

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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PENDERECKI CONDUCTS
PENDERECKI — PAGE 8

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PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN CULTURE

**POPE JOHN PAUL'S JEWISH MIRACLE • CONVENTION TAKES TIME TO CELEBRATE PADEREWSKI
IS THERE ROOM FOR COMPROMISE? • STREET MUSICIANS, APOSTLES, AND A PENDULUM
GRITTY WIN FOR BRAD KESELOWSKI • STADNICKI AND THE HOLLAND LAND COMPANY**

NEWSMARK

PAWLENTY STEPS DOWN. Former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty dropped out of the race for the GOP presidential nomination, hours after finishing third in the Iowa straw poll.

"I wish it would have been different. But obviously the pathway forward for me doesn't really exist so we are going to end the campaign," Pawlenty said on ABC's "This Week" from Iowa shortly after disclosing his plans in a private conference call with supporters.

The low-key Midwesterner and two-term governor had struggled to gain traction in a state he had said he must win and never caught fire nationally with a Republican electorate.

HERITAGE MONTH PLANS UNDERWAY. This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the founding of Polish American Heritage Month, an event which began in Philadelphia and became a national celebration of Polish history, culture, and pride.

The annual observance is sponsored by the Polish American Congress, and headed by Michael Blichasz, president of group's Eastern Pennsylvania district.

This year, Poles will mark the 100th Anniversary of Marie Sklodowska Curie receiving the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, and the 232nd Anniversary of the death of General Casimir Pulaski, Father of the American Cavalry.

Information about ways to celebrate Polish American Heritage Month can be obtained by visiting the Polish American Heritage Month Committee's site at PolishAmericanHeritageMonth.com.

On the site you will find a list of "Things To Do During Polish American Heritage Month," the 2011 coloring contest artwork for schools, and Heritage Month posters that can be downloaded and printed. Copies of the coloring contest artwork can also be obtained by calling the Heritage Month Committee, Mon.-Fri. between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at (215) 922-1700.

CZECH REPUBLIC BACKS OUT. The Czech Republic has decided not to participate in the United States' planned missile defense program out of frustration about its reduced role in the project.

In September 2009 President Obama scrapped the previous administration's plans before unveiling an updated program with an unspecified role for the Czech Republic. Two months later, it offered the Czech Republic the possibility of hosting a separate early warning system which would help detect missile threats to NATO countries.

The Czech Defense Ministry said in a statement that the latest role envisaged for the country had become redundant because NATO had decided in 2010 to introduce an information sharing system for all alliance members.

SKULLS FOUND IN CHURCH CRYPT. Fifty human skulls and several dozen skeletons have been discovered in a church crypt in the Baltic port city of Gdansk. The remains were found by a church employee who was removing rubble from the premises of the Repentant Sinners Chapel, the oldest part of St. Brigid's Church, dating from the mid-14th century.

The skulls were found in an area where "fallen women" came to pray, say experts.

"The crypt, one of the biggest in the church, has not been opened for a long time," said priest Ludwik Kowalski.

"When we lit up the place and inserted a camera inside using a broomstick, we were awed to see about fifty human skeletons and skulls."

When the body of St. Brigid was transported from Rome to Sweden in the 14th century, the funeral procession made a stop-over in Gdansk.

The coffin with the saint's body remained in the chapel for two weeks. The church priest would like to display St. Brigid's relics in this place now.

Love Story Continues



PHOTO COURTESY OF POLISH INITIATIVE OF CHICAGO

DEPORTATION ENDS. Janina, Brian, and Tony Wasilewski were reunited in Chicago, four years after the Polish wife and mother was sent back to Poland.

by Geraldine Balut-Coleman

CHICAGO — On August 8, Janina Wasilewski, along with son, Brian, an American citizen, holding a U.S. visa, a permanent resident's green card, and a waiver to return to the United States, arrived in Chicago after being deported in 2007. O'Hare International Terminal was filled with over 100 family members, friends,

well-wishers, immigration advocates, a phalanx of television reporters and cameras and U.S. Representative, Luis Gutierrez, Janina's strongest congressional advocate and a leader of immigration reform.

Prior to the Wasilewski's tenacious family lawyer, Royal Berg, presenting Janina's deportation case to the United States Supreme Court, See "Deportation," page 4

Knights to Buy John Paul II Center

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — The Knights of Columbus have agreed to purchase Washington, D.C.'s struggling John Paul II Cultural Center from the Archdiocese of Detroit and will transform it into a shrine and museum honoring the life of Blessed John Paul II.

"It will be a place where our children and grandchildren will learn about their great heritage as Catholics," said Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight.

"True to John Paul II's vision,

and using the story of his life as an inspiration, this shrine will be an opportunity to evangelize and spread the good news of the gospel through a New Evangelization," he continued.

The 130,000-square-foot, 12-acre building near the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and the Catholic University of America has been virtually shuttered for years, open by appointment only as church officials tried to figure out what to do with it.

Air-crash Report Triggers Military Shake-up

Smolensk Disaster Still Echoing

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW — The Smolensk disaster of April 2010, the worst national tragedy in Poland's post-war history, continues to propel the Polish body politic and generate controversy. It is also present in the campaign preceding parliamentary elections set for October 9th. The crash in Smolensk, Russia, killed the president of Poland, his wife and 94 others, including many members of the country's political and military elite. The high-level delegation had been on its way to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Stalin's 1940 Katyń Forest Massacre in which 22,000 Polish officers had been murdered in cold blood.

The investigation carried out by Russian aviation officials resulted in a report issued in Moscow at the start of 2011 which sought to whitewash the Russian side from any responsibility for the tragedy. That Russian tendency was apparent im-

mediately after the crash, when Moscow's first reaction had been to claim that the Soviet-designed Tupolev jetliner had been recently overhauled and was in A-1 shape. In a similar vein, the Russian investigators placed all the blame for the disaster on the Polish pilots and their superiors, suggesting that President Kaczyński and Air Force Commander Gen. Andrzej Błasik had pressured the pilots into attempting to land in thick fog.

The recently released Polish report on the Smolensk disaster presented a far more balanced picture. "We are not placing blame on anyone — that is something for prosecutors to deal with. Our purpose was to find the causes of the disaster," explained Interior Minister Jerzy Miller who headed the Polish investigation.

The 328-page Miller report showed that the Smolensk airport was a decommissioned Russian military See "Smolensk," page 4



Center will become a shrine and museum honoring Catholic faith and life of Pope John Paul II.

Col. Gabreski Honored with Historical Marker

OIL CITY, Pa. — Among the newest historical markers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is one dedicated to World War II ace pilot and military hero, Col. Francis "Gabby" Gabreski. The marker was unveiled on June 25 and stands at 410 Seneca Street, one of the main thoroughfares in the town.

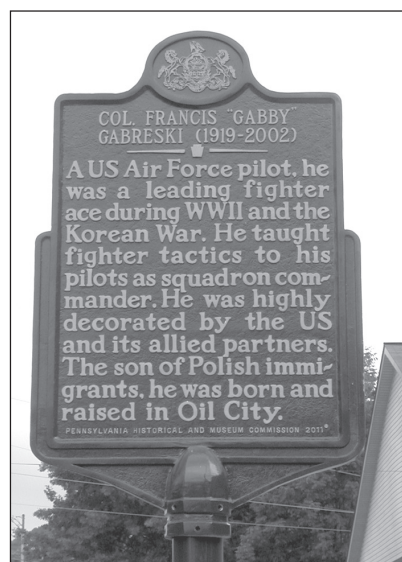
Francis Gabreski joined the U.S. Army Air Force and was at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked. With America in the fight, he persuaded his commanding officer to send him to England so that he could learn modern air combat tactics from the Polish fliers who were fighting in the Battle of Britain. Later he was able to teach these tactics to the American pilots

under his command, and became an air ace several times over.

The marker was placed thanks to the mutual cooperation of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation (John Bartus, president) and the Polish National Alliance PNA Lodge 905 (Michael Fedorek, president). Peter Obst of the Philadelphia KF Chapter filed the application with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and Giorgio Foods of Temple, Pa., See "Gabreski," page 4



GABRESKI



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SEPTEMBER • WRZESIEŃ

"Who does not respect and treasure one's own past, is not worthy of respect by the present, nor the right to the future."

— Polish statesman and military leader **Józef Piłsudski**.

1 1939. Without declaring war, Nazi Germany attacks Poland, which becomes the first country in Europe to resist armed aggression. World War II begins.

3 1939. Britain declares war on Germany two days after German invasion of Poland; France, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa quickly issue separate declarations of war.

4 1809. Birth of poet and writer Juliusz Slowacki.

5 1897. Polish Singing Circle is established in Buffalo with 24 members, for the cultivation of Polish song in America.

6 1921. Birth of Korczak Ziolkowski, American sculptor best known for beginning a monumental tribute to Crazy Horse in South Dakota.

8 NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED MOTHER

In Polish custom, today's birth of the Virgin is considered the best day for Fall planting.

9 1912. Opening of St. John Kanty Preparatory School and College in Erie, Pa.

10 1842. Birth of Prohibition Party leader John Sobieski.

10 1897. Seeking collective bargaining and civil liberty, immigrant miners on strike were marched in protest from Harwood to Lattimer, Pa. They were met by armed deputy sheriffs, who fire shots, killing 19 and wounding many others. Among the dead were Poles.

12 1683. Jan Sobieski III defeats Turks besieging Vienna.

1921. Birth of science fiction writer Stanislaw Lem (d. 2006).

14 1951. Death of painter and illustrator Artur Szyk.

15 1777. General Casimir Pulaski appointed general in the American Army as result of his role in the Battle of Brandywine.

16 1736. Death of Gabriel Daniel Fahrenheit, German scientist born in Gdansk in 1686, and who identified himself as a Pole.

17 1973. Death of historian Oscar Halecki (b. 1891).

18 **ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA**
1900. After a meeting in Scranton, Pa., several Roman Catholic church leaders decided to split from Rome and form the Polish National Catholic Church.

Piękna miska jeść nie daje. A beautifully decorated plate won't feed anyone.

22 1980. Workers approve the charter of the Solidarity Labor Union.

1896. Start of the first Polish Catholic Congress in Buffalo, founded by Rev. John Pitass.

24 1963. John Gronowski (d. 1996) appointed Postmaster General by President Kennedy—the first Polish-American to serve in the Cabinet position.

25 Feast of Blessed Wladyslaw of Gielniow, patron saint of Warsaw (1505).

26 1912. Polish National Alliance opens Alliance College in Cambridge Springs, Pa.

29 1856. Founding of St. Mary's, the first Polish church in America in Panna Maria, Texas.

31 1918. Austrian Forces are removed from Krakow.

This paper mailed on or before **September 1**. The October 2011 edition will be mailed on or before **September 30, 2011**.

Keeping Up on Things



BASIA ARMSTRONG, 16, enjoys reading the Polish American Journal while visiting her *starke* (grandmother) Ursula Armstrong in Minneapolis. An 11th-grader, she likes Spanish, Facebook, reading Polish political journals (especially "Fronda") and — of course — the Polish American Journal.

Reasons to Buy Life Insurance from a Polish American Fraternal Benefit Society

American Polonia's fraternal benefit societies were founded as mutual aid societies for the newly arrived. Over the past 100-plus years, these organizations have helped millions of Poles and their descendants by providing both financial assistance and guidance in assimilating to the American way of life.

Today, fraternal benefit societies offer more than financial benefits. Community and human needs, not always met by governmental bodies, are often addressed by fraternal. Through hands-on charitable and patriotic work, fraternal make a difference in the lives of individuals, communities and the nation.

When you join a Polish American fraternal benefit society, you contribute to a way of life that has sustained our people for generations.

1. Money, should something happen to you.
2. It's a supplement to your retirement.
3. To provide a way to peace of mind and security in old age.
4. It's a savings plan.
5. It's a way to borrow money.
6. You are contributing to the continuation of our Polish traditions and heritage.
7. Academic scholarships and grants for members and their children.
8. As a new outlet for social activities such as organized tours, trips, language classes, theater parties, golf outings, picnics, and children's parties, to name a few.

9. A subscription to the monthly publication, the Polish American Journal.

10. A way to give back to your community by participation in volunteer efforts.
11. A way to support organizations that promote our shared Polish heritage.
12. To help pay for your children's education.

Call a Polish American fraternal near you and see what it has to offer. You will be surprised to find out all that you are missing.

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Historian Celebrates 95 Birthday



FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Well-known historian and journalist **Edward Pinkowski** celebrated his 95th birthday on Friday, August 12. A widower, he lives in the Fort Lauderdale, area near his son Jack Pinkowski, Ph.D., who teaches at Nova Southeastern University.

Before moving to Florida, Pinkowski was a resident of Philadelphia, where he conducted research and published many articles. He is the author of several books on mine labor and Polish American history. His work led to the discovery of the house in the old city district where Thaddeus Kosciuszko lived and had meetings with historic notables such as Thomas Jefferson. The house was later turned into a museum and opened in 1976 under the administration of the National Park service. He also delved into the life of Casimir Pulaski, discovering not only the place where the general had his quarters at Valley Forge, but also his final resting place under the monument in Savannah, Ga., thus discounting the story that Pulaski was buried at sea.

His other lines of research resulted in the placement of a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania historical marker to commemorate Polish-born frontiersman Anthony Sadowski, many of whose descendants now use the name Sandusky. More research resulted in a marker that memorializes the Lattimer Massacre, a dark chapter in the history of Pennsylvania labor where a number of the victims who fell were unarmed Polish immigrant coal miners.

Pinkowski, the recipient of numerous awards for his work, continues to work on many writing and research projects. In 2007, despite having some difficulty walking, he traveled to Poland to attend a conference at the Pulaski Museum in Warka and then to visit the village of Kokoszki, near Lomza, where his father was born.

— Robert Strybel

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

Ronald Syslo, President

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JUST BETWEEN US / Mark Kohan

Is There Room for Compromise?

The dispute over church property is nothing new, especially to Polish Americans. During the late 19th century, many new Polish immigrants became dismayed with the Catholic Church hierarchy. Among the issues were: the lack of Polish priests being appointed to Polish parishes; the Church's insistence that Polish language was not to be taught in parish schools; and who owned church property. The latter of the three, particularly in Buffalo, N.Y. and Scranton, Pa., led to a split in the Roman Catholic Church, and the establishment of the Polish National Catholic Church.

Today, parishes in Detroit, Chicago, Boston, Cleveland, Buffalo, and Baltimore have been closed, merged, or dissolved. Others are fighting for their existence. Is it coincidence these parishes were ethnic in nature? Are they the ones to be closed because the people they once served have moved to the suburbs? What is the Church doing to replace those parishioners who have moved on?

Peter Borre, a church activist from Boston, Mass., who has represented appeals to the Vatican to keep ten local parishes open, says responsibility for closings falls on the diocesan bishops.

"One of the great threats to our proud ethnic and Catholic traditions in the United States comes from certain American bishops who are engaged in a massive program of unjust suppression against parishes with strong ethnic traditions," said Borre.

In 2010, Borre presented his case against "ethnic cleansing" to the highest-ranking Polish church official, Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski, the head of the Congregation for Catholic Education in the Vatican.

"The ethnic bias in parish closings in America is clearly evident," Borre said. "Dozens of such parishes of this type have been suppressed, or soon will be; in many such cases, the receiving parishes have been unwelcoming, or occasionally hostile."

THE VATICAN LISTENED, but ruled that a bishop—acting on what he believes to be good for his entire diocese—can close any parish, even if the parish is financially stable and has a solid, active membership.

"This is not a matter of a few isolated cases," Borre said. "Their program consists of a deliberate campaign of parish ethnic cleansing spreading across America. Looking at the pattern of parish closings, one can only conclude the bishops are going after ethnic parishes."

Over the years, I have been approached by dozens of people, often in tears, asking the *Polish American Journal* to help them in their fight to keep the church open. I am truly sympathetic to their plight. In retrospect, I regret not doing more to keep—or at least salvage—part of my parish of my birth.

The fight to keep any church open depends, to a certain extent, on what its parishioners will do to keep it open. A recent case in point is St. Stanislaus Kostka's in Adams, Mass. Parishioners held a non-stop vigil on site for over a year. The Vatican finally overruled the local

bishop and agreed to keep the parish open.

PARISHIONERS are doing the same thing now at Mater Dolorosa in Holyoke, Mass. The bishop, ironically the same Timothy McDonnell who tried to close St. Stan's, closed the church in June citing structural concerns.

Mater Dolorosa parishioners hired their own engineer, Neal Mitchell, who told members of the closed parish safety concerns were exaggerated. He also told them to continue to challenge the closing order.

"This was built by immigrants. It's one of the important parts of our culture and our heritage. To let this building disappear is fraudulent," Mitchell said.

"The ethnic bias in parish closings in America is clearly evident," Borre said.

The Diocese of Springfield, of course, shot back. Spokesman Mark Dupont questioned Mitchell's findings. "It's very careless to go around and just feed people things they want to hear especially when safety's the question. We are never going to put the safety of people at risk, we're standing by 100 percent our engineers report," Dupont said.

The Diocese of Buffalo took a wrecking ball to St. Barbara's Church in Lackawanna for the same reason. Along with several hundred others, I cheered when the allegedly faulty tower stood her ground against the tethered missile. And, almost to spite the Diocese, the wrecking ball got stuck in the tower on its third swing. The demolition crew had to climb up inside the "unstable" bell tower to pry the ball loose. Where was OSHA when you needed them?

My point is, more than likely, there is nothing is wrong with the structural integrity of Mater Dolorosa, just like there was nothing wrong with St. Barbara's tower. If the bishop had to close Mater Dolorosa because the Vatican said so, why doesn't he just say so? Because the Roman Catholic Church takes orders from above, which is probably one of the best understatements I've ever written.

THE VATICAN RULING giving bishops *carte blanche* does not bode well for churches like Mater Dolorosa, said Borre. "The message is: 'No parish is safe.'"

It is my opinion that if a bishop has the power to give a parish the thumbs up or down, he also has the power to compromise. A simple solution would be to allow churches—regardless of size—to stay open as long as they are not a drain on the diocese. In almost every closing this newspaper has covered, parishioners have told us their church "had money in the bank" and didn't owe a dime to anyone.

The standard response that follows is for the diocese in question to then play the "structural integrity" or the "priest shortage" card, which is too bad. There are some very creative and inventive people on most

church councils. If the church cannot fund its own repairs, then it must surrender. I think finding a priest of its own would reinvigorate any parish. The marked parishes could be given a grace period with the warning that once the diocese has to pay for utilities, repairs, or insurances, it will close it down. I think this is a reasonable solution that would keep both sides happy. Closing a sound parish is analogous to euthanasia. A little compassion would go a long way, and would arrest the sparks of what Catholic Studies author Phyllis Zagano calls "The coming American schism." (*National Catholic Reporter*, July 20, 2011).

"Schisms come in two basic flavors: juridical and theological. When it comes to ignoring bishops' juridical authority, the signs are already there," she writes. Examples cited include St. Peter's Church in Cleveland, where parishioners formed the Community of St. Peter in defiance of their bishop, Richard Lennon, and St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in St. Louis, where parishioners defied orders to close and hired their own priest rather than turn over their endowment to the archbishop.

"I do not know the answer, or what will stop the fracas, except that maybe somebody should go out into the parking lot and put 'WWJD' bumper stickers on all the cars before they speed away," she concluded. (Incidentally, someone keeps taking down St. Adalbert's "What Would Jesus Do" signs here in Buffalo. The East Side parish appealed to Rome following the diocese's plan to close it. The Vatican agreed with the parishioners, but Bishop Edward Kmiec reminded them it is still under his control, and after September 18, masses will end and the building will become an oratory. Stay tuned.)

Is the future of the Catholic Church at risk in the United States? Only time will tell. This is a topic Peter Borre shared with Cardinal Grocholewski.

In the best case scenario, he said, cardinals could "raise the point with others."

Let's hope they are listening.

POLAND'S POPULATION IS SHRINKING, data recently released by the Central Statistical Bureau (GUS) has shown. At present the country's population stands at 36.8 million compared to 38.2 million in 2004 when Poland joined the European Union and over a million Poles left for jobs in the British Isles and elsewhere. Quite a few have lived abroad for five years and it is uncertain whether they plan to return. A low birth rate incapable of offsetting the mortality rate has compounded the problem.

THE NATO-LED OPERATION in Afghanistan has claimed yet another Polish life, bringing the country's death toll in that mission to 25. Private Paweł Poświat, 29, was fatally wounded after a home-made bomb exploded next to the armored personnel carrier he was driving during a routine patrol mission.

Nearly 2,600 Polish troops are engaged in the Afghan mission.

— Robert Strybel

"Don't Merge Our Parishes!"



Poles rally against church closings in Minnesota.

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Singing in English and Polish, Minnesota Polonians led an August 6 rally against plans by controversial Minnesota Archbishop John C. Nienstedt to merge several parishes in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. The rally, on the steps of the Cathedral of St. Paul, attracted significant attention from the media and from passersby. Many of them honked their horns in support when they saw the 20-foot-long banner declaring: Don't merge our Parishes!

"We are not being heard!" declared John Armstrong, one of the rally organizers. He added that that only by their views publically could the faithful be sure that Archbishop Nienstedt knew about them. Rally participants prayed the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosaries asking for wisdom for the Archbishop and beseeched the Blessed John Paul II to intercede for their parishes. The rally asked the Archbishop to allow St. Austin's and Holy Cross in Minneapolis and St. John's in St. Paul (all parishes who have appeal to the Vatican) to remain open. Most organizers and participants were from Holy Cross, which is a Polish na-

tional parish and the last church in Minnesota that regularly has a Mass in Polish.

While Nienstedt did not come out to meet the protestors, the Archdiocese's Director of Communications Dennis B. McGrath appeared and attempted to convince those at the rally and the media that "nothing will change at Holy Cross" and that consultations prior to the parish mergers were extensive. McGrath's statements drew a strongly negative response. Polish immigrant Elisabeth Suszynska replied "that's not true!" She called on the Archbishop to come out and meet with rally participants declaring "if he was a leader he would be here."

The rally closed with the singing of the Polish and American National Anthems. The rally seemed to be generally well received by the public. One Minneapolis Swedish-American, learning of the rally, commented "they (the Archdiocese) should be happy that someone cares so much about their church."

Approximately 75 people participated in the rally, which was the first public expression of opposition to Nienstedt's merger plans.

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In 1978, a voluntary fund-raising campaign was launched by a group of loyal readers of the *Polish American Journal* entitled "We Love the Paj Press Fund" in order to help cover rising postage, material and production costs.

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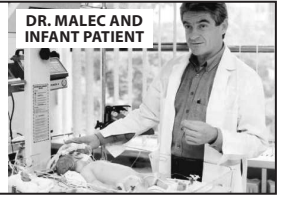
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SPEAK UP / Letters to the Editor

More News on Modern Poland

Dear Editor:

I am responding to your article "Nobody Reads it Anyway." (PAJ, July 2011).

I am the 61-year-old daughter of the later squadron leader Henryk Kolodziejek, 301st Squadron, based in Britain, who led bombing raids over Germany during World War II.

I have been visiting family in Poland since 1965, and I understand fully your commitment to promoting the continuance of Polish American culture.

As a reader of the *Polish American Journal*, I am struck each time

how "old fashioned" the paper is. The layout needs to be more modern to attract younger readership.

The main omission, however, in my opinion, is the complete lack of mention or information about the Mother Country today. Poland is, at last, a free, exciting, vibrant country once again in Europe, and yet there is nothing about the new Poland in your paper. It's as though Poland doesn't exist.

Americans don't readily travel the world, but there's no incentive for young people or families to do so to their ancestral home. Polish

people would love to see you!

You write a lot about the past. This is vital, but to deny the present puts everything in a living museum. To keep the next American / Polish generations interested, you have to show that Poland is an extremely cultural, beautiful, and fascinating country now—today—and so worth learning about and even visiting. More photos are needed, too.

I do hope you can continue to honor the past but also remember future generations and their needs.

Krysia Kolodziejek
Gloucestershire, Great Britain

Gabreski: Flying Ace a Native of Oil City

continued from cover

provided seed money to fund the marker.

The marker was unveiled under a slightly clouded-over sky that did not deter the assembled crowd of about 200 persons. Among the speakers and dignitaries present were: Oil City Mayor Sonja L. Hawkins, County Commissioner Jan Beichner, several representatives of state government, legislators and U.S. Congressmen, and Frank Spula President of the Polish National Alliance. Lt. Gordon P. Richards spoke for the U.S. Air Force, while Lt. Col. Peary Kearick said a few words on behalf the Army Veterans. A group of three aircraft, including a restored AT-6 trainer of World War II vintage, did four low-level fly-bys over the site. A unit of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Oil City presented the colors and fired a salute in honor of Col. Gabreski. At the conclusion Robert English played "Taps."

After the ceremony the attendees retired to the nearby PNA Hall Lodge 905 for a banquet. Here it was possible to view some Francis Gabreski memorabilia that has been preserved by the Lodge, as well as a wall sized painting of Col. Gabreski and his P-47 "Thunderbolt" fighter engaged in air combat with an Me-109 Messerschmidt. A modified version of this painting was used on the cover of the commemorative pro-



AT DEDICATION. (l. to r.): Peter Obst, Elizabeth Groch, Joseph Kaminski, Cynthia Groch, Frank Spula, Scott Frankowski, Timothy Kuzma

gram book. At the banquet's conclusion Janusz Romanski presented certificates of appreciation from the Polonia Technica Polish Engineers' Association. All went home happy to have been present at this exceptionally well organized ceremony. Guests from as far away as Philadelphia and Chicago were able to take with them an expertly designed souvenir program which, in addition to historical information, listed the many sponsors who financed or otherwise supported the event.

Those interested in Polish Amer-

ican history should be pleased to learn that the next historical marker to be dedicated will honor the small yet hardy group of Poles who came to Capt. John Smith's Jamestown Colony in Virginia starting in 1608. Ceremonies will be held in mid-July 2012 near Jamestown, Virg., under the auspices of the American Council for Polish Culture and the Polish American Arts Association of Washington, D.C.

For more information or to join the ACPC, visit its website: www.polishcultureacpc.org.

Smolensk: Tragedy Still Reverberates

continued from cover

airfield in sad technical shape with many of the runway lights burned out. By rights, the Russians should not have allowed a top-level foreign delegation to even land there. In addition, Smolensk air-traffic control had issued incorrect weather information and landing instructions. The Russian report claimed the Polish pilots wanted to land at all costs, but a blackbox deciphered by Polish investigators had registered the voice of the pilot trying to ascend after coming in for a landing and not being able to see the ground through heavy fog, with his copilot confirming that decision. The equipment on board simply failed to respond.

A swift reaction by Prime Minister Donald Tusk followed the release of the Miller report. It showed that, aside from Russian negligence, it was the Polish pilots' inadequate training, lack of experience, and inability to deal with emergencies that had contributed to the disaster.

Tusk accepted the resignation of his defense minister, fired more than a dozen top military officials and disbanded the air force unit in charge of flying Polish VIPs.

The Miller report showed that, aside from Russian negligence, the cause of the crash was the pilots' inadequate training, lack of experience, and inability to deal with emergencies.

As a result, a survey released soon thereafter showed that support for Tusk's Civic Platform (Platforma Obywatelska = PO) party had increased 3.7%. Thirty-seven percent of the respondents said they would vote for PO, and 26% expressed support for its main opposition rival, the conservative Law and Justice (Prawo i Sprawiedliwość = PiS) party of the late president's twin brother Jarosław.

That was good news for Tusk who hopes his party will be the first to win re-election since Poland regained its independence in 1989. But Kaczyński said the report showed that the Tusk wanted to avoid confrontation with the Russians at all cost and accused him of failing to "defend the good image of Poland, its armed forces and the honor of Polish soldiers." "It is Prime Minister Tusk who should resign," he added.

Whatever the case, it appears that Poland has not heard the last of the Smolensk tragedy. That disaster, which has polarized Polish public opinion more than any other event since Poland shed the communist yoke, appears likely to resurface time and again during the campaign and beyond. Although the possibility of a PiS victory seems highly unlikely at present, Kaczyński has vowed to "uncover the full truth about Smolensk" when and if he eventually gets to power.

Deportation: Story has Happy Ending

continued from cover

U.S. immigration officials rescinded their original decision. In a rare and unexpected reprieve, Janina was permitted to return to the United States based on her husband's extreme hardship. It was on this past June 13, while visiting the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, that an official handed Tony a fax stating that Janina could return to the United States. The great news came on Tony's birthday.

This ends a struggle, a legal battle marked with what appeared to be an endless 22-year fight. In 1989, Janina Haska emigrated from Poland to the United States, applying for political asylum based on her anti-communist Solidarity activism in Poland. While waiting for the finalization of her asylum petition, she met Tony Wasilewski, who arrived separately in the United States in 1989, obtained a green card, and applied for citizenship. In 1993, after years of delays, she met and married Tony. Now, her temporary visa had expired. Then, in 1995, Janina's political asylum petition was to be considered. With the collapse of communist rule in Poland, her petition for political asylum was denied. She was ordered to voluntarily depart the United States. However, with limited English-language skills, she was not given Polish-language legal representation. She was caught in a twisted, bureaucratic, insensitive immigration system.

In 1998, Janina went back to court, once again based on her political asylum petition. In 2005, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that it was unable to review her case, based on a 1996 immigration statute. This statute now barred her from re-entering the United States for at least 10 years. A clause in this statute stated that deportation, based on the impacted hardship it would cause her American citizen son, was denied as well. Thus, in June 2007, Janina and Brian departed for Nowa Miasto Lubawskie, a country town located in north central Poland.

In September 2007, Tony testified in front of the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship and Border Security. Tony did not give up hope. He continued his campaign

for his wife's return and his crusade for immigration reform. In the meantime, he sold his home at a loss, in order sent money to his wife and son; he lost most of his economically-strained cleaning service. If that were not enough, he had a heart attack, cared for a cancer-stricken father, went into a deep depression, and, at times, thought about ending his life.

On the day of Janina and Brian's departure, a photojournalist, Ruth Leitman, happened to be at O'Hare Airport International Terminal working on a freelance assignment. The Wasilewski heart wrenching tearful departure caught her attention. Leitman made a decision. She would record Tony's anguish. So for more than two years, Ruth followed Tony, documenting the deportation departure, his continuing legal battle, his declining mental health, his day-to-day life, including the day he became an American citizen. The documentary, "Tony and Janina's American Wedding" produced by Ruth and her husband, Steven Dixon, was taken to church basements, public libraries, several Chicago-area movie theaters, the Polish Film Festival, and anywhere else that they could. Both Leitman and Wasilewski were interviewed by Chicago's PBS television station, WTTW Channel 11. We reviewed it as a "must see." After the interview, PBS presented the documentary film. Tony's story was also featured on MSNBC's *Dylan Ratigan Show*. Tony mentioned that he wanted to vindicate the American dream and to restore Janina's dignity and honor. Leitman plans an epilogue to the documentary, adding a happy ending. Her hopes are that this film will help reform the broken immigration system.

Further information about Tony and Janina can be found at www.tonyandjanina.org or at www.weareamericastories.org.

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TRAVELOGUE / Staś Kmieć

Street Musicians, Apostles, and a Pendulum

A CITY OF MUSIC. As street musicians vie for your attention and spare change at every corner, Kraków's Old Town resounds with music of every style. I passed by two young boys dressed in period attire playing duets of classical court music, and then a *Krakowskie kapela* of folk musicians in traditional village costumes of the region. I hope that they do not become an endangered species among the numerous competing artists in this historic district.

More demanding audiences may choose between frequent concerts and recitals of classical music and the diverse musical offerings of numerous clubs. There is also no shortage of shops selling CDs in downtown Kraków, where the latest releases of the world's top artists are available as soon as they are launched in Paris or Berlin. Radio stations mostly fill the local airwaves with recent international



MUSICIANS of all types (and ages) are plentiful on Krakow's streets.

picturesque, and most for the unique artistic and historical objects they contain.



THE STONE STATUES were created by the Jesuit artist Dawid Heel almost 300 years ago.

hits and their domestic counterparts, though a few specialize in jazz or classical music. The Old Town's huge Market Square often serves as an open-air concert venue, when some ensembles and pop bands take up residence on a makeshift stage by the Town Hall Tower.

I had just missed the All Souls Jazz Festival (*Krakowskie Zaduszki Jazzowe*) – Europe's oldest jazz festival. It has attracted both Polish and foreign jazzmen, as well as jazz fans every for over half century.

NORTHERN ROME. The abundance of magnificent churches in Kraków, together with the plentitude of its monasteries and convents has earned the city a reputation as the "Northern Rome" in the past. In 1596 Giovanni Paolo Mocante, one of the Pope's legations to Kraków wrote that "if there was no Rome, Kraków would be Rome." To this day Kraków has been a very popular destination for religious travelers and pilgrims; and this is mostly due to its number and diversity of churches, most of which are noteworthy for their architecture and internal decorations representative of all the artistic eras.

There is no other place in this part of Europe where one can find so many tombs of persons recognized by the Catholic Church as saints or blessed. Pope John Paul II canonized or beatified eight persons whose lives were related to the city, and whose tombs are located here.

The churches remain the centers of spiritual life and are attended throughout the week and crowded on Sundays. The number of new churches increases each year, but visitors take interest mostly in the old temples — some noteworthy as architectural achievements, some



SAINTS PETER & PAUL was the first baroque church in Kraków.

A CLOISTER OF APOSTLES. I walked down the Old Town's cobble Grodzka street to reach the familiar Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul (*Kościół Świętych Apostołów Piotra i Pawła*). The location is one I have frequented on most of my visits to the city. It is the beautiful cloister above the gateway of 12 statues of the apostles that first drew me to this church. The front railing was designed in the early 18th century, with the statues added almost a hundred years later.

The stone figures, looming larger-than-life-size above, are recent replicas of the late Baroque originals, which now can be seen in the side yard. The statues, created by the Jesuit artist Dawid Heel almost 300 years ago, were considerably damaged by acid rain and atmospheric pollution. They were made with Pińczów limestone. Today, in place of the 18th century statues there are lesser quality contemporary replicas made of the same material.

PIOTR SKARGA. Commissioned

for the Jesuit order, Saints Peter and Paul was the first baroque church in Kraków. Built on a cruciform plan, it is one of the most faithful examples of transplanting the architecture of the famous del Gesù Church in Rome to foreign soil, featuring a fine Baroque façade and mighty dome. The founder of the church, Father Piotr Skarga Poweński (known as Piotr Skarga), a famous 17th-century militant Jesuit preacher — the first Polish representative of the Counter-Reformation, is immortalized with a monument opposite to the church; a crypt containing his sarcophagus is buried inside.

The name "Skarga," (which means "accusation"), is likely because of the priest's career as a reformer and critic. The loose translation would be "Peter the Accuser." From what I have read he was not an entirely admirable man, earning a reputation as "Good

Jesuit's Counter-Reformation sermons could be heard throughout the church. The tall dome has the highest straight drop from any ceiling in Kraków.

FOUCAULT PENDULUM. Every Thursday inside the Church, demonstrations are held of the longest Foucault pendulum in Poland (over 152 feet high), suspended for the popular display of the Earth's rotation. Named after the French physicist Léon Foucault, the experimental apparatus consists of a tall pendulum free to swing in any vertical plane.

It was hung in 1949 on the initiative of two professors. It was put on display again in 1991 during the anniversary of Mikołaj Kopernik's arrival to the city. A two-year renovation period required that the pendulum be taken down.



In 2000, a local daredevil climbed from the outside and again hung the string in the telescope of the dome. One can stay and watch Foucault's pendulum in action. It takes at least an hour before one starts to notice anything happening.

The controversial monument, strongly criticized by some voices in the local media, is only one of the many examples of contemporary monuments to have sparked strong reactions amongst Krakowians.

THE CHURCH. A piece of Rome at the foot of Wawel, the dome-like cupola can be seen from many places in the city. In the niches of its façade are the statues of Jesuit saints: Ignatius of Loyola, Francis Xavier, Aloysius Gonzaga, and Stanisław Kostka, also made by Dawid Heel. Above the main portal, there's the emblem of the order of Jesuits with Saints Sigismund of Burgundy and Ladislaus I of Hungary.

The interior is not as impressive as the exterior, but well worth a look. With high white columns and

walls, elaborate stucco decoration, and ceilings decorated with exquisite moldings, it is as monumental as it is austere. Enclosed in a semi-circle, the chancel is home to the high altar designed by Kacper Bażanka, with a 19th-century painting depicting the presentation of the keys to St Peter. In the apse of the presbytery, there are also his scenes from the life and death of Saints Peter and Paul. The interior design was

HISTORY. Jesuits arrived in Poland soon after the Council of Trident of 1563. Following the decisions reached at the Council, they were to defend the Catholic faith from the influence of the Reformation and its ideas. With the support of King Stefan Batory, they received the Church of St. Barbara where the Order established a modest residence. The Jesuits could not carry out their pastoral duties properly due to the small size of the Church. King Zygmunt III Waza earmarked appropriate funds for the foundation of a new church.

Kraków contains a wealth of historic buildings and is deemed a World Heritage Site.

The building was begun in 1595 by Jesuit Giuseppe Brizio. After some difficulties and a few structural problems, it was completed in 1605-19 by Giovanni Battista Treveno, court architect to the king, who perfected the original design of Józef Britius. The façade was completed in 1619. Evidently the cost of this was so great that the remainder of the exterior is of ordinary brick.

In the years 1809-1815, at the time of the Partitions of Poland, the place of worship served as an Orthodox church. In 1842, the church took over the functions of the Roman Catholic Congregation of All Saints, which was demolished at that time. In 1960 the church was raised to the rank of the Smaller Basilica. Restoration work performed in the 1950's received more attention in the 1990s, and the upkeep has been an ongoing process.

Kraków contains a wealth of historic buildings and is deemed a World Heritage Site. With over 80 buildings restored to date, some 1700 still need urgent attention.

Before the row of Apostles gazing from above, the constant street music took a turn toward classical beauty. Violinist Nadir Aliyev had been camped in front of the structure playing Pachulski's *Prelude*, along with music by Vivaldi, Saint-Saëns, Bach, and Schubert. He is among many foreign street performers from bordering countries, who have made their way to Kraków to seek the monetary kindness of tourists. I purchased three of his *Violin Classic* CDs and took my last photos.

As the sun set, I strolled down the cobble street with Gounod's *Ave Maria* trailing behind me in the distance.

Next month: a final feast in Kraków

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Crucifix Restored

Mark Zawkiewicz was part of a team of Knights of Columbus in Sacramento, Calif., who restored the 700-pound marble corpus of Christ and remounted the crucifix over the entrance of St. Ignatius of Loyola Church. The crucifix lay exposed to the weather for 15 years after it was brought to the parish from a closed retreat house in Asuza, Calif.

STO LAT TO... Lydia Zielinski of St. John Newmann RC parish in Strykersville, N.Y., on her installation as board member of the Buffalo Diocesan Youth Board for 2011-2012. Outgoing Board member Jessica Dytschkowskyj, 17, passed the commission on to her. Another outgoing member, Kailin Kuze-wicz, 16, from St. Martha's parish in Depew, N.Y., noted "My communication skills are going to be a big thing that I will take away from Youth Board. I'm no longer afraid to talk in front of people and say how I feel."

Fr. Jan Trela, from the diocese of Rzeszów, Poland on being named parochial vicar at Blessed Angela RC Parish in Dunkirk, N.Y., for a period of three years. Since his ordination in 1998, Fr. Trela had served in parishes throughout Poland and Kazakhstan.

Ronald and Elizabeth Simurdiak of Phillips, Wis., on of three families honored by the Knights of Columbus for their exceptional service to their communities. They were named International Family of the Year at the Knights' 129th convention in Denver. The Smurdiaks mortgaged the family farm to purchase property that was transformed into a St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store for low income individuals. The whole family, including their children Joseph, John and Jenna, worked together to raise funds for the project.

Bishop Mark Bartchak of the Altoona-Johnstown diocese and Mary Kowalski of Holy Rosary Parish in Juniata, Altoona, Penn., on being honored along with nine others with the Prince Gallitzin Cross Award at the annual awards dinner at Mount Aloysius College in Cresson, Penn.

Frs. Benedict Jurchak and Zygmunt Mazankowski, both third Order Regular Franciscans, on their ordination by Bishop Emeritus Joseph V. Adamec of Altoona-Johnstown.

NURSES SEW QUILTS FOR PATIENTS. Laura Nowak, a member of Blankets for Comfort, together with Pat Vitthuhn of St. Mary's Piecemakers, at St. Mary's Church in Swarmsville, N.Y., work in ambulatory care at Kenmore Mercy Hospital. With a team of quilters they sew quilts for their patients to take home with them as an additional comfort as they recuperate. Both

organizations accept donations of fabric for their project.

POPE JOHN PAUL II MEMORIALIZED IN SONG. Tom Quiner has completed a CD and/or DVD called *The Pope of the People*. The 15 songs dramatize the Pope John Paul II's first decade in office as he battled for the soul of Poland. For more information: www.thePopeof-thePeople.com or call (515) 276-9266.

The Choir of the Diocese of Rome made a six-city tour in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut in June. The choir is in residence at the Basilica of St. John Lateran, the cathedral church of the diocese of Rome, the pope's diocese. The tour was in homage to Blessed Pope John Paul II and featured music composed for his beatification ceremony as well as traditional sacred music and a medley of rarely heard Italian songs from the '30s to the '50s.

SCHOOL CHOICE FAVORED. Bishop Mark Bartchak of the RC Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown has spoken in favor of the Pennsylvania lawmakers' proposal to extend financial assistance to parents who choose to send their children to Catholic schools where they feel the children have a better chance of success. He sees this as righting a wrong that penalizes the children

of hardworking families forced into a system that does not serve their best interests. Indiana legislators approved such a measure which will go into effect this fall.

CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION AT DOYLESTOWN. Justin Cardinal Rigali, of the archdiocese of Philadelphia, led the traditional Corpus Christi procession at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa in Doylestown, Pa., after the celebration of mass and a homily which reminded the participants of the importance of understanding that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist.

MASSES IN HONOR OF OUR LADY. Our Lady of Częstochowa, patroness of Poland and of Polish Americans, was honored at St. Paul's Cathedral in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh on her feast day, Friday, August 26, at a 7:00 p.m. Mass celebrated by Bishop David A. Zubik under the sponsorship of the Polish Falcons of America and the Polish Clergy of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

While a Mass will also be offered on August 26 at the Doylestown Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa, the feast will be celebrated on the following Sunday which coincides with the pilgrimage of the Polish Women's Alliance of America and the Polish Apostolate Day.

MODLITWY / Prayers

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.

ST. JUDE NOVENA. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the helpless, pray for us. Recite nine times a day. By the 8th day, your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I.C.S.

THANKSGIVING NOVENA TO ST. JUDE. Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near the kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent position. In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. (Say three Our Fathers, Three Hail Marys, Three Glory Be's). St. Jude pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Amen. Publication must be promised. This prayer is to be said for nine consecutive days. This novena has never been known to fail. My prayers have been answered. M.A.E.

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

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

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Pope John Paul's Jewish Miracle



THE REVITALIZATION of Jewish culture in Poland is miraculous, says Rabbi Maller. Above: dancers take to the streets of Krakow during the annual Jewish Cultural Festival.

by Rabbi Allen S. Maller

A second public miracle is needed in order to proclaim Pope John Paul II a saint, and that second miracle could be the revival of Jewish music and Jewish life in Poland, according to Reform Rabbi Allen S. Maller, who was a visiting scholar for two months at Beit Warszawa, a Reform synagogue, in the Fall of 2010.

Rabbi Maller points to an interview of Sir Gilbert Levine by Cecile S. Holmes, distributed by Religious News Service (1/5/11) that revealed John Paul's role in the resurrection of Jewish music in Poland by the Jewish Cultural Festival in Krakow.

Sir Gilbert Levine, whose conducting career spanned the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic, and the Dresden Staatskapelle, was a Jew from Brooklyn. In 1987, Levine was invited to be guest conductor and artistic director of the Krakow Philharmonic in John Paul's native Poland. The invitation was unsettling since Levine's grandparents had fled Poland to escape the Nazis and members of his wife's family had died in Auschwitz. Also living in Krakow in 1987 meant living behind the Iron Curtain, but Levine accepted anyway.

Soon after Levine arrived in Krakow, the Vatican invited him to Rome for an audience with Pope John Paul. That invitation led to others, and Levine was invited to conduct a concert in 1988 to mark the 10th anniversary of John Paul's election. Thus began almost two decades of musical collaboration and a joint mission of peacemaking. Three years later, in 1991, the first public Jewish Cultural Festival was held in Krakow. John Paul and Levine also worked together on a 1994 concert to commemorate the Holocaust.

When Levine arrived in Krakow there was no Jewish music in Krakow but his presence and his close connection with the first Polish Pope inspired some Poles in 1989 and 1990 to dream of reviving the Jewish musical tradition in Poland. Today there are more than two dozen Polish klezmer bands and several Polish groups that play and sing both Yiddish and Hebrew songs. To-

day there are Liberal Reform synagogues with Rabbis in Warsaw (2) and Krakow (1) that welcome Poles to programs of Jewish music and culture. The partnership of a Polish Pope and a Jewish conductor, stimulated a musical engagement of Poles with Jewish souls, and Jewish music for Polish souls.

Levine still recalls his friendship with the pope with a touch of wonder. When asked how his relationship with the pope affected him, Levine said it deepened his faith, "and he honored that Jewish faith wonderfully."

He also said it deepened his music making. "I understand the spiritual side of music in a deeper and better way than I ever did before. It made me understand that there is no such thing as judging a person by the country they come from, the religion they practice or any other surface issue. Only by the character of their soul should a person be judged. I was always astonished by the fact that he could let me into his life the way that he did. For him to have been open to such a friendship is just amazing."

"My seventeen years with John Paul taught me so much. The power of music and spirit to foster hope, transformation, healing and love. And more about the mysteries of faith, not one but three: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The potential for reconciliation and redemption in the face of violence and sadness."

❖ ❖ ❖

Rabbi Maller is a graduate of UCLA and the Hebrew Union College. He has taught at Gratz College in Philadelphia, the Hebrew Union College and the University of Judaism in Los Angeles, and at the UCLA Extension. He is past president of the Southern California Association of Reform Rabbis and is now president of the National Jewish Hospitality Committee.

Rabbi Maller has also published many articles on Jewish sociology and education in popular magazines, both Jewish and Christian. He has also published original research in the scholarly journals "Jewish Social Studies" and "Judaism."

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CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin S. Nowak

Premier Gomulka's U.S. Connection

Praised and vilified both at home and abroad, Władysław Gomułka had a tumultuous political career that twice saw him rise to the pinnacle of power in Communist Poland.

Born in 1905 in Krosno, Poland to working class parents, he embraced socialism during his teens. His personal textbooks were the writings of Marx and Lenin. Working as a locksmith from age fourteen, young Władysław was soon organizing communist labor groups. He joined the Polish Socialist Party at sixteen, soon after the Communist Party, and studied at the Lenin Institute in Moscow in 1934.

Gomułka was jailed for his communist activities in Poland in 1926, 1932 and 1936. Upon the outbreak of World War II in 1939, he was released to help in the defense of Poland. As his country was overwhelmed by the German invasion, Gomułka fled east to the USSR. There, he met with Soviet dictator Stalin and made part of the nascent Polish communist government, set to take over Poland as Soviet forces pushed the Germans out.

Gomułka was named secretary general of the Polish Communist Party in 1944 and also made deputy premier of Poland by the Soviets. The West recognized this government in 1945, making him the first official leader of post-war communist Poland.

However, by 1948 Gomułka was removed from these posts, accused of ideological crimes by party rivals, and imprisoned from 1951-54. He had offended Stalinist hard-liners by espousing a "Polish road to socialism." Though communist to the core, Gomułka was also a proud Pole. But communism the Polish way was anathema to the Soviets, who believed in an international brand of the ideology, of course controlled by Moscow.

After the Poznań worker riots of 1956, the hard-liners in charge grew scared. They turned to Gomułka for

help. And he was returned to his position as head of the Communist Party. His return was welcomed by the Polish people, even anti-communists. If Poland had to be ruled by a communist, it might as well be by one who remembered that he was a Pole.

Western nations, including the United States, also cheered the events, which created international headlines. Gomułka's return seemed to herald a serious crack in Soviet control of east Europe. He introduced reforms but over time no serious break with Moscow occurred, and freedom and democracy for Poland remained only a dream.

In 1959 U.S. Vice President Richard Nixon stopped in Warsaw following a visit to Moscow. He met with Premier Gomułka and other officials and urged an open exchange of ideas and freer trade. Gomułka countered by criticizing Radio Free Europe and implored the United States to recognize his country's post-World War II borders. Nothing substantive was accomplished.

The following year Gomułka attended the United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York, thus becoming the first leader of Poland to set foot on American soil. Though not an official state visit, he conferred with Secretary of State Christian Herter. President Eisenhower deliberately declined to meet with Gomułka to protest a lack of progress toward freedom in Poland. Gomułka issued a message to Polish Americans, invoking the names of Kościuszko and Pułaski to appeal to them to support friendship between the two governments.

In 1968 Gomułka led a purge against Polish Jews in his government and Polish Jews in general. This was supposedly done because Jews were perceived as supporters of Israel in the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, in opposition to the communist government's support of the Arabs. Others speculated that the crack-

down was done to distract attention from dire economic problems in Poland, and was blatant anti-Semitism.

Gomułka was removed from power in 1970 after anti-government riots led by Polish shipyard



workers in Gdańsk. He lived in obscurity until his death in 1982.

But Władysław Gomułka's connection with the United States went beyond meeting Richard Nixon and visiting the U.N. His sister Józefa lived in Detroit and he met with her during his New York visit. In 1900 his parents, Jan and Kunegunda, had immigrated to America. Jan worked in the Pennsylvania coal mines for a few years, but disillusioned, he took his family back to Poland before Władysław was born.

Is it possible that Jan Gomułka's dissatisfying experience in capitalist America shaped his son's political and social views and made Władysław the communist that he became? In his 1969 book Gomułka, author Nicholas Bethell states:

"The emigre Gomułkas did not like America... Władysław Gomułka was brought up as a socialist. His father Jan had cause to feel bitter toward the capitalist system after his abortive attempt to make good in the new world, after returning to Krosno and bringing up his children in poverty."

POLAND FIGHTS / Douglas W. Jacobson

The Founding of Zegota

Would you risk your own life and your family's to save another human being?

"Zegota is a story of thousands of common people who did just that during the brutal Nazi occupation of Poland. The risk-takers were Polish Christians who saved Polish Jews destined for the death camps. They came from all areas of life, educated or not, religious or not, from large cities or small villages, as members of the Polish resistance or unorganized individuals. They all knew the possible price to be paid, nevertheless, they acted."

—From *Project InPosterum*

Resistance was not new to the Poles whose country had been ravaged and partitioned by its

enemies from the late 1700s until 1918. So, when the Nazi occupiers arrived in 1939, they resisted again. But none of them expected the depravity and brutality that quickly descended upon them. By 1942 this level of depravity had reached unimaginable proportions when more than a million Polish Jews had died of starvation and random massacres. It was now apparent that the Nazi occupiers intended to exterminate the entire Jewish population. Despite the laws that mandated the death penalty for anyone aiding Jews, hundreds of Polish Christians acted independently to help their Jewish friends and neighbors. But it wasn't enough. Something had to be done to coordinate and organize this effort on a massive scale. That task was taken up by two Polish women,



Kossak



Krahelska

Zofia Kossak and Wanda Krahelska-Filipowicz, who founded the organization that came to be known by the code-name 'Zegota.'

Zofia Kossak was a conservative nationalist and well-known writer. Often a political opponent of most Jewish groups in pre-war Poland, Kossak was generally considered to be anti-Semitic. But that did not stand in her way of coming to the aid of Poland's persecuted Jews when it mattered. As an ardent patriot she joined the Polish underground resistance immediately after the war began and was soon on the Gestapo's most-wanted list. She changed her name frequently and took up the crusade to organize aid to the Jews despite being constantly hunted by the Gestapo.

Wanda Krahelska-Filipowicz had been in the Polish resistance since taking part in a bombing attack on the Russian governor of Warsaw in 1908. Long a social activist, she knew many of the leaders of the Polish Home Army, AK, and was able to use her influence in recruiting help and funding for aiding Poland's Jews.

Through the persistent efforts of these two women, the Zegota organization grew, including both Christian and Jewish underground activists, to the point where it had over a hundred individual cells operating in Warsaw, Krakow, Wilno and Lwow. Zegota delivered food, relief funds, medical care and, to those Jews in hiding on the 'Aryan' side, false identification papers. This relief was also delivered to Jews already imprisoned in several forced labor camps. Zegota operatives placed Jewish children with Christian foster families, orphanages and church organizations, all under the ever-present cloud of immediate execution should their actions be discovered.

Zegota could not stop what eventually became known as the Holocaust, which claimed the lives of more than six million European Jews. But there were several thousand Polish Jews who survived the war because of the heroism of common people who defied the occupier and risked their lives for their fellow man.

❖ ❖ ❖

Douglas W. Jacobson is the Polish-American author of the award-winning book, Night of Flames: A Novel of World War Two, and a frequent contributor to this newspaper. Mr. Jacobson has written a second historical novel set in Poland in World War II, The Katyn Order, which was released in May, 2011. Both books are available on-line and at any bookstore. You can visit him on the web at www.douglaswjacobson.com.

Be sure to tell our advertisers you saw their ad in the Polish American Journal.

GENEALOGY

CCSU to Host Genealogical Conference October 14-15

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. — The 2011 Polish Genealogical Conference will be held in the Student Center at Central Connecticut State University October 14-15. The conference is being sponsored by the Endowed Chair of the Polish and Polish American Studies at Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, Conn., along with the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast

The event is open to the public and free parking is available in campus parking lots.

The conference is of a truly international and multi-ethnic flavor. Speakers will feature lectures on genealogical resources in neighboring nations whose histories are intertwined with that of Poland, Belarus, Lithuania, Russia and Ukraine.

Among those speaking are individuals well known in Polish genealogy circles. Daniel Bućko, of Krakow, Poland, will deliver lectures on searching Polish Roots onsite in the Archives of Belarus and Lithuania and also on Polish online digitized historical sources. Matthew Bielawa and Jonathan Shea will speak on research for beginners which will include a discussion of civil and church records and suggest other resources for identifying ancestral villages in Europe, as well as archives

in Poland that hold relevant records. Bielawa will also talk on how to plan a research trip to Poland. Stephen Barthel of Minnesota will deliver lectures on The Family History Library, and the latest developments in acquiring records from various Eastern European archives and passenger lists and police records in Poland. He was an International Reference Consultant for the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. Donna Pointkouski will present a talk on Polish peasants in the 19th century, and Patrick Raycraft will instruct participants as to the best methods on learning to use photography as a tool in their research. Raycraft is a staff photographer at *The Hartford Courant*. Thomas Sadauskas of Virginia will lecture on The International Tracing Service and Paul Valasek of Chicago will speak on Immigrant Steamships and Haller's Polish Army in France. Romuald Byczkiewicz, who is a Professor of History at CCSU, will talk on Polish peasants in the 19th century.

All speakers have extensive experience in their respective fields and have been featured at numerous regional and national conferences.

The conference will also display examples of resource books, maps and other materials. Personal help in

translating genealogical documents will also be offered, as will opportunities for informal discussion with the speakers.

If postmarked by September 10, the cost for the Friday, October 14 event is \$25 per person. Saturday's event, which includes a Polish American buffet lunch, is \$55. For persons planning to attend the conference both days, the cost is \$70. If postmarked after September 10, the cost for Friday will be \$30, Saturday will be \$60 and both days will be \$80.

Please send registration forms or requests for more information to Diane Szepanski, Conference Chair, 138 Fern Drive, Plantsville, CT 06479. Information and forms are available online at <http://www.pgscne.org/2011%20Conference/index%20page.html> or by email at Szepanski3@cox.net.

Johnson, Gorski to Speak at PGSM Conference

TROY, Mich. — The Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan's 33rd Annual Conference will feature Baerbel K. Johnson, AG, professional genealogist at the Family History Center, Salt Lake City, who

will speak on Prussian Poland, and J. William Gorski, vice president of PGSM, who will address researching in Michigan. The event will be held Sat., Oct. 15, 2011, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 E. Maple Rd. (15 Mile Rd) at Dequindre Rd.

The cost of the seminar, continental breakfast, and full Polish lunch is \$65.00 or \$100 per couple. There will be vendor tables, syllabus, and door prizes.

To register, mail check or money order before October 3rd to: Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, Burton Historical Collection, c/o Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48202-4007

For more information, e-mail vkoselka.pgsm@gmail.com

Rooms are available at the Courtyard by Marriott, Detroit-Troy, 1525 E. Maple Rd, Troy MI (248) 528-5800 www.marriott.com.

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Penderecki Conducts Penderecki

It has come to a point in time, when Chicago's Grant Park Music Festival outshines the world-recognized Ravinia Festival where the Chicago Symphony Orchestra performs during the summertime. Perfect examples were concerts conducted by **Krzysztof Penderecki**, Poland's most revered present day composer. The 77 year-old Penderecki is most deserving of this recognition for his 50-plus years of composing and conducting. On July 15 and 16, this left-handed maestro, a non-baton conductor, a rarity in the podium world, led the Grant Park Orchestra's evening program, "Penderecki Conducts Penderecki," which featured the internationally-renowned cellists, Julie Albers of the U.S., Kira Kraftzoff of Russia, and Amit Peled of Israel. As Penderecki conducted his own composition, *Concerto Grosso No. 1* for Three Cellos and Orchestra, the trio played with skill and passion for 35 minutes without pauses. With Chicago's large Polish population, it was not surprising to note that the Jay Pritzker Pavilion and the lawn of Chicago's Millennium Park was overflowing with literally thousands of concert goers speaking Polish along with Russian, English, and Hebrew. In addition to the Maestro own composition, he conducted Beethoven's *Eroica* symphony.

The last time Penderecki made an appearance in Chicago was in 2000, when he conducted the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as it performed Penderecki's own *Symphony No. 7*, along with Schubert's *Symphony No. 5*.

A pre-concert onstage salute to Poland, as it takes the six-month Presidency of the Council of the European Union, was moving to both the audience's Poles and non-Poles alike. Penderecki's appearance at the Grant Park Music Festival was supported by the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland.

PERHAPS AMERICA'S "GREENEST" HOUSE! Driving through the quiet tree-lined Edgebrook neighborhood on Chicago's Northwest Side, one could easily pass by what appears to be a typical Chicago house. But appearances are deceiving. Among the houses there is one certified as, perhaps, the greenest home in the country.



Penderecki

Homeowner **Jacek Helenowski's** meticulous research and dedication in remodeling his house resulted in receiving the highest scored energy-efficient and affordably built home in the United States and was awarded a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum Certification. He used almost every conceivable type of recycled and reclaimable resource. This six-bedroom, four-bathroom, 3,300 square-foot gutted and rehabbed house is a net-zero energy house with rooftop solar power and a vertical axis rotating wind turbine.

He estimated that the cost of this home renovation project was a bit more than \$1 million, but he would not reveal the exact cost. However, he did mention that construction costs in Chicago are approximately \$150 per square foot, and the costs related to this house were less than \$80 per square foot. "Everything you can think of that is green is in this house," Helenowski mentioned. Over 90% of this project is salvaged from fires and old buildings. Its insulation is from soybeans and old blue jeans. The rooftop windmill is used to silently generate the home's electricity and does not harm birds. Even the roof is constructed from recycled car tires. Fire-scorched timbers were used for the ceilings. The dry wall is made almost entirely from recycled gypsum obtained from coal-burning plants in East Chicago, Illinois. A spa-heat retention system is used to store extra heat. The cold-cathode lighting used in this house is three times more efficient than LED lighting. Eco-friendly bamboo is used for the home's flooring. Even a pellet

burner in the basement provides hot water. The pellets are manufactured from the sawdust of the home's construction.

Helenowski pays nothing to heat his home in the winter, and he keeps it cool for free in the summer thanks to the wind turbine and solar panels on the roof. The items used throughout this renovation are endless with energy-efficient, "green house" orientated materials. Helenowski started this "labor of love" construction in 2004. He and his family have been living in their new home since this past June. Most ironic is that Helenowski grew up in this home as a boy, and now he's turned it into an award winning dream home. The Helenowski residence was designed by Mariusz Bleszynski, AIA, and built by Square 1 Precision Lighting whose owner happens to be Jacek himself.



Helenowski's home

However, this "green house" is not without controversy. It has created a problem between Jacek and his neighbors. The rotating roof turbine is "causing dizziness/migraine-inducing strobe-light reflections" and creating revolving shadows onto the surrounding homes. Neighbors claim that a "green house" is not very environmentally efficient, if there is a "negative impact on the neighbors' quality of life." Neighbors have asked the city's Department of Buildings to check on all building codes. But Helenowski's home is the first of its kind in Chicago, exempting him from new building permit policies.

EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF POLONIA'S FINEST. On August 10, Chicago's Holy Name Cathedral was filled to capacity with Polish and Hispanic communities gathered together with over 400 priests

and 36 bishops from the United States, Poland and Mexico to celebrate the episcopal ordination of **Andrew Wypych** and Alberto Rojas, newly-appointed bishops of the Archdiocese of Chicago. The Consecrator and Principal Celebrant of the quadrilingual Liturgy was Francis Cardinal George, Archbishop of Chicago, along with Co-consecrators Gustavo Garcia-Stiller, Archbishop of San Antonio and Józef Guzdek, Bishop of the Military Ordinariate of Poland. Bishops Wypych and Rojas thanked the congregation for their support in three languages, much to the surprise and applause of all. Bishop Wypych especially thanked his priest-friends who presented him with a special crozier from Krakow. The fourth language, Latin, was included in the Liturgy. The entire ceremony was 2.5 hours in duration, but it was

filled with joyous celebration. Bishop Wypych and Bishop Rojas invited all to a special reception at the Quigley Archdiocesan Center.

Later that evening, a special dinner, hosted by Bishop Wypych, was held at the Jolly Inn on Chicago's Northwest side. This, "by invitation only," gala had over 200 guests from Chicago's Polonian community. Even though some of the congratulatory speeches were spoken in Polish; the Most Reverend Andrew Wypych spoke in English, much to the surprise of a number of guests.

BISHOP PAPROCKI TO BE HONORED. On Sunday, September 11, 2011, an annual dinner to benefit the Bishop Abramowicz Seminary will be held at the Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile Hotel, Chicago. There will also be a silent auction.

The Bishop Abramowicz Seminary Program began in September 1999. This program has annually recruited seminarians from Poland who, with the approval of their respective bishops, have elected to leave Poland with the vision of completing their seminary training in the Chicago area, first through the Bishop Abramowicz Seminary Program in Chicago, followed by

continued studies at the University of St. Mary of the Lake, also known as Mundelein Seminary, in Mundelein, Illinois.

These seminarians serve in various capacities throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago, both in non-Polish as well as Polish-oriented parishes. The generosity of these young men deserves the fullest support from all members of the Archdiocese and beyond. All benefit from their pastoral ministry.

This unique seminary program is almost self-sustaining, as are other Archdiocese seminaries. However, monetary help is still needed. The Bishop Abramowicz Seminary Benefit Committee requests that those who can support these remarkable seminarians attend the annual benefit dinner. Tickets are \$175 per person. Checks should be made payable to the Bishop Abramowicz Seminary Program. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Among those attending will be His Eminence Francis Cardinal George, OMI, Archbishop of Chicago, and the auxiliary bishops of the Chicago Archdiocese. This year, the Bishop Abramowicz Seminary will pay tribute to **His Excellency Thomas J. Paprocki**, Bishop of Springfield, Illinois, with the Caritas Christi Award for his many years of committed ministry to Illinois' Catholic Polonian community. Additionally, the honored guest will be His Excellency Edward Ozorowski, Archbishop of Bialystok, Poland. For further information concerning this event, please contact Rev. Marek Kasperczuk at (312) 915-0598.

PAC-IL TO HOLD POL AM HERITAGE BANQUET. The Polish American Congress-Illinois Division will hold its 42nd Annual Polish American Heritage Banquet on October 16th at the Donald E. Stevens Convention Center in Rosemont, Illinois. Receiving this year's awards will be: Maria Ciesla, Polish American Heritage Award; Adam Adrzejewski, Professional/Business Award; Louis Konecna, Life Time Achievement Award; Agnes Ptaszniak, Young Professional Award; and Chester Lizak, President's Award.

QUOTES

Looking for Something Different, So to Speak

"What I brought forward, I thought, was a rational, established, credible, strong record of results, based on experience governing — a two-term governor of a blue state. But I think the audience, so to speak, was looking for something different."

— **Former Minnesota governor Tim Pawlenty**, on withdrawing from GOP presidential nomination race.

[Napolitano's visit was critical] "... not just to hear about the costs, but also to see the emotion and devastation."

— **Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk**, commander of the North Dakota National Guard, on the visit of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to Minot, one of the cities hardest hit with flooding this year. 4,100 homes were damaged and 11,000 people had to be evacuated in the Minot. Flood damage in

the state is estimated at over \$1 billion.

"The average gift is less than \$500."

— **Kimberly Krupinski**, Supervisor of Accounts Receivable, at the Bureau of the Public Debt's Parkersburg, W.Va. office, commenting on gifts received from citizens seeking to retire the U.S. government's public debt. The contributions are tax deductible, with \$81.7 million being donated since the option was legalized in 1961.

"Years ago, someone actually asked me which side the Poles had fought on, and had they been 'in with the Nazis'?" I surprised myself with the visceral nature of my reaction. I felt physically sick, and very angry indeed. Research conducted in the United States indicates that my inquirer is not alone. When questioned about the war, school-

children made the perfectly valid assumption—given the media's terminology—that the Poles were responsible for the death camps, and had therefore fought on the side of the Nazis."

— **Playwright and author Catherine Czerkawska**, from "Inaccurate and Insulting: How the Media Distorts History by Using the Term 'Polish Death Camps.'" Reprinted in the American Legion Magazine, August 2011.

"After I had a child, it became clear I wanted to be an American. I wanted to have a part in the political life. I wanted make sure I'm able to vote. I want to make sure of everything—it's not just the decision of others, but it is also my decision."

— **Katarzyna Maria Matyniak of Poland**, on why she wanted to become a U.S. citizen. Matyniak was naturalized in Carlisle, Pa., July 4, 2011.

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Skoraczewski Wins BSO Principal Cello Chair

by Richard P. Poremski

BALTIMORE — It's always good to hear people cheerfully quip "Polish boy makes good," when one of their own achieves a remarkable success. In this case the person being celebrated is cellist Dariusz Skoraczewski.

Just recently, on July 21, 2011, Skoraczewski was formally recognized and contracted as the Principal Cellist with the ranking Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO).

Skoraczewski began his career with the BSO in 2000. He rose through the cello section ranks by winning the necessary open-audition competitions for each successive seat. As is the established auditioning norm, all the vying musicians perform screened (blind) from the judges until the beginning of the final round of the elimination process.

When the BSO principal cello chair became vacant, a national competition was conducted over a one year period, with many gifted cellist auditioning for the coveted top position. Eventually the sizable group was narrowed down to two excellent competitors, Skoraczewski being one of them. A last and major trial was for each finalist to perform for a set period of time in the principal's chair during the regular concert performance season. And that's what tipped the balance of the suspenseful, down-to-the-wire competition in his favor.

Skoraczewski was born in Warsaw to Lucyna (Warsaw Opera musician) and Marek (high school principal) Skoraczewski. At age 18, he graduated with high honors from a special musical arts high school. Immediately thereafter, he was awarded a full cello scholarship by Baltimore's internationally-renowned Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University. He graduated in 1996 with both Bachelor of Music and Graduate Performance degrees. He gave his Carnegie Hall debut in 2005, and has performed as a soloist with orchestras throughout the United States and the world.

While studying at The Peabody, Skoraczewski met fellow cello student Pei Lu from Xian, China. (Pei's father, Prof. Lu Ri-Rong, is a very famous practitioner of the stringed erhu instrument in China.) The couple courted and then married in 1999. Their daughter Anna, now almost seven years old, has already begun her piano lessons—true to form in a musically-inclined and talented family.

Currently, Skoraczewski also



PHOTO: RICHARD P. POREMSKI

performs with the critically-acclaimed Monument Piano Trio. In May 2010 Analog Arts released his debut CD, *Cello Populus*, a compilation of newer works for the cello. He maintains an interesting and informative web site at www.dskora.com.

Skoraczewski is the only Polish national today who occupies the principal cello chair with any major U.S. symphony orchestra.

POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Picnic and Polka Season

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Potts Deli hosted a Miss Buffalo Cruise featuring the music of PhoCus with special guest performer David "Scrubby" Seweryniak on August 2, and the Polish Cadets of Buffalo set sail on the *Miss Buffalo* on August 12 ... The **Pulaski Police Association** of Buffalo and WNY held its Annual Family Picnic in Como Lake Park in Lancaster on August 3 ... **Jean Dickson**, the curator of the Polish Collection at the SUNYab Lockwood Library in Amherst, has announced that she will be retiring in January of 2012 ... Ray Serafin's Brass Magic performed at the **St. Stanislaus Kostka Polish Festival** in Rochester the first weekend in August ... Controversy surrounds the proposed opening of an Aldi's supermarket at 998 Broadway, the site of the former Sattler's store across the street from the historic **Broadway Market** ... Buffalo's Corpus Christi Church has begun the restoration of the church's south tower ... Also on the 7th, the **Dunkirk Dom Polski** and **Kosciuszko Club** joined together for their annual Stag and Doe Picnic.

Visconti (Syracuse), Nicole Wroblewski (Erie, Pa.) and Sylvia Zabycz (Syracuse).

The **Polish Falcons of America** 43rd Annual National Adult Golf Tournament was held at the Batavia Country Club and LeRoy Country Club on August 11 and 12 ... August 12 brought the Polonia Civic Center of Rochester's **Polish Night** to Frontier Field for a baseball game pitting the Rochester Red Wings against the Columbus Clippers. Soprano Emily Tworek Helenbrook sang the national anthems before the game ... The **Polish Union of America** hosted its 9th Annual Family Picnic at West Seneca's Centennial Park and the WNY Division of the **Polish American Congress** marked Polish Remembrance Day with a Mass celebrated by Rev. Tadeusz Bocianowski at the St. Stanislaus Cemetery in Cheektowaga on August 13 ... WNY's Polish veterans marked **Polish Soldiers' Day** at St. Stanislaus Church in Buffalo on the 14th ... Also on the 14th, **Blessed Mary Angela Parish** in Dunkirk held its Summer Festival, and the **Adam Mickiewicz Library and Dramatic Circle** had a membership picnic at Houghton Park in Buffalo ... Polonia activist **Andrew Golebiowski** was honored as the Buffalo Bisons Polish American of the Year at the team's annual Polish Festival Night at Coca Cola Field in Downtown Buffalo on August 16. This year's festival included music by the Knewz and Polish folk dancing by the Krakowiacy Dancers.

The **Polish Cadets** of Buffalo hosted their Family Picnic at their Black Rock clubrooms on the 20th ... One of the highlights of the Corpus Christi **32nd Annual Dozynki** Polish Harvest Festival held the

weekend of August 19 through 22 was Buffalo's Fourth Annual Best Pierogi Contest. Contestants were categorized as Homemade Traditional, Homemade Non-Traditional and Commercial. Music for the festival was provided by the Al Kania Band, Concertina All-Stars, New Direction and True Colors ... On the 21st, **Annunciation Parish** in Elma celebrated a Polka Mass and held a picnic featuring John Stanczyk and Rare Vintage and Lenny Gomulka and the Chicago Push ... The **23rd Annual Owl Picnic** featuring the Eddie O. Orchestra, Concertina All-Stars, PhoCus with Scrubby, Rare Vintage, Tony Krupski's Band, Danny Neavereth, Accordion Bill and New Yorkers with CJ Luksch, took place at the Lamm Post Grove on August 21 ... **Holy Trinity Parish** in Erie, Pa.'s 18th Annual Zabawa Polish Heritage Festival, featuring the Polka Family Band, John Gora Band, Lenny Gomulka and the Chicago Push and the Mar-vels, was held on the parish grounds the last weekend of August



If you have an item for this column, please send the information by the 6th day of the month preceding the month in which you would like the item to appear (i.e. September 6 for the October edition) at: POLEGL, P.O. Box 223, Niagara Square Station, Buffalo, NY 14201-0223; e-mail 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 www.polegl.org.

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\$1,500 Alliance Alumni Scholarship

CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS, Pa. — Alliance College Alumni Association is now accepting applications for its annual scholarship. Graduating high school seniors as well as students enrolled as full-time students in post-secondary colleges, universities, or technical schools are eligible for the \$1,500.00 award.

Eligible students will have at least a 2.0 academic average. While all majors are considered, preference will be given to an applicant majoring in Polish language, culture, or history. Additional preference will be given to applicants related to an Alliance College (or Alliance Technical School) alumnus.

Applications must be post-marked no later than September 30, 2011. The Foundation Trustees will select the winner after reviewing overall academic achievement as well as interest and involvement in their community and Polish culture.

The scholarship application is available at the Alliance College Alumni Association website www.alliancecollege.com

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

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

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Ninety for Palshook



POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND member **Helen Palshook** recently celebrated her 90th birthday. Helen, seated left with daughter Gayle Palshook Lopez standing behind, were joined by PGS GC President John F. Szuch, and his wife Marlene. The party was held July 29, which happened to be Helen's actual birthday.

BABA JAGA'S CORNER / Jaga Urban-Klahen

Are You a Junk Collector or a Treasure Hunter?

I took the title of this article from a sermon I heard two weeks ago. The priest confronted us with the existential question: "how do we spend our lives?" Don't we spend our lives shopping for unnecessary goods, hunting for bargains which later fill up our big houses, or living in the virtual worlds of internet, cell phones, smart phones and computer games that isolate us from real life?

Are we junk collectors or treasure hunters? Nobody would readily admit that she or he is a junk collector, but many of us are. We have problems focusing our attention on what is important. We are distressed by collecting unnecessary things or unnecessary information. We are losing bonds with our community where we live since we are busy shopping, talking on our cell phones and ignoring real life around us.

Are we not overwhelmed with clutter, with things we cannot get rid of? We have trouble letting things go or separating jewels from trash that overwhelms us. I do not only mean material things but a flood of unnecessary information. I have to admit, I too am a junk collector; I have a hard time throwing things away. Maybe this is due to the fact that we never had enough when I was growing up in Poland. Working from home also gives me plenty of time to waste without having a focus in life. I used to buy many books which I had no time to read. Now,

when I see an interesting article online I save it and then . . . I seem not to have time to go back and read it. Of course I save it for retirement, but then? Will I have the patience to go back and read it all? We have to have the courage to admit that we cannot know it all and be in all places all the time. Today's world is more complex than ever before.

We live in interesting times. Never before have people had access to so many goods and information in so many different forms. Unfortunately, this does not make our life happier since we do not know how to distinguish between what is important and what is not. The old instinct of hunter-gatherer is still in our human nature. I visit my retired friend sometimes and each time I am in her apartment she organizes her books and magazines. I wonder whether she has any time to read them at all.

My parents' childhood took place during the war. My mother's family survived a war in a cold and humid basement that served as a shelter against air bomb attacks. My mother was often hungry not only during the war, but before, since her father, a coal miner, lost his job due to the great depression. Once my mother was punished for eating a piece of bread with butter, without permission.

We have too many things around us and we do not even enjoy it anymore.

This is probably the reason that people enjoy extreme sports or that crazy tattoos are in fashion now. This gives us an extra thrill. In the past, life was harsher but simpler. People belonged to the community they lived in, they had to support each other. Now this is not the case. Today, we can isolate ourselves in our own house and surround ourselves with a virtual world. Recently there was a case in South Korea in which a young couple caused the death of their baby child because they were so focused on computer game (raising a virtual princess) that they forgot to feed their own child.

I just encourage you to reflect on your life. Make sure that you are not distracted by every little thing which comes up, but keep an eye on what's valuable like art or nature. Do not lose a bond with your community. Think what you would like people to think about you when you'll be gone. Try to leave a good memory of your life. Try to make an effort to stay in our own community rather than waste too much time in a virtual world. This is probably also a call for our younger generation which is even more detached from reality than people born before this computer boom age. Do so, so that your life will be considered a jewel.



Baba Jaga Corner: Visit Jaga Polish Culture Website at: www.polishsite.us.

PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

All it Takes is Just a Dedicated Few

A recent observation at Mass: the priest, a young man, very young, got tough with the faithful during the homily. Fire and brimstone. Not yelling but strong lecturing. I can't remember exactly which gospel he was preaching about, but the gist of it was "are you on the right path, or in the weeds with the devil." The weeds or not the weeds, that was the question.

The weeds represent the ways of the world, things that are concerned with the body. Money, sex, and power are generally attributed to the body in theological terms. Father's tone was an in-your-facer and he was calling out those in the weeds for co-habitation, birth control, abortion, and all the other "body" sins. It made an impression on me. You rarely hear that kind of preaching any more.

The young guys these days are often tougher on the congregation than the older priests. I am detecting an edge with them where the older *kaplanow* (priests) frequently are either kumbayah or just more gentle and kindly. I'll take a leap of faith

to say that it was the abuse scandal in the Church of recent years that is producing this type. Maybe they are reacting too strongly, but in a way it is refreshing. I kind of like having a few more ardent defenders of the Church and the faith in our priests.

If you think about it, makes sense. When our country was attacked, the response was more young men and women standing up and willing to fight. Millionaire pro football players like Pat Tillman signed on. We see more young people getting into politics because we keep hearing how our government is "broken." Tim Pawlenty is a good example of that. Young, innovative mayors are springing up throughout the country in response to decaying and crime ridden industrial cities. Does it make sense that Polonia should have more ardent "defenders" of the culture and heritage? Do we need them? Have them?

In a number of respects we are under assault of varying degrees. The churches are being taken away, the old-timers are fading fast, visas are hard to come by, and the trend is not-so-much Polish. Latino, Asian Indian, Irish, and other ethnics are more prominent. The cycle does not favor us now. But where there is smoke, there usually is fire. If the

good ol' USA can rebound, so can we.

Do you know of any young, strong defenders of Polonia out there? That is the Pondering Pole question this month. I recently told a very excellent researcher that it would be great if he could be cloned, times a million. I know there are some and perhaps if (or when) things hit rock bottom or level out, even more will emerge in new and more creative ways. If you know one of these young people, give them all the love and support you can. My guess though, being the tough and dedicated kids that they are, they probably won't ask you for it or need it.

PIEROGUYS! A recent observation at the City Market in Kansas City, Missouri. These "guys" are dedicated pushers. Pierogi pushers! As they say on their web site "Sorry for the new addiction!"

"**Pieroguis Pierogies, LLC** was started in 2007 by Frank Gazella and Andrew Misak, both former students of Kansas University" (pieroguis.com).

See what they have to offer and their entire story on the web site. (And, BTW, the singular form of the food is "pierog" and the plural is "pierogi." "Pierogies" and other variations are grammatically incorrect. We are reprinting their spellings verbatim).

There were a couple of interesting anecdotes that jump out about how Frank Gazella, the Italian "guy," especially, developed the process and made the leap to making, marketing, and selling pierogi, generally known as a Polish creation. These are transferable and relatable to anyone desiring a new way to do anything really, and the enthusiasm and excitement he imparts are ingratiating.

"It was Christmas time and I was at my nani's with the ladies in the family making cookies. That was the first time I can remember actu-



PHOTO: LAUREL AUSTIN
body had a clue what I was talking about."

SO, WHAT ARE THE TAKE-AWAYS? We have become numb, in a way, because of the priest scandal and I think many of us are resigned to hiding and accepting abuse rather than shaking it off and getting back in the game of being Catholic. A number of dedicated priests seem to be bucking the trend and are courageously coming out swinging, not with fists, but with a fighting spirit.

In the same way, a couple of enterprising guys took something that no one heard of, that was a "foreign" concept, didn't have a bun, and then introduced it into the Kansas City market as another delicious thing to eat. They took an idea and a gamble and made it into a business. There are a lot of ways to make our Polish fare better, more exciting, and appealing to ourselves and to the 1-in-100. Just takes a little courage, a little faith, and a dedicated few.



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

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

Looking for Stories

UTICA, N.Y. — Dan Weaver, the editor of *Upstream*, a new journal, is seeking stories about Polish Americans in the Mohawk Valley. A secondary focus will be on the neglected Polish American novelist, Joseph Vogel, from Utica. Deadline is Dec. 15, 2011. Writers do not have to be residents of the Mohawk Valley. *Upstream* will pay writers \$25-\$50 an article.

More be found on its blog, <http://upstreamjournal.wordpress.com>.

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“The Polka News” Publisher Carl Rohwetter Passes

ST. CHARLES, Mich. — Carl Rohwetter, 81, a polka disc jockey, promoter, editor and publisher. He published “The Polka News,” considered the most successful and widely-circulated polka publication in history, from 1970 to 2007.

After his discharge from the United States Marine Corps in 1950, he promoted many polka events in the St. Charles area. In 1957, he booked Frankie Yankovic for a fundraiser for the baseball program. There were nearly 1,000 people in attendance. In 1965 Carl became a polka disc jockey, and hosted the “Uncle Carl” program on WOAP Radio for 34 years.

Over his lifetime, he has received many awards and was the founder and promoter of many organizations. He was inducted into the State of Michigan Polka Music Hall of Fame, International Polka Music Hall of Fame, and trustee honor roll for the International Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame. In 2002 he received the European American Foundation Lifetime Award for Journalism, Publishing, and Promotion.

Rohwetter was a charter mem-



ber of the Country Music Association. In 2002 he received a Legend Forever plaque from Buzz Rider and Billy Adams. He retired from the Buick Motor Division after 37 years of service. He was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Carl also enjoyed deer hunting and gardening.

Memorial offerings are suggested to Ovid Elsie Polka Palace Radio Show or the International Polka Association.

Bobinski’s “Forever In Time” Released

Peter Danielczuk and Jimmy Krzeszewski are proud to announce a new recording entitled “Rich Bobinski — Forever In Time.”

This new CD includes 26 of the Rich Bobinski Orchestra’s greatest hits.

Bobinski, who was from Union City, Conn., was inducted into the International Polka Association’s Polka Music Hall of Fame in 2010.

Songs include “Kiss Me, I’m Polish” polka, “Down By The Water” polka, “Baa Baa” polka, 1976 Song of the Year by the USPA “Hoe Down Hank” polka, “Diamond Ring” polka, “Young Years” polka, “Polka Cuzzins” polka, “Charlie Brown” oberek, “Happines Is A Polka,” “Skinny Minnie” polka with vocal by Peter J. Danielczuk, “Droga Mamo” waltz and more.

Part of the proceeds from this recording are being donated to the International Polka Association’s Polka Music Hall of Fame.

For more information on this great recording, go to Jimmy K Polkas at www.Jimmykpolkas.com or send \$15.00 postpaid to Jimmy K Polkas, P.O. Box 360855, Strongsville, OH 44136.

Annual LaGrange Street Festival a Success

by Margaret Zotkiewicz

TOLEDO, Ohio — The 28th Annual LaGrange Street Festival was held July 8-10 in Toledo’s Polish Village, and by this writer’s account, it was one of the biggest and best ever, with expanded days and hours and several special events, all celebrating Toledo’s Polish heritage.

New this year was a pre-festival parking lot party Thursday night, featuring music of The Polka Floyd Show, Might Have Been, and belly dancer Leyla with band Raq the Casbah. This party, officially known as “Raise the Curtain,” was a fundraiser for the historic Ohio Theatre, which has been closed in recent years due to structural concerns. The Polka Floyd Show is an immensely popular Toledo band that features Pink Floyd music (and a few non-Floyd tunes) infused with the rhythm of Polish-style polkas. Veteran polka musicians Eric Hite, Frankie Dramczyk, and Chris Zielinski are members of the Polka Floyd Show. “Raise the Curtain” is the first of several fund raising events the Ohio Theatre organization is sponsoring this year.

The Mixx started things off in the polka tent Friday night, alternating with Duane Malinowski. The Mixx features Frankie Dramczyk, Eric Hite, Richie Kois, Jim Mackiewicz Jr., and newest member Mike Perzynski on the bass. Although the band plays only a few times a year, their treatment of favorite tunes from various Toledo bands got the crowd going. It was a special treat to hear Eric sing crowd favorites by the late, great Larry Szabo of Glass Town Sound.

On Saturday, the line-up fea-

tured Squeeze Box and Dyna Brass. Squeeze Box, with Ted Lange and Mollie Busta, is enjoying immense popularity throughout the Midwest and points west. They alternated with the Dyna Brass out of Michigan to entertain early festivalgoers. The Echoes of Poland dance performance from 5-6 pm had a standing-room-only crowd. After the Pierogi contest, where contestants had three minutes in which to down as many pierogi as possible, Randy Krajewski and Badinov took the stage. Badinov is comprised of Randy Krajewski, Richie Benkowski, Jim Mackiewicz Jr., Andy Pawlak, Eric Hite, and Eddie “Kaz” Kaczmarczyk.

On Saturday, Randy had three horns, reminiscent of the Naturals and the Dynasticks, namely, Jimmy Mackiewicz Jr., Andy Pawlak, and Eric Hite, in a rare appearance playing the saxophone. The band performed “Christene,” which Randy wrote, “Stan and Anne’s” oberek, “How’s the World Treating You?” and “Let’s Get Going.” They also switched around to play honky-style, with Randy on bass guitar, Eric on piano, and of course, Richie on concertina.

The energy continued when A Touch of Brass alternated with Badinov. A surprise announcement came from Jim Rutkowski, that TOB is wrapping up three decades in the business at the first of the year.

As everyone said their goodbyes, it was in anticipation of the final day of the festival, and a repeat line up of Badinov and TOB.

The heat wave that gripped Toledo in July continued into Sunday. It didn’t, however, stop the die-hard polka fans from coming back out on Sunday. After the annual festival appearance by the Polish-American Concert Band, Badinov and TOB alternated all afternoon, with a break at 5 p.m. for the “Dancing with the Echoes” Polka Dance Contest. Much like the television show after which it is fashioned, dancers from the crowd are paired with Echoes of Poland dancers. Out of a group of 210 partners, five finalists are chosen, with cash prizes for the first, second, and third place winners. Congratulations to Grace Rutkowski (younger daughter of TOB’s Jim Rutkowski) and Brian Hahn on winning the 2011 “Dancing with the Echoes” Contest.

Don’t forget to mark your calendar for the 2012 LaGrange Street Polish Fest, July 6-8.

More polka news on
Steve’s Polka Pages at
www.polamjournal.com

POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

Go Into Details, Please

We had a big crowd! The place was packed. There wasn’t an empty chair. The dance floor was loaded. They were stacked three deep at the bar. People were standing at the door, waiting for us to open. You couldn’t find a place to sit. We had a full house.

We get comments like these all the time—reports on polka dances or festivals that come in here via press items, emails and letters. Each of these comments gives us something, nothing, or just plain incorrect information. Let’s look at them one at a time.

We had a big crowd! What is a big crowd? How many people does the hall, club or room hold? I remember some bars where the five musicians in the band filled half the backroom. So, if ten were there for the dance, it was a “big crowd.” Some church halls hold 500 while others can accommodate 100. One hundred in a hall

that holds 500 is suddenly not such a big crowd.

The place was packed. The same scenario applies here. What is packed? Give me a number, not a word whose definition is, “crowded or stuffed.” Maybe the crowd just finished eating and they were stuffed? Numbers—use numbers to report the attendance at an event.

There wasn’t an empty chair. First, let’s ask, “how many chairs do you have?” If you have twenty chairs and none were empty, the number of people may have been twenty.

The dance floor was loaded. The first thing that comes to mind is that everyone on the dance floor started imbibing adult beverages two hours before the dance started.

They were stacked three deep at the bar. I’ve been in halls where the bar is three feet long. Doesn’t say a lot.

People were standing at the door, waiting for us to open. Was it raining and they wanted in? How many were at the door? Were they the work crew trying to get things set up?

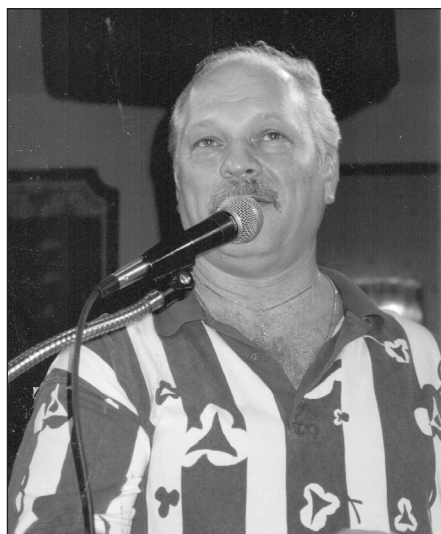
You couldn’t find a place to sit. Go back and re-read “there wasn’t an empty chair.”

We had a full house. Again, report a number. A full house in a small hall or bar could be less than 50.

The PAJ is always here, available and eager to publish your event, before, during and after. Use us! We are glad to help. When you do, please think before submitting information. Make it factual. Make it reflect your event. Make it help us get you a packed house, a dance without an empty chair, and people stacked at the bar. Then, let us know you had your full house in a hall that fits 300.

POLKA MEMORIES / Jimmy K and Steve Litwin

If you have a special Polka Memory photograph to publish in the Polish American Journal, email : pajpolka@verizon.net. For more Polka Memories visit www.polkamemories.com.



Stas Golonka, McKinley Park Inn, Blasdell, N.Y. 1994.



Rich Tokarz, Lenny Gomulka and the late Tommy Karas at the Polka Fireworks Fest, Seven Spring 1986.



Roman “Travers” Truskolaski with the Ampolaires, Hunter Mountain, N.Y. 1981, the man who gave the Polka world “Idzie Lala” polka.

NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

Stars Shine in Cheektowaga

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Cheektowaga Polish American Fest held at Cheektowaga Town Park the weekend of July 16th was a warm and wonderful weekend with not even a chance of a shower! There was so much fabulous entertainment with no admission or parking fees—how can you beat that?

Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push and The Touch started things out and set a high standard with super sounds. It was a first-time appearance for Freeze Dried and they certainly were outstanding with their different and progressive polka music. The big hit for me was their version of "At the Square" polka. My thanks go out to Johnny Okrzesik for playing it again for me. It's awesome! So many talented musicians in that band which includes

the Concertina All Stars. He has been playing for many years and has mentored many amateur players. Also nice to see Ed Rajewski playing. His wife Marcia had open heart surgery earlier this year and we are glad to hear she is doing well. Lots of Ryndak family members here to enjoy the good music including Andy Pilecki and wife Marian.

GET WELL WISHES ... go out to **Kenny Machelski** from The Touch who underwent a special heart procedure on Aug. 9. Also, **Jimmy Sierzega**, musician who played with many bands, most notably Eddie Blazonczyk has a serious medical problem and we wish him the best. Please keep everyone in your prayers.



Rich Kurdziel, Sr., returned to Buffalo to visit family and friends, including Andy and Marian Pilecki.

Ohio on Aug. 6. His wife Danusia accepted the award for him as John was on a trip in Poland. He did speak via Skype! John is an amazing entertainer, musician, promoter

lost his wife Nancy and now dealing with this also.

WHAT CROWD! The Polka Boosters had its 41st Annual Picnic on Aug. 7th at the Lamm Grove and I'm very happy to report it was a huge success. There was an excellent turnout, The Knewz and The Touch provided the best music, there was plenty of delicious snacks, food and refreshments and the Grove was a comfortable place to spend a nice Sunday with friends. President Chris Tanski, the officers, and board of directors did a marvelous job. I don't think anyone realizes how much work, time, effort and energy is required to make sure everything gets done and all goes smoothly. Everyone involved is to be complimented for a job very well done!

It was so good to see **Jane Machlowski** attend with her daughter, Carol and son Ray. She has been residing at Elderwood at Maplewood Nursing Home and was happy to be out at a polka doing! ... Getting there early were three nice guys who drove up from Michigan, **Dave Grzanka** and his sons **Mike** and **Scott**. They said they had a great time when I saw them leaving at the end. Many people traveled from other states such as Vermont, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and also Canada to enjoy this annual fun-filled picnic. Big Joe Siedlik, who has a show on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. on Channel 20, was also there, taping for future shows.



Buffalo polka veteran Joe Macielag sang a few tunes with Bud Hundenski's Corsairs.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and hope to see you out somewhere soon!

UPCOMING. Sept. 3-4. Honky Polka Festival Jam at the Lamm Post Grove, 962 Wehrle Dr., Williams-ville, N.Y. with music by Stephanie, Jimmy Killian, Ray Jay, Ed Guca, Andy Fenus, Rich Raclawski and Bruno Mikos.

Sept. 10. Old School from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Lamm Grove. Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

Sept. 19. The Touch is at the River Grill in Tonawanda, starting at 7:00 p.m. 873-2553.

Sept. 22. Polka Boosters Meeting at the Polish Falcons Hall, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew. Pot Luck Dinner. Bring a dish to pass. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. Everyone welcome to attend. Call Chris at 892-7977.

Sept. 24. The Knewz plays a Buffalo Bills Pre-Game Party at the Potts Hall, 694 S. Ogden St., Buffalo

Sept. 25. Bedrock Boys play at the 7th Annual Dozynki Fest at Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral, 6298 Broadway, Lancaster, from 4:30-8:30 p.m. Food, dancers, children's activities, cultural and craft demos, raffle, theme tray and much more. Festival runs from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (716) 685-5766

Sept. 28. Polka Variety Club Meeting at the Leonard Post, 2540 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Admission includes snacks, dessert, coffee, beer and pop. Call Richard at 826-2281.



Ted Kalata of Rare Vintage, Gary Krupski of the Touch, and John Okrzesik of Freeze Dried.



Freeze Dried on stage at the Cheektowaga Polish American Festival

many family members.

Also, Bud Hundenski and the Corsairs had that fantastic big band Eastern style of polka music. It was Bud's birthday this weekend! Long-time musician Chuck Pendrak was featured playing clarinet. Ed Biegaj did some vocals and Joe Macielag also sang a couple songs; the musicians and singers were all great!

SLOW BUT SURE. On July 24, a Concertina All Star Reunion took place at the Lamm Grove. The New Direction band also played. Not too big of a crowd for this one but those who did attend were treated to top-notch music of past and present concertina players and other musicians. The happy honky sound created by many concertinas being played was just wonderful! It was heartwarming to see Frank Staniszewski with

CONGRATULATIONS ... to **Roger Czarnecki** who retired after 42 years of specialized dentistry.

To **Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr.**, who recently celebrated his 70th birthday. Really miss the by-gone days when Eddie sang and played. He for sure will be always thought of as one of the greatest polka entertainers. Our best wishes for good luck, good health and "sto lat" go out to him!

... to **Cheryl and Dale Wojdyla** on the marriage of their son, **Matthew**, on Aug. 14.

... to **Justin Kohan**, who was awarded the Joseph Sugar Memorial Scholarship at this year's New York State Summer School for the Arts School of Orchestral Studies.

... to **John Gora** on his induction into the IPA Polka Hall of Fame at the IPA festival in Independence,

and friend. A well deserved honor for him!

NOTES. I don't get too many letters but I did receive a nice note from Jim Duebell. I do not know who he is but I appreciate his interesting good comments so I want to thank him for taking the time to write.

Welcome back home **Barb Bakowski**, who served with the National Guard for three years as a nurse in the Transport Unit at Walter Reed Hospital. Thank you for your service to our country, Barb. Barb is married to Big Al and their son, Eric, is a concertina player.

I was sorry to hear that **Fred Wisniewski** had a fire in his home in North Tonawanda. He recently

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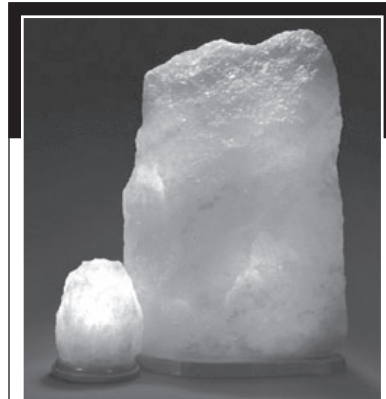
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NEWSWIRE

TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

Polka Country, Gorale, and Polka Family to Cruise

EAST WINDSOR, Conn. — An “Ultimate Polka Cruise” is set for February 4-12, 2012. Join the Polka Country Musicians, John Gora & Gorale, the Polka Family Band, along with musical guests Ed Guca and John Krawisz, for a fun-filled eight-day polka cruise aboard the Carnival Ship “Valor.” Sailing from Miami, Fla., the cruise will be visiting the following ports of call: St. Thomas (U.S. Virgin Islands), Antigua, Tortola (British Virgin Islands) and Nassau, the Bahamas. Contact: info@polkacountry.com for more information.

Full Circle at St. Stan’s

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Full Circle will perform Sat., Oct. 15, 2011, 5:00-10:00 p.m. at St. Stan’s Social Center, 389 Peckham St. at Fillmore Ave., on the city’s East Side.

Admission is \$10.00 advance / \$12.00 door. A cash bar, along with food will be available

There is plenty of free parking, and security officers will be present.

For more information call Jackie at (716) 444-8693

Wisconsin Dells Music Fest

WISCONSIN Dells, Wisc. —The city dubbed “America’s Waterpark Capitol” will play host to the all new Music Fest this year taking place September 9-10, 2011 at the Mt. Olympus Resort Complex.

The Fest will host the 25th Anniversary of the Dells Polish Fest and feature a varied array of rock, country, variety, and polka music for all ages.

Admission to this year’s fest is included when you stay at a Mt. Olympus Resort or you can purchase tickets at any entrance gate. The tickets are \$20 per person and include “all access” admission to ride all rides, see and hear all entertainment and enjoy both the indoor & outdoor waterparks.

This year’s line up includes: country stars “Saddlebrook,” “ABBA Salute,” “The SoapBox Project,” “Savanna Road,” and the Piano Man tribute to Elton John and Billy Joel. Also featured will be the biggest and best polka stars including The Polka Family, Eddie Blazonczyk’s Versatones, Stas Golonka’s Chicago Masters, Twin City Soundz, The Dynabass, The Polish Connection, Honky Chicago, Ray Jay & The Carousels, Roger Majeski, and the Polka Generations.

New Recording from Polka Dan Zantek

YELLOW KNIFE, Alaska — Alaska’s Polka Dan Zantek, Minnesota’s Donnie Klossner, and Hermann The German were at it again. The three dynamic musicians have combined their ageless talent and the latest digital music technology to produce another fantastic disc of great music entitled *Russia in Alaska*.

Polka Dan lives in Alaska, but has had the opportunity to perform his music extensively over much of the former Soviet Union. He has played his concertina in the streets of Leningrad (St. Petersburg), Moscow, and Kiev. He has also performed live on Russian National Television for the Children’s Palace in Leningrad. Now he and his friends have recorded a set of beautiful Russian-themed songs for your enjoyment. The disc has thirteen songs, including “Troika,” “Zhivago,” “Dark Eyes,” “Russian Nights,” “Midnight in Moscow” and more.

For more information or to order your copy, please visit www.PolkaDan.com. His online store also features his previous four recordings.

Polka Platter

— Prepared and Distributed by the Polonia Media Network

A former accordionist with the Ray Budzilek Orchestra, Norm Notarianni, died on June 26, 2011, having succumbed at age 71 to cancer at a hospice in Cleveland, Ohio. As a 21-year-old phenomenon, his talents were first revealed via a Budzilek big-band Capitol recording in 1961, entitled “Set Your Polka Feet a Dancing.” He went on to record numerous albums with Budzilek over the years, as well as single selections with the “Clevelanders,” a nucleus of the former band.

After a 15-year hiatus, The New Vintage Polka Band will be back on polka stages starting with the 2011 Toronto Roncesvalles Polish Festival, September 17, 2011. Whether honky, push, or somewhere in between, the seven veteran Canadian polka musicians promise to “bring it huge” for polka fans throughout both the United States and Canada. With pedigrees from Eddie Guca & the Polish Canadians, John Gora & Gorale, The Canadian Fiddlestix, Atlantis, Polish Edition, The Good Time Boys, Polish Power, The Melodians, The Melo-Tones, Jan Cyman’s Musicalaires and PhoCus, the guys of New Vintage say they will hit the polka road firing on all cylinders.

Three polka people are in need your prayers: Jimmy Mieszala, former leader of the Chicago Magic polka band; Fred Hudy, former president of the International Polka Association; and musician Jimmy Sierzega, who played trumpet with Eddie Blazonczyk’s Versatones and well known bands. All are facing serious health issues.

The Michigan Polka Hall of Fame inductions are set to occur on October 2, 2011, at the ZCJB Hall in Owosso, Michigan. This year’s inductees are Ronnie Marcissuk, Norm Seiss, Martin Gazarek and Bob Lewandowski. Music will be provided by Rich Hedrich & The Polkalodians, along with Hall of Fame inductee Ronnie Marcissuk and The Detroit Polka Authority II.

Interview with David Jackson

Host of the Toledo’s Sunday Morning Polka Show

David James Jackson, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio, has been listening to polka music since his childhood. Originally from Birch Run, Michigan, Jackson has published extensively on various aspects of the Polish-American culture. He is the author of “Classrooms and Barrooms” a first-person account of his year living and teaching in Poland as a Fulbright fellow from September 2007-February 2008.

His radio show, *The Sunday Morning Polka Show*, had its debut in April 2011 on WXUT, the University of Toledo community station. This is Jackson’s second foray into polka radio. The original *Sunday Morning Polka Show*, was broadcast on WCAR AM, Detroit Catholic Radio in 1998. The new show airs on Sunday morning from 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

When you started your radio show back in your Detroit days, what was your reason/inspiration/incentive? What made you want

to do a polka radio show?

I love polka music. And I believe more people would come to love polka music if they just gave it a listen. I also think having more shows creates a little more incentive for bands to produce more recordings, and that’s a good thing to keep the music going.”

How did you get started with your current show? What led to you having a show?

I saw that WXUT, the University of Toledo community station, was having a training session and since I was a community member I was eligible, so I signed up.

What is the emphasis in your current show? Do you have ideas for future shows, related to themes or anything?

I guess polka variety is the theme/emphasis. We play a majority of Polish style, but every week we play a little Slovenian, German, maybe some Czech and some Polish pop music.

Do you have guests-hosts scheduled in the near future?

I love to have guests. So far



we’ve had Eddie Biegaj, Eric Hite, Randy Krajewski, and polka 78s collector Keith Hlavacs on. We’ll definitely have more guests as the show progresses.

How can people access your show?

Listeners can contact the show in any of the following ways: via email at sundaypolka@gmail.com; for dedications during the show by phone: (419) 530-4455; 88.3 FM in Toledo, and www.wxut.com on the web.

Polka Family at CPA Dance

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Polka Association Anniversary Dance will take place Sun., Oct. 16 at St. John Byzantine Cathedral, 1900 Carlton Road in Parma, Ohio. Music will be by Polka Family Band from 3:00-7:00 p.m. Doors open at 2:00 p.m. No BYOB, as food and beverages will be available. Donation is \$12.00—those 18 and under admitted free. For more information or large table reservations please call Helenrae at (216) 661- 5227.

Cancer Benefit Picnic

PLAINS, Penn.— A benefit dance for Eddie Derwin, leader of the Polka Naturals Band, will take place Saturday, September 24 from noon-7:00 p.m. at the Polish Veterans Pavilion in Plains. Donation is \$20 per person and includes food, refreshments, and entertainment all day. For tickets or donations contact: Dolly Kubasko, (570) 655-0760.

POLKA JUKEBOX / Steve Litwin

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individual performance.

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BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes, MLIS

Inside America's Fiscal Woes

THE TARNISHED FED

Behind Closes Doors: Forty Years of Successes, Failures, Mystique and Humor by Jim Kudlinski
Vantage Press, 2010, 250 pp., \$16.95

Ever wonder about that dollar bill in your pocket? How can a piece of paper have any value, who puts a value on it and who is in charge? Kudlinski, a former executive with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, takes the reader into a field that affects everyone in the world, yet is barely understood. The money we use every day is controlled by a few men who over time failed to recognize, or do anything, about the financial disaster that happened.

Kudlinski writes about his involvement in bringing about the direct deposit system, and his view of the all the FRS Board members and the problems Savings and Loan banks faced when they offered commercial loans. With the easing of restrictions, banks were allowed to issue sub-prime loans to underqualified people. The greed of corporate men who sought money instead of the health of their organization (and still do) is one reason America faces its fiasco today. Chairman Ben Bernanke assumed office just before the system collapsed and is faced with the challenge of bringing America out of its slump.

ZORBA'S DAUGHTER

Poems by Elizabeth Murawski
Utah State University Press, 2010
95 pp., \$19.95

Murawski provides a collection of poems that are inspirational, personal and cover a variety of subjects such as childhood, religion, art and history. She paints pictures with words. In Hatteras Lighthouse: "We laugh and pant for our hearts, pushed this far, each step harder than the last, the air close and humid so that our hair clings to our necks ..."

In another, "Your voice careens up and down the scale, too fast to stop... Or I try not to stare. She leans back and closes her eyes. Brows plucked, no lipstick, bare throat and lobes, jewels enough ..."

— pictures with words.

Murawski has written over two hundred poems, and many of these

sixty-eight were previously published in scholarly journals. This collection is part of the May Swenson Poetry Award Series, Volume 14.

Two chapbooks of poetry have recently come to my desk.

OF A BED FRAME, POEMS

by Dan Nowak
Accents Publishing Winged Series
2011

His twenty-two poems speak of love, home, Nebraska and New York.

Best is his "Familial Cannibalism," a poem about a family eating at a table he is serving"

"I watch this family on Thanksgiving cut into their steaks ... three children drown their plates in ketchup, the parents talk over them as if their language is a secret. And then, an old man, alone, eating his dinner and he asks for a box — his steak is the only family he will have until Christmas."

He writes of sex and love and being an alcoholic. All his poems are about people caught in the act of living.

TURNING INSIDE OUT, POEMS

by Sandra Kolankiewicz
Black Lawrence Press, 2009, \$9.00

Her nineteen poems are full of pain and joy. In "The New Me" she talks about giving up cigarettes, of not tempting men by pointing her breasts out, or envy those who have found a lover, get married, have a job. "The Slave Story" tells of two girls who take five aspirin to alleviate the pain of being with men for the night. In "Walking," Kolankiewicz describes the difficulty of learning to walk on crutches: "Out on the hospital lawn your strolling plant and swing, plant and swing. No one to stop when you pitch, drop the crutches and tumble forward on the dry grass, alone."

A BULLET FOR TWO

by Robert Strzalko
Creaste Space, 2010, \$6.95

Set in the time of post-Civil War and the opening of the West, Jeb McCulloch is suffering from the after affects of battle and decides to explore the west. Riding into a small town, he hears screams coming from a barn. There are three town officials raping a young girl. They

claim to be just having fun with a half-breed. But Jeb kills them, takes the girl and flees the town. Soon a posse is formed and men set out to track him down. Labeled an outlaw, he dodges the bounty hunters as they journey west, seeking the girl's Indian tribe.

Strzalko provides short chapters full of action and tension in this novella.

A BAD NIGHT'S SLEEP

A Mystery by Michael Wiley
Minotaur Books, 2011, 258 pp.
\$24.95

Here is a protagonist you can love to hate. Joe Kozmarski has been discharged from the police force, is a struggling alcoholic and is divorced from his wife. As a private investigator, he is on surveillance at a luxury condo development construction when he realizes good cops have gone bad and are raiding the premises. When he shoots one of the gang, he is arrested. One of his friends in the Chicago Police department, Lieutenant Gubman, offers him a chance to redeem himself.

He must infiltrate the gang and bring them down, without the public knowing that their "finest" are robbing contractors. With fast-paced action, the reader is not quite sure who the good guys really are. Kozmarski is desperate to protect his ex-wife and son as well as his co-worker when he is threatened by the gang, which isn't quite ready to believe him. Unexpected twists make this an exciting tale and a desire to read more of this damaged cop making a recovery.

Sons of Poland Comes to Aid of Family



CARLSTADT, N.J. — The Association of the Sons of Poland, a fraternal benefit society established in 1903, provides assistance to both Polish and American children through the Sons of Poland Benevolent Foundation. While donations are made to schools for special children and orphanages in Poland, the Foundation also supports special children from its area Polish American community, whether it's an immigrant family in New Jersey, who suffered a total loss of property when their house burned down; a small child stricken with a disease that is thus far undiagnosed; or a set of triplets who will never enjoy their father because of his tragic death.

The latter was the occasion for a fundraiser attended by Sons of Poland Vice President Louis J. Gill (left) and Secretary Dorothy Kostecka-Wieczerszak (right) and the triplets' uncle (center). The vice president presented three insured membership life policies for the infants, and from the secretary, a generous check for immediate supplies.

The triplets are now insured members of the Association of the Sons of Poland with all the benefits, including a lifetime prescription card, access to wellness plans and even health coverage, as well as an opportunity to apply for scholarships when they are high school seniors.

The Benevolent Foundation's mission is to help children, and "We help many," said Gill. "We can also help yours."

Polish Tourists Hurt in Bus Crash

WHITNEY POINT, N.Y. — A tour bus carrying Polish tourists was going too fast during a downpour when it crashed and flipped over on an upstate New York highway, causing many passengers to suffer minor

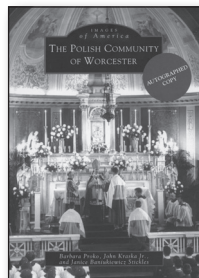
injuries, authorities said.

Nineteen people were treated at three Binghamton-area hospitals after the accident. Others were treated at the scene. The bus was traveling from Niagara Falls to Trenton, N.J.

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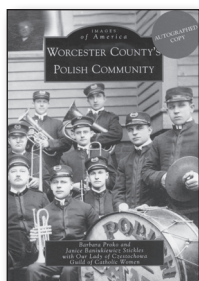
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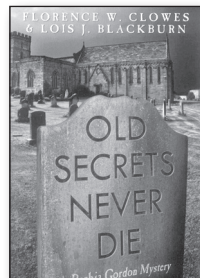
THE POLISH COMMUNITY OF WORCESTER (MASS.)
by Barbara Proko, Janice Baniukiewicz Stickles, and John Kraska, Jr.
\$19.95
Arcadia, 2003,

128 pp pb.
AUTOGRAPHED! Acclaimed as "a wonderful tribute" and "long overdue," this groundbreaking book documents the history of Polonia in a large industrial New England city, 1870-1970. More than 220 vintage photos and images—many never before published—paint a vivid picture of immigration, family life, work, Polonia's heart (Millbury Street) and soul (Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish), education, athletics, citizenship, military service, and Polish cultural traditions. 300+ surnames indexed.



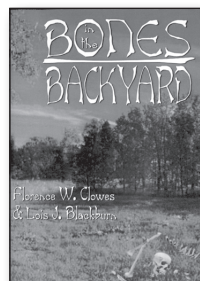
WORCESTER COUNTY'S POLISH COMMUNITY (MASS.)
by Barbara Proko and Janice Baniukiewicz Stickles
\$19.95

Arcadia, 2007, 128 pp pb.
AUTOGRAPHED! Lauded as a "community family album" and "a welcome complement to The Polish Community of Worcester," this photo history highlights the seven Polish parish seats of the Worcester Diocese—Clinton, Dudley, Gardner, Southbridge, Webster, West Warren, and Worcester—plus Gilbertville, South Grafton, Uxbridge, and other Central Massachusetts towns where Poles have settled in substantial numbers for more than a century. 225+ historic images, 700+ individuals identified by name.



OLD SECRETS NEVER DIE
A Bashia Gordon Mystery
\$14.95
by Florence W. Clowes and Lois J. Blackburn
Infinity Publishing, 2007,
220 pp, pb.

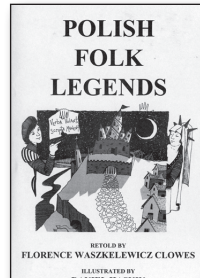
Bashia Gordon, semi-retired interior decorator and amateur sleuth, is at it again. When she learns her friend Connecticut State Trooper Mark Jankowski, is investigating the death of one of her clients, Gladys Goodell, her curiosity takes over. Soon a mummified baby is found in the old Goodell home. None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



BONES IN THE BACKYARD
A Bashia Gordon Mystery
\$14.95
by Florence W. Clowes and Lois J. Blackburn
Infinity Publishing, 2001,
198 pp, pb.

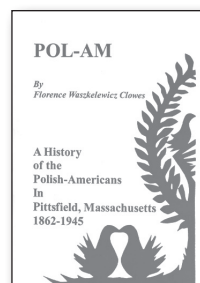
In the quiet corner of northeastern Connecticut, semi-retired interior decorator, Bashia Gordon, turns amateur sleuth when she and her Peace Corps friend, Dottie Weeks, uncover a fragmented skeleton in a septic tank. How did it get there? Who is it?

Trooper Mark Jankowski arrives on the scene, and is intrigued by Bashia. Identifying the long-dead victim becomes a challenge for Jankowski. Bashia's curiosity, intuition and Internet research skills keep her involved. Could the bones be the wealthy eccentric who disappeared years ago?



POLISH FOLK LEGENDS
by Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes
ill. by Daniel Haskin
\$14.95
Infinity Publishing, 2010,
208 pp, pb.

Forty legends collected in Poland or researched in many books and periodicals. Poland's first written history by Muenster in 895 states King Popiel reigned in Polonia 246 years before Christ. This is one of the many legends still told by the Poles.



A HISTORY OF POLISH-AMERICANS IN PITTSFIELD, MASS., 1862-1945
by Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes
\$14.95
Palmetto Press,
Vero Beach 2004

152 pp., 5.5" x 8.25", photographs, pb.
This is the first ethnic history of the Polish community in Pittsfield Massachusetts, with a listing of the people who originally settled there. Using church records, organization brochures and oral histories the author has compiled a valued history. In the nineteenth and twentieth century Polish immigrants came to Pittsfield seeking work in the woolen mills. They created social, religious, and business organizations, which encouraged others to join them. The north end of Pittsfield is well populated with the Polish community.

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AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS — Sept. 6-7. Platinum-selling jazz vocalist **Basia** at the Dakota Jazz Club, 1010 Nicollet Ave. Tickets: \$50.00.

Born in Poland, her first exposure to a wide European audience came in London as the vocalist for jazz-pop group Matt Bianco. Their 1984 album "Whose Side Are You On?" sold 1.5 million copies in Europe and featured two hits on the UK singles charts. She launched her solo career in 1987, crossing over to American audiences with her double platinum album "Time and Tide." 1989 saw her second album, "London Warsaw New York," go platinum and win a Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Jazz Album.

MINNEAPOLIS — Sept. 11. **Holy Cross 125th Anniversary Mass and Banquet.** Mass at noon celebrated by Archbishop John Nienstedt. Reception at 1:30 and dinner at 2:30 in Cedars Hall at St. Maron's Church, 6th and University Avenues NE. Adults \$35/Children 12 and under \$17. Call church office at (612) 789-7238 to receive a copy of the invitation.

MINNEAPOLIS — Sept. 17-18. **Holy Cross Fall Festival.** Saturday: music, food and refreshments 5:30-9:00 p.m. under the tent. Sunday: Polka Mass 10:00 a.m., chicken dinner, Polish food, games and fun, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

NEW JERSEY

CRANFORD — Every year, Polish American Congress and representatives of Polish veteran groups hold **memorial services** in front of the **Katyn monument** at Exchange Pl. in Jersey City, N.J. On Sept. 18 at 2:00 p.m., memorial services will be by the monument. Hon. Jerramiah T. Healy, mayor of Jersey City, accompanied by other officials from the U.S. Senate and Congress, from the State of New Jersey, and representatives from the Polish Government will attend and participate in the event. All of Polonia and all members of the American community are invited to attend and participate in the services.

For more information, call (908) 875-4179.

VINELAND — Sept. 18. PNA Lodge 3106 **Polish Heritage Celebration**, Flag Raising, and Proclamation Ceremony, PKM Folk Dancers performing, Vineland City Hall, 640 E. Wood Street. 11:00 a.m. Following the ceremony, Polish and American Dinner, Vineland Knights of Columbus Hall, 1803 N. East Avenue (between Wheat and Garden Roads). 1:00-4:00 p.m. Info call Henry Michalkiewicz (856) 451-7704.

WOODBURY — Sept. 17. Polish American Citizens Club of Camden County **97th Anniversary Family Picnic**, American Legion Post #133, 1018 Washington Avenue (behind Colonial Diner), 1:00-5:00 p.m. Music by Joe Stanky & The Cadets Band. Advance ticket sales only. Info call Dan Steiner (856) 468-1215.

NEW YORK

SCHNECTADY — The Church of St. Adalbert will host its 26th annual **Polish Heritage Festival, Dozynki**. It is the longest running Polish American festival in upstate

New York, and is known for its great Polish food. It will held be on Sun., Oct. 16 from 11:00 a.m. -8:00 p.m. at the Polish Community Center, 225 Washington Ave. Extension. Albany, N.Y.

At 11:00 Fr. Carl Urban, pastor emeritus, will celebrate a Polka Mass.

There is free admission to the festival. The dance is \$13.00 in advance, \$15.00 at the door, and children 16 and under are admitted free.

At noon the harvest wreath is blessed. From noon to 5:00 p.m. patrons can enjoy a Polish dinner with babci's (grandma's) favorite old world and home made foods. No reservations required. Take out dinners will be available.

From 4:00-8:00 p.m. there will be dancing with Full Circle, who will be playing Polish American style polkas. There will be a performance of the St. Adalbert Dancers, the parish's own polka and folk youth dance ensemble.

All day visitors can enjoy the Polish kitchen and bakery, and an outstanding Polish and Proud Room with imported items and handicrafts. Attendees can try the famous Polish Pizza during the dance or while visiting the church's 108 year history.

For more information, call the rectory at (518) 346-4204.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA — The Eastern Pennsylvania District of the Polish American Congress has announced its events to celebrate **Polish Heritage** month this October:

Saturday, Oct. 1, 2011, Pulaski Dinner Dance, Cocktails 5:00 p.m. Dinner 6:00 p.m. Associated Polish Home Ballroom, 9150 Academy Road in Northeast Philadelphia. For reservations call Polish American Congress at (215) 739-3408 or Jean McCloskey at (215) 425-4783.

Sunday, Oct. 2, 2011, Pulaski Observance Mass, 9:30 a.m. Cathedral of Ss. Peter & Paul, 18th and the Parkway, Center City, followed by the Pulaski Tribute Program, 10:30 a.m. at the Kopernik Monument, Torun Triangle Park, 18th and the Parkway, Center City.

Sunday, Oct. 2, 2011, Pulaski Parade steps off at 12:30 p.m. from 20th and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Free seating at Logan Circle in the area of television coverage on WPVI TV-6, ABC, 1:00-3:00 p.m. For more information about the 2011 Pulaski Day Parade, call the Polish American Congress office in Philadelphia at (215) 739-3408, Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. For additional information, visit PolishAmericanCongress.com. Henryk Michalkiewicz will be the Grand Marshal of Philadelphia's 2011 Pulaski Day Parade. This year's theme is "Saluting Polish Scientists as we Mark the 100th Anniversary of Marie Sklodowska Curie receiving the Nobel Prize in Chemistry." In 2011, Polonia also marks the 78th Anniversary of the Pulaski Day Parade in Philadelphia. This year's Military Marshal will be Major Slawomir.

DOYLESTOWN — Sept. 3-5 (Labor Day Weekend), and Sept. 10-11. **Polish American Festival** at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa. Live music, dance groups, food and refreshments each day, Noon-8:00 p.m. Info call (215) 345-0600 or visit Polish Shrine.

With Help of Atlas Bank, Brooklyn Readies for Pulaski Parade

BROOKLYN N.Y. — Atlas Bank, in cooperation with The South Brooklyn Pulaski Parade Committee, held its 51st anniversary traditional Miss Polonia Pageant, Junior Miss Princess and Marshal sashing ceremonies. The event was held on Fri., June 24th at a local venue in support for the district of South Brooklyn that is scheduled to participate in the upcoming 74th annual Pulaski Day Parade in Manhattan.

President/CEO of Atlas Bank, Danuta Sieminski, who was Marshal in 2010, joined this year's Marshal Teresa Ramotowska in thanking the committee: Margaret Zebro, Irene Rudis, Joe Rudis, Barbara Blyskal, Maria Bielski, and Doris Amen.

Reverend Witold Mroziowski, Pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa-Saint Casimir parish, made the invocation after the presentation of arms. Joe Delezynski sang the Polish and the United States national anthems and Teresa Ramotowska of the Polish Supplementary School was officially decorated as 2011 Marshal of South Brooklyn.

A speech to rally support for the Pulaski Day Parade was given by Darek Knapik, this year's main Grand Marshal, who emphasized the Parade as the greatest manifestation that supports Polonia. Ryszard Zawisny, president of the General Pulaski Memorial Committee followed with a speech recognizing Polish patriotism in South Brooklyn.

After dinner, the pageant began. Outgoing Junior Miss 2010 Karolina Plac, accompanied by her father, graciously took leave of her position as princess and Miss Wiktorina Kepka, escorted by her father was introduced, and crowned as this year's Junior Miss.

Moments later Miss Polonia 2010 Paulina Zawadzka thanked everyone for choosing her as Miss Polonia and wished everyone present a joyous experience as she prepared to crown the newly-chosen candidate.

This year there were three candidates competing for the title; Joasia Bis, Luiza Czerniawski and Kasia Zablocka. All contenders displayed graciousness, ingenuity and resourcefulness, but Kasia Zablocka emerged victorious.



South Brooklyn Marshal Teresa Ramotowska (center), Miss Polonia Catherine Zablocki (left), and Jr. Miss Princess Victoria Kepka.

Luiza Czerniawski was awarded Vice Miss and the second Vice Miss was presented to Joasia Bis. All three, along with Junior Miss 2011, will have the privilege of standing on top of the South Brooklyn float, sponsored by Atlas Bank as they will be led by the 2011 Brooklyn contingent, the Marshal, friends and supporters of South Brooklyn in a procession by way of New York City's 5th Avenue during the Parade.

Photos from the event can be viewed online at www.pulaskiparade.org courtesy of Pulaski Parade web-master Zygmunt Bielski.

The Pulaski Day parade is a yearly event that honors General Casimir Pulaski who was instrumental in securing American freedom during the Revolutionary War. For more information about the Pulaski Parade please visit www.pulaskiparade.org.

Atlas Bank is a United States federally chartered full service mutual savings bank dedicated to meeting the needs of all Greater New York City metropolitan area business professionals and individuals. Atlas Bank traces its New York origins back to 1900. Established by a group of Polish immigrants, the bank is celebrating 111 years of service for Brooklyn and first anniversary of expansion to Staten Island. Questions about products and services can be answered by calling (718) 768-4800 or by visiting www.atlasbank.com.

com.

DOYLESTOWN — Sept. 5-9 and Sept. 12-16. Our Lady of Czestochowa **Polish Language School Registration**, National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Ferry Road. 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Info call (215) 345-0600.

PHILADELPHIA — Sept. 10. St. Adalbert **Polish Language School Registration** and First Day of School, Our Lady Help of Christians Building, Allegheny Avenue & Chatham Street, Port Richmond section. 9:00 a.m. Info call Maria Koleda (610) 368-1604.

PHILADELPHIA — Sept. 17. Adam Mickiewicz **Polish Language School Registration**, Associated Polish Home, 9150 Academy Rd., Northeast Philadelphia, 10:00 a.m. - noon. Classes resume Sept. 24. Info call Debbie Majka (215) 627-1391.

SCRANTON — Sept. 18. **St. Stanislaus Polish Food Festival**, 529 Locust St. Noon - 6:00 p.m. Polish food, raffles, and much more. Proceeds benefit St. Stanislaus school. Info call (570) 342-2224.

ANDALUSIA — Sept. 18. **St. Valentine Annual Picnic**, Pulaski Park, 875 Mill Rd. 1:00-6:00 p.m. Polish food, music. Info call Fran Bonikowski (215) 632-1816.

DOYLESTOWN — Sept. 25. **Polish Falcons of America Day**, National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Ferry Road. Mass 12:30 p.m. All are welcome. Info

call (215) 345-0600.

PHILADELPHIA — Sept. 28-Oct. 2. Pope John Paul II Regional Catholic School **Carnival**, 4435 Almond St., Bridesburg section. Wed.-Sat.: 6:00-10:00 p.m.; Sun. 1:00-5:00 p.m. Rides, food, games, prizes and much more. Info call Ginny Millsap (215) 535-3446.

PHILADELPHIA — Oct. 15. Polish American Cultural Center **Flapjack Breakfast**. Applebee's, 2535 Castor Ave., Port Richmond section. 8:00-10:00 p.m. Info call Polish American Cultural Center (215) 922-1700.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

LANGUAGE CLASSES. There will be four levels of Polish language instructions in the Fall 2011:

Beginners I (Thursdays, Sept. 8-Dec. 15, 6:30-8:10 p.m.); Beginners I Second Semester (Tuesdays, Sept. 6-Dec. 13th, 6:30-8:10 p.m.); Beginners II / Intermediate (Wednesdays, Sept.7-Dec. 14, 6:30-8:10 p.m.); and Advanced (Mondays, Sept. 12 - Dec. 19, 6:30-8:20 p.m.). Cost: \$450 for new students, \$425 for returning students. Fee is fully refundable only within first two weeks of classes.

Classes are held at the Washington Office of the Kościuszko Foundation on 2025 O Street, N.W. Washington DC 20036.

Visit: www.learnpolishdc.com for more information.

Interested students please e-

mail Basia Bernhardt at: basiabernhardt@yahoo.com to receive registration form.

PHOTO EXHIBIT. The Embassy of the Republic of Poland announces "The Phenomenon of Solidarity: Pictures From the History of Poland, 1980-1981," a photo exhibition presented by the Institute of National Remembrance (Poland) and Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars Cold War International History Project.

"The Phenomenon of Solidarity" commemorates the 30th anniversary of the founding of the movement, and highlights formative moments in its history. The exhibition traces key events, such as the strikes of August 1980 and the enforcement of Martial Law in December of 1981. The exhibition was prepared by the Public Education Office of the Institute of National Remembrance and will be on display in the Woodrow Wilson Center Memorial Hallway from August 29th through Sept. 29th, 2011.

For information, call (202) 234-3800 or e-mail: washington.culture@msz.gov.pl.

KATYN CONFERENCE. A Free and open-to-the-public conference "Katyn: Unfinished Inquiry," will be held September 15, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the Congressional Office Building, 2168 Gold Room, Rayburn Building, Independence Avenue and South Capitol St., Washington, DC 20003.

SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Gritty Win For Keselowski

Despite a broken ankle, **Brad Keselowski** continued a family tradition at Pocono Raceway by winning the Good Sam RV Insurance 500.

He drove—and won—even though he suffered an avulsion fracture of his ankle in a test session crash at Road Atlanta on the previous Wednesday. Keselowski lost his brakes and slammed into a wall, breaking his left ankle.

He was running at about 155 m.p.h. at the time. *USA Today* reported before the race: “That swelling diminished dramatically but the injury makes him a long shot at Pocono—a track that puts an emphasis on shifting as well as braking—both of which Keselowski performs with his left foot.”

Yet Keselowski insisted that he would drive at Pocono after the injury. “I came here to win. When you let the pain get into your head that far that you don’t believe you can win anymore, you’ll never win.” Win he did, and with his second victory of the season Keselowski moved into 18th place in the point standings and eligible to earn one of the two wild-card berths for the Chase for the Sprint Cup over the season’s final 10 races.

Brad’s father Bob won five ARCA Series races at the 2.5-mile triangular track in the late 1980s and early 1990s and also made his only NASCAR Sprint Cup Series start there in 1994. His uncle Ron won at Pocono in a United States Auto Club 500-mile stock car race in 1974.

SWITCHING SPORTS. Patriots kicker **Stephen Gostkowski** took batting practice with the Lowell Spinners baseball team (Red Sox Single-A) prior to a game against Williamsport as part of a special promotion. He was joined by Patriot QB Brian Hoyer.

Gostkowski was a pitcher who went 16-2 with a 1.00 earned run average while leading Madison Central High School to the 2002 Mississippi state championship. He also played baseball at the University of Memphis. “Baseball was my first love growing up; it’s nice to be around guys who are around the game every day,” Gostkowski said. “I’m probably going to hit the cold tub after all those swings.” Both he and Hoyer hit a home run during batting practice, which was thrown by Spinners hitting coach Rich Gedman, the former Red Sox catcher.

Gostkowski, a fifth-year kicker, underwent eight months of rehab in the aftermath of November surgery to repair the torn right quad he suffered in November, but has returned to form. He is the most accurate kicker in Patriots history, and one of the most accurate kickers in NFL history.

POLISH HAT? Sports has had players nicknamed “Polish Rifle,” Polish Hammer,” “Polish Cannon,” and even “Polish Powder Keg.” However, I was curious when I heard that there was a college football player who some call the “Polish Hat.” That player was a talented tight end entering his second season at the

University of Iowa, **C.J. Federowicz**. I was trying to figure out why they called him the “Polish Hat,” until I realized that they were giving his name an English pronunciation—as in “Fedora-wits.”

I know how difficult it can be to get people to pronounce Polish names properly, but sometimes it can pay off. Remember Chris Liwienski, the offensive lineman who played for several NFL teams, including Minnesota? For a while teammates called him Monica, because he pronounced his last name like the infamous Monica Lewinsky. (Curiously, it didn’t seem to bother Chris at the time, who commented: “It’s kind of cool—now people know how to pronounce my name.”)

Anyway, coming out of Johnsbury (Illinois) High School C.J. was the fifth rated tight end prospect in the country, and the second best prospect in all of Illinois according to Rivals.com. His high school career totals include 183 receptions for 3,121 yards (17.1 average) and 42 touchdowns, all school records that rank among top 10 in Illinois state history. A great athlete, he also lettered in baseball, basketball and track. He first gave a verbal commitment to Illinois before switching to Iowa. After seeing limited action his freshman season with the Hawkeyes, the 6-7, 240-lb. sophomore should be a big part of the Iowa offense this season.

PERKOSKI’S NOTEBOOK. Cincinnati picked up QB **Bruce Gradkowski**, who played last year for the Raiders ... **Jeremy Gabryszewski**, who signed a national letter of intent to play baseball at Lamar University next season, was drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays in the second round of the 2011 Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft ... St. Louis

traded for 25-year-old lefthander **Marc Rzepczynski**, who had spent all year in Toronto’s bullpen but is viewed as a possible starter ... George Washington U. Named **Matt Lisiewski** director of men’s basketball operations ... Montreal traded defenseman **James Wisniewski** to Columbus.

GOD’S GOALIE. Even though he was named to the Polish national hockey team for the 1980 Winter Olympics, then 17-year-old goalie **Pawel Lukaszka** decided to give up the sport and dedicate his life to the Catholic Church. Now a priest who oversees two parishes in Krakow, Poland, Lukaszka remains connected to hockey, and devotes most of his summers to teaching youth hockey in Jackson, Michigan.

Zeke Jennings has written in the *Jackson Citizen Patriot* about how Father Pawel has taught the game in Jackson almost every summer for the past 25 years. A bond between him and fellow Pole **Rev. Dariusz Wyszynski**, formerly of St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church, brought Lukaszka to Jackson. Upon learning that Ramy Odeh, the son of a local restaurateur, was a goaltender, Lukaszka started working with him. Ramy eventually became an all-conference goalie, leading his high school team to a league title.

Jennings reported that Lukaszka had several offers to play hockey professionally in his younger days. However, doing so would have likely meant defecting from his native Poland, then under Soviet control.

The charismatic Lukaszka usually works with one student at a time. His current protege is 12-year-old Brad Campbell, a student at Northwest Middle School. “I had a little trouble understanding him at first,” said Campbell, “but once I worked with him, it wasn’t hard at all.

Sometimes he’ll get excited when I make a good play or mad when I make a bad play and start yelling in Polish.”

Wyszynski said that Father Pawel “has two things in his life—the church and hockey—and he loves to teach young people both.”

THEY SAID IT

“I’m not going to get out (of the car). I don’t care how much it hurts.”

— **Brad Keselowski**, in response to the broken ankle suffered prior to his win in the Good Sam RV Insurance 500 in Pocono.

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“It’s part of our initiative to become a global entity. It’s a new thing for us.”

— *Duke Men’s Basketball Coach coach Mike Krzyzewski*, on his team’s exhibition tour of China and Dubai in August. For Coach K it was a return the country where he led the U.S. national team to a gold medal in the 2008 Beijing Olympic.

POLISH COOKBOOKS

THE “OLD NEIGHBORHOOD” POLISH COOKBOOK—44 pages. 96 rare Polish recipes from the famed “**Old Neighborhood**” Polish community of **Detroit** area Michigan. Breakfast, lunch dinner. Pasties, Pierogies, Kluski, Cream chipped beef, soups desserts & **MUCH, MUCH MORE!!**

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“THE POLISH RESTAURANT COOKBOOK”—This unique cookbook actually replicates the menu of a very popular **Michigan** Polish restaurant. Shows you how to make the **ENTIRE MENU** right at home in your kitchen that looks, tastes and smells **just like the restaurant!** Soups, salads, dressings, sandwiches, Polish meatballs, stuffed cabbage, and **MUCH MUCH MORE!** 44 pages.

>>>These are amongst the most sought-after POLISH cookbooks **ON THE PLANET!** ****NOT SOLD IN STORES**** **Books are just \$10 each (FREE shipping in USA!!), or get ALL 3 BOOKS FOR \$25!** **Send payment to:**

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POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Planning a PolAm Dinner Party or Banquet

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

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

This column will focus on some classic Polish entrées that will turn any dinner into a true feast.

PERCH POLONAISE (okoń po polsku). In 4 c vegetable stock containing 3 T white wine vinegar cook 2 lbs very fresh lake perch fillets until done (only a few min). Remove cooked fillets with slotted spoon to platter and keep warm in oven. In 3 T butter sauté 1 finely minced onion until transparent and tender but not browned and remove from heat. Stir in 4 - 5 finely chopped hard-cooked eggs and toss to coat evenly. Add 2 - 3 T fresh finely-chopped dill and salt & pepper generously.

Toss to blend ingredients. Sprinkle fish with lemon juice and top with hard-boiled-egg topping. Serve at once.

Note: Walleye, whitefish or other fresh-water or salt-water fillets may be used. At upscale Polish banquets this is often served as a hot appetizer ahead of the main course.

ROAST RICE-STUFFED CHICKEN (kurczę nadziewane ryżem). Wash and pat dry 4 lb broiler or roaster (chicken). Rub insides and out with salt & pepper and let stand covered at room temp 1 hr. Sauté 2 chopped onions in 3 T butter until soft and golden and combine with 4 c slightly undercooked rice, 3-4 chopped hard-cooked eggs, 1 beaten raw egg, 3 heaping T chopped fresh dill, 1 heaping t chopped parsley and salt & pepper generously. Stuff chicken with rice mixture and sew up cavity, tying legs together. Rub chicken all over with oil, sprinkle with pepper and paprika and rub in. Bake in preheated 375° oven about 75 - 90 min. Baste occasionally with pan drippings. Serve with mizeria (sliced cucumbers in sour cream) and whole boiled potatoes

BREADED PORK ROLL-UPS (zrazy wieprzowe zawijane). Slice a 1-1/4 lb piece of center pork loin into 8 pieces. Pound each piece into a thin rectangle and spread thinly meat (leaving a 1/2” border along the edges) with powidła (Polish plum-butter), sprinkle with marjoram, place a slice of skinned smoked kielbasa along the narrower ends and roll up. Salt & pepper pork roll-ups, roll in flour, shaking off excess and fry in hot fat seam-side down to seal seam. Brown on all sides, reduce heat, add 2 chopped onions, cover and simmer on low

20-25 min, turning to ensure even cooking. Add a bit of water if necessary. Note: For extra-tender roll-ups, transfer to baking dish and keep in 325° oven for another 60 min. Serve with braised red cabbage or sauerkraut salad.

STEAK ROLL-UPS (zrazy wołowe zawijane). Trim 2 ¼ lbs round steak, top sirloin or other boneless cut and slice into ½” by 3” pieces. Pound until thin (under plastic wrap to avoid splattering) or have your butcher run the slices through his tenderizer. Spread each piece with

brown mustard, top with a strip of onion, a dill-pickle stick and a slice of thick-sliced bacon the size of the beef, roll up tightly and fasten each with toothpick or tie with strong thread. Dredge roll-ups in flour, shake off excess and brown on all sides in hot fat. Transfer to baking pan, add 2 chopped onions and drench with about 2 ½ to 3 c beef stock. Simmer on low in heavy covered skillet or in oven 45-60 min, or until tender. Thicken pan drippings with flour and (optional) sour cream to get a thick gravy. Serve with buckwheat groats and braised beets.

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John M. Shalikashvili, Former Chairman of Joint Chiefs

The first and only foreign-born American to serve as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (1993-1997) died July 23, 2011 in Tacoma, Wash.

Gen. John M. Shalikashvili served as Supreme Allied Commander of NATO forces in Europe (SACEUR) 1992-1993.

Shalikashvili was born in Warsaw, Poland to Georgian exiles; the family survived World War II in occupied and battle torn Poland. Those experiences and his family's exile from Georgia, made him particularly sensitive to those displaced by war and famine.

The family came to the United States when he was 16. In May 1958, he and his parents became U.S. citizens; he received a draft notice two months later. He served in Vietnam, then attended the Naval



War College in Rhode Island and received a Master's Degree in international affairs from George Washington University in 1970.

"From his arrival in the United States as a 16-year old Polish immigrant after the Second World War, to a young man who learned English from John Wayne movies, to his rise to the highest ranks of our military, Shali's life was an 'only in America' story. By any measure, he made our country a safer and better place," President Obama wrote in a statement.

OBITUARIES / Geraldine Balut-Coleman

IRENA BRONNY, nee Iwankowska, 88, passed away in Niles, Illinois, on July 14, 2011 of natural causes. Born in Lasin, Poland, on



January 23, 1923, Irena spent six years in Nazi forced labor camps, freed by American Armed Forces, placed in a displaced persons camp in Butzbach near

Frankfurt, and was told by a doctor that she would not live past her 30th birthday. While working as a pharmacy assistant in the German displaced persons camp, she met a Polish doctor, Joachim Bronny, whom she wed after a whirlwind courtship. When the repatriation process began, Irena and Joachim had to choose between returning to Poland or travelling to another country. They chose America, where they had neither family nor friends.

In October 1948, with twenty dollars, their twenty-month old daughter, Maria, and a trunk full of their meager possessions, they arrived in New York via the first U.S. ship transporting displaced persons. With the promise of a Wisconsin country doctor position denied, the Catholic Relief Agency found a medical training position for Dr. Bronny. Once issued a license to practice, the Bronny family moved to Williamsfield, Illinois, a town of 550. It was there that Irena settled into a career as a country doctor's wife. She delivered meals to the destitute, visited home-bound and hospitalized patients, and provided a gift for every newborn baby that her husband delivered. For years, she sent parcels of money, food, clothing and medicine to surviving family and friends.

Mrs. Bronny held yearly, much-anticipated breakfasts in her home with proceeds going to the American Cancer Society. Once an American citizen, she voted in every election. She travelled to rural school districts, conducting school assemblies on the blessings of the United States. In 1976, Irena and Joachim received the coveted "Daughters of the American Revolution Americanism" Award, given to them for their patriotism and service to their adopted country. They would be the first couple and the first naturalized American citizens to receive such an honor.

Mrs. Bronny is survived by her daughter, Maria Ciesla, president of The Polish Museum of America, sons, Dr. Andrew Bronny and Christopher Bronny, nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. G. Balut-Coleman

WŁADYSŁAW (WALTER) CEBULSKI, 97, was born on October 22, 1913 in the Kolbuszowa district of Poland, and died on June 17, 2011 in Chicago. After graduating from high school in Brzesciu, Cebulski studied medicine at the Stefan Batory University in Vilnius from 1934-1939. In September

1939, he was called to active military service, where he commanded a Polish Army anti-tank platoon. He was later taken prisoner by the Nazis. After the war, Cebulski completed his medical studies in Brussels, and, in 1947, was awarded a medical diploma.

In 1953, Cebulski emigrated to the United States, and by 1954 he was an attending physician at several Chicago area hospitals.

Cebulski was president of the Medical Staff at Chicago's St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital. Additionally, he joined the Union of Polish Physicians in Chicago (ZLP), now known as the Polish American Medical Society. As a member of ZLP, he served as treasurer, vice president, and president, a position he held for 15 years. Cebulski joined the International Medical Council of Illinois (IMCI); a medical organization comprised of many ethnic groups, and began activities in IMCI which led to the introduction of laws prohibiting state hospitals from discriminating against foreign-born and foreign-educated physicians.

Cebulski was awarded the Silver Cross of Merit, the Cross for Freedom and Independence, the Holy Order of St. Stanislaus, the Medal of the 25th anniversary of the Polish Combatants' Association in the United States, and was honored with the *Gloria Medicinæ* Award for his chairmanship of a special committee that began aiding Poland during the dire healthcare crisis under Soviet domination, especially during the soviet imposition of martial law in Poland from 1981-1983. He was preceded in death by his wife, Maria.

THEODORE C. COMPALL (Compalla), 89, was born in Lviv, (then Poland, now the Ukraine). He passed away on May 29, 2010 from diabetes complications. In 1925, he emigrated along with his parents to the United States and settled in Chicago.

After graduating from Chicago's Steinmetz High School, Compall joined the United States Army, and then went on to receive an undergraduate degree from Loyola University Chicago.

In 1947, Compall received his medical degree from Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine. Once a general practice physician, he enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he worked as a squadron commander at the 6th Tactical Hospital at Walker Air Force Base in Roswell, New Mexico. Compall returned to Chicago, married his wife, Lillian, and settled on Chicago's Northwest Side, where he began a medical practice. For over 50 years, Compall practiced surgery at St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital in Chicago. Additionally, he was a founding physician of Holy Family Hospital in Des Plaines, Illinois. At

both hospitals, he was on call and took all types of cases, including pro bono work for patients who couldn't afford medical care.

Even though he had professional commitments, Compall always made time for his family, even to the extent of bringing his three sons along on house calls. For over three decades, Compall served as the Medical Director of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. He is survived by his wife, three sons, seven grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and two brothers.

STEPHEN E. POCZTOWSKI, 56, passed away suddenly on July 2, 2011, while attending the 28th International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) Convention in Las Vegas. It was at this convention that



Poczowski was nominated as a vice-presidential candidate of the Central Region of the IBT. A native Chicagoan, he attended St. Hedwig

Parish and its school, then graduated from Gordon Technical High School and Triton College. In 1974, while working for United Parcel Service (UPS), he accepted a union stewardship position for the UPS workers and drivers of the Teamsters Local 705. This launched his life time commitment representing members of the collective, including many from the Polish American community. In 1995, Poczowski was elected Business Agent of Local 705. In 2003, its membership elected Stephen to head the Local; the first time in its 100-year history it had elected a leader of Polish descent. He distinguished himself in numerous leadership roles within the Teamsters organization. In 2004, Poczowski was elected Secretary-Treasurer of Local 705 and was Trustee on the Joint Council #25 of Chicago, which serves over 100,000 Teamsters members within the Chicago area. In 2009, he received the Labor Leader of the Year Award from the Illinois Crime Commission; and, in 2010, he received the coveted Polish American Heritage Award from the Polish American Congress-Illinois Division. Poczowski is survived by wife, Linda, and sons Stephen and Kevin.

IN MEMORIAM / Jennifer Moskal Trowbridge

LESTER BRZOZOWSKI, 58, of Fountain Hills, Arizona, received his bachelor and master's degrees from Rutgers University. Mr. Brzozowski was a vice president of Finance for Tropicana Casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey. He became president of Riverboat Corporation in Missouri, where he was in charge of development, construction and operations. He later became general manager of Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Casino. During that time, he advanced to chief operating officer renovating the original casino and led in the development of the hotel and golf course and a cement company. He was also deeply involved in several charitable organizations.

CASIMIR DECWIKIEL, 88, rose to the top of his profession as president of the national society of cost engineers. Mr. Decwikiel spent 37 years as a cost engineer for the former Sun Oil, now Sunoco Inc., working from Philadelphia. He was both a registered engineer in Pennsylvania and a certified cost engineer. He graduated from Drexel Institute of Technology (now Drexel University), where he received a diploma in civil engineering in 1952, and a bachelor's degree in structural engineering in 1955. He was involved in professional societies at the national and local level, serving as president of the American Association of Cost Engineers, and on AACE's board. He also served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

ALEKSY KOWALIK, 96, was one of the three surviving heroes of Poland's first World War II battle. Mr. Kowalik was among the 205 Polish troops guarding the navy's arsenal on Westerplatte peninsula, on the Baltic coast, who on September 1, 1939, put up a fight against the German warship Schleswig-Holstein. Mr. Kowalik operated an antitank gun and was wounded. He was taken as a POW, and worked on German farms. He returned to Poland in 1947, and settled in Blachownia with his wife and four daughters.

NESSY MARKS, 87, was born in Memel, Lithuania, and survived the Nazi invasion of her country at the age of 14. Ms. Marks was originally sent to a labor camp by the Nazis and escaped and hid with a Catholic family for a while. Eventually, she went to work in an orphanage in Vilnius in the southeast corner of the country. When the administrator found out she was Jewish he said he should hand her over to the Nazis, but instead he helped her escape. She hid in a German farm town for the rest of the war. After the war, she learned that her parents had survived, but two of her brothers and about 200 members of her extended family did not. She came to American and settled in Nashville, later marrying and raising a family in Nashville. She had made a pack with four friends when the war started that whomever survived the war, would tell their story, and she did to whomever she could for the rest of her life.

TRIVIA TIME / Ellye Slusarczyk

- The Polka American Corporation annually awards the: a. Frankie Award b. Polski Tony Award c. Best Polka Video Award
- The Polish Consulate, located in DeLamar Mansion, is in: a. Warsaw b. Washington, D.C. c. New York City
- Korczak Ziolkowski came to the Black Hills from: a. Massachusetts b. New Hampshire c. Connecticut
- A *kartusz* is a: a. robe-like garment b. jeweled sash c. leather belt
- Zawisza, Bojowe, Szkały, and Grupy Szturmowe were all ranks in the: a. Polish Scouts of Resistance b. Teutonic Knights c. Dabroski's Legion
- Dużo szczęścia* means: a. much wealth b. much happiness c. much sorrow
- During World War II, Jan Karski was a courier for the Polish Underground in: Paris b. London c. Vienna
- Joe Verdeur, a former champion in the NCAA, excelled in: a. baseball b. swimming c. boxing
- Polish mountain climbers reached the South Kanchen peak in time Himalayas in: a. 1965 b. 1972 c. 1978
- A Polish operatic tenor was: a. Jan Kiepura b. Władysław Sikorski c. Constantine Blandowski

ANSWERS. 1a. Frankie Award; 2c. New York City; 3c. Connecticut; 4a. robe-like garment; 5a. Polish Scouts of Resistance; 6b. much happiness; 7b London; 8b. swimming; 9b. 1978; 10a. Jan Kiepura

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Convention Takes Time to Celebrate Paderewski

by Jo Louise Winters

CLEVELAND, Ohio — The theme for the 63rd Annual Convention of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC), which was hosted by the Polish American

and trees imported from Poland.

Originally, six busts of internationally famous Poles were placed in the outer circle of the garden. All of the busts were completely destroyed by vandals in the 1970s. Thanks to the continuing efforts of the Polish American Cultural Society three bronze busts of Copernicus, Curie, and Sienkiewicz have been recreated and mounted on granite pedestal.

Newly-unveiled, a bust of Paderewski, sculpted by Michael Demin, will join the other notable Polish figures. Stefanski introduced the mayor of Cleveland, Hon. Frank Jackson, and other notable figures in the community and then called upon Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York to address the audience. Ziomecka's remarks included thanks and appreciation for the very active role of the Polish American society of Cleveland in promoting Polish culture and heritage.

Keynote speaker for the occasion was Dr. James S. Pula, professor of History at Purdue University and editor of the recently-published "The Polish American Encyclopedia." Pula spoke not only of the worldwide recognition of Paderewski as a pianist and composer, but also on his highly-effective activism and political work for Poland in its most difficult times.

The sizeable audience enjoyed the musical tribute to Paderewski which followed. The musical performances included Konrad Binien-da, piano, artist-in-residence at

Harvard University's Phorzheimer House; pianist Dongning Yang, who accompanied soprano Julie-Ann Hamula, ACPC's 2011 Sembrich Vocal Competition winner; and Eugeniu Ceremus, violinist, a Fellow of the Aspen Music Festival and School, and prize winner in various youth violin competitions in Eastern Europe.

The unveiling of the Paderewski bust was a very touching moment and the audience's reaction was quite moving as everyone admired the strength and determination clearly evident in the sculpted image of the great leader of Poland and the ideological leader of Polish Americans.

The event concluded with a performance by the Piast Dance Ensemble, a group of skilled and enthusiastic Polish folk dancers.



(l. to r.): Ben Stefanski, president Polish American Cultural Center, Cleveland; and Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka, Consul General of the Republic of Poland.

Cultural Center in Cleveland, was "Celebrating the Maestro," in honor of Ignacy Jan Paderewski (1860-1941).

An afternoon during the convention was spent at the Polish Cultural Garden located in Cleveland's Rockefeller Park. Chaired the entire agenda of concert music, presentations on Paderewski's life by eminent speakers, and youthful Polish folk dancers was Ben Stefanski, president of our convention host organization, Polish American Cultural Center. Following renditions of the American and Polish national anthems, Stefanski kept the audience's attention as he recited the history of the Polish Cultural Garden, which was dedicated in 1934. It contains a hexagonal sunken court with colorful flowerbeds, shrubs

THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



PATIENTLY AWAITING THE NEXT PERSONAGE. Ascension Cathedral, Lezajsk, Poland. May 22, 1976.

EXPLORING POLONIA'S PAST / James Pula

Stadnicki and the Holland Land Company

One of the most pressing problems facing the Continental Congress during the American Revolution was money — it had none. The American Army needed food, clothing, tents, weapons, ammunition; in short, all of the things necessary to keep it in the field and keep the Revolution alive. Yet, the first government under the Articles of Confederation had no power to tax the people directly and no federal bank. Even if it wanted to seek loans, the new government had no established credit with foreign nations. And who would risk advancing funds to a group of colonists engaged in a revolution against a nation with the largest navy in the world, a sizeable professionally trained army, an international empire to call upon for support and resources, and a government with established credit and taxation powers?

As the war continued, a crisis loomed and Congress sent John Adams to Amsterdam in the United Dutch Provinces, then the banking capital of Europe, to seek a loan

to keep the American government afloat. To any potential investor this was a very risky venture, a chance few were willing to take. Should the Revolution fail, which most Europeans believed would inevitably occur, anything invested in the cause would be lost. Additionally, lending money to the rebelling colonists could also incur the wrath of Great Britain, and possibly even spark a war between Britain and the Dutch, a development that would be very bad for business. Yet, despite the risk, salvation came when a Dutch banking firm purchased some \$1,340,000 in American securities, keeping the fledgling government alive.

The firm willing to take the risk no one else would was headed by Pieter Stadnitski, a descendant of a prominent Calvinist family from Podgorze, Poland, who migrated to Amsterdam during the Reformation. In fact, Stadnitski continued to purchase American securities until, in 1788, Thomas Jefferson referred to him as America's principal banker.

In the same year Stadnitski sent an agent to the United States to investigate opportunities for further financial speculation in the now independent nation. The following year, he formed a group of investors to purchase additional American securities and to invest in land. His "Holland Land Company" eventually purchased over five million acres of land in central and western New York and western Pennsylvania. The company constructed roads into this wilderness and undertook other internal improvements which made the area attractive to settlers and led to the early population of those regions.

Although Stadnitski died in 1795, the company remained in business until 1849 when it disposed of its remaining lands. Thus, a Polish banker in The United Dutch Provinces played a crucial role in funding the American Revolution and spurring the early westward movement into the New York and Pennsylvania frontiers.

BRUSH UP / Prepared by the Polonia Media Network

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

Podróżuję z rodziną I am traveling with my family.
(poh-druh-ZUH-yeh zroh-DJEE-nohw.)
Czy są jakieś udogodnienia dla dzieci? Are there any facilities for children?
(Chih soh YAH-kyehsh uh-doh-goh-DNYEH-nyah dlah DJEH-chee.)
Gdzie można znaleźć opiekunkę do dziecka? Where can I find a baby sitter?
(Gdjeh MOZH-nah ZNAH-lehshch oh-pyeh-KUHN-keh doh DJEHTS-kah?)
Proszę o dodatkowe łóżko w pokoju Please put an extra bed in the room.
(PROH-zeh oh doh-daht-KOH-veh WUHSK-koh fpoh-KOH-yuh.)
Potrzebuję samochód z fotelikiem dla dziecka I need a car with a seat for a child.
(Poht-sheh-BUH-yeh sah-MOH-hoht dlah DJEHTS-kah.)
Czy są jakieś dania dla dzieci? Do you have a menu for children?
(Chih soh DAH-nyah dlah DJEH-chee.)
Czy mogę prosić o porcję dla dziecka? Could you make a child portion?
(Chih MOH-geh PROH-sheeh oh POHR-tsyeht dlah DJEHTS-kah?)
Czy są tu jakieś rozrywki dla dzieci? Is there any entertainment for children here?
(Chih soh tuh YAH-kyehsh roh-z-RIHF-kee dlah DJEH-chee.)
Czy jest zniżka dla dzieci? Is there a concession for children?
(Chih yehst ZNEESH-kah dlah DJEH-chee?)
Czy dzieci mogą wejść? Are children allowed to enter?
(Chih DJEH-chee MOH-gohw vayshch?)

WHAT DOES YOUR POLISH LAST NAME MEAN? / Robert Strybel

If your name in **Rudecki**, someone in your past might have had red- or ginger-colored hair. If you are a **Lesniak**, your people came from the forest. A **Wroblewski**? You may have come from an area that had many sparrows. You might have a green thumb if your name is **Motyka**.

For a custom-researched analysis of the meaning and derivation of your Polish surname, how many people share it, where they

live and whether the name is accompanied by a coat-of-arms, please airmail a \$19 check (adding \$10 for each additional surname) to: Robert Strybel, ulica Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

You will also receive a list of helpful genealogical contacts to facilitate your ancestral exploration.

For additional information contact: research60@gmail.com.

HERITAGE / Ellye Slusarczyk

Wawel Castle and Cathedral

Let us travel to Kraków to visit Wawel Castle and Wawel Cathedral. We climb Wawel Hill to reach our destination. Wawel, in Polish, means "ravine." At one time the ravine divided the hill in two. Many kings were crowned here, ruled their respective kingdoms, and then were finally laid to rest in the castle's underground chambers. It is said that once a year, the ghosts of these royal rulers gather in the chambers. They gather when the Zygmunt Bell rings. This bell is the largest of five bells hanging in the Sigismunt Tower and it is one of the world's biggest bells. Eight men are needed to put it in motion. Zygmunt Bell is rung to announce the end of the Vigil of Christmas Eve and to bring joy on Christmas Day.

Many of the kings entombed here followed a strict moral code. Then there were those that were regarded as eccentric. Would you believe that it was common practice for nobles to gather and peek into the castle's windows? When the king was bathing, they checked to see if their king was "endowed" with the "resources" to sire a son.

A large banquet table sits majestically within the castle, bearing a burnt handmark. Supposedly, the Devil did this. No one dares

touch the handmark or they will see the Devil by days end.

When King Kazimierz ruled, he often wandered through the many cavernous tunnels. An unexpected sight once awaited him. He found a stone, with a luminous glow, filled with energy.

This stone is said to protect Kraków from both harm and invasion.

A very well-known court jester, Stanczyk, also is said to haunt the castle. He is seen on the castle's battlements when danger exists.

Gifted in intelligence, politics, and philosophy, he is regarded as Poland's most famous court jester. Making use of satire, he has become a patriotic symbol.

As you enter through the gates, look up to see the archaic bones of a mammoth, a rhinoceros and the rib of a whale. These are suspended by chains just to the left of the gabled entrance. Others, however, contend they are the bones of Krak's dragon or of giants who once inhabited the hill.

Do these bones have the power to ward off evil and protect the cathedral? There are many who believe this. No one wants these bones to fall, because that would mean the end of the world is forthcoming.



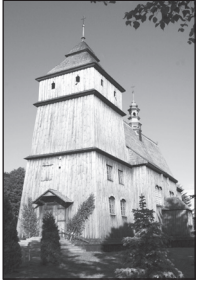
Wawel's bones.

ANNIVERSARY COUNTDOWN

100 Things Every Polish American Should Do

100 FOR 100. We continue our countdown to our 100th Anniversary with another 10 items this month. In today's world of lost identity, it is important to know who you are, the roots from which you come, and what your background represents. Show pride in your Polish and Polish-American heritage.

- 81. Keep Polonia and Poland alive on the airwaves. Ask local radio programs to mention your area Polish American events (every radio station is required to give time for public service announcements). Ask stations to play selections written by Polish composers over the centuries and recorded by internationally famous artists.
- 82. Create a network of Polish and/



The Church of St. Stanislaw & Wojciech in Poreby Dymarskie in the Rzeszów region. The church was moved from its original location in Cmolos.

- or Polish American friends from diverse backgrounds and even religions to share perspectives, interests and endeavors. Facebook and Yahoo Groups are key for those involved in the internet's social network.
- 83. Meet with your local Polish American organizations or make special visits when traveling.
- 84. Find the church or synagogue of your ancestors in Poland. Find out where others from that location may have resettled in the United States.
- 85. Review a map of Poland and learn about the towns, cities, geography, and historical borders.
- 86. Become connected and current with what happens in Poland. Read a Polish newspaper such as *Nowy Dziennik* or check English language internet sites,



Lesko Synagogue was built during the years 1626-1654. Since 1995, it has housed the Museum of Galician Jews.

- such as *Warsaw Voice*, *Warsaw Express* or *Krakow Post*.
- 87. Read a books or articles related to Poland and share that information with family and friends.
- 88. Attend Polish American events and invite others to attend with you.
- 89. Keep Polonia in the forefront. Request and encourage local elected officials to present proclamations or special greetings to the Polish American community in relation to commemorative events.
- 90. Offer a Mass or service at your local place of worship for the intention of your area Polish American community or in connection to a historic event. Following the service in the spirit of Polish hospitality, hold a reception with Polish pastries and refreshments.

For tips on how to accomplish these items: recipes, music, lyrics, online and store contacts inquire at: PAJtoday@yahoo.com or check: www.pajtoday.blogspot.com.
—Edited and compiled by Stas Kmiec from contributors to be announced in the anniversary edition.

From the Pages of the Polish American Journal: Historical highlights from the newspaper and its predecessors

- 1970. German-Polish pact acknowledges Oder-Niese Polish border.
- 1970. Government price hikes in Poland spark bloody labor protests on the Coast, Gdansk, Gdynia and Szczecin. To this day no one is certain how many people were killed. Wladyslaw Gomulka is deposed as party leader and replaced with the first secretary of Katowice [Silesia] communist party, Edward Gierek.
- 1972. Polish American leaders invited to "roundtable" meeting in the White House with President Richard Nixon. Nixon visits Poland, the first U.S. president to do so.
- 1975. "Helsinki Accords" legitimize a set of human rights for the people living under Communist rule in the USSR and Eastern Europe.
- 1975. PAJ Editor Henry Dende elected president of the Polish Union of North America.
- 1978. The election of Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, Archbishop of Krakow as Pope John Paul II.
- 1979. First pilgrimage of Pope John Paul II to Poland, through June 10. 1979. A group of college graduates in Buffalo, N.Y. invest their limited resources to form Panagraphics, Inc., a computer-

ized typesetting and graphic arts studio. Among this group are editor Mark Kohan and art director Christopher Misztal.

1980. The formation of the Solidarity Trade Union Movement in Gdansk. ... President Jimmy Carter appoints Sen. Edmund Muskie as U.S. Secretary of State ... St. John Kanty Prep in Erie, Pa. closes ... Lt. Col. Matt Urban, America's most decorated soldier, receives Medal of Honor.

REFLECTIONS / OUR CHURCHES

Sacred Heart of Jesus

156 VALLEY AVE. SW GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49504-6194
REV. EDWARD A. HANKIEWICZ, PASTOR

This parish owes its origins to the settlement of Polish immigrants in the Southwest part of Grand Rapids in the late 1800s, many of whom worked in the local gypsum mines. It was the third such Polish speaking community of faith in the city.

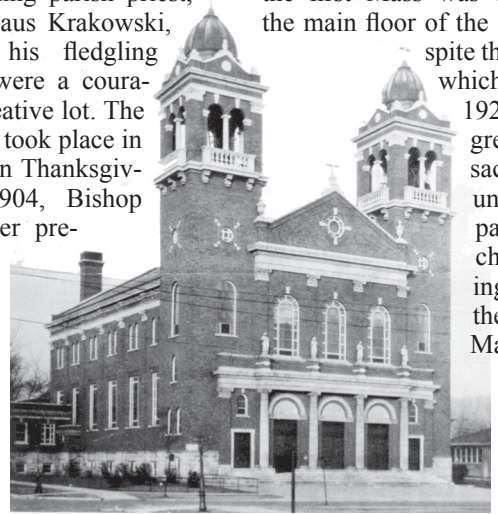
The founding parish priest, Father Ladislaus Krakowski, along with his fledgling community, were a courageous and creative lot. The first baptisms took place in June 1904. On Thanksgiving Day in 1904, Bishop Joseph Richter presided over the dedication of the school, convent and church complex on Valley Avenue. Shortly, School Sisters of Notre Dame of Milwaukee arrived to staff the school, which opened in January 1905 with seven grades.

The priest's house was competed in February 1906 and a new expanded convent was opened in December 1908. Because of the growth and development in that side of the city, "running out of room" was the order of the day. The school had to be expanded in 1918. By 1921 there were 650 children enrolled in the school. With 800 children in 1925, an addi-

tion was made to the school again with a "bungalow" structure which would serve until the late 1950s.

In 1920 a new church building was started. The first Mass was celebrated in the basement in January 1921 and on Christmas Eve 1923 the first Mass was celebrated on the main floor of the structure. Despite the Depression, which began in 1929, the parish grew and great sacrifices were undertaken to pay off the new church building, built in the style of the Major Basilica of St. Paul-outside-the-Walls in Rome. No new construction was undertaken until the "Bungalow School" was replaced by a two-story brick and glass building in 1959. The old school building on Valley Ave. was turned into a gymnasium the same year. All was made possible by the efforts and financial sacrifices of the parish populace.

As the years have rolled on, the complexion of the parish changed. The older generations have yielded their leadership to the new ones, who knew more of the New World than the Old.



As part of our 100th year observations, we are reflecting on the great houses of worship built by Polish Americans. We ask our readers to provide us with a photo and a paragraph or two on their parish. While we appreciate full histories, we do not have space to print them. Please provide us with a photo or two of the interior and/or exterior. We can accept digital photos via e-mail if they are of high resolution (300 dpi or greater). Please include: Name of church, year opened (year closed if no longer open), street and city, any identifiable people in the photo, and any special memory you may have of the church. Additional information may include: pastor, school status, or, if closed, name us last pastor, name of new merged parish, etc. All denominations welcome.

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CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF SERVICE TO AMERICAN POLONIA

This year, the Polish American Journal, the nation's largest, independent, English-language monthly dedicated to the Polish community in North America, will observe its 100th anniversary. To celebrate the event, we will publish a special Anniversary Edition in October, which is also Polish Heritage Month.

We have many great articles and features planned for our centennial edition, including a history of the paper; congratulatory letters from Polish and Polish American leaders; the continuation of our monthly featurettes on great Polish American churches; reflections on Polish-American relations; a Polish American time line; and much more.

To bring attention to this occasion, we will publish an extra press run. These papers will be mailed to selected institutions and archives, as well as leaders in government, religion, academia, entertainment, and other areas.

Since 1911, the PAJ and its predecessors have documented the lives of Polish immigrants and their ancestors, and as such, we want the anniversary edition to be one all Polish Americans can be proud of.

We humbly ask for your support in making this a reality, and want you to be a part of this momentous edition. Join the celebration!

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