

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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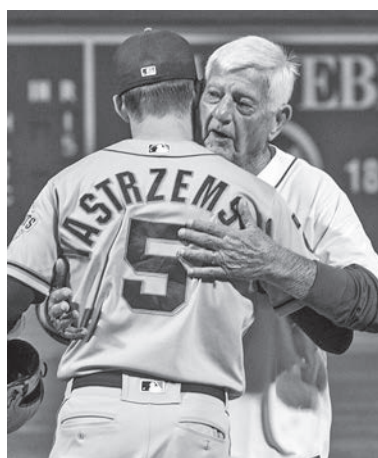
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80 YEARS OF WOMEN WITH A CAUSE • POLISH CLOTHING DESIGNERS • PARADES MEMORIALIZE PULASKI

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TWO YASTRZEMSKIS TAKE THE FIELD
PAGE 18

Poland Re-elects Honor Bound Conservatives

Law and Justice Party Loses majority in the 100-member Senate

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW — Poland’s ruling conservative Law and Justice (Prawo i Sprawiedliwość) party won the October 13 general election by capturing 43.6 percent of the vote. That outcome gave it a 235-seat majority in the 460-member Sejm, parliament’s main law-making chamber. PiS will again be able to govern independently without seeking a coalition partner. That was the highest support won by any political party since the collapse of communist rule in 1989 as well as the highest voter turnout – 61.1 percent.

The Civic Coalition, the main opposition bloc led by the liberal Civic Platform (PO) party and including the ultra-liberal Modern party and Greens, won 27.4 percent of the vote, which translates into 134 seats. After a four-year absence, the post-communist Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) teamed up with the pro-LGBT Spring party, ran as the Left (Lewica) and attracted 12.6 percent of the vote giving it 49 seats in the Sejm.

The rural-based Polish People’s Party (formerly known in English as the Polish Peasant Party) or PSL

see “Election,” page 2



Re-enactors (l. to r.) Russell Dobson and Edward Krolkowski portray Lt. Litomski and Gen. Pulaski at ceremonies marking the 240th anniversary of the Battle of Savannah. This year, four new commemorative tablets were dedicated, including one for Capt. Feliks Miklaszewicz, a Polish Lithuanian nobleman, who aided the American Revolution as a privateer. Another was dedicated to Capt. Fryderyk Paschke, an officer in the Pulaski Legion. *Story on back cover.*

Olga Tokarczuk Receives 2018 Literary Nobel Prize

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW — Olga Tokarczuk, 57, was awarded the 2018 Nobel Prize for Literature. The 2018 prize was delayed by a year after a sexual assault scandal rocked the Swedish Academy which awards the prize.

Tokarczuk has honored “for a narrative imagination that, with encyclopedic passion, represents the crossing of boundaries as a form of life,” said the Academy.

She began writing at the age of 17 while in high school. A graduate psychologist, she has said her educational background and work as a psychotherapist with the mentally impaired have influenced her literature. She has been an essayist, poet, novelist, short-story author, and screenwriter.

Tokarczuk’s biggest work is her nearly 1,000-page novel titled “The Books of Jacob.” It focuses on the vicissitudes of 18th-century Jewish mystic Jakub Lejbowicz Frank who



Tokarczuk. Fifth Pole to receive the Noble Prize for Literature.

claimed to be the reincarnation of a self-styled Messiah. Lejbowicz ultimately got excommunicated as a heretic by Poland’s mainline Jewry.

see “Tokarczuk,” page 2

“Poland First to Fight” Conference Nov. 18-20

WASHINGTON, D.C. — An international historical conference, “Poland First to Fight,” will take place on November 18-20, 2019 at the prestigious National Press Club. The conference is organized in connection with the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II this year.

It will not only be an anniversary event, but also an opportunity to recall those pages from the history of Poland that are distorted and forgotten. It will be a response to negative stereotypes, narratives, myths and accusations against Poland and Poles that appear in the public space of the United States and Western countries. During the conference, guests will have the opportunity to learn the real situation in which Poland found itself during the last war, the extraordinary heroism and tragedy of Poles (Polish Underground State, Warsaw Uprising, forced labor system in Germany, Gene-

see “Conference,” page 3

NEWSMARK

Poland Nominated for Visa Waiver

President Donald Trump announced the Department of State has formally nominated Poland for entry into the Visa Waiver Program, an important step in continuing to increase economic, security, cultural, and people-to-people connections.

Now that Poland has been nominated, the Department of Homeland Security will take necessary action to assess Poland’s entry into the program. If Poland is designated as a Visa Waiver Program country, its nationals would be authorized for visa-free travel to the United States for business and tourism.

During a September meeting with Trump in New York, Polish President Andrzej Duda said that Poles had been waiting for 30 years to be able to travel to the United States visa-free.

The threshold for a country to enter the program is a three-percent refusal rate. The rate for Polish nationals for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018 was 3.99 percent, down from 5.92 percent a year earlier, according to the U.S. embassy in Poland.

Meanwhile, in recent months a growing proportion of Polish applicants have been issued U.S. visas, causing the denial rate to drop below 2.8 percent for the first time in history, Poland’s onet.pl news website reported in September.

Cardinal Wyszyński to be Beatified in June 2020

Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, who served as the Primate of Poland from 1948 until his death in 1981, is to be beatified in Warsaw next June. The announcement came after Pope Francis signed a decree recognizing a miracle that occurred through the Polish religious leader’s intercession, a prerequisite for beatification. Beatification is the penultimate stage leading to Catholic sainthood.

The Polish Primate shepherded his nation through 33 years of Soviet-imposed communist rule, and was imprisoned for three years by the Stalinist regime. Upon his release in 1956, he launched a nine-year Novena leading to the 1966 national celebration of Poland’s Christian Millennium. The communists replied with a costly counter-celebration honoring Polish statehood. After Cardinal Karol Wojtyła was elected Pope John Paul II in 1979, he went on record as saying: “There would have been no Polish pope” without Primate Wyszyński’s faith, heroic hope and limitless confidence in the Mother of God.” He died of cancer at the age of 79 amidst the ongoing Solidarity revolution His beatification ceremony will be carried out in Warsaw on June 7, 2020 by papal envoy Cardinal Giovanni Angelo Becciu.

LOT Airlines Launch Warsaw to San Francisco flights

After President Donald Trump announced that Poles could travel to America without visas, Poland’s LOT Airlines unveiled plans for its direct Warsaw-to-San Francisco flights. The new connection, to be launched on August 5, 2020, will be LOT’s ninth direct Poland-U.S. flight. The flights will leave Warsaw’s Chopin Airport four times a week, with passengers traveling aboard state-of-the-art Boeing 787 Dreamliners. The 6,200-mile flight is expected to take about 12 hours.

This year, the airlines hope to serve a record ten million customers.

Poland elected to UN Human Rights Council

Poland has been elected to the United Nations 47-member Human Rights Council that oversees human rights worldwide. During the vote, 124 countries cast their ballots for Poland to be part of the council for a three-year term. Last summer, Polish Foreign Minister Jacek Czaputowicz informed reporters of Poland’s desire to join the United Nations body for the 2020-2022 term. He added that his country’s priorities include “advancing the rights of children and people with disabilities in armed conflicts.” Poland also plans to focus on helping religious minorities and on strengthening civil society.

Orliński named Young Artist of the Year

Polish countertenor Jakub Orliński, 29, won the Young Artist of the Year award granted by Britain’s prestigious Gramophone magazine. Orliński is one of the world’s most sought-after countertenors. He studied at the Warsaw’s Fryderyk Chopin University of Music before receiving postgraduate training at New York’s renowned Julliard School. Orliński has won numerous singing competitions on both sides of the Atlantic. He is also into break-dancing and modeling.

ALMANAC

November 🌐 Listopad

*Deszcz w połowie listopada,
tęgi mróz w styczniu zapowiada.*
Rain in mid-November announces
January's frosty trounces.

- 1 **ALL SAINTS DAY**
... a very special occasion in Poland. Millions travel across the country to visit family graves and of their dear ones lighting candles and laying flowers and wreaths. It was believed that during the days of *Zaduszki*, the spirits of deceased relatives visited their old homes by gathering near the windows or on the left side of the main doorway.
1987. **Pope John Paul II** meets with USSR president, Mikhail Gorbachev.
- 2 **ALL SOUL'S DAY**
Dzień Zaduszny or *Zaduszki*. A national holiday in Poland to memorialize the deceased.
1982. Over 100,000 attend funeral of slain **Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko**.
1231. Death of **Władysław III Spindleshanks**.
- 4 1937. Birth of television, film and stage actress **Loretta Swit**
- 5 1370. Death of **Kazimierz III the Great** (b. 1330).
- 6 1939. Nazis arrest 182 instructors at **Jagiellonian University**, who are then sent to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp.
- 7 1867. Birth of chemist and physicist **Marie Skłodowska Curie** (d. 1934) in Warsaw.
- 8 1946. **Fr. Karol Wojtyła** (Pope John Paul II), says first Mass at his parish church in Wadowice.
- 10 1673. Death of **Michael Korybut Wiśniowiecki**, ruler of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.
- 11 **ST. MARTIN**
Goose is traditional meal of the day in Poland. A winter weather forecast is then made according to the color of breastbone—white (much snow); mottled (variable); black (light); black and white (mixed).
- 12 **ST. JOSEPHAT**
- 13 **ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA**
- 14 1990. Signing of **German-Polish Border Treaty**.
- 15 1916. Death of **Henryk Sienkiewicz**, 70, Polish novelist.
- 16 1794. **General Tomasz Wawrzęcki** (1753–1816) surrenders to Russian troops, marking the end of the Kościuszko Uprising.
- 17 1891. **Ignacy Paderewski** gives his first concert in America.
- 18 1986. **Solidarity** admitted to the International Labor Organization
- 19 1995. **Aleksander Kwasniewski**, elected president of Poland.
- 20 1815. **Krakow** declares itself a free republic.
- 21 1855. Founding of the **Felician Sister** order.
- 22 1980. Eighteen Communist Party secretaries in 49 provinces were ousted in Poland.
- 23 1881. First issue of Polish National Alliance publication **Zgoda**.
- 25 1795. Abdication of the last king of Poland, **Stanisław August Poniatowski**.
- 26 1913. **Russia forbids** Polish congregation of speakers.
- 27 1815. Adoption of **Constitution of the Kingdom of Poland**.
- 28 1806. French forces led by **Joachim Murat**, Marshal and Grand Admiral of France, enter Warsaw.
- 29 **ST. ANDREW'S EVE**
Andrzejki brings a fortune telling for mostly unmarried ladies.
1830. **November Uprising**, also known as the Cadet Revolution, an armed rebellion in partitioned Poland against the Russian Empire.
- 30 **ST. ANDREW**
1926. Birth in Wilno, Poland of **Andrew Schally**, winner of 1977 Nobel Prize in Medicine.

This paper mailed on or before **October 31, 2019**. The **December 2019** edition will be mailed on or before **November 30, 2019**

Election. Presidential race to be held in May 2020

continued from cover

ran with the anti-establishment Kukiz'15 movement to garner 8.6 percent of the ballots, winning 30 parliamentary seats. The controversial Confederation led by eccentric libertarian Janusz Korwin-Mikke (and including ultra-right nationalists) won the support of 6.8 percent of voters, snaring an 11-member parliamentary team.

But the triumphant mood in the PiS camp was dampened when the results of the Senate vote were announced. The ruling party captured only 48 of the body's 100 seats with other candidates winning the remaining 52. Opposition parties had concluded a deal not to run against each other, but instead to throw their support behind a single anti-PiS candidate in each of the 100 voting districts, and the ploy succeeded.

The Polish Senate reviews, amends, and can reject legislation passed by the Sejm. However, that does not mean that the opposition can overturn every new law, because PiS-rooted President Andrzej Duda has the right to override a Senate amendment or rejection. Moreover, the PSL is every bit as tradition-minded as PiS.

PiS's Sejm victory will enable the conservative administration to continue its program of welfare ben-



DUDA. Can to override Senate amendments.

efits to children, the elderly, and young businessmen just getting started. Whereas PO catered mainly to big-city elites, PiS has focused on Poland's have-nots, those who lost out on the country's transformation following the collapse of communist rule.

Sensitive to popular demand, over the past four years the ruling conservatives have restored the traditional retirement age of 65 for men and 60 for women, as well as re-opening provincial police stations, schools, and post offices, and inter-town bus lines shut down by as cost-cutting measures by the previous liberal government.

Both the ruling Law and Justice camp and the opposition are now gearing up for May's presidential election in which incumbent Duda is expected to stand for re-election. At this stage many different scenarios are possible, but some observers feel PiS will try to avoid open clashes and work to achieve a more tranquil atmosphere for the presidential contest.

Tokarczuk

continued from cover

Tokarczuk, a declared feminist and backer of left-wing causes, is often criticized by Poland's ruling right. Still, the conservative government's Culture Minister Piotr Gliński (who is rumored to have never read one of Tokarczuk's books) was among the first to congratulate the Nobel laureate.

"This is good news for Polish culture. It is clear evidence that Polish literature is appreciated around the world," said Gliński, who added he will revisit her work.

Tokarczuk is the fifth Pole to receive the Noble Prize for Literature. She was preceded by Henryk Sienkiewicz (1905), Władysław Reymont (1924), Czesław Miłosz (1980) and Wisława Szymborska (1996). Polish-born Jewish writer Issac Beshavis Singer, who wrote in Yiddish, received the prize in 1978.

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**If we do not claim our own history,
someone else will write it for us!**

"Poland First to Fight!"

International Historical Conference

80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II

**National Press Club
Washington, D.C.
November 18-20, 2019**

VIEWPOINTS

Poles "Sick of Being Branded" Right-wing Extremists

Source: politico.eu

Poles are sick of being branded right-wing extremists and portrayed as the bad guys of Europe, a writer has said in an opinion piece published by the *Politico* news website.

In a piece entitled "In Defense of Poland's Ruling Party," Agnieszka Kołakowska, a Polish writer and translator based in Paris, says Poland is often portrayed as a country without due process, democracy, free speech, and a free press.

The country is being described "as suffering under censorship, corruption and nepotism, under the yoke of a far-right government," she adds.

Meanwhile, none of this is true, Kołakowska asserts.

She asks: "Why are so many in Brussels and

the United States intent on making Poles the bad guys of Europe?"

Kołakowska argues in her piece that extremist parties have made inroads in Greece, Austria and Germany, and that the most popular party in Italy is led by "a far-right immigrant-basher."

In Britain, she claims, "the opposition party is led by an anti-Semitic, hard-line Marxist."

Kołakowska also asserts that there is "worrying authoritarianism" in Hungary, and that anti-Semitism is "on the rise across the bloc."

Meanwhile, in the United States, the "liberal left" is "attempting to substitute identity politics for democratic process and to impose censorship (in the name of anti-discrimination)," according to Kołakowska.

"But everyone seems to have an obsession with Poland," she claims.

She argues that, under the country's ruling conservatives, "the forgotten poor in the countryside" feel they are better off and safe for the first time since 1989.

Kołakowska also observes that there are no political prisoners in Poland and that people are free to demonstrate in the streets like everywhere else in the European Union.

There is due process and equality before the law, and the universities as well as the courts and media in the country are independent, with no censorship, according to Kołakowska.

"Poles are sick of being branded as unenlightened, primitive, bigoted, nationalistic, anti-Semitic, right-wing extremists just because they don't think patriotism is a dirty word," the writer insists.

Veterans Day: Their Precious Service; Our Renewed Obligation

by Steve Buyer

America's veterans embody the ideals upon which America was founded more than 243 years ago. Since the Revolution, eight generations of America's veterans have established an unbroken commitment to freedom.

This Veterans Day, we will honor more than 25 million living veterans and the memory of those patriots who came before them. With pride, we remember each Soldier, Marine, Sailor, Airman and Coastguardsman who has served our country by taking up arms when called by our nation in a time of need. The sacrifices ordinary American men and women from communities large and small have been willing to make, often before they were past their teenage years, have secured our nation unprecedented freedoms and

made us the world's bulwark of liberty.

Veterans Day celebrates what began as Armistice Day, marking on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918 the end of the bloody cataclysm known as World War I, the "war to end all wars."

The young patriots now returning from deployments worldwide are joining the ranks of veterans to whom America owes an immense debt of gratitude. For those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, we are grateful that such men and women were among us. For those who continue to serve, we honor their commitment. For those who return to civilian life, we honor their service.

We must never stop looking for ways to improve the services we provide veterans.

Our commitment to America's veterans is to provide them with a system that offers first-

rate healthcare and a system of benefits that is administered fairly, swiftly, and consistently. Service members returning from war deserve a "seamless" transition from the military into the VA healthcare and benefits system. Our pledge to each veteran is to make that happen; when they took the oath, service members volunteered to uphold the Constitution, not fight jealous bureaucracies.

And so, at the appointed hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, let us recall the precious service our veterans have rendered us and then let us renew our obligation to them.

May God bless our veterans and may God bless America.



Steve Buyer is former chairman, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

FORUM

Contesting Lies

ST. LOUIS, Mo. – The Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation (VOC) launched its first commission combatting Marxist misinformation groups in St. Louis, Oct. 3, bringing its national mission to the local community.

As a city with a long history of welcoming immigrants, particularly those coming from Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia as political refugees, St. Louis has been chosen as the ideal location for the establishment of VOC's first local commission, VOC-STL.

WORKING TO REVERSE A DANGEROUS TREND.

"One hundred million people have been killed by Communist regimes within one hundred years, and we are committed to making this known across the United States," says Executive Director Marion Smith. "Research indicates that American millennials are widely misinformed about communism and the crimes committed in its name," Smith notes, and VOC is working to reverse this trend by telling the truth and educating the public about communism.

This past March, Smith spoke with local business owner Cheri Elder, whose antique store was vandalized with symbols of communism including a hammer and sickle along with the acronym "MLM," representing a communist political philosophy of "Marxism-Leninism-Maoism" as reported in the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* on February 27, 2018. In addition to this vandalism, a number of organizations and online discussions indicate a rising support of communism and the ironic use of its symbols to represent justice and equality.

The commission launched with



VOC St. Louis Commission Billboard on I-44 SW in St. Louis, Missouri, initiating an effort to educate the public about communism.

a local billboard series featuring powerful facts and sobering testimonials from survivors of oppressive Communist regimes. "Many people including young Americans are unaware of this history," Smith explains, "and therefore open to the glorification of its symbols."

Since its congressional authorization in 1993, VOC has continued its commitment to education. "The St. Louis commission is a significant development, and the foundation is a sophisticated operation with a history of success and a distinguished leadership team," says local Commission Director Kim McGrath. McGrath will lead VOC-STL along with a team of volunteers and has already begun working with individuals and local organizations. In March nearly two hundred people turned out for the VOC educator workshop and screening of "Ashes in the Snow," a film based on an award-winning novel about a young Lithuanian artist exiled to Siberia

under Stalin's rule. Followed by a celebration of Lithuanian Independence Day in Swansea, Illinois, this event marked an exciting beginning to a long-term effort.

VOC-STL will locally advance the mission of VOC to "educate future generations about the ideology, history, and legacy of communism."

To learn more about the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, visit www.victimsofcommunism.org, or call (202) 629-9500.

Conference

continued from cover

alplan Ost, deportations to Siberia, Katyn), and also Polish military effort and contribution to Allied victory over the Third Reich.

The chairman of the Program Council is Professor Marek Kornat from the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the University of Cardinal Wyszyński in Warsaw. The conference will be international. Lectures will be given by historians and guests from Poland, Germany, India, England and the United States. War veterans and their descendants will also participate.

The "Poland First to Fight" conference is a grassroots citizens' initiative in cooperation with Polish historians and is designed to show Americans the fate of Poland and its citizens during the war, and its dramatic consequences. In addition to historians, archivists, and museumologists, the target groups are also journalists, politicians, employees of education departments, and representatives of the film industry.

To attend, contact the Coalition of Polish Americans, 177 Broadway, Clark, NJ 07066; email info@iPoland.org; or visit <https://ipoland.org/>; telephone (862) 686-2442.

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RELIGION

Michigan Governor Vetoes Pro-Life Funding

by Benjamin Fiore

Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer line-item vetoed funding for the Michigan Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services Program, a pro-life program run by Pennsylvania-based Real Alternatives and working through Michigan Catholic Charities since 2014.

The program assists poor women struggling with a pregnancy by providing counseling, help from conception to 12 months after the baby's birth, and maternal and baby care. Similar programs operate in Indiana and Pennsylvania and qualify for federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funding supplemented by state funds.

David Maluchnik, communications VP for the Michigan Catholic Conference outlined the vetoed program's benefits, including: formula and pre- and post-natal meds, clothing and shelter for the mom, parenting tips.

"In the end," he says, "pulling the rug from under low-income women and the unborn or infant child at a time when they're most vulnerable would constitute a heartless, calculated political maneuver." Without such aid, most women choose abortion.

JUDGE REVERSES MICHIGAN RULE AGAINST CATHOLIC CHARITIES. A Federal Judge in Grand Rapids, Mich. halted a new state policy requiring adoption and foster-care services to certify same-sex couples regardless of their religious mission or else lose funding.

The judge, Robert Jonker, cited Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel for calling religious foster care agencies as "hate mongers" and thus revealing a "strong inference of a hostility toward a religious viewpoint."

religious viewpoint."

The Michigan Catholic Conference said, "It's encouraging to see that Dana Nessel's animosity toward Catholics has now been recognized in federal court." Nessel acted to deny funding in league with the ACLU despite a Michigan state law protecting religious freedom and funding of adoption agencies. The St. Vincent Catholic Charities upheld the Catholic belief that marriage as instituted by God as for one man and one woman and Nessel clearly believed that such beliefs are the "product of hate." Foster care and adoption programs by Catholic Charities in Boston, San Francisco, the District of Columbia, and Illinois have all been shut down by state governments for similar reasons. Dennis Walczyk, head of Buffalo's Catholic Charities, cited similar New York State law as forcing him to withdraw Buffalo's Catholic Charities from offering foster-care and adoption services. The Supreme Court recently reversed a lower court's conviction in Colorado against a Christian baker on similar grounds that the Colorado Office supervising human rights expressed bias and ridicule of the Christian baker's religious views on marriage and LGBT life style.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF BUFFALO IS RE-ACCREDITED. Under the leadership of **Dennis Walczyk**, the Council on Accreditation verified that Buffalo's Catholic Charities had not received any out-of-compliance ratings in any fundamental practice standards and was praised by the council's CEO for their "amazing achievement."

Accrediting review panels cited "passion, expertise and dedication" of the staff and volunteers as well as the "very positive experiences"

of clients.

MINNESOTA ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD PLANNING BEGINS. Archbishop **Bernard Hebda** of Minneapolis-St. Paul began a series of "prayer and listening events" to help prepare for the 2021 archdiocesan synod. This will help synod organizers to identify pastoral priorities, needs and goals that will guide archdiocesan efforts for the next ten years.

Holding a synod in dioceses is one of the priorities of Pope Francis. The synod planned for Minneapolis-St. Paul follows the \$210 million settlement package for victims of sexual abuse as well as a plan to bring the archdiocese out of bankruptcy.

RACISM CHARGES DROPPED. Red Rose Rescuers, **Fr. Fidelis Moscinski**, Wil Goodman, Patricia Woodworth, and Matthew Connolly, charged with trespass for having entered a D.C. Women's Services abortion center, had their charges dropped by district court judge John R. Johnson.

Doctor Steven Chase Brigham, who who runs the clinic, had his medical license pulled in New Jersey and had been charged with gross negligence in his practice of late-term abortions in New Jersey and Maryland.

135 YEARS OF SERVICE. **St. Anthony of Padua Church** in Jersey Coty, N.J., has served Polish immigrants and parishioners of Polish descent for 135 years. Fr. Joseph Urban came as pastor from Poland in 2001 and for 18 years fought to keep the church open. He got the church designated as a national landmark as the oldest church to serve Polish immigrants to New Jersey. Fr. Urban had new roofs and rain gutters installed for the church and rectory, restored the stained glass, repaired the church tower, remediated sewage problems, converted from oil to gas heat, and repaired the exterior stone walls of the church.

"Everybody's happy with Fr. Joe," said Walter Demorit, a jack-of-all trades who assists Fr. Urban as facilities coordinator.

PASTOR AND HIS DOG CLEARED OF RACISM CHARGE. Memphis, Tenn. Bishop David Talley exonerated pastor **Jacek Kowal** of racism charges brought by a woman not hired as a housekeeper. She alleged that Fr. Kowal's staff did not hire her because the pastor's dog, a German shepherd, does not like Black people, and was used as an excuse not to hire the Black housekeeper. The bishop concluded that while the dog

becomes agitated when around persons of dark skin color, Fr. Kowal had employed a Black housekeeper for his entire tenure in another parish. In this instance, when the potential employee arrived, the dog — who did not know her — was out of his crate and was very protective of his home. Fr. Kowal said that this would be the case of any stranger who came into the rectory, and the charges of racial bias and discrimination were unfounded.

GIETRZWAŁD'S APPARITIONS. The Marian devotion has been very popular in Poland for centuries. The hymn "Bogurodzica" ("Mother of God"), composed probably in the 11th Century, was the first Polish national anthem. Polish knights sang it before the Battle of Grunwald. "Bogurodzica" accompanied the coronation ceremonies of the Jagiellonian kings.

There are dozens of Marian shrines all over Poland from the Baltic Sea to the Carpathian Mountains. The most famous of them is the Pauline Monastery at Jasna Góra in Częstochowa, with the miraculous image of Our Lady ("The Black Madonna"), one of the foremost Marian sanctuaries in the world, and the Poles' national sanctuary. Other major Marian shrines include Ostra Brama in Wilno (presently Vilnius), in Piekary Śląskie, or in Licheń. Yet, the only one occurrence of the personal apparitions of Our Lady, that in Gietrzwałd (Gie-tsh-vald) in northern Poland, which took place in 1877, was officially approved as authentic by the Vatican.

Zofia and Kazimierz Braun wrote a book on Gietrzwałd's apparitions. Based on this book a documentary film is being produced in Poland to commemorate and popularize these apparitions. The Polish production team is humbly and kindly asking for financial support of the film. Sponsors will obtain the book and will be listed on the screen.

This project has the blessing and the approval of the local bishop. To learn more, write to: kpbraun55@gmail.com.

"All of our ancestors live within each one of us whether we are aware of it or not."
— *Laurence Overmire*

JOHN A. NIZIOL, MD, FAAP
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Bondarewska Debuts in One-Person Play



BONDAREWSKA. Says her play was inspired Shakespearean actress Helena Modrzejewska.

WARSAW — On October 4, acclaimed Polish-American actress **Hanna Bondarewska** debuted a new one-person play at the Instytut Teatralny in Warsaw based on the character of Lady MacBeth.

Called *Lady*, Bondarewska says her play was inspired by the famous 19th century Krakow-born Polish American Shakespearean actress Helena Modrzejewska. She says she is looking for opportunities to bring the play to the United States.

Bondarewska, founder and artistic director of the Ambassador Theater in Washington, D.C., has directed and produced many performances representing the cultures of Poland, Bulgaria, France, Belgium, India, the Czech Republic, and Italy. She has also directed and produced plays in Washington and Florida, including *Tango and Out at Sea* by Mrożka, *The Madman and the Nuna* by Witkacy, and the Tadeusz Różewicz works *The Peephole*, *Alfred Farag*, and *The Trap*.

On the Instytut Teatralny's website, Bondarewska says one of her artistic activities is to continue the search for archetypes in Shakespearean drama through the experience of our time and to search for new forms in contemporary theater through artistic cooperation.

She aims to "find the archetype of Lady Macbeth in our time through fruitful artistic cooperation between the experiences of Polish and American cultures in rediscovering Shakespeare."

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Donations to the PAJ Press Fund will be acknowledged in the paper unless otherwise directed by the contributor.

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TO YOU SAINT MARTIN DE PORRES we prayerfully lift up our hearts filled with serene confidence and devotion. Mindful of your unbounded and helpful charity to all levels of society and also of your meekness and humility of heart, we offer our petitions to you. Pour out upon our families the precious gifts of your solicitous and generous intercession; show to the people of every race and every color the paths of unity and of justice; implore from our Father in heaven the coming of his kingdom. M.W.

NEW BOOKS

**“Heart of Steel”
Uncovers a Murder,
Escape, and Love**

How would you feel if you woke up one morning to learn the name you’ve used all your life is not your real name? And, when you find out why, it leads you to uncovering your direct connection to an infamous murder mystery in a small midwestern town in the 1920s, the results of which are still reverberating today.

Heart of Steel is an incredible true story that begins when Air Force veteran Kevin Miller accidentally discovers in an old, yellowed newspaper clipping that his real last name isn’t the All-American Miller, but the very-Polish Puchalski. He soon learns his grandfather Stanley “Miller” Puchalski was a man with many secrets, and they were all buried with him.

This sent Miller on a dogged search back through time for clues from decades-old newspaper clippings. What he discovered shook him to his core. Miller’s grandfather was involved in a murder-mystery, an indescribable tragedy, a major Midwestern scandal, and a daring escape, pushing him beyond impossible odds towards healing, redemption and finally love and forgiveness.

Heart of Steel is a true story based on real-life drama, hardships, love, and family. Set in the rural Midwest of 1920s small-town America, the story begins in 1920, when a murder takes place at the Puchalski farmhouse in Southington, Ohio. Twelve-year-old Stanley (author Miller’s grandfather) desperately runs along a dusty country road, sent by his frantic mother to fetch the county sheriff. An scandal unfolds over the next several weeks, taking Stanley and his siblings on a harrowing journey through a notorious orphanage and an incredible attempt to escape. Readers will be touched by how a young man’s devotion to his family pushes him beyond impossible odds and testifies to the perseverance of the human spirit. *Heart of Steel* is available on Amazon.com and bookstores everywhere.

Kevin D. Miller was born in Canton, Ohio, moved to Arizona and grew up in Tempe before settling with his family in Southern California. An engineer by profession, he served in the USAF and has tried his hand at acting and web designing. His love for true stories based on real-life inspired him to become a writer.

Proof that Education Leads to Success – and Survival

**HOW LANGUAGES SAVED ME:
A POLISH STORY OF SURVIVAL**
by Tadeusz Haska and
Stefanie Naumann
Koehler Books, 2019, 148 pgs.

Reviewed by Mary E. Lanham

For many, language is the great divide, but for others it’s the bridge to a new life. In early twentieth century Poland, Tadeusz Haska used his unwavering desire to learn new languages to not only survive a hostile foreign invasion but to eventually thrive in his new home in the United States.

Haska was born in northeastern Poland in 1919. Of the six children born to his parents, Tad and his brother Antoni were the only ones to survive to adulthood. In his youth, the Haskas opened and operated a dairy that made butter and various kinds of cheeses. Tragedy struck the family when Tadeusz’s father died when he was 12, made worse yet with the passing of his mother soon after, leaving Tadeusz and his brother orphans. Fortunately, their parents instilled in them resilience

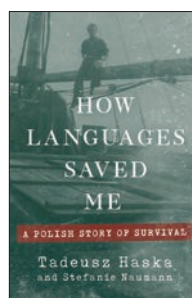
and the importance of education.

The pair of brothers continued their schooling and, with the help of scholarships, were able to graduate from high school. Throughout high school, Tadeusz excelled in his studies and was able to make a little money tutoring other students.

When Tadeusz was about to enter his second year of college to get a teaching degree, the Second World War began. He soon learned that the only way to avoid the Nazis was to not stay in one place too long. He continually moved from place to place, trekking the length and breadth of Poland while picking up jobs throughout the country. He used his affinity for languages to learn German which helped him to communicate with invading soldiers if he needed to.

After the war ended, he narrowly avoided jail from the Soviet Secret Police and managed to get to Sweden. There, he meticulously planned and then was able to smuggle his wife, Jadwiga, to the country by hiding her in a coffin on the ship.

The two of them were able to come to the United States with the



excerpt below describing their entry at Ellis Island.

“When I was being questioned...I was asked where I learned English.

They thought I sounded like I was from Fair Isle in northern Scotland. I said something like, ‘That’s okay with me, whatever you say.’ I was just happy to be there. My Swedish friends later told me that some of the people I was around in Sweden came from the mountains and spoke a distinct Swedish-English that sounds like the dialect spoken in Fair Isle, Scotland.”

Eventually, after working as a laborer, Tadeusz landed a job teaching Polish at the Army Language School in California which later became the Defense Language Institute. He earned his Ph.D. in Linguistics at UC Berkeley in the ninth language that he learned, English. He became chairman of the Polish Department and taught there for 35

years. After Tadeusz’s death in 2012, his granddaughter Stefanie Naumann, feeling the drive to tell his story, compiled and edited his memoirs, using correspondence, interviews, and journal entries, punctuated with family photos. *How Languages Saved Me* is a much-needed memoir and a testament of those that survived tragedy and were able to persevere and thrive in a new country.

Stefanie Naumann earned her B.S. in psychology from Tulane University and went on to earn a Ph.D. in business administration in management from Louisiana State University. She has published numerous journal articles. Naumann is a Professor of Management in the Eberhardt School of Business at University of the Pacific in California, where she has taught for 20 years. She is also a member of the Polish American Genealogical Society of America and a member of the Academy of Management. Naumann is the recipient of awards for teaching, research, and service.

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**The War Within,
The Story of Josef**
by Patricia Walkow

This is the story of a young man’s journey through cruelty and kindness, hatred and love, despair and hope. Josef, a Catholic Pole, was thirteen when Hitler invaded Poland. Forced into slave labor in Germany during WWII, he almost died. His life was saved by a young German man—the enemy. Josef’s handling of his interrupted youth was anything but ordinary, and he learned enemies are defined by the state...not the heart. A true story. This book has won multiple first-place awards. *Kirkus Reviews* states: “...this is an often satisfying and illuminating story that resonates in today’s climate of rising nationalism and debates over ethnic migration and refugee resettlement. A poignant tale with timeless and timely lessons.”

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ACROSS AMERICAN POLONIA

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO — The film “Grzesiuk. The Fellas Keep on Playing,” directed by Jarosław Wiśniewski, will be part of the **31st Polish Film Festival in America**, which will take place on November 9-24 in Chicago.

Stanisław Grzesiuk is a prominent figure not just for the people of Warsaw. His songs, and three books published after the World War II: “Pięć Lat Kacetu,” “Boso, ale w Ostrogach,” and “Na Marginesie Życia” — have gained a legendary status and were read by several generations of young Poles growing up.

His biography, “Grzesiuk. Król Życia” by Bartosz Janiszewski, was published in 2017. In 2018, his trilogy was published in its uncensored version for the first time, with Grzesiuk’s family’s blessing. New editions turned out to be overwhelmingly popular; the demand surprised both his family and the publisher.

The documentary about Grzesiuk’s unfading phenomenon became a natural consequence of those events. The filmmakers managed to find the people who knew Grzesiuk, and those he keeps on inspiring — and not just as an artist.

The 31st edition of Polish Film Festival in America (PFFA), the world’s most extensive showcase of Polish film and the largest annual Polish cultural event outside of Poland, will take place in three major cinematic venues in Chicago. For details, visit www.pffamerica.org, or call (773) 486-9612.

MICHIGAN

ANN ARBOR — The **Copernicus Center for Polish Studies (CCPS)** at the University of Michigan is presenting an exhibition of collage prints by the Lithuanian-Polish artist Stasys Eidrigevičius, known simply as Stasys, through

November 27 at the International Institute Gallery.

The exhibition displays works created between 2013 and 2018 and reflects a long-standing passion for this medium that began during Stasys’ training at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vilnius, Lithuania.

The works show Stasys’s fascination with the “juxtaposition of fragments that create original, unexpected, and often surrealist images that unlock a new and imaginary universe.”

Stasys was born in Mediniškiai, Lithuania in 1949. He studied at the Vilnius Academy of Fine Arts, moving to Warsaw in 1980, where he established his reputation as a world-renowned artist. A master of many techniques, he has worked as an illustrator, book cover designer, sculptor, painter, and photographer. Stasys is best known for his graphics and poster art. The recipient of numerous international prizes and awards, including the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland (2019), his artworks have been exhibited across the globe.

The International Institute Gallery is located on the fifth floor of Weiser Hall, 500 Church St., Ann Arbor. This exhibit is sponsored by CCPS in collaboration with the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2019-20.

ORCHARD LAKE — “I Was Born in Wadowice” is the traveling exhibit that enables visitors to explore the day-to-day events surrounding young **Karol Wojtyła** before his ascendancy to the papacy (October 16, 1978) and legacy as one of the 20th century’s greatest leaders. The exhibit, which opened at the Orchard Lake Schools in October, is open to the general public through Sun., Nov. 10, 2019 in the Old Gym located in the Quad adja-

cent to the main St. Mary’s Preparatory building on campus.

The exhibit is making three stops in the United States — Orchard Lake, Chicago, and Houston — after which it will return to Poland.

This exclusive exhibit, offered in partnership with the Family Home Museum of St. John Paul II of Wadowice, Poland, was created by Barbara and Jarosław Kłaput, both affiliates of the museum, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of his birth. The designers incorporated innovative features that offer many lesser-known views into young Karol’s life with previously unpublished documents and recordings, and interactive features that bring all views up close and personal with St. John Paul II.

The Orchard Lake Schools campus is located at 3535 Commerce Rd. Exhibit hours are: Tues., Wed., and Fri., 4:00-8:00 p.m.; Sat. and Sun. 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.orchardlakeschools.com, email mpalka@orchardlakeschools.com, or call (248) 392-9209.

NEW YORK

ROCHESTER — All are invited to join the **Polish Heritage Society of Rochester** at its Christmas Eve Dinner, Dec. 14 in Cleary Hall at St. John Fisher’s College.

This is a family event. Members will sing Polish Christmas carols and experience foods from a traditional wigilia (Polish Christmas Eve Dinner). There will be a visit from St. Nicholas for the children.

Limited seating available. Advanced purchased seating only prior to Dec. 2. PHSR members:

\$30.00; non-members: \$35.00; children 6-18: \$15.00; children under 5: free. For event info, please visit www.PolishHeritageRochester.org, or call (585) 899-3710.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA — Nov. 8-9. Christmas Bazaar. **St. John Cantius Hall**, 4435 Almond St., Fri., 6:00-9:00 p.m.; Sat., 4:00-9:00 p.m. Polish food, game wheels, pictures with Santa, Christmas Shop and more. Info (215) 535-6667.

PHILADELPHIA — Dec. 7. Kosciuszko Foundation, Philadelphia Chapter & Polish Heritage Society of **Philadelphia Christmas Gala**. Spring Mill Country Club, Ivyland, Pa. 6:00-11:00 p.m. Cocktails, dinner, and music by Krystof Medyna Group. Info call Marie Hynosz (215) 487-0221.

PHILADELPHIA — Sun., Dec. 8. **Christmas Bazaar**. St. Stanislaus Hall, 3rd and Fitzwater Sts., South Philadelphia. Noon-4:00 p.m. Games of chance, food, and more. For info, call rectory (215) 468-1922.

MANAYUNK — Sun., Dec. 8. Polish American Heritage Association of Manayunk-Roxborough Traditional **Wigilia Dinner**. St. Josephat Church Hall, 124 Cotton St. 3:00 p.m.; doors open at 2:00 p.m. For info, call Helen Cyzio (215) 482-3040.

PHILADELPHIA — Sat., Dec. 14. **Polish Christmas Open House**. Polish American Cultural Center Museum, 308 Walnut St., 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Snacks, refreshments, magic show, visit by Sw. Mikolaj and singing of koledy. Everyone is invited. Free Admission. For info, call (215) 922-1700.

Jankowski
Made Partner

CHERYL A. JANKOWSKI, CPA has been named a partner at the Buffalo, N.Y.-based CPA firm Lumsden McCormick. She started her career with the firm in 1991 and rejoined in May 2019 as partner specializing in family wealth, estate planning, succession planning, and business tax. A graduate of the University of New York at Buffalo, she is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, NYS Society of Certified Public Accountants, treasurer of the Financial Planning Counselors of Western New York, and past president of the Estate Analysts of Western New York.

DID YOU KNOW? Although poor peasants accounted for the bulk of Poles flocking to America in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries, only a fraction went into farming. Instead they sought out higher-paying jobs in the coalfields of Pennsylvania and New England mill-towns as well as the steel mills, auto factories and slaughterhouses of the Midwest.

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

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

MEMBERSHIP. Donations are accepted in any amount. All donations will be acknowledged and may be used as charitable contributions on your tax return. As a member, you can suggest any worthwhile cause: a donation to a local Polish American museum; veteran’s group; scholarship fund; dance group, etc. Our board reviews these suggestions and creates a ballot of the most-requested causes/recipients, which will then be voted on by current members. (Membership is yearly, starting with the date of your most recent donation). All members reserve the right to abstain from being a voting member. Membership levels start at “Friend of the PAJF” (Any



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

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 34th year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to seven hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok, Grajewo, and Ostroleka. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

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

An Introduction to Buffalo Neighbors Exhibit Commemorates 80th Anniversary of World War II

by Rev. Dr. Czeslaw M. Krysa
Rector, Church of St. Casimir

BUFFALO, N.Y. — On Nov. 3, 2019, St. Casimir Church will open the "Buffalo Neighbors Exhibit, 80 Years After World War II." The traveling display's stay at St. Casimir's focuses on descendants of World War II survivors. It includes family documents, a guide to memory placards illustrating the war fronts Polish survivors faced, and an introduction to the ongoing "Our Stories" collection, which reveals the values and behaviors the descendants were raised with.

Among the ideals and manners shared and recalled descendants:

Unexpected visits were highly regarded. Most concentration camp survivors lived this. "Frequently, backing out of the driveway for a Sunday ride, we encountered a car full of friends pulling in. Daddy shifted into drive, mama to the kitchen, proclaiming, 'A guest at home is God at home.'

"The lady of the house's (*gospodyni*) litmus test was prepared sauerkraut: not too sour, smooth to the taste, smoky flavor with mushrooms, a hint of apple, a ton of browned onions, and, naturally, cabbage soured in a cold-cellar barrel."

Smoked meats and alcohol were the guys' realm. "Tata involved me in fellowship production: selecting and mindfully slicing pork butts, creaming—not just dicing—garlic with a butcher knife cut from a hand saw, grinding fresh pepper, etc. Kelly hams, turkeys, sausages smoked over fragrant cherry wood fires (a five-hour minimum) with half-hour stoking check-ups. The 30-minute fire inspections soon became my responsibility, as the

vets enjoyed shots of Tata's homemade brews. Mama put out canned specialties, slicing choice rye bread and fragrant lunchmeats.

"Oh, the homemade cordials! Flavors and vintage marked every season: anytime wine, springtime raspberry, summer sour-cherry, autumn plum, and above all Christmas *krupnik*: buckwheat-honey spiced with holiday flavors and secret herbs. Served on a cut-crystal tray, guests drank from light-refracting shot glasses Tata hand-smuggled from Chopin's birthplace."

Colors were red and white, attitudes were green. "Waste not, want not," management reigned. Vegetable-herb-flower gardening, composting, mulching, canning, curing, or leftovers—all was sacred, processed and reprocessed. Nails, wood, paper, etc. were repurposed. Poets taught us to raise and kiss a fallen crumb of bread and hallow this gift from heaven.

Without drama or attitude, we went to church. "There were no excuses, nor opinions to the contrary: 'If you can play, you must pray' resounded the proverb." For survivors, faith was the only freedom they knew. Sunday worship was the bare minimum. Holydays, somber funerals or Easter morn, culminated in joyful songs, bells-and-smells. Tata was in the Polish Army Choir, so he worked his way up to the parish loft. Mama, Rosary in hand, listened for his voice, because "Well-rounded people pray the Rosary with the same passion they dance!"

Sonny (*synek*) served in the sanctuary. Our trio joined in church hymns, practiced at home, during holiday feasts.

"The most unforgettable compliment I ever received was from a



Descendants Irena Woszczak (left) and Michał Szafranski (right) prepare David Newman's placard commemorating his grandmother Helena Wojtak and children, who were slave laborers in World War II Nazi forced labor camps.

saint, 'You're Polish is very good!' On another occasion as a priest-student in Rome, Pope St. John Paul said, 'You sing well [in Polish]. I returned his affirmation saying, 'It's my father's fault.' He smiled, appreciatively.

My father never held a grudge, interacting with everyone, even Russians. "His best fishing buddy was a Russian, who never threw back a single fish. This could have cost him his car and license on the U.S.-Canadian border. A trunk loaded to the brim with every species and size of freshwater fish pulled into our driveway. The Russian took everything except the

largest sturgeons, and a few fine northerns."

Tata, who single-handedly escaped from a Russian gulag, affirming, "You must speak to everyone with four-eyes" (the Polish equivalent of "face to face.") He continued, "Russians are good, long-suffering people. Never trust their government."

And German-Americans?

"Mr. Miller interviewed Tata for his first job. He asked him, 'Did you ever shoot a German?'"

"Yes, I did," he replied, without hesitation.

"You're hired," said Miller, "you're an honest man." They became life-long friends."

Our families celebrated identity, bonding through Saturday schools and dance troupes. Survivors sang of 19th century Russian tsars ravaging Poland and exiling thousands to Siberia. They remembered Teutonic aggression on every-other generation since the Polish-Lithuanian victory in 1410 at Grunwald. "That year was branded on our soul and in a framed print at the rectory entrance."

We learned of the "Western wolf and Eastern bear" who in 1939, agreed, once again, to rip the Polish map asunder. "The war, which expelled our exiled families, ended everywhere but in Poland. Communists imprisoned and murdered returning resistors. My father's youngest brother never forgot how he was severely tortured. The elder brother escaped north, marrying and hiding until after Stalin's death."

Participation in the 1920 miracle of Polish independence and then 19 years later their legacy of faith, art, architecture, language, culture and human resources was targeted for extermination. Survivors coalesced into a common purpose. They vivified old Polonia churches and organizations and founded new intellectual and social support societies.

Families were strongly patriotic. "My father welded two pipes into one flag stand. Every national holiday, both U.S. and Polish flags waived from our porch. My father valued American peace and understanding (*spokój*) and, equally, his hand-built homestead. He sang "O Suzanna." "My Bonnie" and others like Vistula folk songs."

St. Casimir's Church is located at 160 Cable Street in Buffalo's Kaisertown section. For more information, call (716) 824-9589.

YOUR WIGILIA CHECKLIST

It's none-too-early to start thinking about Christmas Eve

by Robert Strybel

Setting the mood: If you like the hustle and bustle of shop-till-you-drop Anglo-commercial holidays, then continue making a fuss about buying, wrapping, hiding and opening presents. But if interested in the gentler, more family-friendly climate of our Polish heritage, you can set the proper mood by telling

your kids about Wigilia. Let them know what it's all about and what part they can play in the preparations. Above all, make it clear that Christmas Eve is not just the day before the main event. **Wigilia is the main event!**

Wigilia lore: How you are on Wigilia you will be the whole year, is one popular belief. Also tell your

kids the legend of animals being able to speak and water in wells turning to wine at midnight. Such stories may help pique your youngsters' interest in and curiosity about this "magic Polish night."

Gifts on Wigilia: Although gifts and gadgets are not the true meaning of Christmas, youngsters are big on presents, so let them know they will get to open theirs right after Christmas Eve supper. In families which do not observe Wigilia, kids have to wait till the next day.

Meatless meal: Whether you are preparing everything from scratch, outsourcing or using a bit of both, it's good to give this some thought well in advance. The meatless supper centers on beet or mushroom soup, herring, other fish, pierogi, sauerkraut, noodles, and sweet dishes incorporating poppyseeds, honey, nuts and raisins. Recipes are found in this paper and on the net. Many of the items are available at Polish markets, groceries, and delis in big and often mid-size northeastern and midwestern cities.

Table-top hay: Depending on where you live, getting a handful of

hay to scatter on the bare table-top may be easy enough to find at a riding stable or livestock-feed store. If not, then some well dried lawn clippings will do.

Pure white table-cloth: The gaudy table-cloths spangled with reindeer, candy canes, Santas and poinsettias are OK for Christmas Day, if you like that sort of thing, but the Wigilia tradition requires a pure white one devoid of garish gimmickry. Look through your linen closet or pick one up at the mall.

Decorations: In addition to your Christmas tree and Christmas crib (nativity set) beneath it, consider sticking an evergreen sprig or branch behind hanging pictures and mirrors. They can also be displayed in vases. If you can add several stalks of grain (wheat or rye), you will approximate the old Polish Wigilia custom of standing sheaves of grain in all four corners of the room.

Empty place-setting: Traditionally there is an empty place-setting at the Wigilia table in memory of a dearly departed loved one. But it may be offered to any lonely person

who would otherwise have to spend this festive evening in solitude. It's best to invite that person well in advance.

Oplatek: The Christmas wafer is the holiday's main ritual artifact without which there can be no wigilia. If your parish or some local retail shop does not supply oplatek, visit the Polish American Journal's on-line bookstore at polamjournal.com.

Family kolędy sing: For the words (in Polish and English) and music simply Google "Polish Christmas carols" or "polskie kolędy." (Yes, it should be "kolędy," but computerdom dispenses with accent marks.) You can then print out and pass around to family members as many copies as needed.

Wigilia etiquette: Wigilia dishes are brought in and eaten one at a time. One of the beliefs surrounding the meal is that no-one should get up and leave the table until the supper is over. Another says everyone should sample at least the tiniest bit of every food on the table. Failure to do so may augur poverty and hunger in the year ahead.

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Airbnb Co-Founder Donates \$1M To Boston Latin Academy



Elizabeth and Nathan Blecharczyk

BOSTON (CBS) – Airbnb is one of the most popular websites for vacation rentals and a Boston native, who graduated from Boston Latin Academy, is its co-founder.

Nathan Blecharczyk visited his *alma mater* to announce he and his wife Elizabeth are donating \$1 million to the school.

“I really look back and think that the habits I developed at Latin Academy propelled me to accomplish all the things that came later,” said Blecharczyk.

Blecharczyk has found unimaginable success since his years at the Academy. The co-founder of Airbnb, Blecharczyk is now worth billions. And at 36, he and his wife Elizabeth have pledged to donate half their fortune during their lifetimes.

“She and I have been deeply influenced by our high school experiences so we are both very involved in our high schools,” Blecharczyk explained.

Seventy percent of Boston Latin Academy is comprised of students of color. Blecharczyk believes that diversity needs to be mined.

“The world 50 years from now will be completely different than it is today and so who is going to define that future?” asked Blecharczyk.

The Blecharczyks say in addition to their donation, the couple will match other donations to Boston Latin Academy up to one million dollars.

Did You Know?

Pulawski Township in northern Michigan’s Presque Isle County has America’s largest PolAm majority – 65.7%. It is followed by nearby Posen Township (65.4%). Sharon, Wisc. (53.7%), Bevent, Wisc. (52.7%), Sloan, N.Y. (46.8%), Dupont, Pa., (46.6%) and Wellington, N.J. (45.5%).

Self-taught PolAm sculptor **Korczak Ziolkowski** (1908-1982), who had worked on the Mount Rushmore monument, is best known for his still unfinished Crazy Horse Memorial in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Today, his children and grandchildren continue the project.

When it is noon in New York, 11:00 a.m. in Chicago, 10:00 a.m. in Denver and 9:00 a.m. in Los Angeles, it is 6:00 p.m. in Poland, which is on Central European Time.

Nearly **one million Polish Americans** each live in New York State and Illinois, followed by Michigan (855,000), Pennsylvania (824,000), New Jersey (576,000), Wisconsin (498,900) and California (491,000). But you are far more likely to encounter Polish people, places and things in New Jersey (pop. 8.9 million) than in California (pop. 39 million).

A Christmas Story Lives on!



Two Polish American boys grew up in the house where *A Christmas Story* was filmed.

by Barbara Betlejewska

WEST SALEM, Ohio — Remember Ralphie and Randy in the endearing holiday movie *A Christmas Story*? And the house they lived in?

Well, decades before Ralphie and Randy “lived” there, Stanley and Raymond actually did.

Yes, two Polish American boys, **Stanley and Raymond Ptak**, grew up in the house where *A Christmas Story* was filmed. The house is located at 3159 W. 11th Street, Cleveland, Ohio, five minutes from downtown, in the Tremont neighborhood. Tremont was originally a Polish enclave in Cleveland. My own father was born in 1915 in a nearby duplex which still stands on W. 7th Street. And my paternal

grandfather worked as a stevedore on the Cuyahoga River in the 1910s and ‘20s. Just walk to the backyard of *A Christmas Story* house and peer over the cliff and you will look down on the Cuyahoga where my grandfather labored.

Bringing the movie back to life began in 2004 when the owner of the house that served as a backdrop for the film placed an ad on eBay to auction it off. Brian Jones, who lived in San Diego—and who had never been to Cleveland—bought the house for \$150,000 sight unseen. After two years of painstaking restoration to recreate the original movie set, *A Christmas Story* House and Museum opened its doors. The house is open for tours year-round. You, too, can crawl under the kitchen sink cabinets to



The author in the cabinet beneath the sink, where Randy hid when he thought his father was going to “kill his brother.”

hide just like Randy did. Don’t miss this opportunity to buy your very own pink bunny pajamas at the gift shop. And yes, there is a leg lamp in the front window! For more info, see achristmasstoryhouse.com.

IF YOU HEAD SOUTH after your house and museum tour, you might stop at **The Little Polish Diner**, 5772 Ridge Rd., Parma, located in Parma’s Polish Village commercial district. In a diner not much bigger than a walk-in closet, you’ll find homestyle Polish dishes like pierogi, kapusta, kielbasa, bigos, placki, gołąbki “little pigeons,” and even kopytki. Sophie, one of the owners, does a great job as chef!

Next stop just down the road might be **The Krakow Deli** at 5842 Ridge Rd., Parma. This shop has

Cleveland’s largest selection of imported Polish food and many other Polish items. Its holiday selections are quite extensive.

Even further south down I-71 in Medina is the **Polish Pottery** shop, which has an absolutely huge selection of Boleslawiec pottery, hand-made in Poland. They have frequent discounts and also a sales section. The Polish Pottery shop is located at 100 Public Square, in Medina’s historic downtown. There is also a sister shop located at 25907 Detroit Rd in Westlake.

Before you leave, stroll around the Square and admire the 1890-1910 architecture and some of the other unique shops. Then after all that, you’ll probably want to head home to rest while sipping some herbata or kawa!

Hurrah! and “Sto Lat” on a Street in Washington



Polish artist and designer Karol Murlak with his creation of *Hurrah!* It plays out all of the notes of “Sto lat” when the individually-tuned vertical columns are tapped in succession with the attached rubber-tipped baton, as being demonstrated by Murlak.

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — If you happen to be walking on Pennsylvania Avenue, two blocks west of the White House, between 18th and 19th Streets, N.W., don’t be surprised if you hear the notes of “Sto lat” floating gently in the air. The tones are emanating from a unique urban musical instillation christened *Hurrah!* in Edward R. Murrow Park between the two bordering streets.

The *Hurrah!* instillation, hand-crafted in Poland, is a large-scale vertical xylophone consisting of 36 stainless steel tubes, with each tube being fine tuned to a separate note of “Sto lat” (“May you live one hundred years!”), all arranged in a circle 8.5 feet in diameter. When the tubes are tapped in succession with the attached rubber-tipped baton,

the iconic Polish birthday, anniversary and celebratory song is played out. Each tall tube is marked in Polish and English with the song’s lyrics.

According to the Polish Cultural Institute New York, a key *Hurrah!* cooperating organization, “the vertical tubes allude to the Polish forest and allow the participant to feel enclosed in a space while still being connected to the greater landscape.”

Hurrah! was conceived and designed for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between Poland and the United States (1919-2019). Its name was chosen to reflect the excitement and joy of the century’s true friendship and familiar camaraderie shared unequivocally between the Poles and Americans.

“This year,” said Poland’s Ambassador Piotr Wilczek at the



Artist/designer Karol Murlak and Poland’s Ambassador Piotr Wilczek pose with the musical public art instillation *Hurrah!* at its launching ceremonies in Murrow Park on Pennsylvania Avenue in the heart of our nation’s capital.

launching of *Hurrah!* on September 19, 2019, “the Polish Embassy has been organizing a wide range of events aimed at drawing attention to various aspects of the relationship between our countries. This instillation, located in the heart of Washington, D.C. among the most important U.S. and international institutions, is a fun way to engage the public in the celebrations of this anniversary, and in cross-cultural dialogue intended to bring people closer together.”

Also speaking, and/or representing at the event, were the co-sponsors and supporters of the project: Golden Triangle Executive Director Leona Agouridis, Matthew Lushenhop - U.S. State Department, Michael Curtis – deputy head of Delegation of the European Union, and The World Bank.

Both Poland and the United

States owe a world of thanks to Polish designer and Pratt Institute Prof. Karol Murlak and the design team of Danielle Begnaud, Katarzyna Michnowska, and Marzena Krupa for the amazing creation of *Hurrah!*

At the annual NYCxDesign event in New York this past May, *Hurrah!* made its very well received American debut after being installed in Times Square. It will remain in Washington’s Murrow Park until August 2020. It has the honor of being the first in a series of public international art instillations on the west end of Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

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MINNESOTA VOICE

Minnesotans, Poles mark 75th Anniversary of Warsaw Uprising support, U.S. Bomber Crash

by Mark Dillon

ŁOMIANKI, Poland — A three-person delegation from Columbia Heights, Minn. and five representatives from Noyelles-lès-Vermelles, France traveled to this Warsaw suburb in late September to mark the 75th Anniversary of the role of Allied flyers during the Warsaw Uprising.

Gloria Bergstrom, John Bieniek, and Phyllis Husted met with Łomianki Mayor Małgorzata Żebrowska-Piotrak and French officials to remember the efforts of 1,220 U.S. fliers who were part of Operation Frantic, a 1944 attempt to supply Polish insurgents rebelling against the Nazis. At the time, Soviet forces had advanced toward Warsaw but then sat idle on the east bank of the Vistula River a few miles away.

On Sept. 18, 1944, American B-17 Flying Fortresses, supported by fighter planes, dropped arms, ammunition, medical supplies, and food over Warsaw. The assistance is well remembered in Łomianki, which has a street named after Lt. Francis Akins (Ulica Por. Francis Akinsa), the pilot of a plane shot down over the city.

Most of the plane's 10-man crew were killed in the crash. One initial survivor was Sgt. Walter Shimshock of Columbia Heights, who was later executed by the Nazis. With the fall of communism, his brother Bernie and people in Łomianki led an effort that in 1986 and 1991, respectively, resulted in greater recognition of the flyers' sacrifice, and the formation of a Sister Cities relationship between Columbia Heights and Łomianki.

A nearly three decade relationship has grown amid multiple visits and increased levels of interaction between the two communities that includes a police officer exchange program, English lessons at Łomianki public schools, a book donation program and visits to group homes for children.

For Bergstrom, chair of the Sister Cities program at Columbia Heights, this year was her sixth visit since 2006. A retired elementary and middle school teacher, she has watched Łomianki's school district grow from one to three schools as the once rural town has enjoyed a decade of single family home development, condo construction and retail business growth.

"When I first started coming, the landscape was still farms — now they have everything here. It is a really thriving community, that resembles a Twin Cities suburb," she said.

New Łomianki Mayor Żebrowska-Piotrak, elected last November, and a 20-person city council rolled out a proverbial red carpet for the Franco-American eight, with four days of tours, a community banquet, a parade, a



Allies in war, sister cities in peace — Minnesotans pose with firefighters and municipal officials in Łomianki, Poland and leaders from Noyelles-lès-Vermelles France on September 22 as they jointly marked the 75th anniversary of airborne relief efforts during the Warsaw Uprising. A U.S. B-17 bomber, named the *I'll Be Seeing You*, was shot down by Nazi forces over Łomianki in 1944 as it was dropping supplies.



A 75th anniversary remembrance. Minnesotans Gloria Bergstrom, John Bieniek and Phyllis Husted stand with two U.S. Air Force officers at a monument in Łomianki, Poland to the 10-man crew of a B-17 that crashed in the city during the Warsaw Uprising as it was delivering supplies.

picnic and networking.

Two U.S. Air Force officers sent by the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw also attended the 75th anniversary memorial ceremonies. Bieniek, a

leader in the Twin Cities Polish community who has also visited multiple times and spearheaded efforts to aid Łomianki children in need, delivered the ceremony's keynote address in Polish.

A VISIT TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT prompted discussion of perhaps expanding the bilateral professional exchange to include firefighters, said Bergstrom, who donned a Polish firefighter's suit during her visit.

"In the Public Library in Łomianki there was a presentation and conversation with guests from Columbia Heights about the possibility of further cooperation between our sister cities in the field of reading and book exchange," Polish officials wrote on the city's website. "It was a great opportunity to establish a plan and schedule of activities for the coming years and to summarize previous visits and the scope of cooperation."

Bergstrom estimates that Minnesotans have donated between 900 and 1,000 books to Łomianki schools, primarily for younger children. The school system is also building an English language learning center. During the communist period, the town's first school was built on the Łomianki crash site while early attempts to

public honor the mission were repressed and monument building permits denied.

Two current requests Bergstrom says she is trying to fulfill include acquiring more English language teen periodicals such as sports and car magazines, and getting a donation of English language books for Łomianki's municipal public library.

This year was made extra special by the 75th anniversary, and by a mutual desire in 2021 to mark both the 30th anniversary of Sister City relations as well as Columbia Heights' centennial as a municipality.

Two years ago, the Minnesota Sister Cities group also led an initiative to get the Polish book *Frantic 7* about the 1944 mission translated into English. That effort helped Columbia Heights get recognized in 2017 as having the Best Overall Sister Cities program among communities with less than a population of 25,000.

The police exchange began in 2015 when Columbia Heights officers visited Łomianki to share their expertise with the Polish National Police Force. The following year a delegation from Łomianki visited Columbia Heights. The cities aim to renew the program next year.

In addition to Shimshock and Akins, the B-17's crew members who died during the 1944 mission were: co-pilot Forrest Shaw of New Hampshire; navigator Ely Berenson, bombardier Myron Merrill and gunner Frank de Cillis, all of New Jersey; gunners George MacPhee of Massachusetts; Paul Haney of West Virginia; and crewman James Christy, who died afterwards of wounds suffered during the crash.

The crew's sole survivor, Marcus Shook, of Belmont, Miss. lived to see a monument placed in Łomianki's cemetery in the crew's honor at a 1986 ceremony attended by then U.S. Vice President and former combat pilot George H.W. Bush.

PAHA Awards Skalny Civic Achievement Prize to Polish Architect Researchers

by Mark Dillon

Two Minneapolis priests, a Wisconsin historian and a rural Minnesota parish music director are this year's co-recipients of the 2019 Skalny Civic Achievement Award from the Polish American Historical Association.

Fr. Spencer Howe, parochial administrator of Holy Cross Catholic Church, a historically Polish parish in Northeast Minneapolis; Fr. Stanislaw Poszwa, parochial vicar at the parish; Dr. Geoffrey Gyrisco of Madison, Wis., and Michael Retka of Little Falls, Minn., are being honored for their research and community engagement efforts regarding the work of early 20th century Polish American architect Victor Cordella.

Over the past three years, the four men have come together to document Cordella's extensive body of Minnesota design work and assess his impact and influence on two dozen mostly Polish Roman and Eastern Rite Catholic communities.

The award will be presented on January 4, 2020 at the PAHA's annual banquet at the Kosciuszko

Foundation in New York City, PAHA announced.

Since 1989, PAHA's Skalny Civic Achievement Awards "honor individuals or groups who advance PAHA's goals of promoting research on and awareness of the Polish experience in the Americas." The awards are named after the sponsoring Skalny Family (Aniela, Anna, Ben, John and Joseph).

Cordella was a graduate of the Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow who emigrated to the U.S. in 1893 and was in active architectural practice between the 1890s and mid-1930s. Holy Cross, St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral in Minneapolis and Our Lady of Lourdes, Little Falls are among his signature works. Cordella also co-designed a mansion for a Minnesota newspaper tycoon that is now The Swedish Institute in Minneapolis.

To create more awareness of Cordella's design talents, and the role of Polish history in his architecture, since 2017 Frs. Howe and Poszwa, Dr. Gyrisco, and Retka have:

Held a September 2017 Minneapolis symposium on Cordella's works at Holy Cross presented by



On the Road to Discovery. Fr. Stanislaw Poszwa of Holy Cross Church, Minneapolis, leads a discussion about Polish American architect Victor Cordella during a bus tour in Minnesota this past spring. Fr. Poszwa is originally from Katowice.

Dr. Gyrisco.

Found Cordella's unmarked grave site in Minneapolis and erected a new headstone for him through a fund-raising campaign

Organized a statewide bus tour of Cordella's churches in May 2019

Gathered research that has documented additional, previously un-

known works of Cordella through trade journals, construction permits and church archives.

Cordella died in obscurity in 1937 amid the Great Depression as new commissions dried up. At his peak, Cordella worked successfully but quietly across different faith communities at a time when parish and ethnic rivalries in Minnesota, especially in the Twin Cities, were intense.

Among the personal donors to Minneapolis parishes that adopted two of Cordella's pre-World War I designs were Czar Nicholas of Russia (St. Mary's Orthodox) and Austria-Hungarian Emperor Franz Josef (St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church).

Cordella's portfolio may be unique among church architects in the United States when one views the survival rate of his buildings as center points of vibrant Roman, Greek and Orthodox Catholic communities. Of his two-dozen documented works, twenty-one are today active parishes.

In the spring of 1997, Dr. Gyrisco had penned an initial article entitled *Victor Cordella and the Architecture of Polish and East-Slavic Identity in America* in *Polish American Studies* Vol. 54, No. 1. Twenty years later he resumed his research with the help of Retka, a parishioner at Our Lady of Lourdes and now music liturgy director at St. Edward's, Elmdale, Minn.

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Lira Ensemble Participates in Design Museum Exhibit

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — The Design Museum of Chicago, established in 2012, is dedicated to inspiring, educating, and innovating through the art of design. Presently, it is hosting an exhibit entitled “Setting the Stage: Objects of Chicago Theatre” to celebrate the many ways design is used in stage productions.

The **Lira Ensemble**, Artist-in-Residence at Loyola University Chicago and the only professional performing arts company in the United States specializing in Polish music, song and dance, is participating in the exhibit by displaying traditional folk garb from the Krakow region of Southern Poland, the ancestral homeland of most of the Polish American community in the Chicago area.

On display is Lira’s colorful and authentic folk ensemble which is worn by unmarried young women of this region at folk festivals, at certain church ceremonies, and at other important occasions. Married women wear a somewhat different folk ensemble. The Lira Singers and Dancers perform in such outfits during both stage productions and concerts.



Lira members in Krakow costume.

As many know, Poland has approximately 35 cultural regions, each with its own unique folk ensemble design. These outfits are traditionally passed down through generations. Ongoing care of such vintage clothing is crucial, since each piece is considered a wearable work of art.

All of Lira Ensemble’s folk clothing used in its performances are made in Poland by established organizations approved by Poland’s Ministry of Culture. Lira’s outfits are decades old, but are so well cared for they look brand new. This

is one of the significant ways in which the Lira Ensemble preserves Polish traditions.

This design exhibit, which is part of the “Year of Chicago Theatre,” produced in cooperation with the Chicago Department of Cultural Events and Special Events, is presently available to the public, free of charge, but a \$5.00 donation is suggested. The museum is located at 72 East Randolph St. in downtown Chicago. Museum hours are Mon.-Sat., 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., and Sun. 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The exhibit closes January 5, 2020.

Another Successful TPA Dożynki



The Otsego High School Swing Choir provided entertainment at this year’s harvest festival.

THE TOLEDO-POZNAN ALLIANCE (TPA), an affiliate of Toledo Sister Cities International, held its 29th Dożynki celebration at Lourdes University in Sylvania, Ohio, Oct. 13. The annual harvest festival serves as the major fund-raiser for two projects the TPA supports. The first is to award four \$1,000 scholarships to students of Polish-American ancestry in high school and college. Second, the TPA makes a monetary contribution to an orphanage in Poznan, Poland that is administered by a religious order in the Roman Catholic Church.

This year’s Dożynki was attended by 210 people. The program included the traditional procession, blessing of the bread and salt, a vodka toast to the oldest male and female in attendance, and a traditional Polish dinner. The event also gave recognition to Katherine Kataficz-Macaro for her support of the Alliance. She is a writer, artist, and publisher of many children’s books, including coloring books, which are used to teach Polish culture.

Entertainment was provided by the Otsego High School Swing Choir, which performed songs in Polish, a challenge it took upon itself. It was given a standing ovation by those in attendance.

“Mission of Honor” Movie and Exhibition

HARTFORD, Conn. — The **Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.** and the **S.A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish Studies** are co-sponsoring a special event on Sun., Nov. 17, 2019 in the Chopin Ballroom at the Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Ave., Hartford to honor the heroic Polish Kosciuszko 303 Squadron fighter pilots, who helped the British Royal Air Force (RAF) win the Battle of Britain during World War II. Doors open at 1:00 p.m. to provide time to view a curated collection of Kosciuszko Squadron memorabilia. At 2:00 p.m., a feature film called “Mission of Honor” will be shown (in English with some Polish) preceded by a brief introduction by Dr. M.B. Biskupski, Chair of Polish Studies at Central CT State University. A question and answer period will follow the conclusion of the film. Admission is free and open to the public.

The Polish National Home will be featuring dining specials from the Polish Cultural Club cookbook available to order from 11:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. As a tribute to all Polish veterans, a Mass will also be held at Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church, 55 Charter Oak Ave., Hartford at 11:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

The Kosciuszko 303 Squadron RAF, formed in July 1940 as part of an agreement between the Polish

Government-in-Exile and the United Kingdom, had a distinguished combat record until it was disbanded in December 1946. “Had it not been for the magnificent material contributed by the Polish squadrons and their unsurpassed gallantry,” wrote Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding, head of RAF Fighter Command, “I hesitate to say that the outcome of the Battle of Britain would have been the same.” The 303 Squadron was one of the top fighter units in the battle and the best Hurricane-Spitfire equipped one. Its success in combat can be mainly attributed to the years of extensive and rigorous pre-war training many of the long-serving Polish veterans had received in their homeland. During the Battle of Britain, the Squadron was credited with 126 enemy aircraft destroyed, 13 probables, and 9 damaged. From September 1, 1940 to May 8, 1945, they destroyed 205 enemy aircraft, with 40 probables, and 28 damaged. Winston Churchill, speaking about the Battle of Britain in 1940 said, “Never was so much owed by so many to so few.” The Kosciuszko 303 Squadron was one of these “few.”

For further information, call (860) 841-3477, the Polish Studies Program at (860) 832-3010, or the Polish National Home at (860) 247-1784.

Batory to Receive Top Recognition

PHILADELPHIA — La Salle University’s Alumni Association, representing 56,000 graduates living in all 50 states and 52 countries, will present three prestigious 2019 awards at a gala dinner ceremony on campus, Nov. 15.

Two John J. Finley Awards, which recognize significant contributions of individuals to advance Lasallian principles and values and loyalty to La Salle University will be given to Joseph Batory, La Salle ‘64, and Ed Fierko, La Salle, ‘63.

Batory is the former superintendent of schools in the Upper Darby School District (1984-1999), located just outside of Philadelphia. Proud of his Polish heritage, he also has been very public in acknowledging the Christian Brother and Lasallian influences in his life and eventual career.

“Lasallian principles and values became the academic model for my action plan for education in Upper Darby,” said Batory. “... to believe in and make a positive difference for every young person no matter what his or her background or bag-



Batory. Former superintendent to be honored by La Salle University.

As superintendent of schools in Upper Darby, Batory presided over Delaware County’s largest and most diverse school system (72 languages are spoken in student homes) of well over 12,000 students in 12 schools (including the largest high school in Pennsylvania). Batory’s tenure was highlighted by numerous educational innovations and

improvements which enhanced opportunities for students. His leadership in the Upper Darby School District was cited by The White House, U.S. House of Representatives, and both legislative chambers of government in Pennsylvania. Batory also received the prestigious Lifetime Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of School Administrators. Additionally, Executive Educator magazine and IBM systems honored Batory as one of the Top 100 school leaders among the 300,000 school superintendents in North America.

More recently, Batory was the recipient of the 2019 “Inspire Award” from Philadelphia’s prestigious Musicopia organization, which works to restore and enhance music education at schools in need.

Other awards to be presented include the Signum Fidei Medal (Sign of Faith), presented to Tim Shriver, chairman and CEO of the Special Olympics. La Salle’s top student members of the Class of 2020 will be inducted into the Alpha Epsilon Honor Society.

Poland to Launch Exhumations after World War II Grave Found

CZĘSTOCHOWA — Exhumations will be launched after the remains of what are believed to be Polish victims of Nazi German soldiers were uncovered in Częstochowa, southern Poland. A World War II-era grave was found in the city during a routine dig, public broadcaster Polish Radio’s IAR news agency reported.

The exhumations are set to be carried out by Poland’s Institute of National Remembrance (IPN), a state body charged with investigating crimes against Polish citizens during Nazi occupation and com-

munist rule.

“When the Germans entered Częstochowa, they began their rule with mass round-ups, arrests and executions of Polish people,” said Adam Siwek of the institute.

According to the institute, up to 1,700 Poles could have been killed by Nazi German soldiers in Częstochowa in the early months of World War II and some of the victims are believed to have been buried in the area where the remains were discovered.

The exhumations will take several weeks to complete.



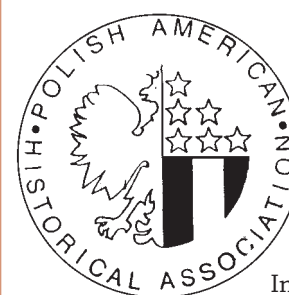
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The Polish American Historical Association was established in December 1942 as a special commission of the The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America to collect, compile and publish information about

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

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

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OPŁATEK POLISH CHRISTMAS WAFERS

KEEP THIS BEAUTIFUL TRADITION ALIVE IN YOUR FAMILY!

Practice the ancient Polish custom of sharing the Christmas wafer with family and guests. Many people place a piece of opłatek—a thin wafer, made of flour and water—in each Christmas cards to family members and friends.

Each Polish Christmas Wafer is embossed with religious scene.

IF ORDERING OPŁATEK ONLY, SHIPPING CHARGE IS \$4.00. SEE FORM ON PAGE 14

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



A MUST FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS TABLE

Three white and one pink opłatki (each 6¼ x 3½ in.), with decorative envelope depicting wigilia with history on back
Item 1-501p
4 / \$5.00

Note: Due to production issues with our supplier in Poland, the small opłatki in individual envelopes will not be available this year.

FREE WESOŁYCH ŚWIĄT / MERRY CHRISTMAS STICKERS WITH ALL ORDERS

For over 25 years, the Polish American Journal has sold these colorful stickers to benefit Catholic Orphanage in Białoleka, 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.

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



ORNAMENTS

GLAZED CERAMIC HEART ORNAMENTS. With White and Red Poland Flag Colors or Blue Lace Background.

Each ornament measures 3 1/4" x 3". Includes satin ribbon white gift box. Hand-sculpted and hand-painted. Back of ornament unglazed.



"Wesolych Swiat"
(Polish for "Merry Christmas")
On Poland Flag Colors
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"Wesolych Swiat"
(Polish for "Merry Christmas")
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(Polish for "Grandfather")
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"Kocham Cie"
(Polish for "I Love You")
On Poland Flag Colors
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3-D BRASS POLISH EAGLE

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

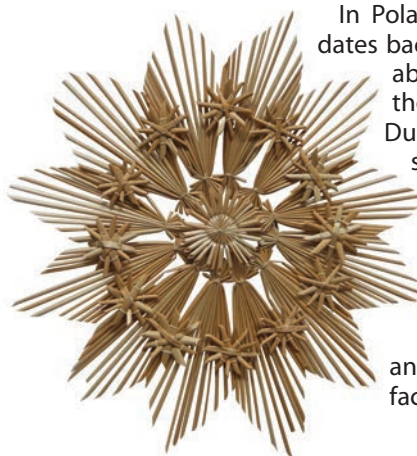


HANDPAINTED WOOD EGG

Hand-decorated Birchwood Polish Easter Egg **\$5.95 each**
Imported from Poland
Styles vary. Will not ship identical eggs if buying more than one.

A great stocking-stuffer!
Item 1-1502
Chicken-egg size.

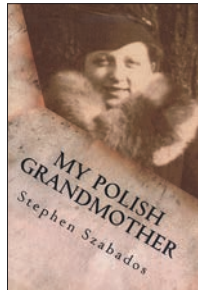
STRAW STAR



In Poland, making ornaments with straw dates back to the time when the only available materials for decorations were those that were found on the farm. During the beginning of the Christmas season, village folk would decorate homes using straw, paper, yarn, and cloth ornaments. This 12-sided, 11-inch star/snowflake ornament is based on traditional Polish straw ornaments held together by string. In order to offer at an affordable price, these are manufactured in China.
Item 660-112 — **\$12.95**

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.

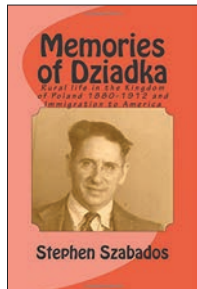


POLISH GENEALOGY: Four Easy Steps to Success
by Stephen Szabados
\$19.95 / Item 2-668
164 pp., pb.
This book is

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

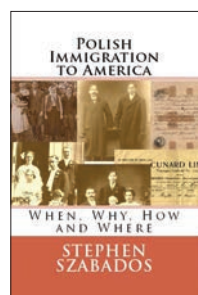
societies in Poland. The book covers the most up-to-date collection of sources for Polish genealogy.

MEMORIES OF DZIADKA



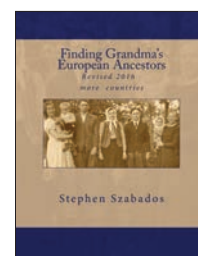
Rural life in the Kingdom of Poland 1880-1912 and Immigration to America
by Stephen Szabados
\$14.95
Item 2-670
pb. 134 pp.

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.

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LITERATURE

POLISH PRINCESS by Gail Engebretson



pb., 334 pp., English 5.5 x 0.7 x 8.5 inches \$18.95

Tragedy and mystery surround the life of 14-year-old Anna Wisniewski. Ann is a gifted pianist growing up in middle America, yet her mother claims they are descended from Polish aristocracy.

Gail Engebretson is a native of Wisconsin and the granddaughter of Polish immigrants. She has been working in Early Childhood Development, teaching music for over 40 years.

two brothers in love and war, The Warsaw Conspiracy completes the trilogy. You need not have read the others to enjoy this family saga set against the November Rising (1830-1831).

THE CHOPIN TRILOGY by David Trawinski The Willow's Bend Chasing The Winter's Wind War of the Nocturne's Window



Sold as 3 volume set only: Item 2-400 / Dust-jacketed hardbacks \$49.95 Item 2-401 / Paperbacks \$39.95

This series of interconnected novels enticingly tells the story of retired CIA officer Stanley Wisniewski.

Called upon to solve a modern day drowning of an aerospace executive in Amsterdam, Stanley soon finds himself ensnared in a web of shadowy complicity.

Excellent storytelling and vividly descriptive writing deftly explores the Polish history of World War II, including the Katyń massacre and 1944 Warsaw Uprising, the Cold War, the rise of Solidarity, and the resulting fall of Communism.

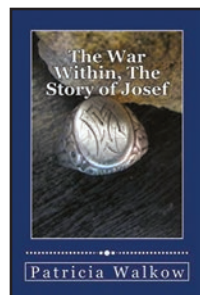


STARS AND CROSSES by Curtis Urness \$18.95

Item 2-152 pb., 260 pp., 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches Universe Publ.

Chic Lucas's parents survived the German occupation. Ruth

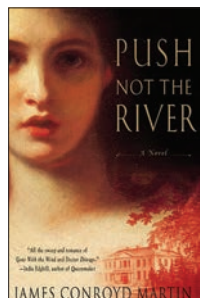
Mintz's mother is a Holocaust survivor. In this compassionate tale of courage and survival, the paths of two strangers intertwine in Poland as each seek answers about a horrible period in history.



THE WAR WITHIN, THE STORY OF JOSEF by Patricia Walkow \$19.95

ISBN: 978-1519181015 pb., 357 pp., 6x9

The War Within, the Story of Josef, follows a young man's journey through cruelty and kindness, hatred and love, despair and hope.

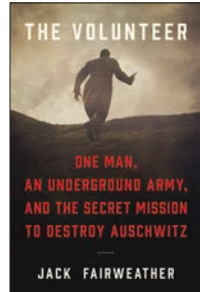


PUSH NOT THE RIVER Book 1 of Martin's Poland Trilogy \$15.95

Item 2-609 496 pp.pb. Maps & wycinanki illust. This book club favorite is based on the real diary of a Polish countess who lived through the rise and fall of the Third of May Constitution years, a time of great turmoil.

Vivid, romantic, and thrillingly paced, the novel has been called "Poland's Gone with the Wind."

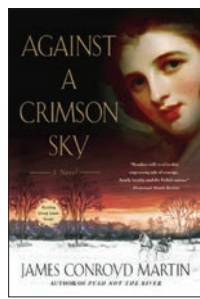
WORLD WAR II



NEW! THE VOLUNTEER by Jack Fairweather PAJ Price: \$25.95 (retails at \$28.99)

Item 1-662 hc., 528 pp.; 2019; 6 x 1.6 x 9 inches

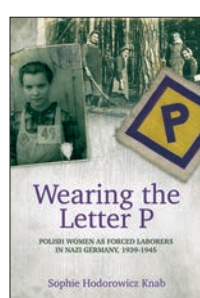
The true story of Polish resistance fighter Witold Pilecki's infiltration of Auschwitz to sabotage the camp from within, and his death-defying attempt to warn the Allies about the Nazis' plans for a "Final Solution" before it was too late.



AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY (Book 2) \$15.95

Item 2-610 369 pp.pb. Map & wycinanki illust. "You don't have to read Push Not the River to get the most from this sequel," says Suzanne Strempek Shea.

The award-winning author picks up where Push Not the River leaves off, taking the characters 20 years into the fascinating Napoleonic era, highlighting the exploits of the glorious Polish lancers.



WEARING THE LETTER "P" Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany, 1939-1945.

by Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab \$19.95 Item 2-642

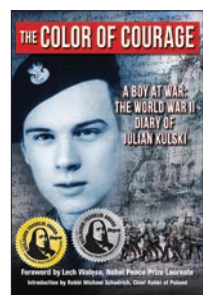


THE WARSAW CONSPIRACY (Book 3) \$17.99

508 pp., pb. Item 2-611 Portraying

pb. 304 pages. 6 x 9 inches

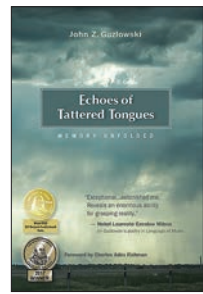
An unflinching, detailed portrait of a forgotten group of Nazi survivors. Written by the daughter of Polish forced laborers, Wearing the Letter P gives a voice to women who were taken from their homes as young as 12 years old and subjected to slave labor conditions, starvation, sexual exploitation, and forced abortions and child separation — all while Nazi propaganda depicted them as well-cared-for volunteers.



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.

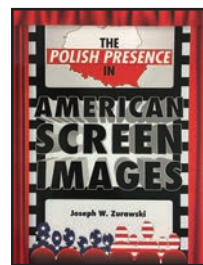


ECHOES OF TATTERED TONGUES by John Guzowski \$21.95

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.

POLONIA



THE POLISH PRESENCE IN AMERICAN SCREEN IMAGES by Joseph 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 American since 1894.

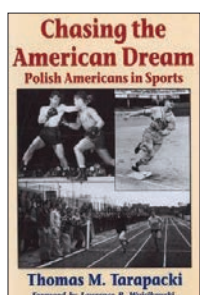
Prominent author, educator and Polish American activist Joseph W. Zurawski identifies and analyzes more than 1300 films shown in the United States that feature or identify a Polish American character or reference.



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.



CHASING THE AMERICAN DREAM by Tom Tarapacki \$11.95

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.

Tarapacki is Sports Editor of the Polish American Journal.

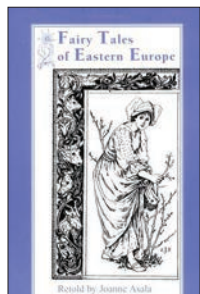
FOLKLORE



POLISH FAIRY TALES by A.J. Glinki Trans. by Maude Ashurst Biggs \$7.95

Item 1-161 p.b. 80pp., 6 x 0.2 x 9 inches Blurb Publishing.

Translated by Maude Ashurst Biggs and illustrated by Cecile Walton. This beautifully-illustrated edition of A. J. Glinki's classic tales provides a marvelous glimpse into the world of Polish legend and folklore-and reveals its closeness and affinity to the greater European family of nations.



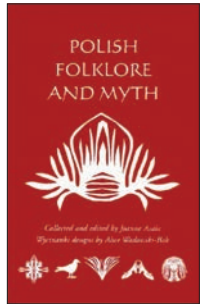
FAIRY TALES OF EASTERN EUROPE Retold by Joanne Asala \$12.95

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.

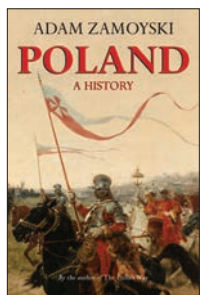


POLISH FOLKLORE AND MYTH by Joanne Asala \$12.95

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 Wadowski-Bak.

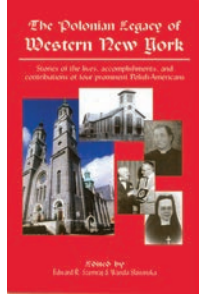
HISTORY



POLAND: A HISTORY by Adam Zamoyski \$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.

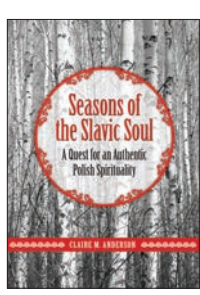


THE POLONIAN LEGACY OF WESTERN NEW YORK Item 1-605 \$12.95

156 pp., sc., ill., b&w photos. 5.5 x 8.5

Edited by Edward Szemraj and Wanda Slawinska, the book focuses on the lives of spiritual and community leader Rev. John Pitass; architect Joseph E. Fronczak; and Mother Mary Simplicita, whose dedication to vocation and superb leadership of the area's Felician Sisters spans generations.

SPIRITUALITY



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.

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CHRISTMAS GIFTS

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TO ORDER ON LINE: www.polamjournal.com

Christmas Decorations



Straw Ornaments with Glitter
44 Piece Set. Ornaments measure: 2" - 2.3"
#660103 - \$29.95

Silver Finish Straw Ornaments
48 Pieces. Ornaments measure: 2.4"
#660123 - \$29.95

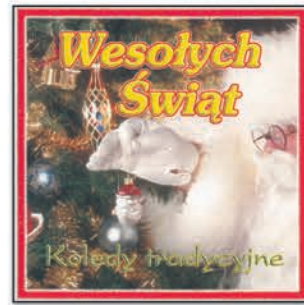
Embroidered White Eagle Christmas Stocking
Let Santa know who's been the nicest this year! A highly detailed Polish white eagle is embroidered on the front, with POLAND stitched out below it. Measures 18" Tall.
#8204STK - \$39.95

3 Piece Christmas Nesting Doll - \$24.95 ea.
Santa measures 4" Tall and is available in either Red or Blue.
#700209 - Red
#700209 - Blue

Christmas Carols on CD



Bayer Full: Idą Świąta
9 Polish Christmas Carols "The Holidays Are Coming" performed by the Bayer Full Group. Songs Include: Świąteczny remix, Idą Świąta, Wspaniała matka, Zimowa miłość, Panie zawsze z Tobą, Boże Narodzenie & more.
#GM16021 - \$19.95



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



Urszula Sipińska
10 Wonderful Polish Christmas Carols performed by Urszula Sipińska. Songs Include: Mędrcy świata monarchowie, Gdy się Chrystus rodzi, W żłobie leży, Anioł pasterzom mówił, Lulajże Juzuniu & more!
#GM2382 - \$19.95



Set of 4 Ornament Christmas Cards
Cards come adorned with usable ornaments on their fronts.
#PCS705 - \$11.95

Gifts-Ideas

Hand-made Pottery from Bolesławiec, Poland.

The city of Bolesławiec, located in Poland near the German and Czech borders, is at the epicenter of this artistic, pottery producing region. Since the 7th century, the Bolesławiec region has been making pottery for local use with mass production beginning in the 17th century. After World War II the Bolesławiec pottery industry's popularity exploded when the wives of the American Army personnel stationed in Germany discovered the artistically painted pottery and began collections of their own.



Artistic Polish Pottery 12oz Mug
#WZ055 - \$28.95



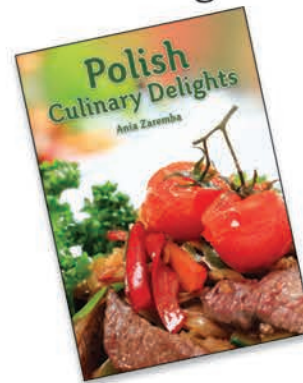
Traditional Polish Pottery 12oz Mug
#WZ054 - \$18.95



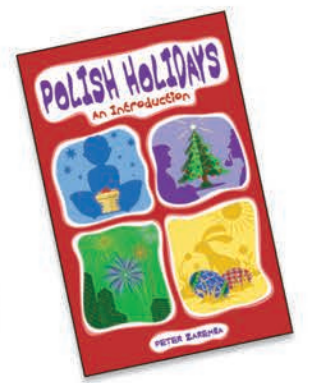
Unique Polish Pottery 12oz Mug
#WZ053 - \$31.95



TASURED Polish Recipes for Americans, 25th Edition
The Original Polish Cookbook for Americans! Edited by Marie Sokolowski and Irene Jasinski. Illustrated by Stanley Legun. 475 Recipes. Hard Cover. 5.5" x 8.7", 172 pages. English Language Version. Printed in Poland.
#BK2364 - \$19.95



Polish Culinary Delights
Over 175 traditional and unique Polish recipes inside, including those created by author Ania Zaremba and her family. Contains full color photographs and an easy to use index. Soft Cover. 6.5" x 9.25", 224 pages. English Language Version
#BK2572 - \$19.95



Polish Holidays: An Introduction,
This handy introductory guide provides factual information about the traditions, recipes, and songs from your favorite Polish Holidays. All in an easy to digest packet. Soft Cover. 5.5" x 8.5", 28 pages. English Language Version
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Highlander Teddy Bear Plush Toy - 8.75" Tall
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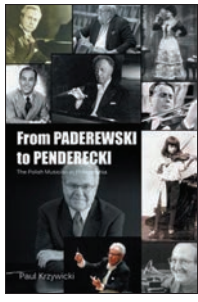


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#8204APR - Red with White Eagle



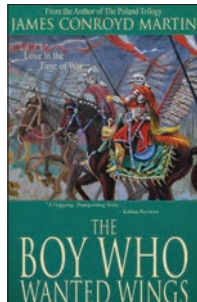
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MORE BOOKS



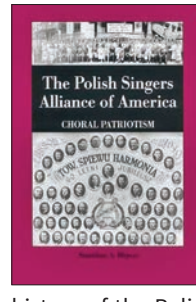
FROM PADEREWSKI TO PENDERECKI
The Polish Musician in Philadelphia
by Paul Krzywicki
\$24.95
Item 2-151
Lulu Pub. 2016; pb. 396 pp., 6"x1"x9"

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



THE BOY WHO WANTED WINGS
by James Conroyd Martin
Author of "Don't Push the River"
\$14.95 paperback / Item 2-612 pb
\$25.95 hardcover / Item 2-612 hc
398 pp.

Aleksy, a Tatar raised by a Polish peasant family, holds in his heart the wish to become a hussar so that he could battle the Turks at Vienna (the first 9/11, in 1683). As a Tatar and a peasant, this is an unlikely quest. When he meets Krystyna, the daughter of a noble, winning her love seems just as unlikely a quest. Under the most harrowing and unlikely circumstances, one day Aleksy must choose between his dreams.



CHORAL PATRIOTISM: THE POLISH SINGERS ALLIANCE OF AMERICA, 1888-1998
by S. A. Blejwas
Item 1-660
Was \$22.50. Now \$14.95
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



THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FR. JUSTIN FIGAS, OFM CONV.
Famed originator of the "Fr. Justin Rosary Hour"
\$9.00, 82pp., pb., B&W photos

Fr. Justin's weekly message of spiritual guidance, encouragement, and hope was an influence on generations of Polish immigrants, their children, and grandchildren. His broadcasts, begun in 1931, continue today as the longest continually running religious radio program in the world.

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CARD 103



CARD 302



CARD 314



CARD 201



CARD 205



CARD 301



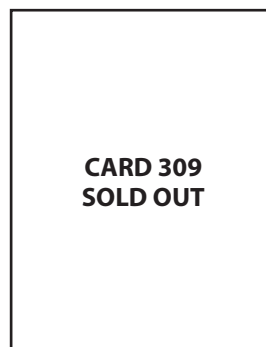
CARD 304



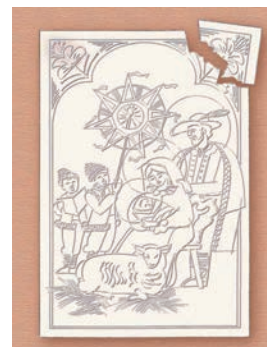
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CARD 308



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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE

80 Years of Women With a Cause

PHOTO COURTESY OF GERALDINE BALUT-COLEMAN



Legion of Young Polish Women members

by Geraldine Balut-Coleman

CHICAGO — On September 15, 85 guests celebrated the 80th anniversary of the Legion of Young Polish Women's (LYPW) "Women With A Cause." The celebration was a reception luncheon at Loyola University Chicago's (LUC) Lakeshore Campus. The reception began with violinist, Anthony Kawalkowski, playing the Polish and American national anthems. Legion President **Barbara I. Ciepiela** and Anniversary Chair **Maria Bronny Ciesla** provided welcoming remarks and introduced honored guests. **Jessica Vignocchi**, the 2019 Queen of the Legion's White and Red Ball, gave an invocation, and **Kathy Lesny Evans**, first vice president, began the luncheon with a toast. During the luncheon, a photographic slide show of the Legion's history was presented with materials from the Women and Leadership Archives of LUC. The luncheon concluded with remarks by **Malgorzata Bak-Guzik**, deputy consul general of the Republic of Poland in Chicago. Reflections were added by Legion member, **Janette Strzalka**, and Legion guest, **Conrad Miczko**, commemorating Legion charter members, **Eleanor Bochnik Strzalka** and **Eugenia Koniuszewska Miczko**.

Founded on September 2, 1939, **Helen Lenard Pieklo** and a group of her friends, all Chicago-born Poles, were inspired to help Poles affected by World War II. At the beginning, the Legion raised funds to help the citizens of Poland, but later altered their focus to help Poles who had relocated in other areas of Europe. Once the Second Corps of General **Władysław Anders** was formed, relief packages and funds were sent to the Polish soldiers in training camps, and sometimes to soldiers on the front lines and in POW camps.

Today, members of the LYPW come from various facets of the Polish American community, often not speaking Polish, but understanding Polonia's responsibilities for service to others. The newer generations of LYPW members continue as "Women With a Cause" by raising funds for important philanthropic purposes through the Legion's annual White and Red Ball.

Navy Vet, 85, Receives Medals Earned as Teenager

Thanks to the efforts of Daniel Lipinski, U.S. Representative for the Illinois 3rd Congressional District and his staff, Secretary of the Navy, Richard V. Spencer, awarded **Bernard B. Bartusiak**, 95, a retired World War II Navy veteran, with long overdue medals.

On Sept. 10 at a Pentagon ceremony, Bartusiak received two



Bernard Bartusiak

Distinguished Flying Cross medals, the Air Medal, and several combat decorations for missions he flew as part of a bomber crew during World War II.

Bartusiak joined the Navy in May 1941 at the age of 17, and served as a petty officer first class aviation machinist's mate with the aircrew of a PB4Y Consolidated Liberator patrol bomber in the European Theater. Also known as the B-24, the Liberator was used by the Navy for anti-submarine warfare against German U-boats in the Bay of Biscay and the English Channel. Many of Bernard's missions were completed before he turned 20.

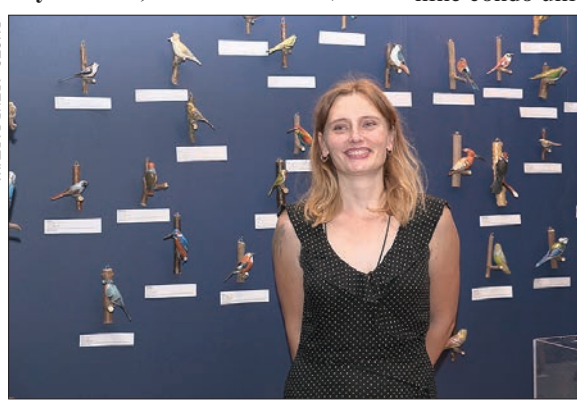
According to a Navy press release, the Distinguished Flying Cross was awarded for Bartusiak's "extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flights," for the 20 combat missions he completed between April 20 and April 30, 1943, and a gold star in lieu of a second award for another 20 missions he flew in the European skies from May 1943 to August 1944. The Air Medal recognized Bartusiak for his "single acts of heroism or meritorious achievement in flight." Additionally, Bernard was awarded with seven Strike/Flight awards of the Air Medal for maintaining "superior professionalism, perseverance, and devotion to duty in the face of hazardous flying conditions" on 45 combat missions during the war, as stated in his Navy award citation.

Born and raised in Chicago, Bartusiak eventually settled in Chicago's southwest suburb of Palos Hills, where he and his late wife, Dolores, raised two daughters. He spent his professional career as a corporate accountant and later started his own accounting and tax services.

Art For Heart Exhibition

On September 7, more than 100 guests filled the Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall to view the works of artists at the ninth annual "Art For Heart" exhibition organized through the combined efforts of The Polish Museum of America (PMA) and the Dar Serca's junior board members, **Diana Lebecki** and **Andrzej Pawłowski**, the organizers of this event.

Over 30 artists expressed interest in exhibiting their artwork, but the limited space of the Great Hall allowed the exhibit of only 16 artists. Those artists were **Slawomir Chrzasz**, **Maryna Danylovyh**, **Henia Flynn**, **Jozanna Gajkowska**, **Teresa Gierwielaniec Rozanacki**, **Voytek Glinkowski**, **Jagoda Jasińska**, **Jagoda Kapuścińska**, **Stanisław Kielar**, **Karolina Maria Siwiak**, **Agata Smetaniuk**, **Joanna Szymańska**, **Kate Sullivan**, and



Artist Karolina Kazmierczak

Dorota Tomczyk. Two additional artists, **Monika Sawionek** and **Karolina Kazmierczak**, came from Poland to exhibit their work. The judges were Fletcher Hayes, artist and graphic designer, and Kim Laurel, graphic designer and illustrator.

PMA's managing director, **Malgorzata Kot**, thanked guests for attending and encouraged them to help the cause by purchasing artwork. **Dorothy Malachowski**, president of the Gift From the Heart Foundation, mentioned that this year the Foundation helped 50 children and that 13 additional children with disabilities are still waiting for medical assistance.

Owing to the festive atmosphere of the evening, many guests lingered long after the official closing.

Polskie Radio and POLVISION Moving

A couple of months ago, the ever-popular and well-known Polish restaurant, Red Apple Buffet, closed its Northwest Side Avondale location.

Now, it was just announced that Chicago's Polish radio and Polish television stations, which have spent over 30 years at 3656 W. Belmont, are moving. The Chicago area Polskie radio stations (1030 AM, 1300 AM, 104.7 FM, and 107.1 FM) and Polish television, POLVISION (24.4 Analog, Comcast 397WPVN or 679WPVN), will be closing at this location. According to **Walter**

Kotaba, owner of Polskie Radio and POLVISION, he plans to move northward to another location, but hasn't selected it. Currently, the date of the actual move and the location are not available.



Polskie Radio building.

According to Cook County property records, it appears that the Polskie Radio and POLVISION building was sold this past January 2019, to Wilnot Construction (Properties) Inc. sold for condo development for \$1.5 million. The present plan is for the Polskie Radio building to be replaced by a four-story mixed-use building with commercial units on the ground floor and nine condo units above.

Daniel Pogorzelski, a well-known historian, who is considered an expert on the history of Northwest Chicago, stated, "The history of Polish radio and television in Chicago's Polish Village is reflective of the neighborhood's strong ties bridging Poland and the United States. Many of the most famous Polish artists, authors, musicians, politicians, and other cultural stewards all came here to speak to those of us living in America."

However, as history will note, urban movement is everywhere, including this section of the Northwest Side of Chicago. Polish American residents no longer dominate this area.

Manru Premiere in Chicago

Opera lovers and Paderewski enthusiasts filled the Mitchell Koblinski Theater (formerly the Gateway Theater) of the Copernicus Center on October 6 to hear and see a production of **Ignacy Paderewski's** only opera, **Powrót Manru** (Return of Manru). The performance was an original Polish-Ukrainian project of the Ig-

Vie for Space Industry Sales

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Several dozen Polish executives and officials came to the nation's capital last month to drum up business at the International Astronautical Congress.

The group included representatives from a dozen or so space technology companies and officials from government institutions, such as the Ministry of Investment and Development and the Polish Space Agency, said Polish Radio's IAR news agency.

The annual International Astro-

nacy Jan Paderewski Foundation. The libretto, composed by **Alfred Nossig**, is based on the novel "The Hut Behind the Village," by **Jozef Ignacy Kraszewski**. *Powrót Manru* is Paderewski's only attempt to

compose music for an opera.

Relatively unknown, the opera's world premiere, sung in German, took place in May 1901 in Dresden, Germany, followed by the Polish premiere in Lwów in June 1901. Its next appearance, sung in English, was presented at New York's Metropolitan Opera (Met)



in February 1902. To this day, it is the only Polish opera to be sung at the Met. Three months later, it was presented at Warsaw's Teatr Wielki Polish National Opera in May 1902. In 2018, the opera was rediscovered in Poland. *Manru* appeared on several stages: Warsaw's Teatr Wielki, the Grand Theatre *im. Stanisława Moniuszki w Poznaniu*, Opera Krakowska, and Śląska Opera Silesian Bytom.

Despite the passage of time, the return of Paderewski's *Powrót Manru* to the Polish-oriented stages resurrects another cultural treasure to Poland's artistic heritage and is expressive, thrilling, heart wrenching, and full of Polish pride.

nautical Congress in Washington attracts more than 6,000 participants from over 80 countries.

The theme of this year's event, the 70th, was "Space: The Power of the Past. The Promise of the Future."

Earlier in the week, Polish space tech firms promoted their products at an event called "Polish Space Night" at the residence of the Polish ambassador in Washington.

Poland has about 300 companies active in its space technology sector.

THE PONDERING POLE

The Ins and Outs of Polish Clothing Designers

by Edward Poniewaz

This will be forever known as the Pondering Pole underwear edition.

Beginning, it seems, in the '70s and '80s there has been a lot of underwear and lingerie advertising. It began with Hanes, Fruit of the Loom, Fredericks of Hollywood, and Victoria's Secret — the old standbys. But now brands like Duluth Trading, Tommy John, and a myriad of other innovative and startup undergarment and lingerie businesses are doing great work in this "industry." Yes, there is an "undies" industry.

So, is there a Polish connection? There is at least one. Olga is the brand name of intimate women's wear founded in America by Polish-born **Olga Erteszek**. She was born in Krakow, Poland in 1916, and grew up working for her mother who was a *corsetiere*, someone "who specializes in making, fitting, or selling corsets, brassieres, or other foundation garments." Olga, along with her husband Jan, fled Poland after the German invasion in World War II and eventually made their way to the United States and settled in California with Olga finding work as a seamstress making girdles and bras.

While at the garment factory (according to *Wikipedia*), "One day she spotted a woman on a trolley with hosiery rolled to her knees. She said to Jan that it was a shame that women didn't have at least some bit of finery to hold up their stockings..." The garter she created to solve the problem allowed her and Jan to go into business making them. Demand grew and the company named for her, blossomed.

Erteszek was an innovator, designer, and a business woman. "Holding the woman's record for patents at 28, Olga brought woman many pleasing, comfortable, and fashionable undergarments." Her signature piece is the nightgown

with a "full flowing shirt width and generous sweep." Olga was one of the first companies to begin profit sharing for their employees and Erteszek and Jan won a number of awards for their humanitarian endeavors. "In 1984, Olga was ranked as a Fortune 500 company and one of the best companies to work for in America." She died September 15, 1989 but the business lives on as a product line of the Warnaco Company. Quite a woman. Guys, get your wife or girlfriend an Olga gift card for that special occasion!

Although this next item is about "outer" wear, it is related and worth telling. "Biba" is the name of a women's fashion store in London, England. It is no longer in business but was popular during the 1960s and 70s. Biba was the brainchild of Polish-born **Barbara Hulanicki**. "Biba" is a nickname for Barbara's younger sister Biruta. She chose it (and I love the choice) as the name of her clothing store in 1960s London which "she started and primarily ran ... with the help of her husband Stephen Fitz-Simon.

Hulanicki's background was in fashion illustration. After she married Fitz-Simon, they "opened a mail order clothing company that she named Biba's Postal Boutique." The mail order company became a brick and mortar shop in Kensington in London's West End in 1964. The big break came when the store offered a super stylish dress.

Biba's postal boutique had its first significant success in May 1964 when it offered a pink gingham dress with a hole cut out of the back of the neck with a matching triangular kerchief to readers of the *Daily Mirror*. The dress had celebrity appeal, as a similar dress had been worn by Brigitte Bardot. By the morning after the dress was advertised in the *Daily Mirror*, over 4,000 orders had been received. Ultimately, some 17,000 outfits were sold.

Barbara Hulanicki's story, like



SOKOLOWSKI'S UNIVERSITY INN. Famous Polish-American eatery in Cleveland was featured in the September 2019 edition of Southwest Airlines' *The Magazine*.

Olga Erteszek's, like most every other entrepreneur that ever lived, is similar: they had a talent or passion and an idea, made the idea into reality, tested it, and then promoted and sold it in a market economy. These Polish ladies became successes in the market and their legacy lives on. In fact, some of us are wearing their legacy now.

Polish or not?

IN A PICKLE. Did you ever wonder what is the difference between a kosher pickle and a Polish pickle? I'm neither a sweet nor bread-and-butter pickle fan, but love both the kosher and Polish types. The roots of both come from the same place, and there are a number of explanations why found on the web.

One is from the *Our Everyday Life* site about these pickles:

"Kosher is more about the flavor than anything to do with Jewish religious laws. Generally, they have more garlic added to the traditional dill flavors. Polish dills contain more spices and garlic than either traditional dill pickles or kosher dill pickles. Some of the spices added are a combination of peppers and mustard seed."

For me, Polish pickles from the

regular grocery stores do have more of a kick and are crunchier than the kosher. Those purchased from ethnic or specialty outlets are dillier, less peppery, and softer. My grandma's had a strong vinegar and salt taste and were delicious. Try a taste test of your own. If you have a brand of Polish pickles that are your favorite, let me know what you think.

By the way, the Nathan brand (of *Nathan's Famous* and the Coney Island hotdog-eating contest) was started in 1916 by Polish immigrant Nathan Handwerker. Besides hotdogs, *Nathan's* makes a pretty good pickle.

START YOUR ACCORDIONS. Don Grolnick, born September 23, 1947 in Brooklyn, New York, was "an American jazz pianist, composer, and record producer." He was well-known as a session musician for a number of famous music stars such as Roberta Flack, Harry Chapin, Carly Simon, and Steely Dan. According to *Wikipedia*, "he began his musical life on accordion but later switched to piano." Accordion? That caught my attention and is an interesting clue to whether Grolnick is Polish, or not?

CLEVELAND'S POLISH FAME.

In the September 2019 edition of Southwest Airlines' *The Magazine* (found in the seat pocket with the card showing exits under your drop-down tray table), the city of Cleveland was featured and two Polish connections were mentioned. First was a plug for **Sokolowski's** restaurant featuring their famous pierogi. "Sokolowski's claims to be the city's oldest family-owned restaurant..." It is on my bucket list to dine there some day.

The second was **Brandon Chrostowski**, the founder of Edwin's Leadership Institute & Restaurant, "a nonprofit education program for formerly incarcerated adults who want to build careers in the culinary and hospitality industries." Impressive guy doing God's work.

SECOND REQUEST. Still need an answer or confirmation on the following "Polish or not" persons.

- **Lucianne Walkowicz**, American Astronomer
- **Travis Kelce**, born outside Cleveland, Ohio, Pro-football player
- **Walter** and **Ray Cichon**, rockers that were like "gods" and influenced the young Bruce Springsteen
- **Lemanski Hall**, coach of the Clemson Tigers. (Why "Lemanski?")
- **Jennifer Kupcho**, Augusta National Women's Amateur Champion
- **Bob Huggins**, coach of the West Virginia University men's Basketball program
- **Chelsie Kryst**, Miss USA 2019
- **Jo Jo Siwa**, popular singer and actor
- **Charlie Kirk**, social and political commentator, founder, and leader of *Turning Point USA*

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.

POLONIA PLACES

Kościół św. Józefa w Camden

ST. JOSEPH ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
1010 Liberty St. Camden, New Jersey
Status: Open

by Gregory L. Witul

The genesis of St. Joseph Church can be found in the national pride of Camden's Polish immigrants. By the late 1800s, Poles had made their way to the south Jersey metropolis in search of jobs. To meet their religious obligations, the Poles attended the various Catholic churches around the city. With the end goal of starting their own ethnic parish, Valentine Pepeta, Adalbert Mazur, John Rozycki, and a handful of others attended a meeting at Joseph Wojtkowiak's home at 1147 Kaighn Avenue. At the January 27, 1891 meeting, the 30 men gathered there decided to form the Saint Joseph Society with the mission to establish a parish for the Poles of Camden. By the end of the first day, they had gathered \$226.

With the permission of the bishop, the group rented a little church near the corner of Broadway and Kaighn for Mass to be said and on October 24, 1892 the church was formally incorporated. Under the guidance of Father Michael Baranski the parish built its first church, a combination church school building, at the corner of 10th and Liberty Streets in 1895. Eighteen years later, Father Stefan Wierzynski brought in Philadelphia architect George I. Lovatt Sr. to design

a \$100,000 Baroque style house of worship. Constructed with gray New Hampshire granite, the interior was finished with stained glass depicting the Martyrdom of St. Adalbert, the Communion of St. Stanislaus Kostka, and St. Cecilia and a rendition of Raphael's Disputa. Erected on 10th Street, construction began in 1913 and was consecrated in May of 1914.

When Msgr. Strenski took over St. Joseph's in 1934, he revitalized the parish societies, expanded the church structure and purchased land to be utilized as a parish cemetery. Strenski would run the parish for a quarter century before Msgr. Ladislaus Bazella took the reins. Over the years, the school closed, the popular Annex Chapel was no longer used, but a senior center was opened. In the new millennium a new mausoleum was added, the history room was opened, and a collection of relics was acquired including one of St. John Paul the Great.

Today St. Joseph's is a vibrant parish with a bilingual Polish American Mass every Sunday at 10 a.m., active Holy

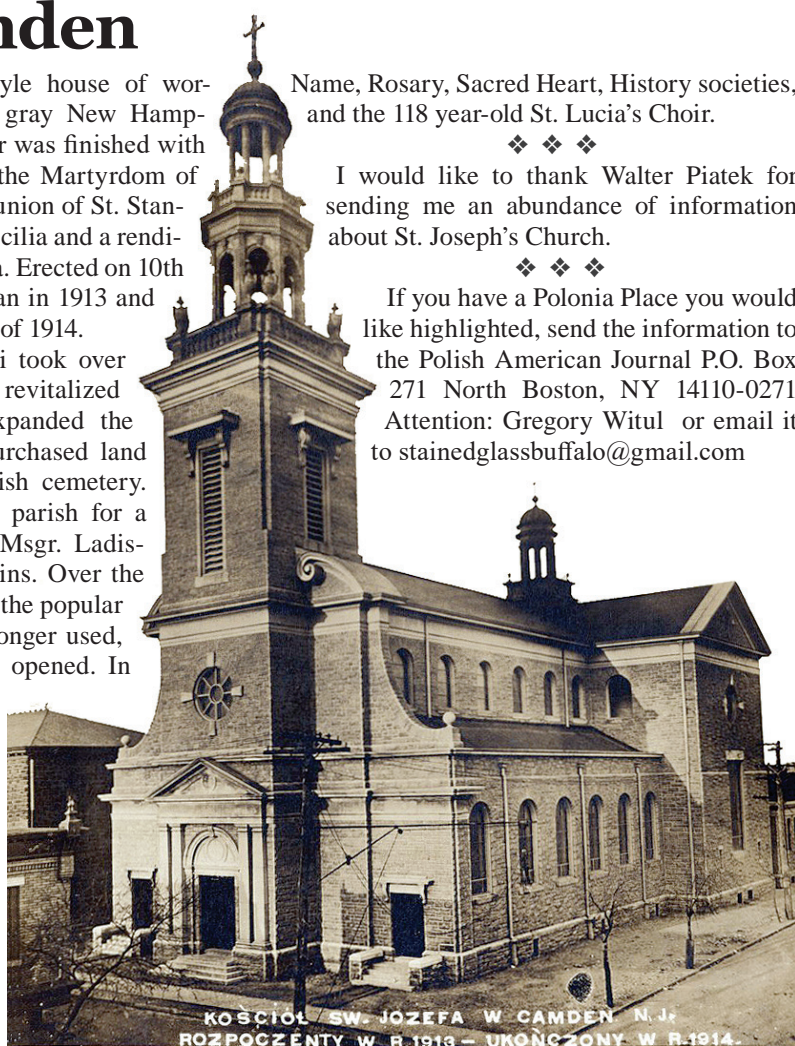
Name, Rosary, Sacred Heart, History societies, and the 118 year-old St. Lucia's Choir.



I would like to thank Walter Piatek for sending me an abundance of information about St. Joseph's Church.



If you have a Polonia Place you would like highlighted, send the information to the Polish American Journal P.O. Box 271 North Boston, NY 14110-0271 Attention: Gregory Witul or email it to stainedglassbuffalo@gmail.com



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ROZPOCZĘTY W R. 1913 - UKOŃCZONY W R. 1914.

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POLISH CHEF

Time to Start Planning Your Wigilia Menu

by Robert Strybel

Part I

Here are some of the best-known dishes of Polish Wigilia, Christmas Eve supper – the most important family meal of the year. Some reci-

pes have been simplified to make them easier to prepare.

CHRISTMAS WAFER (oplatek). Wigilia begins with the sharing of the white Christmas wafer (oplatek) during which best wishes are ex-

changed. The ritual is complete when everyone has hugged, kissed, and shared the wafer with everyone else present.

If you have difficulty obtaining oplatek where you live, you can order it from the Polish American

Journal at (800) 422-1275.

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

frigerate overnight. Next day, discard onion and lemon, rinse fillets and dry well on paper towel. Season with pepper and sweet paprika (the overnight salting may suffice), dredge in flour, shaking off excess, and fry in 1/2" hot oil to a nice golden brown on both sides. Drain on absorbent paper before serving.

HORSERADISH SAUCE (sos chrzanowy). Fork-blend 1/3 c sour cream, 1/3 c mayonnaise, 1/3 c prepared horseradish, juice of 1/2 a lemon, 1/4 t salt, 1/8 t pepper and 1 t sugar (or more to taste) and serve with fried fish.

SAUERKRAUT & MUSHROOMS (kapusta z grzybami). Drain and rinse 1 qt or liter sauerkraut, chop coarsely, place in pot with 2 bay-leaves and 3 grains allspice, add water to cover, bring to boil, reduce heat and cook uncovered about 60 min or until no longer crunchy to taste. In 3 T butter, margarine or oil brown 12 oz fresh, washed, diced Portobello mushrooms with 1 chopped onion. Stir in 3 T flour and brown lightly, diluting with several T liquid from sauerkraut pot. When smooth, stir into sauerkraut. Add 1 mushroom bouillon cube and cook on low flame covered another 60 min, stirring frequently. Season with salt, pepper, about 1 t sugar and (optional) 1/4 t bruised caraway seeds. Variation: After mushrooms are added, sauerkraut may be transferred to baking dish and baked 1 hr. or longer in preheated 325° oven. For a gourmet touch, add 3 chopped anchovy fillets to sauerkraut before baking.

SAUERKRAUT & NOODLE SQUARES (kapusta z lazankami). To the above sauerkraut and mushrooms, add 2-3 c hot cooked flat egg noodles or lasagna cut into 1" squares, toss and serve. Remember: Polish-style pasta should be tender not rubbery and should be cooked longer than what the *al dente* directions on package advise.

CLEAR DRIED MUSHROOM SOUP (czysta zupa grzybowa z suszonych grzybów): In 2 c water re-hydrate (soak until soft) and cook 1 oz dried bolete mushrooms with 2 bay leaves and 2 grains allspice until tender. When tender, slice into strips or dice and add together with the mushroom stock to enough vegetable stock to make 6 c. For vegetable stock, in about 4 c water cook 1 sliced celery stalk, carrot and onion until veggies are tender. Add a mushroom bouillon cube, bring to boil, simmer briefly and salt & pepper to taste. Garnish with a little freshly-chopped parsley if desired. Serve over side egg noodles.

FRIED FISH FILLETS (filety rybne smażone): Rinse well and pat dry 2 lbs. fresh or thawed freshwater fillets. (Walleye, whitefish, pike, lake perch, catfish, cod, haddock, plaice, fresh herring, etc. are good.) Place in bowl, salt well and intersperse with 1 thinly sliced onion and 1 small sliced lemon. Cover and re-

continued next month

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SPORTS

Yastrzemski is Making a Name for Himself

by Tom Tarapacki

One of the most touching scenes of this baseball season was the appearance of **Mike Yastrzemski** with his grandfather, Red Sox legend **Carl**, at Boston's Fenway Park. After the 80-year-old Carl threw out the ceremonial first pitch to his 29-year-old grandson, the two had an emotional on-field embrace between the pitcher's mound and home plate.

Carl, who played his entire 23-year Hall of Fame career in Boston, was greeted by wild cheering when he made one of his rare public appearances. Mike, a member of the visiting San Francisco Giants, came out of the visitors' dugout at Fenway and was greeted warmly. The game before Mike hit a home run, and Boston fans gave him a standing ovation. Normally a right fielder, that night Mike was shifted to left, where Carl played.

Mike's father was named Carl Jr., but he went by Mike. He played in the minor leagues and died at the age of 43 from a blood clot during hip surgery. His son Mike, who was 14 at the time, developed a close relationship with grandfather Carl.

Coming out of high school Mike, was drafted by Boston in the 36th round of the 2009 Draft, but instead went to Vanderbilt. After an All-Conference senior season, he was selected in the 14th round by Baltimore four years later. He finally made it to the majors this season shortly after Baltimore traded him to San Francisco.

With that home run at Fenway Park, Mike became the first Giants rookie to hit 20-plus homers since Dave Kingman in 1972. He had never hit more than 15 runs in any



Red Sox legend Carl Yastrzemski, and grandson Mike.

of his six minor league seasons (He ended the season with 21 HRs, and batted .273 with 55 RBI).

Before the game, Carl said seeing his grandson play at Fenway would mean as much to him as anything in his own career. "The only way that I can compare it to anything would be if I compare to the '67 season," he said, referring to his MVP year. "That's what it means to me, him being here. It'll be the first time 'Yastrzemski' will be announced on the field since '83."

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR ME LATELY? They may have new jobs by the time you read this, but a two of baseball's most accomplished figures found themselves out of jobs. The Boston Red Sox fired team president **Dave Dombrowski**, while the Chicago Cubs let manager **Joe Maddon** go.

With Dombrowski at the helm, the Sox won three straight American League division titles and a World Series championship in 2018, but the Red Sox had a disappointing, inconsistent season in 2019. In his five years with the Cubs, Maddon led the team to the World Series championship in 2016 — the team's first in 108 years — and made four playoff appearances. This year the Cubbies finished out of the playoffs with an 84-78 record.

GRONKOWSKI VS. NOWINSKI. Fomer NFL All-Pro **Rob Gronkowski** and CTE research pioneer **Chris Nowinski** recently went "head-to-head" on the issue of concussions.

Gronkowski has been candid about the impact football has had on his body and brain, including some 20 concussions. On social media he claimed that he had cured his CTE: "It is fixable. I fixed mine. There are plenty of methods in this world that allow the brain to recover from severe damage. That is also why I would allow my kid to play football."

Nowinski, co-founder and CEO of the Concussion Legacy Foundation and co-founder of the Boston University CTE Center, responded: "You are right about brain plasticity, and I am glad you are feeling great today, but neurodegenerative diseases (CTE, Alzheimer's, etc.) cannot be 'fixed' or cured today. They eventually win. Please come on over to the BU brain bank next week and we can discuss the nuance." Nowinski, who played football at Harvard and wrestled in the WWE, has since become one of the leaders in the effort to solve the sports concussion crisis.

Gronkowski later backtracked. "I agree and I am not saying I cured it. I am saying that I put in the time, the effort and willingness to find unconventional methods to improve my conditions. Sometimes the answers are not found in studies like this case." Nowinski believes that Gronkowski has been able to relieve his post-concussion symptoms, rather than symptoms of CTE.

Previously called "punch-drunk syndrome," CTE is a neurodegenerative disease, much like Parkinson's or Alzheimer's, likely caused by repetitive brain injury. CTE can only be diagnosed with certainty after death through an examination of the brain.

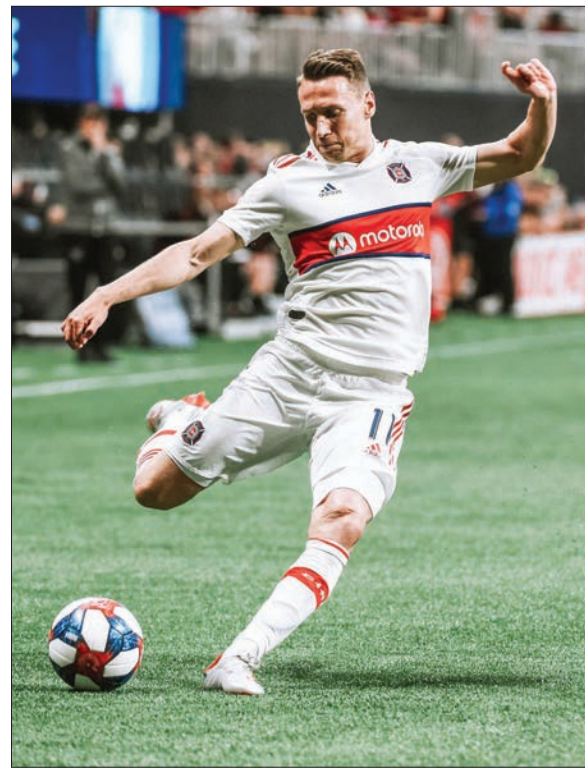


Former goalie Steve Carell and his mother, Harriet, nee Koch.

STEVE CARELL: FROM HOCKEY TO HOLLYWOOD. Actor **Steve Carell** is known as a big hockey fan who still plays recreationally at age 57. In fact, he once joked: "I am the LeBron James of rec league hockey." However, not many people know that Carell was an outstanding goalie growing up in Concord, Mass. As he once told ESPN: "At a certain point, you either have to commit to that as a potential career or let it become a fun hobby. That happened in high school. I had to think about whether I was going to a Division I college hockey program and fight for a job of a goaltender or



Mike hugs grandfather Carl at Fenway.



Chicago Fire's Przemyslaw Frankowski.

do something else. Instead, I went to a Division III school (Denison University in Ohio) and played throughout college. It was for fun and not advancing myself."

Besides playing hockey at Denison, Carrell performed in a comedy troupe and was a radio DJ.

His father Edwin, was an electrical engineer of Italian and Ger-

man heritage (his name was originally Caroselli) and his mother, the former Harriet Koch, was a Polish American psychiatric nurse. Harriet was one of children of Stanley and Frances Koch. Her father, Zygmunt, was a miner who died at a young age from silicosis, a lung disease. Her mother worked as a cook and ran a boarding-house. Harriet passed away in 2016 at 90.

Carell turned to acting after college and eventually rose to fame on the TV series, "The Office." Interestingly, one of his mom's brothers, **Stanley Koch**, was an electrical engineer and skilled glassblower who

worked with scientist Allen B. DuMont to create cathode ray tubes or use in television receivers. That led to the manufacture and sale of the first commercially practical TV sets.

Steve has also had a lot of success in the movies, including playing tennis star Bobby Riggs in *Battle of the Sexes*. Despite his many accomplishments in Hollywood, Steve Carell is considered a dedicated family man and a devout Roman Catholic — and a pretty good goalie!

GREAT ADDITION. The Chicago Fire didn't make the MLS playoffs, but Polish international **Przemyslaw Frankowski** did well on and off the pitch. The speedy 24-year-old winger joined the Fire in January from Polish club Jagiellonia Bialystok, where he had been a member since 2014. He has not only fit well with the team, but with the city as well.

The *Chicago Sun-Times* reported that the first week Frankowski was with the team, Fire CFO **Pawel Szyrnalik** took

him to a Polish store. Frankowski told the Fire executive "I feel like I'm in Poland." Szyrnalik pointed out that Frankowski helps the team connect with Polonia, and that he's seen more Polish fans at Fire games this season.

"Przemek fits in Chicago as if he were born here: humble, hardworking, dedicated to his family, and proud to represent the city," Fire president and general manager Nelson Rodriguez agreed.

The Fire has had a number of notable Polish players in the past, and its 1998 MLS Cup championship team included **Roman Kosecki**, **Peter Nowak**, and **Jerzy Podbrozny**.

PERKOSKI'S NOTEBOOK. Lee Stempniak, a veteran of 10 NHL teams, announced his retirement ... **Max Kepler** of the Twins finished with 36 home runs, tied for seventh in the AL ... The Polish men's volleyball team won the bronze medal in the European Volleyball Championships in Paris ... Polish race driver **Robert Kubica** announced that he would leave British team Williams after a disappointing season ... **Ed Stankiewicz**, a right winger who played briefly with the Detroit Red Wings, died at 89 ... **Mieczyslaw Tracz**, a Polish wrestler who competed in the 1988 Olympics, died at 56.

Poland defeated North Macedonia 2-0 in a Euro 2020 qualifier, sending the Polish National Team into the European Cup next year with two games left in their qualifying campaign.

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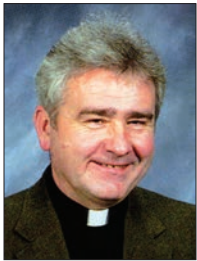
Rev. Lucjan Stokowski, Led Polish Parishes in Cleveland Diocese

CLEVELAND — Rev. Lucjan Stokowski, 68, Pastor Emeritus, St. John Cantius Catholic Church, died Aug. 10, 2019.

Born March 27, 1951 to the late Walenty and Lucyna, Stokowski attended grade school and high school in Poland, and completed his priestly formation at St. John the Baptist Seminary in Warsaw. Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński ordained him to the priesthood for the service of the Diocese of Warsaw on June 5, 1977 in St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Warsaw.

Rev. Stokowski served at Holy Trinity, Kolbiel-Warsaw; St. Lawrence, Sochaczew; and St. Michael, Tarczyn; all in Poland.

On April 1, 1980, Rev. Stokowski came to Cleveland. He lived



at and assisted at St. John Cantius Parish. On May 7, 1981, he was granted permission to serve in the Diocese of Cleveland and on Nov. 1, 1983, he was incardinated into the Diocese of Cleveland. He was assigned as parochial vicar of St. John Cantius. Rev. Stokowski also served as chaplain for the Polish Army Veterans Association of America Post 152. On July 1, 1987 he was assigned as parochial vicar of St. Stanislaus Parish in Cleveland where he served for four years. In 1991, he was assigned as parochial vicar of Ss. Peter & Paul Parish, Garfield Heights. Nine years later, he was assigned as pastor of St. John Cantius, Cleveland. In addition, Rev. Stokowski served as administrator of St. Barbara Parish in Cleveland from Aug. 31, 2007 until July 1, 2018, when he was granted retirement.

He was interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Brook Park.

Conrad Kaminski, Bank President, Opera Singer, and Founder of Polish Fest

MILWAUKEE — Conrad Kaminski, who went to work for Lincoln State Bank at age 14 and later rose to become its president as well as an opera singer and the founder of Milwaukee's popular Polish Fest, died of cancer Sept. 8. He was 84.

Kaminski, who was born and raised in Milwaukee, led a rich and varied life.

He was a tenor for the Florentine Opera and loved to sing "Edelweiss," popularized in the musical "The Sound of Music." He performed the song most recently during his days in hospice with the staff of Horizon Home Care and Hospice in Mequon.

He worked as a volunteer police officer in Whitefish Bay. He spoke Polish and Spanish, and, after retiring from the bank, worked at the Sass Funeral Home at South 15th Street and West Oklahoma Avenue until this past April.

"He worked many hours," said Catherine La Fleur, one of Kaminski's four daughters. "But he always said, 'A man who likes his work has never worked a day in his life.' He loved what he did."

Kaminski was born in Milwaukee to Harriet and Zygmunt Kaminski, and graduated from St. John Kanty and Marquette High School.

In his first job at the bank, he performed odd jobs after school and on weekends for 75 cents an hour.

Kaminski served in the Army, including 13 months spent at Eniwetok Atoll, the Atomic Energy Commission testing ground in the Marshall Islands.

After earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Kaminski worked in advertising at the West Bend Co., and then in promotion and public relations at WITI-TV in Milwaukee.

Kaminski was running his own advertising agency when one of his clients, his boyhood employer Lincoln State Bank, offered him a job as vice president of marketing. The job required that he return to UW for a graduate degree in banking, but he didn't mind.

"He loved it," La Fleur said. "He just loved banking. I think part of it was that he got to go back to where he worked when he was a kid."

The other thing he loved was music. "He'd always be the loudest singer in church," La Fleur said. He went to a few different churches, most recently the Basilica of St. Joseph.

The values he prized most were hard work and his Catholic faith, La Fleur said.

In 1982, he started Milwaukee's Polish Fest. "It was his pride and joy for a long time," Thomas Kaminski said.

Conrad Kaminski's last job was at the Sass Funeral Home, where he worked with his brother, and penned his own obituary.

"He wrote it himself and put it on the bulletin board," his brother said. "He said, 'This is my obituary. I don't want anything else.'"

Kaminski was married twice and is survived by his second wife, Kathleen Kaminski, his brother and his four daughters.

— Journal Sentinel

TAX DEDUCTION. With the year's end upon us, we ask our readers to consider a donation to the Polish American Journal Foundation. It is a 503c non-profit organization, the funds of which are used for the promotion of Polish American culture. Learn more by turning to page 6 in this month's edition.

Łucjan Królikowski O.F.M. Conv.

Fr. Lucjan Krolikowski, OFM Conv. was born on September 7, 1919 in Nowe Kramsko, Poland, and died on October 11, 2019 at Our Lady of the Angels Care Center, Enfield, Conn. At the time of his death he was 100 years old and the oldest Conventual Friar in the world. (PAJ, Oct. 2019)

Fr. Lucjan was the third child of Stanislaw and Wiktoria (Tomiak) Krolikowski. He leaves his Franciscan family and many related family members and friends in Poland, Canada, and the United States.

Fr. Lucjan's long Franciscan life began in 1934 when he entered the Franciscan Friar Conventual Seminary which was located on the grounds of the world's largest friary in Niepokalanow, Poland. Its guardian was the future saint, Fr. Maximilian Kolbe, who was later canonized by Pope John Paul II. Fr. Lucjan completed high school at the seminary and later made his Novitiate in Niepokalanow (City of the Immaculate), professing his Simple Vows on August 29, 1939, where Fr. Maximilian Kolbe was present.

He completed his philosophy studies in 1939 from the University of Lwow. While preparing to begin his theological studies in June of 1940, he was arrested by the Russian police (NKVD, later named KGB) and deported to a concentration camp in eastern Ukraine. He was liberated from the concentration camp and later joined the Polish army, completing Artillery



school for Cadet Officers in Uzbekistan. He was moved with the Polish army to Iraq in 1942, and since the army needed chaplains, he began his theological studies in 1943 in Beirut, Lebanon.

Fr. Lucjan made his Solemn Vows on July 14, 1945 in Beirut, and was ordained to the priesthood on June 30, 1946 at the University of St. Joseph in Beirut, where he also received an S.T.B. (Theology) that same year. Returning to the army after ordination to the priesthood, Fr. Lucjan served the VIII General Military Hospital in El-Kantar, Egypt. After demobilization in 1947 he became the high school prefect in the Polish Refugee camp in Tengeru, near Mount Kilimanjaro.

With a civilian population of 4,000 (half of whom were children) Fr. Lucjan volunteered to accompany these orphans through Europe

and onto Canada which became their permanent home. Once in Montreal, Fr. Lucjan started placing children in French schools through the Province of Quebec. His first book, "Stolen Childhood," recounts the unusual experiences and travels with the children.

During his ministerial life, Fr. Lucjan served as Associate Pastor (1958-1964) and Pastor (1964-1966) of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, Montreal, Canada. In addition, he also served as Guardian of the parish Friary during his pastoral years. He became the Secretary of the *Fr. Justin Rosary Hour* (the longest running radio show in Polish outside of Poland), Athol Springs, N.Y. from 1966-1998. Accepting a new ministry in 1999 he served as Parochial Vicar at St. Stanislaus Basilica, Chicopee, Mass. until 2009. In 2009, Fr. Lucjan continued his life's work as Confessor and Spiritual Advisor, St. Hyacinth Friary in Chicopee. In 2016 he became Confessor and Spiritual Advisor at Our Lady of the Angels Care Center in Enfield, where he continued to be in contact with his many family members and friends until his death. Fr. Lucjan has authored five books, and had written hundreds of talks for the *Fr. Justin Rosary Hour* radio program.

Memorial donations may be made to the Franciscan Education Burse, 12300 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

— kozikowskifuneralhome.com

Ric Ocasek, Cars Singer Who Fused Pop and New Wave

from Rolling Stone

Ric Ocasek, the idiosyncratic singer and guitarist for the Cars and hit-making album producer, died Sept. 15 in his New York City apartment. He was 75.

Beginning with the Cars' self-titled debut, in 1978, Ocasek established himself as a stoic frontman with a sense of humor and melodrama on songs like "My Best Friend's Girl," "You're All I've Got Tonight," and "Good Times Roll." As a member of the Cars — he wrote nearly every tune the band recorded — Ocasek helped kick-start the New Wave movement by pinning his disaffected vocals against herky-jerky rhythm guitar, dense keyboards and dance-floor-ready beats, and as one of the group's lead vocalists, alongside bassist Benjamin Orr, he sang the hits "Shake It Up" and "You Might Think." After the group broke up, in 1988, Ocasek recorded as a solo artist and worked as a producer, helping to sculpt blockbuster hits like Weezer's *Blue* and *Green* albums and cult favorites like Bad Brains' *Rock for Light*.

He was born Richard Ocasek to a Polish Catholic family in Baltimore. His father was a computer systems analyst and sent Ocasek to a parochial elementary school, where he was kicked out in the fifth grade. He told *Rolling Stone* in a 1979 pro-



file that he couldn't remember why he'd been expelled.

He fell in love with the Crickets' "That'll Be the Day" as a child, prompting his grandmother to give him a guitar, though he didn't take to it immediately. He became a rebel as a teen, running away for weeks at a time to the beach town of Ocean City, Maryland.

His family relocated to Cleveland when he was 16, and he decided to shape up and get solid grades so he could attend a good college, but he ended up dropping out and again became interested in guitar. This time it stuck, and he began writing tunes regularly.

One of the musicians Ocasek drafted was Benjamin Orzechowski

(who later changed his last name to Orr), who helped record one of the pre-Cars demos.

Ocasek and Orr relocated to New York, Woodstock, and Ann Arbor, Michigan, singing Buddy Holly songs as a duo or playing hard rock to prepare for a gig opening for the MC5. Eventually, they settled in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and formed a folk trio called Milkwood, releasing an album in 1972. They both struggled financially — Ocasek worked in clothing stores to keep his family fed — and eventually they met the musicians who would form the rest of the Cars in 1976. Ocasek wrote all the songs and acted as a benevolent dictator.

The Cars' self-titled album, which Queen producer Roy Thomas Baker helmed and recorded in just two weeks, came out on June 6, 1978, and became a Top 20 hit in the U.S. It was later certified sextuple platinum on the strength of the hits "Just What I Needed" (sung by Orr), "My Best Friend's Girl," and "Good Times Roll." The record is also home to songs that would become hits later, including "You're All I've Got Tonight" and "Moving in Stereo" (the latter soundtracking a pivotal scene in *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*).

The band hit critical mass in 1984 with *Heartbeat City*, an album that issued five Top 40 singles in the U.S.: "You Might Think," "Magic," "Hello Again," "Why Can't I Have You," and "Drive," which served as the background music for ads for African famine relief during Live Aid. Ocasek donated his royalties from it to the Band Aid Trust.

The Cars were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2018.

Ocasek was married three times and was the father of six sons. He met 18-year-old model Paulina Porizkova and married her in 1989. They divorced last year.

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GENEALOGY

Write Your Family History: Formats

by Stephen M. Szabados

I have written many times about saving your family history by creating narratives so your family members can read and understand the information that you find. Below are two examples that I hope will inspire you to begin writing.

The first example is "Bullet Points," which I use in the initial phases in researching an ancestor. At some point, I transition to the narrative format as I add information and stories. For some summaries, I never transition to a narrative because I find very little information or stories.

Remember, these summaries are my research notes and can be shared with my family at any time. They show the lives of my ancestors in chronological order and evolve into a story of their lives as I add more information. I also research and add relevant social history which gives reasons for the activities of my ancestors.

Please keep your writing simple and use your words and grammar. Give your family a gift of a lifetime. If you do not write it down, who will?

Save the stories for your future generations.

Have fun and enjoy your Polish heritage.

Example #1 - bullet points

- Pawel Chmielewski (My great-grandfather) The church record for his marriage listed that Pawel was age 36 and this would indicate that he was born in

1794 in Przewdziecko-Pierzchaly, Polish-Russia to Franciszek Chmielewski and Marianna Obrebska

- The church record listed that he married Balbina (age 16) on February 12, 1830, at age 36 in the parish church in Andrzejewo by Father Wojciech Lipiecinski. Witnesses for the ceremony were Jan Chmielewski and Jakub Kalutowski, both landowners in Pierzchaly.
- I found birth records that indicated that Pawel and Balbina had at least six children – Antoni (b. 1834), Jozefa (b. 1835), Adam (b. 1837), Marianna (b. 1839), Anna (b. 1840) and Anna (b. 1841).
- On his son, Adam's birth record listed Pawel as "urodzny" - of noble birth
- Pawel's death record listed that he died on September 10, 1854, in Przewdziecko-Pierzchaly, Polish-Russia

Example #2 - narrative format

Steve John Zuchowski (My grandfather)

The baptismal certificate for my grandfather Steve John Zuchowski listed that he was born in Dmochy Kudly, Russia, on December 26, 1893, to Leopold Zuchowski and Anny Dmochowski.

Steve was baptized at the Catholic parish church, Peter and Paul the Apostles, in Czyzew. I have found birth records for four other children of Leopold and Anny Zuchowski – Aleksandra (b.1874) Stanislaw (b. 1875), Boleslaw (b. 1882), and Marianna (b. 1885). Dmochy Kudly

was a rural farm village that had been part of the large manor estate, Dmochy, that was north of Czyzew, Poland, and about 60 miles north-east of Warsaw. In 1881, his village had three houses and 21 inhabitants. The land that it occupied is now part of the village Dmochy Mrozy.

Steve's parents were descendants of minor Polish nobles who had owned vast estates. The large estates had been divided over the years due to inheritance and now were only large enough to support one family. By the 1800s the laws were changed to allow only the oldest son to inherit the farm and all other children had to find other means to support themselves ...

(family history includes 24 more pages of narratives and pictures)

... He died peacefully on Sunday, April 26, 1964 at age 70 after the hospital's chaplain had given him the Last Rites of the Catholic Church and he had talked briefly with his daughter Regina.

The visitation was at Metzler's Funeral Home; a funeral service was held at St. Patrick Church, and Steve was buried at St. Mary Cemetery on West Washington Street in Bloomington.

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Medieval Warrior Woman Found in Viking Graveyard Was No Viking



Artist Mirosław Kuźma's illustration of the burial site where archaeologists found the remains of a woman warrior with an axe from the South Baltic region.

More than likely came from what is now Poland

by Mindy Weisberger
Live Science

LANGELAND, Denmark — When archaeologists discovered the remains of a woman in a Viking graveyard in Denmark, an axe near her skeleton told them that she may have been a fighter. But closer examination of both the weapon and her burial revealed something unexpected: She was no Viking.

Rather, the woman was Slavic, and likely came from a region in Eastern Europe that is now Poland, representatives of Poland's Ministry of Science and Higher Education said in a statement.

A coin from the cemetery, on the Danish island of Langeland, revealed that the burial site is about 1,000 years old, according to the statement. The woman's grave was the only one that held a weapon.

Throughout history and across the globe, women have wielded weapons. In recent years, archaeologists have found evidence that some Viking women were buried with weapons. But in many of those cases, there were no human remains in the graves, and the gender of the former occupants was inferred from the presence of jewelry and other objects that typically belonged to women, Leszek Gardela, an archaeologist with the University of Bonn in Germany and the University of Bergen in Norway, said in the statement.

However, the Slavic woman's skeleton was still lying in the grave. The skeleton showed no obvious injuries that would have indicated how she died, Gardela said. The axe resembled similar tools from

the southern Baltic — a region that includes modern countries bordering the Baltic Sea, such as Poland, Germany and Lithuania — and the chambered construction of her grave is reminiscent of cemetery structures from that part of the world during the Middle Ages.

During this period in Denmark, Slavs and Scandinavians lived close together, which would explain why a Slavic woman was laid to rest in a Danish graveyard, Gardela said in the statement.

To date, approximately 30 graves of women containing weapons have been discovered in Norway, Denmark and Sweden. Of those, 10 graves — including that of the Slavic warrior — were identified by Gardela. His findings will be published in 2020 as part of a project investigating Viking and Slavic women warriors, titled "Amazons of the North," according to the statement.

Arolsen Archives on Nazi Persecution Expand

BAD AROlsen, Germany — The Arolsen Archives-International Center on Nazi Persecution is an internationally governed center for documentation, information and research on Nazi persecution, forced labor, and the Holocaust in Nazi Germany and its occupied regions. It recently added 13 million more documents, and now contains about 30 million records from concentration camps, details of forced labor, and files on displaced persons.

Write: Arolsen Archives International Center on Nazi Persecution, Große Allee 5-9, 34454 Bad Arolsen, Deutschland; or visit arolsen-archives.org.

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If interested, kindly airmail a \$19 personal or bank (cashier's) check or money order (adding \$14 for each additional surname you wish to have researched) to Polonia's long-standing Warsaw correspondent and name researcher: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

Each order includes a genealogical contact sheet to help check your family records in Poland, track down ancestral homesteads and graves or possibly even turn up long-lost relatives. For more information please contact: strybel@interia.pl.



THE KORWIN COAT OF ARMS was shared by the nobles of several dozen Polish families including: Bieńkowski, Chrzanowski, Gałczewski, Gosiewski, Jagodziński, Joachimowicz, Karaczyński, Kossakowski, Krukowski, Lisowski, Materna, Michalski, Orzeszkowa, Piotrowski, Prendowski, Sakowicz, Seredyński, Terajewicz, and Wendrychowski.




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DANCE TIME

Polka Buzz Celebrates Fourth Anniversary

by Jennifer Pijanowski

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Polka music made a grand return to Niagara Falls as **Jammin' Polkafest** drew impressive crowds at its inaugural event. Historic Holy Trinity Church honored the complex's Polish heritage by creating a fun-filled day of Polish music, dancing, food, and more. **Phocus** and **Special Delivery** did a fantastic job entertaining the abundant crowd under the huge tent and plentiful dance floor. Extra tables and chairs had to be brought out to accommodate the remarkable crowd. Church tours were also provided as part of the celebratory 10-year anniversary of Historic Holy Trinity, a 501(C) 3 non-profit organization run under the auspices of Niagara Heritage of Hope and Service.

With a rich Polish history dating back to 1901, this hard-working group has made it their mission to make a positive difference in the local and visiting communities by providing educational services, professional support, social opportunities, and spiritual support and instruction. The complex fosters activities that support the broader public community coming to the Western New York area. **Jammin' Polkafest** offered a very well-received fundraising event for the organization which is headed up by President **Marg Domgalski**. This national landmark is a 100% donation-based organization which



Jammin' Polka Fest. Members of Niagara Heritage of Hope and Service (first row, l. to r.): Jackson Bennett, Board Member; Alize Rosaro, Marketing Chair; and Ken Colella, Board Treasurer. (second row): Eda Buzzelli, Board Member; and Marg Domagalski, Board President

Gene McCarthy's is an old-time tavern built around the turn of century, located in the Old First Ward of Buffalo. It has a deep history of Irish, Polish, and Italian immigrants who worked as grain scoopers, stevedores, railroad, and steel workers. The return of Polish polka music was appropriate — for many years the pub was run by a Polish woman.

Upon reaching our destination, we were all greeted with a blessing and tapping of the Oktoberfest brew keg. Owner Bill Metzger, Matt Conron, and brewer Bryan Kirchmyer worked to tap the keg, marking the beginning of their Oktoberfest beer for 2019. A quick, informative history of beer explained that while Oktoberfest lends itself

to overindulging, there is also a historical need for beer. Beer is one of the most ancient foods known to humankind. As grains were harvested, it was fermented to brew beer as long ago as 3500 B.C. and purposed itself to give sustenance during the long winters. It was used as a form of payment, given in rations, and is now celebrated by people all over the world. After guzzling our Oktoberfest pint, we gathered in the quaint bar room to listen to lively music provided by **Special Delivery** all afternoon long. Gene McCarthy's was brimming with people enjoying the music and proclaiming the beginning of October festivities.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY. WNY's polka TV show **Polka Buzz** celebrated its Fourth Anniversary with music and episode tapings featuring **Special Delivery**. Every song beckoned dancers to the overflowing dance floor.

The evening proved that there is a bright future ahead for WBBZ's hit polka show. I got a chance to talk to Production Executive John DiScullo about the show's success and impact in Western New York. John explained that the show was strategically placed at 7:00 p.m. on the WBBZ network — the same time in which *The Lawrence Welk Show* had previously aired. The show and tapings have taken on a cult status of their own with generations of fans attending. Bringing parents and grandparents to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and other special events on TV has added another dimension to the fruitful fan base. With **Ron Dombrowski** as the host, it has married the polka lovers of the Buffalo area to **Polka Buzz**. **Ronnie D** is the host of "Drive Time Polkas" (Mon.-Sat. 5:00-7:00 p.m. on WXRL 1300AM, and 8:00-11:00 a.m. Sunday on WECK 1230AM, and 102.9FM), and brings his love for polka music to the television screen. He has been broadcasting polka programs since 1979 on both radio and television, so his following naturally embraced *Polka Buzz* from its inception.

The first few episodes were



Dan Gallagher, Sue Solley-Quarantello, and Dan's wife Dorothy Gallagher were happy to hear polkas once again in Niagara Falls.

filmed at Gratwick Fire Hall in North Tonawanda but quickly switched venues to **Potts Banquet Hall**. DiScullo explained that it is a much more centralized location and with owner Danny Potts regularly supporting polka music, it was a match made in heaven. With 48 tapings and over 800 episodes aired, it is easy to understand why many of the weekly *Polka Buzz* dancers are recognized while out and about in the community. Talented dancers and regulars Frankie and Angela Divolli are often recognized while out to dinner or shopping. They thoroughly enjoy polka music and love the diversity of each polka band.

Every band brings its own unique style and fan base to the show which assists in keeping *The Buzz* fresh and engaging. Last month German band **The Auslanders** aired while a German Dance troupe also lent their talents to honor Octoberfest. The Christmas shows

will showcase the beautiful sounds of **Chopin Singing Society**, paying tribute to the distinct ethnicity of Western New York. Visit <http://wbbz.tv/> for information on tapings, airings, and what the future holds for *Polka Buzz*.

I would like to send huge congratulations and thank you to the entire team at WBBZ for having the initiative and drive to showcase our beloved polka music in an engaging, positive light.

FALL FROLICS. On Sun., Nov. 24, polka music returns to **The Polish Nook**, 2242 Cudaback Ave. Niagara

continued on next page



Tapping of the Keg at Gene McCarthy's, a landmark pub in Buffalo's First Ward Brewery District.

operates by an all-volunteer board of directors and a very dedicated group of volunteers. Every dollar raised at **Jammin' Polkafest** and all other events goes into maintaining and preserving this state and national landmark while continuing to focus on our programs and services for the community. Rest assured that **Polkafest 2020** plans are already in the works.

FIRST WARD FUN. **Special Delivery** provided the music as music and beer lovers paraded through the streets of the Old First Ward. The parade began on South Park Ave. and continued down Hamburg Street until reaching Gene McCarthy's.



Special Delivery members (l. to r.) Chris Gawlak, Dave Miesowicz, and Ted Szymanski, leading the parade, part of the Harvest Festival held at Gene McCarthy's.



Chrissy, Linda, and Art Gaylor at *The Polka Buzz* recording. Art is the accordion player and vocalist with the Concertina All-Stars, and New Direction bands.



Frankie and Angela Divolli at the October *Polka Buzz* recording. Frank, a World War II veteran, just celebrated his 88th birthday. The Divollis say dancing keeps them young.



Linda Pietraszewski and niece Aubrey at the *Polka Buzz* recording. Linda was one of the folks behind the very successful **Jammin' Polkafest** at the Holy Trinity Historic site in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Fall Frolics

continued from previous page

Falls. **New Direction** will provide the music at the Niagara Falls landmark Polish restaurant. Admission is just \$12.00 and includes a delicious Polish buffet dinner. Polish Nook is an old-fashioned, family-owned restaurant and bar which has been serving up authentic Polish cuisine since 1964. Today, Polish Nook is run by the third generation, and still serves the same recipes as when it opened. You will enjoy kicking off your Thanksgiving week at this friendly bar and eatery with wonderful polka music.

Nowak's Tavern 1458 Lovejoy in Sloan, N.Y. will host **Buffalo Concertina All Stars** for a Pre-Thanksgiving Polka Party on Wed., Nov. 27, 2019. Music will begin at 7:00 and there is no admission for this event. This local gin mill offers an intimate atmosphere for a casual get-together with friends and family before Thanksgiving preparations begin early the next morning.

Black Friday has never sounded as good as it will at **Potts Banquet Hall** on Fri., Nov. 29, 2019. Get ready for the Black Friday Polka Special featuring **Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push**. Music will be from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m., with plenty of food and drink specials available. For further information, please stop by Potts Deli and Grill or contact Danny at (716) 826-6575.

The 5th annual **Polka vs. Country** will be held on Sat. Nov. 30, 2019 at The Cove, 4701 Transit Rd., Depew, N.Y. But before heading to The Cove, make plans to

stop at **Buffalo Distilling Co.**, for the release of its 2019 Barrel-Aged Krupnik. This quintessential Polish winter-warmer-upper is exploding on the market, and Buffalo Distilling — located at 860 Seneca St. in the city's revitalized Larkinville District — leads the pack with its unique blend. Live polka music for the release will be provided by **Special Delivery** from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Call the distillery at (716) 254-3610.

The lineup for **Polka vs. Country** that evening will be **Polka Country Musicians** and **West of the Mark**, Buffalo's Music Award-winning country band. Doors will open at 5:00. Music will begin at 7:00 and continue non-stop with these two high energy bands. You can contact Val at (716) 777-2455 to purchase your presale tickets for only \$10.00. The ticket price will be \$15.00 at the door on the day of the event.

Also taking place on Nov. 30, **Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push** will perform to benefit The St. Gianna Pregnancy Outreach Center in Dunkirk, N.Y. The Polish kolędy night will take place at Blessed Mother Angela Social Center 324 Townsend in Dunkirk. The evening will feature a home-style Polish dinner, and a sing-along with lyric sheets provided for Polish and American Christmas songs and hymns. Attendees will share blessed opłatki, and a special blessing from the Parish's priest. Music and dancing to Chicago Push will take place 6:00-10:00 p.m. A limited number of presale-only tickets are available. Contact Pat at (716) 207-6509.

NOVEMBER POLKA BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays courtesy Li'l John's Polka Show, WAVL Radio 910 AM and 98.7 FM, Saturday 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., and on the web at www.987jack.fm. 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 Max Smulewicz	1936		Bandleader / Musician	N.J.
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 / IJ	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.	E. 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 Bruzdinski	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 Raczowski	1967		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Wisc.
22 Wally Pala	1941	11/12/00	Musician / Vocalist (Pala Brothers)	Chicago
23 Gino Kurdziel	1935	3/16/19	Musician / Vocalist (New Yorkers, 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 Frania (Yakima) Urbaniak			Polka D.J. WEDO	Pa.
30 Ray Barsukiewicz	1948		Musician / Vocalist / Composer	Buffalo, N.Y.

POLKA CALENDAR

Compiled by John Ziobrowski

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

NOVEMBER 2

- DynaBrass. PACC Ludlow, Mass. 2:30-6:30 (413) 592-0367
- Local Boyz. Alert Fire Hall Emigsville, Pa. 7-11 (717) 235-4667
- New Direction. Potts Banquet Cheektowaga, N.Y. 7-11 (716) 675-6588

NOVEMBER 3

- Dennis Polisky. Polish Club Uxbridge, Mass. 1-5 (413) 531-7576
- John Stevens. Roselawn Banquets New York Mills, N.Y. 2-6 (315) 736-5030
- Joe Stanky. VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 472-1152
- DynaBrass. Nativity BMV Church Reading, Pa. 2-6 (610) 376-0586

NOVEMBER 7

- Polka Family. New Orleans Party Ctr. Brecksville, Ohio. (216) 496-0223

NOVEMBER 8

- Lenny Gomulka. WSKG TV Vestal, N.Y. 6-10 (607) 729-0100

NOVEMBER 7-10

- Jimmy Sturr. Wursthof New Braunfels, Texas. (830) 625-9167

NOVEMBER 9

- Lenny Gomulka. St. Joe's Colchester, Conn. 6-10 (860) 537-2550
- Polka Country Musicians/Polka Family. Holiday Inn Independence, Ohio. 7-1 (216) 524-8050
- Polka Method. Monaghan Fire Hall Dillsburg, Pa. 5-9 (717) 697-8012

NOVEMBER 10

- Buffalo Touch. Clinton Bar & Grill Buffalo, N.Y. 5:30-8:30.
- Lenny Gomulka. PACC Ludlow, Mass. 2:20-6:30 (413) 592-0357
- Polka Country Musicians. Antonelli Event Ctr. Irwin, Pa. 3-7 (724) 382-4600
- Polka Method. VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 472-1152
- Tony's Polka Band. Fire Hall Glenfield, N.Y. 2-6 (315) 376-2135

NOVEMBER 15

- John Stevens. VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 472-1152
- DynaBrass. Pulaski Club Phoenix. 6-10 (602) 275-9329

NOVEMBER 16

- Dennis Polisky. Chippabee CC Bristol, Conn. (860) 589-5645
- DynaBrass. Pulaski Club Phoenix Az. 6-10 (602) 275-9329

NOVEMBER 17

- Dennis Polisky. PACC Ludlow, Mass. 2:30-6:30 (413) 592-0367
- DynaBrass. Pulaski Club Phoenix, Ariz. 2-6 (602) 275-0367
- Continentials. Sacred Heart Parish Center, Cornwall, Pa. 2-6 p.m. (717) 566-5704.

NOVEMBER 23

- Special Delivery. Buffalo Distilling Buffalo, N.Y. 2:30-5:30 (716) 254-3601
- Buffalo Touch / Walter Ostanek / Polish Pride. Potts Banquet Buffalo, N.Y. 6-11 (716) 675-6588
- Polka Country Musicians / The Boys. PACC Southbridge, Mass. (508) 764-4746

NOVEMBER 24

- The Boys. PACC Ludlow, Mass. 2:30-6:30 (413) 592-0367
- New Direction. The Nook. Niagara Falls, N.Y. 3-7 (716) 282-6712

NOVEMBER 29

- Lenny Gomulka. Potts Banquet Hall Buffalo, N.Y. 7-11 (716) 675-6588
- Live Wire. Cocktales Pulaski, Wisc. 8-12 (920) 822-3418

NOVEMBER 30

- Polka Country Musicians. The Cove Depew, N.Y. (716) 656-7946
- Lenny Gomulka. St. Hedwig's. Dunkirk, N.Y. 6-10 (413) 374-7096
- John Gora. White Eagle Hall, Montreal Can. 8-12 (514) 524-3116

DECEMBER 1

- Dennis Polisky. Polish Cultural Ctr Clark, N.J. 2-6 (201) 694-2330
- Kosmix. PACC Ludlow, Mass. 2:30-6:30 (413) 592-0367

DECEMBER 3

- Eddie Forman. Aqua Turf Plantsville, Conn. 10:30-3 (860) 621-9335
- John Stevens. Roselawn Banquets New York Mills, N.Y. 2-6 (315) 736-5030

DECEMBER 7

- Buffalo Touch. Leonard Post Cheektowaga, N.Y. (716) 684-4371
- Eddie Forman / Lenny Gomulka. Independence Fire Hall Great Meadows, N.J. (908) 637-4300
- Dennis Polisky. PNI Club Worcester, Mass. 5-9 (508) 361-2860
- Polka Method. Roselawn Banquets New York Mills, N.Y. 4-8(315) 736-5030

DECEMBER 8

- John Gora. Misiuda Hall Toledo, Ohio. 2-6 (419) 691-5684
- John Stevens. VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 4721152
- Continentials. Sacred Heart Parish Center, Cornwall, Pa. 2-6 p.m. (717) 566-5704.



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41 S. Rossler Ave.,
Cheektowaga, NY 14206
Admission: \$5.00
For table reservations, call Ted (716) 668-9101



We will be collecting items at the dance for ST. LUKE'S MISSION OF MERCY

WINTER NEEDS: Medications: Pain relievers, cold and allergy medications, cough drops, etc. for both children and adults. Please, no prescription drugs.

EVERYDAY NEEDS: Clean and gently-used clothing, shoes and boots, linens, toys; candy; baby diapers; wipes and formula (Enfamil is preferred); toilet paper; paper towels; tissues and small-size personal hygiene products.

CODE BLUE NEEDS: Men's sweatshirts, t-shirts, socks, blankets, and sheets.

DONATIONS. Checks (no cash, please) made out to "ST. LUKE'S MISSION OF MERCY" with "HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS" in the reference line.

Polka Fans to Help St. Luke's Mission of Mercy

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Polka music fans, long known for their generosity, are asked to bring winter, holiday, and personal items to benefit St. Luke's Mission of Mercy to the annual Christmas Sing-Along, hosted by Buffalo's Special Delivery Band.

St. Luke's Mission of Mercy is an independent Mission in the Roman Catholic Tradition in Buffalo's inner city. It does not receive money from the government or the Diocese. Its ministry depends on donations to continue its service to the community.

Items needed by St. Luke's include:

- WINTER NEEDS:** Medications such as pain relievers, cold and allergy medications, cough drops, etc. for both children and adults. (Please, no prescription drugs.)
- EVERYDAY NEEDS:** Clean and gently-used clothing, shoes and boots, linens, toys; candy; baby diapers; wipes and formula (Enfamil is preferred); toilet paper; paper towels; tissues and small-size personal hygiene products.
- CODE BLUE NEEDS:** Men's sweatshirts, t-shirts, socks, blankets, and sheets.
- DONATIONS.** Checks (no cash, please) made out to "ST. LUKE'S MISSION OF MERCY" with "HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS" in the reference line.

This year's Christmas Sing-Along (slinger attached / enclosed) will be held Saturday, December 21 at Potts Banquet Hall, 41 S. Rossler Ave., Cheektowaga, N.Y. 14206, from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m.

For table reservations, call Ted Szymanski at (716) 668-9101.

To help St. Luke's Mission directly with a monetary donations, send a check or money order to St. Luke's Mission of Mercy, P.O. Box 448, Buffalo, NY 14215.

CONCERTINAS FOR SALE

Star Streamline "special" quad concertina, B-flat, red with pearl white, blue, and silver trim. Mic. working, case included.

StarJet quad concertina, C, red with gold trim. Mic. working, case included.

Contact:
Tony Murawski
410-825-0862
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An RBO Christmas

Featuring vocalists **Eddie Biegaj, Polka Paul Belanger, Eddie Zavaski, Jr.** and instrumentalists **Jim Turek, Greg Dolecki, June Ingram, Eddie Zavaski, Jr., Rich Pavasaris, Dave Goculowski, Marc Garofalo, and Jim Sajkowicz**

- Dancer the Toe-Tapping Reindeer
- Jingle Bells
- Frolicking Snowflakes
- Ignatz, the Polish Reindeer
- Ballad for All Seasons
- Silver Bells
- Winter Wonderland
- White Christmas
- Serdeczna Matko
- Spoken Interlude
- Dzisiaj w Betlejem
- Gdy Się Chrystus Rodzi
- Lulajże Jezuniu
- Przybieżeli Do Betlejem
- Cicha Noc, Święta Noc
- W Żłobie Leży
- Wśród Nocnej Ciszy
- Hej W Dzień Narodzenia

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April, 2020
Co-Host – Ron Dombrowski
Join us as we explore:
Poland - Warsaw, Krakow, Zakopane, Wroclaw
Ukraine - Lviv
Czech Republic - Prague

Christmas Market Riverboat Cruise
Dec 15-22, 2019
Germany - Nuremburg, Regensburg, Passau
Austria - Krems, Vienna
Hungary – Budapest

Passion Play & Oktoberfest
Sep, 2020
Join us for the 42nd Passion Play
Germany - Frankfurt, Wiesbaden, Mainz, Heidelberg, Füssen, Berchtesgaden, Innsbruck, Salzburg, Oberammergau, Munich
Austria - Innsbruck, Salzburg

Highlights include the Lorelei Rock, Zugspitze, Eagles Nest, Hallein Durrnberg Salt Mine, Passion Play, Neuschwanstein Castle, Oktoberfest and so much more.

Bus trips include lots of admissions and 2 meals per day, as well as plenty of time for shopping. Extensions to other cities, a river or ocean cruise can also be arranged. River cruise includes beer & wine with meals and several excursions. Space is limited. Call or email for a details.

Contact - Helga Leonard at "A Dream Trip 4 U" (724) 234-2033 helga@adreamtrip4u.com

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POLONIA IN THE NEWS

It's All Smiles as Polish Americans Salute Pulaski at Parades in New York and Philadelphia



READY TO MARCH. Children of the Polish School at the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York wait their turn to march in this year's General Pulaski Memorial Parade, held Oct. 6 down New York City's 5th Avenue.

The theme of this year's parade was "Ignacy Jan Paderewski, Prime Minister, Statesman, Composer and Musician on the 100th Anniversary of Polish-American Diplomatic Relations." In addition to the officials and representatives from Poland, national, regional, and local leaders and celebrities marched in the 82nd annual event. This year's grand marshal was the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in New Britain, Connecticut, Darek Barcikowski.

The Polish School at the Consulate is an educational institution with many years of tradition and prestige. It implements curricula of early childhood education, Polish, and knowledge about Poland, and follows Supplementary Education Program guidelines. Generations of children and teenagers have gained knowledge about Poland and its cultural heritage at these Consulate-sponsored school.

Parade sponsors included both Polish and non-Polish organizations, including Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union, Polish Army Veterans of America, Pulaski Association of Business & Professional Men, Consolidated Edison Company, Fidelis Care, and others.

To learn more about the Pulaski Memorial Association, visit pulaskiparade.org.

The above image was one of hundreds captured by Zosia Żeleska-Bobrowski and posted in the online edition of New York's *Dziennik Polonijny*.



HAPPY FACES. Alicja Iwaniwucz (from left), 7; and sisters Julia Guzdziol, 10 and Emilia Guzdziol, 8, lead their families and classmates from the Polish school at Saint Hedwig church in Trenton, in the 86th annual Pulaski Day Parade on Philadelphia's Ben Franklin Parkway, October 6, 2019.

The photo, taken by *The Philadelphia Inquirer* photographer Tom Gralish, was one of several highlighted on the newspaper's website.

The 86th annual Pulaski Day Parade celebrated the history, culture and pride of the Polish American community in Philadelphia and honored Gen. Casimir Pulaski. Hundreds of Polish American members of churches, cultural organizations, folk dance and song groups, and Polish language schools marched. The parade also marked the 411th year since Polish settlers first came to America. Invited to establish a glass industry in the colonies, the Polish craftsmen arrived in Jamestown, Va., in October 1608 — 12 years before the pilgrims. They opened a glassblowing shop, which became the first American industry to produce commercial items exported from America to Europe.

Pulaski, considered the father of the U.S. cavalry, was born in Poland in 1745 and came to America to join the fight for independence. He was commissioned as a brigadier general and his cavalry first defended Minisink Island in the Delaware River, and Little Egg Harbor in New Jersey, before being dispatched to the South. On Oct. 9, 1779, during the Battle of Savannah, Pulaski was mortally wounded by a cannon blast while charging into battle on horseback.

Help Us Promote Our Polish Heritage! Be Part of Our

CHRISTMAS 2019 EDITION

We ask our readers to participate in the Christmas 2019 edition of the Polish American Journal. We are always proud to carry a message at Christmas from our supporters to others of Polish heritage. To us, it is not only financial assistance (we are not a profit-making venture), but a demonstration of the good will that exists between all Americans of Polish descent and the newspaper published solely in their interest.

We thank you in advance for your support. You make the PAJ possible!

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Cut at the dotted line and mail by out office by **November 14, 2019** to guarantee your place in our special Heritage Month Edition.

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240th Anniversary of the Battle of Savannah Commemorated

SAVANNAH, Ga. — Early on the morning of Wednesday, October 9, even before the sun rose, historical re-enactors and friends of the American Revolution gathered in the parking lot of the Savannah Visitor's Center. Once formed up, the column proceeded to the nearby battlefield accompanied by bagpiper Shane Parris. Leading the march were two mounted soldiers: Gen. Pulaski (portrayed by Edward Krolkowski) and Lt. Litomski (portrayed by Russell Dobson). Behind them followed the soldier-re-enactors and the public. As they reached the battlefield sounds of cannon fire were heard.

Emily Beck of the Coastal Heritage Society, which organizes this annual event, greeted the arrivals and introduced the speakers. Among them was Congressman Earl Leroy "Buddy" Carter, who represents Georgia's 1st District. This year, four new commemorative tablets were dedicated on the field. Several speakers followed.

Charles Sieracki, past-president of the Polish-American Society of Charleston, introduced the tablet for Capt. Feliks Miklaszewicz, a Polish Lithuanian nobleman who aided the American Revolution as a privateer. This tablet was sponsored by Raymond Okonski of Detroit. Okonski, 93, could not be present as he had recently suffered a severe health setback.

Peter J. Obst, from the Poles in America Foundation, introduced the tablet for Capt. Fryderyk

Paschke, an officer in the Pulaski Legion. This tablet was sponsored by the Embassy of the Polish Republic in Washington, D.C.

Stephen McCutchen spoke on behalf the families who sponsored tablets for John McCutchen and Thomas Snelson, who had also taken part in the American Revolution.

Various patriotic organizations placed wreaths on the field to honor the men who fought in the battle. These included various chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Polish Embassy, the Friends of Polish Art in Detroit, the Savannah Gen. Pulaski Committee, Daughters of the American Revolution, and others. Among the honored guests were Jack Pinkowski, president of the Poles in America Foundation with his wife, Monica. It should be noted that Jack became a Polish citizen this year, on basis of a decree issued by the office of Poland's President, Andrzej Duda.

The ceremonies concluded with a firing of a musket salute by an honor squad. The Coastal Heritage Society, the Savannah General Pulaski Committee, the participating re-enactor groups and patriotic organizations did a tremendous job in organizing and carrying out the event. They deserve our grateful appreciation. Afterward, all visitors were invited to breakfast at the Visitor Center. The commemoration ended with an upbeat note with everyone looking forward to next year's ceremonies.

— Peter Obst

