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STAŚ KMIĘC PRESENTS HIS ANNUAL POLISH CHRISTMAS SHOPPING GUIDE — PAGE 9

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

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70TH ANNIVERSARY FOR THE VERY REV. BANAS • KASHUBIANS CONNECT VIA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
OLEKSIK AND PAVELSKI SHINE IN PLAYOFFS • WIGILIA TREATS MADE EASY • LOOTED ARTWORK RETURNED

NEWSMARK

World War II Bomb Explodes

SWINOUJSCIE, Poland — A World War II bomb at the bottom of a Baltic Sea shipping canal, exploded during attempt to defuse it. It was the largest unexploded bomb ever found in Poland.

The 5,400kg Tallboy bomb was dropped by the RAF in 1945 during an attack on a German cruiser *Lützow*. It was rediscovered in September 2019 during works to deepen a waterway near the port of Szczecin.

Swinoujście was part of Germany and called Swinemünde at the time of the bombardment.

Navy divers from Poland had rigged a small explosion to disarm the bomb but instead it went off. There were no injuries.

“The deflagration process turned into detonation. The object can be considered neutralized, it will not pose any more threat to the Szczecin-Swinoujście shipping channel,” said Lt. Cmdr. Grzegorz Lewandowski, spokesman for the Polish Navy’s 8th Coastal Defense Flotilla.

The shock of the latest detonation was reportedly felt in parts of the city. Internet videos show the blast throwing up a large column of water into the air.

Pauline Monks from Jasna Góra Infected

Tests for the presence of COVID-19 revealed that 25 Pauline monks from Jasna Góra monastery in Częstochowa, southern Poland, contracted the disease, representatives of the sanctuary and health inspectors confirmed.

None of the infected monks were in contact with parishioners. The monks were accommodated outside the monastery; two required hospitalization, while the others are in good condition, said an official statement.

Pompeo Congratulates Rau

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo spoke with Polish Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau. Pompeo congratulated Rau on his recent appointment and reemphasized the importance of our strong bilateral relationship with Poland. The Secretary lauded Poland’s strong leadership role in the Three Seas Initiative and its long-term commitment to the freedom and independence of Belarus. Pompeo also thanked Rau for Poland’s hosting of the third Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom or Belief, which will be held virtually November 16-18, said Secretary of State spokesman, Morgan Ortagus.

EU Approves Underwater Cable

Member states of the EU approved a European Commission proposal to invest almost 1 billion Euros (about 1.176 billion USD) in ten energy infrastructure projects, as part of the EU’s Connecting Europe Facility.

An electricity cable linking Poland and Lithuania through the Baltic Sea will receive a massive injection of funds from the EU, as part of efforts to improve energy infrastructure in Europe.

In addition to its economic importance, energy infrastructure is also significant from a security perspective. More developed energy infrastructure can help make EU member states less dependent on energy supplies from other countries, such as Russia.

Don’t Forget the Caviar

Poland has long prided itself on being the biggest exporter of apples, while Polish poultry and pork have customers the world over. But not much has ever been said about caviar.

As it turns out, this country is the third-largest caviar producer in Europe. Antonius Caviar, a family company from near Olsztyn in northern Poland, is the country’s leading exporter of this valued delicacy, which graces the tables of the best restaurants in Paris, New York, and Singapore.

Świątek Stuns Tennis World

by Tom Tarapacki

PARIS — The sports world found out that you pronounce Świątek (shvee-ON’-tek) in Polish.

That’s because Iga Świątek became the first Polish tennis player ever to capture a major singles title by disposing of American Sofia Kenin, 6-4, 6-1 in the French Open final.

The unseeded and unheralded 19-year-old not only soundly defeated her final opponent, but had an historic run to the title. Over seven matches she lost no sets and was never extended beyond 6-4, and knocked out two of the top four seeds.

When Świątek arrived in Paris she was ranked No. 54 in the world. She had never advanced past the fourth round of a major or won a title of any kind on the WTA Tour. However, during the final, NBC commentator John McEnroe remarked: “The way she’s playing right now, it would be hard to imagine she wouldn’t win half a dozen majors. It’s incredible.” Afterwards Steve Fink of tennis.com wrote: “Świątek came out of the blocks on the most auspicious occasion of her career and performed with the same verve, tenacity



Iga Świątek celebrates with the trophy after winning the French Open against Sofia Kenin of the United States. Świątek became Poland’s first ever grand slam singles champion with a 6-4, 6-1 victory in the French Open final.

and stability she had demonstrated all tournament long.”

Iga finished high school three months ago and wasn’t sure if she should commit to tennis long-term. She gave herself two years to make a career of professional tennis before deciding on college. After her big win, she’s likely to rank among the world’s top 20.

She expressed thanks to the Polish people for their support, as well as to the Polish women tennis players who came before her, specifically former No. 2, Aga Rad-

wanska.

Świątek is a native of Warsaw and now lives in the nearby village of Raszyn. Her father, Tomasz, was an Olympic rower who competed in the quadruple sculls in the 1988 Olympics, and her mother Dorota is a doctor. Aga is coached by former national junior player Piotr Sierzputowski. She also utilizes a sports psychologist, Daria Abramowicz, to help her with the mental aspect of sports.

Yellow Zone Status Applied to all of Poland

Over 150 Districts in Red Zone

Poland is the latest European country to reinforce the restrictions on its territory as it faces a second wave of COVID-19. On October 14, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki announced on the new rules. At PAJ press time, the list of districts that go from the yellow to the red zone has also been expanded to 152, including 11 voivodeship capitals.

Among the restrictions in Yellow Zones: limiting capacity at restaurants; public transport’s occupancy shall not exceed 50 percent and 30 percent of seats; sporting events will be held without an audience; and the closing of swimming pools, gyms

See “Zones ...” page 4

Iconic Cleveland Eatery Calls It Quits

by David C. Barnett

ideastream.org

A century-long run for an Cleveland institution is coming to an end. The owners of Sokolowski’s University Inn are calling it quits. Bernie Sokolowski, his brother, Mike, and sister, Mary, recently decided to make the pandemic shutdown of their restaurant permanent.

The term “iconic” gets bandied about a little too easily, but this popular eatery, opened as a tavern in 1923, lived up to the description. The Sokolowski family made a name for themselves feeding steel workers who walked up the hill from the mills. The neighborhood is known today as Tremont, but when Bernie Sokolowski and his siblings were growing up, everybody called it the Old South Side. The trio turned the family business into a



Mike, Mary, and Bernie at the James Beard Award ceremony in 2014.

popular destination for visitors, serving huge plates of Polish-style comfort food, including pierogis, stuffed cabbage, Lake Erie perch and an assortment of sausages, all with a personal touch.

“Whenever you came into our place, you didn’t need the general manager to make an

Fr. Justin Rosary Hour Ends 90 Years of Service to Community

ATHOL SPRINGS, N.Y. — “The *Rosary Hour* did a lot of good for the Church and for the Polonia. But the time has come that, with regret and heartache, we must inform you, dear friends, that this is the end of broadcasting the radio program of *Father Justin Rosary Hour* in Polish.”

These words, dated October 25, 2020, unceremoniously marked the end the world’s oldest-running religious network program in the Polish language.

The first *Rosary Hour* programs were broadcast from what is now Corpus Christi’s Saint Maximilian Kolbe Center in Buffalo in 1931.

Its history is well-known. In 1926, one of the most popular Polish language programs was on WEBR, a comedy sponsored by the Kolpinski Brothers Furniture Store about a Polish couple living in Buffalo. In one episode of *Podeszwa and Kordula*, stars Sophia Hubert and Louis Faltyn joked about divorce. They decided it would be best to ask their parish priest —

see “Rosary Hour,” page 4

PHOTO: BERNIE SOKOLOWSKI

appointment for you to see the owner,” said Bernie Sokolowski. “You just said, ‘I want to talk to the owner.’ And I came right out.”

Bernie, Mike and Mary spent a lot of time at the restaurant, talking with custom-

See “Sokolowski’s,” p. 4

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EDITOR'S DESK

Let the Healing Begin

by Mark Kohan

Because this paper went the press before Election Day, we have no way of knowing who will guide our country for the next four years.

We received many phone calls and letters about both candidates. Many said they would vote for Trump simply because of his stance on abortion (or in defiance of Biden's view). Others said they are pulling the lever for former vice president because they felt Trump has placed his personal interests over those of the country, or that Biden's time in Washington has given him the political clout needed to enact the changes he is calling for.

A list of pros and cons could fill every page of this newspaper. I am not writing to say one is better than the other (although there are a quite of few who think they can read between the lines).

Mudslinging, lies, distorting facts, and single-issue persuasive techniques are nothing new to this country's elections, from the top seat in Washington to the dog catcher in your town. That is a given. What is perturbing is the divisiveness that results from these actions. Some of the phone calls and letters we've received are at the extreme ends of the political spectrum. I've heard everything from "Trump is selling America to Putin to pay off his personal debts," to "Biden is selling baby parts." This paper mirrors the voices of Polonia and to a larger extent, the voices of Poland. One can only imagine some of the "theories" the editors of the national press are receiving.

Regardless of who wins, it is time to put an end to the discord. We must subscribe to higher ideals, those on which our country was founded and those which brought our ancestors to our shores. Dissension for its own sake leads to deeper problems, and knee-jerk reactions are disruptive and polarizing.

"In God We Trust" is the official motto of the United States of America for a reason. Let us pray for guidance to lead us through these troubling times.

A Time for Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Day has always been a time for family to gather and give thanks for family and friends, for food and shelter, and for love and compassion. All of us will experience a different holiday this year because of the pandemic. Though our gatherings may be smaller – or not at all – we still have much to be grateful for. Do not let that slip from your hearts.

We at the Polish American Journal also have much to be grateful for. We thank our readers whose subscriptions allow us to continue our mission to promote and preserve our rich and treasured Polish heritage. Many have told us the sense of their ethnicity is a grounding force in their lives. This tells us we are doing our job, and that is a great compliment.

We thank our advertisers, who not only provide us with working capital, but—more importantly—reinforce our heritage by providing Polish-related products and services. Their decision to market their goods within Polonia demonstrates their genuine interest in our shared Polish roots.

Finally, we thank our staff. The

talent and dedication of our writers, artists, photographers, printers and mailers, make the Polish American Journal the newspaper that it is.

We are very lucky, indeed. And for that, we are thankful. Enjoy your Thanksgiving Day. *Smacznego!*

Remember Our Veterans

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. We thank those in active duty for the sacrifices they are making.

While we will not be able to attend Veterans Day services, there are many things we still can do to honor our nation's heroes. Here are a few from some veteran web sites:

Veterans Day is a great opportunity to fly the flag! Just make sure you're observing the proper rules for display. Not sure exactly what those are? Check out Military.com's guide to the flag.

If you know a veteran, write a simple postcard or e-card that recognizes them on Veterans Day. If you don't know a veteran, look up the closest military installation or VA hospital, and send one there. Small acts of recognizing someone's service, even anonymously, are appreciated.

Find small businesses in your area owned by veterans and make it a point to shop or eat there. You can even make this a community-wide campaign with a little effort using social media.

Consider making a donation to your local Veterans Affairs or to another nonprofit that helps veterans and their families. While you can donate individually, try to make a greater impact by getting friends and family involved and set a goal.

Offer to pay it forward for the person behind you in line at the store or drive-thru in honor of Veterans Day. Encourage them to do the same by leaving them a simple card with your message of spreading kindness and encouraging others to remember the day. You never know — they might be a veteran!

Go to a local cemetery and decorate graves of deceased veterans with flowers or flags.

But, with that last note in mind, do not confuse Veterans Day and Memorial Day. Veterans Day is a time to thank those who are serving or have served and are still with

us. Memorial Day is to reflect and remember those who lost their lives in service to their country. Confusing the two or combining the two diminishes the importance of both.

New Ways to Remind Friends and Family of Their Polish Roots

Hard as it might be to believe, we will soon be preparing for Christmas. From the first star in the Christmas Eve sky to enjoying the sounds of kolędy, Christmas is a great time to be Polish. To add Old Country flair to the season, we offer our readers a large selection of Polish gifts and holiday items in advertisements throughout the paper.

At the center of our Christmas celebration is the opłatek, or Christmas wafer. We offer these in two sizes. In addition to its place at the wigilia table, opłatek is often broken into smaller pieces and mailed in Christmas cards to family and friends across the miles.

Our center pages are packed full of items that make wonderful gifts. You may notice that some of these items are available from other distributors. While you may wish to order from other sources—and that prerogative is entirely yours—please remember the money generated from sales made through the PAJ goes directly back into the paper. We count on income generated from our holiday issues to help us publish throughout the year.

PAJF News

We are proud to announce the Polish American Journal Foundation's annual scholarship will now officially be known as the Josephine Kaszuba-Locke Scholarship. Josephine has been a "behind the scenes" supporter of the PAJ and the Foundation for decades.

Hats off to you, Josephine, for your years of service, and for never forgetting the pride in your heritage your parents instilled in you. Through you, their memory will live on for years to come.

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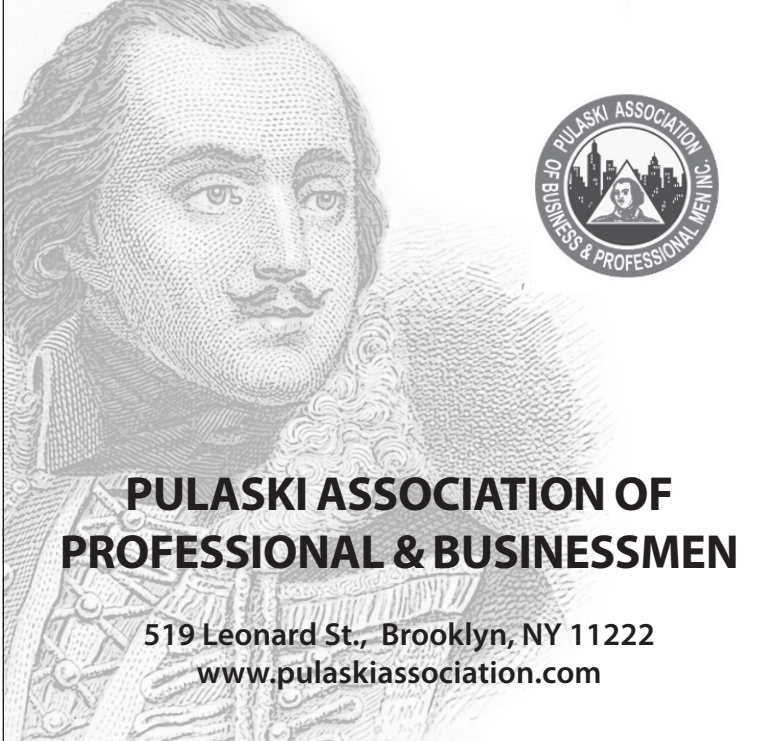
With the year's end upon us, we ask our readers to consider a donation to the Polish American Journal Foundation. It is a 503c non-profit organization, the funds of which are used for the promotion of Polish American culture. Learn more by turning to page 5 in this month's edition.

ALMANAC

November Listopad

- 1 ALL SAINTS DAY**
1987. Pope John Paul II meets with USSR president, Mikhail Gorbachev.
- 2 ALL SOUL'S DAY**
1788. Piotr Stadnicki loans United States \$15 million and forms the Holland Land Company.
- 3 1930.** First regular broadcast of the weekly *Fr. Justin Rosary Hour*, now the oldest Polish language radio program in the United States.
- 4 1612.** Russia drives Catholic Poles and Lithuanians out of Moscow.
- 5 1916.** Signing of the Act of November 5th, an act promised the creation of the Kingdom of Poland out of partitions, envisioned by its authors as a puppet state controlled by the Central Powers.
- 6 1860.** Birth of Ignacy Jan Paderewski, pianist, statesman and prime minister, in Kurylowce, Poland (d. 1941).
- 7 1867.** Birth of chemist and physicist Marie Skłodowska Curie (d. 1934) in Warsaw, Poland.
- 8 1946.** Fr. Karol Wojtyła (Pope John Paul II), says first Mass at his parish church in Wadowice.
- 10 1444.** Death at Battle of Varna of King Władysław III, king of Poland from 1434, and King of Hungary from 1440, until his death.
- 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 1892.** Birth of Stefan Pawel Mierzwa, founder and first director of the Kościuszko Foundation.
- 13 ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA**
- 15 1916.** Death of Henryk Sienkiewicz, 70, Nobel literature prize winner, in Vevey, Switzerland.
- 16 1794.** General Tomasz Wawrzecki (1753–1816) surrenders to Russian troops, marking the end of the Kościuszko Uprising.
- 17 1370.** Coronation of Louis of Hungary.
- 18 1896.** Solidarity admitted to the International Labor Organization.
- 19 1942.** Bruno Schulz (b.1892), Polish writer and graphic artist, shot and killed by a German officer (a rival of Schulz's German protector) while walking back home toward Drohobycz Ghetto. Born to Jewish parents, he is regarded as one of the great Polish-language prose stylists of the 20th century.
- 20 1815.** Krakow declares itself a free republic.
- 21 1855.** Founding of the Felician Sister order.
Jaka pogoda w Ofiarowanie służy, taka się na całą zimę wróży. What the weather offers today, winter will bring this way.
- 22 1980.** Eighteen Communist Party secretaries in 49 provinces were ousted in Poland. Edward Gierek (d.2001), Communist boss, was among them.
- 23 1881.** First issue of Polish National Alliance publication *Zgoda*.
- 25 ST. CATHERINE**
After World War I, St. Catherine Church became a symbol of Polish patriotism as the church of Polish army.
- 26 1913.** Russia forbids Polish congregation of speakers.
- 27 1958.** Death of Artur Rodzinski (b. 1892), Polish conductor and composer.
- 28 1806.** French forces led by Joachim Murat, Marshal and Grand Admiral of France, entered Warsaw.
- 29 ST. ANDREW'S EVE**
Andrzejki brings a fortune telling for mostly unmarried young ladies. Rituals predict which female in the household will get married next or help to describe the man they will marry.
- 30 ST. ANDREW**

This paper mailed on or before **October 29**. The December 2020 edition will be mailed on or before **December 1, 2020**.



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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 35th 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

SPEAK UP

Polish Center in Minsk asks American Polonia for Assistance

We welcome letters. Letters should be brief and to the point, and are subject to editing. Because of space limitations, we cannot print all letters received.

All letters must contain signature, address, and daytime phone number for verification. Send letters to the editor to: editor@polamjournal.com, re: Speak Up; or the PAJ at P.O. Box 271, N. Boston, NY 14110.

Letters asking for researching or other information must contain a self-addressed stamped envelope, and are answered on an as-time-permits basis. Due to the amount of e-mail received, we cannot respond to all e-mail inquiries.

Editor:

My name is Jerzy Miskiewicz and I am the director of the Polish Diaspora Center in Minsk (<https://polonicum.by/>). The center educates children and youth of Polish origin. We are also open to people who are not related to Poland.

At the Center, we place great emphasis on education according to the best examples of Polishness. The activity of the Center is comprehensive. In addition to learning Polish, we provide mathematics, biology, and history classes. We also organize recitation, spelling, and historical competitions as well as celebrations on the occasion of Polish national holidays. The comprehensive activity of the Center is based on the involvement of the local Polish community, teachers and parents. Thanks to their hard work, the development of Polish education in Belarus is possible.

Due to the situation in Belarus and the increasing pressure from the authorities on our Center, I have

made a decision to ask for help. The beginning of the school year is approaching, we cannot order textbooks. Due to concerns about the authorities' reaction from potential landlords, the Center has problems renting out premises to conduct activities. In addition, an administrative procedure was initiated against the Center due to "illegal" advertising of education in Poland.

We are open to any form of help, including in-kind donations (e.g. educational aids, cleaning products, and Christmas packages), cash donations, training for teachers, trips, support for the Centre's initiatives and scholarships for the most outstanding students.

We will be grateful for any help or spreading the appeal for help.

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New Clip Aids Cancer Diagnosis

KATOWICE, Poland — Scientists from two universities in Katowice — the University of Silesia and the Medical University of Silesia — have developed a clip which facilitates melanoma diagnosis.

Chances of curing skin cancer depend on the thickness of the tumor and if the tumor is small, surgical removal of that tumor can promote full recovery. The new clip, which provides more data than the traditional dermatoscope, enables

Crew of All-female Firefighters Makes History in Florida



Krystyna Krakowski, center, and her team at Palm Beach Gardens Fire Rescue.

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — Five female firefighters at Palm Beach Gardens Fire Rescue are making history as the first-ever all women's crew was called to serve as a team.

"We're breaking barriers," said Krystyna Heiser Krakowski, rescue lieutenant at Palm Beach Gardens Fire Rescue. "It's the first time we had in our department a female as a captain, a driver, a firefighter, res-

cue lieutenant, and a medic," she added.

"Women can do it too," said Krakowski.

It's the first time this has happened since the department was established in 1963.

"There were more laughs and jokes unfortunately at the men's expense, you know because we were running the show," Krakowski said laughing.

All jokes aside, the men there say it was a momentous occasion for them, too.

"That day the stars aligned and it happened to be the day that Justice Ruth Ginsburg passed away as well, so it made the event even more special," said James Ippolito, deputy fire chief of operations, Palm Beach Gardens Fire Rescue.

Krakowski says her message to the next generation of female firefighters is to keep breaking those glass ceilings.

"We can do anything, we are capable of anything, don't let anyone stop you," she added.

INTERNATIONAL

Polish, Ukrainian presidents call for end to "illegal occupation" of Crimea

KIEV (PAP) — The presidents of Poland and Ukraine issued a joint declaration calling for an end to the "illegal occupation" of Crimea and to "ongoing aggression" in Donbas.

Poland's Andrzej Duda, who was on a three-day visit to Ukraine, and his counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky also stressed "the right of citizens of all countries to decide on their future as a result of democratic elections."

Russia seized Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 and annexed it after a referendum that Kiev and its Western allies say was illegal. The Ukrainian government has been embroiled in a conflict with pro-Russian separatists in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine since 2014.

In Belarus, which neighbors both Poland and Ukraine, protests have been ongoing since a disputed Aug. 9 presidential election that the opposition has denounced as rigged.

The declaration signed by the Polish and Ukrainian presidents in Kiev also focused on trade ties, including "full use of the opportunities offered by the Polish and Ukrainian markets."

Zelensky thanked Poland for being a "driving force" in bringing Ukraine closer to the European Union.

"Our strategic goal is full membership of the EU... We hope that Poland's presidency of the EU Council in 2025 will be conducive to achieving this goal," said Zelensky.

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THE GENEALOGY ASSISTANT

Tim Firkowski - Professional Genealogist

Rosary Hour

continued from cover

– Fr. Justin Figas, OFM, Conv., at Corpus Christi Church – about the topic. At the audience’s request, Fr. Justin came on the next week and gave an entertaining talk about the Church and divorce.

His appearance on the show became the buzz of the community. Soon, Fr. Justin hosted his own segment, which grew into a separate show. It consisted of a religious rendition by a choir, followed by introductory remarks, and the introduction of Fr. Justin who gave a 20-to-30-minute talk. He covered a wide range of topics: Catholic doctrine, alcoholism, economic problems, and youthful behavior. In his last season (1959), his show was carried on 73 stations across the country and reached a weekly audience estimated at five million people. At one point the *Rosary Hour* was receiving over 80,000 letters a

year.

Rosary Hour manager Jerry Kownowicz confirmed the final broadcast was behind the decision. He added that while the radio broadcasts will end, the *Rosary Hour* “is not going out of business.” It will, he said, continue with Masses and novenas. The shrine located next to St. Francis High School in Athol Springs, will remain open. The website will still offer archival recordings of programs in English and Polish. Translating and the promotion of Fr. Justin’s work will continue.

The *Rosary Hour* invites you to listen to a special reminiscences program with the recorded voice of Fr. Cornelian Dende, OFM, Conv. – second director of the program. He will share the history of the *Rosary Hour*. This broadcast can be heard on the radio or internet at www.rosaryhour.com.

Zones. Public safety most important

continued from cover

and aquaparks.

The number of people at weddings and other celebrations is limited to 20, with no possibility of dancing.

In districts (powiats), which have qualified as red, the rules are even stricter. In addition to what is applicable in the yellow zone, they go even further: limiting the number of people in retail outlets to 5 people per cash desk; banning the organization of special events (weddings, funerals; during religious ceremonies there can be no more than 1 person per seven square meters; and public assemblies may be attended by up to 10 people.

“Fighting the pandemic is our

most important task. All our activities are subordinated to this. There is nothing more important for the government than ensuring the safety and health of Poles, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki was quoted saying on the Government’s website.

He also explained that government’s strategy to combat the pandemic has three main goals – to support seniors, to give adequate access to treatment for patients with COVID-19 and to enact anti-pandemic measures that have the least impact on the economy and everyday life of Poles. The measures will be in place for at least several weeks and will be reassessed if the pandemic situation demands it.

— *TheMayor.EU*

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Sokolowski’s. Owners say friends will be missed



SOKOLOWSKI’S UNIVERSITY INN. The famous Polish-American eatery won the James Beard “American Classics” award in 2014, and was favorite destination for foodies visiting Cleveland.

continued from cover

and pitching in to help with the cooking to maintain quality control. That attention to detail attracted fans from across the country, including the late food writer Anthony Bourdain. In 2014, Sokolowski’s won the James Beard “American Classics” Award, fur-

ther cementing the reputation of the restaurant and attracting long lines on the weekends.

They tried offering carryout meals after the pandemic hit, but that didn’t last long.

“There wasn’t enough volume of business coming in,” Bernie said. “We weren’t making enough to cover a lot of our expenses.”

But, the shutdown also brought other things into focus. Long days at the restaurant were starting to take their toll on the 65-year-old Sokolowski, not to mention the remnants of a college football career.

“I had knee replacements, hip replacements, shoulder back surgery, you know, to nose jobs,” he said. “I could go on, you know. You come to a time where I want to enjoy my life.”

With the new towpath recreation trail snaking right alongside his building, Sokolowski also knows he’s sitting on a valuable piece of land, with spectacular views of the Cuyahoga Valley and the city skyline.

“It is a good chunk of property there,” he said. “And, you know, of course, there’s a lot of history there with us.”

And that history is what makes it tough to give it up. But, he figures now is a good time to make the move.

“I think what I’m going to miss the most is the friendships that I made, that we’ve all made,” he said.

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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.

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MILESTONES

The Very Rev. Fryderyk S. Banas Observes 70th Anniversary

WARE, Mass. — The Very Rev. Fryderyk S. Banas, pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Polish National Catholic Church, prayerfully observed his 70th anniversary of ordination to the Holy Priesthood on October 19. It was on that day in 1950 he received the sacrament of Holy Orders in St. Stanislaus B&M Cathedral in Scranton, Pa. by the late Rt. Rev. John A. Misiasek, along with five other deacons. A special blessing was bestowed on the neopresbyters by the late Prime Bishop Francis Hodur, organizer of the Polish National Catholic Church, who in his homily urged them to be good priests, working for the good of our people and promoting and preaching the Good News of the Lord and giving testimony to what is preached by living it in daily life. Prime Bishop Hodur stressed very deeply that we labor for cause and growth of the Polish National Catholic Church throughout our lives, be it in the United States, Poland or Canada.



The Very Rev. Fryderyk S. Banas, pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Polish National Catholic Church, was ordained October 19, 1950.

The Very Rev. Fryderyk S. Banas is the son of the late Valeria and Stanley Banas, a native son of the Holy Mother of the Rosary Parish, Chicopee, Mass.

TOLEDO POLONIA

St. Hedwig Shrine on the St. Adalbert Campus Dedicated by Toledo Bishop Daniel Thomas



The statue of St. Hedwig, which once stood in front St. Hedwig's on LaGrange Street, was taken to St. Adalbert's. The parishes merged in 2010.

by Margaret
Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

Toledo's St. Hedwig Church was the mother church of the Poles in Toledo. Her "offspring" included St. Anthony (founded 1881), St. Adalbert (founded 1907), St. Stanislaus (founded 1908), Nativity (founded 1922), and St. Hyacinth (founded 1927). Most of these parishes closed, with the exceptions being St. Hyacinth located on Parkside Boulevard, and St. Adalbert, located blocks from St. Hedwig on LaGrange Street.

In 2010, St. Adalbert Parish and St. Hedwig parishes merged into St. Adalbert & Hedwig Parish. In 2014, once it was determined that the St. Hedwig building had deteriorated to the point of being unsafe, all Masses were celebrated on the St. Adalbert campus. The St. Hedwig building was sold, and much of the

contents were sent to other parishes, carrying on the heritage of St. Hedwig.

A statue of St. Hedwig was removed from the front of the building and taken to St. Adalbert. On October 10, 2020 the St. Hedwig Shrine at St. Adalbert was dedicated by Toledo's Bishop, Daniel Thomas, at a special ceremony at the 4:00 p.m. Mass. The shrine will incorporate the old statue of St. Hedwig, the cornerstone of the old church, plus a plaque commemorating the former pastors and principals of St. Hedwig school, along with a history of St. Hedwig Parish.

This shrine will complement the shrine to Pope John Paul II which sits next to St. Adalbert church in view of travelers on LaGrange Street and nearby neighborhood roads.

Both will serve as reminders of our rich Polish heritage.

RELIGION

Are Biden and Pelosi Catholic?

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Bishop Rick Stika, bishop of Knoxville, Tenn., questioned claims by Joseph Biden and Nancy Pelosi that they are "faithful Catholics." He sees their promotion of unlimited abortion, defeat of the Hyde Amendment (that prohibits use of public funds for abortion), as evidence that they support "the ultimate child abuse and human rights violation of the death of the unborn" in opposition to the Catholic Catechism and perennial and unchangeable Church teaching that abortion is gravely contrary to the moral law.

He also tweeted, "I hope someday her (Pelosi's) portrait will be removed from the Capital as she did of those who supported slavery. No difference."

Jesuit Fr. James Martin leapt to their defense and declared that a bishop ought not question the "personal faith" of Catholic politicians. He also suggested that only on the one point of abortion did the two dissent from Catholic teaching.

In a speedy reply to this, Dominican Fr. Pius Pietrzyk noted that they both also defend same-sex marriage, another departure from Catholic teaching and belief.

Fr. Martin went on to chide the bishop for not criticizing the president for his "unchristian" policies. He did not explain, however, how the bishop is not qualified to critique Catholics but is qualified to judge the policies of a non-Catholic.

Springfield, Illinois' Bishop Thomas Paprocki echoed Bishop Stika about the presidential candidate Biden and urged voters to compare the platforms of the two parties. The Democratic platform promotes abortion, calls for taxpayer funding of abortion and the appointment of pro-abortion judges. Biden also pledges to restore the mandate that churches, businesses, colleges and religious orders (the Little Sisters of the Poor) provide coverage for abortion pills in their employees' health insurance plans.

The Republican platform, on the other hand, asserts "the sanctity of human life and affirms that the unborn child has a fundamental right

to life which cannot be infringed."

Missing Catholic Mass is a Grave Sin

Milwaukee's archbishop Jerome E. Listecki reinstated the Sunday Mass obligation in a blog post where he stated: "Those who deliberately fail to attend Sunday Mass commit a grave sin." He went on to explain, "Fear of getting sick, in and of itself, does not excuse someone from the obligation. However, if the fear is generated because of at risk factors, such a pre-existing condition, age or compromised immune systems, then the fear would be sufficient to excuse from the obligation."

He also explained that if a person is ill they should remain at home and so too should someone who is at risk or is caring from a sick person, even if they are not sick.

The archbishop is thus calling on the faithful to make a serious consideration of their situation and the traditional obligation.

Labor Heroes Graves Restored and Blessed

The restored and refurbished gravestone of Casimir Mazurek was blessed in a ceremony 101 years after his burial in Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, N.Y.

Mazurek, a World War I hero, was shot by steel company guards who fired into a crowd of strikers, their wives, and children during a demonstration at the Bethlehem Steel Plant gates in 1920.

A fellow Polish American, Maciej Buczkowski, buried nearby, was also killed in the incident and a child was seriously wounded.

Mazurek's toppled gravestone was rediscovered last year and he was commemorated in a ceremony. The stone cross was subsequently placed upright, cleaned, and will be further embellished.

Buczkowski's damaged gravestone will also be restored.

Michigan Dominicans Flourishing

The Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, welcomed 18 new postulants in August at their

convent in Ann Arbor, Michigan, the largest number in their 23-year long history. The now 150-strong congregation face a "different kind of vocations crisis," since they have more applicants than available room.

Sr. Joseph Andrew Bogdanowicz, the vocations director, had to change her mode of contacting prospective postulants from face-to-face retreats and conferences to internet messages and Zoom meetings. The lockdowns experienced because of the COVID epidemic led the women to greater time for prayer and introspection and showed them how much the sacraments meant to them, once they were no longer available.

Sr. Bogdanowicz now makes full use of the sisters' digital platform, golegal.org to prepare talks and podcasts. A discernment retreat is also scheduled for November both in person and live streamed. "I am convinced that our number of vocations will increase," she said, "far more in the young women who will enter in 2021, because where the challenge abounds, God's grace abounds all the more."

Bishop Rebukes Anti-Vaccine Priest

Archbishop Bernard Hebda, archbishop of St. Paul-Minneapolis, Minnesota, rebuked one of the priests who, in a homily, rejected the three U.S.-backed coronavirus vaccines, currently being tested. The moral grounds behind Fr. Robert Altier's homily included the report that one of the vaccines uses cells of aborted babies. Another of the three, he said, is designed to change the RNA in one's body to fight the virus. Hebda objected to the use of a homily to speculate on biological and medical details. He also researched the issue and contested six of the many points in the homily. Hebda asked Altier not to talk about the coronavirus in his homilies but allowed him to give talks on the subject outside of Mass.

Happy Anniversary to...

Felician Sisters (CSSF) in Buffalo celebrating their Jubilees: 75 years - Sr. M. Bronisia Muzalewski, Sr. M. Maxine Kaminski; 70 years - Sr. M. John Lawicki, Sr. M. Josanne Buszek, Sr. M. Mark Janik, Sr. M. Michele Mazur, Sr. M. Thomas Frys; 60 years - Sr. M. Blaise Surlas, Sr. M. Lorraine Tykczynski, Sr. M. Kenneth Mondrala, Sr. Patricia AnnMarie Sylvester, Sr. M. Ruth Warejko; 50 years - Sr. M. Therese Ann Parobek

Sto lat to ...

Buffalo N.Y. diocesan clergy appointed to direct parishes: Fr. Robert Wozniak, administrator of St. Pius X parish in Getzville; Fr. Peter Napierkowski, administrator of Assumption parish in Buffalo ... Buffalo RC diocese welcomes the Sisters Servants of the Most Sacred Heart, who will serve at Our Lady of Czestochowa parish in North Tonawanda.

MODLITWY

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POPE FRANCIS'S PRAYER TO MARY DURING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC. O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of Your People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen. Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen. V.T.

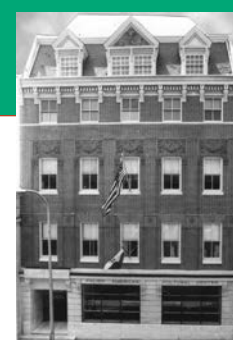
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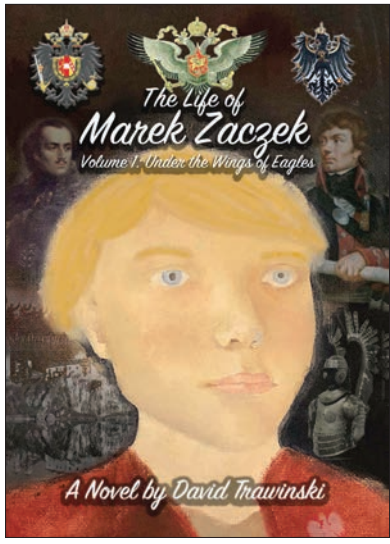
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NEW BOOKS

The Life of Marek Zaczek



reviewed by
Barbara Betlejewska

THE LIFE OF MAREK ZACZEK
Volume 1 of 3: *Under the Wings of Eagles*
by David Trawinski
442 pages
5.98 x 1.13 x 9.02 inches
Outskirts Press, 2020

The Life of Marek Zaczek is a historical novel of a peasant boy named Marek. He is born in southern Poland on a Polish Duke's estate (*folwark*) just outside the village of Wieliczka in 1772, right on the eve of the first of three Partitions of Poland.

The novel follows Marek as he grows to become a man of twenty-five. If your grandparents come from Southern Poland, as mine do, you will never visit or think of the famous salt mine of Wieliczka, six miles southeast of Kraków, in the same fashion ever again. The image of Marek's father laboring in servitude under horribly abusive conditions mining salt will quickly come to mind. Excavations in this royal salt mine began in the 13th century and continued until 2007. Wieliczka is one of the world's oldest operating salt mines, a 1978 UNESCO World Heritage site, and is one of the top tourist attractions of Poland. If you take a tour and walk among the grottoes and see the incredibly beautiful salt chapels filled with salt

sculptures, you will think of Polish peasants (such as some of my ancestors no doubt), toiling endlessly in the salty and dusty near-darkness. The peasant miners often spent an entire week underground, often only emerging on Saturday. They would carve the sculptures in the evenings as a way to help tolerate their miserable work lives. Marek's father would often bring him a cleverly carved salt toy.

... his father wants him to become a miner ... Marek shows talent as an equestrian on the Duke's estate

Although his father wants him to become a miner since choice of occupations for peasants is severely limited, Marek shows talent as an equestrian on the Duke's estate, imitating the legendary Winged Hussars of Poland. Many issues are addressed in the book, particularly the rampant political intrigue among the Polish nobility jockeying for power amidst the theft and eventual obliteration of Poland by Prussia, Russia, and Austria, which actually lasted until 1918. Difficult topics such as sexual abuse and sexual promiscuity are described, along with daily life under Austrian oppression, the damage that untold family secrets can cause, and a love story with some unusual twists.

The book is quite lengthy, and is well worth reading for the historical and cultural background and the intertwined story often keeps one glued to the page. Trawinski is an author who certainly writes "intriguing tales of historical fiction," as his web site mentions. And it is a fun way to help discover/rediscovers our Polish heritage. This is the first volume of three, so we'll all have to wait to read about the rest of Marek's life when the other volumes appear.



The book is available from www.davidtrawinski.com in hardcover at \$24.95 and in paperback from Amazon for around \$20.00.

Well-Crafted Characters, Flaws and All

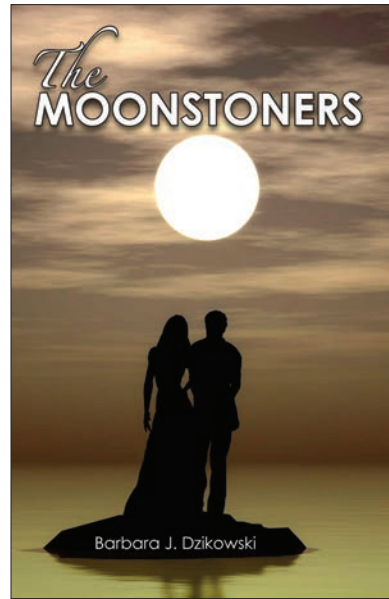
by Mary E. Lanham

THE MOONSTONERS
by Barbara J. Dzikowski
Wiara Books, 2019, 370 pgs.

Set against the turbulent backdrop of the 1960s, begins the saga of two families that become irrevocably intertwined. While one woman is trying to escape her traumatic past, two brothers each want to become part of her future.

When Noël Trudeau, a young single mother, appears in Ricky Ziemny's life, he is captivated. He can't stop thinking about her, and soon, Noël, despite her misgivings starts seeing him. But when she meets Ricky's brother, Leon, she is smitten. Noël is forced to make a choice between letting her family's secrets overshadow her life or to begin a new pattern with her young son.

As the 1960s unfolds, so do the struggles of the Ziemny and Trudeau families. Noël slowly reveals her family's secrets to her neighbors and to Leon in an effort



to come to terms with them.

Dzikowski skillfully lays out fully fleshed-out and flawed characters without flinching. The Ziemny brothers each have their own failings and Noël is caught in the middle. She, in particular, examines the costs and benefits of love as her dark past colors the way she sees the world and what she feels that

she deserves. The excerpt below, exemplifies this.

"As Noël listened, a feeling of overwhelming joy was enveloping her. She thought about Walt's enchanting version of the first Christmas and their little kitchen back home, transformed into the sacred birth space. When Leon slipped his arm across her shoulders, she felt euphoric. Here she was, sitting between Leon and Walt, feeling safer and more loved than she had a right to feel."

This, the first book in the Moon Trilogy is an alluring read that leaves the reader waiting in anticipation for more.

Barbara J. Dzikowski has degrees in philosophy and counseling. She is the author of *Searching for Lincoln's Ghost* and the second book in the Moon Trilogy, *The Last Moon Before Home*, in which the family saga continues. She currently lives in the Midwest and is working on the last book in the trilogy.

REVIEW

A first-hand Polish account of All Chaos on World War I's Eastern Front

Reviewed by Mark Dillon

DYING ECHOES
Memoirs of the War 1914-1920
by Stanislaw Kawczak
English translation, introduction
by Andrew Kavchak
ISBN-13:9781705880210

The passing of many 100-year anniversaries has generated excellent histories and documentaries about the Eastern Front of World War I and Polish-Soviet War. From the mustering of conscripted troops for Kaiser, Emperor and Czar to the Miracle of the Vistula, the top-down story and all its nuances are chronicled in multiple ways.

Dying Echoes: Memoirs of the War 1914-1920 offers a different, ground-view window into that period, as it is the personal account of Stanislaw Kawczak, a Pole from Nowy Sącz serving in the 20th Infantry Regiment of the Austrian Hungarian Army and in the Polish Army in what is now Ukraine after Polish independence in 1918.

Kawczak's grandson Andrew Kavchak of Toronto has published in English a work first published in Poland in 1936 (*Milknąca Echa: Wspomnienia z Wojny 1914-1920*) that, at the time, was considered one of the best memoirs of its kind, perhaps with a similar impact in Poland that *All Quiet on the Western Front* had when first published in Germany in 1929.

Unlike Erich Remarque's novel or *The Good Soldier Svejk: and His Fortunes in the World War*, written by Czech anarchist Jaroslav Hasek, *Dying Echoes* is not a work of fiction with an anti-war agenda. Rather it is vivid chronicle that richly conveys Poles' mixed emotions, conflicting loyalties and day-to-day battlefield hardships in the unvarnished language of the time.

As such it offers a third or fourth generation Polish American the opportunity to learn what happened to the generation their 19th century ancestors left behind in partitioned Poland, in their own words.



One marches with the men in their footsteps carrying 65 lb packs, weeps with Polish and Ukrainian women as the dead are taken away in horse-drawn carts and villages are burned. A bit of personal disclosure: brothers and cousins of my grandfather served in the same 20th Infantry regiment.

Kawczak, who rose from the ranks from corporal to captain, was among the founding members of a secret group of Polish officers known as Freedom (*Wolność*). On October 31, 1918, two weeks before the end of the war, he led a bloodless coup to take control of Nowy Sącz for Poland from the Austrian-Hungarian military. His regiment had the unenviable task of facing hostilities and border disputes with neighboring countries for two more years. Kawczak describes his experiences fighting Ukrainian nationalists, Czech invaders in early 1919 and Bolshevik Russians in 1920.

Dying Echoes also depicts Kawczak unit's engagement in the Italian campaign. In a sense it is the other side of Hemingway's 1929 novel *Farewell to Arms*. Like Hemingway, Kawczak's prose is rich in graphic, journalistic-quality detail and description, giving a reader a full sense of slogging through the mud and icy cold rain, the terror that comes with battle and the fog of war and its brutal aftermath.

There is, however, one important difference between the Western literary view of the Great War and this Polish perspective. Rather than Hemingway's soul-searching, self-absorbed "Lost Generation," for men like Kawczak the end of partitioned rule in Poland and victory over the Bolsheviks initiated a period of national rebirth and renewed confidence. In the 1920s, Stanislaw Kawczak earned a law degree from Jagiellonian University and was actively involved in building the Second Polish Republic.

However, the Renaissance was not to last. In September 1939, as Poland was invaded by her two evil neighbors – Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. Kawczak again reported for duty with the Polish Army. During the conflict, he was taken prisoner by the Russians and became one of the 22,000 soldiers and civilians murdered at Katyn in the spring of 1940.

Kawczak's book, banned in Poland during the Communist era, was reprinted in Polish in 1991. In 2003, translator Marta Brzeski produced a finished work in English that Kawczak's grandson published in Canada last November and is now available in the U.S.

Dying Echoes is available at Amazon.com in paperback, and on Kindle.

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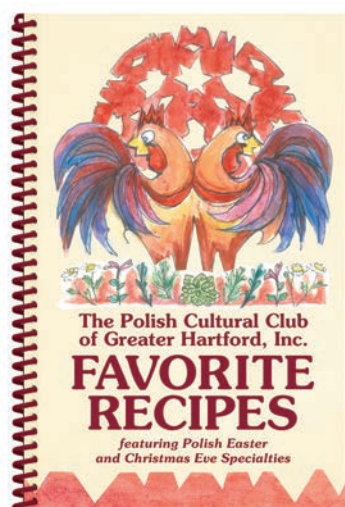
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GENEALOGY

Getting to the Family Stories

by Stephen M Szabados

Family stories are what our family members want to read in our family histories. The oral history passed down by older generations has to be saved and should be the focal point of our genealogy.

Our family histories should:

- Go beyond the records by placing our ancestors in the context of their surroundings.
- Have accurate information so your family can believe your narratives.
- Fully document the facts and relationships.
- Include maps, charts, and photographs that help explain the stories and add visual details.
- Be written for the non-genealogists with organized and understandable information

I found information for my family histories by reading accounts about the daily lives of Polish villagers living close to where my ancestors left. I discovered vintage pictures of the Polish towns and

churches and looked through our family albums for early images of life in America. Pictures are essential when describing their lives in Poland and America.

ASK QUESTIONS about what would affect their experiences in Poland and America. What challenges did they face? What did they experience on their immigration journey? Remember, you will not find answers to most of these questions. However, asking the questions will give you a better perspective of their experiences.

I try to bring my ancestors alive by adding as much social history as I can. However, I try to be careful not to fictionalize their lives by forcing them into events that were not part of their lives. For example, I included a brief history of the railroad shops in Bloomington, Illinois, to explain why they were seeking jobs there. I also described the details of the work that my grandfather did. However, I did not explain the workings of all of the various departments because it would not be relevant to my grandfather.

It is also vital we save our memories, especially of our parents and grandparents. Writing down our memories in a first-person voice personalizes our family histories and brings the memory to life. Here are some memories I included at the end of my grandmother's narrative.

"After I entered St. Pat's grade school, I began walking with my grandmother the two blocks to Sunday mass. This walk was always pleasant, and I would ramble on with stories on various topics that she would patiently listen to before sometimes commenting. She was always very patient with me."

"Dinners at the Zuchowski table were very basic because Grandma did not bring any Polish recipes with her from the old country. Our meals consisted of simple meat, potato, and vegetable American-type menus."

"I was picky about what I ate, and grandma would usually make something special for me. Later as an adult, I was frustrated when my children and grandchildren were picky, but I have a special love for my grandmother for spoiling me."

MOST OF MY WRITING starts in an encyclopedic format, such as:

"My grandfather, Stefan Zuchowski, was born on December 26, 1893, to Leopold Zuchowski and Anna Dmochowski in Dmochy Kudly, Poland."

However, I try to use everything I find to add details to the story. Here is a more interesting version:

"My grandfather, Steve Zuchowski's, birth was in a *small cottage* in the *farming village* of Dmochy Kudly, Poland, on December 26, 1893. The next day, his parents Leopold Zuchowski and Anna Dmochowska, carried him *five miles* down the *dirt road* to be baptized at *Peter and Paul the Apostles Catholic Church* in Czyzew. Steve's parents were descendants of *minor Polish* nobles who had owned large estates."

Where did I get the details I added to my grandfather's narrative?

Birthplace, location of the church, birth, and baptismal dates were from Steve's baptismal record

Being descendants from nobility was from notations in the baptismal and marriage records of his parents.

The size of the cottage and condition of the roads came from vintage pictures of the village.

Remember, our collections of family stories, photos, and documents are incomplete unless someone writes an explanation of how they are related. The narrative creates our unique family history and is essential for the future enjoyment of our children and grandchildren. If you feel you do not have the skills to do this, who in your family can? If you like to do the research, is there someone who can work with you to write it? Also, my encyclopedic format is a simple and easy method to start writing your family history.

Our immigrant ancestors will not appear in history books, but do not underestimate their sacrifices to us in helping to build America. Honor them by saving their memories.

I hope you develop the same passion for genealogy as I have, and "Remember to have fun."

Two-day Virtual Conference Connects Kashubians Globally

by Mark Dillon

Coronavirus-related travel ban rules prevented historians and genealogists from flying to Winona, Minn. to mark the Kashubian Centennial last month as originally planned, but the show still went on virtually.

Through four Zoom webinars on Oct. 1 and Oct. 2, a panel of U.S. and Polish experts discussed Kashubian Emigration in Winona and USA – History and Heritage. The effort was a collaboration between Minnesota's Polish Cultural Institute & Museum, Pomeranian University in Slupsk, Poland and Winona State University.

Under a program called *Kashubian Capital Centennial 2020*, the museum had partnered with the City of Winona and businesses with the hope of creating 35 cultural events this year to mark the 100th anniversary of the addition of the Kashubia region into the Republic

of Poland.

The coronavirus crisis scuttled most events since March, including the museum's annual October Smaczne Jabłka Apple Festival fund raiser. Most live events have now been postponed until the same corresponding times in 2021, assuming a lifting of restrictions on public gatherings. (See KCC2020.org for more)

At the Oct. 1 morning webinar, Dr. Karolina Kierlanczyk of Chicago talked about role of the city of Winona in shaping the political and national identity of American Polonia in the Midwest, while Dr. Jozef Szymanski talked about the leading role of St. Stanislaus parish in building the region's Kashubian-Polish American identity from 1890 to 1922.

Several participants at the event, signing on from across the United States as far as Charleston, S.C. and Poland shared that they are or might be related to Winona's found-

ing Polish families. Fr. Paul Breza, founder and builder of the Winona museum, said he hopes the conference, the first of its kind, will be a catalyst for additional events that help Kashubians expand connections and renew family ties globally.

The Breza family has been part of Winona since his maternal great grandfather Antoni Pehler from Bytow, Poland moved to the town in 1859 with other family members. Although he was not yet a citizen, Pehler would serve in the 17th Missouri Infantry Regiment in the Union Army during the U.S. Civil War, participating in many major battles including the siege of Vicksburg and Sherman's March through Georgia.

A parish of their own

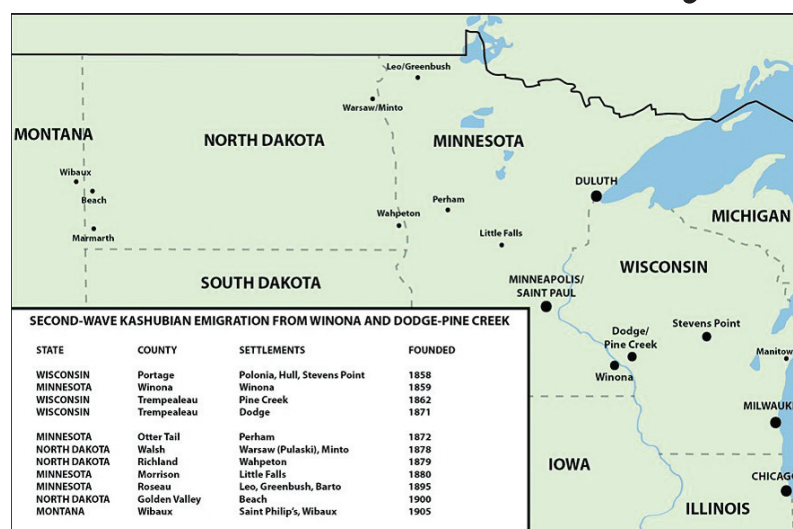
Winona is home to the Basilica of St. Stanislaus, built in 1895. Planning for a church of their own first began in 1871 when approximately 100 Kashubian-Polish families met and formed the St. Stanislaus Society, a fraternal organization.

Getting started wasn't easy, not only because these first generation immigrants of rural Minnesota had limited incomes and resources, but also because they did not have experience building churches or running social organizations that in Kashubia were the exclusive realm of the Prussian nobility. Kashubia was part of the Prussian-German partition of Poland.

"They were third class citizens" as far the ruling Prussians were concerned, said Dr. Joseph Hughes, professor emeritus at Missouri State University and a descendent of the parish's co-founding Bambenek family, during the morning Oct. 2 webinar. Eighteenth and 19th century Prussia's discriminatory social hierarchy and land ownership policies placed Germans at the top, then "pure" Poles, then Kashubians, Hughes noted.

Once in Minnesota, many Kashubian immigrants around Winona were classified by other Americans as being Polish, considered a step up.

"They must have thought, wow,



Winona, Minn. served as a starting point for Kashubian Poles who later moved to northwest Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota and Montana.

we've been promoted," Hughes said, adding that, in Winona, "nowhere else in the Kashubian diaspora did such a predominance of Kashubian Poles arise within a Polish community; its influence resonates to this day."

Pre-World War I U.S. censuses in Minnesota apparently mistakenly enumerated some Kashubian Poles as being from Austria-Hungary's Galicia partition. However, most Kashubians upon arrival to Minnesota and elsewhere did not self-identify as Kashubian but as Catholics from extended families from a particular village.

For some Kashubians, Winona was a jumping off point to further settlements in northwest Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. (See map), Hughes explained.

Tracing how Kashubians maintained their heritage in the face of adversity and without many tangible connections or regular use of a unique language was a topic touched on by several speakers, notably Dr. Daniel Kalinowski of the Pomeranian University in Slupsk.

Kalikowski noted that noted Kashubian writer Jan Dzedzdzon found only trace evidence of language use when he visited North America in the 1970s. Rather, Kashubian heritage survived as oral traditions, food recipes and folk customs such as *Pusto Noc*

or Empty Night, a night of shared memories, food, and singing about a deceased person (later in the U.S., drinking) before a funeral Mass.

Kashubians in Canada, Chicago, Milwaukee

Another speaker at the two-day event was Dr. Aleksandra Korowska-Susdorf of the Akademia Mrynarki Wojennej w Gdyni, who detailed traces of Kashubian heritage in various places in North America.

In addition to coming to Winona in 1855 and moving west and north, Kashubians also formed the town of Wilno in 1858 in Renfrew County, Ontario, Canada. Kashubian immigrants founded St. Josaphat parish in Chicago's Lincoln Park community in the late 19th century, as well as the parish of Immaculate Heart of Mary in Irving Park.

Korowska-Susdorf also mentioned that, in the 1870s, a fishing village was created by Kashubian immigrants on Jones Island in Milwaukee, growing in population to a peak of 1,600 around 1900. However, the City of Milwaukee evicted them as squatters beginning in 1920. She showed a photo with the last trace of this Milwaukee fishing village, a city park named Kaszube's Park on land where once lived the last Kashubian resident of the island, bar owner Felix Struck.

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE

Artwork at CTA Blue Line Montrose Station

PHOTOS: GERALDINE BALUT COLEMAN



(left) Left and center panels of "Windy City Odyssey"; (right) right panel of "Odyssey."

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — Joining several others, another Polish American's artwork is being permanently displayed at a Chicago CTA station.

For the Montrose Blue Line stop, Chicago artist **Chris Cosnowski** was commissioned to complete his "Windy City Odyssey" at the north end of the station house. A series of three art glass panels depicting trophies and toys represents Chicago's history and culture.

All the **airplanes** represent O'Hare International Airport. The left panel depicts a **bodybuilder trophy**, which celebrates Chicago as "The City of Big Shoulders."

The center glass panel includes: A **tyrannosaurus rex skull** that represents the Field Museum of Natural History; **three little pigs** that represent the former Chicago Stockyards and the idea of building a sturdy home; **Bozo the Clown** honoring the long-running television Bozo Show in Chicago. The **tugboat** honors Chicago as a hard-working city on Lake Michigan and the Chicago River, and the **blue knight chess piece** represents the Chess Records logo. Chess Records was the iconic Chicago blues label that released recordings of blues legends of Muddy Waters, Little Walter, Howlin' Wolf, and Willie Dixon, and early rock legends including Chuck Berry, and Bo Diddley. The **cow** represents Mrs. O'Leary's cow that legend has blamed for The Great Chicago Fire, and the **running trophies** depict the Chicago Marathon and the energy of the busy city. The **red lips** show three iconic neon signs advertising the Magikist Rug Cleaning Company.

Two of the immense Magikist signs could be seen on the Eisenhower and Dan Ryan Expressways. The final Magikist sign that towered 80 feet above the Kennedy Expressway near the Montrose station came down in late 2003.

The right panel depicts a **penny** honoring President Abraham Lincoln; a **fish** is for the Shedd Aquarium; a **ballet dancer** is for the Joffrey Ballet; and a **lion** is for the Art Institute of Chicago. The **astronaut** honors the Museum of Science and Industry where the Apollo 8 module is on display, and the **large blue letter "M"** is for the Montrose CTA Station.

Cosnowski received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Chicago's Columbia College of Art and Design in 1992 and his Master of Fine Arts degree from Northwestern University in 2000.

Since 2003 he has taught at the American Academy of Art, and he has exhibited his artwork throughout the United States as well as in London.

ALLIANCE OF POLISH CLUBS RECEIVES HONORARY STREET SIGN.

On the cold misty morning of October 3, over 50 people gathered at the corner of 5835 West Diversey and Monitor Avenues in front of the Alliance of Polish Clubs (APC) in the USA (*Związek Klubów Polskich w USA*) building. APC, a charitable, not-for-profit organization, was established in Chicago in 1928 and became officially registered by the

State of Illinois on September 7, 1929. This event was organized to start off the month of October as Polish American Heritage Month.

Lucja Mirowska-Kopec, APC's communication liaison, acting as mistress of ceremonies, started the dedication by reminding everyone present that masks and social distancing were required.

Alderman **Ariel Reboyras** of Chicago's 30th Ward, recognizing the cultural, educational, and charitable works of the APC, proposed that a portion of West Diversey Avenue be designated as Alliance of Polish Clubs Way." Reboyras read the ordinance that was adopted by the Chicago City Council that "Pursuant of the Municipal Code of Chicago," the honorary street name was designated and the Commission of Transportation took the necessary action to name West Diversey Avenue, from North Monitor to North Mason Avenues, as "Honorary Alliance of Polish Clubs Way." Following his statement, Alderman Reboyras spoke to the audience in

Polish. Ms. Mirowska-Kopec thanked the Alderman for being a wonderful "Puerto Rican - Polish American." On behalf of **Jan Kopec**, president of the APC, she wel-

comed everyone present including the following dignitaries:



(standing, l.to.r.): Wilczek, Sniezek, Nowak, Kalinowski, Wszolek; Goluta. (seated, l. to r): Kukla, Lesny Evans, and Makowski.

Mary Pappas, Cook County treasurer; Aurelia Pucinski, judge of the Illinois Appellate Court, First District; Daniel Pogorzelski representing the state treasurer, Michael Frerichs; Rev. Richard Milek, Chaplain of APC; Michael Niedzinski, president of the Polish American Congress - Illinois Division; Tadeusz Mlynek, president of the Polish Teachers Association; the mayors of Schiller Park, Franklin Park, and Rosemont - Nick Caiafa, Barrett Pedersen, and Bradley Stephens, respectively. Also attending this dedication were Jozef Cikowski, president of the Polish Highlanders Alliance and representing Polish Scouting was Lucie Bucki.

There were also delegates from the Rzepicha Folk Theatre, the Chopin Choir, the Wawel Children's Dance Ensemble, and the Jan Kochanowski Polish Saturday School. Halina and Stanislaw Urbaniak, owners of the Montrose Deli, graciously hosted a Polish-style reception after the dedication.

LYPW HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING. On September 15, Chicago's Legion of Young Pol-

ish Women (LYPW) held its annual meeting and election of officers for the year 2021. The meeting was held on the patio lawn of the Polish National Alliance.

Elected into office were: president - Kathy Lesny Evans; 1st v.p. - Pauline Kulka; 2nd v.p. - Gosia Lorek-Baran; rec. sec. - Barbara Makowski; English corres. sec. - Kamila Wilczek; Polish corres. sec. - Marysia Sniezek; membership dir. - Josie Nowak; treas. - Dorothy Kalinowski; social dir. - Alexandra Goluta; and technical dir. - Eliza Wszolek.

The LYPW also announced the 82nd Annual White and Red Ball will be held on February 27, 2021, at the Chicago Hilton.

Selected as Ball chairperson is Pauline Kukla and as Ball co-chair, Cherilyn Denisiuk.

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Couple Connects Poland and Alaska

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Elizabeth and Damian Hadaś, a Polish American couple, have been connected with the tourism industry for several years. They run a travel company that guides Poles on tours to Alaska and Hawaii, and other states as great destinations. They found a huge interest in Americans who wanted to visit Poland, and initiated the "Key to Poland" project.

"Our mission is not only to organize unique trips to Poland for Americans, but also promote the positive side of Poland including nature, culture, language, history and people," said Damian.

Of course, travel restrictions because of the global pandemic have been a setback to the Hadaś' plans, but both feel once things begin to normalize, people will be anxious to begin traveling again.

To learn more, visit www.keytopoland.com, or visit www.facebook.com/keytopoland/.

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“My Favorite Things” – Shopping Polish for Christmas

by Staś Kmieć

When I receive something Polish for Christmas, a birthday, or any other occasion, I am overjoyed. These days, there is so much out there to choose from, and lots of stuff to pass over like pierogi sealers, and pseudo-Polish cookbooks by non-Poles or culinary experts intent on modernizing the ingredients of treasured classics.

I purchased the coffee table books by **Beata Zatorska** – *Rose Petal Jam: A Summer in Poland* and the follow-up *Sugared Orange: A Winter in Poland* as gifts and only recently bought the latter for myself. They are a great find – going beyond the norm of traditional cookbooks. In addition to great recipes, the books provide thoughtful and thought-provoking stories, history and information, with an artistic layout of photographic images.

The **Polish American Journal On-Line Gift and Bookstore** offers an array of items to enable you to shop Polish for Christmas. To ensure timely delivery, make sure to order early!

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

For me, if it's Polish, it needs to be unique and ring true to the culture. I have been compiling an extensive “wish list” of items from Poland and from American import vendors of “My Favorite Things.” Here are this year's picks:

POLISH PRIDE

Among the many sites offering clothing and apparel, a few items caught my eye:

The white with red **Polska Eagle Men's Zip-Up Hooded Sweatshirt** is stylish and trendy



(www.tasteofpl.com).

The navy Long-sleeve **Poland Eagle T-shirt** emblazoned with a striking eagle logo is a sleek alternative to the “Kiss me I'm Polish” shirts of the past, and the red-on-red Polska Baseball Cap is a subtle way to project one's pride (www.polandbymail.com).

The **White Eagle Cross Necklaces and Label Pins** have been a staple in stores in Poland since the 1980s – religious and patriotic combined (www.polamjournal.com).

FOR THE CHILDREN

Dolls and Action Figures

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

Among the many doll collectibles, the **Polskie Stroje Ludowe** (Polish Folk Costumes) series of dolls is an extraordinary guide in the Polish lan-



guage to the traditions of specific regions. Currently the Krzczonowianka doll from the Lublin region is available. (www.polandbymail.com).

A variety of folk attired dolls in junior, small, large sizes and miniature couple arrangements can be found at **Polish Treasures** in Baltimore, Md. (www.polishtreasures.com).

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

Coloring Books

Polskie Stroje Ludowe - Traditional Polish Costumes

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

Board Games

For the older youngster who's learning Polish, PolArt – Poland by mail has a selection of Polish-language Board games that will exercise language skills, while making

history and culture fun! (www.polandbymail.com).

2021 CALENDARS

Among the many day keepers on the market, these two stood out:

Inside Poland's Majestic Churches - 16 Months, displaying exquisite photography and architecture from Poland's most beautiful churches. Calendar features: weekdays & months in Polish and English, Polish Name Days (Imieniny), Polish and US Holidays (www.polamjournal.com).

Polska, Stroje Ludowe – Poland, Folk Costume features attractive watercolor renderings by Katarzyna Tomala of the attire from the Szamoty, Kaszuby, Kujawy, Kurpie Zielony, Łowicz, Lublin, Rozbar, Cieszyn, Kraków, Podhale, Rzeszów regions and the Bambiży of Poznań (www.polartcenter.com).

BOOKS

For those who seek Polish recipes or like to settle down with a “good read,” PAJ Bookstore (www.polamjournal.com) offers an array of cookbooks, historical novels, cultural and history books.

Children

Polish Fairy Tales by Antoni Józef Gliński provides a marvelous glimpse into the world of Polish legend and

folklore. He was Poland's master folklore writer, and the nation's equivalent of the Brothers Grimm.

Historical Novels by James Conroyd Martin

Sweeping in scope with a backdrop of Poland's stormy history, James Conroyd Martin has written four novels that will transport you to another time and another place – *The Boy Who Wanted Wings*, *Push Not the River*, *Against a Crimson Sky*, *The Warsaw Conspiracy*.

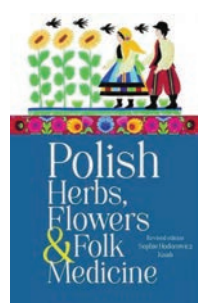
History

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

PAJ's Sophie Hodorowicz Knab provides an important contribution to World War II history in an unflinching, detailed portrait of a forgotten group of Nazi forced-labor survivors.

Treasured Polish Recipes for Americans – 25th Edition
It's the cookbook many of us grew up with

before ethnic cooking became popular, and it's a classic! For anyone beginning their collection, this is the perfect “first Polish cookbook.”



Folklore

Polish Herbs, Flowers & Folk Medicine: Revised Edition takes the reader on a historical tour of herbs and flowers used in Poland throughout the centuries and is an exploration of the growth of medicine and pharmacies. Information on the use of over 100 plants, used in healing as well as in daily life and seasonal holidays throughout the year is provided.

Seasons of the Slavic Soul - A Quest for an Authentic Polish Spirituality by Claire Anderson draws on the author's deep engagement through years of travel and research. The book introduces the reader into the vast spiritual and cultural resources within the Polish community.

FOR THE KITCHEN

Bolesławiec Pottery

“Bolesławiec” is the collective term for pottery produced in Bolesławiec, Poland. There is no other, more durable or versatile stoneware available. The pottery is microwavable, oven-safe, dishwasher safe, freezer safe, lead and cadmium free. Tested by the FDA, it is food safe. The glaze on the pottery allows for easy separation of foods – cutting down on the need for oils and allowing healthier cooking and even easier clean-up (www.artisanimports.com, www.polishtreasures.com, www.polishpride.com, www.polishpotteryoutlet.com).



Cooking Aprons

What better way to cook your Polish dishes than in a White Eagle embroidered 2-pocket red apron? The Highlander Printed Kitchen Set is an adorable set featuring a Góral and Góralka surrounded by flowers and other highlander inspired design elements. Comes with an apron and an oven mitt (www.polamjournal.com).



A POLISH CHRISTMAS

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

A Polish Christmas Eve by Rev. Czesław Krysa

Learn about Wigilia, and how to make Polish paper ornaments and traditional dishes. This book is a quick and easy reference, step-by-



step guide and international collection of customs, stories, recipes, carols and decorations with glossary, pronunciation guide, and a regional map of Poland. A must for your cultural library! (www.polamjournal.com)



Oplatek (Polish Christmas Wafer)

The breaking of the Christmas oplatek is a custom that began in Poland in the 10th century and is practiced by people of Polish ancestry around the world. It is considered the most ancient and beloved of Polish traditions. Practice sharing the Christmas wafer with family and guests. Many people place a piece in each Christmas Card they mail.

Ornaments

A large selection of traditional glass-blown Polish ornaments in folk themes are available at: www.polishpride.com, www.polartcenter.com and www.bronners.com.



Custom Christmas Cards

ALL NEW! Polish American Journal exclusive – Based on popular kolędy, pastoralki, or Christmas legend, these hand designed cards have messages in Polish and English (www.polamjournal.com).



Polish Christmas Music

Many already have the

Ring in a Polish Christmas!



Mazowsze and Śląsk recordings, check out the exquisite and heartfelt renditions of The Lira Ensemble recordings (www.liraensemble.org/lira-store, 773-505-8731).

Subscriptions

The perfect gift to begin or continue your Polish journey – a gift subscription to the Polish American Journal (print or digital); www.polamjournal.com.

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CHRISTMAS GIFTS

TO ORDER BY MAIL: Use form on page 12 and for all items on pages 10, 11, and 12
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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.

SMALL (2 x 3½ in.)
Individual wafer
w/glassine envelope
Item 1-500
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LARGE (6¼ x 3½ in.)
Three white and one pink opłatki, with decorative envelope (shown above) depicting wigilia with history on back.
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First package (either large or small) \$4.00
2 packages \$5.00
3 packages \$6.00
4 packages \$7.00
5 - 20 packages \$8.00
21 or more packages as per USPS Priority Mail
(See chart on page 14 for Priority Mail prices)

ALL NEW POLISH-ENGLISH CHRISTMAS CARDS

75¢ each
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50¢ each

Full-color
Vertical cards – 4¼ x 5½
Horizontal cards – 5½ x 4¼
Inside greetings in Polish and English
Description of custom in each card

ENVELOPES INCLUDED



Card 451
Carolers with Szopka
“Do szopy, hej pasterze ...
“To the stable, hey shepherds, to the stable ...



Card 453 – Holy Family
“Maryja Panna, Maryja Panna Dzieciątko piastuje ...
“The Virgin Mary, the Virgin Mary, nurses the Child ...



Card 455
Polish Mountaineer Group
Na szczęście, na zdrowie, na to Boże Narodzynie ...
Good fortune and health to you this Christmas ...



Card 452
Christmas Eve First Star
Niech zawsze nad waszym domem świeci złota gwiazda!
May a gold star always shine over your home.



Card 454
Polish Christmas Wafer
Na szczęście na zdrowie z Wigilią!
Health and good fortune this Vigil!



Card 456 – Three Kings
Trzej Królowie — Kacper, Melchior i Baltazar — podążali za Gwiazdą Syna Bożego ...
The three Wise Men — Kaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar — followed the star of God's Son ...

ORNAMENTS



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

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



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 if taken to reverse the twists when closing.
\$7.95 each
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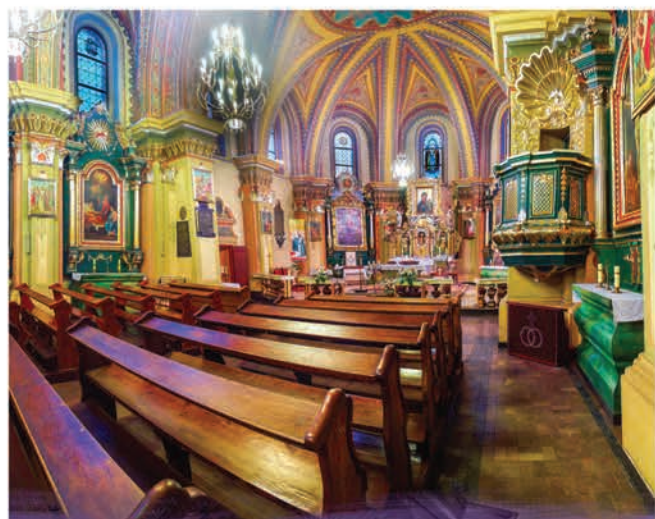
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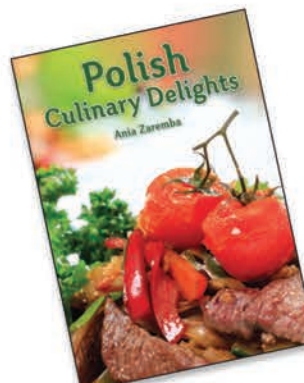
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napisane przez Eugenię Kosteczkę / Biografia światowej sławy odkrywcy Jerzego Majcherczyka, jego osiągnięcia podróżnicze i jego życie. Jest członkiem The Explorers Club w Nowym Jorku, a także wielu innych prestiżowych organizacji. Został nazwany przez wydawców prestiżowego magazynu PADDLER „Legend of Paddling,” a American Canoe Association uznano go - za jedynego Polaka - za jednego ze „100 wioślarzy XX wieku.”

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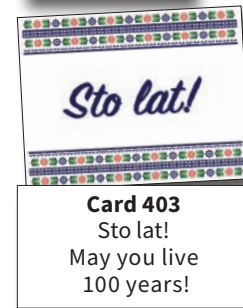
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SPORTS

Stars Fall, but Oleksiak and Pavelski Shine

by Tom Tarapacki

Dallas lost in the Stanley Cup Finals in six games to the Tampa Bay Lightning, but two of its players starred in defeat.

Jamie “Big Rig” Oleksiak demonstrated that he’s living up to the potential that made him a first-round pick. The 6’ 7” defenseman, who scored three goals all year long, was a big part of the playoff run. He had five goals in the playoffs and scored the game-winner against the Lightning in Game 1. Jamie also provided size and grit on the back end for the Stars, keeping things clean in front of the net.

The Toronto native was selected 14th overall in the 2011 NHL Entry Draft, but he spent his first four years with the Stars organization bouncing between their American Hockey League and NHL team. He was then traded to the Pittsburgh Penguins for a fourth-round pick in December 2017, and re-acquired for the same pick two years later.

Jamie’s father, Richard, is from Buffalo and is the son of a Polish immigrant. His mother, Alison, was born in Scotland. The couple met in South Africa, where she was a college student and he was writing for a TV show. Jamie is anxious to get a tattoo honoring his Polish roots. “The Polish side of my family has a crest and there’s a rich history of that in Poland,” he said. “I’d like to do that, but I’m just not sure where on my body.

In the past, Jamie was perhaps best known as Penny Oleksiak’s brother. Penny is an outstanding swimmer, who won a gold, a silver and two bronze medals for Canada

in the 2016 Summer Olympics. In the 2020 Stanley Cup Finals, however, Jamie has clearly made a name for himself.

Meanwhile, Stars center **Joe Pavelski**, 36, certainly provided the club with the veteran leadership they needed this year. Dallas made it to the finals despite numerous injuries and while playing for an interim coach.

Facing elimination in Game 5, trailing 2-1, the Stars desperately needed a goal and Pavelski delivered. He tied the game late in the third period and forced overtime. The goal also propelled Pavelski past Joe Mullen, giving him the most playoff goals by an American-born player with 61. He also eclipsed the mark set by Maurice Richard, whose 11 goals in a playoff had been the most ever scored by a player over 36. Joe was also second in goal scoring in the NHL playoffs with 13.

The 205th overall selection in the 2003 NHL entry draft out of the University of Wisconsin, Pavelski had previously played for the San Jose Sharks for the first thirteen years of his NHL career. Interestingly, when he left the Sharks as a free agent last year, Dallas and Tampa Bay were the two teams he considered.

HIGH WATTAGE. ESPN.com ran a nice piece on the NFL’s **Watt brothers** — **J.J.**, 31; **Derek**, 27; and **T.J.**, 25 — as they prepared to compete on the same field. JJ is the All-Pro defensive end for the Houston Texans, while Derek is a fullback and TJ a linebacker for the Pittsburgh Steelers.



J.J. Watt and great-grandmother Sophie Musial, who passed away last year at 101.

The article talked about how the brothers became such competitors. As kids growing up in Wisconsin, they gathered around grandmother **Chris Walczak’s** table with her and their great-grandmother **Sophie Musial**. They would all play rummy and other games while sipping cranberry juice and Sprite, and the competition would often get intense. Sophie, who passed away last year at 101, “was not going to let anybody try to win,” said Connie Walczak Watt, the boys’ mother. “She was going to try to be the competitive one. So that was always a lot of fun and that trickled down now.”

“Great-grandma, even when she was 100 years old, takes no prisoners,” said JJ. “When that’s the attitude of your 100-, 101-year-old grandma, it kind of trickles down throughout the whole family.”

FLOWERMAN WINS A STAGE. **Michal Kwiatkowski**, the unsung

take first place. That was possible because the rider they were supporting, defending champion Egan Bernal, had to withdraw from the race.

In the Tour de France Kwiatkowski has been what is known in road bicycle racing as a domestique, a rider who works for the benefit of his team and leader, rather than trying to win the race himself. In the past Kwiatkowski supported Chris Froome, Geraint Thomas and Bernal in their Tour de France wins. This year, because Bernal faltered, Kwiatkowski had the opportunity to win a stage himself. He became the fourth Polish winner of a Tour de France stage, the others being Rafał Majka (2014, 2015), Zenon Jaskuła (1993) and Maciej Bodnar (2017). “Flowerman” finished 30th in the General Classification.

Considered one of the classiest riders in the sport, Kwiatkowski downplayed his teammate’s drop-

ping out. “The world is different this year. We have to take into consideration for Egan there was different preparation,” Kwiatkowski said in reference to the COVID 19 season.

EMMY WINNERS. Audio engineers **Stephen “Jay”** and his son **Alexander Wielozynski** shared a sports Emmy in the “Outstanding Technical Team Remote” category for their work covering The Masters on CBS/CBS Sports Network.

The talented father and son duo, featured in the May 2019 edition of the PAJ, enjoy working together. “When we’re both working the same event out of town, it’s sort of like being at home,” Alex said. “We get along extremely well. We’re too similar not to.”

HAPPY HOMECOMING. **Jan Maciej Błachowicz** returned to Poland to a hero’s welcome after becoming the undisputed UFC light heavyweight champion. Błachowicz has become Poland’s first male UFC title holder.

The 37-year-old captured the title with a second-round TKO finish of Dominick Reyes in the co-main event of UFC 253. Jan has been around for a while, but lately he has emerged as a top heavyweight. A winner of four straight and eight of his last nine, he proclaimed: “I have legendary Polish power.” He also called for a fight against a UFC legend, former, longtime 205-pound titleholder Jon Jones. “I want to celebrate first,” he said, “Go back to Poland, hug my Mum, drink beer with my father.”

THE PONDERING POLE

A 1496 Project?

by Ed Poniewaz

According to historian Edward Corwin in Wikipedia, the year 1496 (Statutes of Piotrków) marks the proper beginning of the serfdom era in Poland.

Perhaps you are familiar with The 1619 Project, which is a movement to designate the birth of the United States from the time that the first slaves landed on American soil rather than the year 1776, the date marking the split of the colonies from English rule. For those espousing The 1619 Project, the importance of slavery supersedes the American independence from England in 1776.

Slavery was the cruelest form of human control as the person was owned by the master and the slave had no rights. Serfdom, as practiced throughout Europe including in Poland (*panszczyzna*), was second to it. In Poland, throughout the Piast Dynasty and up until the end of the 15th century, peasant classes generally were mobile, allowed to own land, and had certain, though limited, legal rights against feudal lords. Not an easy life of course, but one with some freedom from those in power above.

With the rise of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, serfdom heightened and proliferated resulting in harsh punishments for indiscretions, practically no legal re- crimination against the landowner (*szlachta*), tighter regulations or no

possibility on movement and education, and mandates on where serfs could obtain alcohol or other goods (propination).

A good read on the specifics of serfdom in Poland is in an article by Mikolaj Gliniski at culture.pl/en/article/slavery-vs-serfdom-or-was-poland-a-colonial-empire. Serfdom ran the gamut from grim to cruel as a condition imposed on the Polish peasantry. What the ramifications were on the populace at large are fodder for sociologist and psychologists. Ironically, the law ending serfdom in Poland (1864) closely followed the Emancipation Proclamation (1862) in the United States, although vestiges of it continued into the 1900s just as Jim Crow and discrimination followed blacks into the 1960s.

I remember the vestiges from my past. This goes back many years: I was listening to one of our older parishioners disconcerted and in a tizzy. To illustrate his point, he shouted how “the szlachta would beat us while riding on their horses!” Something to that effect and for what seemed like a minor offense. I do not know if any of my ancestors were serfs, but I am inclined to believe they were.

Do we need a 1496 Project? For myself, I am still working on how much of an impact this has had on my whole being with counselling and Belvedere martinis. Beyond that, I believe my family and my extended Polonia community has

recovered well (in some cases very well) making the best of whatever freedoms were available and taking advantage of opportunities and optimism wherever they could find them both here and in Poland.

Whatever you think, serfdom is a fascinating subject though and certainly worth – pondering.

Polish or not?

Are you like me and don’t start thinking about Christmas (especially the gifts) until after Thanksgiving? While I do like the designated calendar barrier between these two giant holidays, the time rush till Christmas is getting smaller and harder. Tell yourself, tell me, to get a jump on it this year and if you have small ones to buy for, how about some children’s books? May I suggest any of the forty *New York Times* best-selling **Jarrett Krosoczka** “books for young readers, including his wildly popular Lunch Lady graphic novels,” *Hey, Kiddo*, and others.

Jarrett had anything but a simple life growing up (an “unconventional childhood”) and was raised by his maternal grandparents, Joe and Shirley Krosoczka. His mom struggled with addiction and it was drawing and creating stories from the pictures that helped him cope.

He is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, is a teacher at Montserrat College of Art, and “was chosen by Print as one of their 20 Top New Visual Artists Under

30.” There is a TED talk by him on YouTube which I recommend, as he explains his life and what made him go on. Quite a life that now is lemonade and you can learn more about it at www.studiojkk.com. Polish name but is Jarrett Krosoczka, Polish or not?

There was a part of me that was hoping for a culturally Polish, Polish connected, or at the least, an Eastern European person to fill the Supreme Court vacancy left by the passing of Justice **Ruth Bader Ginsburg**, who I really did not know much about. As it turns out however, Justice Ginsburg has a link to Poland. From ethnicelebs.com:

Her father, Nathan Bader, was a Russian Jewish emigrant, born in Podolsk. Her mother, Celia (Amster), was born in New York, to Polish Jewish parents, Justin Ginsburg’s patrilineal line can be traced to Salomon Bader, who was born, c. 1759, in Kraków, Kraków County, Lesser Poland Voivodeship, Poland, and to his father Samuel Bader. Justice Ginsburg’s paternal grandfather was Samuel “Sam” Bader (the son of Isaac/Isaak Moses/Moyzesz Bader and Yetta Levy). Isaac was born in Warsaw, Poland, the son of



Ginsburg. Family roots in Poland.

Mendel Samuel Bader and Yochved/Jachwet Birnbaum.

This past September was the 20th year for the **Polish Heritage Golf Tournament** held at The Falls Golf Course in O’Fallon, Missouri and, as in every year, there were a couple of vodka carts handing out samples of various Polish vodkas to the golfers. This year, Snow Leopard Vodka was one of them.

Snow Leopard is “hand crafted” in Poland at the Polmos distillery in Lublin and is the idea of entrepreneur **Stephen Sparrow**. It is made from “rare Spelt grain. Spelt has a distinct, nutty, fresh taste. Its tough husk protects the grain from external pollutants more than any other grain.”

Why the name Snow Leopard? Stephen Sparrow has used the production of this premium vodka to financially aid in the fight for the plight of the Snow Leopard, “a large cat native to the mountain ranges of Central and South Asia.” There are less than 7,000 of them left in the wild and “15% of all profits from the brand are donated to the Snow Leopard Trust.”

You can learn more about the drink and the trust on the website us.snowleopardvodka.com. One thing I could not find online is why Sparrow chose Poland to produce the vodka.

Stephen Sparrow, Polish connection or not?

MINNESOTA VOICE

iPierogi mobile Polish Food Business Adapts to Loss of Fixed Festivals

by Mark Dillon

Amid hard times for many indoor restaurants, and the demise of several major outdoor ethnic festivals, one purveyor of Polish pierogi has turned to new venues to make ends meet in Minnesota this year.

Meet Renata and Robert Luniewski of Woodbury, Minn., first generation immigrant entrepreneurs originally from Suwałki, Poland who operate the iPierogi Polish food truck business (ipierogi.com) across the Twin Cities.

After success at temporary but often expensive booths at the events such as the Twin Cities Polish Festival, the couple three years ago decided to mobilize, converting a former Frito-Lay snack truck into a family business that now also employs their 16-year-old daughter.

"We thought we could do better," said Renata.

Until this year, better included additional, lucrative gigs at the Minnesota State Fair, the Holidazzle Village in Minneapolis, and European Christmas Market in Saint Paul. COVID 19-related cancellations have largely ended these venues, but not reduced Renata's and Robert's enthusiasm for turning adversity into opportunity.

"We've had to be much more creative this year," said Robert.

iPierogi's menu is relatively simple: three varieties of pierogi topped with bacon and onions (potato, cheese and meat), smoked Polish kielbasa (a grill version) stuffed cabbage (golabki), potato pancakes and crepes (nalesniki). Christmas-time last year saw the company add bigos at the Holidazzle, where they operated a "Pierogis Wonderland."

Now, with restrictive state and municipal government rules on indoor public gatherings, iPierogi's Minnesota and Wisconsin customer base has shifted to parking lots at



Have pierogi, will travel: co-owner Robert Luniewski behind the wheel of his iPierogi truck

Menard's hardware stores, several Costco parking lots, the St. Paul farmers' market and periodic food truck "fairs" in Maple Grove and other suburban locales.

TAKE OUT BUSINESS MODEL.

The strategy gives the couple flexibility at a time when churches, fraternal halls and Polish organizations have shifted to take out versions of annual fund-raisers, some with success even as cities levy surcharges on disposable containers and the ranks of volunteers at some groups, dependent on events such as Festival of Nations, have collapsed.

After better-than-expected results from a two-day take-out September Fest that featured potato with onions pierogi, Holy Cross parish in Minneapolis is doing two new non-lenten take out Fish Frys in October. Meanwhile, the Czech & Slovak Sokol Minnesota in St. Paul has turned all its culinary events — a September festival, an October pork dinner, a November kolache bake sale and a January duck dinner — into a Curbside Cuisine series.

BUFFALO

PAC Initiates "Everyday Polish Cooking" Show

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Polish American Congress, Western New York Division has agreed to support production of the cooking show "Everyday Polish Cooking," following favorable reception and feedback regarding the pilot episode by the WNY Polish American community.

"Everyday Polish Cooking" is a culinary series offering instructions on preparing authentic Polish cuisine. The show is hosted by chef and Polonia community leader Irena Woszczak, and her longtime friend and food aficionado Agnieszka Soltysiak. The two best friends grew up together in Buffalo's Polonia District as children of immigrant parents, who taught them to appreciate the rich Polish culture and gastronomy.

For many years, Woszczak prepared soups for the Zupapalooza Polish Soup Festival, and other events. She continues to receive favorable reviews of her Dill Pickle Soup (Zupa Ogórkowa), most recently by acclaimed *Buffalo News* Food Critic Andrew Galarneau. In a review of a recently-opened Polish restaurant, he said he remains very fond of Woszczak's Dill Pickle soup recipe.

Galarneau served as a judge at the Zupapalooza Soup Festival,

in which Woszczak won the coveted "Golden Ladle Award."

She continues to be sought out in the community to present cooking classes and serve as a culinary consultant. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, she offered Polish Cooking classes at Webster's Kitchen in Tonawanda, N.Y.

When she is not cooking, Woszczak serves as owner of Broadway Opticians located in the Broadway Market.

"We are excited and honored for the opportunity to share our mutual passions for Polish culture and cooking with the community," said Woszczak and Soltysiak. "We are both beyond thrilled to be doing this!"

PACWNY President James L. Lawicki said the concept of "Everyday Polish Cooking" was formulated out of necessity during the pandemic. "It offers greater awareness, visibility, and education of Polish culture and cuisine at a time when

people have been deprived of social



Woszczak and Soltysiak

interaction," he said.

The show's focus will be on authentic Polish cuisine and its preparation, à la friends who enjoy having fun in the kitchen. The production team engaged by the PAC has worked with cooking stars like Emeril Lagasse, Rachel Ray, Anthony Bourdain, and *Man vs. Food*, and feels they have the right talent to make this show a winner for Western New York Polonia.

"Conservatively budgeted to net \$20,000 in support of our great parish, this event brought in over \$41,000," Holy Cross said of its September Fest in its Sept. 27 church bulletin. "The rummage sale was record breaking, all raffle tickets sold, the auction exceeded expectations."

Belief in a worthy cause and quality of leadership seem to be making the dif-

ference as groups change their business model and adapt to the higher operating costs generated by COVID safety rules. Take out options have become a bigger part of operations for most Twin Cities sit-down restaurants such as Kramarczuk's (Ukrainian) and Jax (Polish-owned, mostly continental cuisine) as they operate with limited capacity.

Beginning October 2, weekly Friday take-out sales of pyrohy (the Ukrainian word for pierogi) also resumed at St. Constantine Ukrainian Catholic Church in Minneapolis.

LABOR OF LOVE. For Renata, Wigilia back in Poland served as the inspiration for iPierogi. As a young girl in Suwałki, she says she participated in annual family gatherings to make pierogi from scratch for Christmas Eve supper with her mom, grandma and cousins.

iPierogi became a Horatio Alger-type career for the Luniewskis as working hour jobs at a local nursery lost its appeal for the couple, and the family grew. Renata and Rob-

ert knew each other in Suwałki as children and reunited after Robert came to America as part of a student exchange program at the University of Minnesota in horticultural studies. Renata had been a dental assistant in Poland.

"We arrived in America 25 years ago and still keep the traditions of Poland alive. We deliver top quality meals with dedication," iPierogi's website proclaims (www.ipierogi.com). Renata says she still uses the same ingredients, recipes and the same cooking steps as her family back in Suwałki.

RUSSIAN COMPETITION. The Minneapolis metro area is also home to many Russian emigres and Nastasha and Vladimir Buhov formerly of Voronezh (a city east of Kharhiv, Ukraine) now of New Hope, Minn., have over the past seven years successfully built Nastasha's Pierogis as both a food trailer and wholesale pierogi distribution



Russian competition: Nastasha's Pierogi are sold frozen in the Lakewinds food markets and freshly made at suburban Twin Cities farmers markets.

business to Lakewinds, one of the Twin Cities largest natural food markets.

Business volume at suburban farmers markets has picked up in 2020, Nastasha says, and the couple will make weekly rounds with their "Pierogi Wagon" trailer in Maple Grove, Andover, Shoreview and Plymouth in October. Nastasha and Vladimir also have an online sales operation with eight varieties of traditional and Americanized versions of pierogi such as spinach-mozzarella, plus homemade sauerkraut (https://natashapierogi.com/).

DETROIT

Pierogi Tacos a Hit



Pierogi Tacos. (left) Pietrzyk's version, and (right) PVC's version.

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

DETROIT — Fusion-style dining seems to be a growing restaurant trend. This includes Polish dishes being combined with the cuisines of other cultures. In Chicago, the Kimski Restaurant, 960 W. 31st Street, offers Polish-Korean fusion dining and the new Polombia in Chicago's West Loop provides Polish-Colombian offerings. More information about them will be in the next issue of *Polish American Journal*.

But for now let's talk about a Polish-Mexican phenomenon that has hit Detroit — the **Pierogi Taco**. Yes, it's a Pol-Mex fusion dish that originated a few months ago as simply a street food item.

At the Gratiot Central Market, 1425 Gratiot Avenue, you'll find a "pop-up" restaurant, **Pietrzyk Pierogi**, run by chef **Erica Pietrzyk**. This has become a popular place for purchasing traditional as well as very unique pierogi. Erica, after considering the popularity of fusion foods decided to create her version of a pierogi taco, made with pierogi dough and filled with smoked kielbasa, sauerkraut, sour

cream, sliced jalapeño, and cilantro. Her pierogi dough even includes cream cheese, cheddar, and some additional jalapeño for that Mexican touch.

Not too far from the Gratiot Central Market you can find Hamtramck's historic **Polish Village Cafe (PVC)**, 2990 Yemans Avenue, where its Polish-speaking cooks, under the guidance of owner **Carolyn Wietrzykowski**, started to offer their own version of the pierogi taco. On the first day that the cafe offered this innovation, its pierogi tacos sold out by lunch time. Their version appears to be tacos made with pierogi dough and filled with kielbasa, bacon, sauerkraut, onions, and some of PVC's secret ingredients.

These two restaurants have different hours of operation. The Polish Village Cafe is usually open 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily. Pietrzyk Pierogi is only open on Thursday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. or 3:00 p.m. In both cases, you can check their websites or give them a call for updates. Considering pandemic seating restrictions, the Polish Village Cafe fills up fast.

POLISH CHEF

Preparing for Christmas: Wigilia Treats Made Easy

by Robert Strybel

PICKLED HERRING (śledź marynowany): Open a jar of plain marinated herring (not in wine sauce and not creamed), drain, discard onion and spices and serve as is with hot boiled potatoes or rye bread on the side.

CREAMED HERRING (śledź w śmietanie): Prepare as above, but briefly plunge herring into cold water and drain well. Fork-blend a c or so sour cream to liquefy and pour over herring. Cover and refrigerate at least 2 hours before serving with hot boiled potatoes or rye bread.

VEGETABLE SALAD (salatka jarzynowa): In salad bowl combine: 2 chopped dill pickles, 2 chopped onions or 1 bunch chopped green onions, 2 apples, peeled, cored and diced, 1 c drained canned navy beans, 1 c drained canned peas & carrots, 2 c diced, cold, cooked potatoes and 1 green or red bell pepper, diced. Toss gently. Lace with sour cream-mayonnaise sauce: for 1 c fork-blend 1/2 c each sour cream and mayonnaise and season to taste with salt, pepper, lemon juice, sugar and brown mustard (Sarepska, Düsweldorf or Dijon).

HERRING SALAD (salatka śledziowa): Add 1 c or more chopped, drained marinated herring to the vegetable salad above and toss gently to distribute evenly. Dress with sour cream-mayonnaise sauce as above.

EASY CLEAR BEETROOT SOUP (łatwy czysty czerwony barszcz): If there is a Polish market, deli or import shop in your area, the easiest way is to stock up on Krakus, Hortex, Profi or other brands of clear red barszcz in 1-liter cartons. You can also improvise by combining 3 c beet juice (from canned beets), 1 c apple juice and 1/4 mushroom bouillon cube dissolved in 1 c boiling water. Heat to boiling. Season with salt & pepper, a dash of garlic powder, a pinch of marjoram, 1 T dry red wine and a little lemon juice and (optional) a little sugar to get a balanced tangy, tart & sweet flavor.

BARSZCZ GO-TOGETHERS (dodatki do czerwonego barszczu): Traditional go-togethers with clear, red Wigilia barszcz are *uszka*, tiny ear-shaped mushroom-filled dumplings or hand-held mushroom-filled *paszteciki* (pasties). Both are rarer involved, so see if your local Polish grocery doesn't carry them.

FRIED FISH (ryba smażona): Any fresh-water fillets (esp. pike, walleye, perch, whitefish, etc.) are good for Wigilia. Rinse well and pat dry, salt and intersperse with onion slices and refrigerate covered overnight or at least 2 hrs. Discard onion, rinse fillets and pat dry. Season with salt, pepper and paprika, dredge in flour, shaking off excess, and fry in hot oil to a nice golden brown on both sides. When fully cooked, drain on paper towel and serve immediately.

HORSERADISH SAUCE (sos chrzanowy): Fork-blend 1/3 c each: sour

cream, mayonnaise and prepared (non-creamed) horseradish. Season with salt, white pepper, lemon juice and a little confectioner's sugar to taste. Serve cold with fried fish.

SAUERKRAUT DISHES (potrawy z kapusty kiszonej): Baked sauerkraut with mushrooms and/or dried yellow peas as well as sauerkraut and mushroom pierogi are typical Christmas Eve dishes but do not fit this column's "easy Wigilia" motif. If you can't do without, see if your local Polish deli isn't offering them.

POPPYSEED NOODLES (kluski z makiem): Cook 1 lb pkg of wide or medium-wide egg noodles slightly longer than *al dente* instructions on pkg. Dot hot, freshly-drained noodles with a little butter and stir in 1 c ready-to-use poppy seed pastry filling. If store-bought filling does not contain raisins, add 1/2 c plumped raisins and toss gently to distribute evenly. May be served warm, room temp or chilled.

CHRISTMAS EVE COMPOTE (kompot wigilijny): In saucepan drench 1 c pitted prunes, 1 c mixed dried fruit, 1/2 c raisins and 1/2 c diced dried figs with boiling water to cover by 1" and let stand 1 hr. If water has been absorbed add some more and simmer on med-low heat about 15 min from the time mixture boils. Switch off heat, cover and let stand covered until cooled to room temp. Perk up the flavor with a little lemon juice. Serve chilled or room temp as a fruit desert or dilute with pre-boiled water for a fruit drink.

NOODLES & FRUIT (kluski z kompotem): Cook a pkg flat egg noodles slightly longer than the *al dente* directions on pkg and drain in colander. Transfer to serving platter and top with undiluted compote (above).

POPPYSEED COOKIES (ciasteczka z makiem): Work 2 c flour, 1/3 c honey, 1/3 c sugar, 1/3 butter, 1/3 c poppyseeds, 4 whole eggs and a pinch of salt into a uniform dough. Optional: 1/2 a t pumpkin pie spice may be added. Roll out to 1/8" thickness, cut into circles, stars, crescents, etc. with pastry cutter, arrange on greased baking sheet, puncture each cookie with fork in several places and bake in 360° oven 15-20 min. Decorate with plain icing after they cool off, if desired.

Cabinet reshuffle puts Jarosław Kaczyński in Government

by Jan Cienski

WARSAW — Jarosław Kaczyński, the leader of Poland's ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party and the country's most powerful politician, will join the Cabinet following a government reshuffle, said Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki.

The move means that Morawiecki, who was chosen by Kaczyński to lead the government in 2017, will now have his party boss as his theoretical subordinate as a deputy prime minister. Serving in his first official post since PiS won power in 2015, he will oversee the defense, interior and justice ministries, who retain their own ministers.

Kaczyński's presence "will be a big strengthening of our government," Morawiecki told reporters on Sept. 30, 2020.

The Cabinet reshuffle was the result of a fight with PiS's two junior coalition partners, and especially Zbigniew Ziobro, the justice minister and chief prosecutor who is engaged in a power struggle with



Jarosław Kaczyński, the leader of Poland's ruling Law and Justice party.

Morawiecki.

Ziobro keeps his powerful jobs.

The most controversial appointment is Przemysław Czarnek, the new minister of a combined education and higher education portfolio, who is best known for his anti-gay comments.

In a June TV interview, he called "LGBT ideology" a "putrid, depraved, absolutely immoral ac-

tion" which endangers Polish families. "Let's end the discussion about these disgusting LGBT, homosexuality, bisexuality, Pride parades." He's also skeptical of feminism.

Opposition politicians strongly denounced Czarnek's appointment, which was seen as the most controversial change in Morawiecki's Cabinet.

"Such a man is the minister of national education? It's just a scandal and a disgrace," said Piotr Zgorzelski, a lawmaker with the centrist Polish People's Party. He said national education should stand for tolerance, but "Mr. Czarnek became famous for his words about dehumanising other people, about stigmatising sexual minorities."

The stated purpose of the government reshuffle has been to reduce the number of ministries to make governance more efficient.

PiS and President Andrzej Duda also unleashed a wave of anti-gay propaganda earlier this year in a bid to boost support from nationalist right-wing voters and elements of the Catholic Church.

— from Politico and Euronews

Kałaczyński Sets Sights on Another Marathon Record

BYDGOSZCZ, Poland — Ryszard Kałaczyński, a farmer from Witunia, Poland, became a local hero five years ago when he ran 366 marathons in 366 days, covering a distance of 42 km (26 miles) every day and getting into the Guinness Book of Records.

Now the 60-year-old man, who works as a farmer in northern Poland, has set a new target for himself, which is even more ambitious than his previous one: to complete 100 Ironman Triathlons in 100 days.

One of the toughest one-day sporting events in the world, completing even just one Ironman Triathlon is a daunting task: it involves swimming 2.4 miles, cycling 112 miles, and running 26 miles. The races typically begin in the morning and are completed in 16 or 17 hours.

In Kałaczyński's case, the challenge will involve swimming 386 km, cycling around 18,000 and running over 4,200 in a hundred days.

Kałaczyński took up running to overcome his alcohol addiction which he then wrote about in his book "Wytwać w biegu" ("Keep on running"), published in Polish in 2017.

Looted Artwork Returned



The watercolor painting "Montmartre Cemetery in Paris" (above) by Julian Fałat from 1893 – one of over 63,000 artworks on the culture ministry's list of art lost from Polish collections during World War II – was found hiding in plain sight in the collection of the gallery's sister institution, the National Museum in Warsaw.

A prized Polish painting stolen by Nazi Germany's head of occupied Poland Hans Frank, it has been returned to the National Museum in Kraków after 80 years.

It was not seen again after the war and it was added to the list of Polish wartime art losses. A few years ago, however, the senior curator from the Kraków gallery, Janina Skorupska-Szarlej, discovered that the painting had been in Poland all the time when she tracked it down to the National Museum in Warsaw on the internet.

After the war, the painting surfaced in Berlin, from where it was taken to Leningrad by a Red Army trophy-hunting brigade. After many years, it ended up in private hands and was eventually sold to the National Museum in Warsaw.

The painting is the only known landscape by Fałat with a view of Paris. The artist painted it in 1893 and although he liked to return to the same subjects, he never repeated this one, and did not create any copies.

DID YOU KNOW?

The countries neighboring today's Poland are: Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania and Russia's Baltic enclave known as Kaliningrad. Before World War II Poland's neighbors were: Germany, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Soviet Russia and Lithuania.

King Casimir the Great, the only Polish ruler to earn that title, expanded Poland's territory, reformed its currency and military, codified laws, set up its first university and built towns, castles, monasteries roads and bridges.

Elections in Poland have traditionally been held on a Sunday to ensure a better turnout. A great many Poles visit the polls (no pun intended!) on their way home from Sunday Mass.

Grover Cleveland (1897-1908)

was one of the few politicians of the Civil War era who did not serve in the army. He found a Polish immigrant whom he paid \$150. to go to the front in his place, a legally acceptable arrangement back then.

Real tongue-twisters to non-Poles and non-Polish-speaking PolAms is the sentence "W Szczepieszynie chrząszcz brzmi w trzcinie" (in the town of Szczepieszyn a beetle is buzzing in the reeds). Another challenge is "Stół z powyłamywanymi nogami" (a table with broken-off legs).

The city of Łódź, located close to the geographic center of Poland, is its motion-picture capital. Because of the movie connection, it is sometimes humorously referred to as "Hollyódź" (pronounced: Hollywood).

— Robert Strybel

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IN MEMORIAM

Michael Schneider, Outstanding PMA Volunteer

Michael Schneider, 94, born on September 27, 1926, in Brody near Lviv, Ukraine, formerly part of Poland, passed away on September 16, 2020. During World War II he was sent to a forced labor camp in Germany. Once he moved to the United States he joined the United States Air Force where he served as a navigator.

Later, he graduated from the Illinois Institute of Technology, earning a degree in electronics. He then married his beloved, the late Danuta Kowalczyk Schneider.

Schneider was an active member of The Polish Museum of America (PMA), the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance, and helped *Zrzeszenie Nauczycieli Pol-*



PHOTO: GERALDINE BALUT COLEMAN

skich w Ameryce (Polish Teachers Association in America), and many other organizations. He attended almost all events hosted by the PMA

and volunteered much of his time at the Museum. He cherished education and supported teachers.

Schneider loved travel, was an amateur photographer, was a classical and folk music enthusiast, and loved to talk about old movies and American cars. He was an expert at playing Sudoku and the Polish version of Solitaire, *pasjans*. Schneider was known as a quiet gentleman, showing kindness toward all who crossed his path.

Schneider is survived by two nieces, several great nephews, great-great cousins, and many devoted Chicago area friends.

— Geraldine Balut Coleman

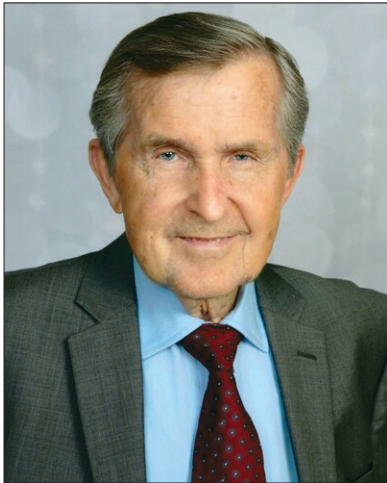
Joseph A. Kmiec, World War II Veteran

Haverhill, Mass. — **Joseph Anthony Kmiec**, a World War II veteran was the oldest living male representative of the post-war Polish community in the Haverhill area. One of the last of “the greatest generation,” he had a remarkable life as devoted husband, father, a man of faith, and a true provider.

Surrounded by his family, he passed away unexpectedly on July 30.

Born on July 9, 1926 in Wadowice Górne in southeastern Poland, Józef Antoni Kmiec emigrated to the United States in 1934. There, he joined the rest of the family, eventually settling in Lawrence, Mass.

In 1944, at the age of 18, Kmiec enlisted in the Army Infantry. For 19 months, he served in European operations as rifleman, ammunition handler, and in the Military Police Battalion, was awarded the *Combat Infantryman's Badge*; and decorated with the *Army of Occupation Medal*, *European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal*, *World War II Victory Medal* and retroactively - *The Bronze Star*. Kmiec left as a private first class, being honorably discharged in 1946. He joined the Air Force Reserves as a Second Lieutenant and continued service



during his civilian employment.

He returned to high school, graduated, and received his Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Kmiec began his career at Western Electric in Kearny, N.J. He met Victoria, the love of his life on Valentine's Day and they were married on October 9, 1954.

Kmiec retired in 1989. He was a member of the Massachusetts and New England Society of Professional Engineers.

Kmiec was an active member of Saint Michael's Roman Catholic Church, the Polish parish in Haver-

hill, which was later merged to All Saints Church. He was on the St. Michael's Parish Council, was an officer of The Polish National Home and member of the Casimir Pulaski Polish Social Club.

He was a founding member of *The Lubliniacy Polish Song & Dance Ensemble* – serving as propmaster, sound technician and performing in the senior ensemble. With his family, he was awarded the *Oskar Kolberg Award* – Poland's most prestigious cultural honor. In 2008, Kmiec and his wife received the *Merrimack Valley Polonia Honors Award*.

Kmiec is survived by his wife, Victoria; his sons John and Staś; daughters Christine and Diane; their spouses, grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

An “everyman,” Kmiec was humble, unassuming and practical in character, and led with straightforward, matter-of-fact simplicity. He always proclaimed he was feeling “fantastic,” which he attributed to the care and Polish cooking of his wife, along with his active life.

A Mass of Christian Burial took place on August 11; burial with military honors followed.

Alice Gordon, Active in Republican Party

Lackawanna, N.Y. — **Alice E. (nee Bigaj) Gordon** of Lackawanna was a past president of the Lackawanna Women's Republican Club, a Committee Woman of the Lackawanna Republican Party for 30 years, and a member of the Professional & Business Women of Polonia. She was a teacher's aide in the Lackawanna School District for 29 years. Alice was the daughter of the late George and Bertha Bigaj, owners of Bigaj's Restaurant in Lackawanna. In its heyday, the establishment was known for its outstanding food, and as a meeting place for local and regional politicians.

Michael Sztaba, Marine Veteran, Bandleader

Berlin, Conn. — **Michael Thomas Sztaba**, 73, of Berlin, husband of Karen Stephens Sztaba, passed away at his home after a long illness. Those who knew him, know he was living proof of the saying “Once a Marine, Always a Marine.”

Sztaba was a well-known, accomplished musician who had his own band, The Jolly Nutmeggers.

The band was popular throughout the Northeast and recorded one LP album.

He was a sergeant in the Marine Corps and fought in Vietnam during the Tet Offensive. A Berlin resident since 1989, Sztaba was a member of the Marine Corps League, the American Legion, and was a member and past commander of the VFW Post 511.

Sztaba enjoyed his annual visits to the Saratoga Race Track in New York, and was a huge supporter of his daughter's passion for the Arabian horse. He was also an avid fisherman.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Wallace and Jean (Myska) Sztaba, and brother Thomas Sztaba.

Margaret C. Lukaszewski, Sang “Hello” To All

Margaret C. Lukaszewski, 95, passed away peacefully on September 7, 2020. Margaret was born in Milwaukee on November 2, 1924 to the late Boleslaw and the late Victoria (Witt) Lukaszewski. She is survived by nieces and nephews.

Lukaszewski grew up on the South Side of Milwaukee, attended Catholic schools, and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mount



Mary College. She sang with the Kansas City Lyric Theater for two seasons, and was a soloist with numerous symphonies including the Chicago, Indianapolis, and National Broadcasting Company (NBC) Symphony Orchestras.

She also had time to sing at weddings for many family members and friends.

Claudia Cassidy, the late performing arts critic of the *Chicago Tribune*, once wrote that Lukaszewski had “a soprano voice of unusual quality ... range, warmth, and creaminess of lyrical line.”

Not only did she share her talent through song, but she also taught voice to many students, both at home and at Maine North High School, located in Des Plaines, Ill. She supplemented her musical career as an independent insurance agent for the Rockwood Company for 50 years. Her friends said that Lukaszewski never said hello, she sang it!

—photo and story by Geraldine Balut Coleman

Piast Institute Launches 2020 Polish Americans Study

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. — The Piast Institute, along with Dr. Dominik Stecula of Colorado State University, announce the initiation of the second volume of its *Polish Americans Today Survey*.

The Piast Institute is a nationally recognized think tank focusing on Polish and Polish American affairs as well as being the only Census Information Center (CIC) in the state of Michigan.

This survey is the second edition of its Polish Americans Today Survey, which collects the demographic, social, economic and political positions and information of America's Polonia. Under the direction of the late Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, President Emeritus, and Dominik Stecula, the first batch of results was published in 2010 as a book, freely available on its website (www.PiastInstitute.org), from the Piast Institute.

The book has gone through several printings and has been popular in both the United States and Poland. But despite the success of previous data gathering efforts, the Institute still needs data to know more about our Polish American community, which is why it will be conducting another survey this year, in 2020.

This survey by Piast Institute under the direction of Virginia Skrzyniarz, CEO of Piast and Dr. Dominik Stecula, will continue to provide Piast with answers about Polonia. The Institute hopes the current survey will lead the release of an updated volume, which will continue to be relevant to countless researchers, scholars, community organizations, and others interested in Polonia.

“The value of this work is not purely academic, but it has implications for our understanding of who we are as a community and where we are headed,” said Dr. Dominik Stecula.

This survey can be easily accessed by following this link: www.polishamericanstudy.com. The survey is completely anonymous and you can decline to answer any question that you do not want to answer by skipping it. The information you give will be kept confidential and will not be linked to you in any way. This survey is only available in English.

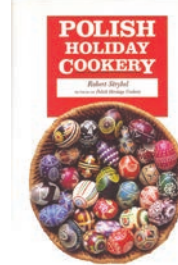
If you have any questions, please contact the Piast Institute at: info@piastinstitute.org or call (313) 733-4535. You can also send an email regarding questions on the survey to: dominik.stecula@colostate.edu.

Polish Holiday Cookery Now Available in Paperback and Kindle Editions

NEW YORK — “Polish Holiday Cookery,” originally published by Hippocrene Books as a 248-page hardcover, is now available as a compact paperback.

Authored by Polish-American journalist Robert Strybel, it appeared as a sequel to the huge, 875-page “Polish Heritage Cookery,” which he created together with his wife Majka back in 1993. It is believed to be the largest English-language Polish cookbook ever published.

The big book (“Polish Heritage Cookery”) contained over 2,200 recipes and was conceived as a comprehensive compendium of Polish culinary arts and traditions which could readily be used for daily meal planning. By contrast, the paperback “Polish Holiday Cookery,” as its title suggests, focuses on



special-occasion dishes.

Highlighted are the traditional foods of Christmas and Easter, weddings, christenings, nameday / birthday parties and even that traditional big Polish Sunday dinner. There are sections devoted to festive banquets and summer-festival dishes as well as foods suited to campfires and picnics. Included are ways to prepare home-made alcoholic beverages and fast-food suggestions as well as even tips on Polish-flavored fruit and vegetable gardening.

The paperback “Polish Holiday Cookery” is a welcome addition to any Polish-American kitchen bookshelf. It also makes a great wedding, shower or other-occasion gift as well. It is available from Hippocrene in the print-on-demand mode by visiting its web site at www.hippocrenebooks.com.

Amazon.com offers both the softcover and Kindle versions of the book.

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DANCE TIME

Remembering the Late Tony Krupski

by Jennifer Pijanowski

Buffalonians celebrated along with the Krupski family as **Tony Krupski** was recently inducted into the International Polka Association Polka Music Hall of Fame.

The mere mention of the Krew Brothers brings a smile to the face of any polka aficionado. In honor of this well-deserved recognition, I thought it would be enlightening to get an inside look from those who knew him best: Tony's brothers. **Dennis** was quick to offer some thoughts from their history and family memories exclaiming that Tony was a brother like no other:

"The first of seven Krupski boys would turn out to be the kind of brother we all respected and always looked up to. Starting out playing accordion at the age of 12, he would excel in learning to play this instrument. His aspirations in the polka field were of many different groups such as The Naturals and The Connecticut Twins, and vocal artists Li'l Wally and Marion Lush, to mention just a few.

Tony also had many different interests in music. He was also known as a very talented vocalist, shaping his singing style from his favorite male artist, Engelbert Humperdinck. The Krew band worked



Tony Krew, recently inducted in the International Polka Association Hall of Fame, loved to perform. He is shown here strolling through Buffalo's famous Broadway Market.

greatly appreciative.

Tony's contribution to the polka industry is so well-deserved. During his virtual induction into the IPA Hall of Fame in September 2020, I noticed many, many people writing things like "Finally," "It's about time," and "Should have been done years ago." Tony would have been humbled and honored to have been able to accept this award him-

self. I guess the outside world will never really know of the guidance and dedication Tony showed his six brothers. I can honestly say that we are all better people because of our dear brother Tony."

◆ ◆ ◆

I would like to extend huge thank you to Dennis for sharing his thoughts and some inside family history. We all look forward to attending the festivities next year when we can properly celebrate this award together in the company of our families and all of the Krupski brothers.

THAT BRINGS ME TO the exciting **International Polka Association** announcement that its next convention will take place on Sept. 3-5, 2021 and will be held at the Doubletree by Hilton Cranberry. The venue is located right off of I-79 and the Pennsylvania Turnpike, only 25 minutes from downtown Pittsburgh in Western Pennsylvania.

Many polka fans took advantage of the opportunity to check out the hotel, its amenities, and the surrounding area by attending a weekend chock full of fun in Cranberry that included a golf outing, music by **The Beat**, and a local Oktoberfest featuring a Jam Band on Friday night and the **Kosmix** on Saturday evening. Golfers taking part in the outing enjoyed Suncrest and Cranberry Highlands Golf Courses, both conveniently located near the Doubletree in Cranberry.

The polka music for the weekend began on Friday night at Sports Grille with an Oktoberfest-style jam session underneath an outdoor heated tent. Polka lovers were treated to a jam band that included so many talented musicians from the Western Pennsylvania area as well as those who traveled to take part in the stellar weekend. **Chris Bogdon, Erik Bogdon, Jeff Yash, Mike Matousek, Dave Morris, and Richie Kois** made up the core band but many musicians lent their talents throughout the night. **Brian Kapka, Brian Urbanczyk, Jack Beachly, Ryan Lucotch, Andrew Kuczarski, Steven Hayest, Joseph Ryndak, Greg Chwojdak, Bob Earl, and Rich Zebrowski** all took the stage at one point during the evening, making this a truly star-studded jam event.

Saturday afternoon fans made their way to scenic North Boundary Park where **The Beat** performed. Attendees were able to bring their own coolers, chairs, snacks, and beverages for a beautiful day of music at this local park. Temperature checks were given upon entrance and there was plenty of room for

banczyk, Andy Bojczuk, Rich & Vicki Zebrowski, Dave & Stacey Morris, Ryan Lucotch, Ray "Jay" Jarusinski, Jeff Yash, and Brian Kapka were just some of the musicians on hand enjoying the Beat. The band sounded incredible. **Mike**



Among those attending the events in Cranberry, Pa., were (above): Tim and Traci Raymond; (right) Andy Bojczuk and Mike Burdzy, and (below) Marty and Carol Olshanski.



Costa and Steve Hayest captivated the crowd with tight horns and powerful vocals while the newest members, **Sebastian Pucowski and Alex and Nik Yash**, added excitement, showing their unbridled enthusiasm for the music.

After enjoying sets packed with favorites from **The Beat**, polka lovers were energized to go enjoy some more music courtesy of the **Kosmix**. Polka music overtook the outside covered tent once again at the Sports Grille in Cranberry. Another refreshing stage packed with young talent under the leadership of **Randy Koslosky** entertained the socially-distanced large tent. Taking requests and showcasing a set of music from **Energy** kept the intensity high, as fans did not want the evening to end. This group continues to gain momentum and diversify polka music. I am always so impressed with the beautiful vocals, smiling faces, and exhilaration that exude from this group when they perform.

Thank you to **Jeff Yash, Chris Bogdon**, and all of the other people who worked so hard to make this a successful weekend event. I felt an immense rejuvenation after months without my polka family and music. I know we all look forward to being able to get back to seeing each other on a regular basis.



The Krupski brothers, known professionally as the Krew Brothers, reunited to perform at the McKinley Park Inn in 1995. (l. to r.): Allen, Ricky, Ken, Donny, Dennis, Gary, and Tony.

originally in the wedding industry as a three piece group in the early '60s, and crossing over to polka when Allen and Dennis joined the band in the late '60s. The band's first 45 r.p.m. record, recorded locally, was the "Polish Dish" polka, written by Tony. There were many other original songs Tony wrote that were recorded on The Krew Brothers other albums.

The success of the Krew Brothers would come in the late 1960s to the early '80s, traveling to all the main polka conventions with Tony at the helm, arranging bookings, setting up travel details and lodging for the band. The Krews never stayed in a hotel when traveling. So many generous people opened up their homes to us. There are just too many to mention, and we were so

self. The award is bittersweet, but we are also happy to see him finally receiving the recognition he so well deserved. Up until the time he got ill, Tony played, and played often. He could be seen performing with his group, or during the week, you could spot him at a nursing home or at the local McDonald's restaurant, performing for free because he truly loved to play. He almost never turned down the opportunity to perform for people because it was his true passion in life.

I remember my brother (Tony) telling me that when he was a youngster, he was referred to by his classmates as the "Red Rooster" because of his bright red hair. Little did we know later in life he would turn out to be a "Mother Hen" as we lost our mom in 1966, leaving

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LOOKING BACK

Johnnie Bomba, One of Chicago's Greatest

by James Polaski

Johnnie Bomba was born in Chicago and grew up in "the back of the yards," a neighborhood on the city's southwest side, once home to the famous Union Stock Yards. The son of a New City independent beer distributor, Bomba took up clarinet at Sacred Heart school in the fourth grade and quickly excelled, playing the first chair. He also taught himself to play alto sax, using his brother's instrument.

Bomba got together with several of his friends – Connie Bandusky on accordion and Stan Consavec on drums, and Joe Chlacz on trumpet – to form a group. A neighbor, who heard the boys playing and was surprised at how good they sounded, asked if they'd play for his upcoming 10th wedding anniversary. The neighbor wanted to surprise his wife! Of course, the boys were thrilled! This was their first job, an Italian wedding, and it led to Bomba being a bandleader – oddly enough, something he never wanted to be.

Bomba was booked to play at a wedding on his graduation day from grade school where he was also valedictorian. He asked the bride if he could leave to attend his graduation. The bride gave her blessing saying "education comes first!" So, Bomba left the job, went to the graduation and spoke to the graduating class and then went back and finished playing the wedding.

He soon found his way into bigger nine-piece bands and played with them while also having his own five-piece group which was doing polka jobs until the war came along. In the Army, he was with the 30th Division Special Services where he became the director of the drum and bugle corps and the dance band while also helping with the USO shows. Bomba landed in France on D-Day Plus 2, was in six major battles, worked in counterintelligence and fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

AFTER RETURNING FROM THE SERVICE, Bomba formed his own orchestra again around 1944-45 with his old friend Connie Bandusky on accordion, Al Cook on trumpet, Stan Consavec on drums, and John Hrymak on upright bass. After six months, Consavec left and Stan Lee joined the orchestra on drums and would stay until 1948. Around the same time, Bandusky wanted to more play boogie-woogie, and left with Bomba's blessing to form his own band in 1946. Bomba heard of an accordionist, Chester Kordelewski, who was playing at a Bridgeport Club, liked what he heard and asked Kordelewski to play in his orchestra. Kordelewski said "Okay, but you've got to give me two jobs a month!" Bomba laughed since the orchestra was already playing several times that number of dates a month. Hrymak had also left to teach out of state and Vince Dinees joined the orchestra on upright string bass. Last, when Cook left, he was replaced on trumpet in December 1947 by Ted Tokarz.

Bomba's orchestra never had a shortage of work, for they had a fabulous sound that dancers liked. He never advertised the orchestra, instead getting their work from referrals.



Johnnie Bomba (above, left, shortly after returning from service, and right, in retirement), was inducted in the IPA Hall of Fame in 1980. His band was the first polka group to play the Aragon Ballroom. Years later, he played for President Lyndon Johnson.

BOMBA GOT HIS FIRST radio opportunity in June 1948 on WGES playing on Dr. Sikora's radio program and had Valeria Gracas, Julies Sliwa and/or Marisha Data singing. Losing a violin player to the Chicago Symphony, Bomba brought in Joe Tatar on piano and the Hammond Solovox, an instrument that could be set to sound like a violin. Bomba purchased a second Solovox which was played by Kordelewski usually playing harmony, the melody being played on the solovox with the piano. While on Dr. Sikora's program, they were slotted opposite the *Jack Benny Program* and Dr. Sikora was very surprised when the phones rang off the hook! The ratings showed that the Johnnie Bomba Orchestra drew favorably against Jack Benny. In addition, because many of Bomba's musicians also taught music, they could directly track an increase in students wanting to play band instruments from their radio appearances.

The Solovoxes would prove to be a signature sound of the Bomba Orchestra, producing a fuller sound that added more musical color and variety. Joe Tatar would set the Solovox to sound like a clarinet and play harmony behind Bomba resulting in a two-clarinet sound! This was also perhaps a bit of musical history with the Solovox playing the role of what today is a synthesizer. On ballroom tunes, the Solovox was often added, giving three- and four-part harmony to many arrangements.

In 1949, Bomba and the band were playing at Tromba's grove on Milwaukee Ave. in Niles, where the PR man for the Frank Wojnarowski Orchestra was in attendance. Telling Wojnarowski how good they were, the east-coast bandleader contacted Walter Dana of Dana Records, who then called Bomba to ask if he would record for his label.

The Johnnie Bomba Orchestra cut their first recording at RCA Victor Studios in 1950, two sides of a 78 recording, "Rain Rain" polka and "Hej Tam Na Gorze" with vocals by Adam Gregorzewski. Bomba was the first Chicago orchestra to record polka music introducing the Chicago style of polka to the world. Later, Dana moved to Universal Studios with engineer Bill Putnam. There, Putnam would bring in name bandleaders like Count Basie, or Ralph Marterie to watch Bomba record — Putnam considered the Johnnie Bomba Orchestra consummate pros at recording. The orchestra would go in the studio at 10:00 p.m., and leave at 1:00 or

2:00 a.m. after having put down 10 to 12 sides. Tunes were brought in by Walter Dana and the orchestra would work out a quick arrangement, play it through once and record the cut on the second take.

In 1951, Bomba was voted "Polka King of The Midwest," in a poll of ballroom operators and record store owners by *Billboard Magazine* and *Variety*.

A POLKA FIRST. In 1950, Bomba was the first polka band to play the Aragon and Trianon for a period of two years. The Bomba Orchestra would draw 4,000 people on a single night at the Trianon. It was their owner, Andrew Karzas, who called Bomba "The Polish Wayne King," because the sound Bomba had on the alto sax was so much like that of Wayne King. Along the way Bomba brought in Marisha Data to sing again with the Orchestra at the Aragon. At first, Marisha said no, saying: "Who wants to come out and see a fat lady sing!" But he convinced her otherwise, bringing Marisha Data to polka music where she found tremendous popularity. Band highlights during this period include being featured on the *Howard Motors Polka Parade* on WGN-TV in 1955; playing on *Ron Terry's Polka Party*; being the first guest on a new radio program hosted by Chet Schafer on WTAQ AM.; and appearing on Rudy Orisek's *International Cafe* on WGN along with Judy Collins, and Peter, Paul, & Mary. Bomba also had a radio program on what was then WOPA in Oak Park, which is now WPNA 1490 AM.

In 1951, Johnnie Bomba was voted "Polka King of The Mid-

west," in a poll of ballroom operators and record store owners by *Billboard Magazine* and *Variety*. Certainly, a feather in their hats as a small orchestra. But Bomba would often say he wasn't fond of the title because he felt all the bandleaders were "polka kings" in their own right, since they brought their own styles, arrangements, and vocals to the music. He would also say that he wasn't really a polka band, but a dance band that played pop dance music of the day and put polkas into that mix. With the recordings on Dana Records, radio programs and TV shows, however, Bomba acquired the label of being a polka band. The Dana Album, *Chop Suey Polka*, was the first 33 rpm LP to be issued by Dana, which also issued numerous extended play 45s with four tunes on each. With the demise of Dana Records in the early 80s, the music of the Johnnie Bomba Orchestra lives on with many of the Dana, Rex and other recordings available on the Music Zone (www.themusiczone.com).

DURING THE HEYDAY OF POLKA BANDS, the '40s to the '60s, the orchestra never had a shortage of work and it found Bomba playing Wednesday through Sunday, often playing two and three jobs per day. Despite calls for smaller groups, he refused to take jobs with less than the full orchestra, insisting they would draw bigger crowds — which they did!

Bomba played for President Johnson when he came to Chicago and later in the 1970s, he was asked to work on the music for the film *F.I.S.T.* starring Sylvester Stallone which was loosely based on the Teamsters and Jimmy Hoffa. Bomba also played the bandleader in the wedding scene in the film.

Bomba attributed a good deal of his success both to his wonderful group of talented musicians and to his wife, Jan. While Bomba worked a day job delivering milk and played the orchestra jobs on the weekend Jan raised their four children, John Jr., Linda, Bernard, and Richard.

After the passing of Chester Kordelewski, Ted Tokarz and Bomba Knopp (piano), Johnnie Bomba retired from playing in 1994 to take care of his wife, Jan who had health issues.

Bomba would say he has had a blessed life with his family and all the people he and his orchestra made happy with their recordings and performances, many of whom remember him to this day.

Johnnie Bomba died on September 13, 2018 at the age of 96 in Chicago.

KCHK welcomes "It's Polka Time!"



"It's Polka Time!" host Craig Ebel

NEW PRAGUE, Minn. — "It's Polka Time!" with Craig Ebel can now be heard every Sunday evening from 9:00 to 11:00 p.m. over 95.5 FM and AM 1350 KCHK in New Prague.

Known as "Classic Music," KCHK (500-watts) features vintage country; 50s-60s rock, and roll, and is best known for playing polka music for the Czechs (hence, the station's call letters KCHK) that settled the area starting in the mid-1850s. KCHK's signal covers a large area of southern Minnesota including the cities of Faribault, Northfield, Cannon Falls, Mankato, New Ulm, Saint Peter, Jordan, Waconia, and also "skirts" the southwestern suburbs of Minneapolis. KCHK can also be found streaming on the Internet at kchkradio.net.

According to KCHK's general manager, Tom Goetzinger, "KCHK Radio proudly calls itself the Polka Place. 'It's Polka Time!' will now be a fantastic finishing touch to an entire Sunday offering of polka music starting at 6:00 a.m., with this show wrapping up the programming from 9:00-11:00 p.m. In addition to the whole day on Sunday, K-Check plays polka music 5:00-8:00 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. Monday through Friday."

"It's Polka Time!" is produced from the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, and is also heard on 18 other radio stations all across the United States. For a complete listing, visit www.itspolkatime.com.

The show is also heard over the Internet on www.polkajammernetwork.org, Saturdays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. CST and archived.

Information regarding It's Polka Time! radio shows and these radio stations can be found on the Internet at www.itspolkatime.com. Radio stations interested in broadcasting "It's Polka Time!" can request a demo of the show by sending an e-mail to itspolkatime@hotmail.com.

Polka bands and record labels interested in having their recordings considered for airplay on can send their material to P.O. Box 32757, Minneapolis, MN 55432-0757.

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Ebel Named IPA Youth Advisor

MINNEAPOLIS — Chris Ebel has been named the International Polka Association's Youth Advisor.

Chris started playing drums at the age of three, which should come as no surprise: his parents are well-known in the polka music scene. Craig Ebel, Chris's dad and an IPA Polka Hall of Fame inductee, is the host of "It's Polka Time!" radio shows and the leader of "DyVersaCo." Lori Lachner, Chris's mom, is the daughter of Marv & Carol Nissel, and part of "The Marv Nissel Band." Marv taught Chris how to play the concertina. Chris also plays piano, accordion, and clarinet.



Chris Ebel

Chris loves polka music, which is evident in his infectious smile when he is on stage. He has been featured on WCCO TV, the Minneapolis/St. Paul CBS affiliate, where he was labeled the "Amazing 6-Year-Old Polka Drummer" in 2011. This segment was due to a passerby's upload to YouTube that has close to a half million views. At the age of seven, Chris also appeared in a segment entitled, "Land of 10,000 Stories," on KARE 11, the Minneapolis/St.

Paul NBC affiliate, where he was given the title, "Polka Phenom."

Currently, he plays accordion with DyVersaCo and drums with The Marv Nissel Band. He also joins Craig on the radio over AM 1340 & FM 98.7 WJYI in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on "Polka Parade." Chris wants to follow in his parents' footsteps and promote polka music to ensure this genre of music can be enjoyed by generations to come.



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| 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 | 1/24/98 | 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. |

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POLONIA PLACES

Jamestown's Short-Lived Polonia and its Parish

by Gregory L. Witul

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Jamestown, New York
Status: Closed



The New York and Pennsylvania border has been home to Polish Americans for generations. From Binghamton and Elmira to Arnot and Erie, small towns and larger cities of the region all had Polish enclaves. One of the last colonies to be established by Poles in the area was the one formed in Jamestown, New York. Slavs began settling in The Pearl City in the earliest years of the twentieth century. The region was attractive to the immigrants for its abundance of employment opportunities in both the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. To meet their spiritual needs, these early Poles went to the only Catholic Church in the city, Ss. Pe-

ter & Paul. Over the years, the Polish community expanded to the point that they felt they needed their own parish and priest. In early 1928, the Bishop of Buffalo sent Reverend Maximilian Bogacki of St. John

Gualbert's to oversee the establishment of a parish for the Poles, naming it St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church.

Father Bogacki soon bought a parcel of land at the corner of North Main and 21st Street, and hired Eire architect George Stickle to design his new church.

On September 2, 1928 Monsignor Andrew Ignasiak traveled up from St. Stanislaus Church in Erie, Pa. to lay the cornerstone for the new brick parish, while the Fredro Singing Society and a large delegation of Poles came down from Buffalo to partake in the celebration.

Father Max worked hard for his new church, but the parish faced is-

suces almost as soon as construction was complete. The first major hurdle was the Great Depression. The closure of farms and businesses forced many of the Poles out of the area in hopes of finding work.

As the Depression dragged on, the financial situation for the church worsened. The beginning of the end for the parish occurred in 1934 when Reverend Bogacki was transferred to St. Patrick's church in Fillmore, N.Y., and no one was sent as his permanent replacement. By 1935, the financial problems had become insurmountable and on November 26, Bishop Turner and Vicar-General Nelson Baker summoned the two lay trustees to Buffalo. John Jankowski and George J. Benbenek traveled to the Chancery to address the issues with St. Joseph's church with little hope. A deal was struck where Ss. Peter & Paul's would

assume control of all St. Joseph's property and finances. St. Joe's would lose its status as a parish but be able to maintain its Polish flavor by becoming a mission of Ss. Peter & Paul. On January 1, 1936, the parish of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church of Jamestown ceased to be, and the Mission Church of St. Joseph was born.

Even though the parish no longer existed, St. Joseph's still functioned as a Catholic Church. A priest from Ss. Peter & Paul still pre-an 11:00 Mass every day until at

least the end of World War II. Baptisms, weddings and, funerals were still held at the church. But even as a mission the church St. Joseph suffered a slow decline. As families had fewer children or left the area, and older parishioners passed away, St. Joseph's served a smaller and smaller Polish congregation. Finally, in 1970, the mission at St. Joseph's was closed and the church building was sold.

Today, almost nothing remains of the once vibrant Polish community of Jamestown except the still-standing St. Joseph's Church.



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