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**HERITAGE MONTH GREETINGS FROM POLONIA'S FINEST • PAC ANNOUNCES PROGRAM FOR NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
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POLES FLOCK TO WARSAW JEWISH FESTIVAL • 2009 PADEREWSKI FESTIVAL • "ZDROWIE PLUS" CELEBRATES 10 YEARS**

## NEWSMARK

### U.S. Nixes Missile Shield Base in Poland Plans to Install Short-to-Medium Range Revised Defense System

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On the 70th anniversary of the day Soviet Russia invaded Poland, the Obama Administration announced it had suspended Bush Administration plans for a missile defense shield in Poland. The decision upset Polish leaders and underlined a growing suspicion among Poles that Washington is only friendly to Poland when it needs something.

A week later, Washington announced another plan.

Under the revised defense system, Poland's security interests may end up being better served, said Slawomir Nowak, a senior advisor to Prime Minister Donald Tusk.

President Obama shelved the project to install interceptor missiles in Poland and a radar site in the Czech Republic and said he would instead seek a system involving first sea-based and later land-based interceptors.

The key concern for NATO member Poland has been not so much the kind of missile system deployed as the implicit U.S. commitment to its defense implied by the stationing of American military hardware on its soil, said Reuters new service.

"If this system becomes reality in the shape Washington is now suggesting, it would actually be better for us than the original missile shield program," said Nowak. "We were never really threatened by a long-range missile attack from Iran," he told TVP INFO television.

**A BEAR FOR A NEIGHBOR.** When the initial missile shield program was shelved, Moscow announced it would cancel plans to place a missile base near the Polish border. The Kremlin considered the U.S. plan a threat to its own security.

Poles are ever-weary of their Russian neighbors, especially with recent pro-nationalistic statements from Moscow. Most recent is a Russian warning to Polish parliamentarians, who passed a resolution stating Stalinist crimes carried traits of genocide.

"The resolution adopted by the parliament deals a serious blow to efforts to develop normal neighborly relations between our countries," the Russian foreign ministry said in a statement.

The lower house of Poland's parliament unanimously adopted a resolution calling on Russia to condemn crimes committed under wartime dictator Joseph Stalin, including a 1940 massacre of Polish officers by Soviet forces.

The parliament said that the loss of millions of lives in Gulag prison camps under Stalin and crimes like the Katyn Massacre carry the traits and characteristics of genocide."

The resolution has become the latest subject of controversy between the two countries, whose frequent disputes over historical interpretation of events in World War II continue to bruise modern day diplomatic relations.

The Russian foreign ministry retorted that the resolution, which was adopted to mark 70 years since the Soviet invasion of eastern Poland, contained elements that were "tendentious and politicized."

It said discussions about the outbreak of World War II "must in the end be left to historians."

At PAJ press time, Russia's reaction to the revised short-to-medium defense system was not known.

— compiled from Reuters, API, and Radio Poland reports



**POOR TIMING.** President Obama chose the 70th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Poland to tell Warsaw the missile shield project is off. A week later, he asked Poland to host a short-to-medium system.

## A Changed World

**T**hey were children and grandparents. They were farmers and shoemakers; college professors and students; priests and poets; rabbis and researchers. Some already wore their country's uniform; others would never get the chance.

After September 1, 1939, their lives were never the same.

By any standard, what happened to Poland in the Fall of 1939 is — seventy years later — still incomprehensible to most of us. Within that month, the fate of Poland would be cast by the shadows of madmen from both East and West.

Most of us cannot envisage what it would be like to wake up and find our family gone; to be dragged from our homes; to find our village gone. We cannot imagine the terror of being forced into a railway boxcar and then sent thousands of miles from home to work as slaves. Can you visualize what it would be like to learn a loved one was massacred?

We like to think we can empathize with the 16-year-old who worked his way through enemy lines to regroup with fellow nationals in another country. We like to believe we could muster the same nerves as those who served in the Underground. Do you think you could hide dozens of Jewish children from Nazis, who regularly patrolled your street?

When the Allies proclaimed victory, Poland's diaspora

found itself in strange lands, where freedom meant one thing, but survival meant another. Camps were set up to feed, clothe and shelter those who had to decide whether or not to return to the land of their birth. Many decided they had had enough: the Allied success did not grant them any guarantees. Poland was pawned to Russia and was forced under Soviet control for nearly half a century, a decision for some that was just too much to believe.

When historians look back at the 20th century, they will find September 1, 1939 the defining day of those 100 years. When they look further, they will

see Poland at the center of it all, a country at more than just the geographic crossroads of Europe. For Poland's story is one of survival against insurmountable odds. It has been that way from the country's founding. It will more than likely be that way for centuries to come.

In this issue, we wish to give you perspectives on the lives of Poles during and after World War II that have not been covered in previous issues. We hope these stories inspire you to learn more about these brave and heroic people, many of whom you may or may not have known. You may have someone in your family who witnessed these events. This would be an ideal time to interview them and record their histories, not only for your family history, but for the history of the Polish nation.



### Out of the Shadows: Anti- communist Soldiers Deserve a Place in Polish History Books

by John Radzilowski

In 1944, as Red Army forces began to enter Polish territory, they encountered soldiers of the Polish Home Army (AK or Armia Krajowa). As the Soviets approached, the AK executed Operation Tempest, designed to disrupt and disarm retreating Nazi forces that would both help the defeat of Germany and allow soldiers loyal to the free Polish government in London to welcome the Soviets to Poland as master of their own home after years of brutal occupation. The centerpiece of Operation Tempest was the Warsaw Uprising itself which began on August 1, 1944.

It was primarily Polish insurgents who helped liberate the historic city of Lwow (now Lviv) from the Germans, preserving its many treasures and landmarks from destruction. The AK

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### Defending the Homeland



PHOTO: HARRISON FORMAN COLLECTION, UW-MILWAUKEE LIBRARIES

**POLISH SOLDIERS** mobilizing during the September Campaign of 1939, in a photograph taken by Harrison Forman (1904-1978), well-known American journalist, documentarian and traveler, correspondent, and one of the few Western journalists who stayed in Poland for the first weeks of World War II.

The collection, part of the National Library of Warsaw's "September 1939" archive, can be viewed on the website of Milwaukee University. It contains over 90 photographs illustrating the Polish defensive war.

In the second half of September 1939 Forman evacuated from Poland through Romania. He took away photographic negatives on which he recorded the everyday life and arrangements to the war and the defense of Warsaw in September 1939. Some part of the photographs were published in autumn 1939 in American press inter alia in The New York Post, The New York Daily News and in the magazine Travel. The other part is published now for the first time. The collection of the photographs was bequeathed by the author to the Library of the American Geographic Society and now it is at the Milwaukee University.

The photographs can be seen on the website: [www.uwm.edu/Libraries/digilib/pol/index.html](http://www.uwm.edu/Libraries/digilib/pol/index.html)

### The 108 Holy Polish Martyrs of World War II

by Fr. Charles DiMascola

The beginning of World War II was a reign of terror in Poland. As the Nazis bombed Warsaw around the clock, there seemed to be no place that was safe. Hospitals and churches were singled out and bombed repeatedly. Apartment houses and schools were singled out and bombed over and over again.

There are so many stories to be told from the ashes of Warsaw, but here is one little story, just a small detail in the great epic of the heroic capitol of Poland. In the middle of an evening bombing raid, a father and his three-year-old daughter ran from their home to find shelter from the bombs and guns. Quickly, the father found a great crater from a bomb and jumped in and held up his arms for his little daughter to follow. Terrified by the explosions around her and unable to see her father in the dark hole, she cried, "I can't see you Tatus!"

The father looked up against the sky, lit with the

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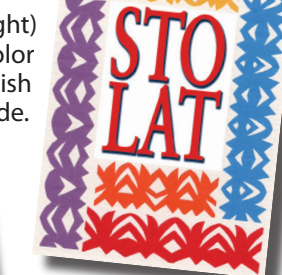
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**PUSH NOT THE RIVER**  
 by James Conroyd Martin  
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 St. Martin's Press  
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AUTOGRAPHED! This book club favorite is based on the real diary of a Polish countess who lived through the rise and fall of the Third of May Constitution years, a time of great turmoil. Vivid, romantic, and thrillingly paced, the novel paints the emotional and memorable portrait of the metamorphosis of a nation—and of Anna, a proud and resilient young woman, and Jan, her soldier-husband. Critics have called the story Poland's *Gone with the Wind*. "The story is well paced and compelling, the historical detail plentiful yet not overwhelming, and the characters engaging and true to the period." ~The Historical Novels Review. The author is the winner of the 2007 Gold Medal for Literature from The American Institute of Polish Culture.

**AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY**  
 by James C. Martin  
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AUTOGRAPHED! "You don't have to read Push Not the River to get the most from this sequel," says Suzanne Strempek Shea. The award-winning author picks up where Push Not the River leaves off, taking the characters 20 years into the fascinating Napoleonic era, highlighting the exploits of the glorious Polish lancers. Having narrowly escaped death amidst the chaos caused by the violent dissolution of their homeland, Anna and Jan struggle to raise a family in uncertain times. When Napoleon Bonaparte comes calling, hinting at independence one day for the country, Polish legions form up—Anna's friends and family members among them—and accompany Napoleon as he battles his way across Europe in an effort that culminates in the doomed 1812 winter march to Moscow. "A sprawling epic . . . entertaining." ~ Publishers Weekly.



**THE FINCHLEY HOUSE MYSTERY**  
 by Delores Gapanowicz  
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 Nightengale Press, 2005  
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 Delores Gapanowicz is a published author of children's books.

Is the Finchley House haunted or not? Are those ghosts flitting from room to room after dark? Or is someone secretly living in the old house and not wanting to reveal themselves? Could it be the rumors floating around Green Hills are actually true? No one dared to investigate until Paul and Tom decided to find out once and for all. The boys and their sisters dared to go up the hill toward the old, old house and their adventure began — scary from the start.

**THE MAYOR'S DAUGHTER**  
 by Delores Gapanowicz  
**\$12.95**  
 Edition illustrated  
 Nightengale Press, 2007  
 176 pp., pb.

Readers will discover what life was like in rural Eastern Europe before World War I, a way of life that has changed forever. This book retrieves one family's heritage and allows us all to connect with our own. Gapanowicz wrote "The Mayor's Daughter" about her parents because she wanted the grandchildren in her family to have some idea of the life in Eastern Europe before her family emigrated. The stories were told to the author by her parents before they passed away. These tales show that young people on farms in Europe didn't spend their time only milking cows and picking potatoes. They played tricks on friends, went to wedding celebrations and dances, and flirted with other people their age. They also experienced tragedy and loss. Their lives were a mixture of the sweet and bitter, not unlike the lives of people everywhere.



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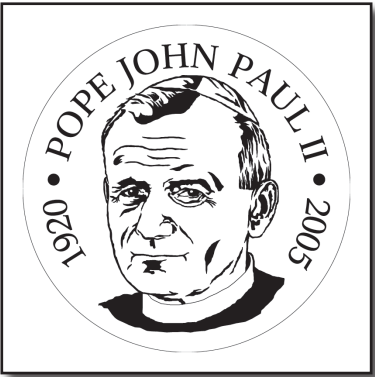
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## The 108 Holy Polish Martyrs of World War II

*continued from cover*  
burning buildings and called to his daughter who was standing silhouetted at the edge of the hole, "But I can see you, my darling. Jump!" The little girl jumped, not because she saw her father, but because he could see her! She trusted him to tell her the truth and to do what was best for her.

The Polish Martyrs of World War II had that same faith and love in their Heavenly Father. They had to take a leap of faith with firm courage, knowing that God was there, knowing that He was waiting, knowing that He could see them, and that with His protective embrace, He would take them safely home.

Who are the Polish Martyrs of World War II? We all know that over six million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust, but very few know that additionally, over three million Polish Catholics were also martyred in the Holocaust by the Nazis. Poland was the only country, in occupied Europe, where the Nazis gave an official death order for any Polish citizen who helped a Jew. More Poles were put to death helping Jews than anyone else in the world!

Very few know that the Concentration camp at Dachau was used primarily for the Catholic clergy. Very few know that after the Jews, the Polish people were also slated for extermination by the Nazis. And very few know it was part of Hitler's great plan that the Roman Catholic Church was to be nullified and eventually also eliminated!

In that Nazi hellish climate of hate and bigotry, savagery and cruelty, we can begin to picture the setting for the Polish Martyrs of World War II.

Who were these Polish Martyrs, these holy heroes, and examples of Christ crucified?

Most of them were priests, monks and bishops; a number of them were also seminarians, religious sisters and lay men. All of them were individuals who were leaders in their communities — individuals who taught and led the people — individuals who stood out in the community. They were individuals who loved and were loved. They were individuals who were building up the Church. They were singled out because they were known and because, like Jesus tells us in the Gospel, they were the salt of the earth ... giving flavor to life! They were the beginning of the Nazi plan for a complete Catholic and ethnic cleansing of the world.

The Nazi plan was to eliminate

the head and heart of the people and the rest of the population would be dealt with at leisure.

Who were some of these Martyrs? They were men and women like Blessed Joseph Cebula. He was a priest and a religious of The Oblates of the Virgin Mary. A teacher and a man of great humility, patience and prudence. He was arrested in 1940 and placed in a concentration camp. He freely but boldly defied the Nazis. Ordered to destroy a roadside shrine of Our Lady, he courageously refused. He was beaten and bloodied but still he refused. He was then ordered to run back to camp, and was shot eight times in the back.

Blessed Fidelis Chojnacki was a Capuchin priest. His priesthood was spent working for the poorest of the poor. He was also a professor at the University of Lublin. With all the priests of the community he was arrested in 1940. In spite of the torture and beatings Blessed Fidelis remained peaceful, quiet and prayerful. As he was being led to his death in the concentration camp at Dachau, he cheerfully turned to his companions and shouted, "Praised be Jesus Christ! See you in Heaven!"

Blessed Michael Czartoryski was a nobleman and an intellectual. He became an architectural engineer and later, after discerning a vocation, became a Dominican priest and teacher. Even after the Nazi invasion of Poland when a religious habit would single a man out, he continued to wear his habit — it was who he was and he would not hid that fact. He ministered to the wounded, hearing their confessions, often throughout the night. Although he was warned of the danger he refused to leave Warsaw and his post as hospital Chaplain. In 1944 the Nazis entered the hospital and while Blessed Michael was ministering to the sick, he was shot alongside all the hospital patients. The Nazis dragged his body out of the hospital and burned it in the street as a warning to Catholics.

Blessed Peter Dankowski was a cheerful and prayerful priest with a strong devotion to Mary. As the war and occupation overwhelmed Poland he actively helped others to escape the Nazi advances. He, however, refused to leave his parish.

Taken to Auschwitz he was beaten constantly by the SS who took particular pleasure in torturing him because he was a priest. Fr. Peter often



Adam Styka (1890-1959) created the oil canvas illustration of the execution of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, shot by the Germans, one by one in the back the head.

sang hymns as he was forced to dig ditches for the dead. His fellow prisoners remarked that Blessed Peter had no fear of punishment or death and always displayed a strength of spirit and attachment to Jesus and the Cross. On Good Friday, after a particularly savage beating, he was forced to dig his own grave. His last words to his fellow prisoners, given with a smile, were, "Good by until I see you in Heaven."

The eleven Sisters of Nowogrodek (Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth) prayed that they might be substituted for all the priests and men of the city who had been arrested by the Nazis. Without any explanation and almost miraculously the Nazis released all the men and on July 31, 1943, the Sisters were arrested, loaded into a van and taken out to a deserted place in the forest. Lined up along a pit, the Sisters knew what was going to happen next. With their hands folded in prayer they spontaneously began to sing a hymn to the Blessed Mother. The Nazis shot each Sister in the back of the head one by one until only one voice was left singing and then ... with a shot to the head the hymn was silenced! After the war the mass grave of the Sisters was discovered and the bodies of the Sisters were found preserved with their hands still folded in prayer! I must pronounce their names: Sister Stella, Sister Boromea, Sister Mary Canuta, sister Mary Daniela, Sister Felicity, Sister Gwidona, Sister Heliadora, Sister Kanisa, Sister Imelda, Sister Mary Raymond, and Sister Mary Sergia.

There was a group of five young men called "The Poznan Five:" Blessed Edward Kazmierki, Blessed Czeslaw Jozwiak, Blessed Edward Klinik, Blessed Francis Kesy and Blessed Jarogniew Wojciechowski. They were all devoted to the Blessed Mother and they were very active in their parish prayer and social life working and praying to build up the kingdom of God. They ranged in age from 20 to 23 and yet they were mature and true Christian leaders in their church and community. They were arrested suddenly in 1940 without a chance to inform their parents. They each knew they would be executed and

"Cudze chwalicie, swego nie znacie, sami nie wiecie, co posiadacie."  
— Stanislaw Jachowicz,  
1796-1857

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each wrote a hasty note to their parents. Blessed Kesy's note was typical... he wrote: "I was a moment ago to Confession and soon shall receive

Holy Communion. The Good Lord is taking me to Himself. Don't be sorry because I am so young. Now I am in a state of grace. I ask for forgiveness with all my heart for I go to Heaven where I will see you." Each boy ended his letter with the joyful faith filled words, "See you in Heaven!"

These five boys were able to withstand the physical and psychological cruelty of the Nazis. They knew that salvation is through the cross to Heaven. Upon hearing their death sentence, they were able to overcome their fear and consider their deaths as a passage to a more perfect existence with God. Like all the Martyrs of World War II they did not allow any bitterness or hatred to enter their hearts. They forgave the Nazis and they focused on the love of God and their eternity. Jesus was their goal! Jesus was their all!

Today we can only consider a sample of the great number of Holy Martyrs. Each one tells a story of faith and love, of forgiveness and optimism, of courage and nobility. They are a stunning example for us today. *Please God, we will never experience the terror of the Holy Holocaust they endured, but please God may we work and endeavor to grow strong in our Faith!*

As we consider the Holy Pol-

ish Martyrs of World War II we are amazed by that thread of love, forgiveness and optimism. They were men and women of great faith, of great love and of great courage. I believe that their faith and love were the source of their courage. I believe that it was their focus on God and His Church that gave them courage. As we read the story of the lives of the Holy Polish Martyrs of World War II we have to be impressed by their faith and courage in the way they died, but I think that we have to understand that none of them could have died with such nobility if their lives did not have that current of faith and love constantly flowing through their lives. It was not a sudden thing. It had been nurtured and guided.

Their lives and their deaths are a monumental litany of awe and glory! Their lives and their deaths shout out to us and encourage us to follow them to Jesus. The lesson of the Holy Polish Martyrs of World War II is clear: Jesus is the Way! He is the Truth! He is the Life! He is Eternal Life!

The more we turn to Jesus and His Church, the Church Jesus gave us ... the deeper our faith! The deeper our love! The stronger our courage! May the Holy Polish Martyrs of World War II be pray for us and lead us by their example to truly know, love and serve God, here and now, so that some day we can rejoice with them forever before the throne of God for all Eternity, Amen!

◆◆◆

Fr. Charles DiMascola is pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, Turners Falls, Massachusetts.

### The POLISH CULTURE CLUB OF GREATER HARTFORD



takes pride in its heritage and thanks all who joined them in celebrating their "Soaring Polish Spirit" at the AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR POLISH CULTURE CONVENTION in HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT.  
Anna-Mae Maglaty, President

### American Council for Polish Culture

www.polishcultureacpc.org



The American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) endeavors to present only the very best in Polish culture and heritage. The activists in ACPC and in all of its Affiliate and Supporting Organizations volunteer their talents, energy and financial support toward fulfillment of these goals. Looking to the future, we offer grants and scholarships to talented Polonian youths so as to encourage them to honor their rich Polish heritage.

Please support ACPC's participation in this year's National Conference for the Social Studies, Nov. 13-15, Atlanta GA. We will be hosting a booth concentrating on the 70th Anniversary of the Outbreak of World War II and presenting a program "World War II: Perspectives on Fear" before a live audience of U.S. educators.

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## Trials in Gray: The Refugee Camp Experience

### "Tell Them We Weren't the Only Ones"

by John Guzowski

When you read about history in the history books, it's all so clear. The numbers make it seem that way. Numbers, people say, don't lie. A thing begins on a certain date, and it ends on another particular date. You see the beginning of a thing, and you see its end. It all seems neat and clean, but it isn't really.

The history books, for instance, tell us that World War II began on September 1, 1939 when the Nazis invaded Poland from the west, and the same books tell us that the war in Europe ended almost six years later on V-E day, May 8, 1945.

My father Jan Guzowski was not a student of history. He never had any kind of formal education, never went to school, never could read much beyond what he could read out of a prayer book, but he knew history. He had lived through history. He was a teenager working on his uncle's farm in Poland when the Nazis invaded and turned his whole world upside down. I guess you can say he learned history from the ground up. He was captured

by the Nazis in a roundup in 1940 and sent to Germany. Like a lot of other Poles, he spent the next five years at hard labor in concentration and slave labor camps there.

But for him, the war didn't end when his camp was liberated sometime at the end of March 1945, and it didn't end on Victory-in-Europe Day, May 8, 1945, and it certainly didn't end when my family finally came to the US as refugees, Displaced Persons, in June 1951.

The war was always with him and with my mother Tekla Guzowski, a woman who spent two years in the slave labor camps in Germany and before that had seen the other women in her family raped and murdered by the Nazis. The trauma of

what she had seen never left her. When I was growing up, I could see it in her eyes and the way she held herself together.

My parents carried with them the pain of war and its nightmares every day of their lives.

In 1997, forty-two years after the war ended, when my father was dying in a hospice, there were times when he was sure that the doctors and the nurses trying to comfort him were the Nazi guards who beat him when he was a prisoner in the concentration camp. There were also times when he couldn't



POLISH REFUGEES, 1945

recognize me and my mother and sister. He looked at us and was frightened. He thought we were there to torture him.

In 2005, toward the end of my mother's life, I told her that I was going to be giving a poetry reading and that I would be reading poems about her and my father and their experiences in the war. I asked if there was something she wanted me to say to the audience. "Yes," she said, "Tell them we weren't the only ones."

My parents knew that the war had always been with them, teaching them the hard lessons, teaching them how to suffer grief and pain, how to be patient, how to live without hope or bread, how to survive what would kill a person in the normal course of life.

The war taught them that war has no beginning and no end.



*John Guzowski was born in a refugee camp in Germany after World War II. He has written several books about his parents' experience in the concentration and slave labor camps of Germany including *Lightning and Ashes* and *Third Winter of War: Buchenwald*. He blogs about their experiences at [lightning-and-ashes.blogspot.com/](http://lightning-and-ashes.blogspot.com/). He currently resides in Danville, Virg.*

### What My Father Believed

by John Guzowski

He didn't know about the Rock of Ages or bringing in the sheaves or Jacob's ladder or gathering at the beautiful river that flows beneath the throne of God. He'd never heard of the Baltimore Catechism either, and didn't know the purpose of life was to love and honor and serve God.

He'd been to the village church as a boy in Poland, and knew he was Catholic because his mother and father were buried in a cemetery under wooden crosses. His sister Catherine was buried there too.

The day their mother died Catherine took to the kitchen corner where the stove sat, and cried. She wouldn't eat or drink, just cried until she died there, died of a broken heart. She was three or four years old, he was five.

What he knew about the nature of God and religion came from the sermons the priests told at mass, and this got mixed up with his own life. He knew living was hard, and that even children are meant to suffer. Sometimes, when he was drinking he'd ask, "Didn't God send his own son here to suffer?"

My father believed we are here to lift logs that can't be lifted, to hammer steel nails so bent they crack when we hit them. In the slave labor camps in Germany, He'd seen men try the impossible and fail.

He believed life is hard, and we should help each other. If you see someone on a cross, his weight pulling him down and breaking his muscles, you should try to lift him, even if only for a minute, even though you know lifting won't save him.

— from *Lightning And Ashes*,

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## Poland's Jewish Community Commemorates the Start of World War II



**PRAYERS** were said in a Gdansk synagogue for the six million Jews who were killed during the Holocaust — about three million of them Polish citizens.

GDANSK, Poland —As part of the Polish government's official series of events marking seven decades since the start of World War II, Poland's Jewish community and the Jerusalem-based Shavei Israel organization held a special ceremony in the Gdansk synagogue to commemorate the outbreak of the war.

In addition to senior Polish and foreign government officials, those participating in the ceremony included Piotr Kadlczik, president of Poland's Jewish communities; Michal Samet, president of the Gdansk Jewish community, and Shavei Israel Chairman Michael Freund.

Shavei Israel is an Israeli-based Jewish organization that locates "lost Jews" and assists them in returning to Judaism. The organization, founded by Freund, is a team of academics, educators and rabbinical figures.

The initiative behind the ceremony came from Freund, who has played a key role in strengthening Polish Jewry.

Rabbi Michael Schudrich, Chief

Rabbi of Poland, recited a memorial prayer at the event for the six million Jews who were killed during the Holocaust — about three million of them Polish citizens — and recalled the Jewish soldiers who served in the Polish Armed Forces and died while fighting the Nazi invaders.

The ceremony also underscored the revival of Polish Jewry that is underway, as a number of young Jews from across Poland, many of whom have only recently discovered their Jewish roots, also took part. It was therefore held under the slogan, "70 years later.... We are still here."

In his remarks at the ceremony, Freund said: "It is incumbent upon us to mark this sad day, to ponder its consequences and to internalize its lessons. But we can not and must not lose hope — a Jew is not allowed to despair. The participation of young Polish Jews in this ceremony, many of whom have only recently returned to their Jewish roots, is compelling proof that the Nazis and their collaborators ultimately failed."

## SUPPORT THE PAJ PRESS FUND

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

A sincere "THANK YOU" for their donations to the **PAJ PRESS FUND: Stephanie Brodowski**, Ballston Spa, N.Y.; **Max J. Daniels**, Easton, Pa.; **John and Ann Halley**, Providence, R.I.; **Frank Lepkowski**, Syracuse, N.Y.; **Walter and Martha Piatek**, Berlin, N.J.; **Gregory Plunges**, Edison, N.J.; **Edward J. Podgurski**, Huron, Ohio; **Casmir Witkowski**, Parkland, Fla.; and two "**Friends of the PAJ**." Dziękujemy! The PAJ thanks all who donated to the Press Fund.

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WORLD WAR II / Sophie Hodorowicz Knab

## Transport

### Part III

*This concludes out three part series on one particular episode in the many intolerable dramas that was World War II in Poland.*

by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab

We arrive in Katowice at 19:30. Here, as usual, we are shunted to a side rail ... we make a gruesome discovery: three of the elderly have died ... from cold, misery and fear. The bodies of the deceased are laid along the wall. After an eight hour wait, at three in the morning we leave Katowice...dawn greets us somewhere at the station in Cieżkowiec. We look at each other in the gray light of early morning. Faces are swollen and dirty ... our clothes dirty and ripped in places. We look at the deceased elders.

We are finally arriving in Kraków. The train stops at the platform. We see the guards jump off their wagon and begin patrolling the train. In the wagons a sense of joy emerged — the suffering is finally over. Activity begins ... people begin to pack their belongings and prepare to disembark. On the outside, nothing is happening. The German guards are not allowing anyone near the train. Out of despair we begin to shout for water and food. The shouts of "Water! "Water!" could be heard from the wagons. The response at the station was action. Between the slats we could see women hurrying to our train with pails of water and milk. The warning shots of the guards scatters our rescuers in all directions. Left behind were the pails and pots, some of which contained milk. The people locked in the wagons can see this. They begin shouting "Murderers! Murderers!"

In our wagon, an elderly gentleman by the name of Kowalski begins to go mad. He begins to shout nonsensical words and rip his clothes. We subdue the unfortunate man, tying up his legs and arms. Someone offered a cup of the rest of our water. We could still hear the voices from the wagons: "Murderers! Murderers!" In response, one hears the warning shots and swearing of the German guards.

Meanwhile another drama is unfolding in the wagon — the youngest daughter of Mrs. Winiarska, Zosia, is dying in her arms. The fevered and thirsty child begs her mother for water. The helpless mother doesn't have any water and can only cuddle the child against her chest. We give Zosia our last sip of water. She drinks greedily and calls for more. The desperate and helpless mother is essentially going mad. After a little while we hear the heartbreaking scream of the mother — Zosia has died in her mother's arms. Mrs. Winiarska is sobbing, hugging the deceased child. Horrified we watch

as the mother, senseless with despair, begins to pull the hair out of her head.

In the other corner of the wagon, we hear the whispers and prayers for the deceased.

At the same time in another corner of the wagon is swearing at Hitler, the Germans, the entire world that allowed Germans to treat Poles in such a manner. With tremendous difficulty we are able to calm the suffering mother.

Meanwhile the locomotive has taken us to a side rail ... the entire transport is shouting "Water, water" to no avail. The guards do not open the doors ... we wait another six hours. In our wagon we experience another crisis: Mrs. Winiarska is dying with her deceased child in her arms. Her heart couldn't withstand the loss of her beloved child. We take care of the now orphaned 7-year-old Marisia as best we can.

### We could still hear the voices from the wagons: "Murderers! Murderers!" In response ... warning shots and swearing of the German guards.

We begin moving from Kraków. We pass Podłęże, then Kłaj ... then Tarnów where as usual, we wait five hours. After a long ride with no stops we arrive at the station in Stóże. Another side rail. Another miserable six-hour wait ... the train leaves in the direction of Zagórze. In the dark you can hear the rumble of the wheels and the chugging of the locomotive as it exerts itself to take us on the last leg of our journey to the foothills and Gorlice. Finally, the end of our journey.

The German escort begins jumping out of the wagons and surround the transport. In the wagons, there is activity ... once again everyone is packing their things and readying to disembark. There was some joy in knowing that the hellish journey is over. We wait another half hour for permission to leave the train. Finally we hear the clatter and grating of doors opening. Amidst the mixed voices of men and women are the distant cries of children and the sharp commands of the Germans, "Get out, get out."

The exit from the stinking wagon into the fresh air was intoxicating. The people exit slowly and stagger as if drunk. We help each other unload baggage. Unfortunately, not everyone from our wagon is able to exit. There are five dead. We ascertain that from the time we were



locked in the wagons at the transit camp on Baltic Street in Poznań on March 16 at 10:00 a.m. to the time the doors were opened on March 20 at 7:30 p.m., 105.5 hours had passed. We rode for 34.5 hours and waited 71 hours. Other tragic details of this account: of 1,100 individuals who embarked in Poznań, 60 people died along the way as a result of the terrible conditions of the transport created by the German torturers.

The air is filled with the cry of a child. The dead bodies of a mother and child are taken from the wagon and placed on a separate cart along with the others who were not able to sustain the difficulties of the transport, and taken to a nearby cemetery.

People begin to run for much needed water, which no one prevents them from doing. The train has left and we wait for what happens next. After a short while, farmers arrive with horses and sleighs. We load our baggage, children and elderly into the sleighs and the rest walk alongside. The streets are filled with snow. The local people look at us with curiosity and pity. We are settled into a school. Whoever could, washed up, even if quickly. The sick are looked after and we are given something warm to eat. After eating we try and prepare ourselves a place to sleep. There are not enough beds. The young and healthy prepare themselves a place to sleep on the floor covered with hay. Before sleep we wash up again. At last, after many nightmarish hours on the transport, full and clean, there waited for us, sleep in a warm place.



What happened to these individuals after deportation and resettlement in the General Government? Many individuals were housed with other overcrowded Polish families and had to suffer the emotional torment of being additional burdens. Many sought some kind of work to support themselves and their families. Survival was an issue they had to face every day. Many, along with the rest of the population, were half starved. Many died.

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**AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE**

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For more information on the 2009 Paderewski Festival in Paso Robles, visit www.paderewskifest.com.

**PALO ALTO** — John Raisian, the Tad and Dianne Taube Director at the **Hoover Institution**, and historian Robert Conquest, Hoover research fellow, were honored by the **Republic of Poland** with that country's **Order of Merit** to recognize their contributions to Poland in a ceremony at the Hoover Institution.

Radosław Sikorski, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Poland, made the presentations.

The Republic of Poland also honored Richard Sousa, director of the Hoover Institution Library and Archives, by presenting him with the plaque of Amicus Poloniae (Friend of Poland) in recognition of his commitment to Polish concerns in the United States.

**CONNECTICUT**

**NEW BRITAIN** — Police are looking for the vandals who knocked over tents and strewed garbage about the Polish community's 29th annual **Dozynki** festival, early on the morning of Aug. 23.

The festival featuring traditional Polish food and culture came off Saturday without a hitch. But when organizers arrived early Sunday to get ready to reopen, they discovered numerous acts of vandalism including napkins and soda cans thrown about the festival grounds and tents and cooking equipment damaged.

The vandalism occurred about 1:00 a.m., and there are no suspects

or witnesses.

Though organizers and numerous volunteers spent between 8:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. cleaning up, some of the vendors couldn't open Sunday due to the damage.

Police said they have gathered evidence that they will be processing and are investigating the incident.

Anyone who may have information about the vandalism is asked to call the police department at (860) 826-3065.

**FLORIDA**

**MIAMI** — You can experience Poland's rich diversity of food and drink the **12th Annual Americas Food & Beverage Show**, at the Miami Beach Convention Center, Nov. 9-10, 2009. A premiere trade event for the global food and beverage industry, buyers, distributors, wholesalers, importers and other attendees of the Show will be able to sample the varied flavors of **Poland** firsthand at Booths 1308, 1310, 1312 and 1314. A Polish chef will preside over a cooking station for the pavilion, serving up sampling portions. Visitors can learn more about Poland at Booth 1316 hosted by the Polish Embassy.

Registration for the 2009 Americas Food & Beverage Show is open online at www.americasfoodandbeverage.com or by contacting the World Trade Center Miami at (305) 871-7910. Registration is free until October 8, 2009.

**MICHIGAN**

**DETROIT** — If you can write a report or paper in Polish, this might be the contest for you!

**Young Polonia Foundation** and the **Piast Institute** invite the Polish and Polish American youth between the ages of 14 and 24 in the United States (and everywhere else) to participate in the 2010 Poloniada.

The theme is (of course), Polish culture. The goal is to write a well-researched report on an important Pole who contributed greatly to the history of Poland, or the world, and

could be a role model to present day youth. You can either write a well-documented research paper or present your ideas in a form of an artistic album with pictures, drawings, and other forms of creative expression.

The deadline is the end of February of 2010. You can mail your works to the participating Polish Consulates in your area, or send your work directly to the Young Polonia Foundation in Warsaw at: Fundacja Młodej Polonii, Krakowskie Przedmiescie 64, 00-322 Warsaw, Poland.

The winners will meet for a symposium in Warsaw, Poland. Additional awards will include scholarships and possibility to attend a top Polish university.

More information is available at www.youthpartnership.wordpress.com/2009/08/05/poloniada-2010/.

**MINNESOTA**

**MINNEAPOLIS** — The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota's annual **Soup Festival** will be held Oct. 25, 2009 in Kolbe Hall, lower level of John Paul II School, Holy Cross Church complex at 17th Avenue and Fourth Street NE. Over a dozen different Polish soups with bread and desserts will be served from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. If there is any soup left over at that time, it will be sold. Tickets are sold 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 (612) 378-9291 to volunteer or for more information.

**MINNEAPOLIS** — The **Warsaw Village Band** will be in town Oct. 29, 2009, at the Cedar Cultural Center at 7:30 p.m. (Doors Open at 7:00 p.m.) Tickets from the Cedar Ticketline (612) 338-2674, ext. 2.

**NEW YORK**

**BINGHAMTOM** — The **European Ethnic Melodies Show**, broadcast on Binghamton University radio at 90.5 FM dial and simulcast at www.whrwm.org will present the 18th annual month-long celebration of Polish American Heritage Month, every Tuesday evening from 7:00-10:00 p.m. throughout

October.

The **European Ethnic Melodies Show** is hosted by Daniel Jan. He is celebrating 22 years of perfect attendance in continuous broadcasting on WHRW-FM, and 12 continuous years of broadcasting on the Internet. He is also in the 6th year of producing multi-ethnic folk, world, nationality, and polka music and wealth-of-health wellness program.

For further information, write to Danieljanw@aol.com or visit www.danieljan.com.

**OHIO**

**CLEVELAND** — **Zatańczmy:** a Celebration of Polish Folk Dance will take place Sun., Oct. 18 at Magnificat High School Performing Arts Center 20770 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River, Ohio.

This event will start at noon offering a traditional Polish buffet, bakery and marketplace with ethnic items all available for purchase. The multigenerational song and dance concert will begin at 3:00 p.m. Tickets for the family-friendly concert are \$12 in advance/\$15 dollars at the door.

This event is sponsored by the Polish National Alliance and the Polish Roman Catholic Union to showcase the talents of the six folk dance groups involved. For more information, call (330) 646-4082.

**Zatańczmy** is a first-time collaborative project of six Polish folk song and dance troupes serving Northeast Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. The children, adults and seniors that make up these non-profit groups dedicate their time and energy to share their appreciation of authentic Polish folk dance with both regional and national audiences. The participating groups include: Górale Polish Folk Dancers; Krakowiaki Polish Folk Circle; Living Traditions Folk Ensemble; Piast Artistic Folk Song and Dance Ensemble; Syrena Polish Folk Ensemble; and, Wiaty Polish Folk Dancers.

**PENNSYLVANIA**

**HAZLETON, Pa.** — For the past 32 years, local businesses, professionals and friends of the **Greater Hazleton Area Polonaise Society** have joined the PolAm group as they celebrated their culture, tradi-

tions, and customs with the October celebration of Polish American Heritage Month.

This year's theme will be "Remember the Polish Coal Miners," who by 1900 comprised the largest single ethnic group in the anthracite coal fields of Pennsylvania.

Locating living coal miners from the 20th century is not easy since the majority of them have died and anthracite mining of the deep veins from Shamokin to Carbondale ceased to exist, for the most part following the Second World War. Regardless, the Polonaise Society has been searching for living Polish coal miners from Shamokin to Wilkes-Barre, so that they might honor four or five of them at this year's Polonaise Ball. A few have been located but the search goes on.

Over the past 32 years, tens of thousands of dollars have benefitted local graduates as they pursue their college dreams. Several hundred pieces have been mailed asking for support from friends of the society.

This year's Polonaise Heritage Ball will be held Oct. 18 at 2 p.m. at Genetti's Best Western Lodge. Tickets may be had by calling (570) 454-4397 or ball ticket chairperson Olga Morgan at 929-2012. This year's speaker will be Steven J. Lichak Jr., senior producer and media production specialist at the Linderman Library, located in the Fairchild Martindale Library at Lehigh University, Bethlehem.

Lichak is the founding president of the WYSO Foundation, a charitable foundation dedicated to the preservation of the coal mining history of Pennsylvania.

Frank Wysochansky (Wyso) was one of 12 children born to Ukrainian immigrants. His father, Joseph, was a coal miner who lost his life when Wyso was 21 years old.



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## HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

## “Zdrowie Plus” Celebrates 10 Years

CHICAGO — In July of 1999, Malgorzata Kiesz envisioned a Polish-language orientated support group for women suffering from cancer. A radio journalist by profession, Ms. Kiesz wanted to relate to her Polish-speaking constituents the importance of early cancer detection and supportive communication. Her goal was to form a support group based on her own experience (a post-mastectomy survivor) and cancer-related encounters of other Polish speaking immigrant women. Through the support of Dorothy Pathak, Ph.D., Malgorzata created the first not-for-profit organization of its type within the Chicago Polonia community and beyond. Dr. Pathak, a Professor of Epidemiology at the Great Lakes Cancer Institute of Michigan State University, and researcher on “the effects of migration on breast cancer incidences among Polish immigrant women,” collaborated in this project.

In 2000, realizing from her experiences and those of other Polish-speaking women that cultural, language and financial barriers limited proper diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer, Kiesz established this not-for-profit group.

This program has grown in scope and has widened to include cancer prevention for both men and women in the Polish American community. In 2002, *Fundacja Zdrowie Plus* (Health Plus Foundation), mainly based on volunteer work, was registered as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization. *Fundacja Zdrowie Plus* cooperates with a number of physicians and rehabilitation specialists in the U.S. and in Poland, and with organizations such as the American Cancer Society, Resurrection Health Care, Silver Lining Foundation, Imerman Angels, and Breast Cancer Network of Strength (formerly the Y-Me National Breast Cancer Organization) to name a few.

Based on the Alcoholic Anony-



MALGORZATA KIESZ

mous model and depending on their needs, Polish-speaking women living in Chicago and nearby suburbs meet monthly and sometimes weekly. Today, *Zdrowie Plus* is governed by a board of directors with 42 volunteers who give cancer-related help to approximately 500 Polish-speaking women.

As *Zdrowie Plus* celebrates its 10th anniversary, it seeks financial support from the Chicago-area community in order to support the Foundation’s “fight against cancer.” It is holding a benefit banquet on October 3, 2009 at the Jolly Inn Banquet Hall in Chicago.

**POLISH MUSEUM: POPULAR DESTINATION.** The Polish Museum of America (PMA) hosted its annual Volunteer Appreciation Evening. On August 14, over 100 guests attended this evening’s tribute in which the Museum’s volunteers were honored. Many individuals from the Museum’s staff, its Board of Directors, the Polish American media, and the Polish Roman Catholic Union’s staff were in attendance to thank the volunteers. PMA’s president, Maria Ciesla, thanked the volunteers for their devotion, talents, and time spent at and

for the Museum. She said that, collectively and in one year’s time, they donated 4,800 hours to help to make the PMA a popular cultural and educational destination. Fifteen volunteers were given special recognition for their outstanding and generous hours spent on behalf of the Museum, with Kasia Dreus clocking 781 hours of volunteerism.



**EXHIBIT ORGANIZERS:** Legion Members Pres. Terry Sinkowski and Marianne Kobos.

**LYPW CELEBRATES 70 YEARS.** The Legion of Young Polish Women (LYPW) began its 70th anniversary celebration by hosting a special testimonial exhibit which reviewed its educational, cultural, and philanthropic history. This August 21st opening reception with over 125 guests in attendance was held in the Great Hall of The Polish Museum of America. The exhibit was composed of photographs, newspaper and magazine articles, and awards that documented the Legion’s history from its founding on September 5, 1939, its first debutante ball in 1945, and its multitude of endeavors since 1939 to the present. The Legion will be hosting a 70th anniversary luncheon to celebrate its charitable accomplishments.



**MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS.** Standing (l to r): Jenny Crissey, Halina Bieniewska, Mary Jane Robles, Harriet Bertola, Rosalie Lindberg, Pawel Opalinski, and Carol Jankowski. Seated (l to r): Stasia Gasior, Shelley Morrison, Kasia Dreus, Esther Witek



**ARTISTS** Marta and Krzysztof Wasko

**“JUDGMENT” EXHIBIT AT PMA.** September 4 was the opening date at The Polish Museum of America of “Judgment,” an exhibit of the collaborative works created by brother and sister, Krzysztof and Marta Wasko. Approximately 200 guests were invited to view an exhibition that used Marta’s sculpture and Krzysztof’s painting which the artists believe illustrate the complexity of the human condition and the mysteriousness of human nature. Krzysztof was born in 1970 in Łomża, Poland, received his Bachelor of Arts degree with an emphasis in painting at Columba College in Chicago, and a Masters

in painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Wrocław, Poland. His works have been exhibited in galleries and museums in Poland, Canada, and the United States. In 2008, Wasko was commissioned by the Chicago History Museum to create the image of Chicago’s Madonna, shown as part of the Museum’s Catholic Chicago exhibition, Marta was born in Poland, studied at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and has worked in various materials such as wood, stone, bronze and plaster. Ms. Wasko’s works have been seen in galleries and museums in the United States and Europe.



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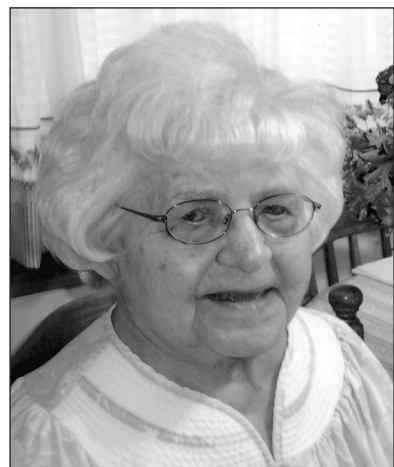
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**“TASTE OF POLONIA” 30 YEARS YOUNG.** The Copernicus Foundation hosted its 30th annual “Taste of Polonia” festival (above) from September 4-7 at the Copernicus Cultural Center. Billed as the “largest ethnic fest in Chicago,” this event featured non-stop musical entertainment, folk dancing, a casino, a festival street market, traditional Polish food, and a Sunday Mass. Sponsors of this festival were Jewel Osco, the grocery store chain, National City Bank of PNC, Resurrection Health Care, Krakus, Stawski Imports, Home Depot, T-Mobile, Lowe’s and CricKet.

Based on the concept of three main outdoor stages, Polish and American bands played everything from rock, blues and polka music to classical music. The Center’s indoor Gateway Theater featured the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra, Chor Chopin, and the ever-popular Polonia Ensemble Song and Dance Troupe. A new dimension was added to the 30th festival: Polish cooking classes. Many a festival attendee came to hear and see what was going to be offered in the way of Polish cooking. Michael Niksic, “The Food Mercenary,” was front and center in the Gateway as he demonstrated how Old World cooking and nouvelle cuisine could be joined together to create those Old World Polish favorites with their 21st century dietary, healthy and flavorful counterparts. It was agreed that Chef Niksic was a “treat.” It was estimated that “Taste of Polonia” drew a 300,000 crowd.

## Pauline Bernat Celebrates 105th



**BUFFALO** — Western New Yorker **PAULINE BERNAT** celebrated her 105th birthday on June 22, 2009. Born Pauline Bogusz, she married Anthony Bernat in September 1927. The couple had three children: Rita (Sikorski), Henry and Edward. Mrs. Bernat now has seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. Her greatest happiness has always been in her role as wife and mother. She also enjoys crochet work and playing cards.

Mrs. Bernat is a life-long member of Corpus Christi Parish on Buffalo's East Side. She graduated from Corpus Christi elementary school and was married from the landmark church. For many years, Mrs. Bernat attended daily Mass. She was a member of the Senior Citizens and Mothers' Club at Corpus Christi.

Mrs. Bernat continued to faithfully participate in weekly Mass until a fall and subsequent hip surgery several years ago which has kept her more homebound. She lives at home in Cheektowaga with her son, where she continues in her role as loving matriarch of the extended Bernat family.

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## POLONIA EAGLE OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

# Polish American Heritage Month Doings

**BUFFALO, N.Y.** — Although, officially, WNY marks Polish American Heritage Month in May, October is Polish American Heritage Month for the rest of Polonia. Here are some of the Polish and Polish American cultural events that can be enjoyed in WNY, CNY and Southern Ontario during October:

### THUR., 10/1- SUN., 10/4

- "BIG JOE'S VIDEO POLKA FEST" (RFD-TV Taping Featuring 8 Polka Bands Each Day). Noon. Buffalo Niagara Convention Center, 153 Franklin Street, Buffalo. \$17.50/day. (852-0511)

### FRIDAY, 10/2

- "GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE: THE POLISH PERSPECTIVE" (A Skalny Lecture by Professor Marek Konarczewski). 7:30 p.m. Sloan Auditorium, Goergen Hall, University of Rochester River Campus, Rochester. Bozena Sobolewska (585-275-9898)

### FRIDAY, 10/2 AND SATURDAY, 10/3

- "BIESIADA W PRL-U" (Featuring Kabaret "Pod Banka"). 8:00PM (Fri.); 7:00PM (Sat.). John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Road, Mississauga Ont.. (416-414-7882)

### SATURDAY, 10/3

- "POLAND TO BUFFALO THROUGH WWII: UNTOLD STORIES COME ALIVE" (A Polish Legacy Project in Buffalo. WWII Conference). 8:00 A.M. WNED-TV Studios, 140 Lower Terrace Street, Buffalo. Andrzej Golebiowski (510-7562)
- "BLACK ROCK" TOUR. 10:00 a.m. Amherst & Niagara Streets, Buffalo. \$10
- POLISH HERITAGE SOCIETY OF ROCHESTER 90TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE. 6:00 p.m. Midvale Country Club, 2387 Baird Road, Penfield. \$50.00. Maria Weldy (585-248-0152)
- MSGR. ADAMSKI POLISH SATUR-

DAY SCHOOL "ZABAWA" (Featuring "Polanie"). St. John Gualbert Parish Hall, Gualbert Avenue & Doat Street, Cheektowaga. Mira Szramel (903-3242)

### SUNDAY, 10/4

- "HONORING OUR SURVIVORS" MASS (A Polish Legacy Project in Buffalo. WWII Conference Event). 10:00 a.m. Corpus Christi Church, 199 Clark Street, Buffalo. Andrzej Golebiowski (510-7562)
- "POLAND TO BUFFALO THROUGH WWII: UNTOLD STORIES COME ALIVE" (A Polish Legacy Project in Buffalo. WWII Conference). 11:30 a.m. Matt Urban Center, 1081 Broadway, Buffalo. Andrzej Golebiowski (510-7562)
- WARSAW VILLAGE BAND IN CONCERT. 8:00 p.m. Lula Lounge, 1585 Dundas Street West, Toronto, Ont.. (416-536-5439)

### WEDNESDAY, 10/7

- POLKA VARIETY SOCIAL CLUB MEETING (Featuring "Rare Vintage"). 6:30 p.m. Lily of the Valley Hall, 2379 Union Road, Cheektowaga. \$7/Member; \$8/Guest. Len Zak (896-1476)

### SATURDAY, 10/10

- POLISH FOLKWEAR FASHION SHOW (Featuring the Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY). 1:00 p.m. North

Tonawanda Historical Museum, 54 Webster Street, North Tonawanda

### THURSDAY, 10/15

- BUFFALO POLKA BOOSTERS MEETING. 7:00 p.m. Depew Polish Falcons, 445 Columbia Avenue, Depew. Chris (892-7977)

### SATURDAY, 10/17

- "AN EVENING OF ROMANCE" (Polish Arts Club of Buffalo Grand Polonaise Ball Featuring the Greg Docenko Orchestra). 6:00 p.m. Westwood Country Club, 772 North Forest Road, Amherst. \$65.00. Cindy Baumgartner (639-7543)

### SUNDAY, 10/18

- "HEART OF POLONIA" TOUR. 10:00 a.m. St. Stanislaus Church, Fillmore Avenue & Peckham Street, Buffalo. \$10

### WEDNESDAY, 10/21

- "WANDA LANDOWSKA: POLISH HARPSICHORDIST" (Polish Arts Club of Buffalo Presentation Featuring Michael Harris). 7:30 p.m. Harlem Road Community Center, Harlem Road, Amherst. Stan Nowak

### SATURDAY, 10/24

- "POLISH RHAPSODY" (Multimedia Concert Featuring Andrzej Rozbicki's Celebrity Symphony Orchestra). 7:30 p.m. Living Arts Centre,

4141 Living Arts Drive, Mississauga, Ont.. (905-306-6000)

### SAT., 10/24 - SUN., 10/25

- POLISH HERITAGE SOCIETY OF ROCHESTER THIRD KRAKOW "SZOPKA" WORKSHOP. Rochester Museum and Science Center, Rochester. Maria Weldy (585-248-0152)

### SUNDAY, 10/25

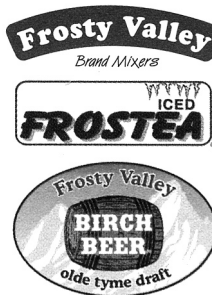
- POLISH FALCONS NEST 52 MEMORIAL MASS. 9:00 a.m. St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, Hudson Avenue & Norton Street, Rochester
- SECOND ANNUAL HARVEST BRUNCH BUFFET. 10:00 a.m. St. Stanislaus Social Center, Fillmore Avenue & Peckham Street, Buffalo
- CHEEKTOWAGA COMMUNITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT (Featuring Soprano Mary Beth Wrobel). 3:00 p.m. Queen of Martyrs Church, 180 George Urban Blvd., Cheektowaga. Jackie (444-8693)
- PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOCIATION PAST PRESIDENTS/MAN OF THE YEAR DINNER (Honoring Marcin Ostrowski). Salvatore's Italian Gardens, 6461 Transit Road, Depew

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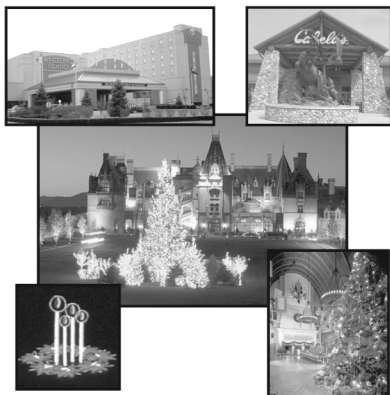
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## Medals Ceremony at Embassy



(l. to r.): Ryszard Okreglak, Bozena Buda, Carla Tomaszewski, Ambassador Robert Kupiecki.

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Three Maryland residents were formally recognized here on August 26, 2009 at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland. Pictured above (from left) is Ryszard Okreglak wearing the neck-ribboned Commander's Cross, with Bozena Buda and Carla Tomaszewski, both pinned with the Knight's Cross. Ambassador Robert Kupiecki (right) personally bestowed the honors after the reading of each proclamation officially issued by the Honorable Lech Kaczynski, President of Poland.

Okreglak was cited for his most notable accomplishments with the Polish Library in Washington; Buda

for her tireless efforts and successes on behalf of the Polish Boy/Girl Scouts; Tomaszewski for her continuous promotion of Polish culture through her multifaceted and recognized artwork.

All three awardees separately addressed the noontime gathering of family and friends. Each spoke enthusiastically of Poland and Polonia in many different respects. They all ended by thanking Ambassador Kupiecki, President Kaczynski, and the people of Poland for bestowing the esteemed Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland upon them. A champagne toast and luncheon capped the event.

## Scholarship Winners



STAMFORD, Conn. — The Polish American Cultural Society of Stamford awarded three scholarships recently to students of Polish descent.

Pictured on the left is Alexander Koproski, president of the organization; next is Sylvia Pierzak of Stratford, Conn., who is a student at the University of Connecticut; Richard Zelinsky of Stamford, who will be attending Northeastern University in Boston in the fall; and Patricia Koproski, scholarship chairman. Not pictured is Lukasz Dec of Norwalk, who will be attending the University of Connecticut.

## PAHA

www.polishamericanstudies.org

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.



I am interested in becoming a member of PAHA. Enclosed is a check or money order for \$30.00 made payable to the Polish American Historical Association.

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## Polish Gift of Life to Celebrate 30th Anniversary



ALBERTSON, N.Y. — The Polish Gift of Life, Inc., once again thanks its supporters who have made it possible for the organization to answer requests for help from children in Poland who needed heart surgery.

The photographs here are of children who recently underwent successful heart surgery, and can now look forward to a healthy future.

This could not have been accomplished without your financial aid.

This November 22, the PGL will celebrate its 30th anniversary. In that time, the organization has been able to help over 320 children who need heart surgery or a procedure on their heart.

"This list for help is long, and we look forward to helping many more children," said Caroline Kowalczyk,

PGL president.

"Once again, not only do we, the members of the Polish Gift of Life, Inc., thank you, but the children and their families say a grateful 'dziękuje'."

To learn more about the Polish Gift of Life, Inc., or to make a donation, visit [www.polishgiftoflife.org](http://www.polishgiftoflife.org), or write to P.O. Box 273, Albertson, NY 11507-0273.

## Polonia Poetry Prize Awarded

by Andrzej Szczepanski

Mielec, a town known in Poland for its aircraft industry, is also home to an annual international poetry competition, held at the Pedagogical Library. There are three categories: Adult, Juvenile, and Polonia. The top prize for the first two categories is the Silver Quill of the Mayor of Mielec; the grand prize in the Polonia category, is the Eagle of the Senate of the Polish Republic, awarded by the region's senator, Wladyslaw Ortyl.

This year's choice for the Senate Eagle prize was Peter Obst, for his Polish language work "Skrzydla Ikara." He works as an assistant to historian Edward Pinkowski, and lectures in Polish Cultural History and Foreign Literature at LaSalle University in Philadelphia. At the university, his superior is Dr. Bernhardt Blumenthal, chairman of the Foreign Language Department who also manages the Central and Eastern European Studies Program. Students completing this program obtain a master's degree (M.A.) which is helpful to individuals seeking employment opportunities connected with Poland and eastern European countries.

Aspiring poets who would like to submit entries to the Mielec poetry competition should check the website of the Pedagogical Library, [www.rzeszow.pbw.org.pl](http://www.rzeszow.pbw.org.pl).



PETER OBST (left) shows the Eagle of the Polish Senate prize for poetry to Dr. Bernhardt Blumenthal at LaSalle University.

## PAC Announces Program for National Conference

CHICAGO — The Polish American Congress will hold a National Conference, October 15 and 16 at Northeastern Illinois University. The theme is "The Polish American Community in the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities." The conference offers leaders, activists, and all persons interested in a vigorous Polish American community an opportunity to exchange experi-

ences, share aspirations, and discuss best practices with others from across the United States.

The conference will feature both general and issue-specific sessions. Elected leaders and representatives of Chicago, Illinois, the United States, and the Government of Poland are expected to address the conference's Opening Session. Representatives and guests from Poland

have been invited to join in selected sessions.

General sessions will examine the profile of the current Polish American community leadership development; relations between the United States, the Polish American community and Poland; and the future of Polonia and its organizational challenges and opportunities.

Issue-specific sessions will address a range of topics, including: educational partnerships, teaching and learning; the role, importance and need for ethnic organizations; increasing political involvement and influence in the American political process; preservation and promotion of Polish culture and heritage in the United States; opportunities for participating in business between the United States and Poland; and networking in the community through sports, charities, and professional and social networks.

Information about the National Conference, registration, arrangements, and opportunities for supporting the event is available on the Polish American Congress' website [www.polamcon.org](http://www.polamcon.org).

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## How Will You Be Remembered?

Many people talk about leaving gifts to worthy causes, but don't have a will, and do not realize it requires a will to do so. The laws of most states make it quite clear that personal property goes automatically, by law, to your nearest relatives, even if they are quite distant ones, unless you have a legal will that says otherwise. If you have no relatives, it goes to the state. More than half of all adult Americans die without having made their wills. Most of them undoubtedly planned to do so, but never got around to it. Some had wills but didn't keep them current. When you have a will, you should update it every few years as conditions change. Also, always name an executor who will carry out your wishes. Besides money, non-cash possessions can also be used as contributions and various donation plans can be carried out. Be a philanthropist: leave your stocks, bonds, real estate, art, valuable collections or insurance to continue the Polish American traditions. Your will is the most important way of giving. When you are gone, it is a legacy that is not forgotten. In your will, you can

specify what you would like your donation to be used for. For help in making your will, contact a competent lawyer. The National Polish Center, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that needs your help and legacy.

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# Polka MAGAZINE

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

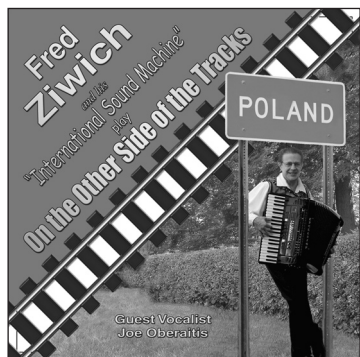
DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN MUSIC

## Fred Ziwich Plays On the Other Side of the Tracks

CLEVELAND — As Ed Ostry says in the liner notes, the title of this recording is symbolic of the fact that Fred Ziwich and the International Sound Machine (ISM) have been known for their performances and recordings in other styles of Polka and Dance Music, and though they have recorded some Polish style selections, and performed them live, this is the first time they have dedicated a whole production to the various Polish polka, oberek and waltz styles.

Long time sidemen Gary and Christopher Byndas are in fine form with the pleasant blending of their voices to “Chervena Ruza,” “Sparkling Eyes Oberek,” “Gypsy” polka, and “Pod Mostem.” Their strong trumpet and sax arrangements are featured on “Bruno’s” polka, “Itchy Kitchy Koo” oberek, and “Concertina” polka.

One of the highlights of the CD is when Pan Juzef, Joe Oberaitis joins ISM for a big medley of ten of his most well-known songs. The planning, arranging and most of the recording were in place when the announcement came that Oberaitis would be inducted into the IPA Hall of Fame on August 8.



Button Box fans will enjoy Ziwich’s version of “The Golden Kielbasa” along with twin clarinets. And their moving version of the waltz “As Life Rolls On” has already been aired on Ed Ostry’s radio show.

Just like at the end of a playing job, there is a “Sing-Along Closing Medley” combining 12 songs that everyone knows, sung by all the guys in Polish and English.

Following the “Closing Medley,” are five original polkas and obereks that Ziwich has written and compiled over the years, that features his clarinet and sax playing. And the CD ends with the theme song of the Polka Boosters Club of America

Totally, there are 19 cuts, and 69 minutes of music.

Ziwich and the ISM are one of the lucky bands that are out performing at least once every weekend. They are hoping to open themselves up to a new group of fans, and venues to perform at with the recording of this group of songs.

To order your own copy, see the ad on page 15. And to save postage, see the band live at one of its festive performances.

## Duane Malinowski Releases New CD

Duane Malinowski is proud to release his latest CD, *Through The Years, The Two Sides Of Duane Malinowski*. The CD is a special release of 23 songs which takes you through his musical career from 1980 to the present.

The release serves two purposes says Malinowski. “I wanted to thank the many polka fans who have followed me throughout my polka career as well as my Nashville career, and I also wanted to find a way to help benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.”

Two years ago, Duane’s oldest son became diabetic and is insulin dependent through daily shots. Malinowski admits it’s been a rough couple of years for him and his family to adapt to the changes the disease demands.

All the songs on the CD have been digitally re-mastered and include some of the most requested songs

such as “Green Grass” polka, “Good Times” polka and “Come to the Mountain” polka, as well as some of Duane’s originals, such as “I Get The Giggles,” “Button Box Hoedown” and “Chop Suey” polka. The CD also contains some novelty songs such as “Pretty Blue Eyes” along with two of Duane’s country songs recorded in Nashville entitled, “Satisfy Me” and “I’ll Satisfy You” and “I Just Called To Say I Love You One More Time.”

It is a CD that you’re sure to enjoy, and you’ll help the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation as well, as part of the proceeds from this CD will be donated to them. You can obtain a CD by sending a check or money order for \$20.00 plus \$3.50 shipping and handling to Duane Malinowski, 5738 Brookcliffe Rd., Toledo, OH 43614.

### POLKA JUKEBOX / Steve Litwin

## John Gora is One Polka-Playin’ Fool!

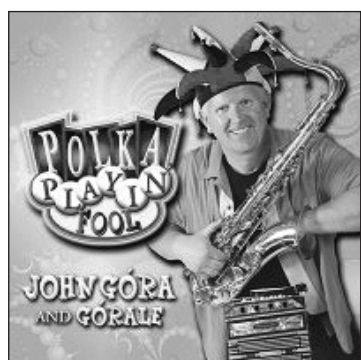
John Gora is a Polka Playin’ Fool, or at least that’s what his latest CD bearing that title is telling the polka world.

Fool? I think not! This 16-track release, a collection of old, almost new, not-so-old, and brand new tunes, is one of the best products from this north-of-the-border polka entertainer.

The selection of tunes was well planned and every one holds its own among the others. One favorite for me is “W Poniedziakle Rano,” which immediately made me a polka-listening fool. The song, which takes me back to my childhood, is done to perfection and it is now “my” lead track on this new CD. The honky-dyno sound, key changes, and concertina/keyboard work make “Monday Morning” a must play first.

The title track “Polka Playin’ Fool,” penned by Joe Rodgers and John Gora, starts the CD rolling and it never stops after that. Great covers of “Girls, Girls, Girls,” and “I Love You” fit extremely well in this project and the Polish lyrics of “I Love You” give it that Gora touch. “Kasia” oberek, the minor key of “Szczescie” (“Happiness”), the continental flavor of “Puste Koperty” and the button box of “Na Jednego” give a solid musical mix to this one. “Love, Sunshine & Strawberries” has the listener singing along.

John Gora knows how to market a product, from



the music, to the production, to the full listing of lyrics. John is on sax and vocals, Johnny Winiarz handles drums, Greg Winiarz is the bass man, Rob Piatkowski (the onion man) also plays trumpet, Ted Lange plays accordion, button box and piano, Kyle C. Pacey is on guitar and vocals, Jack Beachly is the concertina man and Mollie Busta also adds vocals. *Polka Playin Fool* was recorded and mixed by Gary Rhamy and released on Gora’s Korona Music label.

“GOT KNEWZ” BY THE KNEWZ is another mixture of musical polka variety by this Buffalo-based group. These talented musicians always present a good sampling of their own material and there are seven originals on this 16-track CD. “Long Story Short,” “Wypij Sobie,” and “Angel in My Eyes,” deserve special mention.

“Pickles and Peppers,” the Greg Novak tune, is given a smooth interpretation here, while there are nice covers of “At the Bar,” “Let’s Go,” and “Somewhere in this World.”

The solid duo of Tom Picciano and Mike Burka are on trumpets, Tom Wanderlich is the man behind concertina and piano. Andy Bojczuk is first rate behind the drums, while Brian Urbanczyk is solid on bass. On accordion is John Fomenko. John Wanderlich is featured on guitar.

The Knewz demonstrates a casual approach on stage, which gathers dedicated fans to all their performances. They keep the polka business alive and are one of Buffalo’s most-traveled bands.

*Got Knewz* was recorded at Max Studios and engineered by Matt Lewandowski. It is on the Sunshine label.

## First Annual Oktoberfest at Sunnybrook Ballroom

POTTSTOWN, Pa. — Sunnybrook Foundation presents its First Annual Oktoberfest at beautiful, historic Sunnybrook Ballroom, E. High St. & Sunnybrook Road, Pottstown.

Sunnybrook Ballroom is a National Historic Site. The ballroom is beautiful and the sprawling grounds of Sunnybrook are gorgeous. You’ll want to take a walk on the grounds and enjoy the lovely countryside atmosphere and setting of Sunnybrook’s historical facility.

The Oktoberfest will be held

Sunday, October 18, 2009. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. Music is scheduled from noon to 6:00 p.m. with Rhythm & Music Trio, featuring Janet, John and Frank, start things off from noon-2:00 p.m.

Die Schlauberger, America’s No. 1 German Band, will take the stage at 2:00 p.m. with their dynamic style of German music and vocals.

A cash bar and German food menu, domestic and German Beers will be available. For tickets call Janet Osuch at (610) 326.2915 or visit [www.sunnybrookballroom.net](http://www.sunnybrookballroom.net).

## Fritz’s Polka Band Plays New York State Fair

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — On Tuesday, September 1, 2009, Fritz’s Polka Band from Verona, N.Y., performed three different shows at the New York State Fair in Syracuse that drew large crowds in the International Building.

“This year was the first time my Dad (founding FPB member, Fred Scherz, Sr.) wasn’t able to play at the New York State Fair with us, because he’s bravely battling cancer and we sure missed him,” said Fritz Scherz, band leader of Fritz’s Polka Band.

“We had three big crowds for each show. Some of the tunes they

applauded loudest for included ‘Bialczak’s Polka,’ ‘Tribute’ (original song we dedicated to the Veterans), and ‘Pay Me My Money Down’ (song we did at the conclusion). The audience did a great sing along during ‘Beer Barrel Polka, too.’”

Fritz’s Polka Band has been performing for over 30 years and has made 16 recordings. In June 2009, Fritz’s Polka Band won their first ever Syracuse Area Music Award (SAMMY) in the Best Recording: Other Styles category for their “Reflections” recording.

For more information on FPB, go to: [www.fritzpolkaband.com](http://www.fritzpolkaband.com).

## Jedzie Boat!

PHOENIX — Join The Varitones Band on their 2010 Polka Cruise. The Varitones Band includes polka musicians David Bonczkiewicz, Ron Brzoska, Barry Lubrant and Bob Jayo. The band will Polka Cruise October 23-30, 2010 aboard Carnival Cruise Lines brand new ship the “Carnival Dream” leaving out of Port Canaveral, Florida.

The band will visit the Islands of Nassau, St. Thomas and St. Maarten. You can’t beat our daily agenda

of polka music. Entertainment by The Varitones (Ariz.), Mass Brass (Mass.), City Side (N.Y.) and Craig Ebel & DyVersaCo (Minn.) special guest host on the cruise Bruno Mikos (Ohio), Stephanie (N.Y.), Jersey Polka Richie (Fla.), Stas’ Golonka (Ill.) and John Gora (Canada). Visit [www.nickelcitydave.com](http://www.nickelcitydave.com) for registration forms, brochures and flyers. Take advantage of the early sign-up incentives.

## POLKA NEWSWIRE

**THE ULTIMATE POLKA PARTY ALBUM.** Alex Meixner, “The Hardest working man in Polka music” presents his brand new album, “Stay All Night.”

“This album captures the live energy of Alex and his band as they romp through 22 tunes in the style that has energized audiences throughout the USA and Canada,” says the band.

Alex presents songs that have been popular in his live shows, as well as some brand new compositions that will definitely entertain. Visit: [www.alexmeixner.com](http://www.alexmeixner.com).

**COPPER BOX CD “IN THE SUMMERTIME!”** Button accordionist and multi-instrumentalist Danny Jerabek — and his other half, Michelle Jerabek, on baritone and tenor sax, vocals, guitar, washboard, etc., backed by a great rhythm section — “Copper Box is a force to be noticed,” says the band.

“The talented group draws inspiration from many types of Americana, roots music and beyond, resulting in a distinctive musical melting pot that is easy on the ears and good for the soul.”

Performing many originals, this band has been touring through the United States promoting their fifth CD release, “In the Summertime!” Visit them on the internet at: [www.copperboxsite.com](http://www.copperboxsite.com).

**DANCE TO BENEFIT MILANEK FAMILY.** Longtime Reading, Pa., Polka DJ Steve Milanek passed away recently at the young age of 49. His death was particularly untimely since his three young sons are now left without a Dad.

In order to help provide for the

boys’ future educational needs, “Polkas for Charity,” under the direction of Ted Borzymowski, will conduct a benefit dance at the Gilbertsville Fire Hall, Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania, on Sunday, October 11, 2009, 2:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. featuring The Boys from Baltimore. Polish and American food, as well as a full bar will be available.

If anyone would like to donate anything that could be used as prizes for raffles, auctions, etc. to help raise funds for the sons of Steve Milanek, they should contact Ted at (443) 324-6255 or [tedborzymowski@comcast.net](mailto:tedborzymowski@comcast.net).

In addition to the two “Polkas for Charity” CD projects, Borzymowski and a host of polka volunteers conduct a polka dance each year to benefit a worthy cause, such as the St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital, cancer research, etc. This year, however, the welfare of Steve Milanek’s sons is the project’s focus. As October 9, 2009, would have been the 50th birthday of Steve Milanek, his life will also be celebrated at the benefit event on October 11.

**THE ENTERTAINMENT BOARD** of the Twin Cities Polishfest, the first in many years, reports that the 2009 edition was a great hit with over 12,000 attendees. It took place in downtown Minneapolis and had many Polish culture events, as well as polka music, Chopin’s music and Polish folk music. The polka bands were DyVersaCo, Doctor Kielbasa, Polish Connection, Twin City Soundz and the Chmielewski Fun-time Family Band. Board members from the Milwaukee Polishfest and members from the other local ethnic festivals attended.

## NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

## Misty Blues Return to Town



ANNUNCIATION LAWN FETE. Benny, Eric, Lori, and Jane.



OWL PICNIC. Sisters Tina and Marcia.



ANDY KUCZMARSKI Phocus at the Owl Picnic.

BUFFALO, N.Y. — On Aug. 15, **Robert Kolo & the Misty Blues** took the stage at Potts Hall. They are from Michigan and are billed as "Detroit's Polka Show Band." They do play a nice variety of music and come out with different outfits each set. Their '50s music was a big hit as were the nice English tunes, and of course the Polish polkas, waltzes and obereks. My group thought they it was nice to hear some different music for a change. Tuned out to be very entertaining!



MISTY BLUES at Potts Hall.

The **Annunciation Church** picnic on Aug. 16 featured two great bands in the beer tent.

Polka Country Musicians and Lenny Gomulka and Chicago Push were at their best pleasing the fans that were there to just listen, watch or dance. This line-up was a real treat with a lots of super sounds.

On Aug. 23, the annual **Owl Picnic** took place at the Lamm Post Grove, and the place was packed. A variety of many bands, singers and musicians entertained and they all did an outstanding job. The recipient of the annual Hootie Award went to David "Scrubby" Seweryniak, who was lauded for all his years and contributions to the polka scene. He was very touched by all the kind words and the award. So glad this picnic is always successful as all the proceeds go to charity. The Committee works hard all year to make this affair bigger and better each year.

Bob Krawczyk did not have a Labor Day dance at the Lamm Grove this year but has announced

that next year, 2010, he will have a reunion of Eddie Biegaj & Crusade along with another Dynatones reunion. Sounds good to me!

**CONGRATULATIONS ...** to **Arlene** and **Norbert Mruk** on their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 8th ... Best wishes go out to **Marcia** and **Richard Szykowny** who also recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Dick is a musician who played with the Jumping Jacks for many years and also had a music store in Kaisertown ... On Aug. 29, **Ryan Koslosky** and **Mandy Czarniecki** were united in marriage. Their wedding took place at Hollimont in Ellicottville, NY. We wish them a lifetime of happiness. Parents of the groom are Sharon and Marty and the bride's parents are Joyce and Roger ... Congratulations to **Jennifer** and **Ron Maziarz** on the marriage of their daughter, Heather, to Marc Bristow on Aug. 29 at OLBS in Depew, N.Y. A reception was held at the Lancaster Country Club. Jennifer's brother is the one and only

Dave "Scrubby" Seweryniak, who is the bride's godfather.

**IN SYMPATHY.**

Our deepest sympathy goes out to **Gene Reimer** and family on the passing of her husband, **Leon**, on Sept. 8. Leon and Gene attended many of our local polka functions even though they lived in Webster, N.Y., a suburb

of Rochester. They also were members of the Buffalo Polka Boosters Club. Please remember him in your prayers--may he rest in peace.

**I LIKE IT.** **John Gora** has a new CD out called "Polka Playin' Fool," which contains sixteen cuts with a variety of songs in English, Polish and French. Some interesting selections on this one. The one that caught my attention is "Hallelujah." It is a unique version of this song.

Happy Halloween to all! Be careful of the little ones out trick and treating!

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

• **Oct. 1-4.** Noon to 8:00 p.m. Buffalo Convention Center. Big Joe's TV Polka Fest. Video taping of polka bands for TV show. Jerry Darlak & the

Touch, The Alliance, Scrubby, Cityside, the Knewz, Concertina All Stars, Phocus, Stephanie, The Treltones, Mass Brass, Jimmy K. and Ethnic Jazz, Old School, and Eddie Guca and others are scheduled, beginning at noon each day and going till about 8:00 p.m. Call (800) 257-6552 for more info.

- **Oct. 2.** Jerry Darlak at the Polish Villa II, Harlem Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y. 8:30 p.m.
- **Oct. 7.** Polka Variety Meeting at the Lily of the Valley Hall, 2379 Union Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and music starts at 7:30 p.m. Music by Rare Vintage. Call Len at 896-1476
- **Oct. 10.** The Knewz presents a Buffalo Bills pre-game party at the Potts Hall, 694 South Ogden St., Buffalo, N.Y. from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$7.00. Call Tom 465-2487.
- **Oct. 11.** Jerry Darlak at the Sportsman's Tavern on Amherst St. from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- **Oct. 15.** Polka Boosters Meeting at the Polish Falcons Hall, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew, N.Y. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Everyone welcome to attend. Chris 892-7977.
- **Oct. 16.** Jerry Darlak & the Touch at



PCM at Annunciation Lawn Fete.

the Polish Villa II, Harlem Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y. 8:30 p.m.

- **Oct. 24.** Jerry Darlak & the Touch at OLC Church. Cheektowaga, N.Y.
- **Oct. 24.** Polkasino to the Seneca Niagara Casino, Niagara Falls, N.Y., presented by Cityside. \$25 includes bus ride, \$10 Casino Voucher, \$5 Food Voucher, and buffet and music by Cityside at the Lily of the Valley Hall. Call Ted at 668-9101.
- **Oct. 30.** Jerry Darlak at the Polish Villa II, Cheektowaga, N.Y. 8:30 p.m.
- **Oct. 31.** Halloween Dance at the Lily of the Valley Hall, 2379 Union Rd., Cheektowaga, Music by Phocus and Nickel City. Costumes optional. Music from 7:00 p.m. until midnight. Call Mike at 348-8849
- **Nov. 7.** Queen of Angels Holy Name Society Dance. 144 Warsaw Street. Lackawanna, N.Y. Music by Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push. Call: (716) 823-2794 8:00 p.m.-midnight.

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SUN. 9:00-10:00 p.m.

## New Brighton Park Connection Now On CD

CHICAGO — Chicago's newest polka band, Brighton Park Connection, has just recorded for Chicago Polkas. The band started as a group of friends gathered together to socialize and share their common joy of playing polka music. Influenced by their association with the late Don Lucki who performed with The Naturals, they especially enjoyed playing his charts for polka tunes.

This unique group is probably the only polka band that can lay claim to having two Jesuit priest, Fathers Phil and Bob Grib, as members of the band. The common connection of having attended the same grammar school at Five Holy Martyrs Parish on the Southwest Side of the city in the Brighton Park area is how they received their name.


Father Bob sings on "Polka Celebration" and "Jolly Joe" polka. Father Phil sings Polish vocals on "Green Grass" ("Zielona Traweczka"), "Our Mary" ("Nasza Marysia"), and "How's Your Mother-in-law." Bob Dutka sings on "Charm of Your Beautiful Dark Eyes" and "Dreamboat" waltz. Chet Schafer sings in Polish on "Mary's Knocking" ("Puka Marys"), "Rocks on Rocks" ("Kamien na Kamienu") and "Running Brook" oberek. Instrumentals are "Hunter's" polka, "Easy Going" polka, "Brighton Park" polka, "Muddy Shoes" oberek, "Potato Song," "Blond Bombshell," "Ukrainian Girl" and a "Polish Medley" waltz. (see advertisement below.)



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Joe Obertally

## POLKA PLATTER / Prepared and Distributed by the Polonia Media Network

We believe the following information to be correct, but it should always be verified before traveling long distances or expending funds.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

- Florida. Bee Sharps at the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, 1343 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 2:30, music 4:00-7:00 p.m., members \$5, non-members \$7.
- Massachusetts. Matt Lewandowski & Alliance at the Polish American Citizens Club, 355 East St., Ludlow, Mass., 3:00-7:00 p.m.
- Michigan. Natural Tones at the LFA Hall, 2323 Amelith Rd., Bay City, Mich., 3:00-8:00 p.m.
- Ohio. Joe Novak & Friends at the American Czechoslovakian Club, 922 Valley St., Dayton, Ohio, 7:30-11:30 p.m., \$13.
- Pennsylvania. Stanky & the Coalminers at the Dupont VFW, 403 Main St., Dupont, Pa., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- Pennsylvania. Eddie Forman Orchestra at Lakeside Ballroom, Barnesville, Pa., 3:00-7:00 p.m.
- Pennsylvania. Henny & the Versa J's at the Uniontown Polka Club, 229 S. Vernon Ave., Uniontown, Pa., 3:00-7:00 p.m.
- Rhode Island. Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men at Autumn Fest, WW II Memorial Park, Woonsocket, R.I., 10:00-11:30 a.m.

### FRI.-SAT., OCTOBER 16-17

- Ontario. Jimmy Sturr & his Orchestra, Polka Family, Big Daddy Lackowski and Squeezebox at Polkapalooza, Windsor Casino, Windsor, Ont., Canada. Check locally for details.

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

- Arizona. The Knewz at the Pulaski Club, 4331 E. McDowell Rd., Phoenix, Ariz., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- Ohio. Duane Malinowski at Connie's Celebration Banquet Hall, 6195 Lewis Ave., Toledo, Ohio, 7:00-10:00 p.m.
- Wisconsin. DynaBrass at Cocktales, 203 S. Augustine, Pulaski, Wis. Check locally for details.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

- Connecticut. Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men at a dinner-dance, Moose Club, Bozrah, Conn., music 6:00-10:00 p.m.
- Massachusetts. Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push at the Italian American Club, Peabody, Mass., 7:00-11:00 p.m.
- Michigan. Natural Tones at the George Green School, 309 N. Outer Drive, Bad Axe, Mich., 7:00-11:00 p.m.
- Michigan. Diddlestyx at the Holy Spirit Church Festival, Brighton, Mich., 7:00-11:00 p.m.
- Minnesota. DynaBrass at Coon Rapids American Legion Hall, 11640 Crooked Lake Blvd., Coon Rapids, Minn. Check locally for details.
- New Jersey. Polka Family at Bayway Polish Home, 625 Pulaski St., Elizabeth, N.J., 8:00 pm.-12:00 a.m.

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- Ohio. Ray Jay & the Carousels at the Toledo Area Polka Society, Conn-Weissenberger American Legion Hall, 20220 Alexis, Toledo, Ohio, 6:00-11:00 p.m.
- Ontario. Duane Malinowski, Jimmy Sturr & his Orchestra, Pan Franek and Brass Express at Caesar's Windsor Hotel, Promenade Ballroom, Windsor, Ont., Canada, from 1:00 p.m. Check locally for details.
- Pennsylvania. Joe Stanky & his Cadets at the Polish Falcons Hall, 143 Main Rd., Mocanaqua, Pa. Check locally for details.
- Vermont. Eddie Forman Orchestra at the Moose Lodge, Bellows Falls, Vt., 7:00-11:00 p.m.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

- Massachusetts. Eddie Forman Orchestra at the Polish American Citizens Club, 355 East St., Ludlow, Mass., 3:00-7:00 p.m.
- Massachusetts. Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push at the Krakus Festival dinner dance of the Polish Cultural Society, The Log Cabin, 500 Easthampton Rd., Holyoke, Mass., music 4:00-8:00 p.m. Check locally for dinner time.
- Michigan. Pan Franek at the Polish Boosters of America, Msgr. Hunt K of C, 7080 Garling, Dearborn Heights, Mich., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- Michigan. Natural Tones at Pinsetters Lounge, 1205 Washington Ave., Bay City, Mich., 4:00-8:00 p.m.
- Pennsylvania. John Gora & Gorale and Li'l John & the ATM Band at Roosevelt Hall, Greensburg-Pt. Pleasant Rd., Norvelt, Pa., 2:00-8:00 p.m., \$12.
- Pennsylvania. John Stevens & Doubleshot at a Halloween dance of the Lebanon Polka Pals, Sacred Heart Church, Cornwall, Pa., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- Pennsylvania. Joe Stanky & his Cadets at the Dupont VFW, 403 Main St., Dupont, Pa., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- Pennsylvania. Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men and Polka Family at a Coal Crackers dance, Lakeside Ballroom, Barnesville, Pa., 2:00-8:00 p.m.
- Pennsylvania. Eddie Derwin & the Polka Naturals at a Punxsutawney Ground Hog Club dance, Punxsutawney, Pa., 3:00-7:00 p.m. Check locally for details.
- Pennsylvania. Shoreliners at a the St. Methodius Centennial dinner-dance, Genetti's, 3309 N. Hazeltown, Hazleton, Pa. Check locally for details.

- Michigan. Pan Franek & Zosia at a Polka Boosters of America dinner-dance, Msgr. Hunt K of C, 7080 Garling Ave., Dearborn Heights, Mich., dinner 1:30 p.m., music 3:00-7:00 p.m.
- Pennsylvania. Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men and Polka Family at Lakeside Ballroom, Barnesville, Pa., 2:00-8:00 p.m.
- Wisconsin. DynaBrass and Polish Connection at Bullshooters, 7802 Meadow Rock Dr., Weston, Wis., 1:00-7:00 p.m.

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

- Michigan. Duane Malinowski at Crystal Gardens, 16703 Fort St., Southgate, Mich., 6:00-11:00 p.m.

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

- Michigan. Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push at the American Polish Century Club, 33204 Maple Ln., Sterling Heights, Mich., 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m., \$19 advance, \$20 at door including beverages.
- Ohio. Duane Malinowski at the Maumee Elks, Maumee, Ohio, 8:00-11:00 p.m.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

- Connecticut. Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men at a dinner-dance, Falcon Hall, Ansonia, Conn., dinner 6:30 p.m., music 6:30-11:30 p.m.
- Michigan. Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push and Jeff Mleczo & DynaBrass at a Halloween dance, Pulaski Hall, 1401 S. Grant St., Bay City, Mich., 7:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.
- Michigan. Natural Tones at the Maple Valley School, 138 Maple Valley Rd., Sandusky, Mich., 7:00-11:00 p.m.
- Michigan. DynaBrass at Pulaski Hall, 1401 S. Grant St., Bay City, Mich., from 8:00 p.m.
- Minnesota. Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones at the Star Club, Moose Lake, Minn., from 7:00 p.m.
- New York. Jimmy Sturr & his Orchestra at St. Joachim/St. John Church, Beacon, N.Y., 7:00-10:00 p.m.
- New York. John Stevens & Doubleshot at the Fire Hall, Glenfield, N.Y., 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.
- Ohio. Jimmy K & Ethnic Jazz at the American Czechoslovakian Club, 922 Valley St., Dayton, Ohio, 7:30-11:30 p.m., \$13.
- Pennsylvania. Eddie Derwin & the Polka Naturals at the Dutchland Polkateers, St. James Center, Lititz, Pa., 7:00-11:00 p.m.
- Wisconsin. Polka Family and Polka Country Musicians at the Rothschild Pavilion, 1104 Park St., Rothschild, Wis., 5:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

- Arizona. Varitones at the Greenfield Village RV Resort, 111 S. Greenfield Rd., Meza, Ariz., 1:00-5:00 p.m.
- Florida. Ed Bilinski & Southern Sounds at the Polish American Club, 4616 Darlington Rd., Holiday, Fla., dinner 1:00 p.m., music 3:00-6:00 p.m.
- Massachusetts. Eddie Forman Orchestra at Coachman Lodge, Bellingham, Mass., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- Massachusetts. Stephanie & her Honky Band at the Polish American Citizens Club, 355 East St., Ludlow, Mass., 3:00-7:00 p.m.
- Michigan. Freddie Ziwich at the Warren Polka Boosters, Utica K of C, 4425 Utica Rd, Sterling Heights, Mich., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- Michigan. Natural Tones at Pinsetters Lounge, 1205 Washington Ave., Bay City, Mich., 4:00-8:00 p.m.
- Minnesota. Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones at Falls Ballroom, 15879 Hwy. 27, Little Falls, Minn. Check locally for details.
- New Jersey. Rick Gazda at Bayway Polish Home, 625 Pulaski St., Elizabeth, N.J., 4:00 pm.-8:00 p.m.
- New York. Jimmy Sturr & his Orchestra at the Polish Club, Port Washington, N.Y., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- Ohio. Big Daddy Lackowski at the International Music Association, Conn-Weissenberger American Legion Hall, 2020 Alexis, Toledo, Ohio, 2:00-7:00 p.m.
- Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania Villagers at the Dupont VFW, 403 Main St., Dupont, Pa., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- Pennsylvania. Joe Stanky & his Cadets at the Polish American Citizens Association, 67 Marple St., Clifton Heights, Pa., 3:00-7:00 p.m.
- Wisconsin. Polka Family and another band at the Rothschild Pavilion, 1104 Park St., Rothschild, Wis., 12:00-6:00 a.m.

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

- Michigan. Duane Malinowski at a Halloween Dance, Crystal Gardens, 16703 Fort St., Southgate, Mich., 6:00-9:00 p.m.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

- Massachusetts. Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push at a Pork Chop dinner, St. Mary Parish, 60 South St., Ware, Mich., 6:00-10:00 p.m.
- New Jersey. Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men at a Halloween dance, Bayway Polish Home, 625 Pulaski St., Elizabeth, N.J., 8:00 pm.-12:00 a.m.
- Wisconsin. Tony Blazonczyk & New Phaze at a Halloween Party, Lakeside Ballroom, Hatley, Wis. Check locally for details.

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# Promoting Polish Culture in the United States

by Staś Kmieć

What is Polish Culture in the United States? It is a symbol of a nostalgic past – cherished, preserved and passed down from one generation to the next, through the turmoil of history and across the ocean to a new homeland.

It is traditional, seasonal or family-oriented. It is religion, language, cooking or cuisine; it is a stylized expression of national pride, protest, or frustration.

Polish culture is many things to many people; it is an all-encompassing combination of many aspects – old and current. It is music, art, dance, theater, literature, and film.

It is folk dances — *krakowiak*, *mazur*, *polonez*, *powolniak*, *krzesany*, or Polish-American polka; it is Spisz, Warmia, Szamotyły, Podlasie, or even Wilno, Lwów, Lemko, Hucuł, Gypsy, Jewish, and Hasidic.

The culture of Poland is closely connected with its intricate history and unique character developed as a result of its geography. Folk attire and traditions had been a means of preserving national identity during the partition period. Culture was suppressed by the occupying powers of Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. Folk-culture was allowed to flourish under Communism, but often as a means of propaganda.

Between older immigration, newer immigration, and Polish-Americans there appears to be a distinct separation. Why are Polish organizations also divided?

Immigrants during the World Wars came clinging to the

values and life they left behind, while those coming during the Martial Law and post-Communist periods came with a different agenda and set of priorities. The older immigration wanted to establish a new life and better opportunities for their children – some instilled “Old World” values, while others became “American” with no regard for ethnicity.

Poland has a fascinating folk culture and an innovative present-day scene in which to find pride in. Why then is Polonia being presented with the challenge of sustaining youth involvement? With pop-culture, the emergence of technological advances, change in society’s values, and loss of its cultural foundation – the Polish Church, Polonia needs to actively seek new methods to keep its ethnicity alive.

Resistance to change can be catastrophic to organizations. Too often youth is dismissed as “not interested.” This is not always the case. Often, they are turned away by the trappings of individual personalities, strong-mindedness, and petty politics. When Poles collaborate, respect and work together to celebrate their achievements and passion for a common heritage, they can be a force to be reckoned with.

Can Polonia learn from its mistakes and look to a future of united efforts? The word “team” can be defined as **Together Everyone Achieves More**. With *one* team there is *one* mission.

Cultural and umbrella organizations in the U.S. provide an outlet and springboard for Polish events and activities. From a



BLANKA A. ROSENSTIEL and former President LECH WAŁĘSA inaugurate the The American Institute of Polish Culture Polonaise Ball in Miami.

different perspective, the role played by diplomatic missions, such as the Embassy and Consulates of Poland, is an important one.

There are many ways Polish culture can be maintained and disseminated. The beauty, vibrancy, and tradition of Polish culture, along with the artistry and cutting-edge, thought-provoking ideas of Poland’s contemporary culture are well worth any challenge.

## A Conversation with Leading Polish Cultural Organizations in the United States

A detailed questionnaire was sent to fourteen of the leading cultural organizations. In reaching out to these “movers and shakers,” there was varying degrees of participation and cooperation. With e-mails, phone calls, personal meetings and encounters, there were six returns.

The accompanying Q&A grid presents a cross-section of answers addressing the challenges facing Polonia, and Polish Culture as it is presented, promoted, and propagated in the United States.

### Polish Cultural Institute in New York (PCI)

www.PolishCulture-NYC.org, 350 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4621, New York, NY 10118



MONIKA FABIJANŃSKA

Director

4 years (previously: Deputy Director for 5 years)

#### 1 What is the age range of your organization?

Our staff is all between 25 and 40.

#### 2 What are the highlights of this year's cultural programs?

A rare revival of *The Theatre of the Eighth Day's* landmark 1985 production of *Wormwood*, legendary punk group, *Dezert*, twenty-something author Dorota Masłowska, the work of Poland's hot young composers Paweł Szymański and Paweł Mykietyn, the eclectic *Warsaw Village Band*, and the *Unsound Festival New York*, transported in its entirety from Poland to New York! Witold Gombrowicz's political farce *Operetta* in

Philadelphia and performances of the Grotowski inspired *Teatr Zar*, experimental poet Miron Białoszewski, a two-day symposium on literary reportage and the legacy of Ryszard Kapuściński, Artur Żmijewski's first solo exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, and a major installation by Christian Tomaszewski

#### 3 What achievements is your organization particularly proud of?

The contemporary women's art exhibition *Architectures of Gender*, the first major U.S. museum solo exhibition of a Polish artist — Wilhelm Sasnal, major retrospective of Polish animation at The Museum of Modern Art, film retrospectives and subsequent North American tour of Krzysztof Kieślowski and Andrzej Wajda, *Gombrowicz's Autumn*, tributes to Czesław Miłosz and to Ryszard Kapuściński, a concert by Tomasz Stańko at MoMA, 25th anniversary of Solidarity exhibition in Union Square, NYC, Grzegorz Jarzyna's *Macbeth* under the Brooklyn Bridge, Krzysztof Warlikowski's *Dybbuk* in Brooklyn Academy of Music and Krystian Lupa's *Kalkwerk*. PCI co-produced the off-Broadway run of *Irena's Vow*, which later ran on Broadway.

#### 4 In what ways does your organization promote Poland's folk culture?

We have not covered this field yet. We have tried to cover other aspects of Polish culture that were not represented here at all or in lesser degrees than folk. Our presentations of folk-based contemporary musical groups such as *The Warsaw Village Band* and Joanna Słowińska partially fill that void.

#### 5 In what ways do you educate Polonians and Americans about Poland's history and culture?

Through publications, education, films, and cultural projects. PCI helps marketing many books on Polish history

and culture and organizes events at the universities but our most important tool are cultural productions such as *Irena's Vow*, co-production of a CBS film for The History Channel on the Warsaw Uprising (“Betrayal: The Battle for Warsaw”), facilitating and promotion of Andrzej Wajda's “Katyn” U.S. theater release.

#### 6 What academic programs do you offer (classes, educational series, research center)?

We partner with U.S. high schools in organizing events (lectures, discussions, exhibitions) presenting Polish culture and history. Our most frequent partners in such endeavors are Yale, Princeton, Columbia, NYU, City University of NY, University of Michigan, University of Indiana, and the progressive university — The New School.

#### 7 Do you partner with other Polish organizations? If so, please identify.

In 2008 PCI partnered with 80 institutions in Poland and 162 in the United States, including Polish American organizations.

#### 8 What forms of outreach to the Polish community do you engage in?

Each project attracts a different audience. Each time we develop matching tools: previews listings, and ads in American and Polish-American media, postcards, posters in Polish neighborhoods and our electronic newsletter to subscribers. Every press release and advertisement is written separately in English and in Polish. We regularly collaborate with journalists of *Nowy Dziennik*, *American Post Eagle*, *Kurier Plus*, and I give weekly interviews with Polish Radio 910 AM.

#### 9 What special services do you offer to the Polish community?

PCI's mission is what is often of special interest to the Polish community: bringing

the best culture from Poland to the best U.S. cultural institutions — creating events that the Polish-Americans can participate in with pride. We serve the Polish community as part of a broader American society.

#### 10 Are there other chapters of your organization? If yes, elaborate.

The Polish Cultural Institute in New York is a diplomatic mission of the Republic of Poland to the United States. One of 22 such institutes around the world, but the only one in the western hemisphere, it serves under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland.

#### 11 How do you plan to promote Polish culture and themes beyond Polonia to mainstream America?

Promoting Polish culture to mainstream America is PCI's sole mission and the range of techniques applied is endless. The key to success is presenting our culture through influential American institutions, which have its own broad audience trusting their program. This approach allows for further research and publications by Americans granting Polish culture its proper place in the international history of culture.

#### 12 What efforts are made to bridge the gap between “old Polonia” and the newer immigration Polonia?

I can't really answer this question as we don't work across Polonia divisions and have not enough knowledge. These gaps seem to be as natural as generational gaps in every society. But even a glance at other ethnicities in the American melting pot teaches that when generational issues are separated from what constitutes common interests of an ethnic group, its political and economical chances grow significantly.

#### 13 To continue existence what efforts are being made

#### to arouse sustainable interest in the next generation?

I hope that PCI adds here a value through its programming. While teaching Polish language, classical literature or folk customs is a basis needed to sustain the interest in one's parents' homeland, it seems to me that it may seem boring to many youngsters. I would love Polish American kids to have access to Polish culture as contemporary and colorful as the American one they access through friends and school. While PCI hasn't yet developed any special programming for kids, we provide contact with contemporary, living, and pulsating Polish culture for teenagers and students.

#### 14 Does your organization have facilities open to the public (library, bookstore, gift store, museum, resource center)?

We don't. When PCI was funded back in 2000, a thorough assessment of Polish presence in the US was conducted, and the function of the Institute adjusted to the needs of promotion of a modern and democratic state and to the results of this research.

#### 15 How has “new technology” advanced your efforts?

The PCI was the first cultural institution in New York to send illustrated and active e-newsletters! Our first public major event was to take place days after 9/11, when due to the anthrax panic, no one was opening mail. By necessity, we jumped into current technology. For a younger audience, internet and all new means of electronic communication is all the communication they need.

#### 16 How many members belong to your organization?

According to the law, as a diplomatic mission, the PCI cannot have members.

### The Kosciuszko Foundation

www.thekf.org, 15 East 65th St., New York, NY 10065



ALEX STOROŻYNSKI  
President  
as submitted by Tom Pniewski, Cultural Affairs Director

1 The majority of KF members are adults approximately 30 through retirement age, with a minority high school and college age.

2 A 3-day commemoration of the beginning of World War Two and the anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising, with a literary evening/essay awards ceremony; a screening of the award-winning documentary *Betrayal*; and a dramatic performance *Bliskawica*, about radio broadcasts from the Uprising. our monthly Chamber Music Series, featuring Polish performers and repertoire; the 61st Annual Chopin Piano Competition and Marcella Sembrich Memorial Voice Scholarship Voice Competition, collaboration with the Moniuszko International Voice Competition, May 2010, Warsaw.

3 We are proudest of our long tradition of scholarships, grants, exchange and summer programs with Poland, going back to our founding in 1925, and our Chamber Music Series, presented in collaboration with WQXR.

4 Over the past 5 years, we have sponsored family holiday events — *Mikołajki*, *Andrzejki*, *Trzech Króli*, *St. John's Night*, at the KF, House, and cooperate with the *Polish American Folk Dance Company* in presentations  
*continued on next page*





CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin S. Nowak

## The Mormons in Poland

In 1892 missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS), based in Salt Lake City and commonly known as the Mormons, proselytized in the eastern German Empire. They established congregations in Breslau and the town of Selbongen in East Prussia. Following World War II, border shifts brought Breslau and Selbongen within the new Poland. Germans were expelled westward to make way for Poles to populate the areas. But some Germans managed to stay behind. The Breslau congregations were depopulated and dissolved, but several Selbongen Mormons remained and continued to operate their branch in their little chapel.

The town, now in northeast Poland, was renamed Zelwagi, and in 1947 the communist authorities stopped the congregation's meetings, saying such gatherings had to use the Polish language. Undeterred, the members learned Polish and resumed services three years later. A 1958 Polish magazine article about the Zelwagi Mormons brought in a few new members, but by 1978 all of the congregants had reportedly immigrated to West Germany and the branch ceased to exist.

Meanwhile, in 1957 communist Hungary contacted LDS experts about preserving its vital records. The Mormons copy and collect genealogical records worldwide as part of its practice of baptism for the dead. They were allowed to copy records from church and state archives for their collection in America in return for their services. Poland made a similar deal in 1968. This brought church members into Poland, and they made a favorable impression on all who met them.

In the early 1970s the LDS began sending missionaries into Eastern Europe. Not sanctioned in Poland, they were harassed by the

authorities but managed to preach and meet with people. In 1975 a small group of Polish Mormon converts began to meet in Szczecin, visited by members from Dresden, Germany.

It was in 1974 that LDS President Spencer W. Kimball decided that the church should try to establish itself in Eastern Europe. Church officials began to contact those communist governments and lobbied for recognition. Much of this was done by David M. Kennedy, former U.S. Treasury Secretary and foreign diplomat already known to Eastern European leaders. He visited Poland in 1975 and met with the Minister of Religion for negotiations. Two years later, Poland became the first Eastern European country to recognize the Mormon Church. This meant the LDS could own property, legally conduct services and distribute literature. But the Mormons could only "voluntarily" proselytize through a visitor center, and the presiding church elder had to be a Pole. Fryderyk Czerwinski of the Szczecin congregation was so appointed. Polish Americans Matthew and Marian Cembronowicz of Illinois became the first full time missionaries in Poland.

In late 1977 LDS President Kimball flew to Warsaw, where he dedicated Poland to the teaching of the Gospel. Seventy-four years earlier, the European Mission president had also dedicated Poland on a visit to Warsaw, then part of the Russian Empire, but no missionary work took place. Why did communist Poland, long at odds with the Roman Catholic Church, accept yet another denomination? It was precisely because of the conflict with the Catholics. It was hoped that other Christian groups would be more friendly to the government, and check the influence of the Catholic Church.

Spreading their faith in Poland has been a

great challenge to the Mormons. A staunchly Roman Catholic country, Poles have considered Catholicism akin to patriotism, a defender of Polishness during years of foreign domination. And the people must be convinced that the American based Mormon Church is relevant to their own history and culture. In addition, there is the problem of secularization of society in Poland, as elsewhere. In 2008 the LDS Church in Poland claimed only 1550 members, the lowest proportional membership of any country in the former Soviet Bloc.

**"All the missionaries I know love not only Poles, but the beautiful country itself."**

— Douglas F. Tobler, president of the LDS Poland Warsaw Mission from 1998-2001.

Today, it is referred to as the Poland Warsaw Mission and is divided into two districts, one centered in Warsaw and one in Katowice. Branches operate in most large cities, the strongest being in Warsaw and Łódź. There is only one chapel in Poland, opened in 1991 in Warsaw. Congregations elsewhere meet in rented space or homes. The nearest Temple is in Freiberg, Germany, seventy miles from the southwest corner of Poland. Polish Mormons must travel there for certain sacraments such as marriage, that can only be dispensed in a Temple. They are hoping for their own Temple to be built in Poland.

Many Polish Americans have converted to Mormonism, though no breakdown of ethnicity within the church is available. People involved in genealogy have found the Mormons to be helpful in researching their ancestries through LDS Family History Centers, which

make microfilmed genealogical records, including those from Poland, available for use by people of all faiths. Recently, it has been reported that the Roman Catholic Church has stopped cooperating with the Mormons' efforts to film those records in Poland and elsewhere due to the practice of baptism for the dead, which the RC Church finds offensive.

More than 1000 Mormon missionaries have served in Poland, almost all from the United States. They have included several people of Polish descent. Missionaries undergo intensive training in the Polish language before and during their two year assignments. Some become fluent. At least one Polish-born Mormon has served as a missionary in the United States.

Douglas F. Tobler, president of the Poland Warsaw Mission from 1998-2001, describes the attitude of the Polish people toward the missionaries primarily as disinterested, but courteous and friendly.

Says Tobler, "All the missionaries I know love not only Poles, but the beautiful country itself. It is a spectacular country. Being a historian, I found myself in a historian's paradise. We also loved the food, the hospitality and the general friendliness of the Poles to us as Americans. The truth is, that the overwhelming majority of us acquired a strong love and affection for Poles which will, I believe, continue throughout our lives."

Many of the former missionaries maintain contact with friends they made in Poland, both Mormon and non-Mormon, and some have returned for a visit. Mission alumni have sent over \$10,000 worth of aid to needy Polish children. Altogether, the LDS has contributed more than a million dollars in charitable aid to Poland.

### HERITAGE / Ellye Slusarczyk

#### A Dangerous Ghost

Polish folklore tells about a very dangerous ghost – that of the Rusalka or Rusalki. This dreaded and most-feared ghost is really the spirit of young maidens and women who died violent deaths or of unnatural circumstances. Energy for Rusalka is drawn from nearly all living things. Its spirit is nasty, yet attractive. Acquiring an intense sexual attraction, Rusalka dwells in trees. Hence, a favorite habitat is a heavily-forested area. However, it has been made known that the spirit can also be found in rivers and lakes.

Rusalka is very shrewd and is most adept at luring young maid-

ens into the deepened forest and sucking their spirit from them. Of course, they die. Rusalka's erotic appearance, coupled with her singing, songs sweet and tempting, make her irresistible to the male population.

Legend also says that Rusalka leaves her tree or water dwellings on the first day of spring and doesn't return until the first day of autumn. A favorite area for this lurking, hard-to-resist spirit is Western Pomerania and Lubuskie.

Yes, all would agree that this affectionate, yet truly dreaded nymph is the greatest lover. Needless to say, all her victims die a most pleasurable death.

### POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

## Polish Plum, Prune and Powidła Cookery

Autumn ushers in the year's colder months, hence the foods of preference have tended to be heartier than the lighter fare of summer. Plums, prunes and powidła (Polish plum butter) have traditionally been used to flavor a variety of the season's favorite Polish dishes. Here are some of them:

#### ROAST PORK & PRUNES.

**(pieczeń wieprzowa ze śliwkami):** Rub a 4-5 lb tied, rolled, boneless pork shoulder roast all over with salt, pepper, marjoram and 1-2 buds mashed garlic. Place on rack in roasting pan and roast in 325° oven about 25 min per pound, basting occasionally with 1/2 c beer and then the drippings that form. After an hr, to roaster add 3 quartered onions and 1-1/2 c unpitted prunes. Bake until meat is fork-tender. Serve with plain mashed (no milk or butter added) or boiled potatoes or rice and a grated carrot, apple and horseradish salad.

#### ROAST CHICKEN & PRUNES.

**(kureczkę pieczone ze śliwkami):** For a changer a pace, try this duck-style roast chicken. Rub a washed, dried whole chicken (fryer-broiler) inside and out with salt, pepper and marjoram, cover and let stand at room temp 1 hr or refrigerate overnight. When ready to cook, place a carrot, parsley root, 1 bud garlic halved, several sprigs fresh dill and a lemon wedge including rind into the cavity which needs not be sewed up. Bake in preheated 375° oven 1 hr, basting occasionally with a little water or mead (miód – Polish honey wine) and then with the drippings that form. Add 1 c or more unpitted prunes to roaster and bake another hr or less, until done. Serve with rice and an salad.

**POLISH HUNTER'S STEW. (bigos):** Soak 1 oz dried bolete mushrooms in 1-1/2 c water several hrs, then cook in same water until tender, chop, return to liquid and set aside. Drain 3 qts sauerkraut, reserving liquid, rinse in cold water, drain again, squeeze dry and chop coarsely.

Place in pot with 1 bay leaf, cover with cold water and cook uncovered about 60 min, stirring occasionally. Transfer drained sauerkraut to baking pan and add: 2 qts various cooked cubed meat (beef, venison, pork, veal, dark-meat, turkey, goose and/or duck), 3 c smoked Polish sausage, the mushrooms and their liquid, 1 c pitted prunes, chopped, 1/2 c dry red wine, 2 buds crushed garlic and 2 diced large cooking apples. Toss ingredients to blend and bake uncovered in 350° oven 30 min. Mix again, cover pan and bake another 2 hrs at 325°. After switching off heat, leave bigos covered in oven until it cools to room temp. Refrigerate overnight. Reheat at 325° for 90 min before serving. If too moist, drain off some liquid and dust with 1 or more T flour, mix well and bake another 15 min.

**PLUM-BUTTER SOUP. (powidła-lanka):** Stir 1 c home-made or imported Polish powidła (plum butter) into 4 c water, bring to boil, reduce heat and cook 15 min.

Remove from heat. Dissolve 1 T potato starch (or cornstarch) in 1/2 c cold water, gradually stir in several T hot soup and add to pot. Simmer briefly whisky the whole time. Season with a pinch of cinnamon, ground cloves, lemon juice and salt. Remove from heat and whisk in 1/2 c room temp sour cream. Serve over egg noodles or with fried croutons (grzanki).

#### POLISH PLUM SAUCE. (sos śliwkowy):

Combine 1 c powidła (plum butter), with 1/4 dry red wine, 1 c meat stock and 1 T butter or meat pan drippings and whisk until smooth. Bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer 5 min. Season with a pinch of ground juniper (jałowiec) 1 t marjoram, 1 crushed bud garlic and salt, pepper and lemon juice to taste. Simmer in saucepan, whisking the whole time. For a thicker sauce, dissolve a t flour or cornstarch in 1/4 c cold water and stir into sauce. Simmer briefly. Great with pork, beef, poultry and game dishes.

### TRIVIA TIME / Ellye Slusarczyk

1. Pulaski was brought up in a. Warka b. Zwolen c. Czersk
2. The Teutonic Order was brought to Poland by a. Henryk Brodaly b. Konrad of Mazovia c. Ignacy Kraszowski
3. The Mouse Tower in Kruszwica is where mice supposedly ate a. all the grain greedily b. a princess c. King Popiel
4. Ostrow Lednicki is a. a gate b. a train ride c. an island
5. The Grniezno Door depicts St. Adelbert's a. promises b. life c. family
6. Dowspieda Palace, a great architectural achievement, was shaped like the reversed letter a. D b. P c. T
7. Engineer Ignacy Pradzynski was adept at building canals and a. straightening rivers b. deepening channels c. eliminating barriers
8. In the days of Queen Bona, barbecued pyramidal was a. a boar roast b. fancy cake c. venison steak
9. In Kruszyniany, you can visit a mizar, which is a. a. mosque b. minaret c. Muslim cemetery
10. Bocki is known for its production of a. canes used for beating b. Gorale vests c. sleds

**ANSWERS.** 1a. Warka 2b. Konrad of Mazovia 3c. King Popiel 4c. an island 5b. life 6c. T 7a. straightening rivers 8b. fancy cake 9c. Muslim cemetery 10a. canes used for beating

**YOUR POLISH LAST NAME MEANS SOMETHING!** To find out how many people in Poland use your Polish surname, how it came about and whether a noble coat of arms goes with it, please airmail a \$16 check to: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.



This month, take time to share your Polish heritage with family and friends. Celebrate Polish Heritage Month with pride!

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## Poles Flock to Warsaw's Jewish Fest

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW—For the past six years, block-long Próżna Street in a quiet, largely bypassed and somewhat derelict corner of downtown Warsaw comes alive at the turn of September, when the Isaac Beshavis Singer Festival is held. Named after the Nobel Prize winning Polish-born Yiddish writer (1902-1991), the week-long event seeks to preserve the memory of pre-war or even 19th-century Jewish Warsaw.

"Every single street in Warsaw used to be an independent shtetel (town)," Singer wrote New York's Yiddish daily "Forverts." Pre-war Warsaw's sprawling Jewish quarter included such streets as Srebrna (silver), Złota (gold), Miedziana (copper), Żytia (rye), Krochmalna (starch), Gęsia (goose) and others which, back in the Middle Ages, actually grouped merchants and artisans specializing in those goods.

Próżna Street off Grzybowski Square is one of downtown Warsaw's few urban stretches that survived Hitler's bombs and demolition squads. Its soot-stained, weather-beaten brick buildings are reminiscent of American big-city slums, where only a few small businesses have survived amid the largely abandoned buildings with their boarded-up or bricked-in windows. But all that is temporarily hidden from view during the festival, when the walls are covered with blown-up black & white pre-war photos, antique store-fronts with signs in Polish and Hebrew appear, and thousands of visitors file through the narrow street reverberating with the bouncy rhythms of klezmer music.

Along Próżna Street, quaint little outdoor cafés, stores and workshops are set up. There are stalls selling every manner of Jewish souvenirs, craft items and flea-market-style odds and ends. Even the New York newspaper office where Singer once worked has been re-created. There are Jewish cooking workshops, and a stand selling T-shirts where customers can have their names inscribed thereon in Hebrew. And of course there are plenty of ethnic delicacies including home-made gefilte fish (poached carp dumplings), chulent (a beef and barley stew), chicken soup with matzoh balls and Galician salad. Passers-by can watch a lady at an open-air stand rolling out dough for kreplach (pierogi), and another serving up lekach (honey cakes). Milling in the crowds are entertainers done up as merchants, shoemakers, tai-



**WARSAW'S PRÓŻNA STREET** teems with festival-goers during the annual week-long event

lors, printers, blacksmiths, organ-grinders, shopkeepers, and other characters typical of old Warsaw Jewry.

During my recent visit, I found the ethnic food, fun and general ambience of a lot like that of the many Polish festivals held each summer in the United States, and the lively klezmer music blaring from stages at either end of the street was vaguely reminiscent of Polonia's polka-band sound. But there were some differences. There are not many Pol-Am festivals I know of that last a full week. More importantly, Warsaw's Jewish Festival offered a far broader range of attractions.

The nearby Nożyk Synagogue hosted a cantor recital, and British-born, Kraków-based violinist Nigel Kennedy performed everything from classical music to jazz and klezmer-style folk selections. There were lectures on Jewish rituals and folkways, art exhibitions, dramatic presentations and children's workshops including a project to build a Jewish shtetel from lego blocks.

"Only about five percent of our visitors are Jewish and come from around the globe including as far away as North America and Australia. The other 95 percent are Poles, and more and more of them come each year," the festival's chief organizer Gołda Tencer told the POLISH-AMERICAN JOURNAL. They included IT engineer Leszek Kopeć who said he liked the festivals earthy, easy-going atmosphere. "I think more and more people are getting fed up with today's plastic Hollywood and shopping-mall culture, to which an event like this is a good antidote."

### BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes, MLIS

## The Mayor's Daughter

**THE MAYOR'S DAUGHTER**

by Delores Gapanowicz  
Nightingale Press, 2007

Gapanowicz has presented a picture of family life before World War I in Eastern Europe. It is a collection of stories told by family members as they lived on the farms

Centering on the mayor of Halych, Gapanowicz shows the love, playful antics of the children, the courtship, births, as well as difficult times in the extended family. Because Teodor was the mayor of the village, they were in a status slightly above the average resident. Yet he was helpless when soldiers of the Royal Austrian Cavalry requisitioned his house for their quarters.

When one of his children, Kataryna, wanted to marry a fellow from another village, his father objected and Kataryna decided to leave home for Canada. In Winnipeg she found an employment agency that specialized in finding jobs for Polish-Ukrainian immigrants. She found work at a restaurant, learned English and soon married a fellow Pole. Their life was improving, but the family in Eastern Europe suffered atrocities of World War I.

It is a memoir of a world that has disappeared and this private recording is a remembrance of things past.

**THE FINCHLEY HOUSE MYSTERY**

by Delores Gapanowicz  
Nightingale Press, 2005

The children of Green Hills decide to discover if there really are ghosts in the Finchley House. The house, long empty, had been once been the grandest house in town. When Mr. Finchley and his servants suddenly left, it went into disrepair. Fifteen years later, flickering lights and moving figures could be seen

through the windows in the dead of night. This was too much for Tom Powers and Paul Granger to ignore. The brave youngsters decide to investigate, getting themselves into double trouble.

The book provides discussion questions for each chapter and a glossary for young readers

**PORNOGRAPHIA**

by Witold Gombrowicz  
tr. by Danuta Borchardt

Grove Press, 2009, 240 pp. \$23.00

Witold Gombrowicz (1904-1969) spent his first 35 years in Poland, escaping to Argentina just before World War II. From there he continued to write, as if he were a part of the total chaos of the land.

This novel takes place in German-occupied Poland, with Witold and Fryderyk who have escaped to a farm in the countryside. The two aging intellectuals, with time on their hands, take an interest in two local youths. One, Henia, the daughter of the farm owner, is betrothed to a much older wealthy lawyer. But the two unscrupulous gentlemen set the two young people up, trying to create a love interest, for their own entertainment. This is interrupted by the murder of Henia's future mother-in-law. And then the Polish underground movement issued an order to assassinate Karol, a member of the Polish Resistance, now a mischievous farm hand.

Gombrowicz writes in a complex style, provocative, deeply psychological, dwelling on the humanity of man. His writing is uneven — one word sentences or a three-page paragraph. There are sharp declarations or lengthy monologs, making for a difficult translation. Borchardt translated this work from the original, first published in Polish in 1966

and offers comments on the difficulties of delving into the mind of the writer to translate the correct meaning of words.

The novel may also be difficult to keep American readers turning pages.

**THE LOST THRONE**

by Chris Kuzneski  
G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2009  
495 pp, \$25.95

This novel begins with two separate incidents that obviously must come together at some point. Ex Special Forces Jonathan Payne receives a frantic phone call from Allison Taylor, assistant to Richard Byrd, an antiques dealer who has been murdered in St. Petersburg, Russia. Byrd apparently has been smuggling precious relics out of the country. Payne collects his sidekick, David Smith, and set off to rescue the damsel in distress. (Why couldn't she just fly home?)

At the same time a ruthless gang of Spartans, a tribe thought to no longer exist, has invaded a private Greek Orthodox monastery and beheads several monks, in search of their treasures. Nick Dial is called to investigate. He befriends a local cop, Andropoulis to tell him about the ancient monasteries as they climb a mountain. There he discovers the beheaded monks, the warriors gone. Later he finds a tunnel to the hidden ancient manuscripts and holy treasures. (How did he find the tunnel when a young monk, spared in the slaughter, knew nothing about it?)

Nevertheless, if you like searching for fast-paced action, lost treasures, incredible hulky men, beautiful woman and ruthless warriors, this 495-page book will keep you riveted. You will be rewarded with a roller-coaster ride.

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Madison Chapter was formed in October 1979 in order to connect Americans of Polish ancestry and Polish with American interests to gain knowledge and understanding of each other's heritage, traditions, language, history, and culture. [www.phcwi-madison.org](http://www.phcwi-madison.org) Celebration held on September 26<sup>th</sup> at West Side Club in Madison, WI from 11-4pm with a concert, mayoral proclamation, memories & tributes, exhibits of amber & solidarity posters, and Polish meal.

**Na zdrowie! Sto Lat!**

PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

## 10-Minute Polishness

The ability to function under pressure is a fascinating subject. Bottom line; do not give me the ball with five seconds left on the clock. On the other hand, yes, let Tiger Woods putt for the title. He is the player with the greatest focus and concentration I have ever seen. He is amazing to watch but then again his father used to drop golf bags down right behind him, during his back swing, so he could practice blocking out any distraction or noise on the course. It is a simple but brilliant idea. Earl Woods made Tiger practice focus.

The other day I was listening to an interview with an author who is also the sports psychologist for the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team. Jason Selk works with Cardinals and other pro and amateur athletes on effective "mental-training" that helps "increase ability and consistency under pressure." The name of his book is *10-Minute Toughness* (McGraw-Hill, 2009).

Selk came to the conclusion that mental training is logically-aligned and just as important as physical training. We tend to imagine the pro athlete as this totally-toned specimen of muscles and speed who rehearses every possible scenario and we take it as an act of God that he or she can automatically "think" like a Mohammed Ali, Roger Federer, Misty May, and Kerri Walsh. The 10-Minute Toughness workout can help those who lack the ability to remain steady during the game become toned mentally.

Although the subject of the book is centered on sports, the idea of mental toughness is transferable to all kinds of disciplines and activities. I would contend (as you might expect) that it is even useful to be an effective ethnic in America. At the least, if your name ends in a vowel, this program might make you feel a little less conspicuous and self-conscious and more confident in a sea of English and Scots-Irishness.

As I read through the steps, I think of how many times I witnessed Eastern Europeans struggle to respond when asked to explain themselves, defend themselves, or just be generally comfortable in their own skin. I would contend this is even harder for an American of Polish ancestry and often it is because many of us do not take the time to rehearse our Polish story or learn the Polish story in preparation for the questions that are presented to us or that put us on the spot. Sometime the spot can simply be sincere curiosity or sometimes it is just a malicious psychological jab.

The workout for the 10-Minute Toughness program consists of five steps: The Centering Breathe; The Performance Statement; The Personal Highlight Reel; The Identity Statement; The Centering Breathe.

Here are a just a few excerpts from the book and my attempt to connect mental toughness for athletics and the mental toughness needed for the Polish brain:

### From The Performance Statement – "Leading with Your Mind"

... the essence of mental toughness is the ability to replace negative thinking with thoughts that are centered on the performance cues or contribute to improved self-confidence. The more often negative thoughts are replaced with positive self-talk, the more successful and mentally tough a person will be.

Twice in one day recently, I heard a person remark after they accidentally made a misstatement or erred in the food order, "well, you know I am Polish." Oh, how my dear heart would have loved for these poor Polish souls to have replaced this standard negative attitude with positive self-talk so as not to prove that every mistake is synonymous with some kind of curse or demotion. No wonder our non-Polish friends take our "curse" for granted.

### From The Personal Highlight Reel – "Creating Your Personal Highlight Reel"

By visualizing a positive emotional experience from your past, you, too, can learn to release endorphins into your bloodstream on a regular basis, which is very helpful for increasing your confidence and consistency.

I get high imagining hoards of Polish Hussars riding and destroying the opposing army or at least destroying a number of the members in congress. Many of us have a top ten list of great Polish people and events that make us feel good. If the first thing that pops into your mind when you think of ethnic or national excellence is something German, try this quick mental exercise: note five great moments in Polish history; five ways the Poles helped the Jews in World War II; five great Polish scientists; the five greatest Polish musicians; the five greatest Polish athletes.

The number of lists or topics is endless and you will find that this drill keeps the mind sharp and the endorphins flying. With a little assistance and support we can help our friends create their own highlight reel and live it. It might also be beneficial at trivia night.

### From The Identity Statement – "Who Are You and What Do You Want?"

If you truly believe in your capacity to triumph, then you will manage to make it happen. Conversely, if your self-image is low, you will unfortunately come up short of your potential no matter how hard you try.

This is the most powerful step in the workout and demands the most self analysis. If we really get to the point where we can answer the questions "who are you and what do you want," there is no reason why we can't understand our purpose in life, do our best in what ever we do, and

be happy. Answering these questions completes the cycle in making us whole. We can be fulfilled as a husband, wife, worker, a citizen, a member of the congregation, as a Polish worker, a Polish-American citizen, a Polish member of the congregation, and most important, as a human being.

Now get out there and win a revolution!

### QUESTIONS

1. Anna Chlumpsky, actress, *In the Loop*, Polish?
2. Jason Selk, author, *10-Minute Toughness*, Polish?
3. Belgian tennis pro, Yanina Wickmayer, Polish roots?

### READERS' WRITE

From *Benigna Pajaczowska Dohms*: As I read your column in the August issue, the response to Paula regarding Polish plants brought to mind something I have wondered about for a long time. About five years ago or so, I sent a Letter to the Editor about the Chopin Rose, which was available only in two countries overseas. It would have taken a wholesale nursery in this country to bring this rose to America. I have not researched recently to see if anything has changed and wonder if you might have an idea.

If you know a nursery or distributor in this country that carries the Chopin Rose, let me know. The rose is certainly beautiful and would make a nice addition to your collection.

Happy Polish Heritage Month and dziękuję bardzo, Benigna, for the kind words about the Polish American Journal and for the inquiry about the Chopin Rose.

If you have an answer to this month's question, have a question of your own, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke, St. Louis, MO 63139; e-Mail alinabrig@yahoo.com.

## Pinkowski Given "Pride of Polonia"



(l. to r.): Edward Pinkowski, Msgr. Anthony Czarnecki, Bishop Stanislaw Jan Dziuba

DOYLESTOWN, Pa. — On Sun., Aug. 23, 2009, at the conclusion of the 12:30 Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, the Executive Board of the Polish Apostolate presented this year's Pride of Polonia Award to Edward Pinkowski.

The Pride of Polonia Award is presented annually to honor individuals who have made a unique contribution to the life of American Polonia. Its first recipient, in 1992, was John Cardinal Krol.

Msgr. Anthony Czarnecki, head of the Polish Apostolate, from St. Joseph's Basilica in Webster, Mass., mentioned in the introductory remarks that Pinkowski, who recently celebrated his 93rd birthday, had made a special contribution through his life-long career of research and writings about Polonia history. He emphasized how the award recipient had devoted much time to the study of the two primary Polish American heroes, Tadeusz Kosciuszko and Casimir Pulaski.

Bishop Stanislaw Jan Dziuba made a formal presentation of the award. Pinkowski then thanked the committee, and added a few comments about the struggles and difficulties he faced in obtaining the proper historical mention for Poles who have been instrumental in the building of America.

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ASK ANDZIA ABOUT AMBER / Andzia Chmil

## What's the Connection?

**Q** What does Amber have to do with being Polish American, Anyway?

**A** The weekend of August found us celebrating Polish culture (which always includes food) in Youngstown, Ohio at its 2nd annual Polish Day celebration. The festival took place at St. Anne's Ukrainian Church. In Youngstown, as in every diocese in the United States, monumental changes are taking place. Many times these changes include the closing of ethnic churches and many times the ethnicity is Polish. I attended the Polka Mass that kicked off the festival and came away very impressed with the sermon. This, I must admit, is not the usual case for me.

The Father spoke about getting along with other groups and also continuing Polish traditions. He offered some hints for making transitions to other ethnic parishes by suggesting that we Polish Americans take the time to learn the ropes and see how the new bureaucracy operates. It can be as simple as realizing that an idea like Polish Days in a Ukrainian church first is presented to the right committee. The example he gave was not to go to the budget committee first but rather the group that meets and plans events. Essen-

tially, work together, don't take no for an answer, and realize that it's really and truly up to us to continue the Polish traditions. Not only up to us to do the work but encourage and teach the next generation to carry on the torch of Polish culture.

We met many people in Youngstown at the Festival who were of Polish heritage and so many times that day heard the question: "So what is amber and how is it connected to Poland?" Of course we were happy to give an abbreviated response and also offer encouragement to learn more about Poland and amber by pointing them in the direction of easily accessible resources. Each and every time someone new caught on to the amber connection to Poland they were both amazed and pleased. And so these Polish Americans and Polish aficionados

went on to the other vendor tables and saw many beautiful things from Poland — handcrafted pottery, lace, books, clothing, wooden crèches just to name a few. All authentic; all very beautiful.

Every Polish American event is a chance to celebrate the vibrant culture we have been so fortunate to inherit. A chance to learn a little bit more about the customs and history that are our responsibility to pass down to the next generation. A chance to answer questions such as "what does amber have to do with Poland?" It is a cultural connection to our Polish roots, a geologic wonder, a scientific odyssey, often a mystical pursuit and when worn, acts like a Polish ambassador. I hope you enjoy celebrating Polish heritage month as much as we do! Celebrować po Polsku!



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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

## Kubek Honored by Hall of Fame



**KUBEK:** Broadcasting excellence recognized.

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — **Tony Kubek** became the first person presented the Ford Frick Award by the Baseball Hall of Fame for broadcasting excellence who worked exclusively with television.

During its 2009 induction ceremonies the Baseball Hall of Fame also paid tribute to the 40th anniversary of its Class of 1969, which included the late Stan Coveleski and Stan Musial. Musial couldn't attend, but the crowd in attendance saw video of "Stan the Man" playing "Take Me Out To the Ball Game" on harmonica.

The sight of Musial reminded Kubek of his very first spring training. His Yankees shared the field with Musial's Cardinals, and Stan was stepping into the batter's box when Bill "Moose" Skowron approached Musial. Skowron, Kubek's first roommate with the Yankees, called out to the 3-time MVP: "Stashu, Stashu, Stashu Musial — We're both Polish and Kubek is too," recalled Tony. "So Stan, the gracious gentleman that he is, stepped out of the batter's box where he was taking hitting practice and said, 'Enos Slaughter, take my cuts,' came out to shake my hand, say hello, welcome me to the big leagues," said Kubek. "And then Moose made the big mistake. He said, 'Kubek, show Stashu your batting stance.'" Kubek then smiled and turned to his former roommate in the audience: "Moose, why did you do that to me?"

Kubek then told Skowron that Yankees manager Yogi Berra made the pair roommates "not because you were Polish but because he was a winner and he wanted that to go throughout the organization."

As a shortstop for the Yankees from 1957-1965, Tony Kubek made four All-Star teams, won three World Series and was named the 1957 American League Rookie of the Year. Still you could argue that he made an even bigger contribution to baseball as broadcaster, serving as an analyst for NBC's "Game of the Week" from 1965-1989, as well as



**GORTAT.** Signed a \$34 million, 5-year contract with the Orlando Magic.

calling games for the Toronto Blue Jays (1977-1989) and New York Yankees (1990-1994). At NBC, he covered 11 World Series, 14 American League Championship Series and 10 All-Star Games.

Among those Kubek singled out was Bob Gutkowski, who was president of the MSG Network when Kubek broadcast for the Yankees. The straight-talking Kubek often drew the ire of George Steinbrenner and the Yankees brass, but was always backed by Gutkowski. He closed by thanking his wife, Margaret, and his father, Tony Kubek Sr., who hit .304 in the Minor Leagues in the 1930s before giving up the game to help raise his family. "He always made sure there was a bat — nails in it, electrical tape around it," Kubek said. "He supported me and gave me the opportunity to play any time I wanted to."

Rickey Henderson, Jim Rice and the late Joe Gordon were also enshrined in the Class of 2009. Among the 51 Hall of Famers in attendance were Phil Niekro, Bill Mazeroski and Carl Yastrzemski.

**GORTAT INKS DEAL.** Despite the efforts of **Marcin Gortat**, Poland fell short of qualifying for the finals of Europe's biggest international basketball tournament, EuroBasket. Poland hosted the event for the first time since 1963 and performed well, but a 90-68 loss to European power Spain knocked Poland out of the tournament.

Gortat was the only current NBA player on Poland's national team. He played well in the middle, helped by former NBAer Maciej Lampe and with American-born, naturalized David Logan running the team.

Just before the tourney Gortat signed a \$34 million, 5-year contract with the Orlando Magic, the team he helped take to the NBA finals. He likes the Magic, but was disappointed that Orlando exercised its right to match the offer made by the Dallas Mavericks to the restricted free agent. The 6-11 native of Po-

land had been impressive backing up Orlando center Dwight Howard in the NBA playoffs. However, with Dallas he had a terrific prospect to get a lot of playing time, instead of playing behind one of the best centers in the league.

Gortat also made news when he said that said he's going back to wearing Nikes again. Last year he wore Reeboks. The company didn't give him an endorsement deal, but gave him free shoes — even though he had an Air Jordan tattoo (a Nike symbol) on his leg. During the playoffs, however, Reebok asked him to cover up the tattoo. When Gortat said no, they said no more free shoes. With his new contract, however, he can afford to buy them.

**KAZMIR GETS A HALO.** **Scott Kazmir** was traded from the Tampa Bay Rays to the Los Angeles Angels. The Halos the two-time All-Star for two minor leaguers and Sean Rodriguez. The left-hander was 8-7 with a 5.92 ERA this season for the defending AL champion Rays. In 2007 Scott Led the American League with a career-high 239 strikeouts. He was the youngest AL strikeout champion since another Polish American, Frank Tanana do so with the Angels in 1975 at age 22.

Kazmir was selected in the first round of the 2002 draft by the New York Mets, then traded to Tampa Bay in 2004 while he was still in the minors. He leaves the Rays as the club's career leader in wins, strikeouts, starts and innings pitched.

An interesting note: Nowadays, a player's ethnicity rarely gets a mention in sports teams' media guides. However, Scott's bio in the www.mlb.com website specifically mentions his Polish and Czechoslovakian heritage.

**ULINSKI IS BACK.** Despite the loss of one of his biggest fans, **Chris Ulinski** is back kicking for Utah State. The senior scored the team's first points this season on a 29-yard field goal, though the Aggies went on to lose to Utah.



**ULINSKI.** Doing what his dad would want him to do.

Chris lost his father to cancer in August. In 2007 Matt James wrote in the *Fresno Bee* that Mike and Mary Ulinski should be called "The Flying Ulinskis" because "they spend more time in the air than a Sears Tower window washer. No one travels farther to enjoy a little collegiate pigskin, and that includes players. This season, for instance, the Ulinskis have flown 50,000 miles to watch games, and November isn't even warmed up yet." James was impressed at how the Ulinskis travelled from Florida to see all of

Chris' games, even though he was just doing kick-offs.

"When everything kind of happened, football took a back seat," Chris told www.theunion.com. "It's a sad time right now. It's on my mind all the time. Somewhere down the road it will be easier, maybe when being back to school wears off and everything. But you just have to get through it. But it is really an exciting time here this year, with all the new coaches and everything. And, really, this is what my dad would want me to be doing."

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## THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



**Paying Homage to Old King Coal.** Kazimierz Dolny, Poland. May 18, 1976.

## Essays on 1939 Invasion Awarded

NEW YORK — The Kosciuszko Foundation awarded \$3,500 in prizes in a historical essay contest to students analyzing the “International Significance of the Nazi-Soviet Invasion of Poland in September 1939.”

“On the 70th anniversary of the German invasion of Poland that started World War II, it is fitting that students analyze the most devastating international conflict of the 20th century, especially because so many untruths are still told about this war, said KF president Alex Storozynski.

There were 103 entries, and the First Prize, \$2,000, courtesy of The Polish Army Veterans Association of America, District 2, was awarded to Katarzyna Tokarz for her essay, “The Fourth Partition of Poland.” Second prize, \$1,000, awarded by the Kosciuszko Foundation went to Paul Armstrong, for his essay, “Poland: First to Fight.” Third Prize, \$500, courtesy of Adama Imports went to Bogumil Misiuk, a student at Seton Hall University.

## A Meeting of Polish Airmen



**SGT. WALTER MYSLIWICZYK** served with the U.S. 8th Air Force in Oxfordshire, England, in World War II. He met some airmen of the Polish Air Force in Oxford. They were very surprised and pleased he could speak Polish so fluently. He was invited to visit them at their base nearby. It was a once-in-a-lifetime occasion for Walter, who sent us this photo of himself and Polish airmen in 1944. He resides in Cleveland, Ohio.

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PSFCU proudly supports the Annual Pulaski Day Parade, held this year on Sunday, October 4th. We invite you to attend and participate in this, one of the most exciting Polonia-related events of the year. The theme for this year's parade, as well as a very important one for the PSFCU is:

**“For Freedom - Yours and Ours”**

Not only will PSFCU march in the Pulaski Day Parade, we have also donated \$25,000 as a diamond sponsor, to make this event a reality. While PSFCU's mission is to improve the financial lives of our members, we are committed to supporting events, such as this, that celebrate our common heritage.

To learn more about PSFCU's products or services, please visit one of our branches, website or call us. Join PSFCU and show your feelings of pride for Polonia at this year's parade. We look forward to seeing you on October 4th!

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# Sliwa To Lead 72nd Annual Pulaski Parade

NEW YORK —The Honorable Curtis Sliwa (photo, right), Grand Marshal, will lead the 72nd Annual Pulaski Day Parade up 5th Avenue, Sun., Oct. 4, 2009, commencing at 12:30 p.m.

Sliwa is the leader and founder of the Guardian Angels, created in 1977 as the "Magnificent 13," a group dedicated to combating violence and crime on the New York City subways. This group grew and was renamed the Guardian Angels. Mr. Sliwa is president of the organization and oversees its worldwide operations. He frequently visits chapters throughout the world and graduates new chapters. The Guardian Angels operate in nine countries and 82 cities around the world with approximately 5,000 members.

Sliwa is also a radio broadcaster and has a broadcast on WABC.

The theme of the parade this year is "For Freedom – Yours and Ours", "Za Wolność – Waszą i Naszą". The parade will commemorate a banner year of anniversaries: 90th of the

Second Republic of Poland; 70th of the Nazi/Soviet Invasion of Poland; 65th of the Battle of Monte Cassino; 65th of the Warsaw Uprising; 30th of the First Papal Visit of John Paul II to Poland, lead start of Solidarity; 25th of the murder of Solidarity priest Fr. Jerzy Popieluszko; and 20th of the first free elections and the end of communism in Poland

Preparations are under way by the executive committee. Meetings were held throughout September. The Parade Banquet was held Sept. 26 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel, in Manhattan.

On the day of the parade, the Parade Breakfast will be held at 10:30 a.m. at the 3 West Club, 3 West 51st St., in Manhattan. Gabriella Urbanowicz is chairperson and Penny Donach is the co-chair. Ms.

Urbanowicz may be contacted for tickets at (718) 782-0115 or Penny Donach at (718) 389-4105.

Jennifer Costa is chairing the presentation of Miss Polonia's and Contingent Marshals at the banquet. Forms for the Marshals and Miss Polonia's are available on the pulaskiparade.org website. Ms. Costa may be contacted at (732) 925-4382 or JenniferMarieCosta@yahoo.com

The parade is Polonia's time to show off their heritage and pride by honoring General Casimir Pulaski an American Revolutionary War Hero. All of Polonia, friends of Polonia and the people of New York are invited to the march in the parade or view it from 5th Avenue in Manhattan.

For information about the parade, visit www.Pulaskiparade.org.



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

### Fauna, Animals

zwierzę..... (ZWYEH-zheh) n  
animal  
ptak..... (ptahk) m  
bird  
ryba..... (RIH-bah) f  
fish  
owad..... (OH-vaht) m  
insect  
ssak..... (ssahk) m  
mammal

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

gad..... (gaht) m  
reptile  
pies..... (pyehs) m  
dog  
kot..... (koht) m  
cat  
kurczak..... (KUHR-chahk) m  
chicken  
kura..... (KUH-rah) f  
hen  
kaczka..... (KAHCH-kah) f  
duck  
gęś..... (gehsh) f  
goose  
krowa..... (KROH-vah) f  
cow  
koń..... (koyh) m  
horse  
koza..... (KOH-zah) f  
goat

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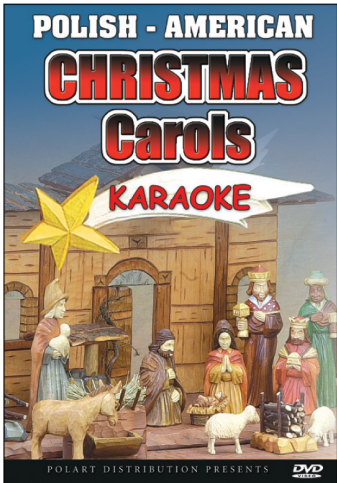
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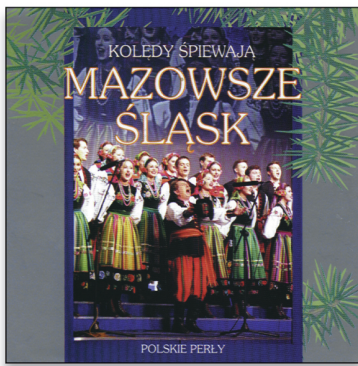
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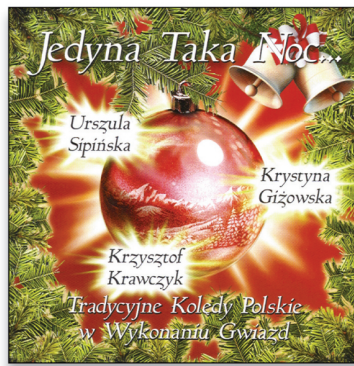
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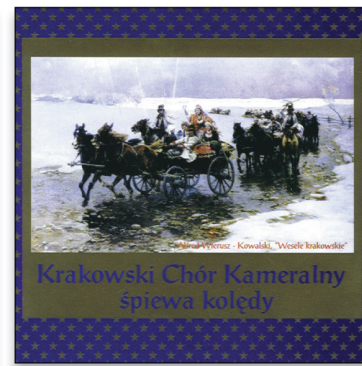
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