

# POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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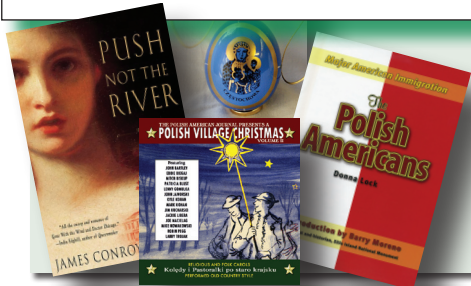


ST. FLORIAN'S GATE TOWER,  
FOCAL POINT OF KRAKOW'S  
OLD TOWN — Page 22

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

IS POLONIA READY FOR 2012? • MR. CHAIRMAN, YOU WILL BE MISSED • IT'S NO JOKE — OR IS IT?  
OCTOBER IS POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH • "SMOLENSK CROSS" MOVED TO PALACE CHAPEL  
THE KING OF KIELBASA • ONE OF THE BRAVEST ACTS OF ESPIONAGE IN WORLD WAR II

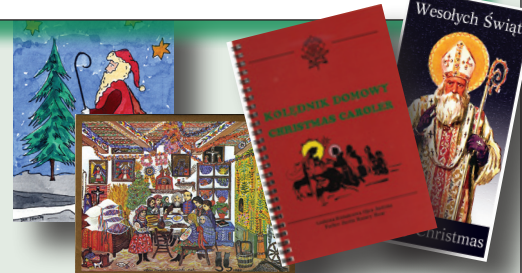
## HERITAGE MONTH PRE-CHRISTMAS SALE



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### NEWSMARK

**WALESA GIVES SOLIDARITY THE BRUSH-OFF.** Former Solidarity leader Lech Walesa did not participate in the trade union's 30th anniversary celebrations, stating that he is disillusioned with the union's current state and unhappy with Poland's economy and politics today. He stated further that he feels Solidarity should return to its role as a social movement and not involve itself so much in politics. Although Walesa did not attend two anniversary sessions in Gdynia and a major celebration in Szczecin he is expected to attend a celebration concert in Gdansk.

The sixty-six-year-old former Polish president received a pacemaker in 2007 and travels the world extensively lecturing on Poland's bloodless political transformation. "After 30 years of great personal effort I am terribly tired today," Walesa wrote in his blog. "This is why I am not capable of actively participating in many meetings and ceremonies."

Lech Walesa was Poland's president from 1990-1995.

**POLES TAKE ON REBELS.** A joint Afghan-Polish operation against rebels in Afghanistan lasted for over twelve hours as troops scoured a village for hidden ammunition storage. Polish soldiers also distributed aid to the villagers. The operation took place in one of the most turbulent regions of Ghazni province near the city of Mukur, the area where NATO soldiers are most often targeted by roadside bomb attacks and rebel fire. The Taliban regularly intimidates and terrorizes villagers there.

As the Polish patrol was leaving the area, they were attacked by rebels. Although about eight mortars were fired in their direction, there were no casualties. Shortly after the attack on the Poles, the Afghan patrol was shot at as well.

**ELECTION VALID.** Poland's Supreme Court ruled the presidential election was valid and that Bronislaw Komorowski is the nation's new president. There were 378 electoral protests received by the Polish Supreme Court after this year's presidential election. Most of the protests were lodged because of the flooding, and stated that the government should have declared a State of Emergency and not have conducted the election at all during the floods. The Supreme Court ruled however, that the flood did not significantly impede voting. Although sixteen of the protests were deemed justified, they were not considered as having impacted the validity of the election.

**OSCAR CONTENDER.** "Wszystko co kocham" ("Everything I love"), a new Jacek Borcuch's film, is said to be the Polish candidate for Best Foreign Language Film Oscar Winner 2011.

The decision was made by a special commission headed by Agnieszka Holland – Chairman of Polish Film Academy. American Film Academy's regulations say, each national body can register only one movie for the Best Foreign Language Film Oscar category.

The movie is a story about music, adolescent rebellion, love and friendship. Its action takes place during Martial Law. The main character is a high school student playing in punk band, whose father serves in the army and whose mother belongs to Solidarity. The strength of the film comes from young actors — Mateusz Kościukiewicz and Olga Frycz.

### The Tradition Continues



**A GRAND TRIBUTE** to Our Lady of Czestochowa was celebrated August 26 in St. Paul Cathedral, Pittsburgh, with over thirty priest concelebrants from three dioceses of Western Pennsylvania. Bishop David Zubik, Ordinary of Pittsburgh, presided.

The children above in Polish folk attire, guided by Felician Sister Philip, CSSF, presented the offeratory gifts and roses before the large icon of Our Lady on behalf of the over 1,300 in attendance. Rev. Canon Joseph Sredzinski, center, helped co-ordinate the event.

### American History through Polish Eyes

by Geraldine  
Balut-Coleman

CHICAGO — In celebration of 90 years of a diplomatic alliance between the United States and Poland, an exhibit: "The United States in Polish Historiography and Periodicals from 1764-1919" is on view through the month of October at the Eisenhower Public Library in Harwood Heights, Ill.

Presented through the efforts of the Warsaw Public Library, this exhibit is an outstanding 38-panel display that reminds those who visit of the fascinating and compelling relationship which existed between the American and Polish people during this period of time.

The exhibit, compiled

from photographs, memoirs, letters, newspapers and drawings, offers a uniquely documented look into American History through a Polish perspective. Material for this exhibit was researched and organized by Warsaw's Main Public Library-Main Library of Mazovia Province, Poland

and carefully translated by Aleks Sierakowski. Special attention was given to the American Revolution, the U.S. Declaration of Independence and Constitution, Polish immigration after the November Rising of 1830, Poles participating in the U.S. Civil

See "Exhibit," page 8

### "Captain Ollie" Feted for Over 70 Years of Service

by Margaret Zotkiewicz

TOLEDO — When Aloysius "Ollie" Spitulski decided, with several other Poles, to establish the Commodore Club in south Toledo, the Great Depression was still on, and World War II was years away. In 1938, Spitulski and his friends founded the Commodore Club primarily as a sports club. The club was originally located in the Kuszwan neighborhood, near the intersection of Hamilton and Hoag Streets. In those days, "Kusfanc" was a vibrant area; churches, shops,



**Aloysius "Ollie" Spitulski.**  
Toledo sports icon honored as founding member of the Commodore Club.

### King Calls for Investigation of Smolensk Crash

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Polonian leaders are urging Polish Americans to write to their Congressmen in support of H. Res. 1489, "Calling for an independent international investigation of the April 10, 2010, plane crash in Russia that killed Poland's president Lech Kaczynski and 95 other individuals."

The resolution was introduced by Congressman Peter King (R-NY).

"The Russian side of the investigation headed by the Interstate Aviation Committee (MAK) lacks almost all transparency. None of the evidence secured from the crash site, nor the wreck of the aircraft have been examined by Polish investigators, on grounds that they lack jurisdiction. MAK also is not to be considered an independent investigatory body as it is responsible for the operating certificates for all Russian airports as well as Russian aviation equipment, which if proved to be a reason for the crash, this is an evident conflict of interest," say the resolution's supporters.

On June 30, the resolution was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

bars, and social clubs dotted the neighborhood. The streets teemed with people going about their business, before it was common to drive several miles to buy groceries, attend religious services, or visit friends.

Over the years, the Commodore sports teams became well known in Toledo, with Spitulski in the lead as the coach/manager of numerous baseball and softball teams that brought home many trophies. During those same years, Kusfanc experienced

See "Captain Ollie," page 8

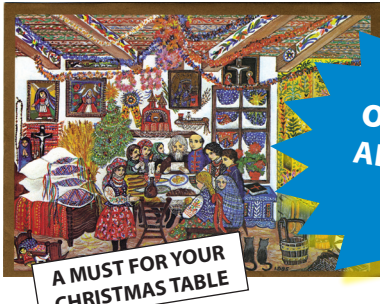


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**LARGE** (6¼ x 3½ in.). Three white and one pink oplatki. Comes with decorative envelope (shown) depicting wigilia with history on back — 4/\$5.00

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[www.polamjournal.com](http://www.polamjournal.com)

Follow Library Holidays link to the Christmas Listings

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**POLISH VILLAGE CHRISTMAS VOLUME II \$15.00**

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Hand-decorated Birchwood Christmas Our Lady of Czestochowa and Pope John Paul II ornaments from Poland. A beautiful heirloom gift.

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Our Lady of Czestochowa Christmas Ornament Egg **\$12.00**

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- Back of Czestochowa ornament features floral design highlighted with glitter.
- Back of John Paul II ornament features gold Polish Eagle with "Polska" above.

## STICKERS

**Wesolych Swiat / Merry Christmas**



**NEW DESIGN! Shown actual size**

Proceeds to benefit Catholic Orphanage in Bialoleka, near Warsaw, Poland and Polish American Journal Press Fund. 1" x 2". 20 stickers to a sheet. Perfect for presents, our line of Christmas cards, etc. **\$5.00 per sheet.** (If ordering stickers only, shipping is \$1.00 per every four sheets).

## BUTTER / CHOCOLATE MOLDS

Easy to use! To make with butter, simply coat the mold with vegetable oil (spray type works best), press in softened butter, clamp halves together, place and refrigerator until hardened and you're done. For chocolate, just pour and let harden. It's that easy! Give your table some Polish flair!



**NEW! MINI POLISH FOODS MOLD. \$8.95**

Six all-time favorites. Mold is 6"x6". Each food app. 2" x 1" x 3/8" deep.

Includes:

- Rye Bread • Pierogi
- Kielbasa • Golabki
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- Mini Butter Lamb

Includes:

- Merry Christmas
- Christmas Eve
- Christmas Tree
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- Midnight Mass
- Wafer
- Christmas Play
- and more!

**LET'S LEARN POLISH CHRISTMAS WORDS MOLD. \$8.95**

12-coin mold. Each coin is 1-inch across x 1/4" deep.

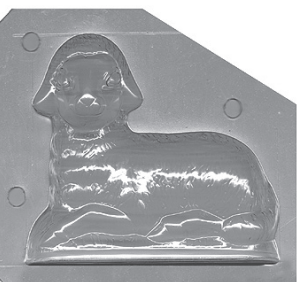


Includes:

- Yes and No
- Thank You
- Hello
- Goodbye
- Mother
- Father
- Left
- Right
- Home
- Church

**LET'S LEARN POLISH EVERYDAY WORDS MOLD. \$8.95**

12-coin mold. Each coin is 1-inch across x 1/4" deep.



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## KOLEDY SING-ALONG BOOK

**With Music and Lyrics in Polish and English**

Published by the Fr. Justin Rosary Hour

Now you can sing-along to 37 of the most popular Polish Christmas Carols. This 90-page spiral-bound book contains the words and music plus English translations that can be substituted for Polish. Published by the Fr. Justin Rosary Hour in 2003, the book also contains a message from the Rosary Hour director, an explanation (in Polish and English) of Polish Carols by the late Msgr. John R. Gabalski of St. Stanislaus Parish in Buffalo, N.Y., plus Pope John Paul II words about the importance of koledy to the Polish nation. Thirty-seven songs in all.

Published at \$7.00, available now for only **\$5.00**

## CHRISTMAS CARDS — 75¢ each — 50 or more 50¢ each — 10-pack \$6.00

Greetings in Polish with English translation! Designed exclusively for the Polish American Journal by renown folk artists Doris Sikorsky (cards 301-304), Basia Frackiewicz (cards 201-206) and Daniel Haskin (cards 102 and 103), these 4¼" x 5½" full-color cards



CARD 102



CARD 103



CARD 201



CARD 202



CARD 203



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CARD 301



CARD 302

Send Christmas greetings in Polish and English to friends across the miles!

**Christmas Card Assortment Available 24 Cards (2 each + random) for \$13.95**



CARD 303



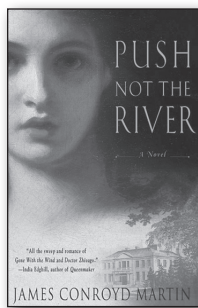
CARD 304



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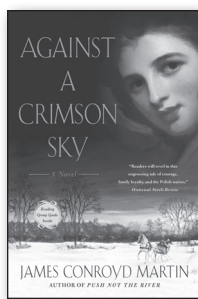
**PUSH NOT THE RIVER**

by James C. Martin

**\$15.95**

St. Martin's Press. 496 pp.pb. Maps & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide  
**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 author is the winner of the 2007 Gold Medal for Literature from The American Institute of Polish Culture.

"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*.

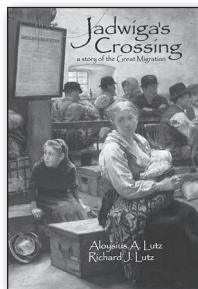


**AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY**

by James C. Martin

**\$15.95**

St. Martin's 369 pp.pb. Map & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide  
**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 Napoléon 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 Napoléon 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*.



**JADWIGA'S CROSSING:**

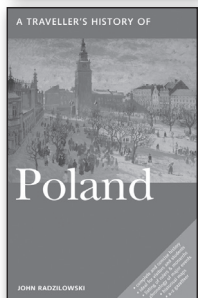
A story of the Great Migration

**\$19.95**

Al and Dick Lutz' acclaimed work

348 pp., pb.

A perfect gift of heritage... The experience of late 19th Century immigration, as seen through the eyes of Paul and Jadwiga Adamik and what they went through to make America their new home. Appropriate for all ages 12 and up.



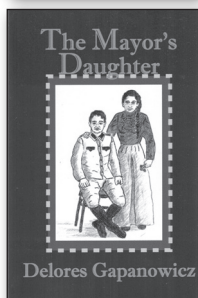
**A TRAVELLER'S HISTORY OF POLAND**

by John Radzilowski

**\$14.95**

312 pp. ill., maps. pb.

A comprehensive historical survey guides travellers through a general history of the people and places of Poland from pre-history to today. Includes a full chronology, a list of monarchs and rulers, a gazetteer, historical maps.



**THE MAYOR'S DAUGHTER**

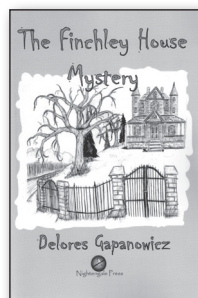
by Delores Gapanowicz

**\$12.95**

Edition illustrated

Nightingale 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. The stories were told to the author by her parents before they passed away. These tales show that young people on farms didn't spend all their time milking cows and picking potatoes.



**THE FINCHLEY HOUSE MYSTERY**

by Delores Gapanowicz

**\$13.95**

Nightingale Press, 2005

For Ages 9-12. 132 pp. pb.

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? *Delores Gapanowicz* is a published author of children's books.



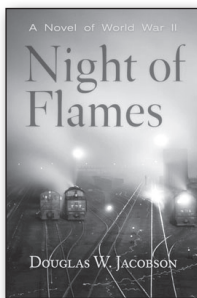
**THE FORGOTTEN FEW**

by Adam Zamoyski. hc. 239 pp.

**\$14.95**

Fleeing to Britain after the Germans captured their homeland, the pilots of the Polish Air Force played an important role in the Battle of Britain and the air war in the European theater. They shot down 745 enemy aircraft, with another 175 unconfirmed, and 190 flying bombs targeted at London. A story of the life and times of these airmen stationed in Britain. The story concludes sadly with an account of the development of anti-Polish feelings in Britain at war's end. Photos.

**BACK IN STOCK!**



**NIGHT OF FLAMES:**

A Novel of World War Two

by Douglas W. Jacobson

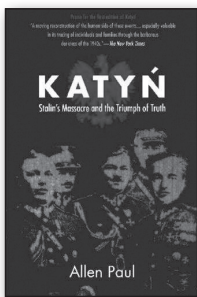
**\$16.95**

384 pp. pb., McBooks Press

"The most powerful weapon on earth is the human soul on fire."

In 1939 the Germans invade Poland, setting off a rising storm of violence and destruction. For Anna and Jan Kopernik the loss is unimaginable. She is an assistant professor at a university in Krakow; he, an officer in the Polish cavalry. Separated by war, they must find their own way in a world where everything they ever knew is gone.

Through the long night of Nazi occupation, Anna, Jan, and ordinary people across Europe fight a covert war of sabotage and resistance against the overwhelming might of the German war machine. The struggle seems hopeless, but they are determined to take back what is theirs.



**NEW! KATYN: STALIN'S MASSACRE**

AND THE TRIUMPH OF TRUTH

by Allen Paul

**\$24.95**

Northern Illinois University Press

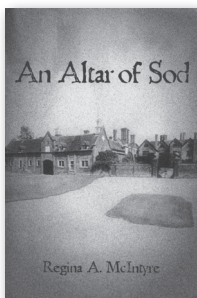
2010. 430 pp. pb. 9"x6.5"

Marking the 70th anniversary of the Katyn Forest massacre, this edition exposes the crime and its cover-up. Twenty years ago, Allen Paul wrote the first post-communist account of one of the greatest but least-known tragedies of the 20th century: Stalin's annihilation of Poland's officer corps and massive deportation of so-called "bourgeoisie elements" to Siberia. Today, these brutal events are symbolized by one word, Katyn.

Paul's richly updated account covers Russian attempts to recant their admission of guilt for the murders in Katyn Forest and includes recently translated documents from Russian military archives, eyewitness accounts of two perpetrators, and secret official minutes published here for the first time that confirm that U.S. government cover-up of the crime continued long after the war ended.

Paul's masterful narrative recreates what daily life was like for three Polish families amid momentous events of World War II—from the treacherous Nazi-Soviet invasion in 1939 to a rigged election in 1947 that sealed Poland's doom.

"Not only a riveting human drama but a powerful historical exposé." — *Zbigniew Brzezinski*, former U.S. national security adviser  
 "Allen has given us the complete story of Katyn... a wonderful companion to my film!" — *Andrzej Wajda*, Academy Award-winning Director of Katyn.



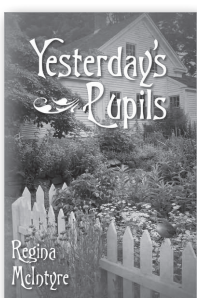
**AN ALTAR OF SOD**

By Regina A. McIntyre

**\$19.95**

Hats Off Books, 2001, 2010, 304 pp., pb

In 19th century Partitioned Poland, the village of Miska sits almost unchanged on the banks of the Vistula. This is the story of three families who are unforgettably joined by love, pain, struggle and hope. Rich in tradition, the story builds to a far-reaching conclusion.



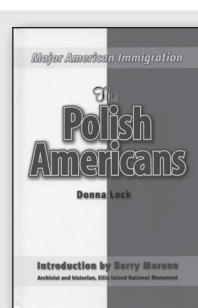
**NEW! YESTERDAY'S PUILS**

By Regina A. McIntyre

**\$17.95**

Create Space Books, 2010, 208 pp., pb

Sequel to "An Altar of Sod." At the turn of the 20th Century, three families emigrate from the same village in Poland. The Victorian era provides the style and mores that challenge these immigrants to adjust to that culture, and at the same time try to maintain their old world traditions and customs.



**NEW! THE POLISH AMERICANS**

from the "Major American Immigration Series" by Donna Lock

**\$22.95**

Full color illustrated. Ages 9-12

Mason Crest Publishers. 2008. 64 pp. hc.

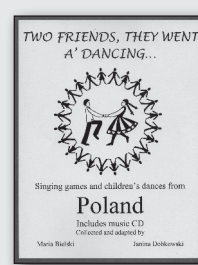
9"x6"

Polish emigrants left their homeland for many of the same reasons as did other ethnic groups: poverty, religious intolerance, hardship, and a strict government.

Yet in America's melting pot, the Polish have maintained a stronger hold on their traditions and customs than most of the other immigrant groups that arrived in North America during the 19th and early 20th centuries. This is due in part to the closeness of the ethnic Polish neighborhoods that grew up in the industrial cities where many immigrants settled.

Today, prominent Polish American associations work to ensure that people with Polish ancestry will never forget their proud heritage.

"A good overview of mainstream European American experience..." *Booklist*.



**TWO FRIENDS, THEY WENT A' DANCING**

by Maria Bielski and Janina Dobkowski

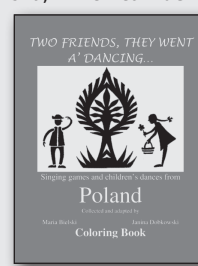
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Singing games and Children's Dances from Poland

INCLUDES MUSIC CD, LYRICS, AND SHEET MUSIC

Spiral bound, softcover

The book contains lyrics (in both English and Polish) of ten popular singing games, and a vocal music score with chords. Clear step-by-step movement and dance instructions are outlined precisely with the text. In addition, a CD of the recorded songs with accompaniment is included, so that parents, grandparents, teachers, and children can immediately enjoy the songs and games. Each page has an original "wycinanki" (Polish cut-out style) illustration, designed by the artist, Joanna Bielska, which can be reproduced for coloring or craft projects.



**TWO FRIENDS, THEY WENT A' DANCING COMPANION**

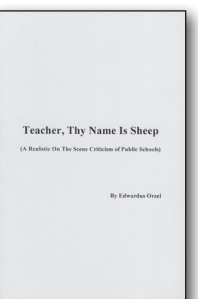
COLORING BOOK

**\$4.00**

by Maria Bielski and Janina Dobkowski

Using these "wycinanki" icons, you can draw the story of each song, color the enlarged full page cut-out, or reproduce any of these icons for educational purposes.

Some craft ideas are included.



**TEACHER, THY NAME IS SHEEP**

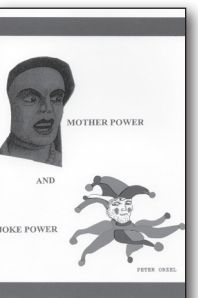
by E.J. Kalinowski (NDP Edward Orzel)

**\$9.95**

Kalski Books, 2004. 132 pp., pb.

Why are American high school students so undisciplined? Read this book and judge for yourself. The author, a retired high school and junior high school teacher, first wrote his opinionated discourse in 1968, and updated it in 2004. Among his views are "Give me a Principal with Principles." "It takes good parents, and good teachers, not a village, to

raise good students," and "TV is today's mother, father, and teacher" among others.



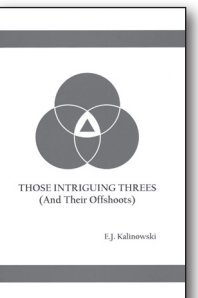
**MOTHER POWER AND JOKE POWER**

by E.J. Kalinowski (NDP Peter Orzel)

**\$9.95**

Kalski Books, 1998. 142 pp., pb.

*Mother Power* is a compendium of psychological sketches on personalities in various fields: politics, military, medicine, theater, and religion, written in a pertinent, pithy manner pointing out how mother influence determined the success of the famous and infamous. *Joke Power* stresses the deleterious effects jokes have in individuals and groups targeted for derision. The author is a retired high school and junior high school teacher, who has penned numerous polemic observations in community and regional newspapers.



**THOSE INTRIGUING THREES**

(and Their Offshoots)

by E.J. Kalinowski

**\$9.95**

Self published / Kalski Books, 2009. 166 pp., pb.

Why are there so many threes in the Bible — both the Old and New Testament? Creation abounds in threes? Have you noticed the amount of triadic construction in nature? The premise of this book is the prevalence of threes in our world and how apparent these triadic aspects are if one takes the time to observe them.



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**FORUM / Tom Tarapacki**

**It's No Joke — Or is It?**

Senator Arlen Specter drew a lot of fire when he told Polish jokes at a Republican event in Manhattan last year, including criticism from the *Polish American Journal*. However, at least one reader took this paper to task for editorializing against Specter, but not criticizing Duke men's basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski, who has been known to tell Polish jokes. Now, you might not agree with Krzyzewski's approach, but to compare him to Specter is completely ludicrous.

If you are a Polish American who doesn't know much about Mike Krzyzewski, you should. He's an amazing man. He grew up in a working-class Polish neighborhood in Chicago and became perhaps the greatest coach in college basketball today. I had the chance to meet Coach K in June 1991, when he was inducted into the National Polish American Hall of Fame in Detroit. I was impressed by the fact that, despite having won his first national title a few months earlier, he obviously made it a priority to attend. I'm sure that he was in very high demand at that time in particular, but he made the time to be there for the honor. (In future years, I discovered that not all the inductees were as accommodating). In his acceptance speech he spoke so passionately about his Polish heritage that many in the audience were in tears.

His accomplishments as a basketball coach are numerous—including twelve ACC championships, eleven Final Fours and four national championships at Duke. More than that, he has accomplished all that and more while running a program with integrity and high standards.

In my opinion, there is no living Polish American who has done more to create pride among Polonia. There are numerous high-profile Polish Americans, many in the world of sports. However, other than their names, they rarely provide any connection to their ethnic heritage. If it weren't for their Polish surnames, you'd never know about their ethnicity (and sometimes it is better that way). I frequently get correspondence from readers who ask whether some athlete with an apparently Polish name really is Polish. In many cases, despite numerous phone calls and Google searches, I can't determine any ethnicity. Sadly, sometimes an athlete will tell me: "I

don't know."

However, Mike Krzyzewski never passes up a chance to make reference to his Polish heritage. He even makes sure you pronounce his name shah-SHEF-skee, not kre-ZOO-skee. He often uses humor (and not always the self-deprecating kind) to remind people that he's Polish. Not long ago rumors were swirling that



**NO COMPARISON.** Krzyzewski (left) and Specter.

New Jersey Nets' incoming Russian billionaire owner Mikhail Prokhorov wanted to hire Coach K to run his team. Krzyzewski's response: "The guy's Russian, right? You think he'd hire a Polish guy?"

Sometimes it's more serious. Responding to some recent personal attacks, he said: "I grew up Polish in Chicago. My father had to change his name to Kross, instead of Krzyzewski, so he could get work. People want to take a free shot; I understand that it comes with the territory."

Now, Krzyzewski is also known to tell a Polish joke. Coach K's explanation is two-fold. First, he does it to let people know that he's Polish. Now, you might ask how someone might not know that a guy named Krzyzewski is Polish, but you would be surprised, especially since Duke is located in North Carolina. Secondly, he does it to disarm his audience, to get the jump on anyone who wants to attack his heritage. Once Coach K tells a Polish joke, it's pointless for someone else to tell one.

If you've been involved in sports, you know how vile and vicious "locker room" humor can be—and it's not always confined to the locker room. There are very few taboos about what insults are permitted. If you're the subject of such offensive comments, the best way to ensure that they will continue is to display any kind of sensitivity to them. If you object to them, they'll likely go on endlessly—and prob-

ably increase—and you might even be labeled a "poor sport." However, if you act like it doesn't bother you, it will usually stop. I think that Krzyzewski's use of Polish jokes was a defense mechanism that probably developed when he left Chicago to play basketball at West Point under Bobby Knight (who is well known for his less-than-temperate language). Krzyzewski's first year at the U.S. Military Academy was 1968, when Polish jokes were fairly widespread.

But let's get to the point. Senator Arlen Specter told some Polish jokes that stunned audience members—Poles and non-Poles—because of their tastelessness and mean-spiritedness. I don't think that it was coincidental that Specter's opponent was Joe Sestak (Sestak is actually of Slovak heritage, but I don't think that Specter knows the difference).

Although both Specter and Krzyzewski repeated Polish jokes, there was a huge difference. Specter's telling of a Polish joke was obviously meant to demean and insult. For Krzyzewski, an intelligent and accomplished proud Polish American, telling a Polish joke serves to illustrate just how ridiculous Polish jokes and anti-Polish stereotypes are.

I do have a concern, however. My concern is that, by repeating those jokes, Coach K might help keep alive a phenomenon that that pretty much disappeared from the American scene. Most kids today have never heard a Polish joke, and don't even know what that term refers to.

I really don't have a problem with anyone who disagrees with Coach K's approach to Polish jokes. However, I do have a problem with people who try to compare Mike Krzyzewski with someone like Arlen Specter. Polonia can—and should—have a frank discussion about this issue, but attacking a proud Polish American like Krzyzewski because he has a different point of view is counterproductive and only serves to divide our community.

*Tom Tarapacki is Sports Editor of the Polish American Journal, a board member of National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame, and author of "Chasing the American Dream: Polish Americans in Sports."*

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"People who grow up without a sense of how yesterday has affected today are unlikely to have a strong sense of how today affects tomorrow."  
—Lynne V. Cheney

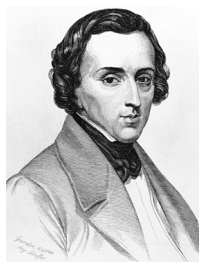
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**October • Październik**  
**Polish American Heritage Month**  
 Sponsored by the Polish American Congress, groups across America's Polonia celebrate Polonia's rich background in the United States.



"I don't know how it is, but the Germans are amazed at me and I am amazed at them for finding anything to be amazed about."  
 —Fryderyk Chopin (1810-1849)

- 1 1608. First Poles arrive in America to work as skilled craftsmen at settlement in Jamestown Settlement.
- 2 1412. Union of Horodio cements friendship of Poland and Lithuania.
- 4 **ST. FRANCIS**  
*Po Świętym Franciszku, chodzi bydło po ousisku. After Saint Francis Day, cattle are tended on the oats field.*
- 5 1983. Lech Walesa awarded Nobel Peace Prize.
- 8 **ST. BRIGID**  
*O Świętej Brigidzie Babie lato przyjdzie. About the St. Brigid's day, Indian summer will arrive.*
- 9 1435. Death of Pawel Wlodkowic, model for Shakespeare's Polonius (Hamlet).
- 10 1899. Death of Mother Angela Truskowska (b. 1825), founder of the Felician Sisters.
- 11 1779. Date traditionally observed in American Polonia as Pulaski Day in honor of death of Casimer Pulaski.
- 12 1840. Birth of Helena Modrzejewska, Polish American stage actress, in Krakow, Poland.
- 16 1978. Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, 58, named Pope John Paul II.
- 19 1984. Fr. Jerzy Popieluszko, pro-Solidarity priest, murdered by Communist security agents.
- 20 1982. Death of Korczak Ziolkowski, sculptor of the Crazy Horse Memorial in the Black Hills of South Dakota.
- 22 1940. Stan "Stas" Jasinski, age 25, broadcasts his first Polish radio program in Buffalo. He retired from broadcasting June 4, 2000. (d. 2005)
- 24 1919. Birth of **Frank Piasecki** (right), inventor of the tandem rotor helicopter.
- 26 1910. Birth of Cardinal John Krol, Archbishop of Philadelphia, and Polish activist.
- 28 **ST. SIMON**  
*Na Święto Szymona, babie lato już kona. On St. Simon's Day, Indian Summer is dying.*
1824. Birth of the founder of the first permanent Polish settlement in the United States at Panna Maria, Texas, Father Leopold Bonauventura Moczygomba.
- 29 1611. Hetman Stefan Zolkiewski returns to Warsaw from conquering the Muskovites brings with him the captured Czar.
- 29 1944. Polish 1st Corps, commanded by General Maczek, takes Breda, Holland as part of the Allied invasion of Western Europe.



inventor of the tandem rotor helicopter.

This paper mailed on or before **October 1, 2010**. The October 2010 edition will be mailed on or before **October 29**.

**LAPSUS CALAMI.** Last month's article on the Arts Enriched English Camp sponsored by the Kosciuszko Foundation gave the wrong dates. The revised article appears on page 21 of this month's paper.

VIEWPOINTS

# Is Polonia Ready for 2012?

By the time you read this, it'll be about two years before Americans vote for President. Indeed, by this time two years from now, the critical choices will already have been made, as primaries ferret out the final candidates.

Two years out, the election looks like it will be very close. Presumably, Barack Obama will seek re-election. If his current popularity continues, the Republican challenger will have a pretty good shot at being the next President.

In any close election, a few votes here and there can be decisive in throwing a state's electoral votes to a particular candidate. Polish Americans make up 4% or more of the electorate in 17 states, with 162 electoral votes, more than half of the way to the White House.

Five per cent is not a lot, but it can be decisive. An organized Polonia can really punch above its weight.

Will it? If we want to, now is the time to ask two critical questions. What does Polonia want? And how

can Polonia figure in the 2012 election?

We need a community-wide dialogue to establish our priorities. Ours, not necessarily Poland's. Do we want Poland in the Visa Waiver Program? Maybe, but what does that do for us? Do we want immigration reform? What kind? More "recognition" for Polish Americans? What concretely does that mean? Do we "push" Polish Americans, or end affirmative action? More U.S. involvement with Poland? Investment? Bases?

No politician will take us seriously if we do not address tangible "deliverables"—what do we want? What is our vision for America?

If we are to count, we need to organize. Communicate what we need—to ourselves as well as to the candidates. Be ready to "get out the vote." The Internet is an instant-messaging tool, but do we have a database? The Polish American Congress prides itself as an "organization of organizations." Can we reach those individual organizational members in a timely and direct fashion? Do we have mailing lists, e-mail groups, and

phone trees?

Poles scramble for green cards, but then are lethargic about naturalizing, and naturalization now takes longer. Are we planning citizenship campaigns for 2011? Registration drives? The primaries are a little over a year away!

There may even be a Polonian in the race: rumor has it that Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty could throw his hat in the ring. Are we talking to him? Can we deliver for him?

Polonia has great potential and formidable challenges. With no one else having so broad a nationwide structure as the Polish American Congress, it falls to the PAC to get Polonia talking, to ourselves and to the candidates. Now. It's a golden opportunity for the PAC to reassert its continuing relevance and our clout.

This item needs to be on the agendas of the PAC Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, and on a broader coalition of Polonia leaders that the PAC can and should build. Let's not throw away 2012.

TO THE CHASE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

# Mr. Chairman, Rosty, You Will Be Missed

Daniel Rostenkowski was a friend to presidents, the pride of Polonia, and someone who brought million of federal dollars to Illinois and Chicago. During his tenure as Chairman of House Ways and Means Committee, he became a crusader. He spearheaded thirteen legislative bills, and then his world tumbled over the use federal funds for personal postage stamps, ash trays, Lenox china and some armchairs. It cost the federal government over \$23 million dollars for Rosty's approximate \$750,000 misuse of the tax payer's money. He was indicted in 1994 of 17 counts, in 1996 pleaded guilty on two counts, spend 15 months in a Wisconsin federal prison with two months spent in a Salvation Army halfway house on Chicago's Southside, and paid a \$100,000 fine. In 2000, President Clinton gave Rostenkowski a full pardon through the intercession of former President Gerald Ford and former minority leader Robert H. Michel, both Republicans. Mike Royko, who many times criticized Rostenkowski, once wrote "Nobody should be taking pleasure from Rostenkowski's misfortune. Not unless you have never, ever, broken even a minor law and gotten away with it, fudged a bit on your taxes or violated any of the Ten Commandments ... Rostenkowski was a big political fish — the kind of trophy that an ambitious federal prosecutor loves to stuff and hang on his wall ... that's what did Rostenkowski

in — a federal prosecutor's personal ambitions." Rosty does not deny his wrong doing. He knew he was a well-known Democrat, who became a convicted felon.

He grew up a few steps from the historic St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, the church that was almost demolished when the Kennedy Expressway was being built. Some say it was Rostenkowski who saved this church and its school from demolition. Regardless, when driving down the Kennedy into Chicago, the drivers must curve around St. Stanislaus with a feeling that they are within arm's reach of touching the church. Rosty never forgot his roots, his constituents, Chicago nor Illinois once he reached our nation's capitol.

Those millions of federal dollars were used, not only to expand the Kennedy Expressway between Chicago and O'Hare Airport, but they were used for the Deep Tunnel Project, the Blue Line Train of the Chicago Transit Authority to O'Hare, Navy Pier, the Chicago Skyway, and Chicago Shoreline Protection Project. He was also instrumental in securing funds for the President

Towers Apartments in the midst of what was then a skid row area. This building project brought new growth through the development of businesses, restaurants and even Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Studios. But did the low-income residents benefit from this venture?

Mr. Chairman was the leading architect of tax policy reform during the Reagan years with the Economic Recovery Act of 1981, as well as leading a 1983 effort to salvage Social Security from insolvency. He was instrumental in passing the Tax Reform Act of 1986 and the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988, just to new a few.



He was a giant of a man, a street wise Chicago Democrat, sometimes gruff, but frank, open and had world "smarts." He was a deal maker, a pragmatist, a straight talker, and a student of progress. He was a man who did what he said he would do. He was a brilliant man who remembered dates, times and circumstances, a confidant to presidents and a bi-partisan friend. He seemed to work better with Republicans than with Democrats. He never put on "airs." Later in life,

he mentioned how he was so disappointed in the lack of bipartisanship among members of Congress. "Everybody wants to fight. Nobody wants to give in." "Politics is war, today."

Daniel Rostenkowski died of lung cancer in his Wisconsin summer home on Wednesday, August 11, 2010 at the age of 82. This son of Polish Americans was born and raised in Chicago's Stanislawowo area, once known as the "Polish Downtown," graduated from St. Stanislaus Kostka Grammar School and St. John's Military Academy in Delafield, Wisconsin, was a Korean War veteran and attended Loyola University Chicago. At the age of 25, he was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives, then moved onto the Illinois Senate. In 1958, he began a 36-year career in the U.S. House of Representative representing the 8th and then the 5th Congressional Districts, voted into office by his Polish American constituents. He once jokingly said, "My tombstone will say, 'Indicted Congressman — He may be remembered as another Chicago politician who went to jail.'"

Daniel David Rostenkowski's wake and funeral were held on August 16 and 17, in his childhood church, St. Stanislaus Kostka. He is survived by his beloved wife Laverne, three daughters, and a grandson.

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## POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

## Taking Stock

Since 1608, when the first Polish settlers arrived at Jamestown, Virginia, Polish people have been an important part of America's history and culture. In 2010, we will mark the 29th Anniversary of the founding of Polish American Heritage Month, an event, which began in Philadelphia, Pa., and became a national celebration of Polish history, culture and pride.

This year, we mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Fryderyk Chopin, world-renowned pianist and composer of Polish heritage, and the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ignacy Jan Paderewski, pianist, composer and representative of Poland to the United States. Many of us will hold observances in honor of the 231st Anniversary of the death of General Casimir Pulaski, Father of the American Cavalry.

There is so much to learn about our heritage, if not for ourselves, then for our children and grandchildren. Find time to take stock in your Polish roots, and give some of that back to your family and community.

Information about ways to celebrate Polish American Heritage Month can be obtained by visiting the Polish American Heritage Month Committee's site at PolishAmericanHeritageMonth.com. On this site you will find a list of "Things To Do During Polish American Heritage Month," as well as the 2010 coloring contest artwork for schools and Heritage Month posters that can be downloaded and printed. Copies of the coloring contest artwork can also be obtained by calling the Heritage Month Committee, Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at (215) 922-1700.

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## “Smolensk Cross” Moved to Palace Chapel

by Richard Poremski

WARSAW — A simple, lightly constructed, wooden cross that began its existence as a national unifying expression of grief and sympathy — and transitioned into a contentious symbol of political and cultural division in Poland — has been removed from its home in front of the Presidential Palace.

The cross — placed at the palace by Boy Scouts following the April 10th plane crash that killed President Lech Kaczynski and his entire entourage — was moved to the palace chapel Sept. 16, in a surprise move which angered protestors who wanted the cross to stay where it was.

Palace chief Jacek Michalowski said the cross will remain in the chapel until an appropriate time when it can be moved to its permanent resting place.

“The prevailing state of affairs was hitting the authority of the state and church, and also hurt the religious feelings of many Poles,” Michalowski said, continuing that “the cross became hostage to a political game, despite the appeal from bishops to move the cross to a more suitable place.”

When state and some clergy attempted earlier to move the cross,



PHOTO: RICHARD P. POREMSKI

A cross set up by Polish Boy Scouts in memory of those killed in the Smolensk plane crash became a political football. Police installed barricades to keep protestors from clashing directly in front of the palace.

“cross defenders” stood their ground, squabbling with police. This was exacerbated when newly-elected President Bronislaw Komorowski (Civic Platform Party) stated on July 10 that the cross would be ceremoniously removed to a more appropriate religious venue.

Twin brother of the recently deceased president, Jaroslaw Kaczynski (Law and Justice Party) — and who had just lost a hotly contested

run-off presidential election to Komorowski — resisted the cross removal. He had called for construction of a permanent on-site memorial.

As protests heated up, the police, citing security concerns, removed the pro-cross vigil-keepers, along with everyone else to the sidewalk on the other side of the street. They left the cross in place and erected chest high metal barricades on both sides of the street, as witnessed on August 17.

The cross now stands near the altar in the palace chapel. It will be moved to a nearby church, or, possibly taken to the site of the plane crash in Smolensk, Russia.

Poland, a country of 38 million people, is one of the few strongholds of Catholicism in a largely secular European Union.

*American Council for  
Polish Culture*

www.polishcultureacpc.org



Polish Heritage Month is a wonderful opportunity for Polish Americans to celebrate their rich Polish culture. For over six decades the American Council for Polish Culture has sought unceasingly to foster interest in Polish culture and to draw attention to the invaluable contributions of Poles to society world-wide.

You, too, can become directly involved in advancing Polish culture across the United States. Individuals (\$10 membership dues) and organizations are invited to join the dynamic American Council for Polish Culture, which acts as a non-profit national federation of Polish cultural organizations located throughout the United States. Please visit our website www.polishcultureacpc.org or contact Mrs. Anna-Mae Maglaty, (860) 521-7621.

Deborah Majka, Pres. • Bernadette Wiermanski, 1st V.P.  
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## Churches Collaborate

The York County, Pa. Council of Churches has redefined its mission to be a hub of communication and collaboration rather than a service-based organization. "We want to bring people together to talk about common concerns and see where we agree and how we can use that to move forward," said **Jay Andrzejczyk**, president of the YCCC Board. One initiative under the new structure had the executive director of YCCC meet with Red Cross leaders concerned about how churches could organize to respond more efficiently to the needs of families affected by rowhouse fires in York. The YCCC will facilitate a conversation between the Red Cross and the congregations.

**STO LAT TO ... Sr. Mary Thomas Frys, CSSF**, on being named New York State Health Facilities Association, District #10, Spiritual Guidance Volunteer of the Year. Sr. Mary Thomas volunteers at ElderWood Health Care at Maplewood, in Cheektowaga, N.Y. The Health Care facility, part of ElderWood Senior Care, provides skilled nursing care, subacute care, rehabilitation, assisted living, independent living, memory care, cardio vascular transitional care, and respiratory care.

**BEEKEEPING AS A HOBBY.** Recently ordained **Fr. Ryszard Biernat** has parishioners all abuzz about his hobby as an apiarist or

beekeeper. From his childhood in Poland, Fr. Biernat had kept bees on a small farm in Limanowa, Poland, after reading about apiculture in a 1902 library book that had never been checked out before him. "I felt bad for the book and thought I would read it once before it was discarded," he explained, "At the end of reading the book I knew I wanted to be a beekeeper." His mother still tends his bees in Poland. Once he received a permanent assignment at Nativity of Our Lord RC Parish in Orchard Park, N.Y., he found a place away from homes and behind the parish cemetery for his bees. He takes inspiration for his homilies from the work ethic and the dedicated collaboration he finds among the bees in his hives. Talk about bees often leads to more serious questions. "You create this personal connection and that's when people do not feel threatened to ask some more private or personal questions," he notes. Somehow after talking about bees they feel more comfortable to ask questions about God or the unique situation they're in."

**PILGRIMAGE REACHES SHRINE.** A three-day walk from New Jersey to Doylestown, Pa., in suburban Philadelphia brought pilgrims to their destination on the 23rd annual pilgrimage walk. Modeled after similar pilgrimage from all over Poland to Częstochowa, the pilgrims, laity, friars, priests and



**PRIDE OF POLONIA AWARD FOR WINTERS.** The National Committee of the Polish Apostolate in Washington, D.C. announced Mr. Marion V. Winters of Webster, Mass. as recipient of the annual "Pride of Polonia" Award 2010, which is presented to a person "Whose personal integrity and involvement in the Polish American Community (Polonia) is exemplary."

Widely honored, the Kosciuszko Foundation Gold Medal recipient has played many creative leadership roles in Polish communities nationally and locally. Winters and his wife Jo Louise last month celebrated their 68th anniversary of married bliss.

nuns, walk 65 miles enduring blisters, bug bites, and sunburn. As Bro. Luke Joseph Leighton of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal said, "People are seeking wholeness and praying for something. They're offering their pain up."

**POLISH PRIEST IN ALASKA.** Fr. Stanislaw Jaszek is minister to the villages of Aniak, Holy Cross, Kalskag, Pilot Station, and Mountain Village, Alaska. His first mission work was in South Africa where he built several churches in his outstations as well as a rectory at the main parish. He also helped build St. Bernard Church in Stebbins, Alaska. In addition to framing buildings, Fr. Jaszek also makes his own frames and mats for photographs, another of his talents. Born in Frampol, south of Lublin, Poland, he has two brothers and two sisters on the family farm in Kocudza. He was ordained in 1988 and served in parishes in Poland until he was assigned to the African missions in 1994. He transferred to the Diocese of Fairbanks in 2002 on what he calls his "National Geographic assignment." In addition to an increasing number of baptisms and other sacraments, part of his work is to establish relationships based on trust, essential to bringing healing and normalcy back into the life of the Church in an area which experienced clergy sexual abuse cases in the past.

**JOHN PAUL II'S THEOLOGY OF THE BODY EXPLORED.** The latest issue of St. Thomas More College's academic journal "Second Spring: an International Journal for Faith and Culture" is devoted to scholarly

studies on the former pope's theology of the body. The journal editor Stratford Caldecott noted, "While the Church had preciously spoken on marriage and sexuality, modern pressures and the advance of contraceptive technology made it increasingly urgent to address the issues around sexuality in a new language and with a new frankness." The issue may be purchased through the Thomas More College website at [www.ThomasMoreCollege.edu/Publications](http://www.ThomasMoreCollege.edu/Publications). The college is located in Merrimack, N.H.

**POPE JOHN PAUL II EXHIBIT OPENS IN BALTIMORE.** After an extended run in Buffalo, N.Y., under the sponsorship of Canisius College and the Jewish community, the exhibit "A Blessing to One Another: Pope John Paul II and the Jewish People" has moved to Baltimore and is being exhibited at the Jewish Museum of Maryland at the Herbert Bearman Campus. Information: (410) 732-6400 or [info@jewishmuseummd.org](mailto:info@jewishmuseummd.org) 15 Lloyd St., Baltimore, MD 21202. The exhibit will be on display from September 2 to December 26, 2010.

**DOMINICAN SISTERS ON OPRAH.** The Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist in Ann Arbor, Mich., have caught the nation's attention with their rapid growth and their devout orthodoxy. Oprah Winfrey welcomed them to her show on the congregation's 13th anniversary.

"They phoned us and asked if they could do a program on us with Oprah," explained community vocations director **Sr. Joseph Andrew Bogdanowicz, O.P.** "That's all we know!"

The sisters founded their congregation in 1997 responding to Pope John Paul II's call for a new evangelization.

**POLES CARE FOR ANCIENT SHRINE.** The Marian Shrine of Mentorella to Holy Mary of the Graces, 30 miles from Rome, is on the traditional site of the conversion of St. Eustachius, a former centurion with the name Placidus. He

was martyred by Emperor Hadrian for refusing to honor Apollo after a victory over the barbarians. Emperor Constantine built a church on the location and St. Benedict lived there for two years in a cave. A Benedictine monastery functioned there for several centuries. Rediscovered after years of abandonment in the 17th century it was entrusted in 1857 to the care of the Congregation of the Resurrection. **Fr. Wieslaw Spiewak**, provincial superior of the Polish province of the congregation led the rosary and presided at Mass at the shrine on its 1500th anniversary in a celebration broadcast by Radio Maria. Later, a choir performed the oratorio "Totus Tuus," inspired by Pope John Paul II's motto.

**CHURCH REUSED.** The former Polish American RC Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in East Conemaugh, Pa., was bought by Mount Sinai Institutional Baptist Church who needed a church to house its expanded congregation. Assumption Church had been merged with Sacred Heart Church to form the new Transfiguration Parish.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ... Conventual Franciscan Fr. Nicholas Swiatek** celebrating 50 years of priesthood in the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese.

**Rev. Canon Philip S. Majka** on his 45th anniversary of priesthood. The pastor for Polish-Americans in the metropolitan Washington D.C. area, he resided at St. James Parish, Falls Church, Va. A Roman Catholic Chaplain at Dulles International Airport, he has been appointed president of the National Conference of Catholic Airport Chaplains.

**NEW JESUIT WEBSITE FOR PRAYER.** Jesuits in downtown Buffalo, N.Y., have launched a new website at <http://GodAmongUs.info/> The site provides helps for people seeking God with aids for prayer, food for thought, ideas to inspire, stories about reaching the goal and similar helps for the journey to God.

### MODLITWY

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

**ST. JUDE NOVENA.** May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the helpless, pray for us. Recite nine times a day. By the 8th day, your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. D.S.W.

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

"It is not the honor that you take with you, but the heritage you leave behind."  
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Generous donations from Polonia and American contributors this year alone permitted for the purchase of Pediatric Anesthesia Equipment, Cardiac Monitors, Neonatal Incubators, Skin Grafting Equipment, and other equipment valued at \$230,000.

All donations are tax exempt and acknowledged and can be sent to Polish Children's Heartline, 177 Broadway, Clark, NJ 07066

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The Polish Gift of Life, Inc. thanks our generous supporters, who, for over 30 years have made it possible for us to help sick Polish children. We are able to bring many children who needed life-saving surgery or procedures to the United States. This past year, 14 children have been operated on by Dr. Edward Malec, who has relocated to Munich, Germany, from Poland. We purchased needed equipment requested by Pediatric Hospitals in Poland. Once again, thank to you, we were able to fill some of these heart-rendering requests received from orphanages throughout Poland. This list for aid is long, but with your continued support, we will be able to provide Polish children with the precious "Gift of Life." For more information, please call (516) 746-1532.



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Polish American

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Zazzle Custom Stamps, (valid for postage) post cards and mugs are still available honoring the 400th Anniversary of the Arrival of the First Poles in America, Jamestown, Virginia, 1 October 2008.

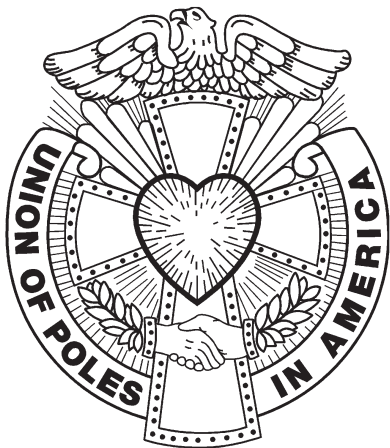
These items are sponsored by the PolishAmericanCenter.org, and the Polish American Journal and may be viewed and purchased at the following URLs:

<http://www.zazzle.com/firstpolesusa> and  
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Heritage Month Greetings to All Polonia from the Officers and Staff of

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## Spitulski: Band Records Song in his Honor

*continued from cover*

changes that ultimately led to the membership deciding to move the club to its present location. This move took place in 1977 and ever since, the Commodore Club has been housed in a brick building near the corner of Manhattan Boulevard and LaGrange Street. Perhaps one of the reasons the club has survived all of this change is the dedication of Spitulski.

### WHO IS ALOYSIUS SPITULSKI?

Like most men of the era, he was drafted into the Army during World War II. He married Verna, had two children named Kenny and Kathy, and raised his family through the "golden years" of the 1950s and '60s. Spitulski was an avid sportsman and an award-winning dancer during this time. He became a life-long University of Notre Dame sports fan as well.

Spitulski is one of two living charter members of the Commodore Club. While the other living member moved away from Toledo years ago, Spitulski has remained an anchor of the club. He has only missed a handful of meetings since the 1930s. While he served as club president in 1985 and 1986, perhaps Spitulski's major contribution to the Commodore Club is his decades of service as the Club's scribe and historian.

Over the years, Spitulski has recalled his service to the Commodore Club through a unique method. Each year, he spends countless hours compiling significant events in both world history and club history.

"Ollie spreads all sorts of information across big tables in his house, news articles, pictures, the prices of everyday things like milk and gasoline, cartoons, important dates in the Club's history for that year," said club member Randy Krajewski. "Each January, after he has put all of these things into a book, he presents the book to the Club leadership."

These books span the generations, and they are kept in the Club's archives. Spitulski remains dedicated to this project to this day.

It was only natural that when members of the Commodore Club wanted to honor Spitulski for his years of service, they came up with an equally unique way to say thanks. Thus was the birth of the song "Captain Ollie."

### Exhibit

*continued from cover*

War, and Polish and American involvement prior and after World War I. These were just a few aspects of American History duly noted. Opening this exhibit on July 6, 2010 in Harwood Heights were the Speaker of Poland's Senate, Senator, Bogdan Borusewicz, and Consul General in Chicago, Zygmunt Matynia. This exhibit first opened on February 12, 2010 at the Senate Building of the Republic of Poland. Attending this opening were: Senator Andrzej Person, head of Polish Immigration Commission, Deputy Speakers of the House, Senator Zbigniew Romaszewski and Senator Krystyna Bochenek (RIP), Senator Bogdan Borusewicz, U.S. Ambassador Lee Feinstein, and the Director of the Warsaw Library, Dr. Michal Strak.

"Club member Jim 'Briz' Brzucholski was talking to me one day earlier this year, and he suggested a title for a tune about Spitulski, 'Captain of the Ship,'" said Krajewski. "I decided to turn this idea into a song."

Krajewski began to work with fellow musician Andy Pawlak to construct a song that would capture all of the memorable aspects of Spitulski's life.

"It's hard to write a song integrating facts covering someone's life while at the same time making the words rhyme." Krajewski credits Pawlak with writing about 80% of the song.

The song concludes with a voice-over by Eric Hite thanking Spitulski for his service to the Commodore Club.

On August 29, 2010, Krajewski and members of the club organized a surprise reception for Spitulski to commemorate his life long dedication to the Commodore. Spitulski was presented with a framed copy of the compact disc recording and the sleeve, along with his picture

in an elegant triple frame. He also received a framed copy of the lyrics and a Notre Dame wall hanging. As the song was played, members cheered their beloved founder by raising their glasses in a toast. Afterwards, a buffet dinner was served and club members and guests enjoyed drinks and camaraderie.

Spitulski concluded the presentation by thanking club members for their efforts.

"I put my heart into this club," he said. "Thanks to everyone for coming today."

Best Wishes to All our Sister Organizations!

## GENERAL PULASKI ASSOCIATION of the NIAGARA FRONTIER

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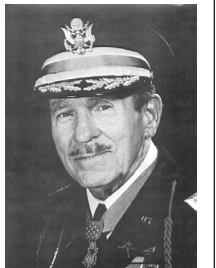
## Lt. Col. Matt Urban

"The Greatest Soldier in American History" is how President Jimmy Carter, described Lt. Col. Matt Urban on July 19, 1980, while presenting him with the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during World War II. It had taken 35 years for this recognition of his venerated feats. It came after officials discovered they mistakenly had overlooked awarding the medal to Urban. Though his exploits on World War II battlefields earned him a greater number of citations than those of the legendary Audie Murphy, the award nomination his battalion commander wrote for him prior to being killed in action, never reached the headquarters of the 9th Infantry Division in Europe. When a review of Urban's records in 1978 revealed a copy of the proposed letter, President Jimmy Carter resolved to correct the administrative error and awarded Col. Urban the medal.

Lt. Col. Matt Urban was born on August 25, 1919, in Buffalo of Polish immigrants. He entered the US Army in 1941, saw a much conflict during World War II and earned virtual every combat medal including the Congressional Medal of Honor.

A 1941 graduate of Cornell University, within a week of graduation he was at Ft. Bragg, N.C. and later on the beaches of North Africa. From there he and the 60th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division moved to Sicily, France, Belgium and Germany. Typical of Urban's service were actions on D-Day, where he landed with his men on Omaha beach. He suffered a broken leg in a landing mishap, but with his men trapped on the beach, Urban got up on top of a tank and led them in an attack on German positions and off the beach. In many subsequent encounters, Urban's battlefield leadership skill and his uncanny ability to frustrate German plans caused the enemy to give him the nickname "the Gray Ghost." Lt. Col. Urban was wounded six times and six times he went back to the front lines. The seventh time he was wounded, he was shot in the throat and the bullet tore out a vocal cord. Army doctors gave Urban no hope for survival. But he recovered two years later with damaged vocal cords which left him raspy-voiced to the end of his days.

Lt. Col. Urban received a total of 29 awards and decorations, including the Silver Star (1 OLC), Bronze Star (2 OLC) with "V" Device, Purple Heart (6 OLC), and NYS Conspicuous Cross with 4 Silver and 1 Gold Clusters. His death on March 20, 1995 was a result of complications from a collapsed lung brought on by one of his seven war wounds. Lt. Col. Urban was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.





## AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

**CHICAGO** — *Glos Polek* (Polish Women's Voice), the newspaper of the Polish Women's Alliance of America, observed its 100th anniversary with a dinner at Rosewood in Rosemont, Ill. Virginia Sikora, president of the fraternal benefit society, presided at the \$100 a plate dinner.

**DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.** — The Polish American Pulaski Club, 3621 International Speedway Blvd., (386) 258-7059, has the following events for the month of October. All events are 1:00-5:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted: Oct. 3. Pulaski Day Dinner-Dance Celebration in Red & White. Music by Ron Luznar & the Polka Pals; Oct. 10. Dinner-Dance. Music by Ed Bilinski & the Sounds of the South; Oct. 16. 1-3:00 p.m. Membership Meeting with Luncheon; Oct. 17. Dinner-Dance. Music by Brad Turk & the Northern Lites; Oct. 24. Dinner-Dance. Music by Dan & The General Pulaski Band; Oct. 31. Halloween Dinner-Dance. Music by Audrey & the Polka Classics

**MINNEAPOLIS** — The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota will hold its 21st Annual Polish Soup Festival on Sunday, October 24, 2010 from 4:00-5:30 p.m. in Kolbe Hall at John Paul II School, 17th Avenue and Fourth Street NE, Minneapolis. Handicapped parking and an elevator are located at the back of the building.

A dozen delicious authentic Polish soups will be offered for tasting, along with bread, beverages and

dessert. Any soup left at 5:30 p.m. will be sold. Vendors will also be selling Polish items and food.

\$12 tickets may be purchased at the door or at [www.pacim.org](http://www.pacim.org).

For more information, call Judith at (763) 571-9602 or [judytam@usfamily.net](mailto:judytam@usfamily.net).

**ARDEN HILLS, Minn.** — October 10. Lunch and Festival Concert. Benefit for The Rev. Lewytzyk Seminarian Scholarship Fund, which provides tuition, room and board each year for 30 financially needy young men to attend seminary in Ukraine. St. Katherine Ukrainian Orthodox Church Auditorium, 1600 Hwy. 96, Arden Hills, MN (one exit north of 694 on 35W) from 1:00-3:30 p.m. Performances by various groups, including the Dolina Polish Folk Dancers. Contact Luba Lewytzyk for more information (952) 440-5822 or [luba@integra.net](mailto:luba@integra.net).

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** — October 10. Kemal Gekic, featured artist, will perform an all-Chopin program that includes the Barcarolle, F minor Fantasy, thirteen Etudes from Opp. 10 and 25, and more at 3:00 p.m. at Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center, Macalester College, 130 Macalester St. Tickets range from \$12-\$23. For more information, contact the Frederic Chopin Society at (612) 822-0123.

**MINNEAPOLIS** — October 21. Skrowaczewski Conducts Brahms' First. 11:00 a.m. at Orchestra Hall, corner of 11th Street and Marquette in downtown Minneapolis. Ticket price includes complimentary

breakfast or lunch and free valet parking at Hotel Ivy, 201 South 11th Street. For tickets phone (612) 371-5642 or 1-800-292-4141 or online at [minnesotaorchestra.org/parkdine](http://minnesotaorchestra.org/parkdine).

**MINNEAPOLIS** — October 22. Mark Mazullo, the Macalester teacher and author of a new book on Shostakovich's Preludes and Fugues discusses the influence of Soviet culture on that composer and performs selections from his Op. 87 cycle at 3:00 p.m. at Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center, Macalester College, 130 Macalester St.. Free admission. For more information, contact the Frederic Chopin Society at (612) 822-0123.

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** — November 6. Polish Genealogical Society Meeting. A joint meeting with Pomern Group will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the auditorium, 1185 N. Concord Street, South with a number of speakers from PGS-MN. There will be an optional noon lunch (approximately \$9). In the afternoon Jim Nuenfeldt will talk about his experiences in teaching English in Poland and show slides. Questions to Terry Kita at (612) 927-0719.

**WINONA, Minn.** — October 10. Winona's Polish Museum's Smaczne Jablka. Noon - 4:00 p.m. 102 Liberty St. and the two neighboring buildings going East. Pumpkin decorating contests, sidewalk art contests and miniature train rides for the children (it's all free). Apple pie and cinnamon ice cream, Polish sausage or brats for treats (all catered) and free samples of Polish rye

bread (some made with spook yeast 100 years old), Witamy donuts, Queens apples, and fresh squeezed cider. There will also be a farmers market, many crafts, and the store will be open for Polish pottery and T- and sweatshirts electronically embroidered. This year, an added feature will be the free bus rides to Washington - Kosciuszko School (celebrating its 75th anniversary) and St. Stanislaus Church.

**GARFIELD, N.J.** — Mark your calendars for November 13. That's the date for the Association of the Sons of Poland Annual Debutante Ball. This year's event will be held at the beautiful Royal Manor in Garfield, N.J. Proceeds go to help needy children here and in Poland. For more information, call (201) 935-2807.

**BUFFALO, N.Y.** — Corpus Christi Church will host its 4th Annual Rosary Procession on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, Thurs., Oct. 7, at 7:00 p.m. The procession will begin at the church, located at 199 Clark Street in Buffalo.

Participants will walk with lighted candles in hand through the streets immediately surrounding the church, while the rosary is recited in various languages. The devotion will conclude at the foot of Mary's statue across from the church entrance.

Devotion to the rosary is one of the most notable features of the Catholic faith. Pope John Paul II placed the rosary at the center of Christian spirituality and called it

"among the finest and most praiseworthy traditions of Christian contemplations. All are invited to rediscover the efficacy of the prayer of the rosary for peace in the world and in families. A reception will follow in the Kolbe Center.

For additional information, call (716) 896-1050 or visit the website at [www.corpuschristibuffalo.org](http://www.corpuschristibuffalo.org).

**NEW YORK, N.Y.** — Atlas Bank of New York today unveiled Charitable NOW Checking account for 501(c)(3) Charitable Organizations.

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## HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

## In the Name of Their Mothers

The Mary Petty Auditorium of the Skokie Public Library, Skokie, Ill., was filled to capacity with over 250 people viewing the newly completed documentary, “Irena Sendler: In the Name of Their Mothers,” written and directed by Mary Skinner. This documentary is not to be confused with “Life In A Jar: The Irena Sendler Project” nor with the “Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler,” a Hallmark Hall of Fame TV drama aired nationally in 2009. Mary Skinner’s film is a well-documented and the remarkable true story of Irena Sendler and the group of young Polish women who risked their lives to save over 2,500 Jewish children from the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II. This film includes interviews with Ms. Sendler and interviews with several of her liaisons and children they saved. The viewing of this documentary was co-sponsored by the Chicago Public Library System, as well as numerous Chicago area suburban libraries. An additional screening of this heart wrenching documentary took place at Chicago’s Harold Washington Library. Representatives from the Polish Consulate, the Legion of Young Polish Women, and the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance were in attendance. Additionally, this event was part of the Chicago YIVO Society’s 2010 Summer Festival of Yiddish Culture. The Chicago Chapter of the YIVO Society is the most active of affiliates of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, an organization founded in 1925 in Vilna, Poland (now Vilnius, Lithuania) as the Yiddish Scientific Institute. YIVO is the acronym for *Yiddisher Vishhaftlekner Insitut*, and is devoted to the history, society and culture of Ashkenazic Jewry. Today, YIVO is the preeminent center for East European Jewish Studies, Yiddish language, literature and folklore, in addition to the study of the American Jewish immigrant experience.

**PRESERVING THE PAST: AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU.** On August 11, 2010, Richard S. Hirschhaut, Executive Director of the Illinois Holocaust Museum, located in Skokie, Illinois, greeted Zygmunt Matynia, Consul General of the Republic of Poland, and three Illinois

U.S. Representatives Luis V. Guterrez, Jan Schakowsky and Mike Quigley, and a host of Illinois leaders, dignitaries and Holocaust survivors at an event that marked a \$15 million grant that will preserve the Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp. One year earlier, Consul Matynia had a conversation with Rep. Luis Gutierrez. Matynia mentioned the physical decline and disrepair of Auschwitz-Birkenau and his concern of the Camp’s survival. Gutierrez, after discussing this concern with other members of Congress, formed a bi-partisan group with the hope of securing funds to help preserve the memories of atrocities of the Holocaust. On September 16, 2009, Representative Gutierrez, who spearheaded this House effort and with the signatures of forty-five members of the U.S. House of Representatives, who together addressed and delivered a letter to President Obama and Secretary of State Hilary Rodham Clinton urging the U.S. government to contribute funds to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation. The State Department will contribute the \$15 million to a EURO fund over a five year period. Five Chicago-area Members



**THE POLONIA ENSEMBLE**, a Polish Folk Dance Troupe of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, took part in the *Festival Folclorico de Ibague* in Colombia.

of Congress, Luis Gutierrez, Jan Schakowsky, Michael Quigley, Daniel Lipinski, Bobby Rush, and Central Illinois’ Representative, Aaron Schock, signed the letter.

Additional honored guests were Onno Hückmann, German Consul General in Chicago, and members of the Kościuszko Foundation, the American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League, Polish American Congress, Jewish United fund, and the Polish American Association.

**POLONIA ENSEMBLE IN COLOMBIA.** The Polonia Ensemble, a Polish Folk Dance Troupe of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, took part in the *Festival Folclorico de Ibague* in Colombia. The Ensemble visited and danced in Cartogena and Bogota. This dance troupe, composed of Polish American dancers, represented Poland at this annual event. This is the sixth international CIOFF festival in which the Polonia Ensemble has participated. CIOFF is the International Council of Organizations of Folklore Festivals and Folk Arts. It is part of the international cultural non-governmental organization of UNESCO. Its purpose is to safeguard and promote traditional cultures and folklore. Several such festivals are held annually throughout the world.

**TASTE OF POLONIA.** If you had a yearning for some of the best *pierogi*, *placki kartoflane*, *Polska kielbasa* or *Polska piwo* and, if you wanted to dance the polka or hear some of the best of Polish and American bands, then you needed to be on Chicago’s Northwest Side. Over Labor Day weekend, the Copernicus Cultural and Civic Center held its 31st Annual “Taste of Polonia,” considered Chicago’s largest ethnic festival. This event was a four-day celebration of all things Polish. It featured not only popular Polish cuisine and polkas, but costumed folk dancing, Polish cooking classes, a Polish market, a casino and much more. Some of Chicago Polonia’s favorite entertainers performed on five different stages. There was entertainment to satisfy the musical preferences of all, such as the Brighton Park Connection, Dr. Zylo, Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra, Stas Golonka Band, the Polkaholics, and renowned jazz singer Grazyna Augustyk, just to name a few. The Paderewski Symphony Orchestra played during Sunday’s Mass and performed a Chopin concert. Perhaps, the highlight of this festival was “The Trumpeter of Krakow,” **Matthew Wojcinowicz**, a student from Chicago’s Whitney Young Magnet High School. He lauded the trumpet call of the centuries-old hymn “*Hejnal*,” the “Krakov-

ian Hymn.” His trumpeter sounds echoed this hymn each hour during the “Taste of Polonia.” Matthew wore the traditional costume of the Krakow guard. The bugle calls were made from the window below the clock in the Copernicus Center’s Solidarity tower.

**CHOPIN IN THE PARK.** This year marked the 50th anniversary of the Chicago Sister Cities International Program. Additionally, 2010 marked the Fifth Annual Chicago Sister Cities International Festival. Held on the Chase Promenade at the south end of Millennium Park from August 23 – 27, 2010, all 28 of Chicago’s Sister Cities participated, representing the cultural diversity and the international spirit that exists in this city. One highlight as this year’s festival was “Chopin in the Park,” the theme chosen by Chicago-Warsaw Sister City Committee in celebrating 200 years of Chopin and the 50th Anniversary of the very first Chicago-Sister City: WARSAW. A special kudos goes out to the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra’s General Director, **Barbara Bliszta**, and its Music Director, **Wojciech Niewrzol**, for organizing an outstanding array of performers. Chicago’s Polonia has reason to be proud of “Chopin in the Park.”

**A WELCOMING SOIRÉE.** At the invitation of the Polish Consul Zygmunt Matynia and Mrs. Bożena Matynia, professors from University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), Loyola University Chicago, DePaul University, Northeastern Illinois University and the University of Chicago joined leaders of the Polish American community to welcome



View of Solidarity Tower

Professor Michał Paweł Markowski. On September 8, approximately 100 guests attended a soirée at the Consulate to meet Professor Markowski, who was named Head of the Department of Slavic and Baltic Languages and Literature as well as being named to the inaugural Stefan and Lucy Hejna Family Chair in Polish Language and Literature, both at UIC. This Chair was endowed by a \$10 million donation bequeathed by alumnus, Romuald Hejna, in memory of his parents. Markowski was Director of the Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Chair of International Polish Studies at Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland. He is an internationally acclaimed scholar of Polish literature and culture. It is UIC’s hope to make this university a real center of Polish studies.

The Hejna Chair is “a great opportunity to expand the field of Polish studies and to establish American-Polish relations on a much more regular basis,” said Markowski. He continued by stating, “My main objective is to create a graduate program in Polish Studies and to place it in a broader, comparative framework.”

## SUPPORT THE PAJ PRESS FUND

In 1971, a voluntary fund-raising campaign was launched by a group of loyal readers of the Polish American Journal entitled “We Love the PAJ Press Fund” in order to help cover rising postage, material and production costs.

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

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: **Gerald V. Dajnowicz**, Detroit; **Frank Lepkowski**, Syracuse, N.Y.; **Virginia M. Millar**, Port Orange, Fla.; **Chester S. Rog**, Minneapolis; **Robert J. Wojcik, Ph.D.**, Amsterdam, N.Y.; and three “Friends of the PAJ.” Dziekujemy! The PAJ thanks all who donated to the Press Fund.

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POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

## Festival Pageant Winners Announced

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Polish Union of America announced the following winners of its Polish Heritage Festival Pageant: **Kate Pelczynski** (Festival Queen), **Morgan Breski** (Festival Princess), **Alexis Murawski** (Festival Duchess), **Margaret Halstreiter** (Festival Sweetheart), **Kaylan Golembewski** (Festival Little Miss) and **Abby Halstreiter** (Festival Baby) ... Kosciuszko Foundation visiting scholar **Artur Grabowski** lost his grievance against the State University of New York at Buffalo over his midyear termination from the university faculty ... **Bobby Vinton** performed at the Fairgrounds Event Center in Hamburg on September 4 ... Former Erie County Legislator **Greg Olma** was chosen to represent District 2 as a national director of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America.

The "Farewell to Summer" fundraiser to benefit the Orchard Lake Schools in Michigan was held at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga on the 9th ... Action by the WNY Polish Community has saved the **Jozef Slawinski** sgraffito mural "Buffalo Polonia" located in the Erie County Medical Center ... The **Professional & Businessmen's Association** held its General Membership Meeting at Potts Deli in Buffalo's Kaisertown neighborhood on the 9th and its Spaghetti Dinner and Giant Auction at the Creekside Banquet Facility on the 26th ... The **Polish Student Association** of the State University of New York at

Buffalo had its first meeting of the new academic year under the leadership of **Martin Kozicki** at its 373 Student Union offices on September 10 ... DEA Buffalo Resident Agent in Charge **Charles Tomaszewski** was the guest of honor at a retirement celebration at Pettibone's Grill in Downtown Buffalo on the 10th.

Acting NYS Supreme Court Justice **John Michalski** participated in the filming of a documentary film on U.S. Courts and the Rule of Law for Kosovo television under the auspices of the U.S. State Department ... On September 11, the **General Pulaski Association** honored **Adeline Wujcikowski**, **Ed Sieracki**, **Irene Skretny**, **Bishop Edward Grosz**, **Ray Wolniewicz**, **Joseph Rutkowski**, **Renee Harzewski**, **Stan Przystal**, **Hon. Ann Mikoll**, **Jenny Antos**, **Walter Kantorski**, **Stanley Blake**, **Krystyna Pienkowska**, **Dr. Peter Gessner** and **Edward Bruch** at its 38th Annual Banquet at the Creekside Banquet Facility in Cheektowaga ... Also on the 11th, **St. Adalbert Parish** on Buffalo's East Side marked the beginning of its 125th anniversary year with a Polka Mass, **St. Stanislaus Kostka Church** in Rochester remembered 9/11 with a special Remembrance Mass, and the **Polish Genealogical Society of NYS** held a workshop at St. Gabriel's Parish Center in Elma ... **Claire Huangci**, the Rochester-born winner of the 2010 U.S. Chopin Piano Competition, amazed her audience with her skill and depth of emotion during her all Chopin program at Buffalo State College's Rockwell Hall on September 12. Ms. Huangci shared the Toronto Royal Conservatory School's Mazzoleni Concert Hall stage with **Leonard Gilbert**, the winner of the 2010 Canadian Chopin Piano Competition, on the 11th.

Also on the 12th, the Polish Literary Club of the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester held its "Indian Summer Pig Roast, Poetry and Music" at Greece Canal Park ... **Lucyna Dziezic** began another

semester of Polish language lessons as part of the Maryvale Continuing Education program, and **Bozena Mendlowska** commenced her Polish language classes at Corpus Christi Church on Buffalo's East Side, during September ... In anticipation of their visit to Shea's Buffalo Performing Art Center in November, WNED-TV, WNY's PBS affiliate, aired "Mazowsze : Music and Dance of Poland" on September 18 ... **Forgotten Buffalo** hosted another of its "Polonia Pride" tours of Buffalo on the 18th ... On September 19, St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in Rochester held a "Polish Breakfast" fundraiser for its new radiator project, and **Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral** in Lancaster presented the Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY, Chopin Singing Society and "edrock Boys during its 6th Annual "Dozynki" Polish Harvest Festival.

The **Advocates Club** of WNY honored Erie County Judge **Tim Franczyk** and attorney **Ted Pyrak** with its 2010 Distinguished Career Achievement Awards, and former Buffalo Corporation Counsel **Alisa Lukaszewicz** and Orchard Park Town Justice **Deborah Chimes** with its 2010 Distinguished Leadership Awards at its Cocktail Reception at the Polish Villa II Restaurant on September 23 ... Erie County Judge **Michael Pietruszka** was chosen to participate in an 18 month Advanced Science and Technology Adjudication Resource (ASTAR) fellowship program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice beginning in Chicago on the 23rd... On September 25, the **Polish Falcons** held their Legion of Honor Luncheon at the Polish Villa II Restaurant in Cheektowaga, the **Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School** marked its 55th Anniversary with a banquet featuring "Polanie" at St. Stanislaus Social Center, and **Polish National Alliance Lodge 512** celebrated its 110th anniversary with a banquet featuring "True Col-

## PUA's 37th Quadrennial Convention Elects Officers and Board



Shown are some of the delegates to the 37th Quadrennial Grand Convention of the Polish Union of America at the beginning of the business session of August 28, 2010 held at Potts Banquet facility.

BUFFALO, N.Y. — During the Business session at the 37th Quadrennial Grand Convention of the Polish Union of America, the delegates elected the Officers and Directors for the next four years.

Starting on October 1, 2010, the following Officers and Directors were unanimously re-elected: National President **James P. Jozwiak**; National Vice President/Treasurer **Eugenia A. Halady**; and National Vice-President/Secretary **James A. Serafin**.

National Directors re-elected were: **Ronald E. Brodowski**, **James A. Clarke**, **Brandon M. Machajewski**, **Norbert A. Ratajczyk**, **Richard J. Strek**, and **Marie M. Urbanski**.

Jozwiak thanked the delegates for their confidence in re-electing the Board and added, "We have a great team that has been working together. We look forward to serving the next four years for the betterment of our fraternal."

For more information on the Quadrennial Convention and the Polish Union of America's 120th Anniversary please go to the website, [www.polishunion.com](http://www.polishunion.com).

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BABA JAGA'S CORNER / Jaga Urban-Klahen

## Lithuania: Past and Present

"Lithuania, my fatherland!  
You are like health ...  
How much you must be valued ..."

It is one of the biggest ironies of Polish history that Adam Mickiewicz, the great Polish poet begins our greatest national poem, "Pan Tadeusz," with the words praising Lithuania. Every child in Poland has to learn about Mickiewicz's nostalgia for a lost homeland. Poles know that in one time Poland and Lithuania made one state.

How many people, outside the Poles and Lithuanians realize that Polish-Lithuanian Kingdom and later Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was the biggest country of Europe for about four centuries? Poland and Lithuania became first united through the king, in a so called "personal union" in 1385. The Teutonic Knights and its expansive and militaristic politics threatening the very existence of Lithuanian and Polish states helped these two countries to unite and then conquer their enemy in the famous Grunwald battle in 1410. The personal union preserved a sovereignty of both countries. Since 1569 Poland and Lithuania became really one entity – one state, but in 1795 both countries lost independence for over 120 years after three partitions.

Not too many people realize how powerful Lithuania was in the past. Lithuanian territory was about twice as large as Polish territory before their unification. Lithuania contained the majority of what is today Belarus and Ukraine. For centuries Lithuanians were known as a very valiant people. Lithuanians are the only Baltic tribe which was never conquered by Teutonic Knights – unlike Prussians, Estonians, Latvians or Yotvingians. Lithuania was also the very last European country to accept Christianity. Lithuanians were always very independent; they did not like to have to accept foreign traditions, especially by force,



Castle in Trakai built by Gediminas.

like the Teutonic Knights used to do. Their paganism had a very rich mythological tradition (Romuva). In Vilnius there is so called Three Crosses Hill to commemorate killing of seven Franciscan monks preaching Christianity around 1340.

How does Lithuania look today? I was teaching English at the Summer Language Institute in Klaipeda (<http://www.lcc.lt/>) this summer. It was a great experience. I was able to spend some time among the young generation of Lithuanians who were already growing in independence in these post-Soviet times.

Lithuania was the first Soviet Republic that announced its independence from Soviet Union in 1990. It became a full member of NATO and the European Union in 1991. The new generation of young people grew, the ones who do not remember communism. These people are free from Homo Sovieticus<sup>1</sup> way of life, free from extreme nationalistic feelings and ready to be Lithuanian and identify themselves with other Europeans in the same time. Surprisingly, relatively few minorities live in Lithuania (16%), which makes life easier for Lithuanians and for the minorities. The biggest minority are Poles mainly in Vilnius region and Russians in industrial region of the North and East.

Vilnius is still a multi-cultural center, rich in Polish traditions, full of baroque churches and Polish me-



Waitress dressed in Lithuanian folk costume.



Restaurant renovated in a style of a manor.

morial plaques. Vilnius residents speak at least three languages — Lithuanian, Polish and Russian. The Gate of Dawn still attracts Polish pilgrims. The churches which were destroyed or neglected during communism are getting renovated. Lithuanian people, especially a young generation, are full of optimism and energy. More needs to be done to offer jobs to young people or teach them entrepreneur skills and give opportunity to grow their own business. I talked to some people who still remember communism. They are disappointed that there are not enough secure industrial jobs for them and for their well educated children.

Stores in Lithuania offer many Polish products, which indicates close economic bonds to Poland. During last 10-20 years Lithuania became very tourist-friendly. It's beautiful restaurants in the old style were built or renovated from the old wooden noble manors. They offer Lithuanian traditional food and drink. One has to try a bread drink, called "gira" which is delicious and very healthy! There are many open skansens or art museums to see. Lithuania offers not only wonderful history but also a beautiful nature.

It has beautiful forests, thousands of lakes and sandy Baltic beaches with amber. We visited a beautiful Curonian spit with beautiful small fishermen and spa towns, beaches and forests.

Lithuania did not become Americanized or Polonized. It did not lose its national identity; just the opposite, it gained so much through its strong national identity, cultural heritage, good economy and a resil-

ience of its people.

1. Homo Sovieticus — people with a specific mindset that were created by the governments of the Soviet Block. The attributes of "homo sovieticus" are: indifference to the results of labor, to common property, blind obedience and lack of personal responsibility.

Baba Jaga Corner: Visit Jaga Polish Culture Website at: [www.polishsite.us](http://www.polishsite.us).

### NEWSWIRE

**FOREIGN INVESTORS THINK HIGHLY OF POLAND.** According to the *Rzeczpospolita* newspaper, an UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) report placed Poland 12th in the best investment location ranking.

This year's UNCTAD's evaluation of Poland is even higher than last year's. The ranking was created based on survey of 236 international corporations and 116 investment promotion agencies. What's interesting, it did not include our biggest regional competitors like Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania.

"All that was shown by almost every important ranking since the middle of world crisis is now confirmed: the crisis resulted in increasing attractiveness of Poland" – says Sławomir Majman, President of Polish Information and Foreign Investments Agency (PAIIZ).

What investments can we count on? "Experts believe Poland can count on automotive companies, which will invest in parts and components production. But other sectors are sure to invest likewise." PAIIZ expects high growth investments in the IT sector as well as in business service centers. Surely also new investors in electrotechnical industry will arrive, even though those already present in Poland deeply felt the crisis." – "Rzeczpospolita" says. (news.pl)

**ECOLOGY NOT A TOP PRIORITY.** Most Poles see eco-activists as trouble makers, according to a report by the Institute for Ecological Development.

Although sixty percent of Poles voice respect for what environmentalists do, and 70 percent understand the importance of searching for renewable sources of energy, only five percent state the importance of eco-standards applied to production processes, eighty percent cared only about the costs of products when shopping and fewer than two percent of respondents checked to see if a package is recyclable or not.

In spite of twenty years of activism, the Polish Green Party does not enjoy much support in Poland. Confusion has grown over the veracity of global warming science after the revelations of Climategate, when leaked e-mails from the Climate Research Unit in Britain exposed to the public that scientists had covered up evidence refuting their global warming claims.

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## Jerry Darlak, Grammy-Winning Hall of Famer, Dead at 63

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Jerry M. Darlak, a Grammy-winning member of the Polka Music Hall of Fame, died September 8, two weeks shy of his 64th birthday.

Darlak, who moved here in 1987 from his hometown of Chicago, and was retired from the Town of Cheektowaga, N.Y., had won Grammy awards for his recording work with Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones and Big Steve & The Bellares. He was also a three-time Grammy nominee with his band from Buffalo, The Touch.

Darlak was born in Chicago on September 22, 1946.

At the age of seven, he began drum lessons, and at the age of 12 began his career as a polka musician.

Within two years, at the age of 14, he was playing polka music three nights a week with his own band, The Lucky Stars. He led this five-piece polka band throughout high school.

When asked by his guidance counselor at Thornton Fractional South High School in Lansing, Illinois, what path he wished to follow, Darlak replied, "All I want to do is be a polka musician."

Inspired by the great polka legend Li'l Wally Jagiello, Darlak took interest in the concertina and began lessons on that instrument at age 11. In 1962, at the age of 16, Darlak was asked to join Li'l Richard Towalski's band as a concertina player. Disbanding the Lucky Stars, he was soon immersed in the life style of a full-time, professional polka musician. He spent over a year and a half with Chicago's "Polka General," learning the ins and outs of the Windy City's polka circuit.

Shortly after, at the famous Caldwell Woods on Chicago's North Side, he was introduced to the international polka star, Marion Lush. Learning that Lush's Musical Stars would soon be in need of a full-time drummer, Darlak asked Lush for an audition. Lush auditioned over 300 drummers who sought to play with the country's most famous polka star.

Impressed with both the talent and enthusiasm that Darlak had to offer, Lush chose the high school junior to be the backbeat of the Musical Stars. His first job with that band was in August of 1963 at a polka weekend in Omaha, Nebraska—quite an achievement for someone not yet 18 years old.

Darlak played drums with Lush's band until 1965, when he was drafted into the U.S. Army. While stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, he flew back to Chicago every weekend to perform with the Lush orchestra. He also played drums with the 5th Army Band, which was assigned to Fort Hood.

In July of that year, Darlak received orders that he would be stationed in Germany. This, however, would not keep him away from his beloved polka music: with

his duffel bag and mess kit came his concertina.

Now a member of the 7th U.S. Army, he auditioned for drummer with that division's band. He won the position and performed throughout Germany and parts of Europe. However, when it was learned that he was a full-time polka musician, and had brought his concertina with him, he soon was a featured artist with the group, playing Polish, German, and other polkas at the Band's numerous shows.

Darlak returned to the United States in February 1967, and was again a member of Lush's Musical Stars. In addition to working as the band's concertina player, he also served as Lush's booking agent. He handled all the band's business arrangements, and it was not uncommon to play seven days a week for six-weeks at a time.

It was also during this tenure with Lush that his influence on the polka music industry would become evident. Looking to capture the essence of the music's Polish folk roots, Darlak developed what is today a standard blueprint for most polka bands. Unheard of at the time (as most bands used either a solo concertina or solo accordion in their arrangements) Darlak devised his new sound by adding Richie Tokarz on accordion to compliment his concertina. The sound was an overnight success and raised Lush's orchestra to higher levels of popularity.

After nearly a decade as Marion Lush's drummer and concertina player, Darlak became a member of the award-winning Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones, joining that group in 1972. For the next 15 plus years, Darlak played concertina with the Versatones, performing as a full-time polka musician for up to forty-four weeks of the year. During this period, both the Versatones and Darlak chalked up countless awards, citations and other commendations for their sound and their dedication to the preservation and continuance of polka music.

Darlak retired from the Versatones in 1987, and moved to Cheektowaga, N.Y. The move marked the first time in 25 years that his livelihood was not that of a full-time musician. Employed by the Town of Cheektowaga, Darlak joined the Belares, led by "Big Steve" Krzeminski. When Krzeminski retired from playing in 1995, Darlak formed his own group, The Touch.

Darlak recorded over 600 songs on nearly 70 albums. He performed across the continental United States and Hawaii, Canada, Poland, Germany, and Austria. In 1997 he was inducted in the International Polka Association's Hall of Fame.

At his request, there will be no funeral service. Donations in Jerry's memory may be made to Hospice.



Jerry Darlak, the consummate concertina player. *Polish Village Christmas* recording session, 2002.

## J.D. was The Real Deal

by Mark Kohan

I had the privilege to spend an evening with Jerry Darlak a week before he passed on September 8. In addition to members of The Touch who dropped by to check on their leader, Jerry was visited by family members and friends. I was proud to be among the few, as "Uncle Jerry" — as he made me call him when he began dating my wife's aunt — was selective, and justifiably so, about visitors.

**What made Jerry's music special — at least to me — was not how fast or fancy he could play, but how nice he could make something sound.**

Joining me that evening was Eddie Pilarz, one of polka's most underrated and unappreciated musicians. Pilarz, of Buffalo — known locally for his years with Big Steve & the Bellares, and as an original member of the Dyna-Tones — worked with Jerry as Marion Lush's bass player from 1969 until 1972. Needless to say, the stories they recalled were priceless.

Before I left, Jerry told me he appreciated what I had done for him over the years. Mind you, this is not chest-thumping by any stretch of the imagination. In short: when he was nominated to the International Polka Association's Hall of Fame, he asked me to write his biography. Writing that bio taught me a lot about Jerry Darlak and a lot about polkas. For that, I am ever grateful.

When the nomination turned into an induction, I was called by *The Buffalo News* to provide some background information on Jerry. Trying to encapsulate his life was no easy task, but what I knew (and what everyone knew) about Jerry was that he was a phenomenal musician, and he loved to party. That was the end of polka's means. If this music didn't make you happy and put you in a party spirit, he would argue, nothing would.

With this in mind, I thought the best way to describe him was to give the writer a parallel figure in the world of rock music. My choice: Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones.

Now, Jerry did not use drugs, as Richards was known to do—often to excess. And his status as a *bon vivant* paled in comparison to Richards'. But Jerry did like his after-performance merry-making and dalliances. He somewhat resembled Richards — wiry and lanky, always cool and collected.

Cliché as it may sound; both Richards and Darlak had reputations that preceded them. They were

the "real deal," as Blues and Jazz musicians say. Jerry had no need to make thing more (or less) important than they really were. He let the facts speak for themselves.

But most of all, like Richards, Jerry could play. Man, could he play! Both musicians were masters at their crafts. There is probably not one blues or rock riff that Richards hasn't played behind the guitar. Likewise, I doubt if there's one polka riff that Jerry hasn't played, either on concertina or drums. And what made both Richards and Jerry's music special — at least to me — was not how fast or fancy they could play, but how nice they could make something sound. They were "people musicians," and that is something you have or you don't. Jerry had it. With over 60 recordings to his credit at that time, I wanted people to understand that Jerry Darlak knew music.

When the article came out, so did the opinions. Jerry, unfamiliar with the rock business, called me up to ask me who Keith Richards was. After my explanation, he was still a little leery. I received dozens of phone calls, pro and con, about the similarities I thought the celebrities shared. In time, Jerry came to embrace the comparison. And, in all honesty, I thought I had created a monster. I didn't. Jerry didn't have to live up that semblance. Just being himself made it so.

As our last evening with Jerry was coming to a close, Eddie and I said our good-byes, and thanked him for his hospitality. We both agreed we would visit him the following week, hoping the doctor's diagnosis would be wrong. At that point, he was given only two to four weeks before cancer would finally claim him. Before we stood up to leave, Jerry thanked me again for writing his biography. "And that thing with the rock guy ... Richards ... that was really cool." I told him we could talk about it next week—but that talk would never happen.

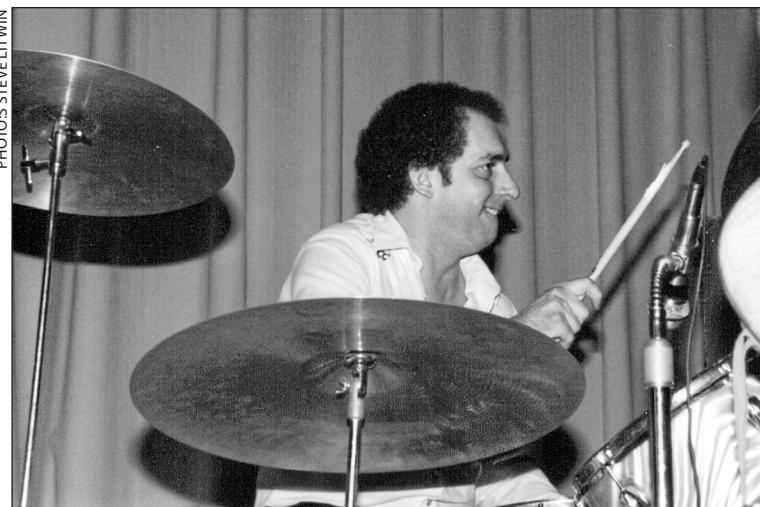
Over the last month, we have all read his life story and heard of his dedication to the art of being a polka musician. He made it his being, and as a reward, he is the owner of one of the most impressive resumes in the polka business. I am lucky to have known him for the past 36 years, as a musician, friend, and Uncle Jerry.

If you knew him at all, I am sure you feel the same way.



### POLKA MEMORIES / Jimmy K and Steve Litwin

If you have a special Polka Memory photograph to publish in the Polish American Journal, email : pajpolka@verizon.net. For more Polka Memories visit [www.polkamemories.com](http://www.polkamemories.com).



Jerry on drums. Binghamton, N.Y. 1981.



Eddie Blazonczyk, Stan "Junior" Wozniak, Jerry Darlak. Buffalo. 1977.



Darlak on his Star Concertina



NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

## The Summer of 2010 is Now Just a Memory



Eddie "O" Orchestra's reed section.



The New Yorkers (l. to r.): Henry Mazurek, Jimmy Johnson, Whitey Mazurek, and Gino Kurdziel.

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Hi Everyone! I can't believe Labor Day is just a memory now and our really warm and sunny summer is over! I loved every minute of it!

### ANNUAL BENEFIT SUCCESSFUL.

The 22nd annual Owl Family Picnic held at the Lamm Post Grove on Aug. 22nd was another big success. There is so much entertainment at this event which makes it outstanding. It is also very special as all the proceeds go to charity including Camp Good Days and Special Times, Mercyflight of WNY, Former Troopers Helping Hands and the St. Adalbert's Response to Love Center. The entertainment provided quite a variety of music including polkas, big band sound, country-western, and '50s and '60s, and all did a fabulous job. There were always lots of dancers on the floor having a great time.

We have to commend Henry Mazurek and the committee who puts this affair together for their dedication and hard work. Sister Johnice from St. Adalbert's Center spoke to the audience stating her gratitude for the help the center receives.

**CONGRATS TO ...** Barbara and Dan Mroz who recently became grandparents of a bouncing baby boy ... Justin Kohan, who is now a

member of the Ghost Riders Drum & Bugle Corps ... Ray and Gerry Barsukiewicz, who celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Ray is the clarinet and trumpet player with the Concertina All-Stars.

**GET WELL WISHES** go out to Norb Pacer. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

**IN SYMPATHY.** My condolences to members of Jerry Darlak's family, friends and fellow musicians.

**THE PRINCE.** On Sept. 4th, Bobby Vinton, the Polish Prince, brought his show to the Hamburg Fairgrounds Event Center.

A huge crowd came to hear Bobby sing some of our favorites such as "Blue on Blue," "Roses are Red," and "Mr. Lonely," to name a few. His daughter sang as part of the show and his son played with the band. In addition to his singing, Bobby can play several instruments, including trumpet, sax, clarinet, piano and drums which he did and did very well. His interaction with the audience was a pleasure to see! Watching him perform, it's hard to believe he is 75 years old. !yrs. He does not look it at all and still has that wonderful voice. He ended his show with one of his biggest hits,



Sister Johnice from the Response to Love Center thanked everyone for their support. The Center, which operates out of the former St. Adalbert Church School on Lathrop Street on the city's East Side, serves almost 25,000 meals a year in its dining room. It also provides personal care, client need and school supplies to over 500 community members on an average annual basis. To donate or volunteer your time, call 894-7030 ext.105.



Buffalo polka music legend Gino Kurdziel. Former member of the New Yorkers also started the G-Notes and Polkenotes.

"My Melody of Love" and the audience sang the chorus with him! There was a lot of entertainment packed into an hour and half show which was most enjoyable.

**BUMMER.** I was disappointed to hear that the Labor Day weekend polka dance at the Lamm Grove on Sept. 5th with the Florida Honky Band with our own Richie Kurdziel, was cancelled. I was looking for-



George Pasierb, Mel Ziemianski, and Tony Krupski at the Owl Picnic.



Crash Cadillac got things rolling at the Lamm Post.

ward to hearing them. I guess there were some travel problems.

### UPCOMING

**Oct. 2.** German American Octoberfest at the Lamm Grove, 962 Wehrle Dr., Williamsville, N.Y. Call Bob for more information at 837-2684.

**Oct. 2.** Forgotten Buffalo Tours - the Tonawandas - Call Eddy or Marty at 833-5211.

**Oct. 9.** Last Chance Polka Dance at the Lamm Grove, 962 Wehrle Dr., Williamsville, N.Y. - Music by the Dynabass - Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Music from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Admission is \$10 advance or \$12 at the door - Cash bar and food available.

**Oct. 16.** Buffalo Forgotten Tours - Societies and Clubs - Call Eddy or Marty at 833-5211.

**Oct. 17.** The Touch play at the Sportsmen's Tavern, 326 Amherst St., Buffalo, N.Y. starting at 4:00 p.m.

**Oct. 21.** Polka Boosters Meeting at the Polish Falcons Hall, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew, N.Y. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Polka music, refreshments and a short meeting-- Everyone welcome to attend - Call Chris for more information at 892-7977.

**Oct. 23.** Polkasino to the Seneca

Niagara Casino in Niagara Falls, NY sponsored by the Cityside Band. Bus leaves Potts Banquet Hall at 10:00 a.m. and leaves the Casino at 4:00 p.m. Return to Potts Hall for a buffet dinner and music by Cityside. For more information, call Ted at 668-9101

**Oct. 27.** Polka Variety Club Meeting at the Leonard Post, Walden and Nagel, Cheektowaga, N.Y. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. New members are always welcome. Call Richard at 826-2281 for more information

Until next time, take good care and God Bless!

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**POLKA SHORTS**

**Busta Band Release New CD**

RIDGEVILLE CORNERS, Ohio — The Jim Busta Band has released their newest CD, "Well ... It's About Time." On this 20-song CD, Mollie B plays her instruments with her family band, which she has been a long-time member of. Mollie's award-winning voice can be heard on 13 of the songs. This CD is filled with favorites. Get your copy today. Send \$17 to Ted Lange, PO Box 327, Ridgeville Corners, OH 43555, and your CD will go in the mail within two business days.

**Ray Jay's "Hall of Fame CD" Features 24 Hits**

STRONGSVILLE, Ohio — Ray "Ray Jay" Jarusinski has been on the polka stage for over 40 years and his 2008 induction into the IPA Polka Hall of Fame was a well-deserved honor to this musician and vocalist. To commemorate his Hall of Fame induction, Ray Jay has released a Hall of Fame CD featuring 24 songs from the 1960s to 1990s that have never been available on CD. Carousels' favorites like "Just Another Polka," "Junior's" polka, "What a Girl" polka "Hot Dogs & Cabbage" polka, "Crying Girl" waltz, "Oj Nie Nie" oberek and more. Also on the CD is the "Batman" polka, recorded by the Bellhops Orchestra and features a young Ray Jay on vocals.

Ray Jay & The Carousels Hall of Fame CD is available for \$15

post-paid on the internet at: www.jimmykpolkas.com, or by mail at: P.O. Box 360855, Strongsville, OH 44136.

**Bill Flynn Teams with Bold Gold Media**

SCRANTON, Pa. — Bold Gold Media, which carries the Bill Flynn Polka shows on five AM stations on Sunday mornings in the Scranton-Wilkes Barre-Carbondale and Hazelton Pennsylvania markets, is now airing the show on Sunday afternoons on FM. Bold Gold features the Bill Flynn show on Sunday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on radio stations 1400 - WICK in Scranton, 1340 - WYCK in Wilkes-Barre, 1440 - WCWL in Carbondale and 1280 - WFBS in Berwick/Bloomsburg. The show is then repeated on 94.3 FM, "The Talker" from 3:00-6:00 p.m. on Sundays. The show is also heard on 1290 WAZL in Hazelton on both Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Flynn's polka shows are also heard on the internet, Sunday morning's from 7:00 a.m.-noon, live from Binghamton, New York. This show is available at cool100oldies.com and 247polkaheaven.com - the twenty four hour polka network.

In September WSKG channel 46 in Binghamton, the public broadcasting station, will begin airing "Let's Polka" featuring Flynn every Saturday night. That show will be seen in 22 counties in New York State.

Flynn has received the "Living Legend" award from the Binghamton Broadcaster's Association and later this year will be inducted into the region's broadcaster's hall of fame. Email: BillFlynn@Equinox-Broadcasting.com.

**Recordings Sought For Annual Music Awards**

CHICAGO — The International Polka Music Hall of Fame and Chairman, Leon Kozicki, invites any recording company and/or polka band who has released recordings during the calendar year of 2010 to notify and remit that recording as soon as possible. This will determine eligibility for the 42nd Annual Polka Music Awards which will be presented at the annual festival at the Polka Music Hall of Fame and Music Awards banquet.

Registered companies will receive affidavits which must be completed and returned to the International Polka Music Hall of Fame Chairman by the deadline of February 14, 2011. Only those recordings which were produced during 2010 will be accepted. The recordings, which are determined eligible, will be placed on a master list, mailed to the IPA electors, and then be selected to receive the favorite song and favorite album of the year for 2010.

The IPA electors represent the various geographical areas within the United States as well as Canada.

The awards have been presented for the past 41 consecutive years to deserving bands and vocalists.

Forward all correspondence to:

Leon Kozicki, Chairman, Polka Music Hall of Fame, 13405 Tall Pines Lane, Plainfield, IL 60544.

**Fall Polka Festival at Seven Springs**

CHAMPION, Pa. — The Fall Polka Festival will take place at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort, November 5-7, 2010.

Featured bands will include: Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones, The Knewz, Paul Herchko's Party Time, John Gora & Gorale, Henny & The Versa J's, Ray Jay & The Carousels, Stephanie & Her Honky Band, Jimmy K & Ethnic Jazz.

The Bloody Mary Party will take place Saturday morning in the Matterhorn Lounge with DJ Ken Olowin providing the music. Sunday Morning there will be a Polka Mass with music by John Gora & Gorale.

For room reservations and information contact Tish Blazonczyk at (708) 594-5182 or email: BelAire7208@aol.com.

**Bel-Aire Releases Two CDs**

CHICAGO — Bel-Aire Records has released the 1984 Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones *Polka Thriller* album on CD and a new CD by Stephanie entitled *This is Polka Music*.

*Polka Thriller*, originally offered on vinyl in 1984, has been remastered and repackaged and features Versatones' hits like "I Love Wanda," "Hey Pretty Girl," "How Can I Love Her," and nine other great songs, recorded between 1978 and 1984.

Musicians on the tracks include: Joe Dudek, Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr., Jerry Darlak, Jerry Tokarz, Rich Tokarz, Ed Wolinski, Jim Sierzega, Lenny Gomulka, Jerry Rajewski and Rich "Sudz" Cerajewski.

*Polka Thriller* is on Bel-Aire Records Vintage Collection line.

*This is Polka Music* by Stephanie, "America's polka sweetheart," contains twelve songs, with three originals by Stephanie, "Please Come Back To Me," "Step by Step," and "Ty Ry Ryt Kum" oberek. With plenty of honky style and concertina, this new CD celebrates Stephanie as a 2010 inductee to the Polka Music Hall of Fame.

Musicians joining Stephanie Pietrzak on this recording include: Eddie Madura, Jim Sierzega, Rich "Sudz" Cerajewski, Dave Kurdziel and Wayne Sienkowski.

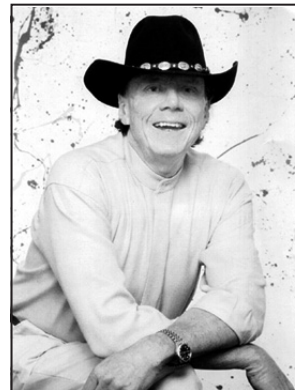
Contact Bel-Aire Enterprises, 7208 S. Harlem Avenue, Bridgeview, Illinois 60455 or visit the website at: [www.belairerecords.com](http://www.belairerecords.com).

**100,000 Watts of Power for It's Polka Time**

RHINELANDER, Wisc. — As of September 19, 2010, "It's Polka Time!" with Craig Ebel can be heard every Sunday morning from 7 to 9 a.m. over FM 93.7 WCYE in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. Known as "Today's Country & the Legends," WCYE has a 100,000-watt signal that covers a large area of Northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Coyote 93.7 is also the home for Milwaukee Brewers Baseball, Green Bay Packer Football, and University of Wisconsin Badger Football.

"It's Polka Time!" is produced from the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, and is also heard on 22 other radio stations across the United States. The show is also heard over the Internet on [www.polkajammernetwork.org](http://www.polkajammernetwork.org) Tuesdays from noon to 2:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. CST.

Information regarding the show and these radio stations can be found on the Internet at [www.itspolkatime.com](http://www.itspolkatime.com). Radio stations interested in broadcasting "It's Polka Time!" can request a demo of the show by sending an e-mail to [itspolkatime@hotmail.com](mailto:itspolkatime@hotmail.com). Polka bands and record labels interested in having their recordings considered for airplay on the show can send their material to P.O. Box 32757, Minneapolis, MN 55432-0757.



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**A Family Affair**

CHICAGO — Archer Recordings just released a CD by the father, mother and three sons of the Okrzesik family.

Father Ted — newly inducted into the Polka Music Hall of Fame — is on drums and sings "Up the Hill" polka. Mother Gennie sings duets with her husband Ted on "Twelve Angels" waltz and "Rocks and Stones" polka, and with son Ted Jr. on "Polkas in the Moonlight."

Ted Jr. dominates this CD as he sings "Windy City Brass" polka, "Nine Horsemen" oberek, "Why Me?," "Ashes of Love," "Idzie Lala," "Hosa Horasa," "Three Eggs," "Hang It Up," "Wanting You" and "Who Stole the Kiszka?" His bothers Danny (concertina) and Johnny (trumpet) are also heard on vocal duets.

Before Stas Bulanda went on his own, he performed with Windy City Brass. He sings "What Should I Do?," and "Play Musicians" polka. All twenty-two selections on this CD are superbly done. (See adv.)

Eddie Blazonczyk presents the 36th Annual Seven Springs

# Fall Polka Festival

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- John Gora & Gorale (Sunday)
- Henny & The Versa J's (Friday)
- Ray Jay & The Carousels (Sunday)
- Stephanie Pietrzak (Saturday)
- Jimmy K & The Ethnic Jazz (Friday)

**Other Activities -**

- Saturday Morning Bloody Mary Party  
In the Matterhorn Lounge with Polka DJ Ken Olowin 11am-2pm
- Sunday Morning Polka Mass  
Music by John Gora & Gorale, 10am

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THE POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

## Autumn Salad Favorites

Polish cookery has traditionally been quite seasonal. Even now, when fresh salad greens are available all year round, many Polish cooks enjoy preparing the traditional autumn and winter favorites. Here are some of them.

**RED CABBAGE SALAD** (*surówka z czerwonej/modrej kapusty*). Trim 1 small head red cabbage of withered outer leaves and grate coarsely. Place in pot, scald with boiling water to cover, bring to boil and cook about 2 min. Drain well. Place in salad bowl and sprinkle with juice of 1 lemon. Add 2 peeled, cored diced apples and 1 finely

chopped onion. Sprinkle with 3 T salad oil, toss ingredients and season to taste with salt, pepper and sugar. Optional: add 1/2 c plumped raisins.

**WHITE CABBAGE SALAD/POLISH COLESLAW** (*surówka z białej kapusty*). Remove and discard wilted outer leaves of a small head of cabbage or half a larger one. Grate cabbage on coarse side of grater. Add 2 carrots grated on fine side of grater, 1 finely chopped onion and 1 peeled, coarsely grated apple. Toss and season to taste with salt, pepper, sugar and lemon juice. Optional: lace with a little mayonnaise – plain or mixed 50-50 with sour cream.

**CARROT-APPLE-HORSERADISH SALAD** (*surówka z marchwi, jabłek i chrzanu*). Combine 4 washed, peeled finely grated carrots with 2-3 peeled, cored, coarsely grated apples. Sprinkle with lemon juice, toss and stir in 1-2 heaping T prepared horseradish. Season to taste with salt (sparingly), sugar and lemon juice. Optional: Stir in 1 heaping T sour cream and/or mayonnaise.

**CELERIAC & APPLE SALAD:** (*surówka z selerów i jabłek*). Peel and grate fine 1 med celeriac (celery root) and sprinkle with lemon juice. Combine with 3 peeled, cored, finely diced or coarsely grated cooking apples and toss. Season to taste with salt, pepper, a little sugar and a little more lemon juice as required. Lace with 2/3 - 3/4 c mayonnaise. Garnish with chopped parsley or chives.

**SAUERKRAUT SALAD** (*surówka z kwaszonej kapusty*). Drain and rinse 2 c sauerkraut, press out moisture and chop. Place in salad bowl and tear apart so it doesn't stick together. Add 1 chopped onion, 1 finely grated carrot and 1 finely diced, peeled apple. Season with pepper and sugar, drizzle with salad oil and toss. Garnish with chopped chives for a nicer presentation. Optional: Salad may also be seasoned with caraway and/or laced with a little mayonnaise. Excellent with fried fish and pork dishes.

**SAUERKRAUT & CRANBERRY SALAD** (*surówka z kwaszonej kapusty i żurawin*). Prepare sauerkraut salad as above, but stir in 1/2 c fresh, washed, rinsed, briefly processed cranberries.

## Sweet Poland's Kielbasa is King

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — Two varieties of sausages sold by distributor Sweet Poland have been awarded the prestigious five-star rating in the Grilling category by the August 2010 *The Rosengarten Report* (Issue 72) after extensive tasting of over 250 kielbasa brands from many Polish stores in the country.

First is Kielbasa Czosnkowa. Says Rosengarten:

"Kielbasa Czosnkowa, no matter who makes it, is garlic sausage. Now garlic, of course, comes with the kielbasa territory; all kielbasa is flavored with at least some garlic. But when the producers go out of their way to call the sausage 'Kielbasa Czosnkowa' ... let the vampires beware! This contest-topping sausage from Sweet Poland, one of the tippy-top producers in the tasting, would have kicked pork butt whether it had the garlic or not. I received a chunk of a long coil, medium-circumference (about 1 1/4"), with a wrinkled orange-copper exterior. Inside, the meat is a fairly coarse whitish-pink, with excellent whorl. But the flavor's the thing!

"Great smokiness (real, and not over the top), with a meat-stock kind of umami character underlying everything. The fat bubbles up beautifully when you grill this guy, and adds a buttery meatiness.

Then there's the garlic! Let's not forget the garlic! This sucker actually has big chunks of sweet garlic in it — which play beautifully off all the other flavors! This is not one of those scary-dry purist kielbasas; this is an amazing sausage that all kielbasa-lovers can get behind, the ideal post-supermarket extension I was looking for! Don't let your grill go down for the season without sizzling up a few of these!"

Rosengarten's second pick was Sweet Poland's Kielbasa Zwyczajna:

"Believe it or not ... kielbasa #2 also came from the Sweet Poland company! Zwyczajna means common, or ordinary, in Polish. Used on a kielbasa label, it means a basic, cured, smoked sausage ... the ordinary one. Ha! Ain't nothing ordinary about this Sweet Poland product. It's a little fatter than the one above, and comes tied off at 14". It's a bit darker on the outside, a fairly dark-brown paper-bag color with orange tones. Another pale pink interior, this one with larger globs of pink meat and white fat. But here's the true brotherhood: like the Sweet Poland garlic sausage, this is your dream-upgrade kielbasa, the thing you'd hope to graduate to from supermarket if you wanted to go far, but not necessarily all the way. It's juicy, snappy, beautifully made, with a mild-but-pronounced smoke ... and it picks up a sexy bounciness if you cook it on the grill. The two Sweet Poland kielbasa kielbasas

allow you to feel bountifully upgraded, without having to learn too many new tricks. This one's the bargain of the five-star category."

The critic also reviews kielbasa brands little known by American general public, those which are consumed as cold cuts, usually with rye bread and relishes. In this — as he calls it "Eat-As-Is" category — Sweet Poland's products won in four styles of kielbasa. He named Kabanosy swojskie a "masterpiece"; "loved" Kielbaski myśliwskie; called Krakowska sucha a "big winner"; announced a "big score" for Kielbasa domowa with a "really winning smoky-roasty taste."



**KIELBASA CZOSNKOWA.** "This contest-topping sausage from Sweet Poland, one of the tippy-top producers in the tasting, would have kicked pork butt whether it had the garlic or not."

The *Rosengarten Report* is produced by journalist, television personality, and cookbook author, David Rosengarten, who has covered great food products, restaurants, wines, beer, coffee and tea, gastronomic travel destinations, and related subjects for over 25 years. He has written hundreds of articles and contributed hundreds of original recipes to publications such as *Gourmet* (where he was Restaurant Critic from 1996 to 2000), *The New York Times*, *Food & Wine*, *Bon Appetit*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Departures*, *The Wine Spectator* and *Newsday*. Rosengarten is perhaps best known for his work as

the host of *Taste*, the award-winning Food Network television show devoted to the principles of good taste in food and wine.

The James Beard Award-winning food and wine newsletter is available by subscription only at [www.rosengartenreport.com](http://www.rosengartenreport.com).

**HOW TO ORDER.** You may purchase Sweet Poland's kielbasa online at [www.SweetPoland.com](http://www.SweetPoland.com). In addition to Czosnkowa and Zwyczajna kielbasas, Sweet Poland also stocks many other highly-rated sausages including Krakowska, Zywiecka, Krajana, Kabanosy, and Easter kielbasa. It also offers a variety of pierogi, including "Ruskie" (pierogi with cheese and potato), sauerkraut and mushrooms, and potato and onion, in addition to *uszka* (dumplings) with mushrooms. Sweet Poland sells a variety of Polish candies and sweets including Wedel chocolates, uniquely delicate "Ptasie Mleczko" (bird's milk) and delicious "Sliwka naleczowska" (prunes in chocolate). Among other Polish staples you will find Polish bread and cakes, wild mushrooms, relishes, soups and many other delights of the Old Country.

Sweet Poland ships from Greenpoint in special boxes for perishables. All meat products sold online by [www.sweetpoland.com](http://www.sweetpoland.com) come from Bacik Company, a New York-based producer and wholesale distributor.

## POLISH COOKBOOKS

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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

# My Three Sons — and More

The Gronkowski family of Williamsville, N.Y. (near Buffalo) has earned a unique distinction: Three brothers were on NFL rosters on opening day 2010.

Unfortunately, none of them play for the hometown Buffalo Bills. **Rob Gronkowski** is a tight end for the Patriots, **Dan Gronkowski** is a tight end for the Broncos, and **Chris Gronkowski** is a fullback for the Cowboys.

"It's great," said Rob Gronkowski, the Patriots 2nd round draft pick this year. "We keep in touch, and they're both doing well, they both made the active roster. It's great having all three of us in the NFL, and I'm glad they're there, because we all support each other."

Dan was traded to the Denver Broncos last Saturday, after making it through his second training camp with Detroit. Chris, a powerful fullback, has been compared to Cowboys great Darryl Johnston by Dallas owner Jerry Jones.

There haven't been three brothers in the NFL at the same time in twenty years (That was when Gary, Rich and Brian Baldinger were in the league).

And that's not all! Oldest brother **Gordon** is a first baseman in the independent Frontier League after spending three seasons in the Los Angeles Angels system. Youngest brother William is a high school senior and a highly recruited wide receiver. Their father, **Gordie, Sr.**, started for three years as an offensive guard at Syracuse. In addition,

great-grandfather **Ignatius Gronkowski** competed with in the 1924 Summer Olympics at Paris as a cyclist with the American team.

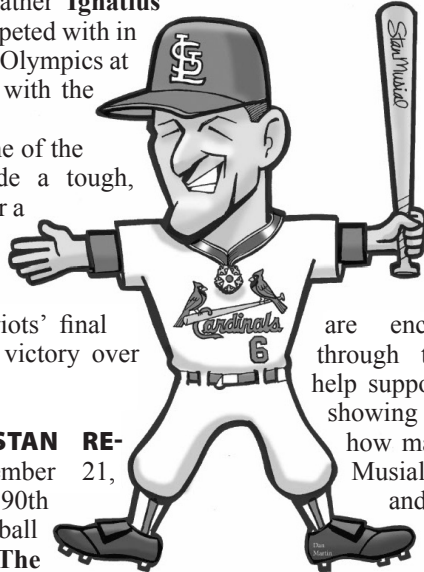
In the first game of the season, Rob made a tough, twisting catch over a linebacker in the corner of the end zone on a 1-yard pass for the Patriots' final score in a 38-24 victory over Cincinnati.

**STAND FOR STAN REMINDER.**

November 21, 2010 will be the 90th birthday of Baseball legend **Stan "The Man" Musial**. Musial was not only one of the greatest players in the history of baseball, but a respected gentleman both on the field and off the diamond.

During his 22 year professional career, all with the St. Louis Cardinals, he had a lifetime .331 batting average, with 3630 base hits and 475 home runs. He won seven league batting titles and three Most Valuable Player awards, and helped the Cardinals win three world championships. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1969, and was the first inductee into the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame.

As you read in last month's PAJ, The St. Louis Cardinals have launched a campaign to convince President Barack Obama to award



Stan Musial the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor, for his lifetime of achievement and service. The Cardinals are encouraging fans through the internet to help support the effort by showing the President how many people Stan Musial has touched on and off the field. Just go to the Cards' website: [www.stlouiscardinals.com](http://www.stlouiscardinals.com).

**ZBIKOWSKI STARTING.**

**Tom Zbikowski** began the NFL season as the starter at free safety for Baltimore. He replaced the injured Ed Reed, the former NFL Defensive Player of the Year, Ed Reed.

This year the 25-year-old Notre Dame product reduced his weight to 200 pounds and has improved his vertical leap, his speed, his endurance and his strength. Perhaps more importantly, he has improved in the mental aspects of the game. "I feel like I'm not thinking as much, just seeing things and reacting," he says. "Now, I'm thinking before the play as compared to during the play."

Zbikowski started all four of the Ravens' games in December last season, and he played an important role in the team's playoff run. In those 4 games he made 15 tackles, deflected four passes, and made two interceptions.

In the preseason, with Reed out after hip surgery, Zbikowski easily beat out newcomer Ken Hamlin, a former Pro Bowler.

Tom was drafted 86th overall by the Ravens and is in his 3rd year in the NFL. The Arlington Heights Ill.

native is a member of PRCUA and PNA.

**YES, SUHR!** Jenn Stuczynski is now Jenn Suhr. The American pole vaulter married her coach, Rick Suhr, earlier this year.

Jenn has been America's top ranked pole vaulter since 2006. She has won a total of nine U.S. National Championships, and holds the American women's pole vault record both indoors and outdoors. Just 4 years after starting the sport, she went on to win silver at the Beijing Olympics. *Track & Field News* named her American Female Athlete of the Year for 2008.

Coming off Achilles tendon problems, Suhr, 28, achieved a season's best of 16-1/2, the highest women's performance in the world this year and 3rd best 3 all-time U.S. vault to win her fifth straight U.S. outdoor title.

**THEY SAID IT**

"He didn't hit a homer in his last at-bat; he hit a single. He didn't hit in 56 straight games. He married his high school sweetheart and stayed married to her. ... All Musial represents is more than two decades of sustained excellence and complete decency as a human being."

— *Broadcaster Bob Costas on Stan Musial.*

"Few kickers in the history of the NFL, if any, entered the league in such a tough spot. Yet Gostkowski has delivered, his 85.1 percent accuracy rate on field goals the highest mark in franchise history, and his strong right leg a valuable weapon in the field-position game with kick-offs."

— *Mike Reiss of ESPNBoston.com on New England kicker Stephen Gostkowski's performance after taking over Patriots' kicking chores from Adam Vinateri.*

"I understand there's got to be a

need by an injury for me to probably get a job or some team that's not happy with what they have might take a run at me. People know what they're getting. There's no mystery or future potential in this body. It is what it is."

— *40-year-old free agent defensive tackle Jeff Zgonina, who wants to play one more year in the NFL. Last season he played in all 16 games for the Houston Texans, finishing with 28 tackles and 2.5 sacks.*

"This was a very special thing. We haven't won a world championship since 1994, and we as a country are trying to show great respect for the world championship, which I'm not sure that we did maybe a decade ago."

— *Coach Mike Krzyzewski, after the U.S. men's basketball team claimed gold at the FIBA World Championships. With the win, Team USA automatically qualifies for a berth in the 2012 Olympic Games in London, and Krzyzewski has already confirmed that he'll stay on as head coach until then.*

"A few years back, when Major League Baseball held a fan vote to name its All-Century Team, a special committee had to add Musial because the fans did not vote him as one of the 10 best outfielders ever. Ten! Only (Hank) Aaron had more total bases. Only Tris Speaker and Pete Rose hit more doubles. Using Bill James's famous formula, only Babe Ruth and Barry Bonds created more runs. Still, Musial did not get America's vote. He is not forgotten, not exactly. It is more this: For most of the nation, Stan the Man is a name that has faded into the great American past like singers wearing Tuxedos, John Wayne movies and kids shooting marbles."

— *Joe Posnanski, writing in Sports Illustrated about Stan Musial.*

HERITAGE / Ellye Slusarczyk

## The Golden Voice of Polkas

Known as the "Golden Voice of Polkas" was the truly great Marion Lush.

Born in 1931, by the time he was eight years old, he was already playing the accordion, and also gained expertise on the trumpet.

His professional career led him to join the American Federation of Musicians. This he accomplished at the young age of sixteen and started his own orchestra. He went on to appear on the Ron Terry Show and achieved the honor of being named "Chicago's Most Popular Band."

His first recording was for the Jay-Jay Record Company in 1951, when he was only twenty. Later, on the Dynamo Record label, he had immediate success with the "Hey, Cavalier" polka.

His career spanned many decades. At a testimonial in 1967, he was given his popular name, "Golden Voice of Polkas." Then in 1968, 1969, and 1970, he won the award for Best Male Vocalist by the International Polka Association.

Lush became owner of the Dynamo Record Company in 1955, and the Lu-Mar Publishing Company since 1959. Amazingly, he wrote the words and music, and also did the arrangements for over eighty songs.

He was the proud recipient of many awards, plaques, keys to cities from their mayors, and was even named an honorary sheriff.

Sadly, Marion died on May 9, 1991, at the young age of sixty. Marion (Maniu), you are truly missed, but not forgotten.

TRIVIA TIME / Ellye Slusarczyk

1. A recent television special of Mazowsze is narrated by: a. Lech Walesa b. Bobby Vinton c. Jimmy Sturr
2. Karl Szymanowski is best identified with: a. scientific research b. modern music in Poland c. government policies
3. Zlote Tarasy is located in: a. Gydnia b. Warsaw c. Krakow
4. "Batteries Not Included" was recorded by: a. Eddie Blazonczyk and the Versatones b. Walter Ostanek c. Lynn Marie and the Soundabouts
5. In 1980, the Best Foreign Language film, "The Drum", was made in: a. Torun b. Wroclaw c. Gdansk
6. The Kosciuszko Museum in Philadelphia is overseen by the: a. City of Philadelphia b. Natural Park Service c. Friends of Kosciuszko
7. Dan Klecho, NFL player, has more Super Bowl rings than his father who retired with: a. zero b. one c. two
8. Polish-style fresh fish is usually served with: a. tartar sauce b. horseradish sauce c. lemon sauce
9. Chicago and the state of Illinois celebrate Pulaski Day: a. in October b. the first Monday in March c. the last Sunday in September
10. Zbyszko Cyganiswicz was a world wrestling champion: a. once b. twice c. three times

**ANSWERS**

- 1.b Bobby Vinton; 2.b modern music in Poland; 3.b Warsaw 4. a Eddie Blazonczyk & the Versatones; 5. c Gdansk; 6.b National Park Service 7.a zero; 8.b horseradish sauce; 9.b the first Monday in March; 10.c three times.



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POLAND FIGHTS / Douglas W. Jacobson

## One of the Bravest Acts of Espionage in World War II

Witold Pilecki, who fought for Polish freedom his entire life, probably never imagined he would volunteer for imprisonment in Auschwitz. But that's exactly what he did.

Born in Karelia, Russia in 1901, Pilecki experienced life under suppression from the very beginning. His family had been forced to resettle in Russia following the January Uprising of 1863-64, and his grandfather spent seven years in exile in Siberia. When he was nine years old, Pilecki moved with his family to Wilno where joined the secret ZHP scouts organization. During the First World War, Pilecki and the ZHP scouts operated behind enemy lines conducting partisan warfare against the Bolsheviks. Pilecki eventually joined the Polish army and was twice awarded the Cross of Valor during the Polish-Soviet war of 1919-20.

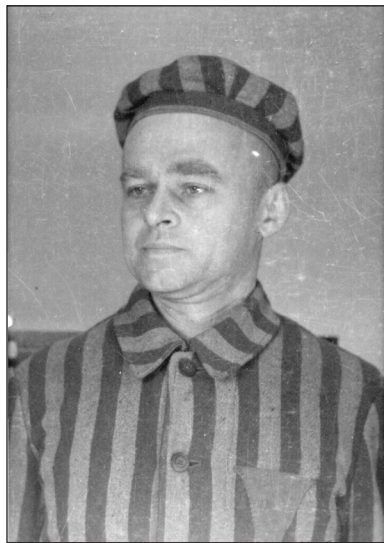
When World War Two broke out, Pilecki served as a cavalry platoon commander assigned to the 19th Infantry Division of the Polish Prusy Army. Following the defeat of Polish forces during the September '39 campaign, Pilecki managed to avoid surrender and returned home to Warsaw where he was instrumental in the founding of the Polish Secret Army, TAP. In early 1940, Pilecki became organizational commander of TAP which had grown to more than 8,000 covert freedom fighters.

In September of 1940, Pilecki presented his superiors a plan to infiltrate the German prison camp at Oswiecim, re-named by the Germans as Auschwitz. With his plan approved, and carrying false identification papers, Pilecki allowed himself to be captured during a street round-up in Warsaw. He was tortured for several days in a Wehrmacht camp before being sent on to Auschwitz.

**Barely surviving pneumonia, Pilecki worked within the confines of Auschwitz to establish an underground organization.**

Barely surviving pneumonia, Pilecki worked within the confines of Auschwitz to establish an underground organization. They provided extra food and clothing for the inmates, brought in news from the outside, and developed contingency plans to take over the camp in the event of an airborne landing by Allied forces.

Most importantly however, Pilecki's organization established contact with the highly secret Union of Military Organizations, known as ZOW. From late 1940 until 1943, Pilecki's group smuggled out invaluable information documenting the atrocities being committed in-



Witold Pilecki

side Auschwitz. The reports were forwarded on to the British government in London, providing the outside world the first hard evidence of Nazi death camps.

In 1943 the Gestapo, under direct orders from Heinrich Himmler, stepped up their efforts to identify and execute the smugglers within Auschwitz. Pilecki knew his days were numbered and on April 26, while on a temporary assignment at a bakery outside the prison walls, he and two others overpowered their SS guards and escaped, taking with them hundreds of stolen documents.

In August of 1943 Pilecki arrived back in Warsaw and joined

the intelligence department of the Home Army and, a year later, fought with the AK in the Warsaw Rising. Pilecki finished out the war in German POW camps. Though liberated in July 1945, Pilecki wasn't through fighting. In September he accepted orders from General Anders to return to Poland under false identity and gather intelligence for the government-in-exile.

In 1946, Pilecki was informed that communist authorities were suspicious of him and he was ordered to leave Poland. He declined, and continued to collect evidence of Soviet atrocities against Poles. In May, 1947 he was arrested by the Ministry of Public Security, accused of espionage and tortured repeatedly for several days. In 1948 he was put on trial and condemned to death. Testimony against Pilecki was presented by a future prime minister of Poland, Jozef Cyrankiewicz, who was also an Auschwitz survivor. On May 25, 1948, Witold Pilecki was executed at Warsaw's Mokotow Prison.

*Douglas W. Jacobson is the Polish-American author of the award-winning book, Night of Flames: A Novel of World War Two. Jacobson has been a frequent contributor to this newspaper and has written a second historical novel set in Poland in World War Two which will be released in May, 2011.*

## Strange Find

WARSAW —Food coupons for some of the notorious Nazi doctors at the Auschwitz death camp were found in the attic of a nearby house, where they had lain unseen for decades. Also found in the attic were other documents relating to the lives of Nazi officials, including death certificates and a map.

Historians believe that some of the documents may have belonged to Dr. Josef Mengele, who was infamous for his sadistic experiments, but whom escaped after the war and evaded capture for the rest of his life. Doctors and pharmacists at the camp conducted pseudomedical experiments on the inmates and helped select Jews arriving at the camp for either labor or death. The documents do not detail crimes committed at the camp.

## She Can Start at the PAJ Office

NEW YORK —Ever wonder how Martha Stewart might tackle your decorating disaster or party-planning nightmare? Some folks will soon get the chance to find out. Stewart announced that she and producer Mark Burnett are teaming up for a new television series, "Help Me Martha."

In the reality series, someone petitions Stewart to help a friend who's having trouble planning a wedding or a special meal or is facing some other lifestyle issue. The doorbell rings and — surprise — Stewart and her team are there to take over.

The show has not yet been sold to a network.

# PSFCU PROUDLY SUPPORTS THE PULASKI DAY PARADE

PSFCU proudly supports the Annual Pulaski Day Parade, held this year on Sunday, October 3rd. 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:

**"Poland and America - Perfect Together"**

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 3rd!

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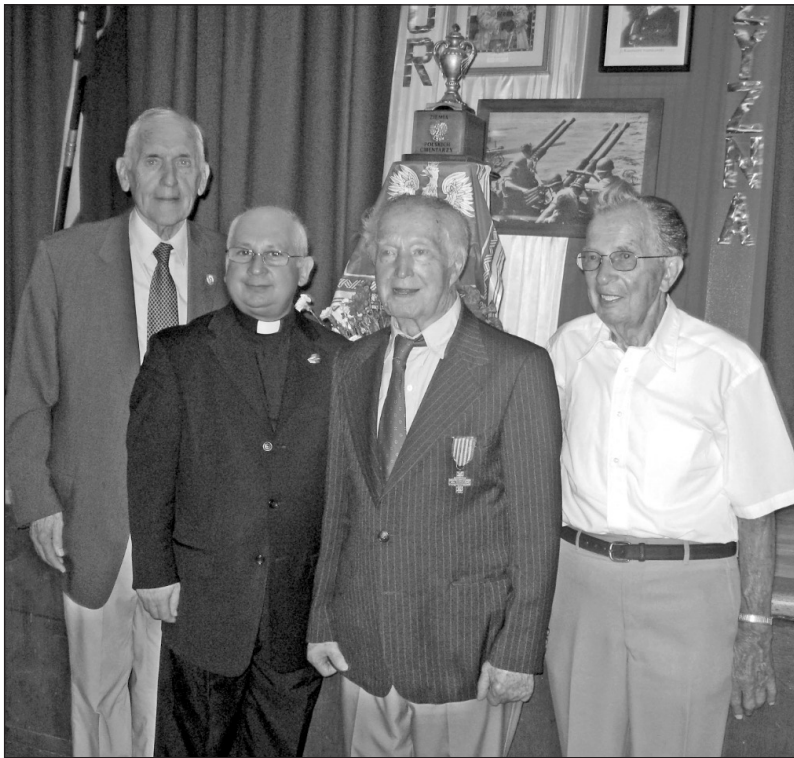


## Polish Survivors of Auschwitz Remember Start of World War II

RIDGEWOOD, N.Y. — Polish Catholic survivors of Auschwitz Walter Kolodziejek and Michael Preisler (3rd and 4th from left) were guests of honor at this year's commemoration of the anniversary of the start of World War II.

A Memorial Mass remembering Hitler's invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939 was held at St. Matthias Church in Ridgewood.

Joining the former Auschwitz prisoners are officials of the Polish American Congress, which initiated the observance of the anniversary 15 years ago. Shown with Kolodziejek and Preisler are (from left) Frank Milewski, president of the Downstate N.Y. Division of the Congress and Rev. Vlad Kubrak, vicar at St. Matthias.



PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

## Mind Your Manners

A comment by one of the managers at work made me think of a nice topic and fit for Heritage Month. She was talking about employee evaluations and her words were prompted by the section on consideration and respect for other employees and customers.

The employee was a Polish guy who she said "she never saw enter or exit a door first when in the company of one or more persons." That was quite complimentary of not only the Polish man but in my opinion, a positive reflection on the rest of us as well. It reminded me about the various standards about manners and courtesy the Poles have.

There are references and studies written on this kind of thing. *Shortcuts to Poland* is just a super book written a number of years back by Laura Klos Sokol (IPS Wydawnictwo, Warsaw, 1997) and that I had read a number of years ago. I highly recommend this book although it might amaze you how many of the attributes are ingrained or second nature as they are with me. Kevin Hannan, the author of *Moja Polska* (My Poland) mentions the behavior of the ancient Slavs from a sixth century Byzantine war manual: "They are kind and hospitable to travelers in their country and conduct them safely from one place to another, wherever they wish" (Wydawnictwo Poznanskie, Poznan 2005, p.207).

That mention rings true and is an expanded version of "Gosc w dom, Bog w dom" (Guest in the home, God in the home). In *The Peasant Prince* by Alex Storzynski, Tadeus Kosciuszko found himself (I believe) a little homesick and among a less gracious and manner less crowd during his assignment at West Point. He is quoted, "I am the most unhappy [sic] man in the World, because all my Jankees [Yankees] the best Friends is gone to Whit [White] Plains or to [the] Eastern [department] and left me with the Skoches [Scottish] impolites as Saviges" (Thomas Dunn Books, New York, 2009, p. 68).

I will confess that at various times I have been impolite as a savage. Some of the negative impressions of Polish social conduct I suspect come from television and the movies. The character is usually a loud kind of misfit or burley sports blue-collar type. In an episode of the TV sitcom *Mary Tyler Moore*, Mary introduced Lou to her date, Sandy Liszewski. Lou asked, "Oh, do you play left tackle?" whereby Mary replied, "No, second violin."

Since it is October, I invite you to take this feature of the Polish character to examine and reminisce on a bit. I can recall a number of other examples over the years and here are a few from *Shortcuts* along with my thoughts about them that I hope will get you started.

"The more I am around Poles, the more I am struck by their propensity for modesty" (page 37). I still have an aversion to bragging "even if it is true" but my advice for young Polish kids in business or other endeavors is to not downplay your accomplishments and do not be afraid to tell the boss how good you are. That is *not* bragging.

"At first, Americans might find Poles stilted or overly formal" (page 57). I argued with this young Polish kid about his claim that Polish jokes were so funny because they are such a departure from the "overly formal" nature of Polish culture. A unique twist and concept for sure (I will not concede to his theory) but I do recall being corrected as a kid (and often at my current age) when I do not address certain folks properly or act in a proper way.

"The basic hosting rules in Poland are: offer the guests everything in the house again and again" (page 78). The care package after the party is a favorite too in our family. My mother offered a sandwich and snacks to a friend from college to take for the ride back home to Chicago. My buddy was delighted and amazed at this offer as if my mom was from Mars.

"Americans relay competence and trust to each other by standing straight with the shoulders back, the chin lifted slightly..."

Poles, coming from a hierarchical society, have a different style; rather than elicit respect, the Polish demeanor conveys it...

Unfortunately, those from the School of Chin-up-shoulders-back will interpret this type of deference-giving as timid or insecure" (page 114-115). Besides the times I really was perplexed or scared, I can't tell you how many times I am asked, "Are you ok?" My response usually is "Yes, I am just listening."

Help yourself? Poles will not unless someone actually says to do so.

Offering advice. The Polish do it regularly and "Americans, on the other hand, are a little touchy about giving and taking advice" (page 95).

How much is that? We have this tradition in our family to put the receipt (now it is usually the gift receipt) in the same box with the Christmas present so the person re-

ceiving the gift can exchange it. My impression is this is a foreign concept to non-Poles and seems awkward. It is just that the gift giving is more out of need or kindness rather than to impress

Kissing the hand. From the archives (back in the eighties): A lawyer acquaintance told the story of a new prospect for a very well known firm, a Polish national, who kissed the hand of the women lawyers when he was introduced during his walk around the office. The lawyer said the gals were quite affected and thrown off guard by this. I don't recommend it for the contemporary scene but it is kind of a funny story.

Okay, question for October: What manner or courtesy story do you have to share that is interesting or unique? Are you really Polish or just an observer?

**POLISH OR NOT?** Ouch! Please forgive me. Matt Kuchar, very successful PGA golfer on tour this year, is Ukrainian, not Polish. Mike Stamus, Georgia Tech University Sports Information, told me that "According to Matt himself, he and his father are of Ukrainian descent." I will still root for Matty as he is a good Eastern European and Slavic boy and it is nice to see his name hovering at the top of the leader board so many times recently. Nice family, nice smile, and seems like a nice guy.

Alyson "Aly" Renae Michalka, actress, singer, etc., Polish or Ukrainian? (I am guessing Ukrainian. Ukrainian is the new Polish.)

**A TRIBUTE TO BUFFALO!** In the 2010 Spring edition of *Penzeys Spices Love to Cook - Cook to Love* magazine, there is a recipe for Buffalo Chicken Dip. The author, Bridget Zimmerman had a wonderful memorable quote about the food and Polish people of Buffalo.

"Buffalonians tend to be pretty opinionated about food, especially our chicken wings and kielbasa. But there is food and plenty of it. Take pierogies - great teams of grandmas get together and make thousands at a time to sell for church fundraisers."

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

N.B. If you send eMail, reference the Polish American Journal or the Pondering Pole.

CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin Nowak

## The Bielaskis: Lincoln, Baseball and the FBI

Born in Minsk, Lithuanian Poland in 1811, Aleksander Bielaski was trained to be a topographical engineer. When the uprising of 1831 against the Russians began, young Bielaski took part with the Polish forces in the defense of Warsaw. After the rebellion, he was exiled to France. From there, he made his way to the U.S. with thousands of other dispossessed Poles.

Once here, Bielaski was employed by railroads as a civil engineer and surveyor. He opened a land office in Springfield, Illinois in 1837 and became a friend of young Abraham Lincoln. He married, spent some time working in Mexico, got a job with the U.S. General Land Office and eventually moved to Washington, D.C. where he was employed as a draftsman.

When the Civil War broke out, Bielaski's old friend and now President Abe Lincoln personally recruited him at his home to accept an officer's commission as aide-de-camp to General John McClelland. Tragically, Captain Bielaski died in the Battle of Belmont, Mo. on November 7, 1861. He left behind his wife and seven children. One of them, Oscar Bielaski, had managed to join the Union army as a drummer boy where he supposedly learned to play the game of base ball from other soldiers.

By 1872, twenty-five year old Oscar was good enough to be hired as a professional player by a major league team, the Washington Nationals of the National Association of Base Ball Players. Thus, Oscar Bielaski became the first Polish American major leaguer. He played the outfield, mostly right, throughout his brief career.

In 1873 he was with the Washington Blue Legs, the following year he joined the Baltimore Canaries, and in 1875 the Chicago White Stockings. The White Stockings moved to the National League in 1876 and won the first ever National League championship. Bielaski shared the spotlight with some of the best players in the country, including future Hall of Famers Albert Spalding and Cap Anson.

Bielaski's career lasted five short years during which he posted a life-

time batting average of .240. But he is our Polish American major league baseball pioneer. He died in 1911 at age sixty-four.

Oscar's younger brother Alexander became a respected Episcopal minister and served mainly Washington area congregations during a lengthy career. One of the reverend's sons, Alexander Bruce Bielaski, was a lawyer who joined the Department of Justice. He served in the Oklahoma court system before it became a state. When the Bureau of Investigation was formed in 1908, the precursor to today's FBI, Bielaski came under its jurisdiction and quickly rose to the rank of assistant to the director. In 1912, at just 28 years old, he was appointed the second Director of the Bureau.

The Bureau's main concern in those years was the investigation and enforcement of interstate commerce and anti-prostitution laws. However, when the U.S. entered the difficult years of World War I, the agency became responsible for looking into violations of military draft law and the controversial Espionage Act.

Under Bielaski's leadership, the Bureau formed an alliance with a private vigilante group, the American Protective League (APL). This group was given the right to conduct wholesale armed roundups and detention of male citizens to make sure they had registered for the draft.

Of course, this proved to be extremely controversial and was criticized as a violation of citizens' rights. As head of the Bureau, Bielaski took a lot of heat for the APL actions as well as the heavy-handed enforcement of the Espionage Act. Once the war ended, he resigned and entered into private law practice, and for a time was an undercover prohibition agent.

From 1929 to 1959, he headed the National Board of Fire Underwriters' team of arson investigators. In 1938, he was President of the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI. He died in 1964 at age eighty.

Polish Americans can take pride in three generations of the Bielaski family, who made significant contributions to American society.

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## Polish Resistance Fighter Zofia Korbońska

Zofia Korbońska, née Ristau, 95, was a Polish resistance fighter and journalist. Korbońska was born in Warsaw and graduated from the Maria Konopnicka High School and School of Political Sciences there. In 1938 she married a lawyer and Polish People's Party politician Stefan Korboński. During World War II, in 1941, she helped to organize the underground radio station that sent the coded radio transmissions to the Polish government in exile. Her dispatches spread the news about German atrocities committed in Poland.

As a member of Armia Krajowa, Korbońska eventually took part in the Warsaw Uprising of 1944. In June 1945, she was arrested by The People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (NKVD) together with her husband. They were released after the creation of the Provisional Government of National Unity. In 1947, when her husband was in danger of another arrest, they fled together to Sweden hiding in a ship transporting coal. Since November 1947, they



Zofia and husband Stefan Korboński.

lived in the United States, where she worked in the Voice of America and Polish American Congress.

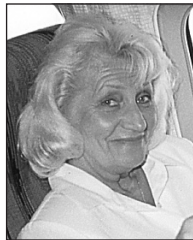
In 2006 she was given the title of honorary citizen of the Capital City of Warsaw. President of Poland Lech Kaczyński awarded her the Grand Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta.

## OBITUARIES / Geraldine Balut-Coleman

**LANCE CORPORAL KEVIN E. ORATOWSKI**, 23, USMC, died August 18, while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in the Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Oratowski was assigned to the 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division out of Camp Pendleton, California. A 2005 graduate of Glenbard South High School and a native of Wheaton, a Chicago suburb, Oratowski was remembered as someone who helped others. During his high school days, he worked in a senior-citizen retirement home, as well as actively participating in park district sports. Oratowski is a recipient of the Purple Heart and the following medals: Combat Action, National Defense Service, Afghanistan Campaign, Global War on Terrorism, as well as the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon. He leaves behind his parents, a brother and sister. Illinois Governor Patrick Quinn requested that all U.S. flags and State of Illinois flags be lowered to half-staff in honor of Oratowski. Additionally, California's Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger offered condolences to Oratowski's family and ordered flags to be flown at half-staff at the California State Capitol in honor of Oratowski.

Chicago's Southwest Side, the neighborhood in which he grew up. In 1988, he became pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, where he served for eleven years. For the remaining eleven years, Puchenski served in the capacity of associate pastor and administration of five additional parishes, with his last pastoral assignment at St. Zachary in Des Plaines, Ill.. His pastoral forte was in liturgy, requiring "good music and proclaiming the word well." Puchenski is survived by a sister and numerous family members.

**BOZENA MARIA SZTUKOWSKI**, nee Dworzanczyk, 67, passed away on August 16. Sztukowski spent 45 years as a dedicated asset of the Polish National Alliance (PNA). Since 1963, she was a member of PNA Lodge 2993 (Quo Vadis) and, since October 2005, served as the Vice President of Lodge 257, also of the PNA. In October 1965, Sztukowski began a distinguished career at the PNA working in insurance sales, and then went onward to become its Assistant National Secretary. In 2005, she accepted the interim positions of the PNA's National Secretary and the Executive Secretary of its president, Frank Spula. Additionally, she spent many years as a Polish language teacher at Chicago's historic Holy Trinity Polish Mission Church. She is survived by a son, two grandsons and two sisters residing in Poland. Donations in her memory may



since October 2005, served as the Vice President of Lodge 257, also of the PNA. In October 1965, Sztukowski began a distinguished career at the PNA working in insurance sales, and then went onward to become its Assistant National Secretary. In 2005, she accepted the interim positions of the PNA's National Secretary and the Executive Secretary of its president, Frank Spula. Additionally, she spent many years as a Polish language teacher at Chicago's historic Holy Trinity Polish Mission Church. She is survived by a son, two grandsons and two sisters residing in Poland. Donations in her memory may

be made to: the "Bozena Sztukowski Scholarship Fund" of the PNA.

**CAPTAIN DAVID WISNIEWSKI**, 31, USAF, of Merville, Iowa, died on July 2, 2010 at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland from injuries he suffered in a June 9 helicopter crash in Afghanistan, which killed four other airmen and wounded two others. Wisniewski, pilot of a Black Hawk helicopter had four deployments in Iraq, followed by three deployments to Afghanistan. As an Air Force pilot, Wisniewski logged over 1,500 flight hours, flew 289 combat hours, and is credited with saving numerous lives. In this last tour, he rescued 240 soldiers. Wisniewski was a 2002 United States Air Force Academy graduate, and an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter pilot assigned to the 66th Rescue Squadron out of Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. He received the Purple Heart on June 23, 2010. He is survived by his parents, two brothers and his fiancé. Wisniewski was interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

**RICHARD A. ZBOROWSKI**, 87, Downer Grove, Ill., died August 25 of prostate cancer. Zborowski was a 33-year veteran of Riverside-Brookfield High School, where he taught mathematics and chaired that department. He was also a permanent deacon for the Archdiocese of Chicago. He is survived by three sons, two daughters, 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. His funeral Mass was officiated by his son, Msgr. Richard M. Zborowski, pastor of St. Theresa Parish, Palatine, Ill.

## Albin Obal, Philanthropist and Businessman

Philanthropist, businessman and friend of Polonia, passed away Sept. 8 in Saddle River, N.J. Obal was the president of the real estate development company Midland Enterprises. He was a founding member of the American Center of Polish Culture, Inc., in Washington D.C., where he was Chairman of the Board from 1998 to 2005. Obal was active with the Felician College in Lodi, N.J., where he served as Chairman of its Board of Directors for many years and was a leader in its development, where he was honored with a building in his name, Albin Obal Hall.

Obal was a promoter of Poland and Polish Culture. In his tenure as Chairman of the Center, Obal, together with Mrs. Yolanta Kwasniewska, First Lady of Poland, started a Summer of Dreams Program for 30 Polish Orphans to visit the United States for a two-week vacation.

He was also active in many other activities, earning for him

the Officers Cross of the Order of Merit from the Republic of Poland. President Alexander Kwasniewski described him as "an outstanding man of many genres; an outstanding businessman; a leader; a philanthropist; and a volunteer who devoted his time and energy to Polish traditions and a positive image of Poland."

Obal was born on January 14, 1925 in the United States to a family of Polish immigrants and served in World War II. He is being remembered as a man with a caring heart, great sense of humor and responsibility. He was instrumental in sponsoring the creation of a bronze statue of Jan Karski, the great hero of the Holocaust, on the campus of Georgetown University and was a promoter of Polish Jewish Relations.

Obal received many awards and honors, including the Prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor on May 17, 2003.

**REV. ANTHONY C. PUCHENSKI**, 65, passed away August 11 from cancer. A lifetime Chicagoan, Puchenski attended Archbishop Quigley Preparatory Seminary and the University of St. Mary of Mundelein Seminary. Ordained in 1971, as a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, Puchenski ministered for 39 years, with his first assignment at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on

## IN MEMORIAM / Jennifer Moskal

**SYLVESTER LAPKIEWICZ**, 86, was the owner of the Burholme Fuel Oil Company, in Huntington Valley, Pa. Lapkiewicz graduated from Olney High School in 1942 and trained to be a pilot at schools including the University of North Carolina before becoming a Marine officer in 1943. He served during World War II and was recalled to active duty during the Korean War, retiring as a colonel. In the 1960s he was the commanding officer of the Marine Reserve Squadron 218. He also volunteered at the Harold F. Pitcairn Wings of Freedom Aviation Museum. Lapkiewicz also earned the Distinguished Flying Cross.

**JOSEPH J. MORASKI**, 91, was a retired official at the Federal Aviation Administration who was among the first wave of post-World War II air traffic controllers. Moraski was a meteorologist and air traffic controller in the Army Air Forces during World War II. After the war, he settled in Alexandria and spent three years as a meteorologist with the old Capital Airlines. He also worked as an air traffic controller at National Airport, and was a founder of the Air Traffic Control Association serving as their first secretary. By the early 1960s, Moraski was an official with the FAA, supervising air-traffic control efforts and coordinating flight patterns at airports around the country. He retired in 1973.

**MARY S. NOWAKOWSKI**, 87, was born and raised in Burlington, where she graduated from high school in 1939. Nowakowski worked as a bookkeeper for Rohm & Haas in Philadelphia in the 1940s. Once she had children, she put her passion and leadership skills to work in volunteering with numerous organizations. Her time was spent over the years at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, the American Cancer Society, the Maple Shade Democratic Club, and Girl Scouts of America. She was also PTA president at Holy Cross High School when her daughters were students there.

**SANFORD Z. PATIAK "COACH PATIAK"**, 79, was a graduate of University of Illinois at Chicago and worked as a teacher and varsity soccer and basketball coach for U-High Lab for 37 years. He coached women's soccer at Prairie State College, as well as boys' soccer at Marion Catholic High School. Serving as a Past President of Illinois High School Soccer Coaches Association he was awarded Coach of the Year in 1974 and Soccer Man of the Year in 1980 and 1990. He was inducted into the Wall of Fame at Toyota Park, Bridgeview, Illinois and the Illinois Soccer Hall of Fame. He also served the country as a Merchant Marine.

**FATHER ANTHONY J. POLLACK**, 81, was a senior priest of the Diocese of Altoona. Pollack attended Saint Casimir Parochial School and was a 1942 graduate of Johnstown Catholic High School. He attended Saint Francis University, Loretto, and Saint Charles College, Catonsville, receiving a bachelor of arts degree. He completed studies for the priesthood at Saint Mary's Seminary in Baltimore in 1955 and was ordained May 21, 1955. He served as parochial vicar at four different parishes and also was pastor at four different parishes. Pollack retired from active ministry on July 16, 2003.

## Alexandria E. Patras, Founder of Polish Children's Heartline, Award Recipient

On September 2, 2010, Alexandria E. Patras, a co-founder of the Polish Children's Heartline, passed away. She was eagerly awaiting the 25th Anniversary of the organization which, sadly, took place on September 12, 2010. She was very active in Polonian activities, but the Polish Children's Heartline held a prominent place in her life.

Since its inception in 1985 she was instrumental in setting goals for providing medical and surgical equipment to hospitals in Poland treating children with cardiac problems. Under her direction Heartline grew from helping three hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice and the Mothers Hospital in Lodz to providing aid to the pediatric units of three more hospitals; Grajewo, Suwalki and the Children's Hospital in Bialystok, Poland. Over the course of this time over \$16,000,000 of medical and surgical equipment was provided to the above mentioned hospitals.

For her involvement in numerous Polonian activities as well as helping the children in Poland she was recognized by the Polish government and received many awards and honors. Among them were the Silver Cross of Merit by the Polish Government in Exile, Silver Medal of the Order of the Republic of Poland, the highest award given to a

foreign subject, Honorary Ambassador of Bialskopolski from the Polish Academy of Medicine, Citation of Merit from the Polish American Congress.

She is survived by her husband Stephen, a co-founder of the Polish Children's Heartline, her sons, a daughter, nephews, and grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

In tribute to the memory of Alexandria E. Patras contributions to the Polish Children's Heartline, 177 Broadway, Clark, NJ, 07066 would be appreciated.

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## BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes

## The Origins of Modern Polish Democracy

## THE ORIGINS OF MODERN POLISH DEMOCRACY

Ed. by M.B. Biskupski, James S. Pula, and Piotr J. Wrobel  
Ohio University Press, 2010  
Index, Bibliography, notes, 351pp., pb. \$28.95

This is the eleventh volume in Ohio University Press's Polish and Polish-American Studies, and a worthwhile addition. It is a book to be digested slowly and read again and again.

Each of the ten authors provides insight on the Polish political development and the evolution of democracy throughout the years when Poland was an independent country and again in the period of Communism and foreign occupation.

Daniel Z. Stone provides an opening essay on democracy and the 'noble democracy' of the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The late Stanislaus A. Blejwas had written about post-insurrectionary Poland, social and economic changes, Socialism, Nationalism and Populism and the great Polish Emigration. Robert E. Blobaum discusses the rise of political parties in the late 19th century to the end of World War I.

Włodzimierz Suleja writes about democracy during World War I. Piotr J. Wrobel provides thought on the problems of interwar democracy.

Andrzej Friszke wrote on the Polish democratic thought at home during World War II. Rafał Habielski provided an essay on Polish émigrés in the Communist era. Andrzej Paczkowski discusses democracy and the fight for sovereignty. Jan Skorzyński looks at the long road to capitalism, while Piotr J. Wrobel wrote on rebuilding democracy since 1989.

Each of these scholarly writers has provided in-depth information which most likely will provide new thought for readers.

## AN ALTAR OF SOD

by Regina A. McIntyre  
Hats Off Books, 2010, 305 pp.  
\$19.95

This book, first published in 1995, is set in the 19th century Polish village of Miscka and the Rozanski manor. The family — members of the pampered *szlachta* (upper class) — rely on peasants to work the land and serve them. As close as they are, there is always the invisible 'class status' that sets them apart. Karol, the youngest has strong feeling for a free Poland and detests his position. He is told he will have to leave—he would be better in America. Karol wants to marry Jadwiga and take her with him, but he goes alone, buying land with Jadwiga joining him later. They prosper over the years, urging Olga and Albert to join them.

Olga Hedbowska feels she has been unjustly denied her *szlachta* status when her father lost his lands and was denigrated to a landless gentry status. She strives to elevate her position by becoming head kitchen mistress. When Albert Krzostanoski becomes farm foreman, an important position, she charms him into marriage.

Olga is determined to join Karol

and Jadwiga, scrimping and saving money for passage over the years. She has no interest in her children, treating them badly, becoming bitter and mean to her fellow workers and Albert.

McIntyre has provided excellent background information on turn-of-the-century customs, foods, wedding traditions and seasonal rituals, providing Polish names for all. Here is an interesting novel of an era long gone.

## WHEN ANGELS WEPT

*The Dismemberment of Poland and Her People in the Early Decades of the Twentieth Century*  
by Jan S. Prybyla  
Wheatmark, 2010 notes, bibliography, index, photographs, \$18.95

Prybyla has provided a biographical memoir of his aunt and uncle, Jan and Marta, and their three children, Zbigniew, Maria and Janusz on their small farm in the Polish Upper Silesia. The years of the Second Republic were fraught with turmoil. Jan had been the chief administrator of Chropaczow for 30 years when the Germans invaded Poland. He and his wife had celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary a year before — the last time the extended family would ever gather together. They escaped to Krakow, he and the boys enlisted in the resistance. Overtaken, Jan and Marta were sent to Auschwitz and were executed.

Zbigniew, a noncommissioned reserve officer in the Polish army was captured during the Russian invasion was rescued by his mother under undetermined circumstances. Maria and her husband escaped to Austria and returned to Poland after the war.

Janusz, by this time, was in Britain, serving in General Maczek's First Armored Cavalry Division.

This memoir contains many facts on political events during and after the German invasion, and how one family was affected.

## WHO SHALL DIE

*The Wilhelm Bachner Story*  
by Samuel Oliner and Kathleen Lee  
Academy Chicago Publishers, 2010, photos, map  
280 pp. \$195.95

This memoir is a riveting account of how Wilhelm Bachner, a Polish Jew managed to save many Jewish and Polish lives during the war.

With an engineering degree from a German university and fluent in German, he was able to pose as an Aryan. He and his family lived in the Warsaw ghetto. They avoided lock-up and managed to survive, when a friend told him of an opening at one of the factories. With his excellent German, degree and non-Jewish look, Architekt Kellner hired him and soon became a valuable asset, first in painting barracks and then helped design other new barracks. Later he was assigned to hire and supervise workers for the construction. He was constantly surrounded by Germans and under terrible strain of slipping up or being recognized as a Jew, or of someone recognizing and exposing him.

Throughout this time he was able to hire over 800 Poles and Jews to work at different sites in the Ukraine, most living in the Kellner barracks. He provided them with false papers which saved them from starvation and annihilation.

When the Americans finally arrived on the scene, Bachner told Kellner he was Jewish and many of the workers were Jewish as well. By this time, Kellner did not care. The Americans were there and the war was over.

## THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



"Comrades of the Unknown Soldiers." Warsaw, Poland. May 26, 1976.

## A Cross-Cultural Opportunity for American Teachers and Students for Summer 2011

NEW YORK — The Kosciuszko Foundation invites American teachers of art, music, drama, dance, conversation and American sports in public, private, and parochial schools and in colleges or universities to apply for participation in a unique four-week summer English language and cultural exchange program in Poland, June 30-July 30. American college, university, and high school students who will be at least 18 at the time of departure for Poland may apply as teaching assistants.

THE ARTS ENRICHED ENGLISH CAMP (AEEC), sponsored by the Kosciuszko Foundation in conjunction with the Polish National Commission for UNESCO and Związek Harcerstwa Polskiego (Polish Scouting and Guiding Association, ZHP), will provide approximately 110 Polish students (ages 12-18)

with a three-week, specialized camp dedicated to arts enrichment with instruction in the arts and practice in conversational English within an American cultural context.

The Teaching English in Poland Program (TEIP), in its twenty-first year and the AEEC, in its third year, will also enable American teachers and American students to become acquainted with the people, history, and culture of Poland. Now in its third year, the AEEC is part of the Kosciuszko Foundation's Teaching English in Poland Program, an educational-cultural exchange that has given American teachers and students the opportunity to become acquainted with the people, history, culture and educational system of Poland over the past twenty summers.

The three-week English Language immersion term of the program will take place at Ośrodek Szkoleniowo-Wypoczynkowy ZHP "Nadwarciański Gród," a ZHP camp in Poland, July 3 through July 22.

The AEEC staff will provide experiences in art, instrumental music, dance, and theater. All staff members will also organize and lead popular American extracurricular activities and accompany students on field trips. Various aspects of American life and culture are to be integrated throughout the program. In addition, our American staff will work together with Polish educators and Polish university students. American student participants will serve as teaching assistants in classrooms and extracurricular activities and as companions to the Polish students especially during meals, special events, free time, and field trips.

Polish ancestry and knowledge of the Polish language are not prerequisites. Participants must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States. Our Polish hosts will provide American participants with room, board, a modest stipend and a tour of Poland's important cultural highlights (July 24-30). Airfare is at the expense of the participants. The Kosciuszko Foundation arranges group flights for TEIP participants, which will depart for Poland on June 30th and return on July 30th.

For further information and to download or print an application, please visit [www.thekf.org](http://www.thekf.org). Click on "Summer Programs" then Arts Enriched English Camp. Application deadline is January 15, 2011.

For more information, contact Mary Kay Pieski, American Staff Leader, 315 Fawnwood Dr., Tallmadge, Ohio 44278; E-mail: [apieski@aol.com](mailto:apieski@aol.com); (330) 322-4359.



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## TRAVELOGUE / Staś Kmieć

## McDonald's and the Mall – Is this Poland?



With over 12 years in Poland, *McDonald's Polska* has opened over 205 restaurants and employs 10,000 people.

## Part XIX

Kraków boasts picture perfect views in every direction. Zig-zagging cobblestone lanes, golden spires that lance the clouds, town houses and shops in pastel hues. My starry-eyed stroll through the *Rynek* market square had me shifting my gaze all around in order to embrace the splendor of the Old Town. However my mission was to check out the McDonald's on ul. Floriańska.

I have done this since I first discovered the chain in Warszawa. Not for a "fix" of American fast-food, but to see how this institution differs in other countries. The menu has a standard format and similarity, but in Poland it is distinctly different. I had my only *McZorba* – a Greek style hamburger with feta cheese several years ago, but my real plan was just a taste of their cappuccino and a check at the day's news in a Polish newspaper.



Many Americans and even Polish-Americans have an image of Poland locked in their heads – that is rustic with

thatched roofed houses and limited modern conveniences. With the new democracy, Poland has changed and has embraced western culture with all its trappings.

Entering the crowded joint filled with Polish and international students, I quickly made my way to be served, as every station was open with a cashier. My order soon arrived and I nestled in a corner and enjoyed my foamed Italian coffee. I looked over my bill and quickly realized that I did not receive the proper change for the 50 złoty note that I paid with. It was change for 20 złoty. I had just received crisp cash from the ATM machine ... yes there are now automated cash machines in Poland and they are the best way to handle the currency exchange with the best rate of the day given.

As I contemplated if I should bother to deal with this situation or just leave it alone, I was distracted by an engaging woman carrying a tray with a coffee decanter. She asked if I would like a refill of *kawa*? This never happens at the McDonald's back in the States! Although I had a cappuccino, I graciously accepted her offer with cream and *cukier*.

With over 12 years in Poland, *McDonald's Polska* has opened over 205 restaurants and employs 10,000 people. In 1992, the first year of its activity in Poland, McDonald's opened three restaurants. In the following years the company developed exponentially, opening 20 outlets a year on average. Presently, McDonald's restaurants operate in a large number of Polish cities, with

arrived and I nestled in a corner and enjoyed my foamed Italian coffee. I looked over my bill and quickly realized that I did not receive the proper change for the 50 złoty note that I paid with. It was change for 20 złoty. I had just received crisp cash from the ATM machine ... yes there are now automated cash machines in Poland and they are the best way to handle the currency exchange with the best rate of the day given.

a record of 35 locations in Warsaw. McDrive restaurants constitute a special category with a drive-through window for customers.

Each investment undertaken by McDonald's means a major increase in Polish jobs in the construction industry, interior furnishings, and among suppliers of goods. Meals at McDonald's restaurants are almost exclusively prepared using Polish products.

The company attempted to cater to what they thought were Polish tastes with the *McKielbasa* – a sandwich containing a thick slice of the Polish sausage instead of a burger. It was a commercial failure and quickly pulled off the menu. *WieśMac* (village Mac) is a highly popular seasonal product that became part of the regular menu. This sandwich consists of one quarter-pound patty, with fresh onions, lettuce, one slice of cheddar cheese and two shots of mustard & horseradish sauce on a sesame-seed bun. *Kanapka Góralaska* (Mountaineer Sandwich) was a seasonal product and consisted of cheddar and ementaler cheese, one quarter-pound beef patty and fondue sauce on a square ciabatta bun.

A gutsier Staś decided to politely confront the cashier about the discrepancy. I told her of the error and offered to return when she would be counting the drawer at the end of her shift. Without a beat she said it was not a problem, and alerted her manager. They counted the draw and discovered the oversight. She profusely apologized, I profusely thanked her and I was on my way.

**BOOKS AND CDS.** I backtracked for a last trip to the EMPik multimedia store in the Old Town before going to its affiliate store located in the new shopping center. EMPik is a Polish commercial chain selling books, international press and media products – DVDs, CDs and computer software.

I found a few more folk CDs of interest and a couple of archival recordings of the music of Chopin and Paderewski that I thought my cousin Ronald, a classical pianist, might enjoy.

EMPiK started in Poland during Communist rule as *Klub Międzynarodowej Prasy i Książki* (International Book and Press Club). In 1991 it was taken over by Jacek Dębski, Janusz Romanowski (a former reserve police officer) and Yaron Bruckner and gained its current name. Still partially in Polish state hands, it was sold completely in 1994 to the East-bridge Group of Netherlands.

**BRAMA FLORIAŃSKA.** To reach further into Poland's "New World," I would have to pass through the *Brama Floriańska* (St. Florian's Gate). Named after St. Florian, it is one of the best-known Gothic towers in Poland, and a focal point of the Old Town. Built in the 14th century as a rectangular Gothic tower of "wild stone," it was part of the city fortifications that had been developed by Prince Leszek II (the Black), who had issued a permit for erection of defenses in 1285. The Gate was manned by the Kraków Furriers Guild in anticipation of Turkish attack on the city. According to records, by 1473 there were 17 towers defending the city; a century later, there were 33.



Today the Gate tower is the only city gate of the original eight built in the Middle Ages that was not dismantled during the 19th-century "modernization" of Kraków. The adjoining city walls and two additional, smaller towers have been preserved and today host street displays of amateur art available for purchase.

The south face of St. Florian's Gate is adorned with an 18th-century bas-relief of St. Florian. The tower's north face bears a stone eagle that was carved in 1882 by Zygmunt Langman, based on a design by painter Jan Matejko. Inside the gate is an altar with a late-Baroque copy of a classicist painting of the Piaskowa Madonna.



*Galeria Krakowska* — Kraków's premiere haven for shoppers — offer a vast selection of everything from fashion to gadgets to high-end grocery shopping.

At St. Florian's Gate begins Kraków's Royal Road. Through it once entered kings and princes, foreign envoys and distinguished guests, and parades and coronation processions. They traveled up ul. Floriańska to the Main Market Square, and on up ul. Grodzka (Castle Street) to Wawel Castle. However, I was heading in the opposite direction to the "Castle of Shopping."

**MOVE OVER SUKIENICE, THE GALERIA HAS ARRIVED.** My next culture shock stop was to the *Galeria Krakowska* – Kraków's premiere haven for shoppers, a state-of-the-art, gigantic shopping mall located adjacent to the city's Main Train Station. The complex was barely finished at the tail end of 2006 when it became a favorite of both locals and tourists alike. Its 270 stores offer a vast selection of everything from fashion to gadgets to high-end grocery shopping, while its prime location right next to the Old Town make it a convenient place to stop for a quick shopping fix.

On three floors in two roof-covered shopping malls and three plazas, the *Galeria* is part of an urban renewal project called "Nowe Miasto" (New City), where instead of building shopping centers on greenfield sites, the project developer, develops in the busy inner city.

The elegant food court has a Sushi restaurant, a KFC and a McDonald's, right next to the traditional *Polskie Jadlo*. Knowing that my dinner would be at a Polish cuisine restaurant, I opted for a quick *McChicken Bekon Deluxe* and fried bananas, with a "dzięki, smacznego" send-off. After a tour through the mall, I walked through the exit noticing the "Dziękujemy za wizytę" message on the door.

*Next issue: The last day in Poland continues.*

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

## Health Part 4

Mam .....	(Mahm)	niestrawność .....	(nyeh-STRAHV-noshch)
ból .....	<b>I have (a, an)</b> (buhl)	biskie ciśnienie .....	<b>indigestion</b> (NEES-kyeh cheesh-NYEH-nyeh)
ból gardła .....	<b>pain</b> (buhl GAHR-dwah)	wysokie ciśnienie .....	<b>low blood pressure</b> (vih-SOH-kyeh cheesh-NYEH-nyeh) /
ból głowy .....	<b>sore throat</b> (buhl GWOH-vih)	ranę .....	<b>high blood pressure</b> (RAH-neh)
ból zęba .....	<b>headache</b> (buhl ZEEM-bah)	wysypkę .....	<b>injury</b> (vih-SIHP-keh)
ból żołądka .....	<b>toothache</b> (buhl zoh-WOHNNT-kah)	zakażenie .....	<b>rash</b> (zah-kah-ZEH-nyeh)
grypę .....	<b>stomach ache</b> (GRIH-peh)	zwichnięcie .....	<b>infection</b> (zweech-NYEHN-cheh)
migrenę .....	<b>influenza [flu]</b> (mee-GREH-eh)	żółtaczkę .....	<b>sprain</b> (zhuhw-TAHCH-keh)
	<b>migraine</b>		<b>hepatitis</b>

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

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## ARTSCENE / Staś Kmieć

## Mazowsze Tour Preview

The Company Premieres  
a Chopin Tribute

The best way to experience the magic and magnificence of Mazowsze is to see the company perform live. The world-renowned company returns to North America in a special 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebratory tour of live performances in November-December 2010. The tour will feature 90 dancers, singers and the full 23-member orchestra. The concert program will differ greatly from the PBS television program and will include many different dances and three U.S. premieres.

A 200-year birthday anniversary tribute to Fryderyk Chopin will include a choreographic work by Witold Zapała to *Rondo à la Krakowiak* in F major, written by the composer in 1828. In stylized costumes, the piece is an homage to the Polish tradition of such folk ballets such as *Pan Twardowski*, *Wesele w Ojcowie* and *Harnasie*. The song *Życzenie* G-dur op. 74 will also be presented.

*Songs from Racibórz* in the Śląsk region will showcase a new set of costumes and will be accompanied by the *okaryna* folk instrument. Originally invented about 1860 in Italy, the *ocarina* is a vessel flute in the shape of an egg with ten finger-holes. The name in Italian means "little goose."

Popular favorites will include Dances from Wilanów, Kaszuby, Szczawnica, Lublin, Jurgów, Szamotuły, Podegrodzie, Limanowa; Winegathering in Lubusz; Dances of the Żywiec townspeople and from the Podhale Mountains; the national dances *Krakowiak*, *Polognez*, *Mazur*, *Kujawiak*; folk songs and the customary opening *Chodzony* and *Łowicz* finale.

For full details on the tour check: <http://pajtoday.blogspot.com> for dates, venues and updates. Information regarding the rebroadcast of the PBS special, *Mazowsze - The Music and Dance of Poland* will also appear on this site.

## MODJESKA! THE ARTIST'S DREAM.

The Helena Modjeska Society and Pol-Mar, recently presented the play — *Modjeska! The Artist's Dream* with two performances at the Chopin Theater in Chicago.

Ewa Boryczko portrayed the extraordinary journey of legendary Polish actress Helena Modrzejewska (Modjeska), who comes to America in 1876 with the dream of performing on the American Stage. Helena Modjeska not only fulfills her dream, but also becomes the most famous star of the American Theater, performing alongside such prominent American actors as Edwin Booth and Maurice Barrymore. This story signifies a pursuit of a lifelong artistic ambition, as well as a search for happiness and redemption.

Contact [EWA@EwaBoryczko.com](mailto:EWA@EwaBoryczko.com) to organize a performance in your area.

**AMERICA'S GOT POLISH TALENT!** The championship-winning ballroom duo **Anna Kaczmarski** and **Patryk Ploszaj** (known as Anna and Patryk to millions of viewers) made their way through the competition of TV's *America's Got Talent* to be voted into the semi-finals of the remaining 10 contestants.

The 12-year-olds have been dancing since they were five and six years old respectively, but they both got their beginnings separately. Patryk learned his first steps in Poland, while Anna, the daughter of Polish immigrants, got her first taste of dancing in New York. At the age of seven, Patryk and his family decided they would relocate to America. In the beginning, the pair didn't dance together, and they went through a few other partners without much success. Finally, they decided to try dancing with one another, and

soon realized their potential.

Over the last four years, they have enjoyed great success in dancing competitions and have won the Nationals for three consecutive years. They also represented the United States twice at the World Championships in Blackpool, England. Unlike many other couples, they dance both Standard and Latin, which includes 10 dances: Slow Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Foxtrot, Quickstep, Cha-Cha, Samba, Rumba, Paso Doble, and Jive.

Getting into *America's Got Talent* has been one of their latest achievements and a pleasant surprise. Patryk's mother Ewa Ploszaj was a dancer in Opole, Poland. "Our dream was that America should see what our children could do," she said. "They've already gone further than our wildest dreams."

The duo train in Maspeth,

Queens, with Józef Palka, who teaches ballroom dancing in a basement of the Holy Cross Church School. "Everything we made we pour into Patryk's training," said Ewa Ploszaj.

"Anna began dancing with me when she was 4," Palka said. "When I saw Patryk dance, I knew he would be perfect for Anna. They're both very disciplined and focused." "Anna is more talkative, more sociable," her mother, Barbara Kaczmarski, said. "Patryk is more thoughtful and quiet. They complete each other."

Their TV journey ended when



**MAZOWSZE** will perform *Rondo a la Krakowiak*, an anniversary tribute to Fryderyk Chopin and an homage to Polish ballet tradition.

they were not voted to the final four. "We're proud of ourselves to be in the top ten," said Anna. "We already feel like winners, we never expected ourselves to make it this far."

Patryk hopes his appearances on national TV will help him "get some girls." Anna wants to parlay her 15 minutes of fame into something bigger: "I would love to be on *Dancing With the Stars!*"



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