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BILKO MEETS BILKO
PAGE 16PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, NEW YORK
AND ADDITIONAL ENTRY OFFICES

GOOD REASONS TO SHARE OUR HERITAGE • HOLOCAUST LIE TO BE OMITTED IN NEW JERSEY CURRICULUM • A NEW KATYN? ALLIED UNANIMITY ON POLISH ARMED FORCES DAY • ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE DEDICATED • WHERE PULASKI DIED RADWANSKA CONTINUES TO MAKE HER MARK • CHURCH RECORDS IN POLAND • AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. TIM BORDEN

NEWSMARK



KOPACZ NEW PM. President Bronislaw Komorowski accepted the candidacy of Speaker Ewa Kopacz as Poland's new prime minister, Sept. 12, at Warsaw's Belvedere Palace.

The new cabinet is set to be appointed in late September, prior to Komorowski's departure for the United States.

The meeting followed Komorowski's acceptance of outgoing prime minister Donald Tusk's resignation, with the latter set to take on the presidency of the European Council December 1.

Tusk's cabinet was dissolved, a development that had been expected regardless of his EU election, owing to a wire-tapping scandal that rocked the government over the summer.

"The new government will be different, because the prime minister is different," Kopacz said as she left the Belvedere, responding to questions from journalists.

She declined to give journalists any hints about her new cabinet choices.

NATO TO CONVENE IN WARSAW. Poland's President Bronislaw Komorowski announced that Poland will host the NATO 2016 Summit. NATO chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen stated that Warsaw will be a great place to hold the summit saying it would "send a strong signal of Polish involvement in the alliance and a very visible presence by NATO in the eastern regions of that alliance."

SITTING THIS ONE OUT. Poland will not deploy ground troops in either Syria or Iraq, said Stanislaw Koziej, chief of the National Security Bureau.

"We will definitely not engage ourselves by sending soldiers onto the territory of Iraq or Syria," said Koziej, who also stated "even the Americans themselves say that the usage of ground forces on this territory is out of the question."

Defense Minister Tomasz Semoniak said Poland, however, will send humanitarian aid.

SALE OF CRUISE MISSILES APPROVED. The United States has agreed to authorize the sale of advanced AGM-158 cruise missiles, with the intention of increasing Poland's deterrence capabilities in the wake of the Ukraine crisis.

The AGM-158 can be launched from Poland's fleet of F-16 combat jets, and strike ground targets almost 250 miles away. The missiles currently used by Polish F-16s can only hit targets about 40 miles away.

The sale comes during the ongoing Ukraine crisis on Poland's borders, which has accelerated a ten year defense modernization plan announced by the government in 2012. Poland aims to increase defense spending to 2% of GDP, the NATO target.

MONUMENT PLANNED FOR POLISH RIGHTEOUS. (Polskie Radio) — A competition has been announced for the design of a memorial to Poles who risked their lives saving Jews during the Nazi occupation.

The memorial is the brainchild of Zygmunt Rolat, a Polish Jew who lost his family during the war and, as a boy of 15, emigrated from Poland and settled in the United States, developing a successful business career there.

The unveiling of the memorial is scheduled for the autumn of 2015, and the monument is to be located close to the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, whose core exhibition opens next month.

Addressing a press conference in Warsaw, Rolat said that the project will be financed entirely by Jews in Israel and other countries.

Tour of Duty

PHOTO: GREG WITUL



OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR POLISH CULTURE pose for a group photo in front of Assumption BVM Church during a tour of Polish American sites in Buffalo, N.Y. The organization, which has affiliates across North America, holds its Annual Convention in Buffalo. *Story on page 19.*

Poland's PM Tusk Becomes EU President



A boost to Poland's stature and prestige
CRASH COURSE IN ENGLISH IS TUSK'S TOP PRIORITY

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW—Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, 57, has been appointed chairman of the European Council, the equivalent of European Union president. That is the highest post in the 28-nation bloc ever achieved by a Pole or any other Eastern European.

In his first address to the Council, Tusk said: "I know we are faced with a great deal of work. I offer goodwill, a pinch of imagination, interesting East European experience and great faith that Europe makes sense." Less than fully fluent in English, the Polish prime minister apologized for speaking in his native tongue, which required simultaneous translation, but

See "Tusk," page 5

A Solid Foundation for Growth

by Larry Trojak

The phrase "we are our own worst enemy" has often been cited when describing problems Polish Americans have with cultural self-promotion. And while that's been true in far too many cases — a troubling sense of apathy, promoters scheduling conflicting events immediately come to mind — there's no denying that a solid financial base from which to work could go far in helping alleviate many of the problems we face. Case in point: many students who are passionate about Polonia and their cultural heritage (young adults who, in fact, represent our cultural future), seek alternative areas of focus, simply because they could not secure something as basic as airfare to study in Poland. Similarly,



POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL FOUNDATION (PAJF) Board Members **Ben Stefanski, Jr.** (left), and **Eugene Trela**, are two of American Polonia's most successful business leaders. Trela, who initiated the PAJF, realized the role the newspaper has in the promotion and preservation of Polish culture in North America.

we see scores of talented academicians, scholars, artists, folk groups — the list goes on — who are forced to abandon special projects or areas of study due to lack of finan-

HERITAGE MONTH

Polish Americans — what makes us tick?

by Robert Strybel

The 1960s and '70s were a violent time in America. Race riots, bombings, anti-war protests, Weathermen, Black Panthers, Students for Democratic Society, Black Muslims, and other radical groups engaged in both verbal and physical violence against the American way of life, promoting socialism and anarchy in its place.

Many Polish Americans back then were proud that they were defending America at a time when others were trying to tear it down. Polish Americans worked hard, paid taxes, kept up their property and kept their kids out of trouble. Their contribution to American war effort in both world wars, Korea and Vietnam was disproportionately large compared to their numerical strength. And on national holidays in many Polish neighborhoods the Star Spangled Banner was flown from more homes than in non-Polonian ones. That was then, what about now?

For many of the answers we can look to the Piast Institute (<http://www.piastinstitute.org/>), a national research see "Heritage ...," page 10

cial resources. In many cases, state or federal arts/cultural funding is actually available, but the processing fees needed to meet application requirements put it out of reach. It's a troubling situation that, left unchecked, would not bode well for Polonia.

The operative phrase, however, is "left unchecked." For there are real efforts being made to help the cause and one of those is the Polish American Journal Foundation. Established in 2014, the PAJF is a non-profit 501c3 organization whose mission is to promote the vibrancy of Polish and Polish American culture and traditions, not just to Polish and Polish American groups, but also to members of the general public. The goal is to accomplish

See "PAJF," page 5

Named National Senior Vice Commander



ST. LOUIS, Mo. — **John A. Biedrzycki, Jr.** was elected senior vice commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars at the VFW's 115th National Convention, held in St. Louis.

Biedrzycki served in the U.S. Army from 1967-1970. He served in Korea as a pay distribution specialist with the 7th Infantry Division. His decorations include the National Defense Service Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and Korean Defense Medal.

Biedrzycki joined the VFW in 1969 at Post 418 in McKees Rocks, Pa., where he is a Legacy Life Member. He has served in elected and appointed positions at the post, county, district and department (state) levels culminating with his election as department commander in 2002-2003 in which he achieved All American status. On the national level, he has served on many committees, including chairman of the National VFW Programs Committee, vice chairman of the National Youth, Education and Community Service Committee and vice chairman of the National Legislative Committee.

He is a Life Member of the Military Order of the Cootie and a Life Member of the VFW National Home for Children. Mr. Biedrzycki also serves as a member of the board of directors for the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Museum in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Biedrzycki is now on course to becoming VFW national commander-in-chief in the 2015-16 VFW year, the first Pennsylvanian to hold that position since 1971-72. A retired educator, he received his B.A. and Master's in Education from the University of Pittsburgh.

New York's Kosciuszko Bridge Turns 75

NEW YORK — In past August, the Kosciuszko Bridge, which spans Newtown Creek between the New York City boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens, connecting Greenpoint, Brooklyn and Maspeth, Queens, turned 75. It is a part of Interstate 278, locally known as the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway or BQE.

The bridge opened in 1939, it is the only bridge over Newtown Creek that is not a drawbridge. It was named in honor of Tadeusz Kościuszko, a Polish volunteer who was a General in the American Revolutionary War. Two of the bridge towers are surmounted with eagles, one is the Polish eagle and the other the American eagle.

Plans are underway to replace the current structure with a new nine-lane bridge, which will consist of two eastbound spans, one westbound span, a bike path, and a walkway, with a cable-stayed bridge. It will make the Kosciuszko the first of its type in New York City since the Brooklyn Bridge (which has a hybrid suspension/cable-stayed design). Construction was originally expected to begin in 2013, but did not start until this year.

Miners Block Import of "Cheap" Coal

BRANIEWO, Poland (Radio Polskie) — Over 200 coal miners blocked Russian coal deliveries at the Braniewo - Mamonowo border crossing, in protest at "cheap, low-quality coal" flooding the Polish market and threatening jobs.

Stanislaw Klysz, from the Solidarity trade union's national coal mining chapter told Polish Radio the protest was "spontaneous."

Solidarity has already said it will demonstrate on the streets of Warsaw October 1 — as new Prime Minister Ewa Kopacz delivers her major policy statement to parliament — in protest against what they claim are deteriorating pay and conditions in Poland's collieries.

The protesting coal miners are demanding a government representative comes to the border crossing in north-east Poland to listen to their demands.

Though a major producer of coal, Poland still imports around 10 million tonnes annually from Russia and the Czech Republic.

Remains of Soldiers, Civilians, found on former NKVD Grounds

VOLODYMYR VOLYNSKY, Ukraine (Polskie Radio) — A Polish-Ukrainian archaeological team has uncovered the remains of Polish World War II soldiers among about 950 victims of Soviet repressions in Volodymyr-Volynsky, western Ukraine.

The remains were found on the premises of a former NKVD (Soviet secret police) prison that functioned intermittently between 1939 and 1956.

Up until the outbreak of the World War II in August 1939, Volodymyr-Volynsky (Włodzimierz Wołyński) had been within Poland's borders.

Alexei Zlatogorski, head of the Ukrainian branch of the archaeological team, believes the victims were killed between 1940 and 1941, before Hitler turned on his Moscow ally and invaded Soviet-occupied territory.

"So far, we have found the remains of about 950 people," he told the *Rzeczpospolita* daily.

"These include Polish soldiers, but also civilians," he said.

Keep up the good work!
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Apparition of Our Lady; Charge led by Chaplain Skorupka; Our Lady of Częstochowa (touched to original); Jasna Góra, Częstochowa; Prayer Pilgrimage
Our Sanctuary murals document the events in Poland on August 15, 1920...August 15 is The Feast of The Assumption of Mary

"...a great victory by the Polish Army, ...called **"the Miracle on the Vistula"**. Fervent prayer by the nation preceded the victory. The Polish Bishops, gathered at Jasna Góra, consecrated the whole nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and entrusted it to the protection of Mary, Queen of Poland. We think today of all those who...gave their lives in defense of our homeland and its endangered freedom..." **St. John Paul II**, Warsaw 1999



Haller Paderewski Lempka

During World War I, St. Josaphat Church (called a garrison church and Twierdza Wiary i Polskości "Citadel of Faith and of Polish Patriotism") was the final USA stop for Polish Americans before crossing the Detroit River and joining Haller's Blue Army. Many volunteers were St. Josaphat parishioners. Our mural of Miracle on the Vistula includes Polonians in blue uniforms.

"On October 14, 1917, a special mass was celebrated in our church for 147 volunteers. These men left the USA to serve in the Polish Army, fighting their way through France to Poland." (vestibule plaque)

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Haller's Americans Polish Soldiers Cross of American Volunteers Cross of Polish Independence
[details from our church vestibule commemoration plaque]

General Joseph Haller attended a Solemn Requiem Mass (Bishop Gallagher, pontificated) at St. Josaphat Church, November 15, 1923. Ignacy Paderewski (Pianist/Composer and Prime Minister of restored Poland) visited St. Josaphat Church. In a special ceremony, Paderewski pinned Poland's Cross of Merit (Polonia Restituta) on the chest of Pastor Joseph Lempka.

St. Josaphat (Jo-zah-fot)
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Newly repaired and restored St. Josaphat Church Steeple (as seen from Detroit Tigers' baseball stadium). A beacon for more than a century.

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 28th 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. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

For information call (732) 680-0680 or write **POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE, INC., 177 BROADWAY, CLARK, NJ 07066**. e-mail: childshart@aol.com website: PolishChildrensHeartline.org

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Allied Unanimity on Polish Armed Forces Day

*Past and Present
Alliances Emphasized*
"NATO Territory is
Inviolable"

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Over 150 guests descended upon the Embassy of the Republic of Poland on the evening of September 9, 2014 for an observance of Polish Armed Forces Day. They included representatives of the U.S. Armed Forces and government, accredited military attachés and diplomats from many countries, Polish army veterans, and Polonia. The co-hosts were Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf and Commanding Military Attaché Brigadier General Jaroslaw Strozzyk.

After the singing of the national anthems "Jeszcze Polska Nie Zginieła" and the "Star Spangled Banner" by baritone Josef Surowiec, Ambassador Schnepf delivered his remarks.

"Ninety-four years ago, on August 15, 1920 the newly-resurrected Poland defeated Moscow's invading Bolshevik Red Army at the Battle of Warsaw, which saved Poland and World War I prostrated-western Europe from communist domination," he said.

The heroic military contribution of the twenty-one volunteer American pilots of the Kosciuszko Squadron during the critical battle was cited.

The ambassador referenced the destabilizing and very dangerous current military events now unfolding in eastern Ukraine at the hands of pro-Russian Ukrainian separatists supported covertly and overtly by Russia. (Earlier this year Russia invaded and annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula). He said the ongoing unfortunate Ukrainian situation was a high priority issue at the recent North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) meeting in Newport, Wales.

Ukraine is not a NATO member.

Schnepf discussed the importance of Polish-American cooperation and overall NATO solidar-



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

U.S., POLAND, AND NATO SOLIDARITY REAFFIRMED. U.S. Major General Daniel M. Krumrei — flanked by Polish Military Attaché Brigadier General Jaroslaw Strozzyk (l.) and Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf — addresses the audience on the strong and reciprocal U.S.-Polish and NATO military partnerships, just after he was awarded the prestigious Polish Army Gold Medal.

ity, and referred to Article 5 of the NATO Treaty, which requires the mutual defense of a militarily attacked member country.

"Poles and Americans, who over many years have served as brothers-in-arms, know the price of freedom" said BG Strozzyk. He invoked the name of Captain Marion Cooper, Commander of the Kosciuszko Squadron, and recounted his interesting life's story. He also stated that the Polish Armed Forces are currently undergoing a modernization program for its own defense and its obligations to NATO.

The general recognized the Ukrainian Military Attaché, Major General Sergiy Pasichnyk.

"I send you "warm words ... and wish you great courage in the defense of Ukraine," Strozzyk said to Pasichnyk.

The highlight of the celebration was the awarding of the Polish Army Gold Medal — an esteemed recognition of Polish-American military cooperation — to Major General William D. Cobetto, Major General Dennis Celletti (Ret.) and Major General Daniel M. Krumrei, the 38th Adjutant General of the Il-

linois National Guard. Krumrei accepted his medal on behalf of the 13,000 soldiers and airmen serving in the Illinois National Guard, which has cooperated with Polish Armed Forces for the past 21 years.

"Poland and the Polish people can always, and in all circumstances, count on soldiers from Illinois," he stated.

Quoting four-star U.S. Air Force General Philip M. Breedlove, NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Krumrei said NATO territory is inviolable, "and we will defend every single piece of it."

The most poignant moment of the observance occurred when Ambassador Schnepf introduced Robert and Linda Ollis of Staten Island, N.Y., parents of deceased U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Robert Ollis. SGT Ollis, then 24, was killed Aug. 28, 2013 in Afghanistan when he selflessly used his own body to shield Polish Army Lieutenant Karol Cierpica from an insurgent, who detonated his explosive suicide vest in their presence during a concentrated fierce assault on Forward Operating Base Ghazni.

Cierpica survived, and named his son born earlier this year in Poland in honor of Ollis, the man who saved his life.

SGT Ollis' parents recently returned from Poland, where they visited the Cierpica family. They were also officially received by Poland's President Komorowski, Prime Minister Tusk, and leading officers of the Armed Forces General Staff, all who rendered homage to their son for his sacrifice.

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Thank you to our parents, Chester and Sally Mikolajczak. You gave us love of God, family, and country, and pride in our beloved Poland. We will always continue these traditions. God Bless Poland and the United States of America.

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Tusk: Became Prime Minister in 2007

continued from cover
promised he would address the Council in English after he takes over its presidency December 1.

Tusk has been active in EU affairs, most recently campaigning for a European Energy Union which would make the bloc less dependent on Russian fuels. He is also credited with leading the EU's only country that did not slip into recession during the global economic crisis. But the Ukrainian crisis east of Poland's border was also instrumental in his appointment.

Not long ago, Poland was widely seen in liberal European circles as being incorrigibly Russophobic for its strong support of sanctions against Moscow. But Russia's proliferating aggression against its

Ukrainian neighbor has convinced many that Warsaw's suspicion of the Kremlin's intentions and tough line on Putin's belligerence were justified after all.

Tusk's appointment has provided a boost to the international prestige and stature of our ancestral homeland.

A friend and ally of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, with whom he is able to converse in German, Tusk was also backed for the job by British Prime Minister David Cameron. The remaining EU countries followed suit in the vote which requires the consensus of all 28 countries, although Lithu-

anian President Dalia Grybauskaitė nearly upset the applecart. Presidential candidate Tusk, a male, conservative northerner, was balanced off against female, southern, leftist, Italian Federica Mogherini for the bloc's foreign affairs chief. Ultimately, Grybauskaitė simply abstained from voting.

While majoring in history at Gdańsk University, Tusk had been an anti-communist student activist during the heady days of the peaceful Solidarity revolution. He became prime minister in 2007 after his center-right pro-market Civic Platform (Platforma Obywatelska) party won that year's parliamentary elections and is the only prime minister since the 1989 fall of communism to serve a second term. Tusk's

ancestry is rooted in the Kashubian community, an ethnic sub-group inhabiting Poland's Baltic coast.

Despite his impish smile, the trim, youthful-looking Tusk is nevertheless a tough political player who has successfully guided Poland through the economic crisis and weathered various scandals threatening his Civic Platform party. He therefore appears aptly suited to work out the behind-the-scenes compromises that are part and parcel of the European Council's operations. The Council has no formal legislative power but is a strategic, crisis-solving body that provides the EU with general political guidance and priorities.

His leadership may help hammer out a common European stand

on the Ukrainian crisis, Europe's biggest security threat since the Cold War. Tusk pledged as much in his initial remarks stressing that only a united EU could successfully face up to the challenges posed by Ukraine, Libya, and other trouble spots.

Tusk's appointment has also provided a major boost to the international prestige and stature of our ancestral homeland which the continent's powers-that-be had thus far largely regarded as a peripheral nation on the fringes of Europe. Tusk is now taking a crash course in English, the EU's primary vehicle of mutual communication. The effectiveness of his leadership as EU president will largely depend on his successful mastery of the language.

PAJF: A Solid Foundation for Growth

continued from cover

this through special event organization, networking, consultation, idea-sharing and more.

STEPPING UP.

So obviously one of the most pressing issues we face is an ability to bridge the gap between acknowledging the lack of supplementary funding and doing something about it. That gap just got much smaller, thanks to the vision and generosity of long-time Polish American Journal supporter, Eugene Trela.

Mr. Trela's commitment to the PAJF is the result of years of discussions about Polonia's future with PAJ editor Mark Kohan. A retired business executive from Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. Trela had grown tired of the lack of leadership besetting American Polonia and decided that substantive action was needed. Establishing a foundation that could address such issues seemed the best course of action and thus was born the PAJF. His generosity covered the substantial costs associated with forming a non-profit organization, essentially overcoming one of the obstacles discussed above. More importantly, however, without his willingness to be proactive — both financially and motivationally — we would not even be discussing the good that can quickly be realized through the Polish American Journal Foundation.

TAKING THE INITIATIVE. While Mr. Trela's support and the knowledge he brings are invaluable, with the exception of, perhaps Bill Gates, one person does not a Foundation make. With that in mind, we are currently encouraging membership in the PAJF. A donation in any amount makes that happen and the funds generated through membership will be used to support specific



PAJF PRESIDENT and Polish American Journal editor Mark Kohan (right), receives honorary membership in the National Katyn Memorial, located in Baltimore, Md., from its president, Richard Poremski, at the 2014 Polish American Congress Convention.

Polonia-focused cultural projects. Truly a collective organization, we will ask members each June to submit their ideas of how to best use the PAJF's proceeds. Members can suggest any cause they feel worthwhile, be it a donation to a local Polish American museum, veteran's group, scholarship fund, dance group, etc. The Foundation's board will review submitted suggestions and create a ballot of the most-requested causes/recipients, which will then be voted on by current members. (Membership is yearly, starting with the date of your most recent donation). All members reserve the right to abstain from being a voting member.

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES. Donations to the PAJF are accepted in any amount. While the sheer sense of "doing the right thing" should suffice, we have all lived through the Great Recession, so every donation will be acknowledged and can be used as a tax-deductible charitable contribution.

There's little denying our community needs help and history has shown that, when faced with seemingly impossible situations, we ourselves can be the ideal agents for such change. Since 1911, the Polish American Journal has been an advocate for Poles and their descendants in the United States. Your generous donation, in any amount, can help

us bring over 100 years of Polish American experience to bear in support of those who represent the core of our cultural identity as we move forward. Please join today.

MEET OUR OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Kohan, of Buffalo, New York, is president and a director of the Foundation, and is the majority owner of The Polish American Journal. He has been the newspaper's editor for over 30 years, and has been recognized by Polish and Polish American organizations for his dedication to and promotion of Polish and Polish American causes.

Eugene Trela of Cleveland, Ohio, is one of the nation's most respected cultural and business leaders. He is the president of the Polish Sport Club of Cleveland; a trustee of the Opera Circle performing arts group; trustee of The Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate; trustee at the Cleveland Society of Poles of America, and a director of the Polonia Foundation of Ohio. Mr. Trela is the former owner of Fowler Electric Co., a major Cleveland-area electrical contractor, and past president and governor of The Cleveland Chapter of The National Electrical Contractors Association. He is also a member of the advisory board for the Case Western Reserve School of Medicine, and a member of the Marymount Hospital Advisory Council.

Ben Stefanski, II of Cleveland, Ohio, is experienced in charitable and cultural activities, including serving as a board member and full-time volunteer at the Cleveland-based Pulaski Franciscan Community Development Corporation and president of the Polish American Cultural Center. Mr. Stefanski published a book in 2002 describing the historic Slavic Village within the city of Cleveland, and was honored by the Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus



in 2003 as the first recipient of the parish's Four Eagles Award, an honor that is bestowed each year to an outstanding individual or association noteworthy in building up the greater Saint Stanislaus community. He is also a member of the Foresight Advisory Group of the Department of Pharmacology at Case Western Reserve University.

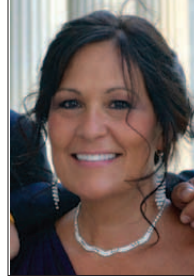
Mary Lou Wyrobek of Buffalo, New York, has been involved with



Polish and Polish American organizations her entire life. She is president of the Polish Singers Alliance of America, an umbrella organization of thousands of singers in the United States and Canada, which promotes and preserves Polish culture

through song. Ms. Wyrobek is also chair of the Polish Culture Committee of Canisius College, the aim of which is to preserve and further Polish culture and heritage in Western New York.

Kathleen Bruno of Buffalo, New York, has over 35 years' experience in accounting and finance, and has a strong financial and accounting skills background. The director of accounting for The Polish American Journal, she serves as secretary, treasurer, and a director of the Foundation.



To make a contribution, use the form below, or call (800) 422-1275 for more information.

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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Russian Orthodox Priests Aid Takeover in Ukraine

Before the Ukrainian separatists in Slovyansk overran the police station, masked men used the Russian Orthodox Villa Maria as a staging area. Russian Orthodox priests are known to have blessed rebel fighters and stored weaponry on church grounds. Rebels and their Russian military assistants seized the Good News Church, a large evangelical complex, replaced Protestant services with Orthodox ones, and shelled Ukrainian forces from the church grounds.

Patriarch Filaret, head of the Orthodox patriarchate in Kiev, the Ukrainian capital declared that "Patriarch Kirill (Patriarch of the Orthodox church in Moscow) has become part of the Russian government, and it is in this light that his words and actions should be perceived." He has not tried to rein in the pro-Russian fighters' reign of terror in Slovyansk perpetrated as serving the Russian Orthodox Church. In areas regained by the Ukrainian government, the Russian Orthodox priests have fled, most likely to avoid arrest by the Ukrainian government for collaborating with the Russian-sponsored rebels.

Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv-Halych wrote an open letter to the world's bishops conferences denouncing violence against religious minorities in eastern Ukraine, as he called for prayer for support for all the Ukrainian people of all faiths and to be wary of misinformation from government sources but – regretfully – even

from the Russian Orthodox Church. Caught in the middle of all of this is Onufriy, recently elected Metropolitan of Kyiv and all Ukraine for the Moscow patriarchate Ukrainian Orthodox Church. He has to balance the aspirations of the Ukrainian Orthodox who are loyal to Ukraine with those of the Orthodox who wish tighter association with Moscow. His antipathy toward Greek-Catholic Ukrainians is already documented.

weekend and holy day Masses will be celebrated, along with marriages, ordinations and reconciliation. **Fr. Richard Filary**, who served as pastor of the two churches, will be pastor of the new one and **Fr. Jerzy Dobosz** will continue there as parochial vicar. Fr. Filary said, "There's certainly a sadness, because both parishes would like to be vibrant." He said he hopes both parishes can embrace Bishop Cistone's decision and move forward as a new commu-

Homage to The Virgin

THE SIXTH ANNUAL TRIBUTE to Our Lady of Czestochowa was led by Bishop David Zubik of the Diocese of Pittsburgh in St. Paul Cathedral, Aug. 26, with over 25 priests concelebrants and nearly 1,200 people. Among those in attendance were: members of the Knights of Columbus; Polish Consul; eight students from Central Catholic High School, who carried the crowned icon of Our Lady; and children from Polonia in Polish Falcon uniforms. They brought forth gifts at the Offertory, and after Holy Communion, took long stem red roses to the Icon, while the congregation sang "Serdeczna Matko."

The event was preceded by a 15-minute remembrance of the 1944 Warsaw Rising, and confessions in Polish and English.

Cosponsored by the Pittsburgh Polish Clergy and the Polish Falcons of America, the Marian event attracts participants from Uniontown, Altoona, Greensburg, Coraopolis, and Polish Hill in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Crowns were blessed and placed on the Icon in 2013 by His Excellency, the Most Rev. David Zubik.



CHURCH CLOSINGS IN DETROIT AND SAGINAW.

St. Louis the King church on Detroit's northeast side closed after 91 years. Dwindling numbers of attendants led to its combination with nearby **Transfiguration-Our Lady Help of Christians** and **St. Ladislaus** parishes to form the current **St. John Paul II** Parish. All three church buildings remained open at first, but the archdiocese has decided to close St. Louis and St. Ladislaus. The church buildings will remain open for prayer until plans for the closure and sale are finalized.

Saginaw **Bishop Joseph Cistone** decided to merge **St. Stanislaus Kostka** and **St. Hyacinth** Catholic churches in Bay City, Mich. into the new **Our Lady of Czestochowa** Parish. St. Stanislaus Kostka Church has been chosen as the parish church for the new parish. St. Hyacinth will be a church of additional use, where

nity of faith.

DECEASED CARDINAL BEGAN CURIAL FINANCIAL REFORM.

Edmund Cardinal Szoka, archbishop emeritus of Detroit and overseer of the Vatican City State under Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI, headed the Prefecture for the Economic Affairs of the Holy See. In that position he supervised and governed the temporal goods of the administrations that are dependent on the Holy See. He imposed the first unified chart of accounts for the Vatican and computerized the books so that statements came out within a year rather than five years late. His reforms irked many Vatican insiders, who preferred the old ways. As such, he prepared the way for Pope Francis' current efforts to reform operations at the Vatican Bank and to internationalize its oversight out of the hands of Italian insiders.

MOST REVEREND RICHARD J. MALONE
Bishop of Buffalo

sends prayerful greetings during
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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

St. John Paul II Shrine Dedicated



St. John Paul II Obelisk

NILES, Ill. — A shrine honoring Saint John Paul II was dedicated on Saturday morning, Sept. 6, 2014, on the grounds of Maryhill Cemetery in Niles. Over 350 visitors came to participate in the solemn blessing of this impressive sculpture.

The shrine was dedicated by Most Rev. Andrew Wypych, auxiliary bishop of Chicago, with musical accompaniment provided by the Lira Singers Quartet, artist-in-residence at Loyola University Chicago.

The sculpture, a 32-foot-tall obelisk on a 4' X 4' base, was constructed of Barre Gray granite quarried as one piece by Rock of Ages in Vermont. Two sides of the sculpture depict Saint John Paul II with mosaic renderings of his 1979 visit to Chicago. The third and fourth sides are adorned with mosaic renderings of Our Lady of Częstochowa and the Virgin of Guadalupe, Mother of the Americas. It emphasizes Saint John Paul II's dedication to Mary, as well as the Polish and the Hispanic communities of Chicago. The Venetian glass mosaics, called "smalti," handmade in Venice, Italy, were designed and installed by artisans from Conrad Pickel Studio, Inc. in Vero Beach, Florida.

The magnificence of this sculpture, as seen from Milwaukee Avenue, entices people to drive into Maryhill and get out of their cars to view such a beautiful memorial.

HONORARY STREET DEDICATIONS. John Arena, alderman of the Chicago's 45th ward, and Illinois State Representative, Robert Martwick, 19th District, held an honorary street dedication ceremony to honor the Polish cultural and historic contributions of Chicago's Northwest Side, in particular the Jefferson Park area. The ceremony took place on Monday, September 1, at the intersection of Milwaukee and Lawrence Avenues.

Lawrence Avenue between Milwaukee Avenue and Avondale Avenue was designated "Warsaw Chicago Sister Cities Way," and Milwaukee between Giddings Street and Lawrence was designated as "Chicago's Little Warsaw Way." Lawrence between Long Avenue and Milwaukee was dedicated as "Irena Sendler Way," and Milwaukee between Lawrence and Higgins Avenue is now known as "Jan Kariski Way."

Irena Sendler was the Polish so-

cial worker who saved 2,500 Jewish children from extermination during World War II. Jan Kariski was among the first to provide information about the Holocaust to Allied leaders.

The dedication ceremony was held in conjunction with the 34th annual "Taste of Polonia" festival at the Copernicus Center. The festival ran from August 29 through Labor Day.

PHOTO: JULIA SIEGEL



(l. to r.): Stefania Jarosz, Krystyna Zielonka, and Danuta Inglot, three participants of Warsaw Rising.

WARSAW RISING COMMEMORATION AT PMA. On August 17, 2014, over 200 guests filled the Great Hall of The Polish Museum of America, to open the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising: A Commemorative Exhibit. The exhibit consisted of texts and photos of the history of the Nazi occupation and the resistance of the Uprising and was accompanied by recently recorded oral histories of participants. It included photos of the POW internment camps, the liberation, and the life in exile of the Polish Home Army veterans and residents of Warsaw over the last 70 years. The co-curators of the exhibition were Jan M. Lorys and Pawel Grajner, conductor of the interviews.

The filmed interviews of Zofia Barczyk, Maria Chudzinska, Wieslaw Chodorowski, Ela Szternal Cieszkowska, Tadeusz Gubala, Danuta Inglot, Stefania Jarosz, Jan Kus, George G. and Wanda Wardisiani, and Krystyna Zielonka offered visitors an intimate understanding of the Uprising and its impact on their lives. These oral history recordings were made possible through grants from the Poland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs via the consulate general of the Republic of Poland in Chicago. Sunday's event also featured the unveiling of a bust of Marshal Joseph Pilsudski, donated by Peggy Wysocki, in honor of her parents, Felix B. and Virginia Wysocki. The program also included a moving vocal presentation by the Polish scouting ensemble, *Wichry*, under the direction of Barbara Ciepiela. This exhibit ran through the end of September.

ŁÓDŹ GHETTO LIQUIDATION

REMEMBERED.

On the evening of August 28, over 420 guests from the Chicago area gathered at Chicago's Union League Club to remember those who suffered the tyranny of Nazism. This date marked the 70th anniversary of the liquidation of the Łódź Ghetto, the second largest ghetto created by Nazi Germany. Of the 204,000 men, women, and children placed in this ghetto,

approximately 10,000 survived. The evening began with the singing of the U.S. national anthem, followed by remarks given by F. Michael Convey, III, president of the Union League of Chicago; Michael Traison, chair of the Łódź Ghetto Commemoration Committee; Konrad Zi-

linski, vice consul of Republic of Poland; Alex Goldman-Shayman, deputy consul general of Israel; and special guest, Łódź Ghetto survivor, Charles Lipshitz. Hazzan/Cantor Alberto Mizrahi of Chicago's Anshe Emet Synagogue, and Chicago soprano, Leila Bowie, sang religious and partisan songs: *Ani, Ma'amin* (Hymn of the Camps), *Elegia Żydowskich Miasteczek* (Elegy of the Jewish Villages), *Zog Nit Keyn Mol* (Partisans' Song), and Israel's National Anthem, *Ha Tikvah*. Cantor Mizrahi also sang Krzysztof Penderecki's *Kaddish*. Additionally, there was a scholars' discussion on the topic of the Łódź Ghetto. Participants included Teresa Pollin, art curator of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C., Yahanan Petrovsky-Shtern, professor of history, Northwestern University, and Michael Traison.

PRCUA HOLDS CONVENTION.

The Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA), the oldest fraternal organization in the United States, held its 61st National Quadrennial Convention in Toledo, Ohio.

The convention, August 10-13, began with a mass held at Toledo's St. Hedwig Church. After Mass, there was a brunch at Toledo's PRCUA Hall, where Joseph A. Drobot, Jr., PRCUA national president, officially opened the first session. Drobot explained that the governance of all fraternal organizations is now being monitored very closely by federal and state governmental agencies to determine how fraternal organizations are being run, their financial strengths, and the qualifications of leaders.

The convention presidium consisted of Chair Barbara Toboy (Mich.), Vice Chair Francis Rutkowski (Ohio), Secretary Michaeleen Lamont of Indiana, and Parliamentarian Joan Smuda (Ill.).

Guest speakers included Frank Spula, president of the Polish American Congress and the Polish National Alliance; Delphine Huneycutt, president of the Polish Women's Alliance of America; and Timothy Kuzma, president of the Polish Falcons of America. They reviewed topics including camaraderie among members, what needs to be done to increase membership, and the progress of 21st century technology. Maria Ciesla, president of The Polish Museum of America (PMA), updated the delegates and guests on the museum's progress — from the new PMA/PRCUA entry way, the 25,000 photographs catalogued in its photo collection, the digitalization of over 100,000 titles in its library, the Kusmierczak Art Gallery, to the Paderewski Room. She recognized Jan M. Lorys for his 17 years of service as the PMA's managing director and welcomed Malgorzata Kot, head librarian of the PMA library for 19 years, as the PMA's new managing director, as of September 1, 2014.

Sunday evening events included a banquet in the ballroom of the Plaza Hotel; performances from dance troupes Echoes of Poland (Toledo); Wesoly Lud Polish Folk



PRCUA NATIONAL OFFICERS (l.-r.) Vice President Micheline Jaminski, President Joseph A. Drobot, Jr., and Secretary-Treasurer James Robaczewski.

Dance Company (Chicago); Polonia Ensemble (Niles, Ill.); and Zakopane Dance Ensemble from (Sterling Heights, Mich.). The PRCUA's 11 dance troupes honored Anna Sokolowski, retiring PRCUA vice-president and administrator of its dance troupes, by presenting her with a quilt uniquely made with the insignias of all PRCUA's Polish dance troupes.

At the elections, the following were elected: V.P. Micheline Jaminski (Ill.), incumbent Secy-Treas. James Robaczewski (Ill.), and directors Gregory Olma (N.Y.), incumbent Mitchell Bienia (Ohio), Tom Jesionowski (Ohio), incumbent Anna Krysinski (Ill.), and Kevin Kucik (Ill.). New directors elected included were Sharon Quinn (Pa.), Eileen Hanley (Md.), and Colleen Bonkowski (Mich.). Incumbent President Joseph A. Drobot, Jr., Chaplain Rev. Canon Walter J. Ptak, and the following directors ran unopposed: Joanne Zajac (Pa.), Constance Bonin (Wisc.), James Rustik (Ill.), Krystyna Lech (Ill.), Elizabeth Sadus (Ind.), and Tom Lisiecki (Mich.).

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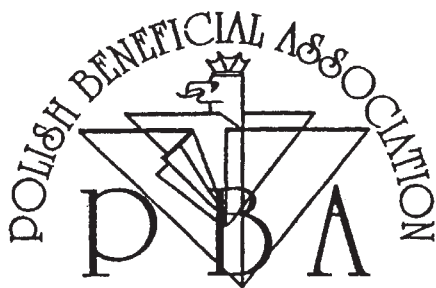


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POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES

And the Winners Are ...

by Michael Pietruszka
BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Corpus Christi Parish “Dozynki” Polish Harvest Festival announced the following winners of the 7th annual **Buffalo’s Best Pierogi Contest**:
TRADITIONAL: Paula Sepanik (sauerkraut and kielbasa), Luci Buell (potato and cheese), Pat Cwudzinski (sauerkraut);
DESSERT: Deborah Wisholek (sweet potato surprise), Brian Marek (apple cinnamon cheerio), Karen McArthur (Almond Ring);
NON-TRADITIONAL: Bobby Sikorski (NY Deli), Kathy Kalwicz (Oggie Doggie - hot dog), and Sophia Wagner (Buffalo chicken wing).

Rozbicki’s Celebrity Symphony Orchestra will present the **“Warsaw Concerto”** at the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga, Ontario, Oct. 25.

The **Rochester Polish Film Festival** will be broken up into two parts this year. The first section will screen Andrzej Wajda’s “Man of Marble” on November 1, “Man of Iron” on November 2, and “Walesa: Man of Hope” on November 6



AUXILIARY DONATES SIGN. The Ladies Auxiliary of the Pulaski Club in Olean, N.Y. purchased a new sign for the clubrooms on North Union St. It replaces the older, worn-out sign that identified the popular club and reception hall for many years.

The rendering of the Polish eagle on a red shield was done by a sign company from Eldred, Pa., said Marion Pockalny, who oversaw the project and insisted on it being correct.

UPCOMING. The Jackie Schmid Memorial Scholarship Fund-raiser will be held at the Lily of the Valley Hall

on Union Road in Cheektowaga on October 4. Entertainment will be provided by the Buffalo Touch and Phocus ... **Assumption Parish** in Buffalo’s Black Rock neighborhood will host an International Harvest Fest and Mass Mob Sunday, on October 5 ... The **Alden Christian Theatre** Society will present Tom Dudzick’s “The Last Mass at St. Casimir’s” October 10 through 19 at the Beacon Theatre on Church Street in Alden ... Polish pop singer **Maryla Rodowicz** will perform in concert at the John Bassett Theatre in the Metro Toronto Convention Center on October 11 and 12 ... On October 18, Rochester’s Polonia Community will mark the 95th anniversary of the **Polonia Civic Centre** with a Founders’ Day Banquet and Ball at the St. Stanislaus Kostka Auditorium on Hudson Avenue ... Also on October 18, the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College will present a book talk on Jan Karski’s recently reissued “The Story of a Secret State” by **Wanda Urbanska**, director of the **Jan Karski Educational Foundation**, at the main branch of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library in downtown Buffalo. A month-long exhibit entitled “The World Knew: Jan Karski’s Mission for Humanity” will open at the library on that date and continue until mid-November ... Dr. Andrzej

at the Little Theatre in Downtown Rochester. Part two will consist of current award winning feature films and documentaries running from Nov. 6- 0. More information is available a www.rochester.edu/college/PSC/CPCE/ ... Buffalo Film Seminars 29 will screen and discuss Roman Polanski’s “Tess” at Dipson’s Amherst Theatre on Nov. 4 ... The 6th Annual **Ekran Toronto Polish Film Festival** will fun from November 5 through 9 at the Revue Cinema on Roncesvalles Avenue. This festival will feature Wladyslaw Pasikowski’s “Jack Strong”. More information can be found at <<http://ekran.ca>>.

The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra has announced that its “**Na Zdrowie, Poland!**” program at Buffalo’s Kleinhans Music Hall, April 24- 25, 2015 will feature Karłowicz’s Symphonic Prologue from “Music for the White Dove,” Penderecki’s “Winterreise: Concerto for Horn” (featuring Jacek Muzyk), and Chopin’s “Piano Concerto No. 1 in E Minor” (featuring Yoonie Han).

If you have any item for this column, please send the information by the 6th day of the month preceding the month in which you would like the item to appear (i.e. October 6 for the November edition) at <pietruszka@verizon.net>.



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Poles in the Fight

Poland did not exist as an independent country during World War I, and its traditional territory was divided and occupied by Russia, Germany and Austria-Hungary. But as all three countries were belligerents in the war, the Polish people took full part in the hardships and suffering.

Germany and Austria were Central Powers, facing off against Russia, an Allied Power, along the Eastern Front. The men of each country, ethnic Poles included,

were subject to a military draft even before the war, usually consisting of a few years of active service followed by a lengthy reserve obligation. Once the war began the drafts were greatly expanded.

Additionally, Poles who wanted a military career were already serving in one of the belligerents' armies. Yet more Polish men joined voluntarily when war broke out. Why? Because they saw it as the way to defend their homes and families against an

invading army. They may not have agreed with the way the Russian, Austrian or German governments treated Poles, but those countries were, in effect, their homelands at the time.

Polish Frenchmen and Polish Canadians fought in the war. Once the United States joined the Allied side, Polish Americans were part of its fighting forces. And then there was Haller's Army, whose thousands of recruits were made up of the Polonias

of various countries.

The numbers of men serving in the armies can be hard to determine and estimates vary widely. It is generally accepted that twelve million Russians, eleven million Germans and eight million Austro-Hungarians participated, and that around two million were ethnic Poles, about 700,000 in each army. That indicates that about 6.5 percent of the three armies' soldiers was Polish. Some sources put the total of Polish

soldiers closer to three million.

Some 4.7 million U.S. men were mobilized for the war. If we accept that four percent of the American population was of Polish descent, that is 200,000 Polish Americans. But some sources say as many as 300,000 served. Two million Americans served in the combat zone, and at four percent that means 80,000 were Polish Americans, facing off against a German army in France with a sub-

stantial number of Polish soldiers in its ranks.

So we can see that even though Poland was not on the map, the world's Polonias were an integral part of the hostilities through different armed forces.

The life of a combat soldier in any war is difficult and the World War had its own set of horrors brought on by new technologies. Men were mowed down by machine guns, torn apart by powerful artillery, bombed from aircraft and met agonizing deaths from poison gas. Trench warfare could be miserable, though mostly practiced on the Western Front. The Eastern Front was much more mobile because it was twice as long as in the West with half as many soldiers engaged.

So many men were drafted into the fight that shortages of uniforms, weapons, food and basic provisions were not unusual, particularly with the Russians, whose leadership was incompetent. This resulted in soldiers being sent into combat without rifles, freezing to death because they were ill clad, or being so hungry they were unable to be effective troops to the point of falling ill, resorting to desertion, theft or worse. Morale in the ranks declined as the war dragged on.

All three armies in the East were concerned about the loyalty of Polish soldiers within their ranks. Poles in the German army resented the fact that all army officers and civilian defense officials were German. The Austro-Hungarian army was a polyglot combination of different ethnic groups, many of whom could understand only basic German. But virtually all officers were ethnic Germans. Slavs, who made up forty-four percent of the army, actually had more in common with Russians. Slavic Russia at first seemed to have little problems with Polish soldiers, though they were considered inferior. Yet two of the sixteen highest ranking Russian military officers were of Polish descent. Also, as time went on Polish soldiers in the three armies grew disgusted with their treatment of the civilian Polish population.

Kosciuszko Club Bus Trip to NYC

FALL RIVER, Mass. — The Kosciuszko Club is sponsoring a bus trip to New York City, Sun., Oct. 14.

The trip will depart at 6:00 a.m. from the Elks Club, 4500 North Main St. (off-street parking is available), and also pick up passengers in Central Falls, R.I. from St. Joseph's Church, 391 High Street. The bus will return from New York at approximately 6:00 p.m.

The cost is \$55 per person (tip included). For additional information call Brian Curt at (508) 678-0987 or go to www.kosciuszkoclub.org.

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Where Pulaski Died

Editor's note: The debate over the remains of Polish-American Revolutionary War hero Gen. Casimir Pulaski — whether buried at sea or on land — continues. In this piece by historian Edward Pinkowski, the author explains his proof for Pulaski's temporary interment at Greenwich Plantation (today Greenwich Cemetery) in Georgia, following injuries received at the Battle of Savannah.

by Ed Pinkowski

Readers of the *Polish American Journal* are to be reminded that General Casimir Pulaski died on October 15, 1779, and was buried at Greenwich Plantation in Georgia. This is no longer a mystery. Anyone looking for Pulaski's bones must go back to where he died.

Let me take you back to Col. James Mullryne's Bonaventure Plantation and Jane Bowen's Greenwich Plantation on the main waterway to Wassau Sound, now called Wilmington River.

The two plantations were sandwiched between the seemingly closed upper part of the river and the village of Thunderbolt in Chatham County, Georgia. In a map he drew in 1779, which I found at the Georgia Historical Society in 1996, a French engineer with an Irish name called the area Thunderbolt Bluff. It showed the roads leading from the two plantations to the point where the *Wasp*, privately owned, was tied up two or three days. Somewhere on Thunderbolt Bluff, her captain, Samuel Bulfinch, wrote on October 15, 1779, there was no doctor on the *Wasp* to dress the wounds of anyone on the *Wasp*, and an "American," who died on the ship within hours of his arrival, was taken off it by slaves for burial at night by Mrs. Bowen's slaves on her plantation.

Without giving Pulaski's name in the letter, Bulfinch waited until the *Wasp* returned to Charleston, South Carolina, to identify him. Others on the *Wasp*, including Eleazer Phillips, who made Pulaski's coffin, spread the news of Pulaski's death to his wife and friends in Charleston, family after family, and from ceremony to ceremony.

Of all the owners of Greenwich Plantation, my research on the Torrey family of Grosse Pointe, Michigan, has provided the most information of Pulaski's first grave on the site.

Dr. Henry Norton Torrey, a surgeon, bought the property in 1917. It served as his retreat until it burned to the ground January 27, 1923, following a party. The Torrey family and fourteen servants escaped with



Portrait of Pulaski in the Fort Pulaski National Monument in Savannah, Ga. Unknown artist.

only their night garments.

In researching the Torreys in old newspapers, the newspapers of Georgia, and — to a lesser extent — the newspapers of other states, I found an account of a beautiful new home that was built on Greenwich Plantation in the 1890s. The owners, it said, erected their new residence on the spot where Pulaski's body was buried from 1779 to 1852. This dwelling later became Dr. Torrey's ill-fated home.

When one examines the waterways of the area at the time of the fire, there was no direct route from the Wilmington River to the Savannah River, which was north of the Wilmington. Until the Wilmington was dredged, no ship like the *Wasp* was able to sail from Thunderbolt Bluff to the Savannah River. It would have to sail southeast from the Bluff to Wassau Sound, then into the Atlantic Ocean.

During the years the Torreys lived at Thunderbolt Bluff, Dr. Torrey often took his friends, many of them prominent figures in Michigan, on duck hunting trips to South Carolina. This is the same path he took when the family escaped the fire in 1923, course no different than the one used by the *Wasp* in 1779. There was no other route.

The story that Pulaski died in the arms of Captain Paul Bentalou on the *Wasp* on the Savannah River was made up in the 1820s.

Long live Pulaski!

Edward Pinkowski has been a contributor to PAJ for more than 60 years. He is a member of PNA Lodge 1, the discoverer of the Kosciuszko House in Philadelphia, founder of the Poles in American Foundation, and the recipient of many awards and honors.

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Heritage: What Makes Us Tick?

continued from cover
and policy center which focuses on the affairs of the Polish-American community. It is based in Hamtramck, Michigan, once Detroit's predominantly Polish enclave-suburb.

The Polish American population now stands at the 10 million mark, an increase of one million since the 2000 census. Since the data is based on self-declaration, one can speculate as to the reason: an aging population is more interested in and proud of its cultural heritage. Possibly the pontificate, death and beatification of John Paul II had something to do with an upsurge of PolAm identification.

Polish Americans are better educated and better off financially than the average American. Nearly 38% of PolAms hold at least a bachelor's degree, compared to the rest of the country — 28.5%. Polonians are also better educated than other "non-Hispanic whites" (!), 32% of whom hold college degrees. The average PolAm household income is \$62,000, \$12,000 higher than the U.S. average (\$50,500), and also better than that of America's remaining "non-Hispanic whites" (\$55,300).

Religiosity among younger Polish Americans seems to be declining, but there is a lack of data comparing the level of U.S. church attendance by nationality. We can therefore only speculate as to whether Polonia's regular weekly worship is closer to Poland's norm of 54% or the U.S. level of 43%. But regardless of PolAms' frequency of church

attendance, the Catholic tradition of our immigrant ancestors apparently continues to influence Polonian mores.

The Polish American population now stands at the 10 million mark, an increase of one million since the 2000 census.

Piast Institute has reported a study showing that Polonia has an overall divorce rate of 10% compared with the U.S. average of nearly 11%. Even more significant is the fact that PolAms appear less likely to subscribe to today's "trendy" shack-up culture. Only 23% of the children born to Polish-American females were out of wedlock as against 36% for U.S. women in general. Other PolAm stabilizing contributions to America is the relatively high 72% rate of home ownership, with only 27% living in rented units. Also, there are more married households and fewer one-parent homes than the U.S. average. The importance of family continues to be a PolAm priority.

At one time, Polonia represented an all but solid Democratic voting bloc. That began changing in the 1970s when many PolAms were turned off by the liberal direction in which the Democratic Party was evolving. At present, the Democrats still have a slight edge, but PolAms identifying with the Republican Party are not far behind.

The U.S. Census only sporadically asks American about their ancestral background as it did in 2000. Most of the time it prefers to call us nothing more than "non-Hispanic whites." But even when Americans are asked to declare ethnicity, it remains unknown whether the individual is deeply attached to and involved in the life of his ancestral community or simply has a vague awareness that his immigrant ancestors came from this or that country.

Any full-blown "anatomy of Polonia" should also study what organizations PolAms belong to, which publications they read and what Polish-themed books, recordings and artifacts are displayed in their homes. Such a study could ask what PolAm social or cultural events they attend, how often they enjoy typically Polish comfort foods and even what names they give their children and pets. To my knowledge, those categories have yet to be explored. Fortunately, Professor Thad Radziłowski, president of the Piast Institute, has indicated that such items things may be on the agenda in future surveys.

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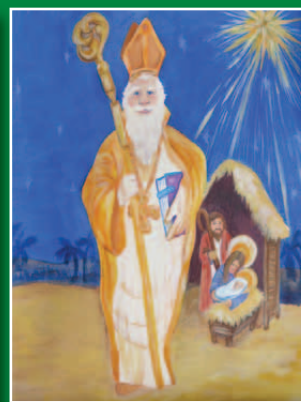
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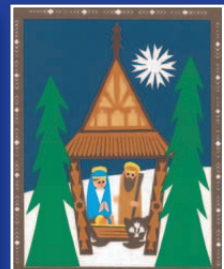
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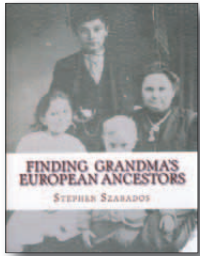
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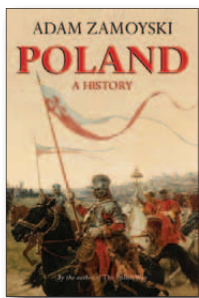
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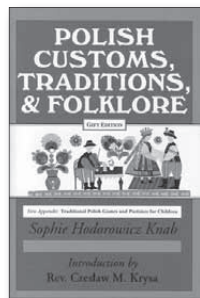
POLISH GENEALOGY: Four Easy Steps to Success
by Stephen Szabados
\$19.95
164 pp., pb.

This book is designed to give the researcher the tools needed to research their Polish ancestors and find possible answers to the origins of their Polish heritage. The book outlines a simple process that will identify where your ancestors were born and where to find their Polish records. Traditional sources are covered but it also discusses many new sources for Polish records that have been implemented by genealogy societies in Poland. The book covers the most up-to-date collection of sources for Polish genealogy.

POLAND: A HISTORY
by Adam Zamoyski
\$19.95
pb. 426 pp. 5.5 in. x 8.5 in.



A substantially revised and updated edition of the author's classic 1987 book, *The Polish Way: A Thousand-Year History of the Poles and their Culture*, which has been out of print since 2001. No nation's history has been so distorted as that of Poland. "...excellent and authoritative" ... "fresh, different, and brilliantly readable"



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by Sophie Hodorowicz
Knab
340 pp., pb.
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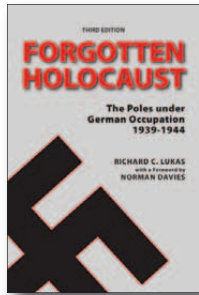
Polish Customs, Traditions, & Folklore is organized by month, beginning with December and Advent, St. Nicholas Day, the Wigilia (Christmas Eve) nativity plays, caroling and the New Year celebrations. It proceeds from the Shrovetide period to Ash Wednesday, Lent, the celebration of spring, Holy Week customs and superstitions, beliefs and rituals associated with farming, Pentecost, Corpus Christi, midsummer celebrations, harvest festivities, wedding rites, name-day celebrations, and birth and death rituals. Line illustrations enhance this rich and varied treasury of folklore.



BOCHEK IN POLAND
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54 pp., Polonie Publishing

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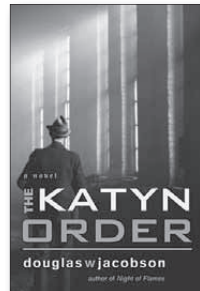
Council of Polish Cultural Clubs, this is a delightful, captivating children's story about the life of storks and many of the Polish customs they encounter. Beautifully illustrated and educational, it will be thoroughly enjoyed by adults as well as children.



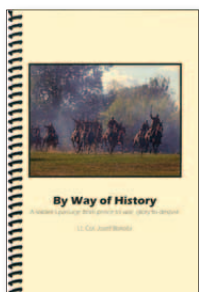
FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST: The Poles Under German Occupation, 1939-45. Third Edition
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358 pp. pb.
Hippocrene Books.

Forgotten Holocaust has become a classic of World War II literature. As Norman Davies noted, "Dr. Richard Lukas has rendered a valuable service, by showing that no one can properly analyze the fate of one ethnic community in occupied Poland without referring to the fates of others. In this sense, *The Forgotten Holocaust* is a powerful corrective." The third edition includes a new preface by the author, a new foreword by Norman Davies, a short history of ZEGOTA, the underground government organization working to save the Jews, and an annotated listing of many Poles executed by the Germans for trying to shelter and save Jews.

THE KATYN ORDER
by Douglas W. Jacobson
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McBooks Press



American Adam Nowak has been dropped into Poland by British intelligence as an assassin and Resistance fighter. During the Warsaw Uprising he meets Natalia, a covert operative who has lost everything. Amid the Allied power struggle left by Germany's defeat, Adam and Natalia join in a desperate hunt for the 1940 Soviet order authorizing the murders of 20,000 Polish army officers and civilians.



BY WAY OF HISTORY: A Soldier's Passage from Peace to War, Glory to Despair
by Lt. Col. J. Bokota, tr. by Stan Bokota
\$13.95, 174 pp.
Spiral bound, pb.

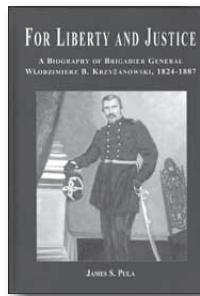
An eyewitness account of World War I and World War II events, last cavalry charges and the defeat of the Red Horse Army at Komarów in 1920, the battle of Bzura and Warszawa in 1939; the AK struggles, finally description of the moral and physical destruction of Poland by the Soviet regime in the years 1945-70. The events so well described, although interesting, are not as fascinating as the man himself, who comes through in these recollections.



TREASURED POLISH SONGS WITH ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS
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FOR LIBERTY AND JUSTICE: A Biography of Brig. Gen. Włodzimierz B. Krzyzanowski, 1824-1887
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by James Pula.
335 pp. plus introduction. 112 illustrations, hc.
1978, 2010



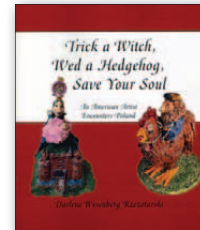
This lavishly illustrated biography of a major Polish American figure of the 19th century, tells the story of a Polish revolutionary exiled to America where he rises from private to general during the Civil War.



BE NOT AFRAID
by Heather Kirk
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Borealis Press,
276 pp., pb.

Want to learn something about Poland and the movement that started the end of the Cold War in an easy-to-read, well-written book? *Be Not Afraid* is an introduction to the Polish non-violent resistance movement, "Solidarity." It involved ten million people over a period of ten years, freed Poland from Soviet domination, and contributed to the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. It killed no one.

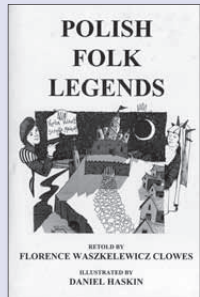
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TRICK A WITCH, WED A HEDGEHOG, SAVE YOUR SOUL: An American Artist Encounters Poland
by Darlene Wesenberg Rzezosarski.
Wecker Press, 2012. 88 pp., pb. \$19.95

After the fall of Communism, Rzezosarski's husband had an amazing first meeting with Polish cousins, introducing the couple to the rich world of Polish and familial history, so intertwined as to become a microcosm. Rzezosarski brings an outsider's appreciation and an artist's intuition through tales of family, of national identity, and of the enchanted world of fairy tale and myth. Profusely illustrated in color.

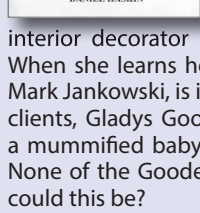
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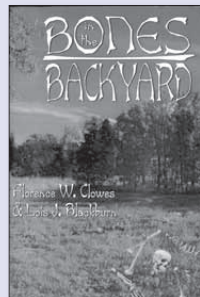
POLISH FOLK LEGENDS — \$14.95
Infinity Pub., 2010, 208 pp, pb.

Forty legends collected in Poland or researched in many books and periodicals, including Poland's first written history by Muenster in 895 that states King Popiel reigned in Polonia 246 years before Christ.

OLD SECRETS NEVER DIE — A Bashia Gordon Mystery — \$8.95
with Lois J. Blackburn Infinity Publishing, 2007, 220 pp, pb.



Bashia Gordon, semi-retired interior decorator and amateur sleuth, is at it again. When she learns her friend Connecticut State Trooper Mark Jankowski, is investigating the death of one of her clients, Gladys Goodell, her curiosity takes over. Soon a mummified baby is found in the old Goodell home. None of the Goodell sisters ever married. Whose baby could this be?

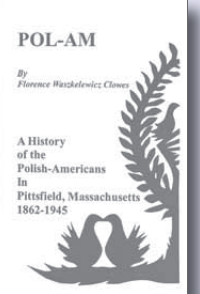


BONES IN THE BACKYARD — A Bashia Gordon Mystery — \$8.95
with Lois J. Blackburn Infinity Publishing 2001, 198 pp, pb.

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. How did it get there? Who is it? Could the bones be the wealthy eccentric who disappeared years ago?

A HISTORY OF POLISH AMERICANS IN PITTSFIELD, MASS., 1862-1945
\$8.95 Palmetto Press 2004. 152 pp., 5.5" x 8.25," photographs, pb.

Using church records, organization brochures and oral histories, the author has compiled a valued history of the Polish community in Pittsfield, originally formed when nineteenth and twentieth century Polish immigrants came to the area seeking work in the wool mills.



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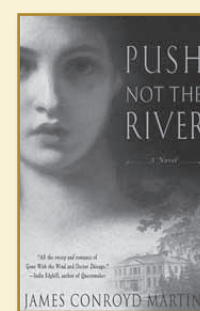
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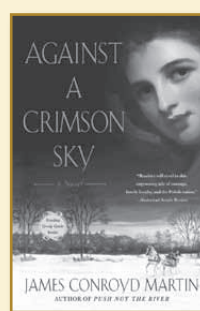
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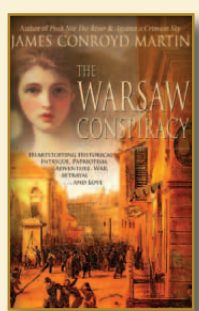
PUSH NOT THE RIVER
\$15.95
St. Martin's Press. 496 pp.pb. Maps & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

This book club favorite is based on the real diary of a Polish countess who lived through the rise and fall of the Third of May Constitution years, a time of great turmoil. Vivid, romantic, and thrillingly paced, the novel has been called "Poland's Gone with the Wind."



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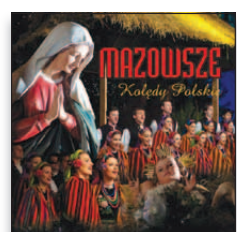
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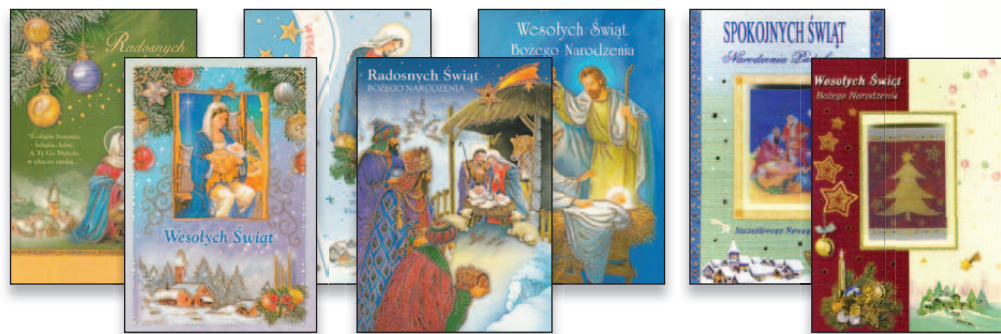


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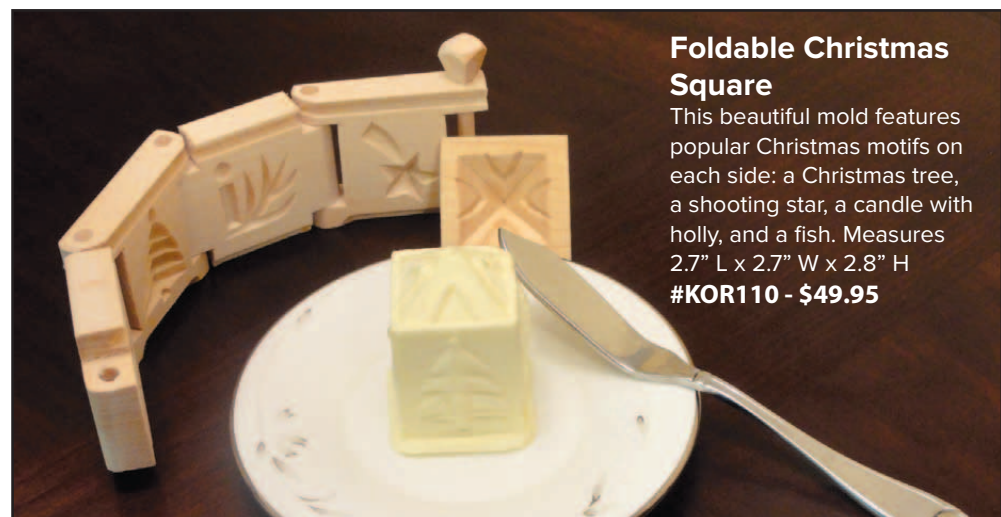
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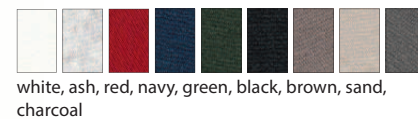
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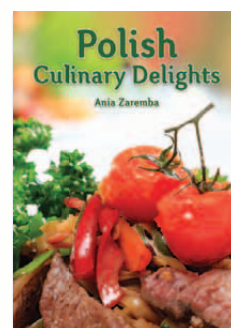


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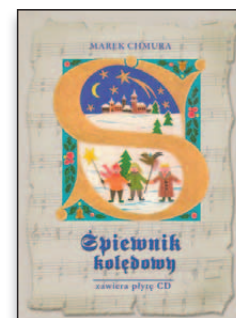
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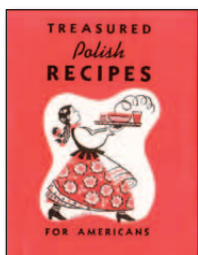
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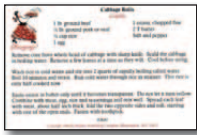
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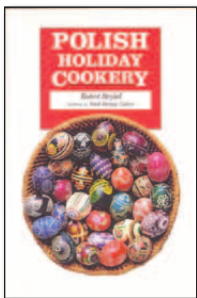
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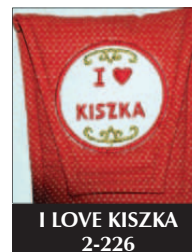
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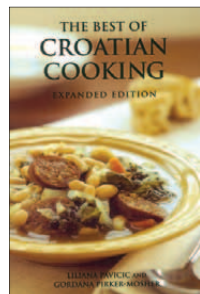
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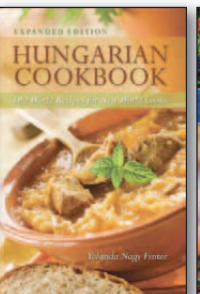
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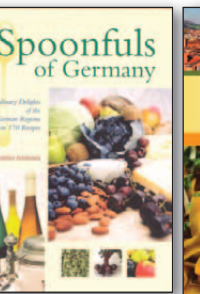
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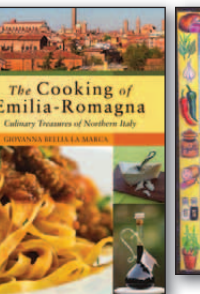
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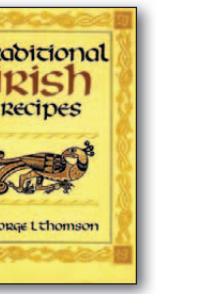
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POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Hearty Polish Autumn Food Fest II

continued from last month
The cooler autumn months are a time when heartier stick-to-the-ribs dishes come into their own. These include Polonia's favorite Polish comfort foods "like Babcia used to make" as well as a few dishes you may not have tried yet. We start with everyone's favorite dish, pierogi:

PIEROGI DOUGH (ciasto na pierogi). Bring a large (3 qt or so) pot of water containing 1 T salt to boil. Combine 2 c flour, 1 c dairy sour cream, 1 small egg and 1/2 t salt. Work ingredients together to form a smooth dough and knead briefly. Roll out thin 1/3 of the dough, leaving the remainder under

a warm inverted bowl so it doesn't dry out until ready to roll out. With drinking-glass or biscuit-cutter cut dough-sheet into rounds. Place a spoonful of filling just off center of each dough round, cover filling with larger dough flap and pinch edges together to seal. Cook in batches. Drop a few pierogi into boiling water so boiling does not stop and gradually add some more so they can float freely and are not crowded. When they float up cook another 1-2 min. Remove with slotted spoon to colander to drip dry. They can be served immediately or allowed to cool and browned in butter.

CHEESE & POTATO PIEROGI (ruskie pierogi). Cook 1 lb peeled

potatoes in boiling salted water until tender, drain, mash and set aside to cool. To potatoes add 1/2 lb farmer cheese or dry cottage cheese, mashed with potato-masher or processed to a ground-like consistency in processor, 2 finely chopped onions sautéed in 2 T oil or butter until tender and lightly browned. Mix ingredients well and season with salt & pepper. As toppings, provide sour cream or skwarki (fried golden-brown pork fatback nuggets).

POTATO & ONION-FILLED PIEROGI (pierogi z kartoflami). Cook 6-7 med potatoes until tender, drain well, steaming off moisture, and mash thoroughly or put through ricer. Dice 3-4 slices thick-sliced bacon and brown with 2 finely diced onions. Add fried mixture to potatoes, stir in 1 egg and (optional) 1 T bread crumbs. Salt & pepper to taste. 1-2 T chopped chives or dill may be added to filling. Serve with sour cream or plain yogurt.

CABBAGE-FILLED PIEROGI (pierogi z białą kapustą). At summer events, using in-season fresh cabbage may be more economical. Core and shred 1-3/4 lb head of cabbage, place in pot cover with water, add 1 mushroom bouillon cube and 1 t salt and cook until tender (30 min or more from the time it comes to a boil). Transfer to colander and press

out moisture. When cool enough to handle, chop. Brown 1 chopped onion in 3 T butter or oil or with 1 heaping T diced fatback or bacon. Combine with cabbage and simmer 15 min, stirring to allow moisture to evaporate. Drain and press out moisture. Stir in 1 T bread crumbs and 1 T chopped dill and salt & pepper to taste.

POTATO DUMPLINGS (kopytka). Peel and cook 2-1/4 lbs potatoes (about 6-7 med) in lightly salted water, drain well, steam off moisture and mash well. Transfer to floured board to cool. Add about 2 c flour, 1 egg and 1/2 salt and quickly work ingredients into a dough. Between hands form into finger-thick strands and cut at an angle into 1" - 2" pieces. Drop into boiling salted water, cover and when boiling resumes, cook 2-3 min. Remove with slotted spoon. Garnish with butter-browned bread crumbs, skwarki or fried diced onions.

POLISH PLUM CAKE (placek ze śliwkami). Beat 1/2 c butter and 1 c sugar until smooth (about 2 min). Continue beating, adding 2 eggs 1 at a time. Mix 2 c flour with 2 t baking powder and 1/4 t salt and sift into bowl. Gradually stir in the butter-sugar-egg mixture, 1/2 t vanilla extract and 3/4 c milk, beating the whole time until smooth. Transfer

dough to greased square or rectangular baking pan. Top dough with ripe Italian plum halves (węgierki) cut-side-up and sprinkle with a pinch of cinnamon (optional). Dot with about 2 T cold butter and bake in preheated 350° oven about 40-45 min, or until inserted wooden pick comes out clean.

POLISH APPLE CAKE (szarlotka). Combine 2-3/4 c flour with 1 c confectioner's sugar, 4 egg yolks and 1/4 t salt and blend ingredients into a uniform dough. Do not knead! Roll into ball, wrap in foil and refrigerate at least 30 min. Meanwhile, in pot combine 1 lb tart cooking apples, peeled and sliced, with 1/2 c sugar and simmer on low heat until apples are tender. To cooked apples add 1-1/4 lb peeled, diced uncooked apples. Season with a pinch of cinnamon or nutmeg, or ground cloves or a combination of any 2 or all 3 (1 pinch of each). Divide chilled dough in half. Roll one half out thin into a rectangle or square to fit your baking pan. Pierce all over with fork and bake in preheated 390° oven 10-15 min. Sprinkle surface of baked dough with 3-4 T crushed vanilla wafers and spread apple filling evenly over surface. Roll out remaining dough and cover apples. Reduce heat to 350° and bake about 45-60 min.



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POLONIA PLACES / Greg Witul

J.P. Rozplochowski & Company

J.P. Rozplochowski & Company
1237-39 West Western Avenue
South Bend, Indiana
Status: Closed

If there was one business every major Polish American community had in the first half of the twentieth century, it was a furniture store. When Lackawanna, New York's Polonia needed a sofa they stopped at Rosinski's; the Poles of Milwaukee, Wisconsin who wanted the latest radio shopped at Zamka's; and the nowożeńcy of South Bend, Indiana who were looking for their first dining room set went to J.P. Rozplochowski & Co. at 1237-39 West Western Avenue in the heart of that city's Polonia District.

The founder of J.P. Rozplochowski & Company, John P. Rozplochowski was a well established man when he decided to open a hardware and furniture store in 1911. Born in Poland on June 24, 1873, John left his native land at age fifteen with the plan of settling in South Bend. When he arrived in Indiana he first worked at the South Bend Toy Works, before moving over to Birdsell Manufacturing Company and finally the Studebaker Corporation. In 1908 John started his first business, a retail butcher shop but he didn't take to the meat industry. Within the first five years, Rozplochowski did tremendous business at 1237 W. Division, before the street was renamed Western Avenue. In 1917 Rozplochowski incorporated the business as J. P. Rozplochowski & Company, purchased the lot at 1239 W. Division, combined the two plots, and built himself a new three story, 20,244 sq ft, white brick building with fluted pilasters and topped with an art nouveau frieze.

Because of J. P. Rozplochowski & Company's reputation of integrity and ability customers from beyond the Polish community started shopping at the West Side

business. This broad base of clientele helped the company survive and even thrive during the Great Depression. With the growth of the businesses, John's standing in Polonia grew as well. He was elected president of the Zygmunt Balicki Polish Falcons, treasurer of the Polish Business Men's Association, and served as a director of the Peoples State Bank. In 1939 John received the Silver Cross of Merit by the Polish Government for his work within the Polish community.

In August of 1941 John P. Rozplochowski passed away, and control of the company was transferred to his wife Veronica. Veronica picked up where her husband left off and maintained the respect and quality of service the company was known for. As service men and women began coming home after the Second World War, Rozplochowski was there to offer up all the furnishings a new home could need. By 1949, J. P. Rozplochowski & Company boasted that it was the oldest and largest Polish furniture store in South Bend and offered extended hours on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays for the convenience of their customers. Through the 1950s Rozplochowski still did a nice business, even as people started moving into the suburbs.

In February of 1963 Veronica passed away and with her went what was left of J. P. Rozplochowski & Co. leaving only 1237-39 W. Western Ave. and the memories.



THE STORE in its heyday (left) and today (above).

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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Radwanska Continues to Make Her Mark

Agnieszka Radwanska is only 25 years old with plenty of tennis in front of her, but the Krakow native is already the most accomplished athlete in the history of Polish tennis.

Aga has been a professional tennis player since 2006 when she was voted the Women's Tennis Association's top newcomer. In 2008 Radwanska became the first Polish woman to reach a Grand Slam singles quarterfinal during the open era and only the second Polish woman (since Jadwiga Jedzejowska in 1939) ever to reach a Grand Slam singles quarterfinal. She has won 14 career singles titles and is the winner of the longest three set match played in the history of the WTA Tour Championships. Her highest ranking to date is World # 2 and is currently # 5. She has been named the WTA Fan Favorite player for the last three years. The *Wall Street Journal* described her as "the most tactically sound, subtle tennis player in the world."

Urszula Radwańska, her 23-year-old sister, is also a top tennis pro. Her highest WTA singles ranking of 29 came in 2012. She is currently number 133. The younger Radwanska has had several injury struggles over the last year, particularly a right shoulder injury, but is working her way back up the rankings.

Aga was born in Krakow, while Urszula was born in Germany, the result of her father, Robert, working as a tennis pro in a north-western German town. Robert Radwański coached Aga and Ula from the ages of five and four respectively and still trains his girls whenever they go home to Krakow.

There are numerous women pro tennis players with Polish parents who represent other countries. They include Germany's Angelique Kerber and Sabine Lisicki, Denmark's



TENNIS STAR AGNIESZKA RADWANSKA, representing Swiss luxury watch maker Rado, visited the Hour Passion boutique in New York City recently for a meet and greet with fans.

Caroline Wozniacki, Canada's Aleksandra Wozniak and Australia's Olivia Rogowska. In some cases, the parents had to leave Poland to help their daughters pursue tennis careers. "It was almost the same way for us as for the others," Agnieszka said. "But when I was six or seven, my father decided that Urszula and I should go to Polish schools, so we went back to Poland. I think it was a good decision for the family."

Aga encountered some criticism in Poland when she posed semi-nude for *ESPN Magazine's Body Issue* last year. She responded that many other great athletes—including 77-year-old golf legend Gary Player—were featured in the publication. "The pictures are certainly not meant to cause offense and to brand them as immoral clearly does not take into account the context of the magazine," she stated. "Moreover, they do not contain any explicit imagery whatsoever."

No such controversy is being created by Aga and her sister's appearance on the cover of the August 2014 issue of *Shape* magazine in Poland. The Radwanska sisters are wearing their tennis garb in the cover shot promoting an article entitled "Sisters Forever."

PERKOSKI'S NOTEBOOK. Polish gymnast **Helena Rakoczy** (née Krzynówek), a world champion in the 1950s, passed away at 92 ... Colorado Rockies shortstop **Troy Tulowitzki** had season-ending surgery on his left hip as he was leading the NL with a .340 batting average ... playing for the first time since a knee ended his 2013 season, New England TE **Rob Gronkowski** caught four passes, including a touchdown in an opening day loss to the Miami Dolphins.

Canisius College head men's basketball coach Jim Baron recently announced that Polish native **Jan**

Poland Takes World's Top Title



KATOWICE, Poland — Poland stopped Brazil's three consecutive title wins, to claim their second-ever FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship title in front of their home fans, while Germany's straight sets victory denied France of a bronze medal.

Poland's 3-1 victory evened the score with Brazil, as the South Americans denied them of the gold in 2006, when they lost 3-0. Now, they have two gold medals and silver medal. Their final victory was their seventh consecutive win, all of which have come in at least four sets. The United States was the only team that handed them their only loss in the competition during the second round.

Stephane Antiga guided his team to the title on his first year of being appointed as the coach of Poland.

Germany claimed their second ever medal at the World Championship by beating France 3-0 to claim the bronze medal. Germany's win was a good recovery after losing in four sets to Poland in the semifinal.

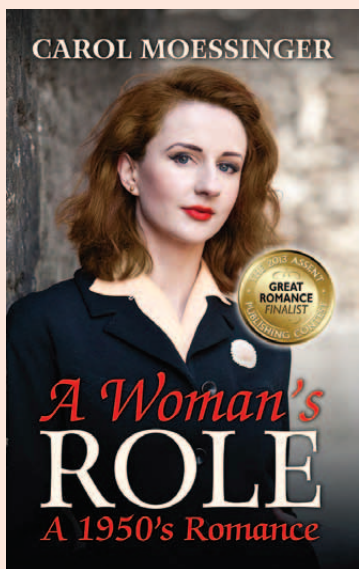
Poland became the second team to achieve a title victory as hosts, after Czechoslovakia won the World Championship title in 1966. Poland's title drought stood 40 years before they could follow-up with their second title in their home turf, and almost had it in 2006 after suffering defeat from Brazil.

Grzelinski will join the Golden Griffins ... Pole vault gold medalist **Jenn Stuczynski Suhr** is reportedly recuperating well from injuries to her ribs, wrist, neck and hands that occurred after her pole snapped during training ... Poland's **Rafal Majka** followed up his breakthrough performance at the Tour de France with a win in the Tour de Pologne race and a 4th place finish in the US Pro Challenge ... veteran lefty **Mike Zagurski** asked for and was

granted release by Toronto despite pitching very well for Triple-A Buffalo (a 1.83 ERA in 44.1 innings pitched) but not being called up by the Blue Jays.

Jacksonville's **Paul Posluszny** recorded his 1,000th career NFL tackle in an opening day loss to Philadelphia ... former NHL player **Krzysztof Oliwa** is team manager and head coach, for the Kalkaska, Mich., Rhinos, an independent Junior "A" hockey team.

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BOOK REVIEW / Tom Tarapacki

One of Baseball's Greatest Minor League Legends

THE BILKO ATHLETIC CLUB

The Story of the 1956

Los Angeles Angels

by Gaylon H. White

Today, the name Bilko is probably best remembered for Sgt. Ernest Bilko, the character played by actor-comedian Phil Silvers in the hit TV show, *You'll Never Get Rich*.

However, in the mid-1950s the original Bilko — legendary baseball player Steve Bilko — was the most popular athlete in Los Angeles.

"It was my name or Kluszewski's," Steve once explained, referring to baseball great and one-time teammate Ted Kluszewski. "Bilko is a lot easier to say than Kluszewski."

Bilko was a Paul Bunyan-esque figure who hit towering home runs. He was 6-1 and about 240-lb., with a love of beer and Polish food that made his weight a constant topic of conversation. Despite his large, powerful frame, he had a boyish face and a warm, charismatic personality. Even opposing players and fans liked him, and Hollywood

embraced him with open arms.

In his newly published book, White tells the story of the Bilko and the Angels. Before the Dodgers came to Southern California in 1958, Los Angeles belonged to the Angels. They played in the Pacific Coast League (PCL) as the Triple A affiliate of the Cubs. With only 16 major league teams at the time, Triple A had many good players and the PCL was widely known as "the third major league." From 1955 through 1957, Steve belted 148 home runs for the Angels, leading the league in HRs each year, with totals of 37, 55, and 56. He won the Triple Crown in 1956 with a .360 batting average and 164 RBI while also leading the league with 163 runs scored, and the Angels won the 1956 PCL championship. He was the only player in PCL history to win the league's MVP award in three consecutive seasons. For West Coast fans like White, Bilko was the equivalent of Babe Ruth and the Angels became known as "The Bilko Athletic Club."

A native of Nanticoke Pa., Bilko



SGT. BILKO (Phil Silvers) meets Steve Bilko

was signed by the St. Louis Cardinals at age 16. He got his first call-up with the Cardinals in 1949 after hitting 34 HR in 139 games for International League Rochester, but didn't stick for a full season until 1953. That was when Rochester's Polish Falcons — Bilko, Rip Repulski, and Ray Jablonski — made a splash with St. Louis. Bilko had a great year, hitting .251 with

21 homers and 84 runs batted in. However, the Cards, unhappy with Bilko's weight and his high number of strikeouts (125), as well as wanting to play Stan Musial more at first base, sent "Stout Steve" to the Chicago Cubs the next season.

From the Cubs Bilko ended up with the PCL Angels, and became a star in LA. Despite his great run from '55 to '57, Bilko didn't get another major league shot until 1958 with the Reds, and was never able to duplicate his minor league heroics in the big leagues (though he did play in over 600 big league games). He retired in 1962 after a stint with the American League expansion Los Angeles Angels. He returned to Pennsylvania and died of a heart attack in 1978 at the age of 49.

The Bilko Athletic Club provides an in-depth account of the '56 Angels, and describes how popular baseball was on the West Coast even before the major leagues arrived. It also tells the fascinating story of one of baseball's greatest minor league legends, Steve Bilko.

THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL. Honor guard marching in Victory Square. Warsaw, Poland. May 26, 1976.



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GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

Church Records in Poland

Church records in Poland have been kept since the mid-1600s. The amount of information found in the early records lacked some of the details that we see today but improved over time. Catholic churches were the first to maintain vital records, but Protestants followed soon after. Sometimes Catholic parishes also kept records of people of other faiths.

Records available through Family History films or online resources date back to the early 1700s and in some areas they start in the early 1800s. The Polish vital records that you find will usually be in one of two formats – narrative or columnar.

The narrative format was introduced in Poland by Napoleon in 1808 during his short-lived control of the area and its use was continued in some areas after his defeat. It is found in the records from the Polish area that was controlled by Russia and was called the Kingdom of Poland. The format will also be found in the records for Krakow. The system that Napoleon introduced required that the birth, marriage and death registers be kept by state officials but since there were

not enough state officials to perform the duties, the clergy were frequently appointed to record these events. Polish Catholic clergy were responsible for all civil registration from 1808 until 1825. Beginning in 1826, Jews, Evangelical Lutherans, Protestants, Russian Orthodox, Greek Orthodox and others were allowed to maintain separate civil registers.

The narrative records in the Russian partition were written in Polish until the Tsar tightened his control over his Polish provenances and required the use of Russian on all records. In 1868, officials and priests began using the Cyrillic alphabet and the Russian language for vital records. This continued until after World War I when the language used reverted to Polish.

After Napoleon's defeat, record keeping in the Prussian and Austrian partitions was continued by church officials but the format was changed to the columnar format. Latin was used on most records but some records may be found in which Polish or German was used. The word lists can be used to translate the records and these can be found in various genealogy books and in the Wiki

pages on familysearch.org.

Remember to use the indexes which are usually found at the end of the records. They vary in quality with some entries being missed or with incorrect spelling, but are still very useful in quickly finding the page where a record is located. If the name was missed, you should still browse the pages to find your record.

Most of the records available through the Family History Library (familysearch.org) cover the time period prior to 1880. Recent efforts of genealogy researchers in Poland have begun to make more church records available through a growing number of websites. For a complete list of Polish websites, use PGSA's compendium webpage at PGSA.org.



Stephen M. Szabados, a regular contributor to the Polish American Journal, is a prominent genealogist. In addition to numerous columns and papers, he is the author of three books, "Finding Grandma's European Ancestors," "Find Your Family History," and "Polish Genealogy."

Family and records research in Poland by Kasia Rutkowska. ▶ Located in Warsaw but will travel. ▶ Also translations, photographing of ancestral villages; tour guide and interpreter. ▶ Bilingual. ▶ References available. email: k.rut@wp.pl ▶ www.polishgenius.net/genealogy-research/

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POLISH CAN BE FUN! / Robert Strybel

How Do You Pronounce It?

In the first installment of this column we displayed some Polish vegetable words. Everybody knows kapusta, which is easy enough to pronounce. But what about marchew and pietruszka? Is the first pronounced "MAHR-choo", as an Anglo-American speaker might imagine, and the second – "peet-ROOS-kah"? The point is that some people who remember some Polish from their childhood, back when "busia" was still alive, were familiar with only some spoken words but never really got into the spelling. The 32 letters of the Polish alphabet are roughly pronounced as follows:

- A, a** like the 'a' in English 'father', e.g. mak (mahk) = poppy;
- Ą, ą** nasal 'o' as in English 'own' without fully pronouncing the 'n', e.g. są (like French son) = (they) are;
- B, b** same as English 'b' e.g. barka (pronounced: BAH-rah) = barge;
- C, c** like 'ts' in English 'lets', e.g. cebula (tseh- BOO-lah) = onion
- Ć, ć** very soft 'ch', somewhat like 'ch' in English 'cheese', cisza (CHEE-shah) = silence;
- D, d** same as English 'd', e.g. deska (DESS-kah) = board, plank;
- E, e** like short 'e' in English 'set', e.g. ten (TEN) = this one;
- Ę, ę** nasal 'e', close to 'in' in French fin (roughly fan) = end;
- F, f** same as in English 'f', e.g. fala (FAH-lah) = wave;
- G, g** like English hard 'g' (get, go, green), e.g. góra (GOO-rah) = mountain;
- H, h** like English 'h', e.g. hałas (HAH-wahss) = noise;
- I, i** like English 'ee' in 'feet', e.g. igła (EEG-wah) = needle;
- J, j** like English 'y' in 'yard', e.g. jajko (YAHY-kaw) = egg;
- K, k** like English 'k', e.g. kasa (KAH-sah), ticket office, cash desk;
- L, l** like soft English 'l' in 'leek', e.g. list (leest) = letter;
- Ł, ł** like English 'w' in 'wife', e.g. ławka (WAHF-kah) = bench;
- M, m** same as English 'm', e.g. ma-

- lina (mah-LEE-nah) = raspberry;
- N, n** same as English 'n', e.g. nora (NAW-rah) = (animal's) den, burrow;
- Ń, ń** soft 'n' as in Spanish 'mañana', e.g. koń; (kawhñ) = horse
- O, o** similar to 'aw' sound English 'awl', e.g. rok (rawk) = year;
- Ó, ó** like English 'oo' in 'tool', same as Polish 'u', e.g. bór (boor) = pine forest;
- P, p** like English 'p', e.g. para (PAH-rah) = steam, couple;
- R, r** like trilled Scottish 'r', e.g. rosa (RAW-sah) = dew;
- S, s** same as English 's', e.g. sowa (SAW-vah) = owl;
- Ś, ś** similar to soft English 'sh' in 'sheet', e.g. siwy (SHEE-vih) = gray;
- T, t** similar to English 't' in 'tot', e.g. tylko (TILL-kaw) = only;
- U, u** like English 'oo' in 'tool', e.g. dusza (DOO-shah) = soul;
- W, w** like English 'v', e.g. wojna (VOY-nah) = war
- Y, y** always a vowel like short English 'i' in 'bit', byt (bit) = being;
- Z, z** like English 'z', e.g. zamek (ZAH-mek) = lock, castle;
- Ż, ż** softer than English 'z' in 'azure', e.g. źle (zhleh) = badly;
- Ź, ź** similar to English 'z' in 'azure', e.g. żaba (ZAH-bah) = frog

If you're lucky enough to have a relative, friend, neighbor or other person who speaks Polish nearby, see if they won't help you correct your pronunciation. We'll take a look at the consonant clusters ch, cz, rz and sz on another occasion, since the bare-bones alphabet above is plenty enough to absorb the first time around.

WORDS OF WISDOM

Co kraj to obyczaj.

P.S. Reader input is most appreciated. If you have any questions, remarks or suggestions, please feel free to email them to: strybel@intertia.pl

SURNAME CORNER

What Does Your Last Name Mean?

by Robert Strybel
Kowalski and **Kowalczyk** were the sons of the "kowl" (blacksmith), **Nowak** was the new guy in the village, **Kamiński** came from one of several localities called Kamień (Rockton, Stoneville) and **Wójcik** was the village mayor's boy. **Kaczmarek** was the innkeeper's son and **Dąbrowski** was called that because he hailed from Dąbrowa (Oakville).

If interested in finding out what your Polish surname means, how it originated, how many people use it, where your namesakes live and whether a coat of arms ever accompanied the name, please airmail a \$19 personal or bank check or money order to: Robert Strybel / ul. Kaniowska 24 / 01-529 Warsaw / Poland.

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The Poles of Toledo

Dr. Tim Borden on his new book about Polish Toledo, American Originals

Interviewed by John Grondelski

Give us a brief description of the Poles of Toledo, both in the heyday of Kuhschwanz and Lagrinka as well as today. How much of Polish Toledo is left?

There are some bricks-and-mortar reminders of Toledo's Polonia—churches, social halls and storefronts—but most are only used part-time and many have been repurposed. In my observation, many local storefronts are now Evangelical churches! And so it goes.

Like many other cities with Polish enclaves, suburbanization has spread the Polish community over a wider area, while many core institutions have declined. Did people leave the central city because of the decline of its institutions, or did the institutions decline because the community dispersed? That's another topic for another book. Of course, Toledo's Polonia was always a regional identity that stretched far beyond the city's boundaries. The focus of the book is largely on Toledo, as it is the region's largest city and home to so many of our immigrants' descendants. However, there is such a big influence of immigrants' experiences in the smaller towns in the region. My own family settled in Wauseon, Ohio and Lasalle, Michigan before moving to Toledo around 1900. There's a reason why polka music is so much loved at gatherings out in the smaller towns and villages in Northwest Ohio and Southeastern Michigan. The chapter on polka music is extremely insightful on this topic.

Tell us something about the Polish churches of Toledo, especially today, when Polish parishes are rapidly being "consolidated" out of existence.

Unlike their Orthodox counterparts — and the Greek Orthodox parishes remain particularly cohesive — Roman Catholic churches in Northwest Ohio have largely lost any ethnic affiliations. This is in part due to suburbanization and, if you will, the "Americanization" of the current generations of Polish Americans. My own family's parish of St. Hyacinth no longer remains as a recognized entity, although the church, which my grandparents helped to build, is open for one Mass each Sunday. The school, attached to the church, is now a charter school without any religious affiliation. The flagship church of the neighborhood, St. Anthony's, has been closed for years and is only open for special events or historical tours. There is, however, the Resurrection Polish National Catholic Church that is very active in Temperance, Michigan, just north of Toledo, and it's quite active in keeping Polish traditions — especially our foodways — alive and well.

American Originals is a collective work. How did this group come together, decide on

writing a book, and get it done? How long did it take?

My biggest stroke of luck, using Dr. Tom Borden's contacts at the University of Toledo, was finding people who had done academic work — at the undergraduate and graduate level — on related topics. Everyone I contacted had retained a vital interest in the work they had done and dearly wanted to see their work reach a broader audience. We all embraced the idea of a coherent narrative that would highlight some central themes in the community's history, while still indulging in the personal, the colorful and the sometimes quirky stories that could only be told in Toledo's Polonia.

In my first discussion with Tom, who is now retired, we talked about a balance between larger themes of immigration and ethnic identity — the kind of topics that are developed in the more academic chapters of the book — and the more immediate, personal narratives that bring history to life in a first-hand way. I thought that oral histories with people from the community could bring a human perspective to the historical topics that are the academic backbone of the work. In the end, it seemed obvious that the oral histories should follow (or precede) each thematic chapter. Each person's story either prepares you for the next chapter or helps you relate to what came before.

The whole process took a little less than three years, most of that time (two years) from beginning writing and first drafts to a first manuscript. Things then went rapidly: six months of editing and three months to get the book out.

Your book focuses primarily on the late 19th/early 20th century emigracja za chlebem which makes up Polonia. Another important part of American Polonia is the postwar emigracja polityczna: tell us something about it in Toledo.

There needs to be another book on the very topic. Polish immigration to Northwest Ohio is usually considered an 19th and early 20th-Century occurrence. This was not exactly the case, as Dorothy Stohl's portrait of gulag survivor Frances Stocki demonstrates. Mrs. Stocki's experience during and after the Second World War was extraordinary; yet she and her husband, Tadeusz, shared their memories with family and close friends only. We are very fortunate that Mrs. Stocki met a wonderful listener and compassionate writer in Dorothy, who describes just how important a role wartime and postwar politics played in the fates of Poland's own people.

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur of Toledo is the most senior of the women in the House of Representatives, a Polish American, and pro-life. Why do you think she is so little known, even among Polish Americans?

Representative Kaptur's career is inspirational, in terms of what she's accomplished in over thirty years in Congress as well as

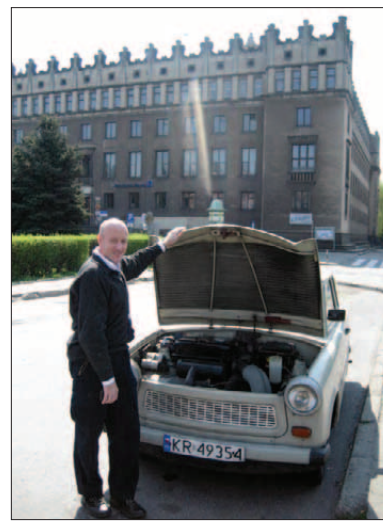
how she maintains a balance between national priorities and local interests. Yet she remains self-effacing and doesn't make grandstanding statements or hold attention-grabbing press conferences. She was mentioned back in 1996 as a possible running mate in Ross Perot's presidential campaign, in large part for her critical review of the North American Free Trade Agreement, but she declined to accept his invitation to endorse his candidacy. Many elected officials would have jumped at the chance to be in the national spotlight and then retire to a career as a lobbyist. I don't think that was ever in the cards for Representative Kaptur. It's significant that she was the original sponsor of legislation that resulted in the World War II National Memorial in Washington, D.C., a project that took decades to complete. It would not have happened without her endurance to see it through.

Representative Kaptur is certainly an important figure, but what other roles or influence have Polonians had in northwest Ohio politics?

Local political observers reckon that a Polish family name garners perhaps five extra percentage points at the polls. That's an opinion, not an established fact, but I do think there's some credence to the belief. With that said, there's no "Polish" voting block regionally, and any machine-style politics in the old ward system died out a long time ago. Besides Rep. Kaptur, former Lucas County Commissioner Keith Wilkowski — now in private practice as an attorney — and Toledo Mayor Ollie Czelusta, who served in the 1940s and 1950s, are probably the best known public officials with Polish roots.

Your book includes several oral histories. Tell us something about them: how they came about, why they're important, and what Polish Americans in other places can do to save their local histories.

In this digital age, we can do so much to preserve the history of our family and community members. And it's so easy. However, I think sitting down with an individual and conducting a purpose-driven interview, especially as part of a larger project on a community history, takes some preparation and work. Giving a questionnaire to an interviewee is always a great place to start, as it gives them an idea of what you're going to ask, so they can help collect their memories in advance. Deciding on the method of recording is also important; we think of everything as a visual product these days, but for many of us, what we record will end up in print. That means



DR. BORDEN and his prized Pol-ska Fiat.

planning ahead on how the interview will be preserved, edited, stored and transmitted.

I was fortunate enough to have a fellowship at the Indiana University Center for the Study of History and Memory while I completed my doctorate in history there, and the center is a good place to look at some resources and examples of how oral histories are collected and presented in archived form: <http://www.indiana.edu/%7ecshm/>

In American Originals you say no book can be all things to all people, so if you think something is missing ... write Volume II of the Poles of Toledo. What are some of the topics you'd like to see covered in such a follow-up book?

My non-academic day job keeps me busy, but I'm working on another book about Toledo's so-called "labor boss" from the 1930s through the 1960s, UAW leader Richard Gosser. However, I hope this current work inspires another generation to explore the concept of Polish Americans as an invisible, yet tangible, strand in American life. Poland's experience from the 1990s onwards shares quite a bit, I think, with the themes discussed in *American Originals*, especially the concept of reciprocity between the individual and society in the context of a capitalist and democratic framework.

Sadly, contemporary Poles take far more interest in American politics than we do in their affairs. We disregard Poland's significant, and complex, role in the European Union at our own peril, as rising tensions with Russia demonstrate.

What gives you inspiration?

Without a doubt, Zbigniew Herbert's "The Power of Taste":

It didn't require great character at all our refusal disagreement and resistance we had a shred of necessary courage but fundamentally it was a matter of taste
Yes taste
in which there are fibers of soul the cartilage of conscience



Dr. Timothy Borden (Ph.D., Indiana) is author of *American Originals: Northwest Ohio's Polish Community at Home, Work, Worship, and Play*, a collection of studies about various aspects of Toledo's Polish American community (including churches, polka culture, work, and family life). The 258-page paperback, which is part of a series on Toledo's ethnic communities, can be purchased for \$22.95 from the University of Toledo Press (www.utoledopress.com).

BOOKS IN BRIEF / Mary Lanham

Pienkowski's Illustrations Bring Folktales to Life

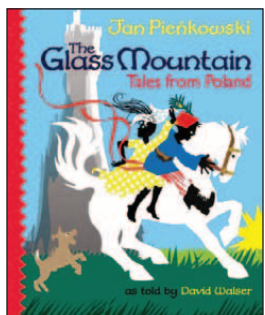
THE GLASS MOUNTAIN: TALES FROM POLAND

Retold by David Walser

Illustrated by Jan Pienkowski

Candlewick Press, 2014, 84 pps.

The *Glass Mountain: Tales from Poland* boasts eight Polish folktales retold by David Walser and illustrated by Jan Pienkowski. A few of the stories included are, "The Fern



Flower," "The Miller's Daughters" and the titular "The Glass Mountain."

True to fairytale form, this compilation is filled with mermaids, magicians, princes, princesses, wizards and witches. Even the legendary Baba Jaga with her house on chicken legs makes an appearance. A frog turns into a princess in "The Frog Bride," a cobbler outsmarts a dragon in "The Krakow Dragon"

and two fishermen capture a mermaid in "The Warsaw Mermaid." Walser uses clear, concise language perfect for younger readers. Pienkowski brings the folktales to life with the paper cut-out technique which recalls Wycinanki but with a modern twist.

This book also includes a helpful pronunciation guide for Polish words, places and names such as pierogi, Krakow and Wiola.

About the author: David Walser was born in Singapore and later moved to the United Kingdom. He went to school in Oxford and was trained as a pilot for the Royal Air Force. His previous books include *Nut Cracker* and *The Thousand Nights and One Night*.

About the illustrator: Jan Pienkowski was born in Warsaw, Poland but moved to the countryside during World War II. His parents and his neighbor became his educators when the schools closed. His neighbor often regaled him with Polish folktales and it was during this time that Pienkowski learned to make paper cutouts as well. Jan now lives in Britain

and he has twice won the Kate Greenaway Medal for distinguished illustration.

DARSKY'S RESISTANCE

by Michael Rudnicki

Hoxton Books, 2014

Darskylegacy.com

Set during World War II, *Darsky's Resistance* is an action-packed spy thriller that will keep you guessing. Ian Darsky has returned to his family's estate in 1939 Poland just before the German invasion — with good reason. Darsky, the son of a Polish Count and an English noblewoman is recruited by the British government as a spy for the Secret Intelligence Service. In this role, he witnesses the Katyn massacre at the hands of the Soviets, performs assassinations and oversees the extraction of a researcher forced to work for the Nazis. Highly educated and cultured, Darsky can be at times a less than sympathetic character with his drinking and womanizing but his desire for a free Poland is true. Rudnicki also gives us an unsettling counterpoint to the re-



sistance by showing us the war through the eyes of the Soviets and the Nazis.

Inspired by his grandfather's secret diaries, Rudnicki researched and wrote *Darsky's Resistance* to explore what his motivations might have been as an undercover agent. This

book is a thrilling, fast-paced war drama that is gritty and sometimes all too real.

Darsky's Resistance is now available on Amazon.com.

About the author: Michael Rudnicki was born in Poland and moved to the United Kingdom to study. He earned a degree in economics and now lives and works in Warsaw, Poland with his wife and son.

American Council for Polish Culture Convention in Buffalo, N.Y.

BUFFALO, N.Y. — This year's American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) 66th Annual Convention was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Buffalo, July 29 – August 2, 2014. The opening ceremony began with the Chopin Singing Society leading the assembly in the Polish and United States national anthems. Then the group was greeted by Buffalo Councilman David A. Franczyk. He was followed by the keynote speaker, Honorable Carl Bucki, Chief Judge U.S. Bankruptcy Court, with an inspiring speech about the history and influence of Polonia in Buffalo. A greeting from John Micgiel, the recently installed president of the Kosciuszko Foundation, who was unable to attend in person, was read into the record.

The sessions were led by Mary Ellen Tyszka who assumed the presidency from Camille Kopielski after her resignation due to health problems. Judi Tompkins took on the job of treasurer from Greg Biestek. Tom Payne moved up to first vice-president, while Alicia Dutka's appointment to the second vice-president was confirmed.

All of the ACPC committees reported on their accomplishments during the previous year. Co-Chairs Ceil and Ray Glembocki spoke about the ACPC display booth and the successful presentation by Rita Cosby at the National Conference for Social Studies (NCSS) in St. Louis. They outlined their plans for the Boston Conference in November. After the presentation, many of the delegates and affiliates pledged financial support.

A new feature of the convention this year was an informative workshop where members heard how their organizations could benefit from the varied resources available within the ACPC. Members were provided with detailed

information regarding the Affiliate Grant Program, archiving their records, borrowing ACPC's posters for an exhibit, submitting articles regarding affiliate activities for the Polish Heritage newsletter, and the opportunities to benefit from the ACPC Literary competition and scholarship programs.

The new ACPC Education Committee Chair, Peter Obst, reported that it was not successful in dealing with the administrators of the National History Day Competition (NHD). For various reasons, we will not be able to present medals to two outstanding finalists for entries relating to Polish and Polish American history at the University of Maryland 2015 finals. The ACPC, however, will send letters of congratulations and certificates to the 11 students who made it to the finals this year and whose entries incorporated events from Polish history.

During Thursday's lunch, historian Gregory Witul gave an interesting, humorous, and informative talk about the history and cultural influence of Polonia in Buffalo. He also led a bus tour of the historic Polish sites of Buffalo. The group stopped at St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr and Assumption BVM Churches, the Broadway Market, took photos on Superman Corner, had drinks at the Mickiewicz Library



PHOTO: JACQUELINE KOLOWSKI

AT THE MUSIC RECITAL (l. to r.): Jaroslaw Golembiowski, Wanda O'Brien-Trefil, ACPC president Mary Ellen Tyszka, singer and award recipient Alexandra Nowakowski, and Alicia Dutka

and contemplated the spiritually inspired architecture of Corpus Christi Church.

The recipient of this year's Marcella Sembrich Award, Alexandra Nowakowski, delighted the delegates with a recital that included selections from Fryderyk Chopin as well as from composers Francis Poulenc, Vincenzo Bellini, Charles Gounod, and Jules Massenet. She was accompanied beautifully by pianist Jianan Yu. For the encore she sang the Jerzy Petersburski nostalgic tango "To Ostatnia Niedziela," with unexpected accompaniment by our own Dr. Wanda O'Brien-Trefil, The Sembrich Music Committee chair.

In the convention's resolutions, several important events were incorporated. The

first was the wreath laying ceremony in recognition of Lt. Col. Matt Urban held on August 23rd at Arlington National Cemetery. A signed copy of his autobiography, *The Matt Urban Story: Our Most Decorated Combat Soldier* was donated by Henrietta Nowakowski to the library of Cornell University, Lt. Col. Matt Urban's alma mater.

The other important events included in the resolutions were: the 70th Anniversary of the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising on August 1, 1944; 75th Anniversary of the invasion of Poland which began World War II on September 1, 1939; and the 100th Anniversary of the start of World War I — originally called "The Great War to End All Wars" — on June 28, 1914.

THE CONVENTION CONCLUDED with the awards banquet. Recipients of the ACPC's Founders Award were Mary Ann Mlynarski (Youngstown, Ohio) and Angelus Iwanczyk (Pittsburgh); the ACPC Career Achievement Award went to Fr. Philip S. Majka, our longtime spiritual shepherd; the ACPC Cultural Achievement Award was presented to Polonia activist Szymon Tolak (Boston, Mass.), and the ACPC Distinguished Service Award given to Marcin Chumiecki of the Orchard Lake Schools' Polish Mission. Their biographical notes are posted on the ACPC website: www.polishcultureacpc.org along with convention photographs and other information (see Convention 2014).

At conclusion of the proceedings the delegates were in agreement that it was a very productive convention and went home energized to continue the mission of promoting Polish heritage in their own local clubs and communities.

THE PONDERING POLE / Ed Poniewaz

Maestro Karol Lipinski

There are two sides to this story and it is the sum of them that makes it significant and interesting. The first part is the accomplishment of the man and the second is the legacy. Karol Lipinski was a contemporary, friend, and rival of Niccolò Paganini, who is considered by many (based on how often he appears at the top of many of the lists) as the greatest violin player of all time. The Lipinski legacy is the particular type of Stradivarius violin with his name attached to it.

The best source I can find about the history of the man and the legacy is an excellent online article and chapter called *A Violin's Life, The Lipinski Stradivarius* (<http://avio-linslife.org/lipinski/>). After reading *A Violin's Life* and learning about the wonderful life of Karol Lipinski, I am slightly surprised there is not more awareness about him. Though this is dated, in the book, *Paganini*, by Renee de Saussure (McGraw-Hill, New York, 1954) there are a grand total of three pages that mention Lipinski. Geoffrey Seitz, a well-known violin maker in St. Louis was not familiar with the Lipinski Stradivarius. However, I did receive this eMail response from another violin maker, Robert Clemens who said:

"Yes, I make a Guarneri model violin after the Lipinski Guarneri as referred to by my teacher who was acquainted with the original as a member of a large Chicago violin shop many years ago.

"This is my most sought after design and sounds exceptional.

"The Lipinski Strad (a different instrument) was in the news recently as it was stolen and then recovered in the Milwaukee area."

Born in 1790 in Radzyn, Poland, Karol Lipinski grew up in a musical family during the turmoil of the



Paganini

nation's partitions. His eventual playing style as a violist became purely classical and the road he took in achieving notoriety and success was in the classic way as well. The Lipinski family was employed by the Potocki aristocratic estate and after the total partition of Poland they lost their stipend. Karol's father Felix had to scramble, make adjustments, and work very hard to live and support his family. Karol's big break came when his father allowed him to lead a chamber ensemble in the city of Lwow where "musical life flourished."

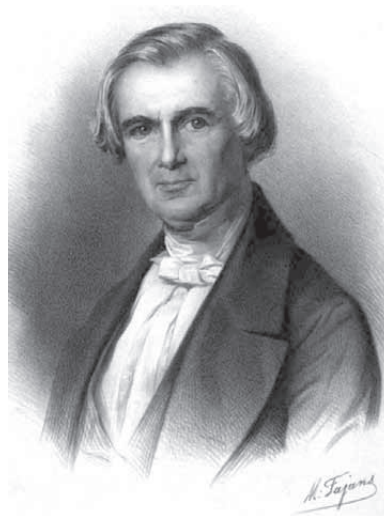
It was in Lwow that Karol's talents began to emerge and the responsibility learned and experience he gained infused him with more confidence and social bearing. He flourished and others began to take notice. An Austrian by the name of Ferdinand Kremes became his mentor and steered him toward making the violin his primary instrument and sole interest. Lipinski took Kremes' advice and immersed himself in the study and pursuit of everything violin and based on the suggestion of one of the outstanding violinists of the time, another Austrian, Louis Spohr, decided to strike out on his own to pursue a career as

a solo performer.

To say that Lipinski's career had a classic structure and direction is evident by the number of logical and measured steps taken in his personal and professional life. He became progressively better off with each new stage of development. At one point then, it was natural for him to go to the highest point and that was Niccolò Paganini. As I read it, Lipinski pursued Paganini to understand the man as well as experience his brilliance. In 1817, he toured Italy and met with Paganini and became friends with him. Then:

"On April 17, 1818, they appeared in the packed theater of Piacenza. They played Kreutzer's 'Concerto for two violins and orchestra' and some of their own compositions to a very enthusiastic house. A second duo concert followed, and Paganini suggested a joint tour of Italy. Lipinski, however, was anxious about his wife, who was expecting a baby, and decided to return home. A few weeks later Paganini, writing to a friend, commented that the Pole had '... played my quartets... truly excellently.' Lipinski, while enjoying and admiring Paganini's showy virtuosity, decided to remain faithful to the more classic style he had derived from Spohr."

It was Lipinski's involvement with Paganini that drew him to a connection in Milan, the student of the master violinist Tartini by the name of Signor Salvini. Salvini's appraisal of his playing and the devotion to the classical style impressed him so much that he cried basta! (no more!), and asked him to meet on the next day. Lipinski played for him and at one point Salvini grabbed his violin out of his hands and smashed it over a table. Salvini gave him another to replace it and thus begat the legacy.



Lipinski

"I took it, and after I had played one of Beethoven's sonatas, Salvini extended his hand to me and deeply moved said: 'You probably know that I was a pupil of Tartini's. It was he who, on one occasion, gave me this grand, original Stradivarius of which I take great care in honor of his memory. You are the only one who knows how to handle this instrument in order to elicit from it all the beauty hidden inside.'

"But," I exclaimed, "here lives the world famous Paganini!"

"Don't mention his name in front of me," the furious old man angrily shouted. "I have heard this charlatan play on one string with no musical depth whatsoever; but is it possible to dazzle listeners solely with technical feats, without producing a genuine, full, round tone? Paganini may be admired, but you're playing thrills and moves everyone. You are following in the footsteps of Tartini and therefore, please accept this violin as a gift from me and at the same time as a memento of Tartini."

Lipinski would play this violin, the not-yet-named-Lipinski Strad, for the rest of his life.

What an amazing person Karol Lipinski! What a life! There are so

many lessons that can be learned from his story and so much to be impressed with. Although a music school in Wroclaw, Poland is named after him, and violin sellers like Robert Clemens know him, I wish his name and works were better known. He is a great example for artistic passion and professional determination and, I believe, a super solid model of the human character. Spread the word.

OTHER STUFF. When searching a name on the internet, often one word leads to good (and sometimes bad) things. "Karol" gave me Karol Bak, a Polish modernist painter and you might view some of his work. He paints wild Dali-esque renditions of women. Do you see Salvador Dali or the guy who does the velvet rugs with the dogs playing poker?

Teodor Axentowicz, listed as a Polish-Armenian painter, did some very beautiful 19th century work that I would say is in the impressionist mold and is worth a look.

Joanne Nosuchinsky, former Miss New York USA 2013 and panelist on the Fox Channel's "Red Eye w/Greg Gutfeld." Polish or not?

Dziękuję bardzo to Mark Kohan and Larry Trojak for the lead about Karol Lipinski. I feel like I know this man very well and am so happy we are part of the same ancestral family.

If you have a thought about this month's topic, have a question, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; email alinabrig@yahoo.com. Don't forget to visit The Pondering Pole blog, ponderingpole.blogspot.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.

OBITUARIES

Rev. Leonard Chrobot, Celebrated Scholar and Teacher

by Amanda Gray
South Bend Tribune

Editor's note: At deadline, we learned of the passing of the Rev. Leonard Chrobot, a long-time contributor to the Polish American Journal. The author of numerous academic and cultural articles to the PAJ and other Polonian publications, he recently wrote on the canonization of St. John Paul II (PAJ, April 2014).

SOUTH BEND — The Rev. Leonard Chrobot died early Sept. 9 from injuries suffered in a car accident Sept. 8. He was 76.

St. Joseph County police spokesman Lt. Matt Blank said Chrobot was driving when he suffered a medical incident, causing him to drive into the path of another car. County coroner Randy Magdalinski said the cause of death was head and neck injuries suffered in crash.

Chrobot celebrated his 50-year

anniversary as a priest on May 30, and was to be celebrated with other priests on Sept. 11 in a Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, according to Sean McBride, spokesman for the Catholic Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

He was remembered at the Sept. 11 service in Fort Wayne as well as during services at St. Hedwig Church, 331 S. Scott St., South Bend.

The priest is remembered fondly by Rosanne Benassi, office manager for St. Hedwig's Parish, where Chrobot served as pastor before retiring last year. He was a kind, soft-spoken man, she said, who didn't like to see arguments, rather encouraging people to "pray about it."

Benassi said he loved his dogs, including Burek, who became part of the Christmas service through a yearly telling of the story "Jesus Had a Dog, and His Name Was Burek."



Chrobot was a South Bend native, attending St. Adalbert Catholic School, according to information provided by the diocese when he officially retired last year. He was ordained in 1964 and served in various teaching positions in the

diocese. He took a leave of absence from the diocese from 1968 to 1988 when he served as an academic dean and later as college president at St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake, Mich.

He was very proud of his Polish heritage. According to his diocese biography, he testified before the U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee on education in 1970 on behalf of the Ethnic Heritage Studies Centers Bill, which authorized \$30 million to establish Ethnic Heritage Studies Centers throughout country.

He also served as an adjunct professor of sociology and coordinator of the American Polish Research Fellowship at the University of Notre Dame, beginning in 1989.

In South Bend, many remember Fr. Chrobot best with a small broom and a bowl of holy water, sprinkling the Dyngus day crowds at the West Side Democratic Club.

Club president Tim Hudak said

those moments are the fondest memories he has of Chrobot.

"He's been our unofficial chaplain for Dyngus Day," Hudak said. "It's been years and years, decades — as long as I can remember."

Though that day has become a kickoff for the political season, Hudak said Dyngus Day was given historical context by Chrobot, who always focused on bringing the origins of the holiday — Christianity coming to Poland — to the forefront.

That doesn't mean he didn't touch on politics, though.

"He was very friendly, and very in touch with his faith," Hudak said. "And he always liked to pull people together to talk about religion and politics. A lot of people would shy away from that, but he always put the human perspective back in politics. He was always well liked, and well welcomed, and he'll be well missed."

Joanna Sojka, Des Plaines Alderman

Joanna Sojka, 29, the 7th Ward alderman of Des Plaines, Illinois, died on August 18, 2014 from a possible stroke. Considered a rising young leader in the Illinois' political scene, Joanna was elected to her office in April 2013. Sojka quickly became involved in the community after buying her first condominium in Des Plaines in 2011.

The daughter of Polish immigrants, Ms. Sojka attended Schaumburg High School (Illinois), where she was its 2003 valedictorian. She was a member of its badminton and scholastic bowl teams and a graduate of the Emilia Plater Polish Language School of Schaumburg. Joanna graduated from Northwestern University with degrees in

economics, political science, and international relations. She continued her studies with a summer internship with the *Sejm* (Polish Parliament) in Warsaw. Additionally, Joanna was an exchange student at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, studying Polish philology and the economics of the European Union. After graduating from Northwestern, Sojka accepted a position with the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Office of Business and Finance, where she was the coordinator in the office of its vice president. While at UIC, she received her Master's Degree in administration and social policy.

Her parents, Andrew and Agata, and sister, Marta, survive her.

— Geraldine Balut Coleman



Don Pardo, Legendary Radio and Television Announcer

TUCSON, Ariz. — Don Pardo, the often-heard, rarely-seen announcer of the NBC television network for six decades, whose baritone voice was part of long-running shows such as "The Price is Right," "Jeopardy!" and "Saturday Night Live," died Aug. 18, 2014.

Dominick George Pardo was born in 1918 on Feb. 22 — George Washington's birthday, the inspiration for his middle name — in Westfield, Massachusetts. He was the middle child of three to Polish immigrant parents Dominick Pardo, a baker, and the former Walerya Romaniak.

His father was from Mątwa, Łomża, Poland and mother from Galicia, said genealogist Ceil Wendt Jensen.

Growing up in Norwich, Conn., he acted in high-school productions and won an award for public speaking. His first radio job was at WJAR-AM in Providence, R.I. He said he chose to be "Dom" rather than "Dominick," and eventually gave in to how most people heard it, "Don."

Pardo joined the National Broadcasting Co. in 1944 to introduce shows and voice commercials on radio. Gradually, reluctantly, he moved to early television, which, he said, often consisted of introducing B movies.

"I really despised doing those things because I still wanted radio — that's where the money was," Pardo said in a 2006 interview with the Archive of American Television.

His television work increased as screens proliferated in the early 1950s, his assignments including "The Colgate Comedy Hour" and the game show "Winner Take All,"

hosted by Bill Cullen.

Pardo teamed with Cullen again on "The Price is Right," which ran on NBC from 1956 to 1963. He chose to stay at NBC as "The Price is Right" moved to ABC. CBS reintroduced the show in 1972, with Bob Barker as host, and it went on to become the longest-running game show in U.S. television history.

From 1964 to 1975, Pardo handled announcing duties for the original production of "Jeopardy!" The show was created by Merv Griffin and hosted by Art Fleming, who cited Pardo by name — "Thank you, Don Pardo" — after his introduction.

Pardo announced the cast and guests of "Saturday Night Live" from its first episode in 1975, missing only the seventh season, when the show tried another announcer, Mel Brandt. Even after his retirement from NBC in 2004, Pardo traveled to New York City to voice the introduction — "Live, from New York, it's Saturday Night!"

More recently, he recorded it from his home in Arizona.



On a visit to NBC's studios in New York, he was offered a try-out that won him a job, starting in June 1944.

His early announcing assignments for TV included Sid Caesar's "Your Show of Shows" and "Caesar's Hours."

In November 1963, he was on duty when an NBC news editor handed him a bulletin, freshly torn from the news wire, that President John F. Kennedy had been shot in Dallas.

In the 1980s, Pardo announced for the afternoon newscast, "Live at Five," of NBC's New York City affiliate.

Pardo was married to the former Catherine "Kay" Lyons, who died in 1995. He is survived by his three daughters, Paula, Dona and Katherine, as well as his two sons, David and Michael.

— From Bloomberg, FoxNews, and New York Times reports.

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Polka MAGAZINE

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN MUSIC

Polkas at Sunnybrook Ballroom, Nov. 16

POTTSTOWN, Pa. — Fans can expect polka music at its best, Sun., Nov. 16, 2014 at Sunnybrook Ballroom, Pottstown. Featured bands will include Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men, and the O'Such Rhythm & Music Band. A fantastic polka event is planned. Music will start at noon with bands rotating until 8:00 p.m. Doors open at 11:30 a.m.

For tickets call Sunnybrook at (484) 624-5187; Janet Osuch (610) 326-2915; or Walt Kazmierczak (610) 375-3051.

Children 15 and under are admitted free.

There will be Polish food, a cash bar, and a great wooden dance floor.

For more information, visit www.Sunnybrookballroom.net

Bel-Aire Enterprises Fall Polka Festival

CHAMPION, Pa. — October 24-26 are the dates for the 2014 Fall Polka Festival at the Seven Springs Resort in Western Pennsylvania.

The event will coincide with Seven Springs' "Autumn Fest," providing polka festival attendees many more options for food and vendors at the resort.

Eight great polka bands are scheduled to perform: Tony Blazonczyk & New Phaze; Lil John & The ATM Band; New Tradition; Lenny Zielinski's D-Street Band; Joe Stanky & The Cadets; The Knewz; Ray Jay & the Carousels; and Pan Franek & The Polka Towners.

For more information contact Tish Blazonczyk at Bel-Aire Enterprises, Mon.-Sat., 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. at (708) 594-5182.

Squeezebox Announces Changes for Band

In an announcement issued by Ted Lange and Squeezebox, there will be some changes that will be taking place with the band.

"We have been extremely blessed to share our music with you over the course of the past eight-plus years, traveling all over the United States, and meeting so many wonderful people and having a lot of memorable experiences throughout the

hundreds of engagements where we have performed," said Lange. The band specifically sends a thank you for all of the support over the course of their existence.

After much thought and deliberation, a decision has been made where Ted and Mollie will no longer be performing together in Squeezebox after February 2015, and they are announcing their "final tour." At this time, neither Mollie nor Ted have any definitive plans beyond February of 2015, but at the current time, they expect to take a break from performing together.

The band still has many public performances scheduled before they take a break, and they hope everyone will take advantage of the opportunity to see Squeezebox in its current configuration at least one last time. They will be celebrating their grand finale the entire month of January with performances in California, Arizona, and Texas in addition to their January 2015 cruise. One final performance is tentatively planned in Florida.

Watch their website for more details and information.

POLKAJUKEBOX / Steve Litwin

Love Notes from Kevin Adams

IPA Hall-of-Famer Kevin Adams is a friend to all — a dedicated musician, someone who appreciates those around him. As a highlight to his induction into the Hall of Fame, he has given the polka world, *Love Notes*, a sixteen-track CD offering a complete spectrum of music. The originals, standards, and heart-felt tunes on this compilation — plus the musicianship of Adams, Matt Lewandowski, and Matt Rosinski — make the magic happen.

Standards "Musician's Life" and the Dynadukes' "All the Flowers" work perfectly with Gene Pitney's "Today's Teardrops," and originals like "Do You Love Me?" Adding "Jeszcze Polska Nie Zginela," "Oh Canada" and an amazing trumpet version of "The Star Spangled Banner" broadens the spectrum of this entire product.

If you don't have this, you should

have it. Get "Love Notes" today.

◆ ◆ ◆

Alex Meixner is a musician extraordinaire, an entertainer, someone who gathers the best at their musical talents and creates music that can electrify a crowd. He is a professional in everything he does. *Happiness is a Choice*, Meixner's latest dynamic nineteen track compact disc, is a collection of musical styles played by eighteen different musicians on dozens of different instruments. Add the fact that the recording took place in eight different studios and the cover graphics were the product of seven-year-old Zoey Meixner, you would think it couldn't get any better.

Another level of better is demonstrated when you begin listening to this eclectic collection of powerful and professionally performed music.

Highlighting select tunes on this nineteen track CD is not easy because each song presents its own unique flavor and musical atmosphere. "Michael's" polka is rich with accordion and drums, while "Why Die Thirsty" states the obvious: that drinking or not, the same fate awaits you. The warm instrumental, "Just For You" is smooth while "Hawaiian" polka quickly sends your spirit to the islands. Even the classic "Jup Ei Di" adds some Mozart magic to the song. Let's not forget a couple of Joe Oberaitis tunes that are in the mix of this grouping.

The bottom line is easy: this is a professional product, created by imaginative, artistic performers. *Happiness Is a Choice* and your choice should be to add it to your collection.

DANCE TIME / Jen Pijanowski

A Great Time of the Year

The month of October brings us Polish Heritage Month as well as what I think is the most beautiful time of year in Buffalo. I hope that all of you take the opportunity this month to enjoy a part of your heritage with family or friends. Whether it is preparing a favorite old family recipe or attending a polka dance, use this month to celebrate your culture. The continuation of Polish traditions relies heavily on passing them down to future generations.

BATTER UP! Torrential downpours and wind were no match for the beaming of pride at the Buffalo Bisons' Polish Festival Night. The pre-game festivities were held off for about an hour due to the weather.



ETHAN MACCON (l.), who threw the first pitch, and PAJ Editor Kohan.

er, but it ended up being a splendid evening for baseball. The crowd cheered as the *Knewz* began to play and get the party off to a lively start. The Krakowacy dancers performed some traditional Polish dances as well, celebrating this evening of Polish culture. Mark Kohan was honored as Polish American of the Year for his many years of commitment to the Polish community in Buffalo and beyond. My husband Rick Pijanowski and I were also humbled to receive recognition for community leadership. Thank you to the staff of the Buffalo Bisons and their committee for honoring the Polish heritage every year and making this a memorable event. Also, many congratulations to Mark on his prestigious award. His passion for all things Polish shows through in every part of his life and I am thankful that I can call him a friend.

HARVEST TIME. Corpus Christi Church, which lends its large copper

domes as a majestic landmark in the heart of Buffalo's Polonia, hosted its annual **Dożynki Festival**. The church continues to thrive, despite a near-closure in 2004 when the Franciscan Friars, who administered to the parish since 1898 announced that they were leaving. But, thanks to the Pauline Fathers who run Jasna Gora in Czestochowa, Poland — as well as Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pa. — this parish has been given a second chance. The rejuvenation of the parish has been a breath of fresh air for the distressed East Side of Buffalo. Old parishioners as well as new members have merged to re-establish this celebratory festival.

Dożynki hosted several polka bands this year beginning with the **Buffalo Touch** on Saturday afternoon. The Touch performed their classic recognizable tunes with the same energy and charisma that has become their trademark. Their Polish lyrics struck a chord with many of the older couples as they were quick to get up and dance upon hearing their favorite polkas and waltzes. With their distinct "Na zdrowie" between songs and sets, the large red Polish eagle beer steins were raised high in the air toasting the band. As the Touch finished their set it was time for the much anticipated 7th Annual Pierogi Contest.

Dozens of participants prepared their best recipes and battled it out for the coveted Golden Rolling Pin award. I was lucky enough to be chosen by event organizer and Polonia advocate Christopher Byrd to be one of the judges for the contest. One would think this would be a rather easy job, but it was a difficult task. Each recipe was prepared with love and pride, and provided a distinct experience as I bit into every creation. The categories judged were: traditional, non-traditional and dessert. This year's pierogi entrants included everything from gołąbki, tofu, sweet potato, Buffalo chicken wing, and New York deli, to traditional potato and sauerkraut. If you would like to enter next year's contest, start working on your creative recipe now and visit www.corpuschristbuffalo.org for details as they become available.

After binging on these Polish delicacies, it was time for a few trips around the dance floor to the sounds of **Special Delivery**. As the evening See "Dance Time," page 22

POLKA MEMORIES / Steve Litwin



HAPPY RICHIE'S POLKA BAND. (l. to r.): Jeff Osika, "Happy" Richie Nojczuk, and Chris Wiatrowski. Binghamton, N.Y. 1983.



ROBERT ZIELINSKI. Joe Oberaitis Orchestra. Binghamton, N.Y. c. 1970.



LENNY MAYNARD (accordion). Dick Pillar Orchestra. Fountain's Pavilion, Johnson City, N.Y. 1977.

Dance Time: Gomulka Demonstrates Versatility



The loyal staff of Kuzman's—Billy Gantar, Melanie Leskovec, and Ron Hunkus.



Troy Gawlak of Honky Express and John O'Brien at Kuzman's.



Chris Tanski shows off her "Hootie" award.



Sue Ochal (l.) and Marcia Figlewski had a great time at Kuzman's.

continued from cover
approached, the party crowd was ready to be entertained and the band met the challenge. With their mix of polkas and dance music, the dance floor was where the life of the party focused. Ted Szymanski, who dazzled the crowd playing his accordion, had his own fan club in attendance at Corpus Christi. His daughter Natalie who lives in Phoenix, made Corpus Christi her first stop after being picked up at the airport. Each band member has their own forte and the other members are happy to provide a variety of music to dance the night away. It was enchanting to watch the seasoned polka dancers trying to teach the polka to amateurs. The sense of community at Corpus Christi is an inspiration to anyone who attended. It is a breathtaking church that relies

spectacular. Lenny who has a gift of expressing how much he loves the music via his enthusiasm is infectious from the stage. The dance floor, which is lined with spectators who bring their lawn chairs early so they can get a spot, is prime real estate for watching the entertainment. This church lawn fete is one of the most highly anticipated events of the summer. The band surprised attendees as they busted out some non-polka dance favorites during their second set. Lenny, who is a staple at almost every polka festival in North America, showcased the versatility of each of the musicians. The set was a fun twist on what we expected to see, proving once again why Chicago Push constantly draws their loyal followers. Buffalonians will always show up in droves when Lenny Gomulka makes his way into

take an evening off and really enjoy the frivolity of the music & their guests. Phocus provided upbeat music during this smooth boat ride which worked out perfectly for the dancers whirling around the floor. At one point during the evening, polka legend **Scrubby Seweryniak** took the stage for a few songs. Fans crowded around the band as he serenaded everyone while they were struggling to get close enough to snap a picture. It was like a scene from a New York City fashion event, as cell phones and cameras surrounded Scrubby capturing his remarkable voice and smile. The band who reveled in his cameo appearance perfectly accompanied his impromptu performance.

HATS OFF. The **Owl Family Picnic** is a yearly fundraiser which



Jes Klaiach-Snoke of the Harmony Folk Dancers; Julia Stoll, this year's Miss Dozynki, and festival volunteer Freddie Drzewiecki



The Szymanski Family: Anna, Maria, Natalie, and Ted, at Corpus Christi's Dozynki.

heavily on fundraising events like this one to maintain the operations of the parish. Thanks to all of the volunteers who made the festival a success.

LENNY DELIVERS. On Sunday, **Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push** packed the beer tent at **Annunciation Church** in Elma. It was standing room only both inside and outside of the tent as it was almost impossible to make it towards the stage. The powerhouse band which always draws a crowd sounded

the Nickel City.

SHIP AHOY! Polkas took to the beautiful Lake Erie waters yet again this summer. **Phocus** charmed a sold out crowd aboard the *Miss Buffalo* cruise hosted by Potts Deli & Grill. This was an amusing evening where the Potts family is able to catch up with those who frequent their establishment. This family who plays hosts to the largest variety of polka bands during the year, works hard to keep the music alive. The annual boat cruise gives them the ability to



Carol Machelski, Adeline Wroblewski, and Geri Barsukiewicz aboard the *Miss Buffalo*.

showcases all of the local polka bands. The musicians who volunteer their time, come together each year to support this worthwhile organization, which supports many local charities. It is always a gratifying event as the local musicians are plentiful as is the beer, wine, and food. The sun was shining as folks enjoyed this event held at George Lamm Post in Williamsville. **Chris Tanski** was surprised when she was presented with the 2014 "Hootie Award" for her "can do" attitude in promoting Polish music, culture, and heritage. Congratulations Chris. There is no one who deserves this honor more than you. Chris has been an inspiration to me since moving to Buffalo, becoming a constant source of inspiration and

support to all things Polish.

ROAD TRIP. **Buffalo Concertina All Stars** grabbed 90 of their fellow polka lovers and headed on two buses to Kuzman's Lounge in Girard, Ohio. After making a stop at **Presque Isle Casino** to try our luck, we boarded the bus to head out for an evening of music and dancing. **Kuzman's** owners Larry and Dorothy Maffitt were waiting outside to greet us as the buses pulled into the parking lot. Soon afterwards, the Concertina All Stars took the stage to continue the day's cheerfulness. The honky music provided a lively beat for couples to frolic around the beautiful wooden dance floor. The band made the Buffalo bus groups proud as they played their hearts out song after song. Band members ex-

pressed their gratitude to fellow musicians by inviting each of them to join them for a few songs on stage. Ted Szymanski, Paul Figlewski, Tommy Goldyn, Rick Pijanowski, and Ron Urbanczyk each got a chance to showcase their talents with the All Stars. It was an unforgettable trip and I hope that we get the chance to do some other polka bus trips to support our hometown bands. Thanks to all of the band members for being wonderful hosts on our fun adventure.

UPCOMING

Oct. 4 — Jackie Schmid Tribute Scholarship Fundraiser, Buffalo Touch and Phocus, Lily of the Valley, 2379 Union Rd Cheektowaga. \$25/door. Call Chris for info (716) 771-1076.

Oct. 11 — 30th Anniversary of Ray's Lounge. New Direction. 2070 Clinton St., Buffalo. Dinner and dance—\$15.00/Polish buffet 6:00-7:30, Music 8:00-11:00 p.m. Admission for dance only (after 8:00 p.m.) is \$5.00. Call Annie for reservations (716) 824-3227

Oct. 12 — D Street Band, Potts Banquet Hall, 41 S. Rossler Ave. Buffalo, 3:00-7:00 p.m. \$10.00.

Oct. 16 — Buffalo Polka Boosters, Eddie Guca & the Polish Canadians, Polish Falcons, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew. 8:00-10:30 p.m. \$7.00 members/\$10.00 non-members.

Oct. 18 — Polkasino with Special Delivery, Potts Banquet Hall, 41 S. Rossler Ave. Buffalo. Call Ted. (716) 668-9101.

Oct. 18 — Bills Pre-Game Party with the Knewz, Potts Banquet Hall, 41 S. Rossler Ave. Buffalo.

Oct. 19 — Polka Mass with Special Delivery, St. Andrew's Catholic Church, Sloan, NY 11:00 a.m.

Oct. 22 — Polka Variety Meeting, music by Special Delivery, Leonard Post, 2530 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga. 7:00-10:00 p.m., members \$8.00.

Oct. 25 — Fall Dinner Dance Zaba-wa, Ontario Polish Hall, 2316 Fairview St., Burlington, Ont., featuring John Gora & Gorale, New Direction, and IPA Hall-of-Famer Eddie Guca. Polka Mass at 5:30 p.m. followed by a full course dinner including wine at 6:45 p.m. \$40.00/per person. Call (905) 336-3055 for reservation and info.

Oct. 26 — Special Delivery, Diane-again's, 2460 Clinton, Cheektowaga. 4:30-7:30 p.m.

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“Summer ... Then and Now”

To me, the best part of summer will always be the warm weather, long days, and the requisite outdoor activities summer brings. This includes attending as many Polish festivals and events as possible.

It's no secret that the past twenty years or so have been challenging for the promotion of our Polish American culture. When I was a “newbie” to Toledo in the early 1990s, my calendar was marked nearly every summer week-end with a Polish church or organization's event. There were several polka bands active in those days (Glass Town Sound, the Troubadours, Toledo Polka Motion, Duane Malinowski & the Polka Jamboree, the Imperials of Toledo, A Touch of Brass, Choice, etc). Churches still had plenty of volunteers to make pierogi, kielbasa, and gołabki. Dance floors were filled with many couples who knew the dances and who stayed until the late hours enjoying the music.

The schedule of festivals started with Our Lady of Perpetual Help in South Toledo the first week-end of June, followed by St. Adalbert on LaGrange Street and also Little Flower on Dorr Street, both held around Fathers Day. Blessed Sacrament in West Toledo held its festival towards the end of June in the run-

up to the 4th of July weekend.

July was packed too, with the LaGrange Street Polish Festival taking up the weekend after Independence Day. In those days, there were two tents with continuous polka music at both ends of this blocks-long event. This was part street fair, part Polish cultural festival, part beer party, and thousands of people wandering the street for two days.

Festivals continued on, with Our lady of Lourdes in West Toledo complete with a polka Mass, and All Saints in Rossford towards the end of July. Regina Coeli, also in West Toledo, brought in August. As the days of summer drew to a close, we could still look forward to one of the biggest festivals at the time, St. Clement Parish in West Toledo. And just as October brought cooler weather, St. Catherine, while a more modest-sized festival, still had its polka bands and Polish food. There would be smaller festivals, too, one day picnics, such as the TAPS summer free event at the end of June, or St. Hyacinth's parish festival on Parkside Boulevard.

AS PARISHES BEGAN TO CLOSE, and the volunteer pool shrank, many of these events inevitably went away. But some are still around, and the leaders and volunteers have worked hard to get the

word out to the community and to fill their spaces with people.

Today, the LaGrange Street Polish Festival continues, albeit with a smaller Polish presence than in decades past. With the closure of St. Hedwig Parish a few years ago, much of the authentic Polish food is no longer available, replaced by the fare of street vendors. There is one tent now instead of two, and while there are still polka bands playing all weekend, it is not difficult to miss the Polish music altogether if one stays at the North end of the street. The addition of a polka dance contest and a pierogi eating contest brings many guests to the music tent, if for nothing else, to see a good competition.

All Saints continues to hire polka bands, as does Regina Coeli, and Blessed Sacrament. And for the second year in a row, St. Hyacinth resurrected, with great success, its “Polish Polka Picnic” on August 10th. In between, my time and money are spent traveling to the bigger events, such as USPA, Polka Fireworks, Summer Music Fest, and IPA. It is heartening to hear that, for many of these national events, hotels are selling out and record crowds are showing up.

Let's hope our Polish American traditions continue for a long time to come.

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HERITAGE MONTH HIGHLIGHTS

*Polonaise Society
Presents Annual Ball*

MIDDLETOWN, N.Y. — In observance of Polish Heritage Month, the Hudson Valley Polonaise Society presents its annual Polonaise Ball.

This event is scheduled for Sat., Oct. 25 from 6:00-10:00 p.m. and will be held at the Elk's Club, 48 Prospect St., Middletown, N.Y. A prime rib dinner will be served and music will be provided by Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men Orchestra. This Orchestra was honored by the International Polka Association (IPA) as the "Favorite Instrumental Group" for 2014.

The event will begin with the Polonaise, a stately Polish dance with roots extending back into the 16th century. Attendees will also be entertained by the exciting Polish dance group Pokolenie, based in Pine Island, N.Y. The dancers were established in June of 2012. Their debut performance was for Timothy Cardinal Dolan at the 100th Anniversary celebration of St. Stanislaus Church in Pine Island. They have entertained audiences in the local area and have also performed at the Pulaski Day Parade in New York City.

The Hudson Valley Polonaise Society is dedicated to preserving the beautiful customs and traditions of Polish Heritage. The club invites the public for an evening of dining and dancing. For ticket information or reservations, please contact Hilda at (845) 294-9254 or Barbara at (845) 856-7526 or email katrinae@frontiernet.net.

*First Polish American
Heritage Concert*

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. — The Polish Heritage Committee of Northampton is completing its plans in recognition of October as Polish Heritage month. On October 5, the Committee, in conjunction with St. Valentine Polish National Catholic Church, will co-sponsor its first Polish American Heritage Concert and Sing-Along Celebration. Choir members from former Polish churches (now closed) will come together and join with St. Valentine's Church choir members to sing patriotic and traditional religious hymns, both in the English and Polish languages.

In addition, Lisa Woods, a well-known mezzo-soprano in the Pioneer Valley will be featured as soloist.

A reception will take place following the day's concert in the St. Valentine's Church hall.

On October 13, the Polish Heritage Committee will sponsor its annual Pulaski Day celebration. The day's event will begin with a memorial Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Northampton celebrated by Rev. Piotr Calik, parochial vicar of St. Mary's Church of Ware, Mass., and son of Poland, followed by the Pulaski Day Parade commencing on King Street and ending on Main Street at Pulaski Park.

This year's parade marshal is Stas Radosz, executive director of the Polish Center of Discovery & Learning at Elms College with the main speaker, Suzanne Strempek-Shea, author of five novels, including the "Lite of Heaven", and "Hoopi Shoopi Dana." Strempek-Shea was past winner of the "New England Book Award" for fiction.

This year represents the 28th year of the Pulaski Day Celebration with the parade participation growing each year.

Peszke to Speak at CCSU

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. — The S. A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies presents "The 70th Anniversary of the End of the Warsaw Rising" by **Dr. Michael Peszke** (inset, right), Thur., Oct. 2, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. The event will be held in the Elihu Burritt Library, Special Collections Room, 2nd Floor, CCSU, New Britain.

Peszke is a Polish American psychiatrist and historian of the Polish Armed Forces in World War II. Since 1973 he has published numerous papers and studies in English and Polish on diverse aspects of the Polish Armed Forces, particularly in the west, during World War II.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For further information please contact the Polish Studies program at jacquesm@ccsu.edu or (860) 832-3010.



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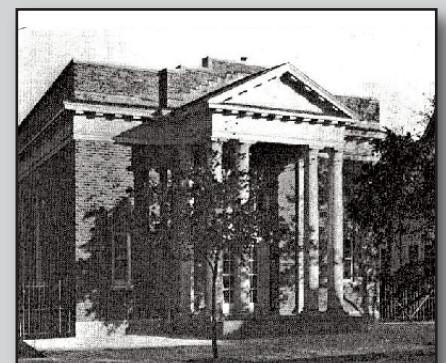
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