

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

ESTABLISHED 1911

www.polamjournal.com

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN CULTURE

October is POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Observing Poland and
Polonia's Contributions to
the United States

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

A Century of Service



Polish American Journal Began as a Polish-Language Paper

Who would have thought the Polish American press—once boasting several hundred publications with a circulation in the hundreds of thousands—would one day be limited to several dozen Polish-language weeklies and about a dozen English-language publications? The change to English was inevitable. The children of first generation immigrants became more interested in happenings in the United States. Their command of the English language slowly surpassed that of the mother tongue. In time, they began to rely less and less on the newspapers and radio shows of their youth for news and information.

Even so, out of a sense of family, community, or church, most remained loyal to their ethnicity. Events in Europe—life behind the Iron Curtain, the election of a Polish pope, the Solidarity movement, a free and democratic Poland—provided and continue to provide fuel for the Polish American press, which offered detailed reporting overlooked by the mainstream media. In the process, many of these “reborn” Polish Americans learned Polonia was still active, and it did the bulk of its business and pleasure in the English language.

ROOTS. The largest wave of Polish immigration to America occurred in the early 20th century. Officially, more than 1.5 million Polish immigrants were processed at Ellis Island, between 1899 and 1931. In addition, many Polish immigrants arrived at the port of Baltimore.

The mining of anthracite coal in North-eastern Pennsylvania drew immigrants to the

cities of Wilkes-Barre, Pittston, Hazelton and Nanticoke in Luzerne County. With the new communities being established around these coalfields came the need for communication about jobs, work safety, news from the homeland, and religious and social events in the area. The roots of the Polish American Journal are planted in this region’s coal dust.

In 1911, an immigrant in Pittston named Ignatius Haduch saw the need for a Polish-language newspaper, and established a weekly aptly named “Zorza” (“The Dawn”). The paper struggled to generate a profit, and in 1913, Haduch moved the paper to Wilkes-Barre, where he continued publication. While more successful in Wilkes-Barre than Pittston, Haduch saw the Polish community of Scranton growing, and in 1918 set up a publishing office in the Farr Building, 137 Adams Avenue.

But Scranton was already home to another Polish newspaper, the “Gornik Pennsylvanski,” established in 1916 by Myron Gunster. The two papers fought for the same subscribers, and in the process, saw losses. By the end of 1919, both were in serious financial shape.

THE DENDE LEGACY. In 1920 John Dende, an educated Polish immigrant in Scranton, who just eight years earlier emigrated from Poland to the U.S., bought the two struggling Polish language weeklies. He combined them and called the hybrid the “Republika-Gornik Pennsylvanski.” Translated into English, the name literally means Republic-Miner of Pennsylvania. The name quite appropriately described the main purpose of the newspaper. It was an ardent fighter for the rights of miners in the Luzerne county and Lackawanna county area.

In 1926 Dende purchased a building at 409 Cedar Avenue where he established a printing shop and published the weekly newspaper. The newspaper was sold in Luzerne county and Lackawanna county and had a total circulation of approximately 600 copies.

John Dende died on December 19, 1944. His 26-year-old son, Henry J. Dende, continued to publish the newspaper and run the printing firm his father had founded. Henry’s 23-year-old brother Richard Dende joined him a month after their father’s death and became a partner in the printing corporation, Dende Press, and co-owner of the “Republika-Gornik Pennsylvanski” as well. Henry J. Dende was the Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper and his brother Richard was the Production Manager. A third brother, Raymond, operated the print shop’s Linotype machine.

CHANGE, GROWTH. On January 14, 1948 the last edition of the “Republika-Gornik Pennsylvanski” was printed. One week later, on January 25, 1948 the weekly newspaper switched to publishing entirely in the English language and appropriately the name was changed to what it is still called at present; the “Polish American Journal.” It was an historical moment in the world of Polish American newspaper publication because it marked the first time that a newspaper in the Polish American press was printed entirely in the English language.

The switch from Polish to English was made because the staff believed that out of the then seven million Americans of Polish ancestry, six million had a good command of the English language. The switch was motivated, in short, by a change in the market.

Other newspapers of the Polish American press printed some sections in the English language, but the Polish American Journal was the first to print in English only.

Editor Dende said that he was criticized by “traditionalist Old World” publishers of the Polish American press. He said they accused him of “muting the Polish heritage in America by pulling out the mother tongue.”

With the language switch, the Polish American Journal was, in effect, explicitly targeting itself to the needs and interests of the second generation Polish American; the person born on American soil from the womb of a Polish immigrant. The switch proved successful and circulation nearly tripled nine months later, reaching 1623.5.

The Polish American Journal was reporting the activities and achievements of Polish American organizations and persons from the entire country, week by week. Most of its subscribers in the late 1940s and early 1950s were from the Luzerne County and Lackawanna County area. There were, however, a small number of subscribers in the major Polish American population centers in the United States, including: Pittsburgh; New York City; Buffalo; Milwaukee; Detroit; Chicago; and Philadelphia. Henry Dende was highly active in Polish American affairs across the country at the time and was thus able to acquaint fellow Polish Americans with his publication.

In the early 1950s a reader of the Polish American Journal, Adam Dluszewski, helped boost circulation and publicize the newspaper in New Jersey and New York. He also wrote, without pay, an opinion column called “It Seems to Adis,” for the Polish American

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CONSUL GENERAL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

Mr. Mark Kohan, Editor
Polish American Journal

Chicago, August 12 2011

Dear Mr. Kohan,

I would like to pass to you my most sincere congratulations with regard to the 100th anniversary of the Polish American Journal.

One hundred years of hard work of documenting the history of Polish Americans in the U.S.A. in 20th and 21st centuries has been an extraordinary achievement. Your commitment and dedication in preserving for future reference most important facts regarding *Polonia* deserves special recognition. The Journal has become one of the most valuable resources necessary to learn and understand the history of the Polish ethnic group and their life in America.

I wish you every success in continuing this important mission and I would be extremely grateful, if you could pass my greetings to all the people who contribute to this wonderful success.

Sincerely,

Zygmunt Matynia
Zygmunt Matynia

1530 North Lake Shore Drive • Chicago, Illinois 60610 • Phone: (312) 337-8166 • Fax: (312) 337-7841



WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON

August 1, 2011

I am delighted to offer my congratulations to the Polish American Journal on their 100th anniversary.

Poles have come to these shores in search of liberty and opportunity for centuries, and their descendants have remained at the forefront of efforts to keep America free, strong, and prosperous. Polish Americans are justifiably proud of their contributions to American history, and they're fortunate to have in the Journal a dedicated chronicle of their triumphs and progress.

From the great Polish-American hero Tadeusz Kosciuszko, who helped our new republic win independence during the Revolutionary War, to my friend and advisor General John Shalikashvili, whom we lost in July, millions of men and women of Polish descent have invested their hopes in America's bold experiment in self-government and have worked hard to ensure its success.

Congratulations to the Polish American Journal for documenting their countless contributions to the strength and quality of our national life.

Bill Clinton

AMBASADA
RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ POLSKIEJ
W WASHINGTONIE
WYDZIAŁ KONSULARNY

EMBASSY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND
CONSULAR DIVISION

Waszyngton, dnia 15 kwietnia 2011 r.

Szanowny Pan Mark Kohan
Redaktor Naczelny
Polish American Journal
P.O. BOX 328
Boston, NY 14025-0328

Szanowny Panie Redaktorze,

Z okazji zbliżającej się setnej rocznicy powstania Polish American Journal, chciałbym przekazać serdeczne gratulacje dla całej Redakcji Miesięcznika. Jednocześnie pragnę wyrazić szacunek dla Państwa pracy, która pełni niezwykle ważną rolę w życiu Amerykanów polskiego pochodzenia. Cieszę się, że wspólnie z Państwem mogę świętować stoletnią rocznicę Waszej działalności.

Wieloletnia praca i zaangażowanie całego Zespołu znacząco wpłynęła na podtrzymanie polskiej tradycji, a także na krzewienie polskiej kultury i wartości, wśród polonijnej społeczności w Stanach Zjednoczonych Ameryki. Pragnę przekazać szczerze wyrazy uznania dla wszystkich, którzy przyczynili się do tej długoletniej działalności pełnej sukcesów.

Utrzymując polskie tradycje i pielęgnując bogatą polską historię, redakcja Miesięcznika buduje solidny fundament dla kolejnych pokoleń Amerykanów o polskich korzeniach. Proszę przyjąć serdeczne życzenia w imieniu Ambasady Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej. Niech świętowana setna rocznica będzie powodem do zadowolenia, a także motywacją do dalszej pracy na rzecz Redakcji.

Z serdecznymi pozdrowieniami i podziękowaniami,

Włodzimierz Sulgowski
Kierownik Wydziału Konsularnego

Włodzimierz Sulgowski
I Radca - Konsul

2224 WYOMING AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20008, TEL. (202) 234-3800, FAX (202) 328-2152

A Century of Service to Polonia and Poland

continued from cover

Journal until 1956, and was the newspaper's biggest advertiser.

Dluszewski, founder and president of the Cook & Dunn Paint Corporation, a multi-million dollar firm based in Newark, N.J., was a powerful and influential Polish American leader. Dluszewski had a dream for the Polish American community, and the Polish American Journal played a small role in the overall plan he envisioned. Dluszewski, in a sense, used the Polish American Journal as one of a number of tools to unite Polish Americans, promote a good image of Polish Americans and their heritage, and in general to raise the status of Polish Americans by organizing them into a collective economic and political power bloc in the New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania regions.

Dluszewski's efforts to raise Polish American awareness resulted in a swell in subscribers. By late 1957, circulation grew to 7450.

Another supporter was Edward Piszek, founder of Mrs. Paul's Kitchens. In 1979, Piszek, perhaps at that time the most powerful and influential leader in the Polish American community, prepared a list of 60,000 potential subscribers for the paper.

THE VOICE OF AMERICAN POLONIA. The Polish American Journal, as a source for information about the Polish American community, is successful to a great degree because of its readers. Since its founding, it has subscribers who contribute news articles and information faithfully each month, and dozens more who send information on a less regular basis. Each month, the news office is stacked with newspaper clippings, photocopies and other information, all sent by readers each month. This somewhat unusual newsgathering process has enabled the Polish American Journal to provide a wide variety of informative and interesting news articles to its readers. Of course, the subscribers aren't the only source of information. Mounds of news releases from Polish American and other organizations pour in as well and find their way, in condensed form, onto the pages of the newspaper.

The Polish American Journal attempts not only to provide raw information but also to promote and perpetuate a positive image of the Polish American heritage. It does this in two ways:

First, it gives evidence that many people, from international elites to common local people, choose to identify themselves as Polish Americans or identify themselves with Polish American-related activities. This serves to encourage the reader to play a bigger role in the Polish American community. It also serves to wipe away any latent insecurities associated with proclaiming oneself as a Polish American. One must consider that it's less troublesome to go through life with a name



MAY 1926. John Dende in his office at the Farr Building in Scranton, Pa., before the newspaper moved to Cedar Avenue.

like Smith than it is to endure the surname Szczypan-ski, Kowalski, or Brzezinski for that matter. Secondly, the Polish American Journal shows its readers, by citing examples, that persons with a name like Brzezinski have, in fact, succeeded.

The brevity of news articles and the variety of information are the key attributes of the Polish American Journal's format. Essentially, information that readers send in is pared down so that the most striking and important facts alone are presented. There are, of course, some lengthy news articles each month.

READERS: THE PAPER'S LIFEBLOOD. Readers of the Polish American Journal play a major role in providing information and in preserving the ethnic purity of the newspaper's character. From this perspective, it is a reader's newspaper.

The Polish American Journal first formally petitioned its readers to collect news articles in the March 19, 1958 issue, and has asked readers to do so ever since.

The paper, in effect, is written by its readers, and specifically, a group referred to as "newsclippers." Each month, almost two dozen dedicated readers clip articles taken from their local newspapers, and mail them to our office. Here, they are sorted by category and then forwarded to the appropriate writers, who in turn, edit this news to share with other readers.

The news articles and information come in many forms and from many sources. Some materials are clipped from newspapers, program bulletins or specialized publications.

And, something that would probably dumbfound Henry Dende, today: more than half of the news arrives here via the internet.

Readers who take the time to clip or e-mail an article and send it to the Polish American Journal, using their own stamps and envelopes, give evidence of the attention with which they read the newspaper and show how important the information is to them.

Polish American Journal readers provide a type of news service that would be difficult to match. There are no news services like the Associated Press or United Press International to serve the Polish American market. Dende realized this when he inquired about the feasibility of enlisting a professional clipping service in the early days of the Polish American Journal, but found that, not only would such a service be too costly, it would not be able to provide the special kind of information his readers did. Professional clippers would have to be trained to recognize Polish surnames. Anglicized and changed names would be nearly undetectable and so too would the ancestry of those people whose ancestry is buried under intermarriage or hidden in the mother's maiden name. Readers of the Polish American Journal are in touch with the type of specialized information the paper needs and have shown themselves quite willing to respond to requests for such information. In short, the newspaper's subscribers provide a newsgathering service which is almost in-duplicable and which ultimately saves the Polish American Journal from financial ruin.

Readers of the Polish American Journal also serve to keep

continued on next page



1926. Staff of the PAJ's Polish-language predecessor, the *Republika-Gornik*, outside the newspaper's office on 409 Cedar Ave. in Scranton, Pa.

In the doorway (behind the girl), is John Dende, the paper's founder, and father of Henry and Richard Dende. Upon John Dende's passing, Henry become the *Gornik's* editor, and Richard its publisher. The men retained their titles when the switch to an all-English-language newspaper was made in 1948. The others in the photo are not identified.

The Dende family were also owners of Dende Press, identified in the window as "Polska Drukarnia," ("Polish Printshop"), which served the area's need for letterhead, business cards, calendars and other stationery.

Blessed with Support of Fraternals

continued from previous page

the contents of the news articles purely ethnic. They do this on a limited basis by verifying the Polish ancestry of newsmakers about whom they decide to inform the newspaper. Often this is a phenomenon that occurs mostly with local newsmakers, i.e., persons who the reader is likely to know personally. What the reader will do in these cases is trace a local newsmaker's lineage to ensure its Polishness. This is particularly helpful in cases where intermarriage has hidden a person's Polish ancestry and in cases in which the original Polish name has been shortened or anglicized.

Perhaps one of the most striking indications of the reader's response to the Polish American Journal is the month-by-month growth of a special crisis fund drive initiated formally by the newspaper in June 1978. Readers would often include an extra dollar or two when renewing their subscription and designate that the money be used to help keep the publication on its feet. Editor Dende finally decided to formally ask subscribers to help out. In June 1978 a two-column boxed petition appeared with the headline, "We Love the Polish American

Journal Press Fund." The Press Fund continues to this day, with money used as originally intended: to cover the rising costs of postage, paper, and supplies; to help with the day-to-expenses associated with running the paper; and to help "balance the books" during months when advertising or circulation renewals are low.

WORKING WITH POLONIA'S FRATERNALS. The Polish American Journal is the official newspaper of three Polish fraternal benefit societies: the Association of the Sons of Poland (Carlstadt, N.J.); The Polish Beneficial Association (Philadelphia); and the Union of Poles in America (Cleveland). The fact that these three fraternals—all of which maintained their own newspapers at one time—chose the Polish American Journal as their official news-bearer indicates, at least, that these organizations found the format and news coverage of the Polish American Journal the most suitable and appropriate of Polish American publications to convey their own philosophy. Part of the philosophy, so to speak, of the Polish fraternals is to promote an appreciation of the Polish heritage. The fate of the Polish American Journal rests in part on the continued vitality of the fraternals.

The first fraternal to contract the Polish American Journal was the Polish Union of the United States of North America in October 1962. At that time, the Wilkes-Barre, Pa. fraternal had nearly 19,000 members in 5,134 families, and each family received a copy. In April 1965, the Polish National Alliance of Brooklyn added 4,273 subscribers to the Polish American Journal mail list. Ironically, the news from this fraternal was initially published in Polish. The PNA of Brooklyn merged with the Polish National Alliance of Chicago in 2007, and those members today receive the PNA's publication.

In 1974, a Chicago edition of the Polish American Journal was established with the help of Windy City Polonia leader Dr. John Kalin. He established the Anglo-Pol Corporation and purchased pages within the Polish American Journal to create a Chicago news section. In 1978, Kalin gave the reins to T. Ronald Jasinski-Herbert. Herbert later broke ties with the Polish American Journal and formed his own publication, "Polonia Today," which in early 2007 merged back into the Polish American Journal fold.

PHILOSOPHY. When asked who he aimed his newspaper toward, to what specific audience or class of readers, Dende said, "I try to provide something for everyone. The common ground I reach, and this must be kept in mind, is that whoever reads my paper is interested in his Polish heritage, and there are many levels of looking at one's roots."

Scholarly reports on ethnicity and the involvement of Poles in World War II as well as reports of polka dance festivals and Polish recipes appear in the newspaper.

Dende saw the Polish American Journal as serving two distinct functions. The first is that of providing a "positive image for Polish Americans to show them how rich their heritage is and that they can be proud to count themselves as members of the Polish ethnic group." The second was providing examples of "positive and constructive things other Polish Americans are

doing with their heritage to promote their heritage."

We follow Dende's successful formula today, but have expanded upon it, using the paper to demonstrate to Polonias across the United States what others are doing in hopes of encouraging them to become active.

One other rule—perhaps the golden rule—is that the paper does not reprint negative news about Polish Americans. This philosophy was established in the late 1980s when the current editor, Mark Kohan, took over the paper. It is from advice given to Kohan from Cornelian Dende, OFM, Conv., brother of Henry Dende, then director of the "Father Justin Rosary Hour." Cornelian Dende explained that like all ethnic groups, Polish Americans are not immune to "bad apples." These people, he said, are the ones who receive all the attention in the mainstream press, so reading about them in the Polish American Journal would be redundant. The Polish Americans who were successful, he said, are the ones who really deserve the attention, but today's media rarely paid attention to stories of this nature, let alone cover the advances of Polish Americans.

This policy, of course, was criticized by some who claimed the paper was trying to "whitewash" Polish and Polish American history. But, as Kohan often illustrates, everyone knows who Ted Kaczynski is and the evil he perpetrated. Very few people know that it was Kaczynski's brother David who had realized it and turned in his brother to the police, a painful—albeit correct—decision to make. David Kaczynski received a \$1 million reward, which he has donated to families of his brother's victims and for legal expenses. "If you have to ask which Kaczynski brother's story needs to be told, this is probably not the newspaper for you," said Kohan.

THE FUTURE. The changes in media and in particular the newspaper business, have been astonishing. (See this month's "Just Between Us"). Fortunately, the Polish American Journal has a devoted base of readers who support the paper and its advertisers.

New subscribers, however, are the key to any successful newspaper. In years past, the Polish American Journal has absorbed the circulation of smaller newspapers and magazines that were going out of business. Kohan said he does not like to see the "thinning of the herd," but acknowledges such decisions do boost the Polish American Journal's circulation.

"It's sad to see a paper that has been around for decades fold, but from a purely economic perspective, it makes more sense for a larger paper like the Journal service their subscribers. We can do it more efficiently and effectively," he said.

He hopes the publishers of sister newspapers consider this option before closing shop. "There is a need to keep our Polonias connected, not matter how small. That (smaller) paper may have been reaching out to the one person, who down the road can make a real difference."

In addition to mailings and special offers, the Polish American Journal makes full use to technology to reach potential subscribers. This includes the paper's website, where anyone can view selected articles from current and past editions of the paper. The site also has a library which contains a wealth of articles and stories on Polish and Polish American history. The paper also has a page on the most popular social media site "Facebook."

Even though it is one of the largest, independent Polish American newspapers left, the Polish American Journal is not immune to changes in the market. The paper, like most Polonian publications, survives on a very limited budget. "The late Stan Franczyk used to call Polish newspaper publishers, editors, and writers masochists," said Kohan. "To a point, he is right, but we consider ourselves very lucky to be able to do something we love. As long as we have the subscription and advertising base to do so, we will keep publishing the paper."

Although there is no substitute for the real thing, the paper, its subscribers, advertisers and other sponsors have created a virtual community to replace the physical, geographical Polish communities of decades ago.

AND WITH THAT comes a sense of responsibility to keep alive the heritage and culture of Poles and their ancestors in the New World, one the Polish American Journal and its staff take seriously, and one that will last for years to come.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHARON DENDE-HARRINGTON

JANUARY 25, 1948. The first edition of the *Polish American Journal* printed entirely in the English language—the first Polish American newspaper to make the switch from Polish. The Polish American Journal was successor to the *Republika-Gornik*, a weekly printed entirely in Polish.

Editorial and printing shop staff at Dende Press, Inc. included Dende brothers Henry (left, with pipe) editor; Richard (holding first English edition) publisher; and Raymond (2nd row, center), Linotype operator.

THE CHANCERY

DIOCESE OF BUFFALO
795 MAIN STREET
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BISHOP EDWARD M. GROSZ, D.D., V.G.
Auxiliary Bishop, Catholic Diocese of Buffalo
Vicar



February 1, 2011

Mr. Mark Kohan
Editor
Polish American Journal
P.O. Box 328
Boston, N.Y. 14025-0328

Dear Mr. Kohan:

I wish to extend to you and to all the staff of the "Polish American Journal", my best wishes on the occasion of the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of your publication.

Through the years, your publication has contributed much to the preservation of Polonia, as well as the preservation and continuance of Polish American Culture.

I pray that the Lord Jesus will continue to richly bless your every endeavor in the future.

May Our Lady of Czestochowa, Queen of the Polish people, keep you and all the staff of the Journal under her protective mantle.

Devotedly yours,

Edward M. Grosz
Bishop Edward M. Grosz, D.D., V.G.
Auxiliary Bishop
Diocese of Buffalo



Godzina Różańcowa O. Justyna • P.O. Box 454 • Athol Springs, NY 14010
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August 3, 2011

Polish American Journal
P.O. Box 328
Boston, NY 14025-0328

Dear Mark

Congratulations on the 100th anniversary of the Polish American Journal. The Archives of the Fr. Justin Rosary Hour countless lists articles and photographs of the Polish American Journal in publishing news of the happenings at the Radio Program as far back as the 1930's. The Rosary Hour Family, which celebrates almost 80 years of broadcasts and promotes evangelism among the many Americans of Polish tradition, has had the joy of following these Polish traditions throughout the years, thanks to the efforts of the many reporters and writers who have travelled these roads together. The Polish community has been enriched by your publication. We celebrate sharing our journey through Polonia for decades of Polish immigration. Because of your publication, the sharing of the rich Polish traditions contribute to a vibrant and varied America. We wish you God Speed in your efforts.

Fr. Marcel Sokalski, OFMConv. and the Rosary Hour Family

Marcel Sokalski, OFMConv.

The Association of the Sons of Poland
333 Hackensack Street
Carlstadt, New Jersey 07072

Our sincerest congratulations on your 100th Anniversary as the leading Polish American newspaper in the United States. We are grateful to have you serve as our House Organ. Our members send our countless letters and messages thanking us for using your paper as our House Organ and tell us how much they appreciate the articles, not only for their content but also for the caliber of their information. As a Fraternal Society, our need is to reach out to our membership with society information and we appreciate the abilities of our editor, Larry Wroblewski, to cover all our information and fulfill our requests with ease. Our gratitude extends to the entire PAJ family and especially to the head, the Editor-in-Chief, Mark Kohan who responds to requests or questions at a moment's notice. We wish you continued success in your service to our Polish American community and especially to the membership of the Association of the Sons of Poland.

**The Officers, Directors and Members of
The Association of the Sons of Poland**



POLISH WOMEN'S ALLIANCE OF AMERICA

February 15, 2011

Mr. Mark Kohan, Editor
The Polish American Journal
Box 328
Boston, NY 14025-0328

Dear Mr. Kohan,

A Century—one hundred years—is a long time for a historian to write about. In the case of *The Polish American Journal*, especially all of its predecessors, from the very first, *Zorza* (The Dawn), to *The Polish American Voice*, the historian is the successive Editor of the publication for 10 million Polish Americans. As we review the pages of *The Polish American Journal*, under any name, we can identify one theme: *The Journal* is the repository of news and information about the ethnic group we identify as the American Polonia.

What a gem! What a treasure! What a rich depository of Polish American history, of Polish American religious, spiritual, cultural, intellectual, educational, and business achievements in these past 100 years. One can easily sit down to imagine the traditional "blood, sweat, and tears" that marked the pages of *The Journal*. One can easily identify the difficult journalistic effort that was required for every issue of *The Journal*. One can easily see the product of how much dedication, sacrifice, and hard work went into every issue of *The Journal*.

As the National President of the Polish Women's Alliance of America, I am fully aware of what a decision and move it is to continue publishing a fraternal official organ. The PWA is also celebrating the 100th anniversary of our paper, *Głos Polek - The Women's Voice*.

Every editor of *The Journal* deserves grateful recognition for his/her work and effort to continue the rich tradition that *The Polish American Journal* represents.

Yes, we, the American Polonia, do congratulate *The Polish American Journal* and all of its Editors and members of the paper's staff who have labored so diligently and faithfully to continue publication of *The Journal* for 100 years.

Thank you all, and may God continue to bless you as you enter a new century, a new opportunity to continue to be the "history reporter" of the American Polonia. We are grateful to you. Thank you. Bog zaplac.

Sincerely,

Virginia Sikora

Virginia Sikora
National President



GREETINGS:

It gives me great pleasure to join with the Polish American community in Pennsylvania to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the *Polish American Journal*.

I am greatly encouraged by our growing national trend toward the appreciation and celebration of our diverse heritage. Maintaining a sense of distinctive identity and a united community has become more important than ever, as more new Americans continue to arrive from overseas and the swift tide of globalization challenges their native language and traditions. We must strive to nourish this rich cultural diversity, for it is the very thing that makes our American freedoms of expression and association so extraordinary.

As Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and on behalf of all Pennsylvanians, I congratulate everyone involved with the success of the *Polish American Journal*. Best wishes for another century of success!

Tom Corbett
TOM CORBETT
Governor
October 2011

CSIS Center for Strategic and International Studies 1800 K Street, NW Washington, DC 20006

Dear Polish American Journal:

At its 100th anniversary, the Polish American Journal stands out as an essential forum for the Polish community in the United States. In supporting, uniting, and giving voice to Poles across America over the course of the 20th and 21st centuries, the Polish American Journal has stayed committed to its mission of reinforcing the bonds between Poles new and old. Throughout this tremendously volatile century, men and women of Polish descent have continually served the United States with ardor and commitment, with millions of Polish immigrants helping to build and protect the United States. In turn, the relationship between America and Poland has grown and strengthened, with an active Polish-American community contributing to the re-establishment of Poland itself and subsequently to the success of Poland's Solidarity movement. This mutually beneficial relationship – supported by the superb work of publications like the Polish American Journal – has resulted in Poland's rise to leadership in Central Europe and in Polish-Americans enjoying, to an unprecedented degree, the fruits of the American Dream.

With congratulations for one hundred years of service and success,

Zbigniew Brzezinski
Counselor and Trustee



SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS SEMINARY

— ESTABLISHED 1885 —

A PRESTIGIOUS CENTER FOR CATHOLIC FORMATION, ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, AND MINISTRY TO AMERICAN POLONA
3535 INDIAN TRAIL * ORCHARD LAKE, MI * 48324-1623 * (248) 683-0310

www.sscms.edu

Mr. Mark Kohan
The Polish American Journal
P.O. Box 328
Boston, New York 14025-0328

Dear Mr. Kohan,

Please accept my personal words of congratulations as well as those of the entire community of SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, Michigan on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the *Polish American Journal*. As you yourself stated your paper has been "the Polish immigrant's logbook ... documenting virtually every major event in the history of 20th and 21st century Polish Americana". Your newspaper has provided an invaluable service to Polonia and has helped to ensure her growth in the United States. Throughout the years you have shared the history and life of SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary with Polonia and for that I am very grateful to you. I and all of Polonia look forward to your continued success in the years ahead.

Asking the Lord to bless you and all your co-workers and commending you to the maternal care of Our Lady of Czestochowa, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Thomas C. Machalski
Very Reverend Canon Thomas C. Machalski, M.Div., M.S.Ed., J.C.L.
Rector-President of SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary
Vice-Chancellor/Chancellor-Elect of the Orchard Lake Schools

Duke University Box 90555 Durham, N.C. 27708

Mark,

Congratulations on the 100th Anniversary of the Polish American Journal! I applaud you, your team and your predecessors for the job they have done over this century to chronicle the many accomplishments of Polish Americans over the last 100 years. It is remarkable how you have been able to keep our Polish heritage alive through the many stories of great Polish Americans who have accomplished so much during this past 100 years. I certainly applaud you for your efforts.

As a proud Polish American I am in awe of the many accomplishments of my fellow countrymen. To read about them makes my chest expand with pride knowing that I share a common bond with all of them. All of us are so very fortunate that our ancestors were brave, hardworking and courageous people. It helps all of us as we move on to read about the accomplishments of Polish Americans during the last century. Thank you so very much for all your hard work. I cannot wait to see what happens in the next 100 years!

My Best Always,

Mike Krzyzewski

Putting Faces to the Names

A Sampling of Past and Present Staff and Contributors



JOHN BUKOWCZYK
Contributing Editor



REV. LEONARD CHROBOT
Contributing Editor



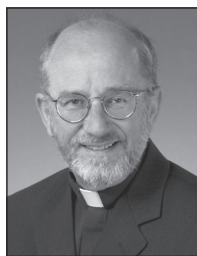
GERALDINE BALUT COLEMAN
Chicago Bureau



FLORENCE CLOWES
Book Review Editor



BILL FALKOWSKI
Editor and columnist



BENJAMIN FIORE, S.J.
Religion Editor



DAVE FRANCZYK
Editor and Columnist



STAN FRANCZYK
Columnist



JAGA URBAN KLAHN
Columnist



STAŚ KMIEĆ
Culture and Travel Editor



SOPHIE HODOROWICZ KNAB
Folklore Editor



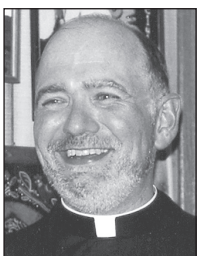
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Editor-in-Chief



LYDIA KORDALEWSKI
Miami Bureau



ROBERT KOZLOWSKI
Columnist



REV. CZESLAW KRYSA
Contributing Editor



STEVE LITWIN
Polka Magazine Editor



CHRISTOPHER MISZAL
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Contributing Editor



MICHAEL PIETRUSZKA
Columnist



ED PINKOWSKI
Contributing Writer



BARB PINKOWSKI
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EDWARD PONIEWAZ
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RICHARD POREMSKI
Washington Bureau



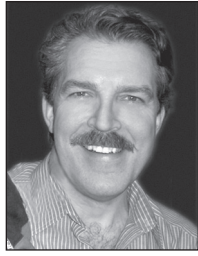
JAMES PULA
Columnist



ARLENE STAMER
Advertising Director



ROBERT STRYBEL
Warsaw Bureau



TOM TARAPACKI
Sports Editor



LARRY TROJAK
Proofreader, Contributing Editor



JENNIFER MOSKAL-TROWBRIDGE
Columnist



LARRY WROBLEWSKI
Senior Associate Editor

There have been many volunteer news columnists in the Polish American Journal's history. These people wrote columns voluntarily, without pay, or with a small stipend to cover postage and other costs.

From 1949 to 1958 Francis A. Pawlowski wrote "This is Cleveland." From 1956 to 1963 Stanley Franczyk wrote "Buffalo News." From 1948 to 1956 Adam Dluszewski wrote "It Seems to Adis." From 1964 to 1972 Dr. Charles Ronk wrote "Hollywood News and Views." Stanley Malinowski, wrote "Pole Sportlite" from 1964 until 1976, when he died.

Many other volunteers have and still write for the Polish American Journal.

Among them are: Stan Bednarczyk, Barb Benkowski, Stan Biernacik, Maryann Buzinski, Leonard Chrobot, Geraldine Balut-Coleman, Edward Dybicz, Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk, William Falkowski, Basia Frackiewicz, David Franczyk, Linda Gomulka, Dr. John Grondelski, Daniel Haskin, Jadwiga Urban-Klahn, Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab, Lydia Kordalewski, Richard Kozacko, Robert J. Kozlowski, Dr. Eugene Kusielewicz, Mary Ann Marko, Anthony Murawski, Martin Nowak, Dr. Eugene Obidinski, Michael Pietruszka, Barbara Pinkowski, Edward Pinkowski, Ed Poniewaz, Richard Poremski, James Pula, John Radzilowski, Paulette Kulbacki-Rath, Ellye Slusarczyk, Dorothy Staszewski, Jennifer Moskal-Trowbridge, Diane Rogodzinski-Winiarz, and Larry Wroblewski, who is also the Senior Associate Editor.

A writer with serious tenure is Steve Litwin of Binghamton, N.Y., editor of the "Polka Magazine"

section of the paper. Litwin began writing a column for the paper in 1984, and became editor of the polka pages in 1988.

Another long-time writer is Fr. Benjamin Fiore, S.J., who edits the paper's Religion column. Like Fr. Fiore, Florence Waszkelewicz-Clowes has been a book reviewer at the Polish American Journal since the mid-1980s, Tom Tarapacki has been the PAJ's sports editor for over twenty-five years, and Stas Kmiec has been both Culture and Travel editor for over twenty years.

Perhaps the longest relationship the Polish American Journal has had with any one writer is with Robert Strybel, whose reports from Poland date back to the Dende era and Strybel's years as a college student in Poland, where the Hamtramck native eventually settled and still lives today.

WELCOME MAGDA! With this edition, the Polish American Journal is proud to announce the addition of **Magdalena Rybkowska** to its staff. She will serve as a copy editor.

Magda lives near Szczecin, Poland. She finished English Philology at Szczecin University and English at Hogskolan Dalarna in Sweden.

Magda wrote both of her MA's in American Literature, which is her biggest interest.

"I absolutely love to explore new topics and theories in literature, apart from reading for pleasure," she says.



Founding Fathers

by Marc K. Blackburn

HENRY DENDE was born on October 21, 1918 in Scranton, Pa., to John and Mary Dende. In 1936, Dende attended Alliance College, a predominantly Polish junior college in Cambridge Springs, Pa. While attending Alliance he became the editor of the school newspaper, *Glos Studencki*. Upon graduating in 1938 with an associate's degree, Dende received a grant from the Polish embassy to attend the University of Poland in Warsaw where he studied journalism. Unfortunately, his visit was cut short, as the German Army advanced toward Warsaw in September of 1939. Dende continued his education at the University of Scranton, where in 1941 he earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and publishing.

Dende served in the United States Army during War World II from 1942 to 1945. In 1944, upon the death of his father, John, Henry Dende became the editor and *Republika Gornik*. His brother, Richard, became its first publisher. Four years later, in 1948, they reorganized the paper, renaming it the *Polish American Journal*, and substituting English for the Polish language. By changing language formats, the Dendes were able to widen his circulation to a larger and more diverse audience, ensuring the survival of his publication at a time when many ethnic newspapers were dying off.

In the 1960s Henry Dende made another major change to maintain and expand circulation. He began publishing Polish fraternal editions under the *Polish American Journal's* masthead, often replacing the organizations' own newspapers. By the early 1980s Dende published six regional and fraternal editions of the *Journal*.

After taking over from his father in 1944, Henry Dende continued as editor for forty years. When he retired in 1983, the *Polish American Journal* was sold to Panagraphics Incorporated of Buffalo, New York. However, Dende has remained a contributing editor and the fraternal organization editor.

Beginning in the 1950s Dende became active in the Polish Union of the United States of North America, serving on the board of direc-



HENRY DENDE

organizations are on the decline.

As a civic leader Dende has fulfilled many functions, primarily with the Scranton School Board, serving as a member and president of the board from 1951 to 1969. His major achievement while with the school board was establish-

ing a sound vocational-technical education program in the Scranton area. Dende maintained that a vocational-technical school would not only provide career training for the young people of Scranton but would also create a pool of skilled workers which could be utilized as an incentive to attract industry to the Scranton area. A vocational-technical school opened in Scranton in 1958, but Dende continued to lobby for a district wide vocational-technical curriculum. After losing his bid for re-election to the school board in 1970, Dende became the chairman of the citizen's advisory board. In recognition of Dende's steadfast efforts to establish a vocational-technical education program in Scranton, the new vocational-technical center was named in his honor in 1984.

Dende did not limit his services to the school board but was also involved in a number of other local and national organizations. He was president of the Scranton Philharmonic Orchestra for four terms, from 1957 to 1961, and helped save the ailing organization from bankruptcy. In politics, Dende was active in the Democratic party both locally and nationally. In 1952, 1956, 1960 and 1964 Dende was elected as an alternative delegate to the national Democratic party conventions. He also served in the Nationalities Division of the Democratic party, where he worked to enhance the

Polish American voice within the party. Dende was also very active in anti-defamation activities during the 1970s, using his position as editor of the *Polish American Journal* to speak out against the then popular Polish joke and on other issues which he saw as denigrating to the Polish people and culture.

Henry J. Dende died January 29, 2001.

JOHN DENDE was born in Russian Poland in the village of Serock on January 23, 1885. He graduated from a teacher's college in Pultusk, Poland and served as an officer in the Russian army before he emigrated to the United States in the first decade of the twentieth century. After settling in Scranton, Dende owned and operated a small bakery from 1912 to 1918. In addition to the bakery, he also bought two small Polish language newspapers, and merged them into what became *Republika Gornik*. John Dende was editor and publisher of this publication until his death in 1944. As



Gomulka Cites Kennedy

HENRY DENDE took great pride in his work in the Polish American community. In 1961 he was invited to the White House to meet with President Kennedy.

a Polish immigrant, Dende utilized the paper as a forum to discuss news and issues pertaining to the Polish community. An example of Dende's commitment to Polish issues was provided during World War I, when he was actively involved in recruiting Poles for service in Europe.

John Dende was active in a number of national Polish fraternal organizations. He was a president of District 5 of the Polish Falcons as well as president of District 12 of the Polish National Association. At the local level, Dende was the founder of the American Political Federation of Lackawanna County, a lobbying organization for Polish American interests. Another organization in which Dende played a key role was the Polish Catholic Parish Committee Association. This group was founded in 1937 by Dende and a small group of other concerned Polish Americans as a means to voice their grievances over the direction of local church policy. In the mid-1930s the Bishop co-adjutor of the Scranton Diocese, Rev. William J. Hafey, attempted to integrate the various Polish parishes into the mainstream church. Among other actions, Hafey wanted to cancel the traditional midnight mass on Christmas eve, which unleashed a wave of criticism from the local Polish population. The association leveled a number of charges at the diocese, including the non-recognition of priests trained at the Orchard Lake Seminary, Michigan, a predominantly Polish American school, and the unbalanced financial relationship with the Scranton diocese (i.e. the church was extracting large sums of money from the various Polish churches but giving little in return).

John Dende died December 10, 1944.



NATIONAL KATYN MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Post Office Box 25720
Baltimore, Maryland 21224-9999
United States of America
www.KatynBaltimore.com

August 29, 2011

Dear Editor Kohan and Staff,

On behalf of the officers and membership of the National Katyn Memorial Foundation, please accept our sincerest congratulations on the 100th Anniversary of the *Polish American Journal*.

Your superb service, broad cultural coverage, and extensive news reporting to the American Polonia are without equal.

We are especially grateful to the PAJ for enabling the ongoing remembrance and ennoblement of the Polish Martyrs of the Katyn Forest Massacre, who are duly honored by the National Katyn Memorial here in Baltimore.

From us all, with our deepest respect and true admiration,

Godspeed and Sto Lat! to the PAJ,

Richard P. Poremski
Chairman

William Krol
Secretary

THE UNION OF POLES IN AMERICA

A Division of

THE POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE

9999 Granger Road
Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125
216 478-0120 Fax 216 478-0122

To: The Polish American Journal

From: David G. Milcinovic
Vice President of the Union Of Poles in America
Division of the Polish National Alliance

RE: 100 year anniversary

Dear Polish American Journal,

Congratulations on your 100th. year anniversary of printing this outstanding newspaper. We at the Union of Poles in America division of the Polish National Alliance have been publishing our news paper the *Kuryer*, with the Polish American Journal for the past 30 or more years.

With all the changes in our Nation, news papers closing or merging, it is great to celebrate this occasion with you.

The Polish American Journal, the nation's largest independent English-language monthly dedicated to the Polish community in North America.

We Thank you for dedication and commitment.

Sincerely and Fraternally yours;

David G. Milcinovic
Vice President of the Union of Poles/Polish Nation Alliance

September 1, 2011

Mr. Mark Kohan, Editor
Polish American Journal

Dear Mr. Kohan:

The officers and members of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) take great pleasure in addressing this letter to the Polish American Journal, the largest, independent monthly publication dedicated to the Polonia in the United States, on the occasion of its historic 100th Anniversary. We offer our heartiest congratulations and best wishes for continued successes. Next year we will have to alter the traditional "Sto Lat" anniversary song for the Journal's robust health into the next century!

The ACPC, founded 63 years ago, acts as a national federation of Polish cultural organizations located throughout the United States. In addition to individual members in virtually every State in the Union, the Council enjoys the strong backing of 21 affiliate Polonian organizations from 14 States and the District of Columbia. It also has the rich support of 13 eminent Polonian Institutions in the U.S.

To what can the ACPC attribute its longevity of over six decades, its popularity and recognition? Credit in this respect must be given, for example, to the Council's numerous scholarships (\$5,000 Pulaski Advanced Studies; \$2,000 Studies in Poland; \$3,000 Skalny for Polish Studies; \$1,500 Sembrich Vocal Competition), lead Polonia role in National Conferences of Social Studies, annual conventions held in nearly every major city in the U.S., in Poland and Canada, and to the creativity and dedication of its leadership. The impact and influence of all these efforts, moreover, is boosted dynamically by the endless spread of such accounts by renowned publications like the *Polish American Journal* that reach into countless homes across the country to inform, educate and entertain Polish Americans, young and old! We urge all Polish Americans to subscribe to influential and highly informative Polish-American newspapers like the *Journal* to increase their knowledge of Polish history, traditions, culture and Poland's considerable contributions to society in this world.

A big thank you to the Polish American Journal for inspiring and boosting the efforts of the American Council for Polish Culture and all Polonian organizations!

With our very best regards,
Deborah M. Majka
President

P.S. The ACPC will be holding its 64th Annual Convention, July 18-22, 2011 in Williamsburg, VA. During the Convention we will dedicate a historical marker honoring the hardy Poles who came to Capt. John Smith's Jamestown Colony in 1608. Further information about the Convention and about ACPC membership can be found at www.polishculture.org.



RICHARD DENDE

own newspapers. By the early 1980s Dende published six regional and fraternal editions of the *Journal*.

After taking over from his father in 1944, Henry Dende continued as editor for forty years. When he retired in 1983, the *Polish American Journal* was sold to Panagraphics Incorporated of Buffalo, New York. However, Dende has remained a contributing editor and the fraternal organization editor.

Beginning in the 1950s Dende became active in the Polish Union of the United States of North America, serving on the board of direc-

tors and later as president of the organization. The Polish Union is an ethnic, fraternal benefit society, providing its members with life insurance at a relatively low cost. Under Dende's leadership the organization has remained financially solvent at a time when many ethnic fraternal



THE DENDE BROTHERS demonstrated a devotion to Polonia in all their callings. Fr. Cornelian Dende, OFM, Conv., was director of the *Father Justin Rosary Hour* for 37 years, and the recipient of numerous honors from Poland. He is pictured above visiting the PAJ offices in 1991. (l. to r.): Art Director Christopher Myszal, Fr. Dende, Editor Mark Kohan, and Office Manager Carolyn Szczepanski.

and nationally. In 1952, 1956, 1960 and 1964 Dende was elected as an alternative delegate to the national Democratic party conventions. He also served in the Nationalities Division of the Democratic party, where he worked to enhance the



THIS PAGE SPONSORED BY



POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE begins its 26th year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. For information call 732-680-0680 or visit our website: PolishChildrensHeartline.org.

"If we don't help our Polish children, who will?"

Ronald Syslo, President

POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE, INC.

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177 Broadway
Clark, NJ 07066

JUST BETWEEN US / Suzanne Strempek Shea

Labors of Love

Writers like when assignments aren't too specific, when they allow us to choose our own subjects or angles and make the story more our own. Mark Kohan's recent email asking me to contribute to the Polish American Journal's 100th anniversary edition was just that type of assignment.

"Oh Suzanna," Mark wrote, "Feel like penning something for the PAJ's 100th? Doesn't have to be too long, just some reflection or thought you may have on anniversaries or things Polish."

I immediately said yes, and, just as immediately, I knew what I'd write. He won't know that until he receives it, but I'm going to write about Mark.

He might balk at printing this piece, but I'm hoping he'll hear my plea to publish it. Because, to me, Mark is the Polish American Journal.

Sure, he's the editor-in-chief, the man behind every issue, giving the above-mentioned assignments, keeping everything on deadline, making sure the news hole is filled with informative and interesting stories, worrying about ad sales, checking subscription numbers, and thinking up new ways to keep the community connected through a publication that's served it for a century of change. There's all that work, and that list is just for starters, as anyone who's been in the publishing world knows. But the thing that makes him remarkable is a spirit that has been essential to keeping this newspaper lively, and one that is crucial to keeping it alive.

I FIRST ENCOUNTERED that spirit in person in the late 1990s, over slices of cake enjoyed following a reading I did at the soon-likely-to-be-shuttered Cheektowaga Borders. I was excited about the opportunity to meet the man who, since the first of my eight books, "Selling the Lite of Heaven," was published in 1994, had done so

much to help spread the word. Getting to chat with Mark and enjoy his humor and heart firsthand was wonderful. I remember sitting there feeling that we could have grown up together. He was from hundreds of miles to the northwest of



The editor credits his family — foremost his maternal grandparents, Mary and Adam Winkowski — for his passion for all things Polish.

my Western Massachusetts home, but we were from the same world of ritual, music and food, and of languages both Polish and Polish-American insider. We clicked as instantly as if we'd been a desk row apart in Sister Lugoria's third grade classroom all those years ago, or waiting for our music lessons — mine accordion — on Mrs. Dranka's sunporch. I felt I'd long known

him, and now I've actually known him a long time and am proud to say I do.

AS A FORMER NEWSPAPER REPORTER, I can be partial to many in the business, but what takes my admiration for Mark to another level is that he's someone of my generation who's devoted so much of his work life to making sure this newspaper, this vessel of Polish-American news and pride, sails to serve his son's generation. With each issue, Mark manages to tuck in some reminder of the ways we can keep our culture strong, or build it up where it might have become a bit thin. He suggests ways to start conversations with elders, reminds us of holiday traditions we might observe, notes that if we don't attend cultural events, they'll soon disappear. He offers inspiration to connect us to the roots that are what bring us to read and revere this publication. And all this comes from a man who's just at the half-century mark, with plenty of time ahead of him to continue this important work.

Very often, the generation he and I are from is criticized for leaving behind the rich heritage our grandparents or parents brought from the old country. In publishing this touchstone to our culture, and never forgetting to urge us to celebrate where we've come from and who we are, Mark is a solid illustration that all is not yet lost.

"The grandson remembers what the father forgets," he told the music-industry publication *Billboard* in 1996 (let us not forget that Mark was leader of the Steel City Brass for 30 years and is a member of the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame).

That grandson Mark has not forgotten from where his grandfather came, and from whom he himself came. And we and our community, including this one grateful writer, are all the richer for his work and his spirit.

THE EDITOR'S DESK / Mark Kohan

Rolling with the Changes

I have been working at the PAJ since April 1982, and have been its editor since 1989. The changes I have witnessed since my start here have been mind-boggling. In 1982, we were on the edge of technology, setting type with what were then called "phototypesetters." For how fancy that sounds, the first machines generated just one sentence at a time on a thin photographic paper. The next generation gave us galleys, or columns of type. Even when this advanced to setting full, multiple-column pages of type, photographs still had to be sent out to an engraver, who returned half-tones, or print-ready images, which we cut and pasted (with X-acto knives and hot wax!) onto mechanicals, which were then taken to the printer's pre-press department. There, negatives were burned, which were then burned onto printing plates, which made their way to the presses.

The names and addresses of our subscribers were stored in small, metal plates, similar to dog tags. These were placed in a huge, metal Addressograph machine, and each paper was slid through and stamped with the address plate.

We would spend days packing and sorting the addressed papers. Bundles and bags of papers were then hauled to the post office, and empty bags were reloaded for the next month's edition.

Today, things are done in a considerably different manner: everything is done on computers. The paper is written, composed, and sent to the printer on one machine. Another

handles our subscription list. Files are generated, which are sent to the pre-press and mailing departments. As the paper rolls off the press, it is pre-sorted by Zip Code and USPS mail zones, addressed, and bundled for delivery. What once took a week to do is now done in hours.

The newspaper business is a tough one, as you all know. Many of us now get our news from the internet or a Dick Tracy-like device we carry in our pocket. While information is the product, there is something to be said about the printed page. To most of us who grew up in the pre-digital age, there is no substitute for thumbing through a paper, magazine or book on a rainy day.

Technology may shrink the newspaper market, but it will never completely replace it. There will always be people who want to read the news the "good, old-fashioned" way. This demand has created a niche market, i.e., a market aimed at satisfying specific needs, price range, production quality, and demographics not addressed by mainstream providers. Sounds like the PAJ? You bet!

We have witnessed monumental changes in the past 100 years, but one constant has been a commitment to giving our readers the best we can offer. As we begin our second century of service, we pledge to continue our mission: a dedication to the promotion and continuance of Polish American culture. We know you expect it of us, and anything less would be unfair to you, the hundreds of thousands of subscribers

we have had over the years, to ourselves, and to the culture we strive to maintain and uphold.

THANK YOU! The names of people who have been part of the *Polish American Journal* family since its inception would fill a telephone book. As part of our anniversary observances, we thought of listing all who have contributed in some way to the paper's success.

The list included writers, advertisers, newscippers, subscribers who have been with us for decades, leaders in fraternal, social, political, religious, and other circles. When the list started numbering over 500, we realized "maybe this isn't such a good idea after all."

While tacit thanks are no substi-

tute for the real thing, we want you all to know how much we appreciate your support. Thank you, and may God bless you.

GIVING BACK. In appreciation of the support we have received for our anniversary, and to help get the word out about the PAJ, we've decided to offer free one-year subscriptions to public libraries. If you think your local branch would appreciate (and share) a subscription to the PAJ, send us the name of the library, address, and contact person. We will give away ten free subscriptions. This will be on a first-come, first-serve basis, so send the information in ASAP. Polish and Polish American libraries are also eligible for this special offer.

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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.

"With each tick of the timeclock, the past receded, the accent softened, the English improved, and to one degree or another the mass of Polish immigrants put on America and shed the Old World."

— Verlyn Klinkenborg,
The Last Fine Time

- 1 1608. First Poles arrive in America aboard the *Mary & Margaret* to work as skilled craftsmen at settlement in Jamestown.
- 3 1923. Birth of symphonic orchestra leader **Stanislaw Skrowaczewski**.
- 4 **ST. FRANCIS**
Po Swietym Franciszku, chodzi bydlo po ousisku. After Saint Francis Day, cattle are tended on the oats field.
- 5 1983. **Lech Walesa** awarded Nobel Peace Prize.
1938. Death of **Blessed Faustyna Kowalska**.
- 8 1960. U.S. stamp issued to honor **Ignacy Jan Paderewski**.
- 9 1435. Death of **Pawel Wlodkowic**, model for Shakespeare's Polonius (Hamlet).
- 10 1899. Death of **Mother Angela Truszkowska** (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**, 34, Polish-born American patriot, who died from battle wounds suffered at Savannah, Georgia.
- 12 1840. Birth of **Helena Modrzejewska**, Polish American stage actress, in Krakow, Poland.
- 15 **ST. HEDWIG**
Sw. Jadwiga, jesli deszcz nie pada, To do kapusty Pan Bog miodunada. On St. Hedwig's, if it's not raining God grants honey to the cabbage.
- 16 1978. Cardinal **Karol Wojtyla**, 58, named Pope John Paul II.
- 17 1777. Americans win crucial Revolutionary War Battle of Saratoga. Victory is credited in large to engineering feats of **Tadeusz Kosciuszko**.
- 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.
- 24 1795. **Third Partition** of Poland.
- 26 1946. Birth of television game-show "Wheel of Fortune" host **Pat Sajak**.
- 28 1824. Birth of the founder of the first permanent Polish settlement in the United States at Pan-na Maria, Texas, **Fr. Leopold Bonaventura Moczygamba**.
- 29 1611. Hetman **Stefan Zolkiewski** returns to Warsaw from conquering the Muscovites brings with him the captured Czar.

This paper mailed on or before September 30. The November 2011 edition will be mailed on or before October 28, 2011.

TRAVELOGUE / Staś Kmiec

Peasants' Fare fit for a King

Part XXVI

A dramatic sunset washed across the skies as I took the short stroll to my destination. Passing enclaves that sold everything from Italian gelato to replicas of Tamara de Lempicka paintings, I took in the excitement of Kraków at night. I stood before the entryway at 9 Grodzka Street and saw the familiar sign and placard beckoning me in. I passed through the outdoor hall into an open-air foyer. As it was November, there was no activity in the outer area. It was dark and desolate; benches were stacked on tables and the signature welcoming monk figure looked like a haunted ghoul. A spot of light emanated from a distant doorway to the right and pinpointed the entry. Passing through this ghost town, I entered and followed the narrow stone spiral stairs

to the place... *Chlopskie Jadło*.

Once past the doors I witnessed an array of sights, sound and aroma. It was as if I had ventured into a hidden speakeasy during the Prohibition era. Such life out of such emptiness! It was sensory overload, and now my taste buds were waiting to be served. I was led past the many rooms of this restaurant phenomenon, through an empty room to what seemed to be the lowest cellar area. I was the only person seated in this room with no one in the adjacent room a stairway above. I was told that a tourist group from the United States was expected. This was not a problem as the isolation would allow me to freely write in my notebook and take photos.

Chlopskie Jadło (Peasants' Fare) was a runaway hit in Kraków and it was only a matter of time before

their winning formula arrived in other cities. As the name suggests, hearty, rustic dishes are served in a folk-style atmosphere reminiscent of the historical houses of rich Polish peasants. The surroundings have an ephemeral and mirage-like ambience — the décor, ornamented with genuine artifacts, old stoves, fire places, wooden benches and tables, is styled to resemble cottage houses from XIXth century. There is even a bed with headboard, backboard and hanging *pierzyny* (goose-feathered duvet quilts) fashioned as a seating booth, and a cozy sleigh table setup. The brick and stone walls, exposed beams, hanging lamps, wall hangings and paintings add to the charm.

The restaurant's design is based on a medieval settlement plan. The outside circle is taken by village stables and turned into an inn, the middle circle consists of the farmer's quarter, and the inside circle houses the castle chambers with a medieval open kitchen and a huge dining table. The restaurant is famous for traditional Polish food from the past, which is hard to find today.

Today, *Chlopskie Jadło* is one of the most well-known culinary destinations in Kraków amongst the locals — fashionable for members of the newly created middle class working specialists, and extremely popular amongst tourists.

According to custom, guests are welcomed with complimentary



Chlopskie Jadło (Peasants' Fare) is famous for traditional Polish food from the past, which is hard to encounter in daily life.

egant dishes.

The history of Polish cuisine parallels that of the nation itself and was constantly evolving as new ingredients and techniques became known to cooks. In the 12th century Poland was on the spice route from the East through Europe to Scandinavia, with the salt mines of Wieliczka providing ample trade. Sixteenth century Italian Princess Bona Sforza married King Zygmunt Stary and introduced Italian elements to the kitchen. In the 17th century King Jan II Sobieski had a French wife, who brought various specialties from her country.

Poland has a wealth of national dishes. The *paella* of the Spanish, *spaghetti* of the Italians and the *goulash* of the Hungarians are the *pirogi*, *goląbki* and *bigos* of the Poles.



Hearty, rustic dishes are served in a folk-style atmosphere reminiscent of the historical houses of rich Polish peasants.

countryside bread — complete with an intimidating knife and spreads of *smalec* (a tasty bacon lard with chips of pork, apples and herbs) and spiced cheese cream with chives. “Inappropriate” drinks like orange juice or carbonated soft drinks are not available here. In addition to juices, compote, water with homemade jam, a *kwas* bread drink, and sour milk with spring onion, there is mulled wine, mead, beer and spirits to drink.

As an introduction to Polish peasant cuisine, the Polish-English menu reads like the index of a Polish cookbook — meaning that “newbies” will certainly go away properly educated. No sooner did I turn to the second page of the menu, when I was interrupted by the waiter, requesting my translation assistance with the American tour group. These school students and teachers needed more space for a contingent that had still not arrived, and they wished to all be seated in one room. My room was deemed the best solution and I was quickly relocated one flight up.

POLAND HAS ALWAYS BEEN better known for its politics than its cuisine. Cultural clichés such as herring, stuffed cabbage and other stodgy dishes exist, as they do in every national cuisine; however Polish food also offers a wealth of light, el-

rice wrapped in a cabbage leaf), and pork stuffed with plum, apricot and garlic; there are trout and salmon dishes, *kluski* noodles, and *placki* potato pancakes.

From a huge selection of traditional food, I chose to stick to the basics for my last meal in Poland. In lieu of a single salad, I visited the “country trough,” for a sampling of many vegetable side dishes. Once my order arrived, I settled back, in complete privacy, to experience a Peasant's meal fit for a King. For starters I had the *barszcz czerwony z uszkami* (clear beetroot soup with filled dumplings), followed by my all-time favorite *pirogi*! The *pirogowa micha* was a mix of 15 *pirogi* with meat, *kapusta*-cabbage, and potato-onion fillings; copious and substantial, but could I finish them all?

Pirogi are often translated as “dumplings” or “ravioli,” which make them sound like a derivative rather than a specialty in their own right. I appreciate their unique value and here they were pillow-soft noodle-dough delights — light, and simply delicious!

The Sphinx restaurant chain — *Sfinks Polska* expanded this great idea to enlarge the *Chlopskie Jadło* vision to 9 restaurants in major Polish cities. The first restaurant started in 1995 in Głogoczów, a small locale in the Kraków region; now there are 3 locations in Kraków, 2 in Warsaw and others in Poznań, Łódź and Bielsko Biala. The *Sphinx* restaurant (a *TGI Fridays* equivalent), mentioned in an earlier article of this series, has 97 restaurants, and a new endeavor *Wook*, serves original Chinese cuisine.

My eyes were exclusively on all things Polish and this was a genuine local culinary experience — traditional Polish food served with all the trimmings in an informal, village atmosphere with a cost-value ratio that may be the best-in-town. Everything is prepared with great care and the food is honest, straightforward and comforting. The service is efficient and polite; the staff is friendly and helpful.

Empty stomachs are recommended as dishes arrive in truly “famished peasant” portions. This is not the kind of food to eat if you're counting carbs, cholesterol or care how many calories should be consumed in one meal, but everything in moderation, I always say.

For me there was no room for desserts such as *sernik* (cheesecake), *jablecznik* (apple cake), and the *crêpe* filled *naleśniki*. Having settled my bill with complete satisfaction, I waddled out of *Chlopskie Jadło* with a “doggie bag” of *pirogi* in hand, and directed myself back to the hotel to complete packing for my early flight home.

Next month: *The Travelogue ends — Departure from Poland with heavy suitcases.*

Are You Ready for Your Polish Christmas?

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Follow Library Holidays link to the Christmas Listings

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Designed by Doris Sikorsky

CARD 400 ("Sto lat") (right) 4 1/4" x 5 1/2" with envelope Full color design with Polish and English greeting inside.



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CARD 102



CARD 103



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CARD 202



CARD 203



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CARD 301



CARD 302

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



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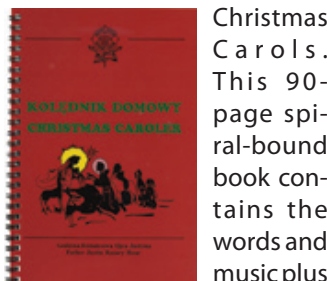
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With Music and Lyrics in Polish and English
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Now you can sing-along to 37 of the most popular Polish



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 kolydy to the Polish nation. Thirty-seven songs in all.

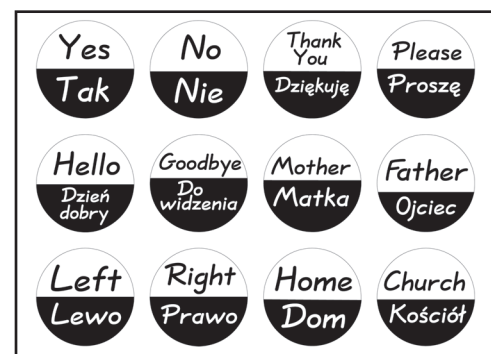
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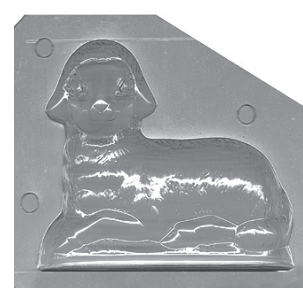
12-coin mold. Each coin is 1-inch across x 1/4" deep.



Includes: Yes and No, Thank You, Please, Hello, Goodbye, Mother, Father, Left, Right, Home, Church

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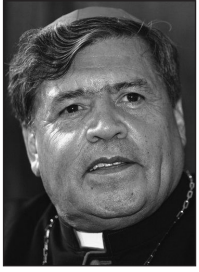
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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

John Paul II – Global Focus

The first class relic of **Blessed John Paul II**, a vial of his blood, will be in Mexico for five months where it will be taken to all the country's 90 dioceses for veneration. Accompanying the relic will be a wax image of the former pontiff. **Norberto Cardinal Rivera Carrera** (inset, right), archbishop of Mexico City, hopes the mediation of John Paul II will return a climate of peace, fraternity and concord to the violence plagued country. While Pope, John Paul II visited Mexico five times, the last being to canonize Juan Diego, the visionary of the apparitions of the Virgin of Guadalupe in 1531.



Olivero Rainaldi, the creator of a controversial statue of **John Paul II** erected at Rome's main train station, has agreed to make some alterations to improve its acceptability to the Roman public. Not intended as a photographic depiction, the statue has been criticised as making John Paul II look like a tent, like a bomb has hit, and even like a portable toilet. **Federico Mollicone**, president of Rome's Cultural Commission, called it "a permanent and sacrilegious mud stain on his memory." One poll had 87% if the general public in agreement with the assessment. Speaking in defense of his work, Rainaldi noted that "the man within was more interesting to me than the man outside," a man he

saw as "lacerated not only by his infirmity but by his mission." "In the posture of the head and body," he explained, "and the draping of the cloak" he tried to capture "the way the Pope went out into the world."

Boston Auxiliary **Bishop Peter J. Uglietto** and **Supreme Knight of Columbus Carl A. Anderson** were present at the May graduation ceremony of more than two dozen students of the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family in Washington, D.C.'s National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The Institute received its formal accreditation from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education in June.

In Częstochowa, Poland, a museum featuring some 5,500 medals and coins with the image of Blessed John Paul II opened in August. The museum was founded by the president of President Electronics Poland, **Krzysztof Witkowski**, as an offering to Mary, Queen of Poland, in gratitude for his recovery from a stroke, and a tribute to the "most famous Pole, **Karol Wojtyła**."

NEW STATUS SOUGHT FOR PENNSYLVANIA CHURCHES. **Andrew Palewski**, resident of Callowhill neighbourhood of Philadelphia, Pa., nominated the RC Church of the Assumption for historical status designation by the city's Historical Commission. The Spring Garden Street church was the site of St. Katharine Drexel's baptism and dates to 1848. Rebuffed by the Commission, an appeal to the city's

Licenses and Inspections Board overturned the decision allowing community residents time to find a savior for the church. Siloam, a local non profit organization bought the church in 2006 and proceeded to gut it of its valuable artifacts. Palewski hopes an arts group can be found to purchase and renovate the structure for reuse.

A state grant of \$25,000 boosted the group in the Cambria City section of Johnstown, Penn., and their hopes of finding new uses for three recently shuttered churches. The matching grant will allow the group to undertake engineering studies and attend to urgent structural repairs as they move forward in identifying new uses for the closed edifices.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO... Ss. Peter & Paul RC Parish in Williamsville, N.Y., celebrating 175 years. Founded in 1836 by St. John Neumann, the church is the third-oldest parish in the Buffalo Diocese. **Fr. Jerome Kopec**, the pastor, noted, "We are here 175 years later, still believing, still holding on, still giving of our hearts and minds." Principal celebrant of the anniversary Mass was Buffalo's **Bishop Edward Kmiec**.

NEW CATHOLIC RADIO STATION ON AIR. The RC Diocese of Harrisburg, Pa., has helped launch the area's first Catholic radio station, WHYF AM 720, part of Holy Family Radio Inc., of Lancaster, Pa. **Leona Woskowiak**, Holy Family Radio board member and spokes-

woman expects to have a signal capable of reaching Catholics in 12 counties by acquiring a radio station in nearby Shiremanstown. The 10-year effort brought success in the end and the station's programming will include material and programs from EWTN Radio Network and will also feature daily Mass, prayer services and Catholic devotional programs with air time allotted each week to the bishop to communicate with diocesan Catholics. Limited business sponsorships and tax-deductible donations will keep the station on the air.

CHAPLAIN RETURNS FROM AFGHANISTAN. **Fr. Matthew Pawlikowski** from the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., has recently finished his tour of duty in Afghanistan as Deputy Command Chaplain. He has been reassigned to serve the U.S. armed forces in Kaiserslautern, Germany. The 47-year-old priest is a graduate of West Point. Shortly after his return from Afghanistan he participated in a ceremony at the Navy base at Groton, Conn. For the Mass he wore a vestment made from army material adorned with symbols of the faith and some relics. During his

tour of duty in Afghanistan he was supported by **Rosemarie and Mario DiRienzo** through Soldier's Angels, a U.S. organization of people who send packages of needed items for chaplains and soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

STO LAT TO... **Mr. Adam Urbaniak**, native of Gniezno, Poland, who is now at Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake as he studies for the priestly service in the RC diocese of Biloxi, Miss.

Mr. Piotr Kmiecik, from Lindow, Poland, also destined for service in Biloxi, along with **Deacon Bartosz Kunat** who will be ordained in December and will become the first Polish priest in the history of the Diocese of Biloxi.

Fr. Mark Morozowich, former associate dean for seminary and ministerial program on being named acting dean of the School of Theology and Religious Studies at the Catholic University of Washington D.C.

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MODLITWY / Prayers

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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, J.P.

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, G.M.K.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT. Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems, who light all roads so I

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

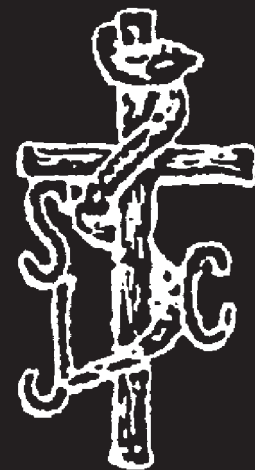
PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT. Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems, who light all roads so I can attain my goal. You who give me the Divine gift to forgive and to forget all evil against me and that in all instances of my life you are with me. I want this short prayer to thank you for all things and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

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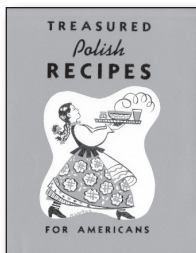


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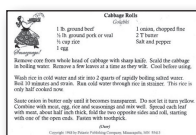
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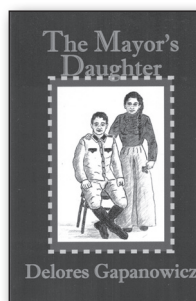
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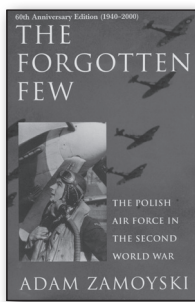
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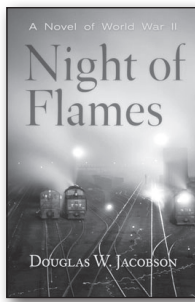
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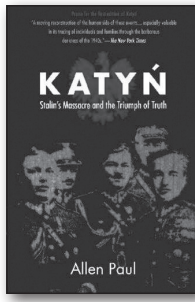
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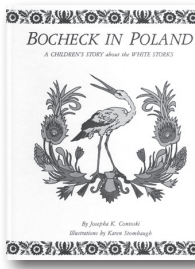


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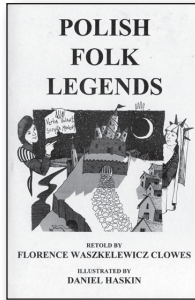


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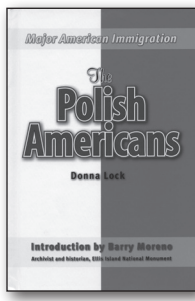
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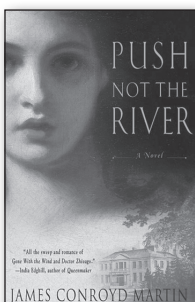


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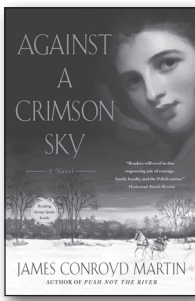


THE POLISH AMERICANS from the "Major American Immigration Series" by Donna Lock \$22.95
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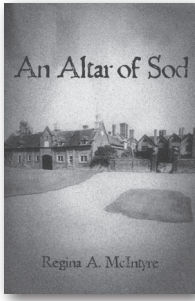
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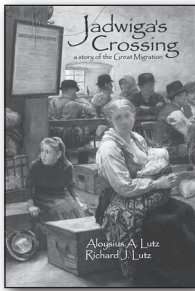
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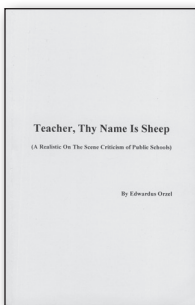
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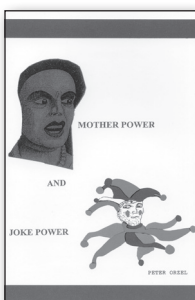
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Hats Off Books, 2001, 2010, 304 pp., pb
In 19th century Partitioned Poland, the village of Miska sits almost unchanged on the banks of the Vistula.



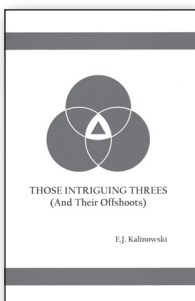
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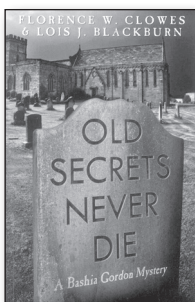
TEACHER, THY NAME IS SHEEP by E.J. Kalinowski \$9.95
Kalski Books, 2004. 132 pp., pb.
Why are American high school students so undisciplined? Read this book and judge for yourself.



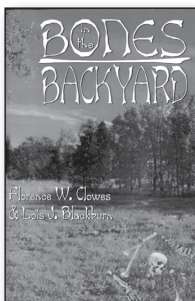
MOTHER POWER AND JOKE POWER by E.J. Kalinowski \$9.95
Kalski Books, 1998. 142 pp., pb.
Mother Power is a compendium of psycho-biographical sketches on personalities in various fields.



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? Have you noticed the amount of triadic construction in nature?



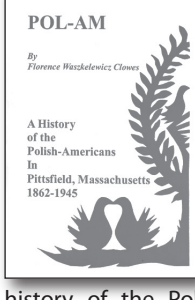
OLD SECRETS NEVER DIE A Bashia Gordon Mystery \$14.95 by Florence W. Clowes and Lois J. Blackburn
Infinity Publishing, 2007, 220 pp, pb.
Bashia Gordon, semi-retired interior decorator and amateur sleuth, is at it again.



BONES IN THE BACKYARD A Bashia Gordon Mystery \$14.95 by Florence W. Clowes and Lois J. Blackburn
Infinity Publishing, 2001, 198 pp, pb.
In the quiet corner of northeastern Connecticut, semi-retired interior decorator, Bashia Gordon, turns amateur sleuth when she and her Peace Corps friend, Dottie Weeks, uncover a fragmented skeleton in a septic tank.

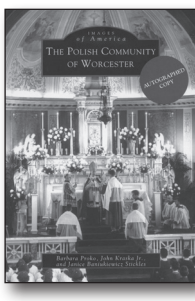
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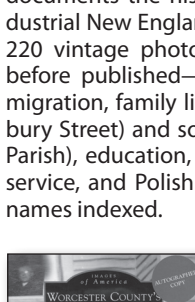


A HISTORY OF POLISH-AMERICANS IN PITTSFIELD, MASS., 1862-1945 by Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes \$14.95
Palmetto Press, Vero Beach 2004. 152 pp., 5.5" x 8.25", photographs, pb.

This is the first ethnic history of the Polish community in Pittsfield Massachusetts, with a listing of the people who originally settled there.



THE POLISH COMMUNITY OF WORCESTER (MASS.) by Barbara Proko, Janice Baniukiewicz Stickles, and John Kraska, Jr. \$19.95
Arcadia, 2003, 128 pp pb.
AUTOGRAPHED! Acclaimed as "a wonderful tribute" and "long overdue," this groundbreaking book documents the history of Polonia in a large industrial New England city, 1870-1970.



WORCESTER COUNTY'S POLISH COMMUNITY by Barbara Proko and Janice Baniukiewicz Stickles \$19.95
Arcadia, 2007, 128 pp pb.
AUTOGRAPHED! Lauded as a "community family album" and "a welcome complement to The Polish Community of Worcester," this photo history highlights the seven Polish parish seats of the Worcester Diocese.



Clinton, Dudley, Gardner, Southbridge, Webster, West Warren, and Worcester—plus Gilbertville, South Grafton, Uxbridge, and other Central Massachusetts towns where Poles have settled in substantial numbers for more than a century.

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We are a group of dedicated volunteers that comprise the Polish Gift of Life, Inc. With your support for the past 31 years, we have assisted in saving the lives of almost 400 Polish children (16 in 2010), who suffer from heart-related illnesses. Surgery is performed by Polish pediatric cardiologist Dr. Edward Malec. Sick children wait for our help to lead a healthy, normal life. Join in this mission. Together we can fulfill their dream. To find us: The Polish Gift of Life, Inc., P.O. Box 273, Albertson, NY 11507-0273, or call (516) 746-1532 or (516) 371-5156. Thank you! Dziekuje bardzo!

**HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman****Wanda's World and Wrath**

Wanda Kurek, a spunky 82-year-old Polish American, has spent her entire life tending Stanley's Bar located in the "Back of the Yards" area on Chicago's Southside industrial corridor. It is only one block from the famous Chicago Union Stock Yard Gate, one of the few remaining landmarks of the city's meatpacking industry. Originally located two blocks north of its present location, this long-time "Whiskey Row" establishment was around in the days when Ashland Avenue was filled with rows of "saloons servicing the slaughterhouse workers from across the street." Wanda's parents, Stanley and Josephine, came to the United States from Poland in 1914, opened Stanley's Bar at 41st Street and Ashland Avenue in 1924, then opened the present Stanley's Bar, two blocks south at 43rd and Ashland in 1935.

Wanda remembers when this area was crowded with banks, trucks, and cattle. During the Depression, Stanley's Bar served free sandwich luncheons. During World War II, Wanda and her sister, Joan Kosinski, recall that the stockyards were in operation 24 hours a day. Customers packed the bar three, sometimes four deep. Wanda and Joan's mother, Josephine, started cooking and charging for the hot meals she prepared. Ever since Wanda took full over, she has been using all of her mother's recipes. She knows them all by heart and prepares everything from scratch on a 60-year-old, antique-dealer's delight, O'Keefe & Merritt porcelain stove. Wanda has two gals who help her in the kitchen.

Behind the original mahogany bar, you'll see Guy Vanek, Stanley's bartender since 1979. In the bar, you'll find a 1945 Rock Ola jukebox that plays the old standards of Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett. In 2005, Wanda promised her patrons that, if the White Sox won the World Series, she would purchase two flat-screen televisions and have cable installed. She kept her promise. Otherwise, nothing else has changed. Faithful to "made in Chicago," Wanda serves Chicago's own Filbert's Root Beer and Vitner's Potato Chips, and soon will be offering beer brewed down the street from Stanley's.

Stanley's is unique. It is owned and operated by a strongly opinionated woman, who always "says it like it is." She has challenged elected city officials with her personal appearances at an alderman's office, City Hall, the Streets and Sanitation Department and the Buildings Department. These officials know her by name, face, and/or her unforgettable hard-talking voice. They have experienced Wanda's world and her wrath. When it comes to safety, **Wanda Kurek** will show her wrath. For years, the widened 43rd Street has caused problems for Wanda.

**WANDA KUREK** and Joan Kurek

Since the sidewalk in front of the bar was reduced to half its size, semi-trucks have been turning onto the sidewalk causing the tearing down the bar's huge Schlitz beer sign, the crashing through the bar's plate glass window, and knocking down a light pole so as to damage the walls of Wanda's second story apartment. The city's attempt to sink posts into concrete does not deter trucks from cutting that corner too closely. The worst incident happened on December 6, 2007, when Wanda's brother-in-law, George Kosinski, was to have met his wife, Joan, for their daily lunch. Mr. Kosinski was killed by a semi-truck that drove onto the sidewalk as he walked onto the curb. Wanda still has not heard from the city about this hazardous corner.

But still, her fiery sense of humor puts her patrons in stitches. A visit with Wanda is an enlightening experience. Now considered one of the best of Chicago "cheap eats," you get more than your money's worth. It's embarrassing to pay \$6.00 for her low priced wonderful meals. This establishment gets very little publicity, because it has no website, is not listed in the phone directory, and from the outside has no sign identifying itself. You won't know where the place is located, if you don't have its address.

You never know what will be on the menu. Guy mentioned that "Wanda cooks whatever Wanda feels like on any particular day. Sometimes it is breaded chicken, sometimes it's prime rib. If it's breaded chicken, well, the people line up..." Each and every customer can taste Polish American style cooking at its best from the tenderest pork roast, goulash, and Wanda's Friday fish fry to an absolutely fantastic meatloaf, along with the best split pea soup, cole slaw, and anything else one can imagine.

On any given day, one can find a Cook County worker, a City of Chicago official, tradesmen, policemen, state workers, retirees, and the occasional first time visitor.

Marie Kosinski, Wanda's niece, is scheduled to keep Stanley's open after Wanda decides to retire. What retirement? "Never" says Wanda.

Wanda operates her bar and kitchen from 11:00 a.m. until the early evening, not your typical Chicago bar hours. It's only on Friday, that she keeps the bar open until 8:00 p.m. or until the food runs out. This is the day that she serves her

once-a-week buffet evening meal. Stanley's is not open weekends. Wanda really sets the hours, because Stanley's Bar is Wanda's World.

ADAM MAKOWICZ PLAYS CHICAGO.

It has been a long time since renowned Polish-born jazz legend, **Adam Makowicz**, played in Chicago. It was back in 1990. On September 7, Makowicz returned to Chicago to play at the almost 100-year-old Chopin Theatre, located in the old "Polish Downtown." The audience was filled with Polish Chicagoans, jazz connoisseurs, and anyone who like to hear piano jazz.

Makowicz plays Chopin's music with a jazz twist. A gifted improviser with splendid technical prowess, Adam can also offer warmth and affection in melodic lines, and has a jubilant approach which generates audience cheers. He is one of several Polish jazz performers to recognize the improvisation potential in Chopin's music, as well as interpreting classical pieces by Chopin and Gershwin with technical mastery, finesse, and inventiveness.

Born in Hnojnik (part of the Czech Republic) in 1940, he studied classical music at the Chopin Conservatory of Music in Krakow, and, in 1977, left Poland for a 10-week concert tour in the United States. Because of communism's cultural restrictions and its disapproval of Makowicz's interest in improvisational modern jazz, he was banned from Poland during the 1980s after the Polish communist regime imposed martial law to crush the Solidarity Movement. Makowicz stated, "I chose a new life of freedom - considered by authorities to be 'decadent'— over the career of a classical pianist my parents and teachers envisioned for me."

During his 40-year career, Makowicz has performed with major symphony orchestras, such as the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C., the Warsaw Philharmonic, the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra, the London Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, appearing at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and other concert halls throughout Europe and the Americas. In addition to recording over 30 albums of jazz, popular, and classical music, he has recorded his own arrangements of pieces by Chopin, Gershwin, Berlin, Kern, Porter, Rogers, and other composers. Makowicz also wrote and recorded his own compositions for piano.

Now an American citizen and married to a Canadian, he divides his time between Europe, Toronto, and New York.

Makowicz has been building bridges between cultures by his numerous concert performances and recordings of cross-cultural and cross-style compositions. In 2010, Adam Makowicz received the Gold *Gloria Artis* Medal from the Polish government in recognition of his contributions to Polish culture.

**MAKOWICZ**
PHOTO COURTESY OF
CHOPIN THEATRE

TOPINKA THANKS HONOR FLIGHT NETWORK. Illinois Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka saluted Honor Flight Network from across the state for its efforts to honor veterans through trips to the national war memorials in Washington D.C.

As part of the Comptroller's "Veterans' Day" at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield, Topinka presented Honor Flight leaders throughout the state with proclamations celebrating their achievements and continuing dedication. Topinka specifically congratulated five Honor Flight Hubs: Central Illinois out of Effingham, Great River from Quincy, Quad Cities located in Davenport, Iowa, Land of Lincoln of Springfield, and McHenry in Fox River Grove.

"I am proud to have the Honor Flight Network Hubs in Illinois, making it possible for veterans to visit our national memorials in Washington D.C.," Topinka said. "These trips are a perfect way to honor the sacrifice of our service men and women, and are a fitting thank you for all they have done for our country."

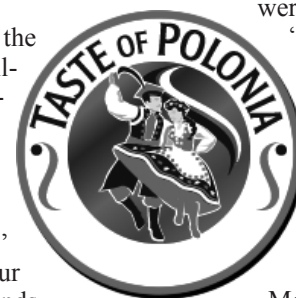
The Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices. Priority is given to the senior veterans, World War II survivors, along with other veterans who are terminally ill. In 2010 alone, the Honor Flight network transported more than 63,000 veterans to Washington D.C.

TASTE OF POLONIA. The Labor Day weekend did not look hopeful for the "Taste of Polonia." Rain was predicted and it came. But September 4-5 were beautiful late summer days that allowed the Copernicus Center on Chicago's Northwest Side to host its 32nd Annual "Taste of Polonia."

On Sunday, the "Taste" broke its all-time attendance record with over 10,000 patrons. The festival had five stages which featured music for every taste from rock n' roll to classical. Four popular Polish bands, *Sztynny Pal Azji*, Lombard, Toony, and Carrion, brought a European flavor to the "Taste." Local Polish bands such as Maggie D, Fox, and Freeze Dried brought an inviting touch to the musical lineup. Polish American rapper, Funky Polak, with his award winning lyrics based on his experiences as an immigrant in Chicago, added spice to the festival.

This year's exciting musical menu included performances by Chicago's own: Bad Medicine, Libido Funk Circus, Gentlemen of Leisure, and Rico, just to name a few. For those who preferred a classical venue, there was the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra and the Chopin Choir. A line-up of Chicago club DJs offered music for those who wanted to dance the

night away. And let's not forget the polka bands, Chicago's Polkaholics and The Knewz from Buffalo. The "Taste of Polonia" could not be the "Taste" without food. Delicious old-world Polish favorites which included Polska kielbasa, pierogi, potato pancakes, and imported Polish beers



were in abundance. The "Kids World" offered all sorts of activities for the youngest guests. A casino, free Polish cooking classes, and a marketplace with old-world treasures were also featured.

On Sunday and Monday, the Copernicus' Mitchell Kobelinski Theater, formerly the Gateway Theater, was filled. On Sunday, over 1,000 came to hear the Former Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, and his wife, who were on hand to present the screening of their DVD, *Nine Days that Changed the World*. On Monday, Janina Wasilewski joined her husband, Tony, and director, Ruth Leitman, as they presented the documentary, *Tony and Janina's American Wedding*.

Making this 32nd annual cultural event a success were its sponsors: PNC Financial Services, Jewel-Osco, a Supervalu grocery store chain, Stawski Distributing, Krakus, Verizon Wireless, Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union, and Resurrection Health Care.

Congratulations on your 100th Anniversary!



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Sto lat!

Winners of Our 100th Anniversary Scholarship Contest

To celebrate the Polish American Journal's 100th anniversary, we are giving away — through the generosity of the newspaper's patrons — over \$1,000 in cash and prizes to high school students who submitted an essay on the topic: "Methods to Promote Our Polish Heritage."

The contest was open to all students in High School Grades 9 to 12 for the 2010-2011 school year. Entries were judged by creativity, relevance of expression of the subject, and overall impression.

Because of number of outstanding essays, the

judges decided to expand the categories and increase the second place prize to \$200.00, instead of the published \$100.00 award. These additional funds were obtained from donations to the newspaper and from the Polish American Journal Press Fund.

We proudly present the top three essays, and selected excerpts from other entries.

Congratulations to the winners, runners-up, and to all who entered. The time and effort placed into all entries is to be commended.

Grand Prize \$500.00 Scholarship

Emily Spina
WHEATFIELD, NEW YORK

Many people are unaware of our rich culture

As an American blessed with Polish ancestry, I have been given the best of both worlds.

From delicious family recipes passed down from generation to generation to Dyngus Day, I have grown up surrounded by the rich traditions of my ancestors. For me, it's important to pass on these cultural gems to future Americans, as well as to my friends who aren't aware of our traditions — especially since many ignorant people have contrived a negative view of Polish people for one reason or another. It's my goal to overcome those ridiculous thoughts and show the world how much those of Polish heritage have contributed to the world.

During my first few years of high school, I made many friends



EMILY SPINA

and slipped into numerous social circles. I was accepted and liked. One thing I could not escape, however, was rude jokes about people of Polish origin. Without knowing my bloodline or how proud I am of it, other students would say "polock" jokes in front of me, calling us stupid or naive. Hearing the comments really upset me, since my family is not "stupid" and, yes!—thank you very much — we can all change our own light bulbs ... by ourselves! At first, I wanted to fight back, and on one particular occasion I went so far as to threaten a boy, saying, "Anyone who thinks Polish people are dumb can come talk to me. And Marie Curie!"

But now I realize that yelling and arguing against ignorant stereotypes isn't going to change anything. Instead, I am committed to breaking those stereotypes by showing my friends the beauties of Polish culture that they are unaware of. The easiest place to start was Dyngus Day! Everybody loves squirting people with water and hitting boys with pussy willows!

My favorite way to promote Polish heritage is a common method of self-expression: dancing! As a dancer and instructor for Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble, Western New York's largest Polish American dance troupe, I learn traditional Polish dances, wear costumes often purchased from Poland, and participate in community service. Our dance group performs both national and regional dances of Poland and spreads the beautiful art of traditional dance all over the western New York area; performing from nursing

homes and parades, to annual Polish festivals. We have even danced internationally! As simple as this may sound, one of the more effective ways that I have introduced my friends to Polish heritage is by bringing them to my dance performances and including them in the "crowd participation" portion of the show. I couldn't even tell you how many of my friends still talk about how they "polka-ed" with me on such an occasion. Aside from dancing, our group teaches Polish words and legends to the youth dancers, focusing on Saints and other holiday related stories. No one leaves one of our weekly meetings at Saint Gualbert's church without being fully emerged in our honored traditions.

ANOTHER SIMPLE WAY to promote my heritage is through education. Many people are simple unaware of our rich culture and the facts of Polish history! In my Advanced Placement European History class, we were taught nothing about Poland except for the partitioning and the German take over in World War II. One student was actually unaware that Polish was a language, supposing Polish people spoke Russian. If students were taught more about the history of Poland, I have no doubt that our culture and traditions would be demystified to the public.

The Broadway Market has done an excellent job of prompting Polish heritage through retail. Citizens in the Western New York area have access to handmade Polish foods and items that other areas of the United States might not enjoy. Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble often performs at the opening of the market each spring, and it is exciting to see the amount of support Broadway Market receives from both the local Polonia as well as those outside of Polish ancestry. They have truly succeeded in making traditional Polish items available to the public. Because of this establishment, *pierogi* have become a common food item in American homes. Now if we could just get people to pronounce it correctly, instead of "per-oh-gees"...

I was fortunate enough, during my recent trip to Poland, to have experienced first hand the beauty of my ancestral homeland. It was incredible to see the beautiful city of Krakow, the cathedrals, and the landscapes. While in Krakow, I saw a group of traditional Polish dancers preparing for a show. It was truly incredible to see them wearing Krakowski costumes—identical to the one I wear. When we returned to New York, I was able to show my vacation pictures to my friends and family, sharing with them the beauty of Poland. They were amazed.

Spreading our Polish heritage

isn't so much about what activities we do, but more about how we do them. We can show our Polish pride in the little things; in pronunciation of well-known Polish foods, in our pictures and scrapbooks, in the way we handle hard ships, in dancing, and in friendships. Students can teach their classmates about Polish history, grandparents can remind youth of the past, and travelers can speak of the present beauty. Let's be proud of America but not forget where we came from. Let's honor our ancestors by spreading their traditions and in doing so we keep their memory alive. If we all continue to do this, Polonia will thrive eternally.

Second Prize \$200.00 Scholarship

Joshua May
CHEEKTOWAGA, NEW YORK

The first step in a greater journey of discovery

"*Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!*"

Anyone who attends the Polish mass at my local parish is sure to hear these words at the start of every Sunday service. These words, spoken by a Polish mouth and heard by Polish ears, are often taken for granted by the strictly Polish congregation that meets once a week in a Polish church in a predominantly Polish neighborhood. The greeting is no more out of place in Polonia than, say, a butter *baranek* at Easter, Grandma's warm *pierogi* at *wigilia* dinner, or rousing *kolędy* on Christmas morning. To the average Polish American, words like Dyngus Day, *oplatki*, and Warszawa are just part of a repertoire that we take part in without second thought. But still, even as we say these words by rote and celebrate these customs habitually, we know somehow that they are special, that they are starkly out of place with the non-Polish world we see around us. It is not until these cherished aspects of our heritage are seen out of context that their truly unique status in our collective history and culture is fully revealed.

I myself am a guilty party to this subconscious marginalization of the Polish heritage. I, too, can be found on Sunday mornings, altar serving at the Polish Mass, speaking the ancient language of my native land as if I were reading from a list. Even the most beautiful of things can be dulled by tedious monotony, and Polonia as a whole stands at perilous risk to losing our very being if we do not bring ourselves to realize just how special what we have is, to evaluate and analyze our heritage critically and from every angle, and to share that joy of discovery with our fellow Poles.

MY OWN JOURNEY down the road of Polish American self-discovery began, suitably enough, at the Christmas Eve dinner table at *babcia* and *dziadzia's* house. No one makes a *wigilia* meal like my grandmother, and every year she can be counted on to be working

hard at the oven, the kitchen filled with the overwhelming smell of pierogi and the upbeat cadence of the *kolędy* that are perpetually on my grandmother's lips. Grabbing my arms, she would spin me around the kitchen in (ultimately futile, I'm sad to say) attempts to teach me the polka. As a child I took this all in stride as just the normal holiday routine; after all, didn't every other kid's family do the same thing?

But as time went on and I started to slowly realize that not every family had what I had, I became more curious about just what it meant to be Polish. One evening at *wigilia*, intrigue finally got the better of me. I approached my *dziadzia*, sitting back in his chair with his hands folded (probably regretting having eaten that last pierogi) and asked him how I could learn Polish. Learning the language, I thought, would be the key to unlocking my whole culture. Maybe then, I reasoned, I would discover the source of the joy and pride, so evident on my grandma's face as she sang her favorite polkas.

Maybe then I would understand the fire in the eyes of my family members as they talked about "the old land."

Although I don't remember it, I'm sure my wise old *dziadzia* probably had a knowing smile on his face that night. There I was, his grandson, talking excitedly about learning one of the hardest languages in the world as if it was another one of my fourth-grade spelling tests. He had a few moderating words for the eager young neophyte as he told me that learning the language would take time and practice, and that in the process I would learn a great deal about being Polish. He told me of the local Polish Saturday School, how it was filled with men and women straight from the country that I so greatly loved yet

was so greatly ignorant of, how it would be the first step in a greater journey of discovery. Smugly sure of my ability to become fluent and to learn enough Polish history to fill a textbook in a few weeks time, I started my fifth grade year with an extra weekend class that no one in my class had ever heard of.

Polish Saturday School was a rude awakening, but a much needed one. My American life evaporated and was quickly replaced by one of studying for tests that weren't quite so easy as I had thought, listening intently to discern something intelligible through my teacher's thick Kraków accent, and reading up on such legendary figures as Kościuszko, Wałęsa,

and Copernicus. I found within the walls of the Polish School something I had never felt quite so acutely with any other group: I had found a *rodzina*. They became a second family in so many ways; while to this day I still haven't attained quite the level of language fluency I'd like, what I took away from the experi-

ence was so much more important.

In my four years at Polish School, I had a cultural awakening. For the first time in my life, I could feel an immensely proud sense of belonging. In learning about the history, culture, and language of my people I learned a great deal about myself. Most importantly, I recognized the incredible value of Polonia and the absolute necessity of its preservation. From the stories of the Hejnal bugler to the bravery of the Solidarity strikers, I came to realize that being a Polish American is a privilege and an honor. From the sounds of morning prayers and evening carols in Polish, I experienced shades of the old country.

If nothing else, these past years have taught me not to be indifferent

continued on next page

SELECTED EXCERPTS

Notable Mentions \$100.00 Scholarships

Tyler Coniglio
TONAWANDA, NEW YORK

"I consider myself one of the lucky kids today. My family is very close and share many traditions that I have grown up with. Not many young people my age can say that.

... " ... we are Polish every day and proud of it.

"At my high school, we can take Spanish, German, French, and I know some schools offer Chinese, Japanese, and Arabic, but I have never heard of Polish being offered. I believe that students of Polish descent would like to learn their native language ...

"Another idea is to offer a Study Abroad or student exchange program in Poland ... I would love the opportunity to go to Poland and see what it's really like ...

"Promoting Polish heritage has

to start with the family ...

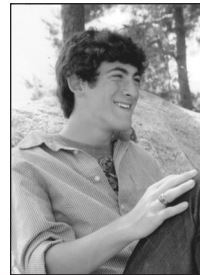
"Churches also need to promote our Polish heritage ...

Emily Gibson
CLARENCE, NEW YORK

"There are several ways to promote out Polish heritage. One of these ways is to participate in Polish holiday traditions and activities. These holidays include two of the most important Polish holidays, Christmas and Easter ...

"Another way we can promote our Polish heritage is by learning about our Polish history. This can include learning about the customs of Dyngus Day, enjoying traditional Polish foods, and participating in local Polish American events ...

"... We can learn about our Polish heritage from our relatives. We can find out about customs, traditions, and holidays from what they have experienced growing up as Polish Americans ..."



Winners of Our 100th Anniversary Scholarship Contest continued from previous page

continued from previous page
about or ashamed of my Polish heritage, but to bask in it and take pride in it. Every Polish American should have the same feelings of love and admiration that I do. It must be the mission of every Polish American to light the torch of the next generation of Polonia and infuse in them a love for who they are. This task is easier than it seems; in fact, it is deceptively easy. I propose that the most efficient and lasting method of "Polonizing" is to lead by example. Let's not rest until every Polish American has been whacked with a pussy-willow on Dyngus Day, has savored my grandma's pierogi, has marched in a Pulaski Day Parade.

We sacrifice our Polish heritage at our own risk. I fear for the day when wigilia is a quaint memory that has long since been replaced by fast food, when Easter Vigil Mass or a Corpus Christi procession is foregone by a Sunday football game, or when a trip to the Wieliczka salt mines is passed over for a Caribbean island cruise. The loss of even one part of our heritage will spread like a poison until we have forgotten that we are not just Americans, a special honor in its own right, but that we are Polish Americans, and that is not a title that just anyone can claim. This Sunday at the Polish Mass, I will proudly answer the priest's greeting in the words of my people, words that speak to the innate character that every Pole shares. This is a precious gift, and we cannot stand to lose it.

The day we cease to hear the familiar polka rhythms that so characterize my grandma's kitchen is the day we cease to hear our very souls.

Third Prize

\$100.00 and Seiko Clock
Carey Jane Murzyński
ORCHARD PARK, NEW YORK

Holding on to traditions makes life meaningful

There is something to be said about continuing family traditions and promoting Polish heritage. In today's society, it is a rare quality to set aside time to celebrate customs. Being American citizens, we have the opportunity to freely express ourselves. Our culture is an important part of that freedom, and I believe that we should take advantage of carrying out and preserving customs. My ancestors left their misfor-

tunes to come to America to peruse a better life. I hope that their legacy and all that they have done for my family is remembered. I want to honor them through respecting and promoting my heritage.

Throughout my life, I have felt proud to be Polish American due in part to the many traditions my family enjoys. One tradition which stands out among the rest, for my family and many others, is *wigilia*. My family works together to make the dinner and spends months making hundreds of *pierogi* (which always seem to be gone the next day!) We place the *kolacky* and *chrusciki* on my great-great-grandmother's table, which has been passed down to my parents. When I stand beside it, I think of how my ancestors had the same customs we celebrate today. One ritual in my family's *wigilia* is that we beg my great-grandmother Jane to say grace in Polish when we are all sitting around the long dinner table. She always refuses at first, but when she finally relents, she weeps as she recites the prayer. I would like to think that as she says grace in Polish, she reminisces about past *wigilias* and catches a glimpse of family members who have passed away, and have sat in the same seats that we do today, participating in the same traditions.

This tradition, as well as many others, has been extended over the years to include friends. Some of these friends have Polish heritage and others do not. Having them learn and take part in Polish traditions has been a rewarding experience because there is such a feeling of community. Holding on to traditions makes life meaningful in a society which is constantly moving and advancing, often based on material possessions. One example of this that I see daily in the halls of high school, is when students text each other while in the same room. Texting, while convenient, destroys a sense of humanity that our ancestors would have tried to maintain. When my family breaks the *oplatek*, and looks each other in the eye to

convey a wish and a blessing on Christmas Eve, I witness a much different dynamic, one which I would like to see in my school. I believe that preserving humanity goes hand-in-hand with promoting heritage, because as American citizens we can embrace each person's customs, therefore creating a place of multiculturalism based on respect.

I have always wondered what I could do to preserve and spread my Polish heritage. After celebrating the 4th of July, this idea seemed very significant. On Independence Day, my family and I went to see a polka band play at a carnival. We observed that most of the people dancing were elderly. I couldn't help but think that without a movement to make my generation appreciate their heritage, events like that could easily become obsolete. Young people, swamped with work and busy schedules, often take advantage of our heritage and do not take the time to fully appreciate it.

A REALISTIC FIRST STEP in achieving this goal of promoting heritage would be creating a Polish culture club through my Participation in Government class. This club would be a great way to help eliminate the social and humanity problems that occur in high school. In my school's Character Club, we often discuss ways to make our school a safe place for kids to be involved and thrive. The Polish club would promote not only heritage, but good character. In this club, there would be a variety of activities so that every student can discover something they enjoy and relate to.

I researched many Polish customs to create a list of activities for students. An activity that I would love to be a part of would be exchanging letters with students from Poland. Polish students who are my age can attend an upper-level secondary school called a *liceum*, for students who plan to go on to university, or a *technikum*, which is a vocational school. Through having pen-pals, my school and community would learn more about the similarities and differences that exist between our two countries. I think it would be fascinating to learn about students' everyday life and their thoughts regarding America. I am an avid reader, so our group could host the children's story hour at the local public library several times a year. After reading the stories, we would make activities such as games and crafts that go along with the storyline. Reading at the library would benefit everyone, because children would become enriched with culture, while still having fun. Instilling these values while they are young is the most effective way to have these children grow up cherishing culture. Members of our club would also gain volunteer experience. One noteworthy book is *Twice a Hero*, by Dirk Wales. This children's story is about Polish American heroes of the American Revolution. This book embodies my club's goal — cherishing Polish heritage in America. Another story which I have treasured over the years, especially around Christmas time, is *Marta and the Manger Straw*, by

Virginia Kroll. This book explains many Polish Christmas traditions. We could continue working with children by instructing Polish culture lessons at elementary schools. To start, I am planning a visit to my mother's first grade classroom.

To take my goal one step further, at the end of the year, after learning about Polish culture, our club would take part in one of the local Polish festivals. We would have a section of the festival to celebrate all of the information we have gained. We would work together to make Polish foods, such as *pierogi* and *kielbasa*, to sell at a booth. We could also join forces with our school's drama club to put on a traditional Polish play. *Balladyna*, a popular tragedy by Juliusz Slowacki, which can be compared to Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, would be culturally enriching for students.

I think it would be fun to have a polka where festival-goers could learn the dance. All proceeds earned would go to charity to help the rebuild, and the victims, of the Central European floods. In 2010, floods in Central Europe left a lot of damage, especially in Poland. The floods left 2.5 billion Euros in damage and had been called the worst natural disaster in Poland. I would feel proud knowing that I helped with such a great cause.

After the festival, my work would encourage other schools to create culture clubs of their own. As a high school student, there are plenty of effective ways to preserve my heritage right in my city. Buffalo is filled with many Americans with Polish ancestry. Although only about 3.2% of the American population is Polish American, 31.6% of the population is Polish American

in Cheektowaga, New York. Living in the Buffalo area, I am fortunate to have more opportunities to celebrate my Polish heritage; therefore I would like to extend the promotion of it. It is great to get my community involved, but I would like to promote my heritage across the country. This club would use social media to our advantage and create a Facebook group to expand our cause. We could take pictures and write posts about Polish events. With other communities on board with my idea, we could combine our resources to keep our goal flourishing.

PERHAPS THE SIMPLEST, yet most important way to preserve my Polish heritage is to practice these customs in my own family when I marry and have children. I do not want these great traditions to disappear from my life. Maybe someday, if I am so blessed, I will be the great-grandmother and can recite grace in Polish at *wigilia*.

Promoting my Polish heritage is a great way to get my generation involved in constructive activities. I would love to see those who do not appreciate where they come from see the joy which occurs when taking part in customs. Through our club, my peers will walk away with something which pushes them to learn more about their heritage. If my generation does not become active in learning about and celebrating our heritage, one of the treasures in our society will disappear. The youth of America impacts whether or not our traditions endure the strain which has been placed upon them. I hope that my efforts contribute to the revival of the pride and glorification of our heritage.

SELECTED EXCERPTS

Pearls of Wisdom

"For too long, our Polish ancestors have been ignored and disregarded in their role in American history ...

"Showing the importance of Polish immigrants in the American Revolution and the growth of Polish cuisine are both crucial in promoting the heritage of the Polish people."

— Trevor Kent
Scottsdale, Arizona

"The first method to promote our Polish heritage is to teach it to others. For example, my mother and grandma always told me about the special things we Polish people do ...

"Through the celebrations and customs, people can learn a lot about Polish heritage."

— Kyle Weber
North Tonawanda, New York

"All one needs to promote Polish heritage is persistence and passion. If one doesn't have these, then he or she could never contribute to the greater good."

— Ryan Sobczak
Lancaster, New York

"As a Polish family, we are proud of our heritage and work hard to keep the cuisine a tradition."

— Jessica Martin
Lancaster, New York:

"One thing we can do to promote our heritage is have more emphasis on the Polish culture and history in schools ...

"Another thing we can do is offer Polish language courses in more communities."

— Jennifer Repking
Chicago Heights, Illinois

SELECTED EXCERPTS

Honorable Mention 3 Year PAJ Subscription

Emily Sullivan
CHEEKTOWAGA, NEW YORK

"I love hearing the silly-sounding Polish songs and rhymes my mom sings. She learned them from her grandmother. One day, I will sing these same songs to my children. I hope to learn to speak fluent Polish."

"Speaking the language, teaching about it, and most importantly, practicing Polish culture is the best way to promote it. Polish heritage and culture is something beautiful and special, and should not be forgotten."



Claire Lukasiewicz HAMBURG, NEW YORK

"Of course, like many Polish Americans, *wigilia* is a favorite tradition of mine. I enjoy gathering with my extended family at my great aunt's home on Christmas Eve to share the traditional homemade, meatless meal. Each year, my great aunt is gracious enough to allow family and friends to her ever-growing table; this is a great way to introduce others to our Christmas practices ...

"Perhaps the best customs to share with *wigilia* novices is the breaking of *oplatek*. There is no better feeling in the world than to know people who you have just met would like to wish you future success ...

"It will soon be my generation's responsibility to listen, learn, and take in all they can regarding our rich Polish heritage ..."

**Congratulations to the Polish American Journal
on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary
of your service to American Polonia
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POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

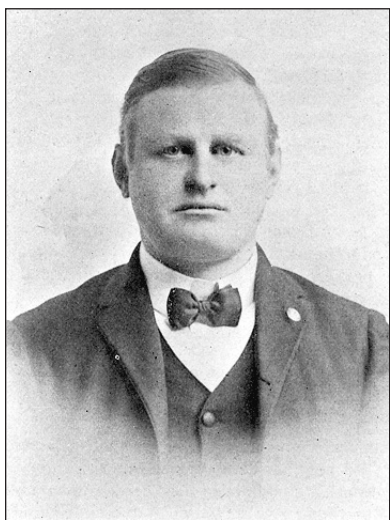
Buffalo Polonia in 1911

BUFFALO, N.Y. — As we mark the 100th anniversary of the PAJ, it is appropriate to look back with the hope of catching a glimpse of the “Polonia” that existed at the time that the first edition of the paper rolled off the presses. Poland did not appear on any map of the world in 1911. At that time, Poland was under the domination of Russia, Prussia and Austria as a result of the three partitions of the country in the late 18th and 19th centuries. This period was traumatic for the Pol-

ish people and many Poles from all three partitioning states immigrated to the United States at this time. In the forty years leading up to 1911, about 2 million ethnic Poles came to the United States in search of new opportunities not available in their homeland.

Many of those Polish immigrants came to Western New York. Over 20,000 came to Buffalo at this time. While there were many centers of Polish immigration in this area — Buffalo’s Black Rock and

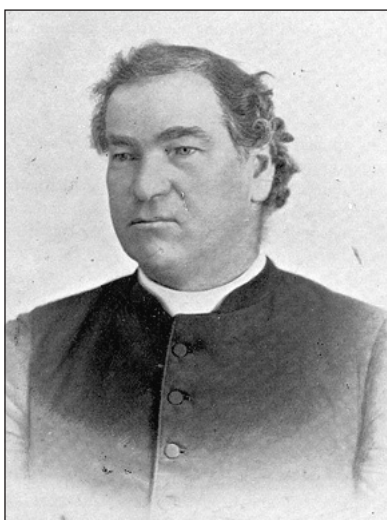
the area later to be known as Kaisertown neighborhoods, West Seneca, Cheektowaga, Depew, Olean, Salamanca, Batavia, North Tonawanda, Niagara Falls, Dunkirk, Rochester and Erie, Pa — the largest and most developed Polonia community in the area was the Broadway-Fillmore neighborhood on Buffalo’s East Side, now known as the “Historic Polonia District.” This area was a city within a city. It had its own churches, businesses and factories.



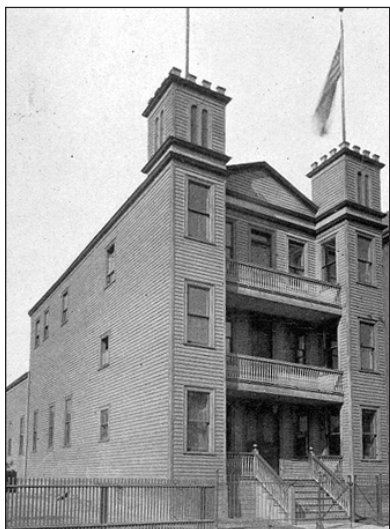
Local community leader, Dr. Francis E. Fronczak, a lawyer and a medical doctor, served as a general practitioner for Buffalo’s Polonia. Besides his private practice on Fillmore Avenue, he also held the position of Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Buffalo beginning in 1910.



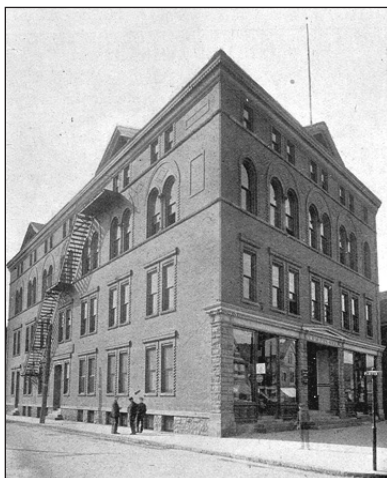
Dr. Fronczak’s Home on Fillmore Avenue. Fillmore, a north-south artery through Buffalo’s Eastside, was a mix of homes to many prominent Polish American leaders and businesses that included bridal shops, medical offices, photography studios, and furniture stores.



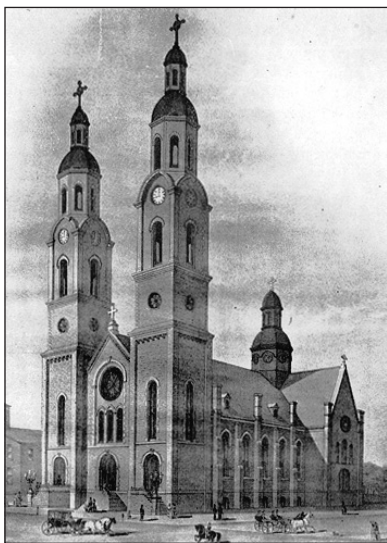
Under the leadership of longtime pastor, Rev. Jan Pitass (above), St. Stanislaus Church, the Mother Church of Buffalo’s Polonia, provided a religious home for many Polish immigrants. This one of several parishes established in the area for the newly-arrived Poles.



Polish Falcons Nest 6 on Broadway and Playter Street. The nest offices are now in nearby Cheektowaga.



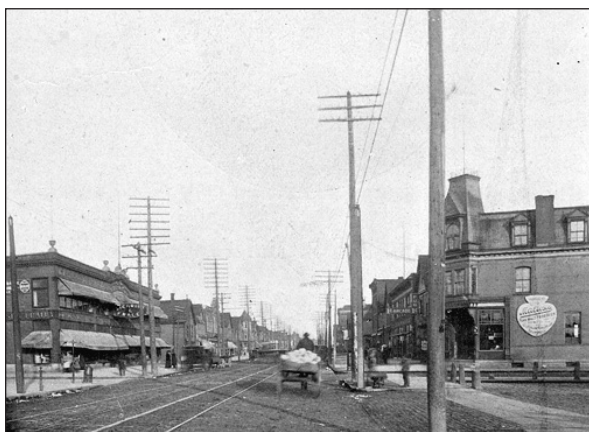
Buffalo Dom Polski (Polish Home) located at 1081 Broadway. In addition to housing numerous businesses, the home was site for dances, plays, and other social events.



St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Church, located on the corners of Wilson and Peckham streets.



The Broadway Market.



A view down Broadway.



Decades of Polish boys came to Spolka’s for their First Communion suits. The Polska Spolka Akcyjna (Polish Stock Company), located at 1040 Broadway, was in operation for most of the 20th century. The clothing store, a mainstay of the Broadway-Fillmore neighborhood, was founded by Association of Polish Merchants and Businessmen, who sought to increase the number of Polish-owned commercial endeavors on the East side.

Buffalo’s Historic Polonia District was a vibrant and exciting urban community 100 years ago. For more information about this area, please visit:

- <http://www.forgottenbuffalo.com/>
- <http://buffaloah.com/h/pol/hist/index.html>
- <http://broadwayfillmorelive.org/2.0/>

Source of Historical Photos: Album Oraz-Historiya Osady Polskiej w Buffalo, N.Y.

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PAHA

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

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

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PONDERRING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

When Art Imitates Good Life

Heritage months. March is the Irish month and one of my traditions for a period of time during St. Patrick's week was to rent a movie either produced in Ireland or one with an Irish theme. Irish-Americans are the one group extra vociferous about their ancestry and I did the movie thing along with a couple bottles of Guinness as a substitute for being sloshed with green beer and getting grief for not being 1/25 Irish. There has been a lot of good stuff coming out of Dublindywood the last couple decades and I have enjoyed this alternate approach.

It is more difficult to sit down and watch a good film about Polish characters or plots during October, the Polish month. Except for those in a daze, Hollywood has generally not been good to the Poles when it comes to uplifting and positive cinematic stories and characters. We are usually portrayed as bigots, dunces, socially inept and dysfunctional, or a combination of these. Don't let this get you down. Let me offer some hope along with a few good movie choices for Polish Heritage month. You can watch them while you are recuperating the day after tipping too many Zywiec at the VFW polka party:

October Sky. The true story about Homer Hickam, the young boy from a coal mining town who grows up to be an important rocket scientist. Homer is helped in the early stages of his learning about rockets from a miner with an Eastern European background, Ike Bykovsky. The name Bykovsky is probably not Polish but throughout the movie Homer and others pronounce Ike's last name as Bye-cow-ski which is most likely just West Virginian for Bye-kove-sky. The Bye-cow-ski version has a distinctive Polish ring and Ike is a good and decent guy who adds a nice perspective to the story in representing Poland or Eastern Europe. I'll take either.

Honey I Shrunk the Kids. "Wayne Szalinski is your average 'nutty scientist' working on a top secret machine which miniaturizes objects. When it unexpectedly starts working, he's so amazed he forgets to tell his family to be careful" (www.imdb.com). As you might imagine his kids become victims of the invention and get shrunk. The rest of the story is how Wayne and his wife locate the children and eventually restore their original form. Professor Szalinski is shown to be a smart guy, eccentric in a geeky sort of way, but in the end a decent and loving man to his kids and wife. He restores the children to their original form and in the process restores his relationship with his wife and family to the original form as well.

Under the Tuscan Sun. This movie has it all. For the women, romance in a foreign land with a sexy foreign man. For the guys, the beautiful Diane Lane, in a foreign land, with some boring, foreign, jerk. Did I mention Diane Lane? For the Poles, three nice guys named Pawel, Jerzy, and Zbigniew. These Polish dudes are competent and hard-working with a pleasing range of personalities from charming and responsible to playful. The young and handsome Zbigniew, in a sub plot, has a little romance of his own.

Water for Elephants. The year is 1931, the place America, and the main character in Water for Elephants is a young Polish-American with an undeniable Polish name, Jacob Jankowski (played by Robert Pattinson of Twilight fame). He

is a graduate of Cornell University, an Ivy League school, with a degree in veterinary science sans the final exam. Jacob's parents are Polish immigrants who speak Polish in the home and his father, like son, is a veterinarian. The story opens with the news that his parents are mortal victims in an auto accident. Stricken with grief, Jacob leaves home, joins the circus, and meets the love of his life.

To mention the positive aspects of this film, from a Pol-Am perspective, would almost be mundane when applied to another ethnic group. That is, the main character has an undeniable Polish surname, is very well educated, is accepting and defensive of his ethnicity and ancestral language, is honest, hard-working, and ethical. Polish characters usually are placed to effect or influence the outcome but in this case Jacob is the protagonist of the film and becomes our main focus. Because he is central to the action, we learn his thoughts, ideas, and dreams. Quite a pleasing twist for once.

Water for Elephants is everything we would expect in a film that lifts a spirit and especially our spirit. I recommend you see it. Let me know what you think of this movie and the others mentioned. Can you nominate one?

TRAVELS WITH THE PONDERRING POLE. Well, I will be crossing this off my bucket list. A dream was realized this summer with a trip to Savannah, Georgia. If you like old places full of character in history and people, please visit this magical and unique Southern city. There are golf courses and beaches nearby, and for Poles, the city is like a sacred pilgrimage to the Revolutionary War hero, Casimir Pulaski, with the Pulaski monument in Monterrey Square and also Fort Pulaski, Civil War fortress named for the general.

MORE POLISH PRIEST SUPER HEROES. Shortly after I wrote about a dedicated priest in the September Pondering Pole, two other similar guys surfaced and I want to mention them. In August, Father Stan Konieczny organized and led the Dozynki Mass and dinner at his parish in Smithton, Illinois. Father is a member of the Polish American Cultural Society of Metro St. Louis. We thank him and appreciate him for his vocation to the Church and commitment to Polonia.

In Savannah, at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, the priest celebrating Mass was Father Christopher Ortega. As much as I could tell, Father Ortega "gets into it." Two things stand out: before the Liturgy of the Eucharist, he invited the congregation to participate in a short exercise, chanting "come Holy Spirit" a number of times as a way to transform minds and hearts in a sort of mystical preparation for communion. He also made a point to tell the folks to get rid of their gum before the Eucharist. Father Chris, a different approach of another genuine and dedicated priest.

❖ ❖ ❖
Credit and *dziękuje bardzo* to Jack Jackowski for the majority share of the *Water for Elephants* summary.

I want to wish all of you a very happy Polish Heritage month. Congratulations to the Polish American Journal for 100 years of service to our people and to the community. My involvement with Mark Kohan and the PAJ has been just a small

portion of that time but it has been immensely gratifying. If you are Polish or want to learn about the Polish, get a subscription to this excellent newspaper. If you love someone, get him or her a subscription. It will be a worthy gift.

❖ ❖ ❖
If you have a thought about this month's topic, a question of your own, or 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 in the subject line. I will not open an eMail if I do not recognize the subject or the sender.

THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



SUPPLANTER OF THE STEAM LOCOMOTIVE. Rzeszow, Poland. May 20, 1976.

ASK ANDZIA ABOUT AMBER / Andzia Chmil

Sto lat! Sto lat!

One hundred years ago my grandmother was traveling in steerage making her way to America to become a bride for a Polish man, fifteen years her senior. She was 17 and spent a great deal of the trip weeping for her home, family, and friends in Bialystok.

As things turned out, those tears would be far from the last she wept in her new country. Her husband was a miner; in Northeast Pennsylvania many immigrants from Poland left their mark here in Scranton. As the city swelled with new life, the new immigrants had a bar and/or a church on each corner. The Catholic Churches were built by the hardworking men who came in and humbly did penance in these very same Churches for their sins — abusive treatment of their wives and children when they were exhausted from back breaking, numbing labor. Hard drinking to cover the melancholy they experienced every minute by seeing every red cent they made returned to the coal barons through the system of company stores and housing.

My grandmother had seven children, and after ten years of marriage no man to help her with the needs of a growing family. In the south side section of Scranton, called Minooka most everyone came from hard scrabble. Most Polish families always had plenty of eat, no matter what the financial conditions were. But, without a main breadwinner in the house, my father and his brothers and sisters often did experience

hunger.

Most of us fortunate to be of Polish heritage can easily compare stories of going to babcia's house and suddenly a feast of steaming food and delightful smells would appear on the table—Poles are very well known for their culinary skills in stretching a few portions to feed a crowd and feed them well.

Each generation became more educated than the previous — my father didn't have much of an education, but he made sure I did.

During Prohibition times my grandmother sold bathtub gin. For a while no one went hungry — until the day the Feds knocked on the door and all the children were separated and sent to the orphanage. A few years later the family was reunited, but the damage was done.

The older brothers had missed so much school they never went back. The three oldest brothers went to work, doing whatever odd jobs they could find — shoe shining, hawking newspapers — the list was endless. My father often went barefoot, giving his shoes to the youngest boy, Frankie, so he could stay in school and get an education.

The Polish immigrants to this country made sure they contributed to society, were hard working, and instilled these values in their children. Each generation became more

educated than the previous — my father didn't have much of an education, but he made sure I did. And I am grateful for that and all he and my babcia went through — all of us who have gone through rough patches have our Polish genes to thank — we can take the good with the bad and have the ability to have more good than bad in our lives.

Sto lat, Polish American Journal! Congratulations on your 100 years! You have the true Polish spirit, surviving through tough times and standing proud!

We invite you to join the American Council for Polish Culture and help preserve an environment that contributes to the development of our Polish culture.



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POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

Gone But Not Forgotten

I wasn't around when the first comment about a Polish polka musician was printed here. First putting polka pen to paper in 1968, I have been part of the Polish American Journal family for just a few songs short of 30 years. In this century of Polish and polka music, there have been many great bands, many great musicians and many great recordings. This certainly doesn't represent a complete list, but a sampling of those we can categorize as "Gone But Not Forgotten."



Some of the Most Influential Polish American Polka Musicians of the Last 100 Years

RAY BUDZILEK. Starting about the age of 8, Ray Budzilek began playing music in his home town of Cleveland, Ohio. Progressing musically, Budzilek established his big-band sound that became well-known throughout the entire polka industry.



Following a Korean Conflict injury, he found himself in a wheelchair and became proficient on clarinet and sax. His "Ice Cubes and Beer" polka became a signature song and re-established his band as one of most popular of its time.

In 1966, complications from a car accident had the polka world lose the great Ray Budzilek. He was inducted into the IPA Polka Hall of fame in 1973.



GENE WISNIEWSKI (left) and **FRANK WOJNAROWSKI.** Born in Manchester, Connecticut in 1921, Gene Wisniewski started his career playing the violin, saxophone, and accordion. The accordion soon became his favorite and he performed in a band with his two brothers.

After a stint piloting a B-24 Liberator bomber, Wisniewski returned home and back to music in 1945. Gene Wisniewski and the Harmony Bells had cut their first record and that was the beginning of the Wisniewski era in polka music. He brought together three saxophones, two trumpets, drums, piano, bass, and accordion, he created one of the most versatile big bands of that polka era.

Wisniewski would sing in Polish, English, Spanish or Italian but Polish vocals truly belonged to him. Gene's "Memories of Warsaw" album is considered a classic that highlights his pride in the cultural heritage of the Polish people.

Eugene "Gene" A. Wisniewski died Thursday, March 7, 2002 at the age of 80. He was inducted into the IPA Polka Hall of fame in 1973.

Born in Poland, Frank Wojnarowski's East Coast band was a dominant force in polkas in the 50s and early 1960s. "Bije Mamcia" was his first record on the Dana Label and popularized his renditions of hits like "Matka" waltz, "Jedzie Boat," "Rosemaria," and others.

He was inducted into the IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame in 1970. Frank Wojnarowski died in

1994.

BRUNON KYRGER. Born in 1899, Brunon Kryger started a musical career in his birthplace of Poland. Coming to the United States in 1925, he married and settled in Pennsylvania. After moving to Wilkes-Barre, Kryger became the "King of Polkas," with RCA Victor recordings like "Accordion" polka, "Hop-Siup Oj Dana," "Hula" polkas and others. Brunon Kryger performed all over the United States and his sons, Lucian, Bruce and Jerry, established "The Kryger Brothers" band.

He was a close friend of Polish musician, Ignacy Podgorski of Philadelphia. Brunon Kryger died in 1951 at the age of 52 and was inducted into the IPA Polka Hall of fame in 1977.

TED MAKSYMOWICZ. Born in New York, Ted Maksymowicz began his musical career as a teen, forming his first band in 1935, performing in many venues, including a seven-year run at the Roseland Ballroom. Maksymowicz introduced the polka to the Harvest Moon Ball in New York City and played polka hotspots throughout the Northeast. His music was popular with dancers everywhere.

Ted Maksymowicz died in 1973 at 57 years old. He was inducted into the IPA Polka Hall of fame in 1980.

EDDIE ZIMA. Eddie Zima began playing concertina at the age of six. Born in Chicago in 1923, Zima popularized a sound that still can be heard today and still a trademark with the Ampolaires. His approach to the concertina was classic and personal, letting the melody be heard and the band play as a unit. Eddie Zima recorded on Capitol, RCA, Chicago, Jay Jay and Dana labels with "Circus" polka one the most popular tunes with polka audiences. His music was made for dancers.

The polka industry lost Eddie Zima in 1966 but his music lives on for all to enjoy. He was inducted into the IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame in 1972.

IGNACY PODGORSKI. Ignacy Podgorski was born in Poland in 1886, arriving in the United States in 1906. He was a musician, arranger, composer and music publisher, but also a well-known recording artist. Starting his own music publishing business, his works numbered

over 1300 and he was heard on RCA Victor recordings. His love for the music was evident in every song, every arrangement, every lyric. Almost every Polish polka musician used a Podgorski music book at sometime in their careers.

Podgorski died in 1957 and was inducted into the IPA Polka Hall of Fame in 1978.

MARISHA DATA. Many know Marisha Data as "Aggie" in her comedic telephone skits. Data, however, was multi-talented as an opera singer, comedienne, concert singer, actress and much more.

She traveled and performed throughout the greater Northeast



to cities like Buffalo, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, and Canada. Her renditions of "Wishing Well" waltz and "Violins Play For Me," are standards in the industry, while her *Hello Aggie* album on Chicago Records and *Aggie's Telephone Gems* on Jay Jay are two of the most popular of her recorded works.

Data helped many charities via her radio program without personal recognition or personal publicity. She passed away in 1972 and was inducted into the IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame in 1974.



"LI'L WALLY" JAGIELLO (left) and **DON LUCKI.** Wladyslaw "Li'l Wally" Jagiello didn't invent polkas but he is considered the person who invented and established "Chicago-Style" polkas. This slower, drum-beat oriented, often improvisational music, made it appeal to post-World War II audiences.

Born in Chicago in 1930, Jagiello played his first gig at eight years old and started with the Eddie Zima Orchestra at age 10. He formed his own band at 14 and started his own Jay Jay Records in 1951. Wally's "I Wish I Was Single Again" sold over 150,000 copies just in Chicago and became number 22 on the national record charts.

Wally wrote the book on Chicago Style polkas and wrote many hits including "No Beer in Heaven," "Li'l Wally Twirl," "Johnny's

Knockin'," "She Likes Kielbasa," "Seven Days and Seven Nights," "Take Me Baby," "Chicago Is a Polka Town," "Two Bucks" polka and hundreds of others. He was, and to many still is, polka music.

Li'l Wally was inducted into the IPA Polka Hall of fame in 1973. He passed away in 2006.

DON LUCKI started with The Moondusters while he was in high school and that band became The Naturals. He left the group to join Li'l Wally. With Wally, Don recorded such classic hits as "Lucky Stop Waltz," "Going Ahead Polka," "Merka Merka" polka and "Leaving for the Service" polka. After a stint with the U.S. Army he re-started The Naturals. Lucki created the free-wheeling kind of Dixieland style polka music that was identified with the band. Leaving the band in 1967, Lucki did a 40-year stint in major radio. His contributions to polka music spanned decades.

He was inducted into the IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame in 2002. He passed away in December 2003

RAY HENRY. He was known to the polka world as Ray Henry but his actual name was Henry Mocariski, of Windsor, Connecticut. When Henry was 16 he started a polka trio with himself on accordion, Ray Zak on sax, and Emil Juda on drums. Using the first name "Ray" and "Henry," The Ray Henry orchestra was formed.

Frank Wojnarowski had Henry contact Walt Dana and "Don't Get Married, Son," the first 78 r.p.m. by the Ray Henry band, was recorded on Dana Records.

"Blonde Bombshell" polka and "Ballroom" polka are just two of the polka hits that have come from the musical magic of Ray Henry and his 10 piece big band. Over his career he composed more than 1,000 polkas, obereks, and waltzes.

Ray Henry passed away in 1998. He was inducted into the IPA Polka Hall of fame in 1972

WALTER SOLEK. Walt Solek started in his brother's orchestra and after a stint with Uncle Sam's Navy, formed his own band and recorded his first big hit, "Julida" polka. Playing locations throughout the Eastern states, Solek became known at the "Polish Spike Jones" or "The Clown Prince of Polkas."

Whether it be "Green Parrot" polka or "Who Stole The Kiszka," Walt Solek dressed the part and was more than a musician—he was truly a polka entertainer.

As quoted from IPA publicity, "When rock and roll came on the scene, the kids forgot all about pol-

kas," Solek stated, but was quick to add: "Polka music is now on the way back stronger than ever." He pointed out that disc jockeys who run polka programs must play more tunes with English lyrics." Walt Solek was a man ahead of his time.

Walter Solek was inducted into the IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame in 1974. The "Clown Prince of Polka" died on April 1, 2005 at the age of 94.

MARION LUSH. Born in Marion Luszcz in Chicago in 1931, his parents returned to Poland until the start of World War II, when they re-emigrated to the United States. Using the stagenam **Marion Lush**, he began his musical career on accordion, then drums, and then trumpet. His first hit, "Hey Cavalier" Polka,



came out and increased his popularity to the point where he was he was named "The Golden Voice of Polkas."

In the International Polka Association's Annual Polka Music Awards, Marion Lush received the award for Best Male Vocalist for three years in a row, in 1968-69-70. His Dyno hit "Blue Eyes Crying In The Rain" received the Best Single Award for 1970.

Lush was the owner of the Dyno Records and of Lu-Mar Publishing. He wrote the words, music and arrangements to almost 100 songs, and received many awards for record breaking crowds at ballrooms, parks and resorts throughout the U.S. He was the Golden Voice of Polkas and a friend to all.

Marion Lush was inducted into the IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame in 1972 and passed away May 4, 1991.

WALTER DANA. Wladyslaw Dan Danilowski, known to the polka world as **Walter Dana** was born in Warsaw, Poland. At the age of seven he was playing piano and composing music. His personal resume covers all aspects of music, theater, film, radio and more.

Arriving in the United States in 1939, in 1946 he formed Dana Records which became the top Polish-polka label of its day. Through Dana Records, Walter Dana introduced the polka world to Frank Woj-



narowski, Ray Henry, Gene Wisniewski, Johnny Bomba, Bernie Witkowski, Eddie Zima, Steve Adamczyk, Johnny Pecon, Regina Kujawa, Marisha Data and others.

An outstanding arranger, he was responsible for helping many bands find their signature sound.

Walter Dana was inducted into the IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame in 1971. He died in 2000 at the age of 96.

NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

A Trip Down Memory Lane

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Congratulations to the Polish American Journal on its one hundredth anniversary. When you think about it, that is quite an achievement! It certainly makes me proud to be a part of this outstanding publication.

I thought I'd go down memory lane, so I racked my brain trying to come up with local polka bands from the past and places that held polka dances years ago. In no particular order, I came up with the following:

Melody Bells. Best remembered for their hit number "Accordions on Parade."

The Jumping Jacks. This band many times would come out in comical costumes and do some funny things while playing — a fun band to watch!

Walt Jaworski. Played at Ray's on Clinton St. on Sat. nights where he drew a nice crowd and a good time was always had by all.

Hank Jaworski & the Buffalo Brass. They had an outstanding version of "In My Garden" polka.

The Hi-Notes. One of Richie Kurdziel's first bands. "Placze Anna" polka was one of their hits.

The New Yorkers with Hank and Whitey Mazurek. Everybody remembers "Hello Dolly."

Joe Macielag & the Pic-a-Polka Band. "Marysia" polka was a favorite. Joe had a TV show, played lots of Frank Wojnarowski songs, and had Christine singing also.

The Musicales. Roger Czarniecki played in this group which played a variety of music.

The Goral Boys. One of the first bands in town to feature a violin, Harry Burdick.

The Skylarks. Brothers Val, Terry, and Al Bakowski were members. The band used smoke and fireworks and had a catchy break tune. E-i-e-i-o!

The Modernaires. "The Cover of Polka World" was one of their many hits.

The Krew Brothers. Seven actual brothers in this band — every one talented

Big Steve & the Belairs. Steve Krzeminski was a great MC, band leader and person

Steel City Brass. Editor Mark Kohan's band, that played every-



A TALE OF TWO ANDYS. Andy Fenus (left photo, behind drums) and his band the Trel-Tones packed the dance floor at the Lamm Post. Andy Golebiowski (right photo, with plaque), was named "Polish American of the Year" by the Buffalo Bisons, and threw out the first pitch at the team's annual Polish Night.



thing from polkas to blues.

The G-Notes. Played often, had a great following and was the proving ground for brothers Tom and John Karas.

Mix 'n Match. A fun party band that played everything.

The Dynatones. David "Scrubby" Seweryniak and Larry Trojak, and then Mark Trzepacz who had many hits. Everyone always asked for "Zosia," "Red Shoes," and "Dorotka."

Happy Richie. Richie Bojczuk played the accordion and did great Polish vocals; this band also had a violinist, John Bartley.

Other bands I remember are the **Nickel City Boys**, **Cavaliers**, **Pol-Cats**, **Jan Cyman & the Musicalaires**, **Dave Gawronski & Musical Magic**, **The Associates**, **The Statesmen**, **Varitones**, **Valiants**, **KB Express**, **Ampol Tones**, **Royalaires**, **Dynasounds**, **Goral Boys**, **New York Sound**, **Sunshine**, **Nickel City Notes**, **Perfect Blend**, **Silvertones**, **Honky Hoppers**, **Buffalo Express**, and the **Soundsationalals**.

I apologize if I left anyone or any band out but this is not an official list — just those that came to mind from memory!

I also thought about some of the places that had polka bands but do not anymore for various reasons. These include: the Strand Ballroom, St. John Kanty's Lyceum, Dom Polski, Polish Union of America Hall, Ss. Peter and Paul in Depew, AM-VETS 26 on Ward Road in North Tonawanda, Polish Falcons Hall, Town Edge, Warsaw Inn, Unique Lounge, Broadway Grill, Alexan-

dria's, Misnik's, Front Page, King of Clubs, Ray's, Randolph Hall, The Cove, Jolly Roger, Tack Room, Polish Village, Chopin's, St. Michael's in Lackawanna, Fr. Justin Knights of Columbus and Knights of St. John on Union Rd., Matthew Glab Post and Weber Post in Lackawanna, the Crownview Restaurant, St. Gabriel's and the Point Breeze Hotel. Also, many parishes used to have lawn fetes featuring polka bands and that has also dwindled. Yes, those were the good old days!

Looking back, these bands and places provided us with so much entertainment and social nights out where old friends would meet and new ones were made. All the places we attended years ago bring back so many wonderful memories. Luckily there are still many bands around now that provide us with great entertainment but the number of places has diminished.

May the Polish American Journal continue its success and class for many more years. Sto lat!

CONGRATULATIONS ... to **Andy Golebiowski** for being honored as the 2011 Buffalo Bisons Polish American of the year. His award was presented at the Polish Festival Night at Coca Cola Field on Aug. 16. Andy is involved in many Polish organizations and very active in the Polish community; he is well deserving of this recognition.

LOTS-TO-DO. It was surprising to

have the Owl Picnic, Annunciation Church Lawn Fete, Corpus Christi's Dozynki, and Fourteen Holy Helpers Lawn Fete all on Aug. 21, and all had polka bands. I've heard each one was successful, so that is wonderful.

It was honky heaven at the Lamm Grove on Sept. 3 and 4. John Gnojek and Stephanie Pietrzak presented a "Honky Polka Fest," which featured some of the finest honky



CHRIS and **JIM KRUCZKOWSKI** enjoying themselves at the Buffalo Polka Boosters Annual Picnic.

style bands. This music is the heart of soul of polkas — no pop tunes set to a polka beat nor country western songs made into polkas. Almost all Polish vocals with many tunes that have been around a long time but we never tire of hearing. Jimmy Killian, Ray Jay, Ed Guca, Stephanie, and Andy Fenus & the Trel-Tones kept our feet tapping and our faces smiling the entire Labor Day weekend.

It was so good to see Judy Stringhill and her sister Verna, Laura Bethke and Kathy Blazonczyk among the many that attended. There were many more out-of-towners than local people at this one. If you did not attend, you missed a fantastic music-filled weekend.

UPCOMING

Oct. 15. Full Circle plays at St. Stan's Parish Center at 389 Peckham at Fillmore Ave. in Buffalo, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Call Jackie at (716) 444-8693,

Oct. 15. Cityside presents Polkasino, a Trip to the Seneca Niagara Casino. Buffet at Potts Hall after and music by Cityside. Call Ted at 668-9101.

Oct. 16. The Touch plays at the Sportsmen's Tavern, 326 Amherst St., Buffalo, NY starting at 4:00 p.m.

Oct. 20. Polka Boosters Meeting at the Polish Falcons Hall, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew, N.Y. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Music and refreshments. Everyone welcome to attend. Call Chris at 892-7977



CASEY and **CAROL KLISZAK** also made a day of it at the Boosters' picnic.

Oct. 22. Honky Style Polka Night with Stephanie at Potts Hall, 694 South Ogden St., Buffalo. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Music from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Oct. 26. Polka Variety Meeting at the Leonard Post, 2540 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga, N.Y. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., music starts at 7:30 p.m. New members welcome! Call Richard at (716) 816-2281.

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POLKA JUKEBOX / Steve Litwin

Time for an Office Party

MINNEAPOLIS — Memo to polka music fans: Craig Ebel & DyVersaCo is having an office party with the release of their newest CD appropriately titled, *Office Party*. A collection of 15 familiar tunes, this recording is made for all polka audiences. Offering Solek's "Green Parrot" polka and "Iron Casket" oberek, Wally's "North, South, East, West," "Jailbird," and "Merka, Merka," Gomulka's "My Best Friend," "Chocolate Soda" and others, there is something here to please everyone.

DyVersaCo always offers a clean, crisp sound with every musician being heard in the mix. Their music is solid, their tempo is smooth and it's

obvious they enjoy what they do.

Craig Ebel is on concertina, piano and drums. Lori Ebel handles fiddle and trumpet. Gary Jasicki covers clarinet, and sax. Mike Sariego is the bassman and Dana Lindblad is the man behind the drums.

Special guests on the project are six year old Christopher Ebel on drums for "Merka, Merka," one year old Lorin Ebel on the "go's" on "Fiddler's" polka, and Florian Chmielewski, Jr. on the "horse" on "Horses, Cows & Chickens."

Have an Office Party with DyVersaCo. Email dyversaco@hotmail.com or visit them on the web at: [www. http://itspolkatime.com/dyversaco.html](http://itspolkatime.com/dyversaco.html).

Cleveland Polka Association to Host Versatones

MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS, Ohio — The Cleveland Polka Association presents Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones, Sat., Nov. 26 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7230 Engle Road.

Donation is \$12 per person with those 18 and under admitted free.

No BYOB as food and beverages will be available. Doors open 5:30 p.m. with music from 7:00-11:00 p.m.

For more information or table reservations of eight or more call Helenrae (216) 661-5227. For hotel reservations call (440) 242-4040 and mention the "CPA" and get a special rate.

37th Annual Seven Springs Fall Festival

BRIDGEVIEW, Ill. — Eddie Blazonczyk presents the 37th Annual Fall Polka Festival at the Seven Springs Resort, November 4-6. Featured bands will include Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones, Darrell Welton's New Brass Express, The New Tradition, Polka Family, Stephanie & Her Honky Polka Band, Jimmy K and Ethnic Jazz, The Dynasonics, and Ray Jay & The Carousels.

A Saturday morning Bloody Mary party with polka DJ Ken Olowin will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Sunday will offer a Polka Mass with music by the Polka Family band. For room reservations contact at Bel-Aire Enterprises, Tish Blazonczyk, 7208 S. Harlem Ave, Bridgeview, IL 60455 or call (708) 595-5182, Mon.-Sat., 11:00 a.m. 'til 6:00 p.m. On the internet email belaire7208@aol.com or visit www.versatones.com.

2012 Dates Set for Fireworks Festival

BRIDGEVIEW, Ill. — Eddie Blazonczyk and Bel-Aire Enterprises have announced the dates for the 38th edition of the Polka Fireworks Festival at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion, Pa.

The Polka Fireworks is scheduled for Friday June 29 thru Sunday July 3, 2012. Watch the www.polkafireworks.com website for more information.

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IN MEMORIAM

Joe Dziuba, Musician, Recording Artist

HOWELL, N.J. — Joseph R. Dziuba, Jr., an accomplished musician who played the bass and recorded with many bands including Jolly Rich Anton, Freddy "K" Kendzierski, the Beat, and Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, passed away September 20, surrounded by his loving family.

"He made friends and fans throughout the country and with his talent and personality he touched the hearts of us all," said bandleader Lenny Gomulka. "We miss you Joe

and we thank you for being our friend, devoted father, and loving brother and son."

He is survived by two daughters, a son, his mother, sister, and brother.

Memorial contributions may be made to the CentraState Healthcare Foundation, 916 Rte. 33, Suite 6, Freehold, NJ 07728. Those wishing to express their condolences to Joe's family may send them to; The Dziuba Family, 76 Shinnecock-Hills Court, Howell, NJ 07731.

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Benefit for Chrissy Schwind-Welsh

by Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

TOLEDO, Ohio — In early 2011, Chrissy Schwind-Welsh of Toledo learned that she had stage 3 breast cancer. Chrissy is a former Toledo Polka Queen and a lifelong polka fan. She is the wife of Dave Welsh and has a daughter Gabby, who just started kindergarten, and a son, Dominic, age 1. This summer, Chrissy completed several rounds of chemotherapy and faces surgery later this year to ensure she remains cancer-free.

To help defray the costs of Chrissy's treatment, a polka benefit dance will be held Sunday, October 30, 2011 at the Conn-Weissenberger Hall on West Alexis Road, from 2:00-6:00 p.m. Musical entertainment will be provided by Randy Krajewski & the Czelusta Park All Stars. Randy and the boys are joining Kevin and Judy Kwiatkowski and Larry and Carol Holt to assist Chrissy and Dave. Included in the \$12.00 ticket price is a light lunch. A cash bar and raffle prizes will be available as well.

For more information, contact Kevin and Judy at (419) 691-5684 or Larry and Carol at (419) 836-8799.

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POLAND FIGHTS / Douglas W. Jacobson

Poland's 1st Armored Division

On May 6, 1945, two days before the end of World War II in Europe, the German commander of the Kriegsmarine base at Wilhelmshaven, Germany surrendered ten infantry divisions and more than two hundred German warships to the officer commanding the Allied forces that had captured the city. The officer was General Stanislaw Maczek, and the Allied division he commanded was the Polish 1st Armored Division. This is their story.

Great Britain and Normandy: 1942-1944

In 1942, thousands of battle-hardened Polish soldiers who had made their way to Great Britain after fighting in Poland and France, were organized into the Polish 1st Armored Division under the command of Poland's highly decorated WWI officer, General Stanislaw Maczek. By July of 1944, the 1st Armored Division numbered over sixteen thousand soldiers, 380 tanks and 470 motorized artillery guns. Armed, fit and ready for battle the division landed in Normandy as the campaign against Hitler's forces was raging.

The Allied armies were struggling to break out while the German Wehrmacht clung tenaciously to every defensive position. The Poles were attached to the 1st Canadian Corps who, along with the British forces of General Montgomery, attacked the Germans from the north. With General Patton's American forces attacking from the south, the Germans fought relentlessly to avoid encirclement. Through the first two weeks of August the battle raged on as the Germans fought ferociously to escape entrapment in the area that would come to known as the "Falaise Gap." In a fighting retreat, the Wehrmacht eventually reached the town of Chamboise and the last road open to them for escape to the east. The Poles, in the center of the attacking Allied armies, were relentless in pursuit and, on the 19th of August, after a prolonged, bitter struggle seized Chamboise and established a position on the top of nearby Mount Ormel.

From this position the Polish 1st Armored Division had an ideal vantage point over the entire area of the Falaise Gap from which to call in artillery and air strikes. It was a precarious position, however, and they were soon surrounded by German forces on both sides of the hill. Low on fuel, the Poles dug in, vowing to hold on at all costs. The Germans

savagely attacked the Polish positions, desperate to dislodge them and prevent the closing of the gap. The Poles, taking heavy casualties, repelled every assault while their radio operators continued to direct the fire of Canadian artillery batteries. Through continuous bombardments in the flat plains below the hill, German corpses piled up among draft animals and the shattered, burning remains of hundreds of tanks and trucks. The Poles hung on through the carnage as the Americans, Canadians and British closed in until the gap was finally closed on August 21st.

The result was an enormous victory for the Allied forces. More than ten thousand Germans were killed and another fifty thousand taken prisoner. The Polish 1st Armored Division alone captured over five thousand prisoners and destroyed 570 German tanks and 100 artillery guns. The losses to the Poles were 450 killed and 100 tanks lost. So great was the contribution of the

Polish 1st Armored Division that Winston Churchill later acknowledged their tenaciousness and valor by describing the battle as, "the Germans trapped in a bottle with the Poles as the cork which would not budge."

The battle of the Falaise Gap was the last hurdle in the breakout of the Allied armies from Normandy. From there they drove on through France to Belgium and Holland where the Polish 1st Armored Division would again be called on to aid in this titanic struggle.



Douglas W. Jacobson is the Polish-American author of the award-winning book, *Night of Flames: A Novel of World War Two*, and a frequent contributor to this newspaper. Mr. Jacobson has written a second historical novel set in Poland in *World War Two*, *The Katyn Order*. Both books are available online and at any bookstore. You can visit him on the web at www.douglaswjacobson.com.

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GENEALOGY

Tracing Ancestors Made Easy with Discovering Roots

by Magdalena Rybkowska

If you want to discover the history of your ancestors in Poland, "Discovering Roots" is one of the companies you can turn to. Started in 1997, and created by young people from Poznań "Discovering Roots" is a way to find out many details about your family history.

The creators of this project: Lukasz Bielecki, Kasia Grycza, and Magda Smolka, are qualified tour guides, genealogists and linguists, who are willing to share their knowledge and interest in a process of discovering roots. As they say: "[Their] initiative was prompted not only by [their] personal hobbies but also by some of [their] foreign friends seeking advice on the internet while discovering their family history which started here in Poland."

When the political situation in Poland forced people to move out of the country during war and Communist times, many of them lost all of their connections. Nowadays, it became possible for families of those people to look for their roots and visit places connected with them. However, because of the language barrier and difficult history of Poland, it is not easy to research the archives

without the help of local people, especially when many of the vital records are written in Russian and German. Thus, Lukasz, Kasia, and Magda can offer their expert translation skills.

Those three young people not only offer private tours to the towns, or villages of your ancestry, but they also provide translation services in communicating with local townspeople, and can assist in organizing family reunions. However, if you are unable to travel to Poland, they can still offer valuable services, such as conducting genealogy research in local archives, or taking photos of your ancestors' home towns. With their fluency in the English language, there will be no problem communicating with them, which can be done via the internet.

Lukasz, Kasia and Magda are people who can help families reunite, and make it possible for people to discover their own history, while maintaining the highest level of professionalism and commitment.

Further information is available at <http://www.discovering-roots.pl/welcome.htm>.

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- professional photography services

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www.discovering-roots.pl

or contact us directly:

Kasia Grycza:
kgrycza@discovering-roots.pl
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BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes, MLIS

100 Polish-Related Books

In keeping with the 100th anniversary theme, here are 100 books about Poland, Poles, Polish Americans, by Poles and Polish Americans, and more. Keep this as a handy guide when deciding titles for the PolAm book collector in your family.

1. **A HISTORY**, by Norman Davies
2. **A LIFE**, Isaac B. Singer, by Florence Noiville
3. **A MAN WHO SPANNED TWO ERAS**, The Story of Bridge Engineer Ralph Modjeski by Joseph Glomb, tr. by Peter Obst
4. **A QUESTION OF HONOR, THE KOSCIUSZKO SQUADRON** by Lynne S. Olson and Stanley Cloud
5. **AGAINST A CHIRMON SKY** by James C. Martin
6. **AMERICAN BETRAYAL**, Franklin Roosevelt Casts Poland into Communist Captivity by Francis Casimir Kajencki
7. **AN INVISIBLE ROPE, PORTRAITS OF CZESLAW MILOSZ**, ed by Cynthia L. Haven
8. **AN OUTLINE HISTORY OF POLISH CULTURE**, by Jagiellonian University
9. **BLOODLANDS: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin**, by Timothy Snyder
10. **CASIMIR PULASKI**, Cavalry Commander of the American Revolution, by Francis Casimir Kajencki
11. **CHOPIN IN PARIS**, The Life and Times of the Romantic Composer, by Tad Szulc
12. **CHOPIN'S POLAND**, by Iwo and Pamela Zaluski
13. **CONRAD IN PERSPECTIVE**, Essays on Art and Fidelity, by Zdzislaw Najder
14. **CROCODILE, AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY** by Francis Casimir Kajencki
15. **CZESLAW MILOSZ, CONVERSATIONS**, ed. by Cynthia L. Haven
16. **DICTIONARY OF POLISH PROVVERBS**, a Bilingual Edition, ed. by Miroslaw Lipinski
17. **ENGLISH-POLISH DICTIONARY** (2 vol) by Kazimierz Bulas and Francis Whitfield
18. **ENIGMA**, How the Poles Broke the Nazi Code, by Wladyslaw Kozarczuk
19. **ENTANGLEMENT**, by Zygmunt Miloszewski, tr by Antonia Lloyd-Jones
20. **FIGHTING WARSAW, THE POLISH UNDERGROUND STATE**, 1939-45, by Stefan Korbonski, tr by F.B. Czarnowski
21. **FIRE IN THE STEPPES**, by Henryk Sienkiewicz
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33. **INTRODUCTION TO POLISH LITERATURE**, by Adam Gillon and Ludwik Krzyzanowski
34. **JOHN PAUL II** by Ray Flynn and Robin Moore
35. **JOSEPH CONRAD, A LIFE**, by Zdzislaw Najder
36. **KAROL WOJTYLA**, The thought of the Man who became Pope John II, by Rocco Buttiglione
37. **KATYN ORDER** by Douglas W. Jacobson
38. **KATYN: A CRIME WITHOUT PUNISHMENT**, ed. By Anna M. Cieniala
39. **LAND OF THE WINGED HORSEMEN: ART IN POLAND, 1572-1764**, by Jan Ostrowski, et al.
40. **LAST HARVEST**, How a Cornfield became New Daleville, by Witold Rybczynski
41. **LEGENDS OF MODERNITY**, by Czeslaw Milosz, tr. by Madeleine Levine, (Nobel Prize winner)
42. **LEONARDO DA VINCI AND THE SPLENDOR OF POLAND** by Laurie Winters
43. **LORD JIM** by Joseph Conrad
44. **MADAM CURIE**, A Biography by Eve Curie, tr. by Vincent Sheen
45. **MAN OF THE CENTURY**, the Life and Times of Pope John Paul II, by Jonathan Kwitny
46. **MONOLOG OF A DOG**, New Poems, by Wislawa Szymborska, tr. Clare Cavanaugh and Stanislaw Baranczyk (Nobel Prize winner)
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51. **PAN TADEUSZ** by Adam Mickiewicz, tr. by Kenneth Mackenzie
52. **POLAND**, An Illustrated History, by Iwo Cyprian Pogonowski
53. **POLAND IN CHRISTIAN CIVILIZATION**, comp. by Jerzy Braun
54. **POLAND'S TRANSFORMATION, A WORKER'S PROGRESS**, comp by Marek Chodakiewicz, et al.
55. **POLISH AMERICANS AND THEIR HISTORY**, Community, Culture and Politics, ed. by John Bukowski
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SPEAK UP

Sto lat to the Polish American Journal

Dear Mark and Staff,

Our family sends you a hearty round of "Sto lat," and wishes you continued success in your dedicated endeavors.

Under the national editorship of Henry Dende, and the Chicago editorship of, first, John Kalin, DDS and then Ron Jasinski Herbert, I was the author of a column entitled "Oh, Really!" for several years regarding Chicago and national Polonia happenings, as well as reflections about our ethnic community.

It was a great publication then as now, and heady stuff for a young mother; this experience increased my love and knowledge of my Polish heritage, first learned from, and nurtured by, my dear late parents, the three of us post-World War II displaced person immigrants.

How you load up each issue with so many facts is simply amazing, and we want nothing more than for

you all to continue this great newspaper!

Maria and Richard Ciesla
Illinois

YES, I READ. This year, I celebrated the 25th anniversary of my emigration to the State, which has brought a tremendous amount of reflection back to my Polish roots.

As is commonly known, there was great confusion in our Polish history books back in school. For example, I was not able to connect the dots about the fight for Polish independence in the first part of the last century. I took for granted that Poland simply re-appeared on the map. It was as though independence emerged from nothing. And what of all the great Polish heroes? What I had, from my feeble history books, was the partial truth.

It is because of the availability of great books, Polish newsletters,

newspapers and magazines like the Polish American Journal, I have been able to find the answers to the many gaps in my knowledge of Poland history.

Thanks to the Polish literature here in the United States, and especially the Polish American Journal, I'm able to find all of the details I have been missing — past and present.

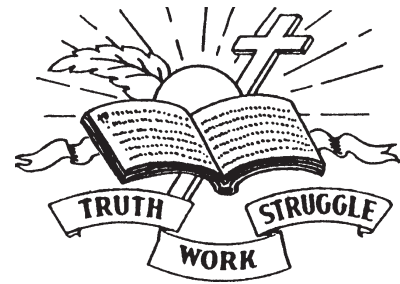
There is no substitute for this extraordinary publication. It is such a good feeling to realize that my foundation as a Polish native is solid. I have great heritage to pass on my children. However far in distance, it is always my homeland.

I look forward to its monthly arrival with tremendous excitement. I read it from cover to cover — I find every bit of content important to soak in.

The Polish American Journal is not just a gazette. It gives me great pride in being Polish and hopes that Poland will continue to get stronger. Truly, this Journal is a treasure. It is Poland for Polonia.

Thank you for 100 years of effort to make it happen. I, for one, wish you another hundreds years of continuing to write our story for future generations of Polish Americans.

Danuta Chwaleba
Houston, Texas

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Getting PolAms “hooked on their heritage” Pol-Am Journal Sparks Life-long Career

by Robert Strybel
*Polish American Journal
Warsaw Correspondent
Polish/Polonian Affairs Writer*

Rather than be repetitive (there is plenty of other copy detailing the history and development of the *Polish American Journal*), I will focus instead my own encounter with this newspaper. It was to produce a major turning point in my life and that of my family by helping launch a life-long career. But the initial contact was rather uneventful.

Having been born and raised in Hamtramck, Mich., Detroit's once predominantly Polish enclave-suburb, I was familiar with the “half-napól” kitchen Polish of my grandparents and their Polish-born peers. In my grandparents' homes I was exposed mainly to Polish-language publications such as Detroit's own *Dziennik Polski*, *Nowy Świat* out of New York, and *Miesięcznik Franciszkański* from Wisconsin, but I could read them with difficulty and only partial comprehension. Signed up as we were for Polish National Alliance insurance, we also regularly received their official organ *Zgoda*, printed in Polish and English.

But it wasn't until my college days that I first encountered the *Pol-Am Journal*. That was in the office of Professor Edmund Zawacki at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. I glanced through it without realizing at the time how profoundly it would affect my life half a decade later. It was also at the professor's office that I first met Father Zdzisław Peszkowski who was pursuing doctoral studies under Zawacki's supervision. Little did I know that within a few years we would become colleagues at Polonia's Orchard Lake Schools near Detroit, where I got my first teaching job.

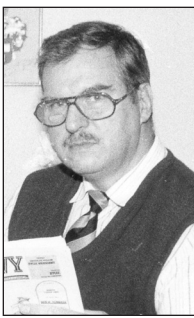
I later received a Kościuszko Foundation scholarship to pursue doctoral studies in Polish literature at Warsaw University. But in life things often take a different twist. To make a long story short, instead of me getting a Ph.D., a pretty

Warsaw coed got an “MRS” degree.

While studying in Warsaw I had sent a few articles to Joe Kargol who published my hometown paper, the *Hamtramck Citizen*. The items were of the “hometown boy tells about Poland today” variety and generated considerable interest. Back then, the notion of a young Polish American venturing behind the “iron curtain” was still quite a novelty. Soon Henry Dende of the then Scranton-based biweekly *Polish American Journal* asked Kargol for permission to reprint them. This second contact with the PAJ turned out to be most eventful.

When the editor of the *Czas* newspaper of the Polish National Alliance of Brooklyn also asked about reprinting my articles, I figured I may be on to something. I looked up the addresses of existing Polish-American papers and sent them an offer of regular news and features from Poland. The *Polish American Journal* was the first to accept. Other early clients included Buffalo's *AmPol Eagle*, *Polish Daily News* (Detroit), *Polish-American World* (Long Island), *Naród Polski* (Chicago), the Polish-language *Pittsburgher* (Pittsburgh), *Czas* (Brooklyn), and a Boston paper with the long-winded title – *New England Polish-American News Digest*.

Over the years, my articles on all facets of Polish events, culture, heritage and contemporary life have appeared in English and Polish in nearly three dozen publications, most of them no longer in existence. They included *Polonia*, *Relax* and *Polish News* (Chicago), *White Eagle* (Ware, Mass. – no connection to the present Boston-based *White Eagle*), *Polish Weekly* (Detroit), *Alliancer* (Cleveland) and *Czas* (Winnipeg, Canada) as well as a few now defunct radio



STRYBEL (above, c.2004), has been with the PAJ since he started as a Polish affairs writer.

programs.

It turns out that I have spent most of my adult life as the U.S. Polonia's Warsaw correspondent, and it really all started with that inquiry by the PAJ's Henry Dende. I recently glanced through dusty folders containing decades of letters from readers, and the majority came from PAJ subscribers. They asked about where they could get a Polish folk costume, flag, map or other ethnicity items. Some inquired about retiring in Poland, adopting Polish orphans or the locality their immigrant ancestors had hailed from. They asked about visiting and studying in Poland, finding a Polish penpal and about recipes for dishes their “busia” used to make.

In their letters, some readers added that they had posed their Polish-related questions to their pastor, PolAm lodge president, sometimes the Polish American Congress, Kościuszko Foundation or Polish Consulate without getting a satisfactory reply. Some even addressed me as “Our Man in Warsaw,” hence the title of my question-and-answer column in the PAJ and other papers. I should point out that all this was taking place years before the Internet had made its appearance, and sources of information on things Polish were still few and far between.

The letters in my Warsaw mailbag and the e-mails I receive at present have reflected a wide diversity of reader interest. That has convinced me that the best way to get fellow-PolAms “hooked on their heritage” is to provide information on as wide a range of topics as possible.

To strike a respondent chord, columns should touch on a wide array of current events, culture, religion, history, folklore, lifestyles, genealogy, heraldry, tourism, sports, re-enactments and culinary pursuits. That has been largely achieved by the *Polish American Journal's* digest format which offers something for everyone in convenient, easy-to-read form. It is my hope that the PAJ will also be able to serve and inspire the upcoming generation of young Polonians for many years to come.

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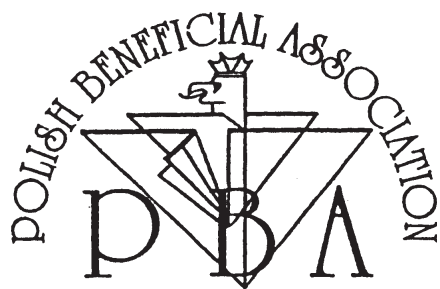
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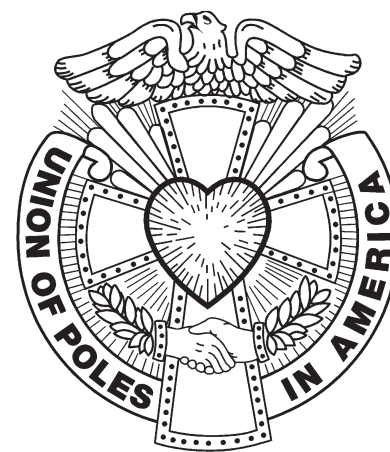
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Oh, and should you need a peek at the motherland or a daily dose of Polish genealogy and culture, try some of the links set out below.

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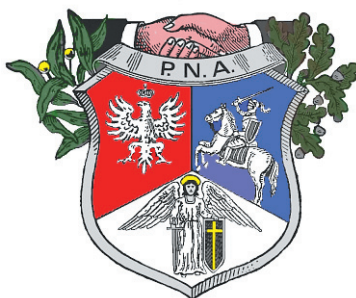
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Planning a PolAm Dinner Party or Banquet II

Planning to entertain at home this fall? Considering what to serve at a dinner party or other celebration. Or maybe your local PolAm fraternal lodge, nest, post, club or parish is holding its annual fall banquet or dinner-dance.

The old standbys (gołąbki, kielbasa, pierogi, etc.) are great, but why not consider also enriching your menu with some Polish gourmet treats.

Here are a few more classic Polish entrées that will turn any dinner into a true feast.

ROAST DUCK WITH APPLES & PRUNES. (kaczka z jabłkami i śliwkami). Preheat oven to 475°. Rub a well-rinsed, dried 4-5 lb duck with salt, pepper, marjoram and 2 buds mashed garlic. Place in covered roasting pan and let stand at room temp 1 hr. Fill cavity tightly with peeled apple halves and pitted prunes and sew up. Return to pan and pop into oven. After 15 min reduce heat to 375°. Sprinkle duck with about 1/2 c water and roast uncovered 1 1/2 to 2 hrs or until done, basting occasionally with pan drippings. After 1 hr add 1 c pitted prunes to drippings and bake another 45 - 60 min or until fork-tender. Serve with mashed or boiled potatoes or rice, garnishing them with the prunes cooked in the drippings.

ROAST BEEF HUSSAR STYLE (pieczeń wołowa po huzarsku). Wash and beat 2 1/2 lb beef round tip or boneless rump roast. Sprinkle with salt, dust all over with flour and brown on all sides in hot fat to form a crust. Transfer to roaster, add the browning fat, 1/2 c water, cover and bake in slow 325° oven 1 1/2 to 2 hrs or until nearly done. Meanwhile prepare filling: combine 1/2 lb onions, grated, with 1 c bread crumbs (rye bread crumbs are esp. good in this dish) and 1/4 c butter and salt & pepper generously to taste. Transfer roast to cutting-board and cut 3/4 of the way down at 1-1/2" intervals. Fill the openings with onion-bread stuffing, press roast back together tightly, fasten with wooden skewers, return to roaster and bake another

30 min. or so. Let stand covered 15 min or so after removing from oven. Slice roast so that each portion contains a layer of filling enclosed by meat. Serve with potatoes of choice and braised sauerkraut, white cabbage or red cabbage. A grated vegetable salad is also a good go-together.

CHICKEN-BREAST CUTLETS (kotlety z piersi kurczaka). Pound 4 skinned and halved chicken

breasts to between 1/8" and 1/4" thick. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and (optional) a little marjoram and ground juniper, dredge in flour, dip in egg wash and roll in bread crumbs, shaking off excess. Fry in several T hot butter to a nice gold-brown (several min per side), drain on absorbent paper and serve immediately. Dress portions with parsley sprigs and lemon wedges. Serve with rice or potatoes and lettuce.

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NEWSMARK

ANOTHER POLONIAN PARISH ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK? Perth Amboy, N.J.'s **St. Stephen's Church**, founded in 1892, may be the next victim of the current wave of parish "consolidation" afoot in various American dioceses.

According to an announcement made at Mass September 4, the current proposal for consolidation of Perth Amboy's nine Latin Rite churches into four, envisions St. Stephen's being merged with the city's oldest church, St. Mary's (the territorial parish which *de facto* was also the Irish parish) and its newest, Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, founded in the 1980s for Portuguese immigrants. Of Perth Amboy's nine parishes only one—Our Lady of Fatima, the Hispanic parish—would remain a self-standing parish. The churches which are merged would be juridically suppressed as independent parishes and erected as new, single parishes under new patronal names, albeit with several churches. In theory, the new parish councils could in the future decide to sell off individual church buildings.

The Metuchen consolidation scheme envisions recommendations being submitted to Bishop Paul Bootkoski by the end of September, with decisions promulgated by January 1 and implemented by July 1, 2012. Parishioners were urged to contribute to the debate over what the new parish might be called; whether the parish is to be consolidated, however, was presented as a fait accompli. As one parishioner observed: "The exercise is about as meaningful as rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic."

St. Stephen's was founded in 1892, as growing waves of Polish immigrants settled the North Jersey town to work in its factories. Under

diocesan care until recently, pastoral care was assumed circa 2007 by the Warsaw Province of the Redemptorists, who have done much to revive the parish's ethnic dimension. Perth Amboy's own demography has been shifting since the 1970s towards a predominantly Hispanic makeup.

Already, Holy Family Polish Church in Carteret has been consolidated with various other city parishes into a technically non-ethnic "Divine Mercy" Parish.

MYSTERIOUS WAYS. Hurricane Irene, which did heavy damage to Springfield, Mass., and surrounding areas, failed to cause any harm to **Mater Dolorosa** church in Holyoke. Winds over 70 m.p.h. did not move a single shingle on the roof of the Polish American landmark, which was closed in June by Springfield Diocese.

Since its closing, the church has been the site of a non-stop vigil, aimed at reopening the parish.

The diocese shuttered the parish, citing safety hazards. A structural engineer, hired by parishioners, disagreed with diocese's engineers.

Since June, Mater Dolorosa has survived a tornado, a microburst, earthquake tremors, and Hurricane Irene.

YAHOO TO STOP USING "POLISH DEATH CAMPS." In a letter to

Thaddeus Radzilowski, president of the **Piast Institute**, YAHOO! Inc. announced that it is the decision of its Editorial Process and Policy group that it will not use "Polish" in the title/description of a Nazi Death Camp and this policy "has now been incorporated into the standard training documentation."

In releasing the decision Radzilowski said, "This is an important victory in the struggle to ensure that the history of World War II in Poland is not told in a misleading and defamatory way and that the Polish story of great valor, unflinching resistance and incredible suffering in the cause of freedom is presented truthfully." He pointed out that YAHOO! Inc. is the number one internet browser globally, and reaches the largest audience worldwide. It serves 345 million individuals each month. The willingness of YAHOO! Inc. to ban the use of the term "Polish Death Camps" is thus a major step in this campaign.

The issue first arose on May 12, 2011 when a YAHOO! Inc. release read "U.S. Auto worker convicted over Nazi Deaths. John Demjanuk was an accessory to the murder of thousands as a guard at a Polish Death Camp."

NO NEW TAXES. Poland will not legislate new taxes in 2012, said finance Minister **Jacek Rostowski** of

the Civic Platform Party.

"We do absolutely everything to not raise taxes. We want to keep taxes low. I do not see any reason to increase VAT next year and there are no other tax increases planned."

WALESA RECOVERING. **Jaroslav Wałęsa**, member of the European Parliament and son of former Solidarity leader Lech Wałęsa, is conscious and has feeling in his legs doctors said.

The developments have given doctors hope that Wałęsa could walk again after a horrific motorcycle crash that required him to be transported by helicopter to a hospital in Warsaw for emergency spine surgery.

"We have some hope that in the future the patient will be able to return to a similar or the same condition that he was in before the accident," Zbigniew Rybicki, a doctor at the hospital, was quoted by the AP as saying.

Wałęsa was kept in an induced sleep. The accident, in which he slammed his motorcycle into an SUV in the town of Stropkowo, in central Poland, left him with broken bones in his spine, arms, legs and pelvis.

Doctors said the helmet he was wearing likely saved his life, preventing damage to his skull.

CRASH VICTIM EXHUMED. Polish authorities exhumed the body of one victim killed with President Lech Kaczynski and others in the 2010 plane crash in Russia.

A military prosecutor said the body of **Zbigniew Wassermann**, a former minister for secret services, was removed from Krakow cemetery because his family found fault with the Russian autopsy. The victim's daughter maintains that the Russians falsified her father's autopsy report and stated that the report mentioned organs that her father had had removed years prior to the crash.

Relatives of other victims of the crash have also expressed doubts and mistrust of autopsies of their loved ones and are considering exhumations as well. Some relatives fault the Polish government for allowing the Russians to take the lead in securing the crash site and for conducting the autopsies. Others continue to believe that Moscow is attempting a cover-up of Russian mistakes and that Russians intentionally brought the plane down.

Although Polish government investigators concluded that the crash was caused by heavy fog, inferior pilot training and also poor guidance from Russian air traffic controllers, Russian investigators maintain that Russians bear no responsibility for the tragedy.

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We are an organization of volunteers, who for the last 33 years have funded surgical procedures for sick Polish children.

For information, please call President
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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

A Hundred Years of Polonia Sports

People have enjoyed sports since the ancient times, but it has dramatically changed in this country over the last 100 years. Polish Americans have been in the forefront of that change, and many utilized the opportunities afforded by sports to make positive changes in their lives.

When the *Polish American Journal* was founded in Pennsylvania in October 1911, sports was not the billion dollar business it has become in this country. For most, it was a leisure activity rather than a way to earn a living. For most Polish Americans at that time, working in the fields, factories and coal mines afforded them little time to pursue sports on a collegiate or professional level. However, by 1911 there were some Polish Americans who had already made an impact. That year marked the death of **Oscar Bielaski**, considered the first Polish American to play major league baseball. Bielaski's major league career lasted from 1872 to 1876. His father, Alexander, was a Polish émigré who died fighting for the Union Army in the American Civil War. A year earlier, the first Polish American sports superstar, the great middleweight boxing champion **Stan Ketchel**, was shot to death. Earlier, in 1904, **Frank Piekarski** became the first Polish American to be named All-American, and led the Pennsylvania Quakers to a 12-0-0 record.

As the 20th century progressed, Polish Americans became prominent in nearly every sport in America. Baseball's **Stan Musial**, boxing's **Tony Zale**, tennis' **Frank Parker**, football's **Johnny Lujack**, and basketball's **Tom Gola** were just a few of the great Polish American sports figures.

More than just giving Polonia athletic heroes they could look up to, sports gave many Polish Americans the access to social and economic mobility that they were often denied in this country due to prejudice and cultural differences. It also helped foster a sense of community and ethnic pride in their heritage at a time when that heritage was frequently maligned in mainstream America. Although a lot has changed over the past hundred years, sports remains a vital force in Polonia, and that will likely continue for many years to come.

LOOKING FOR A FEW. The National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame and Museum is looking for candidates to add to its ballot for 2012. The Hall of Fame was found-

ed in 1973, and its first inductee was Stan Musial. With his year's class, the Hall now has 123 members.

Anyone can nominate his or her favorite Polish American athlete or coach by writing to: Nominating Committee, National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame, 11727 Gallagher, Hamtramck, MI 48212.

Former athletes, except those competing in a senior division, have to be inactive for a period of two years. Be sure to include as many particulars as possible, including information on your nominee's Polish heritage (either parent has to be of Polish background). Once a candidate is nominated by the Hall's Board of Directors, each person on the approximately 300-member NPASHF Sports Council Panel chooses six nominees from the list of twenty, and the top two candidates win induction. Candidates who don't win election in seven tries are moved to the Veterans List, where they are eligible for induction through the Board's Veterans Committee. Check out their web site at www.polishsportshof.com.

THE POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL ALL-TIME POLISH AMERICAN BASEBALL TEAM

On special occasions — like the 100th anniversary of the PAJ — I like to assemble an All-Time Baseball Team. It's a lot of fun to put together and always generates plenty of interest from readers.

This time around I picked one player for every position, a designated hitter and utilityman, two right-handed pitchers and two lefties, lefty and righty relievers, and a manager. The team members had to be retired to be considered.

Outfield: Stan Musial, Al (Szymanski) Simmons, Carl Yastrzemski. What a great outfield — all Hall of Famers! Not making the cut, however, was Barney McCosky, considered one of the best leadoff hitters of his era. He had a .312 career batting average, and would likely have ended up in Cooperstown if he had not lost three seasons to serving in World War II and then suffering serious back problems (by the way, his last name is actually derived from his Lithuanian father's name — his mother's name was Rutkowski). Other outstanding Polish American

outfielders joining him on our bench were Tom Paciorek and John Kruk.

First base: Ted Kluszewski "Big Klu" was known for his massive arms and impressive power, but he was also an excellent hitter who batted .300 or better seven years in a row and was difficult to strike out. He had five seasons of 100 RBI or more and led the NL with 49 homers and 141 RBI in 1954.

Kluszewski was an excellent defensive first baseman as well. He was picked over Doug Mientkiewicz as well as Yankee greats Bill "Moose" Skowron and Joe (Kollonige) Collins.

Second base: Bill Mazerowski. A Hall of Famer and widely considered the best defensive second baseman ever, he's probably best known for winning the 1960 World Series with a dramatic game-ending home run.

Shortstop: Alan Trammell. Trammell (his mother was named Panczak) retired with 2,365 hits, 1,231 runs scored, 185 home runs, 1,003 runs batted in and four Gold Gloves. In my opinion, he deserves serious consideration for the Baseball Hall of Fame, but probably won't get it till his name comes to the Veterans Committee.

Catcher: Frankie Pytlak. This one was a tough call. Pytlak was a very good hitter (he batted over .300 three times) and was an outstanding fielder. At the time of his retirement in 1946, his .991 career fielding percentage was the highest career average by a catcher in major league baseball history. I chose Pytlak over Stan Lopata, Carl Sawatski and John Grabowski, who caught for the team many consider

baseball's best ever, the 1927 New York Yankees.

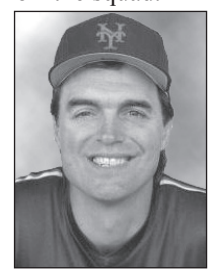
Third base: George "Whitey" Kurowski. Childhood osteomyelitis left him with his right arm shorter than his left, but Whitey was a very productive big league third baseman. He was the hero of the 1942 World Series for the St. Louis Cardinals, hitting a home run to break a 2-2 tie in the ninth inning of Game Five to clinch the title over the Yankees.

Utilityman: Tony Kubek. The Milwaukee native first played a utility role when first called up by the Yankees in 1957 at age 20 (winning the AL Rookie of the Year Award), but later played primarily at short. The three-time All-Star retired prematurely at age 29 due to serious neck and back problems, or else would have likely ended up in Cooperstown. He got this spot over Bob (Bialogowicz) Bailor and Ted Kubiak.

Designated hitter: Greg Luzinski. "Bull" was the prototype of a DH in the 70s and 80s — a big, powerful guy with bad knees. But, man, could he hit! Luzinski hit .276 with 307 homers. This was a close pick over Richie Zisk, who hit .287 with 207 homers.

Righthanded Pitchers: Phil Niekro, Stan Coveleski. "Knucksie" Niekro relied primarily on his knuckleball to win 318 games and Hall of Fame induction. Coveleski (originally Kowalewski) earned 215 wins and a plaque in Cooperstown using a spitball, which was legal at the time. Phil's younger brother Joe Niekro had an outstanding 221-204 career record, but he was one of several

great right-handers we had to leave off the squad.

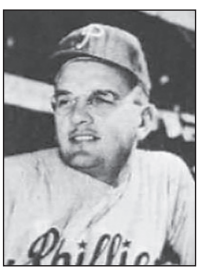


TANANA

Lefthander Pitchers: Frank Tanana, Eddie (Lopatynski) Lopat. Tanana posted 240-236 career record despite having played for many mediocre teams.

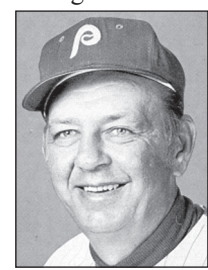
Unlike Tanana, who never played in a World Series, Lopat was clutch in the postseason playing for some great Yankees teams, going 4-1 with a 2.60 ERA. Career-wise, "The Junkman," as Lopat was called, went 166-112. Not making our final cut was another brother, Harry Coveleski, Stan's older brother, who had an 81-55 record and 2.39 ERA.

Bullpen: Casimir "Jim" Konstanty, Ron Perranoski. Konstanty, a righty, was the first relief pitcher to be named MVP in 1950, when he led Philadelphia



KONSTANTY

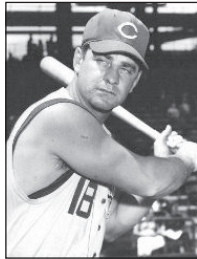
to the pennant with 16 wins and 22 saves, both NL highs. Perranoski, a lefty, was one of the premier relief pitching specialists in the major leagues from 1961 to 1973, posting a 79-74 record, 179 saves and a 2.79 ERA in 737 games and 1,237 innings.



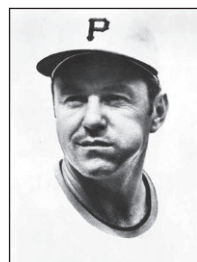
OZARK

Manager: Danny Ozark Danny Orzechowski was a pretty good one. He posted a 618-542 managing Philadelphia and San Francisco, and his Phillies won three NL Eastern Division titles from 1976 to 1978. I didn't have a lot of Polish American managers in the big leagues to choose from, other than Johnny Goryl, Eddie Lopat and John Lipon.

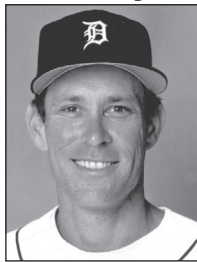
Obviously, I didn't have enough room to include all the statistical information about these ballplayers, but if you'd like more information about them try www.polishsportshof.com, www.baseball-reference.com or www.baseball-almanac.com, or pick up a copy of *The Ballplayers* edited by Mike Shatzkin.



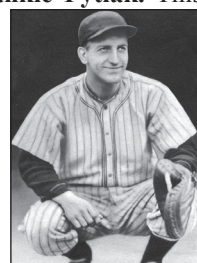
KLUSZEWSKI



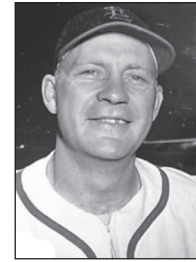
MAZEROSKI



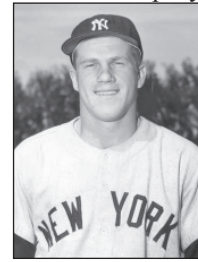
TRAMMEL



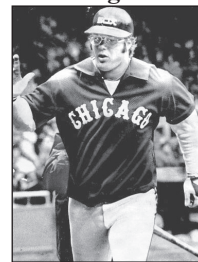
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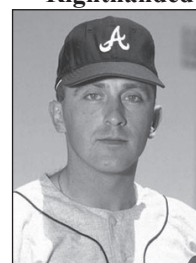
KUROWSKI



KUBEK



LUZINSKI



NIEKRO



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The AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR POLISH CULTURE offers its heartiest congratulations to the POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL on its 100th Anniversary with sincere thanks and appreciation for its phenomenal record of disseminating accurate and worthy stories and news concerning Polish culture, heritage and history for the past century. We look forward to viewing and reading the Journal's worthy and fascinating stories for the countless years that lie before us.

Pres. Deborah Majka *and all the Council's officers and members*

TRIVIA TIME / Ellye Slusarczyk

- The last name of Chicago polka legend Li'l Wally was: a. Jagiello b. Wdowiak c. Sobieski
- In the late 1800s, Russian-controlled Poland was known as: a. Galicia b. Kingdom of Poland c. Russo-Poland
- The 58th New York Volunteer Infantry fought bravely at: a. Iwo Jima b. Wroclaw c. Bull Run and Gettysburg
- Poland's Aviation Valley is located in: a. Gdansk b. Zakopane c. Rzeszow
- A Polish feature film, "Antoś po raz pierwszy w Warszawie" was: a. "Tony's First Time in Warsaw" b. "Jan's Return Visit to Warsaw" c. "Andrej's Bungling Warsaw Experience"
- St. Casimir is a patron of: a. gypsies b. sailors c. young people
- To a rude, self-centered cell phone user, you might have to say: a. *Chcesz więcej soku?* b. *Do widzenia! c. Twoja siostra wygląda jak małpa!*
- The Biskupin excavation site dates back to: a. the Iron Age b. 1200 B.C. c. the time of Christ
- The Adam Mickiewicz Institute changed its name to: a. Polonia Arts Institute b. Institute of Polish Culture c. Kopernik Society
- Renowned composer Henryk Gorecki received the highest papal award given to the laity for service to the Church and it is known as a. Order of St. Gregory the Great b. the Papal Cross c. Medal of St. Peter

ANSWERS. 1a. Jagiello; 2b. Kingdom of Poland; 3c. Bull Run and Gettysburg; 4c. Rzeszow; 5a. Tony's First Time in Warsaw; 6c. young people 7b. Do widzenia! (Good-bye!); 8a. the Iron Age; 9b. Institute of Polish Culture; 10a. Order of St. Gregory the Great.

HERITAGE

Praga

by Ellye Slusarczyk

Many, many years ago, a group of people went off into the forest. Then they proceeded to burn a large section of the woods. Why? They felt the burnt out area would be a perfect setting for them to build a village. Hence, using the Polish verb, *prazy*, which means to burn or roast, the village now had an appropriate name, Praga.

On February 10, 1648, King Władysław IV granted Praga a city charter. Praga is located on the east bank of the Vistula River, and it lies directly opposite the town of Old Warsaw and Maniensztat. All are part of Warsaw today.

Because the river separated the Praga from Warsaw, they developed independently of each other. Praga's many wooden buildings were often destroyed by fire. Also, floods and invading armies often plagued Praga. Yet the townsfolk were resilient and chose to rebuild in spite of sometimes dire circumstances. Unfortunately, the only remaining historical structure in the town is the Church of Our Lady of Loreto.

There were many attempts to build a bridge across the Vistula. With no access to a bridge, Praga was kept separate and alone in the 1500s. During warm weather, ferries took passengers to and from Warsaw. Then in the throes of winter, a frozen river gave people an opportunity to reach the opposite shores.

In 1791, Stanisław August Poniatowski formally declared Praga a borough of Warsaw. Just a few years later, 1794, Russians attacked. This was called the Battle of Praga and the Battle of Warsaw. Sadly, 20,000 people were killed.

During World War II, Praga did not suffer a great deal of destruction. It was relatively untouched. During Warsaw's reconstruction period, many people decided to make Praga their new home. After the end of Communism in Poland, (1989), there was a revival in the town. Many young people were in search of new things and wanted something different, not like Old Town.

Today many areas along the Vistula are collectively known as Praga and they include Goolaw, Bialolgeka, Wawer, and Tangowek, to name a few.

In recent years Praga was considered to be unsafe for tourists. A criminal element existed. However, of late, a Renaissance has taken place and tourist are enjoying Praga's artistic surroundings.

REFLECTIONS / OUR CHURCHES

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

3058 BRERETON AVENUE, PITTSBURGH, PA.
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The first Polish settlers came to Pittsburgh's Polish Hill in 1885 from all areas of Poland. Families settled close together in order to preserve their language, customs and namely, their faith.

In 1895, the number of people living on Polish Hill swelled and walking to the Strip District became more difficult and dangerous. That year, members of St. Francis Xavier Society asked permission from Bishop Phelan to erect a church and school for the over 400 children in the neighborhood. Fr. Anthony

his honor, so the parishioners unanimously chose Immaculate Heart of Mary. All the families on the hill donated monies toward this project.

In October 1896, the chapel, convent and school were dedicated at the Paulowna Street site. In 1897, the number of families was 493 with 405 children in school.

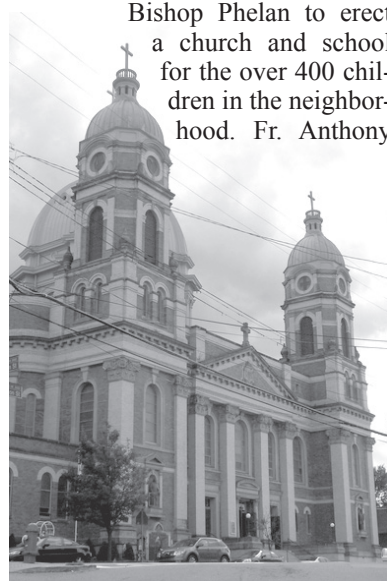
In 1901, the rectory was built on Brereton Avenue. The cornerstone of the church was blessed on July 31, 1904. The church was modeled after St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

In 1922, the 25th anniversary was celebrated and improvements were made. In 1947, Father Joseph Sonnefeld, C.S.Sp., oversaw the 50th anniversary of a church with a vibrant parish life and a thriving school.

In 1970, the church was designated a historic landmark. Fr. John Jendzura, C.S.Sp., directed renovations including adding a portable altar to conform to the new norms of liturgy, replacing the organ, adding lecterns and plating the locket on the Immaculate Heart of Mary Statue with gold. The locket contains a list of the original founders of the parish. In 1972, the 75th anniversary was celebrated. At that time there were 2885 parishioners and 219 children in the school.

The church is one of the first churches in the United States to hold the Divine Mercy Novena.

The Holy Ghost Fathers left the parish in 1992. Since then, it has been assigned pastors by the Diocese of Pittsburgh.



Jaworski, C.S.Sp., pastor of St. Stanislaus Kostka was the initiator of this. Rev. Fr. Zygmunt Rydlewski, C.S.Sp., associate pastor, was given the task of putting this parish together. The parishioners decided to name the parish after St. Francis Xavier, but a parish in the Woods Run section was being erected in

Would you like to see your parish featured in "Reflections"? Please send a photo and a few paragraphs about the parish. While we appreciate full histories, we do not have space to print them. Please provide us with a photo or two of the interior and/or exterior. We can accept digital photos via e-mail if they are of high resolution (300 dpi or greater). Please include: Name of church, year opened (year closed if no longer open), street and city, any identifiable people in the photo, and any special memory you may have of the church. Additional information may include: pastor, school status, or, if closed, name us last pastor, name of new merged parish, etc. All denominations welcome.

Congratulations to the Polish American Journal for its 100 years of promoting Polish American Culture.

Sto Lat!

In memory of:

- My Mother, **Pelagia (Blanche) Bielska Balut** for instilling in me the value of the Polish culture through the art of Polish cooking.
- My Father, **Bronisław (Bruno) Balut**, a mechanical engineer by profession, who was the best mathematics instructor I ever knew. What he taught me is what I passed on to my students.
- My Uncle and Mentor, **Anthony J. Bielski, C.C.S.S.C., Ph.D., U.S.N.**, who was a priest, philosopher, educator, linguist, Navy officer, and a true Renaissance man. Listening to him was more than a learning experience. It was an inspirational enlightening adventure.
- My Dziadzia, **Bronisław Bielski**, who taught me the rudiments of the Polish language, which I have never forgotten, and the beauty of the Polish culture.

GERALDINE BALUT COLEMAN

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CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin S. Nowak

A Hundred Years From Now

A hundred years ago, in 1911, the situation of the typical Polish American was quite different from what it is today. Concentrated into compact urban neighborhoods, the first children of the Polish immigrants of the mass migration of the late nineteenth century were just entering adulthood. American born for the most part, these young men and women were fluent in both English and Polish and were beginning to enter the mainstream of American life.

A full hundred years later, Polish Americans have by and large made it. We may not be fully represented in the upper echelons of the business and political worlds, but we have lifted ourselves out of poverty and realized the middle class American dream.

Across the ocean a hundred years ago, there was no Poland. It did not appear on the maps of 1911, because Poland was partitioned and occupied by Germany, Russia and Austria. But the idea of a free and independent Poland existed in the hearts and souls of the subjected Poles in Europe and in the minds of Polish Americans. Poland's independence was achieved in 1918, and today it exists as a free and prosperous nation.

SO WHAT ABOUT a hundred years from now? First, let us hope that Poland still thrives in freedom and stands as an inspirational beacon for Polish Americans. And we must pray and assume that in 2111

the United States will still exist as a free and independent nation. Given that fact, what will America be like? Extrapolating into the future, the United States will look quite different. Expect a population of 600 million with the largest ethnic group by far being Hispanics. Polish Americans, now constituting about ten million persons, or about three percent of the population, will probably be further diluted within America. And what is a Polish American anyway? A hundred percent of Polish descent? One Polish parent? One Polish grandparent? With the current rate of intermarriage between ethnic groups and a relative trickle of Poles immigrating to the United States, expect the Polish blood within Americans to be much diluted. For example, Polish-Italian, Polish-Irish and Polish-Mexican Americans are already quite common. Polish-Italian-Irish-Mexican Americans are not far behind. Love knows no boundaries.

In 2111 will these partial Polish Americans care about their Polish ethnic heritage? Will they even be

aware of their Polish roots, especially if they will not have a Polish surname? One way for them to be aware will be from what was passed down from their parents and grandparents. It is we, as individual Polish Americans, who must continue to infuse the younger generation with a sense of awareness and pride of their Polish heritage. And through the internet, books and publications such as this newspaper, that message must also be carried.

AS THE OLD Polish American communities and their populations continue to be dissolved and integrated into the general population, our "neighborhoods" will more and more become a presence on the internet and on the pages of Polish American publications. In this respect, the *Polish American Journal* becomes more important to preserving and passing on our culture and history as the years go by. This newspaper has served us well in the past hundred years, and let us hope it remains strong into the future.

Sto lat jeszcze!

Życzę dalszych sukcesów!

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These apparel items feature the lyrics to the popular Polish carol Lulajże, Jezuniu (Lullaby, Jesus) over a nativity scene. Long sleeve and short sleeve shirts are available in White, Black, Ash, Red, Navy Blue, and Green.

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Wooden Creches

These Creches are hand made out of natural products by skilled artisans in Poland. The artist uses wood, plaster, paper, bark, moss and selected grass planted for hay. Each piece may vary slightly from what is pictured due to being made by hand.

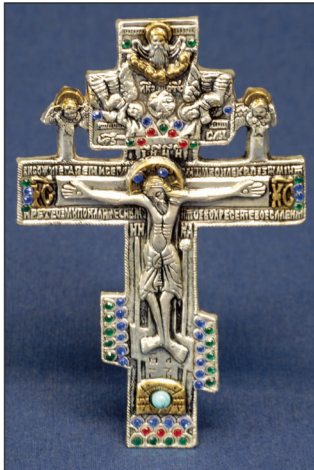
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Contained within is information, pictures, recipes, and songs. Holidays include: the Harvest Festival (Dożynki), All Saints' Day (Zaduszki), St. Nicholas' Day (Mikołajki), Christmas Eve (Wigilia), Christmas (Boże Narodzenie), New Year's Eve (Sylwester), Three Kings (Trzej Królowie), Carnival (Karnawał), Fat Thursday (Tusty Czwartek), and Easter (Wielkanoc). Measures 5.5" x 8.5", 28 pages, English Language Version
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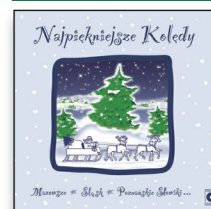
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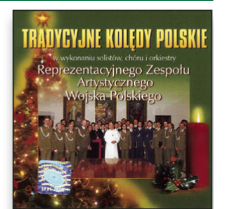
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 #GM5550072



15 popular Polish Christmas Carols performed by the Tatra Mountains Highlanders
 #PM1692



14 Carols performed by contemporary Polish soloist artists: Krzysztof Krawczyk, Magda Durecka, Urszula Sipinska, and more!
 #GM5550032



15 Christmas carols performed by the musical group "The White Snow".
 #GM5550062

ANNIVERSARY COUNTDOWN

100 Things Every Polish American Should Do: Conclusion

Do you consider yourself a true Polish American? Are you Polish in name only, or are you a “Practicing Pole?” Do you know the heritage and traditions of your ancestors? These questions were asked 10 issues ago, as we began the countdown marking the 100th Anniversary of the *Polish American Journal*.

As Americans, we tend to define ourselves by the country of our ancestors’ emigration, rather than where we reside. Should someone inquire about our nationality, how do we respond? Do we answer *American*? If the answer is *Polish* or *Polish American* is there a commitment to your ethnicity to back that claim?

It is not enough to be Polish when it is convenient. Before Karol Wojtyła became Pope John Paul II, many would deny their Polish background. Political aspirations can often bring out the “Polishness” in a candidate. Americans of Polish descent should appreciate and embrace the exquisite and heartfelt traditions of our ancestry. We should have knowledge and be aware of the connection we have with this vibrant country across the ocean. There is a responsibility to those who struggled and died to keep their nation and heritage alive.



Visit Poland — the country of your ancestors.

This ideology falls on deaf ears with various church officials, as we see the cultural anchor of our existence — the Polish “ethnic” church being swept away in a flood of clo-

tures. The lack of interest and views of many Polish Americans may reflect those of Polish society. Many in Poland simply do not consider 3rd, 4th and 5th generation Polish-Americans to be Polish, especially when they can’t speak Polish?

When putting together *100 for*



Light a candle at the grave of a relative on All Souls’ Day.

100, I did not pursue the listings in a “politically correct” manner. While aware that today’s Polish Americans represent a diversified cross-section of race and religion, I am also aware of the demographics of the majority of PAJ subscribers. The listings are suggestions for Polish Americans to explore and select as applicable.

To my amazement, I have encountered many Poles of the Jewish faith who do not know anything of the culture and traditions of the Polish Jewish village *shtetl* or even their city roots. Their knowledge begins with Israel. Given history’s brutal blow, this may be understandable.

Then there are the Poles of the Catholic faith who do not know and are not even aware of the rich traditions of Easter and Christmas. Inter-ethnic marriages, along with the “American melting pot” theory can be attributed to this shift in cultural distinction.

There are many aspects of the Polish and Polish American experience. Given the centuries of Polish existence, the learning period never ends. It is my hope that from the 100

list, readers with explore and learn something about their heritage, hold on to it like a cherished possession and then pass it on to the next generation.

The Off-Broadway play with the misunderstood and controversial title — *Polish Joke* (reviewed in PAJ back in 2003) transformed ethnic discrimination, stereotypes and jokes into a thought provoking comedy.

The play, written by Polish American playwright David Ives, had a climactic speech in which a LOT Polish Airlines worker confronts Jasiu (who experiences an unexpected stop in Poland while on route to Ireland), on being Polish — delivering a moving passionate litany about ancestral pride in one’s heritage:

OLGA: Do you love Poland?
JASIU: No
OLGA: (excerpts) Then you are



Sing and play kolędy.

not Polish... You are ashamed of Poland, ashamed to think you are Polish, and you tell me you are Polish? ...You read Shakespeare. Do you read our poets? Kochanowski, Szymborska, Miłosz, Herbert, Mickiewicz? You listen to Bartok and Beethoven, but do you listen to Penderecki, Lutoslawski, Górecki and Szymanowski? Then you are not Polish... [You’re ashamed] be-

cause we are not Americans. The Nazis killed three million Poles, not only the Polish Jews, three million *Poles*. Catholics. Lutherans. Exterminated. Who says *this*? Who makes movies about *this*? You don’t want to be Polish... be American Jasiu, but get out of the country that I love — that I live in every day and that I love.”

In today’s world of lost identity, it is important to know who you are, the roots from which you come from, and what your background represents. Take the time to reflect upon what it means to be a Polish American in today’s world. Being Polish in name or origin only is not enough. Show pride in your Polish and Polish American heritage.



Make your own ornament from paper, straw, and egg shells.

OCTOBER

91. Set up an October Polish Heritage Month display or organize a cultural performance at your local library or town hall.
92. Visit Jamestown and tell the people there that you are there to honor the Polish Glassmakers of 1608.
93. Light a candle at the grave of a relative on November 2 (All Souls’ Day).
94. Share *opłatek* at Christmas Eve *Wigilia* dinner or experience a Polish tradition of your religion.
95. Sing and play *kolędy* (Polish carols) and give recordings as Christmas presents.



Share *opłatek* at Christmas Eve *Wigilia* dinner.

96. Decorate your Christmas tree with Polish-made ornaments, or make your own village-style ornaments from paper, straw and blown-egg shells.
97. Write “Wesołych Świąt” on all your Christmas or holiday cards.
98. Visit Poland — the country of your ancestry; the homeland of your forefathers.
99. Get your family and friends to discover their heritage through a subscription to the *Polish American Journal* – buy a subscription for a friends and family, for your local library; get your club or organization to buy 100 subscriptions for PAJ’s 100th anniversary.
100. *Dziękuję Bogu za rodzinę, przyjaciół i dziedzictwo.*
Be proud to be a Polish American!

For tips on how to accomplish these items: recipes, music, lyrics, etc., check: www.pajtoday.blogspot.com or inquire at PAJtoday@yahoo.com.

— Edited and compiled by *Stas Kmiec* from contributors: *Geraldine Balut-Coleman, Florence Clowes, James Conroyd Martin, Benjamin Fiore, Stas Kmiec, Mark Kohan, Lydia Kordalewski, Mary Ann Marko, Kryisia Markowski, Ed Mohylowski and Leopold Potsiadlo.*

* Thank God for family, friends and heritage.

Help Us Promote Our Polish Heritage! Be Part of Our

CHRISTMAS 2011 EDITION

We cordially invite our readers to participate in the Christmas 2011 edition of the *Polish American Journal*. We are always proud to carry a message at Christmas from our readers and supporters to others of Polish heritage across the country. To us, it is not only financial assistance (we are not a profit-making venture), but a demonstration of the good will that exists between all Americans of Polish descent and the newspaper published solely in their interest.

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



YES! I want to do my share to keep alive our Polish traditions and customs by being part of the *Polish American Journal*’s Christmas 2011 edition. Please find a contribution in the amount of: [] \$10 [] \$20 [] \$25 [] \$50 [] \$75 [] \$100 [] \$250 [] Other _____

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