind*."

HISTORY

Wearing the Letter P: Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany, 1939-1945

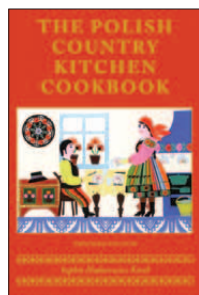
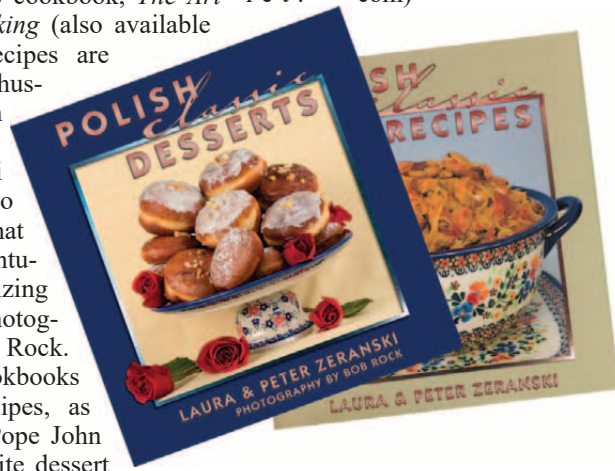
PAJ's Sophie Hodorowicz Knab provides an important contribution to World War II history, based on extensive research – archival records from the U.S. and Europe, family records, war crime trial testimonies, diaries, and previously unpublished victim accounts. Written by the daughter of Polish forced laborers, Knab's factual account gives a voice to the women who were taken from their homes as young as 12 years old and subjected to slave labor conditions, starvation, sexual exploitation, forced abortions and child separation – all while Nazi propaganda depicted them as well-cared-for volunteers. Knab explains how it all happened, from the beginning of occupation in Poland to liberation in an unflinching, detailed portrait of a forgotten group of Nazi forced labor survivors.



COOKBOOKS

Polish Classic Recipes and Classic Desserts

Borrowing from his mother's extensive 1968 cookbook, *The Art of Polish Cooking* (also available from PAJ), recipes are adapted by the husband-wife team – Laura and Peter Zeranski into an easy-to-follow format and are accentuated by tantalizing images by photographer Bob Rock. The two cookbooks offer new recipes, as well such as Pope John Paul II's favorite dessert – the *crème cakes* called *kremówki*.



Polish Country Kitchen Cookbook

In this expanded edition, PAJ's Sophie Hodorowicz Knab offers recipes for favorite Polish foods combined with the history and cultural traditions that created them. Arranged according to the cycle of seasons, this cookbook with over 100 recipes explores life in the Polish countryside through the year. I will open it to any page and just start reading; it is a valuable resource for anyone wanting insight into the reason and meaning behind traditional Polish village cooking. It's like having your *Babcia* in the kitchen with you!

Treasured Polish Recipes for Americans – 25th Edition

It's the cookbook many of us grew up with before ethnic cooking became popular, and it's a classic! First published in United States in 1948, it was the first complete book of Polish cookery in the English language and hasn't lost a bit of its charm or relevance. For anyone beginning their collection, this is the perfect "first Polish cookbook."

BOLESŁAWIEC POTTERY

"Bolesławiec" is the collective term for pottery produced in Bolesławiec, Poland – also known as "Polish pottery" or "Polish stone-

ware." The town itself is often called *Miasto Ceramiki* (town of ceramics).

For centuries one of the premier art forms in Europe has been the ceramics created in the southwestern Śląsk region. The durable and functional creamy white and blue stoneware pieces are unique and easily identifiable. It is impossible to talk about the town without talking about the ceramics that have been produced there for over a thousand years. There has been a resurgence in the popularity of Bolesławiec ceramic art in the United States, and many of my American friends collect them.

Why Polish pottery? There is no other, more durable or versatile stoneware available. The pottery is microwavable, oven-safe, dishwasher safe, freezer safe, lead and cadmium free. It's been tested by the FDA and is food safe. The glaze on the pottery allows for easy separation of foods – cutting down on the need for oils and allowing healthier cooking and even easier clean-up (www.artisanimports.com; www.polishtreasures.com; www.polishpride.com; www.polishpotteryoutlet.com)



book is a quick and easy reference, step-by-step guide and international collection of customs, stories, recipes, carols and decorations with glossary, pronunciation guide, and a regional map of Poland. (www.polamjournal.com)



OPLATEK (Polish Christmas Wafer)

The breaking of the Christmas *oplatek* is a custom that began in Poland in the 10th century and is practiced by people of Polish ancestry around the world. It is considered the most ancient and beloved of Polish traditions.

The wafer symbolizes the unity of the family, which many consider to be the main pillar of society. According to beliefs, the bond of unity should exist between family members. The wafer also symbolizes forgiveness and reconciliation.

Practice sharing the Christmas wafer with family and guests. Many people place a piece in each Christmas Card they mail. (www.polamjournal.com)

ORNAMENTS

In Poland, the making of straw ornaments dates to the time when the only available materials for decorations were those that were found on the farm. During the beginning of the Christmas season, homes were creatively and ornately decorated using straw, paper, yarn, and cloth ornaments. These ornaments are very different from modern Christmas decorations. The designs include stars, wreaths, reindeer figures, pine cone shapes, and bell shapes. (www.polamjournal.com)



APRONS AND TOWELS

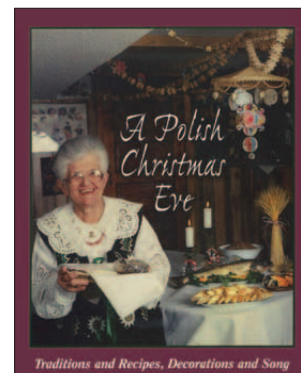
What better way to cook your Polish dishes than in a White Eagle embroidered 2-pocket red apron? (Other styles available). New, larger kitchen towels are also available in a variety of embroidered phrases and patterns, from "Polish Chef" to "I Love Kielbasa" (www.polamjournal.com)

A POLISH CHRISTMAS

Creating your own Polish family traditions is an important way of continuing our heritage. With each Christmas comes a decorated tree and the *Wigilia* Christmas Eve dinner. Continue or begin including customs and ornaments to make your Christmas "Polish."

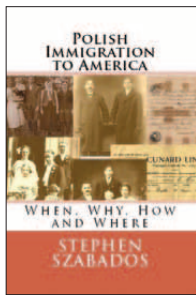
A Polish Christmas Eve by Rev. Czeslaw Krysa

Learn about *Wigilia*, the Christmas Eve dinner and how to make Polish paper ornaments and traditional dishes. This



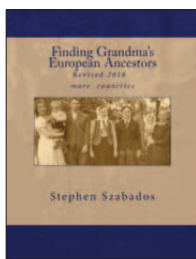
Rev. Krysa's "A Polish Christmas Eve" (left) has become the go-to book for anyone wanting to learn about a Polish Christmas. It has recipes, bi-lingual carols, Wafer sharing messages, photos, folk ornament instructions, Christmas poetry, literature, and more.

PAJ BOOKSTORE
GENEALOGY
 To order, use form on page 3



POLISH IMMIGRATION TO AMERICA
 by Stephen Szabados
 Item 2-271
 \$17.99

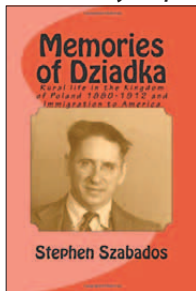
When did your Polish ancestors immigrate, where did they leave, why did they leave, how did they get here? This book discusses the history of Poland and gives some insights to possible answers to these about your ancestors' immigration. All three Polish partitions are covered and the material will hopefully clear up your confusion why your Polish ancestors listed that they were born in other countries on early U.S. documents. Brief histories of most of the ports that were used by Polish immigrants for departure and arrival; life in steerage; and the process of examination to gain admittance.



FINDING GRANDMA'S EUROPEAN ANCESTORS
 by Stephen Szabados
 Item 2-653
 \$19.95
 210 pp., pb.

This is a "must have" book for the family historian who wants to identify their European heritage. The author draws from his research experiences to describe how to find the resources available; first to find out where your ancestors were born in Europe, and then find the records. This revised edition covers genealogical research for most European countries and includes detailed practical steps that will help you find the success and the records that you need. The author uses his experiences to give tips on what to avoid and what works; how to find and use critical records; and how to use translating guides to decipher the foreign-language records. This book gives you the tools to find your European family.

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



\$14.95
 Item 2-670
 pb. 134 pp.

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.

POLISH GENEALOGY:
Four Easy Steps to Success
 by Stephen Szabados
 \$19.95 / Item 2-668
 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.

Genealogy

Where to start Polish Genealogy

by Stephen M. Szabados

"Search from the Known to the Unknown"

Many people, looking for their Polish ancestors, ask me to help them by showing them how to find the Polish records. This request is a challenging task unless they know where their immigrant ancestors left. Many Polish church records are now available online, but we still need to know the location of the parish church.

I learned very early on always to start my research with the records created for my Polish ancestors in the United States. Within these records, I normally found clues where they left and also had more of the family story. Besides place names, I was able to find the names of friends and relatives who came from the same area.

I found town names on passenger lists, naturalization petitions, marriage license applications, and church marriage records. I found

friends from Poland listed as the destination on passenger lists. Obituaries may list the names of relatives. Once I found the names of friends and relatives, I searched passenger lists, naturalization petitions, marriage license applications, and church marriage records for these people for additional town names. I created a list of all the town names and then tried to find an area on a map that included the town names. This method is very tedious, but it pointed me to the most probable location of where the immigrants left.

Once I found the location of the parish church, I searched the Polish church records for the records of the immigrants. To verify that I had the correct parish records, I tried to find the records of not only my immigrant ancestors but also the records for the friends and relatives who were listed in the American documents. I used the collateral information to verify that the records I found in Poland were for my family.

Be patient, learn the story of your immigrant in America before looking in Poland. I was able to find more of my ancestors' Polish family history after I knew more of their American story.

Finding the names of friends from Poland and other relatives will give you clues of why they settled in a specific area. If they settled in a city and worked in a factory, who else worked at the same factory (hint look at the census records for their Polish friends and relatives). When did their friends and relatives immigrate? Identify the links in the chain; "Who followed who?"

For the best results, always "search from the known to the unknown."

❖ ❖ ❖

Stephen M. Szabados is a prominent genealogist, and the author of four books, "Finding Grandma's European Ancestors," "Find Your Family History," "Polish Genealogy," and "Memories of Dziadka."

Genealogy Questions with Our "Man in Warsaw"

Q: I have a quick question. Was it customary to put Szlachty on the grave stones back in the early 1900's?

— BASIA RHODES
 via email

A: Yes, but not the word "szlachta" (gentry) itself. A tombstone with Adam Wiśniewski h. Gryf (h. being short for *herbu* indicating his clan-name) would have indicated gentry status. It could also have been phrased: Adam Gryf-Wiśniewski.

An image of his coat of arms could have been included as well. Incidentally, this (inset, right) is what the above-mentioned Gryf coat of arms

looks like. It was shared by 482 variously surnamed noble families ranging across the alphabet from Aksamitowski to Żyźmiński.



Q: Is there a central place where I can locate a birth certificate of someone born in Poland? I have a baptismal certificate for my father-in-law and we never really ever saw a birth certificate. Strangely, he was supposedly born in 1884, but was not baptized until January of 1888 at Krzywacz, Włocławek, Poland (if that is even spelled correctly.)

BERNARDINE SKIBIŃSKI
 berniski@comcast.net

A: Back in the 19th century birth and baptismal certificates were usually one and the same, because vital records were kept by Catholic parishes. You might try contacting the Central State Archives Authority which provides the addresses of regional archives across Poland and may be able to point you in the right direction. The contact data is: Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych, ul. Długa 6, 00-950 Warsaw, Poland; phone: (+48 22) 564-4655; www.archiwa.gov.pl; ndap@archives.gov.pl. You can e-mail them in English.

Q: I wondered if you could help me to find the birth and deaths certificates of some of my family from Ryki. Can you advise how I might be able to get hold of this information?

ANNA OLEJNICKI
 anna@hypedance.org.uk

A: The best way is to contact the local town hall of village office (urząd gminy). In Ryki the switchboard number is +48 81 865 71 10 and ask the for Dział Ewidencji Ludności (records department). Probably you will have to attend to this in Polish. If you're not fluent, then find someone who is and can help you. The e-mail contact is: ryki@ryki.pl. This applies to all localities in Poland. But whether the official is willing to cooperate and help is anyone's guess.

SEND QUERIES TO:
 Robert Strybel
 ul. Kaniowska 24
 01-529 Warsaw, Poland
 e-mail: research60@gmail.com

This Christmas: A gift of Polish Heritage?

A concise, several-page custom-researched analysis of the meaning and origin of a Polish surname will make an unusual and memorable Polish-flavored Christmas gift for a loved one (or yourself).

It will explain what the name means, how it originated, how many people share it, where they are from and whether a noble coat of arms accompanies it. If one is found, its image and the story behind it will be provided.

If interested, kindly airmail a \$19 personal or bank (cashier's) check or money order (adding \$13 for

each additional surname you wish researched) to: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

You will also be able to check your family records in Poland, track down ancestral homesteads and graves or possibly even turn up long-lost relatives thanks to a helpful genealogical contact sheet included with each order.

Please include your email address if you prefer to receive the analysis online. For more information please contact: research60@gmail.com

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Christmas Preparations

What's the Big Deal about Wigilia?

by Robert Strybel

Many a PolAm has been asked "Why do Polish people make such a fuss about Christmas Eve?" or "Why celebrate a day ahead rather than the main event?"

Such questions may be asked not only by Americans of non-Polish extraction but also by those PolAms whose families have forgotten — or do not want to be bothered with — the customs practiced by their ancestors for hundreds of years. For them, unfortunately, Christmas now mainly boils down to presents and "that big turkey dinner."

The answer to the headline of this article is simple: **Wigilia is the main event.**

The reasons are many:

MAIN VIRTUES AND VALUES.

Wigilia encapsulates the things most Poles and a great many PolAms hold dear: God, Family and Country. It also encompasses such virtues as mutual kindness and forgiveness as well as hospitality and

companionship also towards the lonely, orphaned, widowed or abandoned. No-one should be forced to be alone on this one evening a year!

EVERYTHING ABOUT WIGILIA IS SPECIAL!

This is not just another family meetup but a very special celebration full of unique symbols, practices and artifacts. The festive supper begins when the first star is sighted in the sky (about 6:00 p.m.) and starts with the sharing of opłatek (Christmas wafer). The more religious families listen to St. Luke's Gospel about the Nativity read out by a family member. There is a set number of dishes (12 or an odd number), many served only on this one night a year.

SPECIAL SETTING AND FOOD.

Hay is scattered on the bare tabletop in memory of Christ's humble manger bed and is covered by a pure-white table-cloth. The meatless supper combines the gifts of fields, forests and waters and includes herring and other fish, mushrooms, sau-

erkraut, pierogi and other pasta with sweet follow-ups containing poppyseed, honey, nuts and dried fruit.



Wigilia begins when the first star is sighted in the sky and starts with the sharing of opłatek (Christmas wafer).

According to traditional Wigilia lore, everyone must sample at least one spoonful of each dish, and only the server may leave the table before the meal is over.

CHRISTMAS EVE LORE.

Many different folk beliefs accompany Wigilia. One says: How you are on Wigilia is how you'll be all year. So people try to be cheerful and kind

and avoid arguments. Kids are told if they misbehave and have to be punished, they can expect more of the same all year long. Who fails to sample each dish may go hungry in the year ahead.

Many beliefs dealt with marriage prospects. Eligible girls pull strands of hay from under the table-cloth: a golden strand was said to mean marriage before the start of Lent, a green one signified a longer wait, while a gray, withered one foretold a life of spinsterhood.

ALL THAT'S IMPORTANT TAKES PLACE ON WIGILIA.

The festive supper with one's nearest of kin with everyone decked out in their holiday finery, the opłatek tradition sharing mutual love and forgiveness of past wrongs, the delicious, often once-a-year foods, the kolędy sing-along, the exchange of gifts (Polish kids don't have to wait till Christmas morning!) and everything culminating in Midnight Mass all go to set this celebration apart from all others.

THE QUINTESENCE OF POLISHNESS.

Because of the uniqueness of the Wigilia celebration, to this day Polish emergency workers (police, fire, medical, etc.) will gladly work on December 25th if only to be able to share Wigilia with loved ones. And Poles emigrating to the far-flung corners of the globe realized the distinctness of their Wigilia heritage, regarded it as a symbol of their national culture and sought to pass it down to future generations.

IN A POLISH-AMERICAN SETTING.

A perennial problem recurs when both sides of the family want everyone over for Christmas. In some case, the Wigilia tradition might help resolve the problem. The more Polish-minded side could hold its main celebration on the 24th and the more Americanized side could have the family over the following day. Throughout this reporter's Detroit-area childhood this worked perfectly: Wigilia was always at Babcia Strybel's and Christmas Day was at Babcia Kupczyńska's.

PAJ BOOKSTORE KITCHEN

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Use form on page 3

use form for all items on pages 3, 10, 11, and 12

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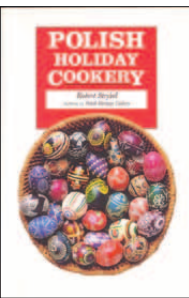
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POLISH HOLIDAY COOKERY
Published at \$16.95.
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST: \$9.95
by Robert Strybel
Item 2-644
248 pp., pb., Hippocrene Bks.

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

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

POLISH COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK
by Sophie Knab
\$19.95

Item 2-632
337 pp., sc;

From top-selling author Sophie Hodorowicz Knab comes an expanded edition to a best-selling book that combines recipes for favorite Polish



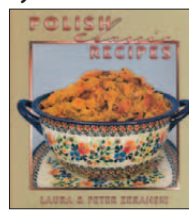
foods with the history and cultural traditions that created them. Arranged according to the cycle of seasons, this cookbook explores life in the Polish countryside through the year.

The Polish Country Kitchen Cookbook gives its readers priceless historical information such as the type of utensils used in Poland at the turn of the century, the meaning behind the Pascal butter lamb, and many other insightful answers to common questions asked by descendants of Polish immigrants.

The over 100 easy-to-follow recipes are all adapted for the modern North American kitchen. Illustrations and pearls of practical wisdom ("Household Hints") complement this book.

POLISH CLASSIC RECIPES
\$16.95

by Laura and Peter Zeranski



Item 2-656
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.

POLISH CLASSIC DESSERTS
\$16.95



By Laura and Peter Zeranski
Item 2-654
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 mazarukas 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.

AUTHENTIC POLISH COOKING by Marianna Dworak



Regular price: \$15.99
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST: \$7.95
Item 2-677.
7.5x7.5 in., 176 pp., p.b.

Polish cuisine is hearty and filling, and though some may think the Polish diet is all meat and potatoes, that is far from the truth. With its rich soups, innumerable salads and side dishes, tasty fish and vegetarian meals, colorful and delectable desserts, and yes, meat and potato fare, this cuisine consists of a wide variety of dishes incorporating a broad selection of cultural

and regional influences that will have you licking your lips.

Organized by course, this cookbook features more than one hundred recipes, including beet soup, cucumber salad, potato pancakes, Hunter's Stew, pork and rice stuffed cabbage leaves, traditional "babka" cake, and of course, pierogi! Numerous recipes for veal, chicken, kielbasa sausage, pork, and beef dishes make this a great and thorough cookbook that is a fantastic addition to any kitchen.

With easy-to-follow instructions for simple as well as more intricate dishes, a section on traditional holiday meals, estimated cooking times, and suggestions for healthy ingredient substitutions, this cookbook will teach anyone how to cook delicious Polish food. For those wishing to re-create their grandmother's favorite recipe, or those wanting to experience a new cuisine, Authentic Polish Cooking will bring a bit of Eastern Europe to your home.

PLEASING POLISH RECIPES

by Jacek and Malgorzata Nowakowski
\$8.95



Item 2-678
5-1/2 x 3-1/2 inches
160 pp., spiral bound

This cookbook features a great variety of flavorful regional foods, such as hot beer, vegetable soup, leek salad, graham bread, Polish hunter's stew, stuffed baked turkey, potato pancakes, dill pickles, nut roll, gingerbread, and royal mazarukas. Readers also will find a table grace and information on dyeing traditional brown Easter eggs.

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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 glossy stock. Envelopes included.



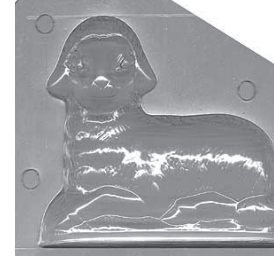
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2-282



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2-200



WESOLYCH SWIAT (Merry Christmas)
2-269



POLISH CHEF
2-211



POLISH CHICK
2-213



POLISH DRINKING TEAM
2-285



POLISH KITCHEN
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POLISH CHICK
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STO LAT
2-274



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2-283



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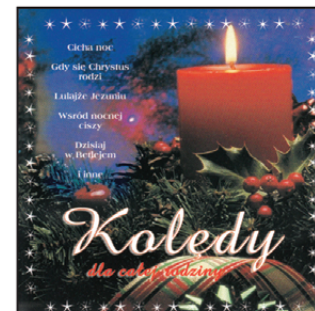
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15 Christmas carols performed by the musical group "The White Snow".
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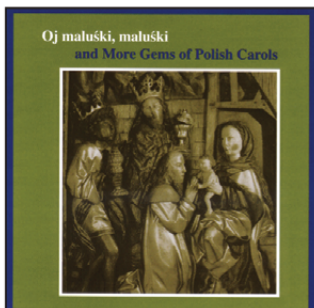
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Extraordinary Christmas Carols performed by contemporary Polish soloist artists: Urszula Sipińska, Krzysztof Krawczyk, and Krystyna Giżowska!
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Each Polish Christmas Wafer is embossed with religious scene.



A MUST FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS TABLE

Learn more about this tradition from our website: polamjournal.com Follow Library Holidays link to the Christmas listings

SMALL (2 x 3½ in.) individual wafer w/glassine envelope **5/\$5.00**

LARGE (6¼ x 3½ in.) Three white and one pink opłatki, with decorative envelope (shown above) depicting wigilia with history on back **4/\$5.00**



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Designed to hang flat in a window or twisted into a 3-dimensional ornament as shown, it can be twisted many times if care is taken to reverse the twists when closing. **\$7.95 each** Made in the United States. Item 1-1501 3 1/2" high x 3" wide

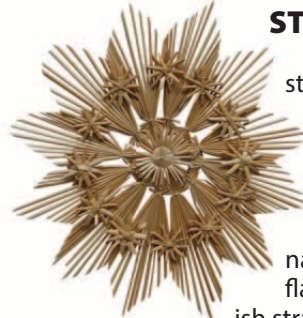


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Everything you need for Wigilia or Christmas Eve Vigil Supper! Bi-lingual carols with musical notation, Wafer sharing messages, heritage photos, ornaments, and ritual decorations, the origins of Wigilia, poetry, literature, etc.

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**



KOLEŚY SING-ALONG BOOK
With Music and Lyrics in Polish and English
Published by the Fr. Justin Rosary Hour

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**

Wesolych Swiat / Merry Christmas Mail and Card Sticker

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



POLISH-ENGLISH CARDS

CUSTOM CHRISTMAS CARDS. A beautiful way to say "Merry Christmas" in Polish! Designed exclusively for the Polish American Journal by renown folk artists Carla Hazard Tomaszewski (cards 310-315), Stacey Olexy (cards 305-309), Doris Sikorsky (cards 301-304), Basia Frackiewicz (cards 201-206) and Daniel Haskin (cards 101 and 103), these 4¼" x 5½" full-color cards—with greetings in both Polish and English—will brighten up everyone's home. Envelopes included.

Polish Christmas Wafers for your Cards

In Poland and in Polish communities across the United States and Canada, Poles place a small piece of the Christmas wafer (opłatek) in Christmas cards they mail to loved ones across the miles. To help keep this tradition alive, you can purchase wafers at a discounted price with the purchase of your Christmas cards. These prices only apply to wafers purchased with cards.

1-9 wafers: \$.90 each — 10-49 wafers: \$.85 each — 50 or more: \$.70 each

These are the small (2" x 3.5" inch) wafers individually wrapped in a wax-paper envelope. No addition shipping charge for wafers purchased with cards.

CHRISTMAS CARD SUPER SALE!

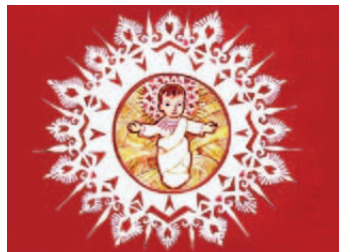
ALL CARDS 50¢ each
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CARD 306



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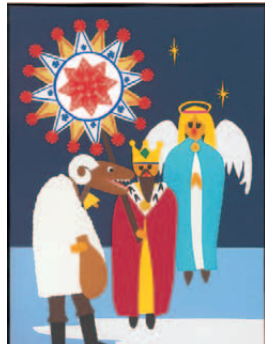
CARD 103



CARD 201



CARD 202



CARD 205



CARD 301



CARD 304



CARD 307



CARD 312



CARD 315



CARD 308



CARD 309



CARD 310



CARD 311

Books in Brief

Polish Media Art in an Expanded Field *and* Estelle and Ziggy

by Mary E. Lanham

POLISH MEDIA ART IN AN EXPANDED FIELD

by Aleksandra Kaminska

University of Chicago Press 2016, 220 pgs.

Several months ago, I reviewed *The Denver Artists Guild: Its Founding Members; An Illustrated History* by Stan Cuba, in which traditional art such as paintings and sculptures were featured. In Aleksandra Kaminska's book, *Polish Media Art in an Expanded Field*, she examines art that is created using new technologies like television, computers, and sound projection systems.

Polish Media Art in an Expanded Field began as dissertation and was written over many years in response to a lack of coverage on the subject of Polish media artists. Media art as a whole is analyzed by academics, but not with any focus on art in Poland. Kaminska has remedied this issue by studying not

only recent media art but avant-garde art in the 1920s and '30s and film experimentation in the 1970s. She looks at the way these artists use new technologies to reflect on the past, make political commentaries, and speak out about society's ills. The artists seek to push what was private into the public and create more of awareness on particular subjects.

Krzysztof Wodiczko's exhibit *Warsaw Projection* (2005) sought to make public what was private with its examination of domestic violence against women in Poland. Huge images of Polish women were projected on to an art museum. Kaminska describes the piece of art.

"They were heard recounting their stories of personal trauma and violence, their subsequent guilt, silence, and secrecy ... The spectacle of the projections amplifies the message and is opposed to the way the stories of these women (and many like them) are habitually silenced or unspoken, hidden or denied."

Kaminska's examination of Polish media art is a hugely needed in the art field. It may help to have some background in art history, as this book leans heavily academic.

Kaminska is an assistant professor in

Media Studies and Research Creation at the Université de Montréal. She earned her Ph.D. from York University and Ryerson University, her M.A. and B.Sc. from New York University. She has written books, articles, and essays. Her projects include *Media Histories of Authentication* and *Nano-Optical Image-Making*.

**ESTELLE AND ZIGGY**

By Adam DeRose

Create Space

2017, 81 pgs.

Growing up, Adam DeRose heard countless stories from his grandfather, Ziggy, about his life. Ziggy, originally from Poland, told his grandson about the Nazi invasion, his unwanted involvement in World War II and his life in the United States where he met his wife, Estelle. Adam, intrigued by his grandfather's life, asked him repeatedly to write down all of his adventures. When Ziggy demurred again and again, Adam decided that he would do what his grandfather would not — or could not

do, and write his memoirs.

This slim volume reads as if you are sitting by Ziggy, listening to his stories. Much of it is transcribed from recorded interviews, emails, and letters. The excerpt below, about guarding the River Seine during World War II, illustrates Ziggy's voice:

"I remember I was outside fishing one time ... you know those young pilots, doesn't matter who they are, they are something else, you know. I was fishing on that river they call the Seine, it was on a Sunday morning around 10 o'clock and there was an old barn ... Here comes a single plane, with two tails. It was a British plane, and they dropped a couple bombs right on top of the barn ... If I was by it, I'd probably get killed."

In his book, DeRose shares also his own experiences with his grandparents. He also includes several family photographs to give us a more fully fleshed-out picture of his family.

DeRose earned a B.S. in art from Daemen College and went on to earn an associate's degree in Automotive Technology from Monroe Community College. Originally from Grand Island, N.Y., he now lives in Rochester, N.Y. with his family.

New Books

The Christmas Miracle in Kolendy

CLINTON TOWNSHIP, N.J. — Inspired by plays she saw as a child in the 1950s, Helen Gwozdz Miller wrote "The Christmas Miracle in Kolendy" (published by WestBow Press), which features the nativity play accompanied by songs in Polish, in the hopes that others of Polish heritage will want to honor their roots.

First written and produced in 1989, the nativity story in "The Christmas Miracle in Kolendy" was inspired by members in a Polish American Club who wanted to sing the kolendy — or hymns — of the people who founded the group. The nativity play itself is written in English and the hymns are in Polish. Songs are syllabicated to help singers learn them, and interpreters translate song verses for

the listeners before each song is performed. Scriptures used are taken from the New Jerusalem Bible.

Miller hopes that this book will motivate readers to treasure the songs of past generations. She says "The story of Christmas has been retold for more than 2000 years, yet we can never tire in its retelling. Bringing it to our roots, helps to reinforce the message."

Miller graduated from Elms College in Chicopee, Mass., with a bachelor of arts in mathematics and a minor in chemistry; she also studied philosophy and theology at the Elms. She has been a parishioner in several Catholic parishes throughout her life, and is currently at Our Lady of Lourdes, Whitehouse Station, N.J., where she has been for more than 35 years. Previously a teacher of religious education classes and a member of

the adult choir there, she is currently a member of the women's spiritual reading and faith sharing group. Miller is now retired after a career in information technology.

"The Christmas Miracle in Kolendy" is her first book. It is available in both softcover and as an eBook from bookstore.westbowpress.com, amazon.com, and barnesandnoble.com.

Everyday Wisdom Drawn from the Feasts and Seasons

CHICAGO — ACTA Publications has recently released *Seasons of the Slavic Soul*, a book of everyday wisdom drawn from the feasts and seasons of Poland.

"I wrote this book because there are few available resources on Slavic spirituality, whereas there are many on Celtic, Hispanic,

and Native American spirituality," explains author Claire Anderson, a fourth-generation Polish American who serves as Executive Director of Siena Retreat Center in Racine, Wisconsin. "Polish Americans can look to their own tradition as a source of spiritual wisdom and inspiration."

The book is now available through the Polish American Journal Bookstore (*See page 3*).

In an endorsement of *Seasons of the Slavic Soul*, Julianne Donlon Stanz of the Diocese of Green Bay describes the book as "a deeply rich and yet accessible look at Slavic culture through the lens of spirituality, poetry, art, mythology, and history."

ACTA Publications suggests *Seasons of the Slavic Soul* as "an ideal companion for both nature retreat and spiritual pilgrimage — or a combination of the two."

Review

Chopin's First Cousin Finds Prominence in Contemporary Novel

by Tom Czerwinski

CAIN AT GETTYSBURG: A NOVEL

by Ralph Peters

Book 1 of the

The Battle Hymn Cycle

Forge Books; Reissued pb.

edition (February 25, 2014)

4.2 x 0.1 x 0.3 inches

Available from Amazon.com

The novel opens with the grumbling of German immigrant soldiers as they trudge toward the battlefield. These are members of the 2nd Brigade in Schurz's division of

the Union Army's XI Corps, itself largely comprised of immigrant volunteers. The men march under the pall of dishonor and with the angry resentment of scapegoats.

Two months earlier, XI Corps had taken the brunt of "Stonewall" Jackson's surprise flank attack at Chancellorsville and been routed. Yet the brigade had acquitted itself well, withdrawing in good order after a stand which allowed the corps' wagon trains to escape capture. Nevertheless, the entire IX Corps was pilloried in dispatches and the press. The *New York Times* referred

to them as "panic-stricken Dutchmen" and "cowardly retreating rascals."

What ensues is the detailed, under-reported and graphic actions of these immigrants on the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg. Under the command of Colonel Krzyzanowski, known to his men as "Kriz," they vindicate themselves.

It is a rare thing that an obscure Polish figure in American history finally finds prominence in a contemporary popular novel. But such is the case of Włodzimierz Krzyzanowski in Ralph Peters' *Cain at Gettysburg*. Peters, a West Pointer and retired Army lieutenant colonel, is familiar to many as a frequent commentator on FOX television. He is the author of a series of authentically historic Civil War novels. Each is centered on an accurate description of battles; the doubts, confusion and decisions of leaders, and above all by the feelings, exertions and agonies of the common soldier.

Kriz, whose father was Chopin's mother's brother, was an officer in the ill-fated Polish Insurrection of 1848, and escaped to America to avoid arrest. He became a railroad surveyor, married a general's daughter and was a successful Washington, D.C. businessman when the war broke out. President Lincoln promoted him from colonel to brigadier general, but the Senate did not confirm his appointment. As Peters points out, a key New York senator "refused to vote for a man whose name he could not pronounce."

Everyday wisdom from the feasts and seasons of Poland

Now available from the **Polish American Journal Bookstore**

Want to Read Some Good Polish Based Historical Fiction?

Try The Novels of David Trawinski visit <https://davidtrawinski.com>

also available on Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.com

THE INVERTED MASK

The Inverted Mask is a bold new science fiction book by Polish American author Izzy Doroski. Mystery, Suspense, Action and Romance. The story involves an attractive Polish psychiatrist who always remembers her Polish heritage and a missing top physicist who disappeared from a National Laboratory. The Inverted Mask explores the realms of perception, consciousness, reality and good and evil.

"The world that we see and feel is just an illusion and doesn't exist at all at least the way we think it does."

AVAILABLE ON **amazon.com**

WWW.THEINVERTEDMASK.COM

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 32nd year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

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

Happenings: Chicago Style

PRCUA Land Sold for \$5 Million – Plans Pending

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — Adjacent to Chicago's 103-year-old Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA) building is a 49,620 square ft. parcel of land owned by the PRCUA. Back in April 2017, residents of Chicago's Noble Square community learned that a proposed five-story 160-unit luxury apartment and townhouse complex was to be built on this adjacent lot. Even with a planned 111-space parking garage, a bicycle storage room, a special bicycle repair room, an outdoor pool deck, and a green roof, residents were worried. They were not convinced that this complex would be a positive addition to their neighborhood.

Parking was the major issue, since this neighborhood is already overly congested with parked cars. With limited parking spaces, and the neighborhood surrounded by three busy, heavily travelled streets, their concerns were justified.

Darren Sloniger, president of Marquette Companies, the site's developer, stated that the lot is "more than an acre in size, and it can support this development." Even though no one from 47th Ward Alderman Walter Burnett, Jr.'s office and the PRCUA attended this meeting, residents were not convinced. Prior to this gathering, Burnett stated that he supported continued talks between Sloniger and neighbors, and that he was waiting for feedback from the community before deciding whether to support the development plan.

The sale of this parcel of land was "a long time coming" according to James Robaczewski, secretary-treasurer of the PRCUA. "The initial intent [for the lot] at one time was to build senior housing for our membership, but the city blocked that because it would be exclusive to our members only."

According to Burnett, "The developers need to go to all the community organizations and meet with the neighbors directly affected. They can get a feel. I don't need to be at a meeting. If the people who are directly affected got a concern, then I've got a concern."

In May, there was so much opposition from angry neighbors that the plan appeared to have been scrapped. After this plan failed to win over Noble Square residents and Alderman Burnett, the PRCUA settled on a new plan and a new developer. Even though the property was sold to Marquette in June for \$5 million, the property was then sold to Noah Properties and its founder, Bart Przyjemski, designers, Axios Architects and Consultants, and its architect, Bill Kokalias. The design will encompass 47 condos in seven six-unit condo buildings plus one structure containing five units of affordable housing. The development would include off-street parking for 49 vehicles to be located behind the buildings and accessible through a public alley.

The five-unit building is scheduled to be designated as "affordable" to comply with the City of Chicago's Affordable Requirements Ordinance, which defines "eligible households as those earning 60 percent of the area median in-



PRCUA plot of land.

come." Currently, that income level is \$33,180 for a one-person household and \$37,920 for a two-person household.

As of September, Hubert Ciromski, the real estate agent who represents the PRCUA, stated that a tentative agreement has been reached to sell the land to Noah Properties. The proposal still needs the blessing of the Eckhart Park Committee Council and the Noble Square community, and the backing of Burnett to move forward. As of September 20, the sale has not been officially recorded.



Ściwiarski son and grandson.

ŚCIWIARSKI HONORED BY ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM.

On September 9, another Pole's name was added to the Ferro Fountain of the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie, Illinois. Andrew Ściwiarski and his son witnessed the unveiling of a plaque, naming his father, **Zbigniew Ściwiarski**, a Righteous Rescuer. In 1997, Ściwiarski had been immortalized on the Avenue of the Righteous Among Nations at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.

Dr. Marek Edelman, the late and prominent cardiologist who fought in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in 1943 and the Warsaw Uprising in 1944, together with Israel's Yad Vashem Committee documented Zbigniew's righteous rescue.

In 1944, **Dr. Stanisław Śwital**, who was in charge of the Polish Red Cross Hospital in the Warsaw suburb of Bemowo, received news that, in the basement of a house in the Zoliborz district of Warsaw, were seven participants of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, members of ZOB (*Zydowska Organizacja Bojowa* – Jewish Fighting/Combat Organization). As hospital director, Śwital chose a few of his most trusted people for a mission, asking everyone if they were willing even if there might be no return. The chosen group included **Dr. Jozef Sylkiewicz**, his wife **Maria**

Sylkiewicz, **Zbigniew Ściwiarski**, **Barbara Kinkiel**, **Janusz Osęka**, and **Alicija Margolis**. So they set off to Promyka Street. Those wounded and in hiding were **Marek Edelman**, **Iccak Cukierman**, **Cywia Lubetkin**, **Tuwie Borzykowski**, **Julian Fiszgrund**, **Zygmunt Warman**, and the only Christian, **Dr. Teodozja Goliborski**. After the war, Sylkiewicz, Śwital, and his wife Eugenia wrote accounts of their missions.

The group first set off through city ruins and avoided land mines. Each wore a Red Cross band and

carried two stretchers. After the Germans left the building, the seven brought the six members of ZOB out of the building. On the way to the hospital, they were stopped by three German patrols. Two women, who spoke perfect German, explained that on command of a high-ranking German officer, they were to transport these ill patients to the hospital.

The six rescuers brought the wounded to the hospital, right under the noses of the Germans. Once at the hospital, all were fed, given medical attention, and received counterfeit Polish documents. After a few days some were moved to another hospital in Jelonki near Warsaw, while others left the following day. The ZOB insurgents survived. **Dr. Marek Edelman** witnessed Zbigniew Ściwiarski's heroic rescue, and how he risked his life to save others.

CHICAGOCHEC AND NEIU HOST WOMEN IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE.

In honor of the 150th anniversary of Marie Skłodowska's birth and in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU), a two-day conference, hosted by the Chicago Cancer Health Equity Collaborative (ChicagoCHEC), was held on September 18 and 19 at NEIU.

The conference included semi-

nars, roundtable discussions, laboratory activities, and the screening of the film "Marie Curie: The Courage of Knowledge."

The program began on September 18 with welcoming remarks by **Christina Ciecierski**, Ph.D., of ChicagoCHEC; **Sharon Hahs**, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry and President Emeritus of NEIU; and **Witold Zatoński**, M.D., epidemiologist from the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Institute of Oncology in Warsaw.

The keynote speaker was author **Julie Des Jardins**, who set the tone of the conference with her presentation, "Madame Curie's American Legacy – Madame Curie Complex: The Hidden History of Women in Science." This was followed by **Ewa Kuligowska**, M.D., of Boston University's Radiology Department, who presented "Marie Skłodowska-Curie: Inspiration, Model and the Mother of Science." The final offering of the evening was a screening of the film "Marie Curie: The Courage of Knowledge."

Tuesday's program included, "Maria Skłodowska-Curie: Contributions to the Education of Women," presented by **Aleksandra Jarczewska**, assistant professor of political science of Warsaw University; "Science as a Tapestry: How Advances in one Scientific Field Lead to Discoveries in Another" by **Sudha Srinivas**, associate dean, College of Arts and Sciences of NEIU; "Vitamin D3 in Women's Health Disparities and Recurrent Inflammation; to D or not to D?" by **Stella Nowicki**, M.D., D.D.S., microbiologist and immunologist from Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN; "Closing the Gender Gap in Math Achievement: The Role Gesture Plays in Math Education for Girls," by **Hannah Cohn**, **Theodora Koumoutsakis**, and **Ruth Church**, psychologists from NEIU, and **Melissa A. Simon**, M.D., professor of obstetrics and gynecology, preventive medicine and medical social sciences of Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine.

Tuesday's keynote address, "Science With Sophie: One Woman's Approach to Changing the World," was given by **Sophie Shrand** and focused on how and why she created "SWS."

Shrand is a scientist, performing artist, and education coordinator for Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry. She is also the creator and host of "Science With Sophie, SWS," a television science comedy series. "SWS" is a fast-paced show that invites viewers to explore science "all around them and remember that they are brave, curious, funny, smart scientists

every day." The show is Sophie's lighthearted solution to the serious problem of inequity in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields and underrepresentation of women in mainstream science media.



Poster for the Women in Science Conference, which featured a presentation on Marie Skłodowska Curie.

Des Jardins is an author, cultural analyst, and professor at Baruch College of the City University of New York specializing in the history of American gender. Her presentation focused on Curie's American Legacy, i.e., Curie's visits to America and their significance in American science and culture.

The **Chicago Cancer Health Equity Collaborative (ChicagoCHEC)** is a National Cancer Institute comprehensive cancer partnership between Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, Northeastern Illinois University, and the University of Illinois at Chicago. Its mission is to advance cancer health equity through meaningful scientific discovery, education, training, and community engagement.

7TH ART FOR HEART BENEFIT HELD.

The **Gift from the Heart Foundation (Dar Serca)** and **The Polish Museum of America (PMA)** held their seventh **Art For Heart** benefit, September 9, in the PMA's Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall. At the opening reception, art enthusiasts had the opportunity to mingle with the artists, view the art, and even purchase artwork. Some of the artists included Stanisław Kielar, Paweł Juszkiewicz, Ewa Kostyrko, Piotr Wolodkiewicz, Voytek Glinkowski, Piotr Antonow, Piotr Bialecki, Irena Czajkowska, Maryna Danylovyh, Iwona Duniec, Anna Mycek-Wodecki, and Bernadeta Polak. This event was made possible through a collaboration of artists, the general public, and supporters of *Dar Serca* and the PMA. Its purpose was to raise awareness of their mission and to provide monetary support for *Dar Serca* and the PMA.

Guests also had time to enjoy the musical entertainment of disc jockey, MC Mietek, along with Polish-style hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. All of the proceeds jointly benefited *Dar Serca* and the PMA. Artwork from this event was available for viewing at the PMA until September 30.

Minnesota Voice

Can Łódź beat Minneapolis to host a World's Fair?

by Mark Dillon

On Nov. 15, a panel in Paris is expected to announce which city will host the three-month World's Fair Specialized Expo 2022/2023 – Łódź, Minneapolis, or Buenos Aires.

The competition pits Poland's historic textile hub – marketed as City Re:Invented — against The Mini-Apple, whose theme — Healthy People, Healthy Planet: Health and Well Being for All — touts Minnesota's leadership role in health care and physical fitness.

Buenos Aires' bid theme is called Science, Innovation, Art and Creativity for Human Development. Creative Industries in Digital Convergence. Its promoters say they would focus on “creative industries as a synthesis articulating science, art and technology”.

The decision-maker, the general assembly of the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE), heard each city make its pitch in June. The Minneapolis and Argentine bids are for events in 2023 while the Lodz event would held in 2022.

BACK ON THE MAP. For Łódź, the fair could put Poland's third largest city back on the global map after two decades of falling behind others in Poland in terms of tourism, population and economic growth. By one estimate, Łódź' population of 696,503 last year was smaller than it was in 1960. (Source: GUS – Baza Demograficzna)

Łódź, has evolved from an industrial city during the Russian partition into an arts and design capital. It has earned the nickname HollyŁódź for leadership in film

and media. In early October, the city hosted its 10th annual Łódź Design Festival, which has grown into one of Europe's biggest showcases for trends in architecture, industrial design and interior design. The city's native sons include David Libeskind, master plan architect for the reconstruction of the World Trade Center site.



Paweł Lewandowski, Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage in Poland, told the BIE this summer that Łódź wants to share its experiences – its models and mistakes – and that: “we want the world to show us how it intends to change cities for the people.”

Łódź promotional webpage asks “Why Łódź? Because Łódź is a challenge. It is here that imagination, faith, and commitment can make things that for decades seemed unreal, but will finally be possible.”

For Buenos Aires, the fair could allow the city of 2.9 million to put to rest a reputation as a place of economic and political turmoil. Controversial Argentine leader Cristina Fernández de Kirchner has been out of office for almost two years, and Argentina's current president is Buenos Aires' former mayor.

For Minneapolis, landing the fair would be the third major tourism vic-

tory for civic boosters. Next February Minneapolis' US Bank Stadium will host Super Bowl LII and in April 2019 the same Viking longboat-shaped venue will host the NCAA Final Four basketball tournament.

Weighing in with a letter of support is former Minnesota U.S. Senator Rudy Boschwitz, 86, who recalled his immigrant childhood in The Big Apple when the 1939 World's Fair came to town.

“In 1933, when our family fled the horrors of Hitler's Nazism, we landed in New York — quite a change from our life in Europe. As a five year-old boy suddenly living in a very large city it was quite an adjustment. But visiting the World's Fair gave me a new way to see the

was considered a financial flop amid \$350 million in expenses. The Minneapolis bid isn't for a site in the city, but on land next door to the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn., ten miles away.

In one particular area – public safety – Łódź may have an edge. Of the three metros, Łódź has the lowest crime rate, and the most positive public perceptions about safety. One global consumer survey says twice as many people feel safe walking alone at night in Łódź (48%) as compared to Buenos Aires (26%). (Source: numbeo.com).

Minneapolis has challenges, too. Two years ago, the Mall of America was singled out as a potential target in a video by the Al-Shabab Somali

has proactively heightened security “since 9/11.” Ritchie adds that learning from the upcoming Super Bowl, which, he says, will have a corps of 15,000 volunteers, will inform officials about how to tackle the Fair's security needs.

A Minnesota fair would draw 150,000 patrons a day, Ritchie estimates, double Mall of America's current shopping traffic volume, while expo planners would likely would use the Minnesota State Fair's park and ride system as a model for handling people flow.

Of the three contending cities, Buenos Aires is more Polish than Minneapolis. About 140,000 people of Polish heritage live in Buenos Aires, 5% of the population, a higher

A Look at Łódź vs. Minneapolis vs. Buenos Aires

	Łódź, Poland	Minneapolis, USA	Buenos Aires, Argentina
Unemployment Rate	5.4%	3.4%	8.7%
Consumer Inflation	0.7%	2.3%	21.9%
Economic Growth (GDP)	2.8%	4.1%	-2.3%

Sources: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Poland Central Statistical Office, INDEC based on each country's most recently reported 2017 figures

Noteworthy Repurposed Factories

Name	Manufaktura	Northrup King	Museo de Arte Moderno
Former use	(textile mill)	(seed processing plant)	(cigar factory)

Famous people

Łódź	David Libeskind, Roman Polanski, Arthur Rubenstein
Minneapolis	Prince, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Charles Schulz
Buenos Aires	Pope Francis, Jorge Luis Borges

world and my place in that world.” Boschwitz wrote. His father, Eli, was born in Wielen, Poland, formerly Filehne, Germany.

The United States hasn't hosted a world's fair since New Orleans played host in 1984, an event that

terror group, responsible for the 2013 Westgate Mall massacre in Nairobi, Kenya.

Mark Ritchie, CEO of the Minnesota World's Fair Bid Committee, says Minnesota has strong experience with managing high profile events and

percentage than in the Twin Cities. Most arrived right after World War I, and between 1921 and 1976, 169,335 Poles settled in Argentina. (Source argentinaindependent.com) Argentina marks June 8 as Polish Settlers' Day.

Spotlight on Long Island

The Superstitions of All Souls Day

by Basia Szydłowski

Halloween is not observed in Poland like it is in the United States. **All Saints Day** (November 1), however, recalls the ancient aspect of the Halloween tradition, which describes how the worlds of the living and the deceased collide.

All Saints Day is followed by **All Souls Day**. Past generations believed the deceased would visit the living, or return to their homes. In Lithuania, the day is called *Velines*, and its history is steeped in legend when feasts and ceremonies remembered those who lived before. In the past — after visiting the graves of the deceased — family members would return home to dine on seven dishes, which were shared with the dead souls visiting earth. Windows and doors were left open to facilitate their arrival and departure.

A VARIETY OF SUPERSTITIONS surround this day. One says bad weather on All Souls Day signifies a death in the coming year.

Throughout most of Poland, when night comes, Catholic families make a pilgrimage to the cemeteries placing candles on graves of the loved ones who will come to visit family on these days. The candles, which show spirits the way to our world, are important, as souls who do not see a light feel they are forgotten, and will bring bad luck.

Another tradition is the sale of *miodek turecki* (Turkish honey), which is sold in Krakow at the gates of the cemeteries on All Souls and All Saints Days.

Sometimes it is sold by church-

es during autumn parish festivals. *Miodek turecki* has an irregular shape, a hard topping with a light honey taste, which may either break apart or crumble, with its base ingredient being caramelized sugar with the addition of aroma oils and colorings, into which are blended in crumbled nuts. The original *miodek turecki* is made from white caramel sweet cream, although other variations exist, dependent on the types of sweet additives and aromatics, e.g. *miodek kakaowy* (cocoa), *kawowy* (coffee), or *waniliowy* (vanilla).

Whiles stories vary, it is believed honey — a food for the gods in pre-Christian tradition across Europe — is enjoyed by the deceased. It is also a treat for those who have done their duty of visiting family grave sites.

CELEBRATING FREEDOM. November 11, **Independence Day** in Poland, marks the anniversary of the country's independence in 1918 after 123 years of partitions by Austria-Hungary, Germany and Russia. On November 11, 1918 the Polish Military Organization's secret departments, demobilized soldiers and legionnaires disarmed the Germans in Warsaw and other Polish towns. The government appointed Jozef Pilsudski as commander-in-chief over the Polish forces and three days later he was given complete civil control. He formed a new centralized government, which on November 21 issued key measures including a manifesto of agricultural reforms. Pilsudski also brought in many favorable conditions for the workers and called parliamentary

elections.

In 1937, November 11 was designated a national holiday. However, it was removed as an official holiday from 1939 to 1989 when Poland was under Communist occupation. It was restored in 1989 and continues today to be a national public holiday.

ANDREZJKI LORE. For Poles (and folks in parts of Slovakia, Ukraine, Austria, Romania, and Russia), November 30, the feast day of **St. Andrew**, is surrounded with superstition. One such belief is that the night before Saint Andrew's Day is especially suitable for magic that reveals a young woman's future husband. The day was believed to be the start of the most popular time for vampire activity, which would last until Saint George's Eve, April 22.

In Poland, the holiday *Andrezjki* is celebrated on the night of November 29-30. Traditionally, the holiday was only observed by young single girls. However, today, both men and women join the party to see their future. After pouring hot, melted wax into a bowl of cold water, unusual shapes formed by the hardened wax were held against the light so that the shadows on the wall could reveal the future. If the shadow on the wall resembled something used by a man, it meant that the girl would marry soon, if the shape on the wall reminded one of women's accessories it was a bad omen.

Remember to vote November 7. New Yorkers will vote on whether the state should hold a Constitutional Convention, the first since 1967.

Learning About Szyk

NEW YORK — “Jestem Żydem a Polska jest moją Ojczyzną.” (“I am a Jew and Poland is my homeland”). These words of Artur Szyk perfectly illustrate his mutually inclusive identities which infused his art for four decades.

An exhibit of Szyk's work at the New York Historical-



“Il Duce.” Szyk's illustration of Italian World War II dictator Mussolini, bound in chains by Germany and Japan, while Death walks with all three.

2018.

Szyk was extremely well known during his lifetime — not only for his illumination of the Statute of Kalisz or the Book of Esther — but also for his caricatures of Hitler and Mussolini. He also prepared a number of illustrations which appeared in the Polish Pavilion at the New York World's Fair of 1939.

Except for specialists or Jewish scholars, Szyk's works are relatively unknown in Poland and the United States. Among his pro-Poland illustrations are: his anti-Bolshevik poster (Polish Bolshevik War of 1919-1920); and illustrations of Pilsudski and the work for the Polish Pavilion (Inter-war Poland); depictions of Stalin and Hitler together, even though the Soviet Union was an ally (1939-1941).

Szyk allied himself with the Polish Government in Exile in London, which sent him to the United States to continue his anti-Hitler work. He did not return to Poland after the war, and supported the creation of the State of Israel. This led to suppression of his legacy by Poland's post-World War II

communist-controlled government, to the extent that even the director of Muzeum Dworku Paderewskiego did not know the illustration of Paderewski in the Paderewski museum was by Szyk.

An illustrated brochure — in both English and Polish, prepared by the Piłsudski Institute and Krystyna Piórkowska, and funded by Domek Associates Inc. — is available at various Polish and Polonia organizations in the New York area, including the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland; Polish Cultural Institute; Kosciuszko Foundation (both New York and Washington, D.C. locations); St. Stanislaus B&M Church (Manhattan); and the Piłsudski Institute in America. They are free.

— Krystyna Piórkowska

Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes

Students Honor Survivors

By Michael Pietruszka

Students from the **Jan Brzechwa Polish School** in Milton, Ontario and **Szkoly Punkt Konsultacyjny** in Toronto recently sent over 200 thank-you notes to survivors of the Warsaw Uprising as part of a **Fundacja Sensoria** program ... **St. Michael the Archangel** Polish National Catholic Church in Niagara Falls recently marked its Centennial with a Mass celebrated by Bishop John Mack and a banquet at the Polish Nook Restaurant ... Noted local musician **Henry Chimes** passed away recently at the age of 89.

The results of the 10th Annual Buffalo's **Best Pierogi Contest**, which was held during the Corpus Christi Parish's "Dozynki Polish Harvest Festival," are as follows: Traditional Pierogi: Donna Darling (First - Sauerkraut), Amy Holdnak (Second - Kapusta), Christine Wilson (Third - Cheese); Non-Traditional Pierogi: Sofia Wagner (First - Stuffed Banana Pepper), Sharon Kozek (Second - Buffalo Chicken); Dessert Pierogi: Paula Sepanik (First - Chocolate), Michaela Kozek (Second - Apple Pie) ... The **Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY** and the **Radosc-Joy Song and Dance Ensemble** of Toronto took part in a Polish song and dance workshop at Assumption Parish's International Festival in Buffalo's Black Rock neighborhood, Oct. 1.

Part one of the **Rochester Polish Film Festival** was a Tribute to Andrzej Wajda, featuring "A Generation", Oct. 5, "Canal", Oct. 12, "Ashes and Diamonds", Oct. 19 and "Man of Iron", Oct. 26. The films were screened at the Dryden Theatre in Downtown Rochester ... On October 10th, the **WNY Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation and Polish American Congress** WNY Division, Inc. sponsored a reception at the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society honoring American Revolutionary War hero General Thaddeus Kosciuszko. Historian **Dr. James Pula** was the keynote speaker at the event. Hosts received a proclamation from Erie County ... The **Skalny Center** for Polish and Central European Studies at the University of Rochester presented Polish author Wojciech Nowicki for a discussion and book signing entitled "Memory and Fiction: Wojciech Nowicki's Salki" on the University's River Campus on the 10th.

On Oct. 11, the Rochester **Polonia Civic Center** and Polish veterans from **Michalski Post** marked "Pulaski Day" with services at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church and an "Academia" by the students of the St. Stanislaus Polish School ... Denise Oliansky presented a "Family History Show and Tell" at the October 12 meeting of the **Polish Genealogical Society** of New York



CONSUL GENERAL VISITS WESTERN NEW YORK. Officers and directors of the Polish American Congress, Western New York Division met October 9 for a Roundtable Discussion with Consul General of the Republic of Poland, Maciej Golubiewski, during his visit to Buffalo. Pictured are (l. to r.): Richard Mazella (director); Mira Szramel (director); James Ławicki (president); Consul General Golubiewski; Irena Woszczak (vice president); and Andrzej Gołębiowski (director). Missing from the photo are directors Michelle Kisluk, Andrzej Kucharski, and Dina Szymanski.

The Roundtable was followed by a "Meet and Greet" with Polonia community leaders, in which the consul general presented key points relative to Poland and Western New York Polonia. A question and answer session followed.

State in the Villa Maria College cafeteria in Cheektowaga ... The **Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College**, in conjunction with the Buffalo International Film Festival, presented its annual Buffalo Polish Film Festival, Oct. 12-15. ... The **Chopin Singing Society** presented its 118th annual concert at St. Stanislaus Church in Buffalo, Oct. 15. The honoree for this year's concert was Eileen Koterak Elibol of WNED-TV. The Chopin Choir was accompanied by the Amherst Chamber Ensemble ... **St. John Kanty** Parish celebrated a Polka Mass featuring Rare Vintage and a Harvest Dinner, **St. Andrew** Church in Sloan celebrated a Polka Mass with Special Delivery, and **St. Casimir** Parish in Buffalo's Kaisertown neighborhood hosted a pork chop dinner, on the 15 ... Also on the 15th, the **Polish Combatants' Association** (SPK) and the consulate general of Poland in Toronto presented "An Afternoon of Polish History: Poland in Wartime" at the consulate.

The **University of Toronto Department of Polish Language and Literature** sponsored "POLISH(ED): Poland Rooted in Canadian Fiction" featuring Jowita Bydlowska, Kasia Jaronczyk, Aga Maksimowska and Malgorzata Nowaczyk in Alumni Hall, Oct. 16th ... **Sophie Hodorowicz Knab** discussed her latest book, "Wearing the Letter 'P': Polish Women as Forced Laborers on Nazi Germany, 1939-1945," at Canisius College on the 18th ... On October 20, Canisius College screened "The Strategist," a biography of **Zbigniew Brzezinski**, in conjunction with the exhibition of "doodles - Drawings of Subconscious Amusement by Zbigniew Brzezinski."

On Oct. 21, Special Delivery and the John Gora Band performed at a dinner dance at the **Polish Hall** in Burlington ... The **Polish Genealogical Society** of New York State held a Polish Dinner to celebrate Polish Heritage Month at the Polish Falcons Hall in Depew on the 22nd ... On Oct. 24, **Dr. Malgorzata Kolaczek** of the Jagiellonian University addressed the "European Migrant Crisis and Minorities" as part of the University of Rochester's Skalny Lecture Series at the River Campus ... Also on the 24th, the **General Pulaski Association** held its Annual Spaghetti Dinner, Theme

hans Music Hall, Nov. 1. He will later perform "Chopin's Piano" featuring Chopin's *Piano Concerto No. 2* with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra at Kleinhans Music Hall, Nov. 4 and 5 ... The Niagara Historical Society Museum in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario will present an exhibit "**Camp Kosciuszko: The Polish Army at Niagara Camp, 1917 - 1919**" from November 1, 2017 through November 15, 2018 ... An "**All Souls Day Commemoration**" will be held in the St. Stanislaus Mausoleum in Cheektowaga, Nov. 4 ... Part Two of the **Rochester Polish Film Festival** will open, Nov. 7, with a screening of Andrzej Wajda's "Powidoki" ("Afterimage") at the Dryden Theatre ... Polish Independence Day and Polish Veterans Day will be celebrated, Nov. 11.

On the 15th, Danuta Nycz-Nakamura will address the November meeting of the **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** on "Tadeusz Kosciuszko and His Legacy" at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst ... On Nov. 19, **St. John Kanty Parish** will close its 125th Anniversary Celebration with a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Buffalo Bishop Richard Malone, and a dinner dance featuring music by Rare Vintage at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga.

Wanda Slawinska will address the election meeting of the **Niagara**

Alliance of American District IX will present its Annual Festival of Polish Christmas Song at St. Stanislaus Church in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District ... The **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** will host its Wigilia Celebration at Kloc's Grove in West Seneca, Dec. 17 ... A **Gorale Christmas Koledy Night** with Special Delivery and carols by Ted Zdybal & Hyr (Highland quintet) from Toronto will also be held Dec. 17 at Pott's Banquet Hall. For tickets and table reservations call Ted Szymanski (716) 668-9101.

The **Royal Ontario Museum** in Toronto continues to exhibit "The Evidence Room," an examination of the role of architecture in the construction of Auschwitz, through January 28, 2018 ... The **Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra** announced that it will be touring Poland in the Spring of 2018. The tour will include concerts in Wroclaw on March 18, Warsaw on the 20, Katowice on the 21, and Lublin on the 22. The orchestra's programs will include *Barber's Symphony No. 1*, Bernstein's *Symphonic Dances* from "West Side Story," Gershwin's *Concerto in F*, and Penderecki's *Adagietto* from "Paradise Lost" ... The WNY Division of the Polish American Congress is planning a **Bal Polonaise and Gala** at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo Hotel for all of WNY's Polonia Community to

Basket Raffle, and Countess and Princess Pulaski Pageants at the Fr. Justin Knights of Columbus Hall in Cheektowaga.

The **Canadian Polish Congress** hosted "Polonia Night" at the Mississauga Grand Banquet Hall on the 26th. The event sought to recognize the contributions of Polonia and Poles to Canada as that country marks its 150th birthday ... The **Msr. Adamski Polish Saturday School** hosted its Annual Banquet at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga, and Polish Falcons Nest 6 had an Adult Halloween Party at their Cheektowaga clubrooms, Oct. 28th ... Also on the 28th, the **Adam Mickiewicz Library and Dramatic Circle** hosted a "Potluck Dziady and Halloween Party" at its clubrooms in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District ... **Corpus Christi Parish** in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District, commemorated the 110th anniversary of the laying of the church cornerstone with a Mass in English and Polish, an historical program, and golabki dinner, Oct. 29th.

UPCOMING. Polish pianist **Konrad Skolarski** will perform works by Chopin, Tchaikovsky and Liszt in the Mary Seaton Room in Klein-



HERITAGE DANCERS CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY. On Sat., Oct. 15, 2017, a Mass was celebrated at the Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral in Lancaster for the 20th Anniversary of the Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY.

In addition to teaching Polish folk steps to area children and adults, the group, under the direction of Michelle Kisluk, hosts several events each year. Members are also featured performers at many of the area's Polish events.

An Anniversary Gala was held at Kloc's Grove in West Seneca following the Mass.

Pictured above are current members of the group, with Rt. Rev. John E. Mack, Pastor, and Rt. Rev. Thaddeus Peplowski, Bishop Emeritus of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church.

Polish Cultural and Historical Society on "Birds in Polish Culture" at the Niagara Falls Public Library, Nov. 21 ... The **Pulaski Police Association and WNY** will hold its Annual Christmas Party and Installation Dinner at the Polish Falcons Hall in Depew, Dec. 2 ... On Dec. 3, the **Polish Singers**

mark the Centennial of Polish Independence, Oct. 27, 2018.

❖ ❖ ❖

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

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PAC to Hold Annual "Zupapalooza" Polish Soup Festival

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Polish American Congress Western New York Division (PACWNY) will be holding its 4th Annual "Zupapalooza" Polish Soup Festival, Sun., Nov. 5, 2017 at the Pvt. Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga, from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

The event will feature a variety of homemade soups, prepared by PACWNY member organizations. For the \$7.00 general admission (adults; \$5.00 for children up to age 12), guests may enjoy two samples of soup from participating organizations, rye bread, and butter. Desserts will also be available for purchase from the Polish Genealogical Society. Additional soup purchases for onsite consumption or takeout will be

available.

A "People's Choice" Award will be given for the best soup selected by guests. In addition, guest judges will award the "Golden Ladle Award" for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place soups. There will also be a prize awarded for "Best Decorated" soup stand/station.

Hamilton, Ontario's Polish folk group Ludowa Nuta will perform. Guests will also enjoy Polish music by DJ Red, Polish beer and vodka, Polish books/literature, Polish genealogy, and information leaflets on each group participating in the event.

For further information please contact Jim Ławicki, (716) 864-6110; Irena Woszczak (716) 696-0986; or Mira Szramel (716) 903-3242.

Sports

Poland Locks Up 2018 World Cup Sport

by Tom Tarapacki

Poland beat Montenegro 4-2 to gain the most points in Group E and qualify for next year's World Cup tournament. It followed a 6-1 win over Armenia.

Polish captain **Robert Lewandowski** scored three goals in the match against Armenia, and then another against Montenegro, his 51st goal for Poland in 91 senior appearances. Poland's all-time top scorer, Lewandowski has tallied 16 goals in 10 games in his team's qualifying campaign, setting a European qualifying record.

Russia 2018 will mark Poland's eighth finals. Poland finished as high as third twice, in West Germany 1974 and Spain 1982.

The contract with Poland's national football squad's coach **Adam Nawalka** has been extended until the 2018 World Cup in Russia after Poland qualified. He is the first Polish manager to take the national squad to both the European championships and the World Cup.

Poland's next games are friendlies against Uruguay in Warsaw on November 10 and Mexico in Gdańsk on November 13.

SHOWING OFF POLISH HERITAGE AT THE BALLPARK. Major League Baseball held its inaugural Players Weekend,

an event to allow big leaguers to "let their personalities and passions shine like never before." Part of the event was colorful, non-traditional uniforms featuring alternate designs inspired by youth-league uniforms, with nicknames instead of names on the backs. For a couple of big leaguers, it was an opportunity to show off their Polish heritage.

Orioles' **Darren O'Day's** jersey

read "Odachowski" on the back, the original spelling of his family's name. O'Day's grandfather, **Stanley Odachowski**, met his wife, Geraldine, in Chicago and they raised three children, including O'Day's father, Ralph. After Stanley returned from fighting in World War II, he suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, according to O'Day. A few years later, Stanley tragically died, leaving Geraldine to raise her three boys on her own in the Windy City. While she was working at a Montgomery Ward store, Geraldine shortened her last name to "Odach," pronouncing it "Oh-day." When Ralph got married, he kept his mother's last name, but spelled it "O'Day." Darren also has "D. Odachowski" stitched into his glove.

O'Day is a 34 year-old right-hander from Jacksonville, Fla. After a decent high school career he walked-on at Florida but was cut. He then planned on a future in medicine but decided to play in an adult baseball league with some friends. There he developed a new side-arm pitching motion to add to his regular over-the-top delivery. With the new motion and some increased velocity he returned to the Gators baseball team. He struck out all of the walk-on hitters he faced and made the team, going on to pitch for four years and earning a scholarship. Undrafted out of college, Darren seriously considered pursuing medicine. However, he decided to sign a free agent contract with the Angels in 2006, and in 2008 made his major league debut.

White Sox catcher **Kevan Smith** had "Szmydth" on the back of his jersey. As he explained, "My grandparents used to spell it that way when they came over from Poland." The 29-year-

old native of Pittsburgh added that "I always get on my parents about why we never switched it back." He thought that the idea of putting that name on his uniform for Players Weekend was "really cool."

A native of Pittsburgh, Kevan played quarterback at the University of Pittsburgh before switching to baseball. The catcher was then twice named an All-Big East Conference selection for the Panthers. The Chicago White Sox selected Smith in the seventh round of the 2011 MLB Draft, and he made his major league debut in 2016.

Minnesota outfielder **Max Kepler** wore Różycki on his jersey. He was born Maximilian Kepler-Różycki, but shortened his name when he came to the big leagues.

Max is a native of Germany, the son of a Polish Solidarity refugee and an American mother, both of whom were ballet dancers. He one of the rare major leaguers who was raised in Europe. He started baseball at age six with the John F. Kennedy School in Berlin. In 2009 at 16 he signed with the Twins for \$800,000, the largest signing bonus given by an MLB franchise to a European-born player. The outfielder made his big league debut in 2015.

Here are some of the other back-of-the-jersey nicknames: Atlanta's **Ian Krol** went with "King Krol" (*król* is Polish for king); San Diego's **Travis Jankowski**, who is known as "Fred" because of his love of TV's Mister Rogers; and Tampa Bay's **Lucas Duda** had "Dude." Some players with Polish names used the shortened versions: Toronto's **Troy Tulowitzki** was "Tulo," Oakland's **Jake Somlinski** was "Smo," Seattle's **Mark Rzepczynski** was "Zep," Atlanta's **Mike Foltynewicz** was "Folty," the Mets' **Kevin Plawecki** was "Plaw," and Cincinnati's **Asher Wojciechowski** was "Wojo." Some, like the Dodgers' **Scott Kazmir**, San Francisco's **Joe Panik**, and San Diego's **Matt Szczur**, just stuck with their regular last names.

GAROPPOLO ON THE RISE. We know that New England quarterback **Tom Brady** has Polish ancestry on his mother's side, but so does his back-up. **Jimmy Garoppolo**, a native of Arlington Heights, Ill, is Italian, Polish, German, according to Ethniclebs.com.

Garoppolo is the third of four sons born to son of Anthony J. and Denise F. (Malec) Garoppolo. He played football at Eastern Illinois from 2010 to 2013, where he broke the school record for career pass completions previously held by former NFL quarterback Tony Romo, who also is Polish on his mother's side. Jimmy was drafted by the New England Patriots in the second round of the 2014 NFL Draft, with the 62nd pick overall. He has only started a couple of NFL games, but he's a highly regarded player who's considered the best back-up in the league.

Jimmy's maternal grandparents were Theodore J. Malec (the son of John Malec and Katherine Stopa) and Harriet D. Seidel (the daughter of Frank Seidel and Julia Rogalu).

RUNNERS HONOR POPIELUSZKO. About 70 runners completed a 320-k run in tribute to **Father Jerzy Popieluszko**, a Catholic priest who lost his life helping the anti-communist Solidarity movement. The run started near a monument in Katowice that commemorates nine miners who

were killed by communist riot police in December 1981. It finished at Popieluszko's grave in Warsaw on what would have been "The Solidarity Priest's" 70th birthday.

Popieluszko's monthly "Masses for the Homeland" drew thousands to St. Stanislaus Church in Warsaw during martial law. In October 1984, he was abducted, tortured and murdered by secret police officers. He was later recognized as a martyr by the Catholic Church, and beatified in June 2010.



PALICKI POWER. **Adrienne Palicki's** athletic background has helped her play a lot of strong women in movies like *Red Dawn*, *John Wick*, *G.I. Joe: Retaliation*, as well as TV's *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* A native of Toledo, she "ran track and played basketball, and I danced for



Sophie Musial receives a kiss from her grandson, Houston Texans' **JJ Watt** on her 100th birthday.

a long time, so there was always a level of physicality." Adrienne also shot guns in her youth, which came in handy for a number of her roles. The 5-11 beauty also enjoys doing many of her stunts, which she believes adds to the realism.

Currently the star of *The Orville* TV series, Adrienne was slated to star in a 2011 reboot of the *Wonder Woman* TV series, but controversy

about the costume, as well as poor reviews of the TV movie pilot, killed the series before it got started.

PERKOSKI'S NOTEBOOK. Polish driver **Robert Kubica** is being tested by the Williams Formula 1 team to determine whether the Pole can make his comeback to the sport after having not raced in F1 since he suffered life-changing injuries in a rally accident in 2011 ... Polish media reported that **Arkadiusz Milik** paid to ensure his fellow Polish soccer player **Konrad Nowak** got the best treatment available for his knee injury ... Poland's **Błażej Brzeziński** has won the 39th PZU Warsaw Marathon by outrunning a group of favored Kenyan runners. Brzeziński, a native of the north-central city of Bydgoszcz, ran a personal best of 2:11.27 ... The Houston Texans signed tight end **C.J. Fiedorowicz** to a three-year, \$22 million contract extension, but he suffered a concussion on opening day and ended up on injured reserve ... the Texans also lost **JJ Watt** for the season to a broken leg.

THEY SAID IT

"I like *mielone*, which is like a burger. We have a few different meats. Definitely, overall, Polish food is my favorite food. We have a very healthy food in my country." — *Washington Wizards* **Marcin Gortat**, talking about his favorite foods.

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Resistance

Rowecki To Berlin

by Regina Szamborska-McIntyre

Resistance is a story about the conditions, which led to the Warsaw Uprising during World War II, and how the courageous and tenacious people of Poland fought the Nazi occupation, only to be decimated by the political vagaries of war.

Three main characters drive the story: Zygmunt Kaminski, publisher of an underground newspaper; Marek Gudziński, aka Dysthmas, delivery man of contraband items to underground units; and Michal Bednarek, attorney at law, who tries to remain neutral and uninvolved.

CHAPTER XX. On the rare occasion when General Rowecki was able to take up residence in the secured house on Spiska Street, he came and went suitably attired as a man of business. Spiska Street offered a refuge where he could indulge himself with creature comforts, so woefully curtailed by life in the military. It had been weeks since he was treated to a refreshing night's rest.

He reached over to the night table and glanced at his watch, eight o'clock; he had overslept. He enjoyed the feeling of a relaxed pace; he rolled over on his back to mental-

ly review his duties of the day. June 30, there was a meeting at ten that morning. Better get started.

Downstairs, Jetka, his aide-de-camp, was rattling pots and pans. The aroma of contraband coffee and frying onions aroused the general's appetite. He would hurry with his shower and be downstairs before Jetka called.

The general sipped his coffee and gave a cursory glance at the Nowy Kourier. A coded knock sent Jetka to the door. Grot nodded to himself when he heard Jetka close the door. He was expecting a package to be delivered by courier.

"A liaison girl dropped this off." "Thank you." From the expression of relief that showed on his face, Jetka half expected the general to say, "Thank God!"

He took the bundle, wrapped in newspaper, and made his way to the dining room. He placed it on the table while he removed a hidden panel from the commode. He squeezed the package into the empty space, and then replaced the panel.

"It's almost nine-thirty, Sir."

Chief Delegate Jankowski had called a meeting to discuss the fiscal budget. The Home Army would be first in line for future expenditures.

"Yes, I know Jetka. I'm running

late. I'm lingering—hate to end this short respite." He started for the stairs. "I have only to finish grooming and I'll be off."

The blare of sirens blasted in the street. At least fifty Gestapo cars screeched their brakes, and over two hundred men began to invade every house on the street. Brown shirts were swarming on the rooftops. The residents were forced from their homes and herded into a cordoned off area in the street.

The door to the Spiska Street hideout was battered down and a group of SS men barged in on Grot before he could run for the secret exit.

He was shackled, removed from the premises, and shoved into one of the cars.

Jozef Lypka, a janitor in the Gestapo headquarters on Szucha Street, left his bucket and mop in a corner and ran to find out what all the excitement was about. Triumphant shouts were ringing out in the halls and stairwell. Jozef, with his limited understanding of German, was able to make out, "Death of the underground!" and the name of "Grot". Another, unfamiliar name, "General Rowecki," was also being tossed about. Lypka paid this no mind. His concern was over the

alarming news of the capture of his hero. Every citizen of Warsaw knew the name of General Grot; he was looked upon as the venerable protector of Poland.

Jozef looked at the clock, ten minutes past eleven. There was another twenty minutes until his lunch break. He knew where to find Kaminski.

He rushed along the streets and ran up the steps to the Chestnut Café. Kaminski wasn't there. He brushed past the hostess and went straight to the bar.

"I must see Kaminski!" he announced to the bartender.

Jashek gave him a stern look, "What for?"

"I must see Kaminski."

"Well, he's not here. Give me a message and I'll deliver it to him—if he comes."

Jozef delivered a defiant look.

"Look, you beggar, people are coming in for lunch. I can't have you hanging around the bar. Now, you've got to get out of here."

Jozef stood there, wringing his cap in his hands. Jashek pulled him behind the bar and was shoving him toward the back entrance when Jozef caught sight of Kaminski entering the lobby. He wrenched himself free and ran toward him.

Kaminski reacted smoothly. Lypka was his Szucha Street informant.

"Ah, Jozef, I have need of you. My office needs a good cleaning." He walked him out the door, and onto the street.

"They have captured Grot!"

This time, Kaminski did not respond as quickly. He had difficulty processing the information.

"I wondered why he didn't show for the meeting", he muttered. "Do you know which cell it is, Jozef?"

"Yes, it's one they use for the solitary confinement. It's well-guarded."

REFERENCES

The Secret Army: The Memoirs of General Bor-Komorowski. Pen and Sword Books Limited, 47 Church Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S70 2AS

continued next month

Regina Szamborska-McIntyre is a retired Speech Pathologist who currently facilitates memoir workshops at her local library. She is the author of two books of historic fiction, "An Altar of Sod" and "Yesterday's Pupils."

Sybiracy

Year 1944 – Longing for Polish Books

"Sibracy" (Poles exiled to Siberia during World War II) is written by Stefania Borstowa.

Borstowa, her children and Marysia, a home servant, were deported from Lvov to Krutoyarka, a small village in Kazakstan. Soon after the 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.

PART XXV. When 1944 began, we had little news about the war, but some soldiers that were hurt in Stalingrad were coming back. Their stories were never-ending. They were heroes welcomed in every house with enthusiasm. We grew more hope in our hearts. We started preparing dry bread from the best flour for possible travel back home.

At the end of January, Teresa had a bad flu. She had a high fever and was jerking in the bed that both of us were sleeping in. I knew I was disturbing her, so I laid to sleep on the blanket at the door. I had no extra pillow, so I put my head on a stack of clothes. In the morning, Teresa called me, but I was unable to move my head. It was so cold that my hair froze to the floor.

I was able to borrow "Quo Vadis"*. Since we did not have any Polish books here, everybody wanted to listen. I read it every day after lunch and also in the evening by candlelight. The readings attracted Polish community, as well as some local youth in our small hut where we had two wooden cots, benches, and an oven to keep us warm. All were chewing on sunflower and pumpkin seeds, and we all were so happy to be able to be in a different world. They asked lots of questions, so after a week, I had a raspy voice. This was our only spiritual feast. People wanted to re-read the book after we finished, but I had to return it to the region.

In September, Jedrek started attending the school. The school was

just in the middle of the village *vis-à-vis* our earth house. During the summer Tereska began teaching him Polish from the book called "The Evening Story" (in Polish: "Piesn wieczorna") that was my husband's children book. I don't even remember how this book ended up among our luggage all the way to Kazakstan!

They asked lots of questions, so after a week, I had a raspy voice. This was our only spiritual feast.

Tereska already graduated from the elementary school here in the village. She really wanted to go back to school and study more, but I couldn't afford to send her to school far away. There was a high school in the district, but I couldn't afford her lodging and food. Otherwise, she would have to walk 15 km (over nine miles) one way. Besides, it would be too hard for me to have her away. She was helping us a lot. She learned how to spin wool, which we were given as a payment for medical help, our fortune-telling job, or for stolen chunks of wood. She was able to knit socks and gloves for the wool, also.

It was hard to receive enough grain for bread, that we were able to buy it for exchange only in small quantities. Once I saw a horse standing on the steppe with stiff legs and dropped down head. This horse died out of hunger due to a disease that caused a lockjaw. The NKVD came and ordered us to bury the horse deep in the ground. They even poured it with quicklime. The guard was there for three days making sure nobody dare to touch it. When the guard left, the village dug the carcass out and divided the meat. The odor was awful, but we cooked it and ate it and luckily nobody was sick afterwards.

* "Quo Vadis" is a Latin phrase meaning "Where are you going?" It is a title of a book written by Henryk Sienkiewicz. For this and other novels, many of them related to Polish history, Sienkiewicz received the 1905 Nobel Prize for Literature. The "Quo Vadis" story is based on early Christians in Rome fighting against the Emperor Nero's regime.

continued next month

—Reprinted courtesy of Jaga's Polish Culture Website at: www.polish-culture.com

Growing Up Polish American

Releasing the Trauma

by Barbara Betlejewska

What goes around, comes around.

Because of the bullying I endured in high school, I was afraid to face my classmates for years.

I finally got the courage to attend the 20th high school reunion. I confidently wore a beautiful, beaded black silk dress, confronted my tormentors for the first time in twenty years, survived the ordeal, and put the torment to rest. My classmates were congenial and several apologized for their past behavior toward me. At our 40th reunion, I wore the exact same dress, and appeared to be one of the better-preserved specimens of our class, if I have to say so myself. Sadly, many of my classmates have "gone to seed" over the intervening years.

Now I've come full cycle, and I am reclaiming my lost heritage. Many others have come full cycle, too.

Recently I met a young family with a very ethnic German-American name. The mother was an obese single mom, with unkempt, greasy hair, wearing baggy sweats with food stains down the front. There was no father in the picture. She had three kids, all wearing dirty clothes, eating Cheetos and drinking orange soda pop. The kids' hands were stained orange-yellow from the Cheetos, and there were orange rings around their mouths from the pop. Two of the kids needed their noses wiped. They were all running around totally out of control yelling and shouting and making a mess, dropping Cheetos on the floor.

As I looked at them, I realized that I had known this woman's grandfather as a little girl. He had been a successful, impeccably dressed businessman, with an organized, well-run business. In his day, he was a pillar of the community.

I could not help but wonder if Frederick the Great (1712-1786) — who tried to Germanize Poles in the Prussia Partition, and com-

pared "slovenly Polish trash similar to the Iroquois" — would have described this family as "slovenly German-American trash?"

What "Old Fritz" (as he was called) didn't realize is what goes around comes around. It is nature's way.

As children, we are all one or two economic, family, or societal catastrophes away from becoming "slovenly trash." If we have too much pain, trauma, and abandonment in childhood — or if our families are destroyed by divorce, neglect, or trauma — we fall into addictions and dysfunctions, which were on full display in this pitiful situation. And unlike these overly-mouthy kids, as a child, I had no voice. I was too scared to speak. I was anxious. I was self-conscious. But as an adult, I can talk and I can feel. I can remember, and I can heal.

In general, the Poles have acted honorably and nobly, unlike many other ethnic groups with horrific infamy in their past. Now I'm proud to be of Polish origin.

conclusion next month

Barbara Betlejewska left her childhood farm in Ohio at age 18, and lived in many places throughout the United States and abroad for nearly 30 years. Her grandparents, who had emigrated from the partitioned areas of Poland in the 1910s, purchased the farm during the Great Depression.

Help with Your Root Searching

CHICAGO — Members of the Polish Genealogical Society of America (PGSA) are available on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the PMA library, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, to help with your research challenges. If you are unable to stop by, you can e-mail an inquiry to PGSAmerica@pgsa.org or visit the FAQs at the website www.PGSA.org.

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Krol Honored on Kosciuszko's Imieniny

CHICAGO — The Chicago Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation honored **Dr. Kornelia Krol** (inset, right) for her leadership and dedication to Chicago's Polish community. A presentation was made in conference with Tadeusz Kosciuszko's *imieniny* (name day), Oct. 27, 2017 at the Polish Museum of America.



a party at the Sieniawa Palace for Kosciuszko. Russia had just crushed Poland's army, outlawed the May 3 Constitution, and banned the Virtuti Militari

medals given to Polish heroes. The officers who received this medal sent the blue ribbons from these orders to their wives and girlfriends. At the party for Kosciuszko, women wore white dresses with black and azure-sashes and braided their hair with the ribbons from the medals. The women also fashioned a garland crown on Kosciuszko's head made from branches and leaves from an oak tree planted 100 years earlier by King Sobieski.

The celebration of Kosciuszko's name day brought back a Polish tradition, as well as memories of a significant historical event. On Oct. 28th, 1792, the Imieniny for Tadeusz, Prince Czartoryski held

Dr. Krol is an obstetrician-gynecologist, and is affiliated with multiple hospitals in the Chicago area. She has been in practice for more than 20 years.

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A Newly-Minted United States Citizen

by Richard P. Poremski

BALTIMORE — Who says that nothing exciting ever happens during the languid and sultry dog-days of August? Well Dariusz Skoraczewski seriously challenged that cliché on an exciting and memorable August 18, 2017 when he was proudly sworn in as a new American citizen.

Skoraczewski was born in Warsaw, Poland. He began his musical education at the age of six and spent his school years in Warsaw. He completed his higher education as a scholarship recipient here at the elite Peabody Conservatory of Music (now The Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University), arriving in 1990, and perfecting his art there under the supervision of world-renowned cellist Stephen Kates.

"Skorek" — as he is nicknamed in Polish — has delighted audiences at many concert halls in America and Europe with his great artistic and technical skills of the cello. As a soloist, he has performed with numerous orchestras here in the United States — including the Na-



BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Principal Cellist Dariusz Skoraczewski (right) took the oath of United States citizenship in Baltimore. He was presented by Richard Poremski a commemorative American flag, which previously flew over the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

tional Philharmonic and his own Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) — as well as internationally in Europe, Asia, and South America.

In 2013, he was awarded the juried and unrestricted \$25,000 Baker

Award that fosters local artistic talent in Baltimore's creative arts community at-large. And the heaven-sent windfall? Skoraczewski used the award to help finance his new, custom-designed Christopher Dungey cello and to record Bach's *Suites for Unaccompanied Cello* to add to his published and growing CD portfolio. Skoraczewski presently resides in the community of Elkridge, in Howard County outside of Baltimore, with his

delightful wife Pei Lu — a recognized performing cellist in her own right and an established cello music teacher — along with their talented teen daughter, Anna.

The Pondering Pole

Polonization

by Edward Poniewaz

Nations are comprised of people with like interests and a common language. Those parts largely make up what we call the national culture. In American culture, we drink beer, speak "Angle-ish," and give our kids Irish names.

America, in its basic sense, is a mirror of the British Isles, with roots in German Anglo-Saxon and to some extent Gaelic civilization. Those of us with lineage not of England or of ancestral English America, hold to the same traditions and politics of those that do.

Whether we speak Somali or Bosnian, celebrate *Cinco de Mayo*, or paint the fire plugs with the colors of the Italian flag, we feel a not-so-subtle pressure to hold to the mores of this country and pledge our first allegiance to America because this is where we live.

Throughout history, nations and peoples have been absorbed by others, most often because they were weaker (militarily) or willing to entered into an alliance with a more powerful neighbor. These scenarios have been played over and over in all parts of the world. American armies and settlers subdued or controlled indigenous natives. This is the example we are familiar with.

THIS POINTS TO the number of recent times I have come across the word "Polonized" or "Polonization." The "Polonized" Westphalian German Emilia Plater is known as the Polish Joan of Arc; a "Polonized" Lithuanian Tadeusz Kosciuszko became a great figure in the war for independence in the United States and a leader for the same in Poland; and the Pole, U.S. Chief of Staff, General John Shalikashvili, traces part of his lineage to the country of Georgia in the South Caucasuses. What does it mean to be Polonized or to be subject to Polonization?

To learn more, there is a *Wikipedia* topic on it and I would encourage you to read it. The definition of Polonization in Wiki is "the acquisition or imposition of elements of Polish culture, in particular the Polish language, as experienced in some historic periods by the non-

Polish populations of territories controlled or substantially under the influence of Poland." I have it burned in the history section of my

mind that Poles were (and are) recognized players in world affairs, but do not force others to change the way they lived and and thought; e.g.: Poland did not always control Lithuania, Ruthenia, or Ukraine politically but influenced them socially and culturally.

The reason for Polonization was the relative strength of the Polish state for the five hundred years beginning in the 12th century. During these years, which included some military conquests, the Poles exerted their presence by alliances with Ruthenian and Lithuanian nobility and others whose new Polishness trickled down to their constituents, servants, and countrymen.

Another factor was the role trade played beginning with the Piast Dynasty and then with the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Many Greek, Armenian, Jewish, and German merchants and immigrants settled in Polish lands and a sizable number spoke Polish and assimilated, just as many merchants and immigrants do in our country.

Throughout history, Polonization (or any other kind of "ization") has been a double-edged sword. The pressure to convert doesn't always come easily, and very comes with bloodshed. That is the harsh reality.

As for me, I am a Polonized, Americanized, and often times travel to and speak Southern Illinois.

Going forward, my hope is that we can Polonize our relatives and friends and associates, and even our detractors, with gentle and friendly positive persuasion. Let us conquer them that way instead.

POLISH OR NOT? I enjoy hearing **Simon Cowell's** opinions on

the various shows. He is a television star, producer, very smart and insightful judge, and according to ethnicelebs.com, has a Polish con-



Leszek Pawlowicz and Jeopardy host Alex Trebek.

nection. Although he is Anglicized, Simon's paternal grandmother was Esther Malinsky, a Polish Jewish immigrant.

I love watching the television game show *Jeopardy*, and I have to admit it is an impressive display of intellect and learning by the contestants. The last time I watched, I pondered if a Polish person was ever a champion. I found that in 1991 **Leszek Pawlowicz** won five *Jeopardy* games, a big deal at the time, as there was a five game limit on winning. There is no telling how much farther he would have gone. Pawlowicz went on to win the *Jeopardy Tournament of Champions* in 2014, and won numerous other game show contests, bringing his career money totals well over one million dollars. He received high praise from the legendary *Jeopardy* contestant Ken Jennings. The *New York Times* referred to him as "the Michael Jordan of game shows."

Here is wishing you a wonderful and heartfelt Americanized Thanksgiving holiday.

If you have a question or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marquette Ave., 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.

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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Dance Time

The Magic of Roncesvalles

The holiday season is upon us as our focus turns to family time, gatherings with friends, and holiday preparations to create lifelong memories. For many of us, polka music adds to that festive celebration during this cherished time of year. Fall has provided ample opportunity to savor wonderful music at a variety of festivals and venues. Polka Sundays return to local corner bars in Buffalo as **Special Delivery** can be enjoyed monthly at Clinton Bar & Grill, and **Phocus** at Captain Smith's Anchor Inn.



The guys of Phocus (l. to r.): Ricky Krupski, Jim Nowaczewski, Mike Kurdziel, Paul Dominiak, and Tony Winiarz at Roncesvalles.

A POLONIAN PARADISE. For me, the kickoff to the fall polka season means a trip to Toronto, Canada. The quaint neighborhood of **Roncesvalles** is transformed from a hip neighborhood serviced by busy streetcars, back to its roots of a Polish-Canadian paradise for the third weekend of September. Colorful flowers and folk decorations define the festival route while entertainment abounds. The entire Polish community of Toronto comes together to illustrate the culture of Poland far beyond the stereotypical pierogi and kielbasa. Music — from traditional bands, polka music, polo disco, and unconventional folk — offers a variety in the mile long festival.

A young group of musicians by the name of **Polky Village** have reinvented traditional Polish music as well as some polkas to appeal to music lovers. The group consists of five fantastic musicians, all with wonderful vocal talents. There are three females in the group taking lead vocals, playing fiddle, and keeping the beat on a drum modishly covered in traditional Polish floral fabric. The gentlemen complete this group while mastering the accordion, mandolin and dulcimer. Polky Village illustrates a revival in the important roots of Polish music, dance, and folk lore.

Roncesvalles also offers a tremendous amount of talented dance groups who perform during the weekend. It is difficult to contain the excitement as the groups dance, sing, and bring traditions to life on the streets of Toronto. The amount of talent and young involvement in the Polish community of Toronto and the surrounding Canadian towns is overwhelming. The continuation of the language, history, and reverence for the culture is impressive. You cannot celebrate the culture of Poland without turning to the culinary delicacies that we all love. Whether you visit a street vendor, restaurant, deli, or one of the many organizations selling food during the event, you are sure to leave craving even more of this scrumptious food. Many of the specialties are items that we rarely find on a menu in the Western New York area. White *barszcz*, *smalec*, pork hamburgers, and *krokiety* are just some of the

menu items that I look forward to indulging in each year.

Of course, North America's largest Polish Festival would not be complete without wonderful polka music. Dancers take to the street as melodies resonate through the air at the Polka Mania stage. **Eddie**



Chris Kibler, Jessica Klaiach, and Anna Lukaszewicz at Roncesvalles.

Guca and the Polish Canadians, John Gora & Gorale, Phocus, and Concertina All Stars took turns throughout the weekend. Polka lovers and passersby can't help but dance along as the contagious beat takes over at this cultural event. I always look forward to seeing many of our Canadian friends whose love of polka music is infectious. The beer tent attached to the polka stage provides a premium spot to kick back, relax, and watch the dancers while listening to fabulous music. This year's festival had beautiful weather, which made it very steamy for performers on stage but each put

on a great show for everyone in attendance.

DOZYNKI FESTIVAL. Corpus Christi parish in the heart of Polonia did its part to celebrate harvest at its annual Dozynki festival. The two-day event got an early kick off as Polish Happy Hour hosted their monthly event at Corpus Christi's athletic center on Friday. All money collected at the happy hour event went directly to the 110-year-old parish church. Hundreds of parishioners and supporters showed their love and commitment as they visited the event over the course of the weekend. **Special Delivery** provided their upbeat music to the crowd both Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon. Music billowed throughout the center enticing attendants to go upstairs and dance a few on the beautiful original hardwood floors of this treasured building. Folks even got a chance to dance a few non-polka songs as the band is happy to take requests and showcase their talents.

Sunday afternoon guests were also treated to some impromptu entertainment downstairs in the bar room. **Ludowa Nuta Choir**, who had joined Corpus Christi to celebrate Mass, brought their voices, instruments, and pizzazz to Dozynki singing beloved folk tunes and getting the audience involved. When this group of talented individuals from Hamilton, Ontario shows up at any event, you can be sure that it is going to be a memorable day.

DANCE BENEFITS SENIORS. The fifth annual Scholarship Dance

held in memory of **Jackie Schmid** took place at Potts Banquet Hall. Money raised at this event goes to scholarships which are given to six high school seniors of Polish descent in the Cheektowaga, N.Y. area. Jackie was a staple of the Polish community and this event allows many of us to remember the impact she had on so many lives

6:00 p.m. Polish beer, spirits, food will be available for purchase. You can contact Val at (716) 777-2455 or email him DyngusNY@aol.com. Any event Val hosts is a sure-fire winner so I have no doubt that the evening will be a spectacular time. This is a new venue so come show your support and prove that polka music is alive and well.



Helen Winiarz, Chris Zawisza, Tony Winiarz, Dianne, and Jacob Zawisza at Roncesvalles.

and her dedication to polka music. Over 200 friends gathered enjoying the music of **Phocus** and dancing, and we all knew Jackie was watching over each of us smiling. Basket raffles and 50/50 splits were also showcased to raise funds during the evening. It was a very successful event thanks to the hard work of the committee. If you know a high school senior, please let them know about this scholarship. You can visit www.facebook.com/jackieschmid-scholarship or call (716) 668-2154 for information on eligibility and application dates.

JEPI KAJ-JEPI Polka Meets Country returns to Western New York once again on Nov. 18, 2017. The event will take place at the Cove Seafood and Banquets, 4701 Transit Rd., Depew, N.Y. The third annual event will feature Polka Country Musicians along with local legend Marshall Dillion Band. Tickets are just \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door on the day of the event. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. and music will begin at 7:00 with the bands alternating throughout the evening. If you want to try out your moves with line dancing, lessons will be held at

APPLES, PEACHES ... Thanksgiving Eve dances are being held in both polka loving cities of Buffalo and Chicago. Tri City Drive will be hosting a **Thanksgiving Eve Polka Hop** at Polonia Banquets in Chicago while **Polish Villa II** will be home to Buffalo's pre-holiday event featuring Buffalo Concertina All Stars. Go out and enjoy a night with polka friends before preparing a decadent dinner for your family.

PILLAR REUNION. If you are in the Connecticut area, don't miss the 19th annual Dick and JoAnne Pillar's Christmas Party Holiday Reunion featuring Eddie Forman Orchestra. This event takes place at Aqua Turf Ballroom in Plantsville, Conn. on Tues. Nov. 28, 2017. Tickets are \$46 and include an all-you-can-eat family style buffet and an afternoon of music. The celebration takes place from 10:45 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and tickets can be purchased by visiting www.dickpillar.com. This event that will also feature Christmas caroling, holiday music, a parade, and Pillar surprises. Join Dick and JoAnne as they celebrate their 60th year of entertainment.



Dozynki Duos (l. to r): Bill Schmid and Stefan Mychajiliw; Bogdan Wisniewski and Vic Dudalski; Vera Posnjak and Ilianna Wisniewski.

Toledo Polonia

Jacob Fortin Keeps Dancers Moving

by Margaret
Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

Congratulations to the new slate of officers for the **Toledo Area Polka Society**: President Jim Mackiewicz, Sr.; Vice President Allan Rutkowski; Treasurer Mike Marek; Secretary Judy Kwiatkowski; Membership Chair Kevin Kwiatkowski; Promotion Chair David Bezdziecki; Sergeant-at-Arms Rick Rybka; and Trustees Jim Rutkowski and Dave Snyder.

With the beginning of the dance season, the **Great Lakes Sounds** — led by **Aaron Slivinski** — performed Sat., Sept. 23. A talented mix of musicians from Toledo area, as well as out-of-towners took to the stage: Aaron and **Dave Slivinski**; **Jim Mackiewicz Jr.**; **Andy Pawlak**; **Brian Earl**; and a very dedicated polka fan on the drums named **Jacob Fortin**.

Jacob is a 24-year-old guy from Michigan, whose world revolves around polkas. He has special needs and a difficult life. With the help of his supportive family, Jacob had the opportunity to enjoy polka music growing up. He has been playing drums since he was young. His family enjoyed going to dances and festivals around Michigan. At the age of four, Jacob received a mini drum set and began playing. With a lot of work, he has developed into a solid drummer.

Jacob has been able to sit in with several bands through the years including Ethnic Jazz, Steve Drze-

wicki, Polka Riot, Dynabass, and New Phaze. He has earned the respect of numerous musicians because of his passion for the music. In addition to drumming, Jacob has hosted a show on 24/7 Polka Heaven for the past five years. His favorite bands include The Versatones, Polka Family, and Polka Country Musicians.

The Great Lake Sounds formed in 2012. Over the past five years the band has had seven gigs with numerous musicians. Each gig was booked because an organization needed a band to cover a spot in their schedule. Despite Great Lake Sounds being a side band for Slivinski, he has been wanting to find an opportunity to feature Jacob for a while. The TAPS dance became the opportunity he needed.

Slivinski met Jacob in 2005 at the Frankenmuth Summer Music Fest. Over the next few years Slivinski became a friend and mentor to Jacob, and in 2008 Slivinski spent a day teaching him how to play drums to polka music. His first live appearance was in 2011 at Slivinski's high school graduation party with a jam

band of polka musicians. At that point he had improved quite a bit



The Great Lakes Sounds, with drummer Jacob Fortin, played the September 23 dance of the Toledo Area Polka Society.

and with the encouragement of family, friends, and musicians, he began to sit in with other bands.

With the September lineup of Great Lakes Sounds, Jacob had the opportunity to play the majority of a gig. Congratulations, Jacob!

The Toledo Area Polka Society invites everyone to attend its annual **Christmas Dinner Dance**, Dec. 3, at the PRCUA Misiuda Hall on Detroit Ave.. For more information, check out the new TAPS website at www.TAPSPolkas.com.

Art Kott on the Air

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Art Kott's Polish American polka show, *Coś Dobrego Dla Każdego* (Something Good For Everyone) can be heard every Saturday from 9:00-11:00 a.m. on WVOA Love Radio, 87.7FM.

The show also streams live at www.artkott.com during broadcast hours, and click "listen live." You can also visit Art's website to listen to hours of polka music 24/7.

Send requests and announcements to: Art Kott, 107 Huntshill Road, Syracuse, NY 13209, or call (315) 656-2231.

Freddy K Jr. Music Scholarship
Accepting Applications for 2018

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. — The Freddy K Jr. Music Scholarship Committee is now accepting requests for applications for the 2018 Scholarship award.

Applicants must be high school seniors who have been accepted to an accredited college and play a musical instrument. Anyone who is interested in applying for this year's award can download an application on our website at www.freddykjr-musicscholarship.com or contact the Scholarship Committee at the following address: The Freddy K Jr. Scholarship Fund, 50 Totten Drive,

Bridgewater, NJ 08807.

Freddy K, Jr. played trumpet in his father's band, The Freddy K Band, when he died in an automobile accident in July of 1997. Music, especially polka music, was Fred's life and passion. His personality, sense of humor and love of polkas affected all who knew him.

The Music Scholarship Fund was set up to carry on where Fred left off by promoting polka music through the gift of a \$1,000 Scholarship to a deserving student every year. Each award will be given at a polka festival during the summer.

Past Recipients of the Freddy K Jr. Music Scholarship

2017	Veronica Prytko , Millbury, Mass., and Joseph Blackburn , Troy, New York
2016	Joseph Blackburn , Troy, N.Y.
2015	Adam Winiarz , Norton, Massachusetts
2014	Jenna Libera , Charlton, Massachusetts
2013	Eva Snyder , South Hadley, Massachusetts
2012	Justin Kohan , Orchard Park, New York
2011	Stephen Piatkowski , Canastota, New York
2010	Kassandre Dardzinski , Saugus, Massachusetts and Anita Marie Thomas , Baltimore, Maryland
2009	David Raccis , Wilbreham, Massachusetts
2008	Christopher Wanyo , Shillington, Pennsylvania
2007	Kevin Martin , Hudson, New Hampshire
2006	Lanelle Raccis , Wilbreham, Massachusetts
2005	Nick Koryluk , Hicksville, New York
2004	Michael D. Riel, II , Chicopee, Massachusetts
2003	Ryan Ogrodny , White Oak, Pennsylvania
2002	Brian Romianik , Millville, New Jersey
2001	Melissa Mocadlo , Stevens Point, Wisconsin
2000	Andrew Krystopolski , Wilmington, Delaware
1999	William Lomnychuk , Reading, Pennsylvania
1998	John Daigle , Chicopee, Massachusetts

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November Polka Birthdays

Birthdays courtesy of John Nalevanko, host of Li'l John's Polka Show, WAVL Radio 910 AM and 98.7 FM, Saturday 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Live streaming at www.PA_Talk.com. For information, write to: 121 Seminole Dr., Greensburg, PA 15601; (724) 834-7871; johnnalevanon@aol.com.

NAME	BORN	DIED	KNOWN FOR	CITY, STATE
1 Kevin Adams	1957		Musician / Vocalist / Arranger	Ohio
2 Jolly Rich Anton	1947		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	N.J.
3 Ray Henry Mocarski	1924	1989	Bandleader / Musician / Arranger	Conn. Pa.
Ray Jay Jarusinski	1945		Bandleader / Vocalist / Musician	Buffalo, N.Y.
Mark Trzepacz	1956		Bandleader / Vocalist / Musician	Dubois, Pa.
The Big Moose	1954		Polka D.J. WOWQ	E. Hartford, Conn.
4 Stan Ozimek	1915	1987	Polka D. J.	Fla.
Joe Oberaitis	1949		Bandleader / Vocalist / Musician / IJ	Calif. Pa.
Myron Floren	1919	2005	Accordianist (Lawrence Welk Show)	Ill. Pa.
Dave Dombrowski			Musician / Vocalist / Arranger	Ill. Pa.
6 Jim Polaski			Bandleader / Musician	Ill. Pa.
8 Casey Bruzdinski	1924	2007	Musician (Concertina)	Pa.
Ted Gibala	1942		Musician / Vocalist / Emcee	Uniontown, Pa. Md.
10 Jullie Williams			Former DJ (WMBS Radio)	Pa.
Connie Brzowski			Former Polka DJ	Pa.
19 Ron Somers	1939		Musician (Ray Budzilek Band)	Mich. Pa.
12 Dick Kuicemba	1932		Musician / Arranger	Ariz. Pa.
Don Cialkoszewski (Polish Kid)			Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Fla. Pa.
14 Alan Volek Jr.	1974		Musician / Vocalist	Ill. Pa.
17 Carl Hoynoski	1944		Musician / Vocalist (Golden Brass)	Ill. Pa.
18 Marty Dzik	1964		Musician / Vocalist	Erie, Pa.
19 Ken Olowin			Polka D.J. / IJ.	Fla. Pa.
20 Rick Piotrowski	1956		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Ill. Pa.
Whitey Ryniec			Musician / Vocalist	Wisc. Pa.
21 Wally Raczowski	1967		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Buffalo, N.Y.
22 Wally Pala	1941	2000	Musician / Vocalist (Pala Brothers)	Ohio Pa.
23 Gino Kurdziel			Musician / Vocalist (G Notes)	Mass. Pa.
24 Charlie Tansek	1941		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Ill. Pa.
25 Mitch Moskal	1950		Polka I.J.	Mass. Pa.
26 Andy (Dziagwa) Day	1928		Musician / Vocalist / Emcee (Ampol Aires)	Pa. Pa.
27 Larry Chesky	1933	2011	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / Producer	Buffalo, N.Y. Pa.
Mikey Dee	1973		Musician / Bandleader / Vocalist	Pa. Pa.
Sandy Lewandowski			IJ / Polka Jammer Network	Buffalo, N.Y.
29 Frania (Yakima) Urbaniak			Polka D.J. WEDO	Pa. Pa.
30 Ray Barsukiewicz	1948		Musician / Vocalist / Composer	Buffalo, N.Y.

10 Questions With ...

Ronnie Marcissuk



Ronnie Marcissuk has performed regularly with the Dynasticks, Detroit Polka Authority, Staś Golonka, Li'l Wally, Prime Drive, Old School, and Florida Generations. He plays both concertina and bass guitar. Ronnie is picture here with wife Vilma.

1. What is your first memory of polka music?
Growing up listening to Li'l Wally records while at the dinner table.
2. What was the last book you read?
Michael Connelly's *Black Ice*.
3. What are your three favorite movies?
The Godfather (Part 1)*, *Goodfellas*, and *It's A Wonderful Life
4. Spring, summer, fall, or winter?
Spring and summer is golf season. Fall and winter is Caribbean Cruise season.
5. Besides polkas, what do you listen to?
I like the oldies — '50s, '60s, and '70s. Also the crooners, e.g. Sinatra, Dino and the likes.
6. What historical figure would you like to spend a day with?
John F. Kennedy
7. If shipwrecked on an island, what would you like an endless supply of?
Ice Cream
8. Where is your best place to relax?
On a cruise ship. Since my retirement, we go on probably six cruises per year.
9. What one thing — that no one knows about — are you afraid

of?

Death by drowning.

10. What one thing about you would surprise polka fans?
I'm really an avid Pickleball player. Two weeks after learning the game two years ago in Florida, I took the game to heart and excelled to becoming an advanced player.



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Polka Musicians: Share a little bit about yourself with your fans! Send your answers to these questions to: info@polamjournal.com. Responses are printed in the order received. Please provide photo.

"10 Questions With ..." is sponsored by the Polka Jammer Network, the World's Leader in Polka Entertainment.

Polka Calendar

Compiled by John Ziobrowski

To list your event, please send date, band, location, times, and contact number to:
ziobrowskijohn@gmail.com

NOVEMBER 4

- The Knewz, Buffalo Touch. K of C. Cheektowaga, N.Y. 5-9 (716) 683-3635

NOVEMBER 5

- The Special Delivery Band. Clinton Bar and Grill West Seneca, N.Y. 5-8 (716) 768-3246
- Dennis Polisky. Polish Home Philadelphia, Pa. 2-6 (215) 624-9954
- New Brass Express. Misiuda Hall Toledo, Ohio. 2-6 (419) 691-5684
- Tony Blazonczyk. PACC Ludlow, Mass. 2-6 (413) 567-1961
- Joe Stanky. VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 472-1152
- John Stevens. Roselawn New York Mills, N.Y. (315) 736-5030

NOVEMBER 11

- Lenny Gomulka. St. Joe Polish Society Colchester, Conn. 6:30-10:30 (860) 537-2550
- Walt Groller. Monaghan Twp Fire Hall Dillsburgh, Pa. 7-11 (717) 458-5286

NOVEMBER 12

- Dennis Polisky. K of C Saratoga Springs, N.Y. 2-6 (518) 899-3061
- Ray Jay. VFW Dearborn Heights, Mich. 2-6 (734) 422-1901
- Lenny Gomulka. PACC Ludlow, Mass. 2-6 (413) 567-1961
- Golden Tones VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 472-1152

NOVEMBER 18

- New Direction. Potts Banquet Hall Cheektowaga, N.Y. 7-12 (716) 675-6588

- Eastern Sound Orch. Polish Hall Riverhead LI 6-10 (603) 642-4134

NOVEMBER 19

- The Eastern Sound Orch. PLAV Pine Island, N.Y. 4-8 (603) 642-4134
- The Boys. PACC Ludlow, Mass. 2-6 (413) 567-1961
- John Stevens. VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 472-1152
- Joe Stanky. Catholic War Vets Trenton, N.J. 3-6 (609) 392-2303
- Mike Sarratt. Sacred Heart Lebanon, Pa. 2-6 (717) 273-1574

NOVEMBER 25

- John Gora. Polish Hall St. Catharins, Ont. (905) 937-1413
- Joe Oberaitis. Holy Spirit Parma, Ohio. 7-11 (440) 884-8452
- Mike Sarratt. Am. Legion College Park, Md. 8-11 (301) 441-2783
- Old School. Pott's Banquet Hall, Buffalo, N.Y. 6-11. (716) 826-6575.

NOVEMBER 26

- Dennis Polisky. PACC Ludlow, Mass. 2-6 (413) 567-1961
- Joe Stanky. VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 472-1152

DECEMBER 2

- Mike Surratt. White Rose York, Pa. 7-11 (716) 848-5369
- Li'l John ATM w/ John Gora. Pizza Sierra Greensburg, Pa. (724) 837-7750
- Dennis Polisky. PNI Club Worcester, Mass. 5-9 (508) 361-2860

DECEMBER 3

- Jimmy Kilian. Lone Tree Manor Niles, Ill. 1-4 (847) 588-2106
- DynaBrass. PACC Ludlow, Mass. 2-6 (413) 567-1961

DECEMBER 16

- A Gorale Christmas. Koledy Night with Special Delivery and carols by Ted Zdybal & Hyr from Toronto. Oplatek sharing and blessing. Pott's Banquet Hall, Clinton-Rosler Plaza, Cheektowaga, N.Y. For tickets and table reservations call Ted Szymanski (716) 668-9101. 7:00-11:00.

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- Find us on FaceBook at: Val Dyngus Day [facebook.com/vals.dyngusday](https://www.facebook.com/vals.dyngusday). There will be limited table reservations available. Tables must be RSVP by email to DyngusNY@aol.com. For out-of-towners (or locals) looking for hotel/motels, Email Val at DyngusNY@aol.com. We have a list of nearby hotels. Why drive? Stay Safe!!

The Cove provides a FREE shuttle service. Come early, have a Polish Platter, then enjoy the fun.

COLOSSAL POLISH PLATTER AVAILABLE

Kościuszko: A Portrait of Love, Passion, and Patriotism

by Staś Kmieć

2017 marks the 200th anniversary of the death of Andrzej Tadeusz Bonawentura Kościuszko (4 or 12 February 1746 – 15 October 1817), a military engineer and military leader in Poland, the leader of the Kościuszko Uprising against Russia and Prussia in 1794, and a key player in the American War of Independence. He is considered a national hero in Poland, Lithuania, Belarus, and the United States.

Kościuszko is also renowned for being a ferocious critic of slavery and a promoter of equality and social justice. A man of great character and conviction, he stood up for oppressed people: European serfs, American slaves, Native American Indians, Jews, women, and all other disenfranchised groups.

continued from last month

THE FIGHT IN POLAND.

Kościuszko returned to Poland a richer man and swathed in glory. Most important, he returned with the experience of war, and the ability to profess his ideals of freedom and democracy. He reached Siechnowice on August 12, 1784 and would spend the next five years there. He received no proposition from King Poniatowski, and at his modest family estate awaited word of a commission in the Polish Army. He kept himself occupied by making his own tools and tending the garden.

On May 22, 1789, his beloved Ludwika Sosnowska sent a letter to Kościuszko:

"Cast an eye, dear friend on the date of this letter and you shall see that I am at a place of remembrance. I cannot leave

it without sending you news of myself and not expressing that I wish to hear the same from you. I've been here for three weeks, cast in thought of the places which evoke such strong memories – both bad and good. There are more of the former, as you know well, dear friend. My visits here always move me to tears, and I spend hours thinking about the past.

Now let me speak about you. Prior to my departure from Warsaw there was talk of you. The king recalled the print you once gave him and was much moved. He praised your accomplishments in America and said he absolutely has to arrange an army commission for you.

The present Princess Rozalia Radzwill often speaks of you. She reinforced the king's fine temperament by supporting your cause. I shall be content if you are convinced that no one under the sun cares about your fate as genuinely as I do. I never think of you without my soul and heart being moved. It is a simple thing: my soul is not thankless, and it was you who evoked in me the first feelings of caring and love."

It was not until five years after returning to Poland, that the King, executing the law passed by the Great Sejm, enlarged the army to 100,000 and appointed Kościuszko to the position of Brigadier General.

The Russian Empress Catherine II was displeased with this increase. In 1792 the Russian Army crossed into Polish territory in order to force the King and the Sejm to bend to her will. The result was a clash of arms with a victorious battle in Zielence, led by Kościuszko. He was awarded the first "Virtuti Militari"

cross.

Kościuszko was a sensitive commander who knew how to take advantage of the terrain and fortifications in defensive battle – a method of resistance characteristic to him.

Following this conquest, the news that the King had agreed to join the Targowica Confederation and had ordered the termination of all military activities against the Russian Army came as a complete surprise. After making certain his soldiers were safe, Kościuszko resigned from his post. He left Poland under the pseudonym "T. Bieda" (poor) – which was how he signed his farewell letter to his friend, Princess Izabella Czartoryska.

He went to Leipzig to discuss strategy for a planned uprising with Hugo Kollataj and Ignacy Potocki and then left for Paris to engage assistance. He received no backing from the Girondists, a political faction in France during the French Revolution.

News from Poland and proclamations of him as a leader of the uprising obligated Kościuszko to make certain preparations. General Antoni Madaliński gave the signal for the uprising to begin. He refused to reduce his brigade and set off for Kraków. Russian army units followed.

Kościuszko arrived through a roundabout route on March 23, 1794. He brought with him the *Insurrection Act* that he had prepared with Kollataj and Potocki – the doc-



In order to strengthen the Polish forces, Kościuszko issued an act of mobilization, requiring that every five houses in Małopolska (Lesser Poland) delegate at least one able male soldier equipped with carbine, pike, or an axe. Kościuszko's Commission for Order in Kraków recruited all males between 18 and 28 years of age. The difficulties with providing enough armament for the mobilized troops made Kościuszko form large units composed of peasants armed with scythes, called *kosynierzy* (scythemens).

ument that was to be the motto for the entire nation.

The following morning at 9:00, he attended Mass, after which he pledged that he was ready to give his life for his country: for the insulted majesty of the republic; for liberty; and for independence.

At approximately 10:00 the same morning in Kraków's main market square Kościuszko and his battalion swore allegiance to the uprising in front of a large crowd:

"I, Tadeusz Kościuszko, swear before God and the Polish nation that I shall not use the power entrusted to me for private gain, but only in defense of our borders in regaining our independence, and in solidifying the general freedoms, so help me God!"

Besides the main motto "Freedom, Entirety, and Independence" (Wolność, Całość, Niepodległość), there arose another motto: "Death or Victory!"

On April 1, Kościuszko began a march to Warsaw and on route prevented two Russian armies under Generals Tormasov and Devisov from combining forces.

On April 4, 1794 the historic Battle of Raclawice was fought. Kościuszko was well aware the peasants, armed only with scythes were unbeatable in a fight against Russian artillery cannons, which could only fire once during an extended period of time. At Kościuszko's commands – "Capture those cannons" and "Faith to the fore," they began running and did not

allow a second salvo to be fired. Wojciech Bartosz of Rządowice even extinguished a cannon's fuse with his own cap. The heroic unit of scythe bearing peasants earned the honorable title, "Kraków Grenadier Regiment."

next month: The Insurrection and Final Chapter

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