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REVIEW:
PAWEŁ PAWLIKOWSKI'S
COLD WAR
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PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, NEW YORK
AND ADDITIONAL ENTRY OFFICES

REMEMBERING OUR DEPARTED • POLAND'S RISKY "AMERICA FIRST" POLICY • EXPLORE YOUR SLAVIC SPIRIT
DEFENSE MINISTER BLASZCZAK VISITS NATIONAL KATYN MEMORIAL • MARKING ST. JOHN PAUL II'S ANNIVERSARY
RIBBON CUTTING IN ASHTON • TOKARCZUK DRAWS CROWDS • PLANNING AHEAD: THREE OR MORE-COURSE WIGILIA

Newsmark

POLAND SIGNS DEAL TO BUY GAS FROM U.S. (RFE/RL) Poland's state-run gas company says it has sealed a 20-year deal to buy liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the United States in a bid to reduce its dependence on Russian supplies.

"Today we can fulfill our efforts to improve the sovereignty, security, and competitiveness of our gas sector," Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki told reporters in Warsaw.

Morawiecki said the contract will help reduce Poland's reliance on Russia's state-owned energy giant Gazprom.

The contract between the Polish Oil and Gas Company (PGNiG) and U.S.-based Venture Global LNG will provide Poland annually with up to 2 million tons of liquefied natural gas per year, the equivalent of 2.7 billion cubic meters of natural gas. The contract will come into full force in 2022, when Poland's current agreement with Gazprom for an annual 10 billion cubic meters of natural gas is set to conclude.

CONCERT MARKS INDEPENDENCE CENTENARY. A concert in Warsaw for 50,000 people will be one of the highlights of November celebrations marking the centenary of Poland regaining its independence.

Singer Kayah will be among the stars taking to the stage at the free, two-and-a-half-hour concert at the Polish capital's National Stadium on November 10.

On Independence Day, November 11, Warsaw will host a colorful Independence Festival on the city's central Krakowskie Przedmieście Street.

Deputy Culture Minister Jarosław Sellin said families would be able to enjoy parades, listen to Polish music, taste Polish cuisine, and see fashion from the inter-war period as well as antique cars and horse-drawn carriages.

"The point is to take a step back in time to see what Poland, Warsaw, and Krakowskie Przedmieście looked like in the inter-war period," Sellin added.

Poland regained independence on November 11, 1918, the day World War I ended, after 123 years of partition by Russia, Austria and Prussia.

SALUTES PULASKI. President Donald Trump saluted Polish American hero Casimir Pulaski, who was being commemorated in the United States on October 11.

"General Pulaski embodied the special bond that the American and Polish people cherish to this day," said Trump. "More than two centuries after the General's heroic death, and 100 years since Poland gained its own independence, the United States of America and Poland continue to share a kindred devotion to the cause of freedom and to strengthening the bilateral relationship between our two countries."

In September, Poland and the United States signed what officials hailed as a landmark declaration mapping out the path for Polish-American cooperation in the years ahead.

HIGH-SPEED RAIL FOR V4 STATES. Transport ministers from Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary have agreed to build a high-speed rail link between their four countries, said Poland's PAP news agency.

Poland's Andrzej Adamczyk, the Czech Republic's Dan Ťok, Hungary's Péter Szijjártó, and Slovakia's Ľudovít Ľavoslav Ľavoslav signed a joint declaration to go ahead with the project, which is expected to see trains travel at high speeds between Warsaw, Prague, Bratislava, and Budapest.

At a meeting in Štrbské Pleso in Slovakia, the four ministers announced plans to establish a working group to prepare a feasibility study for the project.

The news agency quoted Poland's Infrastructure Minister Andrzej Adamczyk as saying that trains would in the future travel at speeds ranging from 150 to over 200 mph in the region, with the journey time from Warsaw to Budapest, for example, shortened to just over three hours "in the fastest option," from almost 12 hours today.

Taking Flight



POLISH AUTHOR OLGA TOKARCZUK toured six states in the United States in September and October. Her appearance on Sept. 30 at the Open Book bookstore in Minneapolis drew a diverse crowd of some 200 people as she discussed her work, *Flights*, translated into English last year and recently nominated for a U.S. National Book Award. *Story on page 8.*

Polish Museum of America Recognized by UNESCO

by Geraldine
Balut Coleman

CHICAGO —On September 28, the Polish Museum of America (PMA) was recognized at the Belvedere Palace in Warsaw, Poland, in conjunction with the recognition of 100 years of Poland's regained independence. Selected documents from the museum's Polish National

Document (PND) collection that had been held in the PMA Archives were entered into the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Memory of the World Register for 2018.

Present during the ceremony were Minister Wojciech Kolarski, undersecretary of state in the cabinet of the president, who read a letter

from Andrzej Duda, president of the Republic of Poland; Prof. Piotr Gliński, deputy prime minister and minister of culture and national heritage; Prof. Magdalena Gawin, undersecretary of state; Prof. Sławomir Ratajski, Polish national commission for UNESCO secretary-general; and Dr. Wojciech Woźniak, state archives of Poland director and chairman of the UNESCO

Memory of the World Program Polish Committee.

Accepting the official certificate of recognition on behalf of the PMA was its president, Richard Owsiany, who said "I am very pleased that the Polish National Department documents held at the PMA Archives were formally entered into the UNESCO

See "PMA ...," page 4

PREPARING FOR A
POLISH CHRISTMAS

The Basics of Wigilia Symbolism Preparation Implementation

by Robert Strybel

Nearly every Polish American has heard that in Polish tradition it is Christmas Eve or Wigilia that encapsulates the essence of Yuletide. It is full of is full of beautiful old symbolism and most everything about it is special and different. This article will attempt to put things into sharper focus. Whether you are holding a traditional Wigilia in your immediate family circle or planning a community Oplatek-Dinner, here are some things to bear in mind.

MIND OVER MATTER. If you regularly celebrate the traditional Polish Wigilia in your family circle, then you know what a beautiful, uplifting and enriching gather

See "Wigilia ...," page 4

Duda Extolls American Polonia



"We are proud of the achievements of the Polonia in the U.S., and for passing on the Polish language and history," said Poland's President Andrzej Duda during his recent trip to the United States.

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Poland's President Andrzej Duda concluded his days-long hectic official visit to the United States on September 18, 2018 at the residence of Ambassador Piotr Wilczek. It was time to relax after just meeting with President Donald Trump in the White

House, and then afterwards with leading members of the U.S. Congress on Capitol Hill. The occasion was a "Special Concert Celebrating the Centennial of Poland's Regained Independence," performed by pianist Thomas Pandolfi. Approximately 150 guests were in attendance; especially present was a large cross-section of the American

Polonia.

After being introduced by Ambassador Wilczek, President Duda spoke for over 30 minutes — first in excellent English and then more officially in translated Polish — on a variety of subjects. They included recalling Poland's 128-year struggle to regain its independence in 1918, thanks to the insistence of U.S. President Woodrow Wilson and Point Thirteen of his famous Fourteen Points manifesto that he delivered during the Treaty of Versailles that ended World War I. When in 1989 Poland bravely threw off its 1945 Russian/communist imposed shackles, Duda largely credited American support led by President Ronald Reagan and that of Pope John Paul II. The thus-emboldened Solidarity movement triggered a wave of freedom that spread across Eastern Europe.

President Duda mentioned the long history and mutual continuance of the strong relationship between Poland

See "Duda ...," page 4

Secretary of State Visits Cleveland



POLAND'S SECRETARY OF STATE and Senator Anna Maria Anders with author Andrew "Andrzej Bajda" (center), and Music Director of St. Stanislaus Church David Krakowski.

by Joseph Feckanin

CLEVELAND — Greater Cleveland's Polish American community had a special visitor in September. Anna Maria Anders, senator and secretary of state in the government of Poland, came to recognize the soldiers and families of the famous "Anders Army," formed out of Polish deportees Soviet Russia had exiled to Siberia in 1939 when Russia and Germany were allies.

The Poles in Siberia were later allowed by Russia after the amnesty to form an army to help defeat Germany, now its enemy, during World War II.

Her father was the famed general, Wladyslaw Anders, who led the army.

Secretary Anders was co-hosted by the John Paul II Polish American Cultural Center in Slavic Village, and local author and professor Andrew Bajda. His father, Marian, was a soldier in the Anders Army.

An exhibit, "Trail of Hope," was on display at the Cultural Center through September 30. It tells the story of the ordeal of these Poles, many of whom settled in Cleveland.

On Sept. 23, a Mass was held at St. Stanislaus Church with a reception following at the Cultural Center. Senator Anders was well received by the local community. Her mission was to make aware, recognize and thank the survivors and their families for their sacrifices.

While here, Anders was treated to a Cleveland Browns football game, which the team won.

Kalinowski Turns 104

MOODUS, Conn. — Family and friends gathered on October 1, 2018 to wish Viola Kalinowski continued good health, and a happy 104th birthday. She was born in Connecticut in 1914.

Flights Cancelled as LOT Cabin Crew, Pilots Strike

WARSAW (PAP) — Twelve flights to and from Warsaw were cancelled on October 24, 2018 as cabin crew and pilots from Poland's national carrier continue to strike, a spokesman for the airline has said.

According to LOT Polish Airlines, the strike is "illegal" and each flight cancellation is generating "huge costs," the PAP news agency

Remembering Our Departed on All Saints Day

by Mark Kohan

November 1 is celebrated as **All Saints Day**, a very special occasion, both in Poland and in Polish American communities.

In Poland, millions travel across the country to visit family graves and graves of their dear ones, lighting candles and laying flowers and wreaths. The biggest cemeteries in major cities are crowded and roads leading to them are often congested with traffic. Many of the cemeteries have the status of historical sites with centuries-old monuments. As state funds are hardly adequate in face of the actual needs for restoration works, volunteers, mainly well-known actors and artists, are collecting money from the visitors. Prime examples of such cemeteries with extraordinary historical value are Powazki in Warsaw and the Rakowicki cemetery in Krakow, considered the biggest such necropoleis in Europe.

November 1 is also an occasion to pay respect to those who sacrificed their lives for Polish independence or had been the victims of tragic events in the country's turbulent history. Candles are also lit at these special commemorative places

All Saints Day is a religious holiday of Catholic origin. Nevertheless, it is also observed by many other denominations in Poland. Celebrations of All Saints Day — previously held on May 1 — on November 1 were established in the 9th Century by Pope Gregory IV.

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With the year's end around the corner, we ask our readers to consider a donation to the Polish American Journal Foundation. It is a 503c non-profit organization, the funds of which are used for the promotion of Polish American culture. Most recently, the PAJF awarded a scholarship to Morgan Szukalowski, a health services major at Davenport University, whose winning essay on the centennial of Poland's rebirth was featured in last month's PAJ.

Donations are accepted in any amount, 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.

To make a donation, or to learn more, call 1 (800) 422-1275, or visit the PAJ's website at www.polamjournal.com.

In Brief ...

I am honored to have been elected to serve on the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College. Consistently ranked among the top regional institutions in the Northeast, Canisius is the premier private university in Western New York, and one of 28 Jesuit, Catholic colleges in the nation. The school's ties to Polonia are strong. Our Religion Editor, Fr. Benjamin Fiore, S.J., was one of my professors at Canisius. President of the Polish Singers Alliance of America Mary Lou Wyrobek is currently a professor there.

The Polish Chair was established at Canisius in 1959.

Please see the notice in this month's PAJ Press Fund, where you can read about the PAJ's main workstation, a nine-year-old Dell computer, which — in spite of efforts to prolong its existence — has been proclaimed "past its prime." Donations to the Press Fund will be used to pay off the bank loan on its replacement.

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What Others Are Saying

Poland's Risky "America first" Policy

Courting isolation in Europe, Warsaw bets the store on "Fort Trump."

by Paul Taylor

WARSAW — Poland has a new foreign policy: "America first."

The ruling nationalists in Warsaw are gambling on personal chemistry and political affinity with U.S. President Donald Trump to ensure their security from a revisionist Russia even as they isolate themselves from the rest of the European Union.

Putting so many eggs in the American basket is a risky strategy, not just because of Trump's unpredictability and uncertain duration in power, but also because Warsaw is about to lose its best friend in the EU — the U.K. — and has no obvious alternative ally in Brussels.

Poles, who have enjoyed 25 years of spectacular economic growth and rising living standards since the fall of communism, may pay a high price financially and politically for their government's escalating defiance of EU norms on judicial independence, without gaining any greater protection against Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In his quest to make Poland great again, Jarosław Kaczyński, who chairs the ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party but holds no state office, has simultaneously offended his country's biggest economic partner, Germany, and clashed with neighbors Ukraine and Lithuania by playing "memory politics" — raking over historical grievances.

Kaczyński climbed down fast after he outraged the United States and Israel with a law that threatened up to three years in prison for anyone suggesting that the Polish nation played a role in the Nazi extermination of Jews in Poland. But he has refused to concede to the EU over a purge of senior judges and legislation subjugating the justice system to government control.

PiS politicians have also demanded that Germany pay reparations for the Nazi devastation of Poland during World War II and encouraged the U.S. to impose sanctions on companies involved in the NordStream 2 gas pipeline from Russia to Germany.

European diplomats worry that hard-liners in the White House are using a willing Warsaw as a wedge to divide and weaken the EU, with which Trump has clashed over trade, climate change, defense spending, Middle East diplomacy and global governance.

The president singled out Poland for praise — in explicit contrast to Germany — in his annual address to the United Nations. "In Poland, a great people are standing up for their independence, their security and their sovereignty," Trump declared, warning that "Germany will become totally dependent on Russian energy if it does not immediately change course."

Kaczyński claims to have raised Poland from its knees in dealings with Berlin and Brussels. But his frequent EU-bashing in the name of patriotism and Christian values could tip the Continent's most pro-European electorate toward contemplating a "Polexit" once the current massive inflow of EU development funds dwindles.

His alliance with fellow Euroskeptic Viktor Orbán, Hungary's

prime minister, may shield Poland from a unanimous EU decision to sanction it for violating fundamental rights. But it won't save either country from a sharp cut in EU funds in the long-term budget if they continue to alienate the bloc's Western paymasters, notably by refusing to take in a share of refugees arriving in Europe.

"I believe the situation in Poland really resembles in every aspect the situation in the U.K. before the [2016 Brexit] referendum," European Commissioner Elżbieta Bieńkowska, a former deputy prime minister from the opposition Civic Platform party, told a conference of the Polish employers' confederation Lewiatan. "Eighty percent of information in the public media about the EU is wrong and negative."

Instead of trying to use Washington or its Central European peers to counter German and French influence, Warsaw would do better to hedge its strategic bets and repair badly damaged ties with the EU, Berlin and Paris.

BOOTS ON THE GROUND. Warsaw's strategy of playing America off against Europe was highlighted when President Andrzej Duda, on a visit to the White House last month, offered more than \$2 billion to secure a permanent U.S. armored base on Polish soil. That would be on top of the rotating military presence that NATO allies, including the U.S. and Germany, have deployed to reassure Poland and the Baltic states following Moscow's seizure of Crimea and its intervention in eastern Ukraine.

Playing to the U.S. commander-in-chief's narcissism, Duda declared: "I hope we will build Fort Trump in Poland together, Mr. President."

A visibly flattered Trump responded that he is "very seriously considering" the base idea, which plays well with the estimated nine million strong Polish American community in the run-up to mid-term elections.

However, critics in the Pentagon and the U.S. military say such a fixed presence would tie down scarce combat units to deter an improbable Russian invasion, reduce available forces for missions around the world, divide NATO and potentially provoke an undesired Kremlin response.

The U.S. already has more than 3,000 military personnel in Poland on a variety of bilateral and NATO duties. But Kaczyński, obsessed by how Britain and France abandoned Poland to the Nazi German invasion and partition with Russia in 1939, sees permanent U.S. "boots on the ground" as the only dependable insurance against Russian aggression.

To be fair, there is a bipartisan consensus in Warsaw to seek an American base. It was the previous, pro-European center-right government of Donald Tusk, now president of the European Council, that first put the request to Washington a decade ago. But Tusk kept Poland in the EU mainstream, whereas Kaczyński has driven it to the sidelines with purges of the judiciary, public broadcasters, the civil service and the armed forces.

Poland has ceased to be the model of a successful transition to liberal market democracy that America and Europe could hold up as an example for other Central and Eastern European countries. It risks being relegated to the second division in a multispeed EU spearheaded by the

eurozone.

If the Democrats win the mid-terms, "Fort Trump" may fade away. But if Washington does move forward with the idea next year, some at NATO headquarters fear it could shatter the allied consensus in support of the current Enhanced Forward Presence on the alliance's eastern flank.

Germany, France and Southern Europeans worry that a permanent U.S. armored base would be unnecessarily provocative and breach the spirit of the 1997 NATO-Russia Founding Act. The charter stipulates that "in the current and foreseeable security environment" NATO did not envisage the "additional permanent stationing of substantial combat forces" in former Warsaw Pact countries that joined the alliance.

U.S. and Polish officials say Moscow made the agreement moot with its military intervention in Ukraine and its renunciation of the treaty limiting conventional forces in Europe. They also contend that a brigade of some 3,000 American soldiers could not conceivably constitute an offensive combat force, compared to the 350,000 troops in Russia's Western Military District.

But U.S. military experts say there are better ways to strengthen the defense of NATO's eastern frontier than tying down a brigade in Poland. The focus should instead be on deploying more enablers such as planning staff and stored equipment, and investing in dual-use road, rail, pipeline and airstrip infrastructure to facilitate rapid reinforcement in a crisis.

A group of former Polish ambassadors warned the government in an open letter in July against the danger of "strategic isolation," saying that national security depends on two pillars — the U.S. and Europe — and pointing to Trump's ambiguity toward NATO and Russia.

"TRIUMPH OF ILLIBERALISM"

A study published by the Res Publica Foundation and the German Marshall Fund of the United States, imagines five possible scenarios for Central Europe to 2025. The most alarming involves a "triumph of illiberalism" spreading from Hungary and Poland across the Continent and leading to a gradual unraveling of the EU or a collapse of NATO, with the U.S. withdrawing from European security after disputes over trade and defense spending, prompting EU countries to pursue divergent national survival strategies with outside powers.

The more optimistic posits a revival of European unity in the face of fresh Russian military action in Ukraine, with Western European military and economic assistance pouring into Central Europe, sweeping away the current skepticism, or a Central European youth movement against corruption, illiberalism and official Euroskepticism beginning in Poland and spreading around the region, replacing a discredited political class with a new generation of pro-integration leaders.

In any scenario, Europe's future stability and cohesion hinges on the struggle for Poland.

Instead of trying to use Washington or its Central European peers to counter German and French influence, Warsaw would do better to hedge its strategic bets and repair badly damaged ties with the EU, Berlin and Paris.

— Politico

Almanac



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November Listopad

Czasy niekiedy bywają, że Wszyscy Święci w bielei przybywają. Sometimes we do, and sometimes we might. See All Saints Day come in white.

- ALL SAINTS DAY**
It was believed that during the days of Zaduszki in the autumn, the spirits of deceased relatives visited their old homes by gathering near the windows or the left side of the main doorway. 1777. **Casimir Pulaski** joins U.S.
- ALL SOUL'S DAY**
Dzien Zaduszny or *Zaduszki*. A national holiday in Poland to memorialize the deceased.
1930. First regular broadcast of the weekly *Fr. Justin Rosary Hour*, now the oldest Polish language radio program in the United States.
1990. Douglas Wakihuri of Kenya and **Wanda Panfil** of Poland won the New York City Marathon.
1370. Death of **Kazimierz III the Great** (b. 1330).
2003. Two American soldiers were killed near Baghdad and along the Syrian border. Polish forces suffered their first combat death when a Polish major was fatally wounded in an ambush south of the capital.
1867. Birth of chemist and physicist **Marie Skłodowska Curie**.
1632. Election of **Władysław IV Vasa**.
1673. Death of **Michael Korybut Wiśniowiecki**, ruler of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.
- ST. MARTIN**
A winter weather forecast is then made according to the color of breastbone-white (much snow); mottled (variable); black (light); black and white (mixed).
1892. Birth of **Stefan Paweł Mierzwa**, founder and first director of the Kosciuszko Foundation.
- ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA**
1916. Death of **Henryk Sienkiewicz**, 70, Polish novelist.
1794. **General Tomasz Wawrzecki** (1753-1816) surrenders to Russian troops, marking the end of the Kosciuszko Uprising, which began March 24.
1891. **Paderewski** gives his first concert in America.
1655. Swedes besiege the **Jasna Góra** monastery.
1815. **Krakow** declares itself a free republic.
1920. Birth of **Stan Musial**, baseball star with the Cardinals.
1980. Eighteen Communist Party secretaries in 49 provinces were ousted in Poland.
2005. Poland's two leading newspapers blacked out large sections of their front pages in protest against media repression in neighboring Belarus.
- ST. CATHERINE**
2005. Poland's defense minister signed an order that will give researchers access to most of the Warsaw Pact's top-secret archives.
1913. **Russia** forbids Polish congregation of speakers.
1815. Adoption of **Constitution** of the Kingdom of Poland.
1948. Birth of Polish film director **Agnieszka Holland**.
- ST. ANDREW'S EVE**
Andrzejki brings a night of fortune telling for mostly unmarried young ladies.

This paper mailed on or before **October 30, 2018**. The **December 2018** edition will be mailed on or before **November 28, 2018**

Wigilia

continued from cover

ing the Christmas Eve supper can be. Those wanting to re-introduce these customs from which people have drifted away may find some helpful hints below.

With Wigilia, it's a question of mind over matter; of choosing to observe the customs practiced by our ancestors for centuries. With regards to youngsters of pre-school age, is especially important to make a fuss about Wigilia and try to get them involved. Depending on their age, have them help with the preparations – assign tasks like setting up the nativity set, placing hay on the table, and watching for the first star. And tell them they will get their gifts right after supper and don't have to wait until the following day. Starting them young is the only way to pass these beautiful traditions down to the next generation.

SYMBOLISM. Unlike any other

family gathering the *wieczera wigilijna* (Christmas Eve supper) is rich in symbolic artifacts, gestures and practices. Hay symbolizes Jesus' humble manger bed, the meatless dishes reflect the Catholic practice of fasting ahead of a major feast day, and the sharing of *oplatek* signifies entering into inter-communion with one's loved ones. Twelve separate dishes are prepared in memory of the Apostles, although some families believe an odd number of foods should be served. The first star of the evening, the sign

for things to begin, commemorates the Star of Bethlehem which led the Three Kings to the stable. Highly symbolic is the extra place setting at the table in memory of a dearly departed loved one.

PREPARATION. To people everywhere aware of their Polish roots this is the single most important family meal of the year. It is full of beautiful old symbolism and most everything about it is special and different. Hay is scattered on the table beneath the table-cloth which should be pure white (not emblazoned with holly wreaths, poinsettias, reindeer, snowmen, elves, etc.), and there should be an extra place-setting at table. This may be in honor of Baby Jesus or in memory of a recently-departed family member, but it may be offered to a wandering stranger or a lonely neighbor who would have to spend this uniquely beautiful evening alone.

MENU. This particular repast is entirely meatless. Neither meat, rendered animal fat, pan drippings nor any meat-based stocks should be used in its preparation. The repast comprises either twelve or an odd number of dishes which are traditionally brought to the table one by one. On the table are the offerings of lakes and rivers, forests, fields and gardens, namely fish, grain and vegetables, fruits, nuts, poppyseeds and honey. Typical dishes include mushroom or beetroot soup, her-

ring, fried or baked fresh fish, sauerkraut and mushroom dishes, pierogi, fruit compote, noodles and poppyseeds, and — in Eastern Poland — a grain, honey and poppyseed dessert known as *kutia*.

IMPLEMENTATION. The festivities begin when the evening's first star appears in the sky. In religious families, it is customary to read the Gospel of St. Luke describing the birth of Christ (Chapter 2, Verses 1-19). After that Grace is said, *oplatek* is shared and best wishes are exchanged amid hugs and kisses by all present. After everyone is seated, no-one (except the hostess or whoever else is helping to serve the food) should get up from the table until the meal is over. When the wigilia supper is finished, family members exchange gifts from under the Christmas tree and sing kolędy. The culmination of this very special evening is family Midnight Mass at the parish church.



CHRISTMAS LORE. Everyone partaking of the wigilia supper should try a little or every dish served, and nothing should be left on one's place uneaten. Any fussy eater who leaves food on his plate may have to do without in the year ahead. There should be an even number of people at table. This was once very rigorously adhered to, because it was believed that the odd person appearing at the table would not live to see another Wigilia. Girls engage in fortune-telling games by pulling strands of hay from under the table-cloth. A yellow strand means marriage before the start of Lent, a green one foretells a longer wait and a withered strand signified a life of spinsterhood. On this one night a year, animals spoke in human voices at midnight and the water in wells turned to wine. But only those who had never sinned could taste it.

THE FOLLOW-UP. The Polish Christmas season begins with Advent at the start of December and stretches all the way to Candlemas (Feb. 2) with New Year's and Three Kings celebrations in between. But nothing in that two-month season can match Wigilia. Christmas Day and the second and third days of Christmas are anti-climactic. People attend church on December 25th and 26th and visit one another. But even if the socializing is marked by that high-powered Polish hospitality, it lacks the spiritual symbolism and structured practices so typical of Christmas Eve. Poles do not make a mad dash to open presents on Christmas morning nor do they make a fuss about "that big turkey dinner with all the trimmings" later in the day. Everything important has already occurred on Wigilia.

Rosary Hour

continued from cover

radio stations. The Vatican City Daily *L'Observatore Romano* called it "the greatest Polish Pulpit."

Today, the *Rosary Hour* continues through direct mailings and the internet, a format change that took place in 2006. From its website, one can read English translations of talks that date back to the 1930s.

The *Rosary Hour* can be reached at P.O. 454, Athol Springs, NY 14010, and on the internet at rosaryhour.com.

Defense Minister Blaszczak Visits National Katyn Memorial



Colonel Bogdan Pidanty, Major General Cezary Wisniewski, Minister of National Defense Mariusz Blaszczak and National Katyn Memorial Chairman Richard Poremski are sit in contemplation at the base of the National Katyn Memorial, as a floral wreath from Minister Blaszczak is presented in memory of the Polish Martyrs of the Katyn Forest Massacre.

by Richard Poremski

BALTIMORE — Poland's Minister of National Defense, Mariusz Blaszczak arrived here on Sept. 15, 2018 to officially visit The National Katyn Memorial. Included in the minister's entourage was his aide-de-camp Colonel Bogdan Pidanty, and Major General Cezary Wisniewski, the Embassy of the Republic of Poland's commanding military attaché. They were met and greeted by Richard Poremski, chairman of the National Katyn Memorial Foundation (NKMF), and several other foundation members, who dually serve in the leadership of the Polish

National Alliance, Polish Legion of American Veterans, Ojczyzna Polish Dancers, and the Krakowiaki Dance Group.

After Minister Blaszczak presented a floral wreath, he was given a guided tour of the Memorial and its signage by Chairman Poremski. Blaszczak expressed his utmost satisfaction and approval of the Memorial and its accouterments. To the defense minister's delight, Poremski presented him with a framed certificate of NKMF Honorary Membership, along with its embroidered Katyn armband. Secretary Thomas Rybczynski followed by presenting Blaszczak with a U.S. flag that

was flown over the U.S. Capitol in Washington on November 19, 2000 in commemoration of the National Katyn Memorial being dedicated on that day in Baltimore.

Before departing on additional business in Philadelphia, New Jersey and New York, Minister Blaszczak showed his appreciation by dispensing personalized bronze bas-relief medallions of his office to the event's organizers. To the NKMF, he presented a unique red and white metal applique-on-walnut plaque featuring the geographic outlines of Poland in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Poland this year on November 11, 2018.

Polish Museum

continued from cover

Memory of the World Register because it also recognizes Polonia's contributions towards Poland regaining its independence. It is an honor to participate in this grand ceremony." The State Archives of Poland and its selection committee had invited the PMA to participate in the UNESCO program.

The Polish National Department (PND), the central organization of Polish emigrants in America, active between 1916 and 1925, held the first and one of its most complete document collections in the PMA Archives. The PND Collection includes evidence of the tireless and daily efforts of Poles in America, who on the advice

and urging of Ignacy Paderewski, many American Polonia leaders, and representatives of the Polish clergy, including the first Polish bishop in America, Bishop Paul Rhode, went to war in order to restore Poland as a free and independent country. The documents exhibited at the Belweder Palace give evidence of the little known and often underestimated contributions of American Polonia to Poland's regained independence.

Poland's Supreme Director of State Archives Wojciech Woźniak (left) and Polish Museum of America President Richard Oswiany



Duda. "Thank you ... for your Polishness ..."

continued from cover

and the United States in many areas, beginning with America's Revolutionary War onward to the present time.

"Poland was the first to fight in World War II from the first to the last day — and during the last days (two years) of World War II, we were together." He expanded upon the close military cooperation with the U.S. and NATO — including operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, establishment of U.S. forces in Poland, and Poland's significant military contributions to the security of Eastern and Central Europe. Large scale mutual economics and bi-lateral trade were addressed, too. He made mention the recently-established importation of American liquefied natural gas that makes Poland's and Europe's

energy supply more secure.

President Duda spoke familial volumes about — and heaped much praise upon — the American Polonia, with his heartfelt remarks resounding among the guests.

"Over the past few trying decades, the support of the Polish-American community for Poland was invaluable. All over the world, there is 15 million Poles, and 10 million are in the United States," he said. "Thanks to Polonia's role here the idea of Poland's independence was nurtured, including championing Poland's entry into NATO. The achievements of Polish America are a pride to both our nations. Polish community organizations are functioning to make worthy contributions to the United States, and it has produced a number of wonderful and talented leaders to serve the American society. We are proud of

the achievements of the Polonia in the U.S., and for passing on the Polish language and history — we are grateful to you for that."

"I would like to convey to you from the people of Poland a huge thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your Polishness and our shared Polish identity. God Bless Poland! — and God Bless America!" said President Duda.

After the piano concert of Chopin music and dinner, the president circulated among the guests in a very affable and approachable manner. He spoke both to individuals and groups of guests, with many accompanying photo opportunities (and ubiquitous selfies) eagerly taken. President Duda left a strong and admirable lasting impression among the guests in the true spirit of Polish — American solidarity and friendship before he departed for Warsaw.

Religion

Court Strikes Down Pro-abortion Requirement

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Thomas More Society Special Counsel Sarah Pitlyk successfully defended pro-life organizations including a home for pregnant women, Catholic grammar schools, and a holding company with a Catholic owner from having to hire pro-abortion proponents and to rent to abortion clinics or be required to cover or pay for abortions in their employee health plans.

St. Louis Catholic elementary schools and Our Lady's Inn (a pregnant women's home) argued that hiring pro-abortion advocates would be contrary to their mission and affect the ability of the Inn to advocate for its services and encourage women to forgo abortions. Pitlyk noted that the so-called Missouri Religious Freedom Restoration Act "claims to protect abortion supporters from discrimination" but is actually "an attempt to suppress the viewpoint of those who believe abortion is harmful or wrong" and make it impossible for that to function within St. Louis, Missouri.

With this victory, St. Louis is no longer a "Sanctuary City" for abortion as the law intended to make it.

FAITH-BASED ADOPTION AGENCIES IMPERILED. A 2015 law passed with the backing of the Michigan Catholic Conference prevents state-funded adoption and foster agencies from being forced to place children in violation of their beliefs.

The law has come under attack by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) as unconstitutional and in violation of the equal protection and establishment clauses of the U.S. Constitution. In 2015 about 25% of Michigan adoption and foster-care agencies were faith-based and have

helped place thousands of vulnerable children. David Maluchnik, spokesman for the Michigan Catholic Conference, explained that the law aimed to protect "the right of these agencies to operate in accordance with their religious mission."

This freedom is now in jeopardy as befall similar Catholic and faith-based agencies in Boston, Buffalo, and Illinois. The lawsuit was initiated when a woman and her civilly recognized female partner were turned down by Catholic Charities and Bethany Christian Services.

In Buffalo, Catholic Charities withdrew from placing children to avoid litigation with the state over discrimination when a man and his male spouse applied for a placement.

ORTHODOX CHURCH AIMS TO BECOME AUTOCEPHALOUS.

With the consent of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople together with other Orthodox Church officials the Ukrainian Orthodox Church is on the verge of receiving independent status.

This would sever the dependency of the church in Kyiv on the patriarchate of Moscow. The Russian Church did not recognize the Kyivan Patriarchate's declaration of independence from Moscow in 1992 Church history, however, is on Kyiv's side since the church in Kyiv was never officially subjected to Moscow but rather always retained Constantinople as its head.

The issue has become heated since the Moscow patriarchate supports the Russian seizure of Ukrainian Crimea and its support of the separatists in eastern Ukraine. The Kyiv patriarchate comprises some

2/5 of the membership of the Moscow patriarchate. Patriarch Kirill in Moscow has removed Patriarch Bartholomew's name from the prayer books, will no longer celebrate liturgies with him and accused him of the "heresy of papism."

SETTLEMENT APPROVED FOR ABUSE VICTIMS.

A U.S. bankruptcy court in Minnesota has approved a settlement in favor of victims of clergy abuse in the archdiocese of Minneapolis-St. Paul and granted the 450 victims \$210 million.

Archbishop Bernard Hebda apologized to the victims and hailed their courage and persistence for spurring needed change. "The practices, procedures and audits we have adopted to stop future abuse may not be enough to restore your trust or belief in the Church ... but the changes you insisted upon are keeping kids safer right now. Thank you for that."

\$170 million of the settlement will come from archdiocesan and parochial insurers and \$40 million will come from other diocesan and parish sources. Lawyers will receive \$20 million in lawyers' fees as well as about 30% of each victim's settlement.

FAIRBANKS BISHOP VISITS REMOTE SETTLEMENTS.

Bishop Chad Zielinski of the RC Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska, took a 45-minute boat ride with Br. Bob Ruzicka his internal coordinator to visit the village of Koyukuk on the Yukon River. There he celebrated a Confir-

mation Mass for the granddaughter of two village elders. He also participated in the one-year anniversary of the death of the elders' deceased daughter. The first anniversary of death is significant to Athabaskan and Yup'ik culture. After the ceremony the deceased's belongings were distributed and a potlatch meal was enjoyed by all in attendance. In Nulato, the next village, they offered anointing of the sick to elders and participated in another one-year of death ceremony. Bishop Chad then flew back to Fairbanks.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

Very Rev. Fryderyk S. Banas pastor of Holy Cross Parish PNCC in Ware, Mass. On the 68th anniversary of his ordination. He began his priestly ministry as assistant to Rev. John Z. Jasinski, pastor of Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral in Buffalo, N.Y. in 1950. He returned there as pastor in 1977. He is the longest serving priest still pastoring in Ware, Mass. The son of **Stanley & Valeria Szczepanek Banas**, he grew up in Holy Mother of the Rosary parish in Chicopee, Mass, where he celebrated his first solemn Mass.

Modlitwy

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

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Dear Subscribers and Advertisers,

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Our Christmas edition is one the most widely read papers of the year. The funds it generates allow us to continue publishing throughout the year. Can we count on you to help us?

Please fill out the form below and return by the **Wednesday, November 14 deadline.** The paper will be mailed to subscribers November 27.

We thank you in advance for your generosity. We wish you and your family a Merry Christmas, and a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku,

Mark Kohan
Editor



"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child."

— Luke 2:1-6

Rev. Msgr. Anthony Czarnecki 2018 "Pride of Polonia Award" Recipient

DOYLESTOWN, Pa. — On Aug. 26, 2018, the Solemnity of Our Lady of Czestochowa was celebrated with a 12:30 Mass at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa. Most Reverend Thomas G. Wenski, Archbishop, Archdiocese of Miami, was the main celebrant and the homilist was Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Antoni Debinski, Rector, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (KUL). At the conclusion of the Mass, the 2018 Polish Apostolate Pride of Polonia Award was presented to Reverend Monsignor Anthony Czarnecki by Archbishop Wenski and Reverend Canon Miroslaw K. Krol, Chancellor of Orchard Lake Schools and the Polish Apostolate National Chairman.



Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C., in the office of Migration and Refugee Services and was responsible for developing and coordinating pastoral care of the migrant communities in the United States. He was given the responsibility to coordinate the pastoral ministry of all the Shrines in the U.S., and published several editions of a directory of all the shrines and places of pilgrimages in the country.

MSGR. CZARNECKI served as a member of the pilgrimage committee for the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., director of the National Office of the Polish Apostolate, International Committee of the Vatican JPII Foundation, helped organize several chapters of the foundation in the U.S. and served on the executive committee in establishing the JPII Cultural Center in Washington, D.C. He was named a Monsignor by Pope John Paul II in 1994.

In 1993, he was appointed Pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in Webster, Mass., where he currently serves. Through his efforts, the church was renovated and elevated to the dignity of a Basilica in 1998. With the help of his parishioners and friends, he built a new gymnasium and parish center.

The Pride of Polonia Award was established in 1992 by the executive board of the Polish Apostolate to recognize individuals who make unique contributions to the Polish community and are involved in philanthropic activities. The first recipient was John Cardinal Krol.

The recipient of this distinguished award, Rev. Msgr Anthony Czarnecki, was born in Czarna Poland, ordained a priest in 1966, joined the Worcester Diocese in 1971, served as assistant pastor at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish in Worcester and St. Andrew Bobola in Dudley, holds a master's degree in liberal arts from Assumption College in Worcester, Mass., and a JCL degree in Canon Law from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

He worked at the United States

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Happenings: Chicago Style

PMA and Dar Serca Host Art Exhibit

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — On September 8, the eighth annual **Art For The Heart** benefit exhibition opened as a collaboration between **Dar Serca** (Gift From the Heart) Foundation and the **Polish Museum of America** (PMA). Over 150 guests gathered in the Sabina P. Logisz Hall of the PMA for the opportunity to meet local Polish and Polish American artists and to view their artwork. Attendees also had the opportunity to view the PMA's own outstanding art collections.

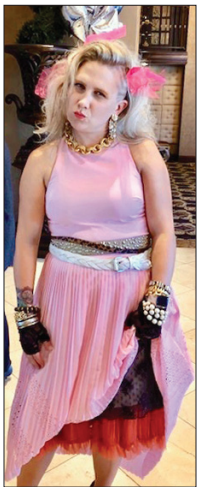
Joanna Zelaya, director of the Junior Board of Dar Serca, noted that this annual opening gala and the purchase of artwork provides funds to benefit both the children of Dar Serca and the PMA. Vice President Diana Lebiecki added that, this year, Dar Serca was able to provide medical help for 30 children. Its president, Dorothy Malachowski, thanked guests for attending and encouraged them to purchase exhibited works.

This year's jurors, Fletcher Hayes and Kim Laurel, both Chicago-based artists, chose 13 artists to exhibit. They included Irena Czajkowska, Maryna Danylovych, Joanna Gajkowska, Teresa Gierwiłaniec Rozanacki, Voytek Glinkowski, Lina Grigorova, Stanisław Kielar, Krystyna Kozyuk, Anna Mycek-Wodecki, Bernadeta Polak, Karolina Maria Siwiak, Agata Smetaniuk, and Ewa Uszpolewicz-Figurski. All the works displayed, sculptures, paintings, photographs, and jewelry, were for sale. All proceeds benefited Dar Serca and the PMA.

The opening gala was enhanced with music provided by DJ Danny G and Polish culinary delights provided by Kasia's Deli and Oak Mill Bakery.

LEGENDS IN CONCERT.

The **Legion of Young Polish Women** (LYPW) hosted a luncheon, its "Legends in Concert," and a fashion show to benefit the Legion's scholarship fund on September 23 at the Chateau Ritz in Niles, Illinois. The 200 guests were treated to the



Alex Cornwell as Cyndi Lauper.

lip-sync performances of Legion members, debutantes, young men from the Polonia Ensemble, and Andy Hasztrakiewicz. Songsters being imitated included Doris Day, Cyndi Lauper, Katy Perry, Helen Reddy, Carole King, Frank Sinatra, Roy Orbison, Taylor Swift, Elvis Presley, Violetta Vilas, Maryla Rodowicz, Kenny Rogers, and Justin Timberlake.

Children and grandchildren of Legion members ended the performance by singing "Can't Stop The Feeling."

Hosting and greeting guests was



Motorcyclists at PNA

Mary Sendra Anselmo. Among those donating to the silent auction were Black Tie Formalwear, Honey Baked Hams, Six Flags Great America, and Chicago Hilton. The grand raffle prize of a one-night stay at the Chicago Hilton for the 2019 White and Red Ball and two tickets to the Ball was won by Ania Ostrowska, the second prize of \$300 was won by Legion member Paulina Kulka, and the third prize of \$200 was won by Legion member Cherilyn Denisiuk. Additionally, guests were anxious to win other raffle items valued up to \$200.

In addition, Legion members, debutantes, and children modeled the latest in fashion designs from three women-owned businesses, Ania's Styles of Des Plaines, Obsession of Arlington Heights, and DejaVu Children's Boutique.

POL AM MOTORCYCLE PARADE. The **Polish American Motorcycle Independence Parade** was held Sept. 2 to celebrate and commemorate the 100-year anniversary of Poland regaining its independence. Because of the historical significance, Chicago area Polish American motorcycle clubs invited members of Polonia, as well as friends of Poland and Polonia, to participate. The goal of the parade

was to show pride in Polish ancestry and to honor Polish history. The slogan of the parade was, "I Love Poland and You Love Her Too." Over 500 motorcyclists began the procession on the grounds of the Polish National Alliance (PNA) Headquarters on Chicago's Northwest Side and rode nine miles to Holy Trinity Polish Mission Church. Once all motorcyclists arrived at Holy Trinity, a short rest and a light meal were provided. All participants then gathered outside church for a special ceremony, and Rev. Andrzej Totzke, SChr, Pastor of Holy Trinity, gave

the event a blessing. At the conclusion of the parade, there was a special mass.

PIEROGI & FUN FESTIVAL. On Aug. 26, a crowd of over 4,000 attended the **Pierogi & Fun Festival** hosted by the Dar Serca (Gift From the Heart) Foundation of Schiller Park. Mayor Nick Caiafa welcomed all to this year's festival that took place in the Schiller Park METRA railroad station parking lot, since more room was needed for this event that is becoming more and more popular. He commented that income from Dar Serca activities are used to provide for the needs of sick children from Poland who come to the U.S. for treatment.

"It's a great organization that does everything in its power to help sick and disabled children," he said.

With the support of the mayor, the generosity of sponsors, and the dedicated work of Gift From the Heart volunteers, this year's festival yielded over \$11,500. Dar Serca's president, Dorothy Malachowski, expressed gratitude to all those involved in making the festival a success, including local police and firemen, the food and beer vendors, volunteers, and those who attended.

Polish cuisine was sold and promoted among the multi-ethnic



Miss Illinois, Karolina Jaško, with Schiller Park Police officers.

Schiller Park residents, of which 30% are of Polish heritage. Guests from Chicago and other suburbs and even visitors from Poland enjoyed the day. In addition to the Polish culinary delights, all were treated to music, dancing, and a variety of children's activities.

linton Heights, Illinois, to discuss the importance of the Polish diaspora, approaches for researching family roots, and how the achievements of American Poles at various social and military levels enhance the research.



Octava Ensemble

OCTAVA ENSEMBLE PERFORMS LOCALLY. At St. Ferdinand Church on Chicago's Northwest side, Renaissance and Baroque music enthusiasts had the opportunity to listen to the music of the **Octava Ensemble** from Krakow on September 10. The eight singers performed an hour-long a cappella concert of music ranging from Polish church music to patriotic and military songs.

The ensemble was formed in 2004 in its home of Krakow, but most concerts are performed outside of Poland. This year, it performed in the U.S., Japan, Australia, and Croatia. The singers specialize in music from the Renaissance and Baroque periods, as well as the avant-garde works of Penderecki and other contemporary composers. On September 21, the ensemble performed at the Polish American Medical Society's jubilee gala. Following this performance, the ensemble travelled to Michigan to perform at the Polish Mission at Orchard Lake.

Friday was spent by the participants visiting about a dozen or so locations related to the history of Poles and Polonia in Chicago. On Saturday, attendees listened to guest speakers, who spoke of the importance of the Polish diaspora. They included Ceil Wendt Jensen, internationally-acclaimed certified genealogist and Polish genealogy expert; Fred Hoffman, genealogical research author; Marsha Peterson-Maass, editor of the Chicago Genealogy Society; and Tadeusz Piłat, specialist in Greek Catholics in Poland.

The PGSA was established in 1978 to provide support to those members who are looking for their family roots in the United States. Its main goal is to be instrumental in researching the history of families, collecting and storing data about ancestors in the U.S., creating a forum for the exchange of informational research, and continued exploration of new research methods. For information, visit pgsamerica@pgsa.org.

New Release from the Lira Ensemble!

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Ribbon Cutting in Ashton



A NEW POLISH HERITAGE CENTER in the central Nebraska town of Ashton was opened following a ribbon cutting and dedication. Shown with board members are: Judy Welniak, board president; Fr. David Rykwalder; and Bishop Emeritus William Dendinger.

The center is home to the offices, a museum, library, a genealogical collection, and meeting rooms. The building itself is the modernized, former convent of the St. Francis Catholic Church.

To learn more, write or call: Polish Heritage Center and Museum, Inc., P.O. Box 3, 226 Carlton Ave. Ashton, NE 68817; (308) 738-2249; or visit polishheritagecenter.com.

Book Reviews

Szabados' Latest Will Inspire You

Reviewed by
Debra M. Dudek

MY POLISH GRANDMOTHER: from Tragedy in Poland to her Rose Garden in America
by Stephen Szabados
Amazon Kindle Independent Publishing Platform
ISBN: 978-1721679225
2018. Soft cover, 119 pages.

One of the tasks on your genealogy "must do" list is to write your family's story. This task can seem intimidating, especially when there are multiple generations involved. Instead of focusing on multiple individuals, why not write a narrative based on the life and times of one specific individual? Author and lecturer Stephen Szabados has recently published a must-read new book which outlines this "one-person" genealogical narrative perfectly. His book, *My Polish Grandmother: From Tragedy in Poland to her Rose Garden in America* not only provides a blend of facts into a well-rounded non-fiction narrative, it sets itself up as a carefully researched case study for individuals with foreign-born European ancestors. *My Polish Grandmother* chronicles the life of Anna Chmielewska, a woman of slight stature who possessed a commanding presence and fierce love for her family. Szabados takes

great pains to document his ancestor's turbulent years spanning the early 20th century in the countryside of Poland, the struggles of the Great War, a sea voyage to North America, and finally her life and experiences in the United States.

What sets this book apart on the shelf:

- Well-written and engrossing non-fiction narrative
- Clearly defined outline of research individuals
- Exceptional list of essential genealogical research questions
- Examples of using both family history, personal memory, and essential research elements in presenting information
- Detailed maps and photographs
- Available in print and as a downloadable e-book

Szabados delivers a personal family story in a manner and format which is relevant to genealogists of all abilities and experience levels. I really appreciated learning all of the small details of Anna's life, and the author went to great lengths to provide both everyday and crucial details in a way which is enjoyable to read. He makes important notes about availability of records, narratives, facts, and other essential information without interrupting the flow of the story. This is a great read which will please casual readers and researchers alike.

When you're finished reading this book, you may be inspired to sit down and begin writing your own family history. Even if you do not consider yourself to be a writer, and if English wasn't your favorite class in school, there are so many different publishing and software products available which can help you on your journey to pass memories and stories down to the next generation.

My Polish Grandmother: from Tragedy in Poland to her Rose Garden in America, is available from the Polish American Journal Bookstore (see form on page 11, or visit polamjournal.com); or from the author at steveszabados.com/. His site also offers a full list of his published books, Polish Genealogy assistance, and his speaking schedule.

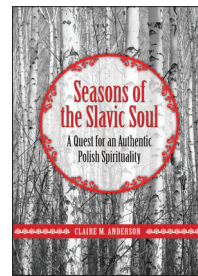
Debra M. Dudek is Head of Adult and Teen Services at the Fountaindale Public Library District in Bolingbrook, Ill. She specializes in British genealogy and technology topics. She is currently pursuing a second master's degree in Genealogical, Palaeographic & Heraldic Studies from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland.

Books in Brief

Explore Your Slavic Spirit

by Mary E. Lanham

SEASONS OF THE SLAVIC SOUL: A Quest for an Authentic Polish Spirituality
By Claire M. Anderson
ACTA Publications, 2017, 102 pgs.



In *Seasons of the Slavic Soul*, Claire M. Anderson uses her background in European history and theological studies to investigate Polish spirituality. This compact, almost pocket-sized book is packed full of intriguing ideas about the connection between humans and the natural world around us.

A major theme of the book is integration. Each section devoted to a different season explores the blending of many things. The past is connected to the present and the future; the farmer is connected to the earth; and the old pagan traditions seep through to modern rituals. The early Catholic Church tried to supplant the old ways, but soon realized that their ways needed to meld with the old. For example, Saint John's Eve was set to coincide with the summer solstice. Other older practices that still survive in Poland are the drowning of the Marzanna and the celebration of Dyngus.

She moves fluidly from her own personal journey to historical events and modern spirituality, expounding on the infinite connections in the old and new. Anderson's writing style is typified below.

"The darkness of winter, this beautiful blue-black canvas is a field of infinite possibility and newness. I have watched through the telescope of self-reflection disappointments and confu-

sions slowly implode like supernovae, leaving nothing but free, open space for something new, something fresh. Inside me, on this empty canvas, profound experiences of loss have crashed into new unexpected experiences of life and slowly forge a new me out of the rubble. And, with this telescope pointed on the night sky of my soul, I have watched dreams die and reappear elsewhere and worldviews slowly swell to include stunning new horizons."

At the end of each section Anderson poses questions for the reader to ponder and suggested rituals or practices for the reader to try. For example, at the end of the section about winter, she suggests making your own Wigilia out of sustainably grown foods.

Seasons of the Slavic Soul: A Quest for an Authentic Polish Spirituality by Claire M. Anderson is the perfect read for anyone willing to explore their spiritual self.



Claire M. Anderson is the executive director of the Siena Retreat Center in Racine, Wisconsin. She has earned degrees in European History and Divinity. She grew up in Los Angeles County but made her way back to Wisconsin where her Polish ancestors originally settled. Anderson has traveled to Poland eight times to explore her Polish roots.

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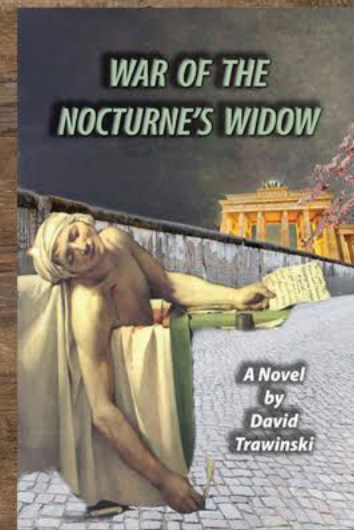
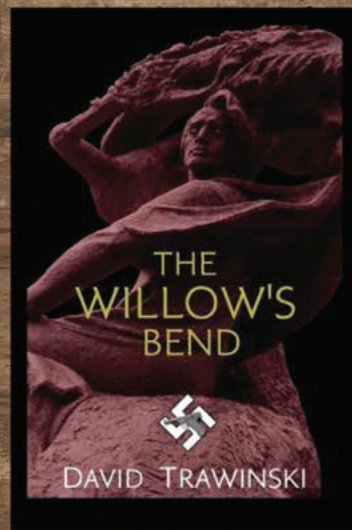
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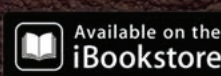


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Minnesota Voice

Polish author Olga Tokarczuk Draws Crowds Across the United States

by Mark Dillon

Polish author Olga Tokarczuk's recent success with English-speaking audiences has its roots at the University of Iowa.

That's where Tokarczuk's American translator, Jennifer Croft, first learned to speak and write Polish while earning a master of fine arts degree. Thus began an academic and professional connection to Polish culture and one of Poland's most noted authors, a relationship that Croft, now a New Yorker, says take her to Krakow and or Warsaw annually.

Last year Croft translated Tokarczuk's novel *Flights*, an effort that helped the two women share the 50,000 GBP Man Booker International Prize for literature in the United Kingdom this past May, as well as earn a nomination for a U.S. National Book Award in September

Tokarczuk, 56, recently toured several cities in the United States, drawing a crowd of about 200 people at a book store conference center in Minneapolis on Sept. 30. In the space of about a week and a half, she also visited Boston, Brooklyn, N.Y., Los Angeles, San Francisco and Portland, Oregon.

Non-Polish Minnesota attendees said they admire Tokarczuk's style of writing and her ability to transport readers to exotic locations, and provide often unusual new perspectives about moments in history. She is the author of eight novels and two short story collections, and has been translated into a dozen languages.

Based on audience questions and often humorous interaction, the Minneapolis audience seemed to see Tokarczuk as a kindred — though controversial — spirit. The lead Minnesota sponsor for her talks was Rain Taxi, a Twin Cities liter-

ary group, and her national tour is supported by the Polish Cultural Institute of New York. The author's representative ran out of copies of *Flights* at her post-talk book signing.

At her talk, Tokarczuk said discussing *Flights* was like taking a trip back in time, as she has authored multiple additional works over the past decade. *Flights* was originally published in Polish in 2007 and sold 160,000 hardcover copies in Poland. However, the U.S. edition debuted just this past August 14.

"If I wrote *Flights* now, I would change many things," she said, explaining that the book lacked any discussion of the experience of refugees. In writing the book, she said she wanted readers have a stronger understanding of global travel, and how the people have the potential to broaden their knowledge of history, time and culture through journeying to new places and through an appreciation of new perspectives.

Reflecting on the growth of single nation-centered politics, she added "I think this may now be a lost cause."

Tokarczuk was born in Sułechów in Lower Silesia, an area that was part of Poland during the Piast dynasty but controlled by Germans and Prussians from the 15th century until the end of World War II. The Tokarczuk surname also can be found in Southern Poland and western Ukraine in the Carpathian foothills.

Before starting her literary career Tokarczuk trained as a psychologist at the University of Warsaw. She acknowledged that her childhood was a period of wandering, explaining that her parents were teachers who frequently relocated.

Tokarczuk said she may write a future work of fiction that would involve a story about magic and children.

"I still have in my files a story quite similar to Harry Potter," she

said. "It's still a good idea. If I run out of subjects someday I am going to come back to this."

Tokarczuk's works often make use of maps, and she said that the illustration of rivers and streams reminds her of veins, suggesting that a place is living, evolving organism.

Croft is currently translating another of Tokarczuk's novels *Księgi jakubowe* (*The Books of Jacob*). On her website, Croft says "I stumbled upon Olga Tokarczuk's first short-story collection, *Playing Many Drums*, in 2003 as I prepared for a Fulbright at the University of Warsaw. Right away I loved her soothing, nuanced style, but I think the thing that appealed to me most was her psychological acuity, her ability to distill the essence of a person—I say 'person' since her characters are so alive it's hard for me to call them characters—and set in motion relationships that might charm and shock us at the same time, all while feeling both familiar and fresh."

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In 1978, a voluntary fund-raising campaign was launched by a group of loyal readers of the Polish American Journal entitled "We Love the PAJ Press Fund" in order to help cover rising postage, material and production costs.

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

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EQUIPMENT FUND DRIVE. A few days after the October 2018 edition was sent to the printer, the PAJ's main workstation — a nine-year-old Dell Precision T3500 — began malfunctioning. News from our servicing agency was not good: the machine would run, but there was no guarantee for how long. Furthermore, its processors would soon not be able to handle newer and more powerful software and security upgrades. We were faced with putting money into the older computer, buying a refurbished one for several hundred dollars (and facing the same potential problems in a few years), or biting the bullet and buying one that will last the PAJ for hopefully another decade. While the nearly \$3300.00 price tag was not in our budget, we realized that, to keep moving forward, it was our only choice.

That being what it is, with hat in hand, we ask our readers for help in paying for the workstation. All donations to the Press Fund will be earmarked for the new equipment until it is paid. We do not like to come to you like this, but we have little choice, as this one computer produces the paper (Microsoft Word, Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, and Illustrator programs); is used for our mail list management (Microsoft Excel); Billing (Quickbooks); and web page setup (NetObjects). There are countless other necessary programs, including those for security, text and photo scanning, internet file transfers, postage, shipping, receiving, and more.

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Zalipie comes to Minnesota, Maybe

by Mark Dillon

WINONA, Minn. — A retired Polish priest and a Wisconsin artist of Bavarian heritage have teamed up to try to bring Zalipie, Poland-style outdoor painting to the city's alleyways.

Last year Rev. Paul J. Bzeza, founder of the Polish Cultural Institute & Museum, was so impressed with the painted wood crafts work of Laura Schwalbe at the institute's annual October Polish Apple Festival (Smaczne Jabłka) that he commissioned the LaCrosse, Wis. artist to paint part of the museum's property ahead of this year's Oct. 7 festival.

Now the museum's outdoor hearth brick oven has Zalipie-style art panels while the museum's garage has doors with floral patterns based on traditional Polish needlework patterns, augmented in Kashubian Polish regional black and gold.

"I found that I really like working with Polish colors," Schwalbe says. "It's the bright, cheery, crisp patterns. I believe we need to such keep traditional folk art traditions alive both at home and in public view."

Bzeza agrees, saying he hopes homeowners in Winona's historically Polish and other neighborhoods — which have garages lining



Artist Laura Schwalbe poses with the Polish Cultural Institute & Museum's garage. A close up of her artwork.

a Chicago-like alley network — will be inspired to paint their own buildings, garbage cans, sheds and other outdoor amenities as they do each spring in Zalipie, in Gmina Oleśno, Dąbrowa County in Poland.

"We need to brighten up some of our city spaces," Brzeza added. "It can help build a better sense of community."

Schwalbe said her prior work has been primarily Bavarian and Scandinavian folk art designs. She said she researched both the Zalipie art style and used a 1978 needlework pattern book from Gdansk as inspiration for her garage work. She says she is also looking to expand her range of expertise to Czech designs.

Separately, in Minneapolis for the past two years, Polish artist Mary Welke has taught small group art classes about the Zalipie style. Class attendees bring their own wood or ceramic object and learn the painting techniques.

Bzeza and Schwalbe may

have an uphill battle to overcome current color marketing and cultural perceptions fostered by several home-related industries. In Minnesota, real estate agents typically advise sellers to 1) stick with neutral exterior colors — especially shades of grey or tan — under a theory that this maximizes appeal to a broad audience, and 2) to generally avoid overt displays of cultural identity when staging homes for sale.

Also, several national paint companies have in recent years focused on muted shades of red, grey and blue as their exterior home "colors of the year." In fact, Sherwin-Williams' website describes its rust-like "cavern clay" 2019 color as "Bohemian, yet totally refined."

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An outdoor brick oven on the grounds of the Polish Cultural Institute & Museum in Winona, Minn., is painted in Zalipie-style.

Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes

Reska Elected President of Buffalo-Rzeszow Sister Cities



Edward Reska

by Michael Pietruszka

Buffalo-Rzeszow Sister Cities Inc. elected the following leadership at a recent meeting: Edward Reska (president), Patricia Greiner (vice-president), Thomas Zawadzki (secretary), Elizabeth Opoka (treasurer), James Serafin (director), Bozena Serafin (director) and Andy Golebiowski (director) ... **Justin Kohan**, son of PAJ Publisher Mark Kohan, recently started a new job with the Akron Symphony Orchestra as principal trumpet ... The **Euro Cafe**, a Polish restaurant in Geneseo, was featured on the *Rachel Ray* TV show on the 4th ... On the 6th, the **Syracuse Polish Home** hosted its First Annual Music Festival; and the **Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School** held its Annual Dinner at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga ... The **Buffalo International Film Festival** screened three Polish films on the 6th and 7th: “The Warsaw Robin,” “Chasing Portraits,” and “Lullaby Killer” ... Buffalo Bishop Richard Malone officially took up residence at **St. Stanislaus Church**, the Mother Church of Buffalo’s

Polonia, on October 7th. The bishop installed **Rev. Tomasz Wilk** as the new pastor of the parish. Buffalo’s Polonia participated in the Mass of Welcome for the bishop.

UPCOMING. The **John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre** in Mississauga will present Maria Nowotarska, Agata Pilitowska and Krzysztof Jasinski in “Nie Bog See Kochac,” Nov. 2nd ... Buffalo Mass Mob XXX will take place at **St. Adalbert’s Basilica** in Buffalo’s Historic Polonia District, Nov. 3rd ... On Nov. 4th, the Canadian Polish Congress and the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Toronto will celebrate “**The Centenary of Regaining Independence by Poland**,” including a flag raising at the Toronto City Hall, a parade through Toronto, Mass at St. Michael’s Basilica, and a reception at the SPK Hall on Beverley Street ... The **University of Toronto** will continue its celebration of the centennial of Polish independence with a screening of Komasa’s “Warsaw 44,” Nov. 1st, the launch of the Tamara Trojanowska and Joanna Nizynska’s new book “Being Poland: A History of Polish Culture After 1918” on the 13th, the screening of Pawlikowski’s “Ida” on the 22nd, and a cultural workshop “Andrzejki, Katarzynski “ (“St. Andrew and St. Katherine Eve”), Nov. 28th. The Robarts Library will house the “100th Anniversary of Poland’s Regained Independence” exhibit until December 22nd.

Rochester’s 2018 **Polish Film Festival Part Two** will present Dorota Kobiela and Hugh Welchman’s animated feature, “Two Vincent,” at the Dryden Theatre at the George Eastman House, Nov. 6th ... The **Polish Heritage Society of Rochester** is continuing its exhibit entitled “Under the Ancient Polish Flag” in the Patricia O’Keefe Ross Gallery at St. John Fisher College

through November 9th ... The Hamilton Branch of the **Canadian Polish Congress** will host “A Journey Through Poland’s History - 100 Years of Independence” at the Art Gallery of Hamilton on the 10th.

A special Mass and concert marking Veterans Day and the 100th Anniversary of Poland’s Rebirth will be celebrated at **Assumption Church** in Buffalo’s Black Rock neighborhood, Nov. 11th. The **Chopin Singing Society** will perform at this event ... Also on the 11th, the **John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre** will mark Poland’s independence centennial with “Droga Do Niepodleglej” featuring the Novi Singers, Lechowia Polish-Canadian Dance Company, and the Toronto Sinfonietta under the direction of Maciej Jaskiewicz.

On Nov. 13th, violinist Leila Josefowicz will perform as part of

the **Kilbourn Concert Series** at Rochester’s Eastman Theatre ... The “**Kosciuszko Camp**: The Polish Army at Niagara Camp, 1917-1919” exhibit at the Niagara Historical Society Museum in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario will close, Nov. 15th.

St. Maksymilian Kolbe Church in Mississauga will present “Piotr Rubik - Moja Historia” featuring Marta Moszczynska, Michal Gasz, Agnieszka Przekupien and Marcin Januszkiewicz, Nov. 16th ... The **St. Catharines Canadian Polish Society** will hold its 90th Anniversary Dinner Dance, featuring the music of Atlantis, on the 17th ... Also on the 17th, the **Polish Cadets of Buffalo** and the Professional & Business Women of Polonia will co-sponsor “**Sto Lat! 100 Years of Poland Regaining Independence**” featuring addresses by Joseph Macielag and Eddy Dobosiewicz, and music by

the Buffalo Touch ... On the 20th, the **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** will present Roger Puchalski on Jaroslaw Radomski’s “The Magnificent 100” at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst.

On December 1st, the **Pulaski Police Association** of Buffalo and WNY will hold its Annual Installation and Christmas Party at the Polish Falcons Hall in Depew, and the **Chopin Singing Society** will hold its Wigilia at the Millennium Hotel ... The **Polish Heritage Society of Rochester** will host its Annual Wigilia Dinner at St. John Fisher College on December 8th ... On December 10th, the **Polish Arts Club** of Buffalo will hold its Annual Wigilia ... **60 Million Congress Global Polonia Summit** announced that it will return to Buffalo in July of 2019, and Buffalo’s Sister City of Rzeszow on August 29th and 30th.

“Uprising” Presented by Polish Chair, Arts Club, and Legacy Project

BUFFALO, N.Y. — On Oct.6th, at the Marie Maday Theatre at Canisius College, the Polish Arts Club joined with the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College and the Polish Legacy Project to present *Uprising*, a play written, directed, and acted by teenagers about the Warsaw Uprising of 1944.

The Ad Astra Theatre Troupe first presented the production at Saratoga Springs and later at the Park Theater in Glens Falls.

Drawing from 5,000 hours of research, debate, and creative writing, playwrights Grace Alberti, Lale Davidson and Catie LeCours were first inspired by a presentation on the Women of the Warsaw Uprising by Alina Nowobliska at PolishFest 2017 in Latham, N.Y. Sophie Hodorowicz Knab reviewed the play for historical accuracy prior to its initial performance.

The 18-member cast was directed by Grace Alberti, a high school

senior. When asked by a photographer who was shooting a rehearsal for the original production, why she wrote such a depressing play for teenagers, co-author Lale Davidson replied: “Many members of the real Uprising were teenagers, and teens face these situations all over the world, in Syria, Yemen, and Sudan ... very few plays are written by teenagers, for teenagers, and about teenagers.”

The efforts of these teens produced a poignant performance of a great historical tragedy in Poland’s history, yet one which inspired later generations of Poles to withstand, and finally overcome, the communist regime imposed on Post-War Poland. The play covers a one-week period of the Uprising taking us through its unexpected launching, its initial success and the beginning of the terrible reckoning inflicted by the Germans. The play’s conclusion reminds the audience of the horrors

of the total devastation of Warsaw and its inhabitants by the vengeful Nazis.

The play was presented in memory of Stanley Blake, a concentration camp survivor who was well known to Buffalo’s Polonia and whose generous bequest to the Polish Chair assisted in presenting the play, and Aleksander Janta, whose efforts as third president of the Polish Arts Club led to the establishment of the Polish Room at the University of Buffalo. In his memory, his wife has offered a challenge grant to the Polish Arts Club to raise \$100,000 which will be matched dollar for dollar to present events such as this play. Halfway into the five-year campaign, the fund has raised about 30% of its goal. The playbill encouraged the audience to support this endeavor by donating to the Janta Endowment Fund at the Polish Arts Club, P.O. Box 542, Cheektowaga, N.Y. 14227.

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As a national newspaper serving Polish immigrants and their descendents since 1911, the Polish American Journal has a unique perspective on the shortfalls — primarily funding — that have prevented many great projects from getting off the ground. We also have grown increasingly frustrated to see students — future leaders, who are passionate about Polonia — seek other areas of study because they could not secure something as simple as airfare to study in Poland or abroad. Likewise, we see so many talented academicians, scholars, artists, folk groups — the list goes on — whose special projects or areas of study have been dropped for lack of funds. In many cases, state or federal arts or cultural funding is available, but these groups cannot afford processing fees to meet

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veteran’s group; scholarship fund; dance group, etc. Our board reviews these suggestions and creates a ballot of the most-requested causes/recipients, which will then be voted on by current members. (Membership is yearly, starting with the date of your most recent

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Film Review

The Rhythm of Two hearts: Paweł Pawlikowski's *Cold War*

by Staś Kmieć

*"Dwa Serduszka, cztery oczy...
co płakały we dnie w nocy...
Czarne oczka co płaczące, że
się spotkać nie możecie..."*

The highly anticipated new work by British filmmaker Paweł Pawlikowski (of Polish birth) – *Cold War* (*Zimna Wojna*), follows a tempestuous love story set against the backdrop of the Iron Curtain. It is a beautifully composed poem of doomed love – a modern take on Romeo and Juliet.

Written by Pawlikowski, Janusz Głowacki, and Piotr Borkowski in primarily Polish and French (along with German, Russian, Italian and Croatian), the Polish/French/UK co-production creates the feel of a sprawling three-hour epic, yet at just a lean 88 minutes in length, this is a lesson in achieving maximum impact from what is almost bordering on short-form film making.

Delivering the most content with minimalist means, this story of mismatched, star-crossed lovers with a passion that has the power to destroy them both is reminiscent of 1943's *Casablanca*. The film depicts a story of ordinary people in difficult times. There is not a frame of violence, yet at the end, one grieves at the heartbreaking conclusion. Filmed in subtle black and white, the film is gripping from beginning to end. Throughout, there is the omnipresent reminder of the ways in which the human spirit and love can survive the worst that a totalitarian state can inflict on its people.

THE FILM OPENS IN 1949 – two years since the Communist government came to power and the country was provisionally renamed Rzeczpospolita Ludowa (Polish People's Republic). Jarringly a folk song in raw form is heard – "Pukołem, wołałem" – sung by Tomasz Kiciński and Michał Mocek of Dudziarska "Manugi" from Bukówiec Górny in the Wielkopolska region. Wiesława Gromadzka on the folk instrument harmonia trzyczędowa – a pedal accordion follows with "Oj dana moja dana nie wyjdę za Pana" – the tune that would be the basis for Oberek Opoczyński. There is a Mazowsze folk band – Kapela Ryszarda Piecyka, and then young Gabriela Kmon sullenly sings the ballad "Dwa Serduszka," which will be the underlying vocal motif and dramatic theme throughout the evolution of the film.

A FOLK DANCE COMPANY AND A LOVE STORY. The songs are being recorded on reel-to-reel by composer/conductor Wiktor and folk expert Irena in an ethnomusicological effort to unearth authentic folk material in the isolated rural communities of the post-World War II countryside and to transfigure this into a state-sponsored project to create a school for singers and dancers; performers who will become the Mazurek Song and Dance Ensemble. Pressured by the Socialist authorities, the ensemble will become a propaganda instrument, showcasing the talent and Slavic beauty of Poles in capitals throughout the Eastern Bloc.

It is telling when an administrative overseer Kaczmarek discounts a beautifully haunting Lemko folk song – "Pid Oblaczkom" as "not ours," despite the ethnic sub-group's presence in Poland since medieval Piast times. When he suggests that one of the singer's hair is too dark

to be in the group, but it could be dyed blonde – it is a cringe moment, reflective of the manufacturing and manipulation of folklore to the masses.

During the audition process, Wiktor meets Zula, an enigmatic beauty with broad cheekbones and cunning eyes, who it turns out has a dark edge. Her first song a harmonized duet "Ja za wodą, Ty za wodą" doesn't impress, but a solo from a Russian film stands out. Though her singing voice isn't as pure as the others, she has "something else" – a vivacity, magnetism and stage presence that make an indelible impression. Wiktor is enamored, he has found his muse. Before long, they become lovers.

The training school is set up to harvest young talent and to preserve the purity of the heritage of Poland, and an ensemble to celebrate its culture and tradition is created. As concerts are given and the school proves its value, the Soviet state takes interest and folk music gives way to propaganda, with songs about the joys of agricultural reform and the wonder of Stalin. The group is allowed to tour internationally and exports a vision of peasant authenticity with associated Soviet values.

At this point, Wiktor decides he's had enough and spies a chance to cross to freedom and the West during a 1952 engagement in East Berlin. Zula, however is uncertain and afraid. With little jumps of one, two or four years, the rest of the film takes place over a 20-year period and in four countries (Poland, France, Yugoslavia, and East Germany) – tracing the "ups and downs" of a highly passionate and volatile relationship.

BASED ON FACTUAL EVENTS. Pawlikowski finds an elegant, melancholic way to resolve what might have been a formless and sprawling saga, one inspired partly by his own parents' tumultuous marriage and 40-year relationship – but not exactly their lives, and with a start point in the formation and founding of Poland's famed folkloric company – Mazowsze, called Mazurek in the film.

Cold War is dedicated to his parents, on whose love affair it is built on. It is an appropriately touching and sympathetic tribute. While screen lovers Wiktor and Zula share names and character traits with the filmmaker's mother and father, their individual narratives are fictional and oblique – drawing from their experiences, the climate of their relationship, and not the actual circumstances. In a different setting, he depicts a story about people who cannot live apart, but also who cannot live together.

Although fictional, the story parallels and mirrors many true circumstances and could be interpreted as being loosely based on the founding of Mazowsze, its founders Tadeusz Sygietyński and Mira Żimińska-Sygietyńska and their vocal muse Irena Wiśniewska – who made "Ej Przeleciał Ptaszek" a popular standard. She married violinist/concertmaster Stanisław Santor, and later transferred to a solo career as Irena Santor. Their relationship ended in divorce, but they remained in friendship.

The beginnings of Mazurek brought the archival period of the founding of Mazowsze to cinematic life, and the singing and dancing performance segments from Mazowsze's repertoire form the backdrop to the fated romance.

As Wiktor and Irena grit their teeth when the ensemble sings a

rhythm of two hearts – "Dwa Serduszka," the bittersweet and unbearably lovely, sad ballad.

From the opening scene, it becomes apparent how vital music and singing are to the story. As the narrative develops, music becomes crucial to Wiktor and Zula. They derive hope from it, they imbue it with their feelings, it brings them together, it drives them apart, it even comes to symbolize the strange bond between them, never more so than when Wiktor refers to an album on which they have been collaborating as "our child." Pawlikowski lets the music – its language, genre, and how it is sung, suggest how incurably ill-suited Wiktor and Zula are to be together in the same place – at the same time.

The first images and sounds are reminiscent to the 1946 film sensation *Zakazane Piosenki* (*Forbidden Songs*), in which music was a way of rebelling against power. It was the first film to be created following World War II; in it the storyline is loosely tied together by popular pre-war songs and wartime songs.

Most impressive is the exquisite soundtrack. From a selection of traditional and French basement jazz arrangements of these Polish folk tunes, to classical pieces, snatches of Gershwin and rock and roll hits of the period, this is an overwhelming sonic cinematic experience.

IMAGERY AND ACTING. The script is not limited only to the dialogue; it unfolds in images – that are visually sculpted in black and white. The film is exquisitely shot in the box-like nature of Academy ratio (1.37:1), which has the effect of confining the characters within the frame. It's an engaging format that draws you in.



Actress Joanna Kulig dances with Mazowsze's Piotr Zalipski in the film "Cold War."

glorious ode to Stalin in front of an enormous banner of his face, when the government funds a tour that takes them to Berlin, I am certain that Tadeusz and Mira experienced similar sentiment when the company performed "Kantata o Stalinie," when they were once strongly "advised" to include it in their performance.

FILM STRUCTURE. By design, the film is barren and emotionally impenetrable – it's not what you would call a standard romance by any means. The story is pared down to episodic trysts – the structure and tight editing means that events in their lives are glanced at rather than lingered over. There are no subplots or significant supporting characters; the detached narrative is pared down with every scene, the dialogue, and action.

Pawlikowski designs the time jumps, as the film skips forward to the next instalment in the story. When a sequence is finished, the film cuts to black, and then, using a variation of a gap cut, the sound from the next scene can be heard a few seconds prior to the image being seen.

Given the focus on the central plotline, there are a few elements that feel oddly truncated or underdeveloped, such as the strand involving the folk troupe's co-director Irena (Agata Kulesza) who disappears abruptly. There is also a disconnect when Zula's character feels out of place during the film's midsection in Paris because she misses her "family" of folk singers and dancers. We never actually witnessed her interaction with them, as she seemed to operate as a loner.

MUSIC AS A THIRD CHARACTER. "Dark eyes, you cry. you can't be together. you can't be together," sings Zula – a refrain literalized in the impossibility of a love woven with half-tones and longing. One can experience love only with a full heart, but it is preferable in the

Texturally sumptuous, Łukasz Żal's cinematography accentuates not only the greyness of a Communist-era Poland, but the brooding smokey cool of the Parisian jazz scene. I did not feel that the camera angles, editing and footage did justice to the folk dance sections. It made Mazowsze look small in number size and ordinary; however the Be Bop Swing section was captured to perfection. The folk song sequences and character motivation within performance segments were utilized effectively.

Transcending the monochromatic scheme is the fiery and mercurial performance from Joanna Kulig. As Zula, Kulig captivates; she captures the character as authentically as she does as a restless adult woman, and delivers with astonishing range and depth. There is the hint of the sly sarcasm of 1940s siren Lauren Bacall. In preparation during a 6-month period, the actress lost weight, and learned songs and dances from Mazowsze's repertoire.

As Wiktor, Tomasz Kot is a perfect accompaniment – giving a multi-layered, yet subtle portrayal.

Not everyone will understand this romance, but from a truly Polish perspective, it will be seen as the magical and transcendental love of two drifting souls.

❖ ❖ ❖

Pawlikowski has touched on some of Poland's most sensitive taboos without trying to make political films. His film, *Ida* won the 2015 Academy Award for best foreign-language film, as well as the British Academy of Film and Television Arts and three European Film Awards.

Cold War is a deserving front-runner for the Oscars this year. It was selected as Poland's entry for Best Foreign Language Film. Pawlikowski was already awarded with the Best Director prize at this year's Cannes Film Festival in France.

Amazon Studios has secured U.S. rights; the film will be released in the United States on December 21.

Piano Competition Set for March

NEW YORK — Applications are open for the **66th Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Piano Competition**, March 29-31, 2019.

The event will be held at the Foundation, 15 E 65th Street, New York, N.Y. 10065.

Application deadline is January 1, 2019

The Kosciuszko Foundation's Chopin Piano Competition was established in 1949, in honor of the hundredth anniversary of the death of Frederic Chopin. The inauguration took place at the Kosciuszko Foundation House in New York

City, with Witold Malcuzyński as a guest artist, and Abram Chasins, composer and music director of the New York Times Radio Station, presiding. Over the years, many outstanding musicians have been associated with the competition including Van Cliburn, Ian Hobson, and Murray Perahia. Today, the Kosciuszko Foundation's Chopin Competition continues to encourage gifted young pianists to further their studies and to perform the works of Polish composers.

For information, go to: www.thekf.org.

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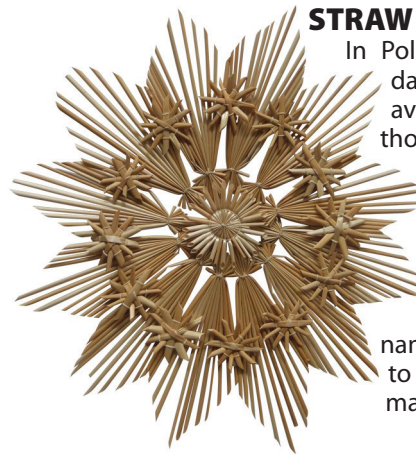
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Learn more about this tradition from our website: polamjournal.com. Follow Library Holidays link to the Christmas listings.



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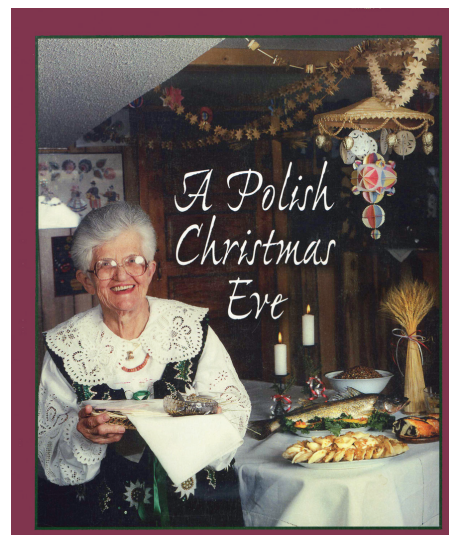
For over 25 years, the Polish American Journal has sold these colorful stickers to benefit Catholic Orphanage in Bialoleka, Poland. The PAJ Press Fund will donate \$1.00 for each sheet mailed this Christmas season to the home near Warsaw. (You may purchase additional sheets of 20 decorative stickers/stamps at \$5.00 per sheet).



A POLISH CHRISTMAS EVE

Traditions and Recipes, Decorations and Song by Rev. Czesław Michał Krysa, S.L.D.

Everything you need to know about a traditional Polish Christmas, from the Christmas Eve Vigil Supper to the kulig by one of the world's top scholars on Polish holiday traditions, Bi-lingual carols with musical notation, Wafer sharing messages, heritage photos, ornaments, and ritual decorations, the origins of Wigilia, poetry, literature, etc.



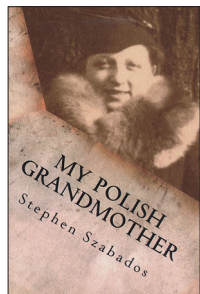
Traditions and Recipes, Decorations and Song by Rev. Czesław Michał Krysa

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. Item 2-648 / **\$26.95**

GENEALOGY BOOKS

MY POLISH GRANDMOTHER:



From Tragedy in Poland to Her Rose Garden In America by Stephen Szabados **\$14.95 / Item 2-218 61 pp., b&w photos 2015**

Anna was the youngest daughter of a Polish farmer and very small physically. However, she was always in command when she was in the room. This book describes the tragedies in her early life and the challenges she overcame to make a new life in America. It is different from many stories of immigrants because it is told from the perspective of a woman.

This book asks questions about her fears when growing up, immigrating to America, and making her new life. How did she face these fears? How did she overcome them? Szabados said by searching for answers, he found new

insights about his grandmother. As you read Anna's story, ask the same questions about your ancestors. If you do, your view of your family history will definitely change.

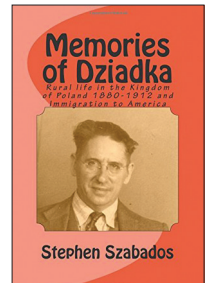


POLISH GENEALOGY: Four Easy Steps to Success by Stephen Szabados **\$19.95 / Item 2-668 164 pp., pb.** This book is

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

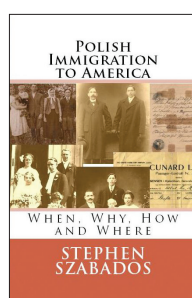
book covers the most up-to-date collection of sources for Polish genealogy.

MEMORIES OF DZIADKA



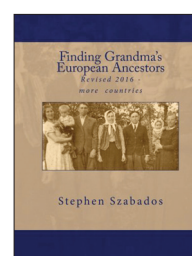
Rural life in the Kingdom of Poland 1880-1912 and Immigration to America / by Stephen Szabados **\$14.95 Item 2-670 pb. 134 pp.**

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 Atlantic Ocean; his arrival 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 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.



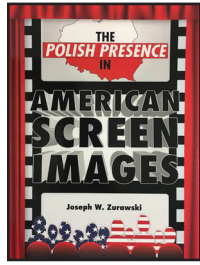
FINDING GRANDMA'S EUROPEAN ANCESTORS by Stephen Szabados **Item 2-653 / 210 pp., pb. \$19.95**

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 steps that will help you find 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.

PAJ BOOKSTORE BOOKS

POLONIA

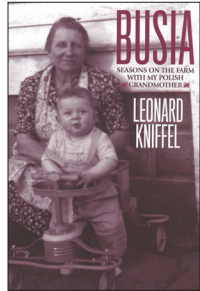
NEW! THE POLISH PRESENCE IN AMERICAN SCREEN IMAGES



by Joseph W. Zurawski
\$29.95
Item 2-682
Softcover, 355 pp., 6" x 9"; 2018
The most complete, objective and accurate analysis of the presentation of Polish Americans and their heritage as viewed on movie theaters and on television screens in America since 1894.

Prominent author, educator and Polish American activist Joseph W. Zurawski identifies and analyzes more than 1300 films shown in the United States that feature or identify a Polish American character or reference. Soft cover. Published by the Polish Museum of America.

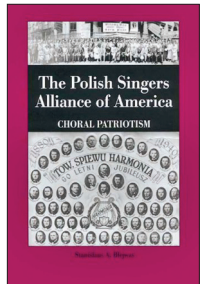
BUSIA: SEASONS ON THE FARM WITH MY POLISH GRANDMOTHER



by Leonard Kniffel
\$15.00
hc. 59 pp.; 2017,
6.25" x 9.25"
Item 2-702

The book chronicles one year in the life of a young boy and his grandmother on a farm in Michigan in the 1950s, a time without telephones and televisions. Instead, they cook and garden and work together to keep the stoves supplied and the cupboards filled. They prepare for holidays while Busia tells stories about life in the old country, Poland. Kniffel is the author of "A Polish Son in the Motherland: An American's Journey Home." He is currently president of the Polish American Librarians Association, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Polish Museum of America in Chicago.

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

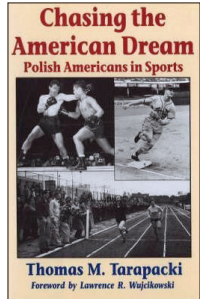


by S. A. Blejwas
Item 1-660
\$22.50
Boydell & Brewer,
2005. 396 pp., Ill.
6.20 x 9.30 x 1.20

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

CHASING THE AMERICAN DREAM



by Tom Tarapacki
\$11.95 while supplies last
Item 1-701. h.c.;
151 pp.; 1995;
B&W ill.; 6.2 x 0.8 x 9.5 inches
New old stock.

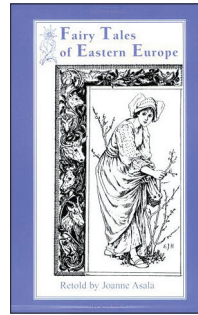
"Chasing the American Dream" provides an in-depth examination of the Polish American experience with sports: its impact upon their lives, the unprecedented economic and social opportunities it created, the enormous changes it brought to the Polish American community, and the athletes, coaches, and organizations involved.

350 Polish American athletes are noted from the worlds of baseball, football, hockey, basketball, track & field, boxing, wrestling, golf, swimming, bowling, auto racing, soccer and more. Included are some of the greatest figures in American sports such as

Stan Ketchel; Stella Walsh; and Stan "The Man" Musial.

Tarapacki is Sports Editor of the *Polish American Journal*.

FOLKLORE

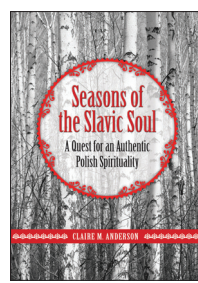


FAIRY TALES OF EASTERN EUROPE
Retold by Joanne Asala
\$12.95
Item 2-636
6 x 9 inches
157 pp., pb.

Many of the plots, motifs, and structural elements in these Slavic tales are found in other stories told around the world.

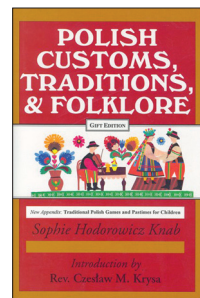
An apple tree in the Slavic tale, "The Fruit of Everlasting Youth," evokes the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden. The ages of man described by the Fate Sisters are quite similar to the ancient "Riddle of the Sphinx." A snake impedes the function of the Tree of Everlasting Youth, again reminiscent of the Garden of Eden.

SEASONS OF THE SLAVIC SOUL: A QUEST FOR AN AUTHENTIC POLISH SPIRITUALITY



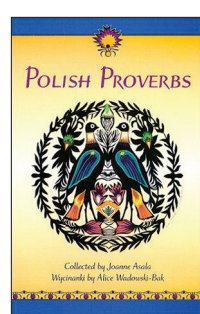
by Claire M. Anderson
Item 1-675
\$14.95
ACTA Publications
2017, p.b., 106 pp., 5x7 in.

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.

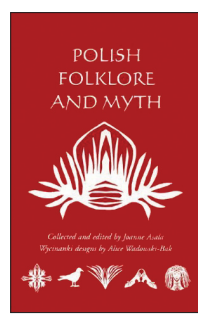
Polish Customs, Traditions, & Folklore is organized by month, beginning with December and Advent, St. Nicholas Day, the Wigilia (Christmas Eve) nativity plays, caroling and the New Year celebrations. It proceeds from the Shrovetide period to Ash Wednesday, Lent, the celebration of spring, Holy Week customs 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

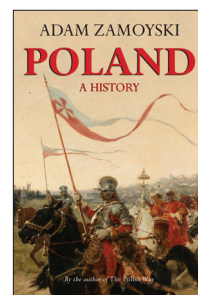
feature stunning illustrations of paper cuts by the late Polish folk artist Alice Wadowsky-Bak, with more of her work throughout the book.



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.

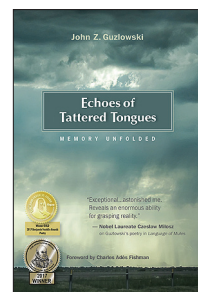
HISTORY



POLAND: A HISTORY
by Adam Zamojski
\$19.95
Item 1-659
pb. 426 pp., 5.5 in. x 8.5 in.

A substantially revised and updated edition of the author's classic 1987 book, *The Polish Way: A Thousand-Year History of the Poles and their Culture*, which has been out of print since 2001. No nation's history has been so distorted as that of Poland. "...excellent and authoritative..." "fresh, different, and brilliantly readable."

WORLD WAR II

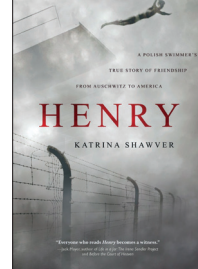


ECHOES OF TATTERED TONGUES
by John Guzowski
\$21.95
Item 2-667
hc., 6.2 x 0.8 x 9.4 inches
200 pp.
Aquila Polonica /

Language: English

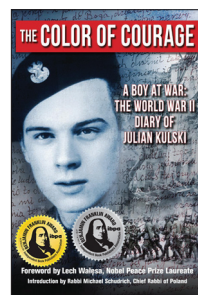
Guzowski born in a German refugee camp after WWII, recounts the horrible atrocities enacted upon his parents during the war in these straightforward, gut-wrenching narrative lyric poems. These snapshots of Nazi German rule illustrate that hardship didn't end with German surrender; the aftershocks radiated through successive generations. "Guzowski's simple language highlights the violence without offering any comment or consolation." — *Publishers Weekly*.

HENRY. A Polish Swimmer's True Story of Friendship from Auschwitz to America



by Katrina Shawver
\$19.95
Item 2-678
Koehler Books, 2017
pb., 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches
324 pp.
\$19.95

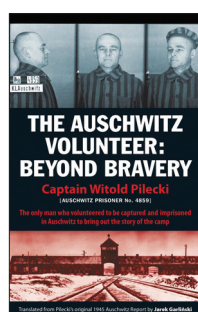
When Katrina Shawver met the eighty-five-year-old Henry Zguda, he possessed an exceptional memory, a surprising cache of original documents and photos, and a knack for meeting the right people at the right time. He relates in his own voice a life as a champion swimmer, interrupted by three years imprisoned in Auschwitz and Buchenwald. Henry's path of resiliency and power of connection are as relevant today as they were in World War II.



THE COLOR OF COURAGE
by Julian E. Kulski
\$19.95
Item 2-674
Aquila Polonica
Publ., 2012. pb.
496 pp., 6" x 9"

"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

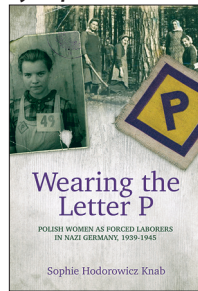


by Witold Pilecki
\$34.95
Item 2-673
Aquila Polonica
Publ., 2014
460 pp., pb. / 6x9 in.

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."

WEARING THE LETTER "P"

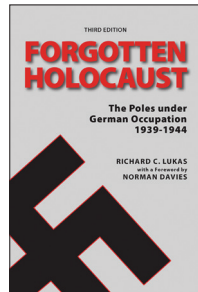
Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany, 1939-1945



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

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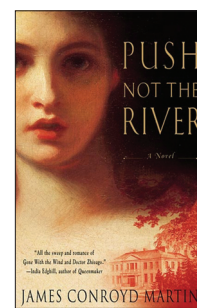


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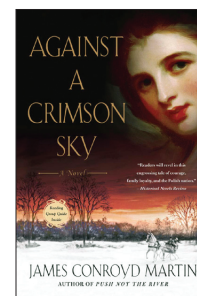
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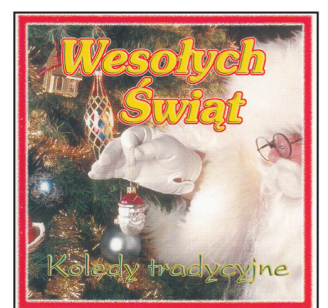
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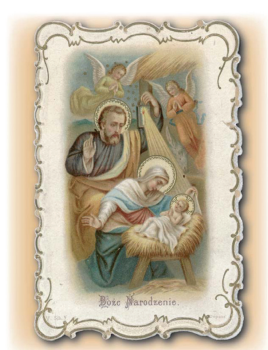
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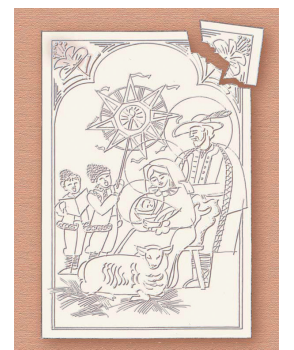
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Sports

The Wrestler Who Made Milwaukee Famous

by Tom Tarapacki

Fans are seeking to memorialize the professional wrestler known as “The Crusher” with a life-size bronze statue in his home neighborhood in South Milwaukee.

Milwaukee Magazine described The Crusher — born **Reginald Lisowski** — as “a beer-guzzling, cigar-smoking, blond-locked, proud Polish-American who became one of the faces of professional wrestling in the days before Hulk Hogan or John Cena.”

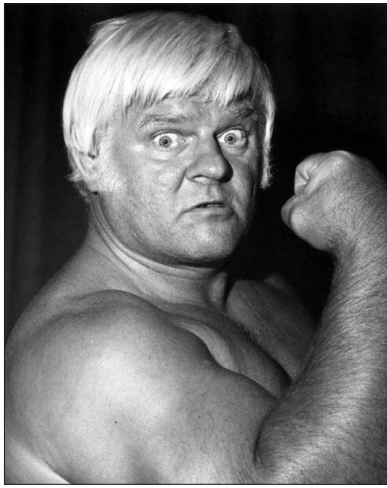
Reggie actually started throwing people around at age 13, when he weighed 200 pounds and was working as a bouncer at his father’s saloon. He also played fullback for South Milwaukee High School, and took up wrestling after serving in World War II. By the mid-1950s, he was a regular on TV, a rival of Johnny Valentine and tag-team partner of Dick the Bruiser. He was famous for his bolo punch as well as a powerful full nelson. Crusher would brag about his “100 megaton biceps” and often called opponents “turkeynecks.” His most famous phrase was: “How ‘bout ‘dat?” Crusher was usually introduced as, “The wrestler that made Milwaukee famous.”

The article reported that, at his peak, Crusher could bench press almost 600 pounds, more than double his body weight. He attributed his stamina to staying out all night doing the polka with Polish bar maids. Crusher also boasted that to prepare for a tough match he’d “eat six pounds of Polish sausage a day, increase my beer from a case to a case-and-a-half, and I’m going to eat a lot of mashed potatoes and gravy.”

Crusher retired in 1988, settling back in Milwaukee with his five children and wife, Faye, to whom he was married for 55 years. Faye died in March 2003, and Reggie passed away from a brain tumor in October 2005. Recently, fans of iconic professional wrestler began raising money to recreate him in bronze, and have set up a GoFundMe page to raise money for their effort.

Here are some other Polish wrestlers from the past, their ring names followed by their birth names:

- **Zbyszko** - Stanisław Jan Cyganiewicz
- **Ivan “Polish Power” Putski** - Josef Bednarski
- **Walter “Killer” Kowalski** - Edward Walter Spulnick
- **Johnny Valentine** - John Wisniski
- **Rob Van Dam** - Robert



Reginald “The Crusher” Lisowski

Szatkowski

- **Ole Anderson** - Alan Rogowski
- **Édouard Carpentier, “The Flying Frenchman”** - Édouard Ignacz Weiczorkiewicz
- **Beth Phoenix** - Elizabeth Kociański

KUREK LEADS POLISH VICTORY. Defending champion Poland won the Volleyball Men’s World Championships, beating Brazil 3-0 in Turin, Italy. Poland steamrolled Brazil despite having played a grueling five-set match the day before, defeating the U.S., 3-2, in the semi-final.

Poland’s **Bartosz Kurek**, a devastating server who had an ace clocked at 75 m.p.h., was named best player of the championships. The Poles were coached by Belgian Vital Heynen, considered by many the best coach in volleyball.

It was the Poles’ third world title, having won in 2014 in Poland and in 1974 in Mexico. Polish volleyball was strong in the 1970s, as the men also won gold at the 1976 Olympics. It seems to be enjoying a resurgence, and the recent successes will likely bring in more resources to the sport.

TAKING FLIGHT IN POLAND. A Polish team has won the Gordon Bennett Cup, a famous long-distance gas balloon race. The Poles, **Mateusz Rękas** and **Jacek Bogdański**, flew from Bern, Switzerland to Ostróda in northern Poland, a distance of over 711 miles. Twenty teams from around the world competed in the race, in which balloonists aim to fly the farthest distance from the launch site.

Polish teams have won the Gordon Bennett Cup six times, the last time in 1983. The next Gordon Bennett Cup competition will be held in Poland.

JOANNA RETURNS. The eagerly anticipated match between **Joanna Jędrzejczyk** and Valentina Shevchenko is on for December 8 in Toronto. Shevchenko (15-3) will face Jędrzejczyk (15-2), a former strawweight champion, for the vacant flyweight title at UFC 231.

Polish-born Jędrzejczyk is also called Joanna Champion, Joanna Violence or just JJ. Her opponent, nicknamed “Bullet,” was born in the former USSR (now Kyrgyzstan) to a Ukrainian family, and now lives in Peru.

MUST LOVE DOGS. Poles seem to have an affinity for unique sports, like ski jumping and gas balloon racing, so it’s not surprising that they’re also having success in an interesting new sport called bikejoring. Poland’s **Igor Tracz** recently won the world championship in that emerging sport in which a cyclist is pulled by a dog on an elastic rope. It’s kind of a modern version of dog mushing, most commonly seen in sled dog racing.

Tracz, 41, was the fastest among competitors from 19 countries, including the United States, in the championships in Lubieszów in southwestern Poland. It was Tracz’s third world title in the sport. His partner was a female greyster, a breed of dog used specially for racing that is a cross between a pointer and a greyhound. Igor also competes in sled dog racing and owns a total of 14 dogs.

JUST FOR KICKS. He may be 40, but Seattle Seahawks kicker **Sebastian Janikowski** showed he’s not done with the NFL. He struggled in the first half of a recent game against the Cardinals, but came back to win the game. After missing two kicks in the first half, he made two in the second half, including the game-winner from 52 yards away as time expired. Seattle won at Arizona, 20-17.

The native of Poland has kicked for 19 seasons, so he knows all about having to make clutch kicks. “It is just another kick,” he said of his approach to the game-winning attempt.

Janikowski was drafted by the Oakland Raiders with the 17th overall pick in the 2000 NFL Draft, the fourth placekicker in NFL history to be taken in the first round. He was released by the Raiders last year af-

ter missing the entire season with a back injury.

GREAT YEAR FOR FOLTY. Although his Baby Braves lost in the playoffs to the Dodgers, pitcher **Mike Foltyniewicz** has clearly established himself as Atlanta’s ace. The 26-year-old put together an All-Star first half and finished the season tied for fifth in the NL in ERA with 2.85. Foltyniewicz put in such a strong performance that, after announcing him as the starter for Game 1 against L.A., manager Brian Snitker called Foltyniewicz the Braves’ “legit first guy.”

Folty lasted just two innings in Game 1 of the NLDS. However, he came back in Game 4, putting in a solid four-inning effort that was ended by the need to put in a pinch-hitter. Still, the post season experience should be helpful in the future.

IT PAYS TO LEARN POLISH. Michigan State defensive linemen **Mike** and **Jacob Panasiuk** have a secret weapon — they speak Polish. Mike, a junior defensive tackle, and Jacob, a sophomore defensive end, speak Polish to communicate during games and confuse opponents.

“We speak Polish — so we go out there and I’ll say something in Polish and offensive linemen will look at us and be like ‘what the heck did they just say?’” Mike said on coach Mark Dantonio’s radio show on the Spartan Sports Network. “It’s a cool kind of secret trick we have up our sleeves. I guess it just gives us an advantage out on the field.”

The brother’s parents (Dariusz and Jolanta) came to the United States from Poland when they were 18 years old. (PAJ July 2016)

During the second quarter of Michigan State’s 38-31 win over Utah State, the Spartans were lined up on defense when Mike recognized what play the offense was going to run. He called a stunt in Polish, allowing Jacob to pressure the quarterback, who ended up throwing an interception.

“It was a cool experience to actually be able to do that and have that ability and speak Polish out there,” Mike said, “so hopefully we can do a couple more of those things and get after the quarterback.”

BUCK JERZY PASSES. Buck Jerzy, a force in sports media and Polonia in Michigan, recently passed away in Detroit. The former chairman of the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame was 83.

Until his retirement he was a property and casualty insurance agent for about four decades, but he was also very active in sports and Polish American activities. Buck started out in sports PR for Clarkson College in New York, then at Wayne State University, and then Ford Motor Company in employee



Buck Jerzy

communications. Jerzy wrote about sports for *The Detroit News*, did publicity for the Hazel Park Harness Raceway and for boxing events at Cobo Arena. In 1968 he became statistician for with Detroit broadcasting legend Van Patrick for Notre Dame football for Mutual Radio. When Patrick died in 1974 Jerzy remained with Mutual Radio, keeping the stats for Irish football at home and away. His prize possession was a championship ring presented him when the Irish won the national title in 1988. In 2004, Jerzy was recognized as the top statistician in college football by the All-American Football Foundation.

Buck was also executive director of the Michigan Bowling Proprietors Association, a lifetime honorary member of the Detroit Sports Broadcasters Association and secretary of the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame. In 1989-91 he was chairman of the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame, and was a long-time board member. He received the Hall’s Matt Dobek Special Achievement Award in 2008.

He was born Jerome Jerzy in 1935 in Hamtramck, but was nicknamed Buck at a very young age because of his love of buckwheat cereal. Since his retirement he worked as a substitute high school teacher for six area school districts, and lived in Detroit with his wife, Paula.

Buck was a unique personality, a gregarious, opinionated man with a deep love of his heritage. He played a critical role in helping the Polish Sports Hall of Fame grow during a very critical period in its history. Buck knew a lot of people, and got many of them involved with the Hall — including me! He will certainly be missed.

A RECORD-BREAKING scrambled egg breakfast was fried in the northeastern Polish town of Piła. The town’s local food bank thanked volunteers and donors by making a feast using 6,000 eggs, almost eight pounds of lard, and chives. Frying the eggs took more than two hours and needed a 54-square-foot pan. The meal broke a record set in 2013 which saw 5,000 eggs used.

Scholarships

James and Lillian Kulze Scholarship

The Chicago Society Foundation, affiliated with the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance, Lodge #1450 of the PNA, announces that it again will be funding up to three \$7,500 scholarships for the 2018-19 academic year through its James and Lillian Kulze Scholarship Fund. These scholarship awards are available to U.S. residents of Polish descent with financial need who are pursuing academic studies in college, graduate or professional school.

Initial applications will be accepted through February 15, 2019. Selections will be made in April 2019 for the subsequent Fall academic term. Forms, dates and other information regarding selection criteria and requirements will be found on the Chicago Society’s website, www.chicagosocietypna.org.



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collect, compile and publish information about Polish Americans. In October 1944, it was reorganized as a national American society to promote study and research in the history and social background of Americans of Polish descent. The Association, which was incorporated under the laws of Illinois in 1972, strives to assist and cooperate with all individuals and organizations interested in Polish American life and history. Contributions in support of the work of the Association are tax-exempt.

Regular one-year membership to the Association is \$40.00. (\$25.00 for students) made payable to the Polish American Historical Association.

Polish American Historical Association
Central Connecticut State University
1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06050
www.polishamericanstudies.org

Forced Labor in the Third Reich

The Personal Account of a Polish Slave Laborer

Katherine Graczyk was captured by the SS and shipped to Germany. She shared her story with author Catherine Hamilton

by Catherine Hamilton

Part II

I never got used to the constant hunger. Throughout my captivity in Germany, near the city of Magdeburg, I had nothing to eat but boiled potatoes. For breakfast, the potatoes were fried in yesterday's coffee, instead of lard or bacon fat. For dinner, the potatoes were served in a liquid. And every night, before I finished eating my potatoes and broth, the farmer's wife would storm onto the mud porch, where we ate. She would glare at me and say, "Don't eat all the food. The dogs have to have something!" After laboring for 12 to 14 hours each day with the men on the beet and potato farm, that wasn't enough food to keep me alive. But I was determined. I wouldn't let them starve me to death. So, every morning when I milked the cows, I stole a cup of milk for myself.

I was shocked by so many people in Germany saying "Heil Hitler" to one another. I thought they were just a fringe group, a few fanatics. The Nazis forced everyone to say it. They ordered me to say "Heil Hitler" from the moment I was captured. I learned quickly that if a person didn't use the salutation, she'd be slapped down and kicked to the ground. I took this seriously because I saw a girl beaten to death for not doing what she was told, and I couldn't do anything to defend her. I rejected the Fuhrer in my mind but said what I had to say. And if the boots came flying at me, I tried to remain on my feet.

I wanted to run away from the abusive farmer and his wife, but I didn't. I was in the enemy's country. Those who ran were arrested and sent to prison or the concentration camp, if they weren't shot outright. "If you work," the farmer said, "maybe you're gonna live." So, I worked. *Let the Nazis harvest their own hatred*, I kept telling myself; that was my way of winning. I wouldn't let my heart turn to stone—no matter how much anger I felt after he'd beat me and left me on the ground, nearly unconscious.

One day I met Frank Graczyk, the man I would marry after the war. He was a military prisoner locked up



Frank Graczyk

at a nearby camp at night, but I saw him in the fields during the day. He worked the horse-drawn plow. We talked to each other out in the field whenever we got the chance, which was rare. One day he told me the Nazis were sending doctors to the prisons and farms to give the Polish women shots to sterilize them. Frank said he wanted to marry me someday and have a family. "When the doctor comes," he said. "Don't let him give you the shot."

"How can I stop him? What can I do?" I answered. All I could do was pray to God. And I did. The day the doctors came to sterilize the women, my farmer had taken me into town. The other girls were there, but I was not.

The Nazis tried to hide their slave-labor program by claiming they paid the workers. When we were locked in the schoolhouse back in 1940, after the SS kidnapped us, we were promised enough money for paper and stamps to send letters to our families. I was young. I thought they'd follow their own rules. Repeatedly, I asked the farmer's wife for this so-called pay. She refused. "I don't have to pay you, fool!" she said. I told her I'd report her to the authorities and she laughed in my face.

I became desperate to get off that farm, not because of the money, but because of the abuse and starvation. Still, I was afraid to leave. *Where would I go?* Finally, I gathered the courage to sneak off to the Division of Employment and report the farmer and his wife. This was the governmental division responsible for *Zwangsarbeiter* (slave laborers). When I arrived, I went up to the counter and told the male employment officer about the beatings. I showed him the bruises on my arms and legs. I complained about the lack of food.

He shrugged and asked me for my pass. *Zwangsarbeiter* were forbidden to leave their work camp, designated farm, or factory without a pass card. I didn't have a pass and he knew it.

"I'm starving. Can't you see that?" I shook with fear.

I was stunned that he didn't arrest me on the spot. Instead, he called me stupid and said, "If you're going to work, you need something on your feet. I'll tell them to get you some shoes."

WE HAD TO WEAR wooden shoes. Mine were broken and when I walked, they'd fall off my feet. But I never got the new wooden shoes. I never got paid a penny. I never got so much as a stamp from them; and the beatings were getting worse. Despite the danger involved, I decided to run away.

Once a month I was allowed to go to church in town with a Sunday pass card. That next month, I told my farmer that I was going to church. But I didn't go to church. I took a train to another town. And by the time they realized I wasn't coming back, I was 100 kilometers away. I spoke German quite well by that time, and I convinced the ticket master to sell me the ticket, which was almost unheard of.

When I wandered up the road from the station, I found the farm I was looking for—one that was known to take runaway Polish slave laborers. I told the farmer I'd just arrived from Poland. He didn't ask any questions. And in the morning, when all the men went out to the field, I got to work inside the house with his wife. We would do the wash together. Then the clothes had to be ironed. She was particular about the ironing and the other girls did not know how to iron well. But I was brought up with my mother, the seamstress, and she taught me how to do those things. I ironed beautifully. And the farmer's wife was very pleased with my work. This couple was always polite and called me "Miss," and never called me bad names or beat me. I thanked God for that every day!

I didn't know the SS were already searching for me.

continued next next

Catherine Hamilton, a freelance writer in Beaverton, Oregon, recorded Katherine Graczyk's story during a series of interviews. Hamilton was honored to write the first-person account of these experiences; she and Katherine Graczyk are cousins. Part of Katherine's story was published in the anthology Forgotten Survivors, edited by Dr. Richard Lukas.

Our Polonia

Algren Polonia at Chicago's Polonia Triangle



ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT SITES to see in Chicago on one's "Polish Bucket List," is the fountain that marks Chicago's Polonia Triangle, bounded by Milwaukee, Ashland, and Division Avenues. This fountain symbolizes the one-time heart of Chicago's Polish immigrant community and the "blue collar" neighborhood described in Nelson Algren's novels. As fountains go, it is not an architectural masterpiece. But as inscribed on the fountain, it symbolizes Algren's feeling about this area in which he lived and which he felt exemplified the essence of early 20th century Chicago. The fountain is dedicated with the words: "For the masses who do the city's labor also keep the city's heart."

Those interested in learning more about Algren and his connection to Chicago's Polish community should read "Algren, A Life" by Mary Wisniewski or visit the new Nelson Algren Museum in Miller Beach, Indiana.

—Geraldine Balut Coleman

Still rising after 81 years: The Roskos' Family Polish Yeast

by Mark Dillon

Since October 1937, the Roskos of Wisconsin have kept a tradition alive and growing — a Polish "spook" starter yeast that Martha Roskos gave eight decades ago to her newly married daughter-in-law Aggie Kampa Roskos.

As an exhibitor at the Winona, Minn., Polish Apple Festival last month, Jill Roskos of South Milwaukee shared her family baking secrets, along with homemade rye bread using grandma's recipe and several jars of starter mix.

"(Aggie) would always leave about one cup or ¼ of a quarter of the spook yeast in the jar and store in the refrigerator until she was ready to bake her next batch of bread, rolls or coffee cake. On the night before baking, she would add potato water

(from two to three boiled potatoes) and sugar to the start and let it sit overnight on the counter," Jill Roskos wrote in a flyer distributed at the festival. "Overnight it would start to foam and the next morning she would mix her dough leaving about ¼ of a quart jar of the start for her next baking project."

Over the years Roskos said the family added bit of modern yeast to the mix to quicken the process of rising, as she said it was beginning take about two days for a bread to fully rise.

Jill Roskos also said family research found that Aggie's recipe is similar to a 1913 recipe in the *Modern Women of America Cookbook* by Modern Woodmen Press and *The Inglenook Cookbook* by Sisters of the Brethren Church, published in 1906.

Krawski Weighs Sale of Historic Inn and Facilities

SOUTH WINDSOR, Conn. — The Cumon Inn is nationally recognized Colonial Salt Box style lodging house. It has been featured in *House Beautiful*, *Better Homes & Gardens*, and *Fine Home Building*.

The homeplace was built in 1970, a duplication of John Quincy Adams home updated for the bicentennial of 1976.

The facility — sitting on a 20-acre working farm of owner Bill Krawski — is home to The Auger Inn, which has been host to thousands of wedding receptions, busi-

ness conferences, family reunions, and other gatherings over the past forty-plus years.

Krawski, a farmer and supplier of specialty woods and building materials, is a former fighter pilot with the 103rd Fighter Group. Getting up years, he is reaching out to Polish Americans who may be interested in assuming the management — and potentially ownership — of the famed inn.

If interested, contact him at cumoninn1@aol.com, or call him at (860) 644-8486.

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Call for Papers — Seventh World Congress on Polish Studies

NEW YORK — The **Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America** invites proposals for the Seventh World Congress on Polish Studies to be held at the University of Gdańsk, Poland, June 14-16, 2019.

Proposals are solicited for complete sessions or individual papers in any of the disciplines in the liberal arts, sciences, or business/economics. The general theme of the conference is "Anniversaries," which, because 2019 lends itself to the remembrance of so many varied historical moments, should be interpreted as any formative event. Papers do not necessarily have to address the conference theme.

Since the Institute values comparative sessions that place the Polish and East Central European experience in context, individual papers need not focus specifically on Poland or the Polish diaspora, but may include papers on a central topic that focus on other national or regional experiences. Similarly, sessions including presenters from more than one country are encouraged.

Each session is scheduled for 90 minutes to accommodate three papers or 20 minutes per paper. The conference language is English, although complete sessions in Polish will also be accepted (sessions must contain either all English or

all Polish presentations). All conference rooms will be equipped with AV for the use of PowerPoint and CD/DVD presentations. Presenters are invited to submit their conference papers for possible publication in *The Polish Review* subsequent to the conference.

To submit a paper or complete session, please send the name, email address, institutional affiliation, a tentative paper title and a brief one-paragraph abstract for all presenters to program chair James Pula at jpula@pnw.edu. The deadline for proposals is March 15, 2019. All participants are expected to pay the conference registration fee.

Polish Chef

Planning Ahead: Three or More-course Wigilia Supper

by Robert Strybel

Traditionally the five-course Wigilia supper was once the most modest spread, laid out even in the poorest of homes. Seven, nine and 11-course suppers were standard in better-to-do households, and in some parts of Poland a 12-course meal was typical. However, many Polish-American households nowadays comprise only one or two members and do not do much cooking anymore, so even a three-course supper may be quite a challenge to some. If you feel up to more, there is nothing to stop you from expanding the following groups of courses to include dishes from any of the other combinations given below.

1 COUNTRY-STYLE MUSHROOM SOUP (*zupa grzybowa po wiejsku*): In 2 T butter or oil cook 8-12 oz chopped fresh portobello mushrooms and 1 chopped onion until lightly browned. Place in soup pot, drench with 6 c water, add 2 peeled diced potatoes and 1 mushroom bouillon and cook until potatoes are tender. Cream with ¾ c sour cream fork-blended with a heaping T flour. Salt & pepper, sour to taste with sauerkraut juice or cider vinegar and simmer a bit longer.

HERRING IN OIL (*śledź w oleju*): Drain 12 oz. jar marinated herring, discarding onions and spices. Plunge into cold water, drain and pat dry. Place in clean jar and drench with salad oil of choice to cover. Refrigerate overnight. When ready to serve, remove herring with fork to serving platter. Top each piece with a little very finely chopped onion. Serve with plain boiled potatoes or rye bread.

DRIED-FRUIT COMPOTE (*kompot wigilijny z suszu*): Soak 2 c. mixed dry fruit, ½ c diced dried figs and ½ c raisins in water to cover water 2 hrs. Add a little more water if all has been absorbed and cook about 15 min. A pinch of cinnamon may be added before cooking. Serve chilled in dessert bowls. Note: To serve as a fruit drink, dilute with as much pre-boiled water as you like. Add a bit of lemon juice for added zing.

2 FRIED BREADED FISH (*ryba smażona w panierce*): Wash and dry 2-3 lbs fresh-water or ocean fish fillets. Sprinkle with lemon juice, intersperse with onion slices, salt well and refrigerate several hrs or overnight. When ready to use, dry fillets on absorbent paper, dredge in flour, dip in egg wash and roll in bread crumbs, pressing breading in so it adheres. Fry on both sides in hot oil until golden brown on the outside and fully cooked on the inside.

EASY SAUERKRAUT AND PEAS (*łatwa kapusta z grochem*): See photo and recipe above.

GROATS OR NOODLES & FRUIT (*kasza lub kluski z owocami*): Place hot cooked buckwheat groats, barley, rice or well-drained egg noodles on serving dish, dot with butter and over them ladle fruit topping of choice: dried-fruit compote (above), home-made or store-bought preserves or even canned apple- or cherry-pie filling.

3 CLEAR BEETROOT SOUP (*czysty barszcz czerwony*): In pot combine 3 c beet juice (from canned beets), 2 c apple juice and 3 c vegetable bouillon (home-made, canned or bouillon-cube



EASY SAUERKRAUT AND PEAS (*łatwa kapusta z grochem*): See menu 2. Drain, rinse if very sour and chop coarsely 1 pt or more sauerkraut, transfer to pot, add cold water to cover, 1 bayleaf and 1 mushroom bouillon cube and bring to boil. Reduce heat and cook 30 min uncovered, adding more water as it evaporates. Add 1/2 t caraway seeds, cover and cook another 30 min or until tender. While it cooks, fry up 3-4 oz washed and diced portobello mushrooms and 1 chopped onion in 2-3 T butter until lightly browned and add to sauerkraut along with 1 c drained, canned chickpeas and 1 t sugar. Simmer another 30 min or longer. Season with pepper and marjoram to taste.

type). Bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer briefly. Add 2 T vinegar and season to taste with a little garlic powder, liquid mushroom extract, pepper, sugar and a pinch of marjoram. Simmer a few min, switch off heat and let stand a few min covered for flavors to blend. Note: This soup can also be made with liquid beet concentrate (koncentrat barszczu), available at Polish delis. There you can also find Krakus and Hortex brand heat-and-eat barszcz in 1-liter cartons. Serve with hot, hand-held pasties (below).

PASTIES (*paszteciki*): Open a can of refrigerator crescent-roll dough. Place a spoonful of filling on each

piece, roll up, pinch sides shut and bake according to package directions. For the filling, combine 1 c cooked rice, 5 chopped hard-cooked eggs, 2 diced onions sautéed in 2 T butter until lightly browned. Combine ingredients with 1 small beaten uncooked egg, 1-2 heaping T. chopped fresh or frozen dill and salt & pepper to taste.

CREAM-BAKED PIKE (*szczupak zapiekany w śmietanie*): Rinse well and pat dry 2 lbs northern pike, walleye or sea pike (hake) fillets, sprinkle with juice of 1 lemon, salt well and refrigerate several hrs or overnight. Pat dry. Place 2 T butter in casserole and heat in oven.

Place fillets in casserole and roll in the hot butter to coat all sides. Bake in 375° oven uncovered about 15 min. Meanwhile, in saucepan melt 2 T butter, stir in 1 T flour. Remove from heat, stir in ¾ c. fork-blended sour cream, add ¼ t salt, return to heat and simmer until bubbly, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and stir in 1 t lemon juice. Pour sauce over fish and bake about 15-20 or until fish is fully cooked. Dust with paprika and garnish with chopped parsley just before serving.

4 PICKLED HERRING (*śledź marynowany*): Store-bought pickled or marinated herring is good just as it comes from the jar, and it's a great time-saver. Drain, discarding onion and spices, and serve with boiled potatoes on the side as a traditional Wigilia entrée.

BATTER-FRIED MUSHROOMS (*grzyby smażone w cieście*): Soak 12 large dried bolete mushroom caps of roughly equal size in warm water 1 or more hrs or overnight. Add 1/2 t salt and cook in same water at a gentle boil until fully cooked but still firm. Carefully remove mushrooms, drain and dry on absorbent paper. (Save water in which mushrooms cooked for other purposes: soups, gravies, sauerkraut dishes, etc.) For the batter, combine 3/4 c flour, 1/2 t baking powder, 1/2 t salt, 1 t oil and several dashes pepper, stir in 1 c milk and 1 beaten egg and whisk until smooth. Let stand 30 min. Dredge cooked mushroom caps flour, shaking off excess, dip in batter to cover and fry in 1/2" hot oil to a nice golden-brown on both sides. Add more oil to skillet as needed. Drain on absorbent paper and serve hot as a dish in itself or

see "Wigilia," page 18

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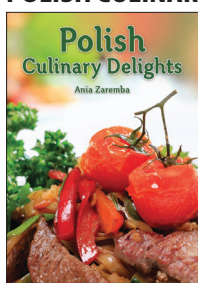
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Edited by Marie Sokolowski and Irene Jasinski; Illustrated by Stanley Legun

First published in United States in 1948, this book was the first complete book of Polish cookery in the English language. Chapters on Appetizers, Soups, Meats, Poultry and Game, Fish, Vegetables, Mushrooms, Dairy Dishes, Pastries and Desserts. Recipes are included for famous Polish barszcz, for bigos, czarnaia, pierogi, naleśniki, paszteciki... and hundreds of other interesting Polish foods.

It contains brief stories of Polish festivities and customs such as Christmas Eve (Wigilia), Harvest Festival (Dożynki) and others.

POLISH CULINARY DELIGHTS



\$24.95
Item BK 2572
by Ania Zaremba
sc., 6.5" x 9.25" x 0.5";
224 pp., color photographs, index; English language version with U.S. measurements.

Polish Culinary Delights was written to bring authentic Polish recipes of the past few generations to the North American kitchen. Besides finding the

usual "traditional Polish" fare, this book includes unique recipes created by Ania and others in her family (grandma, grandpa, uncle, etc.).

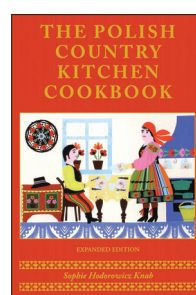
More than 175 recipes, from soups, appetizers, entrees and side dishes to desserts. Easy-to-follow instructions with helpful tips make it simple to prepare such traditional Polish favorites as pierogi, blintzes, sauerkraut, cabbage rolls, bigos, horseradish sauce, paczki, angel wings, mazurka cakes and many more.

PLEASING POLISH RECIPES



by Jacek and Malgorzata Nowakowski
\$8.95
Item 2-678

5.5 x 3.5 inches / 160 pp., spiral bound
This little cookbook features a great variety of regional foods, such as hot beer, vegetable soup, leek salad, graham bread, bigos, potato pancakes, dill pickles, nut roll, gingerbread, and royal mazurkas. Readers also will find a table grace and information on dyeing traditional brown Easter eggs.



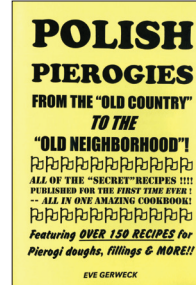
POLISH COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK
by Sophie Knab
\$19.95
Item 2-632. 337 pp., sc;

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.

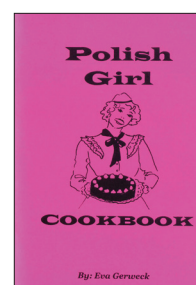
The Polish Country Kitchen Cookbook gives its readers priceless historical information such as the type of utensils used in Poland at the turn of the century, the meaning behind the Pascal butter lamb, and many other insightful answers to common questions asked by descendants of Polish immigrants.

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 PIEROGI
\$10.00
by Eva Gerweck,
Item 2-303
48 pp., sc.

A collection of "secret" recipes, tips, and more by Eva Gerwecki. Fillings, toppings, and a variety of dough recipes as well. Over 150 recipes with regional variations, from New York to California!



POLISH GIRL COOKBOOK
\$10.00
by Eva Gerweck,
Item 2-301
44 pp., sc.

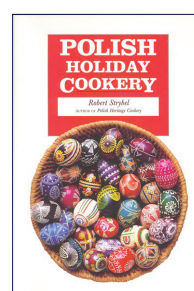
Another cookbook full of recipes from Detroit's Old Polish neighborhoods. The clearly-written recipes facilitate the preparation of the dishes and their

tries, potato salad, pastries, babka, breads, and more.



POLISH RESTAURANT COOKBOOK
\$10.00
Item 2-302
by Jonathan Becklar, 44 pp., sc.

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



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

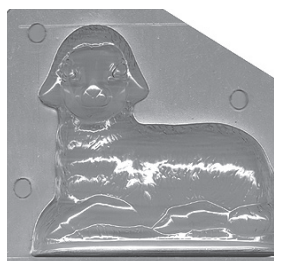
incorporation in the Polish American mainstream culture.

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.

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The Pondering Pole

The Other Guy

by Ed Poniewaz

There have been a number of iterations of the concept, but the original group making up *The Three Tenors*, Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo, and Jose Carreras are the ones that I am most familiar with. Though all are well known and great artists, I have to admit Pavarotti and Domingo are the two that I recognized and Carreras was unfortunately “the other guy.” You might also recall the Seinfeld episode about *The Three Tenors* and the same Carreras being “the other guy.” It was hilarious.

The remains of Prince Jozef Antoni Poniatowski “were transported to Poland in 1817 and buried in the cathedral on Krakow’s Wawel Hill, where he lies beneath Tadeusz Kosciuszko and John III Sobieski.” I’m guessing, but even if you are fairly well versed on Polish history, Prince Jozef compared to the other two might make him fall into the category of, well, “the other guy.” Being “the other guy” is not a bad thing and in this case actually makes for a nice opportunity to acquaint or re-acquaint you with a real patriot and leader like Poniatowski. November 11, 2018 is the 100th anniversary of the rebirth of The Second Polish Republic and therefore there is no better time to do it.

He was born May 7, 1763 and was a nephew of King Stanislaw II Augustus and his military career began in 1780 in the Austrian army, where he attained the rank of a colonel. In 1789, after leaving the Austrian service, he joined the Polish army. Poniatowski, in the rank of major general and commander of the Royal Guards, took part in the Polish-Russian War of 1792, leading the crown forces in Ukraine, where he fought a victorious battle of Zielence.

He fought along Kosciuszko in the Kosciuszko Uprising of 1794, fought and won battles for the Duchy of Warsaw, and won a number of battles in the Austro-Polish War that “ended with a Polish victory which allowed the Duchy to partially recover lands once lost in the partitions of Poland.”

With the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte and the Polish alliance

with the French during his reign, Poniatowski and his army became part of the French invasion of Russia. During the battle for Moscow, Prince Jozef was wounded and returned to Warsaw to recuperate. His final major campaign on behalf of Napoleon and ultimately for the benefit of Poland was in the Battle of Leipzig, also known as the Battle of the Nations. One of the bloodiest battles in history, Jozef Poniatowski was wounded and drowned in the Elster river.

There are a number of attributes about this man that we can admire and emulate. He was dedicated to regaining the life and respect of his country by fighting for it. He didn’t just “try” hard, he was a fierce warrior and won many battles often times when he was greatly outnumbered and outnumbered. He was a true leader even to the point of often being at the head of the charge. If you know a young Polish boy or girl that needs an example of heroism, the name Prince Jozef Antoni Poniatowski is a worthy choice and perhaps one not as well known.

POLISH OR NOT? In the March 2018 Pondering Pole I asked whether **Joseph Patrick Kenda**, the former Colorado Springs, Colorado homicide detective and the inspiration for the television show, *Joe Kenda, Homicide Hunter* is Polish, or not? “Kenda grew up in the western Pennsylvania town of Herminie, Pa., about 30 miles (48 km) southeast of Pittsburgh. His uncle, father, and grandfather were coal miners; his grandfather died in a 1933 mining accident.”

Per Denise Hoover of the Colorado Springs Police Department, Joe in an email “responded that he is Slovenian on his father’s side and there is no Polish connection.” We can thus conclude, Joe Kenda is a homicide hunter and an Eastern European but not a Pole.

What we have seen in the last two or three decades is the rise of cooking shows of all kinds. “Beat Bobby Flay” is an American cooking competition on the Food Network, starring Bobby Flay, an “Iron Chef,” restaurateur, and reality television personality. Various well-known, popular, and “buddie” chefs com-

pete against Bobby Flay and if you look at the list of those who have challenged him, a number of names are Polish. I happened to watch one of the episodes from February 2018 where Chef **Mike Andrzejewski** of Buffalo, New York beat the Flay!

In an interview appearing in the *Buffalo Eats* food magazine it was apparent that Andrzejewski is a credible chef and restaurateur. One question asked about his dining preferences. I know he is a Polish guy because one of his favorite restaurants was a place called *Bistro Europa*:

For dinner I got the kielbasa with lazy pierogi (\$12)...The kielbasa was amazing, it was literally dripping (it was that juicy) when it was served. The lazy pierogi (which I didn’t know what it was until I ate it) was alright but nothing amazing. I would have preferred real pierogis. They also had some spicy mustard that might have been homemade, either way, it was fantastic. It definitely had a bite to it, but was perfect with the sausage.

Props to Andrzejewski for his great work as a chef and outstanding performance on *Beat Bobby Flay*!!

THE SECOND POLISH REPUBLIC was created November 11, 1918. If you have even one sliver of Polish in you, I am hoping you take just a moment and think how incredible this historical event was for the millions like you and for the benefit of the world. It is good that people with a common history, language, and culture have the right to self-determination. Pray for and support the Polish people and the Polish nation. Long live Poland!

IF YOU HAVE A THOUGHT about this month’s topic, have a question, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; email alinabrig@yahoo.com.

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

Wigilia

continued from page 17

a hand-held go-together with clear red barszcz.

POPPYSEED ROLL (*makowiec, strucla z makiem*): Sift 3 c flour onto bread board and cut in ½ lb butter, chopping to achieve a goat-like consistency. Add 2 eggs and 3 yolks, lightly beaten, ½ c sour cream, 1 scant c confectioner’s sugar, 1 t grated lemon zest, ½ t vanilla and 1 cake yeast mashed with 1 T sugar. Quickly work ingredients into a dough, adding a bit more sour cream if it is too stiff to handle. Divide in two and roll each half out into a roughly 10” x 14” rectangle. Spread each rectangle with commercial poppyseed filling, leaving a ¼” margin round the edges, and roll up jelly-roll fashion. Transfer to baking pan, cover with cloth and leave in warm place to rise. Bake in preheated 390° oven 40-50 min. Drizzle with plain white icing and sprinkle with raisins and/or shaved almonds.

continued next month

A subscription to the PAJ makes a great gift. See form on page 3.

In Memoriam

Colonel Jozef Zawitkowski, Last Living Soldier of his Polish Underground Unit

Colonel Jozef Zawitkowski, 96, a resident of the Lockport (N.Y.) Presbyterian Home, was a World War II veteran, and the last living soldier of his Polish underground unit.

Born on February 20, 1922 in Nisko, Poland, at age 17 he joined the Polish resistance movement against the occupying Nazi Germany. In 1943 he became a member of Polish Home Army, (Armia Krajowa / AK), an anti-communist underground movement which fought for free and independent Poland. Zawitkowski’s unit was commanded by Colonel Franciszek Przysieszniak, pseudonym “Ojciec Jan” which operated in the southeastern Poland. Zawitkowski fought under the pseudonym “Wierny.” He took part in many battles including one of the biggest partisan battles on Porytowe Wzgorze in Janow Forest. His unit was instrumental in saving the lives of a British flight crew whose Halifax bomber crashed while supplying arms to the Polish partisans. All seven flight crew members, including Captain Thomas Storey, survived the war, and were reunited with their families in England. For his and his unit’s gallant efforts, Zawitkowski received honorary membership in the Royal Air Forces Escaping Society.

In 1966 Jozef emigrated from Poland to Auburn, N.Y., with his wife and five children. He was sponsored by his brother Walter, a former partisan who also served in “Ojciec Jan” unit. In 1970 Jozef and family relocated to Rochester, N.Y., where he worked for Xerox until his retirement in 1985.

After the fall of communism in Poland in 1989, the Polish Home Army was finally recognized for its sacrifices, patriotism in their fight for the independence, and freedom of their homeland. Zawitkowski became the recipient of many med-



als including: the Polish Officer’s Cross, Polish Veteran’s Medal, the Order of Grunwald, and the Order of Independence Cross with Swords received from the Polish President, Andrzej Duda.

“I am accepting this Cross on behalf of all members of “Ojciec Jan” unit, who have died fighting, were tortured, executed, spent many years in communist prisons or Soviet gulags after the war, and on behalf of those who were unable to witness free Poland,” he said at the medal presentation.

Zawitkowski recently received the Gold Medal for Contributions to the Defense of the Country, and a promotion to the rank of Colonel. Both honors bestowed on Jozef by the Polish Minister of Defense Mariusz Blaszczak.

Zawitkowski was always active in the Polish American Veterans organizations in Rochester, N.Y., and he never forgot and supported his former partisans in Poland. He was a member of St. Stanislaus Church in Rochester, and also attended St. Brendan on the Lake Church in Wilson, N.Y. He was laid to rest in the military cemetery at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pa.

Wanda Horbacewicz Denisiewicz, Catholic Holocaust Survivor

It is with great sorrow we mourn the passing of our dear mother Wanda (Horbacewicz) Denisiewicz of West Hartford. Wanda passed peacefully surrounded in the loving arms of her five children.



Wanda was born in Poland in 1930. She was the loving wife of Jan Denisiewicz and came to the States with their daughter, Kristina, in 1951. They were both Polish, Catholic Holocaust survivors. Wanda is survived by her children Kristina Cavalieri and her husband Paul; Mirek Denis (Denisiewicz) and his wife Anne Chwat; Stan Denisiewicz and wife Bonnie; Richard Denisiewicz; and Katherine Denisiewicz. She also leaves grandchildren Jenna, Michael, Jason, Juliette, Kristof, and a great grandchild on the way. Wanda was predeceased by her husband Jan, her two sisters, a brother, and

her beloved grandson Paulie Cavalieri. She loved her dogs Pumpkin and Parsley, and treated them like children. Wanda was a loving and devoted mother to her five children and their families. She will always be remembered as a true lady who never raised her voice, sacrificed for her children who had such love and respect for their amazing mother. Wanda was a very enthusiastic person who loved cooking, dancing, and gardening.

Our family would like to thank all the wonderful staff of Hartford Hospital ICU, who went above and beyond with compassion and care.

Services were held at St. Brigid Church in West Hartford, Conn., Sept. 25. Donations in her memory may be made to the “Paul Rapid Cavalieri Scholarship Fund,” 120 Carriage Hill Dr., Wethersfield CT 06109.

Mamo i Babciu kochamy Cie.

Na pewno się znowu zobaczymy!

— The Family of Wanda Horbacewicz Denisiewicz

Thomas P. Kula, Member of the Ampol Aires

CHICAGO — Thomas P. Kula, age 82, passed away peacefully at home October 21 surrounded by his family after a courageous 16 month battle with Leukemia.

Kula was retired from Pratt & Lambert Paints after many years of service. A concertina player and vocalist, he was an original member

of The Famous and Fabulous Ampol Aires Orchestra, performing with that group for 54 years.

His love for music earned him many awards.

Memorials in his memory can be made to: Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Donor Services, PO Box 98018, Washington DC 20090.

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15th Century Barge Unearthed Outside Warsaw



PHOTO: LESZEK SZYMANSKI/PAP

A huge river barge built at the end of the 15th century and used to transport grain to Gdańsk is to be excavated and put on display.

by Stuart Dowell

WARSAW — Archaeological digs are underway to excavate a giant medieval barge that carried goods down the Vistula in the 15th Century. Conservation will take eight years before the vessel is put on display.

Workers stumbled across the barge 30 years ago when they were deepening a pond in an apple orchard and their tools struck a wooden construction. The orchard's owner Katarzyna Łuczak-Jasińska wasted no time calling in a team of archaeologists.

What they discovered was a flat-bottomed barge built in 1481 typical of the kind used to transport goods along the Vistula in the 15th and 16th centuries. The discovery became a sensation, not only because it was so well-preserved, but also because it is one of the largest examples of these vessels, measuring over 100 feet long, over 20 feet wide and about five feet deep.

The barge was found near Czerny Castle about 20 miles south of Warsaw in a pond that was likely to have been part of the Vistula before the river changed its course to flow further away towards the east. In fact, it was this change in the river's course that caused the Dukes of Mazowsze to abandon Czerny Castle and move to Warsaw.

Underling the find's importance, Dr. Wojciech Brzeziński from the State Archaeological Museum said "the vessel sailed along the Vistula in the times of Christopher Columbus, but it is 30 feet longer than his ships."

The oak barge would have had a cabin where a crew as large as 20 would have slept. The cargo hold was open, covered only with mats, and the vessel would have been powered by sail, by oar, or even pulled by the crew.

In 2009 when extensive inves-

tigations were carried out, archaeologists were not able to dig out the barge because of costs, and lack of storage space. Thus, it was decided to bury the wreck again in its watery and sandy grave.

Now, however, a huge basin has been built for the barge in a branch of the State Archaeology Museum near Sochaczew in which the vessel's wooden elements will be soaked in a special preserving solution. They will then be slowly dried in a special freeze-drying device. The iron nails and animal hair and tar sealing will also undergo preservation.

The task is made much harder because the barge cannot be transported in one piece. "We have to dig the barge out, clean it, fully document it and extract it piece by piece," said Michał Grabowski from the specialist company Archom. "It can't be taken out whole or even in sections. Every element has to be marked and placed on a plan with its number so that the vessel can be put back together later like a puzzle."

When all this work is completed, the archaeologists want to create a Vistula Shipping Museum in which the barge will be the central attraction.

The Legacy of Chain Migration

by Stephen M Szabados

Our Polish ancestors came to America in search of jobs or cheap farm land. Most came due to the pull of chain migration. All were seeking a better life than what was available to them in Poland. Most left Poland for America due to letters from earlier immigrants who described their new lives in glowing terms and encouraged others to join them. Once in America, many of the immigrants sent money home for brothers and sisters to join them. The Poles were also encouraged to leave when they read the advertisements that were circulated by the shipping companies.

Chain migration describes the process that affected many Polish families. The term was meant to represent the links that pull the immigrants from Poland to America. Many associate chain migration to the linking of family members but in some cases, the immigrants also left to join to friends from their villages who had gone before them.

There were many reasons why the immigrants left Poland. I have identified the Push Factors that drove them from Poland. I have also identified Pull Factors that attracted the Polish immigrants to America. Chain migration was one of the Pull factors.

The Push Factors were:

- poverty
- a shortage of land
- the military draft
- political or cultural repression
- religious discrimination

The Pull factors were:

- the promise of jobs in the new lands
- cheap farmland in America and Canada
- the magnetic pull of "chain

migration."

My Polish grandparents were part of the mass exodus of the farm laborers from the Polish countryside between 1850 to 1914. This group left because of desperate economic problems, lack of jobs; and the desire of the emigrants to make their lives better. They left Poland with the dream of finding work and farmland in America. They were not caught up in "America fever" but decided they needed to leave if they were going to find a place that would improve their lives. This wave of immigration is often called *za chlebem* or "for bread." Most of us have ancestors who were part of this surge of immigration.

My grandfather left in 1912 from the Russian Partition. He was the youngest son of a Polish farmer. Their farm was too small to be subdivided further, and he had no hope of owning land. With the lack of industrialization in Poland, owning property was the key to economic stability in Poland. The inheritance laws gave the farms to only one son who was usually the oldest. The other sons found it challenging to find work because there were few jobs outside of the family farm due to the lack of industrialization that had occurred in these areas. Sons who could not inherit land could not earn a living in their villages. They had to leave.

Fathers had to find the "right husband" for their daughters or ship them off to America. Finding a husband was the reason why my grandmother emigrated in 1921. She lived with her brother and his wife, and he could not find an appropriate husband for her in Poland. In America, her immigrant brother arranged a marriage with my grandfather.

Passenger manifests indicate that the majority of Polish immigrants from the Russian and Austrian partitions were single men and women. However, I did see some married Polish couples listed in the passenger manifests. Most couples had just married and seemingly had agreed to a safe marriage in Poland instead of searching for a suitable spouse in America. Couples with children also emigrated from the Russian and Austrian partitions, but this was more common in the Prussian area.

Find your ancestor's story. Identify as many aspects of their life in Poland. Identify their family in Poland. Who did they leave behind? What were their prospects? Research the local history. Who did they list as their destination in America? Where did friends and relatives in America work?

❖ ❖ ❖

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."

2019 Tours to Galician and Prussian Partitions

CHICAGO — The Polish Genealogical Society of America (PGSA) is hosting tours to Poland, organized by several prominent and well respected genealogical tour companies based there.

Tours are limited to 15-18 to maximize personal service. You can add a personalized tour with these guides for additional research and to visit ancestral towns.

Details are available at pgsa.org, or by writing to tours@pgsa.org.

The trips are scheduled for Spring and Fall 2019

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American Polonia at a Glance

CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES — A **Holy Mass of Thanksgiving**, celebrated by Polish-American clergy, will be held at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Sat., Nov. 10, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

Following the Mass, a celebration of the centennial of Poland regaining its independence, there will be a concert performed on the cathedral's majestic pipe organ. The Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels is at 555 W. Temple St., in downtown Los Angeles.

FLORIDA

TAMPA BAY — The **American Institute of Polish Culture (AIPC)** Tampa Bay (1521 N. Saturn Ave., Clearwater, Fla.) will commemorate the 100th anniversary of Poland regaining her independence on Nov. 11, 2018. Events include: presentations and parade sponsored by AIPC at the Kosciuszko Monument in Williams Park, St. Petersburg; a Celebratory Mass, celebrated by Ks. Dr. Andrzej Gorczyca, MIC Mercy of God Polish Mission, at St. Paul Catholic Church, 1800 12th St. North, St. Petersburg; and a dinner and dance at the Polish Center of John Paul II 1521 N. Saturn Ave., Clearwater.

To participate, please call Polish Center (727) 298-8609 Polish or email polcenterbiuro@gmail.com.

MICHIGAN

ANN ARBOR — Fall events from the **Copernicus Program in Polish Studies** at the University of Michigan:

Nov. 9–11. 25th Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival. Sponsored by the Polish Cultural Fund, Ann Arbor. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty. For films and times, see annarbor-polonia.org/polish-film-festival.

Nov. 12. 7:00 p.m. Film, performance, Q&A. The Yellow Ticket (Der Gelbe Schein). Victor Janson and Eugen Illés, directors (66 min, 1918). Performed by klezmer composer Alicia Svigals, violin, and Marilyn Lerner, piano. Ticket information at michtheater.org. Co-sponsors: Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, JCC Ann Arbor. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty.

Nov. 16. 4:00 p.m. Panel and recital. "Poland's Centennial: An Evening of Reflection and Celebration." Paul Bryczyński (PhD History '13) will discuss political turmoil surrounding the election of the first president of the Republic; Benjamin Paloff (associate professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures and Comparative Literature, U-M) will take us on a tour of the Młoda Polska literary movement; and Matthew Bengtson (assistant professor of music, U-M) will bring to life the music of pianist, composer, and statesman Ignacy Paderewski. 1010 Weiser Hall.

NEW JERSEY

RUNNEMEDE — Sat., Nov. 10. **Polish American Citizens Club** of Camden County Turkey Hop 2 Dance Party. VFW Post #3324, E. 6th Ave., featuring DJ Chris, 7:00-11:00 p.m. Price of ticket includes food, beer, wine and soda (No BYOB). Info/tickets call Stan Raicz (856) 933-1236.

NEW YORK

NEW YORK — Wed., Nov. 14, 2018, 8:00 p.m. **Voices of the Mountains Concert**. Stern Auditorium, Perelman Stage, Carnegie Hall. Voices of the Mountains is a project showcasing the presence of Polish highland culture, traditions, and landscapes throughout the music of four renowned Polish composers:

Wojciech Kilar, Karol Szymanowski, Henryk Mikołaj Górecki, and Mieczysław Karłowicz. The concert brings together three great Polish music personalities: Janusz Olejniczak, awe-inspiring classical pianist, Sebastian Karpień-Bulecka, a remarkable vocalist of the young generation, and Jerzy Maksymiuk, a premier Polish conductor, who are going to treat the audience to a fusion of Polish highland music, drum & bass and jazz.

For tickets and information, contact the Foundation at thekf.org, or call (212) 734-2130.

BUFFALO — The 78th **Polish Happy Hour Buffalo (PHHB)** will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Poland regaining its Independence (November 11, 1918) on Sun., Nov. 11 at St. Stanislaus Church, 123 Townsend Street.

A Commemorative Mass will be held at noon in observance of the anniversary and Veteran's Day. Following Mass, PHHB will be held across the street at the Msgr. Pitass Center until 7:00 p.m. The admission-free event features a complimentary buffet. Polish beer, delicacies, and raffles will also be offered for sale.

There will be presentations by elected officials. Long-time Polish leader Joe Macielag will offer remarks about Poland and its efforts to gain Independence following World War I.

There will be dance performances by Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble, Polish Heritage Dancers, and Rodzina groups; Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School Children's Choir; and dance music by DJ Red and the Special Delivery band. The Polish Genealogical Society of New York State will be there to help with surname research.

"With over 300,000 people of Polish heritage in Western New York, we wanted to offer an opportunity for as many people to come together as a community to celebrate this once-in-a-lifetime event, whether they were born in Poland, or are the great grandchild of an immigrant," said PHHB organizer Joseph Rej, Jr.

All funds raised will benefit St. Stan's. The church, known as the Mother Church of Buffalo Polonia, is at 123 Townsend Street in the Polonia District.

PENNSYLVANIA

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

DOYLESTOWN — Sun., Nov. 11 - 100th Anniversary of Poland's Independence Day, **National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa**, Ferry Rd. Mass 12:30 p.m., followed by a tribute to Poland and Polonia in America. Info call the Polish American Cultural Center Museum (215) 922-1700.

PHILADELPHIA — Sun., Nov. 11. **Polski Uniwersytet Ludowy Lecture** in the Polish Language, Associated Polish Home, 9150 Academy Rd. 3:00 p.m. Speaker: Andrzej Jozef Dabrowski, historian. Topic: "The Polish women poets and writers as a world phenomenon."

On Sun., Dec. 2 at the Polish Home, Richard Brzozowski, Polonia activist, and historian will discuss "The Polish Museum in Port Washington, N.Y., a Historic Re-

view."

For information on either event, call (215) 624-9954. All are invited to attend. Free.

PHILADELPHIA — Sun., Nov. 18. Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia **Annual Polonaise Ball**, Whitmarsh Valley Country Club, Lafayette Hill, Pa., 5:00-10:00 p.m. Cocktails, cash bar, dinner and music by the Rick Gazda Band. Entertainment by the Ojczyzna Dance Group from Baltimore. Honoree Dr. Alexandra Ziolkowska-Boehm, author & writer. Info call Marie Hejnosz (215) 487-0221. Proceeds benefit the Scholarship Program.

PHILADELPHIA — Sun., Dec. 2. **Christmas Bazaar**, St. Stanislaus Hall, 3rd and Fitzwater Sts., South Philadelphia, Noon-4:00 p.m. Games of chance, food and much more. Info call (215) 468-1922.

WASHINGTON

REDMOND — Learn how to make Poland's ultimate comfort food — **pierogi!**

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Registration (at press time) was still open for the Tues., Dec. 11 class at the Redmond PCC.

Visit pccmarkets.com/class/polish-pierogis/ to learn more or to register.

SEATTLE — Nov. 3-4, noon-6:00 p.m. **Fall Bazaar** at the Polish Cultural Center, 1714 18th Ave. The annual fall bazaar features delicious Polish dinners served all day as well as booths with amber and silver jewelry, crafts, Polish books and CDs, Boleslawiec pottery, Polish crystals as well as booths by local Polish organizations. Polish Choir Vivat Musica will perform on Saturday at 2:30 pm. You can buy Christmas ornaments and wafers (oplatki) and homemade cakes. Also available: frozen pierogi and dinners to go. Organized by the Polish Women's Club. For information, call (206) 322-3020 or eMail info@polishhome.org.

SEATTLE — **Chopin Concert** by Janusz Olejniczak, Thurs., Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m. Benaroya Hall.

A Chopin piano recital by Janusz Olejniczak is part of centennial celebrations of Poland's independence. The program includes in part 1: seven Chopin's works used in Polanski's movie *The Pianist*; in part 2: Sonata B Flat Minor Op.35, three mazurkas and Scherzo B Flat Minor Op. 31. Mr. Olejniczak is one of the best Polish pianists concerting all over the world; he was the youngest award winner at the International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw in 1970.

For tickets, visit seattlesymphony.org, or call (206) 215-4747.

CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES — A **Holy Mass of Thanksgiving**, celebrated by Polish-American clergy, will be held at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Sat., Nov. 10, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

Following the Mass, a celebration of the centennial of Poland regaining its independence, there will be a concert performed on the cathedral's majestic pipe organ. The Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels is at 555 W. Temple St., in downtown Los Angeles.

Polonia Places

Three Ways Inn Restaurant

Three Ways Inn Restaurant
17 Three Ways Dr.
White Hall, West Virginia
Status: Open

by Gregory L. Witul

If you are driving down from Toronto to see Pulaski's Monument in Savanna or heading east from Nashville to visit the site of the Lattimer massacre, you'll need a place to stop and eat, and there's no place better to get a plate of pierogi along the way than the Three Ways Inn near Fairmont, West Virginia.

When Stanley M. Apanowicz took over in

and famous hoagies, it would be Linda who developed their delicious pierogi. Stuffed with potato and cheese, fried, and topped with caramelized onions, these pierogi have been described by locals as being "just like your mom or your grandma used to make." To fill out the rest of the menu the Apanowicz added steaks, seafood, a Reuben sandwich, ever popular Italian dishes, and a fish sandwich which pairs nicely with the pierogi and a domestic lager.

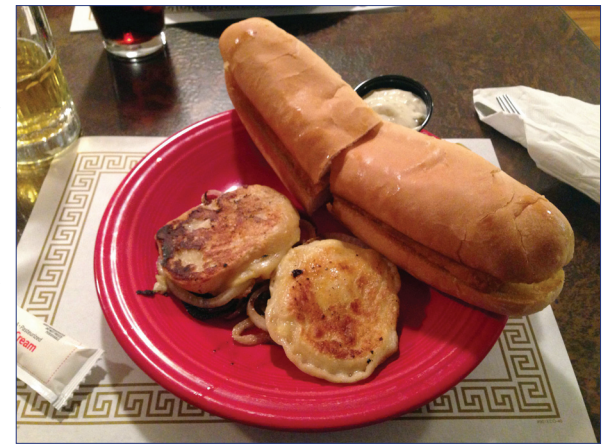
In the autumn of 2000, the chef behind of the Three Ways Inn's pierogi, Linda Apanow-



the Inn in 1989, the bar and restaurant already had a quarter century of history under its belt, and nearing age 50, Apanowicz, too, had a lifetime of experiences. Born in Pittsburgh in the spring of 1946, Stan served in Vietnam as part of the 1st Infantry Division and married Linda Wallace before working as a salesman and coal miner at Martinka Mines.

In 1989 Apanowicz purchased the former home-turned-restaurant at the intersections of Vinegar Hill Road, Fairmont Avenue, and the present day Three Way Drive in Marion County. The building would include a U-shaped bar, dining rooms with both tables and booths, and a banquet hall that comfortably sits 100. While Stan put his signature on the bar and grill with a now legendary house dressing

icz passed away with Stan joining her 11 years later. Like many other



Polish American bars, the Three Ways Inn has stayed in the family with Stan's son Greg now running the restaurant, where he still serves up his mother's amazing pierogi.



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Dance Time

Roncesvalles Fans Enamoured by Box On's Showmanship

by Jennifer Pijanowski

It seems as if I was just planning my summer polka road trips and now, the holiday season is already upon us. So many wonderful memories made over the past few months while looking forward to many new moments spent with friends and family. November kicks off my favorite time of year, as we all begin to focus on spending extra time with loved ones and slowing down as the weather becomes less ambitious for outside activities. This also leaves us more time to spend supporting our local polka bands, venues, and dances.

Every year I promote Toronto's **Roncesvalles Polish Festival** and this year was a wonderful reminder of why I love this festival so much. To begin, it was one of the most remarkable weekends of weather for mid-September. The weekend boasted sunny 80 degree temperatures that helped bring large crowds to this eclectic village for the celebration.

This year, a Friday night launch party kicked off the fun-filled week-



PhoCus members Paul Dominiak and Tony Winarz on a break at Roncesvalles.

blockbuster entertainment for the opening event. As the hall filled to capacity early, many were turned



Zach Piatkowski and Alex Vinecki of Box On at the Roncesvalles festival.

away at the door as it was promptly a sellout event. Old friends, families, locals, and out of towners joined in the fun as **Lenny Gomulka**, **John Gora**, and **Eddie Guca** all took turns on the stage. As every song played, the dance floor was overflowing with couples showing off their moves to the energizing sounds of the bands.

Polish food, beer, and spirits were bountiful as so many congregated for this spectacularly pleasurable evening. As I stood chatting with some friends, you could feel the bounce of the old wooden dance floor under your feet as the crowd feverishly whirled around. Each band boosted the crowd's energy as they took turns alternating on stage.

Congratulations to **Ed Guca** and his entire family who helped to organize this successful event. During his time on stage, we were treated to some guest vocals by his talented daughter Karen while his beautiful

celebratory start to my favorite polka event of the season.

Saturday began as a sunny, high humidity day with plenty of volunteers transforming the street into 18 blocks of stages, vendors, rides, beer gardens, and more. This year's polka stage was filled with non-stop entertainment. The **ScotiaBank Polka Maniac Stage** opened with folk group **Polky Village Band**. Last year was my first time seeing this innovative group that combines European folk music

with a young energy all their own. Utilizing angelic vocals mixed with accordion, dulcimer, Polish frame drum, and fiddle, they are unlike any band you have heard before. They are a truly talented group of musicians who are most definitely worth a listen. You can check out clips, watch videos, and see their schedule at polkyband.com.

Next up **John Gora & Gorale** and **Atlantis** took over the stage for the afternoon. Even though he is right at home in Toronto, it is hard to find a more charming entertainer than John. Capturing the attention of festival goers walking by, Gora can pull in even the most skeptical critic.

Atlantis was up next rocking the crowd with notable polkas, tangos, and waltzes. The steamy weather continued as the polkas kept the libations flowing and fun exploding on the streets of Toronto. **Phocus** and **Box On** alternated to close out the first night of festivities. Playing polka favorites and boasting the strong vocals from Jimmy Nowaczewski, **Phocus** got fans fired up for a sweaty evening of dancing in the streets.

The show stopper of the night was **Box On**, who constantly revs up their showmanship. Kicking off their sets with as much energy as they finish, it is easy to understand why they draw such a large crowd. Whether festival goers were polka fans or not, they were taking notice of these young musicians magnetic stage show. Helped by Zach Piatkowski's reed work, Alex Quinell's drumming, and Olivia's keyboard guitar playing, I become more and more enamored with this group each time I see them as they continually up their talent and showmanship.

Thank you to the committee of the Roncesvalles Polish Festival for making polkas an integral part of this landmark event. There are so many facets of this Polish festival that it is impossible to comprehend unless you actually make the trip. Polish dance groups, Polish vocal groups, Polish Art walk, hundreds of vendors, vodka tastings, and a Disco

Polo dance under the stars, are just a few of the highlights throughout the weekend. This year, Canada's Prime



Marek and dad Frank Kutrowski loved the music at Roncesvalles.

Minister Justin Trudeau made a trip to welcome and congratulate Roncesvalles on their accomplishments. He offered a wonderful speech about being Canadian and how Canadians are a culture of inclusion not division.

AS OCTOBERFESTS were being celebrated all over the country, I decided to take a quick day trip to the picturesque town of Fairport, N.Y. for some polka music. Although not traditionally known for his Polish polkas, **Alex Meixner** has committed himself to the love and art of polkas.

The Octoberfest in Fairport surpassed my expectations as it was located in the heart of the village under a huge tent with long wooden tables reminiscent of an old beer hall As hundreds waited in anticipation, Meixner took the stage under electrifying lights and playing full throttle from the very first note. He has the ability to play traditional polkas hailing from Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Italy, Spain, Poland and America/Cleveland as well as adapting mainstream music into polka style. He is a truly incredible artist who is also an active ambassador for polka music, revitalizing interest in traditional music to sellout crowds, and growing mainstream acceptance.

Meixner is a classically trained musician who grew up in a household of professional musicians. His hard work performing 180 shows a year has paid off. He has performed on over 50 albums, including 17 as a leader or soloist; collaborated with the notable advertising agency, BBDO, to produce the famous Hormel Pepperoni commercials; he recorded with comedy phenomenon, Jack Black, for the major motion picture, "The Polka King"; and even has his own beer. The New Braunsfels, Texas-based Faust Brewery has launched the Alex Meixner Polka Pilsner in honor of the positive and growing impact

Meixner's dedication to the polka music industry has garnered. It was quite an honor to see he perform and he sent quite a few Polish polkas out in our honor. Check out his schedule and if you get a chance attend one of his gigs, it will be unforgettable. You can find out more by visiting www.alexmeixner.com.

DON'T MISS YOUR LAST CHANCE to see **Polka Country Musicians** for the remainder of 2018. They still have a few great events happening this month. The **UPSA Polka Extravaganza** will be held on November 10th from 7:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m. at Holiday Inn, 6001 Rockside Rd., Independence, Ohio. **Polka Family** will be performing alongside PCM for this event. You can contact Barb for information at (440)-886-6157.

Next up PCM will be heading to sunny Phoenix, Arizona which is always a memorable time. They will be performing on Nov 17-18 at the Pulaski Club, 4331 E. McDowell Rd. The friendly members of the Club make it impossible to not enjoy every moment, so if you are in



The Brothers Kapuscinski at Toronto's St. Casmir's Church Hall for the Kick-Off Party.

the area, make sure you don't miss this weekend performance. You can contact the club for info (602) 275-9329.

Lastly, Val Bakowski's yearly "**Polka Meets Country**" event at The Cove in Depew, N.Y., on Saturday, November 24 will be PCM's last performance of 2018. This venue offers a wonderful large dance floor and plenty of space for an enjoyable evening. Buffalo's favorite country band West of the Mark will also be there if you want to try your dance talents with a little line dancing. Contact Val at (716) 656-7946 for additional information.

Polka fans coming to Buffalo may want to spend the afternoon in the Larkinville District, where one of our favorite places, The Buffalo Distilling Co., will be holding a krupnik release party for its new, barrel-aged version of the popular Polish cordial. There will be live music with **Special Delivery** from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Buffalo Distilling is at 860 Seneca Street.



Eddie Guca Band — Roncesvalles

end at St. Casmir's Church Hall right in the middle of Roncesvalles Village. Attendees were greeted by a retro banner proclaiming "Polka Party Tonight," hanging on the windows of the building! Once inside the beautifully preserved church hall, hundreds of polka fans anxiously waited for the bands to take the stage. Three bands provided the

wife Wanda watched with much love and adoration. Their daughter Weslie kept herself plenty busy providing libations for the parched crowd who literally drank every ounce of vodka in the church hall. This kickoff event was one to remember and I am hopeful that it returns again next year. It created a

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	1/24/89	Bandleader / Musician / Arranger	Conn.
3	Ray Jay Jarusinski			Bandleader / Vocalist / Musician	Pa.
3	Mark Trzepacz	1956		Bandleader / Vocalist / Musician	Buffalo, N.Y.
3	The Big Moose	1954		Polka D.J. WOWQ	Dubois, Pa.
4	Stan Ozimek (Cousin Ozzie)	1915	11 / 11/87	Polka D. J.	East Hartford, Conn.
4	Joe Oberaitis	1949		Bandleader / Vocalist / Musician / IJ	Fla.
5	Myron Floren	1919	2005	Accordianist (Lawrence Welk Show)	Calif.
5	Dave Dombrowski			Musician / Vocalist / Arranger	Pa.
6	Jim Polaski			Bandleader / Musician	Ill.
8	Casey Brudzinski	1924	3/1/07	Musician (Concertina)	Ill.
9	Ted Gibala	1942		Musician / Vocalist / Emcee	Pa.
10	Jullie Williams	(d.)		Former DJ (WMBS Radio)	Uniontown, Pa.
10	Connie Brzowski			Former Polka DJ	Md.
19	Ron Somers	1939		Musician (Ray Budzilek Band)	Pa.
12	Dick Kuicemba	1932		Musician / Arranger	Mich.
12	Don Cialkoszewski (Polish Kid)			Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Ariz.
14	Alan Volek Jr.	1974		Musician / Vocalist	Pa.
17	Carl Hoynoski	1944		Musician / Vocalist (Golden Brass)	Fla.
18	Marty Dzik	1964		Musician / Vocalist	Ill.
19	Ken Olowin			Polka D.J. / I.J.	Erie, Pa.
20	Rick Piotrowski	1956		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Fla.
20	Whitey Ryniec			Musician / Vocalist	Ill.
21	Wally Raczkowski	1967		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Wisc..
22	Wally Pala	1941	11/12/00	Musician / Vocalist (Pala Brothers)	Chicago
23	Gino Kurdziel			Musician / Vocalist (G Notes)	Buffalo, N.Y.
24	Charlie Tansek	1941		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Ohio
25	Mitch Moskal	1950		Polka I.J.	Mass.
26	Andy (Dziagwa) Day	1928		Musician / Vocalist / Emcee (Ampol Aires)	Ill.
27	Larry Chesky	1933	1/25/11	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / Producer	Mass.
27	Mikey Dee	1973		Musician / Bandleader / Vocalist	Pa.
27	Sandy Lewandowski			IJ / Polka Jammer Network	Buffalo, N.Y.
29	Frانيا (Yakima) Urbaniak			Polka D.J. WEDO	Pa.
30	Ray Barsukiewicz	1948		Musician / Vocalist / Composer	Buffalo, N.Y.

Flashback

Polka Saturday Night

by Patrick F. Coyle

Editor's note: "Polka Saturday Night" is an unedited account of a night of live polka music Western New York in the late 1980s, written by PAJ subscriber and polka fan Patrick Coyle as a post-graduate class requirement.

It's a hot summery July evening, and I am on the patio lazily watching two squawking Blue Jays fight over seeds at the bird feeder.

Max, the sleepy Black Labrador's flicking tail keeps pesky flies from her large muscled flanks. My reverie is broken by the jangling ring of the telephone, an invention for which I have little use. The magical voice of Don Kozak is on the other end, requesting our presence at the "Town Edge."

It looks like another Polka Saturday night. Tonight all cares and pressures of my small world will be forgotten.

Travel plans made and the route selected is illuminated by beacons of street-light on Clinton Street. They guide our path to the mecca of Buffalo Polka music "Town Edge." A large outdoor electric sign flashes a psychedelic message "Town Edge Bowling Lanes presents Wanda and Stephanie, America's Polka Sweethearts."

Entering, we are completely enveloped by a blast of heat that would do the Sahara proud. My partner Patricia and I feel exonerated in our choice of shorts and sneakers for the evening's entertainment.

At the bar, two blue-collar types quaffing Genesee beers loudly protest the heavy-set barmaid's slow response to orders for more *piwo*. The dart board is occupied by an apparently near-sighted woman who hollers in a shrill voice "where's the bulls-eye?"

We push our way through the packed bar, marveling at the architectural large dome that covers it: a wintery scene of polar bears, ice, snow and white cumulus clouds belies the fact that sweat is already running down my armpits into my shorts.

Greetings are shouted and our hosts Don and Marina wave us to a miniscule table laden with beer, wine, cigarettes, a purse, and towels. He is attired in the usual bright red shirt, white trousers and scuffed white shoes, looking for all to see like a huge Polish flag. As always, Marina is meticulously coiffured and her dark Arab eyes flash with excitement.

Pleasantries exchanged, we anxiously await the music. In my mind,

I try to comprehend how two Irish ethnics and one female Lebanese can't be dominated by one Polish male with pied-piper charisma.

Wanda and Stephanie take the bandstand and their billing of "America's Polka Sweethearts" must have been from an ad writer's long ago memory.

Both are buxom and poured into black stretch pant-suits that incredibly undulate with every body movement. The lines in their faces tell of too many polka shows and even more vodka and orange juices. Each has a remarkable hair style: yellow as a sunset for Wanda and coal black for Stephanie.

A foot is slammed down, sounding like a rifle shot. "Raz, dwa, trzy." The music explodes.

A visual transformation takes place. We now see a Madonna-Joan Jett combination perform the Polish equivalent of a rock concert.

An emotional charge of energy pent-up during my work week is released like a thunderclap. Drums, horn, and concertina form a wall of sound that reverberates throughout the room.

A foot is slammed down, sounding like a rifle shot.

"Raz, dwa, trzy." The music explodes.

Foot stomping, bell ringing, towel waving interspersed with Polish slang punctuate each musical offering. Beer is flowing like Niagara Falls and a glance at the owner's face indicates his financial happiness. Old ladies fan the dance floor encased in polyester slacks; heavily veined legs covered by nylons, sweating profusely. Their excess flesh bounces in-time to the music. The sardined dance floor creates the appearance of a medieval jousting match. Dancers whirl, turn and twist, remarkably not colliding or crashing into each other.

The physical impossibility of keeping our energy level high for the long evening leaves us to sit out the last few musical selections. The tables, now empty, look forlorn as foam encrusted beer glasses sitting on them resemble checkers on a blank board. Perspiration stained clothes mix with the aroma of perfume and stale cigarette smoke. The few remaining participants are saying their last goodbyes.

We bid goodnight to our friends and wander out past the now dark sign. Hoarse, sore-footed, exhausted but happy, we return to our suburban retreat to await another call for a "Polka Saturday Night."

SPAN to Hold Christmas Party

CHICAGO — The Senior Polka Association North will hold its Christmas party, Sun., Dec. 9, at the Lone Tree Manor, 7730 N. Milwaukee, in Niles, Ill.

Entertainment will be provided by Jimmy Kilian & Honky Chicago, with a special guest appearance by Eddie Blazonczyk, Jr.

Music and dinner are included in the \$38.00 admission. There will be a cash bar. Doors open at 11:00 a.m., and dinner will be served at noon. Music and dancing from 1:00-4:00

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FLORIDA, N.Y. — Jimmy Sturr & his Orchestra can be seen nationwide, every Friday at 7:00 p.m. on Direct TV (channel 345), the Dish Network (channel 231), or Spectrum (channel 297). The show is repeated Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

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Tickets will be held in your name and will be distributed along with table assignments when you arrive. Tickets can also be purchased at the SPA meeting Nov 6th and Dec 4th at The Lone Tree Manor, or by calling Freida Holowicki at (847) 588-2106.

Those of you with Sirius/XM, can hear Sturr's radio show every Saturday at 6:00 p.m. on channel 147. The show is repeated Sundays at noon. Regional fans can tune into WTbQ 1110 AM and 93.1 FM every Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

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Polka Calendar

Compiled by John Ziobrowski

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

NOVEMBER 3

- Dennis Polisky St. Joe Polish Society Colchester, Conn. 5:30-10 (860) 537-2550
- New Direction Potts Banquet Hall Cheektowaga, N.Y. 7-12 (716) 675-6588
- The Local Boyz. Alert Fire Hall, Emigsville, Pa. 7-11 (717) 235-4667

NOVEMBER 4

- Dennis Polisky Polish Home Philadelphia, Pa. 2-6 (215) 906-1825
- Joe Stanky. VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-5 (570) 472-1152
- Eddie Forman PACC Ludlow, Mass. 3-7 (413) 592-0367
- John Stevens Roselawn Banquets New York Mills, N.Y. 2-6 (315) 736-5030
- Jimmy Sturr Polish Club Port Washington, N.Y. 2-6 (516) 883-5553

NOVEMBER 7

- Special Delivery. Polka Buzz Live Recording. Pott's Banquet Hall, Cheektowaga, N.Y. (716) 668-9101. 7:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 8-11

- Jimmy Sturr / SqueezeBox Wursthof New Braunfels, Texas. (800) 724-0727

NOVEMBER 9

- Lenny Gomulka K of C Chicopee, Mass. 8-12 (413) 374-7096

NOVEMBER 10

- Lenny Gomulka St. Joe's Polish Society Colchester, Conn. 7-11 (860) 537-2550
- The Polish Connection Moose Lodge Maplewood, Minn. 7-11 (651) 776-7898
- Villagers Band. Monaghan Township Fire Hall, Dillsburg, Pa. 5-9 (717) 774-1031

NOVEMBER 11

- Tony Blazonczyk PACC Ludlow, Mass. 3-7 (413) 592-0367
- Special Delivery. St. Stan's, Buffalo, N.Y. Ted (716) 668-9101.
- John Stevens VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-5 (570) 472-1152
- Eddie Forman German Club Pawtucket, R.I. 2-6 (401) 723-3549

NOVEMBER 17

- New Direction AMVETS, Depew, N.Y. 7-11 (716) 572-7827
- The Knewz / Polish Pride. Potts Banquet Hall. Buffalo, NY 6-12 (716) 341-3754

NOVEMBER 18

- Special Delivery. Buffalo Pizza and Ale House. Cheektowaga, N.Y. (716) 240-9161 5-8 p.m.
- The Continentals. Sacred Heart Parish Center, Cornwall, Pa. 2-6 p.m. (717) 566-5704.
- The Boys. PACC Ludlow, Mass. 3-7 (413) 592-0367
- John Gora PRCUA Hall Toledo, Ohio. 2-6 (419) 691-5684
- Golden Tones VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-5 (570) 472-1152
- Jody Maddie St. Mary Byzantine Cleveland, Ohio. 1-5 (216) 749-7980

NOVEMBER 23

- Lenny Gomulka Potts Banquet Hall Cheektowaga, N.Y. 8-12 (716) 675-6588

NOVEMBER 24

- Special Delivery. Buffalo Distilling Co. 860 Seneca St, Buffalo, N.Y 3-6. (716) 668-9101.
- Lenny Gomulka Holy Spirit Parma, Ohio. 7-11 (216) 403-9912
- John Gora PACC Albany, N.Y. 8-12 (518) 482-9414

NOVEMBER 25

- George Taresek VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-5 (570) 472-1152
- Lenny Gomulka Polish Club Connellyville, Pa. 4-8 (724) 628-6761

NOVEMBER 27

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

DECEMBER 1

- Dennis Polisky PNI Club Worcester, Mass. 5-9 (508) 361-2860
- DynaBrass Roselawn Banquets New York Mills, N.Y. 2-6 (315) 736-5030
- John Gora New Orleans Party, Conn., Brecksville, Ohio. 6-12 (216) 403-9912
- Eddie Forman Polish Cultural, Conn., Clark N.J. 2-6 (732) 382-7193
- Jimmy Sturr Paramount Theater Middletown, N.Y. 3-5 (800) 724-0727

DECEMBER 2

- DynaBrass. PACC Ludlow, Mass. 3-7 (413) 592-0367
- Swingmasters VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-5 (570) 472-1152
- Rich Bobinski Orch. Elks Middletown, N.Y. 7-11 (845) 649-6328.

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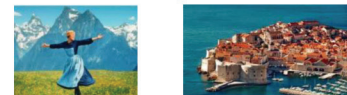
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Information about our trip
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and so much more in 2020

Christmas Preparations

A Tradition that Spans Miles and Generations

by Basia Frackiewicz

When I was four years old, I remember that my *cio-cia*, (auntie), visited for Christmas. This was near Boston, Massachusetts. She'd brought papers in different colors, and some were shiny. With a few snips of the scissors, a little glue, and needle and thread, she magically transformed these simple materials into a *jeżyk* (porcupine star), a clown, a mushroom, a *pawie oczko* (peacock eye) and paper chains. I'd never seen such wonders! I started by helping, cutting out pieces for a paper chain, on the easier, outside lines.

Later on, I found out that my father, mother and aunt were born in a country called Poland. They had childhood memories of beautiful Polish holiday celebrations. Then the Second World War changed their lives. My father fought in Warsaw's 1944 Uprising, escaped through the city sewers, then spent five months in a German prisoner of war camp, got a college degree in a free West Germany, saw the Statue of Liberty, and landed in Boston.

My mother and aunt (and grandmother) had lived in Eastern Poland. They were sent far east into hardship, disease, and starvation for two and a half years, escaped to India in 1942, crossed the Pacific Ocean by ship, then traveled by rail to Boston. My parents and aunt very deeply cherished the Christmas holiday traditions of their homeland. They passed these Polish traditions to me, my two brothers, and sister.

I'm writing in English, which is my native language. Well, actually, I learned Polish first in the home. When I went to kindergarten, somehow I didn't understand what the teacher and kids were saying. My older brother got beaten up by some classmates for this mistake.

Anyway, one of my specialties became Christmas tree ornaments, Polish style. I hope you'll enjoy learning about and making them, too.

TIPS FOR MAKING ORNAMENTS

- Find a sturdy box or a cookie tin to save your ornaments for the next Christmas. Tins can sometimes be found in thrift stores.
- Are you looking for natural straws? Maybe you do not live next door to a wheat field. So, before winter, go outside. Take scissors. Find an area not yet mowed and collect very long green grasses. These have hollow stems between joints. While you are outside, remove all leaves from the stems. Next, cut the stems into short lengths. (Toss out pieces with joints.) The grasses will dry into a nice natural straw-like color.
- Start a scrap box for papers. Collect papers all year long. Why? You'll need them to make beautiful Polish Christmas tree ornaments. Check your paper recycling bin often.
- Need ideas for animals? Remember the Noah's Ark story from the Bible? Also, ask your librarian for animal picture books. I looked at a children's illustrated dictionary for designs.
- Start a tradition on the Sundays before Christmas. Make Polish Christmas tree ornaments. Invite friends and family. Make extra ornaments as special gifts.
- Buy a little bag of "wiggly eyes" to make your ornaments come alive. Stick-on cartoon eyes are great, too. If you have a hole punch, make eyes from a dot of black, then glue onto a larger white circle that is outlined with black ... or just use markers. Have fun!



Chains (łańcuchy) can be made in one color, alternating colors, or papers from a variety of sources, including wrapping paper, maps, newspapers, comic books, or labels.

PHOTO: LENDULETMAGAZIN.HU

Heritage Month Kick-Off



MAYOR DAVID NARKEWICZ and members of the Polish Heritage Committee raised the Polish flag in downtown Northampton, Mass., Oct. 5, to celebrate Polish Heritage Month and kick off the countdown to what has become one of the largest Polish events in Western Massachusetts, the Pulaski Day Parade.

This year's parade was held Oct. 8 in downtown Northampton, It proceeded along King Street and Main Street to the beautifully renovated Pulaski Park next to the Academy of Music. It featured Polish organizations, local officials, military groups saluting General Casimir Pulaski, and civic and community organizations.

A memorial Mass was held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church before the parade and a commemorative program.

Poland's Armed Forces Saluted in Washington

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Military attaches from many of Washington's embassies were on hand at the Polish ambassador's residence, Sept. 27, 2018 to celebrate Polish Armed Forces Day. The few hundred guests included many representatives of the U.S. Armed Forces and government, diplomats, Polish army veterans, and Polonia and its representative organizations. The event was co-hosted by Ambassador Piotr Wilczek and Commanding Defense Attaché Major General Cezary Wisniewski. Assistant Defense Attaché Lieutenant Colonel Sylwia Szawlowska served as the event's architect and master of ceremonies.

Ambassador Wilczek welcomed the guests. He began his remarks by recounting the 1920 Battle of Warsaw in which the Polish army — in a desperate last-ditch stand — defeated the invading Bolshevik Red Army at the banks of the Vistula River. This effectively stopped the communist Red Tide from sweeping westward across a World War I war-torn Europe. Key to the victory was the Kosciuszko Squadron, comprised of 21 brave American volunteer pilots who flew for the nascent Polish air force.

HISTORY OF COOPERATION.

Ambassador Wilczek also harkened back to the days of the American Revolutionary War when Polish Generals Kosciuszko and Pulaski helped to lead American soldiers to victory; by remembering that Polish and American troops fought alongside each other to liberate Europe from the Nazi German scourge; and that Polish soldiers went to Iraq and Afghanistan to support and fight with U.S. and NATO forces. After reviewing the presence of the U.S.

military in Poland, and Poland's strategic NATO role in defending Central and Eastern Europe — especially NATO's and Poland's eastern flank front line — Wilczek said "today the Polish-American military partnership is stronger than ever."

Major General Wisniewski expanded on Ambassador Wilczek's remarks in general and on the August 15, 1920 Polish victory at the Battle of Warsaw. He explained in detail how the Kosciuszko Squadron contributed greatly in this and other critical battles by changing the face of the battlefield in Poland's favor. Wisniewski made special mention of Polish General Josef Haller's Blue Army consisting of 22,000 Polish American volunteers who fought first in France during World War I (1914-1918), and later transitioned to Poland to play a crucial role in the Battle of Warsaw in defense of the newly resurrected Polish nation.

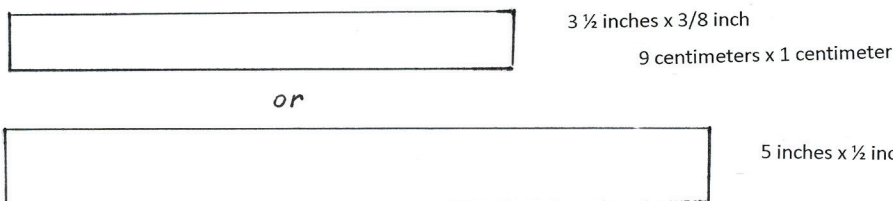
General Wisniewski bestowed upon Dr. Janusz Romanski, of Ridley Park, Pa., the Bronze Medal of the Polish Armed Forces "In recognition of support and the strengthening of Polish American relationships, and for leadership and exemplary work in the Polish American veteran's community."

In keeping with the evening's theme of Polish and American martial history, cooperation and solidarity was the guest of honor — U.S. Air Force General Joseph L. Lengyel, the 28th Chief of the National Guard Bureau, commanding 453,000 Army and Air National Guard soldiers and airmen. He began his remarks by saying that he must have a Polish connection because the name "Lengyel" in Hungarian means "from Poland." He reminded that the national guards from our various northeast states fought with Kosciuszko to victory at the key Battle of Saratoga.

Polish Christmas Tree Ornaments © Barbara Frackiewicz

Chains / łańcuchy

SIMPLE CHAIN

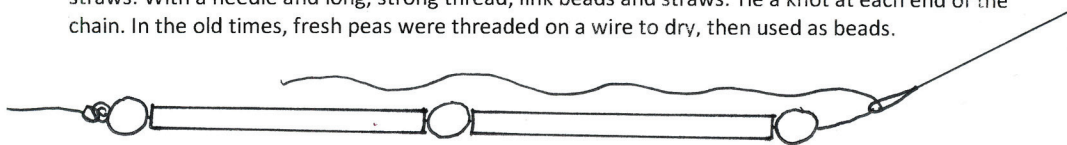


Made of many paper or cardstock strips, and different colors. For example, use red and white for Poland's national or flag colors.



STRAW CHAIN

Cut straws into 2 inch lengths (5 centimeters): paper straws, grass straws or traditional golden wheat straws. With a needle and long, strong thread, link beads and straws. Tie a knot at each end of the chain. In the old times, fresh peas were threaded on a wire to dry, then used as beads.



STRAW CHAIN WITH CIRCLES

Cut straws into 2 inch lengths. Cut out circles from stiff paper. Decorate the circle edges with small triangle cuts or with a zig-zag pattern. With a needle and thread, link circles and straws.

