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POPE JOHN PAUL II'S
INSPIRATION TO
NONVIOLENCE — PAGE 9

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

JERSEY CITY'S KATYN MEMORIAL TO STAY • LANDMARK STATUS SOUGHT FOR JANTA-POLCZYNSKA HOME
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ESTIMATED NUMBER OF POLISH AMERICANS BY COUNTY • HONEYBEES AND THEIR POLISH BEEKEEPERS

NEWSMARK

Drones to Complement F-35 Order

With Poland set to acquire 32 F-35A fighter jets under a deal signed in January, the aircraft's manufacturer is gearing up to supply the country with long-range drones to enhance the F-35's operational capacities.

Both the U.S. and Poland are interested in a next-generation UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) capability," said Jack O'Banion, the vice president for strategy and customer requirements at Lockheed-Martin's Skunk Works division. "We've seen the Polish Ministry of Defense's Technical Modernization Plan, which was released last year, which outlines the UAS need."

O'Banion said Lockheed-Martin saw "a significant overlap" between the U.S. and Polish tactical requirements for new drones, and it is highly interested in creating partnerships with local defense manufacturers to jointly develop and produce unmanned aerial systems.

Deliveries of the F-35 are expected to begin in 2024. Poland will add the fighters to its fleet of 48 F-16 C/D Block 52+ jets.

Dance Icon Witold Zapata, 85, Dead

Witold Zapata, the master of choreography, artist, dancer, teacher and icon of the "Mazowsze" Polish Song and Dance Company for over 60 years, passed away at the age of 85. He combined a passion for creating innovative choreography with a love of folklore. His vision, complemented by founder Mira Zimińska-Sygietyńska's stage experience, permanently enriched the ensemble's repertoire with arrangements and dance suites, which are still presented on stages all over the world. He also trained Polish folk dancers in the United States and choreographed for Polish Opera companies.



Polish Solidarity with Belarus Bridges Political Divide

Peaceful protests in neighboring Belarus against President Alexandr Lukashenko's allegedly rigged re-election and his brutal police reprisals against demonstrators have generated rare political consensus in Poland. The liberal opposition is usually bitterly opposed to anything the ruling conservative Law and Justice party does. This time, however, both sides of the Polish political divide support the freedom-seeking Belarusians and voted in the European Parliament for sanctions against the regime's leadership. Poland has offered political asylum to oppressed Belarusian protesters. The Solidarity union sent a convoy of trucks with food and other essentials for the people of Belarus but it was denied entry at the border.

British historian decorated for popularizing Polish history

British historian Roger Moorhouse, the author of several books on Poland, has received the Knight's Cross of the Polish Order of Merit for "acquainting British readers with Poland's World War Two history and promoting general knowledge about Poland in Britain."

On behalf of President Andrzej Duda, Moorhouse was decorated by Poland's Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Arkady Rockies.

During the ceremony the ambassador said: "His tireless efforts to bring the true history of Poland during the Second World War (to Britain) deserves utmost admiration. Thank you, friend of Poland."

Faithfully Restored



After a three-year project, the spires atop Detroit's Sweetest Heart of Mary Church have been restored. The city threatened to condemn the structure following a storm that jeopardized the structure's stability.

Historic Church Completes Repairs with Help from Community

DETROIT – Two church spires on top of the Sweetest Heart of Mary Church are finally restored after three years.

"We started in August 2017 and I'm happy to say we completed the project roughly two weeks ago," said Larry Wilk.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK / SWEETEST HEART OF MARY

Wilk said it's been a long time coming, but he volunteered to head up this project after his 92-year-old mother demanded him to.

"She contacted me three years ago, I August of 2017, with some very sad news that the spires were going to be torn down. I asked her why and she said the city of Detroit had given an ultimatum to the parish to either repair the spires or do a tear down,"

continued on page 3

Mitchell Rozanski Installed as 10th Archbishop of St. Louis

ST. LOUIS — Archbishop-designate Mitchell T. Rozanski was installed as the 10th Archbishop of St. Louis, at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis. He replaced Archbishop Robert Carlson, who served as Archbishop for 11 years.

The nearly two-hour Mass was celebrated Aug. 25, the feast of St. Louis, with almost 500 people in attendance.

Msgr. Dennis Kuruppasery, representing the apostolic nuncio to the United States, read the apostolic letter from Pope Francis in which the pope officially released Archbishop Rozanski from his duties as bishop of the Diocese of Springfield, Mass., and appointed him as shepherd of the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Archbishop Rozanski was presented with the pallium, a woolen band that the heads of archdioceses wear around their shoulders over their Mass vestments. It is given to an archbishop by the pope as a sign of their unity with him as they minister to a part of the Catholic "flock." This is the first time a recent archbishop of St. Louis has received the pallium in St. Louis.

In the homily, Archbishop Rozanski said he is reminded of how the Lord built His Church on the rock of Peter's faith. "And so as a Catholic, even more as a pastor, I pledge my own fidelity and unity and that of God's people in this 'Rome of the West' to Peter's successor among



Archbishop Rozanski was made bishop by St. Pope John Paul II.

us, without whom we cannot know the Lord who sent him, the Lord who seeks to send us."

"In the midst of a pandemic, a societal reckoning on the life issue of race relations an atrophied civic discourse — and yes, the often-sinful polemics we now face within our Church — loving one another seems to be a tough thing to do these days. Yet, my friends, we are called to be a people of hope."

Archbishop Rozanski's younger brothers, Kenneth and Albert Rozanski, and two of his nephews, Kyle, 21, and Dalton, 15, flew in from the Baltimore area to attend the installation Mass. The archbishop's parents Alfred and Jean, watched the Mass from their home in Baltimore.

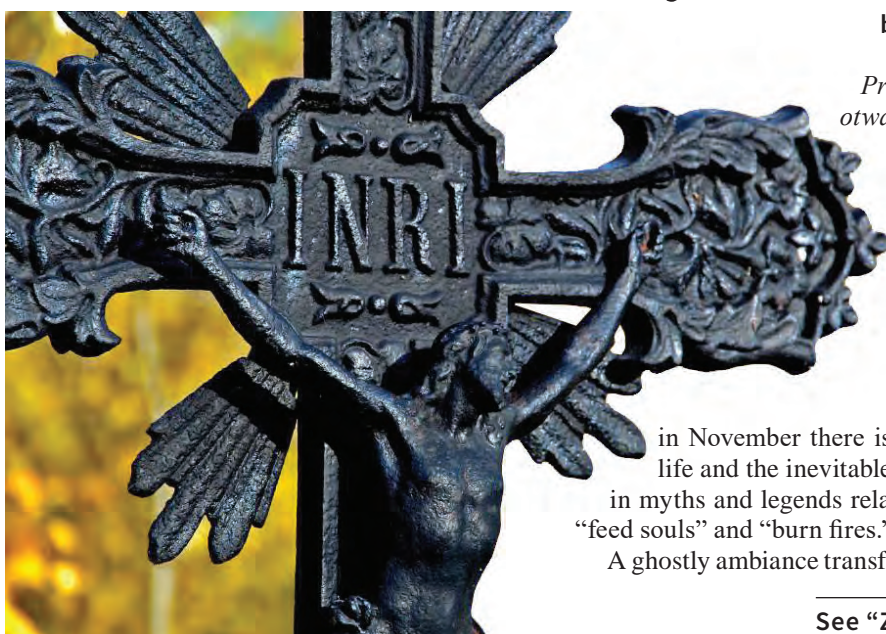
continued on page 3

Zaduszki – the most mystical night of the year

by Staś Kmiec

Przez życie trzeba iść serdecznie, niosąc w otwartych dłoniach Światło, bo tylko tacy żyją wiecznie, którym w miłości serca gasną.

(One must go through life heartily, carrying the Light in open hands, because only such people live forever, whose hearts fade in love.)



October passes in a dance of leaves; the colors press into the eyes until the soul sings. Soon, in November there is a time of reflection... on the essence of life and the inevitable law of nature. *Zaduszki* – a day shrouded in myths and legends related to the afterlife and spirits is a time to "feed souls" and "burn fires."

A ghostly ambiance transforms Poland into a mystical glowing burial

See "Zaduszki," page 4

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EDITOR'S DESK

Dig a Little Deeper this Heritage Month

By Mark Kohan

Without the parades, ceremonies, speeches, dedications, and displays, this year's Polish Heritage Month will be different – all more the reason to dig a little deeper into your heritage, and to share discoveries with family and friends.

It could be something as simple as getting to that Polish recipe you have been putting off trying. Or finally reading English translations of classic works by Sienkiewicz, Reymont, or Mickiewicz, or modern works by Szyborska or Tokarczuk. You may want to get a notebook or recorder and visit elderly family members to gather their personal stories and recollections for future genealogical research.

With today's access to visual and audio media, you can easily invest in some new Polish or Polish American music. No matter your pleasure, you can find everything from Medieval chants to modern-day rock. Technology now gives us the opportunity to listen to Polish (and polka) radio shows just by downloading an app on your smart phone or computer. If you are well-versed in the Polish language, you may want to subscribe to TVP Polonia, the international channel of the Telewizja Polska.

Yes, the parades in New York, Philadelphia, Northampton, and other locations will be missed. But don't let that stop you from hanging a Polish flag from your porch, sharing a pan of homemade gołąbki with your next-door-neighbor, or finding a Polish author for your next book club assignment.

Vote!

With the U.S. presidential election less than a month away, we remind all, once again, to vote. That is the most important thing you can do as an American citizen. Men and women lost their lives or endured horrendous circumstances to protect this right.

Looking for a New Home

When the *Polish American Journal* moved from Scranton, Pa., to Buffalo, N.Y. in 1983, most of the newspaper's archives were donated by former publisher Henry Dende to the Balch Institute, today the ethnic studies division of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Since then, we have collected approximately another 300 linear feet of archives. The assemblage includes: bound and unbound copies of the PAJ (some dating back to the 1950s and earlier); bins and boxes on specific subjects, such as Saint John Paul II, the Solidarity movement, and re-establishment of the Republic of Poland following its years of communist control; photographs; correspondences; books, magazines, and other publications and periodicals; and more.

To save money when the PAJ closed its offices on Harlem Road in Buffalo, N.Y., the bulk of the archives in the Polish language (about a third of the collection) were donated to the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph, who were establishing a Polish resource center at their

home in Hamburg, N.Y. (The center has since closed, and resources are now in a private collection). The English-language archives and library — then necessary for the newspaper's production — were moved to the home office of the editor, i.e. yours truly.

With downsizing on the horizon, a new home must be found for the archives. Ideally, we prefer an academic archive, but are open to any and all suggestions.

If your group is willing, or if you know of a suitable home for the archives, please call the editor at (800) 422-1275, or send an email to editor@polamjournal.com.

They're Here!

We are pleased as Punch to announce eight new greeting cards — six Christmas and two birthday — to add to the PAJ Bookstore.

The cards, designed and illustrated by Lynda Misheikis and Jacob Barajas, are printed in Polish and English. Each card face is in full color, and the back of the card gives an explanation of the Polish custom or tradition depicted on the cover. Horizontal cards are 5½ x 4¼ inches; vertical cards are 4¼ x 5½ inches. Envelopes are included. The cards are available for \$.75 each, \$6.00 for a 10-pack; and \$.50 each if ordering 50 or more. To order, see page 12.

Which Brings us to ...

We have approximately 600 of our previous card designs left over. They are the same size and configuration as the new ones. These will not be offered again, as some styles are very limited.

We would like to donate these cards to any Polish American charity, religious, or non-profit organization. If you know of any such group, please call us at (800) 422-1275 or drop an email to the editor at editor@polamjournal.com.

The cards to be donated do not include envelopes. Shipping expenses will be covered by the Polish American Journal Foundation.

Back in stock

We have received confirmation from the publisher that Rev. Czeslaw Krysa's *A Polish Christmas Eve* is once again in print, and will be available around mid-month. We have also been able to procure the very popular smaller (2½ x 4¼ inch) individually wrapped Polish Christmas wafers (opłatki). We are also offering the four-pack of larger wafers (¾ x 6¼ inches), which come in a decorative envelope with the history and explanation of this Christmas Eve tradition printed on the envelope's reverse.

Lapsus Calami

In last month's PAJ, it was reported the Jolly Nutmeggers band was from Massachusetts. The band was based in Connecticut.

We were saddened to learn bandleader Mike Sztaba, who was the subject of the interview, died a few weeks after the paper was printed. May he rest in peace.

ALMANAC

October Październik

1608. First Poles arrive in America aboard the *Mary & Margaret* to work as skilled craftsmen at settlement in **Jamestown** (Virginia).
1944. Nazi troops crushed the 2-month-old (63 days) Warsaw Uprising, during which a quarter-million people were killed.
- ST. JOHN DUKLA (1484)**
1996. **Wisława Szymborski** awarded Nobel Prize for Literature.
1979. **Pope John Paul II's** first visit to United States begins.
- ST. FAUSTINA**
1763. Death of **King Augustus III the Saxon**. (b. 17 October 1696).
1873. Death of **Sir Paweł Strzelecki** (b. 1797), explorer of Australian continent who named its largest mountain after Tadeusz Kościuszko.
- ST. MARK**
Gdy Św. Marek, z mrozem przybywa, Babie Lato, Krótkie bywa. If it is freezing on St. Mark's, Indian Summer will be short.
1960. U.S. stamp issued to honor **Ignacy Jan Paderewski**.
1435. Death of **Paweł Włodkowic**, model for Shakespeare's Polonius (Hamlet).
1982. Pope John Paul II canonizes **Maximilian Maria Kolbe** (1894-1941), Polish friar, who volunteered to die in place of another inmate at Auschwitz.
1779. Date traditionally observed in American Polonia as **Pułaski Day** in honor of death of Casimer Pułaski, 34, Polish-born American patriot, who died from battle wounds suffered at Savannah.
1968. Birth of actress and singer **Jane Krakowski**.
1891. **Edith Stein** was born to a Jewish family at Breslau. In 1922 she was baptized a Catholic and took the name Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. She was gassed and cremated at Auschwitz by Nazis.
- ST. EDWARD**
Na Edwarda jesień twarda. On St. Edward's Day, the autumn is hard.
1773. Poland creates the Commission of National Education.
- ST. HEDWIG**
In old Poland, the last of the crops are harvested around the feast of St. Hedwig
1817. Death in Switzerland of **Tadeusz Kosciuszko**, Polish and American freedom fighter.
1384. Coronation of **Jadwiga**, the first female monarch of the Kingdom of Poland.
1978. Cardinal Karol Wojtyła, 58, named **Pope John Paul II**.
1849. Death of **Fryderyk Chopin**.
1776. Thaddeus Kościuszko, 30, is given a commission in the American Revolutionary Army.
1984. Abduction and murder of pro-Solidarity **Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko** (b. 1947).
1982. Death of **Korczak Ziolkowski**, sculptor of the Crazy Horse Memorial in the Black Hills of South Dakota.
1914. **Battle of Warsaw** ended with a German defeat.
- Pope John Paul II** installed.
1795. **Third Partition** of Poland.
1891. Death of writer **Paweł Stelmach** in Cieszyn, Silesia.
1910. Birth of **Cardinal John Krol**, Archbishop of Philadelphia.
1824. Birth **Rev. Leopold Bonawentura Moczygemba**.
1944. Polish 1st Corps, commanded by **General Stanisław Maczek**, takes Breda, Holland as part of the Allied invasion of Western Europe.
1939. USSR and Germany agreed on partitioning Poland. Hitler deports Jews.
1940. Nazis declare this day as the deadline for Warsaw Jews to move into the Warsaw Ghetto.

This paper mailed on or before **September 30**. The November 2020 edition will be mailed on or before **October 29, 2020**.

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 35th year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to seven hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok, Grajewo, and Ostroleka. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

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

Rozanski – named a bishop by Pope John Paul II

continued from cover

Archbishop Rozanski was made bishop by St. Pope John Paul II. During communion preparation of this service, the song "Barka" (the Pope's favorite song) was sung. A Polish "Baranku Bozy" was included among various other languages during the Lamb of God.

Archbishop Rozanski is actually head of the church for the whole state of Missouri in addition to having responsibility for the St. Louis diocese.

Since 2017, Archbishop Rozanski has served as the Roman Catholic co-chair of the Polish National Catholic/Roman Catholic Dialogue.

Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski (back row, center) watches the procession from the church after the Mass following his installation as the 10th Archbishop of St. Louis at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis.

— Photo by Christian Gooden



Embassy Celebrates Solidarity

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On the evening of Aug. 31, 2020, the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, D.C., celebrated the 40th Anniversary of Solidarity's triumph in 1980 over the communist regime by projecting the now-iconic Solidarity logo onto the façade of its 16th Street embassy building. Solidarity's initial seismic victory was instrumental in inspiring and promoting-by-example democratic change in its native Poland and throughout the other communist countries of Eastern and Central Europe. — Text and photo by Richard Poremski



Church Spires Restored

continued from cover

Wilk said.

Wilk instantly decided to head up the project, but he said it was important to keep the same look and design of the original 1892 church.

"We wanted to stay consistent with the color scheme that was done when the church was first built back 130 years ago," he said.

Wilk said the entire cost for the massive restoration was \$500,000. Members of the church like Al Sebastian said looking up into the sky

and seeing the two church spires, can catch anybody's attention.

"It's important for the city of Detroit, for historic preservation, for our Catholic faith and it's something that's really a site to behold," Sebastian said.

The dual spires were dedicated on Sept. 12 at the parish's "Taste of the Pierogi Festival" dinner.

— ClickOnDetroit.Com

The church is continuing to collect donations for other repairs to be done. You can donate at: <https://www.motherofdivinemercury.org/>

May we always remember our Polish heritage!

ILARIO AND WANDA CLANDORF

Reston, Virginia

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

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Zaduszki – “begging grandfathers” were given special favors and privileges

continued from cover

ground filled with thousands and thousands of flickering little lights. All over the country, countless people visit the graves of their relatives – lighting candles there and additional candles for those sites that are forgotten and abandoned. It is a day of remembrance and togetherness.

In cemeteries, there is a hushed, respectful, and peaceful stillness. The trees are full of yellow and red; the ground, a carpet of colorful leaves. Candles flicker in the dark, illuminating the chrysanthemums and the leaves in the trees above. There is a poetry to the unearthly glow of the immense candlelight, the murmur of prayer, the subtle smells of the incense, fresh flowers and burning wax, the silhouette of the trees, the wet mist, and the surreal complement of the supernaturally charged, yet tranquil atmosphere. With every candle on every grave there is a story, a life, and a past.

As October turns to November, visitors expecting a Halloween full of costumes and debauchery may be surprised to learn that in Poland, the October 31st holiday is completely overshadowed by the rather sobering, somber proceedings of November 1st and 2nd. All Saints' Day (*Dzień Wszystkich Świętych*) and All Souls' Day (*Dzień Zaduszny*) are two days dedicated to prayer and paying tribute to the deceased.

Hallowe'en – which literally means “holy evening,” dates back to pagan times and is thought to have originated with the Celtic festival of Samhain – a celebration of the end of the harvest season, meaning “summer's end.” Although the custom is gaining some popularity, in Poland there is the idea that Halloween is contrary to the respect for the dead and their memory.

The word “Zaduszki” comes from *Dzień Zaduszny*, which could be translated as day of prayer for the souls. This name was related to beggars who were asked to pray for the souls of the dead. All Souls' Day is also known as *Wspomnienie Wszystkich Wiernych Zmarłych*, *Święto Zmarłych* or *Dzień Zmarłych* (which means “Day of the Dead”) – names that had been adopted during the socialism period in Poland, as they did not contain any reference to religion.

History

The feasts of the departed have been celebrated in a special way for centuries. Their rituals and customs date back to pagan times, and only in later centuries were they adapted into the Christian faith.

All Saints' Day is derived from the celebration of the martyrs who offered their lives for faith. In 610, Pope Boniface IV received from the Emperor the ancient pagan temple of the Pantheon, where he ordered numerous relics to be placed, and then consecrated this building to the Church of Our Lady of Martyrs. May 1 was named a memorial day for all deceased martyrs. Pope Gregory III in 731 transferred this celebration to November 1, and in 837 Pope Gregory IV recognized the day as a Feast of All Saints of the Catholic Church. It is considered a joyful day for the faithful – churches bells ring, the organ plays, and priests celebrate Mass in white, festive robes.

On November 2, there is a completely different mood – instru-

ments are silent, the faithful say prayers for the souls suffering in purgatory, priests celebrate the liturgy in black robes and mention the names of the deceased during the so-called “gifts” (*wypominki*). The celebration of All Souls' Day in Christianity began in 998 by St. Odilon as a counterbalance to pagan rites where the souls of the dead were worshiped. In the 13th century, this tradition spread throughout the Catholic Church. While All Saints' Day honors all those who are saved after death, All Souls' Day is devoted to prayers for the deceased awaiting final reconciliation with God. The origins in Poland date back to the 12th century. In the 15th century, *Zaduszki* was already known throughout the country

Pagan Origins

All Souls' Day celebrations are as old as humanity. The origins were in the pagan Slavic celebrations, which occurred four times a year. Initially, the Catholic Church reduced the number of death remembrance days to two per year, and then only one has been kept since the 10th century.

The Polish people from pagan centuries retained many beliefs related to *Zaduszki*. It was believed that the dead had the power to rise from their graves and come to earth as spirits at that time. People once said – “Ghosts from that world come to All Souls' Day.” It was believed all over Poland that on the night preceding All Souls' Day, the shadows of the dead come out in procession from the cemetery, go to a nearby church and listen to a Mass celebrated by the deceased parish priest. The souls of deceased relatives and friends visited their old homes, so they could warm them-



All Souls' Breads (*chleb zaduszny*) are baked on the eve of All Souls' Day and brought to cemeteries on All Souls' Day, November 2.

selves and partake in the special meals prepared for them.

Various superstitions have traditionally surrounded this day. The beliefs are often frightening; some include that on the day of All Souls: the souls of the dead come to visit the living, asking that the living pray for them; bad weather signified a year of numerous deaths; if the sun did not shine, the following year would be filled with misfortune; and if trees are still fully covered with leaves, it will be a year of black death.

Church Practices

Christianity fought against pagan rituals and introduced other holidays in their place, and at the same time Christianized and adapted some of them. On this day, the Church prays for the salvation of souls undergoing penance in Purgatory. The existence of purgatory



Wybicki Street Cemetery, Toruń. All Saints Day 2015

was proclaimed by the Church as a dogma at the Council of Lyons in 1274; at the twenty-fifth session of the Council of Trent (1545-1563), a decree was announced that the souls staying in it could be helped “by making their petitions before the throne of God.” Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI have declared that the term “purgatory” does not indicate a place, but a condition of existence.

The Western Church prays especially on this day for the suffering souls in Purgatory. Soul services are read out – evoking names and surnames of the deceased combined with a prayer for their intention. Each priest on that day is obliged to say three funeral Masses. One – for their own intentions, the second – for the intention of all the deceased, and the third – for the Holy Father.

In the past, processions of four stations were organized in cemeteries during *Zaduszki*. Mourning songs were sung, prayers were said, and the memory of the dead was honored. The procession ended at the fifth station in the Church.

With respect to the Grandfather

All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day in olden days could not take place without the prayers of *Zebracy* or *Dziady* (Beggars, Forefathers/Grandfathers) who, according to belief, had contact with the dead. Beggars, very mysterious people, coming out of nowhere and heading in an unknown direction have been treated with respect for centuries. During their wanderings, they rubbed against various places and events, bringing the wisdom flowing from these experiences to thatched roofs. Their specific appearance and old age suggested the possibility of contact with the underworld or of seeing God's face. The grandfathers' prayers were believed to be remarkably effective.

The special position of “begging grandfathers” was seen during All Souls' Day. At that time, they were given special favors and privileges. They were allowed to remain peacefully in church and in the cemetery, and they were treated with respect. Far from the affairs of the temporal world, they had time for contemplation, concentration, and prayers, which they prayed for the intentions communicated to them. For their special prayers, the “beggars” were given small amounts of money, food, and bread baked especially for this occasion. In some regions, even a special feast called *chawtura*, was held for them. Sometimes, it was believed that the ghost of a deceased ancestor might come in the form of a grandfather or

a begging grandmother.

This celebration dates back to pagan times and was once called the Goat's Feast. Later the folk ritual was called *Dziady*. In Polish literature, the tradition was preserved by the national poet Adam Mickiewicz in his poetic drama *Dziady* (Forefather's Eve). It is considered one of the greatest works of Polish and European Romanticism.

It was believed all over Poland that on the night preceding All Souls' Day, the shadows of the dead come out in procession from the cemetery, go to a nearby church, and listen to a Mass celebrated by the deceased parish priest.

Folk Tradition

The cult of the dead, formed in the Church during the 9th to 11th centuries, contained ancient, archaic customs and rites for many centuries. These rituals and beliefs, and elements of pagan holidays, were preserved in the folk tradition until the 19th and early 20th centuries. As a general rule, it was accepted in the teaching of the Church that the dead, after having performed a cleansing penance, could intercede for the living in their earthly life, and also at the hour of death.

The deceased were devoted to the periods of the spring and autumn solstices. In those times, it was believed, the boundary between darkness and brightness and the world of the living would be blurred with the world of the dead, and that souls were to return to their homes and families. The ceremonies of that time were of waiting for the dead and communing with them – candles and fires were lit, and there were feasts at cemeteries.

Not only were the graves cleaned and tidied up, but also the houses, because it was believed that the souls of the dead would return that day to the places where they spent their entire lives. Gates, windows, and doors were left opened so that souls could enter the houses. A clean towel was hung, water, soap and a comb were put next to it, so that the souls could wash and groom themselves.

It was customary not to perform certain activities, so as not to hurt, crush, or insult the soul visiting the house. It was forbidden to churn butter, trample down cabbage, spin, weave, thresh grain, pour out dishwater washes, and spitting. In general, not undertaking any work and going to bed early was preferable during this time to not interfere with the activities of the spirits.

In 1923, ethnologist Adam Fischer published “The Feast of the

Dead” – devoted to rites related to the cult of the dead, including culinary rites. Beggars or wandering storytellers – the *Dziady* were asked to pray for the souls of the dead, and in return they were offered ritual delicacies.

Depending on the region, soulful breads had different shapes, decorations, and names. It could be cakes, buns, or flatbreads. These baked goods were brought to the cemeteries, a custom that slowly disappeared after 1945. Fischer wrote that in the vicinity of Malbork, even the poorest family made cakes. In Dobrzyńsk, priests and grandmothers were given bread called *peretycze*. Long loaves of rye bread were brought to the cemetery near Inowrocław, and in the Mazowsze region, pancakes, groats and dried meat were offered.

In Kurpie, rye bread was baked and taken to the cemetery with pots of millet and buckwheat, boiled pork and bacon lard. Elsewhere, rye-flour dumplings were baked, and a piece of meat was put in each.

Ethnographer Oskar Kolberg noted that in Lublin, on All Souls' Eve, every housewife baked *twaróg* quark cheese filled rolls,

which were called *powalki* – because after taking them out of the oven, they cooled down on a special beam suspended from the kitchen ceiling. Each housewife brought as many rolls to the cemetery as the number of relatives buried there. They had an oblong shape and were decorated with an imprinted cross in the center or patterns that were favored by the deceased.

Long rolls called *peretycze*, *peretyczki* or *perebuszki* were known around Ciechanów in north central Poland and in the Kurpie region. They were prepared from boiled potatoes, with the addition of flour, eggs, yeast and spices and could only be brought to the cemetery after being blessed by a priest.

In Kujawy and southern Pomorze, full carts of “empty rolls” were brought to the cemeteries, which were intended for nameless souls, about whom either no one remembered or the people closest to them also had died. They were handed out to beggars.

In Żarki, near Częstochowa, groats were produced, and therefore for several hundred years there has been a tradition of baking bread made of buckwheat flour. *Tatarczuch* is dark and sweet. Apart from buckwheat flour, milk, water, and yeast are added to it. When the leaven rises, the dough is put on trays and baked in a bread oven for two hours. Today, it is registered in the list of regional and traditional products of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Our pre-Slavic ancestors already believed in life after human death and in the mysterious world of the dead, governed by its own rules. They believed, above all, in the superhuman knowledge and power of the dead, and in the fact that they can influence the fate of living people. Finally, they believed that at certain times of the year the spirits of the dead were to leave the afterlife and be invisible among the

continued on next page

Zaduszki – windows and doors were left open to facilitate the arrival and departure of souls

continued from page 4

living or come to them during sleep.

In the vicinity of Mielec, it was believed that if one had a dream about the deceased, it was a sign that help was needed from the living; one should pray for them and make a gift offering.

Feeding souls

In traditional cultures, such as Poland, food had a cultural, even ritualistic dimension. Until the beginning of the 20th century, there were many rituals in the countryside related to the preparation of food and feeding the souls of the of the visiting deceased. All the dishes, together with a bottle of vodka, were left on the tables and the door of the house was opened for the night so that the souls of the dead could visit in peace and eat their fill.

In Pomorze, it was common practice to leave the favorite food of deceased household members on the doorstep and on the windowsill. In the morning, no remains of food were to be found which inevitably meant a visit and a feast of guests from the afterlife, or the work of household animals.

All Souls' fasting closely resembled Christmas Eve, and was strictly observed. It was forbidden to eat meat, and the main dishes were cabbage, barszcz, and dumplings. It was not carried to the cemetery because it came from the world of the living. On the eve of the day of the dead, special bread and dumplings were baked. Broad beans and groats were cooked. In the eastern territories of Poland, the custom of preparing a special grain-honey *kutia* for this occasion was known. During the next day, all these dishes were taken to the cemetery and placed on the graves, and a few drops of vodka were poured over them.

After visiting the graves, family members would return home together to dine on seven dishes that were "shared" with the dead souls visiting Earth – again, the windows and doors were left open to facilitate their arrival and departure.

Light for souls

Another group of customs were the rites related to fire. It was believed that, in addition to food, the departed souls needed light to find their way home through the darkness and warmth to warm up. Therefore, during holidays, special bonfires (*grumadki*) were lit

at crossroads, at cemeteries and on the graves of relatives of the deceased. Fires were also burned on the graves of suicides and those who died tragically. The twigs and wood for such fires were laid all year round. The fire from these graves had a cleansing power, and gave protection against evil powers and spirits, who were very often present on the graves of suicides.

The rituals associated with burning fires have long been forgotten, the only manifestation of them today is the burning of candles on the graves of loved ones. Many have the conviction that after the death, not everything dies inside us. By lighting candles, the shadows of the dead will walk away from the cemeteries. These special candles (*znicze*) can burn anywhere from 24 hours to a week, depending on their size. At night, during the week following All Saints' Day, they give the cemeteries of Poland a glow that can be seen from many miles away.

In a memorable scene from the 1985 Krzysztof Kieślowski film *Bez końca (No End)*, a woman in a cemetery on All Souls Day speaks to her deceased husband



Scene from the the Kieślowski film *Bez końca (No End)*.

through a series of lit matches, as her dialogue ascends upwards.

Today, many folk customs are no longer practiced, yet the most important and much needed memory of our deceased relatives remains. Displayed in a Zakopane cemetery is the sentence – *Ojczyzna to ziemia i groby. Narody, tracąc pamięć, tracą życie* (The homeland is land and graves. Nations lose their lives by losing their memory).

"May perpetual light shine upon them..." Prayers for the dead waft to the heavens.

Jersey City's Katyn Memorial to Stay

JERSEY CITY – This city's memorial to the Poles who lost their lives to Stalin's orders during World War II will not be relocated.

Plans to move the Katyn statue – a blindfolded soldier being stabbed in the back with a bayonet – caused international furor when Mayor Steven Fulop proposed moving it from its waterfront location.

Jersey City's council voted to keep Katyn memorial where it has stood for more than 25 years. The vote was reported by the Jersey Journal.

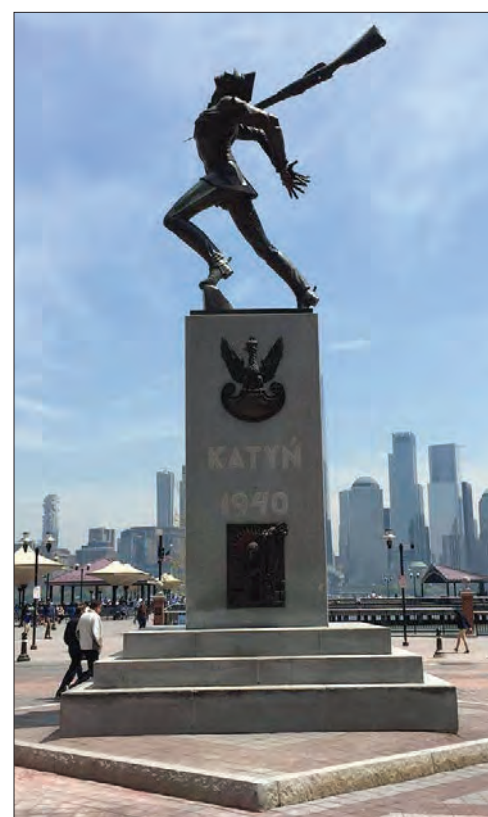
The vote ends a nine-month saga that featured protests, a federal lawsuit, and heated words between Fulop and Poland's Senate Speaker.

Polish President Andrzej Duda visited the memorial in May.

The statue pays tribute to the estimated 22,000 Poles massacred by Soviet troops in a forest outside Smolensk, Russia in 1940.

Officials had considered moving it to make way for a waterfront redevelopment project.

The monument's sculptor, Andrzej Pitynski, passed away days after the decision. See related story on page 20.



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Bishop Calls Out Pro-Abortion Democrats

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Bishop Rick Stika of the RC Diocese of Knoxville, Tennessee, noted the hypocrisy of leftist Democrats who claim to support science while denying science that demonstrates the human personhood of the unborn child in the womb.

The “Heartbeat Bill” passed by the state legislature to restrict abortion after the child in the womb’s heartbeat can be detected was shelved by a court ruling as going against the Roe v. Wade decision allowing abortion without limits. The Democrats in Illinois welcomed the defeat of pro-Life democrat **Dan Lipinski** in the state’s primary and the selection of a Democratic candidate supported by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of N.Y. (self-styled Catholic), NARAL (National Abortion Rights Access League), Pro-Choice America, Emily’s List, Progressive Change Campaign Committee, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), and U.S. Representatives from Illinois Jan Schakowsky and Luis Guitierrez. Ms. Schakowsky has introduced the Abortion is Health Care Everywhere Act which would repeal the Helms amendment which prohibits the use of U.S. funds to support abortion throughout the world.

Rep. Bart Stupak (Dem-Michigan) said in an interview that he does not regret his vote that tipped the balance to approve Obama’s Affordable Care Act. He focused on the act’s providing health care widely across the country but overlooked the fact that the Act forced Catholic and other religious groups and individuals to fund contraceptive and abortion coverage in their health plans.

Nun Runs for God

Sr. Stephanie Baliga grew up in Rockford, Illinois, with her eyes on becoming an athlete and not a religious sister. While in college, she found herself called to religious life and came upon the Franciscans of the Eucharist of Chicago, founded only in 2010 by **Fr. Bob Lombardo**. Their work at the Mission of Our Lady of the Angels drew Sr. Stephanie. Before entering the convent, Sr. Stephanie was devoted to a

running career. After a serious injury, however, those plans were halted with a great sense of loss to her, until the renewal of her faith revived her vigor and sense of commitment. As a sister now, she has been able to complete the Chicago Marathon and leads a team of more than 100 runners, who race to raise money for the Mission. With the marathon in Chicago cancelled because of the Covid-19 epidemic, Sr. Stephanie decided to run 26.2 miles anyway, but on a treadmill. In all her team of runners has raised \$1 million over the last decade with Sr. Stephanie’s treadmill run putting them over the top.

A Rose for St. John Paul II

In the White House rose garden, newly renovated to its historical design, First Lady **Melania Trump** dedicated a white rose bush to **St. John Paul II** in honor of the pope’s visit in 1979. The white tea rose cultivar is among the most fragrant and bears large white blossoms. The St. John Paul II rose joins the JFK rose cultivar and the Peace rose.

Sto Lat to...

Deacons **Stephen Czarnecki**, **Stephen Gajewski**, and **Walter Samick** ordained to the permanent diaconate along with seven others for service in the Diocese of Buffalo.

Prayers for Belarus

His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk, head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church requested prayers for the Belarusian people who “are fighting for their rights and freedoms,” for an end to the violence and restoration of justice, for peace and social harmony. He addressed a letter of support to **Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz** of the Belarusian capital Minsk, president of the Belarusian Episcopal Conference and to **Archimandrite Serhiy Hayek**, Apostolic Visitor for the Greek-Catholic Church in Belarus.

The country has been in turmoil since the disputed re-election of Dictator **Alexander Lukashenko**. He prayed for the “protection of Belarus from external and enemy forces, for the preservation of the unity of the Belarusian people and for the independence and territorial integrity of his State.” Russian president Putin is poised to intervene and wreak havoc as he has already done in Ukraine.

Peaceful Demonstration in Wisconsin

In the aftermath of the riots and looting that wrecked and looted 75 businesses in downtown Madison, the capital of Wisconsin, **Bishop Donald Hying** of Madison and

Archbishop Jerome Listcki of Milwaukee led a Eucharistic procession through the boarded up and vandalized streets to the Capital building. There the monstrosity was placed on an altar set up on the terrace of the Capital building in stark contrast to the violence and mayhem of the earlier protest march on the same streets. Thousands of people came out to walk in the procession, praying the Rosary, singing the Ave Maria, thanking police officers, and receiving the Eucharistic benediction. Bishop Hying encouraged his fellow bishops throughout the country not to be afraid to be “out there” ahead of the people who need this witness and prayer.

Columbus Statue Defended

Minnesota’s Lieutenant governor **Peggy Flanagan**, a member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe decried Columbus for setting in motion “centuries of violence and genocide against the Indigenous people who already lived here,” and she declared that she was not unhappy that the Columbus statue was toppled by a protest mob. **Archbishop of Minneapolis & St. Paul Bernard Hebda**, however, through Jason Adkins, spokesman for the Minnesota Catholic Conference, had a different view. “Negligent failure by public officials and safety officers to protect the Christopher Columbus statue - a statue erected to celebrate greater inclusiveness of Italians in Minnesota - should be a cause of concern for all Minnesotans, regardless of their views on Columbus himself...We cannot allow persons or activists of politically favored groups to destroy property, public or private, simply because an object or building causes offense.”

Mississippi State Flag to Be Replaced

Bishop Joseph R. Kopacz of the RC diocese of Jackson, Miss., joined leaders of other faith traditions and business leaders in calling for the state leadership and governor to remove the current state flag of Mississippi and replace it with one better suited to the citizens of the state. This would call for the removal of the emblem of the confederacy, a symbol of an unjust and oppressive society.

Rosaries and Scapulars for Covid-19 Patients

Fr. Przemyslaw Gawlik, hospital chaplain and Knights of Columbus member of the Dr. McDowell Council 2248 (Madison, N.J.) blessed 150 rosaries and scapulars donated by the Knights in Morristown, N.J., for distribution to the Morristown Medical Center.

MODLITWY

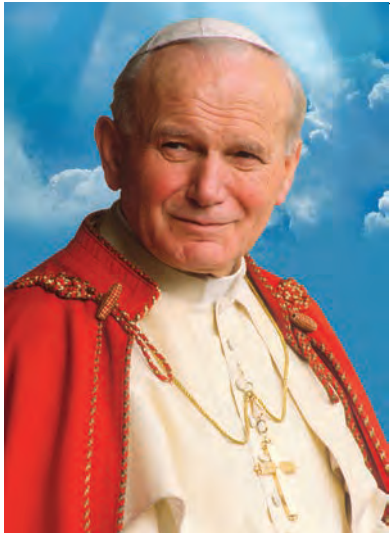
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PRAYER FOR UPCOMING ELECTION. O most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, we entrust the United States of America to your loving care, and beg you to reclaim this land for the glory of your Son. ¶ Overwhelmed with the burden of the sins of our nation, we cry to you from the depths of our hearts and seek refuge in your motherly protection. ¶ Look down with mercy upon us and touch the hearts of our people. Open our minds to the great worth of human life and to the responsibilities that accompany human freedom. ¶ Free us from the falsehoods that lead us to the evil of abortion and threaten the sanctity of family life. Grant our country the wisdom to proclaim that God’s law is the foundation on which this nation was founded, and that He alone is the True Source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. ¶ O Merciful Mother, give us the courage to reject the culture of death and the strength to build a new Culture of Life. ¶ Trusting in your most powerful intercession, we pray: Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never has it been known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unprotected. Inspired by this confidence, we fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, our Mother. To thee do we come, before thee we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer us. Amen. (Msgr. William J. Blacet)

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GENEALOGY

Celebrate Your Polish Ancestors

by Stephen M Szabados

When did your Polish ancestors immigrate, where did they leave, why did they emigrate, how did they get here? These are questions to which we all hope to find the answers. Remember that each immigrant has a unique story, and it is our challenge to dig out as many details as we can with our family history research.

My Polish grandparents came from neighboring parishes, but different circumstances caused their immigration.

My grandfather, Stefan Jan Zuchowski, had ancestors who were nobility, but they subdivided their land so many times with the death of each generation that their farm became so small it could support only one family. His oldest brother Stanislaw would inherit the farm. So, Stefan, his second brother, Boleslaw, sisters Alexandra and Maryanna, would have to leave once their father died. They lived in a farming area with no nearby factories, and jobs were scarce for Boleslaw and Stefan. Maryanna and Alexandra had to marry suitable husbands with land and of noble birth. Alexandra married in 1905, but poor economic conditions caused the remaining Zuchowski children to immigrate between 1907 and 1912. However, two of them returned to Poland after World War I.

Boleslaw immigrated in 1907, married a Polish woman in 1909

in Bloomington, Illinois, returned to Poland, and purchased a farm with the money he had earned in America.

Maryanna immigrated in 1910, married a Polish coal miner in 1911, returned to Poland in 1921, and then came back to the United States in 1965.

Stefan immigrated in 1912, worked as a coal miner before he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1918. He was naturalized in 1918 while in the army and fought in France. After the war, he was hired by the railroad to work in their repair shops. He married my grandmother Anna in 1923. They had three children, and he retired from the railroad in 1949.

My grandmother, Anna, came from the same area as Stefan and also had ancestors who were nobles. Her family farm was also small and could only support one family. However, her life in Poland and her immigration story was much different from that of Stefan.

Anna was the youngest daughter and very small physically. However, my small Polish grandmother that I knew, was always in command when she was in the room. My research on her life in Poland and early life in America shows why her character was so strong.

Her father and three of her brothers died when Anna was very young.

During World War I, her family was homeless in the winter of 1915. They experienced starvation and

sickness.

Her grandfather, mother, and oldest brother died during this terrible time.

After the war, she could not find a suitable husband in Poland, and she immigrated to live with a brother in America in 1921. However, her brother wanted to return to Poland, and he worked quickly to arrange a marriage for Anna to my grandfather in 1923.

Anna met my grandfather only once before the wedding, and they married in a city where Anna had no friends and was 900 miles away from her brother, who did not attend.

Somehow, Anna overcame these challenges and found the strength to build a new life without the support of any of her Polish family being near. I believe that she gained strength from the tragedy of her early life in Poland and the challenges she surmounted to start her new life in America. She worked hard each day but still had time to be happy when working in her garden and her family. Her strength of character had a significant influence on me.

PLEASE USE THE ACCOUNTS of my Polish ancestors as an example to find the stories for your ancestors. You may not have the details that you see in my narrative. Neither did I when I started my research. Some of my information came from the oral history told by my grandmother and questions I re-

member asking. However, most of the stories came from my research.

Our immigrant ancestors 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 descendants and their role in the factories and farms of the United States. Their lives were building blocks in the growth of their new country.

Be patient. Keep asking questions and looking for records and stories. Enjoy your ancestors.

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“We inherit from our ancestors gifts so often taken for granted. Each of us contains within this inheritance of soul. We are links between the ages, containing past and present expectations, sacred memories and future promise.”

— Edward Sellner —



Polish immigrants ("Mrs. Bissie and family") picking berries near Baltimore in July 1909. Library of Congress photo.

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE

Saving and Tasting Some of Chicago's Polish Eateries

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — As we all know, the pandemic has hurt the restaurant industry and many excellent eating establishments have closed. Some that have survived are only offering carryout /curbside service; others are lucky to have summertime outdoor dining spaces. There are a few that have been able to offer very limited dine-in service, but many restaurant enthusiasts are still reluctant to dine inside.

Chicago-area Polish restaurants that are permanently closed include **Old Warsaw**, **Przybylo's White Eagle**, and the Avondale location of **Red Apple**. These were closed because the properties were sold. **Stanley's Tavern** on Chicago's South Side is being operated by the family of the late Wanda Kurek. **Smak Tak** on Chicago's Northwest Side is surviving on 50% of its usual business, while **Podhalanka**, as I mentioned in the last issue of *Polish American Journal*, is struggling. **Andrzej Grill** in Ukrainian Village is permanently closed.

I've managed to visit a few Polish restaurants this past year, some before the COVID19-virus stormed our nation and some via curbside service.

The restaurants are listed alphabetically. I strongly suggest that if you wish to visit any of them, please call ahead to check on their hours of operation and possible restrictions.

vegetarian, prepared with cabbage, beets, potatoes, carrots, and a touch of tomato paste. Personally, I have two favorites. The first is an Ewa appetizer: her rendition of potato pancakes garnished with smoked salmon, caviar, dill cream, and fresh dill on a small bed of arugula. My second favorite is the beet carpaccio salad, made with beets, arugula, goat cheese, capers, and garnished with balsamic vinegar and olive oil. I'm also a herring fanatic. So, Ewa's herring beet tartare, served with capers, onions, cornichons, and a boiled egg is a Polish delight. Once again, beets reign supreme in my book!

One appetizer that Ewa's prepares, which I have not seen in any other Polish restaurant is *zapiekanka*, a popular Polish street food that became trendy in the 1970s. Some say it's a form of French bread pizza. *Zapiekanka* is an open-

pan-fried topped with crispy bacon, fried apples, and prunes garnished with a pepper sauce. Something that is not always on the menu, but I enjoyed very much, is Lutnia's version of gefilte fish garnished with sour cream and fresh dill.



Qulinarnia

If you enjoy a duck or goose meal, this is the place to come. But it's best to call ahead to find out what is available in the poultry dishes for your visit. And, yes, Lutnia has an extensive, complete bar.

The service may be a bit relaxed at times, but if you are looking for an elegant restaurant for a memorable evening of dining, where each dish appears to be a work of art, I suggest Lutnia.



Lutnia

You really have to take a second look around a Mount Prospect strip mall to find this unassuming storefront restaurant. The inside of Qulinarnia is decorated very elegantly in sparkling red and white to highlight Poland's national colors.

QULINARNIA
1730 W. Golf Road
Mount Prospect
(847) 981-0480

Qulinarnia can be regarded as a modern Polish restaurant transforming humble and rustic Polish fare into contemporary style. I found the dishes to be refreshingly modern, yet classic. One of my favorites is the lobster and spinach pierogi. The thin dough surrounds each pierog with a delicate braid design. The restaurant has a Polish Plate that is out-of-this world with a variety of pierogi, a *golabek*, *kielbasa*, sauerkraut with bacon, and potato pancakes that are crispiest when eaten first. Try these pancakes with mushroom sauce instead of apple sauce.

Another one of my favorites is grilled *kielbasa* served with sliced peppers and sautéed red onions. It reminds me of my childhood. How about its cream of dill pickle soup (*zupa ogórkowa*)? Not always available, but if it's the soup-of-the-day, you won't be disappointed. Go through the extensive menu to find an entrée that fits your appetite. Qulinarnia offers an extensive array of wines, rather unusual for a Polish restaurant, as well as a small selection of Polish beers.

Qulinarnia was opened in

April 2014 by owners, Agnieszka Jankowski and her husband, Dariusz Zychowski. Agnieszka's success in the brokerage business and passion for cooking, made it possible for her and Dariusz to follow her childhood dream of establishing a restaurant serving modern Polish cuisine.

POLISH PAŹKI CAFE
7210 West Foster Avenue
Chicago
(708) 667-0451

This tiny store-

front cafe was opened in September 2018 by Anna Niziolek and Bozena Zakrzewski, who had been employed at the Old Warsaw as its

SMAKOSZ
5619 W. Lawrence Avenue
Chicago
(773) 205-1771

Don't drive too fast down West Lawrence Avenue near Central, as you may miss Smakosz. Located on Chicago's Northwest Side, this Lublinian-style restaurant offers Polish dishes that are plentiful and delicious, as well as outstanding service.

Smakosz offers such Polish standards as *kielbasa*, pierogi, even fresh grilled trout on Fridays. Don't miss its homemade pierogi that have a delicate dough and tasty fillings. It features special Smakosz Style Pierogi (*W Stylu Smakosza*), pierogi filled with buckwheat, cheese, and fresh mint. But the restaurant specializes in Lublinian pork (*Schab po Lubelsku*), a pork chop prepared with a sunny-side egg on a potato pancake served with mushroom sauce. This is a customer favorite.

A second-generation family-owned restaurant, it has been at this Lawrence Avenue location since 1997. In 2007 Renata Kaminski took over. The chefs, Mariya and Maria, offer the ever-popular *Polski talerz* (*golabek*, *cutlet schabowy*, baked pork, *kielbasa*, pierogi, and potatoes). Its best beverage offering is Okocim beer served from the tap in an ice-cold oversized glass suitable for such hearty meals. Smakosz also offers vegetarian and gluten-free entrees. There is street parking and I've never had a problem finding a nearby parking spot.

U GAZDY
270 W. Irving Park Road
Wood Dale, Ill.
(630) 694-5840

Although I have yet to visit and enjoy its food, I have it on excellent authority that U Gazdy is definitely a great Goral-oriented restaurant with excellent food and service. Its



Polish Paczki Cafe

front cafe was opened in September 2018 by Anna Niziolek and Bozena Zakrzewski, who had been employed at the Old Warsaw as its

pażki bakers — Anna for 38 years and Bozena for 30 years. My personal favorites are raspberry (*malina*) and apricot (*morela*) filled pażki. Prior to the pandemic, the cafe was open very early in the morning. On Pażki Day, the customer line was extended outside with 50 or more people waiting their turn. To avoid this, you can now order your pażki over the phone for carry out.

Additionally, Polish Pażki Cafe offers a variety of other Polish and non-Polish entrees. It is located in the Harlem Foster Shopping Center, only a few blocks from the site of



U Gazdy

guests enjoy the rustic, Goral-style decor, both outside and inside, as well as the flavors of Zakopane and the Tatra Mountains. Many of its patrons are Polish immigrants seeking home-style cooking.

U Gazdy specialties include *kiszka*, *oscypki* (grilled smoked sheep cheese), *górala salátka* (sheep cheese with spinach, tomatoes, zucchini, red onions, and sunflower seeds in a cranberry dressing), and *golonka* (Highlander style pork shank prepared in beer). This restaurant has an extensive Polish menu with a full bar.



Ewa's Pierogi

EWA'S PIEROGI
976 Harlem Avenue
Glenview
(224) 616-3430

Ewa Zapolsky immigrated to Chicago from Poland seven years ago. Her goal was to open a restaurant, which she named Ewa's Pierogi, hoping to serve the community, especially Polish, Ukrainian, and Russian patrons. It is located in Glenview, Illinois, a northern suburb of Chicago.

If your taste buds crave pierogi, then this is the place to explore that wonderful dumpling world. Made from scratch, Ewa uses the highest standards to prepare meat (beef and pork), potato and cheese, and mushroom and sauerkraut pierogi along with blueberry, strawberry, plum, and cherry — and some with that special sweet cheese. She also features a selection of unusual pierogi, such as spinach and mozzarella, macaroni and cheese, and Nutella. Pierogi can be boiled or fried and bacon can be easily added. She also serves Russian *pelmeni*, small meat ravioli — similar to the Polish *uszek* — made with chicken, pork, beef, or lamb. They are served in a light broth with a dollop of sour cream and that wonderful herb, dill. Her Ukrainian style borsch may be the restaurant's most popular soup. It is

This is a hidden treasure of a restaurant. Its menu is not extensive, but I found it more than adequate for my Polish culinary tastes, and I think you will agree.

LUTNIA
5532 W. Belmont Avenue
Chicago
(773) 282-5335

In 1997, Marek Pieprzyk and his wife had a wonderful dining experience at Lutnia. They were so mesmerized by the romantic setting it offered, that, after two years of negotiations, they purchased the restaurant. The rest is history.

Located in a once heavily Polish-speaking community on Chicago's Northwest side, Lutnia's entrance on Belmont Avenue is rather unassuming. Once inside, however, you are greeted with the elegance of white linen tablecloths, an impressive gold-painted ceiling, a grand piano, and eye-catching artwork. If you happen to visit Lutnia during the Christmas season, you can view a large collection of spectacular Krakow-style *szopka*, also known as *crèche*, metallic, brightly painted structures.

Lutnia offers an exquisite array of Polish and Polish American delicacies. My favorites are salmon tartar served with capers, pickles



Smakosz

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY

Pope John Paul II's Inspiration: The Nonviolent Struggle to Freedom

by Claudia Cheffs

There are a multitude of reasons why revolutions take place in the world. For centuries, social scientists have attempted to pinpoint the underlying factors for revolution and what characteristics contribute to it being a successful outcome. Typically, social inequalities, basic human rights, and harsh economic circumstances have been common reasons for discontent and eventual revolution.

These factors were certainly true in the case study of Poland in the 1980s. "The right to free speech, the right to organize ... addressing church privileges, student influence on curricula, the right to job positions based on qualifications rather than loyalty to the ruling party" were some of the complaints the Gdansk shipyard union had, said Indiana University Professor Jack Bloom. However, these factors were not the *only* reason why revolution happened and why it was successful. Specifically, there were certain key figures within this dynamic period of Polish history who were absolutely critical in starting the revolution and thus ending communism. In fact, without these individuals and their nonviolent struggles, communism in Eastern Europe surely would not have ended when it did. One of the most prominent of these individuals was Pope John Paul II. It was through his methods, motivations and willingness to fight for a free country that Poland was finally able to rid itself of an intolerable and oppressive political system. This, in turn, helped flip the fates of other European countries as they followed Poland's suit in overthrowing communism.

Most people know that when the young Polish Cardinal Karol Wojtyla was elected as Roman Catholic Pope in 1978, history was made. It was the first time in four hundred years that a non-Italian cardinal was elected to the highest position within the Catholic Church. But Wojtyla's election meant so much more than that. His Papacy and his personality would turn out to be one of the most politicizing and effective factors in helping end the

Cold War. He utilized the power of his position as world peacemaker to be a force for good. History shows that the Pope was responsible for instilling an intense spirit and vigor in the Polish people that could not be crushed, despite government attempts. His speeches, writings and even meetings with some who were considered "enemies" gave the Polish people the hope they needed to overthrow a repressive regime, said journalist Joanna Jasinska.

In advance of the Pope's plans to visit Poland for the first time since being elected, the Polish Communist Party panicked. Party Leaders Gierek and Jaruzelski both worried that there would be a "potential uprising of unprecedented magnitude" as the Pope had planned to address approximately a million people in downtown Warsaw.

At one point, the government suggested refusing the Pope entry into the country per Moscow's encouragement, but the Archbishop of Eastern Europe quickly extinguished that idea by explaining the global outrage and consequences of such a denial.

The Pope was allowed to visit but, in return, the Party tried to diminish his popularity. The media attempted to paint the picture of a low attendance rate of primarily elderly people; the reality was that nearly every audience was attended by "millions of people of all ages" according to journalist and author Anne Applebaum. The

"May people learn to fight for justice without violence, renouncing class struggle in their internal disputes, and war in international ones."

— John Paul II

government attempted to censor his printed speeches in the newspapers, but the church worked wonders by broadcasting his speeches on radio frequencies across all of Poland, including those in small towns and village regions. The arrival of the Pope excited everyone, where *Time* magazine even described his pilgrimages as "a carnival ... political campaign, a crusade, and an enormous Polish wedding all in one."

One might wonder why the leaders of a totalitarian regime were so

concerned about the Pope visiting his homeland. Surely, if an uprising were to take place, the government could easily crush it; they had the military, resources and media to favor their narrative. They could simply arrest any dissidents and go about their business as usual. The reason for such fear was the



John Paul II met with leader General Wojciech Jaruzelski, a man who enacted Martial Law in Poland, and was directly responsible for the arrest of activists such as Anna Walentynowicz and Lech Wałesa. By meeting with people who disagreed with him, the Pope was able to forge important relationships and revealed the core of his humanity.

psychological effect the Pope had on people. Many academics have contended how, despite its name, communism is the opposite of community. It instead promotes "the atomization of society and [sweeps] away ideas, values, institutions,

government] were a very tiny isolated group. So we really felt that we had the power" (Bloom 2014). This was exactly what the communists feared—resilience and hope could result in an eventual overthrow.

Pope John Paul capitalized on the fear of the government and used his influence to create a system of strong resistance. Instead of remaining reserved and neutral in state affairs (as the church typically was in the past), the Pope was actively involved in publicly renouncing Soviet influence (Bloom 2014). His sermons had specific instructions for the Poles to oppose, albeit nonviolently. "The real danger to both sides ... is the man who does not ... listen to his deepest convictions, to his inner truth, but who wants only to ... float in conformity. Poland's future will depend on how many people are mature enough to be nonconformists," he warned in his first visit in 1979. This, in turn, caused the church in Poland to become a vital actor in the resistance movement. "If I wanted to see an exhibition of paintings that were not the work of the regime's artists or a play that was not approved by the regime's censors, I could go to an exhibition or performance in a church basement" said Applebaum. Being part of the church was a political act; even Atheists would take part in religious ceremonies to reaffirm their commitment to a free Poland.

Additionally, the Pope conducted forms of resistance through the means of education. He worked to create a service through the church which smuggled and distributed various "illegal" readings, speeches and ideas throughout the public. This was to give people hope but to also provide them with academic ideas on what a future life without communism might look like. Soon after, the so-called "Flying Universities" became popular across Poland, which were secret underground educational groups that were cre-

ated to teach young people Polish history from a perspective that was not being presented at schools due to Moscow's influence. These kinds of actions resulted in effective change. "A couple of months after the Pope's visit, suddenly there was open criticism in the Party ... and ... substantial circulation of underground publications," said Bloom. The Pope's speeches also directly criticized the theories of communism by proclaiming "human dignity did not permit workers to be demeaned and made mere means of production."

It is important to note that the Pope utilized his title as Holy See to meet not only people who adored him; he also met with those who had completely different viewpoints, who despised him and who even wanted him dead. This was not only brave, but it was strategic in helping his "enemies" consider a different perspective. In 1981, he was shot and seriously wounded in an assassination attempt in the Vatican. Despite nearly losing his life and recovering from a serious surgery, the Pope shocked the world when he visited his would-be assassin in prison, forgave him and eventually convinced the Italian President to pardon his lifelong sentence. Years later, the Pope even invited his assassin's mother to the Vatican, meeting with her and expressing that he had forgiven her son.

Additionally, during his many visits to Poland, the Pope was surprisingly determined to meet with political opponents such as the government leadership. He met with leader General Wojciech Jaruzelski, a man who enacted Martial Law in Poland and was directly responsible for the arrest of activists such as Anna Walentynowicz and Lech Wałesa. And yet, the Pope wanted to meet. When he did, he outwardly expressed to Jaruzelski his support of the *Solidarity* movement, a popular shipyard union that actively encouraged Poles around the country to practice civil disobedience with protests, sit-ins, and peaceful demonstrations against the communist government. The Pope "made clear [to Jaruzelski] his deep unhappiness over the reversal of the process of social, economic and political renewal that had been set in motion since *Solidarity* was formed in August 1980," said Henry in the *New York Times*. Despite differences in political opinions, the Pope clearly had an effect on the General, as years later he took steps to visit the Pope himself at the Vatican in hopes of establishing better ties with the Pope.

Polish government officials were not the only opposition members the Pope met. In fact, John Paul II made history when he became the first Catholic Pope to ever meet with a Soviet Communist leader, President Mikhail Gorbachev. The two met in the Vatican and spoke for over an hour on religious freedoms and considered forging diplomatic relations. "Our meeting today will hardly fail to have a powerful impact on world opinion. Not only is it something new and unusual. It will also be interpreted as singularly meaningful, a sign that is rich in promise," the Pope expressed during their meeting,

See "John Paul II ...," page 10

Meet Our Scholarship Winner, Claudia Cheffs

An Education doctoral student at the University of California, Los Angeles, Claudia Cheffs of Fountain Valley, California, is the daughter of Polish immigrants, and the first in her family to graduate with a college degree. Claudia said the harsh experiences her parents went through to arrive to the United States and raise a family have given her an appreciation and drive to assist others.

She currently holds a B.S. in Political Science.

Outside of work, she is a volunteer with One Humanity Institute, a global organization to bring about world peace through education initiatives in Auschwitz-Oswiecim, Poland. As an undergraduate, she traveled to Washington D.C. for an internship job at the Department of Justice, while volunteering for a non-profit aimed at eliminating nuclear weapons. There, she took courses that took her to the State

Department, World Bank, and CIA.

"The conversations with my peers on these trips supplemented with readings led to a deepening of our knowledge on international affairs. I began to view the world through a more global lens as opposed to a one-sided American perspective," she said. "My identity as a Polish-American deepened."

Her mission to educate students on global nuclear threats led her to travel to workshops in London, Chicago, and Moscow. Spurred by her interest in learning more about global conflicts, she joined the Olive Tree Initiative, a student-led organization promoting the innovative model of experiential education through travel and dialogue. Through this work, she visited Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Turkey, Armenia, and Georgia.

Passionate about education,



she hopes to use her experiences to teach others to have meaningful exchanges, and to look beyond their borders for solutions.

Her essay, printed here, was a requirement of the Polish American Journal Foundation scholarship application.

MINNESOTA VOICE

Estimated Number of Polish Americans by County

Comparing Minnesota
Polonia: Census
1950 and 2020

by Mark Dillon

Dorothea Johns of Bloomington, Minn. was a young girl when she arrived in the rural Carver County hamlet of Hamburg, Minn., population 184, three days before Christmas in 1949. The native of Polish Silesia had journeyed from a displaced persons camp in Bavaria, one of some 140,000 Poles who would make their way to America in the years following World War II.

Come April 2022, the full story of what her world and American Polonia looked like in Minnesota and the rest of the United States on April 1, 1950 will become available as the full data set of the 1950 U.S. Census is released by the National Archives.

Johns, now 83, will be able to see the records of her sponsoring German Lutheran family and neighbors and learn what they individually reported to Census enumerators 72 years earlier – their heritage, citizenship status, income, occupation and whether they owned or rented their home.

Next April, Johns is hoping to share her refugee and resettlement story as part of a Polish-themed, possibly virtual mini-conference that is being planned as a segment of Minnesota's annual World War II Roundtable discussion series led by retired U.S. Army Col. Donald Patton. Also speaking about Poland's September 1939 defense is likely to be noted historian John Radzilowski of Alaska, author of *Poles in Minnesota*.

A time of change

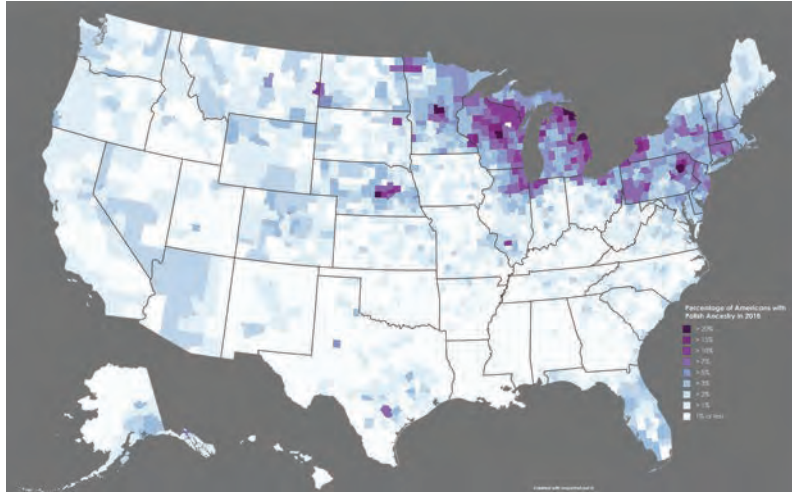
On a broader scale, the 1950 Census data release – a process that will take about six months – will allow genealogists, historians and family researchers to view a full snapshot in time when American Polonia was changing rapidly, and a major wave of immigration underway.

An estimated 35,000 Poles came to the U.S. as displaced persons between 1945 and the late 1960s, according to an Autumn 1969 *Polish American Studies* article by Danuta Mostwin. Another 40,000 were ex-servicemen and families with ties to the Warsaw Uprising.

Radzilowski's book says that in Minnesota at the time "these refugees had seared into them a strong national consciousness and a fierce opposition to the Communist takeover of their country. Their sense of Polishness and even their style of spoken Polish had been developed in Europe and was quite different from the language and culture of their American cousins. Immigrants saw Polish Americans as insufficiently aware of modern Polish culture, and unmotivated."

By contrast, some Polish Americans "viewed the new arrivals as arrogant, ignorant of the problems Poles faced in America and ungrateful for the resettlement help that they had received. The result was often friction and misunderstanding."

In 1950 Minnesota, the percentage of the state's Polish-born population living in urban areas became the majority. More than half of the



This map breaks down the 9.15 million Americans who self-identify as having Polish ancestry by county. Darker areas have the highest concentration. In Minnesota, the highest concentration is in the Little Falls area. In Pennsylvania, it is the Wilkes-Barre metro area. In Wisconsin, the Stevens Point and Wausau areas.

Source: US Census Bureau 2018 American Community Survey

8,309 Minnesotans who said at the time that they were born in Poland were living in the Minneapolis and St. Paul metro areas. So Johns' rural resettlement story was a bit unusual.

Census data may reveal what grandparents did not

Over the years, historians and authors have strived to document many poignant life stories of individual Poles who came to the United States in the late 1940s and 1950s. Currently these efforts include the Polish American Historical Association Memoirs Project, led by Ewa Barczyk of the University of Wisconsin at Madison and Ewa Wolynska at Central Connecticut State University, as well as the Kaledioscope photography and oral history effort in Minnesota.

"Recognizing the contributions of Polish migrants to Polish American as well as American history, PAHA appeals to the members of the exile generation, their families, and their organizations to deposit their existing records in archival and research institutions," PAHA writes on its website.

What the newly released 1950 Census data will do is allow people to view how this process was unfolding within their own families and ancestors. This is particularly important, given that the depth of the data is far more robust and detailed than the more basic, primarily non-economic information gathered as part of the ongoing 2020 U.S. Census, expected to be completed by October.

Not asked this year but asked in 1950, for example, is where one's parents were born, how long a person might have been a naturalized citizen, and the occupation and annual wages of each adult in the household. (See excerpt of 1950 questionnaire)

In April 2012, when the 1940 U.S. Census was fully released, this equally robust document provided a treasure trove of information about Polish Americans a year into World War II. It was also a time when the generation that came to America from partitioned Poland prior to World War I as young adults were retired or close to retirement.

For example, a person age 24 in 1900 – considered the "age of majority" in civil law within the Galician province of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, and thus free to marry or leave without permission from parents – would have been 64

in 1940.

Despite the influx of displaced Poles into the U.S. after World War II, the total number of Americans born in Poland declined from 993,479 to 861,284 between 1940 and 1950 as measured by the U.S. Census. The peak number of Americans born in Poland was actually recorded in the 1930 census at 1,268,883 people. Today that number is only around 418,000, estimated though the Census Bureau's separate 2018 American Community Survey, which is a sampling rather than a full count of everyone.

One could only report one's Polish ancestry in the 2020 Census as a "write-in" supplement to ques-

Pope John Paul II. Sought peaceful resolution

continued from previous page

reported *New York Times* journalist Clyde Haberman. By meeting with people who disagreed with him, the Pope was able to forge important relationships and revealed the core of his humanity.

Some might ask why the Pope bothered to take these sorts of actions. For many, it seems useless and dangerous to give oppressors a voice. To this day, there are people who claim that nonviolent resistance does nothing to solve the institutional issues at hand. It is understandable why people may feel this way; giving a voice to oppressors who arrest, murder and allow for the oppression of a country seems unreasonable. But the fact of the matter is that nonviolence works because, in the words of the prominent Harvard Professor Gene Sharp, "it makes a society ungovernable by would-be oppressors."

In other words, nonviolence actively seeks out *which* institutions an oppressor requires in order maintain its power, and then actively seeks to destroy it through education, strikes, economic boycotts, creating alternative media sources and convincing the military to defect.

The Pope did not necessarily participate in *all* these types of activities – his role was primarily spiritual, educational and inspirational in Poland. But he certainly endorsed all nonviolent forms of resistance when he wrote, "May people learn to fight for justice without violence, renouncing class struggle in their internal disputes, and war in international ones."

It is important to note that faith

was most certainly the Pope's guide in his quest for nonviolence. As most know, Jesus preached, "turn thy other cheek," and Pope John Paul II precisely did so by forgiving his would-be killer. But beyond faith, the reality is that Pope John Paul II embodied the true spirit of a nonviolent practitioner. It is true that his peaceful methods did not necessarily yield *quick* results – communism lasted throughout most of his Papacy. But similar to Gandhi, his "results were likely to be ... more durable for having been brought about peacefully," said B.R. Nanda of the Ghandi Research Foundation. He clearly felt that violence would not solve deeply rooted issues, and instead encouraged people to take nonviolent action to enact justice and peace. The Solidarity union greatly capitalized on the Pope's inspiration, and is primarily the reason why it was present at the Round Table negotiating talks in the late 1980s to discuss a free Poland.

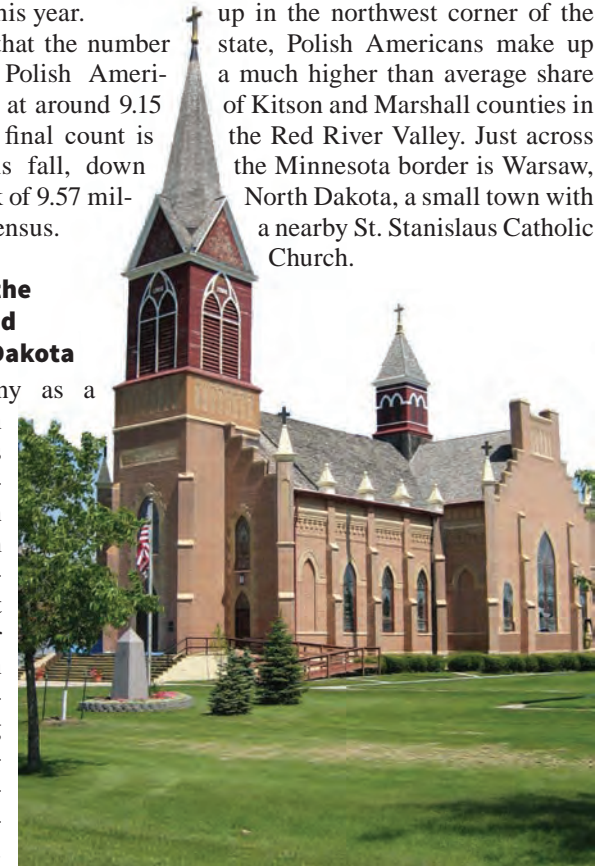
It is expected that the number of self-reporting Polish Americans will come in at around 9.15 million when the final count is reported later this fall, down from all-time peak of 9.57 million in the 2010 Census.

Greetings from the Polish prairie and Warsaw, North Dakota

While as many as a quarter-million Minnesotans might have self-reported Polish ancestry, from a purely demographic standpoint it would appear that small town and rural Minnesota are surviving epicenters of Polish American population and heritage in the state. Morrison County and Little Falls have the highest concentration of people with self-identified Polish ancestry, according to 2018 Ameri-

can Community survey estimates. (See map).

That's closely followed by Winona County, home of Minnesota's Polish Kashubian community along the Mississippi River. Third, way up in the northwest corner of the state, Polish Americans make up a much higher than average share of Kitson and Marshall counties in the Red River Valley. Just across the Minnesota border is Warsaw, North Dakota, a small town with a nearby St. Stanislaus Catholic Church.



LITTLE POLAND ON THE PRAIRIE. The Church of St. Stanislaus in Warsaw, North Dakota, built in 1901, is part of an 11.2-acre Polish American historic district and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Parishioners in North Dakota and Minnesota mortgaged their homesteads to raise \$50,000 to build it debt free.

Source: US Department of Interior

was most certainly the Pope's guide in his quest for nonviolence. As most know, Jesus preached, "turn thy other cheek," and Pope John Paul II precisely did so by forgiving his would-be killer. But beyond faith, the reality is that Pope John Paul II embodied the true spirit of a nonviolent practitioner. It is true that his peaceful methods did not necessarily yield *quick* results – communism lasted throughout most of his Papacy. But similar to Gandhi, his "results were likely to be ... more durable for having been brought about peacefully," said B.R. Nanda of the Ghandi Research Foundation. He clearly felt that violence would not solve deeply rooted issues, and instead encouraged people to take nonviolent action to enact justice and peace. The Solidarity union greatly capitalized on the Pope's inspiration, and is primarily the reason why it was present at the Round Table negotiating talks in the late 1980s to discuss a free Poland.

It is impossible to give any one single person or reason complete credit for a political revolution. There were many people and movements that were directly involved in the successful overthrow of the forty-five year Soviet occupation of Poland. However, it cannot

be understated that the personality, influence and specific nonviolent actions of Pope John Paul II com-

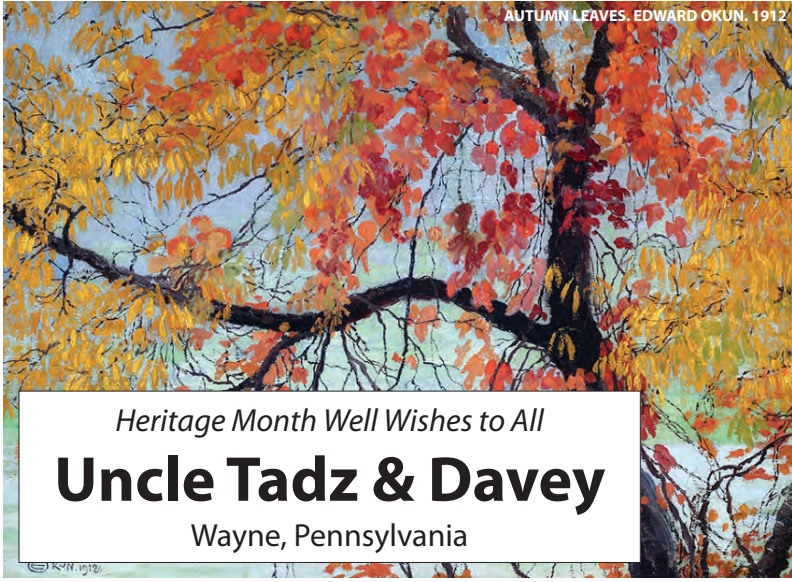


The Pope's actions worked hand-in-hand with others who led the Solidarity movement (such as Anna Walentynowicz and Lech Walesa, pictured above with John Paul II). The Pope educated and instilled a vibrant community spirit within the Polish people, while the Solidarity movement utilized these themes to spur people towards political action.

pletely changed the course of Polish history. In a sense, The Pope's actions worked hand-in-hand with others who led the Solidarity movement (such as Anna Walentynowicz and Lech Walesa). The Pope educated and instilled a vibrant community spirit within the Polish people, while the Solidarity movement utilized these themes to spur people towards political action. It is without doubt that Pope John Paul II's work and actions were absolutely necessary and without his contributions, it is very likely that our world would look different today.

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Editor's note: References, not printed here for sake of brevity, are available upon request from the PAJ.

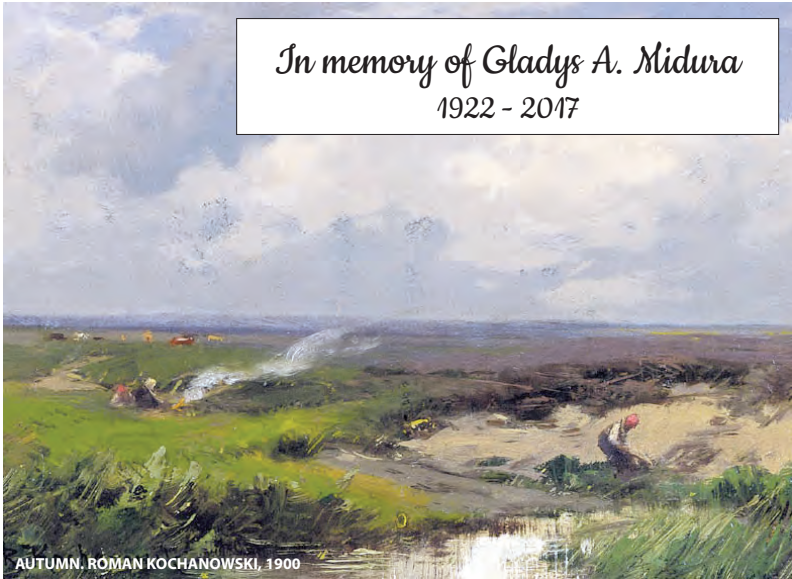


AUTUMN LEAVES, EDWARD OKUN, 1912

Heritage Month Well Wishes to All
Uncle Tadz & Davey
 Wayne, Pennsylvania

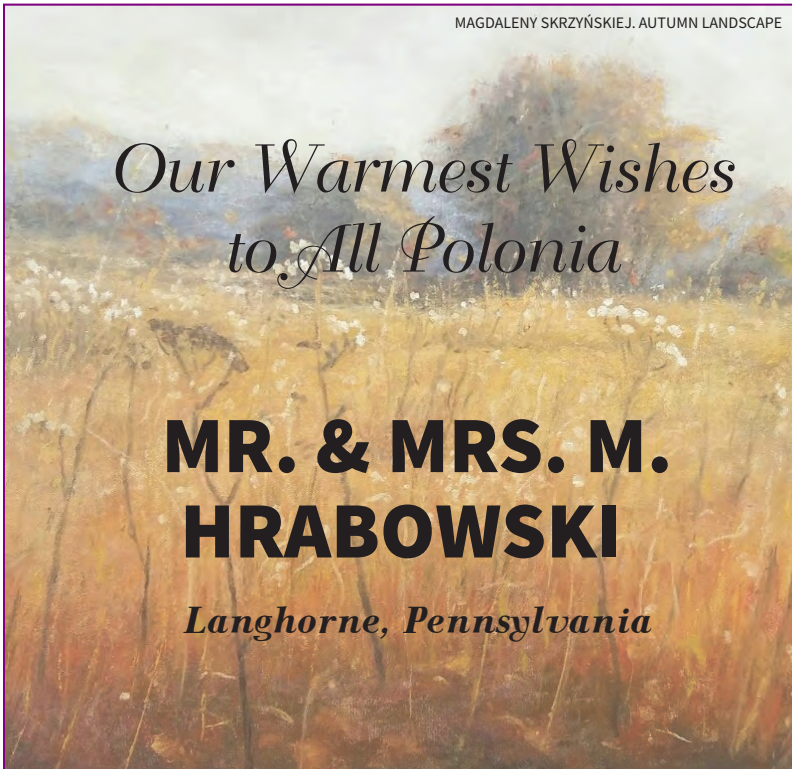


ZOFIA STRYJENSKA. DOZYNKI. OIL AND GOUACHE ON CANVAS.



AUTUMN, ROMAN KOCHANOWSKI, 1900

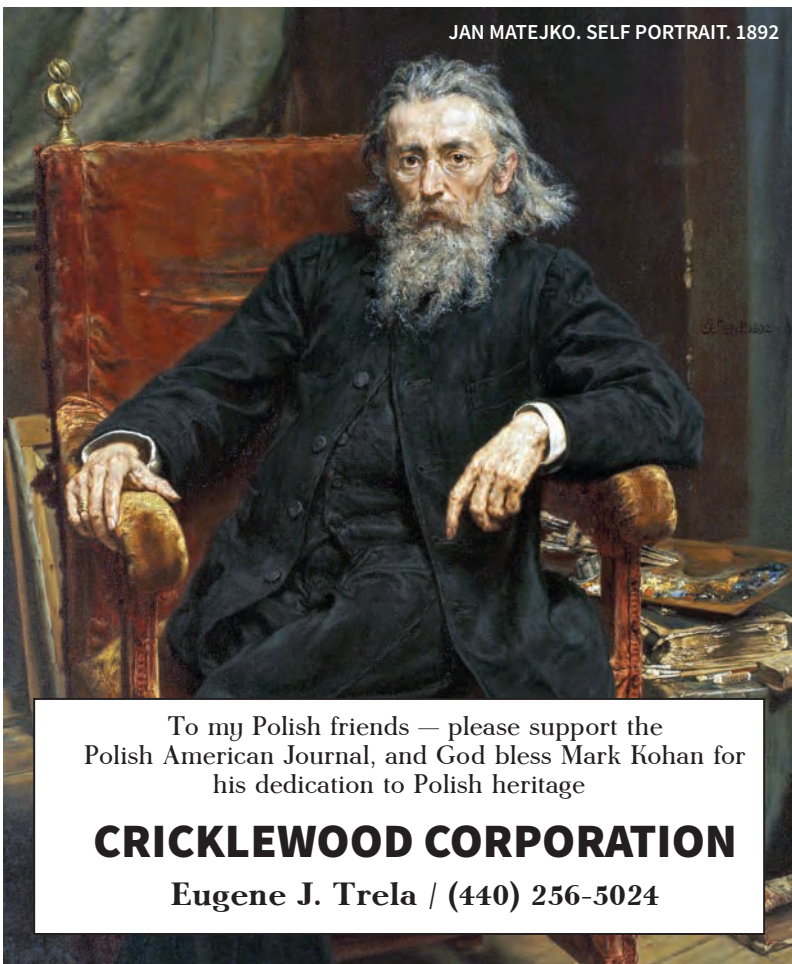
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JAN MATEJKO. SELF PORTRAIT. 1892

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In memory of my parents,
 Kamylla (Dombrowski) and Czesław Kaszuba



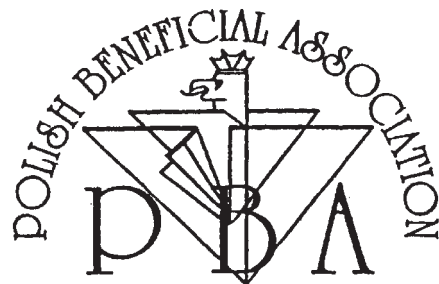
Heritage Month
 Greetings to
 Polish Americans
 Across the Country



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Card 453 — Holy Family

“Maryja Panna, Maryja Panna
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“The Virgin Mary, the Virgin Mary,
nurses the Child ...



Card 455 Polish Mountaineer Group

Na szczęście, na zdrowie,
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this Christmas ...



Card 452 Christmas Eve First Star

Niech zawsze nad waszym
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May a gold star always shine
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Card 454 Polish Christmas Wafer

Na szczęście na zdrowie
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Health and good
fortune this Vigil!



Card 456 — Three Kings

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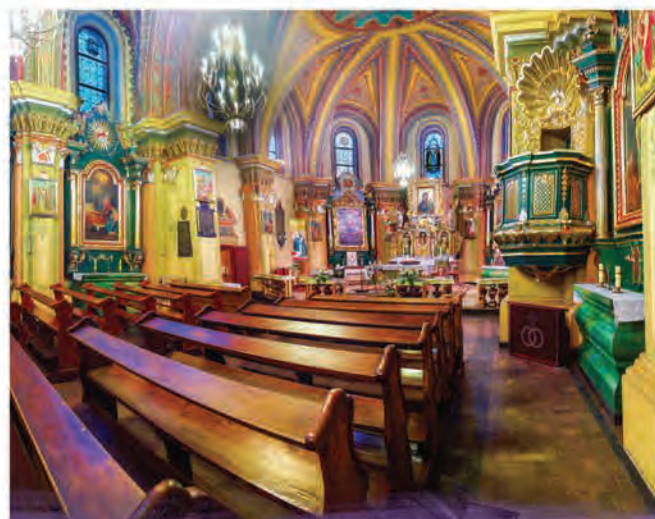
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 Inside Poland's Majestic Churches

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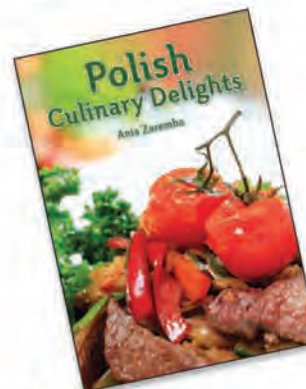
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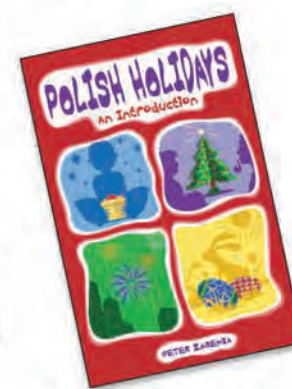
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Honeybees and their Polish Beekeepers

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO – The average produce shopper at the grocery store may not know that over 75% of the fresh produce is in fact pollinated by bees.

Mitchell Kobos, a retired forklift operator, has been involved in beekeeping since his childhood in Poland, having learned the art of beekeeping from his father. Here in the Chicago area, he was been a beekeeper for over 25 years and recently introduced this hobby to his son-in-law, **Ted Kozelka**, an aerospace manufacturing engineer.

will swarm and leave the hive and find a new location, usually nearby. This is when the beekeeper has to go to that location, perhaps a tree or a bush, and bring along a beehive box and a couple of frames, where the bees store honey and wax. The beekeeper gently shakes the tree and with the box close at hand, waits for the queen to enter the frame with her followers following close behind her. Mitchell has done this several times. He also pointed out that honeybees don't gather among humans. They would rather be in their warm hives.

Interestingly, he pointed out that honeybee venom might help with arthritis. There are spas in Poland and other parts of Europe specializing in a form of honeybee acupuncture.

Mitchell is a member of the Illinois Beekeepers Association and the Lake County Beekeepers Association Illinois. He also receives beekeeping journals from Poland to keep abreast of the latest in Polish



Kozelka and Kobos

For the past several years, the beehive population has been decreasing: approximately 84,430 commercial hives were lost during the first quarter of 2017 alone. Reasons for the decline include poor beekeeping practices, habitat loss, parasites, pathogens, and pesticides. The largest portion of the decline is due to the rise in the use of pesticides, especially among wild bees. Synthetic pesticides account for the two-thirds loss of hives in the United States and Canada.

Mitchell maintains two hives and Ted has one. According to Kobos, the number of hives should be determined by the amount of property one has and the location. Having a vegetable garden is very helpful, because flowering vegetables attract working bees to gather the nectar and pollen.

Mitch wanted to make sure that everyone knows that the honeybees visit flowers searching for nectar and pollen for the hive. By nature, this insect is gentle and is not interested in people or human food. On the other hand, the yellowjacket wasp, which most people think is a bee, is the creature that visits your food and your picnic, swarms around your face, hands, and legs. It can get mean and will sting if provoked. Its usual habitats are secluded ground cavities, decayed wood, or in crevices or cracks of the exterior of buildings.

Kobos wanted to point that occasionally there is a "war" between some of the bees in the hive. If this happens, many bees and their queen

Poland is a large honey producing country. He meets from time to time with his Polish American



Retrieving bees from a tree.

beekeeping friends to socialize and discuss beekeeping.

The start-up costs for a hobbying beekeeper can be steep: upwards of \$1,000. Materials can be purchased online, including blueprints to build the boxes necessary to house the bees and the frames that hang in the boxes to hold the wax and honey. Even a box of live bees can be purchased online and delivered to a residence.

Photos: Marianne Kozelka

A Fictionalized Account of a Tragic Event

by Mary E. Lanham

THE ROAD TO LATTIMER
by Virginia Rafferty
Milford House Press
2019, 237 pgs.

In September of 1897, at least nineteen people were killed and many more were wounded in eastern Pennsylvania, when striking anthracite coal miners were shot by the Luzerne sheriff and his deputies in what became known as the Lattimer Massacre. Virginia Rafferty explores the circumstances that led up to the massacre in *The Road to Lattimer*. Drawing on her own genealogical records and extensive historical research, Rafferty presents a fictionalized account of this tragic event.

The novel focuses on four couples from Eastern Europe who sought a better life for their young families by making a home in eastern Pennsylvania. However, what awaited them was not what they were expecting. They found themselves living in unkempt houses and the men and boys faced extremely dangerous work in the coal mines. It wasn't uncommon for injuries and deaths to occur and rumblings

among the workers began to grow. These circumstances drove both native-born Americans and immigrants to join the United Mine Workers of America and strike for safer working conditions, more pay, and to remove the requirements of living in company-owned housing.

Rafferty shines a bright light on the thoughts, emotions, and actions of the four immigrant families in the years and days leading up to that horrible event of September 10, 1897 as well as its aftermath. Her descriptive style is exemplified in the following excerpt in which Anna Dusick reflects on her life that she left behind as she unpacks her luggage in her new home.

"She imagined her mother pounding the dough that became the warm bread that would sit on the table, the smell tantalizing and inviting. She remembered her father on a dark winter evening, sitting near the stove with his beer and his pipe, looking tired but content... Her hand glided over the trunk, and



she thought of its contents. There were family treasures to be inspected, photographs of those left behind, a scarf she had embroidered and a handkerchief with a crochet border she carried on her wedding day."

The author has helpfully included a bibliography, a list of pertinent historical figures, glossary, and the names of those who died in the massacre. *The Road to Lattimer* is an excellent piece of historical fiction that gives new life to the tragic event of over a century ago.

◆ ◆ ◆

Virginia Rafferty is a retired middle school science teacher with a BA from Merrimack College in Massachusetts and a Master of Education degree from Antioch New England Graduate School in New Hampshire. She is a member of several writers' groups including, The South Carolina Writers Association, Aiken Writers' Bloc, and the Appalachian Writers Association. Her other book is *Family Secrets ... Hidden in the Shadows of Time* which was published in 2015. She lives in Aiken, South Carolina where she is the volunteer coordinator for the McGrath Computer Learning Center.

POLONIA PLACES

Warren's St. Casimir Church

by Gregory L. Witul

ST. CASIMIR CHURCH
228 Child Street
Warren, Rhode Island
Status: Demolished

The town of Warren in central Rhode Island, near the Massachusetts border, has been home to Poles since the end of the nineteenth century. The earliest Polish settlers to the Bristol County hamlet had to travel ten miles to St. Stanislaus in Falls River, Mass. to hear Mass said in their native tongue. By the end of 1898, six had registered with the parish. As this little population grew, the Bishop of Providence sent Father Basinski to St. Mary's to celebrate Mass for the Poles during the Christmas and Easter seasons.

As more Poles moved into the area looking for work, the St. Joseph's Society of Warren was established in 1903 as a mutual aid society. It would be from the appeal of this group that the bishop saw the need of a parish in Warren and in September of 1908 sent the newly-ordained Father Peter Switala to establish St. Casimir's Church. Within a few weeks the church was incorporated and Reverend Switala took an account of his new parish, finding 99 families, 700 adults, and 260 children. Working quickly, Father Peter found a home to serve as a rectory and an adjacent lot for a future church.

Soon Woonsocket architect Walter F. Fontaine was hired to design the new church while contractor Thomas Loughran was brought on

to build it.

On July 25, 1909, Vicar General Reverend Thomas F. Doran laid the cornerstone to the structure and 147 days later Bishop Harkins blessed the church and performed the first Mass. The total cost of the project was \$16,000.

On May Day 1913, a devastating fire destroyed much of the north end of the building including the

finally being relieved by Rev. John T. Borek in 1934.

Father Borek took the parish with a full head of steam. He oversaw the construction of the parish hall, brought in the Bernadine Sisters to run a summer school for the parish youth, hired artist Vincent Mondo to redecorate the parish interior, and by the end of 1944, freed the parish of all its debt. But Borek



altar, sanctuary rail, and a number of pews. The damage was pegged at \$18,000 and took the parish almost six months to fix. Bishop Harkins returned to Warren in November of 1913 to bless the rebuilt church.

Father Peter was replaced with another Polish-born priest Reverend Vincent Kapturkiewicz, in 1915. Father Kapturkiewicz would oversee the establishment of a number of parish societies. Father Vincent replaced with Providence native Father Walter Rozpad on the eve of the Great Depression. Father Rozpad would hold the church together during those turbulent times,

would also see the parish through the Second World War when many boys of the parish left and never returned home.

In the post-War era, the church would dedicate a monument to the veterans of war, be remodeled, see Reverend Peter J. Narewski come and go as parish administrator, survive a hurricane and see modern amenities. In 1972, Father Matthew J. Strumski was named pastor of St. Casimir, a position he held until 2005. With Father Strumski's retirement, St. Casimir's parish closed. It was soon razed and in its place an apartment complex was built.

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HERITAGE MONTH MUSINGS

You Know You are Polish if ...

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:

- Christmas Eve supper starts with the breaking and sharing of a white wafer known as *oplatek*, after which everybody hugs and kisses.
- Your Polish fluency is limited but you know such words as “Dzień dobry” and “dziękuję,” the names of a few foods like pierogi, gołąbki, kielbasa, kapusta and babka plus a few swear words including those starting with a “d,” “g,” “k” and “ch.”
- You may actually know who Pułaski, Kościuszko and Piłsudski were and what their claim to was all about.
- Your *babcia* saved the prayer cards passed out at the funerals of loved ones and neighbors.
- You are happy whenever Poland wins an Olympic or World Championship medal or a Pole is nominated for some prestigious award.
- Even after you moved away from the old Polish neighborhood, you attended weddings and funerals at one of those magnificent “Polish Cathedrals,” as those ornate Baroque and neo-Gothic style Polonian churches are popularly known.
- You know that Poland lies on the Baltic Sea and that its capital is Warsaw and can name at least two of the countries it shares borders with.
- After arriving in America, some of your immigrant ancestors worked in a coal mine, steel mill, auto plant or other factory, slaughter house, or textile mill.
- You prefer a plate of *pierogi*, *kielbasa*, *naleśniki*, or *gołąbki* to any popular fast-food.
- If asked about Poland’s national anthem, you have no trouble mentioning “Jeszcze Polska nie zginęła.”
- Your U.S.-born parents referred

to recent arrivals from Poland as DPs, even though they were not displaced persons or refugees.

- In your immediate circle of family and friends both “Happy Birthday” and “Sto lat” are sung at birthday parties.
- You keep your Christmas tree up until January 6, even though your non-Polish neighbors may have dumped theirs the day after Christmas.



PHOTO: Z. NAMI ZDROWO

DON'T SWEAR. *Dziadek* would say “psia krew” when he hit his thumb with a hammer. Since it meant nothing more than “dog’s blood,” you couldn’t figure out why *babcia* was upset and told him: “Quit swearing in front of the kids!”

- You set people straight if you hear them claiming that Frederick Chopin and Madam Curie were French, Joseph Conrad was English or Copernicus was German.
- *Na zdrowie!* (Here’s to your health) is what you say when a drinking toast is in order.
- “Could you spell it, please?” is a request you have heard more than once from people who have trouble pronouncing or writing down your Polish last name.
- Taking food baskets to be blessed at church on Holy Saturday has long been a part of your family’s Easter routine.
- Your grandparents or parents enrolled you in an insurance or annuity program with the Polish Falcons, PRCUA, PNA, Spójnia or some other PolAm insurance fraternal.
- You remember *busia* going to church for some religious service called something like “Gush Key Zolly” (*Gorzkie Żale*), but you never really knew what it was all about.
- When scanning American newspapers and magazines your eyes instinctively focus on headlines containing such words as “Poland,” “Polish,” “Warsaw” or conspicuously

Polish last names.

- You remember your *babcia* or *prababcia* (great-grandmother) before Christmas and Easter sending money and gift parcels to mysterious relatives in Poland you had never seen nor even heard much about.
- You are able to immediately pick out any Polish names whenever credits are flashed on your TV screen and the start or end of a show or movie.
- Unlike the families of your non-Polish acquaintances, your relatives do not regard sauerkraut as something to be just heated and served; it needs to be “doctored up” – drained, maybe chopped, cooked until tender, embellished with a roux and seasoned to taste.
- Whether or not you yourself have ever attended one, you know that *poprawiny* is a follow-up celebration held the day after a wedding.
- You recall grandmas, aunts and neighbor ladies who would say “Jeny kochany” (euphemism for “Dear Jesus”) or “Matko Boska Częstochowska” (“Our Lady of Częstochowa”) when surprised, overwhelmed or startled by something.
- You know that *bigos* is a kind of casserole containing meat, sausage, sauerkraut, cabbage, onions, mushrooms, prunes and seasonings and that it is sometimes known in America as “Polish hunter’s stew.”
- In your PolAm family there were relatives named Stanley, Walter, Chester, Mitchell, Stella, Harriet, Lottie or Bernice. Only much later did you learn they were all incorrect translations of Stanisław, Władysław, Czesław, Mieczysław, Stanisława, Jadwiga, Władysława and Bronisława.
- Thanksgiving at *babcia*’s meant roast turkey with all the trimmings but also may have included *kielbasa*, *kapusta*, *pierogi*, *gołąbki*, *babka*, *chruściki* or other Polish treats.
- The PolAm kids you remember from childhood did not know much Polish, but could rattle off a few phrases such as “Daj mi buzi” and “Idź do domu spać!”
- You have seen or heard of people who inscribe K+M+B over their entrance ways on January 6, and know who Kasper, Melchior and Baltazar were.
- You have personally witnessed or at least heard about the bread and salt welcome of newlyweds, and the bride’s unveiling ceremony (*oczepiny*) at Polish weddings.

Kempczynski is McDonald’s CEO



Chris Kempczynski is running the great American hamburger company, McDonalds. Kempczynski, 51, left Kraft Foods four years ago and joined McDonald’s as part of a sweeping management shakeup. About a year later, he was tapped to run its U.S. business. He is now its CEO.

The Cincinnati native held management positions at Procter & Gamble, and PepsiCo, before Kraft and McDonald’s. Kempczynski is a graduate of Duke University and the Harvard Business School.

His rapid ascent to the top job at McDonald’s has left him in a slightly awkward situation for a big-company leader: Kempczynski doesn’t hold a single share in the restaurant chain. In May, he sold his entire accumulated stake — roughly 10,900 shares and almost 27,900 in options — to net \$4.44 million before taxes.

He still owns additional options, some of which he could use to buy shares at a discount. But he owns no regular common stock, according to the latest filings.

Landmark Status Sought for Janta-Polczynska Home

NEW YORK — Efforts are underway to designate the residence of the late Walentyna Janta-Polczynska in Elmhurst, Queens as an official NYC Landmark with Cultural Heritage significance.



Walentyna Janta-Polczynska

Letters to New York’s Landmark Preservation Commission are asking the home of “The First Lady of Polish Americans,” be garnered this status because of Janta-Polczynska’s role in the community, and the home’s historical significance.

The 1911 gambrel frame home in Elmhurst was the long-time home of the World War II Polish War heroine who later became the unofficial first lady of Polish history

and culture in Queens. She resided at this residence until she passed away on April 2, 2020 at 107 years old.

Janta-Polczynska was the last living member of the Polish Government-in-Exile. From 1940 to 1943 she served as a confidante and secretary of the prime minister and commander in chief, General Władysław Sikorski. In that role as chief translator she was responsible for translating into English the first eyewitness accounts by the Polish resistance fighter Jan Karski of the Nazi destruction of the Warsaw ghetto and the extermination of Polish Jews. As the chief translator for the Polish cabinet, she attended meetings with foreign leaders, including Winston Churchill. Further in her heroine role during World War II, she helped to organize and also worked as an announcer for a secret radio station that broadcast to occupied Poland. Janta-Polczynska was at the heart of Polish resistance during the war. After the war Walentyna continued her service as she was assigned to the Women’s Auxiliary Service and given the rank of second lieutenant in the Polish Army. She served as a translator under American auspices stationed in Frankfurt, Germany, where she debriefed Polish former POWs and concentration camp inmates who had been victims of medical experiments. She also witnessed two days of the Nuremberg trials.

The home of Walentyna and her husband Aleksander — a foreign and war correspondent for a Warsaw magazine before serving in the French resistance in which he was taken prisoner — became an important stopping place for Polish emigre elite fleeing Communist Poland as well as distinguished scholars, professors and dignitaries.

Letters in support of the designation should be addressed to: Chair Sarah Carroll, NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission, 1 Center Street, 9th floor, New York, NY 10007.

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Autumn Soups

by Robert Strybel

CHICKEN SOUP (*rosół z kury*): A fryer/broiler can be used, but for that rich, old-time flavor a mature stewing chicken is preferable. Wash 1 cut-up 3 lb chicken, place in pot, add 1 T salt and 10 c water, bring to gentle boil and cook 90 min or until meat is fairly tender. (Cook only 45-60 min if a fryer is being used). Skim off scum until no more forms. To broth add about ½ lb soup greens (washed and peeled carrot and parsley root, 1 stalk celery, 1 trimmed leek), 1 halved onion (impaled on fork and charred in dry skillet until blackened rings appear), 1 whole vine-ripened tomato, 6 peppercorns, 2-3 grains allspice and 2 bay leaves. Cook until vegetables are tender. Strain and discard all spices. Cooked carrot and parsley root can be added to soup. When cooled to room temp, refrigerate overnight. Before serving, remove congealed fat from surface. Freeze the skimmed-off chicken fat in small batches for future soups and gravies. Serve chicken soup over home-made or store-bought egg noodles, poured-batter noodles, cooked diced potatoes, cooked rice, barley or buckwheat groats. Garnish with a little finely chopped parsley and/or dill before serving. Note: The boiled chicken may be removed from bone and served in the soup or used for the main course (in a sauce or stew).

CABBAGE SOUP (*kapuśniak ze słodkiej kapusty*): Shred and par-boil 1-lb head of cabbage. (Bring 1 qt cold water and cabbage to boil, cook 5 min, then drain). Cook cabbage and 1 large chopped onion in 6 c meat stock 40 min. Add 1 T tomato concentrate (or 1 c canned stewed tomatoes), a bay leaf, several peppercorns and 1 t caraway (optional) and cook in 6 c meat stock another 30 min or until cabbage is very tender. Dissolve 1 heaped T flour in 1 c cold water and stir into soup. Simmer another few min. Variation: Together with the spices and tomato concentrate add 2 med potatoes, peeled and diced, and cook until potatoes are done. For a tarter flavor, sour to taste with a pinch or 2 citric acid crystals or q bit of cider vinegar.



BEETROOT SOUP/RED BARSZCZ (*czerwony barszcz*): Scrub 1 lb small beets, peel and cook in water to cover about 60 min or until fork-tender. When cool enough to handle, dice or slice thin, return to beet liquid in which they cooked and add 4 c meat stock and ½ oz rehydrated and cooked until tender dried mushrooms and their liquid. Bring to boil, reduce heat, simmer 5 min and remove from flame. When slightly cooled, fork-blend or whisk ½ c sour cream with 1 heaped T flour until smooth and stir 1 c hot soup into mixture, 1 T at a time, whisking the whole time, so sour cream doesn't curdle. Then stir into soup. Simmer a few min without boiling. Season to taste with salt, pepper and a little cider vinegar to taste. This soup may be served over quartered hard-cooked eggs or cooked diced potatoes. Optional: Garnish with a little chopped dill.

FRESH TOMATO SOUP (*zupa ze świeżych pomidorów*): Wash, hull and quarter 1¼ lb fresh, ripe, preferably vine-ripened tomatoes and simmer covered on low heat with several T stock and 2 T butter 15-20 min. Sieve, forcing through with wooden spoon or pestle into 6 c meat or vegetable stock and season to taste with salt, pepper and a little sugar. Remove from heat. Fork-blend ½ c sour cream with 1 heaping T flour until smooth, gradually stirring on 1 c hot soup 1 T at a time- Whisk until smooth and add to soup. Return to heat and simmer several min and serve over egg noodles or rice.

FRESH MUSHROOM SOUP (*zupa pieczarkowa*): Trim, wash well and slice 1 lb fresh mushrooms (the common white variety or the darker Portobello or a little of both). Brown lightly in 3 T butter, margarine or oil with 1 diced onion until

tender. Add 5 c vegetable stock (or a mushroom bouillon cube dissolved in 5 c water). Cook 10 min. On the side, prepare a golden roux with 1 T flour and 1 T butter, stir in several T cold water to form a paste and add to soup pot. Cook another 10 min or so on low heat. Season to taste with salt, pepper and about 1 T cider vinegar. Optional: A heaping T sour cream may be whisked in after soup has been removed from flame and has cooled down slightly. Garnish with fresh chopped dill and/or parsley.

SUPER-EASY POTATO-MUSHROOM SOUP (*najłatwiejsza kartoflanka z grzybami*): A short-cut method of preparing potato-mushroom soup (when vegetable stock and dried mushrooms are not available and/or time is at a premium) is to combine 4 - 5 peeled diced potatoes with 1 mushroom bouillon cube, a small or medium can of stems & pieces mushrooms (including liquid) with 5 c water and cook until potatoes are tender. Cream with ½ c sour cream fork-blended with 1 T flour. Season to taste with salt, pepper and 1 T vinegar. Garnish with fresh or frozen chopped dill.

FLAVOR-ENHANCERS (*wzmacniacze smaku*): A little Polish-style dried-vegetable-based flavor enhancer (known under such trade-names as Jarzynka, Vegeta, Warzywko or Kucharek) may be added to all savory soups, but use only 1/3 or less the amount recommended by the manufacturer. Otherwise your home-made soups will acquire that artificial, canned-soup, dry-soup-mix or school-cafeteria-style taste.

SAUERKRAUT SOUP (*kapuśniak*): Prepare stock by cooking ½ - ¾ lbs meaty pork bones in 8 c water 1 hr, skimming off scum. Add 1 T salt, 2 small carrots, 1 stalk celery 1 onion, 2 bay leaves and 5 peppercorns and cook until meat comes away from bone. Drain 1 pt sauerkraut (reserving juice), rinse in cold water and drain, chop and add to strained stock. Cook on med heat uncovered 30 min. Dice meat from bones, and add to pot then reduce heat and cook covered until sauerkraut is very tender. In skillet fry up 4 slices diced bacon with 1 chopped onion, stir in 3 T flour and simmer until browned, stirring constantly. Dilute with several T soup and stir into a smooth paste. Add to pot, stir and simmer several more min. If soup is not as tart as you like, add some reserved sauerkraut liquid. Salt & pepper to taste. A t sugar and 1/2 t crushed caraway seeds may be added.



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SPORTS

Robert Lewandowski: Best Year Ever?

by Tom Tarapacki

Bayern Munich star **Robert Lewandowski** has completed an incredible 2019-20 campaign by winning the UEFA Champions League. His Bayern Munich squad defeated Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League final in Lisbon.

While Lewandowski didn't score in that match, the 32-year old Pole scored 55 goals across all competitions, at least 16 goals more than any other player in Europe.

Lewa has gone from being a top player to becoming one of the sport's all-time greats. He has shown steady improvement year by year, and his greatness is finally being widely recognized. That recognition has come slowly because his style of play isn't flashy. He works hard in every area of the field, holds up the ball, passes to bring others into play and, is a deadly finisher. Even his celebrations are relatively low-key and understated.

Normally Lewandowski would be the heavy favorite to win the esteemed Ballon D'Or Award this year, having led his team to a title and scoring more goals than any other player across Europe's top five leagues. The last time he finished as high as fourth was in 2015, behind Messi, Ronaldo and Neymar. Now that he's turned in such an impressive year, the French magazine that presents the prestigious honor decided not to do so due to the pandemic.

Lewa said he feels great, and could play until he's 40. "I don't think about the end of my career. I don't feel like 32; I feel better than when I was 26. I've worked very specifically in recent years to reach my optimal level." His wife, Anna, provides him with expert nutritional advice and has helped him stay in great shape.



Gronkowski is now a Buccaneer.

CHANGING PLACES. his season the following NFL players moved on to new teams:

Rob Gronkowski retired for a season before making a comeback with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and his former New England QB, Tom Brady.

Stephen Gostkowski, the 36-year-old kicker who spent the past 14 years with the New England Patriots and earned three Super Bowl wins, four Pro Bowls and two first-team All-Pro

honors, signed with Tennessee. **Nick Kwiatkowski**, the linebacker who started 22 of 57 games in four seasons with Chicago, signed a free agent contract with Las Vegas and was the Raiders' opening day starter.

Bryan Bulaga, long-time Green Bay right tackle, moved to the Los Angeles Chargers after a decade with the Packers.

Stefen Wisniewski, the versatile offensive lineman who won Super Bowls with Philadelphia and Kansas City, is now with his hometown Pittsburgh Steelers.

MAKING HISTORY. Oakland outfielder **Stephen Piscotty** made history this year when he blasted a curveball into left field for a game-tying grand slam in the ninth inning of a game against San Francisco. Piscotty's second grand slam of the season made it 7-7 with the A's down to their final two outs. It also made him the first Athletic and just the 14th player in MLB history with two ninth inning grand slams in the same season.

Last year he was presented with the 2019 Humanitarian Award from the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame for his commitment to his mother, who passed away last year after a long battle with ALS.

PAY OFF FOR PAVELSKI. The three-year, \$21 million contract **Joe Pavelski** signed with the Dallas Stars has certainly paid off for his new team. He scored 14 goals during the season, and during the Stanley Cup Playoffs, Pavelski scored the first postseason hat-trick in Stars history since their relocation from Minnesota.

He had previously played for the San Jose Sharks for the first thirteen years of his NHL career, and also served as captain during his final four years with the team.

BETTER GUNNER. Last year **Gunner Olszewski** was a great story for the New England Patriots. He made the remarkable transition from being a Division II defensive back to making

an NFL roster as a receiver/punt returner. His contributions last season were limited, but this year Gunner (yes, that's his name) is looking to be a big part of the team's success.

Coach Bill Belichick was very pleased at how much the Texas native has gotten better. "Gunner's improved tremendously. Again, both physically and from a football standpoint," Belichick said. "He's a smart kid, he works extremely hard. He's tough, he's very, very competi-

tive."

Also impressed was Stephon Gilmore, a Patriots cornerback. "I think he's gotten stronger, gotten quicker ... That's one thing about him, he's very fearless, he doesn't care. That's the way you have to be to be a good receiver in this league." Gunner began the season on injured reserve due to a foot injury, but he'll be back!

LATE CUTS. Among the final cuts by NFL teams were: OT **Evin Ksiezarczyk**, P **Cameron Nizialek** (Atlanta), QB **Trevor Siemian** (Tennessee), QB **Brett Rypien**, OLB **Derrek Tuszka** (Denver), DT **Mike Panasiuk** (Las Vegas), OL **Luke Juriga** (Philadelphia), LB **Jordan Kunaszyk** (Carolina), and WR **J.J. Koski** (Los Angeles). However, at this point Nizialek, Siemian, Rypien, Tuszka, Juriga and Koski have been signed to their teams' practice squads.

POLISH PROTEST REMEMBERED. **Wladyslaw Kozakiewicz** turned in a great athletic performance at the 1980 Olympics, but it was what he did afterwards that is indelibly etched in the memories of Poles.

Those Olympics were held in



Kozakiewicz said his gesture wasn't addressed to the "Soviet nation" but specifically to those who whistled at him at the stadium in Moscow.

Moscow in the then-USSR, and boycotted by many countries, including the U.S. and Canada, because of Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. In Poland it was a period of great unrest, and a spate of worker protests would lead to the creation of Solidarity in September.

At the previous Summer Olympics, in Montreal in 1976, Kozakiewicz was one of the favorites to win gold but ruptured his joint capsule

during a warm-up jump before the final. He finished a disappointing 11th, and the gold was won by his lesser known countryman, **Tadeusz Ślusarski**.

Kozakiewicz did well in the following years, though he had a slow start to the 1980 season. When the Moscow Games came that summer his chief rival was Soviet Konstantin Volkov. Particularly as a Pole competing against a Russian, Kozakiewicz heard

boos and whistles whenever he prepared to vault. Russian officials did their part, opening up stadium doors while Kozakiewicz was attempting his vaults so the wind would affect his performance.

Kozakiewicz defeated all of his rivals; Volkov finished second, Ślusarski was third. In addition, he set a new world's record. Afterwards Wladyslaw jumped to his feet, turned to the crowd, placed his left hand on his right arm, and made a fist as he raised his arm. A vulgar message in any language, in Poland it's referred to as the *wal*, or "the shaft."

Pictures and videos sent the images around the world. The Polish athlete's gesture before was a considered a grave insult by the Soviets. Not only did it come from a citizen of one of its "satellite states," but it took place in the Soviet capital during the Olympics. The official Polish response was that the arm gesture had been an involuntary muscle spasm caused by his exertion. Kozakiewicz made up an explanation that he always made such a gesture when he set a new world record. Back in Poland it was seen as a courageous rejection of the USSR.

The Soviets wouldn't let the matter go, and tried to take Kozakiewicz's medal away from him. They argued that he had "insulted the Soviet nation" and put together a special committee on the matter. Kozakiewicz kept his medal, but found himself constantly harassed by communist party officials. In 1985, when he was banned from taking part in sporting events abroad, he travelled on his own to a tournament in West Germany. He stayed



Lewandowski: scored more goal than any other player.



Kozakiewicz today.

there, and got German citizenship. From 1986 to 1988 he was German pole vault champion, and set the country's pole vault record.

Later Kozakiewicz worked as a sports instructor in a school near Hannover. He and his wife Anna raised two daughters.

Now 66, Kozakiewicz himself says that his gesture wasn't in any way addressed to the "Soviet nation" but specifically to those who whistled at him at the stadium in Moscow. However, in Polish culture the so-called "Kozakiewicz Gesture" or "Gest Kozakiewiczza" is an icon, and still considered a symbol of resistance against oppression.

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THE PONDERING POLE

Acknowledging Heritage and Immigration

by Ed Poniewaz

I was talking with an acquaintance recently about a proposal to local government officials for an idea to set aside portions of a city park that recognize the diverse peoples that make up the community at large. The place could be a walkway with stations for each ethnic group; it could be a special or renovated building featuring displays of the history of the various groups; it could be anything or anywhere designating people, places, or events of an ethnic group that originated or settled in the city, state, or region.

An example for what I have in mind is the Immigrant Heritage Hall of Fame of Connecticut (IHHF). You can learn more about it at their website (www.immigrantheritage.org). IHHF celebrates, preserves, and educates the outstanding contributions and histories of members of ethnic communities in the United States and the state of Connecticut. The Immigrant Heritage Hall of Fame is a program of the Polish American Foundation of Connecticut.

The induction ceremony and gala has been postponed for 2020 due to COVID-19, but last year's winners had names such as Lee, Pawlak, Toro, and Lazowski. Lucian Pawlak was born in Belgium in 1947 and is of Polish descent and Rabbi Philip Lazowski was born in Poland in 1930 and survived the Holocaust. You can read more about their achievements on the website.

The keynote address was given by Susan Bysiewicz who is the current lieutenant governor of Connecticut. She is Polish on her father's side and Greek on her mother's.

"The core principle of the Immigrant Heritage Hall of Fame is that, as a nation of immigrants, the heritage of all immigrant and ethnic communities is part of our common American identity and culture. We should celebrate it as our *common*, yet diverse, American heritage." So true especially for the current times we live in and for the future. There seems to be a trend of too many inward-looking folks when they should be focusing on an outward expression and concern. I hope the trend changes.

Polish or not?

A big news item floating around the Yahoo ticker recently is Hollywood actor Brad Pitt's new girlfriend, **Nicole Poturalski**, a fashion model. "Nicole comes from Bergkamen, Germany, which is in the old industrial Ruhr region and is of Polish heritage. On her Facebook page, the fashion star, who is a favorite for British designer Vivienne Westwood, reveals she is single and listed her former city as Warsaw."

Poturalski notwithstanding, just because a Polish person is married to or partnered with a famous person, it does not follow that the related person be deemed famous. It is, however, sometimes interesting and fun to identify whether the related person is Polish or not. Here are two

of them I am curious about:

Kim Klacik is the Republican nominee for Maryland's 7th congressional district and a hot guest commentator for many of the political shows primarily because she is black, Republican, and was part of a commercial showing the urban blight in Baltimore City, Maryland. Kim is married to Jeffrey Thomas Klacik and they have one child together. Jeffrey Klacik, Polish or not?

Justin Thomas is a Professional Golf Association (PGA) player ranked third in the PGA FedEx Cup standings. Though only 27, Justin is one of the best players in the PGA and in the world. His girlfriend is **Jillian Grace Wisniewski**. Jillian looks exactly like her mother who is just as beautiful, but is her father, Polish or not?

Ah, those one-name music stars. Cher, Madonna, Prince, Kiesza, and now **Szlachetka** (shla-het'-ka). You have a lot of confidence to only be known by the name Szlachetka, for several reasons, but all I can say is "you go!" He has carved out his musical career in Country-Western and has received a number of accolades, the best coming from Rolling Stone magazine who proclaimed him one of "The Top New Country Artists You Need To Know."

Born Matthew Szlachetka in Massachusetts, where he started his career and then moved to Los Angeles honing his skills. He now calls home Nashville, Tennessee, the place for Country. In his third al-



Brad Pitt's new squeeze, Nicole Poturalski.

bum, "Young Heart, Old Soul," the songs draw from his life journey as it "unfolds like the soundtrack to a cross-country road trip. Filled with heartland hooks, folk melodies, and searing electric guitar, these songs draw a line between Los Angeles — where Szlachetka lived for years, soaking up the warm harmonies and jangling riffs of the city's folk-rock icons — and his new home in Nashville, Tenn., the epicenter of modern-day Americana."

Find out more about Szlachetka on his website szlachetkamusic.com and see and hear more from him on YouTube. If you like good music and if you like country, you will like Szlachetka. I think this is a no-brainer, but Matthew Szlachet-

ka, Polish or not?

Here is a surprise

Professional hockey star **Mike Bossy** claims a Polish connection. He is Polish/Ukrainian on his father's side according to Ethniclebs.com. His paternal grandfather "was named Walter Vladimir Bossy. Walter was from Jaslo, Podkarpackie, Poland." Among a plethora of awards, honors, and trophies, Mike has been named one of the "100 Greatest NHL Players" of all time.

Happy Polish Heritage month and this October you have my permission to look inward. Dziękuję bardzo to **Susan Gromacki Lathrop** for the Szlachetka lead. I have numerous country music followers around me (lot of country *sangers* in Missouri) and none have mentioned him. Will be interested to hear if he has any Polish roots although he has a very Polish name and a very Slavic looking face. All the same, we wish him well.



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

N.B. If you send email, reference the Polish American Journal or the Pondering Pole in the subject line. I will not open an email if I do not recognize the subject or the sender.

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IN MEMORIAM

Andrzej Pityński, Decorated Sculptor

Andrzej Pityński, 73, the creator of numerous monuments, including the Katyn Memorial in Jersey City, and recipient of Poland's Knight of the Order of the White Eagle, was a sculptor of international fame.

Pityński was born on March 15, 1947 in Ulanów. His parents, Aleksander and Stefania, belonged to the anti-communist underground. At the end of the 1950s, Andrzej and his father supported and supplied the Cursed Soldiers in the underground, including Michał Krupa, pseudonym Colonel, in hiding until 1959. The Security Office made

up art studies at the Arts Students League in New York. In 1979 he made the sculpture "Partisans I", which in 1983 was unveiled in Boston. Another monument by Pityński "Partisans" was erected in Hamilton.

Pityński became a member of the National Sculpture Society (NSS), professor of sculpture at the Johnson Atelier Technical Institute of Sculpture in Mercerville. In 1987, he received US citizenship. Two years later he came to Poland and has been visiting the country regularly since then.



In 2017, President Andrzej Duda awarded Pityński with the Order of the White Eagle, Poland's highest order awarded to both civilians and the military for their merits.

frequent incursions to the Pityński house, searches, and interrogations, which was related to the search for Krupa, who was Stefania Pityńska's brother.

The future sculptor graduated from secondary school in Ulanów, then the Technical School of Water and Melioration in Trzciana near Rzeszów. After further provocations and a show trial in 1967, in which the father and son were accused, the family left Ulanów and settled in Krakow, where Andrzej began his studies at the Teachers' College, but soon he started studying at the Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow in the sculpture studio of Marian Konieczny, first, and later Jerzy Bandura. As a student, he made a bust of Ignacy Jan Paderewski, which was placed in front of the Collegium Paderewianum in Krakow.

In October 1974 he left for the United States. He worked there as a construction worker, and soon took

Creator of the Katyn Monument in Jersey City

One of the most famous sculptures by Pityński is the Katyn Memorial in Jersey City, about 12 meters high and weighing 120 tons. It was built in stages – in 1990, a plinth with reliefs was unveiled, and a year later, a bronze figure of a soldier standing on the plinth, pierced through with a bayonet, was unveiled. There are bas-reliefs on the granite plinth, and on the front there is a bronze eagle in the crown of the Polish Army with the Amazon shield, which houses the urn with the ashes from Katyn. Underneath is the inscription "Katyn 1940" in granite, as well as a bas-relief illustrating the attack on the World Trade Center. At the back, on the Manhattan side, on a pedestal there is a bronze bas-relief dedicated to Siberia (1939) in the form of a cross, from which a mother with two children "walks out" in

shackles to Siberia. There is also an engraved poem describing Siberia. On the right, there is a crowned Polish eagle and bronze plaques with a description of the Katyn massacre. On the left, the American eagle in bronze and boards with a description in English.

In 2018, there were plans to remove the monument from its prestigious location on the Hudson River, opposite Manhattan, but the city council decided to leave the monument in its old location.

(See related story on page 5).

Pityński's famous works also include: the Boston Partisan Monument; the Avenger's Monument at American Częstochowa in Doylestown, Pa.; National Katyń Memorial in Baltimore's Inner Harbor; and the Monument to the Armed Deed of American Polonia (also known as the Hallerczyk Monument) in Warsaw's Żoliborz. He is also the author of the bronze bust of the commander of the 2nd Polish Corps, General Władysław Anders, unveiled at Largo Generale Anders in Cassino, in front of the Historiale Museum on the eve of the 70th anniversary of the end of the Battle of Monte Cassino, as well as the monuments of Ignacy Paderewski, priest Jerzy Popiełuszko, Maria Curie-Skłodowska and Tadeusz Kościuszko.

Decorated with the Order of the White Eagle

In 2017, President Andrzej Duda awarded Pityński with the Order of the White Eagle.

"An outstanding artist, creator of Polish culture built to refresh hearts, to preserve memory, to build the myth of a free Republic of Poland, a symbol of Polish emigration, which kept this treasure of Polish culture for us," said Duda about Pityński during the award ceremony. "Your parents instilled in you a constant striving for a free, sovereign Poland at any price. That's how you acted and works. Although not with a rifle, a saber, but a chisel, an image, extremely eloquent. Building hearts, building our identity, building our tradition, but also building us as a proud nation, perceived by other nations through your work, added the president."

— Polish News

Kazimiera Mika, Heroine of Photo Symbolizing German War Atrocities



The Julien Bryan photograph of Kazimiera Mika and her murdered sister Anna was taken during the siege of Warsaw. Desperate for food, a group of seven women were digging in a potato field in the capital's Powązki district when they came under attack from Luftwaffe aircraft. Anna and another woman were killed.

WARSAW – Kazimiera Mika, 93, was 13 years old when on September 13, 1939, her 14-year-old sister Anna was shot by a German pilot while working in the field. The scene in which the girl cries over her sister's body was recorded by the American photographer Julien Bryan, who captured the little girl's pain and shock. The photo travelled around the world at a rapid pace and became a symbol of German bestiality in occupied Poland. Years later, he still remembered that day as the most tragic day during his stay in besieged Warsaw.

"The girl stared at us in bewilderment. I put my arm around her and tried to comfort her. She was crying. I was crying too, and so were the two Polish officers who accompanied me. What could we, what could anyone else tell this child?" said Bryan.

After the war, he returned to Poland a few times, and met with Mika twice. She managed to recover from her tragedy but never forgot it. According to Bryan, the woman still remembered his attempts to comfort her.

Edmund J. Gronkiewicz, Deacon and Lawyer

Edmund J. Gronkiewicz, 81, born in Chicago on February 4, 1939, passed away on September 3, 2020. He was the son of the late Edmund Gronkiewicz and the late Mary Balonek Gronkiewicz, and the dear friend of Joan Trandel.

Gronkiewicz grew up on the Southwest Side of Chicago and attended St. Casimir Grammar School, then Quigley Preparatory Seminary. He was a graduate of Loyola University Chicago, receiving his bachelor's, master's, and juris doctor degrees all within four years of each other. A polyglot, Gronkiewicz was fluent in Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Aramaic, French, Russian, and Polish.

He spent 20 years as a deacon at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

located in the East Lakeview area of Chicago. He was also active in four religious organizations: Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Federal Association; Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem; Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus; and Constantinian Order of St. George. He was a life member of The Polish Museum of America (PMA), the past legal counsel of the PMA, and a 49-year member of the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance.

Gronkiewicz had been a probate and estate planning lawyer for 55 years and a former partner at the law firms of Hinshaw and Culbertson, LLP and Reda, Ciprian, Magnone, LLC.

— Geraldine Balut Coleman



Stanley W. Lyskanowski Survivor of World War II Atrocities

Stanley W. Lyskanowski, 95, a survivor of the atrocities of World War II, passed away Aug. 23, 2020. After his older sister and brother were sent to Germany as slave laborers, at the age of 14, he joined the Polish underground resistance, but at age 15 was caught by the Gestapo and sent to Warsaw's Pawiak Prison, where he was interrogated and tortured. In 1942 he was transferred to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where the number 164924 was tattooed on his arm. There he stayed for approximately 18 months. He was then transferred to the Nazi Mauthausen-Gusen Concentration Camp in upper Austria. Here he was imprisoned as a slave laborer working in a quarry, hauling 20- to 50-pound rocks down as many as 100 steep steps. On three occasions, Lyskanowski might have gone to the gas chamber, but due to various unforeseen circumstances, such as chaos in the camps, air raids, or bombings, he survived.

On May 8, 1945, Lyskanowski's



Stanley and wife Josephine

birthday, the camp was liberated by the 41st Reconnaissance Squadron of the U.S. Army's 11th Armored Division. He was offered the chance to join the Polish Army and was sent to Italy where he became an officer's chauffeur. When his Polish Army division was disbanded, he was sent to England. Once again, as chance would have it, a proclamation from President Truman was issued: 20,000 men who served in the Polish Army between the ages of 20

to 30 would receive free permanent visas to the United States.

So by 1952, Lyskanowski was eager to make the United States his new home. After spending five days at sea, he arrived at the Port of New York and took a train to Chicago. Once there, he settled on the South Side, worked hard and received a degree in electrical engineering. He soon met his true love, Josephine, at the well-known Lenard's Little Poland Restaurant in Chicago's Wicker Park area. They were married in 1961, and a few years later settled in the Norwood Park area of Chicago's Northwest Side.

Lyskanowski became an active member of The Polish Museum of America (PMA), a member of the Polish American Engineers Association, and, for many years, a member of his church's choir. His life story was shared at the PMA's 2014 "Forbidden Art" exhibit.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, children, and grandchildren.

— Geraldine Balut Coleman

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Come to “A Polish Cabaret”

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Pianist Wanda O'Brien Trefil, PhD (above, left) and mezzo-soprano Magdalena Wór are pictured at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in 2017 after performing a celebrated concert of 1930s Polish cabaret music. Legendary maestro Ignacy Paderewski (seen in the background) appears to be nodding his approval to the dynamic duo, especially since his very own embassy-ensconced historic Steinway piano was key to the performance.



A MOST DYNAMIC DUO. Pianist Wanda O'Brien-Trefil (left) and Mezzo-Soprano Magdalena Wór are pictured above after performing at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, D.C.

A European cabaret is an intimate, relaxed setting where you are very close to the performers allowing you see their expression and hear their music and singing voices at close range. These musical venues were very popular in Poland, especially in cosmopolitan Warsaw, during their 1930s heyday.

With much gratitude to the collaborating O'Brien Trefil and Wór, we are now fortunate enough to be able to relive those glory days with the release of their July 2020 CD titled *A Polish Cabaret: Tangos and Love Songs of 1930s Poland*.

The recording of the replicated embassy performance — among its 17 presentations — includes famous songs as: “Tango Milonga” (tango in the faster milonga style);

“To ostatnia niedziela” (“The Last Sunday”); “Chryzantemy zlociste” (“Golden Chrysanthemums”); and “Miłość Ci wszystko wybaczy” (“Love Forgives Everything”). The remaining 13 entries are by no means any less entertaining to the ear — or any less endearing to the heart — than the others.

The album is available for purchase on AmazonMusic, AppleMusic, iTunes, Spotify, Deezer. If you prefer an actual CD, it is available from artist's website: www.mez-zomagdalenawor.com.

During these trying and stressful times of COVID-19, a visit to a cabaret in 1930s Warsaw may be just what the doctor ordered. You can preview the recording at: www.apolishcabaret.hearnow.com.

—Richard Poremski

Maliszewski Wins Another Daytime Emmy

NEW YORK — The Daytime Emmys completed its third and final pandemic-delayed ceremony with Amazon Prime Video, HBO and Netflix all landing six wins in the various children's, lifestyle and animation awards handed out, while Disney Channel and sister network Disney Junior combined for a total of nine wins.

Among the winners was Jan Maliszewski, who captured the top spot in the category “Outstanding Directing for a Multiple Camera Daytime Program.” The award went to Maliszewski for his work on the PBS cooking series “Milk Street.”

Maliszewski is president of DGA Productions, a television production company based in Watertown, Mass.

EU Artists Shine at Virtual Exhibit

NEW YORK — The Polish Cultural Institute New York (PCINY), in partnership with the Undercurrent, the Lithuanian Culture Institute, the Consulate General of Estonia in New York, Arts Council Malta in New York, Austrian Cultural Forum New York, and the General Delegation of the Government of Flanders presented “10001/ Collaborative Project.”

The unveiling, presented virtually via Zoom, was held Sept. 11.

The exhibit featured six projects created by 12 European Union Artists. In collaboration with Undercurrent and the European Union

National Institutes of Culture's New York Cluster, PCINY guided the creative and collaborative process between 12 artists, who were strangers at first, and who over six weeks developed collaborative vision to reimagine NYC post-March 20, 2020.

“As a gathering space for plural nations, cultures, languages, and beliefs, New York's internationalist energy has flowed into the makeup of the artists in ‘10001,’ said PCINY. “Their practices range from moving and still visual and performing arts to music composition and film.

To follow each team's story, visit 10001.undercurrent.nyc.

Dolina Folk Dancers Jubilee on DVD

MINNEAPOLIS — 2019 commemorated the Dolina Folk Dancers' 70th jubilee. In November 2019, it hosted a concert to celebrate this milestone with our friends and supporters.

DVD copies are now available for those who missed the concert or those who wish to relive that memorable evening. For the low, low price of \$10.00 plus s&h, you can own a limited edition copy of our concert.

DVDs are in short supply, and sales are limited to 3 per order. Shipping charges are added upon entry of shipping country (\$5 — United States; \$30 — Canada, \$40 — International (except Canada). Sales are credit card purchases only, through Dolina's website: dolina.org/dolina-70th-anniversary-jubilee-dvd-order-form/.

The History Behind The “Coexist” Logo

(URBO) This bumper sticker may be one of the most well-known on the planet; the phenomenon encourages different people to live together in peace and harmony. In a strange twist of fate, this symbol has been the focus of multiple legal disputes and licensing claims.

Polish graphic designer **Piotr Mlodozieniec** originally designed the first Coexist logo for an Israeli art contest in the year 2000. The contest theme was “Coexistence” and offered a generous prize for first place, so Mlodozieniec threw his hat in the ring.

Mlodozieniec is the son of an iconic Polish poster designer, Jan Mlodozieniec, and this logo provides a lasting memory of Piotr's father.

The Coexist logo wasn't the first time Mlodozieniec used the cross as a T in a design; the artist incorporated this symbol into a logo for a band and, according to Vox, that band's logo “was one of the last works [Piotr] showed to his father before Jan died in 2000.”

So now when Mlodozieniec sees the cross T in his Coexist logo, he is reminded of his famous father.

Mlodozieniec's submission didn't win the contest, but the image did earn a spot on tour with other artists' works. Eventually, the logo was adapted as graffiti in Europe and across the globe—even winding up on a headband worn by U2 front man, Bono, during the band's 2005-2006 international tour.

A Surprising Letter

As U2 was on tour, using his logo in their performances, Mlodozieniec received a letter from the U.S. asking if he would give permission for an upstart company of recent Indiana University graduates to use his Coexist logo.

These students had already trademarked their “reworked” version of the logo and incorporated a company named “Coexist, LLP” in 2003.

These students needed the designer's okay so that they could sue other companies that were attempting to use the logo for their own gain.

The recent graduates had been operating their business as if they had already received the blessings of Mlodozieniec, but he had never heard of them before.

“Dishonest People”

Mlodozieniec was finally reached in July of 2005 by a blogger writing for a U2 fan site, and he didn't mince words about his feelings towards the Indiana-based company that was using his logo:

“Of Coexist” the blogger wrote, “[Mlodozieniec] says the company promotes a feeling that they are idealistic and for the peace, but they are only interested in the money. They are dishonest people.”

The Polish artist elaborated: “They phoned me. They tried to ask me to give them permission. I told them I don't like it and I want them to stop doing this...”

“They make the suggestion that I have approved what they are doing. The truth is, I am strongly, strongly against them.... As it is not enough, they are suing other people who use this design. So, I do very strongly oppose that.”

Protracted legal battles lasted for years, and eventually, the Indiana-based entrepreneurs moved onto other projects.

A New “Owner”

Both Mlodozieniec and the Museum on the Seam, who hosted the art contest to which the Polish designer originally submitted the logo, seemed to have the strongest legal claims to the Coexist logo, but in the last few years, another

seen on bumper stickers, designed by Jerry Jaspar.

Elgawhary's foundation doesn't fit into the traditional model of a non-profit nor is it a corporate enterprise; its work lies somewhere in between:

“Coexist's mission is to build



Who hasn't seen this? The Coexist bumper sticker.



Piotr Mlodozieniec

company has taken the appropriate steps to receive licensing rights for the iconic piece of art.

Tarek Elgawhary is the CEO of Coexist. The leader of this international organization saw this logo as a great opportunity to promote the foundation that he runs, so he did the proper legwork to procure clear licenses for Mlodozieniec's original logo and for the version commonly

social cohesion by sourcing high-quality products from conflict zones around the world. By bringing together communities with a history of conflict, we strengthen the bonds between them and create a new generation free from prejudice, hate, and violence. Coexist grew out of the Coexist charity to support the livelihoods of communities that we have worked with around the world. Profits are reinvested into the Coexist charity to support projects around the world.”

Coexist's products include organic, fair trade cotton t-shirts, organic coffees “sourced from conflict zones around the world,” and, of course, the iconic bumper stickers.

If you're feeling guilty about potentially owning a counterfeit bumper sticker that only lined a businessman's pockets instead of supporting a good cause, you can make a donation to the Coexist Foundation or purchase its other products online.

Visit www.coexistfoundation.org.

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DANCE TIME

A Socially Distanced Success in Cleveland

by Jennifer Pijanowski

Live polka music in a COVID world continues as Cleveland pulls off yet another successful socially distant polka dance. **The Beat**, which were originally booked and scheduled to appear at Holy Spirit Party Center in Parma, briefly postponed their event due to travel bans existing between New Jersey, New York, and Ohio. Following a fairly quick rescinding of the travel advisory, promoter **Jill Czerniak** switched into high gear and made arrangements to ensure the event would be a go. The location was moved to St. Sava's Grove, a spacious outdoor venue, where guests were encouraged to bring their own everything. These changes enhanced



Sara Zelasko and Sydney Jasinski at The Beat Dance in Parma, Ohio.



The Beat: Nik Yash, Mike Costa, Sebastian Pucowski, Steve Hayest, and Alex Yash

the safety of all, as they could prepare and bring their own snacks and beverages without any additional food/beverage handling worries. Jill's vigorous push to advertise the new venue and news that this dance was back on the schedule spread quickly to eager polka fans.

The Beat drew a wonderful crowd at Sava's Grove for a new band lineup that furnished the same outstanding sound produced by this fan favorite group. Three musicians under the age of 20 stepped on the bandstand to join the group's seasoned veterans in wowing the anxious crowd. Joining Mike Costa and Steve Hayest for this new lineup were Nik Yash, Sebastian Pucowski and Alex Yash.

Thanks to Mike Pucowski who streamed the dance live on Facebook, I was lucky enough to watch the entire dance and the sound was phenomenal with a high energy drive.

Congratulations to Jill on taking

a chance and running a successful event highlighting these incredible musicians. We were disappointed that we couldn't be there in person to witness this welcomed event. There is good news for anyone who couldn't attend, as the Beat has another performance very soon. The band will be performing on Saturday, October 3 in Cranberry Township, Pa. The event will be held

Sandi passed away unexpectedly on September 1, leaving behind her loving husband of fifty years Edwin and beloved son Todd, and brother and sister William and Linda. She was predeceased by her brother Stanley earlier this year.

Many of us fondly remember her as Todd's mom and partner on the radio. She was a constant support to Todd in his role as the president of Polka Jammer Network since 2013, working tirelessly to promote polkas via this outlet and beyond.

I am grateful that I got to know Sandi over the past several years after working the phones at Jammerthon. She was always upbeat, organized, friendly, and quick witted. Always ready to greet you at a dance or festival with a huge, genuine smile that would light up the entire room, there is no doubt that her presence will be sorely missed throughout the polka world.

"The Weather Girl," as she was affectionately called, hosted The Polka Carousel Show on WHMP radio in Northampton, Massachusetts along with Todd for the last twelve years. She took calls, passed along dedications and always made you feel like you were family. A special edition of *The Polka Carousel Show* was presented the weekend after her passing giving folks the opportunity to call in and share special stories and memories of Sandi. I listened as call after call spoke of her kindness, sense of humor, and loyalty. Listening to the stories about her following her husband as he played in Eddie Foreman Orchestra, and road trips to festivals with Todd and friends brought a huge smile to my face as it was apparent that her life was one very well-lived. Her husband even delivered one of her



Todd and mom Sandi Zaganiacz, doing what she loved: hosting polkas.

clever anecdotes which I found delightfully appropriate. "Be like a pineapple: stand tall, wear a crown, and be sweet on the inside."

Fittingly, polkas were at the forefront of her funeral as musicians came out to celebrate her life. An impromptu group consisting of Lenny Gomulka, Mitch Biskup, Eddie Forman, Lenny Kokoski, Tommy Kostek, Jackie Libera — even luring Billy Belina out of retirement — paid tribute to this



Sandi and Edwin Zaganiacz celebrating their 50th anniversary.



Jeff Yash, Cindy Yash, Hannah Yash, Kayla Urbanczyk, and Bryan Urbanczyk at The Beat Dance in Parma, Ohio.

8080 and mentioning USPA.

The lineup begins by showcasing DynaVersaStickToneAires and Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push on Friday November 6th. Admission for this fantastic Friday night event is \$18.00. On Saturday, a lounge party featuring DJ Matt "Jaws" Jaworski will be held from 2:00-4:00 p.m. In the ballroom beginning at 4:00, Box On, Polka Country Musicians, and Polka Family Band will rotate to entertain fans up until 1:00 a.m.

USPA MINI.

As we have all learned over the past six months, our country's social environment is very fluid but as of now **USPA** will be hosting a mini convention Nov. 6-7, 2020 at the Holiday Inn 6001 Rockside Rd. Independence, Ohio. A special room rate of \$88.00 is available by calling (216) 524-

wonderful woman. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the entire Zaganiacz family, friends, and loyal listeners as they mourn this difficult loss.

The admission for this action-packed evening of music is \$20.00 per person. Admission is free for children ages 17 & under when accompanied by their parents/guardians on both days. Food and beverages will be available for purchase at this event, so no BYOB. With live polka music and festivals being scarce for most of 2020, this event could prove to be the first and last big event of the year, so make plans now to attend. If you have any additional questions you can contact Barb at (440) 886-6157.

IPA is Virtually Flawless in Labor Day Presentation

by Larry Trojak

Suppose they gave a polka festival and nobody came.

That rhetorical situation became reality over the Labor Day weekend as the International Polka Association (IPA), forced, like most of the polka world, to cancel their annual convention and awards banquet, tried their hand at a virtual festival. Broadcast via Facebook, YouTube and the Polka Jammer Network, the weekend-long venture turned what could have been an exercise in futility into a fun, informative and truly enjoyable event.

At this point in our "new" existence, there is no one who isn't frustrated at the situation in which we find ourselves *vis a vis* COVID 19. So, it was refreshing to see the IPA, which could have just chosen to throw up their hands and focus on next year's event, instead take this bowl of 2020 lemons and deal up a sweet-tasting lemonade.

PERHAPS SENSING the degree to which we are all live-music-deprived, the virtual fest offered in-studio performances courtesy of Tony Blazonczyk's New Phase, The Steve Meisner Band, The IPA Tribute Band, and The DynaBrass. That, however, proved to be just a jumping-off point. The organization peppered the weekend with additional video clips of performances from other groups, many of which were originally scheduled for the actual festival; interviews

with past and present IPA Hall of Famers; game shows; a tour of the IPA Hall of Fame; faux news broadcasts; and more. Full disclosure: I am not one to sit at a laptop, TV, or tablet for any length of time without said device showing *The Princess Bride* or *Parks and Rec* reruns. Yet I found myself doing just that and being continually impressed with the amount of effort put into both the visuals and the content. Expecting a bare-bones presentation, I was pleasantly surprised by the slick transition graphics; the tacky — but spot-on — "news" set (loved the half-dozen pairs of glasses scattered about); even the stacked pallets that provided a nice, industrial look for the live band performances.

Every quality program needs a solid emcee and the IPA had two at their disposal for its virtual festival. Minnesota's quintessential DJ/IJ/musician Craig Ebel did most of the heavy lifting, handling band intros, chat room announcements, promotions, small talk, etc., and did a great job, appearing casual yet professional. For the game show segments ("Name that Polka" and a Jeopardy-like "Polka Trivia") that provided a nice break from standard polka festival fare, the IPA went to the bullpen for Chicago's Keith Stras. Channeling the vibe of '70s TV hosts Chuck Woolery, Bob Ewbanks, Gene Rayburn and the like, Stras, obviously in his comfort zone, kept the segments interesting, funny and flowing.

Were there glitches? Of course,

there were. This was, after all, a first-ever attempt at such a massive undertaking. So, it was easy to overlook things like the occasional dead microphone or the horrible lighting during the first night's live performances that looked, at times, like either a bad acid flashback or the performers were suffering from third-degree burns. It was all resolved by the second night, however, and no one was the worse for wear.

AFTER WATCHING the three-day affair, it became evident that one of the real advantages an event like this offers over even an actual polka festival is its ability to communicate one-on-one with its audience. And when the message being offered is Polka Hall of Famers (both newly-inducted and Hall veterans) imparting their career highlights, likes, anecdotes and recollections via video, this particular medium was ideal. For young, aspiring musicians in particular, the video presentations were an invaluable opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge and advice from those who have risen to the top in their respective fields. Chances are slim that such an opportunity would present itself in a hall crowded with 500+ polka fans. So, if there was anything of a silver lining to this COVID-driven approach, perhaps it was in its ability to enrich the knowledge of those upcoming musicians. In a sense, it was a real fulfillment of one of the organization's charters: *To pro-*

mote, maintain and advance polka entertainment; and to advance the mutual interest and encourage greater cooperation among its members who are engaged in polka entertainment. To that, I say: "Mission Accomplished."

And there were shots! Seemingly everywhere the camera turned during the three-day event, people were toasting. If there was a drinking game for every time someone on screen took a shot, I'd still be comatose. But it was fun and, given the forced separation to which we have been subjected, it was more than appropriate.

IT IS HOPED THAT THIS is the last time something like this will be necessary and exciting to believe that we may soon be experiencing a return to normalcy. But It's nice to

know that, should bubonic plague or leprosy ever rear their ugly heads again, we will not be lacking for good polka programming. Kudos to Christy Krawisz and her entire "Plan B" team at the IPA for giving us a fleeting feeling of being together again.

I'd say that deserves a shot!

◆ ◆ ◆

Editor's note: Readers who missed the fest (or would like to revisit any or all of it) can simply go to YouTube and enter "IPA Virtual Festival 2020" in the search bar. The full weekend's shows are available.

OCTOBER POLKA BIRTHDAYS

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.

NAME	BORN	DIED	KNOWN FOR	CITY, STATE
1 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 (Zeke) 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 Ziemski			Musician	Md.
17 Eddie (Mack) McKrisky	1921	6/23/06	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Pa.
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 Powaski			Polka D. J. / Promoter	Pa.

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Pandemic Puts Strain on Associated Polish Home

PHILADELPHIA — For the first time in its 120-year history, the Associated Polish Home (Dom Polski) is experiencing challenges. Due to the pandemic and related social restrictions, it is deprived of any sort of income, which is primarily based on renting its rooms and kitchen for both private events and in-house activities. Its board has cut expenditures due to the current situation, but the cost of maintaining an un-

used building remains significant. The Home's small financial reserves are dwindling. As it is a non-profit organization, it is not entitled to any government money.

Some of the organizations operating within the Home: Mickiewicz Polish Language School; PKM Polish Folk Dance Ensemble; Mularczyk Theater Company; Kochanska-Sembrich Female Chorus; Polish Musicians' Club; Polish People's

University, Polish Heritage Society; Kosciuszko Foundation – Philadelphia Chapter; and the Polish Police Association.

The Home is asking for help. Mail donations to: Associated Polish Home, 9150 Academy Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19114. The Home is a registered 501c3 charitable organization.

To learn more, visit www.Polish-Home.com.

Eight Students Receive PHS of Philadelphia Scholarships

PHILADELPHIA – The Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia presented its 2020 Scholarships of \$1,000 each to eight students.

This year's recipients are: Julia Szyszko, Warrington, Pa.; Julia Szklarski, Kinterville, Pa.; Milosz Krupinski, Mount Laurel, N.J.; Weronika Tyminski, Lawrenceville, N.J.; Eva S. Plichta, Womelsdorf, Pa.; Jessica Ruggieri, Glenside, Pa.; Bethany Belkowski, East Norriton, Pa.; and Dominic Skurski, Philadelphia, Pa.

the prizes would have been awarded at the PHS's annual Mass and luncheon in May at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pa.

Funding for the scholarships was provided by a grant from the Philadelphia Foundation established by Henry & Deborah Majka, and donations in memory of Joseph & Regina Wnukowski, and in memory of Joseph L. Zazyczny.

To learn more about the PHS of Philadelphia, visit polishcultureacpc.org/orgs/PHSP.html.

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Polish Americans for Biden is an independent, volunteer-driven organization uniting to support Joe Biden for President. To join or learn more, write or call: 700 Constitution Avenue NE, Suite 120, Washington D.C. 20002; email support@polishamericansforbiden.com; (917) 209-9269

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