

# POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

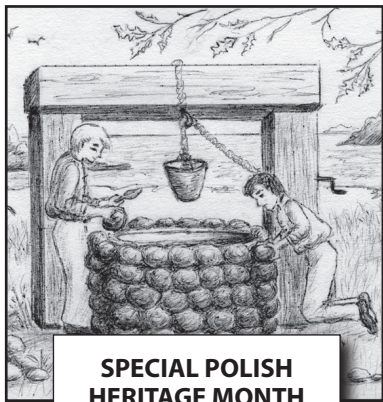
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HOW ABOUT A GAME OF PALANT? • PLAY HONORS POLISH CATHOLIC HEROINE • BEIJING OLYMPICS ROUNDUP  
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SPECIAL POLISH  
 HERITAGE MONTH  
 EDITION

This year saluting four  
 centuries of Poles in  
 North America



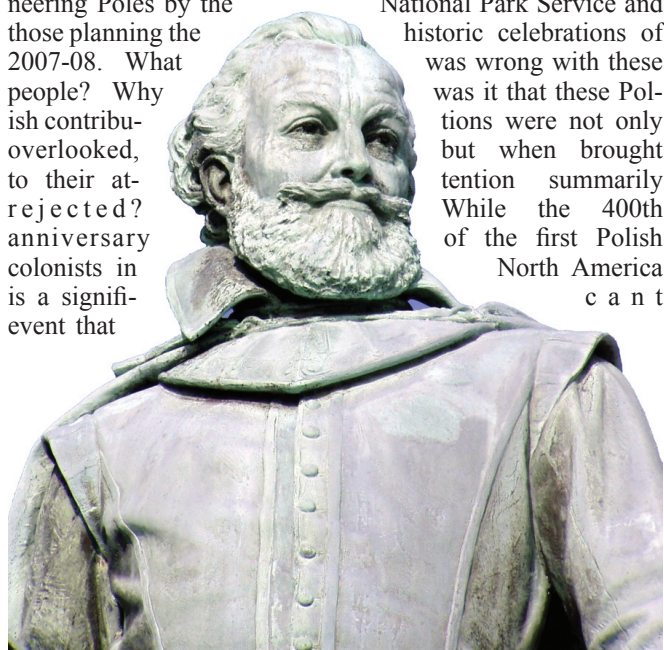
## ZTERYSTA LAT

### Polonia Celebrates the 400th Anniversary of the Arrival of Poles in the Jamestown Colony

by James S. Pula

This month marks the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first Poles in the infant colony of Jamestown, founded in Virginia only one year earlier. ♦ A celebration of this importance has naturally created an outpouring of interest, leading to countless commemorations, speeches and publications extolling the contributions of these first “Polish-Americans.” ♦ In the process of this remembrance, many embellished claims have been made that portray these three or four Poles as having taught the English how to dig wells for drinking water, saved the Jamestown colony from ruin, created America’s first manufacturing industry, launched its first labor strike, organized its first apprenticeship education program, brought Catholicism to the English colony, initiated its tradition of religious toleration, and, in their spare time, taught the English colonists how to play a sport—*palant*—that would eventually become known as baseball.

Yet, as the 400th anniversary approached, Polish-American organizations and their leaders have become increasingly frustrated by the lack of acknowledgement given to these pioneering Poles by the National Park Service and those planning the historic celebrations of 2007-08. What was wrong with these people? Why is it that these Poles were not only overlooked, but when brought to their attention summarily rejected? While the 400th anniversary of the first Polish colonists in North America is a significant event that



deserves to be remembered and celebrated accordingly, all too often the speeches and publications meant to honor the memory of this pioneering group have resulted in grossly inflated claims that create false impressions and, more importantly, lead serious scholars, the National Park Service, and the general public to ignore the Polish presence altogether. In celebrating this important anniversary, it is essential that we do so accurately, without unsubstantiated assertions that may lead others to reject the entire story because of some exaggerated claims.

So what do we really know about the first Polish colonists in North America? In large part, trained historians play the role of judge and jury. They gather as much evidence as they can, evaluate the reliability of that evidence, and then draw conclusions and interpretations based on what they believe to be the most reliable of that evidence. Much like judges and juries seek eyewitness testimony and supporting documentation, historians also look for “primary sources,” information that is passed down to later researchers by eyewitnesses to the events of a particular time. These sources may include diaries, correspondence, official documents and reports, bank accounts, photographs or other information contemporaneous with the events in question. The first question, then, is “What primary sources do we have that refer to the Poles in Jamestown?”

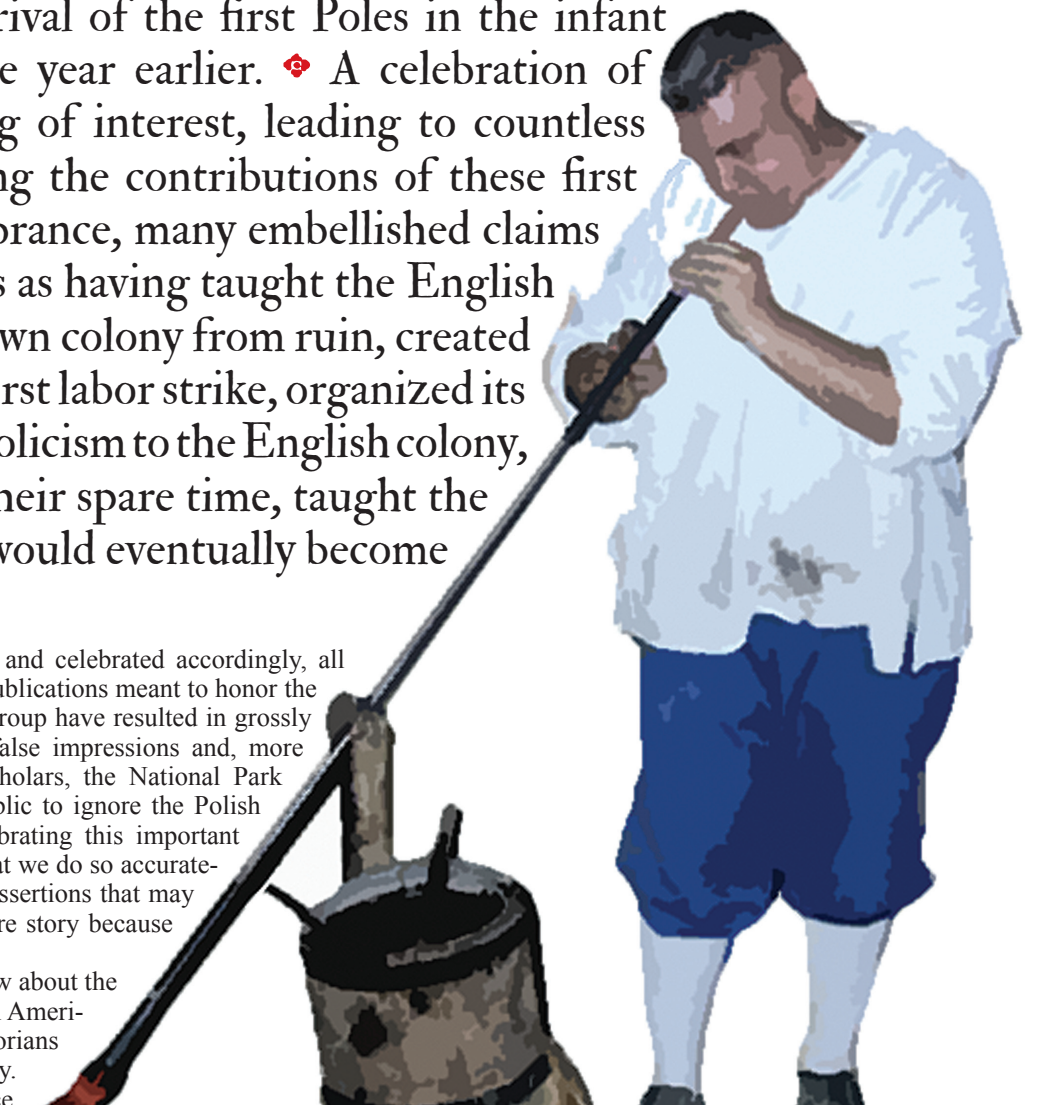
Much has been made by some Polish-American activists of two sources cited in the early publications of Karol Wachtl and Arthur Waldo. In his *Polonja w Ameryce* (1944), Wachtl claimed to have found the original names of the Polish settlers in the periodical *Wieści Polskie* published in London in 1831. The problem with this source is twofold: (1) there is no record of it ever having existed, and (2) regardless of its authenticity, its publication date of 1831 is some 223 years after the events in

Sources provide evidence the first Poles were hired as skilled artisans; that John Smith (above image from statue on Jamestown Island today), the leader of the colony, valued the Poles as workers; that two of the Poles came to Smith’s aid when he was attacked by an Indian; that one of the Poles captured an Indian “elder”; and that a Pole was killed in an Indian attack.

We know that the Poles objected to what was probably inequitable political treatment and that following a work stoppage it was agreed that they would be considered free and enfranchised, that they would teach their skills to others in the colony, and that the Poles then returned to work.

The arrival of the first Polish settlers in the New World is a significant event in our country’s history, as it places Poles at the forefront of the American immigrant experience. Poles comprise a significant portion of the tens of millions of newcomers, who now proudly call this nation their home. They are the sixth largest ethnic group in the country, residing in all fifty states and participating in every aspect of American life. The 400th anniversary of their arrival gives opportunity for persons of all national origins to reflect on the journey of their immigrant ancestors, whose odyssey has defined the American mosaic.

question. It is not a “primary source.” The second source was first cited by Arthur Waldo in the 1950s and later became the centerpiece of his *True Heroes of Jamestown* (1977). Waldo cites a memoir of Zbigniew Stefański published in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, in 1625 under the title *Pamiętnik Handlowca*. Naturally, a new original source on the early history of Jamestown would be of great interest to historians regardless of whether they were interested specifically in the Poles. A genuine first-hand account of life in Jamestown would be valuable indeed, no doubt significantly enriching our historical knowledge of that period. Yet, there are circumstances which call the authenticity of this source into question. Much like *Wieści Polskie*, no researcher has ever been able to find a copy of *Pamiętnik Handlowca*, or for that matter any reference “*Poles Celebrate 400 Years*,” page 4



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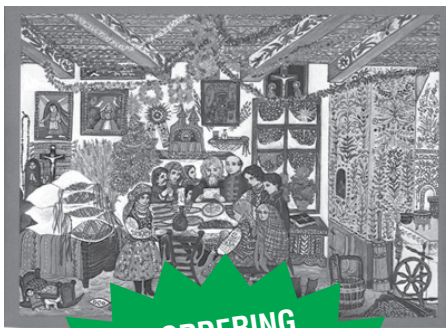
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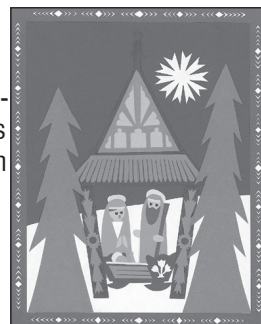
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CARD 103

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CARD 202



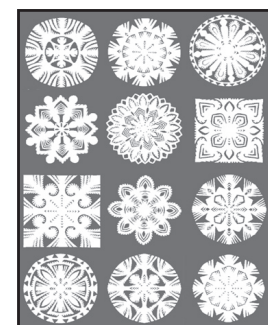
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22 Christmas Caroler

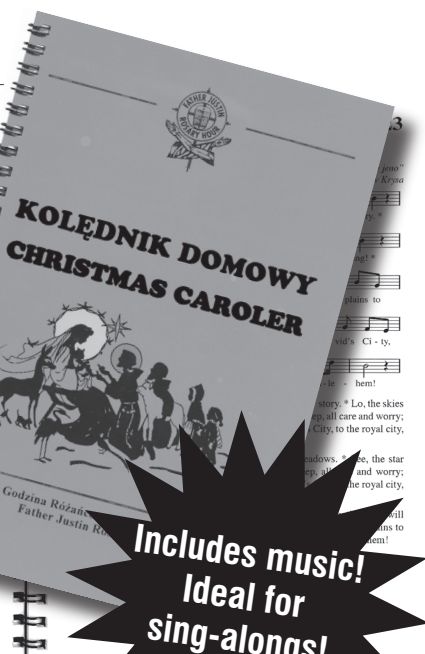
**7. Bracia, patrzcie jeno**

Tekst i mel. według Teofila Klimonskiego



1. Bra - cia, patr - cie - cie je - no, jak nie - bo - go - re - je! \*  
Znać, że - coś dzie - nie - go w Bet - le - jem się dzie - je. \*  
Rzuć - my budy, warty, sta - da; \* Nie - chaj ni - mi Pan Bóg wle -  
ci. \* A my do Bet - le - jem, a my do Be - le - jem!  
2. Patrzcie, jak tam gwiazda światem swoim miga; \* Pewi -  
 Pana swego ściga. \* Krokami sniałym i wesolym \* Spis -  
 czołem \* Przed Panem w Betlejem, przed Panem w Bet -  
 le - jem!  
3. Wszakże powiedziałem, że cuda ujrzymy; \* Dziecią -  
 zobaczymy. \* Patrzcie, jak kładzie obiet -  
 W szopie przy Betlejem, w szopie przy Betlejem, przy  
4. Jak prorok powiedział: Panna zrodzi syna, \* Dla ni -  
 nowina; \* Nam zaś radość w tej tu chwili, gdyśmy Pan  
 przy Betlejem, w szopie przy Betlejem, przy Betlejem.  
5. Betlejem, miasteczko w Judda sławne łęcznie; \* Pamiętnym się wamim  
 kraju i wszędzie; \* Ucieszymy się wje -  
 W szopie przy Betlejem, w szopie przy Betlejem, przy Betlejem.  
6. Ohodząc pamiętkę odwiedzin pasterzy; \* Każdy czcił Boga,  
 co w Chrystusa wierzy; \* Niech się cieszy i raduje; \* Ze Zbawcę swego  
 znajduje \* W szopie przy Betlejem, w szopie przy Betlejem, przy Betlejem.

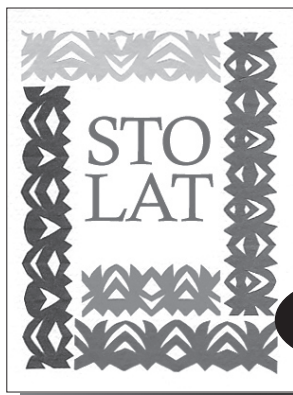
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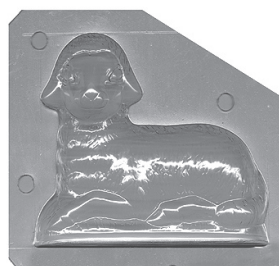
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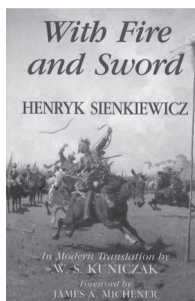
In the year 1608, a contingent of skilled Polish artisans arrived in the Jamestown colony and founded one of America's first export industries. Poles were among the intellectual and political leaders of Peter Stuyvesant's colony of New Amsterdam. And the great military strategists Thaddeus Kosciuszko and Casimir Pulaski are among the unsung heroes of the American Revolution. The election of a Polish pope, John Paul II, in 1978 changed dramatically the perception of Poland in the United States, as it also roused a new feeling of pride in Polish heritage among the ten million Americans of Polish descent. From the seventeenth century to the present, men and women of Polish descent have made important contributions in every area of American life—industry, finance, politics, science, sports, labor, theater music, art and education, to name only a few. Most of their names will not be found in American history books. But many of their names and stories are included in this richly illustrated history of the Poles in America. *My Name is Million* is also the story of those millions of Polish Americans whose quest for the American dream began in the mines, mills and factories of America—those whose dreams of and whose role in American life have, until now gone unrecognized. Originally published in 1978, *My Name is Million*, long out of print, is here reissued in a new format with a new index of names.

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ALMANAC

October • Październik

Polish American Heritage Month. Sponsored by the Polish American Congress, groups across America's Polonia celebrate Polonia's rich background in the United States.

Gdy październik z wodami, Grudzień z wiatrami. If it rains in October, December will be windy

- 1 1608. First Poles arrive in America aboard the Mary & Margaret to work as skilled craftsmen at settlement in Jamestown (Virginia).
3 ST. JOHN DUKLA (1484). 1923. Birth of symphonic orchestra leader Stanislaw Skrowaczewski.
4 ST. FRANCIS Po Swietym Franciszku, chodzi bydlo po owsisku. After Saint Francis Day, cattle are tended on the oats field.
6 1873. Death of Sir Pawel Strzelecki (b. 1797), explorer of Australian continent who named its largest mountain after Tadeusz Kosciuszko.
8 ST. BRIGID O Swietej Brigidzie, Babie lato przyjdzie. About the St. Brigid's day, Indian summer will arrive.
11 1968. Birth of actress Jane Krakowski (Ally McBeal, Malcolm in the Middle).
12 1840. Birth of Helena Modrzejewska, Polish American stage actress, in Krakow, Poland.
15 ST. HEDWIG In old Poland, the last of the crops are harvested around the feast of Saint Hedwig.
16 1978. Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, 58, named Pope John Paul II, the 264th pope and the first non-Italian pope since Adrian VI in 1522. He is the first-ever Polish pontiff (d. 2005).
17 1849. Death of Polish composer and pianist Fryderyk Chopin, 39, in Paris.
18 ST. LUKE 1776. Thaddeus Kosciuszko, 30, Polish and American patriot, is given a commission in the American Revolutionary Army.
20 1982. Death of Korczak Ziolkowski, sculptor of the Crazy Horse Memorial in the Black Hills of South Dakota.
21 ST. URSULA Od Sw. Urszuli oczekuj snieznej koszuli From St. Ursula Day on, expect a snowy (winter) shirt.
22 1978. Cardinal Karol Wojtyla of Krakow, Poland is installed as Pope John Paul II.
24 1919. Birth of Frank Piasecki, inventor of the tandem-rotor helicopter.
25 1891. Death of Pawel Stelmach, writer and promoter of Polish heritage in Cieszyn, Silesia.
26 1910. Birth of Cardinal John Krol, Archbishop of Philadelphia, and Polish activist.
1940. Death of painter Olga Boznanska.
28 ST. SIMON 1138. Death of Boleslaw III Krzywousty.
29 1611. Hetman Stefan Zolkiewski returns to Warsaw from conquering the Muscovites, bringing with him the captured Czar.
1944. Polish 1st Corps, commanded by General Maczek, takes Breda, Holland as part of the Allied invasion of Western Europe.

Paper Late!

This paper was mailed on or before October 1, 2008. The November edition of the paper will be mailed on or before November 1, 2008.

Poles Celebrate 400 Years

continued from cover

ence to it in the many lists of publications that survive from that time, including extant lists of the publications of Andreas Bicker of Amsterdam, the purported publisher. Until a copy of Pamietnik Handlowca surfaces, or some independent confirmation of its existence is forthcoming, no serious scholar would accept a source that no living person has ever seen, and for which no other reference has yet been found.

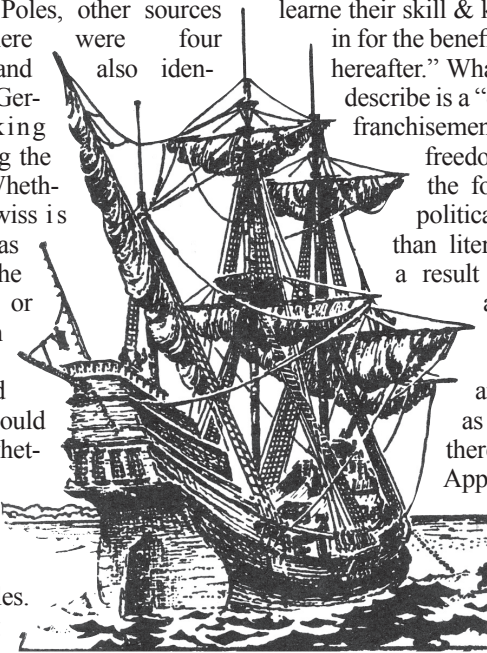
Having eliminated Wieści Polskie and Pamietnik Handlowca as sources, what is left? Fortunately, we have over a dozen separate references to the Poles in Jamestown in sources that have been available for independent evaluation since the early 1600s. These include, for example, The Proceedings of the English Colonie in Virginia (1612), John Smith's The True Travels and Adventures of Captaine John Smith (1629), Smith's John Smith's The Generall Historie of Virginia (1624), the Records of the Virginia Company of London (1608-1626), and Edward Waterhouse's A Declaration of the State of the Colony and Affaires in Virginia (1622). All of these contain verification of the Polish presence in Jamestown that forms a solid basis for commemoration.

It is well-documented that a ship arrived in Jamestown in 1608 bringing "8 Dutchmen and Poles." This is confirmed in The Proceedings of the English Colonie in Virginia and in Smith's The True Travels and Adventures of Captaine John Smith. Smith further explains that the "hiring of the Poles and Dutchmen" was "to make Pitch, Tar, Glasse, Milles and Soap ashes." From these primary sources we learn that Poles were engaged as skilled craftsmen. Although we are not told specifically how many of the eight were Poles, other sources indicate there were four "Dutch" and also identify one German-speaking Swiss among the group. Whether the Swiss is counted as one of the "Dutch," or in addition to the four mentioned elsewhere, would determine whether that initial group included either three or four Poles. According to the colony's leader, John Smith, from "First Poles in America."

they performed their tasks well. In his Generall Historie of Virginia Smith complained that most of the colonists did little work, "except the Dutch men and Poles and some dozen other." Thus, the original sources confirm that three or four Poles were present, they worked as skilled artisans and that John Smith valued their work.

The primary sources also confirm that Poles were involved in the defense of the colony against the local Indians, and were victims of this hostility as well. In Proceedings of the English Colonie in Virginia we read that two Poles came to the aid of John Smith when he was attacked by an Indian leader. In a later instance, Smith's Generall Historie of Virginia describes the capture of two Indian "elders," one of whom was apprehended by "Robert, a Polonian." Finally, Edward Waterhouse's A Declaration of the State of the Colony and Affaires in Virginia identifies "Mathew, a Polander" as one of the victims of an Indian attack. Taken together, these references provide further evidence from original, firsthand sources testifying to the presence and activity of Poles in the early Jamestown colony.

One of the more interesting episodes linked with the Poles in Jamestown is described in the court records of the Virginia Company of London in an entry for July 21, 1619, which reads: "Upon some dispute of the Polonians resident in Virginia, it was now agreed (notwithstanding any former order to the contrary) that they shalbe enfranchized, and made as free as any inhabitant there whatsoever: And because their skill in making pitch & tarr and sope-ashees shall not dye wth them, it is agreed that some young men, shalbe put unto them to learne their skill & knowledge therein for the benefit of the Country hereafter." What this appears to describe is a "dispute" over enfranchisement, and possibly freedom (no doubt in the form of civil and political liberties rather than literal freedom). As a result of this, it was agreed that the Poles would be enfranchised and "made as free as any inhabitant there whatsoever." Apparently in return, the Poles would teach their skills to some young men for the greater benefit of the colony. But what



THE MARY & MARGARET. Illustration by John Smith, from "First Poles in America."

Upon some dispute of the Polonians resident in Virginia, it was now agreed (notwithstanding any former order to the contrary) that they shalbe enfranchized, and made as free as any inhabitant there whatsoever: And because their skill in making pitch & tarr and sope-ashees shall not dye wth them, it is agreed that some young men, shalbe put unto them to learne their skill & knowledge therein for the benefit of the Country hereafter.

"STRIKE" RESULTS IN ENDOWED RIGHTS. "Upon some dispute of the Polonians resident in Virginia, it was now agreed (notwithstanding any former order to the contrary) that they shalbe enfranchized, and made as free as any inhabitant there whatsoever: And because their skill in making pitch & tarr and sope-ashees shall not dye wth them, it is agreed that some young men, shalbe put unto them to learne their skill & knowledge therein for the benefit of the Country hereafter."

From July 21, 1619 entry in the court records of the Virginia Company of London. While not absolutely conclusive, this entry—and another which says the Poles returned to work—appear to refer to the basic outlines of what we would today call a "strike."

was the nature of this "dispute"? Was it really a strike? Further light may be shed by a subsequent entry in the same court records which noted that "the Polackers are returned to their work." Apparently the Poles had left work and subsequently returned. While not absolutely conclusive, when taken together the two entries appear to refer to the basic outlines of what we would today call a "strike." There was a dispute over enfranchisement and freedom; the Poles stopped working; there was an agreement that the Poles would be enfranchised and given the same freedoms as any other resident; the Poles agreed to teach their skills to others in the colony; the Poles went back to work. Under the same date, but recorded in a different volume of the Virginia Company records, appeared another entry verifying that the return of the Poles to their work was linked also with the training of apprentices: "For pitch and tar, we advise and require that the Polackers be returned in part to these their works, with such other assistance as shall be necessary. The like we shall desire for Pot-ashes and Soap-ashes, when there shall be fit store of hand to assist them: Requiring in the meane time, the care be generally taken, that Seruants and Apprentices be so trained up in these works, as that the skill doe not perish together with the Masters." The "Masters," of course, were the Polish artisans, further proof that the Poles were skilled craftsmen. It is clear from these entries that the manufacture of the commodities for which the Polish artisans were responsible was regarded as important to Jamestown's economic life. Equally clear is that the Poles stopped work over the issue of inequitable political treatment and returned to work only after a negotiated agreement.

The final entries referring to Poles in the records of the Virginia Company during the initial two decades of the Jamestown settlement relate to "Molasco the Polander" who was

among those who voted to surrender the Company's charter to the government in November of 1623 and submitted claims against the Company in February 1623 and again a year later. According to the records, Molasco petitioned the Quarter Court on behalf of himself and others who suffered "fowle oppression" and sought payment of monies due them by the Company. The court investigated and found in favor of Molasco's petition. Unfortunately, the petition itself does not appear to have survived, but from the two entries in the court records it is clear that the Poles were successful in petitioning for money due them from the Virginia Company.

These sources clearly provide credible evidence about the presence and activities of the Poles in Jamestown. They reveal that these first Poles were hired as skilled artisans; that John Smith, the leader of the colony, valued the Poles as workers; that two of the Poles came to Smith's aid when he was attacked by an Indian; that one of the Poles captured an Indian "elder"; and that a Pole was killed in an Indian attack. We know that the Poles objected to what was probably inequitable political treatment and that following a work stoppage it was agreed that they would be considered free and enfranchised, that they would teach their skills to others among the colony, and that the Poles then returned to work. We also know that some fifteen years after their initial arrival in Jamestown one of the Poles filed a claim against the company, that royal commissioners agreed with the claim, and that the Poles had difficulty collecting. All of this is contained in primary sources that are readily available to researchers and have long been accepted as authentic. It is this proven record that ought to be remembered and commemorated with pride as part of not only our Polish-American heritage, but our national experience.

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## VIEWPOINTS / Eugene Obidinski

## Mirrors Magnify Memories

Glass. Long before the arrival of "...eight continental European experts (workers) listed as Poles and Germans sent to Jamestown in the second supply in 1608..." glass was an essential resource in civilized human existence.<sup>1</sup> Glass allowed the safe preservation and transport of human goods—ranging from medicines to wines—as well as the manufacture of ornamental beads for trade with American Indian tribes.

The detailed history of the Jamestown glass workers from Poland, an early element in the eventual development of Polonia, or the Polish American community, deserves the attention given in this heritage issue of the POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL by Dr. James Pula's cover story. However, the founding of Jamestown (May, 1607) and arrival of Polish glass-makers the following year is merely an important—often cited—footnote in accounts of the early Polish presence in the United States.

No matter how early or crucial the efforts of Poles at Jamestown—founded after Spanish settlement in Florida and the Southwest, and eclipsed by the disappearance of the earlier, mysterious "Lost Colony" near North Carolina's "Outer Banks" (or the later arrival of Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock after landfall on Cape Cod)—any study of Polonia's heritage in the United States can trace our beginnings, but such studies must be more than general, specific conclusions, as demanded by Polish American historians in their carefully documented *Polish Review* or *Polish American Studies* articles.

These articles usually describe less dramatic moments of Polish

history than the notable contributions of individuals such as Kosciuszko, Pulaski, and other battlefield heroes. The contributions—noted from Saratoga to Savannah—deserve recognition and respect. But Polish heritage extends beyond the glass-making efforts at Jamestown. Changes in United States history by Polish "immigrant hordes" in the 19th and 20th Centuries are basic chapters rather than footnotes which memorialize individual contributions.

For example, Wyrwal—in his fine description of Polish contributions to American life—considers the first organized strike of Poles in America—at Jamestown in the summer of 1619 when the first legislative body in the United States—the Virginia House of Burgesses—denied Poles voting rights available to only persons of English descent.

*"... Poles refused to work until accorded the same voting privileges as those enjoyed by the English settlers; so they suspended operations in the glass factory, the tar distillery and the soap establishments ... it is evident that the first strike in America was conducted not for higher wages and better working conditions, as is so often the case today, but for democratic rights. These Polish immigrants to Jamestown were among the first champions of American civil liberties."*<sup>2</sup>

Wyrwal also quotes a subsequent enfranchisement decision but provides less analysis of the "first strike" than Greene does in documenting efforts of later Slavic (including Polish immigrant) anthracite coal miners who supported emergence of a labor union with turn-of-20th century strikes in northeastern Pennsylvania.<sup>3</sup>

Greene's study considers an early source of labor solidarity among Polish immigrants building parish-centered ethnic communities comprising Polonia.

The lure of immigration to the United States was mostly economic for the settlers at Jamestown as well as the larger number of Poles who created Polonia—largely in urban enclaves such as those in Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Buffalo and—eventually, Midwestern cities such as Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit and Milwaukee. Polish immigrants after Jamestown learned of opportunities such as agricultural land near the Panna Maria settlement by 1854 in Texas, and jobs in the anthracite coal fields of northeastern Pennsylvania or urban factory locations further west.

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Polonian settlement during the 19th and 20th centuries (as well as some return migration to Poland after World War I) was described in fine detail by numerous authors, including Helena Z. Lopata<sup>4</sup>. Sociological and historical studies of Polish ethnic persistence, including the author's dissertation study of generational change in Buffalo neighborhoods<sup>5</sup>, concluded that American Polonia was as durable as some of the artifacts recently excavated near the Jamestown glass factory site.

The Jamestown site was devel-

oped by European workers, rather than the gentlemen adventurers, who supported Virginia Company efforts to enrich English investors seeking profits from scarce New World resources. In 1607, three English ships arrived near the mouth of Chesapeake Bay near the James River site of Jamestown and in the following year—on October 1, 1608, according to a recent ZGODA article<sup>6</sup> quoting writings of Capt. John Smith, five "Polish industrial specialists were among workers (Poles and "Dutch-men" or German).

*"... Michae Lowicki of London originally a Polish nobleman, industry and business organizer; leader of the group; Zbigniew Stefanski of Wloclawek, glass production specialist; Jan Mata of Krakow, a prominent soap producer; Stanislaw Sadowski of Radom, lumber and clapboard production organizer; and Jan Bogdan of Kolo-myła, pitch and tar and ship building expert ..."*

In 1609—before the "starving time" winter of 1609-10—when starvation and bitterly cold weather reduced Jamestown's population of 550 to 65—Smith and the Poles left for England but later (according to the ZGODA account) returned to the Virginia colony "...including a number of additional Poles who were desperately implored to return to Virginia and continue their special trades to help the new colony attain its industrial self-sufficiency."<sup>7</sup>

Recent excavations at Jamestown indicate continued operation of glass furnaces and tar making<sup>8</sup> even as the area developed agricultural pursuits—notably the growth of tobacco—and Jamestown was replaced by Williamsburg as a colonial capital. Nearby, the concluding battle at Yorktown was essential to victory in the American Revolutionary War. Traces of the glass factory remain in Jamestown and are part of a Sept 29 to Oct. 3 "historic triangle" tour of the Jamestown, Wil-

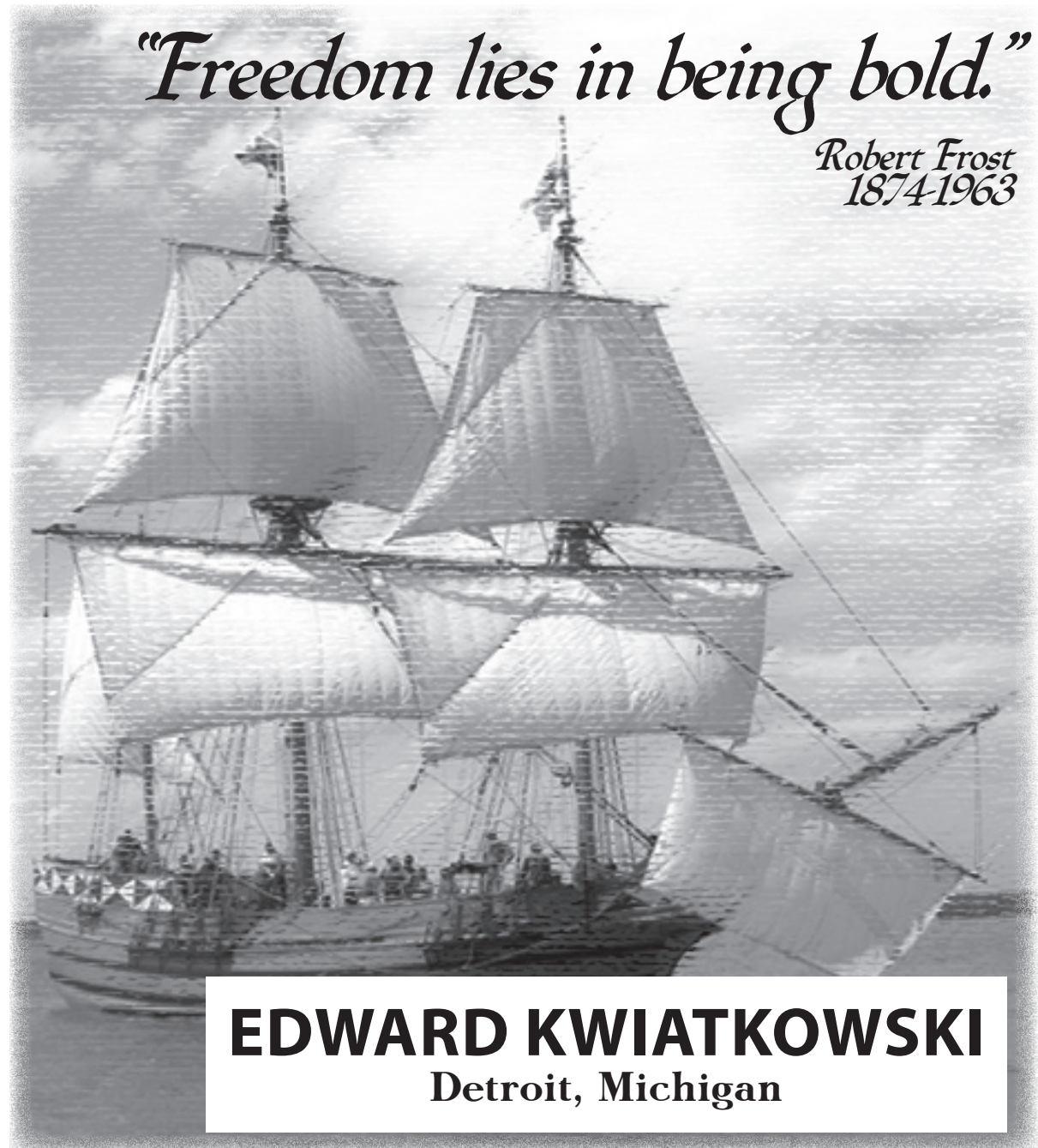
liamsburg and Yorktown national parks and monuments arranged by the Polish National Alliance in Chicago.<sup>9</sup>

Polish Americans seeking their "roots" may welcome opportunities to visit the Jamestown glass factory site or spend time exploring Panna Maria's historic structures. The old ethnic neighborhoods of the more essential Polonia may disappear or be harder to find. But glass—transformed into mirrors by historians—magnifies memories.

1. Kupperman, Karen Ordahl, THE JAMESTOWN PROJECT, Cambridge, Mass. and London, Great Britain: Belknap Press of Harvard Univ., 2007, pp. 239—240 describes the 1608 arrival. "(Worker) skills involved glass-making and preparing potash and pitch and tar ...the remains of their glass works have been found at Jamestown as well as quantities of broken glass..."
2. Wyrwal, Joseph A., BEHOLD! THE POLISH AMERICANS Detroit, MICH.: Endurance Press, 1977, p. 534
3. Greene, Victor. THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY ON STRIKE: Immigrant Labor in Pennsylvania Anthracite, South Bend, Ind.: University of Notre Dame Press, 1968.
4. Lopata, Helena Z., POLISH AMERICANS: Status Competition in an Ethnic Community. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1976.
5. Obidinski, Eugene E., ETHNIC TO STATUS GROUP: A Study of Polish Americans in Buffalo. New York, N.Y.: Arno Press 1980.
6. Author not listed, "Pioneers of American Industry" ZGODA, Chicago, Ill.: Polish National Alliance, v. 127, 16 (Aug. 15-31. 2008), p. 16.
7. ZGODA, ibid.
8. Kelso, William M, JAMESTOWN; THE BURIED TRUTH, Charlottesville, VA and London, Great Britain: University of Virginia Press, 2006. See this relatively recent description of current excavation and restoration at the Jamestown colony site. Apart from evidence of the colony's early industry including glass making, Kelso concludes "... Jamestown rates national prominence for being the place where the first elected, representative government met in English America. The first phase of the story of American democracy begins with the meeting of the first General Assembly in 1619 and ends with the burning of the Jamestown state-house complex in 1698 and the move of state capital to Williamsburg." (p. 192)
9. ZGODA, op. cit., p. 7.

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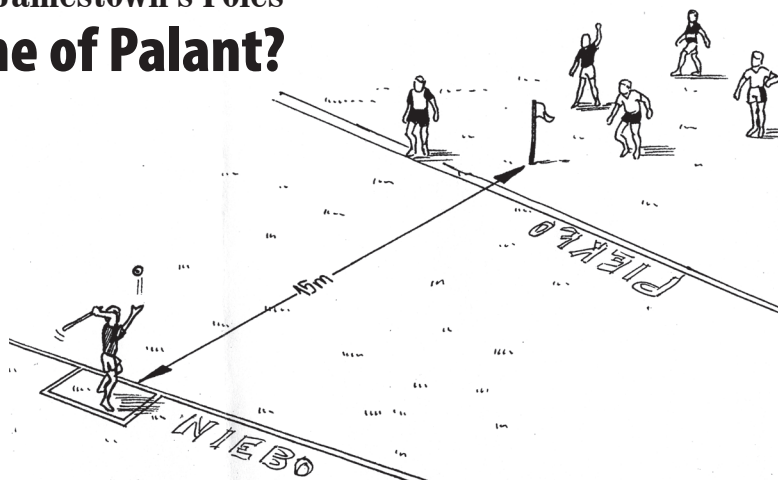
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**Play the Game Played by Jamestown's Poles  
 How About a Game of Palant?**

by Robert Strybel

The origins of palant (Polish bat-ball) go back to the Middle Ages, and during the era of the Third of May Constitution (late 18th century), leading Polish educators recommended it for the physical training program of Polish schools. According to a theory popularized by Polish American researcher Arthur Waldo, the game of palant had been brought to Jamestown, Virginia by Polish settlers in the early 17th century, and some say it eventually led to the All-American game of baseball.



In this drawing, the batter has throw up the ball and is about to whack it out into the field. The outfielders standing beyond the Hell line, marked by a pennant, are poised to catch it and tag him out before he can touch the pennant and return to Heaven.

tance also means it is easier to find a playing site – in many cases a double-lot backyard should suffice.

The easiest version is known as simple palant (palant prosty). It is a "one against all" competition rather than a team sport, and there are only batters and outfielders but no pitchers. The traditional equipment comprises a hardwood bat that is either completely round (like a thick broomstick) ranging in length from 80 cm to 1 m (31-39") or is tapered (a child's wooden baseball bat should do).

The regulation palant ball is leather-covered, weighs 20 grams (3/4 oz) and has a circumference of 22 cm (about 8").

(Note: A rubber ball of similar size might be preferable, especially if young children are taking part, since it may be thrown at the batter to strike him out.) Almost any outdoor or indoor area can serve as the playing court. Its only obligatory dimension is that the Heaven (Niebo) line (batter's box) must be roughly 15 paces (45-50 feet) from the Hell (Piekło) line (outfield) which is marked by a pennant. That distance may be decreased to make things easier for youngsters, the elderly or none-too-athletic recreational players.

Five or more players take part. The first batter (the batting order is determined by flipping a coin or some other random method) must have one foot on or behind the stands behind the Heaven line. The outfield (Hell) is marked by a small pennant on a roughly 3' pole situated 15 m (50 feet) from the heaven line (front of the batter's box). Niebo and Piekło should be marked off with parallel chalk lines. The game is played as follows:

The batter tosses the ball up and hits it with the bat single-handedly. The batter gets three tries. If he swings and misses or if the ball does not clear the hell-line, those are considered strikes; after three strikes, he goes to hell (outfield) and another player comes to bat.

The batter tries to hit the ball as

far as he can beyond the hell line so his opponents are unable to catch it easily, enabling him to run to the pennant and return to heaven (home plate); to count, the ball must clear the 45-50 foot hell line.

Once he hits the ball beyond the hell-line, he must run to the pennant, touch it with his hand or foot and return to heaven; if he succeeds, he continues up at bat.

If one of the hell-dwellers (outfielders) catches a fly ball, the batter is out and someone from the outfield (according to pre-agreed order) comes up to bat.

If the ball is caught off the ground or passed from player to player, the outfielder can strike the batter out by doing one of the following:

- Touching him with the caught ball if he's close enough,
- Hitting him with the thrown ball as he tries to make it back to Heaven (home plate),
- Throwing the ball so it reaches the Heaven line before the running batter can.

A batter who successfully makes it back to the kingdom, continues to bat until finally getting eliminated. Then the next player in line takes his turn at bat.

A referee (umpire) decides whether the struck ball has cleared the hell line, whether a running batter has got tagged and whether the batter has made it back across the heaven line ahead of the thrown ball or vice-versa.

The game lasts for an agreed period of time (1, 1.5 or 2 hrs)—the winner is the player who has spent the most time in heaven (at bat). If two or more players have been up to bat the same number of times, a play-off determines the winner.

Note: The above game as well as three different team versions of palant have been clearly explained and illustrated in a book entitled "Stare i nowe gry drużynowe" ("Team Games Old and New"), currently out of print but found in libraries and used-book shops in Poland).



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A palant player has just tossed up the ball with his left hand and is about to strike it with the bat held in his right hand. While batting a ball, he must have one leg on or behind the chalk-lined Niebo (Heaven) line (the batter's box).

The advantages of palant are many:

- It can be played by people of all ages, even non-athletic types, and the "one vs. all" version (below) eliminates team-mates who might give a poor player a hard time.
- The number of players is very flexible; theoretically only two people could play, but it is best when you have four, five, six or more.
- Palant requires very little special equipment making it an economical alternative to other sports.
- Single-handed batting means the ball will not go that far and is less likely to cause an injury or break somebody's window.
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**POLISH GIFT OF LIFE, INC.**  
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The Polish Gift of Life, Inc. would like to thank all of our generous supporters, who, for over 28 years, have made it possible for us to help sick Polish children. Many children have been brought to the United States for live-saving heart surgery, which was not available to them in their own country. This year, we sent therapy equipment and medical supplies to an Orphanage, also an EKG machine was sent to a rehabilitation center. We provided much-needed medical equipment and supplies to several hospitals in Poland. A 24-hour ambulatory blood pressure monitor with software, cuffs, battery charger and batteries, an ambulatory Doppler machine, and a pulsometer was sent so that more children can be helped. Your financial support will allow us to continue to give Polish children the precious "gift of life." Thank you.

## HERITAGE MONTH OBSERVATIONS

## Northeast Pennsylvania Remembers its Roots

HAZLETON, Pa.—The Greater Hazleton Area Polonaise Society will pause to remember the contributions of the "Polish Coal Miners and Their Families in the Anthracite Coal Fields of Northeastern Pennsylvania," Sun., Oct. 5, 2008, 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Eckley Miners Village Museum, Weatherly, Pa.

The program will highlight a presentation by Thomas P. Kopetskie, president and one of the founders of the Society. The guest speaker never knew either of his grandfathers, both of whom died in 1906, one as a result of a coal mine explosion and the other as a result of miner's asthma and related ailments contacted as a direct result of their mining work at the Glen Burn Colliery in Shamokin, Pa.

Kopetskie's father, Thomas Kopetsky began working as a "breaker boy" at the age of 13 and spent a large portion of his life working in the anthracite coal mines and as a "bootleg coal miner" and an operator of an independent coal breaker. The speaker's father-in-law, Walter Dombroskie, an immigrant Polish coal miner and father of 17 children, was one of the most efficient and respected contract coal miners at the Glen Burn Colliery in Shamokin. His skills involved "robbing coal pillars," one of the most dangerous occupations in the mines. When the mines were working, it afforded him the opportunity for higher pay to support his large family, he had a work ethic second to no one, constantly risking his life to fill more coal wagons.

During the program the Polish Choir of Transfiguration Polish R.C. Church will present a variety

of traditional Polish Hymns for the occasion.

This event will center on the immigration, hardships, and discrimination experienced by Poles and their families after they settled in the anthracite coal fields, aspiring to make their dreams of a better life for their children, and themselves become part of the American Dream. The establishment of Polish parishes and schools, the cultural traditions and their rich heritage from Poland are still alive in present day Northeastern Pennsylvania today thanks to their efforts. The ethnic pride of their efforts led to the founding of the Polonaise Society in 1977, which has valiantly sought to preserve what the immigrants brought from Central and Eastern Europe. They settled in the southern, western middle, eastern middle and northern coal fields located in Northumberland, Schuylkill, Carbon, Luzerne, and Lackawanna counties of the Commonwealth. Historians note that the first Polish communities were established in Shamokin in 1870, followed by Shenandoah in 1873, Excelsior and Nanticoke in 1875 and Mount Carmel in 1877.

One of the earliest "economic migrants" to Pennsylvania was Kathryn (Katarzyna) Wyrzykowski, an 18-year-old Polish lass, who came to Shamokin in July of 1850; she left Prussian-controlled Poland, traveled to a port in France, and from there boarded a ship for a New York harbor. Arriving in America, she was guided to the anthracite coal region in Northeastern Pennsylvania, where she obtained work as a servant in a boarding house in Shamokin. Her letters home were so

convincing that her father, siblings, other relatives and friends came to Shamokin, the coal town. These Poles later wrote letters, and convinced their friends and neighbors to follow. The number of immigrants grew rapidly and soon the first Polish community was established in Pennsylvania, and shortly the first Polish Roman Catholic Church was built in Pennsylvania — St. Stanislaus Kostka, the oldest Polish parish in the state. They founded fraternal and social groups and by 1900 they were the largest ethnic group in the state.

As coal production dramatically increased in the northern coal fields, Polish immigrants played a role in the growth of the Wilkes-Barre and Scranton areas. The impact of these Polish coal miners was felt in the communities they helped build. The churches, schools, Polish language newspapers (the Polish American Journal was founded as the Polish-language "Zorza" in Pittston in 1911), as well as fraternal associations, all helped to reshape the Upper Appalachian Mountain Range into a vibrant Polonia, led by its inhabitants' stubborn commitment of survival, as well as their ethnic pride.

Initially their goal was to escape religious and sociological persecution, as well as political oppression they experienced in the ancestral areas of their native land, which had been brought about by the Partition of 1795 by Prussia, Russia, and Austria. This was a ploy on the part of the leaders of those countries to thwart the liberties of the newly-signed Polish Constitution from spreading to their countries and peoples. Some

Poles came to stay in America, others hoped to make enough money to return to Poland and buy land and property there. But the majority stayed, married their fellow countrywomen or sent to Poland for their bride-to-be. Their assimilation has without a doubt aided in creating the great mosaic melting pot which is America.

This history of this area's Polonia is not a blessed one. We cannot forget the brutal murders of the 19 coal miners at the Lattimer Massacre in Hazleton. Fourteen Poles, along with three Slovaks, a Hungarian and a Lithuanian were shot down in cold blood, while on a peaceful unarmed march for better pay, benefits and working conditions. Countless others were severely injured by the coal operator-sponsored police and others. Mine disasters such as Avondale, Twins Shaft Cave-In, Baltimore Tunnel Disaster, and Knox Mine Disaster were some of countless others that took their toll of Polish miners and many of their co-workers for the sake of greedy, inhumane mine operators. The horrors of having dead bodies dropped on the porches of the miners shacks or—worse yet—on the road or the grounds in front of their sullied, ash-covered homes, painted a dark portrait of merciless mine foremen, their aides, and the operators themselves.

Anthracite miner strikes in 1900 and 1902 demanded higher wages, minimum wage scales, better, safer working conditions, and union representation. It is estimated that as many as 150,000 miners—a large percentage of them Polish—refused to work. This resulted in the first time in U.S. labor history the federal government stepped in to the mining industry. President Teddy Roosevelt called for settlement that would improve the safety and financial security of the miners, whose sacrifices led to the nation's industrial boom.

Anthracite mining peaked in



It was not uncommon for generations of Poles to work as miners in Pennsylvania's coal fields.

1917, when 37.7 million tons of hard coal were mined in Luzerne County alone, and more than 100 million hard coal tons were mined in the anthracite coal region to fuel the World War I effort. By 1938, 97,000 miners were still employed in the hard coal fields.

The true death of the hard coal industry came about when then-president of the United Mine Workers John L. Lewis challenged President Harry Truman. Lewis' tactics had been a constant sore point to both Roosevelt and Truman, who had the final say when he shut down the federal mine pumps in the hard coal fields. From Shamokin to Scranton, the mines filled up with first millions, then billions (and today probably trillions) of gallons of water.

By the late 1950s, the union was badly shaken by mechanization—300,000 mining jobs disappeared in 15 years—by a recession, and by the growing use of oil. The UMW allowed a series of "sweetheart" contracts, under which management and locals ignored sections of the national contract to keep mines in business and save jobs.

While no longer the main source of income for Pennsylvania's Polonia, Polish Americans from the commonwealth owe much of their success to those who worked the mines. The number of Polish Americans in the state is over 885,000, with the largest Polish centers being located in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

The Eckley Miners Village Museum (www.eckleyminers.org) is located at 2 Eckley Main St, Weatherly, PA 18255; (570) 636-2070.

tary refreshments, including soda and popcorn. For more information, email Jowita at jowita23@yahoo.com.

**POLISH SOUP FESTIVAL.** The location of Polish Soup Festival, Oct. 26, has changed to Kolbe Hall, lower level of John Paul II School, Holy Cross Church complex. PACIM will be serving at least a dozen different Polish soups with bread and desserts from 5:00- 7:00 p.m. If there is any soup left over at that time, it will be sold. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Dolina Polish Folk Dancers (gifts) and Sacred Heart Church (pierogi) will have tables. PACIM is looking for volunteers to make soup and also to work at the event as servers, greeters, kitchen help, table cleaners, etc. Please call Steven Ukasick at (612) 822-2322 for more information.

More events on next page

### Jamestown, Virginia

The Polish American Congress invites all to participate in the 400th anniversary commemoration to honor the first Poles' arrival and their invaluable contributions to the New World on Wednesday, October 1, 2008, at the Jamestown Settlement in Virginia.

A schedule of activities follows:

**3:00 p.m.** Arrival at Jamestown Settlement and start of tour of outdoor interpretive areas at Jamestown Settlement and Glasshouse

**4:00 p.m.** Guided tour of indoor galleries and exhibits

**5:30 p.m.** Wreath laying ceremony

at the plaque honoring the first Poles, dedicated by the Polish Falcons on the occasion of the 350th anniversary.

**6:20 p.m.** Move indoors for continuation of program, remarks, musical selections provided by the Polish Singers Alliance of America and a gala concluding reception.

**8:30 p.m.** Conclusion

In conjunction with the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first Poles, the Polish American Congress will hold its semi-annual National Council of Directors meeting at the Marriott Hotel, 50 Kingsland Road, Williamsburg, Virg., October 2-3, 2008.

President George W. Bush and Presidential candidates Barack Obama and John McCain have been invited as well as the Governor of Virginia. Representatives of the Polish Government are expected in addition to His Excellency Robert Kupiecki, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland.

Individuals and bus groups wishing to make reservations for the tour and reception are asked to contact Camille Kopielski, Jamestown Coordinator, Polish American Congress, at (773) 763-9944. For additional information, visit the Polish American Congress website: polamcon.org/Jamestown.

*"Keep alive this heritage."*

- Pope John Paul II, 1979



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**HERITAGE MONTH OBSERVATIONS, continued**

**New York, New York**

The **General Pulaski Memorial Parade Committee, Inc.** reminds all of its celebration honoring the Polish hero who was instrumental in securing American freedom during the Revolutionary War. The theme of this Parade is "Celebrating the 400th Anniversary of Polish Pioneers arriving at the Jamestown Colony in Virginia."

President Richard Zawisny, of the committee, together with this year's Grand Marshal, Peter C. Eagler and all the members of the committee have been working diligently to ensure the biggest, most colorful and best parade yet.

At 9:00 a.m. on the day of the parade, October 5, there will be a concelebrated special Mass led by the His Eminence Cardinal Edward Eagan at Saint Patrick's Cathedral. For questions regarding the Mass please contact Genia S. Golda at (212) 388-9859.

Following the Mass there will be a Parade Breakfast, at the 3 West Club, at 10:30 a.m. with a wide selection of elegant fare. The tickets can be obtained from Gabriela Urbanowicz at (718) 782-0115 or Penny Donach (718) 388-4105.

The Parade itself will step off from Fifth Ave. at 30th Street at 12:30 p.m. led by the Clifton Mustang Band under the direction of Robert Morgan. If you wish to view the Parade from the reviewing stands, which will be located at 40th and 41st Streets, you may purchase tickets by contacting Slavik

Niemynski at (908) 275-4843.

Many Polish American organizations will march up Fifth Ave. accompanied by numerous honorable dignitaries. Please show your Polish American pride and heritage by supporting these events.

This annual event has been celebrated on Fifth Ave. since 1937, in honor of the memory of Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski, a courageous soldier who gave his life during the American Revolutionary War. His life represents the dedication of countless Polish Americans to the personal liberty and independence, which has defined the spirit of the United States of America.

**Syracuse, New York**

The **Syracuse Polish Home** is proud to make a donation to Hazard Branch Library toward the enhancement of its Polish interest books, videos and CDs. for both children and adults, in the English and Polish languages. Samples of this collection will be displayed at the Hazard Branch during the month of October.

This being the Polish Home's 90th Anniversary, 1919-2009, a pictorial exhibit will chronicle its history and events.

The Polish Heritage Club presents a variety of artifacts in Hazard Branch's display cases. Organized by Connie Wierz, the exhibit spotlights Polish culture, reflected in cloths, statuettes, handcrafted wooden and crystal items as well as amber jewelry. Also displayed

will be the functional and attractive Boleslawiec Polish pottery.

In celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the Poles' landing in Jamestown, Va.. Marian Poczobutt will lecture on this topic, Saturday, Oct. 25 at 2:00 p.m.. Posters and other items about this historical event will be on display. Robert Synakowski, president of the Syracuse Polish Home. will make a presentation on the History of the Polish Home, a landmark in the Polish Community. He will also show a video on the various events held at the facility. Current newsletters and memberships will be available.

A reception will follow.

The Hazard Branch Library is located at 1620 W. Genesee St., Syracuse, N.Y. 13204.

**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

The Western Pennsylvania Division of the Polish American Congress (PAC) will hold its **63rd Annual Pulaski and Polish Heritage Day Dinner**, Oct. 12, 2008 at the Greentree Radisson Hotel, Pittsburgh.

Each year the banquet honors a person who has promoted Polish heritage. The 2008 honoree is Frania Yakima-Urbaniak, hostess of the weekly radio program, "Frانيا's Polka Celebration," heard every Saturday from noon to 1:00 p.m. on WEDO, 810 AM (White Oak, Pa.). In addition to the lively music of the Polish Americans, Frania features the best in Polish culture, news and events of the Polish community of Western Pennsylvania.

Proceeds from the banquet help fund the Charitable Foundation of the PAC.

**Oil City, Pennsylvania**

As a Polish Heritage Month event, on Wednesday Oct. 15, Joseph Brozeski will present a program about **Poland** at the Assumption BVM Parish, 7 Pulaski St., at 7:00 p.m. Brozeski will talk about and show pictures of his recent visit to Poland. He will also reference the town's **Polish Heritage Memorial Park**. For more information, visit [www.polishheritageproject.com](http://www.polishheritageproject.com). The program is open to the public.

**Swedesburg, Pennsylvania**

The Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Co., Jefferson and Roosevelt Ave., presents its **Second Annual Polish Night**, Sat., Oct. 4. Doors open at 5:30, dinner begins at 6:15, and music and dancing follow from 7:00-11:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25.00 per person. Seating is limited. Polish food will be prepared by the Polish Firefighters, and includes kielbasa, golabki, kapusta, pierogi, babka, rye bread, beer, soda and coffee included. A cash bar will be available. Music will be by the Pennsylvania Villagers Polka Band. For tickets, call Jack Guziewicz at (610) 277-1838 or Kathy or Anthony Boccella at 539-3699. Take out is available at the kitchen from 5:00-7:00 p.m., \$12.00 per platter.

Sacred Heart Church in Swedesburg will present its **Fall Harvest Festival**, Dozynki, Sun., Oct. 12, from 1:00-5:00 p.m. in the Sacred Heart School Cafeteria, Fourth and Jefferson Sts. Music will be by Jeden Plus Dwa. Tickets are \$20.00 (adult), which includes beer, soda and a meal. Children's tickets are \$5.00 and include juice, soda, and meal. No tickets will be sold at the

door. Tickets must be purchased by Oct. 5 at the Rectory on weekdays, or after Masses on Saturday and Sunday. Call (610) 275-1750 for more information.

**Washington, D.C.**

"**Poland: A Rich Tapestry**," co-sponsored by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, will be held Fri., Oct. 24, 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Embassy, and Sat., Oct. 25, 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Ripley Center.

The program begins Friday evening with a sampling of Polish food and drink at the elegant Embassy of Poland. Cultural attaché Mariusz Brymora, head of the culture and public affairs department at the Embassy of Poland, offers commentary on the unique art and other aspects of this landmark building.

On Saturday, a presentation "Why Poland?" will be held from 10:00-11:00 a.m. From 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Krakow and Warsaw will be the topic, followed by lunch from 12:30-2:00 p.m. Participants provide their own lunch.

From 2:00-3:00 "Enchanting Travels" will discuss the many travel treasures of Poland. The country's folk tradition will be explored from 3:30-4:30 p.m. with the PAJ's Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab, author of "Polish Customs, Traditions, and Folklore."

Reservations are required. No tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets and photo ID required for admission to the Embassy. Business attire. Contact: Consular Division of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, 2224 Wyoming Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20008-3992, (202) 234-3800.

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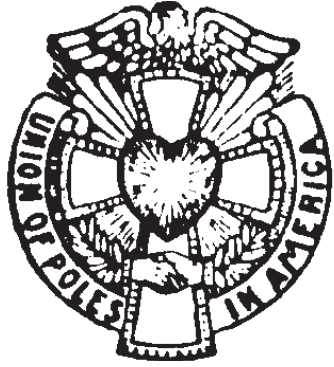
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## HISTORY REVISTED

### The Truth About Jamestown

Jamestown was named after King James I (1608-1625) of England and Scotland. After leaving England on Dec. 20, 1606, it took five months to sail across the Atlantic Ocean. The first wave of English settlers to Jamestown arrived May 12, 1607. The three ships: The *Susan Constant*, *Godspeed*, and *Discovery* brought the initial colonists to Jamestown by May 13, 1607.

For centuries, Jamestown has been overshadowed by Plymouth Rock. Everyone knows about the Pilgrims and Thanksgiving, but few celebrate America's first permanent English settlement, founded 13 years earlier than Plymouth Rock.

Last year, galas marking the anniversary helped Jamestown fight to reclaim its rightful spot in history. This included a visit by Queen Elizabeth.

There are many myths about the Jamestown Settlement. Among them are:

- **Myth: The first Africans at Jamestown were all slaves.**
- **Fact: The first Africans—farmers, tradesmen and artisans from Angola—were considered servants, like many European immigrants. Some bought their freedom and became landowners. Not until the 1660s did Virginia law make slavery hereditary.**
- **Myth: The settlers were far superior to the American Indians.**
- **Fact: To the Indians, the English resembled savages. They had many diseases, rarely bathed and couldn't even farm to feed themselves. At least one may have turned to cannibalism.**
- **Myth: Jamestown was a failure.**
- **Fact: Jamestown was our first Ellis Island—a landing point for set-**

tlers from Poland and Germany as well as England. They were hard workers, carving a fort out of the forest in 19 days, a feat the set-builders for the 2005 Jamestown film "The New World" couldn't match even with power tools.

—Parade

Our Country—America  
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is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, nonprofit organization dedicated to the maintenance of a strong center of learning and culture. PIASA is concerned with advancing knowledge about Poland's humanistic heritage and about Polish-American contributions to the life, culture and history of United States.

Some activities include: serving as a liaison between American and Polish academic circles; publishing *The Polish Review*, a scholarly, multi-disciplinary quarterly; operating The Alfred Jurzykowski Memorial Library and Archives; organizing annual scholarly conferences; organizing lectures, symposia, authors' evenings, and exhibits.

**For membership information write:**

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### Polish Women's Alliance of America Salutes POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

*Virginia Sikora, National President*

This year we commemorate the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the arrival of the first Polish settlers on American soil in Jamestown, Virginia. We are proud of all that Polish Americans have contributed to the history and growth of the United States over the last four hundred years!



This year, we also proudly commemorate the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding Polish Women's Alliance. 1898 - 2008

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POLISH & SLAVIC CENTER is a charitable social and cultural services organization with an association of 55,000 members. It owns two buildings in Greenpoint and has offices Manhattan and New Jersey. A seven member Board of Directors is responsible for the general direction and policy-making of the organization, which is run on a day-to-day basis by the Executive Director and the Directors of individual programs.

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

# Wesoly Lud Dances Through Poland and Beyond

CHICAGO—This past July, the Fourteenth Annual International Festival of Polish Folk Dance was held in Rzeszow, Poland. This Festival consisted of 45 groups from 16 countries. Included among these groups were eight ensembles from the United States. They were *Krakusy* of Los Angeles, *Krakowiak* of Boston, *Polanie* and *Wawel* Folk Ensemble of Detroit, as well as *Wesoly Lud*, *Wici*, and *Polonia* Ensemble, all of Chicago. This was *Wesoly Lud's* eighth participation in the Rzeszow Festival. This year, *Wesoly Lud*, under the direction of its choreographers, Misia and Richard Kaminski, performed four dances: *Spisz*, *Lubusk*, Fiddle Mania Chicago Polka, and *Wesole Ludzie*, a country western Polka. *Wesoly Lud* was the first dance ensemble from the USA to receive the Festival's Gold Medal for perpetuating "Polish culture around the world." This trip to Poland was an extra-special occasion for the dance troupe and



*Wesoly Lud* dancing *Spisz* in Rzeszow

its directors, Misia and Richard Jaminski. After participating in the Festival, the ensemble traveled, as guests of the town of Podegrodzie, to perform once again. From there, it traveled to the town of Sieniawa, where the ensemble, also performed

in this city's town square, followed by a mayoral reception with 200 guests. To make this day even more memorable, the entire ensemble was treated to another reception given by Richard Jaminski's family, who live in area. Another 160 townsfolk,



In Lwow, *Wesoly Lud* dancers with those from Sweden and Australia (center, l. to r.): Anna Sokolowski, VP PRCUA, and Bishop Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki.

the Jaminski family, relatives and friends alike, joined in another welcoming celebration. With these festivities completed, *Wesoly Lud* made its way to Lwow, Ukraine for the International Festival of Polish Folk Dance Ensembles, where it thrilled

the crowd at the Lwow Opera House with standing ovations as the troupe performed the *Spisz* along with its Polish American country-western style polkas. Their trip to Lwow was completed with a somber visit to the Orleta cemetery.

## LIRA'S SUMMER EVENING DELIGHT.

On August 28, the Lira Ensemble surprised over 100 guests with the "Music for a Summer Evening" soirée at Chicago's Lutnia Continental Café. This evening was filled with music of Polish composers Witold Lutoslawski, Tadeusz Baird, and Henryk Wieniawski. Lucyna Migala, Artistic Director and General Manager of the Lira, introduced every piece with historical background of each composer and his compositions. Judith Partipilo Marth, a 22-year veteran soprano, sang, and Oana Tatu, Noel Rubio, Tim Hager, and Ian Maksin, members of Lira Symphony Orchestra, played music of Baird. Aurelien Pederzoli and Vitaly Briskin along with Partipilo Marth, Tatu, and Maksin performed "Two Children's Song for Voice and String Quartet" composed by Lutoslawski. These performances were followed by Wieniawski's "Etudes-Caprices for Two Violins, Opus 18" played by Pedersoli and Briskin. The concert was followed by a truly gourmet Polish dinner. The Lira will perform on October 16 at the newly renovated and historical landmark residence of the Polish Consulate in Chicago. Additionally, on January 4, 2009, the Ensemble will present a holiday concert in Chicago's historic Holy Name Cathedral. The Lira Ensemble, artists-in-residence at Loyola University Chicago, is the nation's only professional performing arts company specializing in Polish music, dance and song.



## A Day at "Taste of Polonia"

ish-American celebration in every sense of the word, attracted thousands from all age groups, Polish Americans and non-Polish Americans alike. With the most perfect of summer days and evenings, those who attended were treated to an array of Polish American food favorites and were entertained by live non-stop music throughout the day and evening. Over thirty musical groups regaled the crowds. A few of the groups that performed were the ever-popular Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones Polka Band, the Polkaholics, Agnieszka Iwanska Jazz Quartet, as well as the Vavamuffins and Cayenn Disco Polo bands from Poland. Other events, just to name a couple, were a Sunday Polish Mass celebrated by Father Thaddeus Dzieszko, pastor of St. Constance Parish, and a song and dance concert performed by the Polonia Ensemble of Chicago. Both were held in the Copernicus's Kobelinski Theater to packed audiences. A casino was another added attraction. This was

the Foundation's major fund-raiser. Profits from this event will provide additional funding for the expansion of the Copernicus Foundation sight.

## ART EMERGES AT THE MUSEUM.

The Polish Museum of America, under the direction of its Art Curator, Monika Nowak, held an opening reception on Sept. 6 to present its "Let's Talk: An Exhibition of Emerging Art." With over 40 talented artists from the United States and Poland, along with almost 150 works of art, 17 artists were selected to display 46 pieces of art. The Museum, understanding that art is an international language, wishes to promote those who "speak" it, especially younger generational artists. The artists who exhibited their artistic skills were Marta Bozyk, Agnieszka Furtak, Lukasz Grabski, Carl Jalowiec, Damara Kaminecki, Krzysztof Marcinak, Krzysztof Musial, Malgorzata Malwina Niespodziewana, Robert Olszowski,



Guests at the exhibit.

Alicja Panasiewicz, Anna Piecuch, Hyun Shin, Aleksander Słota, Weronika Stepien, Natalia Tarnawa, Magdalena Trzcionka, and Jessica Ann Vaughn. This artwork will be exhibited at the Museum from September 6 through September 28. The Polish Museum of America

continues its traditions of promoting artistic endeavors by hosting its tenth annual Polish American Heritage Art Contest, which is open to all students from grades K-12. Open to all students throughout the country, those interested should call (772) 384-3352.

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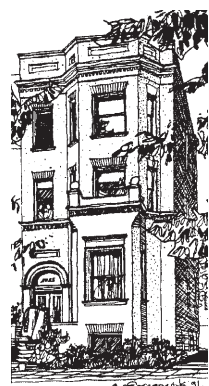
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## POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

## Corpus Christi Church is on a Mission

BUFFALO, N.Y.—**Corpus Christi Church** on Buffalo's East Side is leading the charge in Buffalo's attempt to regain the title of "Capital of the Pierogy Pocket of America" sponsored by Mrs. T's Pierogies. More information is available at [www.pierogypocket.com](http://www.pierogypocket.com) ... Niagara County Republican Chairman **Henry Wojtaszek** was appointed the NYS Republican Party's point person for Upstate New York ... **Mark and Thomas Sokolowski** of Cheektowaga, members of the Polonia White Eagles Soccer Club, were killed in a tragic automobile accident in West Seneca in late August ... The **General Pulaski Association** dinner honoring WNY Polish Americans involved in sports, held at the Creekside Banquet Facility in Cheektowaga on September 7, was a great success ... Acting NYS Supreme Court Justice **John Michalski** has been named the presiding judge of the new Erie County Sex Offender Court.

Professor **Stanislaw Krajewski** addressed the topic "Christians and Jews in Poland: A New Chapter in History" at Toronto's Christ Church Deer Park on September 10 ... The **Polish National Alliance** awarded scholarships to the following area students for the 2008-2009 academic year: Ashley Adams (Fayetteville), Carrie Burgess (Olean), Michal Gasiorczyk (Lancaster), Eric Guzowski (Erie, PA), Kelley and Kristen Kowalczyk (North Syracuse), Christopher Mazur (East Aurora), Amanda Pinski (West Seneca), Clinton Sugnet (Penfield), Stephanie Szymczak (Lancaster), Nicole Tartaglia (Liverpool) and Philip Wroblewski (Erie, Pa.)

On Sept. 11, **Dr. Anna Niedzwiedz** presented a Skalny Centre lecture on "Is Contemporary Cathol-

icism National or Transnational?" at the University of Rochester ... The "Farewell to Summer" benefit for the Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary in Michigan, held at the Millennium Airport Hotel in Cheektowaga on the 11th, was a success again this year ... The WNY Division of the **Polish American Congress** held its Fall General Membership Meeting at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Rochester on Sept. 13. After the meeting, the group was treated to lunch and a tour of the Mother Church of Rochester's Polonia ... The Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation of Toronto honored Professor **Antony Polonsky** and **Dr. Stanislaw Krajewski** during its 20th anniversary celebration at the Holy Blossom Temple on the 14th ... The **Advocates Club of WNY** presented its 2008 Distinguished Leadership Awards to NYS Supreme Court Justice John Michalek, Erie County Judge Michael Pietruszka, Assistant U.S. Attorney William Hochul, Jr. and Niagara County Legislator Paul Wojtaszek at a cocktail reception held at Shanghai Red's Restaurant on Buffalo's waterfront on Sept. 16.

Publisher **Roger Puchalski** spoke to the Sept. 17 meeting of the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo on "The History of the Am-Pol Eagle" ... On Sept. 20, the **Polish Falcons of America** hosted its Legion of Honor Luncheon at Cheektowaga's Polish Villa II Restaurant ... The **Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral** hosted its 4th Annual "Dozynki" Polish Harvest Festival on the 20th and 21st. This year's festival featured performances by the Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY, and Phocus, as well as many cultural activities, demonstrations and exhibits ... On Sept. 21, the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College

presented the "Three Polish Sopranos," Mary Beth Wrobel, Emily Tworek-Helenbrook and Brittany Mruczek, at the Montante Cultural Center ... **Lucyna Dziezic** began new semesters of her Polish language continuing education classes in the Maryvale, West Seneca and Williamsville School Districts in late September.

On Sep. 27, the **Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School** held its annual banquet, the Fulton Polish Home featured the "Mon Valley Push" at its Polka Dance and "Polanie" performed at the Burlington, Ontario "Dozynki" ... The **Echo Society of Niagara Falls** held a special general membership meeting at Holy Trinity Church to discuss the future of the organization in light of the recent sale of its Portage Road clubrooms ... "Krakow: The Magic City," a photographic exhibit featuring the work of Witold Krupiarz, Tomasz Rosniak and Jacek Rozpadek, will continue in the rotunda of the Toronto City Hall until October 3 ... The **Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY** and the **Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble** are both seeking new members.

❖ ❖ ❖  
If you have an item for this column, please send the information by the 6th day of the month preceding the month in which you would like the item to appear (i.e., Oct. 6 for the Nov. edition) at: POLEGL, P.O. Box 223, Niagara Square Station, Buffalo, NY 14201-0223. My e-mail address is [pietruszka@verizon.net](mailto:pietruszka@verizon.net). For more information on what's going on in the Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes, including a calendar of upcoming events, an organizational directory and interesting links, visit my website at [www.polegl.org](http://www.polegl.org).

## Barczak Named Citizen of the Year

GOSHEN, N.Y.—To honor her years of dedication to the area's Polish American community, the Hudson Valley Polonaise Society named Elizabeth "Betty" Barczak Johnson its "Citizen of the Year" for 2008-09.

When she was informed she was selected as Citizen of the Year, her response was, "But, I led such a simple life."

Johnson was born in Pine Island, N.Y. to Frank and Antoinette Giza Barczak. Her father emigrated to America aboard the Imperator in 1913 from the Zychlin area of Poland. Johnson is the oldest living child of ten siblings, five boys and five girls, who settled in the Pine Island and Florida, N.Y. areas. The Barczak family attended St. Stanislaus Church in Pine Island where Betty received her sacraments.

She has many fond memories of growing up in a Polish household in a Polish community. The Barczak family loved music, especially polka music, which earned them the reputation of being outstanding polka dancers. She still enjoys participating in the fun and excitement of polka dancing.

Her memories of growing up centered around the daily tasks of being raised in a hardworking family who grew produce and ran a dairy farm. Her family grew onions, corn and other vegetables, and they brought their milk to the creamery in Warwick, N.Y.

After attending Warwick High School, she helped on the farm where, at the age of 16, she learned how to milk cows, and drive a truck and a tractor.

Johnson worked at Western Electric in Clifton, N.J. and in an ammunition plant in Pompton Plaines, N.J. during World War II. She later met Richard Johnson, who worked as a butcher in a grocery store in Sussex, N.J., where she now resides. They were married for 53 years at



Newly selected 2008-09 Hudson Valley Polonaise Society "Citizen of the Year," Elizabeth "Betty" Barczak Johnson, is pictured with Barbara Morgiewicz, (left) and Jolanta Zielinski (right) co-presidents of the HVPS.

the time he passed away. They had four children, and Johnson now has nine grandchildren and three great granddaughters.

Johnson is a member of St. Monica's Roman Catholic Church in Sussex, NJ where she belongs to the Rosary Society and the American Legion Auxiliary. She has been an active member of the Hudson Valley Polonaise Society since 1994. Johnson presently serves as a liaison to the members by contacting them for upcoming work sessions and important meetings. She also taught Polish in the Society's language classes as well as worked on various projects and events.

She will be honored at the Society's annual Wigilia, Sun., Dec. 7.

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## PAHA

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The Polish American Historical Association was established in December 1942 as a special commission of the The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America to collect, compile and publish information about Polish Americans. In October 1944, it was reorganized as a national American society to promote study and research in the history and social background of Americans of Polish descent. The Association, which was incorporated under the laws of Illinois in 1972, strives to assist and cooperate with all individuals and organizations interested in Polish American life and history. Contributions in support of the work of the Association are tax-exempt. Regular one-year membership to the Association is \$30.00.



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# Polka MAGAZINE

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## Polkas at State Fair



Fred and Fritz Scherz of Fritz's Polka Band are shown performing during FPB's first set at the New York State Fair in Syracuse, N.Y., August 25, 2008.

## Polka Memories on the Internet

Jimmy K of Jimmy K Polkas and Steve Litwin, Polka Editor of the Polish American Journal, continue their efforts to preserve the great polka memories of the past with their co-sponsored website [www.polkamemories.com](http://www.polkamemories.com). Featuring a variety of band, musician and items of history from the polka past, the site has become popular with polka fans across the internet. Visit: [www.polkamemories.com](http://www.polkamemories.com).

## Sturr Plus Guests Return to Bayway

FLORIDA, N.Y.—Jimmy Sturr and His Orchestra returns to Bay Way Polish Home in Elizabeth, N.J. on Sunday, October 26 with special guests Joe Stanky and the Cadets. This is the first of the special two-band series at the club. Tickets are now on sale at \$20 per person. Write: Bayway Dance, Box 1, Florida, NY 10921 or call (845) 651-4266. The dance will be the annual Oktoberfest with dancing starting at 2:00 p.m.

The next dance is the Annual Snow-Ball, Sun., Jan. 18, 2009 with special guests the Polka Naturals. The last of the series will be held on Sunday, March 22 with the special guests the GB's orchestra.

Plan to meet your friends and start the season at the Bayway Polish Home, Sunday October 26 with Jimmy Sturr & his orchestra and Joe Stanky & the Cadets.

## Squeezebox To Roll into Michigan

FRANKENMUTH, Mich.—Squeezebox will be rolling into "Michigan's Little Bavaria," Fri., Nov. 21, 2008 for an appearance at the Bavarian Inn. Teresa Herzog is the host for the event, and will feature the music of Squeezebox and a special one hour performance by the Marv Herzog Reunion Band. The proceeds from this event benefit the Marv Herzog Scholarship fund.

Chicken dinners will be available, and this ballroom has a wooden dance floor for dancing enjoyment. For more info or for advance tickets, contact Teresa Herzog at (989) 652-8189.

The following evening, Squeezebox will be heading north to Maple City, Mich. for the Deerhunter's Ball at the St. Rita's Parish Hall. For more info or for advance tickets, contact Everett Lautner at (231) 228-6641.

## Learn to Polka

PINE ISLAND, N.Y.—The Hudson Valley Polonaise Society is beginning its 8th year of free dance classes for polka, oberek and Polish figure dances at the Polish Legion of American Veterans in Pine Island. Classes, which began September 17, will run for the following dates: Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; and Nov. 5, 12, 19.

For more information, call Richie at (845) 258-4721 or Hilda at 294-9254.

## A Step Back in Time



The former horn section of Buffalo's G-Notes reunited at the Owl Picnic, an annual event which raises funds for several charities in Western New York.

Pictured are (l. to r.) Johnny Karas, Al Kania, and Jerry Miesowicz. Today, Karas is a member of the Jimmy Sturr Orchestra, Kania is leader of Buffalo's Polka Smile Eastern Style, and Miesowicz is leader of Rare Vintage.

## Versatones Fan Club Celebrates 35th Anniversary

CHICAGO—Has there ever been a polka fan club that has reached the impressive milestone of 35 years in existence? The only one that comes to mind is the Versatones' Fan Club.

This year with great pride, Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones are ecstatic to announce that the Versatones' Fan Club is celebrating its 35th anniversary—and still going strong.

The birth of the fan club began as a group of loyal fans and friends of the Versatones were sitting around discussing how they could further their support of the band. Alas, came the idea of forming a fan club. With pen in hand, officers were elected, by-laws were drawn up, and plans to host annual events were begun.

Exactly what is the purpose of this fan club and what does this fan club accomplish during any given year? The primary purpose is to promote polka music and entertainment, help spread good cheer to the less fortunate, and support Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones.

Each year the fan club hosts a dance featuring a live radio broadcast along with music provided by two live polka bands. This even has drawn polka fans from Wisconsin, Indiana, Missouri, Pennsylvania, California and Hawaii as well as

from right in Illinois. Through the efforts and generosity of various individuals and organizations, the club has raised funds that are distributed to various charities, including: Pediatric Oncology hospitals, Paget Foundation, Alzheimer Association, Bear Necessities, Juvenile Diabetic Foundation, Catholic Charities, Muscular Dystrophy, Kidney Foundation and many personal individual fundraisers, just to highlight a few.

The fan club still remains strong today thanks to the diligent hard work of the current board and member base. Members span throughout the states of Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York. Current board members include: President Trudy Patek; Vice President Laura Bethke; Secretary Josephine Malinowski; Treasurer Chet Kowalkowski; Sergeant-at-Arms Norb Studnicka; Chaplin Diana Szalkus; and Directors Tish Blazonczyk, Brian Szumigalski, and Tony Szalkus.

The Versatones Fan Club wishes to thank everyone who attend their functions and to those who support the Versatones and polka music. The fun club looks forward to many more years of promoting polka music.

## New CD Honors Four Generations of Meixner Music

ALLENTOWN, Pa.—2007 Grammy nominated accordionist/trumpeter Alex Meixner is launching Meixner Music Productions to release his latest CD, Family Tradition (MMP-2008-1\_ This CD features 19 selections that honor a musical legacy that has developed in the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania from Meixner's family roots in Austria. Traditional selections and more contemporary styled interpretations are interwoven to provide a snapshot of Alex's current musical directions.

The repertoire includes new compositions by Alex, as well as some selections written by his father, Al Meixner, and songs that have been performed by Meixner bands for four generations.

"It was an exciting process to combine all of these different styles, as well as limit the list to only 19 tunes!" says Alex, 31, a resident of Allentown, PA.

From the country-polka strains

of the title track to the French and Italian style of "Zoey Lynn" waltz, named for Alex's young daughter, Alex is expanding his range as a composer in the folk idioms. As an arranger, he reset his father's composition "Moatz's Boarischer" in a funky folk setting, added Swing and Polish Polka styles to the Mexican flavored "Peanuts" and updated

some classic Slovenian polkas in "Button Box Bonanza Medley." to give a variety of sounds to the audience. International polka styles, world music from around the globe and even a little Dixieland come together to form a seamless musical blend.

The CD is available online at: [www.cdbaby.com/meixneralex](http://www.cdbaby.com/meixneralex) and in the mail from Meixner Music Productions, 3440 Lehigh St #245, Allentown, PA 18103.

Digital downloads are available at: [www.digstation.com/alexmeixner](http://www.digstation.com/alexmeixner).

## DANCING IN FLORIDA

by Lydia M. Kordalewski

The Polish American Pulaski Club, 3621 International Speedway Blvd, W, Daytona Beach, Fla., 32124, (386) 255-7381 will hold the following events for the month of October:

**October 5.** Dinner and Dance, 1:00- 5:00 p.m. Music by Ron Luznar & the Polka Pals.

**October 12.** Pulaski Day Remembrance Dinner and Dance, 1:00- 5:00 p.m. Music by Ron Luznar & the Polka Pals. Red and White dress required.

**October 18.** Membership meeting with luncheon from 1:00- 3:00 p.m.

**October 26.** Dinner and Dance, 1:00- 5:00 p.m. Music by Audrey & the Polka Classics.

## Radio Show Expands to North Dakota

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—"It's Polka Time!" with Craig Ebel made its debut in North Dakota on July 27, 2008. The show is heard every Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to noon. CST over AM 1470 KHND in Harvey, North Dakota. KHND is a 1,000-watt full service radio station that covers a large area of Central North Dakota. KHND's signal reaches the people of Wells, Sheridan, McLean, Benson, McHenry, Kidder, Pierce, Foster and Eddy Counties.

It's Polka Time! is also heard on 20 other radio stations across the United States. The show can also heard over the Internet on [www.polkajammernetwork.org](http://www.polkajammernetwork.org) Tuesdays from noon to 2:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. CST.

## POLKA JUKEBOX / Steve Litwin

## A Bright Idea from Ethnic Jazz

It's a good thing that Jimmy K's Ethnic Jazz had "a bright idea" to give the polka world their new studio offering, "A Bright idea." Featuring 14 tracks of variety that includes originals, tunes you haven't heard in a while, and tunes you've never heard before, this recording is not flashy, just classy.

There is a smooth feeling to the sound of Ethnic Jazz that is undoubtedly the direct result of years behind their respective musical instruments. The band's approach to the music is not pretentious but simply to play it and play it well.

From minor key work on "Dirty Martini," to the classic Polish stylings of "Gypsy," to the rolling vocals of "Give Me Your Heart," the

band manages to provide a collage of music. "One More Time," from the musical pen of the late Billy Czupta, is one of the real grabbers on this collection and easily getting repeat plays here. Of course, Eddie Guca's "Happy People" with The Kitchenettes adding their vocal talents is another that deserves a mention here. The bonus track, "Holly Dolly," we'll leave for public opinion but it appears the band had fun with it so what better way to end their CD?

If there is anything I could have done to this production it would be to add two tradition tunes, because this band can make any traditional tune sound new and fresh.

Jimmy "K" Krzeszewski is on accordion and vocals while Jason Uzl is on trumpet and vocals. Joe Rosinski is behind the drums with Rich Benkowski on concertina, Verne Maddie on bass and concertina and Dave Pietrzak provides the sax and clarinet for the recording. Hank Guzevich of Wizzear's Studios was the engineer and mixing done by Gary Rhamy of Peppermint Recordings. You can get this online at [www.jimmykpolkas.com](http://www.jimmykpolkas.com)

Heritage Month Greetings

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## NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

## Better Late Than Never

BUFFALO, N.Y.—Mother Nature finally gave us the warmth and sunshine we missed this summer just before Labor Day. It was a wet and not-so-warm summer here in Western New York, one that saw many events down in attendance because of below average temperatures and above average rainfall.

We have to give Mike Sobczak and his committee credit for another successful Polka Sunday at the **Annunciation Parish Lawn Fete**, Aug. 17. **Dynabass** and **Lenny Gomulka** played to a full house in the beer tent, and both bands were outstanding.

The **20th Owl Picnic** on Aug. 24 at the Lamm Grove again drew a large crowd. It is such a nice event where there is so much entertainment, food, refreshments and catching up with old friends. The girls (the Vignettes) singing with the **Eddie O. band**, C.J. Luksch singing and playing with the **New Yorkers**, **Rare Vintage**, **Concertina All Stars**, **Jerry Darlak**, **Nickel City Notes**, **Cityside**, etc. were all just great. But, they saved the best for last when some of the original G-Notes took the stage. Jerry Miesowicz, Al Kania, Gino Kurdziel, Hank Krzykowski, Ted Kalota, Carl Nowakowski were joined by Steve Swiader and Johnny Karas. Johnny was awesome on the sax and wowed the crowd. He got a little tear-eyed when he spoke of his late brother,

Tommy. He proudly introduced Tom's son, Thomas, a fine young man who is also involved in music. It was quite a show which was enjoyed by all. It was heartwarming to see that Eric brought his dad, **Al Bakowski**, out for the first time. He is doing better but still has some medical procedures to be done as soon as he regains his strength and stamina.

On Labor Day weekend, we were back at the Lamm Grove again, and that was the place to be for some super music and a good time. On Saturday, it was the **Boys from Baltimore** Reunion and they took the place over right from the start. They still have it – same sound and same charm. On the stage were Mike Matousek, Al Puwalski, Frank Borzymowski, Frankie Liszka, Jeff Yash and Mike Evan. The crowd was cheering and it was a great welcome back. On the other side of the stage **The Knewz** played and they also had the young fans up front really getting into their music—you could feel the energy. They seemed to know all the words to the songs and their enthusiasm added to the enjoyment of the band. Tom Picciano, Tom Wanderlich, Mike Burka, Brian Urbanczyk, John Fomenko and Andy Bojczuk have it altogether and are one of the hottest bands around. What makes this band unique, is that four of the six musicians in this band can sing and do it really well which makes for a nice variety.



Al Bakowski (left), on the mend from a hospital stay, and Al Kania, at the Owl Picnic.



Marcia and Dan Maryniewski caught up with former Corpus Christi pastor, Fr. Karl Kolodziejski.



Dyna-Tones founder Larry Trojak (drum kit) and accordionist Al Piatkowski.



C.J. Luksch lent his vocal talents to the New Yorkers at the Owl Picnic at the George F. Lamm Post.

On Sunday, it was the **Dynatones** reunion for the second year, with David (Scrubby) Seweryniak, Larry Trojak, Al Piatkowski, Dave (Nigel) Kurdziel, Tom Wanderlich, Tom Picciano and Mike Burka. They played all the favorites from the past and of course, the crowd kept wanting more. They did a fantastic job. Even went an hour extra to please the screaming crowd. **Jerry Darlak & the Touch** always entertained and did a fine job.

It was nice to see many out-of-towners at this two-day event. I was especially happy to see Tony Kirtos and Helen Pajak from the Erie, Pa. area.

I have to commend Bob and Sandy Krawczyk for putting together this doing and bringing in The Boys for a reunion. That was a great idea. They had plenty of room for parking, enough tables and chairs, a large outdoor tent with speakers to hear the bands, and good food and

drinks at reasonable prices were available. We eagerly await to see what's in store for next year.

**CONGRATULATIONS ...** to **Ryan Koslosky** and **Mandy Czarnecki** on their recent engagement. Ryan is the son of Marty and Sharon and Mandy's parents are Joyce and Roger ... to **Marge and Norb Pacer**, who celebrated their 50th anniversary with a big party on Sept. 7. The entertainment was by the **Bedrock Boys**, and what a wonderful job they did. It was so good to see Jay Skiba back with the band. They have such a great mix of English and Polish to please everyone.

**GET WELL WISHES** go out to **Stella Zwawa**, who was hospitalized recently.

**IN SYMPATHY.** We have to offer our sincere sympathy and condolences to the family and friends

of the following loved ones: **Tom Miniszewski** who passed away on Aug. 12. Also, on Aug. 24, **Mykola Dziama** passed away. He was the father of Maria (Ted) Szymanski. **Estelle Kurdziel** passed away one Aug. 27. She is the mother of Richie, and David (Sharon) and grandma and great grandma to six Kurdziels. Also, on Sept. 1, **Diane Greene** passed away—she is the sister of Dennis (Chris) Danielski. May all our deceased friends rest in peace. Please remember them in your prayers.

**TREL TONES IN TOWN.** Don't forget: It's Polkas and Pasta Night, Oct. 5, at the Lily of the Valley Hall, 2379 Union Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y. Music from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Music by Andy Fenus & the Treltones. Admission is \$10. Call Mike at 348-8849

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## ACPC Convention Honors First Poles in United States

WILLIAMSBURG, Virg.—A keynote welcome address by Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, president of the Piast Institute, opened the 60th Annual Convention of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) in Williamsburg, in August.

The highlight of the event was a ceremony commemorating the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first Polish artisans in Jamestown settlement. Among the “first” accomplishments of these immigrants, touted by speeches and a wreath-laying ceremony, was the first labor strike in America for civil rights, granting the new residents equal voting rights.

Mezzo-Soprano Justyna Di Biaggio, accompanied by ACPC Music Chair Jaroslaw Golembowski, highlighted a concert honoring the 150th anniversary of the birth of Marcella Kochanska Sembrich.

Iwona Stefaniak, head of the Pulaski Museum in Warka, Poland, plans a 2009 exhibit entitled “Polish Churches in the United States,” and seeks photos, programs, postcards, jubilee books, bulletins, and other items from Polonian parishes; Poland’s Ministry of Culture concurrently plans an information database of Polish parishes abroad. Paul Bosse heads the collection efforts, and he may be reached at 20 South Edgewater Ave, Yardley, PA, 19067, by phone at (215) 493-4169, or via email at DarBoski@aol.com.

New ACPC officers are: Marie Hejnosz, Auditor; Sharon Brzostowski, Jacqueline Droleski, Alice Durka, Alice Lech-Laning, Robert Maycan, and Mary Pearlman, Directors; Florence Beane and Ed Pawlowski, Nominating Committee; Matthew Meleski, Irene Mus-



**Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, president of the Piast Institute, opened the 60th Annual ACPC Convention.**

man, and Ann Oleasz, Credentials and Grievance Committee.

Next year’s convention takes place at the Hartford Hilton Hotel

in Hartford, Conn., Aug. 4-9, 2009, themed “The Soaring Polish Spirit: Welcome to the Constitution State.”

**DISTINGUISHED POLONIANS HONORED.** Another highlight of the Convention was the presentation of awards to Americans whose achievements in Polish cultural fields or public service have been truly outstanding.

The Distinguished Service Award: Dr. Charles F. Merbs, Professor Emeritus at Arizona State University, forensic anthropology. His recent extensive studies of the remains found in the Pulaski Monument at Savannah, Georgia are, indeed, those of Gen. Pulaski.

The Cultural Achievement Award: Barbara Kathleen Herbich documentary filmmaker. Since the Academy Award nomination for “A Stitch for Time” in 1987, she has gone on to direct and produce a num-

ber of acclaimed documentaries for Public Television and The Discovery Channel. For the past ten years, she has been working on a historical documentary “Nazi Persecution of Polish Christians,” which tells the forgotten story of persecution of Polish Christians by the Nazis during World War II.

The ACPC Founders Award is given to an ACPC member whose exceptional contributions to the growth of the organization on a national or local level has earned him/her the gratitude of the organization. Awardees this year are Barbara Lemecha and Henrietta Nowakowski.

Amicus Poloniae Award: Mari- on V. Winters, ACPC director/past



**Wreaths were laid at the plaque commemorating the arrival of Jamestown’s Poles.**

president. The award was presented by Counselor Mariusz M. Brymora, Head of Culture & Public Affairs Dept., acting on behalf of Hon. Robert Kupiecki, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland.

For more information on the ACPC visit [www.polishcultureacpc.org](http://www.polishcultureacpc.org), or call Membership Chairperson Anna Mae Maglaty at (860) 521-7621.



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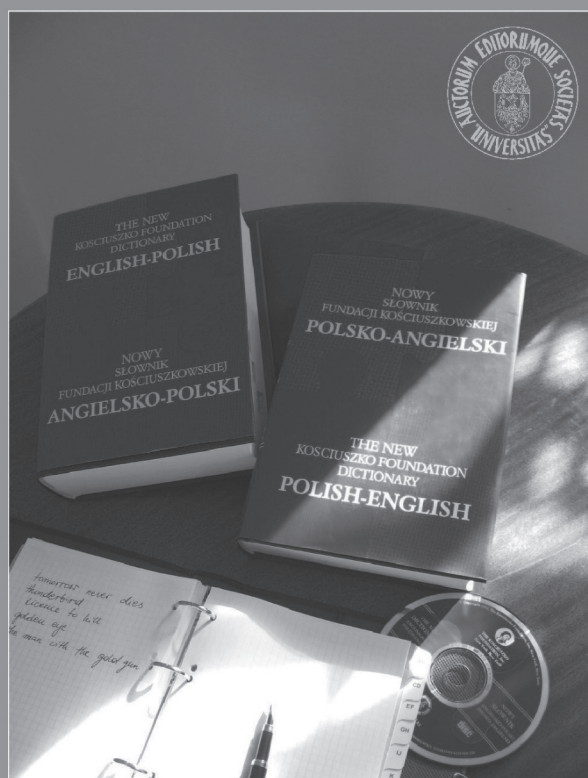
The American Council for Polish Culture proudly held its 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Virginia this year to commemorate the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the arrival of Polish craftsmen at Jamestown where we laid a wreath at the historic plaque honoring those heroic and talented Polish pioneers.

Please see our website, [www.polishcultureacpc.org](http://www.polishcultureacpc.org), for information about individual or group membership, scholarships, and current cultural activities.

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JUST BETWEEN US / Mark Kohan

## Winning Combinations

In the beginning of the year, we held a contest asking for original artwork for the Heritage Month edition. Thanks to the generosity of PAJ reader Leopold Potsiadlo, the winner and runner up each were awarded antique clocks to mark their successful venture. Additionally, Mr. Potsiadlo arranged for the winning artwork to be used on a Zazzle Custom U.S. Postage Stamp.

The Grand Prize Winner in the PAJ Art Contest to Honor Jamestown Poles is the sketch, "1st Well Built in Jamestown, Virg. by Polish Artisans" (above, on left) submitted by Mary Cieslak LaMonica, of Norwood, Mass. We congratulate and thank Ms. LaMonica for her wonderful entry and the idea of the subject of her illustration.

As a special bonus, Zazzle Custom Stamps reflecting this sketch are being created and will be available this month along with others on the link [www.zazzle.com/earliestpoles](http://www.zazzle.com/earliestpoles) and a sheet of one of the stamps will be sent directly to the Grand Prize Winner for use as postage, gifts or souvenirs. Additional stamps are available for review or purchase on the link.

Ms. LaMonica wrote that she is a member of a "Polish Conversation Group," and that the PAJ is their Polish newspaper from which some person reads an interesting article for group discussion. She reports that the PAJ keeps them informed as to who Poles are and what is going within Polonia here and abroad such as the history of Poles in Jamestown, Virg.

We congratulate Ms. LaMonica as the Grand Prize Winner and applaud her discussion group in their efforts to keep abreast of our heritage and Polish events.

The Honorable Mention Winner in the PAJ Art Contest to Honor Jamestown Poles, is this unusual collage submitted by Avalon Williams of Chicago (above, right). We congratulate and thank Avalon for her idea in celebrating the "400th Anniversary of the Arrival of the First Poles to America, Jamestown, Virg., Oct 1, 2008." We liked Williams' concept of immigrants of several centuries arriving on the North American shore amidst a sea of colorful Polish folk art.

As a special bonus, Zazzle Custom Stamps showing the collage are

being created and will be available along with others on the link mentioned. In addition, a sheet of one of the stamps will be sent directly to the Avalon Williams for use as postage, souvenirs or gifts. Additional stamps can be viewed or purchased on the link.

**LIRA AT SUNYAB.** Once again, the Polish American Journal is proud to be a co-sponsor of the Buffalo, N.Y. performance of Lira Ensemble of Chicago. The Ensemble will bring its show, "A Polish Christmas" to the UB Center for the Arts Mainstage in suburban Amherst, Sun., Nov. 30. The program is a great way to start the holiday season: beautiful Polish carols, music of Chopin and other Polish master composers, and Polish folk songs and dances performed in colorful, authentic folk costumes.

Lira will take the stage at 2:30 p.m.

The concert is performed by the Lira Singers, Lira Dancers and Lira Orchestra of the Lira Ensemble, the nation's only professional perform-



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**THANK YOU.** We thank all the advertisers and patrons who made this Special Heritage Month edition a great one. This is proof positive that Polonia is alive and well in the United States.

My apologies to our writers whose copy had to cut to make room for advertising. Your words will be published in next month's edition.

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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

# On Pilgrimage in Poland, in the United States

The Pope John Paul II Council 14023 of the Knights of Columbus in Starachowice, Poland, organized a pilgrimage to a local shrine dedicated to the Holy Cross. The pilgrimage was made on foot by part of the group and by bus by the others, all of whom prayed the Stations of the Cross en route. Bishop Zygmunt Zimowski celebrated the pilgrimage Mass. The Knights of Columbus were established in Poland only last year.

U.S. Catholic pilgrims participated in the 20th annual pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa in Doylestown, Pa. The pilgrimage began with a 6:00 a.m. Mass in Great Meadows in Northwest New Jersey before embarking on the 57-mile trek to the shrine. Pilgrims prayed and sang as they walked on rural back roads. Shorter pilgrim groups took shorter routes from Trenton and Philadelphia. Homeowners and farmers allowed the pilgrims to camp on their property each night, just as they do in Poland.

In the group were Polish-speaking pilgrims as well as faithful from other ethnic backgrounds. One of these was Luis Santiago, from Puerto Rico, who came with members of his seminary in Orlando, Fla. "I believe," he said, "that the walk will ... deepen the participants' faith in Mary—our mother of many names."

Michelle Grieco of Brookfield, Conn. explained, "It's a walking conversion. The funny part is in all this suffering there's all this joy and zeal that makes you want to do it all again."

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ... St. Mary's PNCC Parish, West Allis,**

Pa., celebrating its 85th anniversary ... **Rev. Tadeusz W. Kraus**, a retired PNCC priest, on the 60th anniversary of his ordination. Fr. Kraus recently published a 43-page book "Piękno Tajemnic Ducha," consisting of poems he had written since his retirement. He was ordained in Baden, West Germany, in 1949 ... **Holy Name of Jesus Parish** in Stamford, Conn. on celebrating its 30th annual Dozynki Festival Weekend, which continues a Polish harvest festival similar to Thanksgiving. The parish will celebrate 104 years of existence this coming year.

**Prime Bishop Emeritus John Swantek**, Fifth Prime Bishop of the PNCC, observing his 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. Bishop Swantek was born in Wallingford, Conn. and grew up in St. Casimir's Parish there ... **Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Gnat**, Bishop of the Eastern Diocese of the PNCC and pastor of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, N.H., on his 50th anniversary of his ordination.

**BODY DONATED TO MEDICAL SCIENCE.** **Ronald Thaddeus Mysliwiec**, a well-loved teacher and choir director, died of pancreatic cancer in December 2006. For 18 months after his death, his body was donated for medical research via the Wayne State University Body Bequest program. The gift was in accord with the Catholic Catechism which describes organ donation after death as "a noble and meritorious act and is to be encouraged as an expression of generous solidarity (CCC2296)." Ethicist Peter Cataldo, Ph.D. of the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia sees no difference between donating an organ and donating the whole body for

medical research. Mr. Mysliwiec's remains were returned to his family for burial in June of this year.

**STO LAT TO... Fr. Paul A. Litwin**, Buffalo diocesan chancellor, and **Fr. Richard W. Siepka**, former rector of the diocesan seminary, on being named Chaplain to His Holiness with the title Monsignor ... Congratulations as well to **Rev. Msgr. David S. Slubecky**, Buffalo diocese vicar general, on being raised to the status of Prelate of Honor to His Holiness ... **Rev. Msgr. Matthew S. Kopacz**, retired pastor of St. Casimir's Parish, Buffalo and director of the annual campaigns to assist the church in Poland as well as Orchard Lake Seminary, was given the title Protonotary Apostolic Supernumerary, the highest level of monsignorial honors.

Archdiocese of Detroit RC priests who have reached retirement age: **Fr. Ronald Kurzawa**, most recently pastor of St. Aidan Parish, Livonia; **Fr. Richard Rakoczy**, most recently pastor of St. Perpetua Parish, Waterford Township; **Fr. Julian Chmura**, native of Rudnick, Poland, and most recently pastor of St. Andrew Parish, Detroit. Upon his retirement, St. Andrew's parish will close and most of its facilities will be used by Holy Cross Children's Services, sponsored by the Order of the Holy Cross.

**Julian Paslawski** of Saskatoon, SK, Canada, on being presented the Canadian national award for outstanding leadership in Catholic education. The Justice James Higgins Award is the highest honor given by the Canadian Catholic School Trustees Assoc. and it recognizes Paslawski's 50 years of service in Catholic education ... Orchard Lake

seminarians on their ordination: **Fr. Tomasz Albrecht**, who will serve in the Norwich, Conn. diocese; **Fr. Sławomir Bielasiewicz** for the diocese of St. Augustine, Fla.; **Fr. Nicholas Coffaro** for the Saginaw Diocese; **Fr. Jacek Ploch** for the Providence, R.I. diocese; **Fr. Grzegorz Podwysocki** for the Joliet, Ill. diocese; **Fr. Łukasz Willenberg** for the Providence, R.I., diocese.

**CARDINAL DZIWIŚZ AT ORCHARD LAKE.** On his recent visit to the Orchard Lake Schools in Orchard Lake, Mich., **Stanisław Cardinal Dziwiśz**, former secretary and long-time friend to Pope John Paul II, blessed the renovated grotto on the school grounds. He also affirmed the importance of the Orchard Lake Schools—Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary, St. Mary's Preparatory and the Polish Cultural Center—to Poland and Polonia. In Kraków, Cardinal Dziwiśz cooperates with Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary, a house of studies affiliated with its

Michigan namesake, which serves seminarians planning to come to Orchard Lake to complete their priestly formation and serve in the U.S. church.

**ON THE BLOCK.** Parishioners at **St. Stanislaus Kostka** parish in Adams, Mass., have teamed up with their counterparts from **St. Francis of Assisi** parish in North Adams, to try to fend off the plan of the Bishop of Springfield, Mass. to close both of their churches along with four others in western Massachusetts' Berkshire County. St. Stan's is to be merged with **St. Thomas** to form a new parish of **John Paul II the Great**. The parishioners have engaged the help of Peter Borre, who has learned how to resist diocesan plans for closure by working against the plans of the Archbishop of Boston. While success is not guaranteed, the parishioners at St. Stan's are pleased to have made a good start and to have forestalled some measures by the bishop's office.

**MODLITWY**

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

**PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.** Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems, who light all roads so I can attain my goal. You who give me the Divine gift to forgive and to forget all evil against me and that in all instances of my life you are with me. I want this short prayer to thank you for all things and to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you, even and in spite of all material illusion. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. Thank you Holy Spirit. That person must say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the favor requested will be granted, even if it may appear difficult. This prayer must be published immediately after the favor is granted, without mentioning the favor. Your initials should appear after the thank you. Thank You Holy Spirit. J.M.

**PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN.** (Never Known To Fail). Oh, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart and succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you. Thank you for your help. A.D.

**PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN.** (Never Known To Fail). Oh, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart and succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you. Grateful thanks, N.B.

**PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.** Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems, who light all roads so I can attain my goal. You who give me the Divine gift to

forgive and to forget all evil against me and that in all instances of my life you are with me. I want this short prayer to thank you for all things and to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you, even and in spite of all material illusion. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. Thank you Holy Spirit. That person must say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the favor requested will be granted, even if it may appear difficult. This prayer must be published immediately after the favor is granted, without mentioning the favor. Your initials should appear after the thank you. Thank You Holy Spirit. N.B.

**THANKSGIVING NOVENA TO ST. JUDE.** Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near the kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent position. In return I promise to make your name

known and cause you to be invoked. (Say three Our Fathers, Three Hail Marys, Three Glory Be's). St. Jude pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Amen. Publication must be promised. This prayer is to be said for nine consecutive days. This novena has never been known to fail. My prayers have been answered. G.K.D.

**PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN.** (Never Known To Fail). Oh, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart and succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you. Grateful thanks, H.D.M.



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## SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

## Beijing Olympics Round-Up

Jenn Stuczynski won a silver medal in the pole vault in Beijing, after only participating in the sport for 4 years. However, her triumph was almost overshadowed by comments made by her coach.

Jenn finished 2nd to a world record performance by defending Olympic gold medalist Elena Isinbayeva. Isinbayeva needed to jump only twice to clinch the gold, clearing 4.7 and 4.85 meters.

"To go to your first Olympics and get a medal, a silver medal nonetheless, it's great," said Stuczynski, who has only been participating in the sport for 4 years. "I couldn't ask for anything more."

However, viewers back in the United States saw NBC cameras capture her coach, Rick Suhr, criticizing her performance with remarks like, "You weren't on. Your warm-ups didn't go well ... You didn't have the legs." His criticism drew outrage from viewers.

Jenn wasn't pleased with the attacks on her coach. "What he said was true. In a way, it made me feel better. It wasn't malicious. It was what I did wrong. It was actually a positive thing. He told me I'd won silver."

She added: "I asked what I did wrong and he told me. I'm 26 years old. I can think for myself. I'm a strong girl. My parents raised me to be strong and I was not even remotely sad that night."

Jenn also took some heat for what she said before the Games when asked how she thought the team would do in the Games, Stuczynski said, "I hope we do some damage, and, you know, kick some Russian butt." Some critics thought that her comments might have given Isinbayeva some additional incentive to beat the American—as if the Russian who has been unbeaten since 2004 needed any additional incentive.

"It was me and my teammates, in an emotional moment," Stuczynski said, noting that Russia has five of the top vaulters in the world, and finished 1-3-4 in Beijing. "It was a pep rally, one of those things that was, 'Come on let's go. We're not going to go over there, roll over and die. We want to fight.'"

Hopefully the controversies won't detract from Stuczynski's remarkable story and her outstanding achievement in Beijing.

**A TIE FOR GOLD.** Polish gymnast Leszek Blanik tied in the vault in the Beijing Games, but ended up walking away with gold.

Blanik, the reigning world champion on the apparatus, took gold ahead of France's Thomas Bouhail. Blanik and Bouhail both finished with identical scores for routines with identical difficulty values, but Blanik was awarded the gold but according to the tie-breaker standards in gymnastics Blanik took the top spot having earned the highest individual score from a judge.

Blanik picked up a bronze in vault at the 2000 Olympics. His gold in the vault at Beijing made him the first Polish Olympic champion in a gymnastics event.

Blanik knew the gold was his he repeatedly kissed a photograph of his 3-year-old son Artur in celebration. "I don't know exactly why I won, I think this is special rules for judges. I don't know what's different. I'm only a gymnast, I must do the jump two times," the 31-year-old said.

Actually, Blanik's gold wasn't nearly as controversial as a tiebreaker in the women's competition, in which a complicated breakdown of averages relating to points awarded for execution was used.

**SYMBOLIC VICTORY.** Polish weightlifter Szymon Kolecki not only took Olympic silver, but he also took a symbolic stand for the oppressed Tibetans in China.

Kolecki placed second while competing at the 207 lb weight (94 kg) with Kasachen Ilja Ilin in his class. But he surprised the public by appearing with a shaved head. Prior to his trip to Beijing he stated, "It is an opportunity for me to see Beijing. When audience members from all over the world are concentrating on Beijing, I can show them how the Chinese regime suppresses the Tibetans. I shall concentrate on the competition prior to Aug. 17, but after that I will keep my eyes wide open. When I spot something unjust, I will definitely not look the other way."

According to a report from the organization "Free Tibet," Szymon Kolecki commented to a Polish media following the finals, "I shaved my hair this morning. The Olympic Charter prevents me from telling you why I did that, but I am telling you: It is a symbol!"

**BAD LUCK.** A freak accident on a shuttle bus cost Polish-born Magdalena Lewy Boulet her chance to complete the women's marathon. Lewy Boulet's hopes of a top-10 finish here officially ended when she pulled up less than halfway through

the 26.2-mile race

Lewy Boulet, who was born in Poland and became a naturalized U.S. citizen on the infamous date of Sept. 11, 2001, hit her knee while getting out of a bus. "I knew right away. I basically just whacked it really hard ... Training was going really well. It's very unfortunate what happened."

Lewy Boulet had to drop out 12.4 miles into the 26.2-mile race from Tiananmen Square to the Bird's Nest. "The dream goes away, you know, in a few seconds," she said. "But I'm going to try to do it again."

**MAJEWSKI WAS FIRST.** Tomasz Majewski of Poland beat a strong field to win the men's shot put with a career best 70 feet, 6 1/2 inches, claiming the first track and field gold medal at the Beijing Olympics.

Majewski led the eight men advancing to the last three rounds Friday and produced his best mark with the next throw—21 1/3 inches better than his pre-competition personal best.

Majewski said, "My expectation on the Olympics was only among the top eight, or the fifth at the best." In 2004, he didn't even make it out of the qualification round.

The last and only Polish medal in Olympic Shot Put history had been taken in 1972 in Munich by Wladyslaw Komar, who also upset the favorites to take gold. Komar later became an actor, starring in Roman Polanski's 1986 film "Pirates," and died in a car crash 2 years later.

**REALLY STRONG.** Poland, the reigning world champion, clinched gold in the Men's Quadruple Sculls with a time of 5:41.33, more than two seconds faster than second-place finisher Italy.

Poland won three consecutive world championships from 2005 through 2007 in the same event and they came in first in 2008 Munich World Cup. The crew held their lead from start to finish with Italy in second-place throughout the race.

"We were really strong from the beginning to the end," said Poland's Marek Kolbowicz after the race. "Nobody could beat us." Other members were Konrad Wasielewski, Michal Jelinski, and Adam Korol.

In the men's lightweight four (without coxswain) final Lukasz Pawlowski, Bartlomiej Pawel-

czak, Milosz Bernatajty, and Pawel Randa placed second.

**NOT BAD.** Overall Poland did well in Beijing, finishing 20th in the medal count with 3 gold, 6 silver and 1 bronze. That bronze was significant, as Agnieszka Wieszczyk won the medal in women's freestyle wrestling (72 kg), becoming the first Polish woman wrestler to ever win an Olympic medal.

Other Poles did well without winning medals. One of those was Natalia Partyka, one of only two athletes to take part in both the Beijing Olympics and Paralympics. The 19-year-old, who was born with a right arm that ends at the elbow, didn't medal in table tennis in Beijing, but returned to China for the Paralympics. There she won gold in the woman's individual class 10 event, taking only 20 minutes to capture the title.

## THEY SAID IT

"I don't ask for him to be a cheerleader. I don't want him to carry pompoms and tell me I'm great when I'm not. That's not the athlete I want to be. I don't want the constant stroking of my ego. I want someone to be honest and fair. That wasn't an attack, it wasn't even criticism. It was the facts. That's the way I took it."

—Jenn Stuczynski, silver medalist in the pole vault, in response to criticism of her coach.

♦ ♦ ♦

"It (the gold) is a big deal, but only now. Nothing's gonna change in the future."

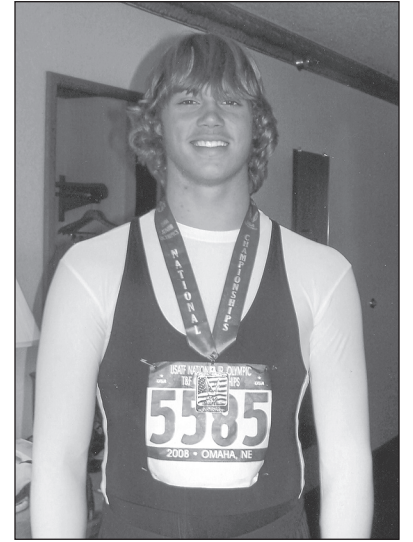
—Tomasz Majewski, Gold Medalist



Leszek Blanik picked up a bronze in vault at the 2000 Olympics. His gold in the vault at Beijing made him the first Polish Olympic champion in a gymnastics event.

alist in the shot put, on his sport's lack of popularity in Poland.

## JUNIOR OLYMPICS MEDAL WINNER



Brett Sharp of Longview, Texas, walked away with medals at the National Finals Track and Field Junior Olympics in Omaha, Nebraska and the National Finals AAU Jr. Olympics in Ypsilanti, Mich. He is pictured above after winning a Gold Medal in the Discus at the USA TF. He also won a Silver Medal in the Discus, and a Bronze in the Javelin at the AAU Field Events.

Brett, 15, is proud of his Polish heritage. He attends the Pine Tree School in Longview.

## POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

## Hearty Polish Soups

The damp, dismal, blustery months of autumn are the perfect time for these hot, hearty and satisfying Polish-style soups.

**POLISH CHICKEN SOUP (rosół z kury).** A fryer/broiler can be used, but for that rich, old-time flavor a mature stewing chicken is preferable. Wash 1 cut-up 3 lb chicken, place in pot, add 1 T salt and 8-10 c water, bring to gentle boil and cook 90 min or until meat is fairly tender. (Cook only 45 min if a fryer is being used). Skim off scum until no more forms. To broth add 1 portion soup greens and 1 halved onion (impaled on fork and charred over flame), 1 whole tomato, 6 peppercorns, 2-3 grains allspice and 1 bay leaf. Cook until vegetables are tender. Strain and discard all spices. Serve soup over home-made or store-bought egg noodles, poured-batter noodles (see below), cooked diced potatoes, cooked rice, buckwheat groats or barley. *Note:* If weight-watching and calorie-counting, refrigerate broth overnight and discard congealed fat on surface before reheating. Garnish with a little finely chopped parsley and/or dill before serving. *Note:* The boiled chicken may be removed from bone and served in the soup, used for the main course (in a sauce, for example) or used in the paszteciki (hand-held pastry turnovers) below.

**POURED-BATTER NOODLES (lane kluski).** Fork-blend 2 small eggs, 6 T flour and 2 pinches of salt until mixtures is smooth. Stir in 1 T water or broth or as much as needed to get a nice pourable batter and beat with fork until smooth. Pour batter in a thin stream into a pot of rapidly boiling water and cook about 2 min. Remove with slotted spoon and serve in broth. *Note:* These noodles can be cooked in the hot broth but that makes it turn cloudy.

**BETROOT SOUP/RED BARSZCZ (czerwony barszcz).** Scrub 1 lb small beets, peel and cook in water to cover about 60 min or until fork-tender. When cool enough to handle, dice or slice thin, return to beet liquid in which they cooked and add 4 c meat stock and ½ oz. rehydrated and cooked dried mushrooms and their liquid. Bring to boil, reduce heat, simmer 5 min and remove from flame. When slightly cooled, fork-blend ½ c sour cream with 1 T flour until smooth and stir 1 c hot soup into mixture, 1 T at a time so sour cream doesn't curdle. Then stir into soup. Simmer a few min without boiling. Season to taste with salt, pepper and a little vinegar. This soup may be served over quartered hard-cooked eggs or cooked diced potatoes. Optional: Garnish with a little chopped dill.

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## UIC Receives \$10M Gift for Polish Studies

CHICAGO—A \$10 million gift to the University of Illinois at Chicago to enhance studies in Polish history, language and literature will transform the study of that country and its culture in the city with the largest Polish population outside of Warsaw.

The donation, a bequest from the late Romuald Hejna, is the second-largest gift from an individual that UIC has ever received and the biggest single gift to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Hejna's bequest will create two chairs in the history of Poland and one chair in Polish language and literature.

"Mr. Hejna's gift has ensured not only that the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will remain on the map for Polish Studies—so vital already in Chicago with its storied and strong connections to Poland—but also that UIC will become a beacon for scholars who wish to research and teach in this specialization," said Dwight A. McBride, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The Chicago-born Hejna attended the University of Illinois at Navy Pier for two years. He earned a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Hejna, a former public school history teacher, amassed his personal wealth through a variety of stock holdings. He took great pride in his dedicated study of the market and routinely attended shareholder meetings of the companies in his portfolio.

He traveled often to Poland to explore his deep interest in Polish and European cultural arts. Despite leading a private life, he was active in Chicago's Polish community.

He was a life member of the Polish Museum of America, which granted him the Polish Heritage Award in 2006 for his support of the museum.

Since 1995, Hejna made multiple gifts to UIC totaling nearly \$500,000 for an endowed scholarship in the history of Poland to the history department as well as a chair in the history of Poland.

## BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes

# Heaven Has a Blue Carpet

### HEAVEN HAS BLUE CARPET

*A Sheep Story by a Suburban Housewife*  
By Sharon Niedzinski  
Thomas Nelson Books, 2008  
176 pp., \$14.95.

Niedzinski considers herself a shepherd, learning the hard way, of the care and feeding of sheep. Remembering that Jesus often referred to sheep in his parables, she looked on this as a challenge to raise the best sheep ever. She prayed to God through every step. It is a funny, entertaining book, with quotes of scripture throughout.

The family, including six children, is thrown into farm life when they buy their dreamed-of farm. With trust in God—"The Lord is my shepherd"—Sharon buys a flock of sheep, expecting to see pure white lambs peacefully grazing on the hillside. Instead, she learns, it is not that simple. While she has major responsibility of raising the sheep—and

other animals later on—the children help after school, and her husband is always available.

A neophyte in the act of shepherding, she relies on a magazine, a helpful neighbor and the grace of God to understand the mentality of sheep, whose only desire is to eat, eat until they would die of overeating. Unsure of what to do, she prays to God and finds the answer. It guides her, as she learns about birthing, sheering, flushing, infected udders, snipping tails, bummer lambs, and much more. They often adopt a bummer lamb that had been rejected by its mother, bringing it in the home, bottle feeding it and allowing it to sleep on their blue-carpeted living room or in someone's arms. Jellybean, in particular, is kept in the home, but the carpet is never soiled, or faded. Heaven was certainly a blue carpet for Jellybean.

Bar graphs throughout the book contain scripture or "Chew on This" thoughts that relate the bible to current events in their lives. Over the years, the farm was to destination of elementary school trips, women's weekly prayer meetings and 4<sup>th</sup> of July community picnics. Hundreds of feet-both animal and human-trod through the home, yet the blue carpet remained clean and new.

### THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

*Rock and Redemption from Asbury Park to Magic*  
by Jeffery B. Symynkywicz  
Westminster John Knox Press, 2008, notes, bibliography  
197 pp., \$14.95.

You have to remember where Symynkywicz is coming from. In his profession it is natural to look for spirituality in everything. And so he has taken his favorite rock star and analyzed his works as thoroughly as a psychologist would do. What does Springsteen really mean when he sings "A Long Way Home" or "Rosalita"? Well Symynkywicz will tell you. He has dissected all of Springsteen's songs and here stands a man of faith, and concern for fellow man. Springsteen has written some powerful stuff, and his fans

love it. They can identify with the man and his guitar, because he is singing about their life, their hopes and dreams.

While Springsteen has written songs of love and hate, longing and loneliness, of failure and success, of politics and America, it is only in his latest album, *Magic*, that he actually brings in religious symbols. After thirty years of writing about man's struggle in life, (including his own), his deep sense of hope, love, faith and redemption shines through.

### FAIRIES AND MAGICAL CREATORES

by Matthew Reinhart and Robert Sabuda  
Candlewick Press, \$27.99

Magical things really happen in the pages of this *Encyclopedia Mythologica*. The artists have outdone themselves in the story of Titania, Queen of the fairies. We enter the world of fantasy with enchanted tree spirits, elves, unicorns, tricksters, old hags and fairy circles.

Each bright and colorful double page contains a large pop-up with four smaller ones.

Folklore from around the world is depicted in these magical and dangerous settings, with a short explanation of each.

Reinhart and Sabuda continue to amaze this reviewer, with their ability to create such art and mythical figures that literally pop out of the book. This book will keep a child—and adult—mesmerized for days.

### SUPER SIMPLE QUILTS

by Alex Anderson and Liz Aneloski  
C&T Publishing, 2008  
28 pp., \$9.95

This 8x12 colorful book will help the beginning quilter understand the process of making a quilt of any size. The basics include an explanation of supplies, fabric, rotary cutting, stitching, pinning and pressing as well as finishing the quilt. The nine Quilts are in full color, along with method of construction and amount of fabric needed for either a crib/twin/queen size. A good book for a good start in quilting.

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## Polish Children's Heartline Celebrates Polish Heritage Month and the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Jamestown Settlement

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Ronald A. Syslo, President

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## Rychalski Honored by Kosciuszko Foundation



Standing (l. to r.): Anatol "Tony" Rychalski, Janine Rychalski, Dr. Donald Mushalko, Joseph Gore, John Bartus. Seated at the piano is Kimberly Kong.

PITTSBURGH—The Kosciuszko Foundation, Pittsburgh Chapter honored Anatol "Tony" Rychalski as "Polonian of the Year" at its 24th annual Outstanding Polonian luncheon at the Main Ballroom of the University of Pittsburgh Student Union.

The award was presented to Rychalski for his services to Polonia and for his distinguished and diverse career in military service, architecture, and engineering.

He is an active member of The Kosciuszko Foundation, Polish Cultural Council, Polish National Alliance, Polish American Congress, Polish American Institute of Arts and Science, Jozef Pilsudski Institute, and a supporter of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center.

Born of Polish heritage in part of the Soviet Union that is now part of Ukraine, he lived through a lot of recent history. After escaping from Russia, he became part of the British-Polish occupation forces in Germany. After demobilization, he studied architecture in Germany. After entering the United States, Rychalski served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Later as a citizen, he earned a degree in civil-construction engineering and joined the U.S. Steel Corporation in Chicago and later transferred to Pittsburgh.

When in Chicago, he was in charge of the design and construction of the Chicago Picasso, a 50-foot-tall steel structure that the legendary Spanish artist fashioned for the plaza outside the civic center in 1967. While he was general manager of Design, Planning and Marketing for U.S. Steel in Pittsburgh, Rychalski undertook the transformation of a 420-acre slag and industrial waste dump into development of Century III Mall, one of the largest malls in western Pennsylvania.

John Bartus, president of the Pittsburgh Chapter opened the program with an invocation and introduced several honored guests: Rychalski's

wife of five decades, Janine; Dr. Jan Napoleon Saykiewicz, Honorary Council of Poland in Pennsylvania; Glenn Willard, U.S. Steel vice president retired; Betty and Senator Albert Belan; Dr. Thaddeusz Masalski, professor at Carnegie Mellon University, and Caleen Jabbour, Allegheny County Councilman.

Dr. Donald Mushalko introduced pianist Kimberly Kong, award winner of the 2007 Kosciuszko Chopin Piano Competition. She has appeared in Carnegie Weill Recital Hall in New York City, Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and Heinz Hall in Pittsburgh.

Joseph Gore Esq., President of the Kosciuszko Foundation, New York, spoke about the programs that build international understanding through fellowships, grants, and scholarships that facilitate the interchange of students and scholars, knowledge and skills.

The honoree was presented with proclamations from the State of Pennsylvania, County of Allegheny, and Municipality of West Mifflin proclaiming "Anatol Rychalski Day." The program concluded with the presentation of gifts.

### TRIVIA TIME / Ellye Slusarczyk

1. Tarpan are a) leather boots b) Polish ponies c) animal cages
2. The grand palace in Lancut was defended by a) 80 cannons b) 2 moats c) an oversized portcullis
3. The organ in the Bascilia of the Bernadine Monks in Lezajsk has a) a carved cross b) a jeweled keyboard c) cuckoo and bird sounds
4. Polonina is a) a wild flower garden b) large dam c) mountain pasture
5. The dam in Salina is Poland's a) smallest b) oldest c) largest
6. Ignacy Lukasiewicz, in Bobrka, drilled the first oil well in a) 1705 b) 1854 c) 1903
7. A gift from the Polish nation to

## Columns to Return

Because of space limitations in this month's special Heritage Month edition, Book Reviews with John Grondelski, Baba Yaga's Corner by Jaga Urban-Klahn, Speak Up (Letters to the Editor), The Pondering Pole by Edward Poniewaz, and Ciekawski by Martin Nowak, were put on hold. These columns will return in next month's edition.

### HERITAGE

## Steinway Concert Grand

by Ellye Slusarczyk

Ignace Paderewski, world-renowned pianist, was a master on his world-famous Steinway concert grand piano. Each Steinway, manufactured in Manhattan, consisted of 40,000 parts, expertly assembled by 300 craftsmen. Paderewski's grand was the top of the line in 1892 when it made a seventy-five city concert tour.

Paderewski, much loved for his unique, impassioned style, with his reddish-gold, unruly hair, would play so strenuously that he actually caused serious damage to his hands. So often, after a concert, the white piano keys were an emblazoned bloody red. The stiff hammer action of the Steinway actually caused permanent damage to Paderewski's hands. Although in constant pain, he never gave up his concert tour. He often referred to the piano as his enemy, but never gave up or interrupted his concert tours. In Rochester, New York, as he struck the opening chords of Beethoven's "Appassionata", intense pain shot up his right arm like a thunderbolt. Yet he continued to perform.

A well remembered Paderewski quote reads like this,

"If I don't practice for one day, I know it."

"If I don't practice for two days, the critics know it."

"If I don't practice for three days, the audience knows it."

- Maria Konopnieka was a a) 20 carat diamond b) manor house c) 10 stallions
8. It is a tradition in Zalipie to decorate houses with a) painted flower designs b) tree branches c) pastel-colored sod
  9. Felicja Curylowa was an accomplished a) folk artist b) classical pianist c) opera singer
  10. A polka disc jockey is a) Happy Stash b) Val the Pal c) Jolly Joe

**ANSWERS** 1.b Polish ponies 2.a 80 cannons 3.c cuckoo and bird sounds 4.c mountain pasture 5.c largest 6.b 1854 7.b manor house 8.a painted flower designs 9.a folk artist 10. c Jolly Joe.

## New York Polonia Hosts PAC President



PHOTO: POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

NEW YORK—On his recent trip to New York City, Polish American Congress National President Frank Spula met with officers and directors of the Downstate N.Y. Congress (PAC), the Polish & Slavic Center (PSC) and the Polish National Alliance (PNA).

At a luncheon hosted by the Polish & Slavic Center, Spula briefed the leaders on current issues affecting Poland and the Polish American community.

Shown are (standing, l. to r.): Janusz Jozwiak (PSC); Chris Rybkiewicz (PAC); Anthony Matrejek (PAC); Richard Brzozowski (PAC); President Spula; Frank Milewski (PAC); Andrew Kaminski (PAC) and Bogdan Bachorowski (PAC).

Seated are (l. to r.): Bozena Kaminski (PSC); Danuta Bronchard (PSC) and Christine McMullan (PNA).

Spula is also president of the Polish National Alliance.

### THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski

## Zamosc, Poland – May 18, 1976



A friendly and respectful gesture.

## String Band 75th Anniversary

PHILADELPHIA—Since 1933, the Polish American String Band has been thrilling audiences with its great music, beautiful costumes and outstanding presentations. Headquartered in the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia, PASB is the winner of eleven First Prize and fourteen Second Prize awards in the Philadelphia Mummer's Parade. The members, all volunteering their time and talents, live and work throughout the Delaware Valley and are of varied ages, backgrounds and occupations.

PASB will celebrate their 75th Anniversary with an evening Gala at the Society Hill Sheraton, Sat., Nov. 1. On Sunday, November 2,

there will be a Mass of Thanksgiving at 12:00 noon at Saint Adalbert's Parish in Port Richmond. For further info, call Walt Wojcik at (267) 608-7969.

The Polish American String Band is proud of its exciting history and counts among its many highlights playing for the 20th papal anniversary of Pope John Paul II in Vatican City and their musical tour of Poland. The Polish American String Band continues to entertain locally, across the United States, and wherever called upon to spread the joy of Mummery. You can find out more about the band at [www.polishamericanstringband.com](http://www.polishamericanstringband.com).

### BRUSH UP / Prepared and distributed by the Polonia Media Network

## Grocery Shopping V

salata.....	(sah-WAH-tah) f	szpinak .....	(SHPEE-nahk) m
	lettuce		spinach
cebula .....	(tseh-BUH-lah) f	pomidor .....	(poh-MEE-dohr) m
	onion		tomato
grochu.....	(GROH-hhuh) m, pl	wawrzywa .....	(vah-ZHIH-vah) n, pl
	peas		or
ziemniak.....	(ZHEHM-nyahk) m	jarzyny .....	(yah-ZHIH-nih) f, pl
	or		vegetables
kartofel.....	(kahr-TOH-fehl) m	homar .....	(HOH-mahr) m
	potato		lobster
dynia .....	(DIH-nyah) f	ostrygi.....	(ohs-TRIH-gee) f, pl
	pumpkin		oysters
rzadkiewka.....	(zhoht-KYEHF-kah) f	krewetka.....	(kreh-VEHT-kah) f
	radish		shrimp

Phonetic hh is like ch in loch • Phonetic ai is like eye  
m, n, f denotes male, female, neuter

## Adult Polish Language Classes

PINE ISLAND, N.Y.—The Hudson Valley Polonaise Society is offering beginner, intermediate and advanced Polish Language classes on Monday nights. The classes began Sept. 15 and will continue until Nov. 17. The classes are held from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) in Pine Island. For information, call Joan Sul-

livan at (845) 325-9608 or Barbara Morgiewicz at 258-4425.

If you are interested in signing up your child for Children's Polish Language Classes, please contact Jolanta (cell) (914) 850-0745.

The HVPS is a Polish American organization interested in preserving the customs and traditions of Polish heritage.

**PASS IT ON!** When you finish reading your copy of the Polish American Journal, please pass it on, and ask that person to subscribe. This can be your contribution to keeping alive our Polish heritage.

# Kościuszko: A Portrait of Love, Passion, and Patriotism

Part IV  
by Staś Kmieć

**THE INSURRECTION AND FINAL CHAPTER.** The first battle of the Insurrection at Raclawice, though a victory, did not settle the situation, as the road to Warsaw was still blocked; however, it had an immense moral impact for the rest of the uprising. It positively influenced the course of the revolution in the capitol.

Kościuszko's troops entered Kraków triumphantly on April 7, 1794. With them they brought 12 cannons they had captured.

April 17: Warsaw rises. The capitol is free after two days.

April 22: Wilno is under control; the military situation worsens.

June 2: in Szczekociny the Prussian army joins the fray and there is a series of defeats.

July 13: the commander's finest victory is his defense of Warsaw. The faithful scythe-bearing peasants trusted and esteemed Kościuszko, and fought in all his battles and skirmishes as they awaited the lifting of personal serfdom and the protection against the removal from the land on which they worked. Kościuszko wanted to raise the level of peasantry. He felt they were persecuted and taken advantage of. He expressed his beliefs by freeing his own serfs from servitude.

General Ferens lead his troops to the right bank of the Wisła River. Defeat looms as the battle nears at Maciejowice on October 10, 1794. Kościuszko's forces are half that of the Russians and part of his regiment is scythe-bearing peasants. The battle of Maciejowice is fierce and bloody, and ends in total defeat of the Polish forces.

Kościuszko's horse foundered and fell together with its rider. The Cossacks with pikes surrounded

him and he was hit in the head with a sword. Kościuszko lost consciousness and was robbed of everything valuable. Spotting Kościuszko, General Ferens ordered that he be cared for. Seriously wounded, Kościuszko is taken to St. Petersburg, and imprisoned in a fortress. He spent over



**Kosciuszko, a close friend of Thomas Jefferson, painted this portrait of his fellow patriot.**

two years in captivity. During this time he attempted to commit suicide and was left close to death.

Kościuszko is freed by Czar Paul I after the death of his mother, Catherine II. He received 60,000 rubles from the Czar and signed a subservient oath in exchange for amnesty for 20,000 imprisoned soldiers. Kościuszko was lambasted, even insulted by some of his countrymen who did not want to understand the situation he found himself in. The Czar billed him for the services he had received and he was obliged to pledge never to return to Poland again.

On December 19, 1796, together with his adjutant and fellow prisoner Julian Niemcewicz, Kościuszko left on a long journey via Stockholm

and London back to America. They arrived in Philadelphia, where the city's residents greeted the national hero enthusiastically with a thirteen gun salute. He felt at home in the city, visited old friends and maintained a lively correspondence.

His longtime friend Thomas Jefferson visited him, and Kościuszko painted his portrait, and gave away his paintings as keepsakes. Before leaving for Europe, Kościuszko made Jefferson the executor of his will, in which he earmarks his entire fortune to buy Negroes out of slavery—a request that was not realized.

Kościuszko went to Paris, where he lived with an old friend, Piotr Zeltner. Polish immigrants were negotiating the creation of the Legions. He tried to become involved in these discussions, but despite signs of friendliness, he was not treated as a partner. Kościuszko decided to make General Dąbrowski the Legion commander. He showed his own road to freedom without France and Napoleon, whom he did not trust.

Kościuszko spent the last two years of his life in Switzerland in the town of Solothurn on the Aar River. He arrived in the autumn of 1815 and lived at 12 Garzelengasse Street with Franciszek Zeltner. He lived in two modest rooms. The aged and solitary Kościuszko befriended the Zeltners and the residents of Solothurn liked and respected the commander. He was especially fond of Emily, the Zeltner's daughter, whom he taught history and drawing. In his will he left a sizeable sum of money and his heart.

He died in solitude on October 15, 1817. After his death, a grave/monument was built in nearby Zuchwil. Kościuszko's death was important not only in Poland, but abroad as well. Commemorations were held in various European cities



**"Tadeusz Kosciuszko under Raclawice" by Jan Matejko.**

and a eulogy was read in Congress in the United States. Poles in all the annexed territories decided to pay homage to the hero of Raclawice.

On application by the Senate of the free city of Kraków, Czar Alexander agreed that the remains of Kościuszko could be brought and entombed in the cellars of Wawel Cathedral. A ceremonial funeral took place. Kościuszko was entombed in St. Leonard's crypt, next to Jan III Sobieski and Józef Poniatowski.

A burial mound to honor the national hero began construction on October 16, 1820 on St. Bronisława Hill. Urns of soil from the Raclawice, Maciejowice and United States battlefields were buried; the mound was completed on October 20, 1823.

After the death of Emily Zeltner,

Kościuszko's heart was given to the museum in Rapperswill, and from there in 1927, when Poland was once again free to the Royal Castle in Warsaw. During the war it was hidden in the cellars of St. John's Cathedral. Recovered after the war, the urn with Kościuszko's heart returned to the Royal Castle.

The memory of Kościuszko remains to this day. One of his biographers wrote: "He appears as a character very close to us with his weaknesses and faults, but he remains as an example of the love of country. His fame and legend have lasted much longer than did his life." His life's service was to the rebirth of Poland, and after his death he remains great today. Tadeusz Kościuszko became one of the immortal heroes of humanity.

## Polish Americans Receive New State Department Assignments

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Two Polish Americans undertook new State Department assignments this summer.

John L. Armstrong has been appointed the new Deputy Consul General at the American Embassy in Kyiv, Ukraine, effective August 2008. He assumes this position after two years as senior Political officer in the Office of Russian Affairs at the State Department,

Washington. John M. Grondelski has taken up duties as Consul and chief of visa services at the American Embassy in Bern, Switzerland, effective July 1, 2008. He, too, had previously served on the Russia desk. In 2005, Grondelski was awarded the State Department's "Meritorious Honor Award" by U.S. Ambassador Victor H. Ashe at the American Embassy in Warsaw.

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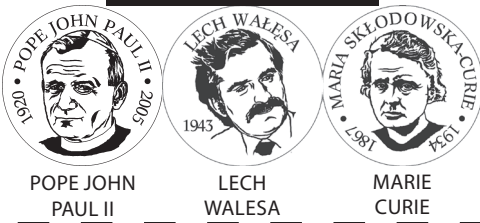


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A sincere "THANK YOU" for their donations to the PAJ PRESS FUND: Stella Bronislawski, McKees Rocks, Pa.; Ewa Fijewska, Queen Creek, Ariz.; Frank J. Gavel, Wilton, Conn.; C.K., Parma Heights, Ohio; Irene Kennerdell, Hanson, Mass.; Frank Lepkowski, Syracuse, N.Y.; Fred Nigorski, Saugus, Mass.; Walter & Martha Piatek, Berlin, N.J.; Edward Podgurski, Huron, Ohio; Margaret Szuch-Stadler, North Royalton, Ohio; Constance Wierz, Syracuse, N.Y.; and one "Friend of the PAJ." Dziękujemy! The PAJ thanks all who donated to the Press Fund.

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## IN MEMORIAM

## Col. Francis C. Kajencki, U.S. Army Retired, Scholar, Soldier, Historian, Author

Francis Casimir Kajencki, 89, died July 18 of natural causes in El Paso, Texas. He was born November 15, 1918, the second of five children to Polish immigrants Antoni and Antonina (Staszewska) Kajencki in Erie, Pa.. His parents strongly promoted education as the gateway to a better life for their children, Edward, Francis, Stephen, Sophie, and Louise. Francis was an excellent student and attended Polish parochial elementary schools, followed by enrollment in Bishop Gannon's Cathedral Preparatory School in 1933. This high school had exceptionally high standards that prepared him well for his competitive route to an appointment to West Point via the Pennsylvania National Guard. He graduated from the United States Military Academy in January 1943, and then fought in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

After the war, he entered the fledgling guided missile program in 1947. The Army sponsored his schooling at the University of Southern California where he earned a master's degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1949. He was stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, to teach officers and enlisted men about guided missiles and air defense artillery. After



17 years of training military personnel, commanding new missile and nuclear weapons systems in the United States and overseas, including General Staff duty at the Pentagon, Kajencki changed fields to become a senior officer in Public Information. In 1966-67, he attended the University of Wisconsin (Madison) where he earned a master's degree in Journalism. He then served two years as the Chief of Information Allied Land Forces Southeastern Europe for NATO in Izmir, Turkey. Upon return to the United

States in 1969, Kajencki assumed the duties of Information Officer of the Military District of Washington, culminating as Assistant Chief of Information, Department of the Army. He retired in 1973 after more than 34 years of military service. In that span, the Army awarded him the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal twice, the Army General Staff Badge, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with three bronze battle stars, the Commendation Medal, the Distinguished Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, World II Victory Medal, and the Army Occupation Medal.

Shortly after his military retirement, Kajencki earned a third master's degree in History from George Mason University. He returned to his retirement home in El Paso and commenced a career of historical research and writing. As a distinguished military historian, Kajencki authored nine books with particular focus on significant contributions by Polish heroes and immigrants in American history. His books on the military service of Generals Thaddeus Kosciuszko and Casimir

Pulaski, and the dramatic service of the Pulaski Legion, are particularly noteworthy in light of his meticulous research. His biography on Thaddeus Kosciuszko was singled out for merit by the International Commission on Military History in 2001. As his prolific writing career approached an end due to failing health, Kajencki worked tirelessly to research, write, and publish his last book. It is a highly credible, hard-hitting expose titled "American Betrayal: Franklin Roosevelt Casts Poland into Communist Captivity."

Always a champion for Polonia and a staunch defender of "polskosc" (Polishness) in America, Kajencki was the founder and twice president of Polish National Alliance (PNA) Lodge 3155 in El Paso. Later, he was elected and served as President of the Polish American Congress (PAC) of Texas. And, he was the founder and principal managing officer of Southwest Polonia Press, the publishing company he established in El Paso. Among many awards over the years, Kajencki was honored by the Polish Embassy on 22 June 2005 with a special reception and medal award ceremony in recognition of his truly extraordi-

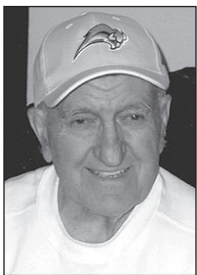
nary literary and cultural achievements.

Francis Casimir Kajencki was a perpetual scholar, soldier and patriot, and a consummate professional in his life's work. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather, and a widower for many years. His wife, Virginia Theresa (Bierasinski) Kajencki died in 1969. He is survived by his youngest sister, four children, and many nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

A reception and viewing will be held at Brown Funeral Home in Martinsburg, West Virginia, Oct. 15 2008 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. A full honors military burial will be held on Oct. 7, 2008 at Arlington National Cemetery, beginning with a Catholic Mass in the Ft. Meyer Old Post Chapel at 1045. Directions to and pertinent information about burial ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery are available on the website. In lieu of flowers and/or wreaths, the Kajencki family suggests that memorial contributions to Polish American foundations and organizations be made. For any additional information contact Anthony Kajencki at (304) 754-4269.

## OBITUARIES / Jennifer Moskal

**RAYMOND C. BUDNIEWSKI**, 8, of Dunkirk, N.Y., died unexpectedly Sept. 8, 2008 at home. He was born Jan. 3, 1927 in Dunkirk. A U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, Budniewski was stationed in Pensacola, Fla., and Lido Beach, Long Island, NY. He received the American Theatre Medal and the Victory Medal. Budniewski retired from AL Tech Specialty Steel in Dunkirk. A lifelong parishioner of St. Hedwig's R.C. Church, he was a member of the Fourth Ward Falcons Club, VFW Post 1017, American Legion Post 62, Southern Tier Buffalo Bills Booster Club, Polka Boosters of Buffalo, and the NYS Fox Hunters Association. He also was a member and a past director of the Kosciuszko Polish Home. Budniewski was an avid hunter and fisherman and loved polka music and festivities.



Executive Director of the Polish American Congress. During his time with the organization, he played numerous crucial roles, including work to support NATO membership for Poland. Starting in 1999, Kuczynski led the German Forced Labor Compensation Program on behalf of the Polish American Congress. For a period of time he also directed the efforts of the Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation. He was appointed to the Advisory Board of the American Red Cross Holocaust and War Victims Tracing Center. He served as Chairman of the Council of World Polonia (Rada Polonia Swiata), and was also a member of the Consultative Committee established by the Marshal of the Polish Senate.

**SIEGER "ZIG" KWIATKOWSKI JR.**, 75, was born in Paterson, N.J., and served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, stationed in Germany. He graduated from Montclair State College in 1954 with a bachelor's degree and in 1959 earned his master's degree. He taught chemistry and physics at numerous high schools in New Jersey and Arizona, and later held positions including Dean of Students, Assistant Principal and Athletic Director at various high schools. He was very active in numerous professional organizations, and was the founding father of the Arizona Interscholastic Athletic Administration Association and was the first inductee into their Hall of Fame. He was always an avid sportsman, playing basketball and baseball in both high school and college, being drafted by the New York Mets, New York Nets and New York Yankees after graduation. However, he did not play professional sports due to knee injuries.

**ANIELA (KORCZAK) JARZYNA MIETELSKI**, 84, was born in Polaniec, Poland in 1924. As a teenager, under the pseudonym "Stokrotka," Jarzyna Mietelski, along with her family, was involved in the underground resistance movement against the German occupation of Poland. After the war, Aniela spent 35 years as a principal of the first post-war preschool in Polaniec, where she gained the respect of her community by refusing to remove religious symbols from the preschool's walls against strong, and at times threatening, directives from the local Communist Party leaders. She moved to the United States after

becoming a widow in 1977, and met her second husband in Reading, Pa. She later moved back to Polaniec where she lived until her death.

**BRUNO NOWICKI**, 100, was born in Sosnowiec, Poland and emigrated to the United States as a young man. Nowicki had a career as a journalist and writer in Pittsburgh and Chicago before moving to Detroit to become a small business owner. He was an expert chess player who helped advocate for a bill that passed in the Senate that allows federal funds for low-achieving schools to be used for chess instruction as an enrichment program to help students develop high order thinking skills. In Michigan, Bruno was instrumental in acquiring and placing sculptures that pay tribute to his Polish heritage across the state, including sculptures of Nicholas Copernicus, Frederic Chopin, and Joseph Conrad.

**DR. MICHAEL G. SENDZIMIR**, a long time member of Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences in America's Board of Directors and a major benefactor of the Institute. In 2006 he was honored by being elected a PIASA fellow in recognition of his outstanding achievements in applied sciences. A graduate

of Columbia's School of Engineering, he was the foremost authority on multi-roll steel rolling mills for flat products, and was one of the principals in the conception, development, adaptation and commercialization of the Sendzimir cold strip mill. For over four decades he was president of T. Sendzimir, Inc.. In 1989 he assumed the additional duties of Chairman and CEO of T. Sendzimir, Inc. of Waterbury, Conn.. Dr. Sendzimir was devoted to the ideals and mission of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America. During the 66th Annual Meeting held in Philadelphia in June 13-14, 2008, members of the Institute voted to name the art gallery its townhouse, "Dr. Michael G. Sendzimir Art Gallery."

**WALTER SUKACZ**, 81, was a reference librarian at the Library of Congress. Sukacz, a native of Jaskowicz, Poland, was seized by Nazis by the time he was 16 and sent to work on a forced-labor farm in Germany. He was liberated by U.S. soldiers in 1945. He emigrated to the United States in 1949 and joined the U.S. Army serving in Germany during the Korean War. He graduated from Georgetown University with a degree in Russian language in 1958. Since he spoke six languages, could work

with Slavic and Romance languages, and due to his military clearance he got a job at the Library of Congress working with intelligence documents and foreign-language works. He was recalled to the Army during the Cuban missile crisis and returned to his job at the library after his discharge, retiring in 1999. He was also active in several religious organizations.

**JAN J. WIECKOWSKI**, 84, was a Polish resistance fighter who became an international banking executive. A native of Warsaw, Wieckowski joined a scout troop at the age of 16, which took sabotage actions against the occupying German troops. He later joined the Polish underground army. In 1944 he was captured and endured a long winter march between German concentration camps. In May 1945, his camp was liberated by the British and he moved to London. He later moved to the United States where he earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in international economics. He worked for and eventually became an executive vice president for Girard Bank in Philadelphia. He spoke six languages, and was able to help establish Girard offices in London, New York, Mexico City, Singapore, Zurich and Paris. He also made numerous speeches on economic issues in countries around the world. After retiring from Girard, he helped Poland establish its new banking infrastructure and was rewarded with medals from two Polish presidents. He was also active in numerous Polish heritage organizations.

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SCHOLARSHIPS

Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford

On June 12, 2008, the chairwomen of the Scholarship Committee of the Polish Cultural Club of Great Hartford, Conn., Jennie Javorski and Anna-Mae Maglaty, presented awards to four students. These recipients joined many predecessors in a program that was begun in 1987. The Szopka Festival, held annually on the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend, is the primary source of funding these awards.



**Edyta Hryniewicz**, a graduate of Wethersfield High School, joined the Polish Girl Scouts at the age of three and now holds a leadership position within the organization. Her academic honors are many. Edyta serves as editor-in-chief of the school newspaper, and is a member of the concert and marching honors bands. She will attend the University of Connecticut, and major in pathobiology.

**Juliana Story** graduated from Northwest Catholic High School. She, too, was a member of the concert band, the honors wind ensemble and the jazz band. Among her scholastic endeavors were the mentorship program for new students, serving as the liaison for peer contact for inner city youth and as a photographer for the senior yearbook. Juliana will pursue a career in



criminal justice at Johnson and Wales University in Providence, R.I.



**Michael Gwara** completed his high school career at Wethersfield High School. While there, he served on the student council, was the online editor for the school newspaper, received the AP Scholar Award and shared his passion and initiative for politics in school clubs where he held office. Michael was described as one who enjoys the learning process. This will prove of value as he studies mechanical engineering

at the University of Connecticut.

**Michael McClellan**, a graduate of Middletown High School, was especially lauded for his scholastic achievement within a most demanding curriculum and for his strong work ethic. His talent in voice enables him to serve as cantor at his parish church as well as to be a member of the chamber choir and the Music Honor Society. A faculty member's recommendation noted that Michael has it all: talent, integrity, intellect, self-discipline and focus. He will attend Central Connecticut State University where he will major in physics.



Polish American Cultural Society of Stamford



STAMFORD, Conn.—Four students of Polish descent were awarded university scholarships from the Polish American Cultural Society of Stamford. Alexander Koproski, president of the organization, and Patricia Koproski, scholarship chairman, presented the awards to Richard Zielinsky of Stamford, a student at Northeastern University in Boston, Mallory Wuhrer of Milford, Conn., who will attend George Mason University, Jessica Grabowski of Riverside, Conn., who will attend Dominican College and Jason Grabowski, also of Riverside, Conn., who attends Iona College.

Pictured above are (l. to r.): Zielinsky, Wuhrer, Jessica Grabowski, Jason Grabowski, Al Koproski, Msgr. Thaddeus Malanowski, and Pat Koproski.

KULTURA / Staś Kmieć

World Premiere of Irena's Vow—the true story of Polish Catholic World War II Heroine

NEW YORK, N.Y.—*Irena's Vow*, a new play by Dan Gordon, is a riveting, life affirming story about a courageous and unsung heroine of World War II.

During the German occupation of western Poland and the Russian occupation in the east (both armies invaded in September 1939), Irena a Polish Catholic from the town of Kozienice, joined a Polish underground unit. She was spotted by

Russian troops, beaten, raped, and forced to work in a Russian medical unit. She escaped, only to be captured later by the Germans and forced to work in a munitions plant. Later, she was forced to work as head housekeeper for a very prominent German major. Over a two year period of service, Irena would risk her own life in order to save the lives of twelve Jewish refugees whom she secretly took under her care.

The play is the extraordinary true story of one woman's choice and the twelve lives that would ultimately be saved—or lost—by her decision.

The Directors Company, in association with The Polish Cultural Institute in New York will present the World Premiere of *Irena's Vow*, starring four-time Tony nominee, and three-time Drama Desk Award-winner Tovah Feldshuh beginning September 7th at Baruch Perform-

ing Arts Center in New York City, the engagement continues through November 2.

A review of the production will appear in the November issue.

**Photo right: The cast of Irena's Vow a new play by Dan Gordon: Tovah Feldshuh (foreground, l. to r.): John Stanisci, Thomas Ryan, Gene Silvers, Maja Wampuszyc, and Steven Hauck.**



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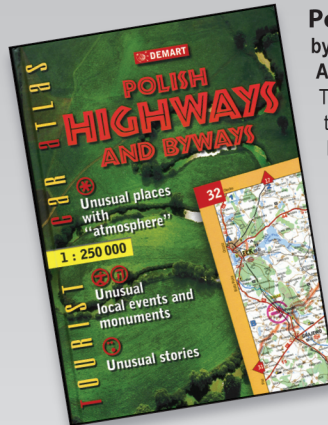
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**Polish Highways and Byways** by Agnieszka Wedrychowska and Associates  
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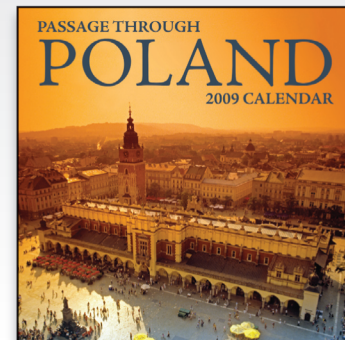


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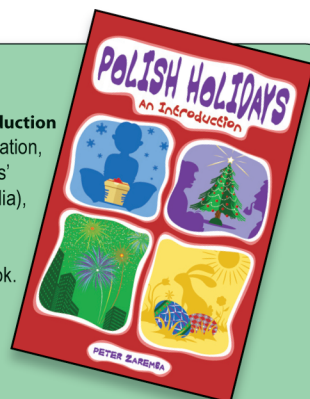


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