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October is  
**POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**  
A national celebration of Polish history, culture, and pride

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

## NEWSMARK

### Duda Wary of Trump Plan

During Vice President Mike Pence's visit to Warsaw, Poland's President Duda expressed serious reservations about President Donald Trump's campaign to reinstate Russia into an elite group of leaders from wealthy nations.

Appearing at a news conference with Pence at Poland's Presidential Palace, Duda did not outright reject Trump's calls for Russia to be allowed back into the Group of Seven, or G-7. But he made it clear he was not thrilled with the proposal.

"I believe we must not proceed according to the business-as-usual principle when it comes to Russia," Duda said, speaking through an interpreter. "This is my position, and I don't hesitate to express it."

Pence was in Warsaw for Trump, who canceled his plans, saying he needed to remain in the United States and monitor Hurricane Dorian.

### Russia is Still a Threat Says NATO Ambassador

Poland's ambassador to NATO, Tomasz Szatkowski, said although the threat from Germany is gone, the one from Russia isn't.

"That doesn't mean there'll be a Russian invasion in a few months, but the Alliance had noticed the long-term effort of the Russian Armed Forces' modernization, which started after Vladimir Putin took power. Since then, there's a constant increase in Russian military expenditure," said Szatkowski in a radio interview.



Szatkowski

Relations between Poland and Russia deteriorated following Putin's 2008 invasion of Georgia, his illegal 2014 annexation of Crimea, and covert takeover of parts of eastern Ukraine.

### Poland Promises to Double Minimum Wage

Seeking to further boost its poll-leading standings ahead of this month's general election, Poland's ruling party has pledged to raise the minimum wage by 78% to approx. \$1,000 USD per month over four years.

Business leaders say the increase, plus a proposed hike in social security fees, will upset the economy and lead to inflation.

Sonia Buchholtz, an economist with the Polish merchants' association Lewiatan, said companies will seek to boost prices to avoid bankruptcies, especially in sectors with low margins. But Law & Justice Party leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski said the wage hikes will effectively end the "post-colonial concept of Poland as a source of cheap labor."

"We owe it to Poles to increase living standards. We deserve the same level of life as in the West," said Kaczynski.

### Trump not Taking Sides on Reparation Row

President Donald Trump said he wouldn't take sides on the war reparations Poland is demanding from Germany.

"Well I think that's going (to) be between Poland and Germany and I get along with them both," he said.

Berlin maintains that the issue of reparations was settled in 1953, when the "government" of Poland's then-Soviet puppet regime declared it was waiving its rights to them. Warsaw insists that such a declaration was invalid from the start, since Poland did not have its own sovereign government back then. There have been sporadic German payouts to certain groups such as victims of maniacal Nazi medical experiments, but never reparations for the overall destruction of Poland's industry and infrastructure. Warsaw estimates the total bill would be over \$1 trillion.

## Tales of Survival and Recognizing Women Highlight ACPC's Convention in Poland

### Glembocki, New Officers Elected

by Mark Dillon

WARSAW — Ray Glembocki of Virginia, a longtime champion of efforts to better recognize Polish historical contributions to American life, was elected the new president of the American Council for Polish Culture at its 71th annual convention at the Bristol Hotel here in Stary Miestro, September 7.

Glembocki, who had been 2nd vice president, succeeds Thomas Payne, also of Virginia, who took on a new role as ACPC's treasurer, replacing Judi Tomkins of Michigan. Dr. Jaroslaw Golenbiowski, a composer, pianist and president of the Chicago Chopin Society, was elected ACPC's first vice president, replacing Robert Synakowski of Syracuse.

More than two dozen delegates, spouses and guests traveled to Poland for a three-day event that included an awards ceremony recognizing the life accomplishments of three women in the arts in Poland and Washington D.C. area. The convention was capped off by a Sunday afternoon September 8 public wreath-laying ceremony at Hoover Square a block from Polish Presidential Palace.

ACPC sought to mark the 100th anniversary of famine relief efforts in 1919, the summer following World War I, as well as the multi-year assistance of Gray Samaritan volunteer Polish-American nurses under the auspices of Herbert Hoover's American Relief Administration (see photo).

The first such volunteer was Elenora Wasilewska of Minneapolis, a teacher at the University of Minnesota, and their collective story of heroism and survival under adversity was presented during the convention by



**The American Council for Polish Culture remembers those who won the peace:** Debbie Majka, honorary consul for the Polish Republic in Philadelphia; Mark Dillon, ACPC second vice president and Raymond Glembocki, ACPC president, pose at Hoover Square in Warsaw on Sept. 7 with a wreath laid to mark the 100th anniversary of service of the Polish-American Gray Samaritan nurse volunteers in 1919 in the aftermath of World War I.

Mark Dillon of Minnesota, a *Polish American Journal* columnist, who was elected as ACPC's second vice president.

See "ACPC ...," page 3

## Duda, Trump Close Deal

US military presence growing, visa-less travel for Poles

Duda warns UN against collaboration with aggressors

by Robert Strybel

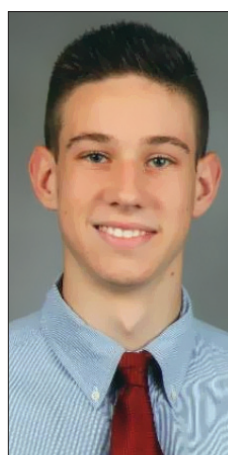
WARSAW/NEW YORK — Before leaving for yet another visit to the United States, Polish President Andrzej Duda told reporters his planned talks with U.S. President Donald Trump would focus on military cooperation, security, energy issues, and Poland's admission to the US Visa-Waiver Program. That prediction was fulfilled.

Poland's First Couple kicked off their five-day stateside sojourn with a visit to New Britain, Conn., where they were enthusiastically welcomed by thousands of PolAms at Holy Cross Catholic Church. The next day, Duda and Trump met in New York and signed an agreement increasing America's military presence in Poland from 4,500 to 5,500 troops. The agreement also identified six military sites includ-

See "Deal ...," page 3

## Muzyk Wins PAJ Foundation 2019 Scholarship

BUFFALO, N.Y.— **Michal Muzyk**, a native of Poland, and a graduate student at the University of Buffalo (UB) working toward his MBA in Civil Engineering, is the winner of this year's Polish American Journal Foundation Scholarship.



Muzyk is vice president of the Polish Student Association at UB, and a teacher's assistant at the Polish Saturday in Buffalo. Muzyk is also a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, an intern at the Buffalo DOT, and a member of the UB Aces Tennis Club.

This is the third year the PAJF awarded college scholarships. This year's prize was available to any undergraduate and graduate student submit-

ting an essay on the role played by Poles in the World War II Battle of Monte Cassino in Italy.

Here is Michal's award-winning essay:

### 2nd Polish Corps and its Involvement in the Battle of Monte Cassino

by Michal Muzyk

The 2nd Polish Corps was one of the major military formations during World War II. It was formed in 1943 and fought alongside multiple other Allied armies. By 1945, the 2nd Polish Corps consisted of about 75,000 soldiers which included ethnic Poles from the Eastern European part of pre-war Poland as well as Jews, Belarusians, and Ukrainians.

At the start of the war, about 1.5 million Poles were exiled to the Soviet Gulags. This came about because of the 1939 non-aggression pact between the Soviets and the Nazis. With the Soviets attacking from the east, most of the people exiled were living in the eastern part

of Poland in 1939. These prisoners were treated awfully in the gulags; they were not given enough food and many of the prisoners starved to death as a result. In 1942, Stalin gave permission for only 100,000 out of the 1.5 million people to leave the camp. These prisoners were supposed to Join Wladyslaw Anders and fight on the western front. Due to complications, Stalin lowered the food rations, decimating many soldiers on the way to the west. Eventually, the remains of the 100,000 people that were originally sent from the gulags landed in Palestine. They would be under the control of General Wladyslaw Anders from then on. This would become to be known as the 2nd Polish Corps. The 1st Polish Corps already existed, with soldiers fighting alongside the Scottish and British armies, formed in 1941. The 2nd Polish Corps originated as the third rifle division. Other divisions in the Corps include the 5th Kresy Heavy Machine Gun Battalion, the 6th Armored Regiment, and the 9th Light Artillery Regiment.

See "Monte Cassino," page 10



## ALMANAC

## October 🌕 Październik

*Październik ciepły, będzie luty skrzepły.  
October warm and nice,  
a February covered in ice.*

- 1 1608. **First Poles** arrive in America aboard the *Mary & Margaret* to work as skilled craftsmen at Jamestown settlement.
- 2 1944. Nazi troops crushed the 2-month-old (63 days) Warsaw Uprising, during which a quarter-million people were killed.
- 3 1923. Birth of symphonic orchestra leader **Stanisław Skrowaczewski**.
- 4 **ST. FRANCIS**  
*Po Świętym Franciszku,  
chodzi bydło po owisisku.  
After Saint Francis Day,  
cattle are tended on the oats field.*
- 5 **ST. FAUSTINA**  
... also known as Saint Maria Faustyna Kowalska of the Blessed Sacrament, Polish Roman Catholic nun and mystic.
- 6 1873. Death of **Sir Pawel Strzelecki** (b. 1797), explorer of Australian continent who named its largest mountain after Tadeusz Kościuszko.
- 8 1982. Poland bans all labor union including **Solidarity**.
- 9 1979. **Czesław Miłosz** awarded Nobel Prize for literature.
- 10 1982. Pope John Paul II canonizes **Maximilian Maria Kolbe** (1894-1941), Polish Franciscan friar.
- 11 Date traditionally observed in American Polonia as **Pułaski Day**.
- 12 1672. Signing of the **Peace of Buczacz**, ending the first phase of the Polish-Ottoman War.  
1840. Birth of **Helena (Modjeska) Modrzejewska** (d. April 8, 1909), Polish American stage actress, in Krakow, Poland.
- 13 **ST. EDWARD**
- 14 1943. Some 300 of 600 prisoners escaped from the Nazi's Sobibor death camp in occupied Poland.
- 15 **ST. HEDWIG**  
In old Poland, the last of the crops are harvested around the feast of St. Hedwig  
*On St. Hedwig's, if it's not raining  
God grants honey to the cabbage.*  
1817. Death of **Tadeusz AB Kosciuszko** (b. 1746), Polish Lt-Gen. and American Revolution freedom fighter, in Solothurn, Switzerland..
- 16 1384. Coronation of **Jadwiga**.
- 17 1849. Death of Polish composer and pianist **Fryderyk Chopin**, 39, in Paris.
- 18 **ST. LUKE**  
1815. Free City of **Kraków** proclaimed.
- 19 1466. **Treaty of Torun** ended the 13-year War of the Cities (1454-1466), between the Teutonic knights and their own disaffected subjects in Prussia.
- 20 1982. Death of **Korczak Ziolkowski**, sculptor of the Crazy Horse Memorial in the Black Hills.
- 21 1914. **Battle of Warsaw** ended with a German defeat.
- 22 1978. Cardinal Karol Wojtyła of Krakow, Poland is installed as **Pope John Paul II**.
- 24 1795. **Third Partition of Poland**, which removed the country from a political map of Europe.
- 26 1946. Birth of gameshow "Wheel of Fortune" host **Pat Sajak**.
- 28 1824. Birth of **Rev. Leopold Bonawentura Moczygemba**.
- 29 1611. Hetman **Stefan Zolkiewski** returns to Warsaw from conquering the Muskovites brings with him the captured Czar.
- 29 1944. Polish 1st Corps, commanded by **General Stanisław Maczek**, takes Breda, Holland as part of the Allied invasion of Western Europe.
- 30 1939. USSR and Germany agreed on partitioning Poland.
- 31 1940. Nazis declare this day as the deadline for Warsaw Jews to move into the Warsaw Ghetto.

This paper mailed on or before **October 1, 2019**. The **November 2019** edition will be mailed on or before **October 31, 2019**

## VIEWPOINTS

## Polish Americans Celebrate During October

Since 1608, when the first Polish settlers arrived at Jamestown, Virg., Polish people have been an important part of America's history and culture.

This year marks the 38th Anniversary of the founding of Polish American Heritage Month, an event, which began in Philadelphia, and became a national celebration of Polish history, culture and pride.

The importance of the 411th anniversary of the arrival of the Jamestown Poles cannot be understated. On July 30, 1619, these craftsmen — wanting to voice their say in the colony's economy — staged the first labor strike in America. We, therefore, salute all American workers and urge people to purchase products and services offered by American workers.

Polish Americans will also mark the 240th Anniversary of the death of General Casimir Pulaski, Father

of the American Cavalry, and the International Year of Kosciuszko, Hero of Poland and America. For information about these historic events and Polish and Polish American history, visit [PolishAmericanCenter.com](http://PolishAmericanCenter.com).

Information about ways to celebrate Polish American Heritage Month can be obtained by visiting the Polish American Heritage Month Committee's site at [PolishAmericanHeritageMonth.com](http://PolishAmericanHeritageMonth.com). There, you will find a list of "Things to Do During Polish American Heritage Month," the 2019 coloring contest artwork for schools, and Heritage Month posters that can be downloaded and printed. Copies of the coloring contest artwork can also be obtained by calling the Heritage Month Committee, Mon.-Fri., 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., at (215) 922-1700.



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**ACPC. Dr. Adolph Juzwenko was Key Speaker**

continued from cover

As part of the convention presentation, noted Polish actress Hanna Bondarewska read an excerpt from the diary of opera singer/director Laura Blackwell de Godzawa Turcynowicz, founder and fundraiser of the Gray Samaritans, who came to the U.S. after eight months of German military house arrest at her home in Suwalki in 1915.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER** for the convention on September 7 was Dr. Adolph Juzwenko, director of the *Ossolineum*, a more than 200-year-old Polish scientific and cultural institute in Wrocław (National Ossolinski Insitute or Zaklad Narodowy im. Ossolinskich). Jurzenko detailed how the originally Lvov-based institute and its works survived hardship and found a new home after World War II.

Within the Ossolineum's collections are prints of *De revolutionibus* by Nicolaus Copernicus from 1543, the *Song of Jan Kochanowski* from 1586 and original manuscripts, such as the poem *Pan Tadeusz* (1834) by Adam Mickiewicz.

As reported in the *Journal* earlier



Debbie Majka, honorary consul for the Polish Republic in Philadelphia, administers the oath of office to the ACPC's new leadership team.

er this year, ACPC recognized three women in Warsaw:

**Jolanta Kessler Chojecka** of Warsaw, a noted filmmaker, pianist, rock band singer and former diplomat, received a Jan de Rosen Award. Chojecka, former cultural attaché at the Polish Embassy in Washington is currently working on a film called *Warsaw Children 44* about children who participated as fighters during the Warsaw Uprising 75 years ago, and their subsequent fate in German forced labor

camps

**Marta Ptaszynska** of Warsaw and Florida, an internationally acclaimed piano composer and retired professor of music at the University of Chicago, received a Cultural Achievement Award. Among her awards are the UNESCO music prize in Paris and the Officer's Cross of the Polish Republic.

**Marianna R. Eckel** of Virginia, founder of the Wianki Festival of Wreaths at the Lincoln Memorial each June in Washington, D.C. received a Founders Award for her festival work. She also worked with the Polish Embassy to establish the first Polish Library in the D.C. area and serves on the board of directors the Friends of the John Paul II Foundation.

Also at the convention, Marcia Lewandowski of Michigan was reelected as recording secretary while Alicia Dutka, Marianna Eckel, Mary Flanagan, Tiffany Loomis and Raymond Okanski were elected to ACPC's board of directors.

At ACPC Glembocki and his wife Cecilia, have been instrumental in promoting greater nationwide understanding among teachers and elected officials of the 400th anniversary of the first voting rights action in America, a work stoppage by Polish craftsmen in Jamestown in July 1619.

For the past eight years, the Glembockis have managed the Polish Perspectives traveling exhibit at the National Council for the Social Studies teachers group, which influences curriculum choices across the country. The Polish craftsmen awareness campaign this year has included posters, bookmarks and pens describing the Jamestown immigrants' successful fight for the right to vote after Virginia legislators attempted to limit voting to Englishmen.

**Deal**

continued from cover

-ing a U.S. Division Headquarters in the west-central city of Poznań, and a Combat Training Center at Poland's huge military testing grounds in the northwestern town of Drawsko Pomorskie.

The U.S. president regularly praises Poland for contributing the prescribed two percent of GDP to NATO, and chastised affluent Germany for falling short of that mark.

Duda told Polish TV he likes Trump. "He's a warm human being."

He returned to Poland with yet another feather in his cap – the prospect that Poles would soon be able to visit the United States without applying for visas. Optimists hope that some may be able to visit relatives in America already this Christmas. Trump said he was surprised that Poland had waited 30 years for that decision.

"I didn't know. That's a long time. So, I am the first American president to achieve that," he said.

In actuality, Duda and Trump were simply making political mileage out of a predetermined program, over which they had no control. The Visa-Waiver Program kicked in after the Poles' visa-refusal rate had dropped below three percent in the fiscal year ending on September 30. In the past, the applications of many Poles had been rejected because they had been caught working while in the United States as tourists or had overstayed their visas.

At the United Nations, Duda warned the international community against passively accepting or even teaming up with aggressor states that violate the sovereignty of other nations and change borders through armed aggression. He was clearly referring to Russia's annexation of Georgian and Ukrainian territory as well as Germany undermining punitive sanctions against Moscow by collaborating with the Russians on the controversial North Stream 2 gas pipeline.

Poland is "concerned about the surge of violence and religious hatred and in particular is painfully aware of the spreading violence against Christians," Duda also told the UN.

An estimated 100,000 Christians are killed for their faith each year, but such atrocities are hardly noticed by the media. In his hard-hitting speech, the Polish president also called for the protection of often-neglected and side-stepped children's rights.

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## RELIGION

# Jewish Life in Poland

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

St. John Kanty RC Church.

An exhibit on display at Daemen College in Amherst, N.Y., from Sept. 12 to Oct. 11 documents the resurgence of Jewish life in Poland since the fall of communism. The exhibit, in the Haberman Gcioch Center for the Visual and Performing Arts, 4380 Main St., is free and open to the public.

It will travel to Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. and is financed by the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland** and various Polish American and Jewish organizations in Western New York. The showing was made possible by the Galicia Jewish Museum in Poland, where it was organized.

## Golgotha Memorial Dedicated at Buffalo Church

A hand-carved crucifix with the figures of Mary and John the Evangelist, donated by the Krysa family of Buffalo, N.Y., along with **Czesław and Roma Dudziński** and **Willa and Mateusz Kocój** of Leżajsk, Poland, was dedicated in the garden at St. Casimir RC Church in Buffalo, N.Y. **Fr. Czesław Krysa**, pastor of St. Casimir's, who carried the hand-carved statues from Poland, encourages the faithful to make a short pilgrimage to the Golgotha Memorial as part of their awareness of Poland's suffering during World War II.

## Sto lat to....

**Robert Rohde**, son of Karl and Sarah Rohde, on receiving National Court of Honor award from the Boy Scouts of America for showing heroism in the rescue of his brother after he and his brother fell through the ice into Lake Erie. The Scout Troop 107 is sponsored by Buffalo's

## Uproar over Changes at John Paul II Institute

Pope Francis recently announced changes in the staffing and focus of the **John Paul II Institute** in Rome, which broadened its scope to include the social sciences study of families, which diminished concentration on the study of the theology of marriage and the family.

In the reorganization, the founder of the institute and professor of morality found his teaching position eliminated along with those of several colleagues. Alarmed that the institute would lose the perspective the John Paul II envisioned at the institute's founding, some 49 international scholars and about 250 students and alumni at the institute protested the changes and called for the restoration of the dismissed faculty members and the specialization in the study of the sexual morality of individuals and married couples.

## On Pilgrimage in Poland and Elsewhere

While the pilgrimage route to Campostela — a medieval pilgrimage route across northern Spain in honor of St. James the Apostle — draws increasingly greater numbers of people, the number of pilgrims for that route totaled just 278,224 last year.

By contrast in Poland the number of pilgrims to the shrine of **Our Lady of Częstochowa** came to 500,000 and the numbers visiting the shrine annually top 4.5 million. From Warsaw alone, 5,000 pilgrims walked to the shrine on a pilgrimage tradition started in 1717. On the feast of Mary's Assumption, August 15, 80,000 pilgrims participated in the Mass and other services at **Kalwaria Zebrzydowska** at the

conclusion of celebrations, which lasted a full week. The sanctuary was a favorite of St. John Paul II, and is near Kraków.

Closer to home, there is an annual walking pilgrimage to the **U.S. Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa** in Doylestown, Pa. Three walking routes for the annual pilgrimage at Great Meadows, N.J. (60 miles from Doylestown), Philadelphia, Pa. (40 miles away) and Trenton, N.J. (28 miles). Pilgrims spend their nights in state parks and on farmland. These pilgrimages stake place in August and arrive at the shrine to celebrate the feast day on August 26.

## Scranton Diocese Investigates Abuse; Sued for Cover-up

Four men filed a lawsuit against the RC Diocese of Scranton, Pa., and its current and former bishops accusing the diocese of covering up abuse by a former priest who died in 1999. Other such suits have been brought against the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese. Focusing their suits on alleged cover-up as opposed to sexual abuse, the plaintiffs are getting around the state's statute of limitations for abuse cases.

The Scranton Diocese established a compensation fund for abuse victims, but the plaintiffs rejected what they saw to be settlements that were insultingly small. **John Patchcoski**, one of the victims said, "To me, I could have to just say it was almost like being molested all over again."

At the same time, the diocese of Scranton has opened an investigation into allegations of misconduct by the rector of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. The priest facing numerous allegations is incardinated in the diocese of Scranton, but has served 20 years in Washington. Archbishop Wilton Gregory of the archdiocese of Washington noted that the investigation had to begin in Scranton, since that is where the accused priest is incardinated. He lamented these accusations, and those against other priests in the diocese, which he very recently was given charge of after the resignation of Cardinal Wuerl.

## MODLITWY

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## Fr. Krolkowski Celebrates 100th Birthday

### Lived with St. Kolbe in Franciscan Community

While many have been inspired to imitate the life of St. Maximilian Kolbe, Father Lucjan Krolkowski OFM Conv. is unique because he lived in community with the saint for several years as a Conventual Franciscan.

The priest, who turned 100 on Sept. 7 of this year, has led an extraordinary life having lived in community with St. Maximilian, struggled to survive a Soviet gulag in Siberia during World War II, saved and became the foster father to 150 Polish orphans, and broadcast a Catholic radio program for 32 years in the United States.

Fr. Krolkowski entered the Conventual Franciscan friary of Niepokalanow in 1934 at the age of 15, due to his desire to become a priest like St. Maximilian Kolbe. At the time, Niepokalanow was the largest monastery in the world and St. Maximilian was the heart and soul of the community's apostolate according to Fr. Krolkowski. In an interview with the *National Catholic Register*, he said, "I've met a few saintly people in my life, but Father Maximilian Kolbe was the most saintly, in my estimation. He had an impact on you; you wanted to imitate him." The friars deeply loved St. Maximilian and many even volunteered their own lives for his release following his arrest.

Soviet troops arrested Fr. Krolkowski in 1940 and sent him to a labor camp in Siberia. At the camp, he cut down trees for 13 or 14 hours each day only occasionally receiving a piece of bread for sustenance. With the war incurring many casualties, soldiers were needed. As a result, Fr. Krolkowski entered training and went to the Middle East eventually becoming a priest in Beirut and spending time in East Africa.

In East Africa, Fr. Krolkowski met Polish children who had become orphaned after their parents



**Fr. Krolkowski.** Arrested in 1940 and sent to Siberia.

had died in Soviet gulags. When the Communist government of Poland demanded their repatriation, Fr. Krolkowski heroically sought to aid them by emigrating with them to Canada. He recounted this trial in *Stolen Children: A Saga of Polish War Children*, which he wrote with the hope that the book would, "draw attention to the parallel fate of the children of other races and nationalities who are ravaged by the uncontrolled passion for power, wealth, success and ill-understood independence."

Once in the United States, Fr. Krolkowski continued to lead a life fashioned in imitation of St. Maximilian. He did this by broadcasting a Catholic radio program for 32 years and writing several books including his memoir, *A Franciscan Odyssey*. When reflecting on his life, Fr. Krolkowski says he would do it all over again because he chose the life of his spiritual father, St. Maximilian Kolbe.

— *Our Lady of the Angels Province*



Fr. Lucjan's book, *A Franciscan Odyssey*, is available at [www.wrparks.com](http://www.wrparks.com).

"All of our ancestors live within each one of us whether we are aware of it or not."  
— Laurence Overmire

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BOOKS IN BRIEF

# The Life of Polish Fighter Pilot Wladyslaw Gnys

reviewed by Mary E. Lanham

## FIRST KILLS: THE ILLUSTRATED BIOGRAPHY OF FIGHTER PILOT WLADYSLAW GNYS

By Stefan W. C. Gnys  
Casemate, 2018, 304 pgs.

On September 1, 1939, German forces crossed the Polish border and began the Second World War. In that first day of fighting two German bombers fell out of the sky and crashed to the earth. It would be a young aviator, Wladyslaw Gnys, who was responsible for the first two kills of German aircraft in the war. This was the first of the scores of air fights that Gnys would endure over the next six years. A half century later his son Stefan Gnys chronicles this and other parts of his father's life, drawing from log-books and interviews in the wonderfully illustrated and thoroughly documented book, *First Kills: The Illustrated Biography of Fighter Pilot Wladyslaw Gnys*.

Born and raised in a small rural village in east-central Poland, Wladyslaw (Wladek) signed up for military service in an effort to leave his old life behind. A few years

later, after army and mechanics training, Gnys applied for and was accepted into flight school. He excelled in flying and was sent to the Advanced Flying School to learn to become a fighter pilot.

In 1939, Wladek was assigned to a squadron in Krakow. In the days leading up to World War II, he and his squadron were moved to Balice in anticipation of the invasion. The excerpt below describes one fateful morning.

"Then in the early hours of September 1st, he was abruptly awakened by the sound of terrifying explosions and the roar of planes overhead. He sprang out of bed and rushed to the window ... the sky above Krakow in the distance was crimsoned. The 29-year-old veteran flyer pulled on his flying overalls and aggressively opened his bedroom door to his comrades scrambling about, stunned by what they had just witnessed."

Wladek was quickly ordered by



his squadron leader Capt. Mieczyslaw Medwecki to get to his plane to help fight off the invaders. In the air with his men, Medwecki's plane was hit and tumbled from the firmament, giving Mieczyslaw the distinction of being the first Allied Airforce casualty of the war. It would be German pilot, Frank Neubert, as Wladek would learn later who drew first blood of the air battle over Poland. With his training and now a dose of revenge, Gnys struck back at the Nazi aircraft taking two of them down. This was not Wladek's last battle nor indeed that last time that he would encounter Frank Neubert.

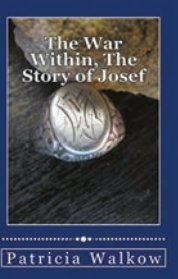
Gnys survived the multiple air fights of the war, and when the Iron Curtain fell, he moved to Hamilton, Ontario to settle down. In a twist of fate that included an international exhibit, a decades-old book, chance encounters, and a half century, Gnys and Neubert would meet again this time in a kitchen in Canada. The two old warriors connected and reminisced in a way that only those who have fought could comprehend, discovering other battles they both fought in, the minutia of

being a fighter pilot, and the understanding that they weren't enemies, just pawns in an international game of chess. By the end of the meeting the two men were friends and would exchange letters for the rest of their lives.

*First Kills* is filled with illustrations and photos that enhance the reader's experience and add another level of depth to Wladek's life story.



Stefan W. C. Gnys is a singer-songwriter and a teacher. He taught middle school, high school, and adult students in skilled trade programs. He combined his love of music with teaching by bringing in and playing his guitar in class. One of his former students, a civil engineer and record producer, was so inspired by him and his innovative way of teaching, that he learned to play four musical instruments. He also nominated Gnys for a prestigious award: Mensa Canada's 2016 Distinguished Educator, which he won in 2016. Stefan Gnys lives in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.



**The War Within, The Story of Josef**  
by Patricia Walkow

This is the story of a young man's journey through cruelty and kindness, hatred and love, despair and hope. Josef, a Catholic Pole, was thirteen when Hitler invaded Poland. Forced into slave labor in Germany during WWII, he almost died. His life was saved by a young German man—the enemy. Josef's handling of his interrupted youth was anything but ordinary, and he learned enemies are defined by the state...not the heart. A true story. This book has won multiple first-place awards. *Kirkus Reviews* states: "...this is an often satisfying and illuminating story that resonates in today's climate of rising nationalism and debates over ethnic migration and refugee resettlement. A poignant tale with timeless and timely lessons."

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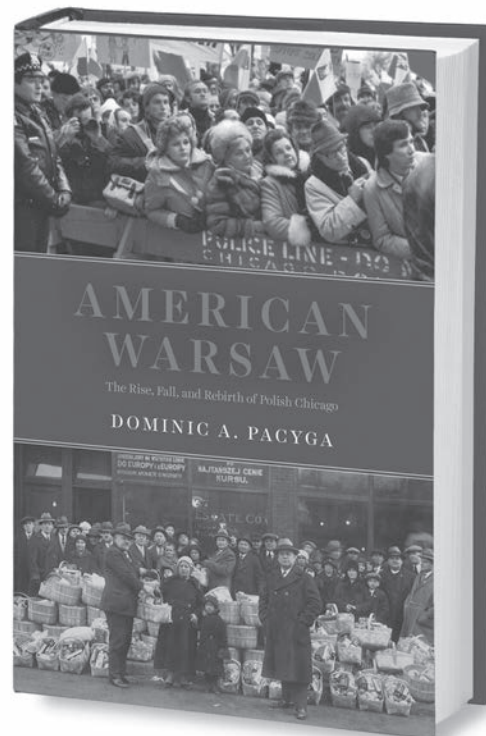
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Roman Kochanowski. Autumn Landscape at Sunset. 1900.

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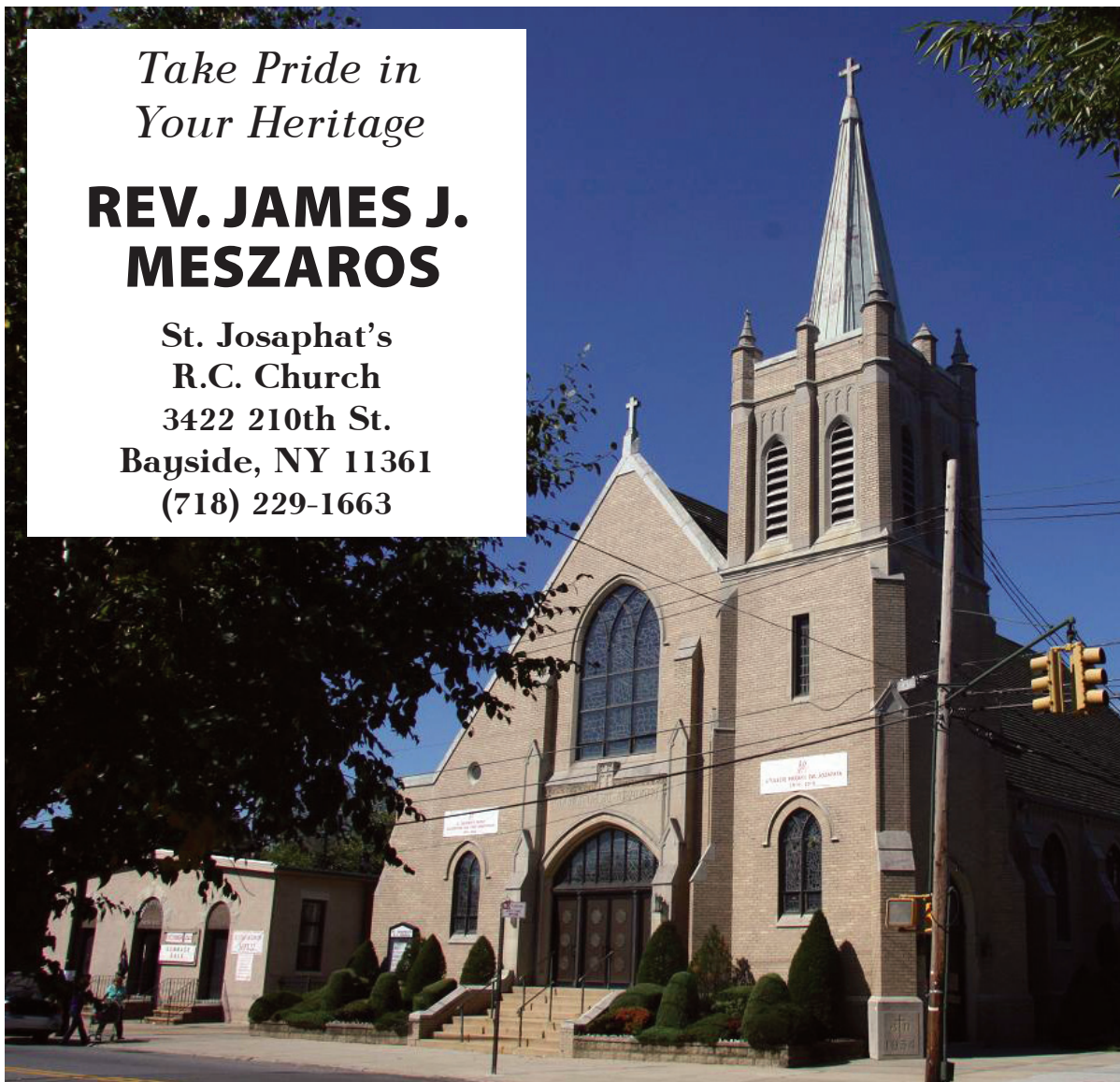
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## Americans in Poland: The individual ties binding our two nations

by Matthew Stefanski

What do a Quaker from Baltimore, a YWCA worker from San Francisco and a photographer from Pennsylvania have in common?

They all contributed in some way to U.S.-Poland ties and are but three of the numerous American personalities whose stories are told in a special exhibit prepared for the centennial of bilateral relations. From aid workers and diplomats, to fighter pilots and journalists, the exhibit "Americans in Poland 1919-1947" highlights the numerous individuals who contributed to "Poland's resurrection and survival" as exhibit authors Jan-Roman Potocki and Vivian Reed write.

Nestled behind the historic luxury Hotel Bristol, just aside from one of Warsaw's most prestigious and popular streets — Krakowskie Przedmieście — lies the History Meeting House, a unique exhibition space which hosts this special centennial display, prepared in partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw. Among excellently prepared text and historic photographs are life-sized cutouts depicting these larger than life figures as well as artifacts from the period. One special object on display is the original seal from the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw which was saved in 1939 by then Ambassador Anthony Drexel Biddle, Jr.

While some of those profiled should be known to visitors and readers, notables such as Hugh S. Gibson, the first U.S. envoy to Poland; famed American aviator Merian C. Cooper; and Herbert Hoover, the head of the American Relief Administration and later U.S. President; many others are deserving of greater recognition which this exhibit certainly offers.

**REBECCA JANNEY**, the aforementioned Quaker from Baltimore, arrived in Warsaw

in 1921 as part of the Quaker – American Friends Service Committee. This group worked throughout the post-war years to contain the typhus pandemic by setting up de-lousing and aid stations along the main border crossings on Poland's eastern border, among other aid work. Martha Chickering, the Young Women's Christian Association worker from San Francisco accompanied Polish American women known as the Grey Samaritans to Poland where they supervised child canteens, clinics and orphanages. Julien Bryan's name may not be known by all, but his photos are world famous. As the only foreign photographer in Warsaw during the September 1939 invasion of Poland, Bryan captured scenes of the unsung civilian victims of war, and his photographs would become iconic of Nazi Germany's brutal invasion. It was Bryan who photographed the heart wrenching scene of a distraught 10-year-old Polish girl kneeling beside her dead sister who had just been shot by a German plane. His photographs and videos from the Siege of Warsaw would inform people everywhere of the horrors of this new war – a horror that was to be experienced by all too many around the world.

**ANOTHER REMARKABLE HISTORY** was that of Peter Dewey. His father was Charles Dewey, an assistant secretary of the treasury who later served as an American advisor to the Polish Central Bank. Peter was a member of the Polish Boy Scouts and, as the exhibit explains, his four years in Warsaw in the 1920s instilled in him a love for Poland. In 1940, after the outbreak of World War II but before America's official involvement in the conflict, Peter enrolled as a volunteer ambulance driver with the Polish Army in France. He later served in the U.S. wartime intelligence agency and was killed in Vietnam in 1945.

These are but some of the many who, in



A cardboard cut-out of Ambassador Anthony Drexel Biddle, Jr., part of the Americans in Poland: 1919-1947 exhibit displayed this summer at the History Meeting House in Warsaw, Poland

one way or another, became part of the U.S.-Poland human fabric of relations. Many toiled to improve the situation of the people of newly independent Poland whose livelihoods had been ravaged by the "mini-apocalypse" of World War I and the poverty of the region. Some worked in offices and others out among the masses, but each in their own, unique way contributed to the ties between our two nations. How many more names, known and unknown, were a part of that effort? With such organizations as the American Red Cross, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the YMCA, the YWCA, the Grey Samaritans, the Typhus Relief Expedition and many others, the human contribution to these efforts is all too worthy of recognition, especially during this centennial.

A stirring component of the exhibit is the reaction of American dignitaries who returned to a devastated Poland after 1945. "I have seen pictures of Warsaw, heard eyewitnesses... but nothing gave me the slightest conception of the completeness of destruction," wrote Ambassador Gibson in his diary after visiting the Polish capital in 1946. Remarkably, many of the same American organizations which contributed to Poland's recovery after World War I began to do the exact same thing after World War II, until Soviet domination prevented them from doing so further.

The exhibit's authors, to their credit, do not shy away from the unfortunate truth, namely that "official relations between the two countries failed to reflect individual feelings" during this time period.

All the more so, those who mustered the courage and dedicated their time to help others deserve to be recognized for their efforts. "The individual ties binding our two nations over the last 100 years have proven the most resilient. It is well worth maintaining this extraordinary friendship" assert Potocki & Reed. This exhibit does a superb job in humanizing those ties and shining the spotlight on many incredible individuals.

◆ ◆ ◆

In December, Drexel University will open a special exhibition at its Rincliffe Gallery celebrating Anthony J. Biddle Jr., the former U.S. Ambassador to Poland and one of the individuals profiled in "Americans in Poland."

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— Elizabeth Hunter



Harvest Bread from the annual Dozynki (Harvest Festival), organized by the Chełm Staroste and the Mayor of Rejowiec, Poland, 2017.

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## KULTURA

# 50 Years of Polonia Abroad

## From Four Corners of the World, Folk Ensembles Celebrate a Golden Jubilee

by Staś Kmieć

### Part II

The 18th *International Festival of Polonia Folk Ensembles* celebrated its 50th Anniversary in July in Rzeszów, Poland. The progression over the years has shown an increase in attendance, along with the level of technique and quality of the dancers. As the style and level of authenticity had broadened and improved over the years, it is those important elements that now come into question.

At the Gala concert, those groups that stayed the course – shined and maintained a top standing. Among them: *Karolinka-London* and *Karolinka-Brazil* both performed spirited and clean Beskid Śląsk suites. The combined group under the name *Miodula* danced a representative Rzeszów region suite in a variety of costumes from Krosno, Przeworsk, Gorlice, Rzeszów and the Lasowiacy. The Eastern Kraków suites by *Orleńta-London* and *Suszanie-Czech Republic* were complete with regional flair and *przyśpiewki* (folk chants).

The Czech Republic's *Błędownice* was on the mark with the playful Cieszyn dance *Polka Wekslowana*.

*Olza* danced a nicely choreographed, yet delicate and stylized *Kujawiak z Oberkiem* – which musically and visually was like something out of Poland's *Śląsk* Company's repertoire.

### Two Directors and Two Directions

This day and age you have to be creative, innovative and original, but that can be accomplished while honoring the tradition and culture of the past. From the many performances being shown in the Polish program of the Gala concert, two ensembles rose above the rest for their true depictions of two unique folk cultures of Poland. It was a welcome "slice of life!" In different ways, they were exciting in energy and spirit – proving that if the effort is made, great Polish dance can happen.



Amy Schmit and Spencer Toupal of Lajkonik from Tuscon, Arizona in "Dances from Podlasie."

*The Lajkonik Polish Folk Ensemble* of Tuscon, Arizona returned for their third festival. Far from the big Polish communities, they present Polish culture in quite a remote area, attracting a membership consisting primarily of non-Polish friends.

Lajkonik's *Dances from Podlasie* burst onto the stage to the sounds of a raw, rustic *kapela* (folk band) that gave drive, fire and a pulse which informed the dances and the dancers of the true origins of this movement. Historic Podlasie is a land of primeval forests and swamps cut by the rivers Biebrza, Narew, Bug and Krzna. Located between Prussia, Lithuania, Ruthenia, Mazowsze and the Lublin region, the area was subject to disputes and battles for centuries, which is why it is one of the most diverse areas in Poland in terms of ethnicity and culture. Most dances consisted of two parts: slow called *zachodzenie* (overlap) and faster, which was called the *wirowa* (swirl).

Lajkonik's suite was characterized by the regional *polka*, *oberek* and *galopka*, included the folk game *Żuraw*, and *Korobeczka* (also known as *Korobka*). The melody is reminiscent of the well-known Russian tune *Korobushka/Korobeiniki* (the peddlers), but the dance has absolutely no Russian features. In Polish, it translates to a straw woven basket and according to famed ethnographer Oskar Kolberg – it is that reference that is incorporated in the dance's interlacing and weaving theme.

"Approaching Polish dance from a folk angle reflects one of our most important values, that anyone can do Polish dance. *Mazowsze* puts on a great show, but when you look at the most traditional forms of Polish dances, they were meant to be danced by everyone," said founder and director Joanna Schmit.

"We try to reflect that, with a bit of window dressing for interest, in our music and in our performances. Besides, raw Polish folk dances are incredibly unique, and preserving them and performing them makes us stand out."

The Suite was choreographed by her son Matthew Schmit, who had learned Podlasie from Mary Kay Stuvland of San Francisco's *Lowiczanie*. He watched tapes, studied the book *Folk culture of the River Bug area Inhabitants*, and finally consulted Mariusz Zwierko of dance ensemble *Kurpie Zielone* from Białystok. All this background research and Matthew has yet to receive formal training in Poland.

They consulted the group on costumes, as well. Some pieces were made in Poland and others by "Moms and friends." They found fabric in look, colors, symmetric stripes pattern and texture that would closely match the regional woven material.

"We are an independent organization with a very small Polish community with Polish Mass once a month for about 60 -80 people, which is hosted in the regular US church. We're not connected to any cultural center or *Polski Dom*," said Joanna. "We are totally self-funded.

We organize fundraising, perform for donations and apply from grants through local organizations and the Polish Consulate."

*Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble of Milwaukee, Wisconsin* presented "Kieby jo miał skrzypce" – a fragment from their Suite of dances and songs from the Podhale Mountains. The ensemble was directed for many years by Ada Dziewanowska – who was instrumental in bringing the *Krakowiak Dancers* of Boston to the first Rzeszów Festival.

Accentuated with many nice moments, the Suite choreographed by current director Duane Tomka was real, honest and immediate. It gave me goosebumps, which is the highest compliment. The steps were authentic, intricate and tight, along with an inner reserve. The difficult *ozwodny* weight balance step was effortless and natural. With the contained *Nuta* (tune) opening sung by two men, the suite grew and expanded. There was contrast, along with detail and subtlety that drew you in and created an intense focus. The use of onstage *skrzypce* (fiddle) musicians, the authentic *biały głos* (white voice) singing, and the use of a *fujarka pasterska/piszczalka karpacka* (mountain pipe) greatly complimented the work.

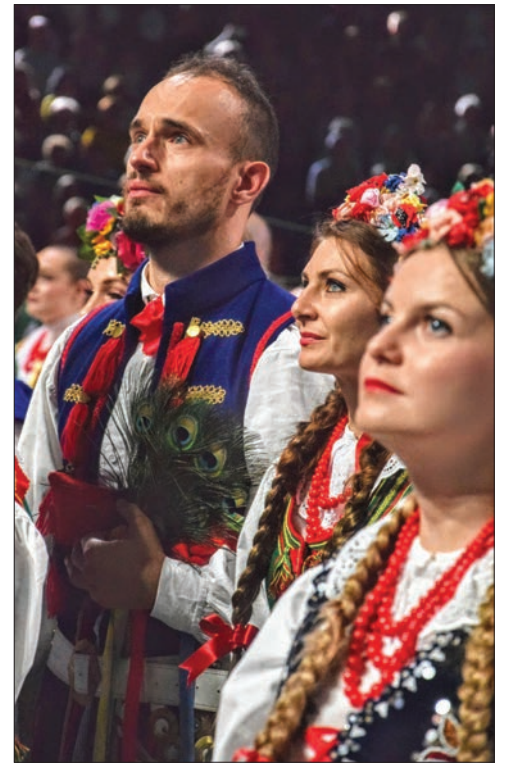
*Góralskie* mountain dancing continues as a living tradition and though it is often placed in a specific period, it is not locked in time or confined. It is rather – an evolution of a culture that continues to exist, though in a different form that reflects today. That is in part the philosophy that imbued this Suite with vitality and truth.

Tomka was instructed in Podhale *kroki* (steps) by the Naglak family while at 2010 Choreographer's Course in Rzeszów – of which he is a graduate. The very basic steps were taught and how to sing to release your *biały głos*. "This is where I first gained an understanding of what was needed to sing the Góral style melodies," he said. "Over the years since, I have danced with both Slovak and Polish Górale and I have watched hundreds of videos."

In his Suite, the intention was to

present the Podhale steps in 100% accuracy, but to center the choreography more for stage presentation. "We keep our *kroki* authentic, but add more choreography than what is traditionally done to make things a little more interesting for stage," Tomka said. He wanted a more "loose, relaxed look," and hence decided to have the men roll up their sleeves. The kind of look that says "I am a hard working góral, but I also love to dance, sing, and play my violin!"

In Poland, *Syrena* presented dances from Spisz, Podhale, Sącz and *Wesele Góralskie*. "I have been



Orleńta-London at the XVIII Polonia Festival in Rzeszów.

dancing for 30+ yrs now and the Rzeszów *rynek* (outdoor square) show was the most memorable performance of my dancing career!" said Tomka. "Most of all, it was the atmosphere created by the town's inhabitants, who packed the square, and cheered each dance group. I almost felt like a rock star on stage!"

An outdoor concert in Wielopole Skrzyńskie was canceled due to heavy rain. The organizers decided to move everything into a small hall. Since *Syrena* spent so many months preparing their dances and the fact that they wanted to entertain the residents, they decided to perform all their suites in the challenging conditions presented. It turned out to be one of the most memorable experiences for everyone as the event took on a "village wedding" type of atmosphere.

A former local dancer from the area addressed the ensemble after the show and made mention how she was able to see and feel their passion in their dancing, along with the sincere enjoyment in presenting the dances they shared – "this is a reflection of your choreographer and his love for what he is doing."

With education and research, Polonia ensembles can continue their existence and capture the heart and soul of the people of a distant past. It is with a passion that they spend countless hours of rehearsal together in community and camaraderie – a connection that is quickly diminishing among Polish circles.

Why do they persist to do what they do? Perhaps, it is for the most important reason – for the love of the land of their forefathers – Poland.

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**MINNESOTA VOICE**

**Academic Attire**

**Dr. Marian S. Stachowicz** of Duluth, Minn., poses in his dress uniform of a professor of coal mining technology at AGH University of Science and Technology, Krakow, at this year's Twin Cities Polish Festival, held August 9-11. Originally known as University of Mining and Metallurgy, the school is one of Poland's most prestigious high-tech focused universities, with 35,000 students. Dr. Stachowicz taught there and is currently professor emeritus in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Laboratory for Intelligent Systems at the University of Minnesota.



AGH (*Akademia Górniczo-Hutnicza im. Stanisława Staszica*) will mark its 100th anniversary of operations on Oct. 1. At the festival, Dr. Stachowicz's exhibits included an explanation of how students from the Polish school's AGH Space Systems study area competed in a

global rocket building competition in New Mexico this past June and earned second prize for an innovative hybrid propulsion system. The rocket also carried a payload of honeybees and the students analyzed how the bees responded to altitudes of up to 30,000 feet.

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**SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Representatives and Scholarships Named**

by Barbara Szydłowski

PORT WASHINGTON, N.Y. — The General Pulaski Parade committee of Port Washington recently held its Miss Polonia Pageant and Dance at the Polish American Cultural Association. The program commenced with a welcome by President Leon Jankowski, followed by the presentation of colors by the Merchant Marine Academy Cadets, and the singing of the Polish and American anthems by Kim Moisa. The mistress of ceremonies was Carol Martin, who introduced the contestants, escorted by the cadets.

A panel of judges selected Emma Schettini as the 2019 Miss Polonia, who was crowned by last year's Miss Polonia, Emily Patysiak. Schettini's attendants for the parade will be Kathryn Dobkowski and Kristen Dobkowski.

Last year's Marshal leading the Port Washington contingent in New York's Pulaski parade was Matt Cordray. He relinquished his sash to this year's marshal, Carol Martin.

As part of the evening's program, Barbara Szydłowski, president of the Polish American Museum, presented the Founders Scholarship of \$500 to Julita Wiechowski, who will be attending the New York State University at Farmingdale. Also, in the absence of its president Michael Bibla, Barbara Szydłowski presented the General Pulaski Foundation Scholarship of \$500 to Thomas Yamond, who will be attending Sacred Heart University, Connecticut. The Polish American Cultur-



This year's Marshal and Miss Polonia, Carol Martin, and Emma Schettini.

A Association Scholarship of \$1000 was presented to Kristen Dobkowski by Carol Martin.

Music for the evening was by the Eddie Biegaj Band.

**Stamford's Best**

STAMFORD, Conn. — The Polish American Cultural Society of Stamford awarded scholarships to the following students: (front, l. to r.) Samantha Koproski (Southern Conn. State Univ.); Alexandra Sajdak (UConn); Peter Pawelski (UMass); Alexandra Samelko (Sacred Heart Univ.); and Jessica Koproski (Southern Conn. Univ.). Standing behind the students are Patricia Koproski (l), scholarship chairman, and Jerzy Karwowski, society president. Also awarded scholarships, but not in photograph were Alexandra Cavaliere (Florida Atlantic Univ.), and Karol Suchowiecki (George Washington Univ.).



**TPA / PACT Scholarships**



**U.S. REPRESENTATIVE MARCY KAPTUR** presented TAP / PACT scholarships to recipients, who came with family members to her Toledo office for the awards. Pictured with Kaptur (left) are: TPA President Jackie Konwinski; recipients Colton Powaski, Morgan Simon, and Lauren Mueller, and PACT President Tom Pruss (far right).

TOLEDO, Ohio — The Toledo-Poznan Alliance (TPA) and the Polish American Community of Toledo (PACT) awarded four scholarships to area students of Polish American ancestry. This is the fifth year of the program that provides two scholarships to students attending high school and two scholarships for col-

lege students. The scholarships are based on essays written on a topic provided by the two organizations. The scholarships are presented by U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur of Ohio's 9th Congressional District in her office. Representative Kaptur relates to these student's endeavors, as she is a Polish American

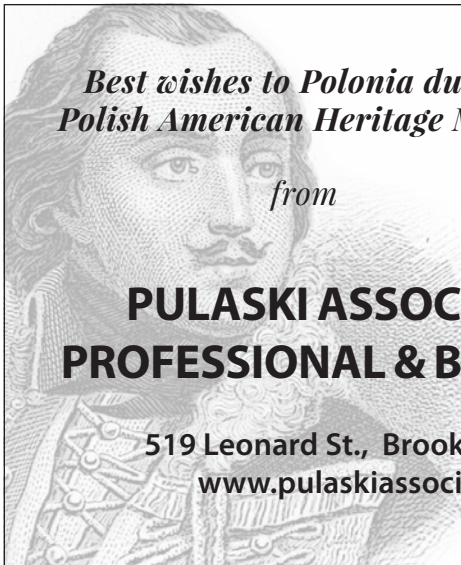
from the Toledo area serving her 19th term in Congress. The money awarded to the students is raised through a three-day Polish American festival that is held by PACT, and a *dozynki* (Polish harvest festival) held by TPA. Both events are open to the public. — Tom Sorosiak



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## Monte Cassino: Polish capture of monastery resulted in German retreat

continued from cover

The 2nd Polish Corps began training in Palestine in the Summer of 1943. Winston Churchill sent reinforcements which further helped to strengthen the Corps. During this training, the Corps would maneuver around mountainous areas to prepare them for what they would encounter in Italy. Despite the reinforcements Churchill sent, the 2nd Polish corps at this time were still weak. Too many army divisions were in Great Britain, which caused a problem of replacing men. When fighting in Monte Cassino, the 2nd Polish Corps often found themselves lacking men and reinforcements. While this battle eventually became an Allied victory, the battle itself was very tough on the Polish soldiers. Towards the end of the war, reinforcements were taken from Poles who were forced to fight in the German army which then became recaptured.

**THE POLISH FIRST LANDED** in Italy at Taranto on December 21st, 1943. From that date onward, all Polish units were going to be moved from the middle east to Italy. The troops were transferred until April of 1944. These troops landed in cities like Naples, Bari, and Taranto.

General Wladyslaw Anders would take command of this Army in Italy, due to the death of General Sikorski. The troops trusted Anders, however. Anders was a smart, brave, and inspirational General who was greatly respected. The first battle in Italy the 2nd Polish Corps ever took part in was a raid on the Garigliano river estuary defenses. Later, the Corps would become involved in greater and more important battles.

Before the Corps fought in Italy, they fought in the Middle East. The 2nd Polish Corps fought in battles

like Tobruk and other smaller battles which resulted in Allied victories. In Italy, the Corps fought in the Battle of Ancona, the Battle of Bologna, and the final offensive in Italy. Even though Monte Cassino was not the Corps' first battle, it was the most crucial. The objective of Monte Cassino was important enough itself: to break the Gustav Line and to gain control of the mountain.

**THE BATTLE OF MONTE CASINO** was a series of four attacks by the allies against Nazi Germany and the Italian Social Republic in Cassino, Italy. These attacks were meant to weaken the winter line, which would

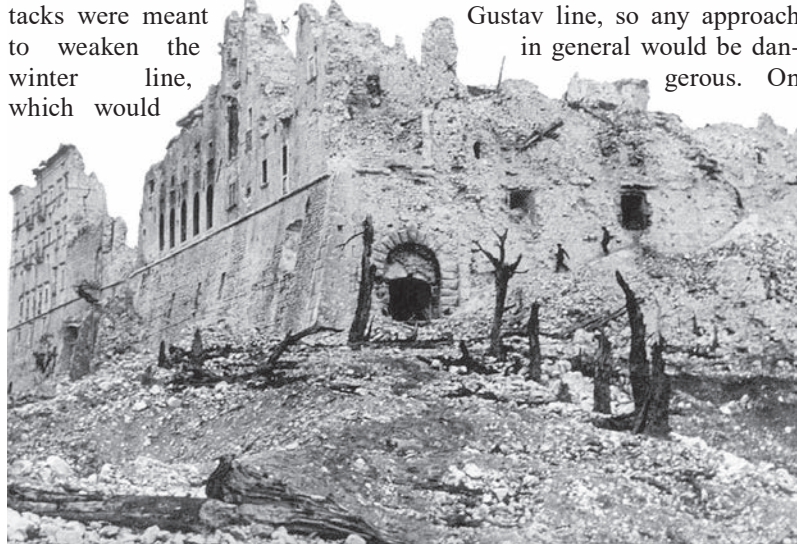


PHOTO: KEVSTON/SHUTON ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES

Between January and May 1944 nearly a quarter of a million troops from six continents fought in four battles on and around Monte Cassino and the town of Cassino, Italy. Above: Ruins of the Abbey of Monte Cassino shortly after and ill-advised U.S. bombing raid in February 1944.

then ease the allied advance into Rome. Monte Cassino was a very strategic place for a German base. In order to cross from south to north Italy, any army essentially must cross Monte Cassino in which they would be shot down by the Germans who were perched up high in the mountain. If the allies were going to get to Rome and maintain a consistent line of supply, they needed to drive the Germans and

Italians out of the base.

The first battle for Monte Cassino began with an assault on Allied troops by the Germans. This assault came on January 17th, when British Corps were crossing the Garigliano. Under Kesselring's command, the German Panzer division successfully defeated the British.

Three days later, the U.S. 2nd Corps tried to attack Cassino from the middle. This too was unsuccessful, however, because the German soldiers and tanks were well dug in and well prepared for any attacks. The Germans also placed mines and booby traps leading up to the Gustav line, so any approach in general would be dangerous. On

January 24th, American troops successfully established a position in high ground, close to Cassino. They did this by going North and looping around the mountain. There, they would meet with the French Army Corps, which was going to attack the mountain from the right flank. This operation proved too difficult however because the Germans responded with fierce gunfire from the top of the mountain. The second battle for Monte Cassino began with a different approach. Instead of fighting on foot, the United States sent multiple bombers to drop explosives on the top of the mountain. This approach did not completely work because shortly after the bombing, German paratroopers quickly reestablished their position on the mountain. The bombing was considered a failure and a waste of bombs by the United States government. The next day, British troops tried to attack the mountain but failed as well, losing half their men. An army from New Zealand however managed to gain control over a railway station in Cassino. The Germans were worried but did not attack.

The third battle for Monte Cassino was planned for an attack from both sides of the mountain. This attack was executed by the New Zealand Army. While the New Zealand Army won some battles at first, eventually the gunning from Monastery Hill from the Germans was too much for the army to handle.

The fourth battle for Monte Cassino would prove to be the last, and one in which the 2nd Polish Corps were heavily involved in. The plan of attack in this battle was for the United States army to attack from the left of Monte Cassino, the French would attack the bridgehead, the British would attack along the valley, and the Polish 2nd corps would go to the right of the mountain, loop around and attack the Monastery from the back. The armies preparing for this battle

had to move forward with secrecy, as the German army was prepared for another possible allied attack. The allies opened fire on the morning of May 11th. After two days of heavy bombing, the French had made the most progress. The Polish 2nd Corps were able to capture the mountains around Monte Cassino, for only a short while, as German paratroopers recaptured the mountains shortly after. On May 12th however, the German machine guns and artillery were too much for the Polish, and the front lines of the Polish were wiped out. During the first two days of the battle, the French were most successful in penetrating the German defense from the bridgehead. They attacked with a constant supply of men, and the Germans were not able to withstand this pressure. On May 15th, the British isolated Cassino from the Liri valley, which isolated the Germans from any possible supplies. Two days later, the Polish 2nd Corps would launch its second attack on the mountain. The fighting in this attack was very fierce and since battles often happened in ruins and close corridors, the battles were often fistfights. With the Liri Valley taken over by the British, the Germans decided to retreat from the Mountain, and the Poles officially captured the mountain first. Every man fought to the point of exhaustion, with German men unable to move on the mountain due to injury. The Polish men barely had enough stamina left themselves to climb to the top of the mountain. At the end of the battle, the Polish flag was raised over the ruins.

The aftermath of this Allied victory turned out to be very important. The 2nd Polish Corps victory opened a clear path for the allies to reach the Gustav and Hitler, which were German lines defending advance to Rome. On May 23rd, the Polish 2nd Corps attacked Piedimonte San Germano, a spot along the Hitler Line. The next day, the Canadian army was able to scratch their way through the line. On the 25th, the Polish Corps captured the Piedimonte and the whole line collapsed. This opened a clear path to Rome. On June 4th, the United Kingdom and United States captured Rome. The invasion of Normandy began two days later.

**2301 POLISH SOLDIERS DIED** during the Italian campaign. Of those 2301 men, 1079 were killed during the Battle of Monte Cassino alone. More than 9000 other Polish soldiers were wounded or missing. Today, there is a massive Polish War Cemetery located miles from Monte Cassino, commemorating the lost Polish soldiers during the battle.

After the Battle of Monte Cassino and the Allies' successful advance into Rome, the 2nd Polish Corps then fought on the Adriatic Coast. With the help of British units, both the Polish and British quickly moved up the coast. Their goal was to reach another German line of defense called the Gothic Line. The Corps met resistance from the Germans at the Chienti River but defeated them on route to capturing Osini. Germans also resisted at the Esimo river and similarly at the town of Senegalia, but the Polish overcame this resistance and reached the edge of the Gothic Line on August 22nd.

The attack on the Gothic Line began on the night August 25th, with the 2nd Polish Corps on the right flank and the Canadian Corps on the left flank. The Polish eventually captured the high ground, and the operation was complete. After this victory, the 2nd Polish corps became a reserve force until 1945. The land in Italy was not suitable for movement of armies because of the significant amount of rain it receives over the winter. All armies waited until the springtime to battle further.

The final battle in Italy the 2nd Polish Corps was involved in was the Final Offensive. This attack, planned for the night of April 9th, 1945, was designed to completely break the Italian front, which would defeat the entire Italian army. The Polish Corps started off capturing the town of Imola. Then, the German Parachute division immediately tried to recapture this town. The 2nd Polish Corps had gained experience from previous defeats from the paratrooper division however, and this time the Polish Corps were able to successfully fend off this paratrooper attack. The entire German paratrooper division was destroyed as a result of this Polish victory. On April 21st, the City of Bologna fell to the allies, and victory in Italy was soon after announced on May 2nd, 1945.

The Polish 2nd Corps efforts in Italy had significant effects on history. Their heroics in capturing Monte Cassino was unprecedented, because three previous Allied attacks on Monte Cassino had failed. The Polish capture of Monte Cassino resulted in German retreat. After this German retreat, the Polish Corps again defeated the Hitler Line which allowed advance into Rome. The advance into Rome was a problem ever since the beginning of 1944, and it was the Polish 2nd Corps who paved the way for themselves and other Allied Armies to be able to advance. The allied advance from the south was a key point in World War II, as this alleviated the eventual defeat of Nazi Germany.

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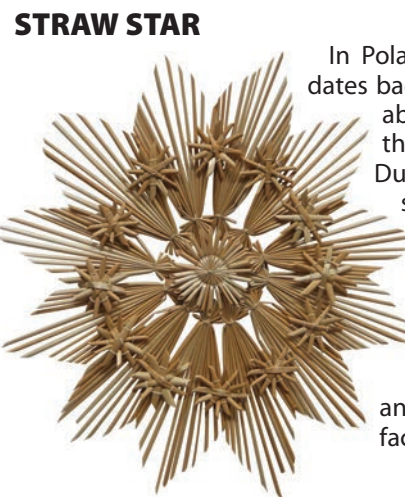
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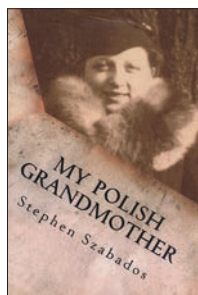
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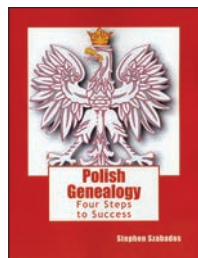
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searching for answers, he found new insights about his grandmother.

As you read Anna's story, ask the same questions about your ancestors. If you do, your view of your family history will definitely change.

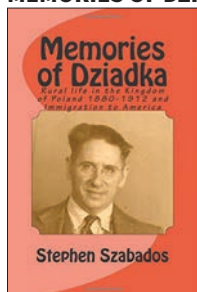


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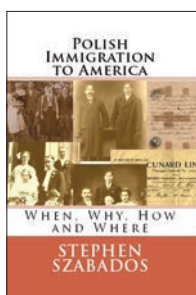
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This book is about the life of a Polish immigrant, from his birth in the Russian partition of Poland: the customs and traditions he grew up with; his decision to leave his family and the land of his birth; the trek across Poland to the port of Bremerhaven; his voyage across the Atlantic Ocean; his arrival and his life in America. Through the story of one man, you will learn and understand the hardships of a typical Polish immigrant in the early 1900s.



**POLISH IMMIGRATION TO AMERICA**  
by Stephen Szabados  
Item 2-271  
**\$17.99**

When did your Polish ancestors immigrate, where did they leave, why did they leave, how did they get here? This book discusses the history of Poland and gives some insights to possible answers to these about your ancestors' immigration. All three Polish partitions are covered and the material will hopefully clear up your confusion why your Polish ancestors listed that they were born in other countries on early U.S. documents. Brief histories of most of the ports that were used by Polish immigrants for departure and arrival; life in steerage; and the process of examination to gain admittance.



**FINDING GRANDMA'S EUROPEAN ANCESTORS**  
by Stephen Szabados  
Item 2-653 / 210 pp., pb.  
**\$19.95**

This is a "must have" book for the family historian who wants to identify their European heritage. The author draws from his research experiences to describe how to find the resources available; first to find out where your ancestors were born in Europe, and then find the records. This revised edition covers genealogical research for most European countries and includes detailed steps that will help you find the records that you need. The author uses his experiences to give tips on what to avoid and what works; how to find and use critical records; and how to use translating guides to decipher the foreign-language records.



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**LITERATURE**

**POLISH PRINCESS**  
by Gail Engebretson

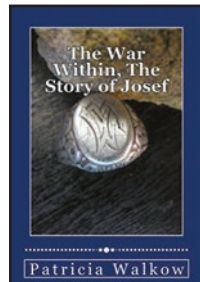


pb., 334 pp., English  
5.5 x 0.7 x 8.5 inches  
\$18.95  
Item 2-620

Tragedy and mystery surround the life of 14-year-old Anna Wisniewski. Ann is a gifted pianist growing up in middle America, yet her mother claims they are descended from Polish aristocracy. Anna struggles with insecurities that cripple her life until she meets a young Polish violinist. Together they find passion in their music and each other. When tragedy strikes Anna must find the courage to find face her past and her future.

Gail Engebretson is a native of Wisconsin and the granddaughter of Polish immigrants. She has been working in Early Childhood Development, teaching music for over 40 years.

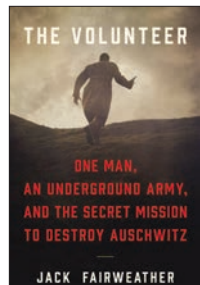
two brothers in love and war, *The Warsaw Conspiracy* completes the trilogy. You need not have read the others to enjoy this family saga set against the November Rising (1830-1831). With Siberia or emigration heart-rending contingencies, matriarchs Anna and Zofia attempt to steer the clan through ever-muddying waters



**THE WAR WITHIN, THE STORY OF JOSEF**  
by Patricia Walkow  
\$19.95  
ISBN: 978-1519181015  
pb., 357 pp., 6x9

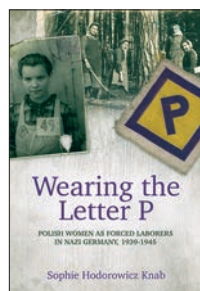
*The War Within, the Story of Josef*, follows a young man's journey through cruelty and kindness, hatred and love, despair and hope. Josef, a Catholic Pole, was forced into slave labor in Nazi Germany when he was fourteen. His life was saved by a young German man—the enemy.

**WORLD WAR II**



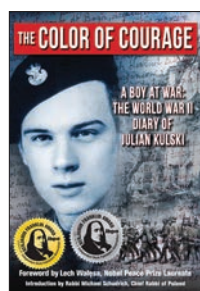
**NEW! THE VOLUNTEER**  
by Jack Fairweather  
PAJ Price: \$25.95 (retails at \$28.99)  
Item 1-662  
hc.; 528 pp.; 2019; 6 x 1.6 x 9 inches

The true story of Polish resistance fighter Witold Pilecki's infiltration of Auschwitz to sabotage the camp from within, and his death-defying attempt to warn the Allies about the Nazis' plans for a "Final Solution" before it was too late. Over two and half years, Pilecki forged an underground army within Auschwitz that sabotaged facilities, assassinated Nazi informants and officers, and gathered evidence of terrifying abuse and mass murder. But as he pieced together the horrifying truth that the camp was to become the epicenter of Nazi plans to exterminate Europe's Jews, Pilecki realized he would have to risk his men, his life, and his family to warn the West before all was lost.



**WEARING THE LETTER "P"**  
*Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany, 1939-1945.*  
by Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab  
\$19.95  
Item 2-642

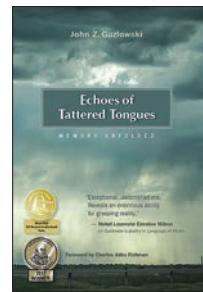
An unflinching, detailed portrait of a forgotten group of Nazi survivors. Written by the daughter of Polish forced laborers, *Wearing the Letter P* gives a voice to women who were taken from their homes as young as 12 years old and subjected to slave labor conditions, starvation, sexual exploitation, and forced abortions and child separation — all while Nazi propaganda depicted them as well-cared-for volunteers. Knab provides an important contribution to World War II history, based on archival and family records, war crime trials, and victim accounts.



**THE COLOR OF COURAGE**  
by Julian E. Kulski  
\$19.95  
Item 2-674  
Aquila Polonica Publ., 2012. pb. 496 pp., 6" x 9"

"If there is going to be a war, I do not want to miss it." So wrote Julian Kulski a few days before the outbreak of World War II, in this remarkable diary of a boy at war from ages 10 to 16. Kulski wages his own private war against the Germans with small acts of sabo-

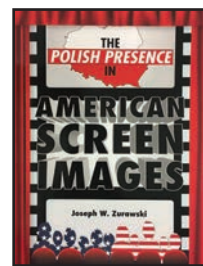
tage. At age 12, Kulski is recruited into the clandestine Underground Army by his Scoutmaster and begins training in military tactics and weapons handling. At age 13, he meets with leaders of the Jewish Resistance. Arrested by the Gestapo at 14, he is rescued and at 15 fights in the Warsaw Uprising of 1944.



**ECHOES OF TATTERED TONGUES**  
by John Guzowski  
\$21.95  
Item 2-667  
hc., 6.2 x 0.8 x 9.4 inches  
200 pp.

*Aquila Polonica / Language: English*  
Guzowski born in a German refugee camp after WWII, recounts the horrible atrocities enacted upon his parents during the war in these straightforward, gut-wrenching narrative lyric poems. These snapshots of Nazi German rule illustrate that hardship didn't end with German surrender; the aftershocks radiated through successive generations. "Guzowski's simple language highlights the violence without offering any comment or consolation." — Publishers Weekly

**POLONIA**



**THE POLISH PRESENCE IN AMERICAN SCREEN IMAGES**  
by Joseph Zurawski  
\$29.95  
Item 2-682  
Softcover, 355 pp., 6" x 9", 2018

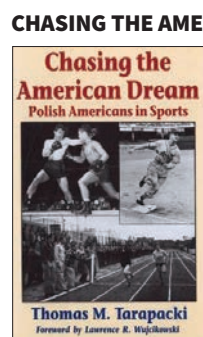
The most complete, objective and accurate analysis of the presentation of Polish Americans and their heritage as viewed on movie theaters and on television screens in American since 1894.

Prominent author, educator and Polish American activist Joseph W. Zurawski identifies and analyzes more than 1300 films shown in the United States that feature or identify a Polish American character or reference. Soft cover. Published by the Polish Museum of America.



**BUSIA: SEASONS ON THE FARM WITH MY POLISH GRANDMOTHER**  
by Leonard Kniffel  
\$15.00  
hc. 59 pp.; 2017, 6.25" x 9.25"  
Item 2-702

The book chronicles one year in the life of a young boy and his grandmother on a farm in Michigan in the 1950s, a time without telephones and televisions. Instead, they cook and garden and work together to keep the stoves supplied and the cupboards filled. They prepare for holidays while Busia tells stories about life in the old country, Poland. Kniffel is the author of "A Polish Son in the Motherland: An American's Journey Home." He is currently president of the Polish American Librarians Association, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Polish Museum of America in Chicago.



**CHASING THE AMERICAN DREAM**  
by Tom Tarapacki  
\$11.95 while supplies last  
Item 1-701. h.c.; 151 pp.; 1995; B&W ill.; 6.2 x 0.8 x 9.5 inches  
New old stock.

"Chasing the American Dream" provides an in-depth examination of the Polish American experience with sports: its impact upon their lives, the unpre-

cedented economic and social opportunities it created, the enormous changes it brought to the Polish American community, and the athletes, coaches, and organizations involved.

350 Polish American athletes are noted from the worlds of baseball, football, hockey, basketball, track & field, boxing, wrestling, golf, swimming, bowling, auto racing, soccer and more. Included are some of the greatest figures in American sports such as Stan Ketchel; Stella Walsh; and Stan "The Man" Musial.

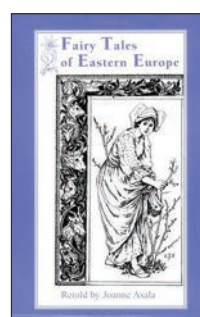
Tarapacki is Sports Editor of the *Polish American Journal*.

**FOLKLORE**



**NEW! POLISH FAIRY TALES**  
by A.J. Glinki  
Trans. by Maude Ashurst Biggs  
\$7.95  
Item 1-161  
p.b. 80pp., 6 x 0.2 x 9 inches  
Blurb Publishing.

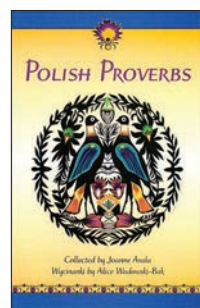
Translated by Maude Ashurst Biggs and illustrated by Cecile Walton. This beautifully-illustrated edition of A. J. Glinki's classic tales provides a marvelous glimpse into the world of Polish legend and folklore-and reveals its closeness and affinity to the greater European family of nations. Glinki, Poland's master folklore writer, and his nation's equivalent of the Brothers Grimm, spent many years in the nineteenth century travelling all over his nation's lands, listening to and writing down the stories as told to him by the ordinary folk. In this manner, he captured Polish folklore as it truly was—the way that the peasants would tell their children as part of a wide-ranging oral tradition. Bound up in history, legend, moral virtues, and ancient European culture, these classic stories were introduced to the English-speaking world early in the twentieth century. They were an instant hit, with tales such as the "Frog Princess," "Princess Miranda" and "Prince Hero," and many others quickly winning their place in the great classic tales of European literature.



**FAIRY TALES OF EASTERN EUROPE**  
Retold by Joanne Asala  
\$12.95  
Item 2-636  
6 x 9 inches  
157 pp., pb.

Many of the plots, motifs, and structural elements in these Slavic tales are found in other stories told around the world.

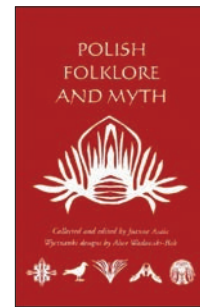
An apple tree in the Slavic tale, "The Fruit of Everlasting Youth," evokes the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden. The ages of man described by the Fate Sisters are quite similar to the ancient "Riddle of the Sphinx." A snake impedes the function of the Tree of Everlasting Youth, again reminiscent of the Garden of Eden.



**POLISH PROVERBS**  
by Joanne Asala  
\$14.95  
Item 2-681  
6x9 in., 64 pp., pb.

Poles are gregarious, cheerful, hard-working, and earnest—qualities reflected in their proverbs, collected here by author Joanne Asala. Some examples: "Love enters a man through his eyes and a woman through her ears." "Without work, there is no bread." "Do not push the river; it will flow on its own accord." The back and front covers feature stunning illustrations of paper cuts by the late Polish

folk artist Alice Wadowska-Bak, with more of her work throughout the book.



**POLISH FOLKLORE AND MYTH**  
by Joanne Asala  
\$12.95  
Item 2-679 / 6x9 in / 118 pp., pb.

This book of engaging folk stories includes such tales as "The Violin," "The Headache Cure," "Midsummer's Eve," "The Flower Queen's Daughter," "The Legend of the North Wind," "The Flaming Castle," "The Village Dance," and "The Unfinished Tune." The stories were collected by Joanne Asala, with wycinanki (paper-cutting) illustrations by Polish-American artist Alice Wadowska-Bak.

**HISTORY**



**POLAND: A HISTORY**  
by Adam Zamoyski  
\$19.95  
Item 1-659  
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."

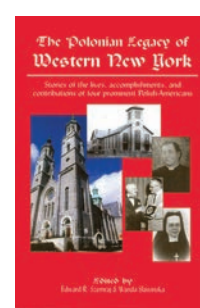
**THE MAGNIFICENT 100**



by Jaroslaw K. Radomski  
\$24.50  
2018, Buffalo Standard Printing  
pb., 195pp., color illustrations.  
Item 2-655

The Magnificent 100 presents — in an alphabetically organized lexicon — 97 illustrated vignettes popularizing the biographies and works of over 100 Polish artists and writers through the ages. It also contains numerous online links to galleries of the artworks of artists and books of writers described in it, so readers can significantly expand their knowledge through those sources. The idea of presenting artists and writers together shows the more complex picture of the connections and interactions among them that are often treated separately. The aspects of the lives of our Magnificent 100 are presented in this book to help understand the psychological "genesis" of their works.

**THE POLONIAN LEGACY OF WESTERN NEW YORK**



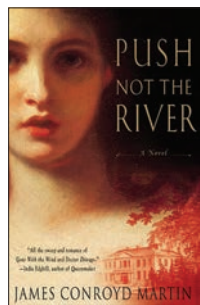
Item 1-605  
\$12.95  
156 pp., sc., ill., b&w photos.  
5.5 x 8.5

Edited by Edward Szemraj and Wanda Slawinska, the book focuses on the lives of spiritual and community leader Rev. John Pitass; architect Joseph E. Fronczak; and Mother Mary Simplicita, whose dedication to vocation and superb leadership of the area's Felician Sisters spans generations. The book also examines the lasting friendship between Buffalo's renowned Dr. Francis E. Fronczak and the composer/diplomat Ignacy Jan Paderewski.



**NEW! STARS AND CROSSES**  
by Curtis Urness  
\$18.95  
Item 2-152  
pb., 260 pp., 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches  
Universe Publ.

Chic Lucas's parents survived the German occupation. Ruth Mintz's mother is a Holocaust survivor. In this compassionate tale of courage and survival, the paths of two strangers intertwine in Poland as each seek answers about a horrible period in history. Urness is a seasoned writer whose fiction has appeared in *Kansas City Voices*, *Mindprints*, *Whistling Shade*, *Monthly Short Stories*, *The Storyteller*, *Down in the Dirt*, *Distinguished Writing*, and other journals. His story "The Turbulent Blue" was nominated by *Kansas City Voices* for a Pushcart Award in 2006.



**PUSH NOT THE RIVER**  
Book 1 of Martin's Poland Trilogy  
\$15.95  
Item 2-609  
496 pp.pb. Maps & wycinanki illust.

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*."



**AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY (Book 2)**  
\$15.95  
Item 2-610  
369 pp.pb. Map & wycinanki illust.

"You don't have to read *Push Not the River* to get the most from this sequel," says Suzanne Strempek Shea. The award-winning author picks up where *Push Not the River* leaves off, taking the characters 20 years into the fascinating Napoléonic era, highlighting the exploits of the glorious Polish lancers.



**THE WARSAW CONSPIRACY (Book 3)**  
\$17.99  
508 pp., pb.  
Item 2-611

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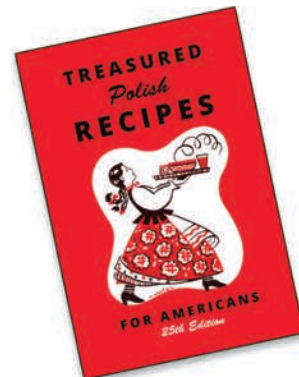
The city of Bolesławiec, located in Poland near the German and Czech borders, is at the epicenter of this artistic, pottery producing region. Since the 7th century, the Bolesławiec region has been making pottery for local use with mass production beginning in the 17th century. After World War II the Bolesławiec pottery industry's popularity exploded when the wives of the American Army personnel stationed in Germany discovered the artistically painted pottery and began collections of their own.



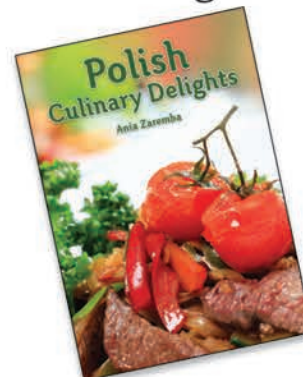
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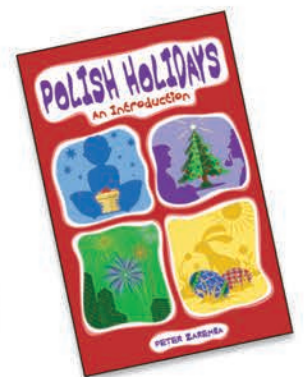
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## HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE

# Techny Celebrates Częstochowa Feast

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — When people in the Chicago area think of Techny, Illinois, they think of the Divine World Missionaries (DWM), its Twin Towers that can be seen from afar, the Chapel of the Holy Spirit where masses are held, and solemn religious retreats. Others think about the wonderful music of the Baroque Holiday Concerts that are held on two days during the Christmas season every year. Most people who know about this Techny institution do not think of it as having a Polish connection.

But for the last 13 years, Techny has celebrated a special mass honoring **Our Lady of Częstochowa**, whose feast day is August 26. This year, on August 25, a special mass was celebrated in the Polish language. Almost 800 worshippers filled the chapel as **Father Janusz Horowski, SVD**, development director of the Divine Word Chicago Province, welcomed all and thanked everyone for their enthusiastic response. The mass was celebrated by **Dariusz Gabariak, SVD**, treasurer of the DWM. Other SVD priests who concelebrated the mass were **Father Janusz Skotniczy**, a missionary from Papua, New Guinea, and **Father Casimir Garbacz**, who celebrated 55 years in the priesthood and retired from many years of working in missions in Ghana, Africa. **Rev. Jerzy Gawlik**, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Wheeling, preached the sermon.

Additionally, priests of the DVM cordially invite everyone to the Chapel of the Holy Spirit to a Polish language Mass held on the last Sunday of every month at 8:15 a.m.

## Running For Senates: Rudnicki and Chlebek

With Poland's elections coming on October 13, 2019, and the November 2020 elections in the United States, two Polonians from the Chicago area have announced their candidacy, **Marek Rudnicki**, M.D. for the Polish Parliament and **Kazimierz (Casey) Chlebek** for



Techny altar.

the U.S. Senate.

Rudnicki will be running for the Polish Parliament in the Warsaw District 44 as a member of the Law and Justice Party, PiS, (Prawo i Sprawiedliwość).



Rudnicki (left) and Chlebek.

Rudnicki, 71, is a general surgeon in Chicago and is affiliated with Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center and the University of Illinois at Chicago Hospital. He received his medical degree from the Medical University of Silesia and has been in practice for approximately 39 years. He is also on the faculty of the University of Illinois at Chicago Medical School and is president of the Polish American Medical Society of Chicago. Dr. Rudnicki is well known in both the Polish-speaking community and the Polish American community for his involvement in the Amber Coalition, the Polish American Breast Cancer Awareness Program.

PiS is a national conservative, populist, and Christian democratic political party. Presently, PiS is the largest party in the Parliament with 221 seats in the Sejm and 66 in the Senate. The party was founded in 2001 by the late Lech Kaczyński and his twin brother, Jarosław.

If he receives the required number of valid petition signatures, Casey Chlebek will run for the U.S. Senate as a Republican. Chlebek, born in Poland, arrived in Chicago in 1967. He enrolled at Harold Washington College (formerly Loop College), but transferred to the University of Illinois, Department of Engineering. He graduated in 1971 with a degree in Computer Science, and has spent most of his career in the field of data processing and information technologies.

Christopher E. K. Pfannkuche, another Polonian, is a Republican candidate for Cook County State's Attorney. He is a highly experienced trial attorney, a career criminal prosecutor, a published legal author, a licensed private detective, a licensed multi-engine pilot, and a Chicago native. Christopher served 31 years as a criminal prosecutor

with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. He is presently in private practice.

All three candidates made their formal candidacy announcements at the August 26 meeting of the Polish American Congress, Illinois Division.

## Lira's Jazz Concert On The Lake

On July 29, the **Lira Ensemble**, Artist-in-Residence at Loyola University Chicago (LUC), held a jazz style summer concert, "Cooler by The Lake" or "Chłodnia nad

jeziorem."

The concert took place in Piper Hall, one of only a few surviving lakefront mansions in Chicago, located on the LUC Lakeshore campus. From this vantage point, guests had the opportunity to view Lake Michigan, while enjoying the jazz music of Poland.

**Mike Przygody**, a Polish American, composer, and multi-instrumentalist, performed Polish folk music in jazz style, providing interesting and unique interpretations.

The final concert song was Przygody's own premiere composition, "All These Years," which he sang as a duet with Vivian Garcia, a Chicago-based singer and songwriter. Following Przygody's recital, a summer party and social gathering took place on the beautiful Loyola lakefront.

Lucyna Migala, artistic and managing director of the Lira Ensemble, reminds us that the Lira will celebrate its 55th anniversary in 2020 with another year of great music.

## American Airlines Schedules Krakow Flights

In 2020, American Airlines will launch its much-anticipated non-stop round-trip flights between Chicago's O'Hare International Airport and **Kraków's John Paul II**

**International Airport**. From May 7 through October 23, it will fly this route five times a week. Flights are scheduled to be flown on Boeing 787-8s, better known as Dreamliners, with Chicago departures tentatively scheduled to be at 6:55 p.m. (CST) on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Currently, this route is served by the Polish national carrier, **Pol-skie Linie Lotnicze (LOT) Airlines**. Kraków Airport is the second busiest airport in Poland in terms of the number of passengers. To accommodate this year's summer season, the frequency of these popular flights was increased from two to three flights per week.

In 2018, the Kraków Airport served nearly 6.8 million passengers; a 16 percent increase over 2017. This year, the number of passengers is projected to be over 7.9 million.

## Poland's History Through Stamps.

**Charles Berg**, a philatelist and the owner of Stamp King, the only stamp specialty store in the Chicago area, gave a special presentation on August 14 at Mather's-More Than a Café, located in Chicago's Norwood Park area. Using many actual stamps, Berg presented a lecture on Poland's history and culture as shown through its stamps. The stamps illustrated the years of suffering under the Russian, Austro-Hungarian, and Prussian Empires, events of World War I, the turbulent



Przygody and Migala.

concerns of Poland's new republic, and significant images related to World War II, the Solidarity movement, and present-day Poland.

## Sextuplets Doing Well at Home

The Marzec sextuplets, born last May in Kraków's University Hospital, are doing well in their home village of Tylmanowa, some 40 miles from Kraków. Their parents, who also have a two-and-a-half-year-old son, have their hands full looking after the two boys and four girls of their new six-some. When they were born, the smallest weighed in at only 1.96 pounds and the biggest at 2.9 pounds. The chance of successfully giving birth to sextuplets has been calculated as one in 4.7 billion.

## Archdiocese of Chicago Enters Agreement to Sell St. Adalbert's

CHICAGO — Members of the Polish American and Latino communities have stepped up their protest against plans to sell a historic Roman Catholic church in the city's Pilsen neighborhood.

The battle to save St. Adalbert Church reignited after the Archdiocese agreed to sell the property to a developer for \$4 million.

The developer — City Pads Chicago — said it plans to work with Pilsen neighbors and Ald. Byron Sigcho-Lopez to return the beloved former church to "public and accessible use," the company said. Its plans include restoring the former sanctuary and iconic twin towers in the church, and to hold "open dialogue" with neighbors on future uses for the church.

No housing will be built in the former sanctuary building, the company vowed. But the developer does aim to build co-living apartments in a new building on the 2.1-acre site just east of the convent and will rehab existing buildings — which include the rectory and convent — to make way for studio, one-bedroom and "family-sized apartments."

The Society of St. Adalbert started collecting pledges of financial support aimed at saving St. Adalbert, one of the oldest Polish parish churches in the United States. The building was constructed more than 100 years ago using funds contributed by Polish immigrants. The last Mass was held this past July.

The Society of St. Adalbert hopes to convert some of the space into a bed-and-breakfast for pilgrims to finance costly renovation of the church. It would be managed by a non-profit organization.

In July, hoping to tie the archdiocese's hands, Ald. Sigcho-Lopez (25th) introduced an ordinance to change the site's zoning. (The site is currently zoned for multi-unit dwelling units). But agreement to sell the property came before the Committee on Zoning could meet this month.

Anne Maseli, a spokeswoman with the Archdiocese of Chicago, confirmed on Sept. 9 the church property is under contract to be sold to City Pads. The developer was selected because they "understand the needs of the community and the goals of local officials and neighborhood groups," Maseli said.

She said the developer will "be respectful of the property's history, the property's place as a previously sacred space, the desires of the parish and of the community."

In an email, Maseli acknowledged the "difficult decision to close St. Adalbert" because it was an anchor in the Pilsen community but said the congregation was too small to support "substantial annual operating costs" of the church property.

Julie Sawicki, the society's president, who was first made aware of the pending sale in late August, said the decision was "disappointing."

Blanca Torres, the society's vice president said that the decision to sell the church could drive up property taxes and bring gentrification, Torres said.

The church's sale moves forward despite the fact that both the Society of St. Adalbert and the St. Adalbert Preservation Society have filed separate appeals to the Vatican to argue against the church's closure. Neither appeal has reached a resolution, Torres said.

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## TOLEDO

## Northwest Ohio Polish Cultural Center a Big Step Closer to Becoming a Reality

## Toledo City Council Approves Property

by Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

For years, the idea of a Polish cultural center has been discussed by Polish Americans in and around the Toledo area. Toledo's rich Polish history, which began well over a hundred years ago, has been preserved by several churches and groups, yet no building exists exclusively to preserve this story for future generations.

In January 2015, Toledo City Councilman Tom Waniewski and the Polish American Community of Toledo (PACT) sought to change that. Tom brought together leaders of several Polish organizations to begin discussions about a center that would mirror the experience of residents who immigrated here and reflect the contributions of Polish Americans to the evolution of northwest Ohio.

The group considered many options over the next few years. They looked at old buildings in need of remodeling. They looked at buildings that were for sale and real estate for sale. While the city had some land which possibly could be donated in south Toledo off the Anthony Wayne Trail, the group ul-

imately decided upon four acres in downtown Toledo off Front Street by the Marina District. Two acres were donated by the Northwest Ohio Building Trades Council. When Tom Waniewski learned the land adjacent to the land donated by the Building Trades Council was city-owned, the group worked with the city's Economic Development Department and Mayor Wade Koskiewicz to get an additional two acres donated.

cess to highways."

With the tremendous growth going on in the Marina District, the Polish Cultural Center will add value to the area, and vice versa. Some other developments currently going on in this portion of riverfront property just across the Maumee River from the downtown skyline include an urban camping area, the addition of a new metropark, and improved parking lots and walking trails.

The proposed facility is approxi-

parking space for a nearby baseball diamond and the lot connected with the Building Trades facility can be available for events, half of the parcel is intended to be an outdoor gathering area.

In 2017, the Northwest Ohio Polish Cultural Center separated from PACT to become its own 501 (c) (3). Key developments along the way include: a benefactor pledged to match up to \$50,000 of all donations under \$1,000 between June

Ed Glowacki, 2019 Architect of the Year, and survey work is being donated by Matt Lewandowski from Lewandowski Engineers to finalize the architecture and layout of the building.

As October turns into November, the Polish Cultural Center will be approaching the halfway mark of the \$50,000 matching campaign. Group members are working hard to hit this benchmark. The Second Polish Hall of Fame ceremony will take place in November, with all proceeds again going to the center.

"The Polish Cultural Center will do two things for our heritage," said Tom Waniewski. "As Poles traveled west from New York, some settled in Buffalo, others in Cleveland. Still others continued west to Chicago. But Toledo has the highest per capita Polish population in Ohio. We want to preserve that history. Our center will have a strong local flavor. We intend for the center to be a gathering place for all people who want to experience Polish traditions. As they do, they'll learn about the great contributions to northwest Ohio by our ancestors. Younger Poles can feel proud that their ancestors contributed to the growth of northwest Ohio."

Visit [www.PolishCulturalCenter.org](http://www.PolishCulturalCenter.org) or on Facebook at Polish Cultural Center for more information.



Architect Ed Glowacki's rendition of the Cultural Center.

"One thing was clear: as 'high value' benefactors were approached, the question of location always came up," said Tom Waniewski. "In talking with the various Polish organizations, there were two places where they did not want the building to be located: Lagrinka and Kuschwanz. (the two neighborhoods where the majority of first-generation Poles settled upon arrival in Toledo). We were also looking for a place that was large enough to hold the Polish Festival and with easy ac-

cess to highways." With the tremendous growth going on in the Marina District, the Polish Cultural Center will add value to the area, and vice versa. Some other developments currently going on in this portion of riverfront property just across the Maumee River from the downtown skyline include an urban camping area, the addition of a new metropark, and improved parking lots and walking trails. The proposed facility is approxi-

mately 17,000 square feet. It will include a banquet hall with seating for 300 people plus a staging area, kitchen facilities and a connecting lounge. Plans are to integrate a library so the Toledo Polish Genealogical Society can store artifacts and where people can research their Polish family history. Meeting rooms which will double as exhibit space and climate-controlled rooms for the dance costumes worn by the Echoes of Poland dance ensemble are on the bucket list. As existing

2019 and June 2020; the Polish Hall of Fame was initiated in 2018 with all proceeds going to the Polish Cultural Center; Cleveland Cliffs, a lake freighter company building a new iron ore plant in nearby Oregon, Ohio gave the center a sizeable grant. In addition, the Polish Cultural Center was selected by the American Institute of Architects for their student competition in northwest Ohio. More than 100 designs and layouts were created as a result. Architecture work is being donated by

## POLONIA PLACES

## Josephat PNCC in Duluth, Minnesota

by Gregory L. Witul

**ST. JOSEPHAT POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
417 North 3rd Ave East,  
Duluth, Minnesota  
Status: Open

Poles would call Duluth, Minnesota home for nearly a decade before they were able to erect St. Mary Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church in 1883. While the parish became an epicenter for the city's Polish community, the Irish-led Roman Catholic Church just saw it as a way to keep the Poles in line. This dismissal of the Poles' deep, cultural, linguistic, and religious heritage came to a head in 1907 when Father D. Sierzputowski of St. Mary's broke away from the Roman Church and established St. Josephat's Polish National Catholic Church. Taking refuge in a Lutheran church, the

parish was formed on February 2, 1907 with Joseph Bastasz serving as chairman of the first parish committee.

From this nucleus, Rev. Sierzputowski and his parishioners began raising funds to build their own church and by the end of the year began construction at the corner of East 5th Street and North 3rd Avenue. On May 24, 1908 Bishop Francis Hodur dedicated the edifice and celebrated the first Mass in the new church. With the new building came new organizations like the Holy Rosary Society, the Ladies' Aid Society, the Polish National Union of America #38 and the Polish Men's Club, all to

strengthen the soon-to-be-threatened social fabric of the parish.

The first years of St. Josephat's were a constant ordeal for the parishioners. The Roman church forced lawsuits upon the parish, opened another Polish parish — St. Peter and Paul's — to entice parishioners back, and harassed and ridiculed those who stayed. While some left, many stayed faithful to St. Josephat's but any loss of families made the mortgage that much more difficult to pay. To offset this, a Savings and Loan Association was tried, but due to mismanagement was wiped out. This put the parish under greater threat as now the parish had a mortgage and the parishioners had little to no savings left. When the Great Depression hit, the parishioners did the only thing they could think of to keep their church alive and the creditors at bay: they took mortgages out on their own homes and put their faith in God to see them through. This act and the survival of St. Josephat's Polish National Catholic Church would soon have a profound effect on not just Duluth, but the world.

**IN MAY 1941.** Abram and Beatrice Zimmerman gave birth to their first son Robert Allen at St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth. Part of the city's small but proud Jewish community, the family lived on the second floor of a duplex where Robert could see the steeples of St. Josephat's just down the street. Living in the heart of the Polish National community, Robert's young ears were intrigued by the sounds coming from the outside the window. In his autobiography, Zimmerman would recollect that "[p]olka dances always got my blood pumping. That was the first type of loud, live music I'd ever heard. On Saturday nights the taverns were filled with polka bands." This love of music, born out of the neighborhood in which he spent his



In his autobiography, Bob Dylan said polkas — mostly likely coming from St. Josephat's hall — "... always got my blood pumping." His parents lived down the street from the church.

formative years, would grow and evolve over time. In 1959 while at the University of Minnesota, Robert began introducing himself as Bob, Bob Dylan. With this name, the polka-loving kid would release a few folk albums, play couple of concerts or two, and win the 2016 Nobel Prize in Literature, all because the parishioners at St. Josephat's liked their music loud.

With the 1940s, changes came to St. Josephat's. The first occurred in May of 1941 when the English sermon was introduced to the parish, while the second happened in 1948 when the parish finished paying the mortgage and the church was free of debt. Since the construction of the gothic brick building in 1907 the church was adorned with beautiful Stations of the Cross, stained glass with Polish crests, saints, and icons, and magnificently carved statues.

Today the parish is still a center of Duluth's Polish community and an active representative of the Polish National Catholic Church in Minnesota.

## Copernicus Center Becomes a Reality

ANN ARBOR, Mich.— After nearly a half-century of active programming and instruction, the **Copernicus Program in Polish Studies** has been elevated by the University of Michigan College of Literature, Science, and the Arts to the Copernicus Center for Polish Studies (CCPS).

The Nicolaus Copernicus Endowment was established in 1973 in cooperation with faculty, students, and the Polish Americans of Michigan who contributed generously with their time and financial assistance. It was recognized as a program in 2014, and is now entering a new phase as a full-fledged center.

Under the leadership of director and professor of sociology Genevieve Zubrzycki, the Center will pursue its mission by supporting faculty research and Polish language instruction, and by offering fellowships and internship opportunities. The Center is also committed to bringing Poland to Ann Arbor through programming including lectures, films, and exhibitions. The Annual Copernicus Lecture— established in 1980—is well-known for showcasing prominent academic, cultural, and political figures who advance the understanding of Polish affairs and demonstrate Poland's growing significance in academia, the arts, and foreign affairs.

In the years to come, the Copernicus Center will continue to strengthen its relationships with Polish institutions and develop new ones. The Center was the first U.S. educational institution to sign an agreement with the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, and works closely with NGOs, institutions of higher learning, cultural organizations, and U.S. agencies (such as Fulbright) to offer instruction and research opportunities for our students and faculty.

For more information, visit [ii.umich.edu/polish](http://ii.umich.edu/polish).



POLISH CHEF

# For Heartier Autumn Meals, Look at these Kielbasa Combinations

by Robert Strybel

Autumn with its overcast skies, blustery wind, drizzle and cooler weather increases many people's craving for heartier fare, and kielbasa can play an important role. It can not only be served the traditional way but also provides many opportunities for creative innovation.

**KIEŁBASA AS MAIN COURSE.** Kielbasa may be boiled, pan-fried, baked or grilled and served as the main meat course for dinner. Traditional go-together include boiled or mashed potatoes, stewed sauerkraut, braised beetroot or dill pickles. As condiments provide prepared horseradish and/or sharp brown mustard (such as Polish Sarepska or German Düsseldorf).  
**KIEŁBASA STOCK.** Add an onion, carrot and celery stalk to the water you have boiled smoked or fresh kielbasa in and you'll have an excellent stock for a variety of savory soups. The best are white or red

barszcz, żurek, sauerkraut, cabbage, split pea and bean soup.

**KIEŁBASA STEW.** Used skinned chunked smoked kielbasa in place of fresh meat in your favorite stew recipe. Or, replace only half the meat with kielbasa.

**KIEŁBASA & BEANS.** Fry it up 1 lb. skinned sliced or diced kielbasa 1-2 chopped onion in a little fat. Combine with 2-4 c drained canned beans of choice (navy, Lima, great northern, pea-beans, etc.). Add a splash of ketchup, a T brown mustard, 1 bud crushed garlic, several dashes of red pepper sauce and a splash of vinegar and heat until hot and bubbly. Season with salt & pepper and 1 T marjoram.

**KIEŁBASA & EGGS.** In a little butter, lard, bacon drippings, oil or vegetable-sprayed skillet fry up thin rounds of skinned, smoked kielbasa until lightly browned on both sides. Add fresh eggs, cover and fry sunny-side up until cooked. Or scramble and cook to the moistness or dryness you prefer. Option-

**KIEŁBASA & KAPUSTA,** Sauerkraut can be served as a cooked-vegetable side-dish, but it is even tastier when cooked together with the kielbasa. After draining and rinsing 2 lbs sauerkraut, chop, place in pot, add 2 bay leaves, 3 grains allspice, several peppercorns and 1 mushroom bouillon cube, cover with water and cook at low (after it comes boil) about 45 min. Drain well, place in baking pan using it to blanket 1-2 lbs smoked kielbasa. Bake about 2 hrs. at 350°.



al: Garnish with chopped chives.

**KIEŁBASA IN CASSEROLES.** Skinned sliced smoked kielbasa is great in potato or noodle-based

casseroles. It's best to fry it up first with chopped onion in a little fat before adding to the main-bulk ingredient. Bake as you would with a similar non-kielbasa casserole.

**KIEŁBASA IN SPAGHETTI SAUCE.** Instead of raw ground beef use diced, skinned, smoked kielbasa meat to make your spaghetti and lasagna sauce.

**KIEŁBASA & VEGGIE DELIGHT.** Fry up diced, skinned, smoked kielbasa with chopped onions, bell pepper, skinned tomato and garlic in olive oil until veggies are tender: Season with salt & pepper, oregano, basil and fennel to taste and serve over cooked pasta of choice. Garnish with fresh chopped parsley.

**KIEŁBASA GOŁĄBKI.** Use finely diced meat of skinned smoked kielbasa instead of all or some of the raw ground meat you use in your meat & rice gołąbki. Season more sparingly than when you use raw fresh meat, because the kielbasa already contains salt and seasonings.

**KIEŁBASA PIEROGI.** Dice fine the meat from a skinned smoked kielbasa instead of all or some of the cooked ground meat you use in your normal meat pierogi.

**KIEŁBASA IN SALADS.** Adding a little (1-2 c) diced, skinned smoked kielbasa to about 1 qt of your favorite potato or macaroni salad will turn it into a balanced one-dish meal.

**KIEŁBASA SANDWICH SPREAD.** Process or grind 1 lb. skinned smoked kielbasa with 1-2 quartered onions and 2-3 small dill pickles to a uniform consistency. Stir in a heaping T brown mustard or horseradish and just enough mayonnaise for a nice spreadable consistency. Salt & pepper to taste.

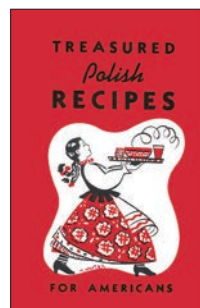


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It contains brief stories of Polish festivities and customs such as Christmas Eve (Wigilia), Harvest Festival (Dożynki) and others.

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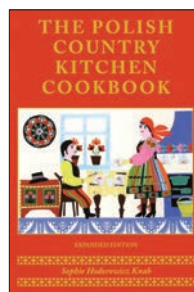
5.5 x 3.5 inches / 160 pp., spiral bound

This little cookbook features a great variety of regional foods, such as hot beer, vegetable soup, leek salad, graham bread, bigos, potato pancakes, dill pickles, nut roll, gingerbread, and royal mazurkas. Readers also will find a table grace and information on dyeing traditional brown Easter eggs.

**POLISH COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK**

by Sophie Knab  
\$19.95  
Item 2-632. 337 pp., sc;

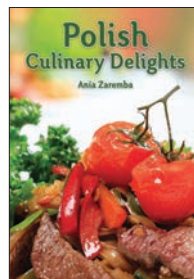
From top-selling author Sophie Hodorowicz Knab comes an expanded



edition to a best-selling book that combines recipes for favorite Polish foods with the history and cultural traditions that created them. Arranged according to the cycle of seasons, this cookbook explores life in the Polish countryside through the year. The *Polish Country Kitchen Cookbook* gives its readers priceless historical information such as the type of utensils used in Poland at the turn of the century, the meaning behind the Pascal butter lamb, and many other insightful answers to common questions asked by descendants of Polish immigrants.

The over 100 easy-to-follow recipes are all adapted for the modern North American kitchen. Illustrations and pearls of practical wisdom ("Household Hints") complement this book.

**POLISH CULINARY DELIGHTS**

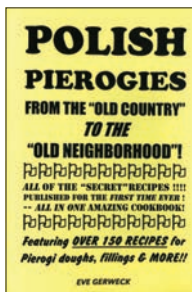


\$24.95  
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Polish Culinary Delights was written to bring authentic Polish recipes of the past few generations to the North American kitchen. Besides finding the usual "traditional Polish" fare, this book includes unique recipes created by Ania and others in her family (grandma, grandpa, uncle, etc.).

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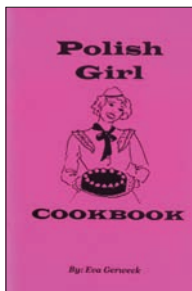
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## SPORTS

## Gunner's Making a Name for Himself



by Tom Tarapacki

Despite suffering a broken nose in his NFL debut with New England, **Gunner Olszewski** (above) seems to be having the time of his life. Taking over from Julian Edelman as the team's primary punt returner, he called for a fair catch on his first return, and then returned one for 20 and one for 15 yards. Olszewski played exclusively on special teams in the opening day 33-3 win over Pittsburgh.

Gunner got the broken nose while making a special teams tackle in the third quarter, but he played the entire game. Showing the attitude that has endeared him to Patriot fans he said: "It's a nose, man. You don't need it to run or anything like that."

Gunner was a long-shot to make the Patriots. Not only did the undrafted free agent rookie transition from defense to offense, but he's also jumped from a Division II college program to the NFL's defending champions.

Kaleb Gunner Olszewski (he goes by his middle name) played at Bemidji State, a D II school in north central Minnesota. As a senior he earned Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Division Player of the Year honors. Gunner was also an outstanding baseball player in college. His father, Eric, was a pitcher and outfielder who played in the Atlanta Braves organization.

The six-foot, 170-pound Gunner was asked by New England to shift to the offense, even though he hadn't played receiver since his junior year at Alvin (Texas) High School.

But the Patriots have had some success with such transitions, including Edelman, a former Kent State QB, who became a star wide receiver and punt returner. Gunner was told that he would be released by the team at the final cut, but he ended up on the 53-man roster.

The Patriots' later addition of receiver Antonio Brown led to speculation that Gunner could be out of a job, but the Patriots released a safety instead.

**COULD GRONK RETURN?** Former New England Patriots tight end **Rob Gronkowski** continues to tease about a possible comeback, saying he wouldn't need much time to train if his passion for football returned. He told the NFL network that he gets asked whether he will return "everywhere I go." He's slimmed down to 245 pounds, 15-20 pounds

less than his playing weight.

Gronkowski, 30, walked away from the NFL as three-time Super Bowl champion, five-time Pro Bowler and four-time All-Pro selection because of physical ailments.

Recently Gronk announced he was partnering with Abacus Health Products to promote their line of CBD products as a pain management alternative for athletes. CBD, which stands for cannabidiol, a non-psychoactive chemical derived from cannabis plants, has become increasingly popular as a treatment for a variety of conditions. Gronkowski talked about the pain he had to deal with, but wouldn't say if he thought using CBD could have extended his NFL career.

Rob and his family have also launched Stadium Blitz, an obstacle course competition. In addition, Gronk has become an investor in Ice Shaker, a protein shaker bottle company run by brother Chris.



**MIKULAK CAPTURES SIXTH NATIONAL TITLE.** **Sam Mikulak** (above) easily won his sixth national title at the U.S. men's gymnastics championships recently in Kansas City, Mo. The 26-year-old posted a two-day all-around total of 174.150, more than five points ahead of the runner-up. With an eye on medaling in the 2020 Olympics, Mikulak increased his difficulty on his high bar despite a big lead.

The California native competed for the University of Michigan and was on the U.S. Olympic team in 2012 and 2016. He'll be old for a gymnast — 27 — if he makes it to the 2020 Tokyo Games, but before he quits he wants to earn an individual Olympic or world medal.

**EARLY RETIREMENT.** Recently Colts quarterback Andrew Luck became the first NFL QB in many years to have made the Pro Bowl while in his 20s, and then immediately retired. The last person to have done that was **Johnny Lujack** in 1952.

Lujack was born to Polish immigrants in Connellsville, Pa., and went on to star at quarterback for Notre Dame. He led the Fighting Irish to three national championships, was a two-time unanimous All-American, and won the 1947 Heisman Trophy. He then joined the NFL Chicago Bears in 1948. Not only was he a record-setting quarterback, but in the days of one-

platoon football he was an excellent defensive back and punter.

In 1952, after two All-Pro seasons, Lujack decided to retire at 26. He was having shoulder and knee issues, and an assistant coaching job opened up at Notre Dame. Money may have also been an issue. Lujack reportedly had hoped to succeed Frank Leahy as head coach, but didn't get the job. He went on to start a car dealership in Davenport, Iowa. Today, at 94, he's the oldest living Heisman Trophy winner.

**A SEASON TO FORGET.** **Daniel Palka** had a great season for the Chicago White Sox in 2018, but this has been a season he'd like to forget. Palka got called up to the majors in late April 2018 and despite playing in only 124 games, led the team with 27 home runs. In 2019 he has struggled mightily at the plate, and spent much of the year in the minors.

A native of South Carolina who played at Georgia Tech, Palka told a White Sox podcast how excited his father was when he was claimed off waivers in 2017. "He was like, 'Man, that's really good. Because if it was the Cubs, you never would have fit in on the North Side.'"

Mike Palka lived with his wife Denise in Chicago and Naperville for a couple of years before Daniel was born. He told his son, "You just fit in very well on the South Side. Lots of Polish people, lots of hardworking people. If this works out, I think it's going to be really good for you," according to Chuck Garfien of NBC Sports.

Garfien told Dan, "Look up the word 'Palka' in the Polish-English dictionary, and it quite fittingly means 'bat' or 'club.'" Palka corrected him: "I think the word is actually 'truncheon.' But I think that might sound a little medieval, so they had to change it to club."

Palka swung a big bat last year, but the 27-year-old has been mired in a sophomore slump in 2019.

**JEREBKO RETURNS TO EUROPE.** NBA veteran **Jonas Jerebko** has signed a two-year deal with EuroLeague club Khimki Moscow Region. Drafted by the Pistons, he played for the Celtics and Jazz before joining the Warriors for his tenth season last year.

Jonas is the son of Chris Jerebko, who starred at St. Francis of Athol Springs (N.Y.) before playing for Syracuse University. Chris, whose father was Russian and his mother Polish (Gorski), accepted an offer to go to Sweden to play professionally with Borås Basket. After five years he married a Swedish woman. Jonas was their oldest child, born in 1987. Jonas, a 6-10 forward was taken in the second-round pick of the 2009 NBA draft, 39th overall, by the Detroit Pistons. He later played for the Celtics and the Jazz before joining the Warriors. He was just the second player ever drafted by the NBA from hockey-crazed Sweden.

**POLAND LEADS ITS GROUP.** After six rounds, Poland remained on



**HURKASZ SERVES UP A TITLE.** Polish women have excelled in tennis for a long time, but a Polish man recently achieved a landmark victory. **Hubert Hurkacz** won the Winston-Salem Open, making it the first such victory for a Polish tennis player in a singles tournament on that level since 1982. Some 37 years ago Wojciech Fibak won the now-defunct WTC Chicago tournament.

Playing in his first ATP final, the 6-5 righty used his power to defeat France's Benoit Paire. The victory lifted the 22-year-old native of Wrocław to his highest ranking ever, 35th.

top of Euro 2020 qualifying group G with 13 points. After beating Israel, North Macedonia, Austria and Latvia earlier in the year, the Poles stumbled in September. They lost to Slovenia, 2-0, and then played to a scoreless tie against Austria.

Poland remains in good position, two points ahead of Slovenia, as the top two teams in each group qualify for the tournament. The 2020 European championships will be held from June 12 to July 12, 2020 in 12 cities around Europe, with the final played at London's Wembley Stadium.

**UNEXPECTED FOR POLISH HOOPS.** It was a big step forward for Poland, but a big step backward for USA. In the FIBA World Cup USA beat Poland, 87-74, to capture seventh place. Poland was eighth in the 32-team field.

Without most of the country's top players, USA struggled in the tournament. On the other hand, Poland, playing in its first World Cup since 1967 and without NBA center Marcin Gortat, did surprisingly well. Against USA, Poland missed its first 13 3-point shots, and fell behind by 17 points at intermission. The Poles never quit,

however, led by **Mateusz Ponitka** (18 points), **Adam Waczynski** (17), and **AJ Slaughter** (15). Slaughter is American-born, but a Polish citizen since 2015.

**HILINSKI'S HOPE.** **Ryan Hilinski** had an impressive debut as quarterback for South Carolina. In the first college game he ever played the 18-year-old true freshman threw for 282 yards and two touchdowns, and ran for another score in three quarters of play. The Gamecocks beat Charleston Southern, an FCS team, 72-10, and set a school record with 775 yards of total offense.

Ryan showed remarkable maturity, but playing football pales in comparison to what his family has been through. In 2018, soon after leading Washington State to the Holiday Bowl, older brother Tyler died by suicide.

Tyler died without his family knowing he had been struggling with mental illness. Doctors later discovered that he had stage-one CTE, a degenerative brain disease linked to concussions. Mark and Kym Hilinski, Ryan's parents, created a foundation, Hilinski's Hope, to help encourage athletes to seek help with mental health issues.

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## The Joys of Being Polish American

by Robert Strybel

This Heritage Month, we ask what sets Polonians apart from Americans of Irish, Italian, German, Hispanic, Jewish, African, Arab, or Asian ancestry?

Naturally, the answers will differ from person to person and place to place, but if you are of Polish descent, some of the following situations or characteristics may ring a bell. See how many resonate with you:

- You trace your stateside family roots to such places as Brooklyn's Greenpoint, Detroit's Hamtramck or Chene Street area, Chicago's Polish Triangle, Pittsburgh's Polish Hill, South Milwaukee, Cleveland's Warszawa neighborhood, the Polish section of many New England mill towns, or some other "Little Poland," Polish neighborhood or part of town.
- *Babcia* or *busia* is the way you call or used to call your granny, and gramps was always *dziadzia* or *dziadek*. And you may also have aunts and uncles known in the family as *Ciocia* Genowefa

and *Wujek* Staś; or the half-and-half versions of *Ciocia* Genevieve and *Wujek* Stan; or English-first versions of Aunt Genia and Uncle Staś.

- You or someone in your family once attended a parish and/or parochial school named after St. Stanislaus, St. Casimir, St. Hedwig, St. Adalbert, or Our Lady of Częstochowa.
- You are familiar with the brand names Krakus, Wyborowa, Sobieski, Żywiec, Okocim, Lech, or Tyskie.
- You remember relatives who used to tuck blessed Palm Sunday palms behind a holy picture prominently displayed in their

home.

- You bristled when hearing that the name Lech Wałęsa Anglo-mangled into something like Letch Wollessa and knew from the very start it was pronounced Lekh Vawensa.
- You also know how to correctly pronounce Tadeusz Kościuszko, Karol Wojtyła, Zbigniew Brzeziński, and Częstochowa.
- Before Christmas and Easter, you drive to the Polish neighborhood to stock up on the traditional Old World goodies, hard to find in suburbia.
- You have heard of people with last names like Krzyszczkowski addressed as "Mr. K."

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## NEBRASKA

### Spreading the Word



**DR. MATTHEW KRAUS** and his mother, Genny Kraus, ambassadors for the Polish Heritage Center of Panna Maria, Texas, had a "Kodak" moment while shopping at the Polish Heritage Center in Ashton, Nebraska.

OMAHA, Neb. — Several ambassadors from the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria, Texas were welcomed by the Polish community in Omaha, Nebraska. The hosts were Tom Jodlowski, Jim Daskie-

wicz, and Jim Rapczynski, who welcomed the visitors at The Polish Home Omaha in Papillion, where the Texans shared news about Panna Maria and the center.

"Polish pride is super high in Omaha. It's really great," said the PHC Director of Development, John Cebrowski, who was accompanied by his wife, Amanda, and Genny Kraus and her son, Dr. Matt Kraus of San Antonio.

A visit to the nearby Polish Heritage Center at Ashton, Nebraska was educational and included a lunch prepared by the director, Phyllis Piechota who also introduced Rev. Dave Rykwald and Jim Stanczyk, the founder of the Ashton Polish Heritage Center.

"Their hospitality was the best," said Genny Kraus.

The following day brought more excitement at the nearby St. Stanislaus Catholic Church Festival, where 5,000 people celebrated and ate 27,000 pierogi. The Texans were honored to meet Rev. William Sanderson, St. Stanislaus' pastor, who stopped by the PHC booth and, along with many others, expressed surprise at learning about the 1854 immigration from Poland to Panna Maria, the first Polish settlement in the United States. "We are thrilled to have had this opportunity to enjoy building great relationships with Polonia in Nebraska. We can't wait to go back," said Cebrowski.

To learn more about the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria, visit [polishheritagecentertx.org](http://polishheritagecentertx.org).

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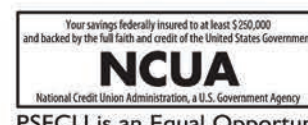
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## GENEALOGY

# Saving Your Polish Heritage

by Stephen M Szabados

Polish craftsmen were at Jamestown in 1608! Polish workers were among the craftsmen who were recruited to produce materials needed to build the Jamestown settlement and to manufacture tar and resins needed to repair the ships.

When did your Polish ancestors immigrate? Why did they leave their homes? If you do not know, explore some possible reasons. Do not assume that the cause was economic or to avoid the military draft. Did other siblings immigrate? Did their parents immigrate? What was the status or occupation of your ancestors in Poland? Multiple factors forced the migrations from Poland, and your immigrant may have been affected by more than one element. Remember that each immigrant has a unique story, and it is part of our Polish heritage. We need to search the records and write down our oral history to save it for our future generations.

My Polish grandparents came from neighboring parishes, but different circumstances caused their immigration. My grandfather, Stefan, had ancestors who were nobility, but his family was forced to work their farmland because their farm was very small. It could barely support their family. My grandfather, a brother, and a sister had to leave home to find a better life. My grandmother, Anna, came from the same area as Stefan and also had ancestors who were nobles. Her family farm was also very small and could only support one family. However, her life in Poland and immigration story is different from Stefan. She and two older brothers were the only members to survive World War I. However, Anna had to find a husband, but her brother could not find one for her in Poland. She was sent to America to find her husband.

**IT WAS NOT EASY TO IMMIGRATE** to America. Leaving home was a very emotional decision. Those who left, saw immigration as their only chance to escape the poverty of their life in Poland. Not only were they leaving their family and friends, but the emigrants were leaving their beloved homeland behind. Some may have been excited about emigrating, but there was also fear of the unknown — most left home with tears in their eyes.

They were mostly farmers who were forced to

leave Poland. If they were married, they left to find food for their children. If they were single, they left to find work because there was an excess of farm labor and no room for them on the family farm.

**AFTER THE IMMIGRANTS ARRIVED** in America, they felt joy and relief as they walked past the gate into the United States. However, their journey was not over. They were tired and probably hungry from their trip. They were thrilled and bewildered by what they saw of their new land.

Try to describe their lives in America. Look through old pictures in family albums and also history books of the local area and neighborhoods. Pictures of their homes, neighborhood, and their church are vital. Identify where they worked because this would have been a significant part of their lives. Look at their overall experience in America. How did they enjoy their new life? Did they do anything outside of work? Did they have a hobby? Were they active in a fraternal group? Did you find pictures of family gatherings? How was their life here better than what they would have had in Poland?

You will not find answers to most of these questions. However, asking the questions and doing the research will give you a perspective of what your ancestors experienced and give you a better understanding of their character and your Polish Heritage.

**OUR IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS WERE HEROES**, and they are the foundation of our roots in the United States. Our lives would be much different if they did not endure the challenges of emigration from Poland. Do not underestimate their contributions. They may have left us some material wealth, but the most significant contribution they left is their role in the factories and farms of the United States. Their names will not appear in history books, but their efforts impacted American history, and without their sacrifices, our country would not have developed as it did. Their lives were the building blocks in the growth of their new country, and their immigration influenced the quality of our lives today in the United States. Remember that they made many sacrifices for you and helped build this country.

Save the stories for your future generations  
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## THE PONDERING POLE

### Bitter or Better?

by Ed Poniewaz

This alliteration came from the sermon at Mass, Labor Day weekend, and the priest was talking about whether our work and life consists mainly of bitterness and disappointment, or are we always thinking that what we do makes life better for ourselves and for others. He tied it to the Gospel message in this way: if you love God, love your neighbor, and very important, if you love yourself, then your life cannot be filled with bitterness. Those rules can only point us in the direction of making life *better* for

ourselves and others.

If you are Polish, sometimes it is hard not to fall into frustration, disappointment, and, unfortunately bitterness. We hear and read the criticism leveled at Poles over and over again for their role in World War II, the political and social tumult going on in that country, (true or otherwise), and of the diminishing participation, presence, and awareness of Polonia in this country. You can probably add your own disappointments to these.

For any of the bitterness we encounter, remember there is usually the flip side. The Poles perform-

ance in World War II was heroic, the modern Poland on balance is a stable, productive, and energized country, and while the excitement and newness of immigration has worn off for most Polish Americans, those still living and enjoying adherence to or promotion of Polish culture are probably more dedicated and mature in their approach and consciousness and willingness to contribute or participate.

For the most part, Poles in the United States or at home in Poland are more educated, secure, freer, and richer probably than they have ever been. The *Wikipedia* listing of ethnic groups by household income (2016 data) shows Polish Americans with a median income of \$71,172 or 29th place out of 97 groups reported. Average wages (2017 data) in Poland are among the highest in Eastern Europe. If there is nothing else to cheer about, at least the one thing we can hold dear: if we were dreaming of a better life then we've achieved it. Because we've achieved it, the overall society is the better for it as well.

In another Wiki post — and an example of the stats just stated — there is billionaire **Edward P. Roski, Jr.** who is the son of Ed Roski Sr., “the son of a poor immigrant family from Poland who did not finish high school. Roski Sr. served in the

United States Navy during World War II, and then moved the family to Southern California, where he founded Majestic Realty in 1948.” Sr. did not finish high school but started what eventually became a giant real-estate company.

Ed Jr. picked up where dad left off and took over the reins of Majestic. He now owns more than 83 million square feet of real estate across the United States. He is the owner of multiple pro sports teams. Perhaps his greatest claim to fame is his role as co-developer of the Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles. You can explore more to this man's fabulous life and I'm guessing you will find the thread that ran through it was not bitterness but optimism and a desire to make things better for himself and those around him. Isn't that the better choice?

#### Beautiful

A person you most probably know but has been popping up on the ticker quite a bit lately is the exceeding beautiful actress **Yvonne Strahovski**. Born July 30, 1982, her real name is Yvonne Jaqueline Strzechowski. You probably were introduced to her as the character Sarah Walker in the series *Chuck*. Yvonne has gotten a lot of work in film and television since *Chuck*, and her most recent television se-



Strahovski

ries is *The Handmaid's Tale*, for which she has received a Primetime Emmy Award nomination.

It seems Yvonne is getting better and better in her career and we are very happy for her.

#### Thanks to

... Debbie Majka of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) for the information regarding Yvonne Strahovski. Thank you as well for your leadership and the important work you have done in the ACPC.



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## DANCE TIME

# IPA Inducts Newest Members to Hall of Fame

by Jennifer Pijanowski

Polka fans found their way to Buffalo, N.Y. this Labor Day weekend as the **International Polka Association** hosted its 51st annual convention. Three full days of music and entertainment took center stage at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga.

As out-of-town polka lovers began checking in, friends had a chance to get together for the kick off pool party featuring **Buffalo Concertina All Stars**. The gorgeous sunny afternoon in the open roof atrium proved a delightful start to another polka festival.

The evening's entertainment was provided by **John Gora & Gorale** along with **Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push**. Both of these bands are stellar entertainers and made this Friday night a must attend for the hundreds of fans who travelled locally and from across the United States and Canada. John showcased many songs from his new recording *My Polish Roots and Beyond*. I was right up front when he sang a few

copy of the CD, you are missing a phenomenal recording. Visit [www.johngora.com](http://www.johngora.com) for more information.

It is plain to see how **Lenny Gomulka** as well as his band receives constant awards for favorite band and vocalist. Their personable charm and talent exudes from the stage. Lenny shared with us that evening that he had played John and

I attend this event, I am reminded of how much hard work and dedication these musicians have for polka music.

While each acceptance speech is special, the few stories that Stanky told from his over 70 years in the business had everyone hanging on his every word. I can only imagine the number of stories he would have shared if the time was available.



Hannah Yash, Lucas Yash, Joey Blackburn, and Randi Zebrowski.

their award winning song "Home" truly sounded like it could be a recording. Their performance is a testament to the professionalism and talent of these musicians. To have never practiced together and pull off sounding like they had played that song a hundred times together is remarkable.

After two incredible days of fun, friendship, and music, it was

### CPA Anniversary Dance

The Cleveland Polka Association is celebrating its anniversary and invites you to join in the fun. A dance will be held Sat., Oct. 12, 2019 at the Holy Spirit Party Center, 5500 W. 54th St. Parma, Ohio with music by Dynabrass. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. with music from 7:00-11:00 p.m. for only a \$13.00 donation and kids 18 and under are



Stephanie Bieniek, Alicia Iwanczuk, and Lindsey Mateja.



The Halter Family with Big Steves Krzeminski's Induction plaque: Darrell, Brooke, Griffin, and Steve's daughter Lynn.

of my favorites including "Hey Hey Goralu," "Walentyzna," and "Ach Te Baby." If you haven't picked up a

Dianne Gora's wedding 30 years ago. Lenny dedicated a song "With This Ring" to them and they began dancing in the middle of the floor. They also invited Les and Alice Kapuscinski (celebrating their 41st anniversary), and Stanley and Jean Warda (celebrating their 61st) to join them as a circle of fans surrounded them, singing along while they danced.

After a few hours of sleep, it was time for the 50th Annual IPA Music and Hall of Fame Awards. This year's inductees were **Ted Lange, Steve Meisner, John "Stanky" Stankovic, Roger Lichwala, and Buffalo's own "Big Steve" Krzeminski**. Over 50 of Steve's friends, family members, and bandmates gathered at the ceremony to celebrate his induction in the Pioneer category. Every year that

A special congratulations to the 2018 music award recipients which included: **Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, Stephanie Pietrzak, Box On, Molly Busta-Lange, Steve Meisner, Lynn Marie Hrovat, and Eddie Roddick III**.

After the awards ceremony I caught up with friends while listening to the Buffalo Touch at the pool party, which offers entertainment for those who do not attend the banquet. The Touch got everyone pumped and ready for the evening's line-up, which consisted of **Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men, The Boys, and IPA Tribute Band**.

From a personal standpoint, Saturday night with the IPA Tribute Band is my absolute favorite part of the weekend. These talented musicians invite Hall-of-Famers and award recipients up to perform a song or two with the band. This year was filled with HOFers **Randy Koslosky, Kevin Adams, Freddy Bulinski, Joe Macielag, Billy Belina, Freddy Kendzierski, Ray Jay Jarusinski, Ed Guca, and Stephanie**. We also got to witness **John "Foo" Furmaniak** taking the stage to sing and play accordion after some health issues over the past few years. It was incredible to see him back up on the stage loving every minute. Buffalo fans were front and center to listen to **Mark Trzeczak** singing some Big Steve favorites to celebrate being newly inducted. Hall-of-Famer **John Stanky** sang with his daughters playing horn alongside him, and had the crowd chanting the words.

The talent of the IPA Tribute Band really shines through as they adapt to all of the different vocalists and types of music, but when **LynnMarie and Eddie Roddick** took the stage, the transformation was astonishing. Their performance of

time to give thanks with a polka Mass. The music was provided by the joyful melodies of the **Kosmix**. After a beautiful service, Sunday



Sandy Zaganiacz and leader of The Maestro's Men, Dennis Polisky.

events were in full swing with an "unplugged" Jam Session in which anyone could come and participate. A circle of musicians shared their love of music and entertained many of us until the events began in the hall with **Ray Jay & the Carousels**. Ray Jay and **The Beat** alternated for a dynamite afternoon of music before **Freeze Dried** and **Polka Country Musicians** took the crowd into the early morning hours of Monday. Sunday's stellar lineup made it hard to find some spare time to run out and grab a bite to eat because you didn't want to miss a set of any of these bands. Incredible musicians, outstanding hospitality, and the superb facilities of the Millennium compliment the hard work and dedication of everyone involved at the International Polka Association to create a memorable weekend. It will be held once again in Buffalo next Labor Day so please mark your calendars to support this terrific organization and event.

free. There will be food and beverages available on site. You can call Elaine at (216) 496-0223 for more information.

### A Scary-Good Time

Come to Cohoes, N.Y. for two great dances in one terrific weekend as Hrukus Hellraisers presents **Special Delivery** and **The Beat** for their annual Howlin' Halloween Polka Weekend! Special Delivery will be making their first appearance in Cohoes, Sat., Oct. 26 The event will be held at the Ukrainian American Citizen Club, 1 Pulaski St., Cohoes, N.Y. with music from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. on Saturday evening.

To finish out this tremendous weekend, come back on Sunday October 27th where polka music continues with **The Beat** from 1:00-5:00 p.m.

For tickets, call Debbie Rymanowski at (518) 235-8356



Marty Merwin, Jack and Louise Jarosinski, Linda Merwin, Frank and Debbie Bischooping at St. Stanislaus Kostka Polish Arts Festival in Rochester, N.Y.



Adam Biskup and Mike Nowakowski prepare for Freeze Dried's rendition of "Under the Sea" at the IPA Festival in Buffalo, N.Y.



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### 2019 FALL-WINTER EVENTS

- **SAT. OCT. 12 PULASKI DAY DINNER/ 80TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION 5:00 P.M.-MIDNIGHT**  
Advance reservations only
- **SUN. OCT. 13, NEW GENERATION BAND (WIS.) 2:00-6:00 P.M.** (admission \$12.00 at the door)
- **SUN. NOV. 3, GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 12:30 P.M.**  
Nickelcity Dave DJ / 2:00-5:00 p.m.
- **DYNA BRASS (OH.) WEEKEND**  
**Fri. Nov. 15,** Meet 'n Greet, DJ Nickelcity Dave 6:00 p.m. Free  
**Sat. Nov. 16,** 6:00-10:00 p.m. and  
**Sun. Nov. 17,** 2:00-6:00 p.m. (admission \$12.00 at the door)
- **SAT. NOV. 30, ANDRZEJKA (NON-POLKA EVENT) 7:00 P.M.-2:00 A.M.** (\$25.00 per person)  
INFO: Mary Kiselus (602) 526-7321
- **THURS. DEC. 12, POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION 6:00-10:00 P.M.**
- **SUN. DEC. 15, CHRISTMAS DINNER AND DANCE**  
Dinner 1:00-3:00 p.m.  
Dance w/ Varitones Band 3:00-6:00 p.m.  
MEMBERS \$15.00, NON-MEMBERS \$20.00, KIDS 7-14- ½ price,  
Under 7 "FREE" / RESERVATIONS REQUESTED BY CALLING  
(602) 909-4965, 602-275-9329
- **TUES. DEC. 31ST, NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY 7:00 P.M.-2:00 A.M.** INFO: Mary Kiselus (602) 526-7321

www.pulaskiclubaz.org, www.facebook.com/pulaskiclub.az  
Admission: \$8.00 members/\$10.00 guests (unless noted)  
Doors open 1 hour before event • Bands & Times subject to change



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Email: lilhruka@aol.com

## POLKA CALENDAR

Compiled by John Ziobrowski

To list your event, please send date, band, location, times, and contact number to:  
ziobrowskijohn@gmail.com

### OCTOBER 4

- Jimmy K St. Stanislaus Cleveland, Ohio. 6:30-10:30 (216) 341-9091
- Tony's Polka Band Pumpnickel's Bolton Landing, N.Y. 8-12 (518) 644-2106
- John Stevens VFW Mifflinburg, Pa. 7 P.M. (570) 966-9257
- Tony Blazonczyk Polish Falcons Grand Rapids, Mich. 7-12 (616) 774-8485

### OCTOBER 5

- Jimmy Sturr Village Pavilion Montgomery, N.Y. 4-6
- Dennis Polisky Assumption of The Holy Virgin Clifton, N.J. 6-10:30 (973) 777-2906
- Tony's Polka Band Pumpnickels Bolton Landing, N.Y. 8-12 (518) 644-2106
- Lenny Gomulka St. Stans Cleveland, Ohio. 6:30-11 (216) 341-9091
- Polka Country Musicians PACC Ludlow, Mass. 2:30-6:30 (413) 592-0367
- John Stevens Marty Magee's Pub Prospect Park, Pa. 7 P.M. (610) 583-9880
- Tony Blazonczyk Polish Falcons Grand Rapids, Mich. 1-3/7-12 (616) 774-8495

### OCTOBER 6

- Eastern Sound Dom Polski Lowell, Mass. 1-5 (978) 452-8262
- John Stevens Spring Gate Vineyard Harrisburg, Pa. 1:30 P.M. (717) 857-5544
- Tony Blazonczyk Polish Falcons Grand Rapids, Mich. 1-5 9616) 774-8495
- New Direction Roselawn Banquets, N.Y. Mills, N.Y. 2-6 (315) 736-5030
- Special Delivery. Gene McCarthy's. Buffalo, N.Y. (716) 855-8948

### OCTOBER 10

- Special Delivery. Pott's Banquet Hall. Polka Buzz TV Taping. 7 P.M. (716) 826-6575

### OCTOBER 11

- Lenny Gomulka/Polka Riot Polka Fest. Owosso, Mich. 5-11:30 (989) 723-5149

### OCTOBER 12

- Dennis Polisky Elks Middletown, N.Y. 7-11 (845) 649-5307
- Lenny Gomulka/New Brass Express Polka Fest Owosso, Mich. 2-8 (989) 723-5149
- Eastern Sound Loon Mtn. Lincoln, N.H. 11-4:30 (800) 229-5666
- The Boys Kinloch Fire Hall New Kens-

- ington, Pa. 6-10 (412) 260-9725
- DynaBrass Holy Spirit Party Ctr. Parma, Ohio. 7-11 (216) 496-0223

### OCTOBER 13

- Special Delivery. Polka Mass. St. Andrew's Church, Sloan, N.Y. 11 a.m. (716) 892-0425
- Special Delivery. The Nite-Capoe. Lackawanna, N.Y. 3-6 (716) 825-9488
- Eddie Forman PACC Ludlow, Mass. 2:30-6:30 (413) 592-0367
- DynaBrass Holy Spirit Cleveland, Ohio. 3-7 (216) 496-0223
- Lenny Gomulka VFW Dearborn Heights, Mich. 2-6 (313) 274-4666
- Eastern Sound Loon Mtn. Lincoln, N.H. 11-4:30 (800) 229-5666
- Joe Stanky Monaghan Fire Hall Dillsburg, Pa. 2-6 (717) 697-8012

### OCTOBER 15

- Polka Family Aqua Turf Plantsville, Conn. 11-3:30 (860) 621-9335

### OCTOBER 16

- New Direction Polish Falcons Depew, N.Y. 8-10:30 (716) 684-2373

### OCTOBER 19

- June Ingram RBO Sacred Heart Suffield, Conn. 6-10 (860) 668-4246
- Dennis Polisky Ocean Mist Matunuck, R.I. 2-6 (401) 782-3740

### OCTOBER 20

- Dennis Polisky Elks Brick, N.J. 2-6 (732) 504-7808
- Mass Brass PACC Ludlow, Mass. 2:30-6:30 (413) 592-0367
- Randy Krajewski PRCUA Hall Toledo, Ohio. 2-6 (419) 691-5684
- Eastern Sound St. Hedwig Manchester, N.H. 1-3 (603) 623-4835
- John Stevens Eagles Club Stroudsburg, Pa. 1-5 (570) 424-1106
- John Gora Slovenian Hall Yukon, Pa. 2-6 (724) 722-9700

### OCTOBER 23

- John Gora. Polka Variety Club Meeting. Leonard Post Cheektowaga, N.Y. 7:30-10 (716) 684-4371
- Tom Mroczka St. Ambrose Brunswick, Ohio. 1:30-4:30 (330) 460-7300

### OCTOBER 25

- Polka Country Musicians Murzyn Hall Columbia Heights, Minn. 7-11 (763) 706-3730

### OCTOBER 26

- Special Delivery. Ukrainian Club Cohoes, N.Y. 6-10 (518) 233-9265
- New Direction Kosciusko Club Dunkirk, N.Y. 5-9 (716) 366-1044
- The Knewz, John Gora. Polish Hall Burlington On. 5-12:30 (905) 639-3236
- Polka Country Musicians Rookies Pub Steven's Point, Wisc. 7-11 (715) 344-7026

- John Stevens Castel Club Easton, Pa. 4-7 (610) 253-4838
- Live Wire Raisin Cain Almond, Wisc. (715) 366-2266

### OCTOBER 27

- Dennis Polisky. Polish Home Philadelphia, Pa. (215) 906-1825
- Polka Country Musicians. Merriotte Park, Ill. 2-6 (708) 388-8881

### NOVEMBER 2

- DynaBrass PACC Ludlow, Mass. 2:30-6:30 (413) 592-0367
- Local Boyz. Alert Fire Hall Emigsville, Pa. 7-11 (717) 235-4667

### NOVEMBER 3

- Dennis Polisky Polish Club Uxbridge, Mass. 1-5 (413) 531-7576
- John Stevens Roselawn Banquets New York Mills, N.Y. 2-6 (315) 736-5030

- Joe Stanky VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 472-1152

- DynaBrass Nativity BMV Church Reading, Pa. 2-6 (610) 376-0586

### NOVEMBER 7-10

- Jimmy Sturr Wurstfest New Braunfels, Texas. (830) 625-9167

### NOVEMBER 9

- Lenny Gomulka St. Joe's Colchester, Conn. 6-10 (860) 537-2550
- Polka Country Musicians/Polka Family Holiday Inn Independence, Ohio. 7-1 (216) 524-8050
- Polka Method Monaghan Fire Hall Dillsburg, Pa. 5-9 (717) 697-8012

### NOVEMBER 10

- Lenny Gomulka PACC Ludlow, Mass. 2:20-6:30 (413) 592-0357
- Polka Country Musicians Antonelli Event Ctr. Irwin, Pa. 3-7 (724) 382-4600
- Polka Method VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 472-1152

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Birthdays courtesy Li'l John's Polka Show, WAVL Radio 910 AM and 98.7 FM, Saturday 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., and on the web at www.987jack.fm. Live streaming at www.PA\_Talk.com. For information, write to: 121 Seminole Dr., Greensburg, PA 15601; (724) 834-7871; johnnalevanon@aol.com.

2	Eddie Benbenek	1932	1997	Musician / Vocalist (Original Marion Lush Band)	Chicago
2	Jimmy Killian	1942		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
4	Frank Wojnarowski	1907	8/24/94	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Connecticut
5	Bruno Mikos	1946		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Ohio
6	Casey Homel	1942	12/15/07	Bandleader / Musician	Chicago
6	Eddie Ogrodny	1951		Musician / Vocalist (Li'l Ronnie & Carousels)	Pa.
7	John Jeski	1953	8/19/07	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Conn.
8	Joe Stolarz	1950		Musician / Vocalist	Pa.
9	Andy Fenus	1944		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist (Tel/Tones)	Pa.
9	Dave Morris			Musician / Vocalist	Pa.
9	Dave Zychowski			Musician / Vocalist	Pa.
9	Craig Ebel	1963		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / DJ	Minn.
9	Keith Stras	1961		Promoter / DJ / Vocalist	Ill.
10	Al Kania	1946		Musician / Vocalist	N.Y.
10	Michalene Korosa			Manager (Eddie Korosa & Boys From Illinois)	Ill.
11	Zennon (Zen) Esula			Accordianist	Ill.
11	Jimmy K. Krzeszewski	1959		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / Distributor	Mich.
12	Polish Bill Morano	1938		Polka DJ / Promoter	Johnstown, Pa.
12	Hank Marzuchowski	1949		Musician (Drummer)	N.J.
14	Chuck Pendrak	1954		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	N.J.
15	Larry Olson	1951		Musician	N.C.
15	Mike Ziemiński			Musician	Md.
17	Eddie (Mack) McKrisky	1921	6/23/06	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Pa.
17	Fran Fierst			Polka Promoter (Fran's Polka Weekends)	N.J.
20	Tommy Kostek			Accordianist (Golden Brass, New Brass)	Mass.
23	Alvin Styczynski	1935		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / DJ	Wisc.
25	Paul Romanowski	1965		Musician / Vocalist / DJ	N.C.
25	Randy Koslosky			Musician / Vocalist / Arranger	Pa.
27	Sam Pugliano	1935	6/13/13	Bandleader / Musician / DJ	Pa.
28	Larry Szabo	1954	3/10/09	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Toledo
29	Dave Walter	1969		Bandleader / Vocalist (Old School, TBC)	Ohio
31	Frank Polwaski			Polka D. J. / Promoter	Pa.



### RBO Releases Christmas CD

MYSTIC, Conn. — The Rich Bobinski Orchestra (RBO) has announced the release of a new Christmas CD, "An RBO Christmas." The CD includes 17 songs, all of which are either original compositions or new arrangements. Also included is a spoken interlude about the kolędy, Polish carols.

Vocalists are Eddie Biegaj, Polka Paul Belanger, and Eddie Zavaski, Jr. Musicians are Jim Turrek, Greg Dolecki, June Ingram, Eddie Zavaski, Jr., Rich Pavasaris, Dave Gocłowski, Marc Garofalo, and Jim Sajkowicz.

RBO said the aim of the CD is "to bring back the nostalgia of Christmases of our youth and to

continue the tradition of the Polish Christmas."

Songs include "Dancer the Toe-Tapping Reindeer," "Jingle Bells" polka, "Frolicking Snowflakes" polka, "Ignatz the Polish Reindeer" polka, "Ballad for All Seasons," "Silver Bells," "Winter Wonderland," "White Christmas," "Serdeczna Matko," "Dzisiaj W Betlejem," "Gdy Sie Chrystus Rodzi," "Lulajze Jezuniu," "Przybiezeli Do Betlejem," "Cicha Noc," "W Zlobie Lezy," "Wśród Nocnej Cisy," and "Hej w Dzień Narodzenia."

For more information about RBO, visit [www.richbobinski.com](http://www.richbobinski.com).



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Archive: <https://www.mix-cloud.com/david-j-jackson/>

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ACROSS AMERICAN POLONIA

CONNECTICUT

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. — The S.A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish Studies announces a Fiedorczyk Lecture by Vivian Reed, entitled “An American in Warsaw,” Wed., Oct. 9, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., Founders Hall, Davidson Building, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain.

The lecture will discuss Hugh Gibson, a notable twentieth century diplomat, who had a knack of finding himself in the right place, at the right time for something of global interest to happen. The rebirth of Poland was one of those things, and Gibson was on hand to participate in and bear official witness to the momentous events as the U.S. Minister to Poland, 1919-1924.

On Thurs., Oct. 24, 2019, 7:00 p.m. in Welte Auditorium, CCSU, the S.A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish Studies presents “Polish Opera - Moniuszko and others.”

The talk will be about Baroque music in Poland in the context of the historical events, and 18th and 19th century opera as a symbol of Polish national identity vs. French, Italian, and German traditions.

The event will also feature a performance of selected operatic pieces by the singers of the Connecticut Lyric Opera.

On Thurs., Nov. 14, at 7:00 p.m. in Founders Hall, Davidson Building, CCSU, the Chair will present “Paris - Warsaw - St. Petersburg - Romantic Virtuosos and their legacy.”

From Chopin to Wieniawski, the evening is dedicated to the great

Romantic performance, traditions and the legacy of Polish culture. Selected instrumental performances will be featured.

These events are free, and the public is cordially invited. For further information please contact the Polish Studies at (860) 832-3010 or jacquesm@ccsu.edu.

Public parking available in campus garages.

Driving directions and parking information available at www.ccsu.edu/visit.

NEW YORK

MIDDLETOWN — The Hudson Valley Polonaise Society will celebrate Polish American Heritage Month with its 28th Annual Polonaise Ball Dinner-Dance, 6:00-11:00 p.m., on October 12, 2019 at the Middletown Elks Lodge, 48 Prospect St., Middletown.

Tickets are \$45.00 per person, which includes hors d'oeuvres and buffet dinner served at 6:00 p.m., prepared by Table 21 Catering. The Grand Polonaise event is at 7:00 p.m. and music will be provided by the award-winning Dennis Polisky & the Maestros Men from Connecticut. Pine Island, N.Y.'s exciting Pokolenie Dancers will also perform.

The Hudson Valley Polonaise Society is dedicated to preserving the beautiful customs and traditions of Polish Heritage. Come help us spread Polish pride by joining with family and friends at this annual Hudson Valley Polonaise Society event. And while you are in the area, you can enjoy the many wonderful activities offered in Or-

ange County's Hudson Valley, from wineries and distilleries located in our beautiful black dirt region to premium shopping locations, craft villages, and more.

For ticket information, visit Facebook @ Hudson Valley Polonaise Society, or contact Cynthia at (845) 649-5307 or Michelle at (845) 591-8535.

MASSACHUSETTS

FALL RIVER — The Polish American Citizens Club of Tadeusz Kosciuszko will sponsor a bus trip to New York City, Sun., Oct. 5 for the 82nd Annual Pulaski Day Parade. The bus will depart from Somerset at 6:00 a.m. from the Park & Ride at Exit 4A of the I-195 West (1701-1759 Wilber Ave.). It will also pick up passengers in Central Falls, R.I. at St. Joseph's Church. The return trip will depart New York at 6:00 p.m.

For information, call Brian Curt at (508) 678-0987.

MICHIGAN

HAMTRAMCK — The Piast Institute has announced the launch of its updated web site which has been outfitted with a new design, updated information and access to more resources. The web site address remains www.PiastInstitute.org.

Summer intern Logan Hughes, a sophomore at the University of Michigan, led the project.

The updated site features a new navigation bar to provide quick and easy access to site pages to view the most recent news and updates from the Institute, learn about the history

Picture Perfect



JULIA MASON (NÉE NIEDZIALEK) AND DAUGHTER ELIZABETH, were captured by Plain Dealer photographer Lynn Ischay at the One World Festival in Cleveland, Aug. 25, 2019.

One World Day has been celebrated at Cleveland's Cultural Gardens since 1945. It is the highlight of summer events in the Gardens, and an occasion at which all the Gardens get together to celebrate as one. Events include a Parade of Flags, a naturalization ceremony, cultural performances, entertainment, gardens exhibitors, authentic diverse ethnic food, guided Lolly the Trolley Tours, children's activities, and more.

The Masons and Niedzialeks are members of St. Casimir's parish.

and people of Piast or access information about Piast programs. The program pages have been updated to include the most recent information and the Institute's newest programs, the “Trip to Poland” and the “Seal of Bilingualism.”

The website resources page has also been updated to include a list of links to information on related organizations and a more comprehensive virtual library of academic writings relating to issues impacting Poles, Polish Americans and immigrant communities. Additional articles and research can also be requested from the Institute's in-house archives.

NEW JERSEY

Throughout the summer, a series of concerts was presented by the Nassau County Department of Recreation and Parks. These included the popular International Nights Series at Eisenhower Park, East Meadow.

On Mon., Aug. 19, the re-scheduled “Polish American Night under the Stars” at the Harry Chapin Lakeside Theater was hosted by the American Polish Council of Long Island, under the direction of its president, Dr. John Pitrowski.

The audience was welcomed in Polish and English by Nassau County Executive Laura Curran, who acknowledged veterans, followed by the presentation and posting of colors by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 12-03 Glen Cove, and by Evelina Backiel, who sang the Polish and American anthems.

The program, which featured Polish music from the past and present, was introduced by master of ceremonies, Dr. John Pitrowski. It commenced with the Nos Te Domine Youth Choir, under the direction of Bogdan Czerwonka, singing “Lipka and Rokiczanka,” accompanied by the Two Roberts Orchestra. Vocalist Evelina Backiel sang in Polish and English. Among her selections were “Czarne Oczy.” Singer Magda Baldych performed contemporary Polish songs, while Thomas Poplawski, vocalist, had the audience singing and dancing on the grass to “Daj Mi Te Noc” and “Cyganczka Zosia,” and others.

— Barbara Szydłowski

PENNSYLVANIA

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Chapter of the Kosciuszko

Foundation will present its Outstanding Polonian Award to Helen Pelc Mannarino, CEO of Pierogies Plus in McKees Rocks, during a luncheon, Sat., Oct. 26, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. The event will be held at the Edgewood Country Club, 100 Churchill Rd., Pittsburgh.

An entrepreneur who has done much to advance the employment of women in the Pittsburgh area, Helen initially began making pierogi because she missed the cuisine of her homeland. She emigrated from Warsaw, Poland to Pittsburgh in 1974 at the age of 27. She took business training courses and opened her own specialty food shop in 1991. Helen soon outgrew her kitchen and expanded into her current location. She has employed and trained dozens of women over the years from Eastern Europe and the United States. Her pierogi are made by hand, using natural ingredients, literally just like her *babcia* (grandmother) used to make.

Helen Mannarino's Pierogies Plus are available in regional restaurants and groceries. She has been featured in *USA Today*, *The Food Network's Food Finds*, *Bobby Flay's Food Nation*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *NBC News*, and the *Pittsburgh PostGazette*. In addition to growing a local business, Helen has helped to make authentic pierogi a household world in the Pittsburgh tri-state area.

Proceeds from the KF's annual luncheon support its scholarship fund. To learn more, visit thekf.org, and click the “chapters” link.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dr. John Grondelski, who served as senior desk officer for Poland from 2016-19 in the Office of Central European Affairs of the State Department, received a Meritorious Honor Award for his contribution to bilateral relations in 2018 during the European Affairs Bureau Awards Ceremony on July 30.

Grondelski was promoted August 1 to deputy director of the Office of Central Europe Office, which covers U.S. relations with Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Switzerland as well as Poland.

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