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SAYING GOODBYE TO ONE OF THE BEST PAGE 17

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

MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE RECEIVED AT EMBASSY • CELEBRATIONS OF LATE SUMMER AND FALL • HARVEST TIME

CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI AND WYD 2016 • EUCHARISTIC MIRACLE RELIC PLACED IN RELIQUARY • POLES WARY OF TRUMP

NIAGARA CAMP IN THE GREAT WAR • NOT SIMPLY A VISIT WITH STALIN • THE HOUSE OF A THOUSAND FACES

Newsmark

USE OF TERM "POLISH" DEATH CAMP COULD MEAN JAIL TIME. The Polish government has approved a bill under which anyone using the term "Polish" camps referring to World War II death camps run by the Nazi Germans in occupied Poland could face up to three years in jail.

The planned change in the law, drafted by the Ministry of Justice, was backed by the Cabinet, August 16.

"Today, the Polish government has taken an important step towards creating stronger legal instruments to more effectively assert our rights to defend the historical truth, but also to defend the good name of Poland anywhere in the world where it is defamed and presented in a false light," said Minister of Justice and Prosecutor General Zbigniew Ziobro. He said the new proposed law had been promised ahead of Poland's general election last year.

CONSUL PRO TEMP. Until a full-time consul can be found, Katarzyna Padło, head of legal and consular protection, has been named as head of Polish consular mission in New York.



CARDINAL MACHARSKI PASSES. Polish Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, a close friend of the late Pope John Paul II, is dead at 89. Macharski became Archbishop of Krakow in 1979 when his predecessor, Karol Wojtyła, was elected to the papacy. He resigned as archbishop in 2005.

Macharski was a prominent figure of the Polish Roman Catholic Church in the 20th century and continuing well into the 21st. Pope Francis visited a comatose Macharski at a Krakow hospital on July 28th and prayed for him there. The Cardinal passed away five days later. He was in a coma for a month after falling down stairs in his apartment.

Macharski was buried at Krakow's historic Wawel Cathedral in a crypt designated for Krakow bishops.

IRAQI ARRESTED. An Iraqi citizen was arrested for possession of explosives, one day before the beginning of World Youth Days in Krakow and two days before the Pope's arrival there.

A list of area supermarkets and shipping centers was found in his possession at the time of his arrest. The forty-eight-year-old male was charged with possession of explosive materials, which, in Poland, carries a sentence of up to eight years in prison if convicted. News outlets and television news channels reported the arrested Iraqi had been deported from both Sweden and Switzerland, and that he had arrived in Lodz a few days prior to his arrest by police.

LAST SOBIBOR SURVIVOR DIES. The last survivor of the former Nazi German Sobibór death camp has died in the United States at the age of 91.

Philip Bialowitz (Filip Białowicz) was taken to the camp, in Nazi German-occupied eastern Poland, as a 16-year-old together with his siblings in 1943.

He took part in an uprising at the camp by prisoners in October that year.

HOPES DERAILED. Treasure hunters searching for a fabled Nazi gold train thought to be hidden in a secret tunnel in Walbrzych, Poland have turned up nothing.

Local legend says the Nazis hid a train laden with gold and jewels in a secret tunnel somewhere in the region as they fled the advancing Soviet army at the end of the Second World War.

Two explorers said last year that they were confident a train was at the site after carrying out scans using earth-penetrating radar. A spokesman said they found "no train, no tunnel" after digging out three pits at a cost of about \$37,000 USD.

Pilgrims Leave Poland in Good Spirits



PHOTO: PAP / JACEK TURCZYK

World Youth Day pilgrims greet Pope Francis at Krakow's Blonie Park.

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW – An estimated two million young pilgrims from some 180 different countries joined Pope Francis in celebrating the latest World Youth Days. Pioneered by Polish-born St. John Paul II, the latest religious and cultural festival was held in and around the southern Polish city of Kraków. Its theme was the beatitude: Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

The six-day event turned out to be a great spiritual adventure for countless young Catholics from around the globe. They included high school and college students, young soldiers from half a dozen NATO countries, seminarians, young nuns and novices, young married couples with children, first-timers and repeaters. Piotr Michulec, a young Pole, admitted he attended his first WYD out of curiosity but found such optimism and goodwill that this was now his eighth festival.

The sight of so many clean-cut youths and the sheer volume of Christian joy, enthusiasm and exuberance they exuded was a heartening

experience indeed. But there was no getting away from the fact that the event took place following a wave of Muslim terrorist attacks in France and neighboring Germany.

The Holy Father was especially pained by the cold-blooded murder of an 86-year-old priest near Rouen, France whose throat was slit by two Islamic terrorists as he was celebrating morning mass. "Let's recognize it. The world is in a state of war in bits and pieces," he told reporters, adding that the attacks could be seen as another world war. "We should not be afraid to speak this truth. The world is at war because it has lost peace."

Determined to prevent any trouble, the Polish authorities launched a major security operation before and during the week-long events. Border controls were stiffened, and hundreds of foreigners lacking proper travel documents or otherwise suspicious were not allowed into Poland. Police and army patrols were clearly in evidence and plain-clothes agents milled about in the huge congregations just in case.

See "World Youth Day," page 4

Singing, dancing, praying and hearing the Word of God

Terrorist incidents avoided thanks to security precautions

New Consul General in Chicago Wants to Showcase the New Poland

An Interview with Piotr Janicki



Consul General Janicki

Encouraging trade and tourism is high on the priority list of Piotr Janicki, new Consul General at the Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Chicago. Before his appointment in July, Janicki worked for commercial banks in New York and New Jersey. He also served as vice-consul for legal affairs at the Polish consulate in New York. Before that, he was Deputy Mayor of the Praga Północ district of Warsaw. He studied law, graduating with a Master's degree from the Jagiellonian University in his native city of Kraków.

What have you observed so far about the Polish community in Chicago?

Chicago is a beautiful city; the architecture is amazing. So far, I am impressed by how well everyone is organized and how the Polish community is able to maintain the Polish language and Polish heritage and at the same time blend into U.S. society and become very successful. We have 180 Polish organizations here in Chicago, so we have tens of thousands of people involved in the Polish community. That's unprecedented; you will probably not see the same level of involvement anywhere else.

What do you see as the most urgent needs for the Polish community in Chicago, given the diminishing population and the see "New Consul General." page 4

PAC Pays a Visit to Podkarpacie Region

RZESZOW, Poland — A delegation of 44 members of the Polish American Congress (PAC) traveled to Poland for a first-ever meeting outside of U.S. borders. The PAC was participating in the 2016 Forum Polonii Amerykańskiej (Forum of American Polonia) held July 25-30, in Rzeszow, Podkarpacie Region. Led by President Frank Spula, other members of the PAC executive committee included: Maria Szonert-Binienda, VP for Polish agenda; Dr. Mark Pienkos, VP for public relations; and Hubert Cioromski, VP for financial developments.

The PAC delegation included representatives of 13 PAC Divisions, including the Western New York Division represented by President James L. Ławicki II, and seven national member organizations. Dr. Barbara Andersen, executive director of the Washington D.C. office, acted as an organizational liaison.

Władysław Ortyl, marshal of the Podkarpackie voivodeship, organized the forum. It included meetings, presentations by high-level speakers, and panel discussions explaining the opportunities for business, educational, and cultural partnerships. Several tourist-oriented venues the region offers were also presented.

See "Forum," page 3

Celebrations of Late Summer and Fall

continued from last month

ALL SAINTS' DAY. Poland's post-war communist party was afraid to ban many holidays outright in this staunchly Catholic country, so it tried to at least secularize them. So it was with All Saints Day which they called "Święto Zmarłych" (holiday of the dead). Actually, All Saints Day (Nov. 1) is set aside to honor canonized saints, and All Souls Day (Nov. 2) focuses on our dearly departed loved ones.

When the Litany to the Saints is said at an All Saints Day Mass in Polish America, it should include some or all of the following Polish saints: Our Lady Queen of Poland, St. Brother Albert, St. Andrew Bobola, St. Andrew Żurawek, St. Benedict the Hermit, St. Faustyna Kowalska, St. Hyacinth (Jacek), St. Hedwig (Jadwiga) Queen of Poland, St. Hedwig (Jadwiga) of Silesia, St. John Cantius, St. John Sarkander, St. John of Dukla, St. Josaphat, St. Casimir, St. Cunegunda (Kinga), St. Clement Maria Dworzak, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Melchior Grodziecki, Five Holy Brother Martyrs (Benedykt, Jan, Izaak, Mateusz and Krystyn), St. Raphael Kalinowski, St. Stanislaus Kostka, St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr, St. Edith Stein, St. Ladislaus (Władysław), and St. Adalbert (Wojciech).

In Polish, the names of the saints in a litany are in the vocative case, the one used when directly addressing someone. So the celebrant will say: "Matko Boska Królowo Polski" (Our Lady Queen of Poland) and "Święty Wojciechu" (Saint Adalbert), to which the congregation replies: "Módl się za nami!"

ALL SOULS DAY. Although America's Memorial Day celebrated in

May might appear to be a rival occasion for honoring the dead, the Catholic feast day of All Souls Day (Nov. 2) continues to be celebrated wherever sizable Polonian concentrations exist. That includes the well-known American Częstochowa Shrine in Doylestown near Philadelphia, the Polish Carmelite and Salvatorian monasteries in Indiana, and various Polish parishes and cemeteries in between.

There are many other ways to keep the flag of Polish heritage flying over these United States.

The essence of All Souls Day observances comprises Holy Mass, celebrated at church or at the cemetery, visiting, tidying up and decorating graves with flowers and votive lights and the reading of *wypominki* (prayer intentions). In a Polish American setting, a candlelight procession from church to graveyard might be held if the distance is not great, otherwise a bus trip to the burial site is the alternative. In addition to prayers and hymns, the officiating clergyman might provide some information on the Polonian activists buried there.

The old Polish cemeteries in American cities where well-known Polonian pioneers lie buried are often rarely visited and neglected. A good project involving young PolAms (school kids, scouts, altar servers, dance ensemble, teen club, etc.) could be a clean-up campaign to clear the graves of leaves and debris and decorate them with floral wreaths, votive lamps and small Polish and U.S. flags.

POLISH INDEPENDENCE DAY. November 11th, 1918, the day Polish leader Józef Piłsudski arrived in Warsaw and accepted the command of the Polish armed forces, is celebrated as Święto Niepodległości (Independence Day) in Poland. That fact it coincides with Veterans' Day provides an excellent opportunity to remind the community-at-large that this also is a major Polish patriotic occasion.

In a Polish American setting, activities include a children's essay, art or coloring contests commemorative masses, patriotic assemblies or a military parade. Exhibitions highlighting Poland's independence struggle and the role played by Polonia, especially the Polish Falcons and Gen. Józef Haller's "blue army" could be set up at city hall, a public library, school, etc. Where manpower and resources would make organizing major PolAm events impractical, it might be easier to send a Polonian contingent to join existing community-wide activities. Wherever Veterans' Day ceremonies, parades or other observances are held, the local Polish community can assert its public presence by supplying a prominent uniformed, banner-bearing or otherwise readily identifiable delegation.

Polish veteran Zygmunt Baranowski, an uncle of mine with a bushy mustache, used to ride a horse dressed as Marshal Piłsudski in the Polish Day Parade in Hamtramck, Michigan, Detroit's once predominantly Polish suburb. There are many other ways to keep the flag of Polish heritage flying over these United States. All that is needed is a bit of imagination and a lot of determination. Volunteer manpower and funding are also quite helpful.

Forum Opportunities Presented

continued from cover

Besides the PAC, several representatives from the American business community joined Polish counterparts to listen to the opportunities the region has to offer. Other participants included representatives of Polonia communities worldwide, including those of Canada, England, Spain, Italy, and Lithuania, to name a few. Representatives from Poland's local, regional, and national governments at various levels were also in attendance.

The organizers of the 2016 Forum prepared an impressive, activity-packed agenda that also included visiting several places in the region to gain an up-close and personal view of this beautiful area.

The group made a special visit to the Ulma Family Museum of Poles Saving Jews in Markowa.

The PAC began discussions about assisting Poland in its desire to attract business and tourism. Another important element is helping young people in the United States learn about the many opportunities



The Polish American Congress delegation included representatives of 13 PAC Divisions, including the Western New York Division, represented by President James L. Ławicki II (above), and seven national member organizations.

Poland has to offer.

One possibility is the development of programs and initiatives to enable young people to travel and study in Poland.

Cardinal Wyszynski and WYD 2016

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thank Divine Providence for having given Paul VI so strong a desire. Today it is granted to me to fulfill this desire of the deceased Pope Paul VI in the midst of you, beloved sons and daughters of my motherland. When I was ... called by the votes of the cardinals from the chair of St. Stanislaus in Krakow to that of St. Peter in Rome, I immediately understood that it was for me to fulfill that desire, the desire that Paul VI had been unable to carry out at the millennium of the baptism of Poland."

The 1979 visit marked the culmination of the Polish millennium of

1966 and the beginning of the Polish Pope leading the Church to the end of the second millennium.

"One motherland, my native one, has prepared me and sent me back to the other one, the larger one, the Catholic one, which embraces, as does my service, the whole world," said John Paul II upon his return to Rome at the end of the 1979 pilgrimage. That preparation was synthesized above all in the Polish millennium, led by its primate. Pope Francis celebrated that at Częstochowa.

Father Raymond J. de Souza is the Editor-in-chief of Convivium Magazine.

Polish American Journal Foundation Scholarship Fund Needs Your Generosity

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Polish American Journal Foundation (PAJF) announces the establishment of annual scholarships to be given to college students of Polish or Polish American descent. The scholarships are available to undergraduate and graduate students majoring in **journalism** (print news, broadcast news, or advertising/public relations in either print or electronic media); and the **arts** (literature, including poetry, drama, story, etc.); visual arts (painting, drawing, sculpture, etc.); graphic arts (painting, drawing, design, sculpture, modeling, etc.); and performing arts (theatre, dance, music, etc.).

Both the journalism and arts scholarships will be \$1500.00 each.

The fund drive for the 2017 awards will run until December 31, 2016. Applications will be accepted from January to April 30, 2017 with winners announced on May 31, 2017. Funds will be dispersed to the winners upon proof of full-time studies at an accredited institution.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicant must be an American citizen, either by birth or naturalization.
- Applicant must be of Polish or Polish American descent.
- Applicant must be a full-time college student, currently enrolled at an accredited college/university in the United States, with confirmed future attendance at an institution in the Fall of 2017.
- Applicant must describe his/her involvement with the Polish community — past, present, or future.
- Complete application package must be received in its entirety no later than April May 30, 2017.
- There is a \$15.00 application fee.

Factors for Consideration in Order of Importance:

- Demonstrated interest and involvement in Polish American cultural activities with future plans to advance those interests.
- Significant and potential contributions (academic, cultural, scientific, civic), open to all career fields.
- Academic and scholastic performance and achievements as demonstrated in application materials provided for examination.



The complete application package can be downloaded from the PAJF's website, which has a link at www.polamjournal.com.

WE ASK OUR READERS FOR SUPPORT

The Polish American Journal Foundation (PAJF), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, was established in 2014 to promote Polish and Polish American culture and traditions among members of the public and other Polish and Polish American groups

The success of this scholarship fund drive, the Polish American

Journal Foundation — and ultimately the Polish American Journal — depends on the support it receives from Polish Americans.

The PAJF is aware that, while there are numerous scholarships available for students of Polish descent, very few pertain to students in the areas of journalism and the arts. And, of those that do, strict criteria (membership in granting organization, residence, etc.) limits their availability to hundreds of other students. The PAJF hopes to bridge this

gap with its Scholarship Fund.

For the 2017-18 academic year, we are offering two \$1500 scholarships. Over time, we hope to increase the number of scholarships offered each year, and ultimately, the prize amount.

MEMBERSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

Membership in the PAJF is open to all. Donations are accepted in any amount. All donations will be acknowledged and may be used as charitable contributions on your tax return. The success of the fund depends on renewed membership in the PAJF, and additional funds ear-

marked solely for scholarships.

Please help us help our own community. Since 1911, the Polish American Journal has been an advocate for Poles and their descendants in the United States. Help us draw upon more than 100 years of the Polish American experience to support those who share our core values of strong family, faith, and

community.

For more information, or to make a donation, call, write or email:

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P.O. Box 198
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FORUM

Proposal for Solving the Illegal Immigration Problem

by Jan P. Muczyk

The presidential election is in full swing and illegal immigration is one of the salient issues on which the candidates of both major parties are taking a stand. However, neither candidate is proposing the obvious practical solution. Most illegal immigrants come to the United States to find jobs that pay better than the ones in their home countries, and most employers hire them because doing so keeps wages in the United States down. Therefore, the practical solution is at the employer level.

If employers were sufficiently penalized for hiring illegal immigrants then they would avoid doing so, and the illegal immigrants would lack the incentive to come to the United States. For example, employers could be fined \$50,000 per each illegal immigrant hired for the first offense; \$100,000 per each hired for the second offense; and six months in jail for each hired for the third offense. Surely, employers would oppose such a law, but the problem would be solved.

The government needs to continue improving border security and deporting felons and tax dodgers. Seasonal workers would be entitled to guest worker visas. Immigration laws still need to be reformed to accommodate most of the illegals already in the United States. A key provision would include a path to citizenship. Deporting 11 to 12 million illegal immigrants is neither practical nor probably desirable. The fines imposed on employers who hire illegals would defray the expenses associated with improving border security and deporting felons and tax dodgers.

Jan P. Muczyk is professor emeritus Cleveland State University and the Air Force Institute of Technology.

World Youth Day: Pope Francis Offers Advice, Encouragement

continued from cover

At Częstochowa's Jasna Góra Monastery, Poland's most sacred shrine, Pope Francis stumbled on an altar step and briefly disappeared from sight before being helped to his feet. Unabashed, he continued the liturgy and only later used the incident to make a religious point: we all stumble, but the main thing is to pick oneself up and carry on.

Pope Francis may be less of an orator than Poland's charismatic John Paul II, but he is known for his extreme humility and modesty. Rather than a VIP limousine, he traveled around Kraków in a small VW hatchback and even rode a tram. Rather than setting his own distinct style, Pope Francis continued the Polish Pontiff's good-night chats with worshipers from the upstairs Papal Window of the Kraków Archbishop's Palace.

His private visit to the infamous German death camp, Auschwitz, marked a major departure from the cheers, applause, chants and general hubbub that had accompanied his meetings with pilgrims. Unaccompanied by the bodyguards who had surrounded him throughout his visit, the Holy Father silently walked beneath the cynical "Arbeit macht frei" (Work brings freedom) sign and continued his solitary walk through the camp. He prayed in the cell where St. Maksymilian Kolbe was killed with a lethal injection and at the Wall of Death. He also met and chatted briefly with a dozen elderly Auschwitz survivors.

"Our faith batteries get charged up so much during World Youth Days that they stay with us for days, months and years," commented Paweł Sroczynski, for whom this was his fifth WYD. A group of pilgrims from the Philippines raved about the Polish *naleśniki* (crêpes) and *pierogi*. Several American pilgrims who would not walk the streets at night back home, said they felt completely safe in Kraków and couldn't get over how clean the streets were. They also admired



STAMFORD CONNECTICUT'S HOLY NAME OF JESUS CHURCH YOUTH GROUP members were among the thousands from the United States to attend World Youth Day Festivities in Krakow. The group was under the guidance and leadership of Rev. Damian K. Pielesz, associate pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Church. In all, 35 Youth Group members and chaperones traveled to Krakow from the Polish American parish.

The Holy Name Youth Group worked hard for two years on fundraisers for its airfare and accommodations. This group from Stamford is the largest to attend from the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Kraków's beautiful old architecture. A girl from war-torn Syria also said she felt safe in Poland. "In my country, when I leave work I never know whether my home and family will still be there," she explained.

During one of his daily Papal Window chats, he said the secret of a happy marriage boiled down to three expressions: please, thank you and sorry. "Misunderstandings will occur, and sometimes even dishes go flying, but the main thing is to make up before the day is out. There should be no cold war of silence," he emphasized.

An ocean of youthful humanity stretched as far as the eye could see in the Field of Mercy outside the village of Brzegi, some seven miles from Kraków. That was the venue of a prayer vigil held in on the eve of Pope Francis' departure. There, the Holy Father warned against becoming a 20-some-year-old retiree, a Christian couch potato whose life revolves round the Internet and computer games. On two separate occasions he urged young people

to converse with their grandparents who have a wealth of experiences and traditions to hand down.

Several young people came forth to share their experiences. A Brazilian said he had cut himself off from his family during 16 years of drug addiction and came clean only thanks to his religious faith. A young Polish woman had a good career and loads of fun with good-looking males, until one day she woke up and realized the emptiness of her life. Something pushed her to go to confession for the first time in years, giving her a new lease on life.

On the final day of his sojourn, Pope Francis invited young people to the next World Youth Days which will take place in the Central American Republic of Panama in 2019. He appeared for one last time in the Papal Window, thanked pilgrims for receiving him so cordially and asked them to pray for him. For a churchman his age, the 79-year-old Pontiff held up remarkably well during his stay in Poland despite the hot, humid weather and packed schedule.

Pope Visits Mercy Centre in Kraków

Pope Francis visited the Knights of Columbus-sponsored Mercy Centre at Tauron Arena, Kraków, July 31, to greet 12,000 World Youth Day volunteers. In addition to the 10,000 Polish and 2,000 international volunteers greeting the pope, the Knights of Columbus was represented by its supreme chaplain, Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore.

The stop was among the pope's last before returning to Rome.

Mercy Centre served as the international English-language catechetical and youth festival site at World Youth Day from July 26-31. Activities included Eucharist adoration, talks by bishops and leaders of youth ministries and movements, witnesses by young people on the importance of faith, musical and other presentations.

New Consul General: "Keeping your Polish heritage requires some effort."

continued from cover

increased assimilation into the suburbs?

The Polish community may never again be as strong as it was in the late '60s or early '70s. You will not see a new wave of Polish immigrants coming to the United States any time soon. The Polish economy is doing better than 15 or 20 years ago, not to mention 30 or 35. I see being Polish and keeping your Polish heritage as more of a choice now. Before, you happened to be surrounded by Polish people, so staying close to Polish culture wasn't difficult. Right now, it's harder. Keeping your Polish heritage requires some effort. It's easy to forget where you are from if you do not stay in touch with your culture on a daily basis. If you want your children to speak Polish, it takes effort. Polish people are moving to the suburbs, and I would like to support those people who are aware that they need to work twice as hard to keep their Polish heritage.

The Consulate's main function is to attend to the needs of Poles living in America—visas, passports, legal records, and so on, but are you planning any new initiatives that involve outreach to Polish Americans?

We have to serve the Polish community by providing all the services that you mention, but our job is also introducing Polish culture to Americans, not only Polish Americans but also Americans who have been here

for a long time and may not have had the opportunity to come across anything Polish-related. There are numerous things we can do to promote Polish culture and traditions and to introduce Americans to all the things we have to offer that may not be typical or may be a little different from what they know here. From an American's perspective, Poland is a country located somewhere between Germany and Russia, and the typical American has very little knowledge of a country of 38 million people and the size of New Mexico. My job is to keep them informed and let them experience Polish culture, traditions, art, music, and literature.

Can you describe how your appointment as Consul General came about?

I got a phone call from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and they asked me if I would like to come back to Foreign Service and come back to the United States. I had to quit my job and fly to Warsaw for three months of training. After passing my consular exam I came back to the United States as a diplomat.

You really do speak English like a native speaker. Can you tell us how that came about?

Well, I had a great teacher when I was in high school. It's like being an actor. I can speak with an American accent or, if you were British, I would try to speak British English to you, although I have not practiced

that for a long time. I speak English well because I practice every day at home. My wife is American and we speak English at home, but I still think and dream in Polish.

Is Poland's continued exclusion from the Visa Waiver Program something you are concerned about?

It is a big concern because Poland is the only member of the Schengen Agreement that is not part of the Visa Waiver Program. However, the Program is only good if you just want to travel to the United States as a tourist. A lot of my fellow citizens come here with intention to work or visit relatives for an extended period. The program would not work for a lot of people. Let's say you come here on the Visa Waiver Program and you want to study or get married. You would have to leave the United States and apply for a visa to come back. As much as I would like to see Poland be a part of the Program, the visa waiver doesn't mean you can just come here and stay as long as you want.

President Obama and others have criticized the Polish government over democratic values and institutions. Can you comment on how the political climate in Poland affects the work of the Consulate?

I was hoping not to have to comment on that. [Laughter] I would encourage American officials to look into the issue, not just to read

about it in the media but also get deeper into the subject and understand it. President Obama's words were carefully chosen and very diplomatic; political analysts should look at what he actually said. Polish Americans are very aware of what's going on in Poland, and the majority like the change in government. They are largely conservative; you can see that by analyzing election results here in Chicago. They are eager for President Duda to come here and visit them.

How will the activities of the Consulate differ under your direction from those of your predecessor?

I'd like to focus on trade more. We have a trade division at the Embassy in Washington, but that doesn't mean we don't need to focus on trade relations here in Chicago. From the Polish perspective, Chicago looks like the only thing between New York and L.A. I would like to change that point of view and let them know that there are multiple states; 13 of them are in my Consular district. I would like to encourage Polish companies to discover the potential in Wisconsin, Michigan, North and South Dakota, even Louisiana. And I would like American companies to discover Poland. From their perspective, Europe is Germany, Great Britain and France, maybe Italy. I want them to believe that Poland is not a place with an unskilled labor force where they can open another factory; they can

open a factory in China or Vietnam and produce goods cheaper. There are highly educated people in Poland, a skilled labor force. There are companies that are involved in the production of software. There are great engineers, doctors, physicists, scientists, and I want companies to look closely into that and rediscover Poland from a different perspective.

Is there anything I haven't asked you that you would like to say about being Consul General?

I want Polish Americans to be proud of their heritage. Years ago, it was very hard to be proud of a communist motherland. Right now, it's so much easier to travel to Poland, to rediscover your homeland. Even if you haven't been to Poland in many years, I encourage you to travel there. I want you to spend your U.S. dollars not in Cancun and not in Brazil or any other tourist destination, but I want you to look into Central Europe, to visit my home city Kraków, visit Gdansk and Warsaw. Poland is a beautiful place, and if you happen to be Polish American, you will be amazed. I wish every Polish American could take this sentimental journey.

This interview was conducted August 1, 2016, by Leonard Kniffel, a Chicago journalist and president of the Polish American Librarians Association. It was edited for length and clarity.

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Relic From Eucharistic Miracle Placed in Reliquary

by **Bradley Eli, M.Div., Ma.Th.**
LEGNICA, Poland (ChurchMilitant.com) — After approving the investigation of a eucharistic miracle, Bp. Zbigniew Kiernikowski of Legnica, Poland has placed what appears to be a bleeding Host into a reliquary for public veneration at St. Hyacinth's Shrine, where the eucharistic miracle occurred.

As reported by ChurchMilitant.com, on Christmas Day 2013, a priest accidentally dropped a consecrated Host on the floor at St. Hyacinth Shrine (St. Jacek) in Legnica. The Host was placed in holy water to dissolve per Church guidelines. After two weeks, instead of dissolving, the Host appeared to bleed.

The former bishop of Legnica, Stefan Cichy, suspected the phenomenon to be a eucharistic miracle, whereby the Host takes on the appearance of what it actually is — the Body and Blood of Christ.

Bishop Cichy enlisted the aid of two independent forensic medical departments — one at the university of Wrocław, and the other at Szczecin. They both found the samples to resemble heart muscle tissue. Szczecin even found that the sample was “most similar to the heart muscle ... as it appears under the strains of agony.”

Bishop Zbigniew Kiernikowski, who replaced Bp. Cichy in June 2014, commented, “When I learned that my predecessor, Bishop Cichy, had formed a diocesan committee and asked forensic medicine departments to study this, I confirmed the committee's members, and everything took its course. Then we had the results from Szczecin and Wrocław.”

On April 10, Bp. Kiernikowski shared the positive results of the investigation.

In January this year, I presented the whole matter to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Today, according to the Holy See, I recommend that the parish priest, Andrzej Ziomburze, prepare a suitable place for the Relic so that the faithful might give it honor. I also ask for visitors to be provided relevant information and to offer thorough catechesis to help properly form the faithful in their understanding of eucharistic worship.

The Host was placed in a reliquary on the main altar of St. Hyacinth church July 2 during Mass offered by Bp. Kiernikowski in the presence of 3,000 people.

Bishop Kiernikowski said recently, “Now we will have to wait for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith's decision before officially calling it supernatural.”

If approved, it will be the 134th eucharistic miracle to be officially recognized by the Holy See.

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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Pope Sends Help to Ukraine

In addition to his personal donation and his request to parishes throughout Europe to take up a collection for victims of the war in Eastern Ukraine, Pope Francis has set up a committee to distribute the funds in support of projects suggested by assemblies of Ukraine's religious leaders. **Auxiliary Bishop Jan Sobilo**, of the Latin-rite diocese of Kharkiv-Zaporizhia will be president of the committee and the Vatican's Caritas Internationalis and the Pontifical Council Cor Unum will each have one committee member.

COMMEMORATING A 300-YEAR-OLD RESCUE. The bronze cross in Old Fort Niagara stands on the smallest national monument ever established under the jurisdiction of the Department of War in 1925. The small plot of land overlooking Lake Ontario stands within what had first been a French garrison fort built in 1688. It replaced a wooden cross erected by Fr. Pierre Millet, S.J. who accompanied a detachment of French troops to deliver provisions to the fort during a bitter winter. Only 12 of the 100 soldiers in the fort remained alive. After attending to the physical and spiritual needs of the troops, Fr. Millet ordered an oak cross to be built with the inscription *Regnat Vincit Imperat Christus* (Christ reigns conquers, rules). He then offered a Good Friday service. Fr. Millet later worked among the native tribes and even suffered imprisonment for five years. **Fr. Michael Burzynski** and members of the St. Justin Council of the Knights of Columbus in Cheektowaga, N.Y., celebrated mass on the spot as a memorial not only to Fr. Millet but to those other priests whose heroism took Christianity into the wilderness and whose devotion sought to create in this new

world a new France.

CLERGY ABUSE PROTESTERS LEAVE. After 14 years the half dozen men and women who protested every Sunday outside Boston's Cathedral of the Holy Cross have decided to end their protest. “It's just a fight we can't seem to win, even though we have had our few battles that we have been victorious in,” said **Robert Sidorowicz** of Quincy, Mass.

Another parishioner, Jane Braunsky, said, “Apologies have been made, bishops have made them, the cardinal certainly mentioned it during his sermons, if they had listened. I'm not sure what more can be done. So, if they're Christian, they should say, ‘OK, we'll take that as an apology and go forth and live.’”

ARCHBISHOP WENSKI REBUKES WHISTLEBLOWERS. Together with taking action to remove one of his priests from his duties at St. Rose of Lima parish in Miami for violating archdiocesan policies in his hirings, **Archbishop Thomas Wenski** also criticized the parishioners who called attention to their pastor's financial and personal improprieties. In his letter to the Christifidelis group who brought forth the allegations, he dismissed the majority of their findings as “based on long-discredited gossip, misinformation, and falsehoods.”

In the wake of the situation, he noted that “the unfortunate string of events has fractured the spirit and unity at this long established parish and school.”

In the wake of the shootings at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando and Orlando's Bishop Lynch's statement that the teachings of the Catholic Church breed hostility to gays, **Archbishop Wenski** rejected

Poles Wary of Trump

WARSAW — Sixty-eight percent of Poles would vote for Hillary Clinton if they could cast a ballot in the U.S. presidential elections, the *Rzeczpospolita* daily has reported.

Only 13 percent of Poles would vote for Clinton's Republican opponent Donald Trump, the Polish daily reported, citing a survey for the paper by pollster IBRI.

Nineteen percent of respondents were undecided.

In a comment piece, *Rzeczpospolita* described the outcome of the survey as surprising, adding

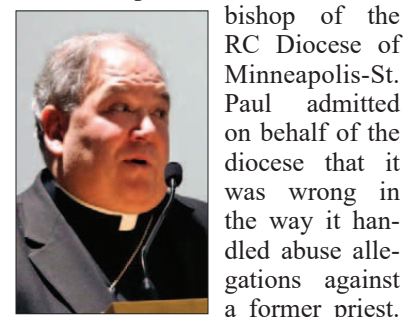
that most Poles are in an anti-establishment mood and are against taking in Muslim immigrants.

What Polish people are concerned about is Trump's apparent intention to dismantle Western institutions from the World Trade Organization to NATO and strike a deal with Vladimir Putin without taking into consideration the interests of Central and Eastern Europe, the paper said.

Trump's far-reaching experiments could pose a threat to Poland's security, *Rzeczpospolita* said in its opinion piece.

the idea. “Our faith,” he said, “our religion gives no comfort, no sanction to a racist, or a misogynist, or a homophobe.”

ADMISSION OF WRONGDOING PUTS ABUSE CASE TO REST.



Archbishop Bernard Hebda, archbishop of the RC Diocese of Minneapolis-St. Paul admitted on behalf of the diocese that it was wrong in the way it handled abuse allegations against a former priest.

Archbishop Hebda will also participate in restorative justice sessions as part of the settlement.

The archbishop was brought from Newark to deal with the case that began under the previous archbishop.

BISHOP PAROCKI SIDES WITH ARCHBISHOP CHAPUT. Springfield, Illinois' RC Bishop **Thomas Paprocki** stated that Philadelphia's Archbishop Charles Chaput's guidelines closing the door to letting divorced and remarried Catholics receive communion “are certainly correct.” Bishop Paprocki has long been known for defending orthodoxy and Catholic teaching.

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BOOKS IN BRIEF / Mary Lanham

Niagara Camp in the Great War

TRAINING FOR ARMAGEDDON

Niagara Camp in the Great War, 1914-1919

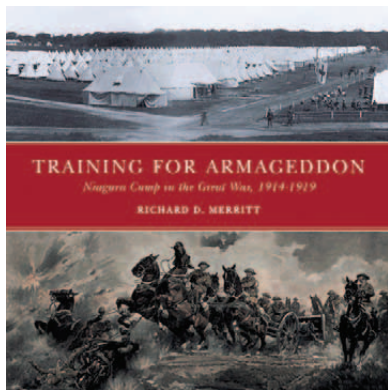
by Richard D. Merritt
FriesenPress, 2015, 307 pps.
Suite 300 – 990 Fort St.
Victoria, BC, Canada, V8V 3K2
FriesenPress.com

Covering the camp in its entirety from the eve of and during the First World War, Richard D. Merritt has published *Training for Armageddon: Niagara Camp in the Great War, 1914-1919*. Merritt describes the everyday lives of the soldiers, rigorous training performed by the Canadians and covers the forgotten Siberian Campaign. Also within this well-researched text is a chapter that is completely devoted to Camp Kosciuszko and the Polish volunteers during the Great War.

When the Great War began in Europe in 1914, the United States was slow to involve itself. Its leaders preferred instead, to try to broker a peace between the countries. Poles who had immigrated to the States and Americans of Polish descent saw the conflict as an opportunity to free their homeland. Spurred by this strong desire, a deal was struck so Polish Americans could train in Canada and fight for France. The training facility selected for this operation was Niagara Camp in born out of this was Camp Kosciuszko. Not only American Poles trained here, there were Canadian Poles as well. In all, 22,000 Polish Canadians and Polish Americans were trained at Niagara Camp.

Camp Kosciuszko became well-known throughout the greater Polish world and was visited by such personages as Jan Ignacy Paderewski and his wife, and Prince Stanislaus Poniatowski the grand-nephew of the last king of Poland and a lieutenant in the French Army.

Between 1917 and 1919 a tragedy visited the camp in the form of the Spanish Flu pandemic. Many trainees, nurses, and support staff fell ill. Twenty-five soldiers died from the pandemic and are buried in a cemetery plot in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. Every year since that tragedy, the Polish community has traveled to the site to pay their respects for those who succumbed to the illness while training to fight for the freedom of Poland.



Training for Armageddon: Niagara Camp in the Great War, 1914-1919 by Richard D. Merritt contains photographs, a chronology of events, bibliography and index. This historical text is well worth making space on your bookshelf for and is available from FriesenPress.com.

About the author. Richard D. Merritt was born in Toronto and educated in London, Ontario. He earned his medical degree from the University of Western Ontario, School of Medicine. He practiced ophthalmology in Niagara Falls, Ontario for forty years. In 2010, Dr. Merritt received an Ontario Heritage Trust Award and in 2012 he was named Niagara-on-the-Lake's Citizen of the Year. He is enjoying his retirement with his wife, Dr. Nancy Smith, their two daughters, and three grandchildren.

OUTRAGED BY POLISH FLAGS IN MOVIE. Daniel Ragussis' movie "Imperium" tells the story of Nate Foster, a young, idealistic FBI agent, sent to infiltrate and liquidate a radical right-wing terrorist group. The film's trailer includes KuKluxKlan-style burning crosses, portraits of Hitler, swastikas, White Supremacist symbols, and Poland's white and red flags carried by marchers. Polish net users were shocked by the scenes, apparently taken from Independence Day marches held in Poland on November 11th. It remains to be seen whether the Polish reaction will prompt the film-makers to remove that controversial element. But one cannot rule out that the negative publicity is a bid for box-office success.

REVIEW / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Not Simply a Visit With Stalin

NOT SIMPLY A VISIT WITH STALIN

Rev. Stanislaus Orlemanski and His Brothers

Dzieje Najnowsze, Rocznik XLVII – 2016, 2

PL. ISSN 0419-8824

by Krystyna Piórkowska

The *Dzieje Najnowsze, Rocznik XLVII*, 2016, Issue 2, published by the Polish Academy of Sciences, a prestigious publication on recent history in Poland, featured Krystyna Piórkowska's article, "Not Simply a Visit with Stalin – Rev. Stanislaus Orlemanski and His Brothers." Written in Polish, this article tells the story of Rev. Stanislaus Orlemanski and many of the false interpretations of his steadfast dedication to a free and democratic Poland. Piórkowska's painstaking and authenticated documentation supports Orlemanski's devotion to a Poland free from German subjugation.

For the past 71 years, the life of Rev. Stanislaus Orlemanski has been described variously as one of a Polish American communist who invited himself to Moscow, an overconfident bumpkin who thought he could outsmart Stalin, and a priest who departed without the permission of his diocesan superior.

However, Stanislaus was not the most radical of the three Orlemanski brothers, who were all priests. Even though they received their secondary education from St. Mary's Preparatory School in Orchard Lake, Michigan, it was Casimir who was deeply engaged in the Pittsburgh union movement and was well-known by workers involved in the U.S. labor movement. Stanislaus was known to the Polish American community mainly through his published work in the *Dziennik Zjednoczenia* (DJ), the former *Naród Polski* and newspaper of Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. In March 1924, the DJ published the article in which he criticized the Catholic Encyclopedia for its description of Poles and Italians. In the ensuing years, Orlemanski's articles appeared in both the Polish and English language press.

The historical record shows that the decision concerning Orlemanski's travel to Moscow was made some six months prior to his actual



Stanislaus Orlemanski

departure, during the Moscow Conference of October 1943, and it was made jointly by the USSR and the United States. This was a co-operative decision related to the 1944 U.S. presidential election, to the future post-war Polish government, and to Stalin's desire to impress both Anglican and Roman Catholics with his openness to religion. Clearly, President Roosevelt (FDR) and his closest advisors saw the benefits of this proposal, as did the Soviet government. Efforts to include clergy in the Wanda "Wasilewska" government also involved Fr. Walter Ciszek, S.J., and Fr. Wilhelm Kubsz.

Wanda Wasilewska was a Polish writer, an official of the temporary Polish communist government, and a Stalin favorite. Father Ciszek, who, in 1941, was arrested under accusations of espionage for the Vatican, spent five years in a NKVD, the Soviet political police prison, then an additional 15 years of hard labor in a Siberian Gulag. Father Kubsz served as the chaplain of the First Polish Army.

Mid-January 1944 correspondence of W. Averell Harriman, U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union, with Washington officials relates that the People's Commissar of the USSR had proposed that Leo Krzycki, along with Oscar Lange, and Orlemanski, all serve as members of a future Polish government.

Krzycki headed one of the socialist organizations and formed the American Slav Congress in the United States. Oscar Lange was a confirmed socialist and a one-time professor at the University of Chi-

cago.

Stalin's January 1944 letter to Roosevelt requesting issuance of passports for Orlemanski and Lange served as a camouflage for FDR. In his response to Stalin, he attempted to distance himself from the project. A passport was issued, as were permits for travel from the U.S. Western Defense Command and the Alaska Defense Command, and additional documents valid for travel through Egypt, Iraq, and Persia (Iran). These confirmed the deep involvement of the United States and British government in this project.

Correspondence from the U.S. National Catholic Welfare Conference (NCWC) to Amleto Cardinal Cicognani, apostolic delegate in Washington, D.C., sent prior to Orlemanski's departure, contained specific references to his probable position in the future government. The well-published suspension of Rev. Orlemanski was simply *pro forma* and lasted only a few days. Drafts of his apology are located in the NCWC files. Finally, the invitation to participate in the 50th ordination anniversary celebration of strongly anti-communist Giuseppe Cardinal Pizzardo, Cardinal of the Curia, in Albano in September 1953, confirmed that the Vatican was aware that Orlemanski was not an agent.

What remains to be discovered is the text of the Stalin document transported for Orlemanski by Augustinian Father Marie Leopold Braun, from Moscow to the Vatican, and the Roman Curia's full analysis of this document. This must wait until the declassification of the Pope Pius XII records held by the Vatican. What is clear is that Rev. Stanislaus Orlemanski, although a leftist was not a radical revolutionary, but rather an intensely pro-Polish U.S. citizen, who identified the enemy as Germany and supported any organization that fought against that enemy.

The researcher, Piórkowska, a native New Yorker, received her bachelor's degree from City College of New York and a master's degree from Columbia University. She has done extensive work, as an English/Polish language expert for the Polish Army Museum in Warsaw. Based on her research, she was asked to prepare materials for the English speaking witnesses to the Katyń Massacre for the Katyń Museum in Warsaw that opened in Sept. 2015. Piórkowska is also the author of the book entitled "English-Speaking Witnesses To Katyń," first published in 2012.

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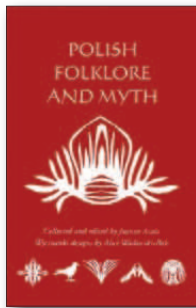
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POLISH FOLKLORE AND MYTH by Joanne Asala \$12.95 Item 2-679 ISBN: 9781572160897 6x9 in., 118 pp., pb. This book of engaging stories includes such tales as "The Violin," "The Headache Cure," "Midsummer's Eve," "The Flower Queen's Daughter," "The Legend of the North Wind," "The Flaming Castle," "The Village Dance," and "The Unfinished Tune." The stories were collected by Joanne Asala, with wycinanki (paper-cutting) illustrations by Polish-American artist Alice Wadowski-Bak.



ily from Poland to Siberia. She experienced two years there, and faced starvation, typhus, an opium den, being torpedoes, and living through the Nazi Blitz in the London subway. Through it all, Krystyna refused to give up. This is her journey from Siberia to her entrance into medical school at only 17.

A POLISH DOCTOR IN THE NAZI CAMPS Memories of Imprisonment, Immigration, and a Life Remade

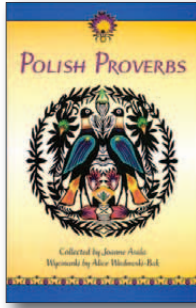


by Barbara Rylko-Bauer 28 b&w illus. 416 pp., pb. 6.125" X 9.25" \$19.95 A daughter's account of her mother's wartime experiences and postwar struggle to rebuild her life. Jadwiga Lenartowicz Rylko, was a young Polish Catholic physician in Łódź at the start of World War II. Suspected of resistance activities, she was arrested in January 1944. For the next fifteen months, she endured three Nazi concentration camps and a forty-two-day death march, spending part of this time working as a prisoner-doctor to Jewish slave laborers. Jazdia's daughter, anthropologist Barbara Rylko-Bauer, constructs an intimate ethnography that weaves a personal family narrative against a twentieth-century historical backdrop.



POLISH WYCIANKI DESIGNS by Frances Drwal \$7.95 Item 2-680 8.5x11 in., 48 pp., pb.

In Poland, the art of creating beautiful designs by cutting paper into intricate shapes-called wycinanki-has been one of the national pastimes. In this book, wycinanki is discussed and illustrated with patterns. The designs in this book can be used in many different ways, from applique to wall-paper.



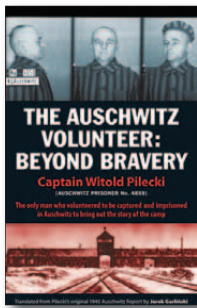
POLISH PROVERBS by Joanne Asala \$14.95 Item 2-681 6x9 in., 64 pp., pb.

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

The back and front covers feature stunning illustrations of paper cuts by the late Polish folk artist Alice Wadowski-Bak, with more of her work throughout the book.

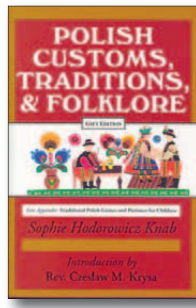
NEW! TWO TRAINS FROM POLAND A Journey in History and of the Human Spirit by Dr. Krystyna M. Sklenarz \$19.95 183 pp., photos, pb.

A midnight knock at her door changed everything for 6-year-old Krystyna Sklenarz. In the middle of the night, the KGB deported her fam-



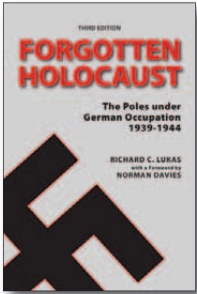
THE AUSCHWITZ VOLUNTEER by Witold Pilecki Translated by Jarek Garlinski \$34.95 Aquila Polonica Publ., 2014 460 pp., 6" x 9", pb.

In 1940, the Polish Underground wanted to know what was happening inside the recently opened Auschwitz concentration camp. Polish army officer Witold Pilecki volunteered to be arrested by the Germans and report from inside the camp. His intelligence reports, smuggled out in 1941, were among the first eyewitness accounts of Auschwitz atrocities. Pilecki's story was suppressed for half a century after his 1948 arrest by the Polish Communist regime as a "Western spy."



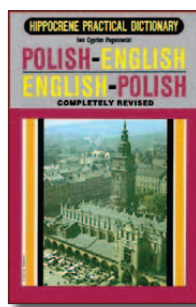
POLISH CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS & FOLKLORE \$24.95 by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab 340 pp., hc.

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



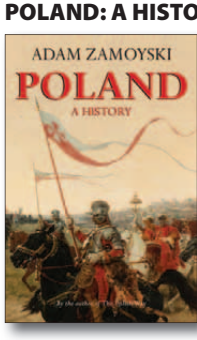
FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST: The Poles Under German Occupation, 1939-45. Third edition \$19.95 358 pp., pb.

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



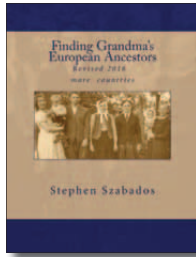
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A substantially revised and updated edition of the author's classic 1987 book, The Polish Way: A Thousand-Year History of the Poles and their Culture, which has been out of print since 2001. No nation's history has been so distorted as that of Poland.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

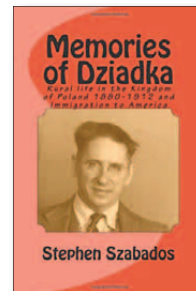


REVISED EDITION! FINDING GRANDMA'S EUROPEAN ANCESTORS by Stephen Szabados / \$19.95 210 pp., pb.

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

to use translating guides to decipher the foreign-language records. This book gives you the tools to find your European family.

MEMORIES OF DZIADKA Rural life in the Kingdom of Poland 1880-1912 and Immigration to America / by Stephen Szabados \$14.95 pb. 134 pp.



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

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



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

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

The House Of a Thousand Faces

CHICAGO — The tree-lined street of Wellington Avenue in Chicago's original Northside Polish Village neighborhood is the site of a Victorian-style house, which accommodated thousands of Polish World War II displaced persons and enabled them to experience "true freedom at last." The house was once owned by two compassionate Polish Americans, **Charles and Wanda Rozmarek**. Today, it is home to their grandson, Charles Komosa, national secretary of the Polish National Alliance (PNA), and his family. If the walls could talk, what stories they could tell!

Charles Rozmarek was the son of a Polish immigrant Pennsylvania coal miner, a graduate of Harvard Law School, a co-founder and president of the Polish American Congress (PAC) from 1944-1968, and president of the PNA from September 1939-1967. Mr. Rozmarek served as a delegate-at-large for the 1944 Democratic convention and a member of the Illinois and Chicago Bar Associations. He helped to obtain food loans for Poland during the 1950s and spoke at the United Nations regarding the Yalta Conference.



Charles and Wanda Rozmarek.

Wanda Rozmarek, nee Blinstrub, was just a toddler when she arrived in the United States from Lithuania. This immigrant child, who grew up in the Boston area, became a savior for thousands of World War II displaced Polish refugees who had immigrated to Chicago. As the "Mother of Displaced Persons," Wanda would stand at Union Station, and if refugees' sponsors were not there to meet them, would greet each and every one of them. First, Pani Wanda would take the Polish immigrants to a restaurant and then to her home on West Wellington. Women and girls were housed in the five upstairs bedrooms, while the men and boys found sleeping quarters in the Rozmarek's basement, filled with sleeping cots. She gave adults a copy of the local newspaper and told them to look for jobs. Mrs. Rozmarek often helped them find those jobs. She demanded that each person who accepted a place in her home, would learn English and become a proud American. To her, the United States was first, and Poland was secondary. "My grandfather really loved his fellow Poles. He would always let people live there. They felt it was their moral duty and responsibility to house as many refugees as possible," Komosa said. The live-in tradition continued for decades. Even after Charles Rozmarek died in 1973, Wanda continued to help immigrant-widowed women well into the 1980s. She was tireless in every



Charles Rozmarek (far right), founder of the Polish American Congress in the Oval Office with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt during World War II. Rozmarek's home in Chicago's Polish Village would shelter thousands of refugees over the course of World War II and the decade after.

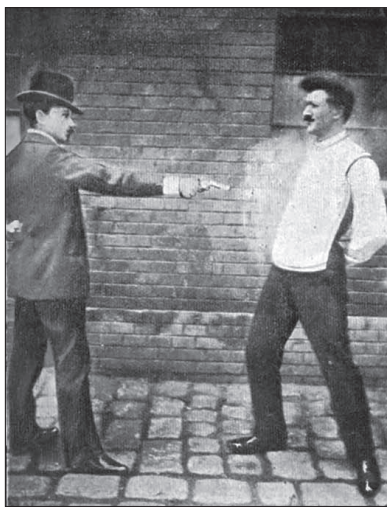
sense of the word. All these "Polish guests" were eager to start a new life and usually stayed but a few weeks in the Rozmarek home.

Wanda had graduated from Boston College with bachelor and master's degrees in Romance Languages. She became proficient in French, Spanish, Italian, and Polish and taught French and Spanish at Boston College, where she would meet her future husband. She taught Polish at Columbia University, University of Scranton, and Alliance College Summer School. In Chicago, she taught Polish at Madonna High School, St. Hyacinth Elementary School, the Polish Saturday School of the Polish American Congress, Illinois Division, Wright College, and Daley College. She even had time to write two textbooks, "Polish for Americans," Parts I and II. Her unique method of teaching Polish was through song. It was like being in a magic land for her students, who personally connected with her.

Wanda's husband, Charles Rozmarek, travelled around the United States on behalf of the PAC and PNA, and spoke throughout the country, warning of the communist takeover of nations, especially Poland. At the request of the White House, Mrs. Rozmarek met with Eleanor Roosevelt to discuss the plight of Poland during World War II. She was very straight forward in her feelings about how "Roosevelt sold Poland down the Volga." Even though Wanda was raising two daughters, helping Polish immigrants, and teaching, she never missed a PNA or PAC convention. Mrs. Rozmarek passed away in 1994.

ŻEGLEŃ INVENTS BULLETPROOF VEST. The Reverend **Casimir Żegleń**, a 35-year-old Resurrectionist priest and a native of Poland, serving at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church on Chicago's Northwest Side in the 1890s, had been experimenting with the idea of making a bulletproof vest. He began considering the vest's primary material. He tried hair, moss, even steel shavings, but none met his expectations until he experimented with pure silk. On October 28, 1893, two days before the close of the World's Columbian Exposition, Carter Harrison, Sr., Mayor of Chicago, was murdered. This assassination inspired Żegleń to renew his efforts. In 1897, he began working together with Jan Szczepanik to improve on the vest.

Szczepanik, "The Polish Edison," also a native of Poland and



Testing the bulletproof vest.

a multi-talented inventor, invented the first commercial bulletproof armor in 1901. Szczepanik's armor-covered carriage saved the life of Alfonso XIII, King of Spain, in an assassination attempt.

Żegleń struggled with the weaving pattern for the silk fabric. What is too thin? Or too thick? He travelled to Vienna and Aachen, Germany, to visit weaving mills manned by skilled Polish weavers. After much experimenting, Żegleń came up with an eighth of an inch thick, four-ply vest that would protect the wearer from the low-velocity bullets used during that era. To prove the effectiveness of his bulletproof vest, Żegleń volunteered to wear the vest himself and asked people to shoot him. The shots were fired both at short and long range.

At that period of time, St. Stanislaus was the largest Polish church in the United States with over 40,000 parishioners. Many wondered how Żegleń could devote sufficient time to his pastoral ministry and still work on his invention, but he did.

PAA WELCOMES ARCHITECT LIBESKIND. On September 18, the Polish American Association (PAA) will welcome the celebrated Polish American architect **Daniel Libeskind** to its annual Chairman's Brunch fundraiser to be held at the Art Institute of Chicago. Libeskind is the master planner of the reconstruction of the World Trade Center in New York City. He is recognized throughout the world for, not only his architectural wonders, but also for his humanitarian and cultural contributions promoting tolerance and social justice. His trip to Chicago is in support of the PAA's service to the Chicago community.

His architectural projects can be found throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Israel, Hong Kong,

Singapore, and Korea. Among some of his completed designs are the Jewish Museum Berlin, the Military History Museum in Dresden, Germany, and the Royal Ontario Museum.

Libeskind was born in Łódź, Poland. He immigrated with his family to Israel in 1957, then to New York City in 1959. He became a United States citizen in 1965 and received his architectural degree from New York's Cooper Union for Advancement of Science and Art and a post-graduate degree from the University of Essex. Libeskind has taught at the University of Kent, Yale University, and the University of Pennsylvania.



Camille Kopsielski

KOPIELSKI RECEIVES SERVICE AWARD. Congratulations to **Camille Kopsielski**, a long-time contributor to Chicago's Polonian community. On June 24, she received the Frances Murphy Rumely Award, one of most prestigious alumni awards from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College (SMWC), located in Terre Haute, Ind. Her outstanding work as a volunteer, a philanthropist, and an activist within the Catholic, Polish American, and women's rights communities qualified her as an excellent candidate for

this award.

Following graduation from Chicago's Holy Family Academy, Kopsielski attended SMWC to pursue her bachelor's degree in history and government. She followed this by earning a master's degree in history and political science from Boston College. She went on to receive accreditation as a school guidance counselor from Northeastern Illinois University.

Kopsielski spent 33 years teaching and counseling at Chicago's Northwest Side Carl Schurz High School. During her tenure at Schurz, she served a large Polish immigrant student population. Additionally, she served as the faculty representative to the local school council, as secretary of the Secondary School Counselor Association, and as a member of the Ad Hoc Holocaust Committee for the Chicago Public Schools.

For many years, Kopsielski chaired and served on the scholarship committees of the Chicago Intercollegiate Council and the Polish Women's Civic Club, as well as the Polish National Alliance, District XIII, and the American Council for Polish Culture Summer Study Program. She maintains involvement in the National Polish American Congress (PAC) and its Illinois Division. She has served as a national director of PAC, and vice president and president of its Illinois Division. Additionally, she has served as the president of the American Council for Polish Culture, the Polish Women's Civic Club, and the Polish National Alliance, Lodge 1792.

As a dedicated Catholic, Kopsielski served as an instructor in CCD classes and as a Eucharistic minister coordinator, a lector, a past vicariate, and a pastoral council representative. Kopsielski is a Dame of the Sovereign Order of Malta of St. John and serves on the board of Catholic Charities.

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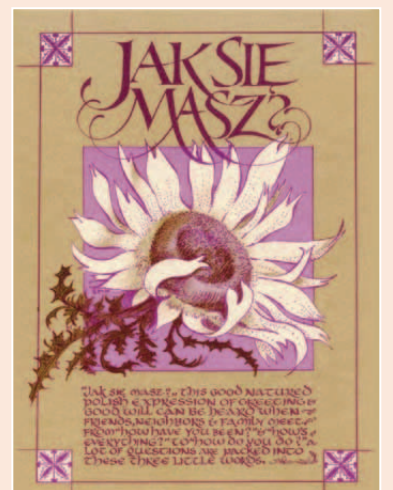
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Harvest Time

by Basia Szydłowski

September, the ninth month of the year and time to finish harvesting and celebrate. At harvest time the growing has come full circle, and bringing in of the ripe vegetables, grain and fruits is cause for celebration.



Throughout Europe, the image of a Demeter-like Corn Mother Figure or spirit in the grain was retained for centuries. In the Americas, the harvest was symbolized in form by an Indian Maize goddess. The importance of the harvest for survival is understandable, but few of us today realize the significance of the “corn dolly.” In the north of England, for example, the last sheaf left standing in the field was weaved and made into a doll like figure, and carried to the harvest supper to embody the elements needed for the next growing season. In some areas, whoever cuts the last sheaf was killing corn spirit and bound to have bad luck. A new corn dolly would be made every year to replace the old one.

The **dożynki** or Harvest Celebration is by far considered to be one of Poland’s most revered traditions. For 1,000 years in Poland, the tenant farmers presented the lord and the lady of the manor with gifts and garlands of wheat, and wild flowers as part of a joyous fall celebration of the harvest. Throughout Poland’s history much importance was placed on the harvest because it represents the fruits of the farmers’ labors, as well as their ability to sustain themselves throughout the winter months. In gratitude, the *starosta* (lord of the manor) shares food, drink and music with his tenants. A procession of farmers with their implements, presenters and dancers in regional costumes accompanied by musicians will initiate the festival.

PAY A VISIT. The **Polish American Museum** at 16 Belleview Ave., Port Washington, is conveniently located by train, bus and car. The State of New York have posted signs on the highways and roadways indicating the various places of interest. Recently the volunteer-staffed museum awarded a \$500 Founders Scholarship to Magdalena Dajka, who will be attending the Thomas Moore College of Liberal Arts. Also this past summer the Museum held an exhibit “Art with a Polish Accent” featuring in oils, charcoal, pencil and pastels, Polish regional costumes and Americana landscapes.

The Museum is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturdays by appointment only. Call (516) 883-6542.

REMEMBERING LEM. Stanislaw Herman Lem was born in Lwow, Poland on Sept. 12, 1921. He was a writer of science fiction, philosophy, and satire, as well as a trained physician. Lem’s books have been translated into forty-one languages, and have sold over forty five million copies. He is best known as the author of the 1961 novel “Solaris” which has been made into a feature film three times. He died in Krakow, Poland on March 27, 2006.

AND FINALLY ... Please remember all who died on September 11, 2001 following the Islamic terrorist attack on the United States. Nearly 3,000 were killed and another 6,000 were injured.

POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Put Your Dough (and Filling) Where Your Mouth Is

BUFFALO — Corpus Christi Church is once again looking for Buffalo’s best pierogi. This historic East Side church is hosting its ninth annual **Buffalo’s Best Pierogi Contest** on Sun., Sept. 25, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. It is open to all amateur cooks and businesses.

The contest is the centerpiece of Corpus Christi’s 37th annual **Dożynki Polish Harvest Festival**, Sept. 24-25. Christopher Byrd, the contest organizer, says the event “captures Buffalo’s love for food, while celebrating our city’s rich ethnic heritage with recipes and traditions passed on from one generation to the next. The contest draws people from all of Western New York; Buffalonians have incredible passion for their homemade pierogi.”

If you are interested in entering the contest, visit dozynki.corpuschristibuffalo.org/buffalos-best-pierogi-contest.

A group of celebrity judges will determine the winners for the contest. Winners in each category will walk away with the title of “Buffalo’s Best Pierogi Maker.”

Corpus Christi Church was founded in 1898 and is located in the heart of East Buffalo’s Historic Polonia. It is on the state and national lists of historic sites.

For more information about the festival, visit dozynki.corpuschristibuffalo.org.

FAREWELL TO SUMMER TO BENEFIT POLISH SEMINARY.

The 25th annual Farewell to Summer evening will be held on Thurs., Sept. 8. Invited to attend are Buffalo Bishop Richard Malone, Buffalo Bishop Edward U. Kmiec, and Auxiliary Bishop Edward Grosz.

The event will be held at the Millennium Airport Hotel, 2040 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga, from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. All proceeds will benefit Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary of Orchard Lake, Mich.

Rev. Richard Augustyn, director of Pastoral Care/Volunteer Service at the Buffalo General Hospital and director of the St. Jude Center, is chairperson.

This event incorporates a sit-down dinner, silent auction, and split club raffle. Proceeds are used to prepare men for the priesthood. Among those being educated at the seminary are young men from Poland who have left home and country in order to serve in U.S. parishes after ordination. Until they are accepted by a bishop they are supported by the seminary.

Tickets for the dinner are \$30.00 per person and are available by mail. Send a check payable to Orchard Lake Seminary with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Farewell to Summer Evening, c/o Edward J. Reska, 4654 Kingswood Lane, Hamburg, NY 14075 or call (716) 648-0370 for information.

Split Club Raffle tickets are avail-

PSAA is Ready for a New Season

PHILADELPHIA — Now is the time to join your local chorus of the Polish Singers Alliance of America’s District 7 as it begins a new and exciting year fostering Polish culture through song.

To give a few upcoming events to keep in mind — the singers look forward to the Pulaski Day Parade, Sun., Oct. 2, 2016; Annual Christmas Concert featuring Choruses of District 7, Jan. 22, 2017; culminating with PSAA’s 51st International Convention hosted by Marcella Kochanska-Sembrich Female Chorus

able at six for \$5 by sending a self-addressed envelope with a check payable to Orchard Lake Seminary to Farewell to Summer Evening, c/o Renee Harzewski, 3620 Harlem Road, Cheektowaga, NY 14215.

BATTER UP. The **Buffalo Bisons** baseball team beat the Indianapolis Indians 9-3 on Polish Festival Night at Coca-Cola Field in Downtown Buffalo, Aug. 9. James Lawicki II was honored as the Bisons’ 2016 Polish American of the Year, Danny “Potts” Poczciwinski was recognized as the Bisons’ 2016 Polish Community Leader, and Blue Jays shortstop Troy Tulowitzki was named 2016 Polish American Player of the Year. Eugenia’s Krakowiaczy Dancers and the Knewz performed at the tent party before the game ... The **Syracuse Chiefs** hosted the Rochester Red Wings at their Polish Night at NDT Bank Stadium in Syracuse, Aug. 10.

POLONIA TIDBITS. **Stephan Baczynski**, a WNY native, federal prosecutor and former U.S. State Department liaison to the Polish legal community in Warsaw, recently passed away after a long battle with cancer ... On Aug. 1, Phocus performed during the Potts Deli *Miss Buffalo* Polka Cruise on the Buffalo waterfront ... The Pulaski Police Association of Buffalo and WNY hosted its annual Family Picnic at Como Park in Lancaster, Aug. 3 ... **St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish** presented its annual Polish Arts Festival on the parish grounds in Rochester, Aug. 5-6 ... More than 250 alums from **Transfiguration School**, which was on Buffalo’s East Side until 1985, participated in an All-Years Reunion, which included a Mass, dinner and tour of the former school, Aug. 6.

St. Casimir Parish in Buffalo’s Kaisertown neighborhood held its “Shishkababa Polka-Roc Fest” featuring music by Special Delivery and Rare Vintage, Aug. 6-7 ... **St. John Gualbert Church** in Cheektowaga is undergoing significant renovations in anticipation of the parish’s centennial in 2017 ... The **Adam Mickiewicz Library and Dramatic Circle** held its Annual Summer Picnic at Houghton Park in Buffalo’s Kaisertown neighborhood on the 7th.

On Aug. 13, the **Polish Union of America** held its Annual Family Picnic in Centennial Park in West Seneca, and the New Direction Band performed at the 5th Annual **German-Polish Celebration** at Spring Garden Park in East Aurora ... Also on the 13th, the WNY Division of the Polish American Congress held its 19th Annual **Polish Remembrance Day**, honoring Polish victims and survivors of Nazi and Soviet oppression, at the Resur-

#321 in Philadelphia, May 26-28, 2017. For details on the convention, contact dziecko2@comcast.net or call Pre-Convention Co-chairs Debbie Majka at (215) 627-1391 or Liz Whitman at (215) 704-9346, Co-chairs of the Pre-Convention Committee.

District 7 PSAA Member Choruses are located in Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania.

For specifics, call District 7s president, Yaga Chudy at (201) 681-7980.

rection Mausoleum in Cheektowaga’s St. Stanislaus Cemetery.

The **Felician Sisters** were recognized for their contributions by St. Stanislaus Parish in Buffalo’s Historic Polonia District, Aug. 14 ... The annual **Polish Pilgrimage to Midland, Ontario** was held Aug. 14 as well ... **Annunciation Parish** in Elma held its Annual Picnic, featuring music by the Knewz, on the parish grounds the weekend of August 19-21 ... The WNY Division of the **Polish American Congress** hosted its first All Polonia Picnic, a free event for individual and organizational members of the Division, at Como Lake Park in Lancaster, Aug. 21 ... Also on the 21st, the **Polish Hunting Club** of Canada hosted its sporting clay competition at the Galt Sportsmen’s Club in Cambridge, Ontario; and **SWAP Post 114** marked “Dzien Zolnierza Polskiego” at Paderewski Park in Vaughn, Ontario.

The **White Eagle Polish Song & Dance Ensemble** performed at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, Aug. 23 ... Art Gayler’s Rhythm Review played the Aug. 24 meeting of the **Polka Variety Social Club** at Cheektowaga’s Pvt. Leonard Post VFW ... On the 25th, Queen of Angels Parish in Lackawanna hosted “**Our Lady of Czestochowa Devotions**” led by Buffalo Auxiliary Bishop Edward Grosz ... The **23rd Annual Zabawa**, featuring the Knewz, The Boys, Marvels, Henny & Versa-Jays, and the Wiaty Folk Dancers, took place at Holy Trinity Parish in Erie, Pa., the weekend of Aug. 26-28.

PULASKI HONOREES. The **General Pulaski Association, Inc.** will honor 19 Western New York health care professionals of Polish descent, Sun., Sept. 11, 2016. This will take place with cash bar at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 at the Millennium Hotel, 2040 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga.

A Special Appreciation Award will be presented to Carolyn and John Yurtchuk of Calspan Corporation and Matrix Development Corporation for outstanding support for the 2016 Pulaski Day Parade.

The cost is \$35 per person, \$75

per couple and \$350 per table of 10 with checks payable to Pulaski Association and mailed to Treasurer Edward J. Reska, 4654 Kingswood Ln., Hamburg, NY 14075. Proceeds go to the costs of the Pulaski Day Parade.

UPCOMING. Daemen College, the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College and the WNY Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation will bring University of Warsaw political scientist **Slawomir Jozefowicz** to WNY in mid-September to participate in a series of events exploring the current political climate in Poland and Poland’s role in the New Europe ... The **International Polka Association Convention** will convene at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga, Sept. 2-4 ... Forgotten Buffalo will offer its “Pride of Polonia Tour,” Sept. 10th.

The 2016 **Roncesvalles Polish Festival** in Toronto will take place Sept. 17-18. More information is available at <http://polishfestival.ca> ... On Sept. 23, the **Niagara Polish Cultural and Historical Society** will present a recital of organ music by Abigail Rockwood at the First Presbyterian Church in Lockport; and the **Polish Heritage Society of Rochester** will hold its annual meeting in the Skalny Welcome Center at St. John Fisher College ... The first **White Eagle Smoker** cigar event, a cooperative venture between the WNY Division of the Polish American Congress and the Cigar Ambassadors Club, will be held at the Eagles Hall on Ward Road in North Tonawanda, Oct. 15 ... The **Chopin Singing Society** will present its Annual Concert, Oct. 16 in St. Stanislaus Church, the Mother Church of Buffalo’s Polonia ... Dr. Andrzej Rozbicki and the Celebrity Symphony Orchestra will present “**The Polish Tenors**” at the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga, Ontario, Oct. 22.

If you have an item for this column, please send the information by the sixth day of the month preceding publication month (i.e. September 6 for the October issue) to pietruszka@verizon.net.

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 31st year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

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

TRAVELOGUE FIVE DAYS IN POLAND / Staś Kmieć

"Ej Przeleciał Ptaszek" — A Bird and a Song Take Flight

PART XXI. Returning to the outdoor stage area, I checked in with my *Mazowsze* friends. Magda and Piotr were dressed in the opening Opoczno costumes, biding time in the alleyway corridor near the dressing rooms, and ready to go. I was beckoned to the canopied outdoor seating area of the adjacent restaurant, where a meeting of the minds was taking place. Krzysiek, Wiola and Jacek (management, ballet, and orchestra) were having a holdover snack and beverage awaiting the performance that was still at least 45-60 minutes from its start. I ordered coffee to keep me alert — anticipating a potential "crash" following the previous night of limited sleep. Energized with the phenomenon that is city of Wrocław, the concert was sure to keep me excited. Wiola mentioned that several company members were not in attendance, and asked if I wanted to sing with them at the backstage microphone for assisted vocals — "You know all the songs!" Given the opportunity to watch from the audience perspective, after a break of a few years, was too much to pass up, so I politely declined.

Recharged after this respite, I took a position standing near the back of the square for a full view. With the downbeat of the baton, the swell of the familiar tunes in a newly-constructed overture played, and the opening *Chodzony* began. Dances from Opoczno, Wilanów, Kurpie Zielony, Limanowa, and Sieradz followed. Then the female vocalists entered in Hrubieszów costumes from Poland's eastern border, which premiered in the repertoire back in 2007. Traditionally this program segment is enacted in costumes from Kurpie Białe, but given the large population now living in Wrocław that were expelled from the areas annexed to the Soviet



Irena Wiśniewska in Kurpie Białe costume

Union in the East, I am sure the embroidery and design were reminiscent of past memories.

"Wyszłabym za Dziada" (*I'd Marry an Old Man*) was sung with a bold pluckiness. The melancholic clarinet strains of the repertoire staple — "Ej Przeleciał Ptaszek," (*A Little Bird Flew by*) signaled the entrance of new soloist Agata Barwinek, and I was transported to the enchantment of a dreamlike state. I had been alerted that this was one of her first performances in the role. What I witnessed was a rich purity of tone and an enthralling nuance.

I was first introduced to *Mazowsze* by the many recordings made on the *Muza* label. Before there were videos, DVDs, and computer games to "babysit," distract, and engage children, there were records. These Polish songs were a nostalgic remembrance for

my mother and in turn, became the soundtrack to my life. At age five, I would circle my sister's playpen and dance to each selection. My preference was for the upbeat folk songs such as Bogumiła Olendzka in "Pod Borem" (Near the Forest), "Wyszłabym za Dziada," and my definitive favorite from Płońsk — "Kawaliry" (Suitors). Despite being beautifully sung by Mirosława Żak, I had little interest in the slow, melancholic "Ptaszek" to appease a child's rambunctious nature. As I learned to operate the phonograph, I would simply skip over this track. That all changed when I saw it performed live during one of the company's tours.



Małgorzata Chrościelewska

"Ptaszek" had been absent during the initial performances I attended. When it returned to the repertoire, I experienced Małgorzata Chrościelewska, who reintroduced the song to me and gave me a new appreciation. Typifying the Polish ideal — beautiful, fair and blonde — I was lost in the open wonderment of those blue eyes. When she sang, she embodied a natural innocence and shaped each phrase, delivering the lyrics with simplicity and sincerity. My eyes would follow each of her stage appearances up to the finale, where she was hoisted above the stage action — waving a handkerchief while surrounded by multiple circles of dancers. I was not alone in this effect, Walter Konefal from Long Island's *Wawel Polish Dancers* confessed to facing the same allure.

As the years progressed, Małgorzata became synonymous with "Ej Przeleciał Ptaszek," as Stanisław Jopek was with "Furman." She had married within the company to Ballet soloist — Mieczysław Chrościelewski and grew with life's experiences. During subsequent renditions, her fascination with the text never changed, but the notes became fuller; and the interpretation — wise and all-knowing.

Other "Ptaszki" followed, with Katarzyna Haber taking on the role for a significant period. Haber's performance is included in a bonus track of the PBS DVD — *The Music and Dance of Poland*.

"DUMKA O PTASZKU." The song is an original composition, not a folk song, and almost didn't even enter the repertoire.

In *Mazowsze's* initial period of formation after World War II, founder and composer Tadeusz Sygietyński conducted fieldwork in

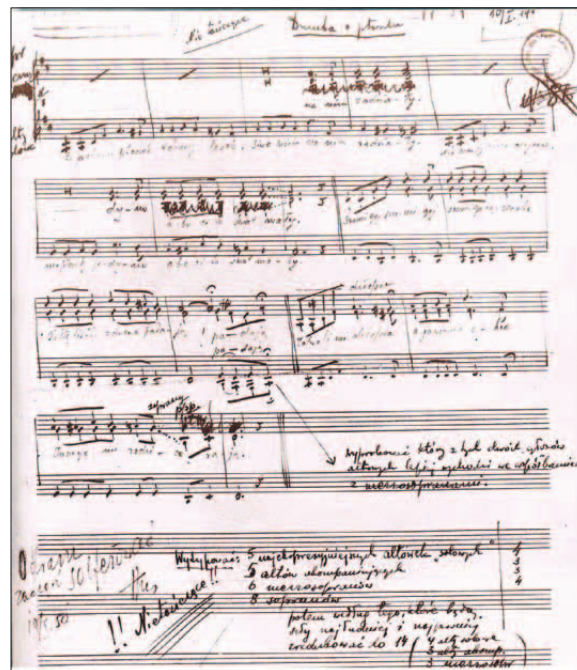


Irena Wiśniewska

rural towns and villages. He drew inspiration in his arrangements from the folk gems that were unearthed. Sygietyński chose to avoid any coarseness and strove to emphasize the pure, crystalline lyricism of a maiden's song. He had already been preceded in this approach to folklore by Chopin. Sygietyński wrote the musical compositions — generally working late into the night, sometimes until dawn, and often under unusual conditions.

"Dumka o Ptaszku" (*a folk ballad about a little bird*) was conceived in the mind of the master in the corridor of an overcrowded railway train. The lyrics, as well as costuming and programming were his wife's domain. Mira Zimińska-Sygietyńska was an established cabaret, theater, and film actress and her flair for the stage provided the company with professionalism. She adapted the text to songs, as well as creating the poetry of the lyrics. The song, which later became known as "Ej Przeleciał Ptaszek," based on its opening phrase was a new work, not an established folk song. The enchanting musical dialogue is folk poetry that speaks to the Polish soul of romanticism.

Unfortunately, the first Commission that reviewed the repertoire prior to the company's premiere



"Dumka o Ptaszku" (*a folk ballad about a little bird*) was conceived by Mazowsze founder and composer Tadeusz Sygietyński in the corridor of an overcrowded railway train.

performance on November 6, 1950, did not share the same view. Along with "Furman" (*The Coachman*), "Ptaszek" was disqualified and deigned by the head commissioner Dr. Zofia Lissa as "coś nie pol-

skiego" (something not Polish). Tadeusz was devastated, but in order for his new company to exist he had to abide by the decision. The Academy clearly did not value creative work. Following the premiere there was to be a tour to the Soviet Union, and the commission requested additional changes in the program, such as the inclusion of a "Cantata about Stalin."

A year later, "Ej Przeleciał Ptaszek" was included in the program. Tadeusz entrusted the soloist role to a young girl — Irena Wiśniewska, who became of member of the ensemble only a few months earlier. Upon second review by the Academy, a new chairman Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz in a complimentary letter to Sygietyński, stressed the Polish character of the performance and singled out "Ptaszek" as "typowo szlachecka, może dlatego tak się podobała" (typically noble, which is perhaps why it was so appealing).

The choice of this particular soloist was crucial to the success and popularity the song gained around the world. A high school teacher spotted her talent and suggested Irena devote herself to singing. An encounter with the conductor of the Poznań Opera led to a letter of recommendation to Sygietyński. Wiśniewska met her husband, a violinist with the orchestra and became Irena Santor. She spent eight years with the ensemble. The singer went to Polish Radio, where Władysław Szpilman (immortalized in the Oscar-winning film "The Pianist") was the director. He suggested that she participate in the first Song Festival in Sopot and sing the waltz "Embaras ." This launched a successful solo career and a life in song.

"Ej, przeleciał ptaszek
kalinowy lasek,
Siwe piórka na nim zdrzwały.
Nie płacz ty, dziewczyno,
nie płacz ty, jedyna,
Albo ci to świat mały?"

The enchanting song found its home alongside authentic folk melodies, and, to me, is one of *Mazowsze's* most popular selections.

During her tenure, Pani Zimińska would coach the vocalists and ask "Czy wy wiecie o czym śpiewacie?" (*Do you know what you are singing about?*). She was an actress and wanted the songs not to just be sung musically, but for the lyrics to be conveyed in the same manner that an actor evokes the text.

The Market Square in Wrocław was filled with the gentle breeze of the melody. Agata had intermediacy in her delivery and what I was witnessing was a "diamond," no... rather a bird taking flight.

to be continued

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POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Babcia's Home-Made Comfort Foods

continued from last month

ROAST PORK WITH PRUNES (*pieczeń wieprzowa ze śliwkami*). Rub a 4-5 lb tied, rolled, boneless pork shoulder roast all over with salt, pepper, marjoram and 1 - 2 buds crushed garlic. Place on rack in roasting pan and roast in 325° oven about 25 min per pound, basting occasionally. To drippings in pan add 3 quartered onions and 1-2 c unpitted prunes, and baste meat with ½ c dark beer (Polish Porter or Guinness stout). Bake until meat is fork-tender. Serve with rice, mashed or boiled potatoes and a grated carrot, apple & horseradish salad (see below).

GRATED CARROT/APPLE/HORSERADISH SALAD (*surówka z marchwi, jabłek i chrzanu*). Combine 4 washed, peeled finely grated carrots with 2-3 peeled, cored, coarsely grated apples. Sprinkle with lemon juice, toss and stir in 1-2 heaping T prepared horseradish. Season to taste with salt (sparingly), sugar and lemon juice. Lace with 2 heaping T sour cream or 1 T sour cream and 1 T mayonnaise.

ROAST DUCK WITH APPLES *kaczka piec-*

zona z jablkami). Wash a 4-5 lb duck and pat dry. Rub inside and out with salt, pepper, marjoram and 1 bud crushed garlic. Let stand in covered roasting pan at room temp 2 hrs. Stuff tightly with unpeeled, cored quarters of tart cooking apples. Sew up duck's neck and tail openings. Place duck on rack in roasting pan and roast in preheated 450°-500° oven 10-15 min, turning over to sear on all sides. Reduce to 350°-375°, sprinkle with 2 T water, prick with fork to release fat and roast 90 - 120 min or until fork tender. Baste with pan drippings frequently. Since the apple stuffing shrinks considerably, prepare additional apples on the side. Place 2 - 3 additional, peeled apple quarters in a separate baking pan, drench with several T duck pan drippings, sprinkle with marjoram and bake in same oven the last 45 min. Mix separately cooked apples with those with which the duck was stuffed and serve in serving dish.

STEWED SAUERKRAUT *kapusta duszona*. Rinse 2 qts sauerkraut in a pot of cold water, transfer to colander and press out moisture. Chop coarsely, place in pot scald with 3 c boiling water, bring to boil and cook un-

covered 15 min. Add 1 bay leaf, cover and cook on med-low 30 min. Add 1 mushroom bouillon cube and ½ t caraway seeds (optional). Dice and fry ¼ lb pork fatback or bacon. When pale-golden add a chopped onion and simmer until browned. Stir in 1 heaping T flour, brown lightly and add to sauerkraut. *Optional:* Add 1-2 t sugar. Cook 30 min or until very tender. Serve as a side with hot kielbasa or pork chops.

COMPOTE, HOME-MADE FRUIT DRINK *kompot*. Although most kids are crazy about fizzy, syrupy soft drinks (Sprite, Fanta, Coke, etc.), a healthier alternative is a home-made compote containing fresh fruit. This is like the syrup in canned peaches, pears, cherries, etc., only thinner and home-made. You can make it as intense (lots of fruit) or thin (lots of liquid) as you like and sweeten it heavily or lightly. There is no recipe as such, just a rule of thumb and a bit of common sense. For instance, take a 1-2 cup of fruit (washed, pitted plums, peeled, cored and sliced apples or pears, pitted or unpitted cherries, peeled, pitted and sliced peaches, etc.), place in saucepan, add 4-6 cups water and cook until fruit

is fully cooked (5-10 min). Sweeten to taste and serve room temp. or chilled with a little of the fruit in each glass. A sprinkling of lemon juice will provide added zing, and a tiny pinch of cinnamon or a grating of nutmeg may also be added.

APPLE CAKE *szarlotka*. Combine 2¼ c flour with 1 c confectioner's sugar, 4 egg yolks and ¼ t salt and blend ingredients into a uniform dough. Do not knead! Roll into ball, wrap in foil and refrigerate at least 30 min. Meanwhile, in pot combine 1 lb tart cooking apples, peeled, cored and sliced, with ½ c sugar and simmer on low heat until apples are tender. To cooked apples add 1¼ lb peeled, diced or sliced uncooked apples. Add ½ t vanilla extract and a pinch of ground nutmeg or cinnamon. Divide chilled dough in half. Roll one half out thin into a rectangle or square to fit your baking pan and come up the sides. Pierce with fork all over and bake in preheated 390° oven 10-15 min. Add apple filling and spread it out evenly. Roll out remaining dough half and cover apples. Reduce heat to 350° and bake about 45-60 min. Dust cake with confectioner's sugar.

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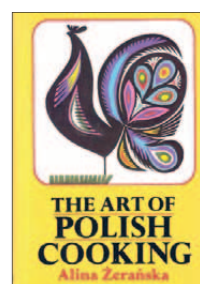
COOKBOOKS



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



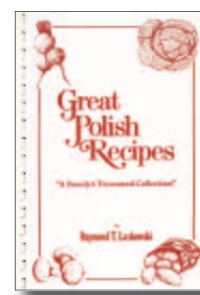
THE ART OF POLISH COOKING
By Alina Zeranska
Pub. at \$22.95
PAJ Bookstore Price: \$15.95
Ethnic / Polish
384 pp.
8 1/4 x 5 1/2
12 b/w illus. Index 2nd ptg.
Reissued by Pelican Publ., The Art of Polish Cooking, contains 500 authentic recipes, complete with recipes for hors d'oeuvres, soups, entrees, vegetables, pastries, desserts, and beverages. Special holiday menus are also presented, along with charming descriptions of traditional Polish feasts and celebrations. Author Alina Zeranska provides easy-to-follow recipes for favorites like Cabbage Rolls, Chicken in Dill Sauce, Meat Pierogis, and Fruit Mazurka. Zeranska has translated these Polish recipes perfectly using exact American measurements.

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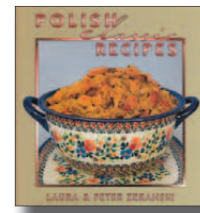


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by Robert Strybel
248 pp., pb., Hippocrene Bks.
Polish Holiday Cookery acquaints readers with traditional Polish foods associated with various occasions and furnishes countless cooking tips and serving suggestions. This "instruction manual for the culturally aware Polish American" offers more than 400 recipes, along with a lexicon of basic foods and culinary concepts, ingredients and procedures, and sample menus. The clearly-written recipes facilitate the preparation of the dishes and their incorporation in the Polish American mainstream culture.

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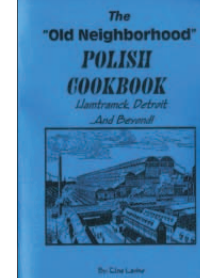
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Casey Barber is a freelance food writer, photog-

rapher, and editor of the critically acclaimed website Good Food Stories.

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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Despite Russian Cheating, Peciak Won Gold Forty Years Ago

Forty years ago, **Janusz Peciak** of Poland won gold in the modern pentathlon, but he says he would not have been successful without the help of a British rival. That rival helped uncover a Soviet cheating scheme that, if not exposed, might have cost Peciak his gold.

Modern pentathlon is an event with pistol shooting, fencing, 200-meter freestyle swimming, show jumping, and a 3-km cross-country run. It was during



early part of the fencing competition at the 1976 Games in Montreal that a huge cheating scheme was uncovered. The British team had lost some fencing matches to the Russians and questioned whether contact had been made on some of the Soviets' hits. The tips of the épée had electronic push buttons that were supposed to register contact. The officials inspected the system and found nothing wrong, so competition resumed. Then Britain's Jim Fox faced the 38-year-old Boris Onishenko, a three-time world champion. Fox again noticed the light coming on prematurely to indicate a hit for Onishenko. The Brit was irate, and demanded that officials examine Onishenko's épée. They did, and discovered that it was rigged with a secret triggering device that could be controlled by the Soviets. The judges announced: "The weapon had definitely been tampered with. Someone had wired it in such a way that it would score a winning hit without making contact." Onishenko was expelled from the Games and became known as "Boris Dis-onishenko."

Peciak eventually won the gold ahead of favorite Pavel Lednev of the Soviet Union. After the Games, Peciak pointed out that he benefitted from Fox's action. "If Jimmy had not caught him, Onishenko would have got away with this and would have won the gold medal instead of me." However, the huge uproar that followed likely affected Fox's performance, and he finished 15th in the individual competition. Still, he helped the Brits to gold in the team competition.

The scandal helped the fairly obscure sport of modern pentathlon gain a lot of international attention. In Poland, Peciak returned to a hero's welcome and was voted sportsman of the year. "People in Poland respected the sport unbelievably because they knew how difficult the sport was. There is not another sport where you test not only the physical but also the mental aspects at the same time." Peciak

was considered an upset winner in Montreal, but he went on to win the individual world championship the following year. Besides his individual world championships in 1977 and 1981, he earned silver medals 1978 and 1979. He won the title three times with the Polish team, in 1977, 1978 and 1981. Now 67, Peciak has served as head coach of the United States modern pentathlon team since 1985.

"BULLET JOE" REMEMBERED. "Bullet Joe" Bush burst on the national scene in the 1913 World Series, when the unknown 20-year-old pitcher defeated John McGraw's New York Giants as the Philadelphia Athletics went on to win the World Championship. *The Sporting News* called him the "Little Boy" who had slain "Goliath." It was one of the high points of a 17-year big league career that saw him win 196 games.

Leslie Ambrose "Joe" Bush was born on November 27, 1892, the third of seven children of John and Margaretha (Wieshalla) Bush of Gull River, Minnesota. His mother, known as Maggie, was born in Dziekanstwo, Poland.

Bush signed his first pro baseball contract in 1912 with Class D Missoula (Montana) and was so impressive that he was purchased by Connie Mack's Philadelphia Athletics that year. However, in his only appearance for the A's that season Bush pitched eight innings and yielded 10 runs against the New York Highlanders. The A's won in 11 innings, 11-10, as future Hall of Famer Stan Coveleski came in for Bush and got the win in relief.

The following season A's star pitcher Jack Coombs came down with typhoid fever. Joe stepped in and won 15 of 21 decisions in the regular season. In the World Series the 20-year-old was the starting pitcher in Game 2 against the New York Giants and their 22-game winner, Jeff Tesreau, winning in New York 8-2 on five hits. The A's went on to win that Series, four games to one.

Bush went on to play professional baseball through 1931 with a record of 195-180 for several teams, winning three World Series rings along the way. Bush led the league in won-loss percentage in 1922. In the post-season he won two games and posted a 2.67 ERA. One of his career highlights was a near perfect no-hitter in 1916 for the A's against Cleveland and Stan Coveleski. Bush defeated the Indians 5-0 by allowing no hits and walking just one batter, the first one he faced.

Bush had an outstanding fastball, hence the nickname "Bullet Joe," and was one of the first to use a forkball. A solid hitter, at times he was used as an outfielder and pinch hitter. Off the diamond he was known as a good-natured prankster. Bush once said that the greatest laugh he ever got was when he picked the great Ty Cobb off second base with the bases

loaded. "He pawed and kicked and howled at the umpire," he recalled. "It is a picture I'll never forget."

After leaving baseball, Bush worked as a pari-mutuel clerk at race tracks in New Jersey and Florida. He died in Ft. Lauderdale in 1974 at the age of 81.

For more info on "Bullet Joe" check out a fine article by Ron Anderson at www.sabr.com.

MAJKA KEEPS CLIMBING. Poland's **Rafal Majka** won the polka dot jersey as the top climber in the 2016 Tour de France, just as he did two years ago. Majka, riding for the Tinkoff team, was 27th in the overall individual time classification. The Tour de France was won for the third straight year by Britain's Christopher Froome of Team Sky.

Polish cyclist **Michal Kwiatkowski** found himself out of the Tour de France. Kwiatkowski, 26, is a former world champion and finished 11th in his debut Tour three years ago. He made the move from Etixx-Quick-Step to Team Sky this year, but was sick before the Tour race. A weaker team would have likely taken a chance and kept him on the nine-man squad, but Team Sky is loaded with talent.

That gave "Flowerman" the opportunity to ride in the Tour de Pologne, which started a few days after the Tour de France. He was not in top form and finished 34th. Belgium's Tim Wellens won the 2016 Tour de Pologne. The top Pole was Pawel Ciešlik, who finished 19th, and Maciej Paterski who was 30th.

The Tour de Pologne has risen in prominence in recent years, and in 2016 for the first time the Tour de Pologne was followed by the Tour de Pologne Women, a three-stage race across the Tatra Mountains and the Podhale highlands in southern Poland. It was won by Jolanda Neff of Switzerland, and the top Pole was Ewelina Szybiak, who finished fifth.

PERKOSKI'S NOTEBOOK. **Monte Nitzkowski**, the American swimming and water polo legend who was inducted into the Polish American Sports Hall of Fame in June, died at 86 ... **Andrzej Niemczyk**, a Polish volleyball player, who later was coach of the Poland women's national volleyball team died at 72 ... **Undeafated Izu Ugonoh** of Poland is currently the WBO's 15th ranked heavyweight. He was born in 1986 in Szczecin, Poland to parents of Nigerian heritage. Izu later graduated from the Jędrzej Śniadecki University School of Physical Educations and Sport in Gdańsk.

57-year-old Polish runner **August Jakubik** completed a 43-day, 3,000 km run from Ruda Slaska in Poland to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. In 2013 he ran 1,600 km from Ruda Slaska to the Vatican to celebrate



PNYBF President Al Koproski

This year the **Polish National Youth Baseball Foundation** celebrates its 25th Anniversary as a 501-c-3 nonprofit organization promoting baseball in Poland. The organization was founded in 1991 by Stanley Kokoska of Willimantic, Conn., and a group of baseball enthusiasts, who collected used baseball equipment and shipped it to Poland. Kokoska would then travel to Poland in the summer to teach the children the sport, giving lessons in several towns.

Today Kokoska is retired and Al Koproski is its new president. The PNYBF still collects used and new baseball and softball equipment, which it sends to several towns and coaches throughout Poland, free of charge. PNYBF has now partnered with Polska-Zwiazek Baseball, which is affiliated with the Ministry of Sports in Poland. This organization, together with the PNYBF, hopes to expand baseball and softball in Poland, which has soccer as its national sport.

Tom Krajewski of Boston, N.Y. has been PNYBF's Poland representative for many years. Raymond Rolak of Canton, Mich. has organized baseball in summer camps run by the Kosciuszko Foundation of New York City. The PNYBF has supplied the equipment for these summer camps each year.

To volunteer to collect equipment for the children, teach baseball or softball or conduct clinics in Poland contact Al Koproski at (203) 323-9944. The organization not only provides equipment but also builds baseball fields, free of charge to the children and community where they live. If you would like to donate financially, checks can be made out to the PNYBF and sent to Koproski at 222 Ocean Drive East, Stamford, CT 06902.

the 35th anniversary of the election of Karol Wojtyla as Pope ... The Philadelphia Phillies selected La Costa Canyon (Carlsbad, Calif.) outfielder **Mickey Moniak** with the first overall pick in the Major League Baseball Draft. His grandfather, Bill, played six years in the Boston Red Sox organization and his father, Matt, played at San Diego State.

Poles Bring Home Eleven Medals from Rio

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW—For 16 days, Poland's most avid sports fans went about groggy and bleary-eyed from watching live Olympic coverage that began each day around midnight due to the time difference. Average Poles settled for rebroadcasts and wrap-ups later in the day. Despite periodic outbursts of Polish national pride, when it was all over, most felt unfulfilled.

Things got off to a good start when Polish cyclist **Rafal Majka** won a medal — if only bronze — on the first day of the Olympics. The first Olympic gold was captured by rowers **Magdalena Fularczyk** and **Natalia Madaj** in women's double sculls. Earlier, **Maria Springwald**, **Joanna Leszczyńska**, **Monika Ciaciuch**, and **Agnieszka Kobus** had captured bronze in the women's quadruple sculls, and canoeist **Marta Walczykiewicz** added a silver medal to the collection.

But the unquestioned heroine of the Rio games was hammer-thrower **Anita Włodarczyk**, referred to

by the Polish media as "Golden Anita." She not only won the gold medal when she hurled her hammer an amazing 82.29 meters, but also broke her own world record by 1.21 meters. In addition, the two-time world champion and three-time European champion became the first woman in Olympic history to outdo the men's hammer-throw champion — in Rio an athlete from Tajikistan who scored a mere 78.68 meters.

One of the event's biggest disappointments was Polish men's hammer-thrower, two-time world champion **Pawel Fajdek**, who not only was sure of a gold medal but planned to break the 86.74 meter record set by a Russian in 1986. It turned out that Fajdek didn't even make it through the elimination phase. Like a little boy, the 264-pound hulk dropped to the ground and cried! The honor of Poland's male hammer-throwers was defended by **Wojciech Nowicki**, who won a bronze medal in the sport.

Oktawia Nowacka, a career soldier in the Polish Army, brought

home the bronze in modern pentathlon, a sport combining fencing, free-style swimming, show jumping, pistol shooting and a 3,200-meter cross-country run. A bronze medal was also won by woman wrestler **Monika Michalik**.

Discus thrower **Piotr Malachowski** had his heart set on Olympic gold, but had to settle for silver. His claim to fame, however, transcended the strictly athletic realm, when he decided to auction off his medal to help a little Polish boy. Three-year-old Olek (Aleksander) Szymański has a rare eye cancer and stands to lose one of his eyes. The only hope for saving it is at a New York eye clinic where the necessary surgical procedure costs \$264,000. Malachowski got the ball rolling, and others have been pitching in.

This year's Polish Olympic team was not without its whiff of scandal. Brother weightlifters, **Tomasz** and **Adrian Zieliński**, were disqualified and sent home on doping charges. They hotly denied consciously in-

gesting any illegal substance, but the tests conducted by the anti-doping lab proved otherwise.

As the Rio Olympics were winding down, it appeared Poland might end up not with the 17 medals predicted by optimists but with the same ten the country had won at the previous three 21st-century games: Athens (2004), Beijing (2008) and London (2012). The balance was tipped by mountain biker **Maja Wloszczowska**, who came second over a grueling, curvy, hilly, obstacle-strewn course. A major disappointment was the Poles' failure to win bronze in the handball finals where they lost to the Germans.

All told, Polish Olympians brought home 11 medals from Rio de Janeiro: two gold, three silver and six bronze. Of the participating 206 National Olympic Committees, in the final medal tally, Poland came 33rd. Although the Poles' performance was less than spectacular, for what it's worth, it cannot be denied that these were Poland's best Olympic games of the 21st century!

Other Polish Connections at the 2016 Games

by Tom Tarapacki

Among Polonians, **Mike Krzyzewski** led USA Basketball to its third consecutive gold medal since he took over the program ... **Jake Kaminiski** was a member of the US Archery team that won silver ... 16-year-old swimmer **Penny Oleksiak** became the first Canadian to win four medals in the same Summer Games and the country's youngest Olympic champion ... US runner **Matt Centrowitz Jr.**, the son of a Polish father and Afro-Guyanese mother, won the 1500m ... **Danuta Kozak**, a Hungarian with Polish ancestry, won gold in the women's kayak single (K1) 500m ... Defending gold medalist American **Jenn Stuczynski Suhr** made a valiant effort in the pole vault despite serious illness, finishing 7th.

RESISTANCE / Regina Szamborska-McIntyre

Peasant Distributors

Resistance is a story about the conditions which led to the Warsaw Uprising during World War II, and how the courageous and tenacious people of Poland fought the Nazi occupation, only to be decimated by the political vagaries of war.

Three main characters drive the story: Zygmunt Kaminski, publisher of an underground newspaper; Marek Gudzinski, aka Dysthmus, delivery man of contraband items to underground units; and Michal Bednarek, attorney at law, who tries to remain neutral and uninvolved.

CHAPTER 6. The Socialist Armed Organization was communist in its origin and focused on railway sabotage as its practice. Veterans of rail service discipline and the regulation of time schedules, they were every bit as meticulous as the Germans in keeping records.

Initially, the SOA used ordinary railway mines that exploded under the first train and caused a disruption of four hours. They upgraded their skill by adding chemical substances to the grease-bins to stall the engines. Hand crafted bombs were buried into the coal-bins to ignite

the furnaces.

By 1943, the added ingredients to the grease-bins and coal-bins increased the estimated time for repairs to an engine up to fourteen days. At one point, rail traffic in Poland was completely disrupted for three weeks.

The foreman of the Sochaczew-Warsaw line, Bolchek, a staunch member of the party, contacted Furtak, commander of the local Peasant Battalion to request additional manpower.

Bolchek's corpulent body filled his desk chair, and then some. A large plug of tobacco bulged in his left cheek.

"On Wednesday, of next week, freight wagons will be loaded with quotas of prime grain for shipment to Germany." He skillfully controlled the tobacco juice while he spoke.

"How many wagons?"

"Three. And we know exactly where they will be placed on the line, so it will be easy to accomplish the disruption within the allotted time."

"Just what kind of disruption?"

Bolchek ushered the commander

outside to set the scene.

"We'll split the sacks open and spill the grain out on the tracks." Bolchek spit the juice of his tobacco onto the tracks, as though to emphasize the spot he had in mind. "Poles are starving, and the best of our grain goes to the Nazis."

The standard monthly rations for civilians was down to five-hundred-sixty-three calories a day. There had been a steady decline from January of 1941, when the daily caloric intake was eight-hundred-sixty-three calories a day.

Furtak, himself a farmer, could not justify the waste of grain that would result from this action. Thumbing the nose at the Germans held little credence in the face of mounting starvation.

"Three carloads of grain is a considerable amount. At best, only a trifling of it could be salvaged by the local peasants"

"And I'm sure they'll be grateful for it." Bolchek crowed.

"Why waste all that grain? Surely we could salvage it for the hungry."

Bolchek snapped back, "I have a schedule to keep."

He left Furtak outside and went

back to his desk, shutting the door behind him. The commander walked away, unsettled.

During the Battalion meeting, Furtak went over the logistics and timing involved in the disruption. "Bolchek insists that we spill the grain on the ground."

Piotreck, rubbed his thick, gray beard. "It's already in sacks; isn't it?"

"Yes. But how will we unload the grain?"

Felix Duzat spoke up. "Dysthmus. We'll load it onto his truck; he'll deliver it to Civil Resistance."

"Good!" There was a faint look of triumph in Furtak's smile.

"You contact him and bring him on board."

Dysthmus pulled up in his truck at the appointed hour in the middle of a heated exchange between Bolchek and Furtak. He watched as Bolchek turned his back on Furtak and waved the peasants on to begin the unloading. Furtak threw his cap on the ground and hurled an expletive Bolchek's way.

Dysthmus hopped out of his truck and ran up to the foreman. "Bolchek, I have my truck here. We

could unload your cargo and I'll deliver it to Civil Resistance to distribute to the citizens of Warsaw."

"Well, that's good for the citizens, but I am limited to the time I have to destroy the freight before the Nazis come around."

Furtak intervened, "My men are fast workers. Give us a try; at least let us try to salvage some of this."

Once he agreed to go ahead with the plan, Bolchek took charge of the loading process. Dysthmus' truck was quickly filled, and the left over sacks were slashed; the grain poured onto the ground. The nearby residents would benefit from the debris.

Then, Bolchek made an unexpected move. He ordered his men to pour petrol into the cars and take a torch to them. The flames from the ignited petrol sent a fiery orange glow billowing to the sky. In a few minutes, sirens could be heard screaming in the night.

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Regina Szamborska-McIntyre is a retired Speech Pathologist who currently facilitates memoir workshops at her local library. She is the author of two books "An Altar of Sod" and "Yesterday's Pupils."

SYBIRACY / Stefania Borstowa

Newcomers in the Village

"Sibiracy" (Poles exiled to Siberia during World War II) is written by Stefania Borstowa. Borstowa, her children and Marysia, a home servant, were deported from Lvov to Krutoyarka, a small village in Kazakstan. Soon after the Soviet Union invasion, her husband was sent to the labor camp in Eastern Siberia and died of dysentery, but she did not know about it until after World War II.

We bought an earth house for 500 ruble. It was the last one on the outskirts of the village. Locals were discouraging us from doing that since it is far from the village, standing alone; they argued that it is convenient for summer but it would be hard to live there in the winter. But we really wanted to have finally our own home, even though we did not move there completely. Sometimes we were cooking there during summer on a big oven in the kitchen. I plunged the exhaust pipe from a tractor to this big oven since it was using lots of fuel but was giving back little heat only. Since the big heater was inefficient we decided to construct our own smaller one, made of clay, in the room, and it was working just fine. We also built a makeshift grill from rods and a metal plate on the top. We were using dry cow dung (manure), so called *kiziak* as a fuel for a small heater in winter. We call *kiziak* a Siberian fuel. At every exit from the house we were looking for a "trophy," that means dried, green "pancake." Children were doing a great job of finding and bringing the cow dung from the fields, then we had to dry it in the yard. After the *kiziak* was dried, it could produce lots of heat. We cooked bread and *lepyoshki* on a regular kitchen oven which was fueled by wood, but we saw some local people (and also some lazy Polish people) using *kiziak* for cooking food.



Chuvash woman in traditional headdress

were primitive tribal people. Chuvash were skilled in fishing and river transport since they resided mainly at Volga region. Chuvash people were quiet, sad and somehow looked dispirited, but Chechens from Caucasus region were full of humor, laughter and songs. Chechens were slim and similar to our Polish mountaineers somewhat. If there was any occasion or even without any occasion, they gathered together with their instruments: mandolins, guitars, and drums. They played, sang and danced until they could not any more. They were quite an attraction for us. I am not sure what they lived from, since they never worked. Even during communism there were no people who were so free-spirited like Chechens.

Eight German families, originally from Caucasus, were brought to our village in November and December of 1940. These families were very wealthy. When their properties were unloaded we could see that they had large wooden trunks which were embroidered with paintings. They were descendants of Germans that were brought to Georgia by Tzar Aleksander about 230 years ago to establish vineyards. Germans were quiet, hard-working, clean and thrifty. They had only one flaw, they loved the content of their trunks so much that they would rather die of hunger than sell anything in exchange for grain or potatoes. Eventually we sold our earth house to one of these German families. We didn't use our business talents, we sold it for 500 rubles, which means the amount of money we bought it for. Since we had so many newcomers the food became scarce and everything was more expensive, eventually we didn't have enough food and it was harder to buy anything for exchange. In December 1941 nine German children were seriously sick with typhoid fever. What happened next, will be described in the next part of memories

*Continued next month
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WOMEN OF THE UPRISING / Sophie Hodorowicz Knab

The Transit Camp at Pruszkow

This is a four-part series by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab regarding the Warsaw Uprising in Poland during World War II and the suffering of Polish women and children in the aftermath.

PART 2. Pruszków, located on the western edge of Warsaw became the site of a temporary transit camp for the Poles taken into custody by the Germans after the Warsaw Uprising. The Germans called it "Durchgangslager 121."

Established on a 123 acre site of what had formerly been rail car repair shops, it became a holding center for civilians who were evacuated from their homes during and after the Warsaw Uprising. The emptied factory was surrounded by a tall cement wall, had watchtowers and was completely unsuitable for human habitation, filled with odd pieces of iron, wood, rags, standing water, oil slicks and rubbish.

From the 6th of August to the 30th of September, 1944 over 650,000 people from Warsaw and its surrounding regions passed through its door.¹ In the first days of its existence everyone who came to the camp was automatically sent to Germany but in later transports various selections were made. The selection was done by the Gestapo, the police, a medical board and the Labor Office.

Alina Makulska describes the defining moment for her:

"The selection process begins. Masses of people, shoved and arranged into a column by armed guards, moves slowly in the direction of the selectors. Step by step we move forward and we approach them...our turn. They pushed my father to the left. The German looks me over and I think he's going to separate me from my mother, but no - to the right. I look for my father, he makes a step in our direction to say goodbye but the furious German hollers, tells him to return. That was our last goodbye. Taken to a camp, he never returned."²

Those deemed unfit for work — the sick, the crippled, those too old to work — stayed in the Government General. Anyone who was of no use for work in Germany was released. Women in the advanced stage of pregnancy and women who had been raped were released as was anyone who suffered from TB, dysentery, or typhus. Anyone suspected of participating in the Uprising were interrogated by the Gestapo and subsequently shot in a nearby alley, or sent to concentration camps in Auschwitz, Mauthausen, Dachau, or Gross Rosen. On August 12, twelve hundred Polish women were sent to the concentration camp in Germany called Ravensbrück.³ Thousands of other Polish women were sent for forced labor in Germany. Among them was Julia Gawrylkiewicz-Kodelska, who at great risk managed to keep a diary her experience. She writes of the train transport to Germany:

"The wagons are shunted to a siding and the doors bolted shut. There is a huge cry of distress. We are left without water, light or toilets. Stuffy, lack of air, suffering from hunger and thirst. The quiet cries of children.

The train moves forward and stands for a long time at some unknown station. We hear talk in German. I sit squatted down with my knees at my chin...in the stuffy air a woman has fainted, we try to revive her. Someone has a little bit of water in a bottle, someone else has drops for the heart. Artificial respiration. After a few minutes we hear her breathing. We try and make her comfortable in this tremendous squeeze.

Before Breslau the train stops. Today is August 10, 1944 about 5 a.m. All around there are meadows. The guards open all the wagons. We are allowed to exit. Not a bush, not a tree that could hide the embarrassment of taking care of your physical needs. Guards with guns over their arms watch that none of those in the

ludicrous pose try to escape..."⁴

The transports often lasted for days. In the winter the occupants froze. In the stifling summer heat, they gasped for air. The transports were often shunted off main railways for German troop trains to pass or stood still at some town or city while another car loaded with Polish workers was attached to the train. Other than provisions they had brought along themselves or some basic provisions handed out at the beginning of the transport, the occupants rarely received any additional food or anything to drink until their final arrival in German territory. Thirst forced them to secretly steal dirty snow off freight cars during stops. Lack of bread and water was a constant companion the entire trip. On occasion they were allowed to leave the train. Julia continues:

August 11-12, 1944 ... Bietzen ... the train stops ... they start unloading us — dirty, collapsed cheeks and parched lips. Everybody is throwing their meager luggage (I have only a small hand carry-all) and immediately fall on the grass along the side of the tracks to at least stretch their legs that were cramped during the journey. After a few moments the narrow foothills brook is gray from the dirt of thousands of people falling into the water to refresh themselves and to try and wash up even a little bit."⁵

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3. Ibid
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5. Ibid

PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

California (and Polish) Dreamin'

Los Angeles, as I learned on my recent trip there, is a collection of "type" communities and municipalities. For instance, Glendale is historically the Armenian area, and there were many Kardashians look-a-like sightings. There is China Town, Korea Town, Hispanic barrios, West Hollywood, and many others. There aren't any current or historic neighborhoods (that I know of) for the Poles, but there are two places you might want to visit on your next trip to L.A. to satisfy your Polish fix. One is Our Lady of the Bright Mount Church and the other is the "Polka" Polish restaurant. You can find directions and information on the web for both.

The **Bright Mount Church** is a spiritual and social gathering place for Polish Roman Catholics in Los Angeles. Legend has it that the property was owned and later donated by the famous Polish silent movie actress Barbara Apollonia Chalupiec, better known as, Pola Negri. The truth is the land and a house were purchased for a "ridiculously low price" from the Doheny oil family by the Polish community of Los Angeles in the 1940s, and later incorporated as a Roman Catholic parish into the Los Angeles Diocese. Pola was a member of the parish for many years, gave generously to the building of the new and current church, and (according to one member), bought and donated the Stations of the Cross that are on the walls to this day. My wife Sue commented on how beautiful they were before we learned of Pani Negri's connection to them.

The church is modern and beautiful, and the grounds are amazing. The Polish congregation has done a superb job of adding to and improving the property. Like most Catholic churches — and especially with Polish churches — the parish is a religious and a cultural center for the congregation. For instance, the weekend of our visit, Our Lady of the Bright Mount had a commemoration program for veterans of World War II. I enjoyed meeting Andrzej Stefanski, 92, who has the energy of a 52-year-old.

If you need pierogi, the **Polka Polish Restaurant** serves all the Polish standards, but presents them very well and in ample portions. Dinners are built around the big four pierogi, cabbage rolls, kielbasa, and bigos. They also serve a Polish style of gulasz, which is very reminiscent of my mom's roast beef and gravy. It was absolutely delicious. Hopefully they will have spinach soup the day you are there. Chicken, fish, and pork loin are also available. The Polka is great neighborhood dining with a Polish flare. You will not be disappointed and for a very reasonable price.

POLISH OR NOT? Marc Thiessen is an American author, columnist and political commentator. The former speechwriter for the second President George Bush, he is a frequent guest on Fox News *The Kelly File*. Thiessen grew up on the Upper East Side in Manhattan, where both his parents were doctors and "left-of-center liberal Democrat types." His mother grew up in Poland and fought as a teenager in the Warsaw Uprising in which his grandfather died.

Mike Foltyniewicz is a pitcher for the Atlanta Braves major league baseball team. The name is obviously Polish and in this case, surprisingly, so was the pronunciation. Instead of the standard fowl-tin'-a-

witz, the announcers pronounced his name in the Polish way, fool-ti-NEH-vich. Hearing that name pronounced so fluidly, I have to wonder why on earth did our people ever think that changing or phoneticizing their names? You go Mike! You go to the parents of Mike!

DZIĘKUJE BARDZO. The Los Angeles adventure provided the opportunity not only to visit my daughter Brig and her husband Alex, but also to meet with two dear friends, Andy and Liz Kozlowski, who extended true Polish warmth and hospitality. They are super family people, mainstays of the Polish way, and a lot of fun to be around! We had a blast. Dziękuję bardzo to Rich Widerynski, Polish National Alliance member, who gave me valuable information on Pola Negri's involvement with Our Lady of the Bright Mount. Finally, I didn't catch her name but our lovely waitress at Polka was exceedingly patient with us as we mixed and matched and ordered too much food. Dziękuję to her, as well.

I hope you had a great summer, and if you have a thought about this month's topic, have a question, have an answer to a question, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; email alinabrig@yahoo.com.

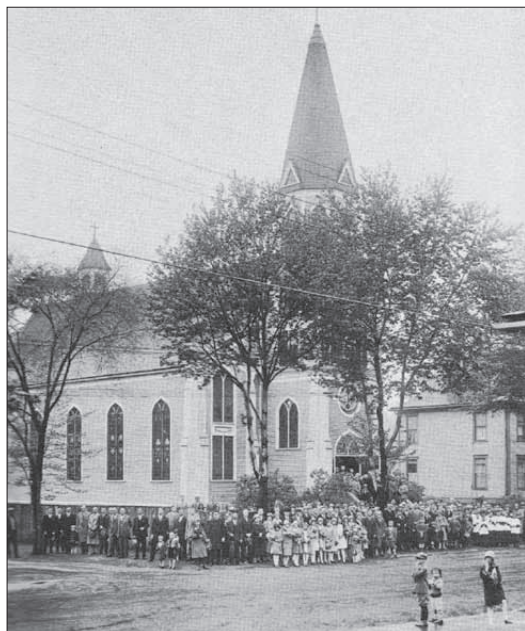
POLONIA PLACES
GREGORY L. WITUL

Holy Mother of the Rosary Parish

26 Bell Street
Chicopee, Massachusetts
Status: Open

Last year, Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manchester, New Hampshire, the See of the Polish National Catholic Church's Eastern Diocese, celebrated its centennial. Holy Trinity is the third parish to hold the title of Cathedral of the Eastern Diocese, preceded by the former St. Joseph's Church in Springfield Massachusetts and the Diocese's first Cathedral, Holy Mother of the Rosary in Chicopee.

Like many of the early Polish National Catholic churches, Holy Mother of the Rosary was born by Polish Catholics who felt underserved and disrespected by the Roman church. The spark for the future National parish was struck in October of 1896 when a number of parishioners at St. Stanislaus RC Church questioned how their pastor was handling the parish finances and administering the parish. With the help of Rev. Valentine Gawrychowski, the parishioners filed a complaint with the bishop, which led to an investigation and trial. During this time, a number of members from the parish traveled to Buffalo, N.Y.



Holy Mother of the Rosary in the 1920s.

Minister of National Defense Received at Embassy

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Defense and Military Attaché Office hosted a reception July 21, 2016 at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in honor of Antoni Macierewicz, the minister of national defense, with assistant attaché Lieutenant Colonel Karol Sobczyk presiding. Minister Macierewicz was visiting the United States following the recent July NATO Summit in Warsaw.

Among the more than 100 persons present were members of the Polish Army Veterans of America, hailing from as far as New York and New Jersey.

Minister Macierewicz was praised by the departing Ambassador Schnepf, who stated that Poland has nothing to fear with such a great minister of defense as Macierewicz. The ambassador also reminisced how he himself and the minister worked together years ago at the University of Warsaw's Department of History. He continued how they both were engaged in organizing the 1977 underground movement of the Committee for the Defense of Workers ("KOR" — Polish acronym) during Poland's long struggle for democracy in opposition to the imposed 1945 communist government after World War II.

Schnepf was appointed to his present ambassadorial post by the Civic Platform government (liberal) in 2012. Macierewicz, a political veteran in his own right, was tapped by the ruling Law and Justice gov-

ernment (conservative) in late 2015. It was a convergence at the embassy, which reunited the old friends after many years — one an ambassador and the other a minister — with both representing the interests of the government of Poland. This was no small feat for the nascent KOR movement — a forerunner of the revolutionary Solidarity that transformed Poland into a democracy. Schnepf also acknowledged Macierewicz's hard work and the joint cooperation of the United States and

to meet with Rev. Stephen Kaminski the bishop of the Independent Polish Catholic Church to seek his advice. At the same time two parishioners, Daniel Twarog and Wojciech Boron, purchased a lot of land located at the corner of Bell and Elm that could be used for the new church, if needed. When the findings of the trial left many in the congregation unsatisfied, a meeting was held on January 11, 1897 at Welsh Hall to establish an independent Polish parish. A temporary committee was established and the name Holy Mother of the Rosary was selected for the new church.

Progress on the new church was quickly made. Bishop Kaminski assigned Father Gawrychowski to establish the parish, a constitution was written and unanimously accepted, Mass began to be held in members' homes, 24 parishioners signed the incorporation papers, and on March 10, 1897 the parish was legally chartered by the State of Massachusetts. In March, Twarog and Boron sold their land to the parish and construction of the church began in June. Soon the campus was expanded with a rectory and a cemetery on Bennett Street was established. In January of 1898, Father Gawrychowski was called upon to establish a new church in Baltimore Maryland, but in due time he would return.

Over the next quarter century, the congregation held steadfast in their church against Roman pressures. In 1912 Holy Mother Church like many other Independent Polish Catholic churches joined the Polish National Catholic Church, and changed their name accordingly. Prime Bishop Hodur visited the parish a number of times and in 1924 carved out the Eastern Diocese to help administer the parishes in New England. In August, Father Gawrychowski was consecrated a bishop and charged with the new Diocese and when it came time to select his cathedral he chose the parish he helped start, Holy Mother of the Rosary.

During the time the church was the See of the Eastern Diocese, the parish saw some lowlights, including a 1933 fire and, highlights like the launch of campaign for a new school. With the death of Bishop Gawrychowski and the selection



MINISTER MACIEREWICZ MEETS POLONIA. Antoni Macierewicz, Poland's minister of national defense, addresses an audience in the Embassy's Blue Salon. Standing at right is Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf, after he warmly welcomed the minister.

Polish governments to solidify the strength of the Polish Army. During his address, Macierewicz confirmed that the recently successful Warsaw NATO Summit was achieved through relentless diplomatic efforts and the perseverance of the Polish government.

He stated that the Summit provided a solid base for NATO's presence in Poland and a significant deterrence to belligerent Russia in the defense of Poland.

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The church as it appears today.

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Holy Mother would also become one of the founding organizations of the Kosciuszko Foundation, following in the footsteps of one of its parishioners, Dr. Stephen P. Mizwa.

Today, Holy Mother of the Rosary Church is alive and well, under the guidance of Father Pawel Lukaszewicz. If you are in the area, Sunday morning Mass begins at 9:30 a.m.



Holy Mother of the Rosary church during its Golden Jubilee.

How Partitions Affected Immigration

The first significant series of events that affected Polish immigration were the three partitions of Poland that occurred between 1772 and 1795.

The emigration that occurred as a direct result of the partitions was very small and included only those who could afford to leave. The peasants, who would make up the major wave of Polish immigration, could not leave until the nobles freed them from the land. However, the effects of the partitions increased the reasons to leave Poland and emigrate. The new rulers of Poland did not treat the Polish subjects as full citizens and enacted policies that had major negative effects on the lives of the Polish peasants in the 1800s and helped build the Polish national unity that we see today.

In 1772, the first partition of Poland occurred due to the fears of the Austrian and Prussian rulers that the rise in power of the Russian Empire was destroying the balance of power in Europe. To resolve their growing tension with Russia, the leaders of the three

countries reached an agreement to annex the borderlands of Poland in an attempt to rebalance the power between them. When the fighting ended, Poland had lost thirty percent of its lands and half of its population. Prussia ended up controlling 80% of Poland's total foreign trade.

TWO MORE PARTITIONS occurred in 1792 and 1795 due to the opposition of Prussia and Russia to Poland's adoption of a new constitution in 1791 which would give political equality between their townspeople and nobility. The new constitution also would place the peasants under the protection of the government and eliminate many of the abuses of serfdom. The monarchs of Prussia and Russia feared that their peasants would demand similar freedoms.

The last partition ceded the remaining Polish lands to the three powers and ended Poland's existence as a country for 123 years. After their defeat, the lands of the Polish nobles who had fought the Russians were con-

fiscated, and the nobles were forced to flee.

Each of the partitions saw small numbers of Polish landed gentry, nobles and intellectuals flee to escape punishment because they fought on the losing side. More fled for political reasons because they would not submit to their new rulers. They left in search of freedoms they had lost by the takeover of their country. However, the peasants stayed because they could not leave.

Continued opposition by the Polish people to their new rulers and the unfair treatment of the Poles led to various uprisings. When the Poles lost their battles, their new rulers punished the Poles with even stricter laws and taxes. Economic conditions worsened, and the Polish people became unified against the rule of the Russian, Prussian, and Austrian monarchs.

The largest wave of Polish immigration began in the 1850s when Prussia imposed higher taxes against the Poles living in Silesia. The peasants were no longer tied to the land and had the freedom to move. Throughout Poland

there was also a lack of industrial development due to the fears of more uprisings occurring. This fueled widespread unemployment and poverty. These were major problems in all three partitions as Prussia, Russia, and Austria had all neglected their Polish lands. Freedom from the land and the offering of steerable fares gave the Polish peasants an alternative to the harsh economic problems that they endured in Poland during the 1800s. Emigration of the Poles began from the German partitions in the 1850s and then spread to the Russian and Austrian partitions in the 1880s.

Why our Polish ancestors immigrated has a complicated answer, but the partitioning of their lands set the stage and may have caused many of the factors that pushed our ancestors to make the decision to leave.

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Stephen M. Szabados is a prominent genealogist, and the author of four books, "Finding Grandma's European Ancestors," "Find Your Family History," "Polish Genealogy," and "Memories of Dziadka."

OUR POLISH SAINTS / Martin Nowak

Canonizations Can Be Controversial

PART IX. The canonization of some saints has been controversial. St. Teresa Benedicta (Edith Stein), who has a peripheral tie to Poland, was controversial because of issues related to her conversion to Catholicism. Ss. Cyril and Methodius spread Christianity in the Slavic world but are usually associated with the Eastern Orthodox Church and were controversial because they used local languages in worship rather than Latin. St. Sigmund Felinski was considered by many Poles to be a pawn of the Russian occupiers of Poland.

ST. JOHN PAUL II

Jan Pawel II

1920-2005

Canonized: 2014

Feast Day: October 22

Grave: St. Peter's Basilica, Rome

Sometimes referred to as St. John Paul the Great. Born Karol Wojtyła in southern Poland, as a young man he witnessed first hand the barbarity of the Nazis during the German occupation of his homeland during World War II. After the war, he was ordained a priest, became Bishop of Kraków in 1958 and a cardinal in 1967. This was a time of communist rule in Poland, of which he was a staunch opponent. A surprise choice for pope in 1978, he inspired Poles and Eastern Europeans to struggle against communism through their faith, and it was largely through his inspiration that communism fell in Europe. A much beloved pope, the masses of Roman Catholics considered him a saint from the moment he died. Patron saint of Kraków, Świdnica, young Catholics and families.

ST. WENCESLAUS

Wacław

907-935

Canonized: 935, by tradition, locally

Feast Day: September 28

Grave: St. Vitus Cathedral, Prague, which he founded

The "Good King Wenceslaus" of the famous song was not actually a king, but Duke of Bohemia, though posthumously given the title of king by the Holy Roman Emperor. Born near Prague, he became duke at a young age. A benevolent ruler, he was admired as a peacemaker and was generous to all, especially the poor. His dukedom probably extended into what is now southern Poland. At the least, his influence

was felt there and he was greatly revered in the region after his death. His niece Dąbrowka married the pagan Prince Mieszko of Poland, after which he adopted Christianity for Poland. Wenceslaus was murdered in a plot by his own mother and brother, who were anti-Christian, while on his way to Mass. His grandmother was St. Ludmila. Patron saint of Poland, Wawel Cathedral, Prague, Czechoslovakia and Czech Republic.

ST. FLORIAN

250?-304

Canonized: By tradition, locally

Feast Day: May 4

Grave: St. Florian's

Church, Kraków

Florian was not born in and never lived in Poland. He was a Roman soldier who lived in what is now Austria long before Poland became a nation. He was a Christian who refused to venerate the Roman gods. For this he was attacked, clubbed, burned and drowned. First buried in Lorch, Austria, then Rome, some of Florian's relics were sent to Kraków in 1184 at King Casimir II's request to enhance that city's standing as a royal capital. Patron saint of Poland, Upper Austria, firefighters, chimney sweeps, and soapmakers.

FIVE HOLY MARTYRS OF MIĘDZYRZECZ, SS. ISAAC, JOHN, CHRISTIAN, MATTHEW AND BENEDICT
Izaak, Jan, Krystyn, Mateusz i Benedykt
Died 1003
Canonized: By tradition, locally
Feast Day: November 10
Grave: St. Matthew beneath St. Martin's Church, St. Christian in St. John the Baptist and

Five Martyr Brothers' Church, both in Kazimierz Biskupi near Konin. Others unknown.

Information on the Five Holy Martyrs is sketchy. John and Benedict were Benedictine hermit monks who came to Międzyrzecz west of Poznań in 1001. It is not known if they were Polish. They were joined by Christian, Matthew and Isaac, who were Slavic. They were slain by a gang at their hermitage in 1003. The murderers burned the hermitage, but the bodies of the saints remained untouched. Miraculous interventions were attributed to the five in the years after their deaths.

SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS

Cyryl I Methody

827-869 and 815-885

Canonized: By tradition

Feast Day: February 14

Grave: Cyril at St. Clement Basilica in Rome, Italy, Methodius believed to be at Velehrad, Czechia

Cyryl and Methodius were Greek brothers from Byzantium. They were priests who became renowned as missionaries. Officials in Moravia (now Czech Rep.) requested missionaries to visit the region and the brothers were chosen. They successfully converted the people there and in other nearby areas and invented the Cyrillic alphabet to translate the Bible. And it became the written form still used today in some Slavic countries. Made bishops by the pope, they were often criticized for using local languages and customs in their services.

After Cyril's death, Methodius carried the gospel into southern Poland and possibly established a diocese in Lwów. The earliest mention of Christianity in Poland relates to the missions of Cyril and Methodius. Known as the Apostles of the Slavs, they are patron saints of Czech Republic, Slovakia and Europe.



POLISH CAN BE FUN / Robert Strybel

Answers to "Fill in the Blanks"

Last issue, we provided three Polish words in several different categories and asked you to add as many relevant Polish words as you can think of. Here is how a native speaker of Polish might have completed those groups:

FRUIT.

jabłko, gruszka, śliwka, wiśnia, czereśnia, porzeczka, jagoda, agrest, brzoskwinia, morela, mandarynka, nektarynka, winogrona, cytryna, pomarańcza, grejpfrut, mandarynka, figa, daktyl, ananas, pigwa, papaja...



FAMILY MEMBERS.

ojciec, matka, syn, córka, babcia, dziadek, siostra, brat, brat cioteczny bratowa, kuzyn, wuj, ciotka, stryj, stryjenka, teść, teściowa, zięć, synowa, szwagier, szwagierka, ojczym, macocha, pasierb, pasierbica, bratanek, bratanica, siostrzeniec, siostrzenica...

BUILDINGS.

dom, garaż, kościół, kaplica, katedra, biurowiec, wieżowiec, drapacz chmur, kamienica, fabryka, szopa, komórka, stodoła, obora, chlew, kurnik, chałupa, remiza, hala sportowa, amfiteatr, kino, więzienie, komisariat, poczta, budka telefoniczna, stróżówka...

OCCUPATIONS.

piekarz, nauczyciel, policjant, strażak, listonosz, lekarz, chirurg, dentysta/stomatolog, adwokat, sędzia, polityk, burmistrz, rzeźnik, pielęgniarka, stewardessa, hydraulik, inżynier, elektryk, stolarz, murarz, kamieniarz, sklepikarz, budowniczy/bu-

dowlaniec, technik...

COLORS. czerwony, czarny, biały, szary, siwy, błękitny, niebieski, granatowy, turkusowy, zielony, morski, oliwkowy, żółty, pomarańczowy, bordowy, purpurowy, brązowy, brunatny, różowy, amarantowy, cielisty, złoty, srebrny...

HOUSEHOLD PETS.

pies, kot, papuzka, papuga, gwarek, kanarek, gołąb, chomik, biała mysz, świnka morska, królik, fretka, jeż, rybki akwariowe, złota rybka, żółw, jaszczurka, żmija, wąż...

CLOTHING.

koszula, spodnie, sukienka, bluzka, kostium, sweter, spódniczka, fartuszek, marynarka, krawat, apaszka, kalesony, podkoszulek, halka, biustonosz/stanik, majtki, figi, pończochy, rajstopy, płaszcz, palto, peleryna, kapelusz, beret, czapka, chusta, szalik.

How many of the above could you immediately recognize? Were there some you guessed at but weren't sure about? That's normal.

If you are serious about enriching your Polish vocabulary, look up the words you didn't know and write and say each of them at least three times with their English translation. For instance: rajstopy, rajstopy rajstopy = pantyhose.

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Lenczowski attends NATO Summit in Poland

by Sean Crowley

WARSAW — In early July, Institute of World Politics (IWP) founder and president Dr. John Lenczowski visited the Polish capital and attended a variety of events surrounding the NATO Warsaw Summit and the associated Warsaw Summit Experts' Forum. In attendance with him were a variety of distinguished political, military, and private sector figures, including Polish President Andrzej Duda; former Supreme Allied Commander, Europe (SACEUR) General Philip Breedlove (USAF, Ret.); former Secretary of State Madeline Albright, and NATO General Secretary Jens Stoltenberg.

Dr. Lenczowski gave a three-part

presentation at the Forum. The first segment covered Russia's so-called "hybrid warfare" strategy. Hybrid warfare is Moscow's signature approach to sowing discord within NATO and Russia's near abroad that involves a variety of components such as disinformation, propaganda, information warfare, and the covert use of military forces — both conventional and non-conventional.

The second part of the presentation covered the Islamic State (IS) and its use of propaganda and attempts to draw Western citizens to the jihad. The third component of the presentation covered what the U.S. and NATO could do to address these situations. Dr. Lenczowski

also gave a special presentation on these issues to senior Polish defense officials.

Before starting and leading IWP, Dr. Lenczowski worked in the State Department's Bureau of European Affairs. It was during this time that he served as a special Soviet affairs adviser to President Ronald Reagan.

The Institute of World Politics (IWP), an independent graduate school founded to fill a major national need: to supply professional education in statecraft, national security, and international affairs that no other school offers and that few people acquire except through an entire career of on-the-job experience.

NEWSWIRE

Chominski is Grand Marshal

PHILADELPHIA — The Eastern PA District of the Polish American Congress (PAC) announces that David Chominski will be the Grand Marshal of the 2016 Pulaski Day Parade.

Chominski is president of the Polish American Heritage Association of Delaware County. He is also the regional representative of the Polish American Congress, Eastern Pa. District, for Delaware County.

The PAC selected Chominski in recognition of his many years of participation with the organization, the Pulaski Day Parade in Philadelphia, and his support of organizations in Polonia.

Chominski will lead the Pulaski Day Parade in Center City Philadelphia on Sun., Oct. 2, which is one of the many events in the Philadelphia area held in recognition of Polish American Heritage Month.

For more information about Philadelphia's Pulaski Day Parade, visit PolishAmericanCongress.com or PulaskiDayParade.com.

You may also call or email the the PAC office at (215) 739-3408; Info@PulaskiDayParade.com.

Kudos for Hejnosz

PHILADELPHIA — On Sat., Aug. 13, 2016, Marie Hejnosz, past president of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia was the recipient of the 2016 American Council for Polish Culture Founders Award for her untiring dedication to Polish culture.



Marie Hejnosz and PHS' Jean Joka

The award was presented at the 68th Annual 2016 American Council for Polish Culture Convention held in Pittsburgh, Pa.

In addition, Maestro Adrian Sylveen, Artistic Director of the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, received the Cultural Achievement Award. Professor Oscar Swan, from the University of Pittsburgh, received the Distinguished Service Award.

Nagorski to Speak on "The Nazi Hunters"

NEW YORK — Author's Evening with Andrew Nagorski. Sept. 6, 2016, at the Kosciuszko Foundation Headquarters: 15 East 65th St. 6:00 p.m. Nagorski's new book, "The Nazi Hunters," focuses on a small band of men and women who refused to allow the Nazi crimes to be forgotten, and who were de-

termined to track them down to the furthest corners of the earth. Amazing stories and people.

This event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited. Please RSVP by calling (212) 734-2130.

ALSO AT THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION THIS MONTH:

- "Update on Ukraine." A panel discussion by Prof. A.J. Motyl and Adrian Karatnycky. Sept. 8, 6:00 p.m. Professor Motyl of Rutgers University and Karatnycky of the Atlantic Council will provide up-to-date information and analysis of Ukraine's domestic and international situation. Admission is \$15 for non-members, \$10 for members. Seating is limited, first come, first served.
- Book presentation and signing. Sept. 14, 6:30 p.m. Donna Solecka Urbikas will present her work "My Sister's Mother: A Memoir of War, Exile, and Stalin's Siberia."
- "Henryk Sienkiewicz: One Hundred Years Later." A lecture by Professor Michael Mikos of the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. Sept. 23, 6:00 p.m.



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Leadership Briefing



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

POLISH AMERICAN LEADERS' ASSEMBLY. Approximately 100 Polish leaders from across the United States took part in a program in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. The event was sponsored by the White House Office of Public Engagement.

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — One hundred invited leaders and members of America's Polish diaspora, and its various organizations took part in a presentation sponsored by the White House Office of Public Engagement on May 13, 2016. The afternoon briefing was mainly a projection and promotion of present White House policies and agendas. Relevance to Polonia and Poland was somewhat limited, mostly becoming spotlighted subject matter due to questions, comments, and redirection from the floor to the podium.

There were four topics listed on the Polish American Leadership Briefing program handout, presented by various staffers/advisors, and encapsulated below:

- **Supreme Court.** A video was presented promoting the currently-stalled President Obama appointment of Judge Merrick Garland to the U.S. Supreme Court. The moderator conducted follow-up dialog encouraging the Senate's confirmation of Judge Garland.
- **Immigration.** The presentation focused at length on various supportive laws and other legal relief for the millions of undocumented adults and children now living in the United States. Answering a question, the staffer reiterated that President Obama is committed to the waiver of visa requirements for Polish citizens. The presenter congratulated the ethnic audience

for its efforts, since the necessary and still-pending waiver legislation is one of the few on Capitol Hill that has bi-partisan support.

- **Citizenship and Civic Engagement.** This was a general call for bipartisan promotion and engagement for voter registration. Detailed discussion and suggested planning followed. The Polish American community was encouraged to mobilize its eligible U.S. permanent residents to apply for citizenship.

• **Foreign Policy.** Speaking briefly, Anna Mankanju, Special Advisor for Europe and Eurasia at the Office of the Vice President said she works closely with the government of Poland, and encourages cooperation with Ukraine. She said that Poland's contributions in Afghanistan has earned the gratitude of the American administration. To a posed Poland security question, the advisor answered that the present heightened tension with Russia requires the reinforcement of NATO's Eastern flank.

Earlier in the day, the same participants attended a briefing on the National Security of Poland at the Embassy of the Republic Poland. Immediately afterwards, two different groups of the participants attended Polish American strategy meetings with the Democratic National Committee and with the Republican National Committee in their respective office buildings on Capitol Hill.

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Will Polka Survive Another Generation?

by Shane Nyman

APPLETON, Wisc. (Post-Crescent) — Many in our polka world do their part to keep the music alive. As do many clubs, the Altrusa Club of Appleton's Polkafest does its part to keep Wisconsin's state dance alive.

There are many dances, polka and others, that have become history. Shane Nyman, an entertainment writer and copy editor with Post-Crescent Media in Appleton, tackled some of the questions concerning the future of polka music. Could our state's precious polka be headed down that path, destined to live on only as a wedding reception novelty?

Some suggested the polka might not last another generation.

Though having persevered far longer than the seemingly endless list of fad dances of the past century — polka's origin is believed to come from more than 150 years ago in Central Europe — it seems destined to go the way of many other ethnic traditions that have faded over the years in the red, white and blue melting pot. The Altrusa Club of Appleton will continue to do its part to keep the tradition alive with its 24th annual Polkafest in July. The three days of festivities support the community projects of the Altrusa Club and will feature music from Gary's Ridgeland Dutchmen, Hauser's Hotshots, Mollie B & the Jim Busta Band, Karl Hartwich from the Country Dutchmen, Jon Dietz and the Twin Lakes Trio, and Dave Duescher's Musical Brass.

The Midwest has long loved its polka; Wisconsin especially so, naming it the state's official dance in 1993. But in the age of the Dab, the Whip/Nae Nae and, really, rock and roll, hip-hop, country and other forms of pop music, people just don't seem to polka like they used to. There's a whole generation of youngsters who likely don't know an oom-pah from an Oompa Loompa. They were here one day, gone the next. Could our precious polka be headed down the same path? Destined to live on only as a wedding reception novelty?

"I would be surprised if a lot of it lasted after another generation," said Greg Laabs, a 63-year-old Appleton musician who has played in polka and old-time bands for almost 50 years.

"Some of the festivals we used to play are no longer going due to lack of volunteerism," said Gary Brueggen of Westby, who plays with the Sparta-based Gary's Ridgeland Dutchmen. "The crowds would decline so the festivals would say, 'We're not going to do this anymore.'"

"Another avenue, we used to do a lot of polka Masses at churches and stuff, but now some of the newer bishops and some of the priests, they don't care for them," he said. "... So we don't do nearly as many polka Masses as years ago."

Because the future is uncertain, those taking part in celebrations like Polkafest simply soak in the fun as much as they can. Laabs said those who show up, whether it's a room full of senior citizens or if there's a stray Millennial who stumbled in, all are bound to have a good time.

"I don't know what it's going to take to get the kids dancing polka music," Brueggen said. "Whenever we get them at a job ... its like, 'Geez, is this fun!'"

The next time there is a polka dance or festival close to you, don't pass it up. You could even enjoy it and be part of those working to keep that music alive.

Idź Powoli, Scrubby

by Larry Trojak
photos by Steve Litwin

By now, anyone with even the smallest interest in Polish style polkas is aware that the genre lost one of its true modern-era icons with the passing of Dave "Scrubby" Seweryniak on July 22. Icon is a phrase that is banded about far too often these days, but anyone



who had the pleasure of seeing, hearing and experiencing Scrubby in person is sure to agree that, in this case, the shoe definitely fits, and he wore it like none other.

In the time since his passing, I've been wracking my brain trying to nail down just what it was about Scrubby that endeared him to so many in his decades of playing. Certainly there was the voice — a contrary blend of smooth and raspy that could croon with the best of them ("Some Broken Hearts Never Mend"), convey heartfelt emotion ("Waltz Trilogy" off Chapter VII), breathe new life into old tunes ("Dorotka"), or

"But personalities ... like Scrubby, who can captivate an audience, make them part of the show, help them feel that they're special, are few and far between.

just flat-out whip people into a frenzy ("Zosia," "She Likes Kielbasa," "Gdziesz Był Jasienku," et al). Antics? That's no doubt a big part of it. The guy had a knack for getting into whatever role he happened to be playing: whether it was a white-tuxedoed strolling entertainer; a Dracula-caped, bare-chested, satin jogging shorts (with sandals and black socks) madman; or the polka world's first leopard print mumu-wearing front man. He was like polka's version of Queen's Freddy Mercury, but with a lot less leather and a lot more Smirnoff. In his prime, audiences (and his fellow Dynatoners in most cases) never knew what they were going to get — but were never disappointed. Musical ability? He certainly did have that and it might have just been polka's best-kept secret. He rarely spotlighted his own talents,

yet, the Dynatoners' sound was built around his simple, yet prolific, box playing (and he packed a button-push that was solid, driving and seemingly inexhaustible).

Despite all that, however, it had to go much further than just vocal prowess or stage presentation or musical ability. After all, there've been scores of great singers, performers and musicians who, while impressive on the bandstand, have never come close to such overall acceptance and adulation. Just when I was about to simply chalk it up to Scrubby being "a piece of work" or "the whole package," I got an email from Wally "Slammer" Czabaj, a dear friend from Massachusetts. In it he referenced an activity that used to take place every time the Dynatoners played a gig in Western Mass. Scrubby would, of course, be up front and, unlike in later years when he played with both feet planted on the ground, at that time, he played with one leg crossed over



the other. It was that crossed leg which drew the attention of a cadre of admiring fans who would (after at least two sets of drinking) proceed to take Scrub's shoe and sock off while he played. He never objected, in fact he seemed to encourage it with comments from the bandstand.

It was after Slammer reminded me of that ritual, that the light bulb went off. I realized then that it was Scrubby's accessibility that made him special. He was an approachable polka superstar; a Polka Hall of Famer and winner of numerous Male Vocalist awards who never took himself too seriously, nor failed to give of himself. When approached by a dad who wanted his son to meet Scrubby (or, as was often the case, to have his son play a tune for Scrub on his box — with dad proudly looking on), he never disappointed. I'm certain there are a number of musicians playing today who were that youngster. Similarly, when



asked by polka fans to join them at their table while on break, he always gladly accepted, and those visits invariably ended with Scrub serenading them before heading back onstage. Yes it was part of the job description and yes, many other bandleaders also do those niceties. But no one did it as easily, as willingly, as joyfully, as did Scrub and it resulted in his fans loving him all the more for it.

After playing alongside Scrubby for all those years, perhaps the thing that amazed me most was his ability to connect with an audience — certainly through his songs, but just as importantly, through his interaction with them over the microphone. Most bandleaders announce songs, Scrub made it a presentation, a skit, an opportunity to kiddingly take a jab at someone. I heard him say things that, even if it made us in the band cringe, never failed to elicit laughs from the audience and the person at whom it was directed. It was almost a badge of honor, a sign that you'd made it, if Scrub poked fun at you from on stage. *Live Wire* was such a huge success for the Dynatoners largely because Scrubby made the evening intimate through his interaction

with those in attendance. Take that away and you have some good solid polka music. Add in: "I'm sweating my 'bokies' off up here" or a chorus of "Load-a Tones, Load-a-Tones" and you suddenly have a memorable event. That's a gift.

The polka world lost one of its real treasures on July 22nd and it's not one that will ever be replaced. Understand, I am not selling anyone short; there are truly great musicians and bandleaders working today, and many more coming up. But personalities — and that is the operative word in all this — personalities like Scrubby, who can captivate an audience, make them part of the show, help them feel that they're special, are few and far between. His voice, his playing, his antics, his love for the people and the music that was evident in every tune he performed, will be sorely missed.



POLKA JUKEBOX / Steve Litwin

Hot "Fusion" from BCAS

General definitions describe fusion as "The process or result of joining two or more things together to form a single entity." To that, might we add, "The ability to effectively blend laid-back and push-style polkas into one cohesive experience," for that is exactly what Honky Fusion, the new recording by the Buffalo Concertina All Stars accomplishes. Featuring 15 tracks of both originals and classics, this disc — and the veteran lineup of musicians it features — prove that honky and push need not be mutually-exclusive concepts.

There's no denying that original tunes such as "Something Old, Something New," "See if I Care," and "Loving You" will be well-received by the polka public and ultimately prove nice additions to the BCAS repertoire. However, it's the reworking of (some well-worn) classics such as "Under the Oak Tree," Lush's "Matulu Ma," the Oberaitis hit "That's the Story" and the Pala Brothers' answer to Puka Jasiu, "Mary's Knocking" that prove to be the meat of this CD.

Add in things like an English-lyric translation of "Iron Casket," (which makes one fully realize how trite the subject matter of some of these songs can be) and a paean to Buffalo's second-biggest claim-to-fame, "Everybody's Polish on Dyngus Day," and you have the makings of a very nice outing.

The Buffalo Concertina All Stars are: Ray Barsukiewicz on sax, clarinet, trumpet and vocals; Greg Chwojda on vocals and concertina; Art Gayler on accordion; Dennis Miesowicz on drums; Joe Ryndak and Bob Zielinski on concertinas and vocals; and Dale Wojdyla on trumpet and vocals. For the Honky Fusion session, BCAS also brought in the multi-talented Robin Pegg on bass.

On this disc, no individual song can be classified as honky, nor can it be pigeon-holed as a push tune; every selection stands on its own, effectively blending the strengths of each style. That, after all, is what fusion is all about.

Honky Fusion can be found on Sunshine Diversified label.

DANCE TIME / Jen Pijanowski

BoxOn is Spot-On in Buffalo

BUFFALO, N.Y. When **Box On** performs, their enthusiasm is contagious, and that enthusiasm was on display when they performed at Lamm Grove in Williamsville, N.Y. on Sunday, July 31.

Hundreds of polka lovers — many of whom had never seen the group before — danced and stood, watching in amazement as this family band showcased each of their talented children. The afternoon was hot and humid but fans stood six to seven people deep in front of the stage during their sets. Not only is this an extremely talented family but they are genuinely remarkable people. I noticed several youngsters at the dance, evidence that these band members are making friends with this younger generation and pulling them to more events.

Special Delivery played right alongside them, superb as always, offering the best variety to allow dancers to get out and burn off some

lawn fetes have been a staple for hearing polka music during the summer. As parishes close and volunteerism diminishes, however, you see less and less polka music at these events each summer. Not so for **Fourteen Holy Helpers**, which is still showcasing polka music at their summer event. On Sunday, August 7, after a celebratory polka Mass, **Buffalo Touch** took the stage for an afternoon of music. Many parishioners and polka fans were there early to enjoy the music under the tent. I was excited to see two women who have followed local polka bands for

years and supported every event. **Eleanor Szeffler** and **Virginia Gomolski** were thrilled to be sitting in their lawn chairs under the tent for an afternoon of polkas. After losing their significant others and fighting some ailments of their own, these ladies don't get out as often as they used to. It was adorable to watch everyone coming up to them to say how much they miss them and to see each of them enjoy a slow polka with fam-

ily and friends. It was delightful to see Eleanor and Virginia enjoying their favorite music live once again.



Marcelline Orzano, Linda Pietraszewski, and Carol Kujawa.

energy. A highly successful summer event and a hopeful reminder that there is still much life left in polka music.

ON AUGUST 5, **Michael Costa & the Beat** played to a packed Friday night audience in Buffalo. On their way to play an event in Cleveland, promoter Jill Czerniak scheduled a quick pit stop for the band and we reaped the reward. Local fans, Canadians and many from as far as away as Albany and New Jersey made their way to Potts Banquet Hall to listen to the fine sounds of these musicians.

Being just a few weeks since losing polka legend Scrubby to a long fight with cancer, Jill showed an immense act of generosity for this event. About a week prior to the dance, she announced that she would be donating any profits to Hospice in Scrubby's name. He had such a deep impact on the polka world and this donation in his honor showcases, once again, the deep and lasting commitment that the polka community has to one another. Congratulations and a huge thank you to Jill for organizing this incredible evening.

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POLISH NIGHT. Chris Tanski; Ron, Preston and Nicole Brennan; Francine, and Samantha Spinella.

EVERY YEAR I write about the **Roncesvalles Polish Festival** after I attend it but this year I am reminding everyone that it is coming soon. Held in a Polish neighborhood right outside of Toronto Canada, the Polish Festival is taking place Sept. 17-18. This free celebration of Polish culture attracts over 300,000 people during the course of the weekend and promises a schedule filled with events to meet anyone's needs. The festival, which is celebrating its 12th year, offers an old world charm in one of Toronto's most colorful and diverse neighborhoods.

Local and international music, as well as dancing, folklore, food, and a variety of entertainment, fill the bill for this one of a kind event. As you make your way through the streets of this beautiful neighborhood, you are greeted with Polish hospitality that is unforgettable. I strongly urge



Virginia Gomolski and Eleanor Szeffler.

anyone who can, to make it a priority to visit Roncesvalles. Our reservations have been made for several months and I look forward to having another remarkable time celebrating the beautiful culture of Poland.

IF TORONTO IS OUT of your travel area, there is another polka weekend happening in Delaware. **PolkaMotion 2016** will be held September 15th-17th at W.T Spooner American Legion in Lewes Delaware. Construction is currently being done at the PolkaMotion's usual venue, Rehoboth Beach Convention Center, so arrangements have been made to move the event for this year. Beginning on Thur., Sept. 15, **Polka Family** will be performing from 6:00-10:00 p.m. The party continues on Friday with **Eddie Forman Orchestra** and a special reunion performance by **Charm City Sound**. The final day will keep energy high with **Polka Country Musicians** ending this fabulous weekend of polka music.

A golf tournament as well as after parties at Zogg's Raw Bar & Grill in Rehoboth have been scheduled to ensure additional time to spend with friends. Contact Mike Matousek (202) 246-7918 for more information or visit www.rbpolka.com. Rest assured that PolkaMotion by The Ocean will resume back in Rehoboth in 2017.

TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

New Location for Toledo Dances

After several years of Toledo Area Polka Society (TAPS) dances being held at the Conn-Weissenberger American Legion Post, TAPS dances will now be held at the **PRCUA Misiuda Hall**, located at 5255 North Detroit Avenue in Toledo. This hall is located just a few miles from the I-75 Alexis Road exit, just south of the Ohio-Michigan border.

Toledo Area Polka Society found itself with a new challenge when the officers learned in late spring that the former location of our dances was no longer available. After considering several area rental venues, we decided that the PRCUA with its dedication to promoting Polish American cultural events plus its convenient location, would be a logical choice. This new location is effective starting with the September 24, 2016 dance, featuring Lenny Gomulka and the Chicago Push. As with all TAPS dances, the starting time for music will be 7:00 p.m. with doors opening at 6:30.

The balance of 2016's offerings include the first Toledo appearance of the Buffalo Concertina All-Stars on October 2. November brings

John Stevens' Doubleshot on the 20th. This will be a Members' Appreciation Dance, with doors opening at 1:30 and music from 2-6 p.m. Finally, the TAPS Christmas Dinner Dance will be held Sunday December 11 with Randy Krajewski and the Czelusta Park All-Stars.

Please mark your calendars now to join us as we ring in the new dance season in our new location!

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POLKA CALENDAR / John Ziobrowski

SEPTEMBER 2

• IPA Convention. John Gora/Mike Costa & the Beat, Millennium Hotel, Buffalo N.Y., (716) 681-2400

SEPTEMBER 3

• IPA Convention. The Knewz/The Boys/IPA Tribute Band/Concertina All Stars. Millennium Hotel, Buffalo N.Y., (716) 681-2400
 • Dennis Polisky. Our Lady of Czestochowa. Doylestown. Pa., 4-8 (215) 345-0600
 • Walt Wagner. Our Lady of Czestochowa. Doylestown. Pa., 12-4. (215) 345-0600
 • Jimmy Sturr. Allentown Fair. Allentown. Pa., 2:30. (610) 433-7541

SEPTEMBER 4

• IPA Convention. Eddie Forman/Lenny Gomulka/Music Company/ Polka Country Musicians. Millennium Hotel, Buffalo. N.Y., (716) 681-2400
 • TKO, Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, Pa., 12-4. (215) 345-0600
 • John Gora & Gorale, Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, Pa., 4-8. (212) 345-0600
 • John Stevens & Doubleshot, Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, Pa., 4-8. (215) 345-0600
 • Mike Surratt & the Continentals, Old Stein Inn, Edgewater, Md., 4-8. (410) 798-6807
 • Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men, PACC, Webster, Mass., 2-6. (508) 461-6794
 • Jimmy Sturr Orchestra, PLAV, Pine Island, N.Y., 2-6. (845) 651-4266
 • Rich Bobinski Orchestra, Town Park, Blackstone, Mass., 2-6
 • Tony's Polka Band, Northside Park, Johnson City, N.Y., 2-6

SEPTEMBER 5

• Eddie Forman Orchestra, Pulaski Park, Three Rivers, Mass., 2:30-6:30
 • John Gora & Gorale, Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, Pa., 12-4 (215) 345-0600
 • Chris & Ronnie, Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, Pa., 4-8 (215) 345-0600
 • Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men, Spencer Fair, Spencer, Mass., 10 AM. (508) 885-5819

SEPTEMBER 10

• Special Delivery. Clinton Bar & Grill, 2460 Clinton St., West Seneca, NY 14224 (7:00-10:00 p.m.) (716) 768-3246.
 • Mike Surratt & the Continentals, American Legion, College Park, Md., 8-11 (301) 441-2783
 • Polka Country Musician, Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, Pa., 12-4. (215) 345-0600
 • Dyna Brass, Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, Pa., 4-8. (215) 345-0600
 • Tony's Polka Band, Fish & Game Club, Herkimer, N.Y., 1-5. (315) 823-0793

SEPTEMBER 11

• Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men, German Club, Pawtucket, RI., 2-6. (401) 5659-6427
 • Rich Bobinski Orchestra, PACA, Port

Washington, N.Y., 3-7. (516) 883-5553
 • Polka Family, German Evergreen Club, Fleetwood, Pa., 2-6. (610) 944-7501
 • Joe Stanky, VFW, Dupont, Pa., 2-6. (570) 654-5504
 • Jimmy Sturr Orchestra/Polka Country Musicians, Pulaski Park, Three Rivers, Ma., 1-7. (800) 724-0727
 • John Stevens & Doubleshot, Epiphany Byzantine Church, Annandale, Va., 12-6. (703) 573-3986
 • Polish American String Band, Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, Pa., 12-4. (215) 345-0600
 • Lenny Klamut, Roosevelt Hall, Norvelt, Pa., 3-7. (724) 861-5872

SEPTEMBER 13

• Buffalo Touch, River Grill, Tonawanda, N.Y., 6:30 p.m. (716) 873-2553

SEPTEMBER 15

• Polka Family, American Legion, Lewes, Del., 6-10. (202) 246-7918

SEPTEMBER 16

• Eddie Forman Orchestra/Charm City Sound, American Legion, Lewes, Del., 6-10. (202) 246-7918
 • John Gora & Gorale/Polka Family, St. Casimir Church, Toronto, Ont., Canada, 8 p.m. (416) 532-2822

SEPTEMBER 17

• The Special Delivery Band (Polka Mass), Blessed Mother Teresa Church, Depew N.Y., 4 p.m. (716) 683-2746
 • Polka Country Musicians, American Legion, Lewes, Del., 6-10. (202) 246-7918
 • Mike Surratt & the Continentals, Old Stein Inn, Edgewater, Md., 5-9. (410) 798-6807
 • John Gora & Gorale/Buffalo Touch, Roncesvalles, Toronto, Ont., Canada. (416) 388-2704

SEPTEMBER 18

• Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men, PNA Park, Wallingford, Conn., 1-5. (203) 259-9405
 • Polski Swingmasters, VFW, Dupont, Pa., 2-6. (570) 654-5504
 • John Gora & Gorale, Roncesvalles, Toronto, Ont., Canada, (416) 388-2704
 • Tony's Polka Band, Six Flags, Queensburg, N.Y., 1-4. (518) 792-3500

SEPTEMBER 17/18

• Steve Drzewicki/Dyna Brass/Tony Blazonczyk & New Phaze/Stephanie/Box On/Henny & the Versa Js/ New Brass Express, Kinde PolkaFest, Downtown Kinde, Mich., (989) 874-4070

SEPTEMBER 21

• John Stevens & Doubleshot, St. Hedwig's Church, Wilmington, Del., 7-10. (302) 594-1400

SEPTEMBER 22

• Buffalo Touch. Polka Boosters Meeting. Polish Falcons, Depew, N.Y., 8 p.m. (716) 684-2373

SEPTEMBER 23

• John Stevens & Doubleshot, Festhalle, Asbury Park, N.J., 7-10. (782)

997-8767

• Mike Surratt & the Continentals, The Waldhorn, Pineville, N.C., 6-11. (704) 540-7047

SEPTEMBER 24

• Jimmy Sturr Orchestra, Mountain Creek Resort, Vernon, N.J., 2:30 p.m. (973) 827-2000
 • The Special Delivery Band, Corpus Christi Dozynki, Buffalo, N.Y., (716) 896-1050
 • Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men/Polka Country Musicians, St. Joseph Polish Society, Colchester, Conn., 1-7 (860) 810-3619
 • The Eastern Sound, Masonic Hall, Topsfield, Mass., 1-5. (978) 465-3734
 • Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, American Legion, Toledo, Oh., (419) 266-1357
 • Mike Surratt & the Continentals, The Waldhorn, Pineville, N.C., 6-11. (704) 540-7047
 • Golden Tones, St. Hedwig's Church, Wilmington, Del., 7-10. (302) 594-1400
 • Tony's Polka Band, Six Flags, Queensburg, N.Y., 1-4. (518) 792-3500

SEPTEMBER 25

• Jimmy Sturr Orchestra, Mountain Creek Resort, Vernon, N.J., 12:30 p.m. (973) 827-2000
 • Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, Cascade Ballroom, New Castle, Pa., (724) 656-3510
 • The Special Delivery Band, Corpus Christi Dozynki, Buffalo, N.Y., (716) 896-1050
 • Rich Bobinski Orchestra, St. Stan's, Meriden, Conn., 11-3. (203) 237-1005
 • John Stevens & Doubleshot, Quassy Park, Middlebury, Conn., 12:30-5:30. (800) 367-7275
 • Golden Tones Orchestra, VFW, Dupont, Pa., 2-6 (570) 654-5504
 • Tony's Polka Band, Six Flags, Queensburg, N.Y., 1-4. (518) 792-3500

SEPTEMBER 27

• Jimmy Sturr Orchestra, Villa Roma Resort, Callicoon, N.Y., 2 p.m. (800) 724-0727

SEPTEMBER 28

• The Knewz, Leonard Post, Cheektowaga, N.Y., 7:30 (716) 684-4371

SEPTEMBER 29

• Mike Surratt & the Continentals, Liederkrantz Club, Reading, Pa., 6-10. (610) 373-3982
 • Jimmy Sturr Orchestra, Tioqa Casino, Nichols, N.Y., 2 p.m. (607) 699-3900

SEPTEMBER 30

• Polka Family, Festhalle, Asbury Park, N.J., 7-10. (782) 997-8767
 • John Stevens & Doubleshot, VFW Fairgrounds, Mifflinburg, Pa., 7-11. (570) 966-9254
 • Tony's Polka Band, Pumpnickel's, Bolton Landing, N.Y., 8-12. (518) 644-2106

OCTOBER 1

• Polka Family, Pilsner Haus, Hoboken, N.J., (201) 683-5465
 • John Gora & Gorale, Polish Hall, Burlington, Ont., Canada (905) 639-3236
 • Jimmy Sturr Orchestra, Tioqa Casino, Nichols, N.Y., 2 p.m. (607) 699-3982
 • Mike Surratt & the Continentals, The Fairgrounds, Frederick, Md., 5-10. (301) 663-5895
 • John Stevens & Doubleshot, Liederkrantz Club, Reading, Pa., 6-10. (610) 373-3982
 • Tony's Polka Band, Pumpnickel's, Bolton Landing, N.Y., 8-12. (518) 644-2106

OCTOBER 2

• Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men, Pilsudski Club, Southbridge, Mass., 1-5 (508) 764-8940
 • Polka Family, Blue Mountain Resort, Palmerton Pa., 4:30-8:30. (610) 826-7700
 • John Stevens & Doubleshot, Blue Mountain Resort, Palmerton, Pa., 11:30-3:30 (610) 764-7700
 • Mike Surratt & the Continentals, The Fairgrounds, Frederick, Md., 12:30-5:30. (301) 633-5895
 • George Tarasek, VFW, Dupont, Pa., 2-6. (570) 654-5504

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2016 EVENTS

- **SEPT. 11 — WELCOME BACK "MEMBERSHIP DRIVE" /VETERANS APPRECIATION DANCE.** FREE to Members and Veterans, 1st Responders, Gov. Employees. (Membership Meeting 12:30) Music: Varitones Dance Band 2:00-5:00 p.m.
- **SEPT. 24 — SKORPION BAND** 7:00 p.m.-2:00 a.m. (non-Polka event). Call Mary Kiselus (602) 526-7321 for info.
- **OCT. 9 — PULASKI DAY DINNER & DANCE.** Varitones Dance Band 3:00-6:00 p.m. DINNER 1:00-3:00 p.m., MEMBERS \$15.00 | NON-MEMBERS \$20.00 | KIDS 7-14 ½ PRICE | UNDER 7 FREE. RESERVATIONS REQUESTED (602) 909-4965, (602) 275-9329.
- **OCT. 30 — HALLOWEEN/COSTUME CONTEST** Music: Sylvia's Arizona Band 2:00-5:00 p.m.
- **NOV. 4 — MEET & GREET.** DJ "Nickelcity" Dave 6:00 p.m. FREE. "Polka Country Musicians"
- **NOV. 5 & 6 — POLKA COUNTRY MUSICIANS** (Conn.). \$12.00 at the door, both days 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- **NOV. 26 — "ANDRZEJKI" SKORPION BAND** (non-Polka event) 7:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. Call Mary Kiselus (602) 526-7321 for info.
- **DEC. 11 — CHRISTMAS DINNER & DANCE. JOHN FILIPCZAK & AZ CLASSICS** 3:00-6:00 p.m. DINNER 1:00-3:00 p.m., MEMBERS \$15.00 | NON-MEMBERS \$20.00 | KIDS 7-14 ½ PRICE | UNDER 7 FREE. RESERVATIONS REQUESTED 602-909-4965, 602-275-9329
- **DEC. 31 — ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION** 7:00 p.m.-2:00 a.m. Call Mary Kiselus (602) 526-7321 for info.
- **POLISH WOMAN HERITAGE GROUP OF AZ. SEMINAR** (women only) 7:00 p.m. Sept. 8, Oct. 9, Nov. 10, Dec. 8. For more info. Bogusia Klecha 480-626-3188

www.pulaskiclubaz.org, www.facebook.com/pulaskiclub.az
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AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The Kosciuszko Foundation's Washington, D.C. Center invites all to its Annual Gala Dinner, this year honoring **Maestro Piotr Gajewski**, Sat., Nov. 12, 7:00-10:00 p.m., in the Stateroom of the Mayflower Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Ave. NW. For tickets and information, call (202) 785-2320.

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO — On July 23, the Salvation Army's top store at 2270 N. Clybourn Ave. celebrated its third anniversary with a salute to Polish heritage and culture.

Celebrity guests included sustainability advocate **Wanda Urbanska**; Chicago street performer **Mike Malinowski**; and Polish American author **Leonard Kniffel Bogdan Puksza**, executive director of the Polish American Chamber of Commerce, represented his organization.

The all-day anniversary consisted of programs, sales, live music, and ethnic food, capped off by a fashion show, emceed by Urbanska, featuring store employees as models

INDIANA

MICHIGAN CITY — A **Polish Heritage Festival** will be held Sun., Sept. 11 at the Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. Highway 12.

Bishop Donald Hying will be the main celebrant for the Polish-English Mass at 11:00 a.m. in the Symphony Garden.

Following Mass to 5:00 p.m., food and festivities include: Sacred Heart's Polish Country Kitchen from LaPorte; The Bakers Dozen

Polish bakery from South Bend; Ampol-Aires polka band; performances by the Wesoly Lud folk dancers, and the Polish School of Song & Dance; pisanki; cultural displays; raffles; vendors; beer garden; the Polish Heritage Day Proclamation; and the Polish Ambassador Award presentation.

Admission is \$5 per person, with children under 12 admitted free.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/PolishHeritageFestivalMC

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE — Singing sensation **Eleni** will perform at the Cristo Rey High School Hall, 420 S. Chester St., Fri., Sept. 30, at 8:00 p.m.

Eleni Tzoka was born to a Greek family, which immigrated to Poland in the 1950s. She started her professional career in 1975 when she joined Prometheus, a newly founded music band that was mainly active in Sopot. On July 20 of the same year, she debuted at a concert in nearby Gdańsk.

Tzoka released her first solo album, "Ty – jak niebo, ja – jak obłok" ("You are like the sky, and I am like a Cloud"), in 1980, and began giving concerts all over Poland as well as abroad. Among many other countries, she visited Australia; France; Sweden; Canada; and the United States, where she sang for the Polish diaspora.

Tzoka has been awarded many other prizes for both her music and charity work, which includes helping disabled children, the poor, and people with AIDS. She is also the

holder of a prestigious title of the Knight of the Order of Smile.

For tickets or information, call Alina Cymek (433) 540-4954; Przy Polskim Stole (410) 633-6306; or the Holy Rosary Office (410) 732-3961

BALTIMORE — The **Polish Heritage Association Book Club** will start the new session on Sat., Sept. 10, 2016 at 2:15 p.m. in the Henryk Sienkiewicz Library, Polish National Alliance Building, 1627 Eastern Ave. The book selected is "Solidarity's Secret: The Women Who Defeated Communism in Poland" by Shana Penn. You do not have to be a member of the Polish Heritage Association to attend the book club discussion.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA — On Sun., Oct. 30 at 2:00 p.m., at the Associated Polish Home, Vistula Lounge, 9150 Academy Rd., the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia will sponsor an autograph session with **Paul Krzywicki** regarding his new book, "Paderewski to Pandereski: Philadelphia's Polish Musicians."

The event is open to the public. Krzywicki will autograph his new book, and speak briefly about it to the audience. The book will be available for \$25.00.

For more information, email or call Jean Joka at jeanjoka@gmail.com; (215) 483-0193.

WASHINGTON

SEATTLE — Registration and Open House at the **Juliusz Slowacki Polish School** will be held Sept. 12,

6:00-8:00 p.m. The school offers classes to individuals of all ages on Mondays as well as a preschool group on Saturday. Children from grades 1-8 learn Polish language and literature, as well history and geography of Poland; assignment is based on proficiency level in Polish. Adults can learn Polish as beginners or at intermediate and advanced levels. For more information, contact contact Principal Maria Grabowska at (425) 271-3669.

TACOMA — Fr. Eugeniusz Bolda and Ss. Peter & Paul Parish in Tacoma invite all to a **Polish Harvest Festival / Dożynki**, Sept. 11. The program follows a Mass of Thanksgiving at 11:00 a.m. and includes traditional Polish food, beer, music, souvenirs, games for children and more. Admission is free. For details, contact Ewa Anucinski or Fr. Bolda at the parish (206) 282 1804.

SEATTLE — The **Polish Home** opens after a summer break the week after the Labor Day. In particular the restaurant and the bar will be open on Friday nights starting from Sep 9, 2015. The Sunday lunches start in October.

The Center is at 1714 18th Ave., tel. (206) 322-3020.

BELLEVUE — Registration and an open house for the **Fr. Jan Twardowski Polish School** will be held Sept. 7 at 6:30 p.m. The school offers Polish language, geography, history and culture classes to children from grades K-8, based on proficiency in Polish. The School also has a program of Polish as a second language for children. All classes are on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm. The first day of school is Sep 14, 2014.

The registration event is only for the new students, and will be held at the East Shore Unitarian Church Education Building in Bellevue, room E-201. For more information, call Anna Cholewinska at (425) 736-1209.

CMU Professor to Receive "Outstanding Polonian" Award



Matyjaszewski

PITTSBURGH, Pa. —The Pittsburgh Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation will present its annual Outstanding Polonian Award to Carnegie-Mellon Professor Krzysztof Matyjaszewski, Ph.D. at a luncheon, Sat., Sept. 17, 2016.

As a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Chemistry, Dr. Matyjaszewski is an internationally recognized polymer chemist. He has received international recognition for his contributions to science. In 2004 he received the annual prize of the Foundation of Polish Science, often referred to as the "Polish Nobel Prize." In 2005 he became a foreign member of the Polish Academy of Science and in 2007 received an honorary degree from Lodz Polytechnic (Poland). In recognition of his accomplishments the Polish Chemical Society awarded him the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Medal in 2012.

Most recently Professor Matyjaszewski joined a research team at CMU under a \$3 million grant to provide the US Military with drones, gliders and other delivery vehicles that can "vanish" once they safely deliver supplies or intelligence to troops.

Tickets for the event may be ordered by calling (412) 855-8330.

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OCTOBER AS POLISH HERITAGE MONTH



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Your support has allowed us to present series on famous Poles, such as Martin Nowak's monthly feature on Polish saints.

Dear Friend of Polonia:

October is Polish American Heritage Month, a time for Americans of Polish descent to reflect on the contributions our ethnic group has made to the American way of life — from discoveries in the worlds of science and technology to accomplishments on the local high school football field.

Sadly, each generation losses a bit of its "Polishness." The names of great-grandparents who came here are forgotten. A traditional dish is dropped at a holiday. Names become anglicized or changed entirely.

The Polish American Journal serves as monthly reminder of all the good associated with being Polish. On our pages are stories of immigrant families who have bettered themselves in America. We report on Polish Americans who have attained top positions in all walks of life. We describe and teach the customs *babcia* and *dziadek* brought to America. It has become — in part — our mission to make sure traditions are not lost, for they underline the most important aspects of life in America: family, faith, and community.

But we cannot do it alone. We rely on people like you help us continue publishing. The easiest way to do this is to show your support in the form of patron advertising. We depend on our holiday issues to pay for the printing and mailing of the paper throughout the year.

Can we count on you?

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