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WORLD PREMIERE OF MODJESKA PLAY PAGE 14

Jules Murry

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

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN CULTURE

PASSION BRINGS RECOGNITION • FELICIANS TO MERGE COMMUNITIES • STAINED GLASS WINDOWS IMPERILED
 THE HISTORY AND LEGEND OF THE TRUMPETER OF KRAKÓW • REDRESSING A HISTORY "AWASH WITH THE ERRORS"
 WHITING'S PIEROGI BLOWOUT • REVIEW: KRAKÓW THEATER COMPANY IN NYC • GOŁĄBKİ GALORE — PART II

The Story of One Tragic September

This Month Marks the 70th Anniversary of the Start of World War II



NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION, COLLEGE PARK, MD.

GERMAN TROOPS parade through Warsaw, September 1939.

by Stan Biernacik

There were several loud explosions heard from the direction of the central railroad station on the early morning of that fateful day of September 1, 1939 — the sound of blasts and detonations got me out of my bed and it must



have wakened most of the people of the Southern Polish city of Lwow, who had gone to sleep on the previous night. They went to rest praying that all the threats of imminent war were just a remote possibility, which surely could be averted by the frantic diplomatic activity of the time, aimed at preventing an armed conflict. Many of those who heard the powerful explosions emanating from the Northern part of the city believed that they were caused by a very realistic practice of the civil defense units, which were always on the alert — just in case! Unfortunately everything that occurred on that bright and sunny day in September was not a dream, but a painful reality. The rest of the tragic events followed at the fast pace of the "Lightning War." The first air raids and bombings were only the early harbingers of cataclysmic and cruel events that preceded the long war—full of its dire consequences of suffering, death and destruction. Soon the whole nation was involved in a struggle for survival, which caused untold human sacrifices full of pain and misery, thrust by the invader upon the innocent people whose only crime was their refusal to surrender their freedom to Hitler and his Nazi henchmen. Now, according to his insane plans, the "inferior race" had to be subjugated or be annihilated to fulfill his desire to become the master of the entire European continent.

See "One Tragic September," page 4

Also in this Special Edition:

- Poland didn't start the war but was first to fight..... 2
- Polish Mission to commemorate veterans 3
- Seventy years later, Jewish role in post-war Poland still a hot button 3
- One man's deportation to Siberia 5

For Now, Zloty Remains the Standard

WARSAW — Poland has delayed the adoption of the Euro by not joining the currency stability test requisite for two years prior to adopting the Euro. The Euro adoption date had been set for 2012, but until the main political parties agree to change the constitution to allow adoption of the Euro, the zloty will remain.

Government officials will reveal Poland's new adoption timetable by month's end.

Poland to spend EU money on culture (Radio Poland) — Poland will receive 490 million euro (app. \$700 million USD) from European Union funds to be spent on cultural projects — according to the Ministry of Culture.

The European Union has decided, among other projects, to grant the amount of 207 million euro for the construction of the Copernicus Science Center in Warsaw, as well as 143 million for the construction of the National Forum of Music in the west-
 See "Zloty," page 4

Cultural Counselor Extraordinary Departs



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

MARIUSZ BRYMORA REPOSTED TO POLAND. At his Polish Embassy gala farewell reception, Counselor Mariusz Brymora (r.), poses with his wife Grazyna (l.) and children Anna and Filip, while receiving the arriving guests.

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — It seemed like an amazing feat: he produced 118 cultural events (and other related projects) here at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland from 2005 to 2009. And now, Mariusz M. Brymora, Section Chief of Culture, Press and Public Relations, is being reposted home to Poland to fill an important government position.

Brymora is well known here in America, having crisscrossed our country over the past four years conducting scores of matters relevant to his key embassy position. He also
 See "Brymora Reposted to Poland," page 4

Michnik to Receive Democracy Award

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Adam Michnik, the Editor-in-chief of GAZETA WYBORCZA, Poland's largest newspaper, will be presented the "Ion Ratiu" award at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C. on December 3, 2009 during the Ion Ratiu Democracy Lecture. The aim of the lecture is to bring international recognition to the deeds and ideas of individuals who work to further democracy.



MICHNIK

For more than forty years Michnik committed himself to fighting for the rights and freedom of the Polish people and the furthering of democracy. He was an activist during the Solidarity movement, participated in the Round Table Talks of 1989 and was
 See "Michnik," page 4

Kosciuszko Foundation Celebrates 40th Anniversary of its Summer Program at Jagiellonian University

KRAKOW, Poland — The new director of the Jagiellonian University's School of Polish Language and Culture, Dr. Robert Dębski, welcomed students from around the world in the university's neo-gothic Collegium Novum. Approximately 440 students from 46 countries, representing five continents, have converged on Krakow for the 40th consecutive summer to study Polish and learn about Poland at the 645 year old university. The Jagiellonian University is the second oldest university in central Europe, and has had such famous alumni as Nicolaus Copernicus, Stanislaw Lem, and Pope John Paul II.

More than 6,000 students have taken part in the Kosciuszko Foundation summer sessions. In addition to various levels of Polish language courses, the summer school also offers a wide range of classes in Polish history and

culture such as History of Polish Art, Polish Film, and The Jews in Poland, to mention only a few. Following Prof. Dębski's welcoming remarks, the university's Vice Rector Andrzej Mania gave the annual opening address.

The largest number of students from one country is the group of 200 from the United States of America. Of this number 48 were recruited by the New York-based Kosciuszko Foundation, and 15 of them have received scholarships from the Foundation to attend summer school in Poland.

Approximately 80 students are also on scholarships given by the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education under a program entitled *Polski dla Najlepszych* (Polish for the Best). The majority of students in this program are foreigners of Polish descent who live in the former
 See "Kosciuszko ..." page 4



Historian Pinkowski is Pride of Polonia Recipient

DOYLESTOWN, Pa. — On Sunday, August 23, Edward Pinkowski was the recipient of this year's Pride of Polonia Award during the 12:30 pm Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa. His Eminence Adam Cardinal Maida presented the award. The Pride of Polonia Award was created by the Executive Board of the Polish Apostolate and is presented annually to honor individuals who have made a unique contribution to the life of American Polonia. Its first recipient, in 1992, was John Cardinal Krol. Past recipients include Walter Zachariasiewicz, Blanka Rosenstiel, and Polish American Congress president Edward Moskal.

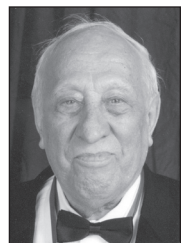
In his notification letter to Pinkowski, Cardinal Maida wrote: "Your research on Polish American heroes Kosciuszko and Pulaski who played a major role in our country's history is commendable. In addition, your faith, veracity and support of many charitable organizations makes you uniquely qualified to receive this prestigious honor."

Pinkowski was born on

August 12, 1916 to Polish immigrant parents in Holyoke, Mass.. He is a Polonia historian, author, and journalist.

When he was 14 years old, the family moved to the hard coal fields of Pennsylvania, where his father and grandfather previously worked in coal mines of the Mount Carmel area. There he started a writing career while still in high school. During World War II, he was a writer in the U.S. Navy and rose to the rank of Chief Specialist (X).

In 1967 he received the Kosciuszko Sesquicentennial Medal in Toronto from the Polish American Historical Association (PAHA) for locating General Kosciuszko's last residence in America, saving it for the purpose of creating a national monument, and placing an historical marker at 3rd and Pine Streets in Philadelphia. In 1976 the house-museum opened as the
 See "Pride ..." page 2



PINKOWSKI

ALMANAC

SEPTEMBER • WRZESIEŃ

"Kill without pity or mercy all men, women and children of Polish descent or language. Only in this way can we obtain the living space we need."

— Adolph Hitler, August 22, 1939, a week before his attack on Poland.

- 1 **1939. Nazi Germany attacks Poland;** World War II begins.
- 2 **1833.** Birth of Polish scientist **Rudolf Weigl**, who discovered the typhus microbe.
- 4 **1809.** Birth of poet and writer **Juliusz Slowacki**.
- 6 **1921.** Birth of **Korczak Ziolkowski**, American sculptor best known for beginning a monumental tribute to Crazy Horse in South Dakota.
- 8 **Birth of the Blessed Mother.** In Polish custom, today's birth of the Virgin is considered the best day for Fall planting.
1939. German panzer units launch their first attack in Warsaw but are repulsed. Poland's 10 divisions near Kutno surprise the German Eight Army with a counterattack along the Bzura River.
- 10 **1939. Poland, under Nazi attack,** urgently pleads for help from France, but the French high command replies that more than half of its divisions are "in contact" with the enemy and can do no more.
- 11 **1382. Jadwiga (Hedwig) d'Anjou** crowned queen of Poland.
- 12 **1683. Jan Sobieski III** defeats Turks besieging Vienna.
1977. Death of musician and conductor **Leopold Stokowski**, first conductor of the Hollywood Bowl.
- 14 **1927.** Birth of **Cardinal Edmund Szoka**, Detroit bishop who at the request of John Paul II, was named Vatican governor until his retirement in 2006.
- 15 **1923.** Birth of **Joseph A. Jachimczyk**, doctor, lawyer, permanent deacon, and chief medical officer of Harris County, Houston, Texas (1960-1995).
1777. **General Casimir Pulaski** appointed general in the American Army as result of his role in the Battle of Brandywine.
- 17 **1939. Soviet Russian troops** attack Poland on the east border, in violation of Nazi-Soviet non-aggression pact. Soviets begin occupation of western territories.
- 18 **ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA**
- 19 **1987. Pope John Paul II** presides at Eucharistic celebration at Detroit's Silverdome Stadium, and visits the Polish American enclave of Hamtramck.
- 21 **1945. General Dwight D. Eisenhower** visits Warsaw.
- 24 **1821.** Birth of author, poet and painter **Cyprian Kamil Norwid**.
- 26 **1944. Polish paratroopers** cover the retreat of British units from Arnhem.
- 27 **1942. Żegota**, an underground organization for rescuing Jews from the Nazis, formed in occupied Poland.
- 28 **1939.** Warsaw falls to Nazis. This marked the beginning of the Polish underground resistance, active throughout the war.
- 29 **1849.** Birth of **Lt. Frederick Schwatka** (d. 1892), Polish American author, soldier and explorer of Alaska.
- 30 **1831.** A committee led by **James Fenimore Cooper** and **General Lafayette** set up to provide aid for the Poles during the Polish Insurrection of 1830-31.
- 31 **1918.** Austrian Forces are removed from Krakow.

This paper mailed on or before **August 28.**

The October edition will be mailed on or before **October 2.**

VIEWPOINTS / Robert Strybel

70th Anniversary of the Outbreak of World War II Poland Didn't Start the War but was First to Fight

WARSAW — The pre-war Polish Military Transit Depot at Westerplatte was aptly chosen as the venue of Poland's central observances of the World War II anniversary. It was on September 1st, 1939, at precisely 4:45 a.m. that the battleship Schleswig-Holstein, allegedly paying a courtesy visit to the then largely German-controlled Free City of Gdańsk (Danzig), opened fire on the Polish depot, thereby launching the bloodiest war in human history.

Seventeen days later, the Red army moved in from the east. Implementing a secret agreement between Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia, Hitler and Stalin divided Poland down the middle. Poland was the only Allied country to fight from the first to the last day of the war and then some. A few freedom-fighters managed to survive in the underground in Communist Poland until the early 1960s, and the London-based Polish Government-in-Exile continued their struggle until the Soviet-imposed regime finally collapsed in 1989.

One of the symbols of the anniversary is the well-known "Poland – First to Fight" poster, showing a battle-scarred Polish flag. It has been updated to include the dates 1939 and 1989. Seventy years ago, Poland had been the first country to stand up to Hitler, and half a century later it was the first to throw off the Communist yoke. That triggered a domino effect which led to the collapse of one Soviet satellite after another and eventually to the disintegration of the USSR itself.

But that generally accepted view of the war's outbreak is now being questioned. Russian leader Vladimir Putin was among those invited to the Westerplatte observance, but Moscow has insisted the ceremony must concentrate only on Germany's September 1st attack on Poland. There can be no mention of the Molotov-von Ribbentrop pact in which Germany and Russia agreed to partition Poland between them. The Red Army's encroachment that began on September 17th and

led to the Soviet annexation of the eastern half of Poland must also be ignored.

Long-standing Soviet and subsequently Russian propaganda claims that Stalin was forced to sign a non-aggression pact with Hitler after Poland had rejected a Soviet proposal to join forces with Russia against Germany. And the Kremlin calls the annexation of one-half of Poland's pre-war territory as the liberation of Ukrainian and Belarussian "brother-Slavs" from Polish subjugation.

But as the World War II anniversary approached, the Kremlin really outdid itself by concocting some truly outrageous examples of historical fiction. The Web site of the Russian Defense Ministry stated that Poland was actually to blame for the outbreak of the war. That was because Poles refused to accept Germany's "moderate and justifiable demands." After all, all Hitler wanted was to annex Gdańsk and build an extraterritorial highway and rail-line across Poland to connect East Prussia to the rest of the Third Reich.

In addition, the main state-owned Russian TV station broadcast a prime-time report alleging that in 1939 the Polish government had forged a secret alliance with Nazi Germany and Japan to invade the Soviet Union. In a strongly worded protest, the Polish embassy in Moscow called the report "deceitful and unreliable (and) a striking example of the falsification of history."

While it is difficult for today's Germans to deny the atrocities masterminded by Hitler, who had enjoyed the enthusiastic support of most of their parents' and grandparents' generation, there have been attempts to spread the blame, thereby taking some of the heat off Germany.

A case in point was the influential news weekly DER SPIEGEL, which not long ago ran a report attempting to show that not only Germans who were responsible for the Holocaust. It listed "Polish farmers" among those without whom the Nazis would not have been able to carry out the

Holocaust. It also pointed the finger at Ukrainian gendarmes, Latvian auxiliary policeman, Romanian soldiers, Hungarian railway workers, Dutch land-register officials, French mayors, Norwegian ministers and Italian soldiers.

Former German inhabitants of pre-war Poland and Czechoslovakia, who fled before the advancing Red Army or were sent back to Germany after the war, are now calling themselves victims. The expellees are building museums to memorialize their plight and demanding compensation from Poland for the property they left behind in those countries, to which many had been sent by Hitler to colonize the "barbaric East."

It is understandable that to Jews World War II was mainly the Holocaust, however they too are helping to diminish Germany's blame for that atrocity. In gratitude for West Germany's bankrolling of the State of Israel in the early post-war decades, the word "German" now almost never appears in Holocaust exhibitions or literature. It is always only some mythical, nondescript "Nazis," although with the passage of time more and younger people don't really know how or what the Nazis really were.

But Jewish accounts often allege Polish complicity in the Holocaust and copiously repeat the words "Polish," "Poles" and "Poland" in that context. It should surprise no-one if in the not too distant future younger Americans ask: "Were all Nazis Polish?" or "Not all Polish people were Nazis, were they?"

The questions remains: are the people of Poland and Polonia concerned enough to do something about it? Are their enough activists to create Web sites, set up exhibitions, write books and articles or, at the very least, knock out letters to the editor correcting historical distortions such as the perennial "Polish concentration camps." Yes, that takes time, effort and money. The point is, however, that amongst us there are ethnic groups willing to spend it on what they regard as the defense of their community's good name.

Pride of Polonia: Pinkowski Joins List of Distinguished Recipients

continued from cover

Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial under the auspices of the National Park Service.

He was a member of the Philadelphia Historical Commission from 1969 to 1985, and earlier was president, for four years, of the Spring Garden Civic Association in Philadelphia and the first lay chairman of the nominating committee and vice president PAHA. He was chairman of the Ethnic Council and vice president of the Philadelphia 1976 Bicentennial Corporation. He is the oldest surviving male founder of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia, an affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC), and the person who created the name of that local organization.

He erected a monument on An-

thony Sadowski's grave 300 years after his birth and a roadside marker in Douglassville, Pa. In 1989, he earned the Mieczyslaw Haiman Medal from PAHA "for outstanding Contribution in the field of Polish American studies." In 1997 the ACPC recognized his lifetime of contributions to research in Polish American history by awarding him the Distinguished Service Award.

In 1996 he proved that General Pulaski's remains were buried in a brick vault under the monument in Savannah and was recognized by the mayor of Savannah with a key to the city for literally rescuing Pulaski's remains. Over the years he devoted countless hours to research on Kosciuszko and Pulaski, not to mention hundreds of other figures, and is the author of several books

and many articles.

In 2001 Pinkowski was a recipient of the Cavalier's Cross of the Order of Merit (Krzyz Kawalerski Orderu Zaslugi RP) awarded by President of Poland Aleksander Kwasniewski. Among other awards in recognition for his work at the Ellis Island Medal of Honor (2004) and the Kosciuszko Foundation medal (2006).

He lived in Philadelphia for most of his life with his wife Connie (Rosiello), before moving to Florida in 1998. His two sons, Jack and Jim, were born in the nation's capital during the war.

Pinkowski has been a contributing editor to the Polish American Journal for over 40 years.

To Take on Spector

PHILADELPHIA — Pennsylvania Representative Joe Sestak announced his bid to seek the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Republican-turned-Democrat Arlen Specter. The suburban Philadelphia Congressman launched his campaign at a VFW hall in Delaware County.

Sestak, a 57-year-old former Navy vice admiral, has already visited the state's 67 counties and heavily campaigned.

Last December, At a Pennsylvania Society luncheon, Specter told a series of Polish jokes, going as far as to insult a guest who said he was Polish by telling him "That's OK — I'll tell it more slowly."

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Polish Mission to Commemorate Veterans

ORCHARD LAKE, Mich. — The Polish Mission at Orchard Lake Schools, Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary, and Michigan Polonia present "It All Began in Poland," a commemoration honoring Polish veterans, Polish American veterans, United States Veterans, Holocaust survivors, children-in-exile, and displaced persons, who witnessed World War II in Poland.

Events are scheduled Sept. 1, and Sept. 5-6.

On Tues., Sept. 1, Sunset Wypominki and Candle Service will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. Mass follows in the Shrine Chapel.

On September 5-6, Zygmunt Matynia, Consul General of the Republic of Poland (Chicago) will come to Orchard Lake for the events.

Throughout the weekend there will be ongoing activities including:

- Batilion Burza a living history

re-enactment group of Polish and American military men and women.

- Assembling a Time Capsule — Collection of World War II and commemoration materials to be opened in 2039, the Time Capsule will be registered with the Smithsonian Institute. Personalization of Pewabic Memorial Tiles with signatures of Polish Veterans and Displaced Persons, and *Ksiega Pamiatkowa* (Guest Book Signing).
- Reunion with Sybiracy — Polish Refugees.
- Selected interviews with survivors of German work camps.
- Poet John Guzowski, Ph.D. reads his poetry.
- Polish Photographer Marcin Chumiecki speaks about his Assignment Auschwitz Portfolio.
- Guy Stern Ph.D., Director of the Holocaust Museum and Director of the International Institute

of Righteous, pays tribute to the Polish Catholics who risked their lives to save Jews during World War II, and Sue Krolikowski Ph.D. pays tribute to the Polish Catholic nuns who sheltered Jewish children.

- Evening Concert in the Shrine Chapel with Curtis Posuniak, organist at St. Patrick Church in Carleton, Michigan.
- Mass at the Shrine Chapel to honor the Polish Army Veterans and Camp Survivors,
- Hands-on training to retrieve U.S. military, refugee, and naturalization documents via the ancestry.com database and documents via the Kresy-Siberia website. Adam Cardinal Maida Library.

For more information, call or write: The Polish Mission. www.polishmission.com, 3535 Indian Trail Rd., Orchard Lake, MI 48324; (248) 683-0412.

SPEAK UP / Letters to the Editor

Seventy Years Later, Jewish Role in Post-war Poland Still a Hot Button

COMMUNIST PARTY OF POLAND WAS NOT LED BY JEWS. "Warsaw Correspondent," Robert Strybel, can always be counted on to provide a radically conservative point of view and his "Two Free Polands: 1918 and 1989" article in the August 2009 issue is no exception.

In the article, Strybel states that the communist party of inter-war Poland was "Jewish-led." Mr. Strybel has repeatedly demonstrated that he is an enthusiastic supporter of the Zydokomuna theory, which argues that Poland's Jewish community was responsible for communism in Poland.

"While this sort of extremist 'Poland for Poles' ethno-catholic-nationalistic sentiment was quite popular in inter-war and post-war Poland, it has now been largely relegated to right-wing fringe groups such as the League of Polish Families and the National Revival of Poland."

Yes, a small number of disaffected Polish Jews may have seen communism as an appealing option when confronted with the growing anti-Semitism of the Second Republic. And, yes, a number of non-religious Jews held leadership positions in the party, which can be explained by

some degree in the difference in the level of education between Jews and ethnic Polish workers.

But describing the communist party of Poland as "Jewish-led" is a calculated effort to inflame historic hatreds and prejudices. Credible historians have refuted the claims of Zydokomuna supporters by establishing that only a very small percentage of Poland's Jewish citizens actually supported the communist party. In actuality, a proportionate number of Poland's Jews were murdered at Katyn and deported to the Gulag by the Soviet Red Army.

Further on in the article, Strybel fondly states that after the Second World War (along with the genocide of the Jews) Poland had largely become an ethnically homogenous nation, with none of the "ethnic minority problems that had plagued prewar Poland."

While this sort of extremist "Poland for Poles" ethno-catholic-nationalistic sentiment was quite popular in inter-war and post-war Poland, it has now been largely relegated to right-wing fringe groups such as the League of Polish Families and the National Revival of Poland.

The Polish American Journal does a disservice to its readers and American Polonia by perpetuating such marginal viewpoints in its pages.

Tom Kiseleski
Pittsford, New York

JEWS ADMIT THE KPP WAS DISPROPORTIONATELY JEWISH. In his letter to the Polish American Journal, a Mr. Tom Kiseleski took me to task for suggesting that the pre-war Communist Party of Poland (KPP) was "Jewish-led."

Kiselewski, who runs a small, private online discussion forum, can always be counted on to provide a radically pro-Judeic point of view.

In actuality, the Polish Communist Party (KPP, 1918-1938) had a very strong power base among the

Jews. In a country where less than 10% of the people were Jewish, in Polish court proceedings against communists between 1927 and 1936, 90% of the accused were Jews. Out of fifteen leaders of the KPP central administration in 1936, eight were Jews. Jews constituted 53% of the staunch KPP task force ("aktyw" in Polish), 75% of its "publication apparatus," 90% of the "international department for help to revolutionaries" and 100% of the "technical apparatus" of the Home Secretariat. In terms of membership, before its dissolution in 1938, 25% of KPP members were Jews; most urban KPP members were Jewish.

"It seems that whenever views or even indisputable facts not in agreement with the current Jewish line appear, someone always comes forward hurling accusations of anti-Semitism..."

These well-documented facts presented in Tadeusz Piotrowski's "Poland's Holocaust" are borne out by writers such as the respected historian Norman Davies. Isaac Bashevis

Singer, Poland's Jewish Nobel Prize-winning novelist who lived in pre-war Poland, once said that "nearly all of Warsaw's communists are Jewish."

Stanislaw Krajewski, a prominent Warsaw Jewish activist, has admitted that around five percent of pre-war Jewry voted for communist candidates — a figure much higher than the support offered by ethnic Poles. "Five percent of three million is a disproportionately large participation of Jews in the communist movement," Krajewski said. It should be added that the KPP was a subversive group that took its orders from Stalin and was finally outlawed in 1938.

Even Mr. Kiseleski could not completely deny the obvious and had to admit: "Yes, a number of non-religious Jews held leadership positions in the party." But perhaps unwittingly insulted Poles and praised Communism. by saying: "(That) can be explained by some degree in the difference in the level of education between Jews and ethnic Polish workers." In other words, ethnic Polish workers were not intelligent enough to wholeheartedly embrace Communism the way the "chosen race" had done!

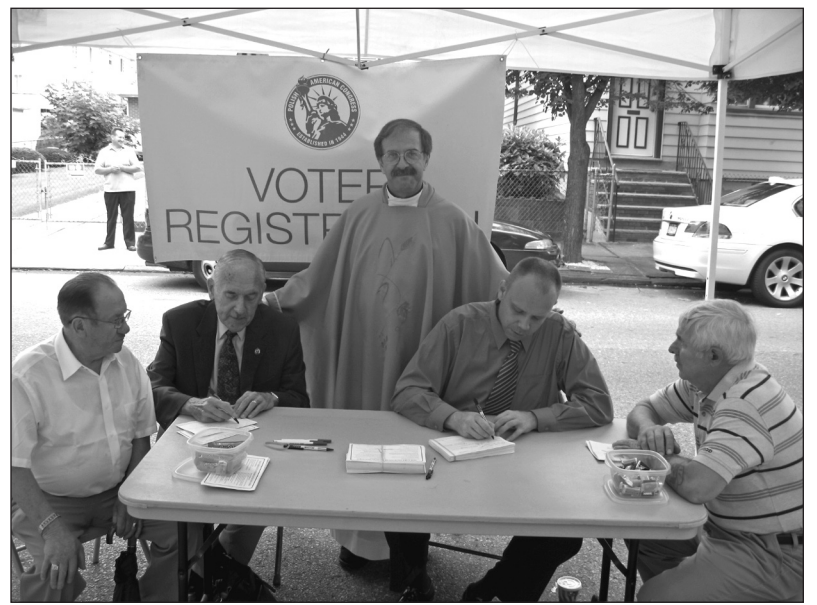
Interestingly, the article Mr. Kiseleski is taking exception to was not about Jews in pre-war Poland, but simply noted that pre-war Poland experienced problems with its minorities, mentioning Jews, Germans and Ukrainians. Is it not strange that he totally ignored the considerably larger Ukrainian minority which comprised some 16% of pre-war Polish society.

It seems that whenever views or even indisputable facts not in agreement with the current Jewish line appear, someone always comes forward hurling accusations of anti-Semitism or, as Mr. Kiseleski has done, reviling what he calls "ethno-catholic-nationalistic sentiment" and consigning it to some lunatic fringe.

Robert Stybel
Warsaw

We welcome letters. Letters should be brief and to the point, and are subject to editing. Because of space limitations, we cannot print all letters received. All letters must contain signature, address, and daytime phone number for verification. Send letters to the editor to: editor@polamjournal.com, re: Speak Up; or the PAJ at P.O. Box 328, Boston, NY 14025-0328.

Voter Registration Continues



MASPETH, N.Y. — Members of Holy Cross R.C. Church in Maspeth, N.Y. responded to the urging of their pastor, **Msgr. Peter Zendzian** (standing) and sat down with the Voter Registration Committee of the Polish American Congress to complete the required application. Shown here recording their personal data for them is **Frank Milewski**, president of the Downstate N.Y. Division of the PAC (center, left) and **Chris Rybkiewicz**, chairman of the Voter Registration Committee. Following the pattern it set last year, the committee is once more setting aside Sunday mornings to visit Catholic Churches which have a significant Polish American membership and offer their parishioners a quick and convenient way to file for voter eligibility.

Msgr. Zendzian is also chaplain of the Downstate N.Y. Congress.

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One Tragic September

continued from cover

The Poles were forced to fight to save their honor — “We can not accept peace at any price,” declared the Polish Foreign Minister, Joseph Beck in answer to Hitler’s demands. We must have “Lebensraum” in the East where food can be produced to feed the members of the “Herren Volk” claimed Adolph Hitler. The master race will then, under his leadership, conquer the entire continent of Europe and establish Nazi Hegemony over the rest of the free world.

All during that September morning and the day that followed, the Nazi bombers pounded all major Polish cities and saturated the main communication centers with bombs in an attempt to disrupt and prevent the mobilization and deployment of Polish air and ground forces. The simultaneous attack by several German Panzer Divisions, which rolled across the Polish plains surprised Polish defenders with a synchronized military action concentrated in several areas and executed with the precision and speed of the blitzkrieg.

The new and powerful tactic of the modern war forced Polish fighting units to retreat and regroup. Their bravery was no match for the overwhelming power of the German Panzer. The surviving Polish units retreated toward central Poland in a vain hope to stabilize their defenses around the city of Warsaw along the line of the Vistula River. During the entire campaign—though badly outnumbered often by the ratio of ten to one—the Polish Air Force and ground forces made desperate attempts to hold back the enemy, hoping

that Polish Allies, France and England, would soon come to the aid of Poland and would help to stem the Nazi avalanche. The Governments of England and France stood by their agreement: both countries declared war on Germany in the early days of September, but none of them offered any substantial assistance to stop the Nazi invasion in Poland. Poland stood alone fighting and hoping against all odds.

RUSSIAN INVADES FROM THE WEST.

On September 17, Russian troops—as a result of the pact signed for their countries by Ambassadors V. Molotov and J. Ribben-

trop—moved across the Eastern border of Poland. Now the situation of Polish defenders turned from a grave one to a state of hopelessness. Soon only the open city of Warsaw — the capital of Poland — stood alone and continued to fight the Nazi troops, which encircled the city. For thirty days, the defenders of Warsaw — men, women and children, repelled every attempt of the Nazi units to enter the city, and they still hoped that their desperate plight would end when helped ar-

rived from Polish Western Allies. After thirty days of fighting, often without food and water, with weapons and ammunition running out, the defenders could not carry on the fight any longer without substantial help from outside. Seeing that the situation of the city was becoming hopeless, and to spare further suffering and bloodshed, the mayor of the city, Stefan Starzynski surrendered the ruined city, with thousands of dead, wounded and hungry defenders, to the dreaded enemy.

Radio Warsaw, which for many days of fighting instilled hope in her brave citizens and raised hope in all those who could still hear all over Poland, was silenced. There was no more war and no more fighting in the streets of the ruined city. All that was left was great suffering and desperation—the sad legacy of the struggle for freedom. Trains filled with prisoners rolled again West toward Germany. Though defeated, those who survived and were free did not lose hope, which continued to linger deep in their hearts. Though temporarily out of fight, they found inspiration in the words of Dabrowski’s Mazurka, The National Anthem of Poland, which proclaimed “Jeszcze Polska nie zginęła, kiedy my żyjemy, — “Poland is not lost as long as we live.” They refused to believe that this was the end, and had no doubt in their minds that the glorious day would dawn again when they would stand and fight the Nazi menace once more. In their hearts they were convinced that evil would be conquered so peace and justice could reestablish in the entire new and better world—a world that



The author, a member of the Polish Free Army, Scotland, 1941.

respects the rights of everyone and knows no masters and no slaves. Though temporarily silenced by the enemy, the spirit of the Polish nation was not destroyed.

GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE FORMS.

Within a short time after the fall of Poland, the Government in exile was formed in France and later in England. Once again Polish men and women escaping Nazi occupied Poland began to arrive in France to form new fighting units. On the home front, Polish Armia Krajowa terrorized and harassed the Nazi occupation forces, and in 1944, staged the tragic uprising in Warsaw. Though unsuccessful,

forces tied down large numbers of Nazi troops for 63 days and helped the Allies to defeat the German armies in Western Europe. After the fall of France most of the members of the newly-organized Polish forces on the French soil, managed to escape to England. There, again, new units of Polish Air Force and land troops were formed to fight along side their British Allies. In 1940, Polish fighter pilots distinguished themselves by bringing down 15% of the Nazi planes which attacked

London during the famous Battle of Britain. The units of the Polish Navy were meanwhile patrolling the German submarine-infested waters, protecting convoys that brought vital supplies to England from the United States and Canada.

The Polish land forces, formed into several fighting units, patrolled the English coast against possible invasion and trained for the future invasion of the European continent. Following the signing of the treaty between Marshall J. Stalin and Gen. W. Sikorski in 1941, the Second Polish Army Corps was formed from the thousands of Polish soldiers who were held prisoners in the Soviet Union. Under the command of Gen. W. Anders, these troops trained first in Russia and then in the Middle East, fought in many theaters of war. Their military exploits earned them glory in the defense of Tobruk in Africa and in 1944, in Italy. The Corps gained fame by capturing the Nazi-fortified monastery of Monte Cassino, thus opening the road to the Allied forces for a further thrust North in pursuit of retreating German forces. By the year 1944, the well-trained and eager-to-fight Polish troops were organized as the First Polish Armored Division and placed under the command of the well-experienced Gen. S. Maczek. When the Allied command decided in 1944 to invade Europe, the Polish armored troops went along as part of the forces of the First Canadian Army commanded by Gen. Crerar. After landing in Normandy, the First Armored fought in most of the major battles in that theater of war and spearheaded the drive to encircle the Nazi troops in the area of Caen-Falaise. During the operations to trap several German units, the Polish Division established contact with fighting men of the 90th American Infantry Division and thus closed the escape route for German forces. During that operation, Polish troops deployed near the French village of Chambois, stood their ground for seven days, and prevented the enemy units from rejoining the German forces retreating East. The Poles thwarted all desperate attempts of the enemy to break out of the encirclement and in fierce battles took great numbers of prisoners and war material. The Canadians, after inspecting the scenes of the battles fought heroically by Polish troops, called the area of Chambois “The Polish Battlefield.” The First Armored continued to fight the enemy across Northern France, Belgium, and Holland and finally entered the German territory, where in its moment of glory, her troops accepted the surrender of the large German port of Wilhelmshaven, which held some 200 units of the German Navy and several units of land forces.

When the war ended, many of those Poles—who fought with great valor and distinction in almost every major battle of the Second World War—were not given their



While England and France watched Germany invade, Poland stood alone fighting and hoping against all odds.

well-deserved chance to return home following the cessation of hostilities. Due to post-war agreements between Polish former allies, the resulting political situation in Poland forced them to remain in the West. Though many of them still felt betrayed by their former comrades at arms, they have settled in the United States, in England and in other countries of the free world, becoming useful and valuable citizens of their adopted countries.

For the many who fought in the war, left Poland to settle elsewhere, or lived under five decades of communist control, it seems hard to believe that Poland is once again free. My only regret is the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives for their homeland never saw this come to fruition. Like my fellow veterans, I think of them daily.

IT WAS SEVENTY YEARS AGO when the Second World War erupted in Europe and the Nazi troops swarmed across the Polish borders. Many years of uneasy peace have gone and many memories have faded into oblivion. The time has healed many wounds and erased the thoughts of hatred and revenge, but the sound of the loud explosions on that fateful morning of September 1, 1939 still lingers in my memory, and I do recall vividly the tragic events and results of the unprovoked attack on Poland by Nazi Germany, with all the ensuing human misery and the hungry and helpless refugees — innocent victims of war. But, I also remember the days of pride and glory when the resurrected Polish Forces marched alongside their American and British comrades at arms as partners in the victory over Hitler and his Nazi cohorts — yes! I still remember all these memorable events of so many years ago, and in my mind I harbor a very clear recollection of the sad days of defeat and of the days of triumph. I have not forgotten the many moments of great sadness caused by the insanity of war and I often relive the times of rejoicing when humanity returned to peaceful co-existence — these unforgettable memories will always remain with me — because I was there.

Stan Biernacik World War II veteran of the Polish Free Army. He served during the Invasion of Normandy as an officer of the 2nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Polish Armored Division. He moved to the United States in 1953, makes his home in Hamburg, N.Y., and is active in veteran groups.

Brymora Reposted to Poland

continued from cover

served as Consul at the Polish Consulate in Chicago, 1999-2003. While in Chicago he also managed to serve on the Board of Directors of the Polish Museum of America and The Paderewski Symphony Orchestra, and was a member of the Warsaw Sister Cities Committee.

Previously in Poland, Brymora was the Deputy Mayor of Radom, as well as its Councilor of the City Council, and also held four distinguished academic positions there. On the national level he was the Head of Media Section at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Warsaw.

Many friends and colleagues gathered here at the Polish Embassy, June 30, to bid Brymora farewell. Most appropriately, he designed a celebratory program that was short on speeches and long on entertainment.

Ambassador Robert Kupiecki kicked things off by toasting — and lightly roasting — Brymora to the delight of the audience. The kaleidoscopic program included soprano Laura Kafka; young pianists Jeffery and Olivia Ly, John Gardecki, Raymond Jackson and Wladimir Niemirowski; and poet Agata Pilitowska. General/Ambassador Edward Rowny (ret.) serenaded the departing diplomat with a harmonica rendition of “Sto lat.” But the highlight of the evening was the skit and singing of “I Did It My Way” starring Mariusz

Brymora, accompanied by actors/singers Waldemar Izdebski and Wieslaw Malachowski. It brought down the house!

Brymora now reluctantly leaves us to assume his new position at the Department of Public and Cultural Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he will be in charge of cooperation between the Ministry and all of Poland’s diplomatic missions worldwide. Our loss is Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski’s gain.

Zloty

continued from cover

ern city of Wroclaw.

According to the Ministry of Culture, several dozen cultural institutions in Poland received the funds, including Wawel Castle in Krakow as well as the Branicki Palace in Wilanow, near Warsaw.

Among the biggest beneficiaries is also the National Symphonic Orchestra of Polish Radio in Katowice. 122 million euro has been allocated for the construction of its new headquarters. The facility is to be completed by 2013.

The grants allocated for Polish cultural institutions come from the European Funds for Regional Development.

Kosciuszko Foundation

continued from cover

territories of the Soviet Union such as Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, and Kazakhstan.

Founded in 1925, the Foundation is dedicated to promoting and strengthening understanding and friendship between the peoples of Poland and the United States through educational, scientific, and cultural exchanges. It awards fellowships and grants to graduate students, scholars, scientists, professionals, and artists and helps to increase the visibility of Polish culture in America by sponsoring exhibits, publications, film festivals, performing arts such as concerts and recitals.

For more information about the Summer Program, contact Addy Tymczyszyn at the Kosciuszko Foundation in New York at (212) 734-2130; e-mail addy@thekf.org.

Michnik to Receive Democracy Award

continued from cover

elected to the country’s first non-communist parliament that year. Although he retired from political life in 1991, Michnik figures today among Poland’s most prominent and influential citizens. Among his books which have been translated into English are: “Letters from Freedom: Post-Cold War Realities and Perspectives,” “Church and the Left” and “Letters from Prison and Other Essays.” A few of the many awards he has received are the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award (1986), Europe’s Man of the Year (1989), the Prize of European Journalists (1995), the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany (2001) and the French Legion of Honor (2003).

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Passion Brings Recognition

Artist John Motak Receives Prestigious Award

PITTSBURGH — Polish American artist and graphic designer, David Motak, has been honored with the "2009 Working Artist" award by the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council. The Award, one of the highest honors that an individual artist can receive in the State of Pennsylvania, is underwritten by Giant Eagle Corporation, and was presented to the Pittsburgh-based artist by Dr. Hilary Robinson, Dean of the Carnegie-Mellon University College of Fine Arts, at a recent Gala Award Ceremony at the Pittsburgh Opera in June.

A Pittsburgh-based artist, Motak is the leading promoter and practitioner of the Polish "Szopka," art form in the United States. With a rich history dating to the Middle Ages, the szopka (pronounced: "shop-kah") or Cracow Christmas crèche, is a traditional folk craft from the Polish city of Cracow that transforms a variety of common materials (wood, cardboard, colored foiled papers, ribbon) into ornate miniature architectural constructions of various sizes and styles. The 2009 Working Artist Award is the first such presentation to a folk artist, and the first such presentation to an active artist within the Polish American community.

According to the citation by the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council, the prestigious Work of Art Award honors Motak as the leading American promoter of the Szopka tradition, "whose individual works, student workshops, szopka exhibitions and cultural events have shown tremendous leadership, innovation and drive in promoting his Pittsburgh-based initiative." The Award presentation was preceded by the screening of a brief film on Motak and his Pittsburgh Szopka Project produced by the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council.

Slavic immigrants brought a modified form of the szopka tradition to the United States in the 1800s, though in a more simplistic style. Motak's project builds upon this early immigrant tradition, fusing it with the more elaborate building styles from Cracow. Szopka building is not formally taught in Poland, where it has traditionally been a family-based tradition.

OTHER AWARDS. In addition to the 2009 Working Artist Award, Motak's efforts have also attracted numerous other awards and accolades. In 2008, he was commissioned to produce a major szopka piece for the Gagosian Gallery in New York



Pittsburgh-based artist John Motak is the leading promoter and practitioner of the Polish szopka art form in the United States.

City, one of the nation's leading art galleries. Also in that same year, he earned a Apprenticeship in Traditional Arts Award from the Institute for Cultural Partnerships. This prestigious award, which is rarely given for study outside the United States, provided a significant stipend enabling the Pittsburgh artist to spend one month in Cracow, Poland, studying with prominent Cracow Szopka Master Maciej Moszew. In 2009, Motak received a Fellowship in Traditional Arts from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts in support of his work as a leading szopka artist. The Fellowship was one of only two such awards presented in Pennsylvania. In recognition of his contributions to the Polish American community and to regional cultural life, Motak was selected as 2006 "Polonian of the Year" by the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Polish American Congress. Active within the area Polonia, the artist is a member of the Board of Directors of the Polish Cultural Council of Western Pennsylvania. He currently serves as Director of Communications for the Polish Falcons of America, a leading ethnic benefit fraternal organization headquartered in Pittsburgh.

PITTSBURGH ICON. In addition to his work as an individual artist, the Working Arts Award also recognizes Motak's contributions to the regional cultural community, including a major traveling installation on the historic and cultural contributions of Poles in the United States. Entitled "Poles in Pittsburgh: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," the large installation (25" x 7") utilizes five portable panels to portray the history of Poland, the contributions of Poles to American and Pittsburgh's history and culture, as well as Polish American customs and traditions. Motak created a visually dynamic presentation which is currently being shown at various public venues throughout Western Pennsylvania by the Polish Cultural Council.

Motak also established an annual "Holiday Tour to Poland" that features cultural events, meetings with prominent Cracow szopka masters, Polish Christmas traditions, as well as a visit to the annual Szopka Competition in historic Cracow. Further information on the Szopka art form and on the Pittsburgh Szopka Project can be viewed at: www.cracowcrafts.com or by contacting: contact@cracowcrafts.com.

WORLD WAR II / Sophie Hodorowicz Knab

Transport — Hell in the Railway Wagons

In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the invasion of Poland and the beginning of World War II, the Polish American Journal continues the saga of one man's experience on a transport train. He was one of hundreds of thousands of individuals who we forcibly ejected from their home by the Germans, placed in freight cars and deported to other parts of Poland for resettlement in order to provide more "living space" for the German people.

Part II

In our freight car there are eight families:

- Maria Winiarska around 30 years of age lived near Koscielna Street in Poznan with her two daughters- four year old Zosia and one year old Marisia. Her husband left on August 20th to fight in the war, was wounded and became a prisoner of war in Germany.

- Anna Nowak, around 65 years old with her 12 year old grandson. The Gestapo took her husband on the 2nd of October. Her sons were soldiers and currently prisoners ... her daughter-in-law was killed by a bomb that fell in Poznan during the first days of the war.

- An older married couple by the name of Dabrowski with their three sons.

- The Symaniak family composed of two older men and women.

- Two older men by the name of Kubiak.

- The Kowals consisted of two older women and the son of one of the women.

- The Kozlowski, a married couple of elder years, a younger woman and two children.

- The Kaczmarek were the largest family with a married couple of advanced age, one older and two younger women and two children.

We pass the Dębice station, Staroleka. At some station a few kilometers before Środa our transport is shunted to a side spur. We hear the German escort make rounds among the wagons. The train stands for about 12 minutes. Finally we hear the signal of the locomotive and the train moves. We pass Środa and again we stop at some station under a closed semaphore (railroad signal). We wait 18 minutes. Around 4:30 in the morning we arrive at the station in Jarocin: here, the steam engine backs up and again we wait on a side track for a three hour stop. At 7:30 we move forward. We pass the stations at Witaszyce ... Kotlin ... Taczanów and wait on a side track in Biniew near Ostrów Wielkopolskie. It is 9:30.

FROM ALL THE WAGONS arise the shouts of "Water!" "Water" and voices begging to open the wagons. After a lengthily wait the Germans pushed open the heavy doors and allowed us to exit. Looking out the doors we ascertain that there are no buildings close by. Instead, there was a lot of snow. The people rushed out of the wagons to the closest ditch, tree or bush — not paying any attention that the guards were standing with guns in case anyone tried to escape. All inhibitions have dropped away. Men, women and children are taking care of their bodily needs in the open terrain.

Our self appointed helper assists

the elderly, women and children to exit the wagon and then back again. Having experienced severe thirst during the trip, we look around for water. There was no pump nearby. Immediately we organize a group that begin to collect clean snow in every possible vessel. Following our example, the people in the other cars do the same. At the signal from the locomotive, that the semaphore has moved its arm showing an open line, the German guards begin to quickly push us back into the wagons.

The killings were followed by German reprisals where hundreds of Polish citizens — including Boy Scouts — were executed at random.

The train moves forward ... at 7:00 p.m. we arrive at Kluczborka. Here again we wait what seems an eternity of six hours and at 1:00 p.m. we move again. We move along ... pass Patnów Wielunski. Another stop. At 4:00 a.m. we depart for Kalet. Here another four hour stop. The interminable stops were a misery. The people began to fall apart. Our self appointed leader is practically jumping out of his skin trying to raise morale with various anecdotes, jokes and group singing. We arrive at Tarnowski Góry at 10:00. Here, as usual, they shunt us off to a side track to give priority to some more important transport. Our wagons are standing near the platform and through the slits in the window we see that not far away there are working pumps with drinkable water. As if on cue, the cries of "Water!" "Water!" erupts from the wagons.

THE GERMAN GUARDS sneer at us and have no intention of allowing the people out. The cries of the people intensifies. During these cries,

a transport with German troops arrived and was waiting a little further down. We see and hear that the troops are interested in why they were not giving us water, more so because they could hear the voices of women and children. We hear the guards tell the troops that the wagons contain "terrible Polish bandits from Bydgoszcz." They were referring to an incident that happened on September 3, shortly after the invasion of Poland by the Germans. There was an armed conflict in Bydgoszcz with killings and deaths between Poles and Germans. The killings were followed by German reprisals where hundreds of Polish citizens — including Boy Scouts — were executed at random. The event was continually used by Nazi propaganda throughout the war to incite Germans to hatred, brutality and death of the Polish population.

It's hard to say how all this would have ended but strangely enough one of the Poles, an older man, spoke out to one of the German officers, also a bit older. It seems they had both served in the German army during World War I. The German learned that he had been kept in the closed freight cars without water and provisions. After some negotiation on the part of the officer, our guards began opening the doors one after another and allowing three people from every wagon to come out and get water.

There are victims of the cold and hardship. In some of the wagons there have been deaths. The guards do not allow for the removal of the bodies. They have to ride to the end. Shortly after all the wagons have provisioned themselves with water, we are locked up again. The transport with the troops moves on and we are shuffled off to a side track and here we wait for another seven hours.

Continued next month

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Donations to the Paj Press Fund will be acknowledged in the paper unless otherwise directed by the contributor.

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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Felicians to Merge Communities

The Felician Sisters will soon join their current eight congregations into one. It will be named Our Lady of Hope Province of the Felician Sisters of North America, and will be governed from a single motherhouse in Beaver Falls, Pa. Pittsburgh's Bishop David Zubik will celebrate a Mass for the merger in Rochester, Penn., on Nov. 21, the 154th anniversary of the founding of the congregation by Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowski. The merger will unite the sisters in Coraopolis, Pa., Rio Rancho, N.M., Livonia, Mich., Enfield, Conn., Mississauga, Ont. Canada, Buffalo, N.Y., Chicago, Ill., and Lodi, N.J. While the merger will bring the finance and leadership teams under one roof, the sisters will keep a presence in all of their historical provinces.

POPE BENEDICT XVI HAILS HEROISM OF WARSAW UPRISING,

which took place sixty-five years ago. "From the heroism of those who took part in the uprising to liberate Warsaw from Nazi occupation was born a free Poland..." the pope said, speaking in Polish after his weekly Angelus prayer at his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo. The pope paid tribute to "all Poles," adding that "the sacrifice of their lives has brought the fruits of peace and prosperity for your nation. God bless Poland and each one of you."

Thousands of Poles, including many World War II veterans, gathered in Warsaw on August 1st to commemorate that August 1st in 1944 when the uprising began. President Kaczynski has sent to the lower house of parliament a draft of a bill to declare August 1 a national holiday.

PNCC NEWS. Prime Bishop Robert Nemkovich and Central Diocesan Bishop Anthony Mikovsky were the principal celebrants at the dedicatory Mass for the new parish hall at Holy Cross PNCC Parish in Syracuse, N.Y.

Bishop Peplowski reports on several parish developments in the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese. First, a new PNCC parish was organized in Lucca, Italy under the patronage of St. Stanislaus Kostka. The parishioners are largely former Episcopalian and their priest and two deacons, who left their church as a result of doctrinal and policy conflicts. A

MODLITWY

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

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

church and rectory were assigned to the new parish by the Roman Catholic bishop of Lucca. Second, a new PNCC parish is organizing in Brant, N.Y., whose members had belonged to a Roman Catholic parish recently closed by the RC Diocese. The church building and surrounding property is being sold to the parish by the Catholic diocese. The RC bishop of Buffalo had recently issued a caution that Catholics who join that parish will be removing themselves from the sacramental and ecclesiastical life of the Roman Catholic Church. Third, Holy Trinity PNCC Parish in Lackawanna, N.Y., whose church was damaged in a recent fire, have purchased and moved into the former Our Lady of Grace RC church in nearby Woodlawn, NY. Fourth, the mission parish of St. Anne in New Mill Port, Penn., was never officially accepted into the PNCC.

PARISH REACHES OUT TO SUDAN.

Fr. Ronald Sajdak, pastor of St. Martin de Porres RC Parish in Buffalo, N.Y., and Fidele Diing Dhan, one of the "Lost Boys of Sudan," joined in breaking ground for a medical clinic in Sudan. This was part of a two-year project in the parish called Reaching Out 2 Africa to build a medical clinic in Koiyom, Sudan, to combat cholera, tuberculosis and AIDS. One third of the \$95,000 building cost was raised in the diocese of Buffalo through a teen effort, the Pickle Jar Project, through which money is collected at benefits. The clinic is part of a three-phase project, which includes building two wells, one for the village and one for the clinic. "Clean water will eliminate a lot of medical problems even before a clinic is built," Fr. Sajdak explained. In phase two the clinic will be built and the final phase will see the construction of a dormitory for patients who cannot leave the clinic immediately. Plans are to name part of the clinic after the late Fr. Gary Bagley and Sr. Karen Klimczak, SSJ, both of whom shaped and affected the youth in Buffalo. Sr. Karen was murdered two years ago by an inmate resident of a halfway house that she supervised.

PENNSYLVANIA BISHOPS LAUNCH NEW WEB SITE.

As part of its effort to foster public understanding of the Church's teaching and concern about issues within the public policy arena, the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference of Bishops has established a new web site which will help the bishops give people opportunities to learn more about the Catholic perspective on public affairs and social teaching. In addition to communications from the bishops' conference, the site will also contain articles from newspapers and magazines in the 10 Pennsylvania dioceses. It will also give users the ability to send messages to their state legislators and congressmen. The address of the web site is www.pacatholic.org.

POPE JOHN PAUL II: LESSONS FROM HIS 1979 VISIT TO POLAND. George Weigel, official biographer of John Paul II, summarized five lessons from the late

pontiff's 1979 visit to Poland: 1) the power of the human spirit can ignite world historical change; 2) tradition can be as powerful a force for dramatic social and political change as a revolutionary rapture with the past; 3) moral conviction can be the lever with which to move the world; 4) the health of politics depends on the moral health of civil society; 5) free associations of men and women who are citizens, not subjects, are where democrats are made, for it's in those free associations that we learn the habits of heart and mind that make it possible for us to be self-governing.

CAPTURING ROMAN CHURCHES ON VIDEO.

Samantha Covalesski, a communication major at Philadelphia's Villanova University, was part of a team that created a video record of the Sistine Chapel and the other principal basilicas in Rome. The work was part of a formal, ongoing relationship between the university and the Vatican which involves computer science and communication students on various projects in the Vatican each year. At the web site, visitors will be able to take a 360 degree virtual tour of the Sistine Chapel, St. Paul's Outside the Walls, St. Mary Major, and St. John Lateran. At the address <http://go.philly.com/vaticanvideo> St. Paul's Outside the Walls is available for viewing.

STO LAT TO ... Rev. Marek Gnidzinski

on his recent assignment at Administrator of St. Casimir's PNCC Parish in Rochester, N.Y. He replaces Deacon Richard Golaszewski ... Rt. Rev. Anthony Kopka on his installation as 8th diocesan bishop of the Western Diocese of the PNCC. He will also become the pastor of All Saints PNCC Cathedral Parish, Chicago ... Ms. Sharon Urbaniak, associate director of religious education for the RC Diocese of Buffalo on receiving the Edward M. Shaughnessy III Serving All God's Children Inclusion Award given at the Education Law Symposium dinner in Louisville, Ky. She is being recognized for her dedication to those who face profound mental and physical disabilities ... Mr. Daniel U. Golinski on his ordination as a deacon in the RC Diocese of Buffalo. A member of Mother of Divine Grace Parish, Cheektowaga, Deacon Golinski has served as a confirmation catechist, RCIA director and member of the parish bereavement committee. His deaconate work will be hospital ministry at Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital ... The 27 Marriage and Family scholars who were the 2009 graduating class of the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family on the campus of the Catholic University of America ... Mr. Eric Nole, parishioner at St. Stanislaus PNCC Parish on receiving his Eagle Scout Award in Clarks Summit, NY. His project was to cut and clear wood from a community park. The wood is in a firewood stockpile and the cleared area will serve as recreational space.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ... Pennie and Rev. Raymond Drada on their 25th wedding anniversary.

St. Stan's Stained Glass Windows Imperiled

by Richard P. Poremski

BALTIMORE — For over the past 100 years here, bright sunlight has freely streamed through the vibrant stained glass windows of historic St. Stanislaus Kostka R.C. Church. Now comes the proprietary Franciscan Friars and their prospective developer who want to remove the colorful windows and replace them with clear glass. A total of 61 windows, of all types, exist in the upper and lower churches that comprise the building. Some are grouped together on the front of the church to appear as two large dome-shaped windows.

As per previous reports in this newspaper: The church was closed in 2000. A committee of concerned former parishioners and Polish groups later negotiated to buy the church and establish a Polish Church Museum and Cultural/Community Center. A long and bitter court battle ensued when the Franciscans abruptly and arbitrarily returned the purchase contract without their co-signature. They were then sued for breach of contract by the St. Stan's Committee, which ultimately lost its case in 2007 at the Maryland Court of Appeals level.

But in the legal-limbo interim, St. Stan's providentially came under the protection of Baltimore's Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation (CHAP). And recently, on May 6, 2009, the church was given the added protection of being legally declared a City of Baltimore Historic Landmark. But in both cases, only the exterior of the church is protected. The interior is subject to conversion as the owner see fit.

On July 14, 2009 a CHAP meeting was convened to hear a Hybrid Development Group request. They were asking permission to remove the stained glass windows of the church and replace them with clear glass in order to make the building economically viable (in their opinion). Hybrid had no firm plans to present, but mentioned the usual general concept of recycling the church into a residential or commercial property.

The St. Stan's Committee, led by Michael Sarnecki, again rose to the occasion and argued that the threatened windows are a historic and an integral part of the church's protected exterior. The CHAP commissioners declined to make a recommendation, and asked the Franciscan-backed developer to supply more information on the window's precise age and religious significance.

The Franciscan Friars, in any event, are now busy preparing for the future development of St. Stan's. Late on the night of April 20, 2009 large moving vans arrived on the scene in Fell's Point. Beginning then, and continuing for the next two days, the church building was totally stripped of both its main altars — especially the magnificent high altar, the combined four side altars, all statuary, religious images and icons, Stations of The Cross, etc.

The only thing now left behind is the numerous wooden pews bearing mute testimony to the melancholy emptiness. The present whereabouts and ultimate fate of the departed, irreplaceable and priceless religious artifacts remains unknown to Polonia and the general public.

And so the sad nine-years-long saga of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church continues. The Franciscan Friars are already busy writing its next chapter. The St. Stan's Committee remains active, ready and ever-vigilant to the developing situation.



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

FRANCISCANS, DEVELOPER SEEK TO REMOVE WINDOWS. Pictured above is the façade of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, featuring only a portion of its many historic stained glass windows.

Fr. Drada is pastor of All Saints PNCC Parish, Sterling Heights, Mich.

The Sisters of Ss. Cyril & Methodius, about to celebrate their 100th anniversary. Founded in 1909 by Fr. Matthew Jankola to preserve and promote Slovak faith and culture. The sisters have established the Jankola Library and Slovak museum in Danville, Penn., where books, papers and artifacts are housed. The internet address is <http://jankolalibrary.sscm.org>. The sisters have prepared a commemorative volume that covers their 100-year history. To obtain a copy by mail send your name and mailing address along with a check for \$40.00 to: Centen-

nial Book Order, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821, or visit the internet site at www.yearbooksonsale.com.

Rev. Msgr. Anthony E. Jaworowski on his 65th anniversary of ordination. Pastor emeritus of St. Adalbert RC Parish, Philadelphia, he has been a resident priest at Sacred Heart Parish in Swedesburg, Upper Merion Township for 16 years. He received the title monsignor in 1976 and recently celebrated his 92nd birthday. A personal friend of Pope John Paul, he chaired the arrangements committee for the papal visit to Philadelphia in 1979 and was program chair for the Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia in 1976.

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KULTURA / Staś Kmieć

Travelogue – Adventures in Poland — Part VIII

Exiting the National Museum, I was in a dazed euphoria of colors and images from the work of Zofia Stryjeńska. I decided to complete the experience with a return into the Old Town to experience the local color and atmosphere that influenced this great artist.

The History and Legend of the Trumpeter of Kraków

Entering the Old Town I was welcomed by the strains of the *Hejnal Mariacki*, the ancient bugle call made famous through legend. Every full hour a golden trumpet appears high above the *Rynek Square* in the west window tower of the *Kościół Mariacki* (Basilica of the Virgin Mary). Just below the spire of the higher tower, the characteristic signal, known and dear to every Pole, resounds throughout the city's historical district. The melody ends abruptly on a broken note. The call is repeated towards the east, the south and the north.

This custom originally had traditional significance: honoring the King (toward Wawel Castle), the mayor/bishop (the Town Hall Tower/Bishop's Place on Kanonicza Street), the citizens and merchants (Main Market Square), and the peasants and visitors (the fields outside Kraków/ St. Florian's Gate and the Barbican).

The Kraków *hejnal* has become well-known throughout Poland and has become a symbol of the Polish nation and an important part of its heritage.

The hymn "St. Mary's Dawn" is a five-note tune closely tied to the history and traditions of the city. The origin and author are unknown. The earliest written mention of it is in civic pay records from 1392. The word *hejnal* is Hungarian for "dawn." King Louis I of Hungary ruled Poland from 1370-1382, and his daughter Jadwiga reigned from 1384-1399, which may place the

melody within that period.

Bugle calls were used in many European cities to signal the opening and closing of city gates at dawn and dusk. The four directions of the call relate to the four main gates of Kraków before they were torn down in the 19th century. Sources in the 16th century note other buglers on other towers, which brings up the possibility that the "interrupted" tune was originally to allow subsequent trumpeters on a gate to signal the completion of the task of opening or closing. In historical times these calls were also used to warn of fires, approaching enemy forces and other dangers.



The trumpeter's perspective

ACCORDING TO EITHER historical fact or popular legend, during one of the Mongol invasion of Poland in 1241, Tatar warriors approached the city. A guard on the church tower sounded the alarm by playing the *hejnal* and the gates were closed before the Tatars could overcome the city with a surprise attack. The bugler, however, was pierced in the throat by a single arrow and did not complete the tune. The tradition of a midnote clipped ending may have begun to commemorate this occurrence.

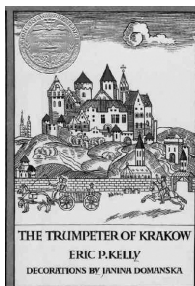
While in middle school, prior

to my first trip to Poland, I read the young adult historical novel *The Trumpeter of Krakow* by American author Eric P. Kelly. Oddly enough, the earliest written version of this legend is from the prologue to this 1928 work, which received the Newbery Medal for excellence in American children's literature.

Centered around the historical fire that destroyed much of Kraków in 1462, *The Trumpeter of Krakow* tells the fictional story of the Polish noble family of Joseph Charnetski from Kresy (today, part of Ukraine), who flee to Kraków, in 1461 after their home is burned to the ground by the Cossack-Tartars. The *hejnal* plays an important part in the climax of the plot.

Kelly went to the Jagiellonian University as the first American exchange scholar sent to Poland by the Kościuszko Foundation. He served as an instructor of American Literature and Institutions in the Department of English Philology. By his own admission he did not speak Polish well at the time, and relied on French-speaking friends to translate for him.

PART OF THE ACCEPTED Tatar-based legend may have come from an incident in which a trumpeter died of natural causes while on duty at midnight on July 7, 1901. A 1926 tourist guide vaguely documents that the death of a trumpeter is the reason for the sudden end of the tune, but doesn't mention the time period or an attack on the city.



The Trumpeter of Krakow by American author Eric P. Kelly

ment of any arrows or the death of the guard.

Professor Karol Estreicher, Jr.'s thorough 1931 guide to Kraków omits the tale. It is possible that Kelly was the first to inscribe the full account of an existing legend that had been passed down in the oral tradition and not been notated earlier. He may also have been the victim of a hoax or due to his language capacity, he may have accidentally combined two different stories.

The first written version of the legend in Polish appeared in a 1935 tourist guide. The second is a fiction sequel by Ksawery Pruszyński (a student at the Jagiellonian University when Kelly was teaching) entitled *The Trumpeter of Samarkand*, which ties in the *Lajkonik* legend. After World War II, Kelly's role was largely forgotten and the legend was passed down through the generations in true folk fashion.

According to the Jagiellonian University's Astronomical Observatory, Kraków became the first Polish city to communicate the exact time to its inhabitants. Historical

records show that the *hejnal* ceased being played and then later reinstated several times through the centuries; the longest gap being before 1810. From February 13, 1838, the *hejnal* was played at noon. Since 1927 at noon, the entire four repetition ritual is broadcast (with a recorded version) on Polish national radio.

During World War II, on May 18, 1944, a bugler from the 2nd Polish Corps played the tune to announce the Polish victory in the Battle of Monte Cassino.

THE MELODY WAS RECORDED in the Guinness Book of Records on June 11, 2000, when it was played by almost 2,000 trumpeters from all over the world. The youngest was barely eight years old and the oldest was 79.

At midday, on April 3, 2005, the day following the death of the Pope John Paul II, for the first and only time in history, the *hejnal* was replaced by the song of mourning – "The Tears of the Mother."

Originally played by the town guard, since the 19th century the *hejnal* has been performed by active members of the fire brigade, who use the church tower as a lookout post. Currently there are at least four different buglers serving in rotation at the tower.

The longest serving trumpeter was Adolf Śmietana who played



EVERY HOUR a golden trumpet appears in the west window tower of the *Kościół Mariacki* (Basilica of the Virgin Mary) to play the ancient *Hejnal Mariacki*.

for 36 years, starting in 1926. The Koltan family has played for three generations. In October 2004, Jan Koltan retired after 33 years of service. His father had been a bugler for 35 years, and the tradition is currently continued by Jan's son.

Late at night in winter months, one may notice that the tune can become wobbly and quicker due to the harsh elements of Polish winters, and the above ground distance.

The *Hejnal Mariacki* is important to both the millions of tourists who visit Krakow every year and its residents. It's a meaningful attraction and a useful way of knowing the time.

With the bugle call ritual complete, I find myself standing before the tall, and graceful Gothic style *Kościół Mariacki*.

to be continued

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Pierogi Blowout: Whiting Indiana

WHITING, Ind. — It was time to travel to Whiting, Indiana for the 15th annual “Pierogi Fest.” This three day event, held July 24-26, was a place to be, and was well worth the travel time. An estimated 150,000 people travelled to Whiting’s 119th Street from surrounding Indiana communities, Chicago’s North and South Sides, and its suburbs to enjoy a day of tasting some of the best pierogi in the Midwest. Also, if you wanted a good laugh, the Pierogi Fest Parade was not to be missed. A well-organized, family-friendly parade with a choreographed dance team composed of women dressed in their 1950s-style housecoats with mops and feather dusters in hand, babushka clad ladies and their brigade, the outrageously dressed women with walkers, men in synchronized step with their lawnmowers, spoofers of

Chicago’s Jesse White Tumblers, and an aquatic golf team, if you can imagine what this could possibly be, marching in playful jest. The parade participants even made fun of the Whiting area and its people. Nothing appeared to be serious.

“The parade is a spoof on all the other parades,” said Tom Dabertin, parade organizer. Whether that succulent dough filled gourmet delight was spelled pierogi, pierogies, pirog, pirozkis — even pierogi’s — it was the Fest’s honored guest, and was to be admired and eaten.

Not only did pierogi abound with every imaginable possible filling, but roasted fresh kielbasa, shishkabobs, Polish pastries, stuffed cabbage, potato pancakes and sauerkraut were there for the eating. This was not a place for the calorie conscious patron. The honored pierogi

even showed up in craft booths, where one could find pierogi soaps, pierogi-shaped dog treats, pierogi earrings, and pierogi hats. Also, what more could one ask with the Fest’s assorted polka bands continuously playing the ever-so-popular polkas, obereks, waltzes and swing music, even polkas sung in Polish. On the serious side, there was a simple reenactment of the Battle of Vienna with its “Winged Horsemen.”

Stories about the festival and its unique charm have appeared on television and in print around the country, even appearing on Oprah Winfrey’s best food festival list. This has helped, mostly likely, to increase attendance. While the *shtick* might play a role in attracting patrons and sightseers, it is the food that keeps them coming back year after year.



PLAYERS of “Battle of Vienna”

It is interesting to point out that the Pierogi Fest had 50 food vendors, which is about the same number of vendors that served the 3.35 million people who attended this year’s famous “Taste of Chicago”

over a ten day period of time.

Whiting’s Pierogi Fest is a place with home town atmosphere and old world entertainment, and it has free admission.

“Freedom On the Fence” Premiere

On July 28, the De Paul University Art Museum hosted a reception for the Chicago premiere screening of “Freedom on the Fence,” a film documenting the brilliant and paradoxical art of Polish poster design and a display of twenty-one Polish posters from DePaul’s art collection given to the university as a gift from Patricia and Martin Rosenberg.

This 40-minute documentary explored, not only the history of Polish posters, but detailed their changing significance in the political, cultural and social life of Poland during the communist occupation, the Solidarity movement, and the fall of communism.

Besides creating stunning, colorful and surreal street posters, the Polish artists became motivated by their attempts to send subliminal subversive freedom messages past the Stalin/communist-era censors. Construction fences were used to infuse the gray streets with color and to transform the streets into a public art gallery. These artists were, in fact, hugely successful.

Unfortunately, when Solidarity succeeded and Poland became a free and independent country, the challenges and risks faced by the artists were eliminated and the quality of poster art declined. Also, this screening included interviews with Henryk Tomaszewski, considered the father of this poster movement, as well as interviews with American and Polish scholars who spoke on the significance of the Polish poster as a cultural icon, and how, during the Cold War years, these posters



“THE WOODEN ROSARY,” Waldemar Swierzy, 1964

brought international attention and admiration to an otherwise dismal environment.

Martin Rosenberg, the executive producer of this must-see documentary, and one of the world’s foremost collectors and authorities on vintage Polish posters, attended the reception. He discussed his perspective on the importance of Polish poster art, and hosted a “question and answer” period after the presentation of the film. Additionally, Mr. Rosenberg has spent over 25 years collecting and researching pre-war and post-war original Polish posters, and has made generous art donations to the DePaul University’s art collection.

Coinciding with this exhibit is another Polish poster art exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

Chicago’s Polish Jesuits Celebrate 75 Years



JESUIT MILLENNIUM CENTER.

The Polish Jesuits of Chicago will celebrate their 75th anniversary of service to the Polish/Polish American community. The anniversary celebration will commence this September. On Friday, September 25, Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki will begin the anniversary celebration with a solemn Mass at the Sacred Heart Millennium Center. After Mass, John Padberg, SJ, Director of the Institute of Jesuit Sources in St. Louis, Missouri, will speak about the history of the suppression and restoration of the Jesuits as a worldwide community. On Saturday, a symposium will be held in which priests and laity will conference on topics pertinent to Polish Catholics. On Sunday, Wojciech Ziolk, SJ, Provincial of the Jesuits’ Southern Polish Province will celebrate a closing Mass for the Chicago Polish

Jesuits’ benefactors. Closing festivities will follow with a gala dinner at Przybylo’s House of the White Eagle, located in Nilus, Illinois.

In 1934, the Polish Jesuits moved their official headquarters to Chicago. Here they established the Sacred Heart Mission House on Chicago’s Northwest Side, a “House on Avers.” Their primary objectives were to ministers to the needs of Polish Catholic immigrants and to continue publishing the *Poslaniec* (THE POLISH MESSENGER OF THE SACRED HEART) Magazine.

For the past three-quarter century, nearly 100 Polish Jesuits have come to Chicago to serve the needs of the Polish/Polish American Catholic community, as well as to communicate with its constituents in the United States through the publishing of the *Poslaniec*. When they made their move to Chicago, they purchased a house on the city’s Northwest Side. Initially, the house served as a residence and an administrative headquarters for the Polish Jesuits’ apostolic operations. Eventually, the “House on Avers” was opened to the public for the celebration of Mass. Thus, the flocks of worshipers began to appear. Unfortunately, this arrangement caused numerous concerns for the Jesuits. Each and every Sunday, the priests offered over ten Masses to more than 2,000 people. Masses were being said in the house’s small chapel and close-circuit televisions were placed in the basement, hallways and even the windows, so that the crowds



POLISH JESUITS. Front row (l. to r.): Fr. Piotr Kochanowicz, Fr. Mirosław Bozek, Fr. Tadeusz Kulkulka; Back row (l. to r.): Br. Adam Laska, Fr. Stanisław Czarniecki, and Fr. Wiesław Foran.

standing in the garden area could participate in the liturgy. The neighbors could not accept this pastoral arrangement and became annoyed not only with the crowds, but also with the noise that disrupted their Sundays.

Overcrowding and neighbor-oriented concerns were opportunities for the Polish Jesuits to create a place of worship that would serve the Polish Catholic Community into the new millennium. Thus, in 2001, they purchased a store-front building along with a parking lot that would fulfill the needs of the worshipers. The building allows five Jesuits priests and one Jesuit brother to offer a wide range of spiritual and cultural opportunities for their parishioners. This site was named the Jesuit Millennium Center, and since its 2001 founding, extensive renovations have been made as it serves over 4,500 worshipers every weekend. Its parishioners come from Chicago’s Northwest Side, other nearby neighborhoods, and the suburbs. The uniqueness of this congregation is its composition of Polish immigrants, second and third generation Polish Americans, young families and the elderly, as well as a significant number of single young adult. And that “House on Avers” serves as the residential home of the Jesuits.

For further information regarding the Polish Jesuits, contact Father Stanisław Czarniecki at (773) 936-5354 email polmes@jezuicichicago.org.

Abramowicz Seminary Benefit

On Sunday, September 13, 2009, the sixth annual benefit banquet celebrating a successful Bishop Abramowicz Seminary Program, will be held at Chicago’s Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, 301 East North Water Street. Included in the festivities of the evening will be a reception, dinner and a silent auction.

The uniqueness of the Bishop Abramowicz Seminary Program, since its founding in September 1999, is its annual recruitment of seminarians from Poland. These seminarians, with the approval of their respective Polish bishops, elect to leave Poland to complete seminary studies. First, they complete their clerical formation at the Bishop Abramowicz Seminary Program in Chicago, then they go onward to the University of St.

Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, Mundelein, Illinois. This program offers Polish seminarians not only the spiritual, religious and educational foundations needed for priesthood, but a means by which they receive insight into the American culture along with their seminary studies. Once ordained, these Polish priests begin ministering in parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago, wherever there is a pastoral need. Some will be appointed to serve at traditional Polish-language parishes, and others will minister at non-Polish speaking parishes.

Realizing that not everyone can attend this event, it is the Bishop Abramowicz Committee’s hope that the Polish American community within the Archdiocese of Chicago and beyond consider finan-

cially supporting this worthwhile institution. Attending this event will be Bishop Abramowicz Seminary alumni, Polish seminarians presently in the program, His Eminence Francis Cardinal George, OMI, Archbishop of Chicago, and the Auxiliary Bishops of Chicago. This year’s honored guests will be His Excellency Mieczysław Mokrzycki, Archbishop of Lwów, and Mr. Edwin Sowin. Archbishop Mokrzycki was the personal secretary to Pope John Paul II and, now, is the secretary to Pope Benedict XVI. Mr. Sowin will receive the Seminary’s *Caritas Christi* Award in recognition of his commitment to Polonia. For further information, please call Camille Kopsielski (847) 394-2520 or Marian Skawski (708) 246-9165.

NO TO TAXES. Polish President Lech Kaczynski said he will not back any tax increases because he insists that the economic slowdown does not justify doing so. Poland’s PMI (Purchasing Managers Index, an indicator of economic growth.) came in far higher than expected, and the zloty keeps moving up, up, up — especially against the dollar. While Kaczynski’s government continues to lose popularity, the continued turn-around of Poland’s economic climate may make him a hero after all.

POLONIA EAGLE OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Christian Holocaust-Polish Remembrance Day

Six million Poles (half Christian, half Jewish) were among the 11 million victims of the Nazis during World War II. Unfortunately, the passage of time has already begun to cloud the Public's memory of the three million Christian Poles killed in Nazi death camps.

WNY's twelfth annual Christian Holocaust-Polish Remembrance Day observance took place on August 15 at the St. Stanislaus Cemetery Resurrection Mausoleum in Cheektowaga to ensure that these three million Poles are not remembered only as "and others." This observance is held in conjunction with St. Maximilian Kolbe's feast day in accordance with a resolution passed by the Polish American Congress thirteen years ago. Polish American Congress WNY Division Religious Events Coordinator Joseph Macielag stated that the event serves to remind the Public of the terror and horror suffered by those Poles interned and murdered in German Nazi concentration camps as well as those deported to Siberia and held in Stalin's gulags.

Several Polish Holocaust survivors participated in a Memorial Mass celebrated by Buffalo Bishop Edward Grosz.

POLONIA TIDBITS. "Spirit, The Musical", written by WNY father and son team **Michael** and **Paul Marszalkowski**, was very well received by audiences during its two week run at St. Francis High School in Athol Springs. For more information on this production, please visit www.spiritmusical.com ... The Peace Mural, a 24 by 7 1/2 foot sgraffito created by WNY artist **Josef Slawinski**, was moved as part of a recent renovation project at the Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Lewiston ... **Sophie Hodorowicz Knab's** "Play Time in Poland" program was presented at the North Tonawanda History Museum as part of this year's Canalfest celebration.

Jason Radwan of Lakeshore High School, **Nick Jasinski** of St. Francis High School in Athol Springs, and **Anne Wasik** and **Katie Bartkowiak** of Fredonia High School won All WNY honors in baseball and softball ... Black Rock native **Joseph Pawlik** recently received the French Legion of Honor Medal for his valor during the D-Day invasion of Normandy during World War II ... The 65th anniversary of the **Warsaw Uprising** was marked with a Polish language Mass of Remembrance at St. John Gualbert Church in Cheektowaga on

August 2 ... **St. Stanislaus Kostka** Parish in Rochester and **Ss. Hyacinth & Hedwig** Parish in Dunkirk held their Summer Festivals the first weekend of August.

Rev. Ryszard Biernat, a native of Limanowa, Poland, was ordained a Roman Catholic priest by Buffalo Bishop Edward Kmiec on August 8 ... The Buffalo Bisons baseball team honored **Roger Puchalski** and **Renee Harzewski** of the Am-Pol Eagle as its Polish Americans of the Year on August 11 ... West Seneca native **Elizabeth Lesinski** appeared in the Hell in a Handbag Company's production of "Poseidon! An Upside Down Musical" in Chicago's Chopin Theater during August ... The Rochester Rhinos soccer team sponsored its "**Polish Night**" at Marina Auto Field on the 15th.

WNY's Polish veterans observed **Polish Soldiers Day** with a High Mass celebrated by Bishop Edward Grosz in Buffalo's St. Stanislaus Church on August 16. August also marked the 25th anniversary of the opening of the **Polish Armed Forces Museum** on the cruiser Little Rock located in the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park on Buffalo's waterfront ... On August 19, Toronto's Lodzer Holocaust Centre presented its "Guardians of Memory" program on the **Ottock Ghetto**, which included a screening of the Polish documentary film, "March of Memory and Prayer."

The Polish documentary film, "**For Your Freedom and Ours**" was shown at Toronto's SPK Hall on the 20th ... **Frank and Stella Barnashuk**, better known as St. Stan's Mr. and Mrs. Dyngus, recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary ... **Buffalo's Best Homemade Pierogi Contest** along with the music of Al Kania's "Polka Smile Eastern Style", Joe Macielag and the "Pic-A-Polka" Band and Soprano Mary Beth Wrobel were the highlights of Corpus Christi Parish's 30th Annual "Dozynki" Polish Harvest Festival that same weekend ... The 21st Annual **Owl Family Picnic** was held at the Lamm Post Grove in Williamsville on August 23. This year's picnic featured members of the Eddie "O" Orchestra, "New Yorkers" with CJ Luksch, Danny Neaverth and Accordion Bill with special guest "Scrubby" Seweryniak. The proceeds benefit Camp Good Days and Special Times, Mercy Flight, Former Troopers Helping Hands and the St. Adalbert's Response to Love Center.

On the 28th, the Rochester Redwings baseball organization held

its **Polish Night** at Frontier Field ... Buffalo's historic **Broadway Market** is a participant in a contest for farmers' markets sponsored by care2.com. Voting continues until September 17. For more information or to cast your vote, please visit www.care2.com/farmersmarket/2831 ... Andrzej Golebiowski announced that Irene Tomaszewski, the author of "**Zegota: The Council of Aid to Jews in Occupied Poland, 1942-45**," will be the keynote speaker at the "Poland to Buffalo Through World War II: Untold Stories Come Alive" conference to be held in Buffalo on October 3 and 4. More details are available at (716) 892-5975.

Discussions are continuing between the Polish Cultural Foundation and the Miami-based Chopin Foundation of the United States regarding the possibility of presenting WNY performances by the winner of the **National Chopin Piano Competition** in 2010 and the winner of the Polish Chopin Piano Competition in 2011.

IF YOU HAVE ANY ITEM for this column, please send the information to me by the 6th day of the month preceding the month in which you would like the item to appear (ie. September 6 for the October edition) at: POLEGL, P.O. Box 223, Niagara Square Station, Buffalo, NY 14201-0223. My e-mail address is pietruszka@verizon.net.

For more information on what's going on in the Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes, including a calendar of upcoming events, an organizational directory and interesting links, visit my website at: <http://www.polegl.org>.

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POLONIA PROFILE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Helen Talik Wojcik

Sharp as a tack, and rarin' to go. This is Helen Talik Wojcik. If it were not for her broken hip four years ago and the arthritic complications that followed, she would still be dancing the polka. Born on February 17, 1904, in Cięcinnie, Poland, a small village near Zwywiec, Helena Talik arrived at Ellis Island at the age of two, along with her mother, Zofia, and her six-month-old sister, Mary. Helena, the oldest of eight children of Zofia Furtak Talik and Jakub Talik, is the only surviving sibling. She mentions her parents with fondness and frequency, pointing out that they were married in Kraków. Her father was a successful tailor, very much in demand, specializing in not only custom-made suits, but tuxedos, smoking jackets, ("Do they still sell smoking jackets?"), overcoats, and cassocks for priests. Zofia, a popular seamstress, specialized in custom-made wedding gowns.

Helen spent most of her childhood years in Detroit, attending St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr, Grammar School and graduating from Northwestern High School. Fluent in German and Polish, and having taken French during her high school years, Helen always let everyone know that she loved to speak Polish, even when it was not popular to advertise one's foreign language proficiency. She also pointed out that she only spoke German at home.

Helen married Daniel Wojcik, a judicial court clerk, in September 1923 in the same parish in which her family spent most of their years. Moreover, she did spend some of her earlier married years as a career woman, employed as a switchboard operator for the Bell Telephone Company and US Postal Service. During World War II and for a few years after the War, she worked as an interpreter for the US Dept. of Immigration and Naturalization. In a few years, she gave up the career path to stay home with her children. She and Dan were founding members of St. Raymond Parish in Detroit; and she always volunteered during each and every election period. Helen took her U.S. citizenship seriously.

Nowadays, she likes to reminisce about her race track days. In the '70s and '80s, Helen would call her cousin Bruno. "Brunek" she'd say, "let's go the track, I have a couple of hot tips and the horses look good." So off they'd go to Hazel Park Race Track for an afternoon at the races. This was an almost weekly ritual, until Bruno became ill and passed



Helen Talik Wojcik and daughter Dolores Rademacher.

away. Naturally, Helen doesn't go to the race track anymore, but she still plays the Michigan lottery, analyzing and calculating those numbers in hopes of winning that \$1M jackpot.

Helen celebrated her one-hundredth birthday at the Holbrook Café in Hamtramck, Michigan. Surrounded by 100 family members and friends, who came from all parts of the United States to honor this fun-loving centenarian, she even danced the polka in celebration. However, having passed that one-hundred-year landmark five years ago, the traditional Polish birthday song "Sto lat" cannot be sung on Helen's birthday. She suggests that her birthday celebration be like one for a five year old. Singing and dancing were and, to a certain extent, still are important parts of her life. She'll even try to dance in her wheel chair. She has not forgotten the songs. Helen can sing an array of Polish folk songs and numerous American ballads. She prides herself in singing her all-time Polish language favorites "Goralu Czy Ci Nie Zal," and the Polish National Anthem, "Jeszcze Polska Nie Zginęła." When Father Robert Kotlarz, pastor of St. Raymond Parish, makes his visits to the Clinton-aire Nursing Home, he makes it a point to have a sing-along with the Polish speaking residents. Helen's enthusiastic voice can be heard throughout the hallway.

She attributes her longevity to "just enough" blackberry brandy, having grown, harvested, and eaten her own vegetables, plenty of walking, and never smoking. Having a positive upbeat attitude, keeping up with dancing and singing has helped as well.

Helene Talik Wojcik is the proud mother of two, grandmother of three and the great-grandmother of four. May you live another 100 years, Helen!

Mother Collects Degree for Slain Daughter

SAN BERDNADINO, Calif. — The slain wife of murdered Brooklyn Marine **Sgt. Jan Pawel Pietrzak** was supposed to collect her master's degree in public health. Instead, the mother of **Quiana Jenkins-Pietrzak** will make the painful pilgrimage to Cal State San Bernardino for her.

"She's graduating in the top 15% of her class," said Glenda Faye Williams-Jenkins, still unable to speak of her daughter in the past tense. "I'm going to walk in her place."

The mourning mother spoke before returning with Pietrzak's mother, Henryka, to a California courtroom for another hearing to determine in the four young Marines charged with the murders should stand trial.

"She and Janek were perfect kids," she said, using the Polish diminutive for Jan. "They made it

easy for us to be parents. I just don't understand why they took my only child from me."

Prosecutors insist the Pietrzaks were slain for their money, but a homicide investigator has said the Marines spray-painted racist remarks in the couple's California home before they split. Polish-born Pietrzak, 24, was white. His 26-year-old wife, Quiana, was black.

In the wake of the horrific Pietrzak murders, Rep. Michael McMahon (D-Statens Island) has been working on a bill to stiffen psychological screenings for new Marine recruits to weed out any potential bad apples. In support of that, Henryka Pietrzak-Varga, who lives in Bensonhurst, has been collecting signatures at Polish churches in Brooklyn and Queens on a petition demanding "thorough background checks" for new Marines.

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HAMTRAMCK BEAT /Michelle Odrobina-Jiompkowski

New Discipline Initiative Starts up in Hamtramck Public Schools

With ethnic diversity abundant in the Hamtramck Public Schools, a new Restorative Practices Initiative for the 2009/2010 academic year has as its aim the creation of a safer, more respectful and more productive school environment.

Spearheading the innovative behavioral technique is **Thomas Niczay**, superintendent of the Hamtramck Public Schools, who is excited about the development. Niczay credits Bill Sower, on staff, for being one of the founders of the movement. Sower runs the initiative for the Hamtramck schools.

HAMTRAMCK ROOTS. A product of Hamtramck schools, Niczay has been the superintendent of the Hamtramck Public Schools for a year and a half. His father was Ukrainian; his mother, Polish. His educational background includes both bachelor and master's degrees from Wayne State University with his master's degree earned in supervision and administration. Niczay's career as an educator and administrator honed in the Hamtramck school system spans 22 years.

In the Hamtramck public school system are Hamtramck High School, Kosciuszko Middle School, Holbrook Elementary School, Dickinson West Elementary School and Dickinson East Elementary School. The Early Childhood Center and the Adult/Alternative Education program are housed at the Horizon school. The Recreation Department also falls under the jurisdiction of the school board, which is unique, according to Niczay who said that only a couple of school districts have that distinction. Instead, most cities run their Recreation Departments.

At the end of the last school year, the student population numbered 2,855, the superintendent said. The main languages spoken are Bengali, Arabic, Bosnian, Polish and English.

NEED FOR INITIATIVE. According to Niczay, "It's a new initiative where not only in our schools, but in schools throughout the country and in Michigan, behavior issues with kids are serious and impede learning. Our first goal in student achievement is getting kids to learn. Lansing Public Schools, for example, has a model for this — Michigan Practices. ... I'm really excited about this new program. The way things have been done in the past is, for example, a student breaks a rule. The student is sent home for a day or two, and comes

back, and that's it.

... Our Restorative Initiative is a tougher way of doing things, but it's more humane. We bring in everyone that was affected by the violation. It could be the teacher, could be another kid, and say a kid hit another kid or stole a purse or something like that. We'll bring in that student, that student's parent, the kid's parent. We sit around and discuss and have the person that committed the offense understand the ramifications of what he or she did and

"... if the young people can learn to interact with different ethnic and racial groups, they'll be better able to handle the real world or (the world) once they get out of high school and into college."

how it affected the other person. That individual would have to restore that and make good. So, for example, if he or she broke a window, the parent would pay. If the individual stole a purse, the kid would have to repay it to the other person. It's definitely a different model, but one that's being used throughout Europe, and especially here in Michigan, Lansing Public Schools have it and we have adopted it. We've committed some federal dollars to fund the program. We have a gentleman, Bill Sower, who is running the program ... one of the founders of it. He's permanently here. He established it, for example, in South Lyon, (Mich.), Walled Lake (Mich.) ... We've taken it one step further, where we actually have the person here on staff to get the program going. Each building is going to have a Restorative Practices coordinator to help with these problems. But, I must say, it's not happening at the high school yet. We don't have the funding for the high school yet. We have the federal dollars to do it in our elementary and middle school."

ETHNIC DIVERSITY. The superintendent said, "I think diversity is a great thing, I sincerely do. Our world is a very diverse world. And if the young people can learn to interact with different ethnic and racial groups, they'll be better able to handle the real world or (the world) once they get out of high school and into college. Some of the downside of it is, for example, if a student of an ethnic or racial group has a beef with another member

of a different ethnic or racial group. The kids seem to flock and defend and then you have two groups. There are two kids who have a problem, but then it ends up being eight or ten kids on each side because he or she is just like me, so I have to go out there and defend this person. So, if everyone is the same, then obviously that's not it. But I think it's truly well worth it being in a diverse school."

PROGRAM STRUCTURE. As he points to a page from a handout, Niczay explained, "This is what we're trying to do, a comprehensive model for reducing disciplinary referrals, suspensions, subgroup failure, dropout rates and withdrawals. The structure can found as rapid mastery of delayed academic skills — many of our kids are behind. They act out. Why are they acting out? They don't understand the material. They're not at the grade level. They're sure not going to admit among their friends, their peers, that hey, I don't get this, so they clown around. Other parts of the structure include comprehensive, positive reinforcement; effective non-punitive discipline; conflict resolution and prevention; and parent support. That's how we build it."

TRANSFORMING SCHOOL CULTURE. "We want to change the school culture, we're having school uniforms. ... We're going from first grade through eighth grade. In transforming school culture, the superintendent said, "We're moving from a criminal justice definition to a restorative justice situation. Actually, it's harder a better definition is the kids being accountable, where we try to develop dialog with the family members, victims and others."

Offender takes active responsibility. Empathy and remorse are supported. Forgiveness is possible. (Offender is important part of the "solution" — reintegrated.) It's not to say kids won't face consequences. There still will be times when consequences, sometimes suspension or even expulsion — there's no choice in that."

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE DEFINITION. Niczay read, "It's a model that encourages real help — it works to restore the conflict, repair the harm. It encourages those who have caused harm to acknowledge the impact of what they have done and gives an opportunity to make reparation. It offers those who have suffered harm the opportunity to have their harm or loss acknowledged and amends made. 'And this is why we believe it's a better way of discipline.'"

For more information, visit the Hamtramck Public Schools Web site at www.hamtramck.k12.mi.us.

PERSONAL MUSINGS. I was very impressed by the commemorative program held July 25 at the PNA Hall honoring the 1959 Hamtramck Little League and 1961 Pony League World Champions. It was especially moving to see and hear the champions. Guest speaker Tom Paciorek, former professional baseball player and announcer, gave an entertaining talk. He went on to play for the Seattle Mariners. Kudos go out to everyone who planned the special event celebrating Hamtramck's golden baseball era.

Until my next column, Happy trails to you from Hamtown!

29th Annual Hamtramck Labor Day Festival

The 29th Annual Hamtramck Labor Day Festival will take place Fri., Sept. 4-Mon., Sept. 7th in downtown Hamtramck. This year's festivities include all the age-old traditions that have made this event a regional favorite, as well as many multicultural offerings that only Hamtramck — Michigan's most ethnically diverse city — can offer. This event will offer high-quality entertainment that all families can afford.

Highlights include the Hamtramck Schools Reunion (Sun., Sept. 6 — all classes/all Hamtramck school alumni welcome), the Polish Day Parade (Mon., Sept. 7 from 1:30-3:00 p.m.), carnival rides, dunk tank, tons of vendors, a World Music stage, beer tents, ethnic foods and programming, children's activities and much more.

This family event is free and open to the public.

Music headliners include New York-based indie darlings, V2 Records' Ra Ra Riot, and 1950s rockabilly legend Jack Scott ("They Way I Walk" and "Goodbye Baby"). Beloved festival mainstay, The Polish Muslims, will headline as well.

For complete details of artist performances, and event times, visit hamtramcklaborday.com/.

NEWSWIRE

FALLEN OFFICER'S NAME ON DC MONUMENT.

The name of fallen police officer **Stephen Liczbinski** was added this past April to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C.. Liczbinski's relatives were present for the ceremony, and spoke of the dual emotions of comfort in the remembrance, yet pain of the still

open emotional wounds. The names were carved in the stone as the families looked on, and they each made rubbings to keep as a remembrance.

CHERRY HILL DOCTOR MAKES BEST DOCTOR LIST. Qforma's recent list of Best Doctors includes **Walter E. Klodnicki**, a cardiologist from Cherry Hill, N.J. The list is not

just a popularity contest — it reflects not only the standard of care each named doctor provides, but also factors in their influence on their colleagues.

SEATTLE POLICE CHIEF NEW DRUG CZAR. Seattle Police Chief **Gil Kerlikowske** was confirmed as the nation's newest drug czar by the Senate in May. A 36-year veteran of law enforcement, Kerlikowske pledged renewed focus on evidence-based approaches to reduce the demand for drugs, through prevention as well as treatment.

PAHA

www.polishamericanstudies.org

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

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

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Many people talk about leaving gifts to worthy causes, but don't have a will, and do not realize it requires a will to do so. The laws of most states make it quite clear that personal property goes automatically, by law, to your nearest relatives, even if they are quite distant ones, unless you have a legal will that says otherwise. If you have no relatives, it goes to the state. More than half of all adult Americans die without having made their wills. Most of them undoubtedly planned to do so, but never got around to it. Some had wills but didn't keep them current. When you have a will, you should update it every few years as conditions change. Also, always name an executor who will carry out your wishes. Besides money, non-cash possessions can also be used as contributions and various donation plans can be carried out. Be a philanthropist: leave your stocks, bonds, real estate, art, valuable collections or insurance to continue the Polish American traditions. Your will is the most important way of giving. When you are gone, it is a legacy that is not forgotten. In your will, you can

specify what you would like your donation to be used for. For help in making your will, contact a competent lawyer. The National Polish Center, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that needs your help and legacy.

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Polka MAGAZINE

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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PolkaCola – The Music that Refreshes

FLORIDA, N.Y. — Hailed as a national treasure by fans and critics alike, bandleader and entertainer Jimmy Sturr and his Orchestra return to thrill listeners with a new recording entitled “Polka Cola – The Music That Refreshes.”

Winner of eighteen Grammy Awards in the now defunct “Best Polka Recording” category, Sturr has arrived at a uniquely modern American take on polka music – a take which finds the classic joyful backbeat and accordion-driven excitement of the music’s traditional sound mixed with a wide range of influences, including elements of rock, blues and country.

“Polka Cola” finds multi-instrumental/bandleader Sturr returning to his roots with a more straight-ahead polka sound that puts the focus more



STURR. Says polka is more than trip down nostalgia lane.

squarely on the stellar instrumental and vocal work of the Jimmy Sturr Orchestra.

The CD is available thru many outlets online, including CD Baby. CD Baby gave the new recording their highest ratings. Quoted from CD Baby – “We love your Jimmy Sturr & Orchestra Polka Cola CD so much that we’re going to feature it on the CD Baby front page.

“With more Grammys than most musicians have albums, Sturr is keeping polkas fresh, fun and evolving,” says Sturr’s press office. “After traveling the world, hosting his own musical TV show, and raking in the awards, Sturr knows that the appeal of the polka isn’t just some nostalgia trip. Jimmy’s ability, skill and irreverent playfulness make polka sound as vital as ever.”

Connecticut Bandleader Johnny Menko Passes

WINDSOR LOCKS, Conn. — Polka band leader John Menko passed away on Friday, July 10, 2009. He was 94.

In 1936, Menko started a polka band with his brothers Joe and Tony with the group gaining popularity playing mostly in Northern Connecticut, Western Massachusetts, Long Island and Pennsylvania. In 1949 the band grew to nine members and two vocalists and became the Johnny Menko Orchestra.

From 1949 to 1955 the orchestra had its own Sunday radio show, airing over WONS, a Hartford station. Most of the music played was written and arranged by Johnny and this gave the orchestra its unique sound. In the following years, several recordings were made of

the orchestra’s most popular tunes and in the 1970’s, the orchestra appeared a number of times on a Springfield TV station. John retired as leader of the orchestra in 1977 but continued playing violin with the orchestra for several more years. In 1987 Johnny was inducted into the Polka Hall of Fame.

Besides his wife of 67 years, Mary Krol Menko, he is survived by his daughter Lorraine Menko of Wethersfield, a sister Francis Martini of Windsor Locks, a brother Joseph Menko of Glastonbury and many loving nieces, nephews.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated at St. James Church, Rocky Hill, with burial in Rose Hill Memorial Park.

More Bands Needed for TV Taping

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Big Joe’s TV Polka Fest will be held October 1-4, 2009 at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center in Buffalo, NY. Thirty-two bands will be scheduled for this video taping. Each band is requested to play 15 polkas, waltzes, or obereks in one hour. Eight bands each day will be performing with a dancing audience (see ad for band times and dates). Each band has individual flyers made out just for them promoting their band and the event.

Because of the size of this event, 50 to 60 Polka Radio Shows on the East Coast will receive 20 tickets to give out to their listening audience. That’s 10 winners – two tickets in each envelope. Support the sponsors of these shows. A listing of these radio stations will be in another news release.

Folks are invited to support their bands and see themselves on TV – The Big Joe Polka Show, now available in over 43 million homes across the entire United States, parts of Canada, and as far South as Belize; playing all styles of polka music. Since the beginning Big Joe has video taped over 312 polka bands. Big Joe Polka Show has been seen on RFD-TV for the past 9 ½ years at least four times per week via both Direct and Dish satellite and over 3500 cable companies throughout the United States.

For more information, contact: Joe Siedlik, (800) 257-6552, P.O. Box 3643 Omaha NE.68103. To see one of the largest Polka sites and more on the Big Joe Show visit www.polkacatalog.com.

Gomulka at Fulton Polish Fest

FULTON, N.Y. — The 4th Annual “Fulton Polish Fest,” will be held Sat., Sept. 12 at the Polish Home, 153 West First St. The event is indoors from noon until 9:00 p.m., and admission is free.

This year the event will feature two live polka bands and Polish dancers. Beginning at noon until 4:00 p.m., the event will feature the sounds of Jasiu Klocek & the Salt City Brass from Syracuse, N.Y.; and from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push. Polish dancers will perform from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

In addition, the Fulton Polish Fest will include traditional Polish food favorites, such as gołąbki, pierogi, kielbasa, kapusta, and Polish beer, all at reasonable prices.

Fulton is an easy drive from Syracuse (about 30 miles north) and the venue overlooking the Oswego River is an excellent place to enjoy Polish food and music.

For more information, call John Kruk at (315) 297-4511.

Honky Express Plays at Final Sacred Heart of Jesus Church Polka Festival

CUYAHOGA, Ohio — The Sacred Heart of Jesus Harvest Festival will take place Sunday, September 20 at Klima’s Grove at 4646 East 71st Street in Cuyahoga Heights. Gates open at 12:00 p.m. with music provided by The Honky Express from Cleveland from 1-5 p.m. The festival will also offer games, a bake sale, food, drinks, raffles, and more. For more info: (216) 341-2828.

This will be the final polka dance for Sacred Heart of Jesus as, by order of the diocese, they will be closing their doors next year.

Author Believes Polka Music Still Very Much Alive

(PMN)—**Suzanne Strempek Shea** asks in a column for OBIT Magazine “Who says Polka Is Dead?” Her writing, dated July 23, 2009, at the magazine’s website, refers in large part to the recent decision by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS) to abolish the polka category.

Strempek Shea grew up in Three Rivers, Massachusetts, across the street from Pulaski Park, “The Polka Capitol of New England,” where on most summer Sundays since the 1930s a polka dance has been held. “In my neighborhood,” she wrote, “if you took music lessons, the instrument was some component of a polka band – horn, clarinet, drums, or the accordion that I studied for eight years. I attended parochial school with the kids of polka legend and fellow town resident ‘Happy Louie’ Duseault — in rock terms, the equivalent of being classmates with Elvis’ spawn.”

She still lives in a heavily Polish American community, just three miles from still-partying Pulaski Park, in a town with a police chief, another old neighbor, Bobby Frydryk, who’s in his tenth year of providing trumpet and vocals to the Eddie Forman Orchestra.

“I still fill my Saturdays and Sundays with polka programs,”

says Strempek Shea, “and I still play my accordion, treasuring a binder of the classics Mrs. Dranka taught me during all those lessons on her sun porch, where she stuck a gold star on the page of “Puka Jasiu,” a polka about a guy knocking at the door and offering a “sparkling ring with big white diamonds, and my love for you.”

NARAS says it eliminated the polka album category in the wake of a decline in nominated albums. “When it gets down to around 20 entries, just by entering, you have a one in five chance of being nominated,” Bill Freimuth, the academy’s Vice President for Awards, told the New York Times. “That’s not as competitive as we’d like these awards to be.” The decision, according to NARAS, was made to “ensure the awards process remains representative of the current musical landscape.”

Strempek Shea says NARAS is myopic. She quotes Happy Louie, who agrees, saying, “I feel that the academy’s decision to remove the polka category from their competition is discriminatory against a music genre that has been part of the American culture for more than a hundred years.”

Suzanne Strempek Shea is the author of several novels, including the just-published memoir “Sundays in America.”

THE POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

Reliving The Glory Days

Those in polka music who were active during the glory days of polka music can recall musicians getting together to play for the love of the music. Stas Bulanda & the Old School Review do exactly that on their new CD, “Glory Days,” on the Chicago Polka label. Stas, joined by Steve Fornek, Bernie Gorak, Marty Drazek, John Furmaniak, and Tommy Bulanda gives the listener 14 tracks of old and new tunes that will take you back to those days when playing from the heart gave the music a special meaning.

Familiar songs like “Mountaineer” (Goral-ska) polka, “At the Mill” (Kolo Mlyna) polka, and fabulous version of “Gypsy” (Cygan-ka) polka give this one that Chicago polka feel. “You’ll Be Sorry (Bedziesz Zalowala) with Steve Fornek on vocal took me back to Oliver Street where a accordion provided the music and a “regular” would sing Polish directly from the heart. Fornek also treats the listener to some clarinet magic on a tune he

penned, “Nimble Fingers” polka.

Polka Hall-of-Famer, Stas Bulanda, not only has the singing voice that makes the songs unique, he also has a musical pen that manages to create melodies for the polka fan with “Polka Super Star,” “The Dance,” and “Do-Come-Inn” featured on this collection. Track 14, the “Glory Days” medley, speaks for itself as it melds together the familiar - all done up Old School Review style.

Something worth noting here is the listing of the song titles in both English and Polish, and also adding “polka” after songs that are polkas. There has been fad with recently released polka CDs to not list “polka” in the title of the song and also to not list the Polish song title and only list the English title. We applaud Stas Bulanda and Chicago Records for listing their polkas for what they are, “Polish Polkas”

“Glory Days” makes you want a cold, locally-brewed, beer while the guy next to you

downs a shot of Corby’s and the entire bar room sings along.

DON’T STOP. Henny & the Versa Js have been a mainstay in the polka industry for decades while adjusting and modifying their musical road over that time. Dedication to their music, commitment to their basic musical concept and determination to achieve excellence have always been the main goals of this group.

Their newest release, “Don’t Stop” continues the musical path of the J’s with 14 tracks of music that range from originals to standards and each member of the band at the top of their game.

The leader “Don’t Stop” (“Lovin’ Me”) highlights the talents of Randy Koslosky, both writing and performing his music. Koslosky’s efforts are shown throughout the project with multiple songs, including “Call Me,” “She’s My Dark Eyes” and “Holdin’

On To You.”

The Versa Js manage to cram a lot of music into the entire package. “Sneaky Girl” with some catchy Polish lyrics put to Koslosky’s music, a nice concertina intro on the Eddie Cnota tune “For My Lover,” the honky-dyno sound and melodic lyrics of “She’s My Dark Eyes,” and the duel (or it is dual) melody work on Chris Bogdon’s “Emma’s,” all demonstrate the solid musicianship of this Western Pennsylvania band.

Henny & the Versa Js are Henny Jasiewicz on trumpet, Butch Jasiewicz on drums, Frank Gibala on clarinet and sax, Randy Koslosky on accordion and piano, Chris Bogdon on concertina, Steve Gibala on sax and Eric Bogdon on bass.

If there is one thing that belongs on this CD, it’s the word “polka” but don’t let that stop you from hurrying and buying “Don’t Stop” by Henny & the Versa J’s.

NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

Rain, Rain, Go Away!

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Well, despite a rainy summer this year, the picnics and lawn fetes went on.

The **Cheektowaga Polish American Festival**, the weekend of July 16, had lots of rain on Friday. With two great bands on the stage, Polka Family and Rick Gazda, only a few people could actually enjoy them and that was the few that came up on the stage. No one was sitting on the lawn or in the bleachers. The music was piped into the Pavilion where some could at least hear it. It was so nice to see Mom Nellie on stage again. The family is growing and she now has 18 grandchildren and they keep her busy. It was also nice to see Richard and Rosie Kowalski — congratulations to them on their 50th wedding anniversary. A big celebration was held on July 24th with Cityside providing the entertainment. Also, good to see former Channel 4 weathergirl, Mary Beth Wrobel at the fest enjoying the wonderful music. She was recently let go from Channel 4 but is optimistic about the future saying "When one door closes, another one opens!" We look forward to seeing her in the future!

The Mummies/Philadelphia String Band were outstanding in their colorful outfits and did an excellent job on stage and in the parade.

The Knewz early on Friday and on Saturday played their best, as usual. And, for topnotch Eastern style music, the Maestro's Men and Bud Hundenski and the Corsairs were at their best. It was probably a big thrill for Jerry Miesowicz and Ken Krew to sit in a bit with the Maestro's Men. And, Joe Macielag did a great job on vocals with Bud Hundenski.

I talked to Mary Holtz, Town Supervisor, and mentioned it would be good to have an alternative place in case of rain. She said due to the cost of setting up and bringing in extra employees, they have to make the best of the facilities at the park.

The budget just doesn't allow any extras!

OUR SYMPATHY ... to the family and friends of **Stanley Ryndak** who passed away on June 19, and **Eugenia Smith**, who passed away on July 25. Eugenia was a long-time owner of a dance studio and founder of the Krakowiacy dancers. She was there narrating during the frequent appearances the dance group made at various festivals.

POLKA SATURDAY NIGHT II. As reported last month, fans and friends of the former television show "Polka Saturday Night," hosted by the late Big Steve Krzeminski, will have a chance to relive their memories as members of the former Bellares tele-

vision band reunite for a benefit.

The dance and tribute to the late Buffalo band leader will be held at the Polish Falcons Club, 445 Columbia Ave., in Depew, Sat. Nov. 28 from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

It is being presented by members of the group that played on the television series, namely Dale Wojdyla, Jim Cwick, Ed Pilarz, Dave Maguda, Sonny Wanderlich and Robin Pegg.

Admission is \$10 and money will benefit Roswell-Park Cancer Institute.

To familiarize our readers with band and the late Big Steve, here is the second part of our interview with some of the band's members. Here's what they had to say about Krzeminski and the show.

JIMMY CWICK —Drums

How long did you play in the Big Steve band and what year did you start?

I played with Big Steve for 20 years — I started in the early 1970s.

Have you played in other bands before or after the Bellares? If so, which ones?

Before playing with Steve, I played with the Musicales. Also, a few small groups which were not that well-known.

Are you currently in a band?

No, I am not.

What is your best memory of the Polka Saturday Night show?

When I played with the band on the show, I felt really special. When I was out, people recognized me and they would shake my hand and express their good feelings and sometimes ask for my autograph! It was nice that people knew who I was and treated me so well.

Did you have a favorite episode or favorite place to play?

I enjoyed each and every episode. The places I enjoyed playing most were any outdoor venues such as the AMVETS on Ward Road., in North Tonawanda, the Polish Falcons in Depew, and all the picnics and church lawn fetes.

Do you have a favorite memory of Steve?

Yes, he gave me a job with the band. Because of him, I often shared the stage with other great bands such as Li'l Wally, Marion Lush, Happy Louie, and Eddie Blazonczyk and all the other big names in the 1970s and 1980s at the various places we played. Steve was always helpful to everyone and was not just a friend to me as a band member, but also a personal friend. Steve always made sure everything was in order. He was meticulous in the practice sessions and on stage.

Are you on any of Big Steve's recordings and which ones?

Yes, I did play on a couple of the

recordings and a couple of 45s.

In addition to answering the above questions, Jim also mentioned that he is self-taught on drums! He said he would always keep extra sticks in his case and when little kids would be watching the band, he would give the kids some drum sticks and they would be thrilled.

He said he remembers his first job with Steve maybe about 1974. Steve told him to be at his house at 6:00 a.m. He had to tell his Mom to be sure he is up on time! They traveled to Mendon, Mass. where they played a dance with Happy Louie and Marion Lush. The band had a limo that was sponsored by the Iroquois Brewery, so they had a vehicle to travel in and Iroquois got free advertising!

**DAVE MAGUDA —Accordion**

How long did you play in the Big Steve band and what year did you start?

I started playing for Steve in 1984 until January 1995, when I took my current job with the Town of Cheektowaga.

Have you played in other bands before or after the Bellares? If so, which ones?

Before I started with Steve I played with a few bands, in the early 1980s with The New Tones with Tom Picciano, Mike Burka, Tom Wanderlich, Matt Misiak, Stan Pajak; KB Express with Rick and Keny Krupski; then I jobbed around with The G-notes, Jan Cyman, and Val Bakowski's Solid Brass backing up Marion Lush.

Are you currently in a band?
I'm not playing anymore due to my job and health reasons. Once in a while, like this special occasion, will be the only reason for playing.

What is your best memory of the Polka Saturday Night show?

The Polka Saturday Night show was an experience that I'll never forget. It was a lot of fun. Once in a while I'll pull out a video tape and relive the memories.

Did you have a favorite episode or favorite place to play?

While playing in Big Steve's band I had many opportunities to

travel. They are all special because I went places I never thought I'd be able to go to. I went to Hawaii, on a Caribbean Cruise, Las Vegas and Arizona, and I have Steve to thank for that.

Do you have a favorite memory of Steve?

My favorite memories of Steve are that he always wanted to make people laugh and show them a good time, through his delivery of so many jokes and musical talents.

I think that anyone who met Steve can say some of the same memories that I have. He was a one of a kind man, who had a big heart for people and he left a piece of his heart with everyone he had touched, by his humor and love for music and people.

**EDDIE PILARZ — BASS, CORDOVOX**

How long did you play in the Big Steve band and what year did you start?

I started with Steve after a three-year stint with Marion Lush, so that would be about '74 and left Steve and retired from polka music around '92 or thereabout. That would make it about 18 years.

What instruments did you play?

With Steve's band originally bass, then accordion — actually Cordovox, an accordion with electronic midi bass so I actually playing accordion and bass!

Have you played in other bands before or after the Bellares? If so, which ones?

For those of your readers who remember that far back — it seems like a hundred years ago — I was one of the original Dyna-Tones and recorded their very first album with them in the late '60 and early '70's. Then it was on the road with Marion Lush as part of the final "Musical Stars" group before he started performing with the "White Eagles."

Are you currently in a band?

No-thank God! After 25 years of playing polkas I decided I had enough fun in my life!

What is your best memory of the Polka Saturday Night show?

Nothing in particular really

stands out about it except to say it was awesome to see polka music on TV on a Saturday night and know I was part of it!

Did you have a favorite episode or favorite place to play?

I would have to say I didn't really have a favorite place to play, but — if you remember — for whatever reason — we appeared with Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr. & the Versatones at almost every dance he played for years in the Buffalo area, and that was always a treat! Kind of a Buffalo-Chicago connection that lasted for a long time! You didn't ask, but I'll tell you that I did have a least favorite venue to play: the Erie County Fair! We were sponsored by Iroquois Beer and played every day of the Fair in their beer tent. That was grueling!

Do you have a favorite memory of Steve?

Well, for sure it was his sense of humor and his knack for telling jokes! He could rattle them off for hours and never repeat one! Steve was my son's godfather, so we did a lot together with our families: parties, vacations, Sabres and Bills games, etc., so you can imagine the memories I have. To pick a favorite would be pretty tough. He certainly left us all more than a few we will never forget!

Are you on any of Big Steve's recordings and which ones?

One of the first recordings I did with Steve was the Iroquois Beer jingle which was sung to "Apple Peaches Pumpkin Pie":

"Beer in cans and bottles too,
Iroquois' our favorite brew
Let's all go have an Iri."

Most of our recordings back then were 45s. but I did record an album with Steve, Dale Wojdyla, Jim Cwick and Eddie Skoczylas called "Polka Lovers of America" on the Sound Record label #1091. I still have a copy or two for sale if anyone is interested!

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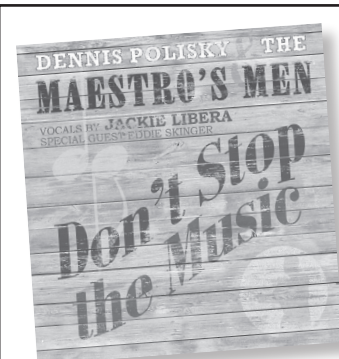
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THE POLKAHOLICS were playing at the popular Quenchers watering hole in the early morning on July 31, 2009, when WGN-TV (Ch. 9, Chicago) broadcast the performance live on its morning news program. It was a promotion of the band's "Wally" polka-rock opera show set for the following evening, a tribute to the late Li'l Wally Jagiello.

IT HAS BEEN A DIFFICULT TIME for the Pienta family. Bob Pienta, a former member of the Average Polka Band died in May. Two months later, his mother, Irene Pienta, passed away at age 87 on July 22, 2009. She loved all polka shows, to which she never missed listening,

and polka bands.

DUANE MALINOWSKI has released his latest CD, "Through The Years, The Two Sides Of Duane Malinowski." The CD includes 23 songs, taking the listener through Malinowski's musical career from 1980 to the present. The release serves two purposes says Malinowski, "I wanted to thank the many polka fans who have followed me throughout my polka career, as well as my Nashville career, and I also wanted to find a way to help benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation." His oldest son became diabetic two years ago and is insulin dependent on daily shots.

"SYMPHONIC POLKAS," a new release from Brave Combo, contains music from previous Brave Combo recordings, but on this recording, specially selected music is played in conjunction with the Mesquite Symphony Orchestra and the Sweet Harmony backup vocalists. It is a celebration of the 30th anniversary of the band.

WLWR (107.7 FM, Marinette, Wis.) is requesting CDs of polka music.

The station plays polkas for several hours every day of the week, but its library is becoming old and the station has to repeatedly play the same songs. They would appreciate it if bands or fans could send them some newer CDs. The address is Rosalie Van Zandt, President, WLWR 107.7-FM, P.O. BOX 16, Marinette, WI 54143.

THE CD "FRESHLY SQUEEZED" by Ohio-based Squeezebox contains 20 tunes on the recording and something for everyone. The songs are in German, Polish, Czech and English. The band itself consists of three talented musicians: Ted Lange on accordion, bass, piano and vocals, Mollie Busta on trumpet, sax, piano, button box and vocals, and Dave Burner on drums and vocals.

THERE MAY BE a new Polish polka venue in the Cleveland area. Sacred Heart of Jesus PNCC in Walton Hills, Ohio, held its first polka dance on July 25, 2009, with music by Cleveland's Honky Express. If the first dance for this parish is considered a success, they plan to have many more in the future with both local and out-of-town bands.

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2:00 PM - To Be Announced
3:00 PM - Misty Blues - MI
4:00 PM - Salt City Brass - NY
5:00 PM - Alex Meixner - PA
6:00 PM - Jerry Darlak & The Touch - NY
(Guest Star Walter Ostanek - Canada)
7:10 PM - Tony's Polka Band - NY

Friday, October 2nd
NOON - To Be Announced
1:00 PM - To Be Announced
2:00 PM - Virgil Baker Just 4 Fun - MI
3:00 PM - Rodney Beyer & Polka Pals - MI
4:00 PM - Martin Family Band - PA
5:00 PM - Lil Lenny & The Harmony Boys - OH
6:00 PM - To Be Announced
7:00 PM - Scrubby Jamin with Buffalo Jamers

Saturday, October 3rd
NOON - Tom Mrocza & Music - OH
(May have a guest star and start 20 minutes earlier)
1:00 PM - Cityside Band - NY
2:00 PM - The Knewz - NY
3:00 PM - Mass Brass - MA
4:00 PM - Concertina All Stars - NY
5:00 PM - Phocus - NY
6:00 PM - New Buffalo Band - (Surprise)
7:00 PM - Variety Express - IN

Sunday, October 4th
NOON - Polka Tones - OH
1:00 PM - Jimmy K & Ethnic Jazz - OH
2:00 PM - Casuals An American Polka Band - OH
3:00 PM - To Be Announced
4:00 PM - Eddie Guca - Canada
5:00 PM - Bob Uleck Polka Relations - PA
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Redressing a History “Awash with the Errors”



SULIGOWSKI'S WINGED HUSSAR REGIMENT brings authentic Polish flavor to annual fair.

SAN PEDRO, Calif. — Once again, an anticipated event of great historical fun and educational value made its return to the Fort MacArthur Museum for its annual fundraising event known as “The Old Fort MacArthur Days,” held at the old coastal battery location in San Pedro.

Officially 2010 will mark the 24th Anniversary of the Old Fort MacArthur Days fundraiser event. However 2010 also marks the 25th anniversary of the Fort MacArthur Military Museum.

The annual fundraiser grew from an artillery show to one of the premier events in the Los Angeles County. In 1999 the event had 15 groups. The event in 2009 had over 70 groups, with over 800 participants, representing almost every part of history. For two days, the largest military timeline event west of the Mississippi never failed to deliver. Everything from ancient Rome to modern military was represented. One visit to the Museum's website for the list of participants will surely stagger one's head. (See: <http://fortmacarthur.tripod.com/id1.html>). Complete with flag-raising, opening ceremonies, and award-ribbons for each participating unit, encampments, sutlers' shops, food and equestrian groups, it was a weekend to remember, which is held annually, on the first weekend immediately following the Fourth of July weekend.

Of special note, is a group favored by our readers, that are featured at attraction at the Fort MacArthur event, and, who were largely responsible for pioneering the current ‘winged hussar re-enactor movement’ in America, “Suligowski's Regiment

of Winged Hussars,” the famous winged knights of central European history who defended 17th century Poland against all oppressors of that era, most specifically, the Ottoman Turkish armies attempting to impose Islamic rule onto Christian Europe. Suligowski's Regiment are representing this particular area of history with the Relief of Vienna-1683, and Polish King, Jan III Sobieski's Polish Expeditionary Relief Forces of Poland, Germany and Austria, who once and for all, expunged the dreams of Turkish occupation and Islamic dominance of Europe.

Suligowski's Regiment is redressing incorrect Polish history, awash with the errors written by those who have been misleading the mainstream public for years. They also educate and entertain, offering correct historical facts, cultural dancing and a youth musket program for the kids. Not to mention all that glorious and spectacular replica winged hussar armor and horse trappings, detailed period tentage, camp gear, period weaponry flags, horses and assorted accouterments necessary to promote such historical educational needs. The photos can only tell a minute part of their story, but they tell it so well, as no one else can. They never fail to awe and amaze both Pol-Am and non-Pole alike. The kids absolutely love them.

For further information on Suligowski's Regiment, see them online at: www.husaria.us and their yahoo groups' site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SuligowskisRegiment-PolishWingedHussars/>.

World Premiere of Helena Modjeska Play

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. — The Kosciuszko Foundation, New England Chapter, proudly presents the world premiere of “Modjeska's Voice: The Actress Returns to the Academy of Music,” Sun., Sept. 20, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. at the Academy of Music Theatre in Northampton. This event is part of the many tributes to Modjeska in this, the 100th anniversary year of her death.

The play, written by local Polish American actress and musician Ann Maggs, and starring Ann Maggs and Walter Carroll, brings the Polish Shakespearean actress Helena Modjeska (1840-1909) back to the theatre where she performed in 1894, 1899 and 1900.

Madame Modjeska was born in Krakow, Poland when the country was ruled by Austria, Germany and Russia. She became a well-known actress in Warsaw, Poland, then came to America, learned English and had an impressive acting career. Modjeska performed with many famous actors, including Maurice Barrymore, Edwin Booth and Otis Skinner. She had 35 plays in her repertoire, giv-



The play was written by and features Polish American actress Ann Maggs.

ing nearly 6,000 performances (often two different plays in one day) across the United States, England and France in 30 years. Modjeska was praised for her natural style of acting and her great variety of roles.

She became an American citizen in 1883. She helped to launch the careers of many performers, including pianist Ignacy Jan Paderewski and established a lacemaking school in Zakopane, Poland, the first vocational school for girls in that area.

After her speech at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, in which she described the oppression of Poland by the occupying countries, Modjeska was forbidden from ever returning to, or performing in Russian-controlled Warsaw. This edict lasted the rest of her life. Modjeska died on April 8, 1909 in California and is buried in Krakow, Poland.

The play includes some piano and vocal music and will be an exciting theatrical experience for anyone interested in drama, history and Polish culture. For ticket information, please call (413) 594-9623 or 532-1564. Advance purchase: Priority Seating \$15, General Seating \$12. Day of performance: Priority Seating \$18, General Seating \$15.

For more information, visit www.modjeskasvoice.com.

BOOK REVIEW / John Grondelski

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The McDonald's logo is a Rorschach Test for many people. Just as what one sees in the inkblots often tells us more about the viewer than the stains themselves, so how some people react to the McDonald's logo occasionally tells us more about them than the franchise. For José Bové, the French agitator who dismantled a McDonald's, the fast food chain is a threat to “food sovereignty,” American fast food undermining French cuisine (and using genetically modified beef to do it!) For anti-globalists, the Yellow Arches usually indicate colorblindness: they inevitably see them as red, white, and blue, the symbol of everything bad they blame on America. Is McDonald's (and, by extension, firms like Coca Cola, Frito Lay, and Levi Strauss) an example of U.S. imperialism marching into foreign markets, squashing local production, and homogenizing local cultures under a common American denominator?

No, says Jeffrey Johnson, instructor of American Studies at Michigan State University. Johnson studied how these four firms, from the point of view of their advertising, entered the Polish market. His book argues that rather than the caricature of the big, bad American firm muscling its way into a foreign market, the process is far more complicated and two-sided.

None of these firms, except Coca Cola, even existed in Poland prior to the official demise of communism. Coke was in Poland since the 1950s and bottled there under an agreement signed during the Nixon Administration, but this officially sanctioned product was also a convenient whipping boy for communist denunciations of all things capitalist and American. Some of these products were already “hot commodities” in the country (nylons and Levis were welcome gifts from Westerners and had high resale value on the black market) but none were regularly and broadly available on the Polish do-

mestic market before the 1990s.

AFTER 1989, all of these products faced a similar challenge: establishing a market niche in a country where they had none and where sometimes even the product still needed to create a market. Take McDonald's. There was no real “eating out” culture in communist Poland. Restaurants were rare, expensive, often for foreigners, and usually for special occasions. The closest approximation to “fast food” was the bar *mleczny*, which did not serve quite the same purpose. McDonald's thus had to establish a market as well as carve out its niche. Like most things American, McDonald's started out with a base of good will. Nevertheless, Johnson argues that McDonald's started out by showing itself as wanting to be at home in Poland, in the design of its restaurants, in advertising focusing on Polish traditions and family, and by adapting its menus to local specialties. Only later, as McDonald's put down roots and Poland's own perspectives changed did the hamburger giant's advertising become more internationalized (e.g., taking up pan-European themes and campaigns as Poland approached European Union accession).

Coke followed somewhat similar advertising approaches. At first, it tapped into a universal theme also particularly important in Poland: its Christmas campaign (St. Nick downing a bottle of Coke). Then Coke adopted an “omnipresent” tactic, getting its logo everywhere in a bid to appear as a normal part of the visual landscape (and using its red and white colors to infer it belonged in Poland, too). Finally, its youthful focus turned to young people as its “cool” consumers.

If McDonald's and Coke sought to show they were at home in Poland, Levi's packaged itself as quintessentially American. Advertising portrayed the jeans as symbols, in turn, of America, of youth, of rebelliousness, and of sex appeal. Levi's didn't try to “belong”: its cachet was being the outsider.

Frito Lay faced a different challenge: how to create a market for its snacks. Since junk food is primarily consumed by children and young people, it had to tailor its ads to that demographic cohort, stress-

ing youthful differences, involving prize giveaways and gimmicks, etc.

Johnson repeatedly notes that none of these companies simply took the Polish market for granted. They tried to enter that market either by showing they could be part of the Polish family (McDonald's), by appealing to youth interests (Frito Lay and Levi's) or by suggesting that Poles were now part of a bigger, international audience (Coke).

THE STORY OF HOW THESE FIRMS

advertised from 1990-2007 is interesting. It is the story of how the West came (back) to Poland. At the same time, the reviewer does have issues with the book. Chapter one, dealing with “Socialist Era Advertising,” is the weakest because “advertising” in a non-capitalist economy (which is usually an economy characterized by shortages) is a very different beast that only equivocally deserves the name “advertising.” Furthermore, in that chapter Johnson sometimes fundamentally confuses advertising with propaganda. Yes, the communists made propaganda about the evils of American consumer society and the malevolence of NATO, but their efforts to brainwash people ideologically are qualitatively different from trying to hawk potato chips. (I agree that some people may disagree: some people are wrong). A potential comparison to such propaganda might be political campaign advertising, but even here the analogy is inexact because there is a difference between running for office in today's multi-party Poland versus “making the ideological case” for an idea or candidate “chosen” on a one-man ballot in a Poland that the communists deemed their private monopoly.

Finally, while I grant that it is beyond the scope of the book, I do raise questions about the ethics of advertising targeted at minors to promote foods that arguably are not good for them.

With these caveats, I recommend this easy-to-read book for an insight into advertising, multinational markets, economic transformation in Central Europe, and how Mickey D hit Aleje Marszałkowska.

John M. Grondelski writes from Bern, Switzerland.

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BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes MLIS

WHAT'S IN A NAME / Robert Strybel

The Mighty Angel, They Carry a Promise, and Coal Mountain Elementary

THE MIGHTY ANGEL
by Jerzy Pilch
tr. by Bill Johnston
University of Rochester
2009, \$15.95.

Pilch provides a memoir of his dark days as an alcoholic, the cycle of recovery and addiction of his fellow inmates, funny and pathetic. Translator Bill Johnston must have had quite a time with the repetitious conversations.

Once, in his apartment two gangsters arrive and offer him a bottle of Becherovka, half a glass at a time, if he will listen to the poetry of Alberta and her unappreciated poems and give an in-depth review to TYGODNIK POWSZECHNY. And with Pilch's extensive contacts, provide influence.

He needs alcohol to write. A mental block develops when he is sober, which he manages for a short time, being released eighteen times from the alco ward. The writing is descriptive, full of minute detail on the struggles of ordinary life compared to the struggles of an alcoholic.

Declared to be one of Poland's most celebrated writers, let's hope his recovery remains for a long time.

THEY CARRY A PROMISE

Selected Poems
by Janusz Szuber, tr. by Ewa Hryniewicz-Yarbrough
Borzio/Knopf, 2009, \$26.00

This is the first of Szuber's works to be translated into English, and there could not have been a better choice. His poems depict simple themes — people, nature, and the sense of life. Szuber grew up in a country struggling with the effects of Communism, but his poems are full of hope and a reverence for nature.

Word pictures — still waters in greenish ripples — flocks of feathery peonies — rain ... gurgling in the gutters. And still another side of the troubled country — without barbed wire, a bullet in the back of the head, births in cellars ... and exile — border patrols flew in potbellied dragonflies of helicopters — strangled bundles, executed suitcases.

He reveals much of himself in his poetry, the whys of living, the struggle to put thoughts on paper. The poetry provokes one to appreciate that which is all about us.

Hryniewicz-Yarbrough has provided an excellent translation.

COAL MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY
by Mark Novak
Coffee House Press, 2009
182 pp., \$20.00

Novak present a compelling picture of the lives of coal miners here and in China. Both areas have the same heart-wrenching sorrows, the same disregard for safety, the same fear of the deep dark underground.

Novak grew up in a Polish working class neighborhood and watched the mental destruction of workers caught in underemployment or unemployment. His grandfather was among those who lost their livelihood when Bethlehem Steel closed. Nowak tried first to become a musician, then a poet, examining the city's blue-collar neighborhood. He became a political activist, using his poetic feeling to bring out the heartfelt stories of working class people.

The Sago mine disaster in Morgantown, West Virginia, caught Novak's attention. He was a visiting writer at Davis and Elkins College, fifteen miles away and immediately became involved, listening to the miner's stories, their families and developed a writing workshop to encourage survivors to write down their feelings. What are the human costs of making money in the mining industry? Their histories tell it all. Their testimonies are intermingled with recordings of rescued miners from the disastrous Jinsuoguan coal mine in China.

British photographer Ian Teh has been documenting working conditions in China for the past ten years. He has provided rare views of the interiors of mines in Jinsuoguan.

Additionally, Novak offers a short elementary school project for students to conduct experiments, research coal mining history, and collect interviews.

Many Polish Last Names are Dad-Derived!

Most Polish last names mean something, and many were coined as nicknames to identify people on the basis of who their father was. Occupational patronymic nicknames were also applied to a man's apprentice so **Piekarczyk** could mean "the baker's son" or "the baker's helper. Others included: **Kowalski** (the blacksmith's kid or assistant), **Wójcik** (the village mayor's boy or servant) and **Młynarczyk** (the

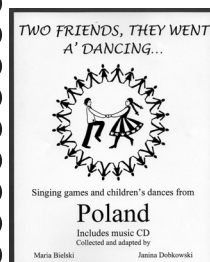
millar's son or hired helper). These nicknames were passed down from one generation to the next and finally brought over to America by your immigrant ancestors.

For a custom-researched analysis of the meaning and derivation of your last name, exactly how many people share it, where they live and whether a coat of arms goes with it, please airmail a \$16 check or money order (adding \$8 for each additional

surname you want researched such as your mother's maiden name or grandparents' names) to: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland

You will also get a bonus list of root-tracing contacts that can put you in touch with professional genealogists, genealogical groups and helpful Web sites, addresses and phone numbers.

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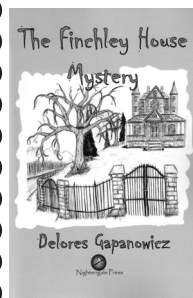
TWO FRIENDS, THEY WENT A' DANCING...
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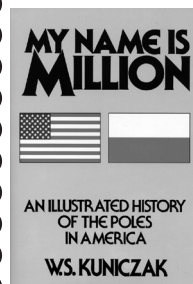
Spiral bound, softcover

The book contains lyrics (in both English and Polish) of ten popular singing games, and a vocal music score with chords. Clear step-by-step movement and dance instructions are outlined precisely with the text. In addition, a CD of the recorded songs with accompaniment is included, so that parents, grandparents, teachers, and children can immediately enjoy the songs and games. Each page has an original "wycinanki" (Polish cut-out style) illustration, designed by the artist, Joanna Bielska, which can be reproduced for coloring or craft projects. Both authors are teachers by profession and have an extensive background in Polish folk art, music and dance. They have danced with the Polish American Folk Dance Company and organized countless folk dance workshops all over the New York Metropolitan area.



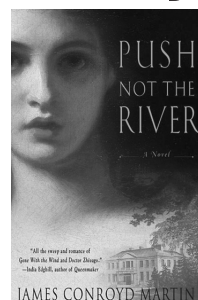
THE FINCHLEY HOUSE MYSTERY
by Delores Gapanowicz
\$13.95
Nightengale Press, 2005
For Ages 9-12
132 pp.pb.
Delores Gapanowicz is a published author of children's books.

Is the Finchley House haunted or not? Are those ghosts flitting from room to room after dark? Or is someone secretly living in the old house and not wanting to reveal themselves? Could it be the rumors floating around Green Hills are actually true? No one dared to investigate until Paul and Tom decided to find out once and for all. The boys and their sisters dared to go up the hill toward the old, old house and their adventure began — scary from the start.



MY NAME IS MILLION: An Illustrated History of Poles in America
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hc. Original Price: \$24.95
From the 17th century to the present, people

of Polish descent have made important contributions in every area of American life. Most of their names will not be found in American history books. But many of their names and stories are included in this richly illustrated history. My Name is Million is also the story of those millions of Polish Americans whose role in American life have, until now, gone unrecognized.

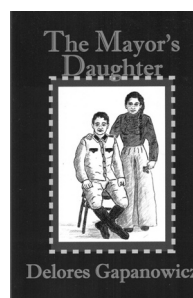


PUSH NOT THE RIVER
by James Conroyd Martin
\$15.95
St. Martin's Press
496 pp.pb
Maps & wycinanki illust.
Reading Group Guide

AUTOGRAPHED! This book club favorite is based on the real diary of a Polish countess who lived through the rise and fall of the Third of May Constitution years, a time of great turmoil. Vivid, romantic, and thrillingly paced, the novel paints the emotional and memorable portrait of the metamorphosis of a nation—and of Anna, a proud and resilient young woman, and Jan, her soldier-husband. Critics have called the story Poland's Gone with the Wind.

"The story is well paced and compelling, the historical detail plentiful yet not overwhelming, and the characters engaging and true to the period." ~The Historical Novels Review. The author is the winner of the 2007 Gold Medal for Literature from The American Institute of Polish Culture.

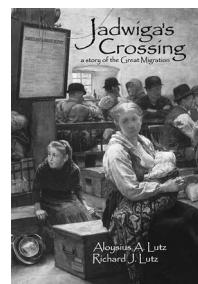
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THE MAYOR'S DAUGHTER
by Delores Gapanowicz
\$12.95
Edition illustrated
Nightengale Press, 2007
176 pp., pb.

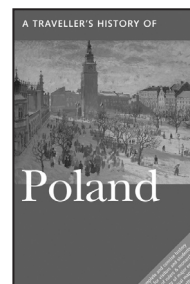
Readers will discover what life was like in rural Eastern Europe before World War I, a way of life that has changed forever. This book retrieves one family's heritage and allows us all to connect with our own. Gapanowicz wrote "The Mayor's Daughter" about her parents because she wanted the grandchildren in her family to have some idea of the life in Eastern Europe before her family emigrated. The stories were told to the author by her parents before they passed away. These tales show that young people on farms in Europe didn't spend their time only milking cows and picking potatoes. They played tricks on friends, went to wedding celebrations and dances, and flirted with other people their age. They also experienced tragedy and loss. Their lives were a mixture of the sweet and bitter, not unlike the lives of people everywhere.

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



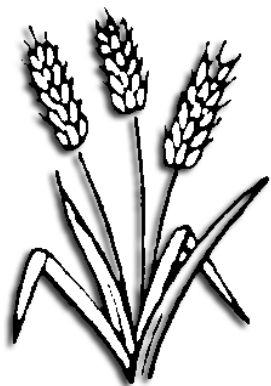
A TRAVELLER'S HISTORY OF POLAND
by John Radzilowski
\$14.95
312 pgs. ill. maps. pb.

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

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11:00 a.m. Dozynki Ceremony
Noon-until sold out Polish Platter (Also available czarnina and rosol)
2:00 p.m. Polish Heritage Dancers of Western New York
3:30 Cathedral Concert Bell Choir & Organ
4:00-8:00 p.m. Phocus (Polka Music)

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ARTSCENE / Staś Kmieć

Review: Kraków Theater Company in NYC

Poland's **Narodowy Stary Teatr of Kraków** made their Lincoln Center Festival debut appearance with the U.S. premiere of Krystian Lupa's staged production of *Kalkwerk* (*The Lime Works*). The venture was presented with support from the **Polish Cultural Institute**

Based on Austrian Thomas Bernhard's brutal, surrealist 1970 novel, *Kalkwerk* is the psychologically complex story of Konrad, a scientist mentally imprisoned by his obsessive work, and his crippled wife, whom he holds captive in an abandoned lime works.

The performances of Małgorzata Hajewska-Krzysztofik and Andrzej Hudziak as the couple were mesmerizing and it was their performances and technique that transcended the overall production. Hudziak spiraled into the depths of intellectual madness, while Hajewska, who possesses a classical acting tone and delivery, was spellbinding with every gesture and pained movement. In my opinion, at four hours with slow pacing, the production was too long. Without the use of body microphones, the language was at times lost.

Other theater experiences of length have taken me on a journey. Tadeusz Kantor's avant garde/experimental theater *Cricot* intrigues me; the epic American Repertory Theater production of Robert Wilson's *the CIVIL warS*: was wonderful and memorable. What was missing from *Kalkwerk* was style.

This was not the debut performance I was expecting from the acclaimed Krystian Lupa. His 3-hour *Marilyn Monroe* section of a planned nine-hour triptych, *Per-*

sona would have been interesting. *Wesele*, though not directed by Lupa, would have been my personal preference from this company.

Narodowy Stary Teatr, one of the oldest Polish professional theater companies, was formed in Krakow in 1781, and has remained an important part of Polish culture throughout its history. I am appreciative to have had the opportunity to view their work in the United States and hope that subsequent visits will allow for a more stimulating audience experience.

POLISH CIRQUE BALANCING ACT ON AMERICA'S GOT TALENT. TV's *America's Got Talent* has another Polish interest with the imposing hand-balancing act, *Duo Design* featuring **Jaroslav Marciniak** and **Dariusz Wronski**. Originally from Poland, these superbly conditioned athletes have been living and perfecting their act in the United States for 17 years.

Over the past few years, these prolific performers have thrilled audiences from coast to coast at *Circus Circus* in Reno and Las Vegas, *Busch Gardens* in Tampa, Florida, and in *Cirque du Soleil's Mystère* and the National tour and HBO-TV presentation of *Cirque Ingenieux*.

In the new age circus style, the former Polish national hand-balancing champions began with one of the men balancing his full weight on the head of the other.

Their flash and the oddly compelling strength and agility intrigued the judges and the pair advanced to the second round in Las Vegas. The colorful array of hopeful stars are vying for their chance to strut and

perform on stage hoping to win America's hearts — and the \$1 million prize.

MICHAL ZADARA AT PHILADELPHIA LIVE ARTS FESTIVAL. Poland's **Michał Zadara** will direct *Operetta*, the U.S. Premiere of his reworking of the famed play by Polish literary giant Witold Gombrowicz at the 13th annual *Philadelphia Live Arts Festival*, which will run from September 4 – 19, 2009. Music, fashion, dancing, chaos and a cast of 22 dominate this wild fable about the ideological battles that defined 20th-century Poland. Classically trained jazz pianist **Leszek Mozdzierz** has composed an eclectic score that ranges from yearning ballads to punk rock. For additional information: www.livearts-fringe.org.

EXHIBITION EXAMINES POLISH POSTERS. The Museum of Modern Art is presenting **Polish Posters 1945-89**, an installation drawn from the Museum's collection of 24 posters from the Cold War era of the Polish Poster School, which attracted international attention and admiration.

Drawing on a rich tradition in graphic arts, designers like Henryk Tomaszewski, Roman Cieślęwicz, Jan Lenica, and Franciszek Starowieyski developed a sophisticated visual language characterized by surreal and expressionist tendencies, a bold use of color, and macabre, often satirical humor.

Polish posters were generally created to promote cultural events, opera, theatre, films and exhibitions. These posters images frequently contained explicit evocations of



POLISH CIRQUE BALANCING ACT on *America's Got Talent*. The hand-balancing team of *Duo Design* featuring Jaroslav Marciniak and Dariusz Wronski.

violence and sexuality and appeared at a time when there was little or no advertising.

The Communist state maintained a strict censorship policy and monopolized the commissioning and distribution of all printed media in that period, yet bureaucratic patrons colluded in turning a blind eye to

the oblique but powerful critical commentaries contained in many of the posters.

On view through November 30, 2009 – The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, NY; Philip Johnson Architecture and Design Galleries, third floor. www.moma.org.

ASK ANDZIA ABOUT AMBER / Andzia Chmil

Colors and Value

Dear Andzia,

What is your favorite color of amber and are some colors of amber more valuable than others?

A. Thank you for asking about my preference in amber colors. As you might expect, I am going to say I love them all. But, truly, my favorite is white amber with a hint of blue in it. These are the rarest of amber, making up less than 2% of all Baltic amber. And — I have to tell you — I do not own a piece like this but am always searching for one.

Air bubbles play the largest role in defining the color of amber. Simply put — the more air bubbles in the amber the lighter the amber will be. The density of the lightest color ambers when seen under a microscope appears as a well-packed frothy foam.

Amber that gleams so beautifully and is breathtakingly transparent when polished is by far the choice of the jewelry trade. And that seems to hold true for the buyer of the finished jewelry products as well. It's no wonder that amber is called *burztyń* in Polish — the word means burning stone. If you are lucky enough to have some amber then you know how easy it is to be enchanted by the brilliant fire that seems to burn within. Held in the light it gleams with mystery.

As far as what makes one color of amber more valuable than others, I would have to say that is subjective according to the buyer. Of course, if a certain color is more unavailable than others it stands to reason that it would be more costly. More to the point, in jewelry what makes a piece more valuable is the workmanship and this is especially true with amber jewelry.

For example, often people tell me stories about an old, inherited necklace of cherry amber beads, and they tell me it is worth a good deal of money. That is true in the same way it is true for most things — it is worth what a buyer will pay. Many times I have been approached by people to buy their "old" amber and sadly, my answer is always no. There simply is no way of validating the authenticity of the amber and often the workmanship itself is less than desirable.

When the piece is truly beautiful and well made, I generally urge them to keep it in the family if possible or to donate to a Polish museum where its beauty can be preserved and shared for many years. There will come a time, given the huge decline in amber mining, that these beautiful pieces of amber jewelry may only be seen in a museum setting. All the more reason to keep, cherish and wear the amber jewelry that you already own.

POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Gołąbki Galore — Part II

BASIC PREPARATION METHOD:

Core 3 lb cabbage, place cored-side-down in pot of hot water to cover and simmer to wilt leaves. Remove outer leaves as they wilt to colander or paper towel. When cool enough to handle, cut away the thick base of the cabbage leaves and shave down the thick central vein. Place an oblong scoop of filling at the base end of each leaf. Fold sides of leaf over filling and roll up tightly. Line the bottom of a roasting pan with half the leftover undersized, damaged or otherwise unused cabbage leaves. Place the cabbage rolls snugly in roaster in no more than 2 layers. Drench with app. 3-4 c sauce of choice (see varieties below) or stock and cover with remaining leftover cabbage leaves to prevent scorching. Bake covered in preheated 350° oven 1 hr. Reduce heat to 325° and cook another 90 min to 2 hrs. Switch off heat and leave in oven another 20 min or so for flavors to blend.

MUSHROOM GOŁĄBK

(gołąbki z grzybami): In 4 T butter, margarine or oil sauté 12-16 oz fresh,

washed and chopped Portobello mushrooms with 2 medium chopped onions until lightly browned. Combine with 4-5 c slightly undercooked rice, barley, buckwheat groats or millet. Add 1 raw egg and mix to blend ingredients. Salt & pepper to taste and garnish with 1 T chopped fresh parsley and 2 T chopped dill. Fill pre-wilted cabbage leaves as usual, drench with 3-4 c mushroom sauce (see below) or stock and bake as instructed above.

MEAT, MUSHROOM & RICE

GOŁĄBK (gołąbki z mięsem i grzybami): Combine 1/2 lb raw ground meat with 4-6 c undercooked rice and 8 oz fresh, washed and chopped Portobello mushrooms, browned in butter with 2 chopped onions. Proceed as above.

SAUCES FOR GOŁĄBK

The gołąbki recipes from last month may be cooked in tomato or mushroom sauces. Be sure to prepare extra sauce on the side to serve in a gravy-boat for those who like to drench their gołąbki and accompa-

nying potatoes with sauce. Consider providing a choice of more than one sauce in gravy-boats on the side.

TOMATO SAUCE (sos pomidorowy): 1) combine 3-4 c tomato juice mixed with 1/2 c spicy-style ketchup; 2) 3 c puréed or stewed tomatoes; 3) 2 c canned tomato soup mixed with 1/2 c ketchup (regular or spicy) and 1 c water.

MUSHROOM SAUCE (sos grzybowy): 1) 1 10½ oz can cream of mushroom soup combined with 3 c boiling water in which 1 mushroom bouillon cube has been dissolved; 2) to preceding mushroom-sauce recipe add 6 oz diced Portobello mushrooms, browned in 2 T butter with 1 finely diced onion.

SOUR-CREAM SAUCE (sos śmietanowy): Bake gołąbki in stock or bouillon. After baking, combine any remaining pan liquid with 1 c or more sour cream, fork-blended until smooth with 1 heaping T flour, and enough stock or bouillon to make 3 c sauce. Simmer gently, stirring, until smooth and bubbly. Salt & pepper to taste.

DILL SAUCE (sos koperkowy): To sour-cream sauce (above) add 2 heaping T fresh, finely chopped dill.

PORK-NUGGET GARNISH: (skwarki): Bake gołąbki in stock or bouillon. When ready to serve, turn out onto platter and garnish with 1/4 – 1/2 lb diced pork fatback (ślonina) fried up into crunchy golden-brown nuggets (skwarki) and drizzle with as much of the drippings as you like. A diced onion may be browned with the diced fatback.

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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Something to Talk About

A recent *NEW YORK TIMES* article by Christopher Clarey titled "Polish Spoken Here" pointed out that many tennis players of Polish heritage — women tennis players, that is — are becoming prominent on the pro tennis circuit.

Agnieszka Radwanska is quoted as saying: "It's good to get the chance to speak your own language; it makes you more comfortable." Radwanska, Poland's biggest tennis star, is ranked 11th in the world. At the 2008 Australian Open, the Krakow native became the first Polish woman to reach a Grand Slam singles quarterfinal during the open era and only the second Polish woman (since **Jadwiga Jedzejowska** in 1939) ever to reach a Grand Slam singles quarterfinal. Her younger sister **Urszula**, 18, was a Wimbledon junior champion and is 71st in the world.

There are other women of Polish heritage making an impact, including **Caroline Wozniacki** of Denmark, **Aleksandra Wozniak** of Canada, and **Sabine Lisicki** of Germany. All are daughters of first-generation Polish immigrants. All are in the top 50 in the world. All speak Polish, and socialize together.

Wozniacki and Wozniak are the children of former Polish soccer players. Wozniacki's father, Piotr, played professionally in Poland and Denmark. Her mother, Anna, played volleyball for the Polish national team. Wozniak's father, Antoni, also played soccer in Poland before immigrating to Montreal in 1983.

Aleksandra, 21, was born in Montreal but has made several vis-

its to Poland, the most recent this year when she visited relatives in Rawa Mazowiecka, about 50 miles from Warsaw. "We live in a different world," she said. "I was born in Montreal, but definitely I was growing up Polish. So I feel pretty much I have a strong connection to my Polish heritage. But I feel Canadian and definitely am proud of being a Canadian and representing the country all over the world in a sport where there are not many Canadians anymore."

Lisicki, a 19-year-old born in Germany, has a No. 43 world ranking. For the past several years, she has trained regularly in Bradenton, Fla., with her father, Richard.

Australian teenager Olivia Rogowska, who reached the second round in Paris after receiving a wildcard berth, could soon be joining that group of elites. The Melbourne-born daughter of Polish immigrants was introduced to the sport at age five by her father.

Many Polish athletes have gone abroad, especially to Germany, to advance their careers, including Miroslav Klose and Lukas Podolski, Polish-born soccer players on the German national team at the 2006 World Cup. Agnieszka Radwanska began playing in Germany at age four in the club where her father, Robert, was a teaching pro. Her sister Urszula was born in Germany. "But when I was six or seven, my father decided that Urszula and I should go to Polish schools, so we went back to Poland," said Agnieszka. "I think it was a good decision for the family."

Clarey pointed out in the article that Poland has had a lack of top tennis players since **Wojtak Fibak** was a ranked singles and doubles player in the 1970s and early 1980s. Fibak says that the increasing number of top Polish tennis players is "partly the product of Solidarity and the freedom that Poles had to move and explore outside opportunities."

You can check out the article at www.nytimes.com.

CREEKMUR PASSES. Lou Creekmur, an All-Pro offensive lineman for Detroit who starred on three NFL championship teams for the Lions, died recently at 82. Lou was selected to eight consecutive Pro Bowls from 1950 through 1957. The former college star at William and Mary was a major part of the Lions' NFL championship teams of 1952, 1953 and 1957.

Creekmur was inducted into the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame (his mother was Rose Kaminski) in 2001. He was also inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1996.

WOJCIC RETURNS. University of Tulsa Head Basketball Coach **Doug Wojcik** has agreed to a new six-year contract. He has posted an overall 81-53 record in four seasons and his last three teams have each won 20 or more games. He is also the only coach in school history to post back-to-back 25-win seasons.

Wojcik spent 15 years as an assistant coach at Navy, Notre Dame, North Carolina and Michigan

State, before being named Tulsa's head basketball coach in 2005.

As a collegiate player Wojcik teamed up with All-American David Robinson to lead Navy to the NCAA Tournament in three straight seasons, including a 1986 East Regional Final appearance. Robinson turned over his Colonial Athletic Association MVP Award to Wojcik, citing his unselfish play and leadership abilities. During his career, Wojcik established Navy school records for most assists in a game (14), season (251) and career (714), while setting the single season mark as a junior.

PERKOSKI'S NOTEBOOK. Mike Krzyzewski will return as USA Basketball's head coach for the 2012 Olympics, after guiding Team USA to the gold medal at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China. The longtime Duke University coach will also coach the Americans at the 2010 FIBA World Basketball Championships in Turkey ... Baltimore pitcher **Brian Matusz** started his Major League career by leading the Orioles to an 8-2 victory over the Detroit Tigers. Matusz was the club's top pick last year.

Bbrad Keselowski passed Kyle Busch with eight laps left and held on to win Saturday for his fourth career NNS win ... **Landry Kosmalski**, a four-year starter at Davidson College (1996-2000), was named an assistant basketball coach with the Wildcats.

Frank Jawor, long-time PGA Member, former president of Michigan PGA, master golf professional,



RADWANSKA

and former Wayne State golf coach, died at 87.

THEY SAID IT

"In Krakow, where I live, there are no hardcourts, only indoor clay and indoor carpet. I can understand that other people prefer to practice in a tennis academy in the USA or Spain or wherever. But I just feel good at home, even if it means I have to practice on the carpet."

—**Agnieszka Radwanska**, explaining why many Polish tennis families have stayed abroad, and why she has returned.

❖ ❖ ❖

"He is the real thing. This is one that everybody should take a great deal of pride in for a long time."

—**Baltimore manager Dave Trembley** on **Brian Matusz** winning his major league debut. The pitcher signed with the Orioles less than a year ago and had posted a 7-0 record and a 1.55 mark with AA Bowie.

PONDERRING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

The Element of Notoriety

America has a number of dirty little secrets. One of them is that you are not allowed to say that there is anti-Polish bigotry. It is covered up or it is embarrassing to admit it either by Poles or non-Poles. Not only can you not say it, if you do, no one will care. That is the truth.

I don't want to belabor the *Land of the Lost* drive by (PAJ, July 2009), but the amazing thing to me is how no one outside of our group really cares or is indignant that Will Ferrell, the writing team, and the executives of the studio reduced us to subhuman status in one little sentence. It is like the priest scandal. For some time, I anxiously watched the news each night for another sex incident to be reported. I don't ever want to hear another dumb T-Rex insult but it seems there is one right around the corner.

Think of Michael Jackson and the show *The Sopranos*. Both were super popular and garnered a heap of devotion from fans and the entertainment industry. Michael had a funeral celebration befitting a king. Whether you admit it or not, as an entertainer and musician, he embodied the best of all that Motown ever produced. That was one part of his life. His non-entertainment life was freakish and bizarre most of the time. That said, there were armies of fans and supporters that worked to preserve a positive legacy for him.

Sopranos is about a group of murderous thugs who have difficulty coping with the trials and tribulations in life, you know, just like you and me. Regular folks "related" to Tony Soprano. A mystery to me but the fans and critics of the show will accept and defend gangsterism as

some kind of vocation like driving a bread truck or selling snow cones.

Fine. But the Polish people are noted for being compared to a "stupid" T-Rex? Where is the outcry from the public? This concept is as fascinating to me as the American fascination with the life of Michael Jackson and Tony Soprano.

USCCB POLISH COMMITTEE. St. Louis has a new Archbishop, the Most Reverend Robert Carlson, and apparently his Polish connection is strong enough to qualify him to be on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Polish committee. The committee is not an official delegation of the USCCB but I thought it was significant that some of the bishops meet and discuss issues pertinent to the Polish community in the United States. Maybe they meet just to have a Belvedere on the rocks, and that wouldn't be such a bad thing either.

While I don't think that our people have a lot of concerns that need national review or representation, perhaps there are a few that we would like for the committee to consider and evaluate for the benefit of the group. Some that come to my mind is the reasonable approach and process for transitioning older "ethnic" Polish parishes, intercession and support for those Poles desiring admission into the United States, acknowledgment and response by the Church for the bigotry aimed at Polonia, and why New York *always* gets an Irishman appointed bishop. That's a smile on the last one.

If you have any "national" issues, you can forward them to Bishop Carlson or I suggest directing your

concerns to the National Advisor for Polish Affairs, Reverend Monsignor Anthony Czarnecki. Monsignor Czarnecki's contact information is: Monsignor Anthony Czarnecki, National Advisor for Polish Affairs, St. Joseph Basilica, 53 Whitcomb St., Webster, MA 01570; (508) 943-0467; rectory@stjosephwebster.com.

We welcome Bishop Carlson to St. Louis, wish him well in shepherding the diocese, thank him for all of his prior work on behalf of Holy Mother the Church, and pray for him in his new post.

BUCKET LIST II. More project ideas:

1) Play ground apparatuses that have a Tatra style architecture. Probably wouldn't be a popular item at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, but for some of the remaining Polish or Polish heritage parishes, this might be a fun alternative and a way to ethnic up the place. The underlying point is to make sure there is a play ground for the kids to keep them occupied while the adults talk about religion, politics, and ways to keep the church solvent.

2) Polish-themed flags that are not just red and white or have the white eagle on them. A "Gosc w dom, Bog w dom" flag with colorful artistry and a creative layout. There is a myriad of possibilities for flags that could be posted for a Polish holiday or celebration. Think of the creative kinds seen at Easter, Halloween, or Valentine's Day. If they are out there already, let me know.

3) For teachers at Catholic or public schools that have an ethnically diverse student population,

appeal for multiculturalism that replaces or is in addition to or has an alternative theme to Martin Luther King Day or St. Patrick's Day. For instance, MLK Day could be a day recognizing the diversity and character of the ancestries of all of the children at the school and still be in line with the spirit of the holiday and the thinking of Doctor King. If you are a teacher and are doing something like this, let me know.

QUESTIONS

1) *Godspell*, conceived and originally directed by John-Michael Tebelak. Janusz-Michal, Polish?

2) *No Country for Old Men* or *Mazurka for Two Dead Men*? Well, *Mazurka* was "written" by the Spaniard Camilo Jose Cela and bottom line, there is a question about whether Camilo wrote the book or took most of it from Marcel Su-

arez and Mariano Tudela. It was a bestseller in Spain and won that country's national book award, and helped Cela win the Nobel Prize for literature in 1989. Question — Do the authors (Marion Tudela) or the book have a Polish connection beyond just a reference to the Polish dance? (I have not read the book but read about it in Uncle John's Curiously Compelling Bathroom Reader, 19th Edition.)

If you have an answer to this month's questions, have a question of your own, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke, St. Louis, MO 63139; e-Mail alinabrig@yahoo.com. Please note: if you send eMail, reference in the subject line about the Polish American Journal or the Pondering Pole. I cannot open an e-Mail if I do not recognize the subject or the sender.

HERITAGE / Ellye Slusarczyk

SHALL WE DANCE THE PECKER? Syncopated and fast, the Pecker Dance is better known as the Krakowiak. This lively dance emanates from the region of Krakow and Little Poland. Its steps mimic the movement of horses because horses were much-loved in those areas of Poland. This dance also became popular both in Vienna and Paris.

The Krakowiak dates back to the 10th and 17th centuries. Popular as a ballroom dance, it eventually came to be regarded as the national dance of Poland, along with the ever-popular polonaise.

Composers, such as Fryderyk Chopin, chose to transform the Krakowiak into a melodic form for

both piano and orchestra. In fact, Polish American dance groups often use this dance for presentation and exhibition. This portrayal of group figures includes breath-taking turns, jumps, running and stamping steps.

Its fast tempo, with dancers wearing colorful costumes, makes this dance a finale in many performances. Red boots, shirts decorated with lace, white jackets and velvet caps lend themselves to the delight of audiences everywhere. Yes, and their colorful, sequined vests with rich embroidery add to the richness of the dance.

Come! Step lively to the tempo that resounds the air.

BABA YAGA'S CORNER / Jaga Urban-Klaehn

Poland as a Pioneer in Petroleum Industry

In recent years petroleum has influenced world politics and economy more than any other energy resource used worldwide. How many of you know that Poland was a pioneer in petroleum mining worldwide and was once among the main petroleum producers in the world. In the beginning of 19th century, Poland was the third petroleum producer in the world, just behind the United States and Russia. Unfortunately, the petroleum boom did not last long. Poland lacked large petroleum deposits resources to remain a worldwide petroleum center.



IGNACY ŁUKASIEWICZ (above), a Pole, was a internationally-known pioneer in the development of the petroleum industry. Łukasiewicz (1822-1982), a Polish pharmacist of Armenian descent, invented the way to use kerosene (the product obtained in petroleum distillation) for the kerosene lamp, called also a paraffin lamp. Kerosene lamps replaced so called Argand lamps which were based on whale oil. Kerosene lamps

were much cheaper, since kerosene was much more easily obtainable than whale oil. Kerosene lamps, the precursors of the electric bulbs, were still in everyday use when my grandparents lived and my parents were young. Łukasiewicz was also a founder of the first oil well in Poland.

Łukasiewicz was born March 8, 1822 in Zaduszniki near Mielec in the South-eastern part of Poland, called Galicia, which then belonged to Austria. His parents belonged to the local intelligentsia. After he graduated from secondary school, he had to start working as a pharmacist's assistant due to the difficult financial situation of his family. Łukasiewicz followed his parents' patriotic work and became involved in the patriotic movement which had as its main goal Poland's independence. For his political activities he was imprisoned in Łwów for a little over a year. After he was released from the prison in December 1947 he went to study in Krakow and Vienna. He graduated with a degree in pharmacy in 1852 and

returned to Łwów.

Łukasiewicz first heard about petroleum during university lectures. He was wondering whether seep oil would not be able to replace expensive whale oil used in Argand lamps. Łukasiewicz was familiar with seep oil which leaked from the rocks in Carpathian region. Seep oil was used in medicine and as a grease or lubricant. It was burned in street lamps in Krosno around 1500.

Łukasiewicz began to experiment with distillation techniques soon after he came back from his studies. But it was Abraham Gesner, a Canadian, who first distilled kerosene in 1849. Łukasiewicz, together with Zeh, was able to distill kerosene three years later. Łukasiewicz then built the first petroleum lamp together with Bratkowski. This lamp was used in the local hospital for emergency surgery on a dark night on July 31, 1853. The hospital doctors were so impressed that he was asked for several lamps and 500 kilo of kerosene. After this success Łukasiewicz went to Vienna to register his invention so that he would be able to develop his product on a business scale.

Łukasiewicz initially collected crude oil from shallow hand-dug wells in Bobrka, southwest of Kros-

no in the Carpathians, like people did it before him for hundreds of years. After he teamed up with Trzeciowski and Kielbasa, he was able to establish the first industrial oil mine in Bóbrka. By using engineering equipment they were able to pump crude oil from hand-drilled, 30- to 50-meter deep wells. Later, wells as deep as 150 meters were drilled that produced a lighter, better-quality crude from which the kerosene was distilled. Then other entrepreneurs, Polish and foreign, dug their own wells deeper and deeper by use of more modern equipment, and a thriving Polish oil industry developed.

THE GOLDEN EPOCH of Polish petroleum industry was from 1904-1908. Several modern oil wells were constructed and put to work. The deposits of petroleum in the Carpathian foothills seemed never-ending. From time to time the production was slowed by flammable petroleum which caused fires in the mines and in the distilleries (distilling was the early form of refining).

When the supply in petroleum exceeded its demand, the petroleum price went down. Simultaneously, the production was becoming more and more expensive since one had

to drill deeper deposits. The Carpathian region had many petroleum wells, but since they were usually not very petroleum-rich, the mines had to be moved frequently. After World War I, in free Poland, industrial exploration for natural gas was initiated. Earlier natural gas was treated as a nuisance or just as a danger for the coal or petroleum miners. The first gas pipelines were built before World War II.

AFTER THE END OF THE WORLD WAR II, the petroleum industry was rebuilt. Unfortunately, the main petroleum deposits were already depleted, while few new deposits were found. Presently, petroleum exploitation covers less than 1% of Polish needs. Natural gas deposits are more significant, they cover almost 40% of the people's needs. Poland imports petroleum products (mainly from Russia), but there has been some recent efforts to diversify the suppliers, since Russia often tries using its petroleum deposits as a weapon in international trade.



Visit Baba Jaga's Corner on the web at www.polishsite.us.

CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin S. Nowak

Spheres of Influence

It was in 1823 that the Monroe Doctrine was first proclaimed. It stated that the United States would not tolerate European interference in the Americas. With this action, the U.S. was doing the same as other nations had done for centuries, exerting control over nearby lands and peoples for its own security, while leaving them nominally independent. In the 1700s, the powerful empires of Prussia (Germany) and Russia sought to control neighbor-

ing countries. The weakened state of Poland was a prime target for them, and they indeed controlled the government for decades before doing a shared partition and outright annexation of Polish lands, wiping Poland off the map completely in 1795.

The term "spheres of influence" came into common usage following the World War II. It mostly referred to the division of Europe after the war by the victors and remaining superpowers, the U.S. and USSR.

The Russian red army overran east central Europe in pushing back the Germans. The western allies, led by the United States, took control of Western Europe. Conferences held among the allied leaders in Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam infamously divided Europe into eastern Russian and western American spheres of influence. Poland was particularly affected. With no input whatsoever from the Poles, their country was handed over to Stalin and communist control. Its borders and population were shifted westward as it lost a third of its pre-war territory to the USSR. This happened while FDR and Churchill continually assured the Polish government-in-exile that their country would be returned to its pre-war borders.

The U.S. aided and sponsored new democracies in Western Europe, while the Soviets made sure that the east became red. While the western democracies were more or less free to choose their own governments under American guidance, the USSR installed communists in Poland and elsewhere by force and terrorism. The war weary U.S. was in no position to intervene militarily in the east, so Poland and the other Eastern European countries were sacrificed to communism to keep an uneasy peace. The NATO alliance in the west and Warsaw Pact in the east were formed to militarily defend their spheres.

When Soviet troops put down anti-communist revolutions in Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968, the United States did not intervene. The U.S. never had to confront a communist revolt in Western Europe, but the USSR did not stop America from toppling communist movements in its backyard in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Grenada. In only one instance were these spheres of influence breached, in 1962 when the Soviets foolishly sent troops and installed nuclear missiles in Castro's Cuba. That almost resulted in global nuclear war.

After communism collapsed in Europe twenty years ago, the former Soviet satellites, including Poland, were quickly accepted into NATO. Russia vociferously opposed NATO expansion. The Warsaw Pact and Soviet Union had dissolved. Why did NATO still exist? Was it an alliance in search of an enemy? Did it still exist to oppose Russia, as many Russians believed?

Perhaps the Russian concerns are understandable, especially regarding Poland, given the history of relations between the two countries. Russia has dominated most if not all of Poland for much of the past 300 years. As such, it is conditioned to think that it has an inherent right to continue such domination. But Poland has long fought Russian control and will do everything to stay free of it. Should the rest of the world

accept a perceived Russian right to continue a sphere of influence over Poland and its former satellites, even as they have become NATO and European Union members?

The latest thing to provoke the Russians is a U.S. agreement under President Bush to base a defensive missile system in Poland and the Czech Republic. Ostensibly to protect Europe from an attack by rogue states such as Iran, the Russians believe the missiles are a threat to Russia and have vehemently opposed them. If installed, the Russians threaten to aim their own missiles at Poland in retaliation. The Obama administration has been non-committal about the missiles, seeking better relations with Russia. Will the U.S. now back down in some sort of tacit approval of a limited Russian sphere of influence? Is that a bad thing in return for peace in Europe?

In the end, in the face of shifting global power struggles, Poland must remain free and independent, and it has shown in the past that it will fight to be so. For many centuries, enemies have sought to destroy the Polish people and their culture, either through violence or various other insults. But despite the world's best efforts to get rid of us, we will not go away. Whether they like it or not, we are still here. The spark that is Poland will not be extinguished, no matter what spheres of influence exist.

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IN MEMORIAM

Russell Pawlak, Respected Preservationist

Russell Pawlak, 59, an avid preservationist who played an instrumental role in resuscitating Buffalo's Central Terminal train station. He also in recent years served on the Buffalo Preservation Board and the Broadway Market's board of directors.

Pawlak worked 28 years as a field service supervisor at the New York State Insurance Fund.

He was born on Buffalo's East Side in the St. John Kanty neighborhood, graduating from Bishop Ryan High School, where he played football and ran track. He played football as a running back at Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Mo., graduating with a bachelor's degree in history.

Pawlak worked during the 1970s as executive director of the Broadway Fillmore Area Council and in community development at City Hall.

His job with the New York State Insurance Fund

took him to New York City for about 10 years beginning in the mid-1980s.

After returning to Buffalo, Pawlak, who grew up in the shadow of the Central Terminal and whose grandfather worked for New York Central railroad, set his sights on reviving the dilapidated and badly vandalized station.

Pawlak served as president for eight years of the Central Terminal Restoration Corp., before stepping down last year. The nonprofit organization raised more than \$1 million from mostly government funds to seal and stabilize the East Side landmark, enabling several organizations, including Albright-Knox Art Gallery and Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center, to hold events there. Pawlak also helped popularize what's become an annual Dyngus Day celebration at the art deco landmark.

Eugenia T. Smith, Acclaimed Dance Instructor



Eugenia T. Smith (1942-2009), a Polish institution in the Buffalo/Western New York area was involved in dance for more than 50 years.

Active in the Polish community, she was the founder and director of the *Krakowiacy Polish Folk Dancers*, which performed at two international festivals in Poland, at local festivals, Walt Disney World and for President Ronald

Reagan. She was instrumental in attaining a sister city alliance with the Polish city of Rzeszów, the host of the *International Festival of Polonia Artistic Ensembles*.

Born Eugenia Zastempowski in Buffalo, the West Seneca resident graduated from Villa Maria Academy and received a bachelor's degree in education from Buffalo State College.

The daughter of a dancer, Eugenia began teaching ballet, tap and jazz in the basement of her family's

home when she was 14.

Eugenia's Dance Studios, the school she founded and owned for 53 years, has an enrollment of almost 400 students. Several of her students went on to careers as professional dancers and entertainers and include Tony Award winner Christine Baranski and members of the *Radio City Rockettes*.

Known as "Miss Genie" to the thousands who attended her dance studios in Buffalo, Cheektowaga, West Seneca and Orchard Park, she incorporated Polish folk dance as part of her school's curriculum alongside Ballet, Tap and Jazz and Lyrical styles.

To acquire knowledge in Polish dance, Eugenia attended the *Course for Instructors of Polish Artistic Ensembles* in Lublin, Poland, where students gave her the nickname - "The Happy Tapper," because she ran a dance school and due to her cheery, upbeat demeanor.

She was a lifetime member of *Dance Masters of America and Dance Educators of America*. With her school's company *Talent Express*, Eugenia received many awards for her choreography at national dance conventions. She was inducted into the *Western New York Dance Hall of Fame* in 2001.

— Staś Kmiec

OBITUARIES / Jennifer Moskal

DAVID CYBORSKI, 48, fulfilled a childhood dream by becoming a part-time police officer in 1982, working for the Tinley Park Police Department full-time for 21-years. Cyborski was master firearms instructor and certified driving instructor, teaching tactical and defensive driving to officers throughout the Chicago area. He was later promoted to detective, and held positions including deputy commander, and lead hostage negotiator.

RITA DANISZEWSKI, 77, was a retired registered nurse and a 1953 graduate of West Jersey Hospital School of Nursing. Ms. Daniszewski was chairperson of the Operating Room Nurses Group. She was the first ever "Polka Queen" from Camden representing the Polish American Citizens Club and the sponsoring Polish American Congress of the Eastern Pennsylvania Region.

ROBERT S. HOJNACKI, 70, was a patrolman for 27 years in the Police District 3, the Grand Crossing area on the South Side of Chicago. Hojnacki drove a wagon for the force, which meant he was out on the streets, frequently assisting in arrests and other crime-in-progress calls. He received several commendations for quick responses to felonies-in-progress.

STEPHEN R. KUSTRA, 37, was the son of former Illinois Lt. Gov. Robert Kustra. Kustra was a 1989 graduate of Glenbrook South High School, where his poem "Hope, The Pink Bug" was included in the school's time capsule in 1987. At the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, he majored in literature and creative writing. After college he played music regularly at Grandpa's Place in Glenview, and later played with several bands in San Francisco. He moved to San Francisco to follow his dream of always living on the West Coast after graduating college.

RON KOZIOL, 74, had a 32-year career at the Chicago Tribune making a national name for himself, regularly beating local and national competition with exclusive stories on some of his era's

most sensational stories. In 1975 Koziol helped found Investigative Reporters and Editors, an international organization devoted to supporting, assisting and training investigative journalists. He graduated from St. Mel High School and studied radio production before taking a series of announcer jobs in small Wisconsin radio markets. He soon switched to newspaper reporting and was hired by the Tribune, where he remained until 1993.

JOSEPH ABDON "KUCH" KUCHARSKI, 56, was a salesman who brightened up any event he attended. Kucharski completed his degree at Arizona State University, and after graduation started working in sales at the Scottsdale Conference Resort. After 14 years with Scottsdale Conference Resort, he moved to South Carolina to work at Seabrook Island Resort. He later moved on to the mortgage business.

SISTER SUSAN OSOLA, 62, faithfully lived the Mission of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany for 32 years. She graduated from Temple University School of Nursing, and ministered as a nurse in St. Francis Hospital in Olean, New York, as well as in hospitals in Miami Beach, West Palm Beach, and Tampa, Florida. She was employed by Samaritan Hospice in Marlton for the last five years, and recently completed a master's program in pastoral counseling from Neumann College in Aston, Pennsylvania.

HENRY W. ZAKRZEWSKI, 77, graduated in 1950 from the former St. John the Baptist High School for Boys and earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from what is now La Salle University. He earned an MBA in industrial management from Temple University, and a certificate in data processing from the Data Processing Management Association. He was a programmer and consultant with Honeywell Corp, the worked as a systems analyst with Boeing Co. He then worked for 30 years as manager of material systems for Ford Motor Co. in Lansdale. He also

was involved in his community at St. Helena Roman Catholic Church, for the Knights of Columbus in Roxborough, and at Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church.

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THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



"Sidewalk Entrepreneur." Warsaw, Poland. May 15, 1976.

TRIVIA TIME / Ellye Slusarczyk

- Polonia is a: a. wildflower garden b. cluster of lakes c. mountain pasture
 - The dam in Solina is Poland's: a. smallest b. oldest c. largest
 - Ignacy Lukaszewicz drilled the first oil well in Bobrka in: a. 1705 b. 1854 c. 1903
 - A gift from the Polish nation to Maria Konopnicka was a: a. 20 carat diamond b. manor house c. black stallion
 - It is a tradition in Zalipie to decorate houses with: a. painted flower designs b. tree branches c. sod
 - Felicja Curylowa was an accomplished: a. folk artist b. classical pianist c. opera singer
 - The organ in the Basilica of the Bernadine Monks in Lizajsk has: a. carved crosses b. cuckoo and bird sounds c. jeweled keyboard
 - The towns of Naleczow, Kazimierz Dolny and Pulawy form the: a. Spa Park Trio b. Triple Castle Complex c. Polish Bermuda Triangle
 - The Swietokrzyskie Mountains were once a center for: a. iron production b. salt mining c. forestry
 - At the annual "Mazovian Ghost Holiday", you might be visited by the ghost of: a. Queen Bona b. Piotr Wysocki c. Prince Boleslaw the Shy
- ANSWERS:** 1.c mountain pasture 2.c largest 3.b 1854 4.b manor house 5.a painted flower designs 6.a folk artist 7.b cuckoo and bird sounds 8.c Polish Bermuda Triangle 9.a iron production 10.a Queen Bona

BRUSH UP / Prepared and distributed by the Polonia Media Network

Geography, Part II

jezioro..... (yeh-ZHOH-roh) n lake
 rzeka..... (ZHEH-kah) f river
 morze..... (MOH-zeh) n sea
 bagno..... (GAHG-noh) n marsh
 góra..... (GUH-rah) f mountain
 szczyt..... (shchiht) m peak
 zbocze..... (ZBOH-cheh) n slope
 skała..... (SKAH-wah) f rock

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

kamień..... (KAH-myehn) m stone
 pasmo górskie..... (PAHS-moh GUHR-skyeh) n mountain range
 przełęcz..... (PSHEH-wehch) f pass
 półwsep..... (puhw-VIH-sehp) m peninsula
 równina..... (ruhv-NEE-nah) f plain
 droga..... (DROH-gah) f road
 park narodowy..... (pahrk nah-roh-DOH-vih) m national park

— continued next month —

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AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES — After a four-year tenure as Vice-President-American Agenda, **Rik (Sulima-Suligowski) Fox** has chosen to step aside from his duties to pursue the necessary time needed to address the family dealings. He has been a member of the Pol-Am Congress for some seven years altogether since 2002.

Suligowski-Fox has inherited the massive Suligowski Heraldic Research Library from his late father, Leonard, however, plans are not yet concluded whether he will continue to carry on his fathers' previous work of researching family names and Coats-of-Arms and painting of those Heraldic Coats-of-Arms.

FLORIDA

SEBASTIAN — **Polonez Restaurant and Deli** opened in early July of this year. Wislawa Korgul of Palm Bay, Florida and her family operate the shop in the Roseland Plaza on Route 1. It is the only Polish restaurant in a 50 mile radius, open six days a week, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Polish residents are delighted to finally purchase flavorful Polish meals. Their cooked-to-order menu has been a wild success, with entrees of gołabki, potato pancakes, pierogi, bigos, kielbasa and sauerkraut, lamb shanks, soups of the day (including sorrel soup), beside traditional American foods.

The Deli consists of drinks, dried soups and gravies, pickled beets, pickles, peppers, crackers, cookies, candies and more. Their wide assortment of kielbasas would satisfy any picky eater.

Korgul has been in America for twenty-six years, coming from Szczecin, Poland.

In addition to family members working at the restaurant, Donna Snevel, a cook at the Polish American Club, is working with Wislawa, and look forward to holding a Polish festival, if enough interest develops.

When traveling the Treasure Coast of Florida and sleepy Sebastian — "Home of Pelican Island, founded by friendly people and six old grouches" — be sure to stop for lunch.

MASSACHUSETTS

RUTLAND — Assisting the impoverished around the world is Heifer International. This organization allows the general public to donate money to purchase a farm animal or livestock to be given to a family. Many people prefer to donate rather than purchase Christmas gifts within their own families. Heifer provides livestock and farm animals as well as training to rural communities around the world as per requesting communities. All recipients agree to pass on one or more of the offspring to others in the community, enabling each recipient

to be a donor as well.

Today Heifer International uses its Rutland, Mass. farm as a Learning Center for mostly young adults to learn how various rural world people live in their environment through their Global Village. Under construction at the site is a log building typical of Carpathian Poland.

Thanks to Heifer International, Polish recipients have received gifts. The need in Poland today is to furnish draft horses, as well as sheep and cows. For more information, visit www.heifer.org or call (508) 886-2221.

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS — "The History of the Bead and Pendant: A look at early amber forms and their mythology." Thurs., Sept. 17, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. RSVP. Lecture on archeological forms of amber beads and pendants found in Northern and Eastern Europe and their cosmology. Baltic Imports, 207 East Hennepin Ave. Please RSVP Maija at maija@balticimports.com or phone: (612) 331-3296 for reservation.

MINNEAPOLIS — The **Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota** will hold its annual Soup Festival, October 25, 2009. Kolbe Hall, lower level of John Paul II School, Holy Cross Church complex at 17th Avenue and Fourth Street NE. It will be serving a dozen different Polish soups with bread and desserts from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00

In Good Step



FELICIAN SISTERS Mary Josanne Buszek, C.S.S.F. and Mary Blaise, C.S.S.F., both from St. Stanislaus R.C. Parish in Buffalo, N.Y., admire the artwork on the Dyngus Day Buffalo float at the start of the Annual General Pulaski Parade, held in conjunction with the Polish American Heritage Festival in the town of Cheektowaga.

Gen. Albyn F. Irzyk, a longtime aide to Gen. George Patton during World War II, led this year's parade, July 19. Alexandra "Sandi" Schmid, a leader in the local Polish community, served as grand marshal. In addition to politicians, marching and polka bands, and veteran's groups, this year's pageant featured Polish American String Band from Philadelphia, better known as the Mummer's. Marek Skulimowski, Consul of the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, traveled to Buffalo from New York City for the parade.

"This is the biggest event in the Polish American community in New York, outside of New York City," said Brian Rusk, president of the General Pulaski Association, which sponsors the march.

Sister Mary Blaise, C.S.S.F., St. Stanislaus parish sacristan, celebrated the Golden Jubilee of her Religious Life. A Mass and reception was held in her honor, August 29.

OCTOBER IS POLISH HERITAGE MONTH

Observing the
70th Anniversary
of the Start
of World War II

October is Polish American Heritage Month, and the Polish American Journal turns to Polish American leaders and PAJ readers to join the observance.

This October, we revisit Nazi Germany's September 1939 invasion of Poland and the start of World War II. With the passing of each year, the number of Polish veterans grows smaller. We must not forget these brave men and women who witnessed firsthand the horrors of war in their homeland. These souls are reflections of all Poles, who throughout the ages have been subjected to oppression by those envious of the Polish spirit.

Poland's story is an important one. It shows how conviction and dedication can overcome tyranny and hatred. Following World War II and Poland's betrayal by her allies, the country was enslaved by Soviet Russia, which tried to bend the Polish spirit to its ways. But that spirit, tempered from within by a love of nation, family, and church, proved too much for Poland's foes, and broke the yoke communism generations later under the Solidarity banner.

You can help us in our mission to keep alive that spirit by sending greetings to American Polonia in the form of patron advertising in the October edition. This special edition will contain greetings from friends, businesses and organizations that recognize the importance of keeping that spirit alive here in the United States.

Through your patronage, we are able to bring American Polonia a paper it can be proud of, as it is our mission to heed John Paul II's words and keep alive the traditions which define us. Every month we publish the good news about Americans of Polish descent who make a difference in the world today.

To guarantee placement of your ad in the Polish Heritage Month edition, please return the form below with your check by September 11th. You can also place your donation with VISA, MasterCard, Discover or Amex.

We thank you in advance for your support and look forward to producing this special edition which will enlighten all on the contributions and sacrifices of those who fought for their freedom and ours.



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WE THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

p.m. If there is any soup left over at that time, it will be sold. Tickets are sold at the door. Dolina Polish Folk Dancers (gifts) and Sacred Heart Church (pierogi) will have tables. PACIM is looking for volunteers to make soup and also to work at the event as servers, greeters, kitchen help, table cleaners, etc. Please call (612) 378-9291 to volunteer or for more information.

NEVADA

LAS VEGAS — The first human clinical trial of a drug shown to kill human cancer cells in a new way is under way at the Nevada Cancer Institute.

In August, an 84-year-old Las Vegas, who was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star during World War II, received what is known as MPC-3100 treatment, said **Dr. Wolfram Samlowski**, the 54-year-old principal investigator for the trial. The drug causes abnormal proteins to accumulate in cancer cells.

"It is too early to say (whether it is working)," Samlowski said. "But he is tolerating it well."

Until clinical studies on humans are further along, the maker of the drug, Salt Lake City-based Myriad Pharmaceuticals, is not making test subjects available to the media, the investigator said.

The veteran has not responded to numerous standard therapies for prostate cancer, Samlowski said, but he is still living at home.

Samlowski, head of the institute's melanoma, renal cancer and

immunotherapy section, said an understanding of cellular biochemistry led to the development of drugs called heat shock Protein 90 inhibitors. A former employee of the drug company, Samlowski said that "connection helped the institute win the opportunity for the clinical trial."

A second subject is being sought both in Nevada and Texas, he said.

NEW YORK

BUFFALO — The **Nickel City Opera Company** will host an "Opera Cruise" on the Miss Buffalo II, Tues., Sept. 22 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Artistic Director **Valerian Rumin-ski** will perform excerpts from "The Magic Flute," fresh off his engagement with Opera Lyra Ottawa in Ontario, Canada.

Valerian will be joined by up and coming singers from the WNY area performing a variety of arias and art songs accompanied by Ivan Docenko, Jr. NCO looks forward to presenting an evening of fine music and food while enjoying our spectacular waterfront.

The Miss Buffalo II sails rain or shine from the entrance of the Erie Basin Marina on Buffalo's waterfront. Cost per person is \$50 which includes a buffet by Island Park Catering. A cash bar will also be offered. Boarding will start at 5:30 p.m. with a 6:00 p.m. sharp departure. RSVP to Eileen Breen (646) 294-3634.

Look for upcoming Nickel City Opera announcements soon at www.nickelcityoperaco.com.

Wycinanki Workshop, September 19

CARLSTADT, N.J. — The centuries-old Polish folk art of *wycinanki* from the Kurpie region of Poland will be featured at a Workshop sponsored by the Association of the Sons of Poland located at 333 Hackensack St., Sat., Sept. 19, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. If you are a member of the Association, the workshop is free. For non-members, the fee is \$10.

View the beautiful collection of *wycinanki* or paper cut-outs that hang on display at the Home Office and learn the techniques from one of the most popular regions in Poland, namely Kurpie. All materials such as scissors, colored paper and glue will be provided by the Association of the Sons of Poland.

For more information call the Association of the Sons of Poland at (201) 935-2807. Space is limited and reservations are required. For non-members payment of the fee will reserve your place.