

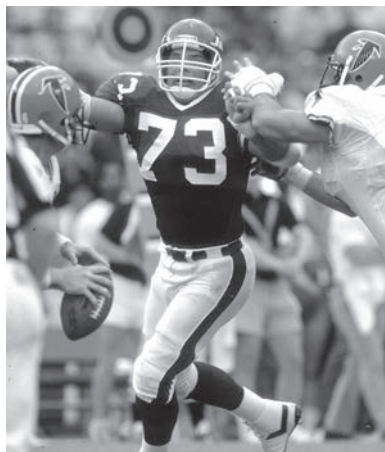
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WHY ISN'T KLECKO IN THE HALL OF FAME?
PAGE 12

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

50 YEARS OF POLONIA ABROAD • 75 YEARS LATER - MONT ORMEL: A PIVOTAL HILL • DOCENT MAKES FUN OF PULASKI
NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR FELICIAN PROFESSOR • TEKLA KLEBETNICA THRILLS • PCF RECIPIENTS AWARDED
SENATORS SKIPPED HISTORY CLASSES • EXHIBIT OF JEWISH LIFE IN POLAND PREMIERS • DNA TESTING AND ETHNICITY

NEWSMARK

Defense ministers discuss threats from Russia

(IAR) Polish and German defense ministers discussed a variety of security threats, especially those posed by Russia, when they met in Berlin, Aug. 16.

Poland's Mariusz Blaszczak and Germany's Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer talked about working together as part of NATO to deal with security challenges, public broadcaster Polish Radio's IAR news agency reported.

It quoted Poland's Blaszczak as saying that the main topic of the talks was "challenges stemming from aggressive policies by Russia."

Blaszczak was Kramp-Karrenbauer's first official foreign guest since she took over in Berlin as defense minister from Ursula von der Leyen in July. Kramp-Karrenbauer is a close ally of Chancellor Angela Merkel and tipped by some as a potential future German leader.

Warsaw commemorates 1944 Wola massacre victims

(IAR) On Mon., Aug. 5, the Polish capital commemorated a bloody Nazi German massacre in the city's western Wola district during the first days of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising. The massacre was the systematic killing of between 30,000 and 65,000 people by German troops during the early phase of the uprising, which started on August 1.

The commemorations were attended by former underground fighters who took part in the insurgency against the German occupation of Warsaw during World War II.

Between August 5 and 12, 1944, tens of thousands of Polish civilians along with captured Home Army resistance fighters were systematically murdered by the Germans in mass executions.

It is estimated that up to 10,000 civilians were killed in the Wola district on August 5 alone, the first day of the German operation. Many of the victims were the elderly, women and children.

The 1944 Warsaw Uprising lasted 63 days before being put down by better equipped and more numerous German forces. The insurgency resulted in the death of some 18,000 Polish fighters and 200,000 civilians.

Fighting food waste

(PAP) Polish parliamentarians have backed new rules aiming to combat food waste. Under a move approved by the Senate, the upper house of parliament, every shop with a surface area of over 250 square meters (roughly a 30-by-90-foot area) which derives half of its revenue from the sale of food will have to give away unsold groceries to non-governmental organizations. The move has to be signed by the president to come into force.

The average Pole throws away an estimated 500 pounds of food a year, which means the country as a whole, wastes about 9 million tons of food annually, according to state news agency PAP.

Any shop flouting the new rules will have to pay a fine of approximately five cents for every 4 pounds of unsold food.

Polish Choir earns two gold, one silver medal

The Puellae Orantes Girls' Cathedral Choir from Tarnów, southern Poland, scored a major success at the International Choral Festival in Taipei. The Polish choir won the gold medals in the "youth choirs" and "ethno music" categories and added a silver in the "sacred music" category. It also won a special prize for the best interpretation of a work by a Taiwanese composer performed by a choir from outside of Taiwan.

The competition attracted choirs from China, South Korea, Macao and the Philippines, in addition to Taiwan, and Poland. The prizewinners were decided by an international jury of composers, conductors, and vocalists.

On the Anniversary of the Beginning of World War II:

Prelude to War

Editor's note: Knowledge of Poland's suffering during and after World War II is universal, yet few understand the role played by secret pacts between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. This piece, written for the 80th anniversary of start of World War II, gives insight to the behind-the-scenes plotting of history's infamous butchers, Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin.

by Iwo Cyprian Pogonowski

After World War I and the foundation of the Republic of Poland, the new nation was in great danger to its very existence, as it was weaker than the growing powers of Germany and Russia. The essence of the predicament of Poland and a threat to its independence and even to its existence, prior to the Second World War was summarized in the testament of Marshal Józef Piłsudski. He told the Poles: "veer as long as possible between Germany and Russia; if this becomes impossible, bring in to the conflict the rest of the world."

On the anniversary of the beginning of World War II, it important to remember that, during that year, Poland saved Stalin's Russia from dismal defeat, by refusing on January 26, 1939, to join anti-Soviet alliance the Anti-Comintern Pact and take part in a two-front attack on the Soviet Union by Germany and Japan.

Polish ambassador Jozef Lipski documented in his book "Diplomat in Berlin 1933-39," that good Polish-German relations were of primary importance to him. He proposed an alliance against Russia, military cooperation, an air pact, etc. However, the government of Poland knew that the essence of the policies of the Nazi government, at all times, was the implementation of the doctrine of *Lebensraum*, which meant

See "Prelude ...," page 3

German Battleship Opens War at Fort Westerplatte—Polish Troops Fought Hard for 28 Days



This image shows the Nazi battleship *SMS Schleswig-Holstein* firing what is believed to be the first shot of the Second World War in Gdansk, Poland on the Westerplatte peninsula at dawn on September 1 1939. The vessel fired at close range destroying the nearby harbor. It was the beginning of the Nazi invasion of Poland, known as the September Campaign, and saw Britain declare war on Germany two days later to start the Second World War. The black and white photo was among many taken by a German sailor, which later ended up in the hands of a British historian. The collection of photos was auctioned last year.

by Catherine A. Hamilton

On September 1, 1939—the German battleship *Schleswig-Holstein* opened fire on Poland's Fort Westerplatte at the port of Gdansk at 4:45 in the morning, trapping men inside the burning barracks. A garrison of 182 Polish soldiers returned fire immediately and held off the invasion at Gdansk. The ship had docked at the harbor feigning a friendship visit before opening fire on the sleeping men.

The port attack was the first move in a full-scale invasion across the western borders of Poland, from the north at Prussia, the northwest at Pomerania and the southwest at Czechoslovakia and Silesia. Nazi tanks tore across border towns and villages, killing an unknown number of innocent civilians first thing that same morning in the unprovoked attack. Marshal Edward Smigly-Rydz decried the attack as barbarous.

The 370,000 regular Army and 2.8 See "Invasion of Poland ...," page 3

Poles Create Most Precise Map of Milky Way to Date



PHOTO: K. ULACZYK/J. SKOWRON/OGLE/ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY, UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW

Warsaw Telescope and Milky Way Cepheids discovered by the OGLE survey.

WARSAW — Polish scientists from the University of Warsaw's Astronomical Observatory have created the most precise map to date of the Milky Way galaxy. Research by the Poles published

in the prestigious *Science* magazine proved for the first time in history that the Milky Way's disk of stars is not flat but twisted in shape.

The scientists produced a three-dimensional model of the galaxy by

tracking thousands of young, pulsating stars called cepheids, which are spread throughout our Solar System's home galaxy, according to the Reuters news agency.

The Polish astronomers tracked the cepheids using a 1.3-meter telescope at Las Campanas Observatory in Chile and then pinpointed their location on a 3D model of the galaxy, *Science* magazine said on its web site.

According to *Science*, the study "helps us see the galaxy in a whole new way."

The oldest stars in our home galaxy, the Milky Way, are said to have formed shortly after the Big Bang explosion that marked the beginning of the universe some 13.8 billion years ago.

—PAP/Reuters/Science

Prelude to War

continued from cover

eventual annexation by Germany of Poland and other Slavonic countries between the Baltic and the Black Sea.

Poland announced its refusal to join the Anti-Comintern Pact at the worst possible time for Germany. In Warsaw, on January 26, 1939, the government of Poland told Joachim von Ribbentrop, the German foreign minister, that Poland would not join. This happened after the Japanese took two Soviet islands on the River Amur in 1937 and attacked the Red Russian Independent Eastern Army on the border of Manchuko in 1938 and then, at the beginning of 1939, started moving against Outer Mongolia.

The refusal by the Poles to join the pact, shattered Hitler's strategic plans and eventually led the Berlin government to gamble with a rapprochement with Moscow, which antagonized Japan. German predicament was evident when Poland, France and Great Britain exchanged common defense guarantees in March 1939 and Germany faced an eventual two front war if it attacked Poland.

It is said that Admiral Canaris upon learning about Poland's rejection of the Anti-Comintern Pact told Reinhard Heydrich that Germany did not have enough soldiers to win the coming war. The resulting complications in German-Japanese relations were soon apparent.

It should also be remembered that, on March 19, 1939, Stalin delivered a speech to the 18th convention of the Soviet Communist Party

— a speech broadcast on Moscow radio. Stalin accused Great Britain and France of trying to foment German and Japanese attacks on the Soviet Union in order to dictate their conditions to the exhausted belligerents. Stalin then suggested a possibility of cooperation between National Socialist Germany and the Soviet Union. This offer came as a complete surprise to Berlin. It provided the Germans with the possibility of buying time by pretending to accept a permanent rapprochement with the Soviets.



Cartoon by David Low following the signing of Hitler and Stalin's "Non-Aggression Pact."

BUYING TIME WAS IMPORTANT for Germany because Poland defended her sovereignty and refused to join Germany against the Soviet Union. By doing so Poland deprived the Berlin government of the 40 to 50 well-trained Polish divisions. Polish forces could have made up the deficiency in German manpower and together with 100 German divisions, would have been used in a decisive attack on Russia. The Soviet Union was the main target of the planned conquest of Slavic lands "for the next 1000 years." When Poland refused to submit to either the German Nazis or the Soviets, the Berlin government started to gamble with a fake rapprochement with Moscow.¹

Ominously, Hitler said to Jacob Burckhardt, commissioner of the League of Nations on Aug. 11, 1939, that: "Everything I undertake is directed against Russia; if the West is too stupid and blind to grasp this, I shall be compelled to come to an agreement with the Russians, beat the West and then, after their defeat, turn against the Soviet Union with all my forces. I need the Ukraine so that they cannot starve me out as happened in the last war."²

Hitler called the coming conflict "the war of the engines" ("Motorenkrieg"). In reality the German army used 600,000 horses in addition to the 200,000 trucks, which were less dependable than the horses according to Stephen Badsey, "World War II Battle Plans" 2000, p. 96.

In his review of *Poland, SOE, and the Allies* by Jozef Garlinski, author, historian, and reviewer Jan Peczkis said the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact had been far more than a tactical or protective move by the Russians:

"Communist apologists sometimes claim that the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact had only been a clever move by the Soviets, to buy more time. Far from a mere nonaggression pact, it was a clear act of Communist-Nazi collaboration. The Soviets sent 900,000 tons of crude oil, 500,000 tons of iron ore, 500,000 tons of phosphates, and many other militarily-significant goods, to Nazi Germany (p. 40)."

Earlier, Stalin — fearful of a two-front war by Germany and Japan against the USSR — decided to stop the Japanese Kwantung Army in Manchuko by a Soviet offensive in August 1939. According to *The Oxford Companion to World War II*³, Soviet general Grigory Zhukov was the first in history to use the *blitzkrieg* tactics. These campaigns were developed jointly by the Germans and the Soviets on Soviet polygons after the Treaty of Rapallo of April 16, 1922. From May 28,

1939 the largest air battles in history up to that time were fought in Asia and involved 140 to 200 Soviet and Japanese aircraft.⁴

Stalin, concerned that the Japanese aimed to cut the Trans-Siberian railway, send Zhukov to organize a counteroffensive using 35 infantry battalions, 20 cavalry squadrons, 500 aircraft and 500 of the new and powerful T34 tanks. This force outnumbered the forces of the advancing Kwantung Army. On August 20, 1939. Zhukov launched a surprise offensive and in ten days inflicted massive casualties on the Japanese. "Zhukov's essential achievement lay in combining tanks, artillery, aircraft and men in an integrated offensive for the first time in modern war. By August 31, the Russians completed what they described as the most impeccable encirclement of the enemy army since Hannibal beat the Romans at Cannae. The 23rd Division of the Kwantung Army was virtually wiped out, and at least 18,000 Japanese were killed."⁵

Hitler's Nazi-Soviet Pact of August 23, 1939, seen by the Japanese government as a betrayal of the Anti-Comintern Pact, reinforced Japan's decision to use Hitler, but never to trust him, a point restated in John Koster's *Operation Snow: How a Soviet Mole in FDR's White House Triggered Pearl Harbor*.⁶ The Nazi-Soviet pact was announced during a Japanese military disaster. Hostilities ended officially on September 16, 1939."

THE NEXT DAY, on September 17, 1939 the Soviets — free of the armed conflict with Japan — invaded Poland. The Soviets were aware that the French were not about to keep their promise to attack Germany, when 70 percent of German forces were engaged in Poland, despite the fact that France had more tanks than Germany.

Stalin realized his mistake in killing thousands of Polish prison-

ers of war in 1940 including the Katyn mass execution of Polish officers, when in 1940 there was no trench warfare in France as he expected. Instead of being stuck in France and giving enough time to the Russian Army to recover from the purges of the 1930s, Hitler was victorious and could attack Russia in 1941. Russia had to depend on the help from the United States, and could have used the thousands of murdered Polish prisoners-of-war on the German front.

◆ ◆ ◆

The results of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact echoed through the second half of the 20th Century. To this day, apologies from Moscow about its persecution of Poland are non-existent. Case in point: Russia's insistence that pilot error resulted in the death of President Lech Kaczynski, his wife, and 94 others, who were on route to Katyn to to attend an event commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Katyn massacre.

◆ ◆ ◆

Iwo Cyprian Pogonowski (1921-2016) was a Polish-born polymath and inventor with 50 patents to his credit. He was a civil and industrial engineer by profession, educated in Poland, Belgium, and the United States. He was also a writer on Polish and European history, author of historical atlases, and a lexicographer.

1. Pogonowski, Iwo. *Jews in Poland: A documentary History*. New York. 1993.
2. Roy Dennan. "Missed Chances." Indigo. London 1997, p. 65.
3. *The Oxford Companion to World War II* (Oxford University Press, 1995)
4. A. Stella, Khalkhin-Gol. "The Forgotten War." *Journal of Contemporary History*, No. 18, 1983.
5. P. Snow. "Nomonhan - The Unknown Victory." *History Today*. July 1990.
6. John Koster. *Operation Snow: How a Soviet Mole in FDR's White House Triggered Pearl Harbor*. Regnery History. 2012.

Invasion of Poland

continued from cover

million Polish reserves defended the borders with fierce counterattacks, causing the Germans to retreat in many locations, giving Hitler the message that Poland was not going to comply with Nazi demands and intimidation.

Air raids hit nine Polish air bases and destroyed 17 emergency landing fields before sunrise. By 7:00 a.m., on 1 September, 54 Polish planes from the Warsaw Fighter Brigade, Air Force, taking off from bombed runways, intercepted a fleet of 80 bombers and 20 Messerschmitt fighters. The Polish planes downed scores of bombers and fighter planes, breaking up the air raid.

Thousands of troops remain engaged in defensive actions up and down the western border, as many others were repositioning in the interior to stave off further incursion by Nazi troops.

Hitler's propaganda minister, Josef Goebbels, tried to justify the invasion of Poland by accusing Polish military of crossing the border, taking over a remote radio station in Gleiwitz, Germany by force. The Nazi controlled media in Germany claimed to have eye witnesses who saw the raid and purported to have photos of the bodies of twelve Polish soldiers who were shot dead by the Nazi police.

Polish army commander Marshal Smigly reportedly stated that not one of the 40 military divisions or any reserves would have been wasted time or ammunition on the hold-up of a civilian radio station. Not one Polish soldier had stepped foot over the border.

According to Marshal Smigly the attack on the German radio station was set up and carried out by the Nazis themselves. The bodies were recovered at the radio station by Polish military and it has been confirmed by military intelligence that the dead men were dressed in Polish-style uniforms but were neither Polish citizens, nor members of the Polish military.

By September 3, 1939—The Polish army smashed its way across the Northern border into East Prussia, driving Nazi troops from towns along the way. "On the northern front," according to General Anders documents of the Novogrodek Cavalry, "we stopped the Nazis from driving a barrier across the corridor." Hitler's troops fell back behind their borders after a brutal assault. "Hitler has met with resistance," according to General Anders' documents. "Poland was attacked and her men were ready to die to defend her freedom. We will not lay down our arms without a battle. But we do not battle without the hope that the West will keep their promise," Anders was reported to have said.

On that third day of a devastating war launched on Poland, not one ally had moved into position against Hitler's treacherous attack—despite the fact that France and the United Kingdom had declared war on Germany. Only five months earlier, British Prime Minister Chamberlain promised to do "everything possible" and to give "full support" in the event of Nazi aggression.

Now that the war against the National Socialist Workers Party was being fought on Polish soil, the silence of France and England



Westerplatte Monument in memory of the Polish defenders.

was deafening. "One can only wonder if we will fight alone," said Mikołaj Drobniewski of the Warsaw city council.

On September 14, the Polish Army Group of Pomerania launched its counterattack near Lówicz, causing the Germans to withdraw their forces from the battle of the Vistula River. And every 30 seconds the radio broadcast out of Warsaw played snippets of a Chopin polonaise—proving the city was still in Polish hands.

But on 17 September, the Russians, Hitler's new ally, marched across the Poland's eastern borders, encircling trapped Polish troops. Skirmishes broke out between Polish troops and the two super powers that met in mid-Poland. The Polish commander in charge of the defense of Warsaw, General Juliusz Rómmel refused to surrender, and made an appeal for the world's "promised" aid.

On the third day of a devastating war launched on Poland, not one ally had moved into position against Hitler's treacherous attack ...

Neither the Polish people of Warsaw nor the troops were demoralized. They were ready to defend the nation. From 22-25 September, Warsaw was under fierce artillery and air bombardment.

The end came on 27 September. Gen. Rómmel surrendered. The city had no water, no electricity, and no telephone. And the radio broadcast replaced the polonaise with Chopin's funeral dirge.

On 28 September, before the Germans entered Warsaw, the Polish military held the first of its clandestine meetings in the Warsaw town hall.

To those who continued their fight in the battlefields, in the streets, and in the sewers, the lyrics to Poland's national anthem, "Mazurek Dąbrowskiego," were as true that day as they were when written in 1797: "Poland has not yet perished, so long as we still live."

POLES AND WORLD WAR II

Mont Ormel: A Pivotal Hill, 75 years later

by Matthew Stefanski

Normandy has no shortage of memorials and battle scars recalling the fighting of the Second World War. The coastal batteries of the Atlantic Wall and the sands of Omaha Beach are some of the many historical sites that today draw millions of visitors annually to this corner of France.

Only about an hour's drive south of the D-Day landing sites, past narrow country roads flanked by the region's infamous hedgerows, is a hill in the French countryside called Mont Ormel. It is otherwise unremarkable, but for the events that unfolded here in August 1944.

In the weeks following the initial landings in Normandy, the Allied advance had slowed to a crawl. To breakout of Normandy, Allied leaders launched a vast encircling maneuver to surround and destroy the enemy forces. With the combined might of the American, British, Canadian, Polish and French forces, the Allies seized the momentum and due to Hitler's imprudence in not allowing his field commanders to order strategic retreats, the German Seventh Army and elements of the Fifth Panzer Army were encircled in what is known as the Falaise Pocket. As British Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery stated, "The Germans found themselves in a bottle where the Polish were the stopper, and the stopper held its position." The Polish here were the 1st Polish Armored Division led by General Stanislaw Maczek, and their position was Mont Ormel, also known as Hill 262.

Today situated atop the hill is the Mont Ormel Memorial and Museum, and at its entrance a large slab of stone stands with the following text engraved on it in English, French and Polish:

"At this historic site on August



View from the Mont Ormel Memorial and Museum atop Hill 262.

19, 20, 21 and 22 of 1944 the heroes of the 1st Polish Armored Division, in bloody and victorious combat sealed off the Falaise-Chambios Gap where the encircled 7th German Army suffered total defeat. This final blow destroyed the German strength and was the decisive element in the victory of the war of 1939-1945."

The Mont Ormel Museum, opened in 1994 and operated by the local French authorities, is dedicated to the Battle of the Falaise Pocket and highlights the crucial role of the Polish forces in this engagement. The placement of the museum allows for a comprehensive understanding of the role that the topography of the region had in this bloody battle. Looking out from the panoramic windows of the museum situated on the high ground of Hill 262, one can see the few square kilometers where 100,000 German troops were trapped and ferociously fighting in August 1944. One can see the difficult terrain, and why holding the high ground such as Hill 262 was crucial to keeping the Germans encircled and not allow-

ing them to break through. For several days the Polish forces holding Mont Ormel sustained relentless German counterattacks from both within and outside the pocket. As the museum describes, "the Polish forces, caught in a vice by a German attack from the rear, put up a heroic resistance often in hand-to-hand combat."

By the time the Canadians linked up with the Poles on August 21, thus sealing the final holes of the pocket, 1,450 Poles were killed or wounded in the battle which represented 25-30% of their front-line forces. But, they held the line and forced some 50,000 German soldiers to surrender, thus ending the Battle of Normandy.

The Mont Ormel museum displays numerous Polish military artifacts, uniforms, patches, equipment, mementos, medals, military documents and pictures. Outside, as part of the Memorial, stands a historic Sherman Tank used by the Poles and a bust of General Maczek. The Mont Ormel Memorial and Museum, as well as the surrounding area is a must visit for anyone

interested in World War II and the contributions of the Polish Armed Forces in the West to Allied victory. Nearby is also the Polish Military Cemetery in Urville, where close to 700 Polish soldiers are buried, including those who fell at Mont Ormel.

The heroic sacrifice of the Poles hastened the liberation of France,

and the Polish Division went on to liberate communities in Belgium and the Netherlands as well, but alas they could not do the same for their homeland. Fighting under the banner of For Your Freedom and Ours, the will of the 1st Polish Armored Division, a free homeland, was not realized until half a century later.

SPEAK UP

Docent Makes Fun of Pulaski

Dear Editor,

I recently took a tour of Savannah, Ga. The Tourist Center has two trolley companies giving tours. It should be known that the tour guides give a narrative about Gen. Pulaski as the trolley passes the monument (no stop) that is questionable and insulting.

The narrator says that autopsy results on Gen. Pulaski's skeleton shows wide hips, which they deem to be a transgender trait, and further say he may have been transgender or even a female. The anatomy

analysis may be based on a lifetime of cavalry training from a young age which may widen hip areas.

In any case, the narrative was done in an insulting manner, and very disagreeable and jocular manner. If enough organizations investigate this dialogue for tourists there may be more respect shown a patriot who gave his life for us.

The company was Old Savannah Tours. Its telephone numbers are (912) 234-8128 and (800) 517-9007.

Camille Einoder
Via email

QUOTES

Tough Go for Gay Rights

compiled from news sources

"The LGBT and gender movements threaten our identity, threaten our nation, threaten the Polish state."

— The leader of Poland's ruling Law and Justice Party **Jaroslav Kaczynski**, on the rise of Poles standing for LGBT rights in Poland.

Despite the trend, a recent survey for the Rzeczpospolita newspaper found that 46 percent of Poles are against civil partnerships for gays, 56 percent are against gay marriage, and 76 percent against gay couples adopting children.

"All that nonsense about freedom and 'tolerance' doesn't give anyone the right to insult the faithful's beliefs."

— Tweet from Poland's Interior Minister **Joachim Brudzinski**, on

the desecration of images of the Virgin Mary, in which the mother of Jesus was adorned with a rainbow halo. Poland is due to hold a general election in October and the right-wing ruling party has been depicting gays and lesbians as threats to Polish society and families.

"We are in the gloom of the middle ages. The whole hysteria that Law and Justice is leading with support of the church against LGBT is being driven by purely cynical motives."

— **Wojciech Sadurski**, Profes-

sor of Jurisprudence at the University of Sydney and Professor at the University of Warsaw Center for Europe. He is an authority on the philosophy of law, political philosophy, and comparative constitutional law.

"Our land is no longer affected by the red plague, which does not mean that there is no new one that wants to control our souls, hearts and minds."

— **Archbishop of Krakow, Marek Jedraszewski**, during a sermon in St. Mary's Basilica, given to mark the 75th anniversary of the Warsaw uprising by Polish resistance fighters against Nazi occupation. He later told TVN24 a "rainbow plague" was attacking Poland.

"We already had such people, politicians who used similar words and that lead to huge slaughters, genocide. This is an incitement to crime, to hatred."

— **Robert Biedron**, an openly gay politician from the progressive Wiosna party, denouncing Jedraszewski's sermon, on virtual-napolska.pl.

"There is no consent in Poland to actions violating the rights of other people. Such actions should be condemned."

— **Poland's Interior Minister Elzbieta Witek**, on violence by some opponents of Bialystok's first LGBT rights march. Opponents tried to block the march, and some threw bottles and rocks at marchers and the officers escorting them. Officers eventually fired tear gas.

Thank you!

Last November the Polish American Journal's main computer crashed. At that time, we asked readers for donations to cover its cost. We received several, for which we are forever grateful.

Shortly after, we learned we needed software, networking, and program upgrades. The cost of upgrades almost doubled the initial price of the computer itself. We had no choice but to place the system on credit.

In May of 2019, we asked our readers to help us. That plea was repeated in the June 2019 edition.

We were flooded with donations, large and small. With these gifts, we received kind words about the work we do for Polonia and Poland. Cliché as it sounds, the response was overwhelming.

We are happy to announce we paid off the computer, and the balance of the software upgrades.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Receipts for donations are being mailed as donations arrive. If you have not received one, please contact our office.

Dennis Cholewinski, Cheektowaga, N.Y.;
John Czarniecki, Boyne City, Mich.;
Mitchelle Kmiec, Chicago;
Karen Kozlow, Chicago;
Anna Mae Maglaty, West Hartford, Conn.;
Patricia Pac, Oil City, Pa.;
Kenneth Solak, San Francisco;
Frances Tkaczuk, Mashpee, Mass., and;
Gary Zielinski, Canandaigua, N.Y.

Polishfest Happenings

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 8
2019

Join us as we preserve
Polish heritage by celebrating
with traditional polish food,
music and activities.

Sponsored by the Polish Heritage Center Inc.
120 Howells Ave • Ashton, NE

For more information join us on Facebook or
Call museum manager at 308-738-2260

10:30 AMMEMORIAL POLKA MASS (at St. Francis Church). Music by Myron Osentowski

11 AM-2 PMPOLISH BUFFET (St. Francis Hall) Featuring pierogi, Polish sausage, roast pork, Polish meatballs, sauerkraut dumplings & dessert.
Adults \$12, Children (under 12) \$6, (5 & Under) FREE

1-4 PMPOLISH MUSIC & POLKA with Omaha's Barry Boyce Orchestra

12-4 PMPOLISH HERITAGE CENTER MUSEUM AND GIFT SHOP OPEN
Special discounts on pottery and gift items! Paczki, kolaches and many delicious foods for sale! Special Showing of White Eagle in Borrowed Skies (WWII Polish Airforce Documentary).

1-3 PMTOURS of Mt. Carmel Church & Cemetery at Paplin (transportation available)

1:30 PMFUN WITH THE POLISH LANGUAGE & SONG. Presented by Father Dave Rykwald, accompanied by Tom Jodkowski & the St. Stanislaus Polish Choir (in the Classroom)

2:00 PMPOLISH FOLK TALES as read and told by Father Dave (in the Classroom)

2:30 PMBETH GROSS featured educational speaker on her recent tour of Holocaust remembrance sites in Poland: Warsaw ghetto, Auschwitz-Birkenau & Oskar Schindler's Factory

4:00 PMSILENT AUCTION RESULTS **Food, Music & Fun!**

OTHER AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

Silent Auction, Nesting Doll Quilt Raffle, Country Crafts, 10th Anniversary Cookbooks ON SALE, Pivo and Polish Vodka, Polish T-Shirt Sales, Children's activities & more!

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BOOKS IN BRIEF

Wyspianski's *The Wawel Plays* Translated by Charles S. Kraszewski

by Mary E. Lanham

ACROPOLIS: THE WAWEL PLAYS
by Stanislaw Wyspianski
Translated by Charles
S. Kraszewski
Glagoslav Publications,
2017, 510 pgs.



Stanislaw Wyspianski, a prolific creative born in the latter half of the late nineteenth century, became known as the Fourth Polish Bard.

He was among good company as the three other Bards are Adam Mickiewicz, Zygmunt Krasiński, and Juliusz Slowacki. Among Wyspianski's many works are stained glass designs, paintings, pastels, illustrations, portraits, furniture and interior designs, poetry, and plays. *Acropolis: The Wawel Plays* translated by Charles S. Kraszewski brings together four of Wyspianski's plays that are based around Wawel Hill. Wawel, a fortified complex built over centuries in Krakow was the traditional seat of political power in Poland, as it was the capital until the sixteenth century. It is no wonder that Wyspianski used Wawel Hill's rich history and legends as inspiration.

The first play expands upon the legendary ruler of Poland from the eighth century, Princess Wanda, daughter of King Krak, who sacrificed herself by drowning in the Vistula River to rescue her people from invaders. The excerpt below is from one of Wanda's speeches.

"Feasting and joy is what I want, / Not to be fed to the joyless tomb. / I've got to leave – this Nemesis / That wants my sacrifice – how cruel! / How can I save myself? They'll kill me! / O, my river Vistula, my waves, / You who loudly rush on below, / Come here, and rescue me, beloved! / Yet Death's there too! Death's at all hands — / How to get out, get out!? My strength fails me — / They'll kill me!"

Kraszewski has written two books of poetry and that background plainly shows with this lyrical translation.

Another play focuses on the conflict between King Boleslaw the Bold and Bishop Szczepanowski in the eleventh century and the titular *Acropolis* is set during the great resurrection.

Acropolis not only contains plays, but as a bonus has several illustrations of a proposal to remodel Wawel Hill, stained glass cartoons, and pastel portraits.

Kraszewski is a translator, poet, and literary critic. His original volumes of poetry are *Diet of Nails* and *Beast*, both published in 2013. He has also translated Adam Mickiewicz's *Forefathers' Eve* published by Glagoslav Publications. Kraszewski not only is fluent in Polish, he knows French, Spanish, Latin, and Italian. He is a member of the Association of Polish Writers and the Union of Polish Writers Abroad, London. He earned a PhD in Comparative Literature from Penn State and taught at Jagellonian University in Krakow before taking a position at King's College in Wilkes-Barre as a professor of English where he has worked for 25 years.

Chopin Piano Competition, September 14

ALBANY, N.Y. — The Capital District Council for Young Musicians will hold the 18th Annual Frederic Chopin Piano Competition on Sat., Sept. 14, 2019.

Twenty-seven participants are registered. The Competition will be adjudicated by Dr. Charis Demaris and Dmitri Novgorodsky from Ithaca College School of Music.

The winners and 1st runners-up

will perform at a community concert on Sunday, September 15.

The John A. Cetnarowski-Cetner Awards will be presented at the Winners' Concert, after which a reception will follow where the audience can meet the winners. Winners receive cash prizes: Chopin Master \$1,000; 2nd Place \$500; Etude Award \$200; Chopin Apprentice \$500; 2nd Place \$200; Mazurka Award \$100; Chopin Novice \$100; 2nd Place \$50.

Several past winners from the Chopin Piano Competition have gone on to study at Juilliard School of Performing Arts, Crane School of Music, and the Eastman School of Music.

The performers will play on a Steinway Concert Grand donated by Artist Pianos in Latham.

The Capital District Council for Young Musicians (CDCYM) is a nonprofit organization devoted to providing opportunities for young musicians and sponsors the Annual Chopin Piano Competition.

To learn more, visit: www.cd-cym.org/

North Tonawanda's Our Lady of Czestochowa

by Gregory L. Witul

Our Lady of Czestochowa Roman Catholic Church
64 Center Ave, North Tonawanda, New York
Status: Open

While the western part of New York State is famous for the snows of Buffalo and the falling waters of Niagara, it was also once known as a center of the lumber industry. In the city of North Tonawanda this lumber was fashioned into Wurlitzer organs, carousel horses, and catalog houses, all by Polish hands. When these Poles needed to celebrate their faith, they attended Our Lady of Czestochowa Roman Catholic Church.

Lumbering and its derivative industries drew Poles to North Tonawanda near the end of the nineteenth century. As more Slavic families filled the Lumber City the community began organizing with the hopes of establishing a Catholic church. When there were enough families to justify a Polish parish, Peter Jesella and Joseph Januszewski were selected to plead their case to Bishop Quigley in 1902. Hearing their words and seeing the size of the community, the bishop sent Father Peter Szulca to establish the parish. Father Szulca's time in North Tonawanda was short, and soon Reverend Peter Letocha took over the small band of Catholics.

In short order, Father Letocha purchased an old church, remodeled it and on May 1, 1903, formally established the parish of Our Lady of Czestochowa. Two

days later the first Mass in their new church building was celebrated with Joseph Januszewski and Peter Jesella becoming the first parish trustees. Later that year a parish school was opened with an enrollment of 93. In time, the Felician Sisters would take over teaching.

It would take nearly a quarter century for the parish to upgrade from its wooden church to a permanent brick structure, but in 1927, the Reverend Bernard A. Bendkowski, broke ground for a new building. A year later the church was blessed and soon adorned with stained glass windows by Polish American artist Joseph C. Mazur. The parish would also become home to a Wurlitzer Organ, a rarity for the predominantly theater instrument.

Over the next fifty years priests worked to reduce the size of the parish debt, guide their flock through the Great Depression and the Second World War, and maintain a steady number of parishioners. The 1980s saw growth in the parish as the number of families grew by 250. With this influx Father Sobierajski added a shrine to Our Lady of Czestochowa, to which Pope John Paul II gave his blessing in 1983. The campus would be expanded again at the turn of the millennium with a Centennial Walkway and a set of outdoor Stations of the Cross. The parish would grow again in 2008 but this time it was as members of North Tonawanda's other Polish parish, St. Joseph's, joined as their parish was closed by the Diocese of Buffalo.

Today, Our Lady of Czestochowa is an active parish in the heart of North Tonawanda's Polonia.



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

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

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RELIGION

Abortion Protests Lead to Arrests

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Four pro-life activists, including Franciscan **Fr. Fidelis Moscinski, CFR**, took part in the Red Rose campaign, in which they entered an abortion facility in Morristown, N.J., offered red roses to the women inside and encouraged them to choose life, and then refused to leave the building when confronted by the police.

They were dragged out by the police and placed under arrest.

This is the 14th Red Rose Rescue to take place in the United States since September 2017 and one of the women, whose mother was pressuring her to have the abortion, decided not to go through with it.

The roses distributed inside the clinic had a message that said, "You were made to love and to be loved ... your goodness is greater than the difficulties of your situation. Circumstances in life change. A new life, however tiny, brings the promise of unrepeatable joy."

Rome's San Gioacchino (St. Joachim) Church

Named in honor of **Gioacchino Pecci**, better known as **Pope Leo XIII**, the church was the gift of Catholics in 27 countries, including Poland and the United States, for the pope's 50th anniversary of priestly ordination. Fourteen donor countries who gave exceptional amounts, including Poland, are represented by a separate chapel with images of Mary and saints who are commonly honored there.

The church, entrusted to the Redemptorists upon its completion in 1898, is the permanent seat of reparatory adoration for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. **Fr. Piotr Sulkowski**, pastor of the church noted that everything in the church refers to the Eucharist. Atop the church's dome sits a four-foot-tall iron monstrance, which can be seen

from the nearby St. Peter's Basilica. To the right of the main altar is a statue of Pope Leo XIII inviting the Catholics of the world, symbolized by five women representing the five major continents, to offer adoration for the reparation of divine justice.

Shrinkage and Consolidation in the Wake of the Clergy Abuse Crisis

Pittsburgh's **Bishop David Zubik** has announced severe cutbacks in the staff of the diocesan offices, the sale of church properties, consolidation and merger of parishes (already ongoing), and the merger and closure of schools that are no longer financially stable.

These measures are the result of a severe fall-off in church attendance and offertory collections in the wake of the clergy abuse crisis already publicized and in anticipation of further claims in the months to come. While responding to abuse victims remains a top priority, the drastic financial cutbacks are the inevitable consequence of the eventual claims and required payments of claims.

Alaska's Bishops Defend the Poor and Vulnerable

Fairbanks Bishop Chad Zielenka joined his two colleague bishops in noting that budget cuts in the state are having a "direct and negative impact" on the homeless, poor and vulnerable in Alaska. Cuts made to agencies such as Catholic Charities will force them to cut back on shelter programs for the homeless, food pantries, early childhood education, senior housing, Medicaid services, and others.

The governor's budget is designed to be balanced without raising taxes or cutting the annual payments from the Permanent Fund, funded by oil revenues. While decrying the cuts, the bishops declared: "We will continue to do our

part to fund our agencies as best we can with our resources, our time and our talent, together with all those willing to support us."

St. Maximilian Kolbe on Stage

Leonardo DiFilippis has brought to the stage the story of **Fr. Maximilian Kolbe**, in a one-man play "Maximilian, Saint of Auschwitz." DiFilippis performs throughout the country and brought the play to the Buffalo Diocese in August. His performances are free but have a free will offering opportunity.

Everyone is invited to the Polish American Festival

The 54th Annual Polish American Festival at the **National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa**, located on Ferry Road in Doylestown, Pa., takes place during Labor Day Weekend, Sat., Aug. 31 to and including Labor Day, Mon., Sept. 2 from Noon until 8:00 p.m. each day.

The festival features carnival rides, live music, and stage shows and ongoing entertainment on the main stage and in the Polish Village highlighting Polish traditions and customs, Polish folk-dance groups, along with a variety of Polish and American food and refreshments.

The \$12.00 admission includes all events and carnival rides. The festival will continue on Sat., Sept. 7 and Sun., Sept. 8.

For more information, visit the Shrine's Internet site at: PolishAmericanFestival.com or PolishShrine.com.

Sto lat to....

Archbishop Borys Gudziak Ukrainian Catholic Bishop of Philadelphia, on his appointment by Pope Francis to the Congregation for the Oriental Churches along with seven other Church officials.

Fr. Walter Szczesny and **Theresa Kazmierczak** who are slated to receive the Curé of Ars award on Oct. 3 for their support of the seminarians at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, N.Y.

Sr. Johnice Rzakiewicz, CSSF, on accepting the OneJesuit Award for service to the poor at the Response to Love Center in Buffalo, N.Y. for 35 years. The founder and executive director of the center explained how the center has grown into a multifaceted social service center that serves over 60,000 meals each year. Inspired by Mother Teresa to serve the poor in her own place, Sr. Johnice began the center with an idea but few resources. Donations of food, clothing, money and volunteer time soon followed by God's providence. The center now has a thrift store, a food pantry, dining room, English as a Second Language classes, high school equivalency diploma classes, job opportunities information, AMVETS Training Center career services, training, licensing and certification, and assistance with job searches.

Happy Anniversary to...

Fr. Mieczyslaw (Mitch) Nycz, pastor of Blessed Sacrament parish in Tonawanda, N.Y., on his 25th anniversary of ordination. Fr. Nycz is a native of Poland and heads the Polish American Priests Association in the Buffalo diocese.

Felician Professor Receives National Award for Contributions to Pastoral Liturgy

CORAOPOLIS, Pa. — **Dr. Judith Marie Kubicki, CSSF**, associate professor of theology at Fordham University and a Felician sister from Buffalo, N.Y., is the recipient of the 2019 Jubilate Deo Award from the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM).

Sr. Judith was honored as a professor, musician, author and leader, in recognition of her "contribution to theological and liturgical catechesis, and example of Christ's service in the Catholic Church."

Music has been a part of Sr. Judith's life from the beginning. "I grew up in a home where there was always music playing," she said. "It was all celebrated and enjoyed."

That love of music, expressed in liturgy, continued both in school and within her religious community. "When I was in grammar school, I was in the choir," and continued in high school, along with piano lessons, she said. When she entered the Felician Sisters in Buffalo in 1964, the music program was just beginning to grow at Villa Maria College.

"I was taking piano lessons and music theory almost from the beginning, when most of my classmates were taking education courses," she said. She earned a degree in music, focusing on piano.

After she earned her bachelor's, Sr. Judith completed a master's degree in English at Canisius College. She began teaching high school English classes, but was pulled back into liturgical music by Fr. Claude Biechler, a local pastor who wanted music for midnight Mass above all else. She played for his parish, in addition to her teaching responsibilities, and he sponsored her to attend her first National Association of Pastoral Musicians convention in 1979. She decided to pursue a master's degree in liturgical music, and upon completion, she was hired as director of music at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, N.Y.

Realizing that the men on the faculty held doctorates, but women did not, she asked for a sabbatical to begin a doctorate in liturgical theology, studying Jacques Berthier and the music of Taizé for her thesis, later published as the book "Liturgical Music as Ritual Symbol: A Case Study of Jacques Berthier's Taizé Music."

She then returned to Christ the King Seminary as academic dean. "I was dean for four years, and I loved it," because of the interaction with different people and departments. "But then I realized that if I didn't get back into the classroom, I was going to be useless," she said, again laughing. A professor at Catholic University of America, where she earned both her master's and doctorate, recommended her for a teaching position in theology at Fordham University.

Sr. Judith was hired for the position and has now taught at Fordham



Dr. Judith Marie Kubicki, CSSF is an associate professor of theology at Fordham University.

since 2001.

SR. JUDITH'S AWARD was presented at the NPM annual convention, held July 16-19 at the Raleigh, N.C. Convention Center. During the convention, she also offered a presentation to the assembly, "When in Our Music God is Glorified: Singing Our Communities into Transformed Life."

She emphasized at the ceremony that the Jubilate Deo Award is truly a group recognition.

"Everything has been grace," she continued. "I have been supported, encouraged and challenged all along the way by wonderful people and outstanding organizations."

A liturgical music reviewer for the liturgical journal *Worship*, Sr. Judith also writes a column on hymnody for the *GIA Quarterly*. She is a past president of the North American Academy of Liturgy (NAAL) and former convener of its Liturgical Theology Seminar. She also previously served as convener for the Liturgy/Sacraments topic session for the Catholic Theological Society of America.

Prior to teaching at the university level, she taught at high schools in her native western New York.

She also taught at Sacred Heart High School in Syracuse, N.Y.

In addition to a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Daemen College, Sr. Judith holds a Master of Arts degree in English from Canisius College, also in Buffalo; and a Master of Arts in liturgical music and Ph.D. in religious studies, focusing on liturgical studies, both from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

♦ ♦ ♦
The Felician Sisters of North America are a congregation of women religious, inspired by the spiritual ideals of their Foundress Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska and Saint Francis of Assisi. Their leadership is based in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, but their ministries extend across the United States, Canada, and Haiti.

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HAPPENINGS CHICAGO STYLE

Tekla Klebetnica Thrills Crowds

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — The Polish Museum of America (PMA) hosted a concert by the Polish folk band, **Tekla Klebetnica** on July 18. The PMA's Sabina P. Logisz Hall was filled with friends of the museum and folk music enthusiasts. Małgorzata Kot, PMA managing director, had personally invited the band to this Chicago debut.

The three-member folk group is composed of **Anna Czupryn** on violin, **Zygmunt Czupryn** on accordion, and **Stanisław Dudek** on bass. All three are professional musicians who enjoy performing a variety of Highlander music and who come from the Beskidy Mountain region of the Carpathian Mountains. However, the group is no stranger to other varieties of music. The Thursday afternoon concert included Balkan, Jewish, and Gypsy music, as well as songs from the Carpathian Mountains. Anna Czupryn delighted and charmed the audience by singing Balkan songs.

Chicago Polonia traditionally enjoys diverse folk music. In Poland, traditional folk music intertwines successfully with Gypsy and Jewish music, classical music, and jazz. The versatility of Tekla Klebetnica enabled the group to become a finalist on the popular Polish television program, "Poland's Got Talent."

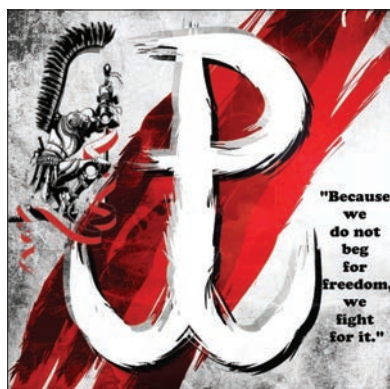
Following this concert, the band headed to Pulaski, Wisconsin, to perform at the 41st Annual Pulaski Polka Days, presenting three performances on Friday, July 19, and three performances on Saturday, July 20. There the musicians entertained evening audiences, despite playing and singing non-polka music with energy, spontaneity, and that wonderful Highlander sound. Notably, all **Tekla Klebetnica** performances, both at the PMA and the Pulaski Polka Days, received long, standing ovations from appreciative audiences.

HONORARY KAZIMIERA "KASIA" BOBER WAY. The late Polish American entrepreneur and philanthropist, **Kazimiera "Kasia" Bober**, creator of the nationally known pierogi brand "**Kasia's Pierogi**," was posthumously honored by having a portion of a Chicago street named after her. On July 19, in front of **Kasia's Deli**, a large group of family members and friends gathered at the Northside Chicago intersection of Hoyne and Chicago Avenues to officially witness the naming of "**Honorary Kazimiera 'Kasia' Bober Way**." Cook County



Tekla Klebetnica

Daniel La Spata, Alderman of Chicago's First Ward, spoke of the City Council's decision to honor Kasia in this special way. Maria Kordas, Kasia's daughter, on behalf of her sister Barbara Jakubowicz, brother Krzysztof, and the entire family, thanked all who witnessed the unveiling of the new street sign. After the unveiling ceremony, the Bober family invited those in attendance to enjoy Chicago's favorite deli delights, especially the famous Kasia's pierogi.



Symbol of Warsaw Uprising.

COMMEMORATING THE WARSAW UPRISING. The Polish Museum of America (PMA) commemorated the **75th Anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising** by inviting guests to a tour of its Warsaw Uprising Anniversary Exhibit that featured items from the PMA's collection and the private collection of Marek Rowicki. Jan Lorys, PMA historian, and Rowicki prepared the exhibit. At 5:00 (CST) on August 1 in the Sabina P. Logisz Hall,



(l. to r.): Maria Kordas, Małgorzata Kot, and Barbara Jakubowicz.

Treasurer, Maria Pappas, long-time friend of Kazimiera, spoke of Kasia's closeness to the Polish American community, her philanthropy, and her love of family and friends. Ms. Pappas pointed to three important values that Kasia was faithful to: family, homeland, and church.

attendees commemorated the "**W HOUR**" with silent reflection and remembrance, as is done in Warsaw where for one-minute special sirens blare, vehicles stop, and pedestrians stand still in silence to commemorate the Warsaw Uprising. This was followed by a special screening of

selections from the documentary film, "**Warsaw Uprising**," produced by Paul Grajner and Jan Lorys.



Pierogi Fest

CELEBRATING PIEROGI. Pierogi abounded — every flavor you could crave at the **25th Annual Pierogi Fest** held in Whiting, Indiana, from July 26 to July 29. It was a 30-minute travel time destination from downtown Chicago to the Fest. The varieties of pierogi included classic cabbage, meat, and fruit. But there was also one pieróg version that did not win the popularity contest. It was called *pizzowego* (pizzarogis), a pieróg filled with a combination of sausage, pepperoni, and cheese, doused with tomato sauce. Sounds a bit like a far-fetched *zapienkanka*, a popular street food in Poland. Pierogi were not the only delicacies that tempted festivalgoers. There were Polska kielbasa, *goląbki* (stuffed cabbage), some Greek-style delights, pancakes, the good old American hamburger, meat skewers wrapped in bacon, and many assorted cold drinks, wines, and Polish beers. The Fest featured two Chicago favorite brands among the wide selection of pierogi choices: **Kasia's Pierogi** and **Tata's Pierogi**.

Culinary delights were not the only attraction. A variety of musical groups performed on stages, and, if dancing was on your agenda, there was opportunity for that as well. Pierogi Fest opened with the Annual Polka Parade with Mr. Pierogi and his friends, the Babuska Ladies, leading the way.

Almost three-quarters of a mile of street was sealed off to hold this event. The unofficial attendance count for the Fest was 300,000. Every year pierogi lovers come from all over the United States, Canada, and even Europe. The Fest was sponsored by the Whiting-Roberts-dale Chamber of Commerce.

AVONDALE'S REDAPPLE CLOSED ITS DOORS. Another portion of Chicago's Historic Polonia has been lost. The **Red Apple Buffet** in Chicago's Northwest Side Avondale neighborhood is no longer. After 30 years of serving the once thriving



Avondale's Red Apple Buffet

Jackowo (St. Hyacinth) community **Anna and Ferdynand Hebal**, co-owners of **Czerwone Jabluszko**,

Red Apple Buffet, officially closed its doors on July 7. For years it was the go-to spot for great Polish cuisine served smorgasbord style. That portion of Milwaukee Avenue was once lined with Polish businesses, but the once prominently Polish neighborhood has become gentrified and its demography has changed.

The restaurant served the ever-popular Polish-style cuisine that delighted its patrons and was part of the social life and culture of Chicago Polonia. But times change. Although many remain devoted to St. Hyacinth, Polish-speaking Polish Americans have moved to the north and northwest suburbs, and **Jackowo** has started losing its "Polishness." Avondale has become more Hispanic and ethnically diverse.

It appears as though the Red Apple's 3121 N. Milwaukee Avenue location has been sold to Wilmot Properties for approximately \$1 million for a condo/apartment development. Anna Hebal mentioned that there is a chance that the Red

Apple Buffet could return to this exact location in the new building. She mentioned that the developer offered her restaurant space in the future development, but she was uncertain. She did point out that she will continue to sell Polish food at the Logan Square Farmers Market, and at the Northwest Side Red Apple location.

The Hebals continue to invite all who enjoy great Polish cooking, both old and new patrons, to join them at their other surviving location at **6474 N. Milwaukee Avenue**, an area of Chicago where a considerable number of Polonians still live. It continues to serve great tasting traditional and contemporary Polish, as well as international, cuisine. The Red Apple's goal is to continue to satisfy every kind of appetite.

Red Apple has long been a staunch supporter of the arts in Chicago. One can often hear Red Apple Buffet being advertised on Chicago's classical radio station, WFMT, 98.7FM, and in various ethnic publications.

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- Polish Beer
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Kicking off the event is **Jasiu with his accordion**

Hot Dogs and Hamburgers also available
Proceeds will benefit the Polish Home Building Fund



MINNESOTA VOICE

Polish-made yachts gaining popularity in United States

by Mark Dillon

A century ago many Poles arrived in the United States in steerage in steamships built in Germany. Today a fleet of Polish-made luxury boats are cruising into America's marinas as Poland has grown into the world's second largest yacht builder.

With price tags of \$1.1 million to \$2.5 million per custom-made boat, the Galeon company has delivered more than eighty 40-to 80-foot long vessels to the United States since 2016 from two shipyards in Gdansk.

It is the largest of several Polish boat makers along the Baltic Coast in an industry where exports have grown substantially over the past four years, even as trade relations globally have become a business headwind.

In 2015, Polish yacht builders sold 640 craft abroad, a figure estimated to have grown to more than 900 this year, according to consultancy KPMG in a report based on data from the Polish Chamber of Marine Industry and Water Sports (Polboat or Polskie Jachty). The association defines luxury yachts as those selling for at least \$229,000.

Owned by the Kobylko family, Galeon was founded in 1982 after Moscow designated Poland as a place where Russia's Communist Party elite could quietly arrange to have a personal yacht built. Since 1989, not far from where workers at the Gdansk Shipyard created the Solidarity movement, Galeon has grown to 1,200 workers serving a global clientele, with much of the growth coming since the 2008 recession.

"Right now (our) Polish industry, after the highest production time in a year, has a summer break," says Michal Bak, secretary-general of Polboat, the industry's trade group, reached at the Sydney, Australia International Boat Show in early August. Polish yacht makers see Asia as another growth market, and sales have included six boats in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Galeon's entry into the United States began in January 2016 when



NOT THE SHIP OF OUR ANCESTORS. A Gdansk-built 2019 model Galeon 780 Crystal Polish yacht features teak fold-out decking, three decks, four cabin suites, a bar, galley for six, 1,450-gallon gasoline tank, engines with up to 1,500 horsepower, retractable video screens and room for 18 passengers.

it signed a distribution agreement with MarineMax, the largest U.S. retailer of recreational boats. MaxineMax initially saw Galeon as an alternative when U.S. competitor, Illinois-based Brunswick Corp., decided to stop making Meridian brand yachts a few years ago. Galeon got a further boost in June 2018 when Brunswick decided to completely exit its large yacht making business (the Sea Ray brand) to focus on boats smaller than 40 feet.

Buyers advised to jump ship

Galeon's flagship yachts are generally too large for all but the biggest of Minnesota's 10,000 lakes. Nevertheless, demand has outstripped supply, and the company's U.S. dealer allocation has largely sold out through 2020.

In 2016, sales persons were so wowed at a rollout event of new Galeon's 510 Skydeck model that upon boarding the vessel for the first time, mobile phones immediately went into action, said Rich Wondra, a MaxineMax sales manager at its Bayport, Minn. store.

"People called their customers right there to cancel orders for other boats and buy the Polish boat instead," Wondra said. "The quality and innovation we saw were amazing."

In Minnesota, some Galeon buyers have taken delivery in Florida and then moved boats north to the

St. Croix and Mississippi headwaters. Two years ago, one confident snowbird decided to skipper his newly purchased craft from Fort Myers to Minnesota via the Mississippi River for its maiden voyage.

A second Polish company that has done well in Europe is Delphia Yachts Kot, which employs 550 people in Gdansk and Warsaw and focuses on the smaller-than-50 foot yacht market. The Piotr and Wojciech Kot brothers founded the business in 1990 and in the United States sell through dealers in Maryland and Rhode Island.

Polboat estimates Poland has more than 900 companies, many small family businesses, active in the country's boat building sector, with more than 95% of the Polish industry's output geared to foreign markets. Seven builders – Galeon, Delphia, Balt Yacht, Ostroda Yacht, Parker Poland, Sunreef Yachts and Slepsk - assemble boats.

In Europe, yacht tastes vary widely, reflecting cultural differences.

"The final price is determined by the accessories, just like with cars," Delphia spokeswoman Ewa Kot told *Power & Motoryacht* last year. "We export yachts to Scandinavia with very minimalist trim, while those that go to Russia are much more extensively fitted out."

Poles gain design, technology edge

Like many things Polish, high standards of quality control, hand craftsmanship and durability seem to attract customer enthusiasts.

Writing in the trade journal *Power & Motoryacht* magazine last October, writer Justin Ratcliffe said: "visiting the two (Gdansk shipyard) sites—one relatively old school and the other decidedly modern with all the latest machinery—revealed how Galeon combines traditional boat building skills with latest-generation technology to build just about every component in-house; the company even mills its own teak for the decking."

Most boat makers, like auto makers, rely on a global network of component parts and metal suppliers to cut costs. Not Galeon. Its boats generally use Volvo engines but almost everything else is made from scratch on site, including the stainless steel, so no two boats are exactly alike.

"It's the unique styling that sets us apart. Styling, innovation in design, and value," said Wondra. "People like to bring their boats up north here in the summer to play."

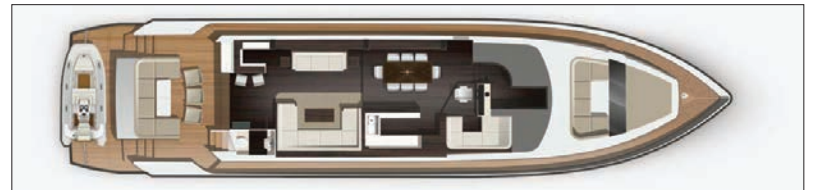
The Poles are playing to win. Over the past decade, Polish yacht

publicly-held Brunswick, a conglomerate which had become a leader in yacht making through acquisitions a generation ago, has seen its market share sink as it has focused on cutting costs, closing shipyards and selling/spinning off divisions (such as its bowling equipment and billiard table-making units)

From a historical perspective, America's erosion of yacht-making competitiveness parallels what happened in the mid-19th century at the dawn of the age of large-scale passenger immigration. U.S. ship builders dominated the industry when most ships were sailing vessels but lost out after the U.S. Civil War as German and British steamship makers made greater investments in design and luxury amenities for first class passengers. (Source: www.gjenvick.com, *History of the North German Lloyd Steamship Company of Bremen*).

A transition from large commercial vessels

Since 1989, Poland has sharpened its edge in pleasure boats amid a painful transition from state-owned commercial ship enterprises. In the 1990s, entrepreneurial start-ups formed as the Baltic Sea area's large cargo ship making in-



Cutaway drawing shows the main deck.

makers have been investing in computer-aided design, advanced materials such as carbon composites, resins and the latest laser-guided machine tools and custom molding equipment to a greater degree than their U.S. counterparts.

Galeon Managing Director Grzegorz Tuszynski told a trade journal last year that "our investment in CAD and CAM machines, buildings and staff over the past two years has been €10 million. This investment gives us a key unique selling point."

industry shifted to South Korea and China, which now makes most cargo and oil tankers.

During the last 30 years the Gdansk Shipyard, formerly known as the Lenin Shipyard, has shrunk from more than 17,000 employees at the time of the rise of Solidarity to a few hundred workers currently. An infusion of government money from the European Union a generation ago has not helped restore the communist era facility to profitability.

An Appeal to Rescue the Past of Cracow, Virginia

by Richard Poremski

CRACOW, Virg. — For almost three years, Tom Hollowak has been researching the Polish colony at Cracow, New Kent County, Virginia. The farming community located between Barhamsville and West Point Virginia was settled by approximately twelve Polish families beginning in 1915. Among those who formed the enclave was Hollowak's paternal grandparents and great-grandparents. Many of the families learned of the availability of farmland from advertisements placed in Polish-language newspapers by Adam Sturtz(ynski) who was responsible for bringing not only the Poles to New Kent County, but also Port Richmond, now a part of West Point.

Hollowak, who has spent the last thirty years researching Baltimore's Polish community, had always had an interest in the history of where his father's family was raised. He accidentally discovered that one of the families that came to Virginia after seeing an ad in Baltimore's Polish-language newspaper,



St. John Canty of Cracow Church, illustrated above, was built in 1920 in the area of Virginia known Cracow. It burned down after lightning struck its steeple in 1935. The aging church cemetery, located along Polish Town Road, is the church's only remaining landmark.

Jednosc-Polonia, was from Baltimore. As he began researching, he discovered that a boat regularly ran between West Point and Baltimore. There were other links between the two Polonias as well. For example, the Franciscan Fathers at St. Stan-

islaus Kostka did missionary work among the Polish settlements in Tidewater Virginia.

By contacting the once-Polish church in West Point, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, he located another grandson of one of the ear-

lier pioneers who generously shared information on his family — a branch that still resides on their family's farm. Hollowak also consulted the online database *Ancestry.com* to locate other grandchildren of the Polish families who lived along what is now Polish Town Road to share their memories and photographs for the planned history.

With most of his research completed, in May he began writing the history that he hopes will be published by the spring of next year. Although, he has heard from several of the families, there are about five or six from whom the information and photos are scant. Therefore, he is appealing to our readers whose families lived at the settlement to contact him with any information and photographs they are willing to share, so that his work can chronicle as completely as possible this until-now obscure history of Virginia's Cracow Polish settlement.

Information and/or photographs can be sent to: Tom Hollowak, 7 Dendron Court, Baltimore, Md. 21234; or by email to: historyk@comcast.net.

In Deep Water

WARSAW — Poland will have the world's deepest swimming/diving pool when the Deepspot Center opens this fall in Mszczonow, not far from Warsaw. The facility will include a hotel, with rooms overlooking the pool, an underwater tunnel, conference rooms, and restaurants.

The pool will boast a depth of 148 feet, with the volume of water equal to twenty-seven Olympic-sized pools. It will be open to everyone, including scuba divers. Guests will have access to both free and scuba diving, together with underwater caves for cave-diving beginners. Non-swimmers will be able to enjoy the experience without getting wet by walking through an transparent suspended underwater tunnel.

Poland's pool is sixteen feet deeper than the previous record holder, Y-40 Deep Joy located in Montegrotto Terme, Italy. Poland record will be short-lived: in the Spring of 2020, England will open its 164' Blue Abyss pool in Colchester.

KULTURA

50 Years of Polonia Abroad

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

by Staś Kmiec

Over 1,000 participants of thirty-three groups from the Americas, Australia, Asia and Europe attended the 18th International Festival of Polish Folk Ensembles (*XVIII Światowy Festiwal Polonijnych Zespołów Folklorystycznych*) in Rzeszów, Poland for a Golden Jubilee celebration. They were a part of one of the largest events of its kind in the world.

The ensembles were selected by a “qualifying selection panel” – the staff at *Oddział Rzeszowski Stowarzyszenie Wspólnota Polska* under the direction of longtime Festival Director Mariusz Grudziń. At least eight couples and a 45-minute program in costume were required by video submission.

Through the power of the internet, I was able to experience the festival through livestream transmission of the final two major concerts, and through clips posted on Facebook.

1969 Debut Festival

From a conversation with Czesław Świątoniowski - director of the Rzeszów Provincial Culture Center and Bronisław and Wanda Stala – the directors of The Polish Song and Dance Ensemble – *Krakus* from Geng-Zwartberg, Belgium, the concept of a Polonia Festival was given birth. Thirteen groups performed at the 1969 debut – 12 from Europe and one from the United States – Boston’s *Krakowiak Dancers*.

The timing coincided with NASA’s Apollo 11 landing on the moon. Al Pierce, a founding member of *Krakowiak* remembers the day as “the most memorable night” of his life. “It was July 20th 1969 at the first Rzeszów festival. [We] were preparing to dance ... To our surprise, the festival organizers had set up TV monitors backstage, so that we would not miss the Apollo moon landing. When the announcer came to inform us that we were next, I told him that the moon landing had just happened. He then went to the microphone and announced to the packed opera house that the Americans had just landed on the moon. The audience stood up and cheered. He then said ‘and now the Americans are going to land on our stage.’ The ovation grew stronger ... thus inspired, we danced our hearts out, full of pride and joy. Never in my life have I been more proud to be an American than I was that wonderful night.”

Education is the key

The quality of performances varied back then and during the month-long festival workshop classes were given. A training program – *Studium Folklorystyczne* was established – first in Płock, and later transferred to Lublin. In addition to regional and national dances, this intensive course of three-semester study focused on ethnographic, folk attire, customs and theory courses. The instructors were noted in their field; many had unearthed songs and dances and wrote the original books following World War II. A more recent addition – *Polonijne Studium Choreograficzne* has been formed in Rzeszów.

Subsequent festivals focused on authenticity and the number of participants increased. Each group was

evaluated and given a review and the level continued to advance.

Concert under the theme “Póki my żyjemy” (While we live).



Alvin Pierce (right) of the “Kraowiak Dancers” of Boston at the first Rzeszów Festival in 1969

The XVIII Edition

The 18th Festival took place July 17-25. The schedule was packed with performances, events, and rehearsals. The troupes were divided into six groups (*zgrupowanie*). Breaking with previous practice, they were not stationed in host cities during the days prior to the festival.

The groups attending the Festival were:

Australia: *Lajkonik-Sydney, Syrenka-Sydney*; **Brazil:** *Karolinka-São Mateus do Sul, Mazury-Mallet, Wisła-Kurytyba*; **Czech Republic:** *Błędownice-Błędownice Olza-Czeski Cieszyn, Suszanie-Sucha Górna*; **Canada:** *Cracovia-London, SPK Iskry-Winipeg, Polanie-Calgary*; **Great Britain:** *Karolinka-London, Orleń-London, Polesie-Leicester, Polonez-Manchester*; **Moldavia:** *Polacy Budzaka-Komrat*; **Russia:** *Korale-Siberian Krasnojarsk*; **Sweden:** *Kwiaty Polskie-Malmö, Piastowie-Stockholm*; **Ukraine:** *Polanie znad Dniepru-Kiev*; **United States:** *Dolina-Minneapolis, Lajkonik-Chicago, Lajkonik-Tucson, Ojczyzna-Baltimore, Piast-Las Vegas, Polanie-Detroit, Polonia ZPRKA-Chicago, Rodacy-Hamtramck, Syrena-Milwaukee, Wesoly Lud ZPRKA-Chicago, Wici-Chicago*. There was also a group comprised of several groups – *Miodula* and the guest vocal groups: *Krakowiak-France* and *Vokalinki-London*.

The event was organized by the Rzeszów branch of the *Stowarzyszenie Wspólnota Polska* (Association of the Community of Poland) in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and the National Heritage of the Republic of Poland, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Marshall and Municipal Offices of Rzeszów, and the Podkarpackie Voivodeship. Honorary Patronage of the festival was taken by President Andrzej Duda.

Through the week, the *zgrupowanie* performed smaller concerts in the square and in surrounding communities of the Rzeszów region.

The Festival concluded with two large concerts under the direction of Janusz Chojecki. “Koncert Tanców Zamieszkania” was renamed “Folklor Narodów Świata” (Folklore of the Nations) and was intended to display national dances and choreography specific to the countries of residence. With the exception of Ukraine, each group performed a Polish or Polish-style Suite selected by the Festival committee at the over four-hour Gala

The Road to Rzeszów

It is a demanding task, not only from the artistic standpoint, but also from logistic one; bringing all the costumes and personnel to Poland involves a lot of planning and finances.

The largest number of ensembles came from the United States with eleven.

The veterans of the festival were *Olza-Czech Republic*, who took part 15 times. On their 12th visit, *Wesoly Lud-Chicago* presented Dances from Eastern Kraków, a Warsaw street culture suite, *Spisz*, and the “Chicago Polka” – danced in brightly-colored satin costumes.

Commentary

In my report of the 2017 festival, due to space limitations, the commentary section did not appear in the print edition. Much of the sentiment attached remains the same, and a progression towards resolving the problems in the work being presented on stage has yet to be accomplished. The sage advice of my instructors in Poland, many who are now deceased, came to mind as I watched the concerts.

Opinion and conclusions were drawn only based on the final concerts. Watching the festival through an internet perspective, I was struck by the old saying: “one step forward; two steps back.” The mode was less on traditional and focused on sheer entertainment, often at the cost of authenticity. The singing of village songs in regional suites was at a minimum.

While the level of technical prowess in lighting, sound and set staging, as well as the dancer’s technique far exceeds the kaleidoscopic folk marathons of the past, in many cases the substance and content was uneven and greatly lacking. There was the great, the good, the questionable, and the very questionable.

The emphasis was less on Ukrainian themes, as in 2017, and the Góralskie mountain dances were better represented. Some groups opted for lovely choreographic novelties with no base in authentic Polish folk culture. Some danced to *Mazowsze* and *Śląsk* music and the music was often not of a folk *kapela* nature, but symphonic recordings. There was even a *Krakowiak* arrangement from Russia’s *Moi-seyev*’s repertoire. There was stylized work, and one group mimicked a simplified replica of a dance confection from *Mazowsze*’s repertoire – *Baba Dziad*. At the earlier festivals, they might not have known the difference – information was limited, but now with all the training courses and abundance of material available, there are no excuses.

In the *Dances of the World* concert, many groups were performing dances with no connection to their country. Watching the last several festivals, I have noticed a trend in performing audience-pleasing international dances not from the actual country of origin.

The late Ignacy Wachowiak, a longtime artistic director of the festivals said that the concert (which was transmitted during Communist times on national television) was for the Polish people – to show them cultures beyond the borders of Poland, and to instill a sense of pride that Polonia abroad had such a deep connection and devotion to Poland, that they felt the need and desire to promote Polish culture in their own countries.

As a viewer, I am interested in seeing the same authenticity and integrity that ensembles devote to their presentation of Polish song and dance in this concert. Although no groups attended from India, Bulgaria, Hungary, Georgia, and Greece or from the Roma-Gypsy community, those dances made their way into this program. There were pseudo-period waltzes, dueling 1970s Disco numbers, “Bollywood,” and several dance-recital swing-jive and novelty numbers.

There were several groups that achieved entertaining, exotic and honest presentations. *Wici* brought to the stage an innovative American saloon-style Western piece, and the Swedish and Czech groups fared well with closer to authentic dances. Though heavily stylized, *Olza* presented an excellently executed Czech region *Zbójnicki* – full of showy “coffee grinders” and baton-twirling *ciupagi*.

The ensemble that distinguished itself and resonated strongest was *Dolina-Minneapolis*, under the direction of Edward Rajtar. They presented an *Appalachian Mountain Suite* choreographed by Donald La Course that utilized Clogging technique. Attired in actual, old Appalachian dress from the turn of the century, the suite was the most authentic depiction of American folk dance to be presented, and was creatively designed for stage presentation. The group performed a lively *Spisz Suite* in the Gala.

In reference to both concerts: the one thing that can be learned from popular TV shows, like “America’s Got Talent” is time limit. These acts accomplish everything they need to and make an impression in 1.25 – 1.75 minutes. Most pieces in the Gala concerts exceeded four minutes. As Wachowiak said: “this is only a *wizytówka* (a calling card) to quickly show a group amidst many’ it is not an overstayed welcome.”

The Gala utilized the theme of Stanisław Moniuszko – the father

of Polish national opera in honor of his 200th birthday. Many soloists sang three verses of Moniuszko Art songs – a lot for a concert already too long. Unfortunately, the singers did not possess the vocal range, pitch or style to do justice to the great composer’s work. It appears the teaching of *Mazur* is a lost art. With two mass dance sections devoted to Moniuszko’s *Mazur* compositions, no one was dancing a true Polish *Mazur*.

Noted instructors in Poland have questioned the material of some of the presentations and wonder why no one wants to listen to constructive criticism. Does the new generation not care about authenticity and accuracy, only their own artistic interpretation? In this “Dancing with the Stars” era of flash without substance, I hope this trend will be dealt with strongly in the future.

There is another side to this, as well. The choices made by the selection panel should be called into question. Presentation evaluations and reviews appear to be no longer given, which result in a “free-for-all” approach. Workshops and training opportunities were not offered for dancers to enhance their folk skills and knowledge. As in the past, participating groups were not offered sight-seeing opportunities to visit and encounter the many interesting places in the region. Perhaps this was due to funding challenges, but these items are necessary to make a difference and move forward, not backward.

Some groups had well-intentioned suites that have degenerated over time as the initial choreographers departed and only steps and the choreography placing remain. 10-12 couples dancing in presentational unison still makes an impressive impact of mass numbers, but when there is no connection, and the regional style, quality and clarity of steps are missing, the effort is lost.

The program did not include many regions, but had multiple Beskid, Cieszyn, Kurpie, Biłgoraj and Podhale suites and those odd waltzes. Those groups that stayed the course – shined and maintained a top standing.

Next issue: Part II will offer an in-depth look at Two Directors and the direction they took in their presentations at the Festival.

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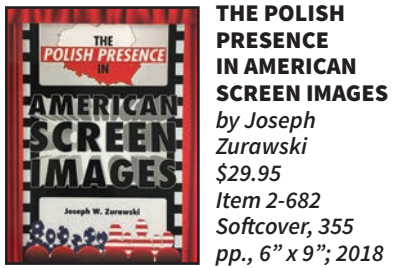
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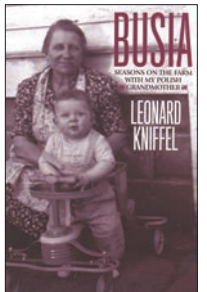


THE POLISH PRESENCE IN AMERICAN SCREEN IMAGES
by Joseph Zurawski
\$29.95
Item 2-682
Softcover, 355 pp., 6" x 9"; 2018

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

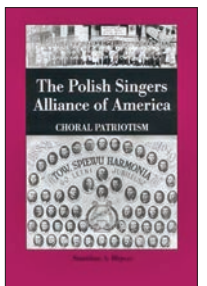
Prominent author, educator and Polish American activist Joseph W. Zurawski identifies and analyzes more than 1300 films shown in the United States that feature or identify a Polish American character or reference. Soft cover. Published by the Polish Museum of America.

BUSIA: SEASONS ON THE FARM WITH MY POLISH GRANDMOTHER



by Leonard Kniffel
\$15.00
hc. 59 pp.; 2017, 6.25" x 9.25"
Item 2-702

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



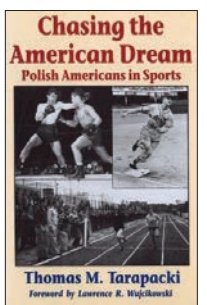
CHORAL PATRIOTISM: THE POLISH SINGERS ALLIANCE OF AMERICA, 1888-1998
by S. A. Blejwas
Item 1-660
Was \$22.50. Now \$14.95

Boydell & Brewer, 2005. 396 pp., Ill. 6.20 x 9.30 x 1.20

This book examines the history of the Polish Singers Alliance of America as an ideological organization, documenting the extent to which the politics of the homeland engaged an immigrant and ethnic community over a century.

"A superb treatment of the formation and expansion of the oldest Polish-American cultural organization in North America." — Frances Gates

CHASING THE AMERICAN DREAM



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

"Chasing the American Dream" provides an in-depth examination of the Polish American experience with sports: its impact upon their lives, the unprecedented economic and social opportunities it created, the enormous changes it brought to the Polish American community, and the athletes, coaches, and organizations involved.

350 Polish American athletes are noted from the worlds of baseball, football, hockey, basketball, track & field, boxing, wrestling, golf, swimming, bowling, auto racing, soccer and

more. Included are some of the greatest figures in American sports such as Stan Ketchel; Stella Walsh; and Stan "The Man" Musial.

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

FROM PADEREWSKI TO PENDERECKI

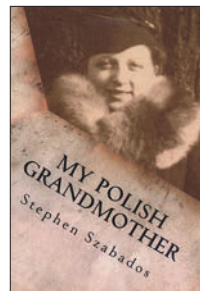


The Polish Musician in Philadelphia
by Paul Krzywicki
\$24.95
Item 2-151
Lulu Pub. 2016; pb. 396 pp., 6"x1"x9"

Extraordinary stories and accomplishments of 170 Polish musicians whose presence in Philadelphia influenced music in America. Paul Krzywicki, a native of Philadelphia, was a member of the Philadelphia Orchestra for thirty-three years, performing in over four thousand concerts, more than 60 recordings and presenting master classes throughout the world. He is currently on the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music.

GENEALOGY

MY POLISH GRANDMOTHER:



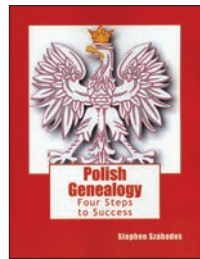
From Tragedy in Poland to Her Rose Garden in America
by Stephen Szabados
\$14.95 / Item 2-218
61 pp., b&w photos
2015

Anna was the youngest daughter of a Polish farmer and very small physically. However, she was always in command when she was in the room. This book describes the tragedies in her early life and the challenges she overcame to make a new life in America. It is different from many stories of immigrants because it is told from the perspective of a woman.

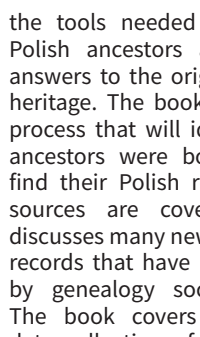
This book asks questions about her fears when growing up, immigrating to America, and making her new life. How did she face these fears? How did she overcome them? Szabados said by searching for answers, he found new insights about his grandmother.

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

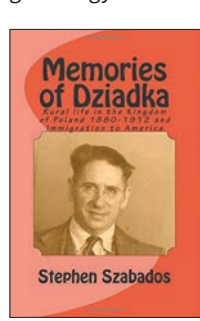
POLISH GENEALOGY:



Four Easy Steps to Success
by Stephen Szabados
\$19.95 / Item 2-668
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.

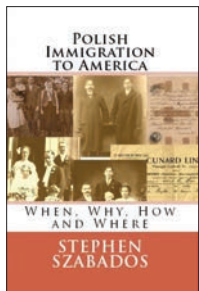


Memories of Dziadka
Rural life in the Kingdom of Poland 1880-1912 and Immigration to America / by Stephen Szabados
\$14.95



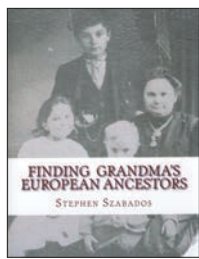
Item 2-670 pb. 134 pp.

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 Atlantic Ocean; his arrival and his life in America. Through the story of one man, you will learn and understand the hardships of a typical Polish immigrant in the early 1900s.



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

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



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

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

FOLKLORE



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

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

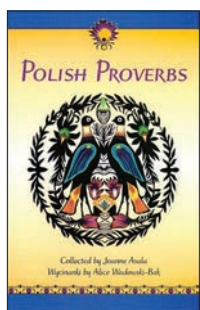
century. They were an instant hit, with tales such as the "Frog Princess," "Princess Miranda" and "Prince Hero," and many others quickly winning their place in the great classic tales of European literature.



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

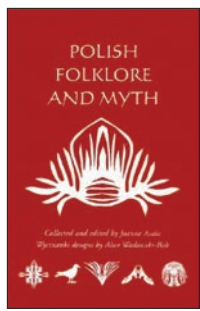
Many of the plots, motifs, and structural elements in these Slavic tales are found in other stories told around the world.

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



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

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



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

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

HISTORY



POLAND: A HISTORY
by Adam Zamojski
\$19.95
Item 1-659
pb. 426 pp., 5.5 in. x 8.5 in.

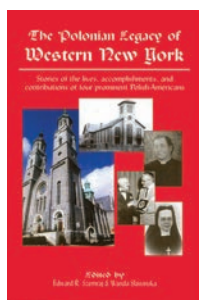
A substantially revised and updated edition of the author's classic 1987 book, *The Polish Way: A Thousand-Year History of the Poles and their Culture*, which has been out of print since 2001. No nation's history has been so distorted as that of Poland. "...excellent and authoritative..." "fresh, different,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

THE MAGNIFICENT 100
by Jaroslaw K. Radomski
\$24.50
2018, Buffalo Standard Printing pb., 195pp., color illustrations.
Item 2-655
The Magnificent 100 presents — in



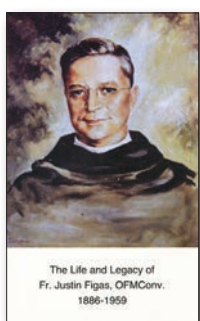
an alphabetically organized lexicon — 97 illustrated vignettes popularizing the biographies and works of over 100 Polish artists and writers through the ages.

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



THE POLONIAN LEGACY OF WESTERN NEW YORK
Item 1-605
\$12.95
156 pp., sc., ill., b&w photos.
5.5 x 8.5

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



THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FR. JUSTIN FIGAS, OFM CONV.
Famed originator of "Fr. Justin Rosary Hour"
\$9.00, 82pp., pb., B&W photos

Fr. Justin's weekly message of spiritual guidance, encouragement, and hope was an influence on generations of Polish immigrants, their children, and grandchildren. His broadcasts, begun in 1931, continue today as the longest continually running religious radio program in the world.

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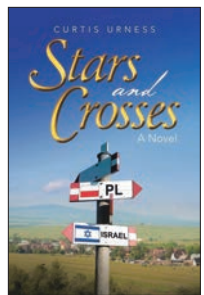
POLISH PRINCESS



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

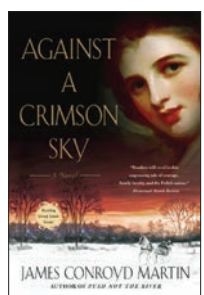
Tragedy and mystery surround the life of 14-year-old Anna Wisniewski. Ann is a gifted pianist growing up in middle America, yet her mother claims they are descended from Polish aristocracy. Anna struggles with insecurities that cripple her life until she meets a young Polish violinist. Together they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

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



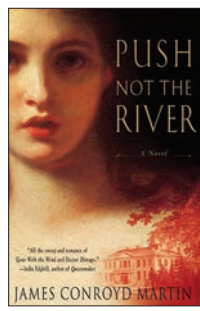
NEW!
STARS AND CROSSES
by Curtis Urness
\$18.95
Item 2-152
pb., 260 pp., 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches
Universe Publ.

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



PUSH NOT THE RIVER
Book 1 of Martin's Poland Trilogy
\$15.95
Item 2-609
496 pp.pb. Maps & wycinanki illust. This book club favorite is based on the real diary of a Polish countess who lived through the rise and fall of the Third of May Constitution years, a time of great turmoil. Vivid, romantic, and thrillingly paced, the novel has been called "Poland's Gone

with the Wind."



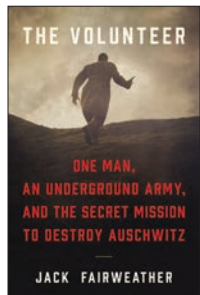
AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY (Book 2)
\$15.95
Item 2-610
369 pp.pb. Map & wycinanki illust. "You don't have to read Push Not the River to get the most from this sequel," says Suzanne Strempek Shea. The award-winning author picks up where Push Not the River leaves off, taking the characters 20 years into the fascinating Napoleonic era, highlighting the exploits of the glorious Polish lancers.



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

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

WORLD WAR II

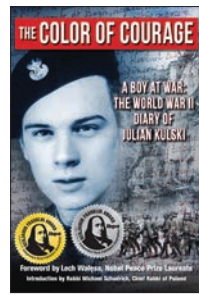


NEW! THE VOLUNTEER
by Jack Fairweather
PAJ Price: \$25.95 (retails at \$28.99)
Item 1-662
hc.; 528 pp.; 2019; 6 x 1.6 x 9 inches

The incredible true story of a thirty-nine-year-old Polish resistance fighter named Witold Pilecki's infiltration of Auschwitz to sabotage the camp from within, and his death-defying attempt to warn the Allies about the Nazis' plans for a "Final Solution" before it was too late.

Over two and half years, Pilecki forged an underground army within Auschwitz that sabotaged facilities, assassinated Nazi informants and officers, and gathered evidence of terrifying abuse and mass murder. But as he pieced together the horrifying truth that the camp was to become the epicenter of Nazi plans to exterminate Europe's Jews, Pilecki realized he would have to risk his men, his life, and his family to warn the West before all

was lost. To do so, meant attempting the impossible—an escape from Auschwitz itself.



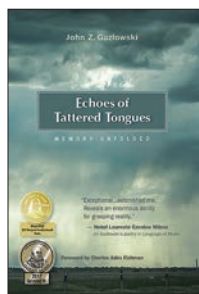
THE COLOR OF COURAGE
by Julian E. Kulski
\$19.95
Item 2-674
Aquila Polonica Publ., 2012. pb.
496 pp., 6" x 9"

"If there is going to be a war, I do not want to miss it." So wrote Julian Kulski a few days before the outbreak of World War II, in this remarkable diary of a boy at war from ages 10 to 16. Kulski wages his own private war against the Germans with small acts of sabotage. At age 12, Kulski is recruited into the clandestine Underground Army by his Scoutmaster and begins training in military tactics and weapons handling. At age 13, he meets with leaders of the Jewish Resistance. Arrested by the Gestapo at 14, he is rescued and at 15 fights in the Warsaw Uprising of 1944.



THE AUSCHWITZ VOLUNTEER
by Witold Pilecki
\$34.95
Item 2-673
Aquila Polonica Publ., 2014
460 pp., pb. / 6x9 in.

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."

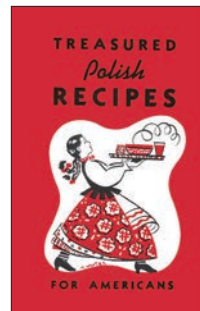


ECHOES OF TATTERED TONGUES
by John Guzowski
\$21.95
Item 2-667
hc., 6.2 x 0.8 x 9.4 inches
200 pp.
Aquila Polonica /

Language: English
Guzowski born in a German refugee camp after WWII, recounts the horrible atrocities enacted upon his parents during the war in these straightforward, gut-wrenching narrative lyric poems. These snapshots of Nazi German rule illustrate that hardship didn't end with German surrender; the aftershocks radiated through

successive generations. "Guzowski's simple language highlights the violence without offering any comment or consolation." — *Publishers Weekly*

RECIPE BOOKS



TREASURED POLISH RECIPES FOR AMERICANS
\$19.95
Item BK2364
hc 5.5" x 8.7" x 0.50"; 172 pp.; English language version with U.S. measurements
475 Recipes

Edited by Marie Sokolowski and Irene Jasinski; Illustrated by Stanley Legun

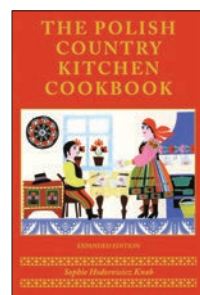
First published in United States in 1948, this book was the first complete book of Polish cookery in the English language. Chapters on Appetizers, Soups, Meats, Poultry and Game, Fish, Vegetables, Mushrooms, Dairy Dishes, Pastries and Desserts. Recipes are included for famous Polish barszcz, for bigos, czarnaia, pierogi, nalesniki, paszteciki... and hundreds of other interesting Polish foods.

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

PLEASEING POLISH RECIPES
by Jacek and Malgorzata Nowakowski
\$8.95
Item 2-678
5.5 x 3.5 inches / 160 pp., spiral bound



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

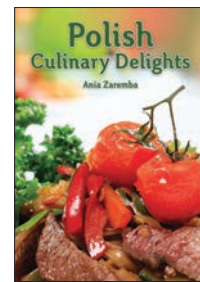


POLISH COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK
by Sophie Knab
\$19.95
Item 2-632. 337 pp., sc;

From top-selling author Sophie Hodorowicz Knab comes an expanded edition to a best-selling book that combines recipes for favorite Polish foods with the history and cultural traditions that created them. Arranged according to the cycle of seasons, this cookbook explores life in the Polish countryside through the year. The *Polish Country Kitchen Cookbook* gives its readers priceless historical information such as the type of utensils used in Poland

at the turn of the century, the meaning behind the Pascal butter lamb, and many other insightful answers to common questions asked by descendants of Polish immigrants.

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



POLISH CULINARY DELIGHTS
\$24.95
Item BK 2572
by Ania Zaremba sc., 6.5" x 9.25" x 0.5"; 224 pp., color photographs, index;

English language version with U.S. measurements.

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

More than 175 recipes, from soups, appetizers, entrees and side dishes to desserts. Easy-to-follow instructions with helpful tips make it simple to prepare such traditional Polish favorites as pierogi, blintzes, sauerkraut, cabbage rolls, bigos, horseradish sauce, paczki, angel wings, mazurka cakes and many more.

POLISH PIEROGI

\$10.00
Item 2-303
by Eva Gerweck, 48 pp., sc.

A collection of "secret" recipes, tips, and more by Eva Gerwecki. Fillings, toppings, and a variety of dough recipes as well. Over 150 recipes with regional variations, from New York to California!

POLISH RESTAURANT COOKBOOK

\$10.00
Item 2-302
by Jonathan Becklar, 44 pp., sc.

This unique cookbook actually replicates recipes taken from menus of Motor City and surrounding area restaurants. It shows you how to make an entire menu right that tastes and smells just like the restaurant. Soups, salads, dressings, sandwiches, stuffed cabbage, and more.

POLISH GIRL COOKBOOK

\$10.00
Item 2-301
by Eva Gerweck, 44 pp., sc.

Another cookbook full of recipes from Detroit's Old Polish neighborhoods. Appetizers, entrees, breads, desserts, and more! Upper Peninsula style pastries, potato salad, pastries, babka, breads, and more.

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SPORTS

“Babyface” Kownacki wants Heavyweight Title

by Tom Tarapacki

In August Adam Kownacki (right) moved a step closer to his dream of becoming the first Polish fighter to win a heavyweight world title, and he moved a step closer by beating former three-time world title challenger Chris Arreola in the main event of the Premier Boxing Champions on Fox Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

Most of the crowd of 8,790 cheered for Kownacki (20-0, 15 KOs) as he earned a unanimous decision over Chris Arreola (38-6-1, 33 KOs). According to CompuBox statistics, Kownacki landed 369 of 1,047 punches (35 percent) and Arreola landed 298 of 1,125 (27 percent). They combined to land 667 punches and combined to throw 2,172, both CompuBox heavyweight records.

Kownacki, whose wife, Justyna, was due with their first child, a boy, expected later that month, said “We’ll see what the future holds. Hopefully, next year I’ll get the title shot.”

Known as “Babyface,” the undefeated 30-year-old moved from Poland to Brooklyn when he was 7. He has stated he hopes to become the first Pole to win the heavyweight crown. Six previous Polish fighters have challenged for a heavyweight world title and failed: Andrew Golota, Tomasz Adamek, Artur Szpilka, Mariusz Wach, Albert Sosnowski and Andrzej Wawrzyk. Kownacki intends to be “Lucky No. 7.”

A COMPLETE BALLPLAYER. At age 26 Minnesota’s Max Kepler has blossomed as a ballplayer, and is now probably the Twins’ MVP. He’s leading the team in HRs and RBI, and is playing a solid right field.

Steve Wulf recently wrote in ESPN.com that the 6-4, 220-lb. Kepler seems to have “stepped off a box of Wheaties,” but his popularity isn’t based solely on his looks. “He’s a complete ballplayer, fast and tenacious enough to bat lead-off, powerful enough to be among the team leaders in home runs and RBIs, and graceful enough to be considered one of the best right fielders in baseball.”

Max has a unique story. His mother, Kathy Kepler, is from Texas, and his father, Marek Rozycki, is from Poland. Their son’s given name is Max Kepler-Rozycki, since



the name wouldn’t fit on the back of his jersey, it was shortened. “So every time Kepler comes to bat at Target Field, the name under his profile on the center-field scoreboard reads ROZYCKI,” wrote Wulf.

Back in the 1980s Kathy left her home in Texas to dance for the Joffrey Ballet Company in New York, then moved to Berlin at 17. Marek was also a dancer, and he defected from communist Poland while on tour in Italy. He later found asylum in West Berlin. The pair met while dancing at the Berlin Ballet Company and married in 1990. Max was born in 1993, two years before his sister, Emma.

Max didn’t care much for ballet but learned to play baseball at a very young age while vacationing in Texas. He became a top prospect playing in Europe, and the Twins took a chance on signing him 10 years ago, when he was playing for a sports academy in Regensburg, Germany.

SMART PEOPLE. Entering his first season as offensive coordinator, Minnesota Vikings **Kevin Stefanski** has a secret weapon: **Gary Kubiak**. Kubiak, 57, was head coach of Denver when it won Super Bowl 50.

As assistant head coach/offensive advisor, Gary brings 24 years of coaching experience, including 10 as an NFL head coach. He stepped away from head coaching due to health concerns.

Kevin has been impressed with Kubiak’s offensive knowledge and his ability to “marry” the running and passing game together. “From my perspective, a first-time coordinator, I would have been foolish not to go do everything in our power to bring a guy who’s been in seven Super Bowls as a player and a

coach, called the plays the last time and won the Super Bowl,” Stefanski said. Among other new staff, the Vikings added Gary’s son Clint as quarterbacks coach, the job Stefanski held for most of 2018. “I like to be surrounded by smart people, so I’m really thrilled,” Stefanski said.

Stefanski is only 37, but he’s longest-tenured coach on the Vikings staff, now entering his 14th season. He has coached QBs, TEs and RBs with the team.



Michaels spent 34 years in professional football.

MICHAELS PASSES. Former NFL player and coach **Walt Michaels** died recently at the age of 89. He spent 34 years in professional football as a player and coach across three leagues (NFL, AFL, USFL).

The seventh of eight children of Polish immigrant parents, Michaels was born on October 16, 1929 in Swoyerville, Pa.. Teachers in school anglicized the family name from Majka. Walt’s father was a coal miner who died when he was 54.

A seventh round draft pick in 1951 out of Washington & Lee, Michaels played linebacker for the

any team in the NFL by posting an 8-8 record, its most wins since 1969. Walt was named NFL Coach of the Year by *Pro Football Weekly* and other publications.

In the strike-shortened 1982 season, Michaels led the Jets to the AFC Championship Game, but lost to the Dolphins in the rain-soaked Orange Bowl, 14-0. Walt was fired, and two years later returned to coach the New Jersey Generals of the USFL. He turned around the perennial losers, taking the Generals to the playoffs in both of his seasons and winning 24 of 36 games.

Walt was inducted in the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame in 1987, three years after his brother Lou.

“Walt was old school,” Jets legendary defensive lineman Joe Klecko said. “Walt reminded me so much of my dad. He and my dad walked in the same shadow it seemed. You could do everything right and he’d never say much to you, but you did one thing wrong and he’d climb down your neck. That’s the way I grew up. You talk about a guy who was fair. You felt like you wanted to go to war for him and wanted to do anything for him because he would do the same for you.”



Klecko. “... not just Polish, but purebred.”

WHY NOT KLECKO? Speaking of **Joe Klecko**, why isn’t he in the Pro Football Hall of Fame?

After first becoming a modern-day candidate for the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1994, the former Jets great is now a senior candidate. He was elected to the Polish American Sports Hall of Fame in 1999. In 2004 he became just the third Jet to have his jersey (#73) retired by the team.

Dubbed “The Killer with a Babyface” by *Sports Illustrated* in 1979, he told the magazine that he “sprang from solid Polish stock; not just Polish, but purebred.”

Klecko played from 1977 to 1988, all but his final season with the Jets’ “New York Sack Exchange.” He was a four-time Pro Bowler and two-time first-team All-Pro. In 1981 he unofficially led the NFL with 20.5 sacks and was named AFC Defensive Player of the Year. During his career, he made the Pro Bowl at three different positions — defensive tackle, nose tackle, and defensive end. Next year might be the charm for Klecko, as the Hall is expanding the class so that 10 seniors will get in.

TRAGEDY IN TOUR DE POLOGNE.

Pavel Sivakov, a 22-year-old Slovak, secured overall victory at the Tour de Pologne. However, his win was overshadowed by the tragic death of another 22-year-old cyclist, Belgian Bjorg Lambrecht. During Stage 3 Lambrecht crashed into a

concrete culver as riders battled against heavy rain near the town of Zory. He was rushed to a Polish hospital in Rybnik by ambulance, where he died during surgery.

Race director Czeslaw Lang curtailed race activities and carried out a daylong tribute. Lambrecht’s death put a damper on the usually very festive event. It was the first fatality in the race since it became a professional event under Lang in 1993.

The top Polish finisher in the general classification was **Rafal Majka**, who was 14th.

A POLISH FIRST IN FRANCE.

The 2019 Tour de France was the first edition of the most famous cycling race in the world to include a team registered in Poland. CCC Pro Team took part in the 106th Tour de France, with the main sponsor being Poland-based shoe retailer CCC. It is title sponsor of the cycling group Continuum Sports, which took over from BMC, the successor to the Phonak team managed by American **Jim Ochowicz**, whose paternal grandfather emigrated from Poland to the United States.

The leader of the team in the race was Belgian cyclist Greg van Avermaet, and his teammates included **Lukasz Wiśniowski** of Poland. In the general classification van Avermaet was 36th and Wiśniowski was 118th.

Michal Kwiatkowski represented Team Ineos, the successor to Team Sky. He supported teammates Egan Bernal of Colombia and Geraint Thomas of the UK, who finished first and second. Kwiatkowski finished 83rd. Afterwards Kwiatkowski announced that he would be passing on this year’s Tour de Pologne. Kwiatkowski, who won the event last year, said he needs more time to recover after an exhausting Tour de France.

TULO RETIRES. A great career came to an end as **Troy Tulowitzki** announced his retirement from baseball. Tulowitzki, 34, signed with the Yankees this past offseason after being released by the Blue Jays, but played in just five games due to a calf strain.

A five-time All-Star shortstop, Tulowitzki spent parts of 10 years with the Rockies and parts of three with the Blue Jays before injuries hampered his career. In Toronto, Tulowitzki missed most of 2017 with an ankle injury, and all of 2018 after heel spur surgery. Over his career he hit .290 and had 225 home runs.

Colorado drafted Tulowitzki as the seventh overall pick of the 2005 MLB Draft out of Long Beach State, and he became one of the franchise’s best ever players. He was a two-time Gold Glove winner, two-time Silver Slugger and finished in the top 10 of NL MVP voting in each season between 2009-2011. Tulowitzki’s adjusted On-base Plus Slugging (OPS) — widely considered one of the best evaluative tools for hitters — was higher than that of great shortstops like Derek Jeter and Cal Ripken. However, he played in less than half the games they did due to injuries.

Almost immediately after his announcement the University of Texas announced that he had been hired as an assistant coach.



Stefanski (left) and Kubiak.

Browns and Packers. Renowned for his toughness, the 6-foot, 230-pound Michaels played on a pair of NFL championship teams for the Browns, as well as five division winners. He was also named to four consecutive Pro Bowls from 1957 to 1960.

Walt began his coaching career in 1962 with the Oakland Raiders, and the next year joined the Jets. When three of the Jets’ four linebackers were injured prior to the opening, Walt came out of retirement and played the entire game, even though he had not even practiced in two years.

Michaels then hung up his cleats for good and began making his mark as a coach, turning the Jets’ into one of the best in the AFL. The Jets won Super Bowl III, 16-7, as Michaels’ secondary, with four free agents, intercepted four Colts passes and the defense held Baltimore scoreless until the last four minutes of the game. It’s still considered the NFL’s greatest upset.

Walt became head coach of the Jets at age 52 in 1978. The team made the biggest improvement of

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 34th year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to seven hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok, Grajewo, and Ostroleka. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

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THE PONDERING POLE

There May Be No Beer in Heaven, but there are Polkas

by Ed Poniewaz

"The company pairs off quickly, and the whole room is soon in motion ... there is music, and they dance, each as he pleases, just as before they sang. Most of them prefer the 'two-step,' especially the young, with whom it is the fashion. The older people have dances from home, strange and complicated steps which they execute with grave solemnity."

— Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*

Okay, another bucket-list experience. I have never been to a polka festival, but I did sign on to attend the Pulaski Polka Days in Pulaski, Wisconsin July 18-21 (as advertised in the *Polish American Journal*). My wife Sue and I were there with our friends from California, Andy and Liz Kozlowski. If you enjoy polka music and dance and you can make it next year, go.

I will never be an oom pah pahr; I will never be a Slovenian slider; in my heart I am a hopper true and true, and this festival is filled with Polish-style bangers and blasters. The dancers on display were amazing. Their ages ranged from eight to eighty. The sights, smells, and sounds were wonderful and — as Andy said — "I just feel so at home here."

It was about a hundred degrees on Friday and everyone was soaked with sweat. Then a storm came through and blew out the lights. But only for time and everything was back up and cranking on Saturday. The good times rolled on.

There were highlights. The **Polka Country Musicians** do the standard brass and accordion motif but they also switch to fiddles to power the rhythm and I gotta tell you, it has a super old-time and folksy kind of sound that works perfectly in the Polish dance style. If you are Irish or want to be Irish, you might hear familiar melodies from the *Country Musicians* that fit for you as well. It was wonderful music and presence by these guys.

Box On is a family-membered group out of Michigan that, as their web site states, presents "a new generation of music." That is true and the star of the show is the lead singer Alex Vinecki, who is a consummate showman and watching him on stage reminds me of another

passage about the leader of the band from *The Jungle*:

"For he is an inspired man. Every inch of him is inspired — you might almost say inspired separately. He stamps with his feet, he tosses his head, he sways and swings to and fro ... when he executes a turn or a flourish, his brows knit and his lips work and his eyelids wink ... and every now and then he turns upon his companions, nodding, signaling, beckoning frantically — with every inch of him appealing, imploring, in behalf of the muses and their call."



Alex Vinecki

Polish or not?

There is a show on Netflix called *Blown Away* about a competition for glass blowing and **Janusz Pozniak** was one of the artists in the field. His reputation precedes him based on the comments by the other contestants and if you check out his website you will see why. janusz-pozniak.com.

The 53-year-old Pozniak, born in the United Kingdom, is Polish on his dad's side and he began "working with glass when he was 19." He has won numerous awards and has worked with a number of

well-known glass artists including the great Dale Chihuly. Pozniak's method and pieces have been explained as "pushing the boundaries beyond form and function to abstractly reflect his own personal experiences and distill human emotion." Watch *Blown Away* and see him in action and pushing boundaries.

From the website zloz.com, **Neil Zlozower** is "Widely considered one of the greatest music photographers of all time ..."

He has shot "iconic" photos of Van Halen, Led Zeppelin, Guns N' Roses, and many other rock stars and bands. His work has appeared on hundreds of magazine covers and album covers. You can find some of his pictures on atlasicons.com. Can't find much in the way of a bio on him, so is Neil "Zlozowski" Zlozower, Polish, or not?

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

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

POLISH CHEF

Polish "okrasa" cookery

by Robert Strybel

When Polish food is mentioned, many people immediately think of pierogi, gołąbki and kielbasa.

But in the olden days these specialties were enjoyed by ordinary Poles mainly on special occasions such as weddings, christenings, or at least Sunday dinner. Besides hearty soups, the normal day-to-day food was usually some carbohydrate (root vegetable, groats or pasta) garnished with "okrasa," also known as "omasta."

The term "okrasa" (which we might translate as garnish or topping) would include diced pork fatback or slab bacon which fried up into crunchy, salty, golden-brown "skwarki," melted butter, chopped onions fried in fat, melted lard, or pan drippings. These were spooned over plain boiled potatoes, pierogi, noodles, cooked cabbage, groats, mush, dumplings, beans, and cooked root vegetables, such as celeriac, parsnips, rutabaga, or turnips. Following a bowl of soup, such foods were often the entire meal. But nowadays they can be used to garnish a side-dish accompanying the main course.

PORK NUGGETS (skwarki): If using salted salt pork (słonina), scrape off excess salt with knife blade and discard it. If unsalted, sprinkle with salt and rub it in well before dicing. Dice up and render in frying pan, stirring frequently, until golden-brown. Slab bacon can be used instead of pork fatback also known as salt pork.

PORK NUGGETS & ONIONS (skwarki z cebulką). When the

diced salt pork being rendered as above takes on a barely golden hue, add a finely diced onion and simmer until nuggets and onions are nicely browned.

FRESH BUTTER (świeże masło): Any of the hot cooked foods above can be dotted with bits of fresh, unsalted butter which melts over them.

MELTED BUTTER (topione masło). Melt butter in saucepan but do not brown and pour of food to be garnished.

BROWNE BUTTER (zrumienione masło). Not only melt but also lightly brown the butter.

BUTTER-FRIED ONIONS (cebula zrumieniona na maśle). Fry diced onion in butter (for example — one medium onion in 3 T butter) to a deep golden-brown but still unblackened.

LARD-FRIED ONIONS (cebula zrumieniona na smalcu). Substitute pork lard for the butter in the preceding recipe.

OIL-FRIED ONIONS (cebula zrumieniona na oleju). Substitute salad oil for the butter or lard in the preceding two recipes. This topping was once especially widespread during Lent and on other fast days.

POLONAISE TOPPING (zrumieniona bułka tarta). Add 3-4 T plain (unseasoned) bread crumbs to an equal amount of melted butter in skillet and simmer, stirring, until nicely browned. If too thick, add a bit more butter. Excellent over plain cooked cauliflower.

SOUR CREAM (kwaśna śmietana). Cold or at room temp, sour cream makes a nice topping for pierogi and other dumplings.

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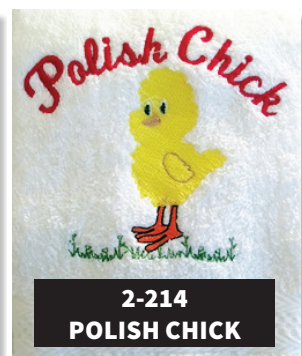
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SCHOLARSHIPS

PCF Recipients Awarded



ON JUNE 7, 2019, THE POLISH CULTURAL FOUNDATION of Clark, New Jersey, held a reception honoring the recipients of the Lubomir and Irene Zabilski, the Joseph A. Rozanski, the Irena Mieczyslaw Niznik Halocha, and the Polish Cultural Foundation Scholarships. Ten \$2,000 scholarships for the academic year commencing in the fall of 2019 were awarded.

Standing (top row) are the following recipients and committee member: Bartlomiej Olszowy, College of New Jersey; Katarzyna Kozak, accepting for her daughter Madalene Kozak, Fairleigh Dickinson University; Anna Buontempo.

Standing (middle row) are: Paula Blanes; Ann Turaliski; Donna Sukiennik accepting for her son Luke Sukiennik, University of Miami; Briel Peters, Rutgers University; Patrycja Bozek, Rider University; Daniel Mazewski, NJIT; Doris Krol, vice-chair.

Seated are: Natalia Szumniak, Fashion Institute of Technology; Robert Argasinski, NJIT; Izabella Domian, Montclair State University; Amanda Tanculski, Monmouth University; Dr. Helen Kozlowski, Josephine Cukier, chair of Scholarship Committee.

Center Re-Opens Amidst Naming Controversy

BUFFALO, N.Y. — After months of emails, phone calls, and other meetings, the Polish American Congress, Western New York Division, announced victory after receiving a communication from Erie County Legislature Majority Chief of Staff, Tim Callan, stating that Dr. Matt Gajewski's name will be reinstated on the medical services building at 1500 Broadway — currently the Erie County Health Mall.

Callan's message stated that the Erie County Health Department agreed to having Gajewski's name reinstated and new signs erected on the building.

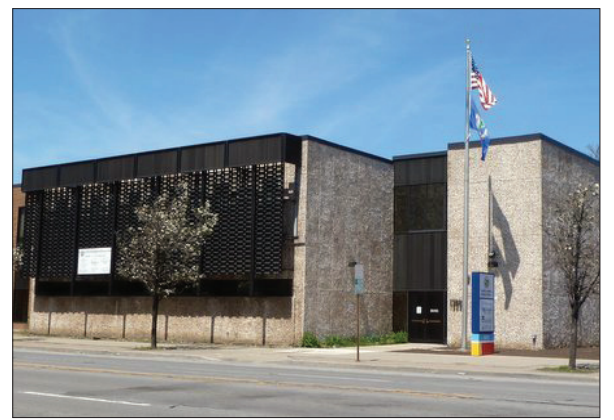
The center — on Buffalo's East Side, where Gajewski practiced for more than 50 years — was named in the doctor's honor when it opened over two decades ago. It closed in 2009. In 2014, after a \$2.5 million dollar renovation by the county, the facility reopened and is occupied by Catholic Health. However, it was renamed the Erie County Health Mall and Gajewski's name was noticeably absent from the structure.

"I am elated and pleased that the efforts of the Congress brought about this resolve to have the good name, honor, and dignity of Dr. Matt Gajewski preserved and kept whole," said Polish American Congress WNY President, James L. Lawicki II.

However, a few weeks after that announcement, Lawicki received a letter from Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz, who said he did not support renaming the center in Gajewski's honor.

Poloncarz, who claims to be "a proud Polish-American" (and recently posted on his Twitter account "Our community is a great one because of its ethnic diversity") cited "inclusivity and fairness" as the main reason he cannot support having Gajewski's name reinstated.

"This communication is very concerning coming from the County Executive's Office in light of his recent Tweet celebrating ethnic diversity," said Lawicki. "Polish Americans have made substantial contributions to the fabric of Western New York, especially in the fields of medicine, government, and the judiciary."



The Erie County Legislature said the late Dr. Matt Gajewski's name will return to the East Buffalo medical center, but county executive is against it.

To say I am disappointed would be an understatement."

Lawicki said Erie County has additional medical facilities named after individuals of ethnic derivation, including The Jesse Nash Center (African American) and the Roberto Clemente Center (Puerto Rican).

"To many, Gajewski was a Polish American version of fictional family doctors like Marcus Welby, M.D.," said Tom Tarapacki, in a recent article about Polonia landmarks in Buffalo's *Am-Pol Eagle*. "... the perfect combination of expertise and compassion, and who played a vital role in his patient's lives."

Gajewski served on the Buffalo Board of Education during a very turbulent period and held the position of president. A officer during World War II, he was active in the reserves and veterans' affairs. He was a member of Adam Plewacki Post 799 and pursued his love of philately as president of the Plewacki Stamp Club.

Gajewski stopped practicing family medicine in 1972 and accepted a position as medical examiner for the Workmen's Compensation Board, staying there until he retired in 1983. He died in 1995 at the age of 81.

Young Polish Leaders and Professionals to Gather in Toronto for Milestone 10th Anniversary Quo Vadis Conference

by Michael Kulasza

"Quo Vadis is not a goal; Quo Vadis is the process."

This quote can be found on the Quo Vadis web site and it certainly can be said that this process has successfully managed to motivate a new generation of Polish men and women aged 18 to 35 to come together with the common goal of maintaining a strong, vibrant Polish community outside of the motherland. Based on its growing popularity in the past 10 years, Quo Vadis has no plans to slow down.

Named after Henryk Sienkiewicz's novel "Quo Vadis," the first conference was organized in 2009 by a group of University of Ottawa students of Polish-Canadian descent who were concerned about the Polish culture's future existence in Canada. It brought together 117 young Polish students and budding professionals where they engaged in activities that focused on strengthening their heritage, maintaining cultural unity and building personal and professional leadership skills. These three key concepts of heritage, unity and leadership have continued to act as the basis for planning 11 subsequent Quo Vadis conferences that have taken place in the United States, Canada and Australia.

The 2019 edition of Quo Vadis will certainly be a special one to those who have been part of this youth movement from the very beginning and also to those who have joined the Quo Vadis ranks from attending past conferences. This year's conference is titled 'Leaders in Action' and will take place in Toronto, Ontario, Canada from September 20-22. A 10-year anniversary book is planned on being published and distributed to conference attendees. The book will feature numerous biographies and

stories of previous Quo Vadis attendees who have gone on to build successful careers in their chosen paths. This year will also mark the awarding of the first-ever Gzowski Leadership Medals to outstanding young men and women who have contributed to building the Quo Vadis movement into its present form and to those who have supported Polonia in Canada and around the world. Also taking place at the conference will be the Polonia Community Expo which will showcase various Polish-based businesses and community organizations.

Each Quo Vadis conference that has taken place since its inception in 2009 could not have been possible without the drive and dedication of its volunteers. From web design and social media to event planning and sponsorship requests, each Quo Vadis conference volunteer has played his or her part in contributing to its successful execution. The volunteers have come from a variety of career backgrounds such as law, engineering, business, nursing and education.

One may ask why young people in the Polish diaspora care so much about putting on these conferences when they lead such busy lives already. Certainly, Quo Vadis' three pillars of heritage, unity and leadership come to mind. What better way to find personal and professional betterment than to draw from one's heritage? For centuries, Poles have faced numerous challenges that have threatened their existence in Europe. As a result, Poland has survived and thrived by working together and supporting each other in times of need. Poles have also demonstrated, time and again, their leadership in areas such as science (Marie Sklodowska Curie and Nicholas Copernicus) and political change (Karol Wojtyla and Lech Walesa).



Today's young Poles in North America and beyond are the new leaders in the Polish and greater communities in which they live. They are members of Ontario's Provincial Parliament (Natalia Kusendova and Kinga Surma), and leaders of Canadian-based Polish organizations (Sylvia Maniak). They are now the ones who will be responsible for educating and maintaining long-held traditions that were brought over from Poland by their ancestors. Quo Vadis Conferences are the vehicle, or the process, that will ensure that these traits and knowledge will continue on into the future.

We hope to see you in Toronto in September! Join us for inspirational speakers, the Community Expo and interactive panels focused on today's topics of failure, success and project management through our Polish culture lens.

For more information on Quo Vadis Conferences, go to: <https://quovadisconferences.com/> and for tickets please purchase through the Eventbrite link as follows: www.quovadisx.eventbrite.ca.

Michael Kulasza is in charge of media relations for the Quo Vadis Conferences Canada, and was executive organizer of "Quo Vadis 2017: Nowa Fala" Conference in Burlington, Ontario. He is also communications coordinator, Polish Sokol Association of St. Boniface (Winnipeg, MB), and communications advisor to the Ogniwo Polish Museum Society in Winnipeg.

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POLAND IN BRIEF

Poland's **LOT Airlines** is not cancelling its Boeing 737 Max order for the grounded jets, but is urging the airline manufacturer to pursue additional initiatives to restore confidence in the jets after two tragic accidents ... LOT Polish Airlines has begun non-stop service between **Miami and Warsaw**, bringing Miami's list of European destinations to twenty-four.

Following a more than three-year-long trial in Gdansk, during which over 700 witnesses testified, Marcin Plichta and his wife Katarzyna have been found guilty of gigantic **financial fraud**. Some 19,000 customers of a bank-like firm called Amber Gold were cheated out of \$850 million zlotys (\$220 million) in 2009-2012.

The Polish government has adopted a bill to **prohibit the sale of e-cigarettes** to children and ban the use of such devices in public spaces. The government is also planning a ban on advertising e-cigarettes and on selling them online.

The Polish Pharmacies Institute is implementing a **new electronic**

prescriptions system, which to date is being used by 8,000 pharmacists. Although about seven percent of Poland's pharmacies have yet to complete upgrading their computers, it is anticipated that all pharmacies will be accepting electronic prescriptions before the end of this year.

A teenage girl was detained in Poland following concerns she was **plotting a school shooting** in Scotland. The 16-year-old, who lives in Scotland, was on holiday when she posted online comments about a return to school, along with images of firearms and a sign saying: "I'm coming."

Poland has been ranked as the **13th best country for expats**, moving up 10 spots from the previous year. A new study by financial services company HSBC named Switzerland as the best place to live and work as an expat.



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Exhibit of Jewish Life in Poland to premier at Daemen College

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Elizabeth C. and Peter Tower Gallery at Daemen College will host the American premier of the photography exhibit, *Re-generation. Jewish Life in Poland*, featuring photos of Chuck Fishman. The extensive exhibit documents the rebirth of Jewish life in Poland featuring photos which span 43 years beginning in 1975 and providing one of the most comprehensive records of European Jewry of the last 50 years and the enormous impact the 1989 rise of the Third Polish Republic had on the revival of Jewish communities and the revival of the consciousness of history among the wider community in Poland. Once home to the largest Jewish community in Europe, Germany's 1939 invasion and Hitler's *Final Solution* destroyed the multi-ethnic population and rich Jewish culture Poland once knew. Home to Jews for a thousand years, the vestiges of Jewish life and culture were virtually obliterated.

Ruth Ellen Gruber, journalist, author and researcher, notes that Mr. Fishman set out in the 1970s and 80s to capture the "final chapter" of this storied 1000-year history and has joyfully failed as he is "now chronicling an expanding, multi-faceted and ever-unfolding story — and long may he do so!"

Western New York is privileged to have the opportunity to view the exhibit which will be on display from Sept. 12-Oct. 11, 2019 at the Daemen College Gallery. A preview documentary, *Bogdan's Journey*, about one man's effort toward healing the wounds of the



The exhibition consists of 73 black and white photographs, original silver gelatin prints. Their creator is Chuck Fishman, an independent American press photographer known, among others, for his masterful and highly expressive portraits of jazz musicians. The photos cover two different periods of post-World War II life in Poland.

1946 Kielce Pogrom, will be shown on Mon., Sept. 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the Maxine and Robert Sellar Theater located in the Jewish Community Center, Benderson Family Building, 2640 North Forest Road in Getzville. An opening reception for the exhibit will be held on Sept. 12 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Gallery located in the Haberman Gacioch Center for the Visual and Performing Arts at 4380 Main Street in Amherst. On Sept. 13 at 1:00 p.m., Daemen's Wick Alumni Lounge will be the site of a panel discussion with guest panelists Jakub Nowakowski, executive director of the Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow, who coordinated the exhibit's visit to the United States, Dr. Sean Martin,

the associate curator for Jewish history at Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland, and others. A screening of the documentary, *A Town Called Brzostek*, about the restoration of the Jewish Cemetery there, will begin the event. An additional documentary, *The Return*, about being young and Jewish in Poland today, will be screened on September 17th at 7:00 p.m. at the Research and Information Commons 120 on the Daemen Campus. The exhibit and events surrounding it are free and open to the public. Regular Gallery hours are 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri., with additional hours for the opening and the September 17 event.

After its Buffalo premier, the exhibit will travel to Georgetown University.

This project is co-financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland as a part of the "Public Diplomacy 2019" program and is made possible by the Galicia Jewish Museum, and sponsorships from the Visual and Performing Arts Department at Daemen College, the Center for Polish Studies at Daemen College and the History and Political Science Department, the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College, the Buffalo Jewish Community Relations Council, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo, and the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo. For information on events regarding this exhibit and on the hours of the Gallery, please visit www.jccbuffalo.org or <https://www.daemen.edu/academics/areas-study/visual-and-performing-arts/gallery-events>.

Polish Classes at KF

WASHINGTON, D.C. — 2019 Fall Semester of Polish Language and Culture Classes at the Kosciuszko Foundation (2025 O St., N.W.) will start on Mon., Sept. 9 and end on Thurs., Dec. 12

- Beginners I will meet Tuesdays, Sep.10–Dec.10 at 6.30-8.20 p.m.
- Beginners I Continuation will meet Thursdays, Sep.12-Dec.12 at 6.30-8.20 p.m.
- Beginners II will meet Wednesdays Sep.11–Dec.11 at 6.30-8.20 p.m.
- And Intermediate will meet Mondays, Sep.9–Dec.9 at 6.30-8.20 p.m.

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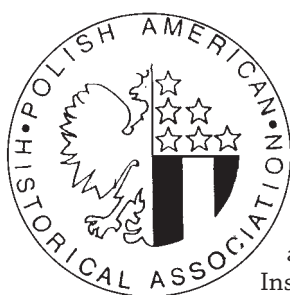
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Regular one-year membership to the Association is \$40.00. (\$25.00 for students) made payable to the Polish American Historical Association.

Polish American Historical Association
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GENEALOGY

DNA Testing and Your Ethnicity

by Stephen M Szabados

TV ads are making DNA test kits a favorite gift idea for adults. These are autosomal (atDNA) kits that give two types of results: ethnicity percentages and individual matches. Most of the test-takers of these gift test kits seem to be only interested in the ethnicity percentages since I see many samples with no family trees (over half of my results) and reluctance to respond to my contacts (no one has responded when a family tree is not attached).

However, the ethnicity estimates may be confusing due to limitations of the way the testing companies calculate to the ethnicity estimates. Below is an explanation of the accuracy and limitations for the ethnicity projections.

One set of results is the projected ethnicity, and this seems to be the reason many people take this test. They want to know where are their roots. Are these projections reliable? Initially, some people complained that their ethnic estimates were inaccurate. In fact, the projected ethnicities are not foolproof; they are estimates based on the comparison of the test sample to a reference population used by the testing company. The companies then used their algorithms to determine the percentage of each ethnic group you belong to. However, this is a relatively new science, and companies are revising their methods regularly.

The size and the populations in the reference panel are substantial factors in determining the accuracy of an ethnicity projection. If the reference population does not include a segment of the world's population such as Native Hawaiians, the ethnicity estimate cannot have that as one of the results, even if the test-taker has significant ancestry from that part of the world. Each testing company describes their reference populations in the help or information sections of their websites.

The testing companies have added DNA from new individuals and more population segments to the reference panels. Recently, they changed many ethnic estimates that now seem more accurate. The results from the different companies still vary when compared to other companies, and will likely continue to improve as they add more

individual samples from more comprehensive geographical locations and sources. Eventually, I believe the projected ethnicities from each company will become closer to being similar.

There are limitations as to how much detail the projected ethnicities can show due to the widespread migrations of different people across the different continents.

There are limitations as to how much detail the projected ethnicities can show due to the widespread migrations of different people across the different continents. One example of this is the population of central and western Europe. Another example is the populations in southern Europe along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. There are no significant differences in the DNA between Germany and France to predict which country your ancestors left accurately.

The estimated ethnicity for broad categories such as Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas are generally accurate, but the accuracy decreases when the projection tries to be more specific as to location or country.

Another limitation in determining a person's ethnicity arises from the fact that the person may not have received any DNA from their ancestors from a particular region. We lose portions of DNA for older generations as each generation gets DNA from their parents. The amount of DNA from each ancestor in older generations dwindles until the piece left is so small that it may not be passed along to the next generation. This scenario may completely eliminate DNA from a geographic location.

Ethnicity seems to be one of the top reasons why people are submitting DNA samples. However, the results are only an estimate and have severe limitations. Be cautious when evaluating and using your ethnicity results, especially if you are looking for clues to specific locations or countries. Use the results as clues and be patient because the results will be revised many times in the future.

Arolsen Archives on Nazi Persecution Expand

BAD AROLSEN, Germany — The Arolsen Archives-International Center on Nazi Persecution is an internationally governed center for documentation, information and research on Nazi persecution, forced labor, and the Holocaust in Nazi Germany and its occupied regions. The archive recently added 13 million more documents, and now contains about 30 million records from concentration camps, details of forced labor, and files on displaced persons.

To learn more, write to: Arolsen Archives International Center on Nazi Persecution, Große Allee 5-9, 34454 Bad Arolsen, Deutschland; or visit arolsen-archives.org. Select your language of preference at the top right corner of the website.

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THE KORWIN COAT OF ARMS was shared by the nobles of several dozen Polish families including: Bieńkowski, Chrzanowski, Gałczewski, Gosiewski, Jagodziński, Joachimowicz, Karaczyński, Kossakowski, Krukowski, Lisowski, Materna, Michalski, Orzeszkowa, Piotrowski, Prendowski, Sakowicz, Sereżyński, Terajewicz, and Wendrychowski.

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DANCE TIME

Polkas Define the Sounds of Summer in Polonia

by Jennifer Pijanowski

July and August always seem to fly by as we take advantage of the warm weather, celebrating graduations, weddings, and family get-togethers. My summer has been filled with polka events almost every weekend. After being unable to attend our local **Cheektowaga Polish Arts Festival** for over a decade, I

and **Polski Chix** alternated for a terrific Saturday of music. Western New Yorkers have always been passionate fans of Gomulka, and it was clear to see that his fan base is stronger than ever in Cheektowaga. The dance floor and front of stage were packed as polka lovers requested their favorite songs and enjoyed the banter between the band and their loyal followers.

updated as more information is available.

FOR THE SECOND YEAR in a row, I attended **St. Stanislaus Kostka Polish Arts Festival** in Rochester, N.Y. After being so impressed with last year's festival, I planned to attend the festival for at least one night this year. Considering the declining attendance at most local parishes, it

a Polish deli for shopping, as well as also serving lunch and dinner. The unassuming building will surprise you when you step inside the door. The stellar food and service are complimented by the impressive Polish décor and historical photographs of the Polish immigrants in the Rochester area. We happened upon this restaurant by accident a few years ago and now make spe-

well in Dunkirk, N.Y. and it reigned supreme at **Blessed Mary Angela Polish Festival** held at St. Hedwig's in Dunkirk's Fourth Ward. A historically Polish area, it is obvious to see the strong Polish ties of this neighborhood. While driving, I passed at least four Polish clubs, many Polish Street names, and a wonderful painted sign which welcomes you to the Fourth Ward with Polish Eagles and the word Witamy. As several parishes in Dunkirk have now combined, this yearly Polish Festival has unified the parishioners as volunteers pitched in and secured its success.

The day started out with a beautiful polka Mass provided by **Special Delivery** at noon and the band kept the music going until 3:30 p.m. There was plenty of room for dancing and two large shaded tent areas for those who just wanted to sit and enjoy the melodies. Special Delivery furnished a fantastic variety of music and encouraged the crowd to get up and dance on a picture-perfect Sunday afternoon. After performing all weekend at the Frankenmuth Music Fest, **Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push** finished out the evening's festivities leaving



Polish Arts Festival. (left) A-Frank Sergott and Virginia Sroka; (center) the Burdzy brothers Larry, Mike, and Bobby; (right) Stella and Ed Malec.

couldn't wait to return to the festival this year.

Friday night started out the polka packed weekend with **Buffalo Concertina All Stars** and the rare opportunity to see the **Krew Brothers**. Polka fans were quick to dance on the raised concrete stage just as I had remembered from years gone by. It was nice to see a lot of local friends who came out to support the town festival and show their love of polka music.

Saturday was slated to be a brutally hot day with high humidity but that did not keep the fans from getting their spot to see **Buffalo Touch** perform during the afternoon sun. The band powered through the sticky afternoon playing fan requests and their most popular songs spanning their 25 years together. Polka music took a short hiatus on Saturday as Mass was celebrated with Reverend Louis S. Klein and

Polski Chix also have a faithful following of their own. After performing on Dyngus Day, some local dances, and taping shows for **WBBZ Polka Buzz**, many in attendance told me that they were there to see the all-female polka band. Beautiful harmonies and their ability to connect with the audience made Chix a wonderful compliment to The Push for the enjoyable Saturday evening. The fun continued on Sunday as Gomulka and **New Direction** continued to prove that polka music is an essential part of the Polish community here in Buffalo.

BUFFALO POLKA BOOSTERS celebrated its 49th annual picnic at Fontana's Grove at the end of July. Over 250 people filled Fontana's and danced to the music of **Phocus** for a lively Sunday afternoon. There was plenty of food and beer served

is remarkable to see so many volunteers at the Mother Church of Rochester's Polonia. The Parish grounds are brimming with games, vendors, food, and beer stands as well as a music tent furnished with upbeat polka music. Friday evening's entertainment was provided by **Salt City Brass**, while **Buffalo Concertina All Stars** entertained the audience on Saturday.

Salt City Brass offered a wonderful mix of polka music and traditional waltzes for those who yearned for the chance to dance to a slower beat. One of my favorite parts of this event is that, while there is plenty of room to sit under the band tent and enjoy the music, there is also a stunning area shaded by massive trees. The shaded area provides an intimate atmosphere to enjoy the background music while visiting with friends.

I highly recommend attending

cific trips just to enjoy dinner there.

GERMAN-POLISH CELEBRATION. **New Direction** along with the **Auslanders** filled the dance hall of Spring Garden Grove with a cultural mix of polka music mixed with some American tunes for the hundreds of attendants for the German-Polish Celebration.

Spring Garden Grove is located in a private valley in Marilla, N.Y. Once you have walked or been chauffeured down the breathtaking walkway to the stunning wooden main structure, you are instantly transported out of Western New York. A wooded forest surrounds the grounds which encourages you to explore this awe-inspiring piece of property. Music brought the forest alive as **New Direction** provided those great Polish polkas as **Harmony Folk Ensemble** and the band's loyal following packed the floor. Plenty of Warsteiner beer was consumed as the German and Polish music lovers both took advantage of dancing to both bands. **New Direction** has been playing this venue for many years, and it is an unforgettable event to enjoy great music with unique ambiance.

PARISH FEST A SUCCESS. The love of polka music is alive and



Ken and Nancy Tarnowski at Blessed Mary Angela Polish Festival in Dunkirk, N.Y.

fans yearning for continuous great polka music, obereks, and waltzes. **Lenny** and the band took time on their breaks to chat with fans, sell CDs, and as they always do, show their appreciation to the crowd.

This Parish has plans to host an even larger Polish festival next summer so keep your eyes open as plans unfold for next August's festival.



Wendy, Sadie, and Pat Mazur at Polka Booster Picnic.



Richie and Melanie Schuler at Spring Garden Grove.

the **Chopin Singing Society**. Chopin's has been an integral part of the Western New York Polish Community for 120 years and continues to fill their schedule with performances. If you have a chance, grab the opportunity to see this beautiful choral group, you can check out their schedule on their website www.chopinsingsociety.com.

As the evening continued on, **Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push**

as the gorgeous weather made for a picture-perfect backdrop at the outdoor venue.

Next year the club will be celebrating its 50th anniversary at a picnic on July 26, 2020 so make plans to attend their golden anniversary party. Plans are already underway so you won't want to miss out on the opportunity to honor 50 years of supporting our local polka bands. I will make sure to keep everyone

this church festival if you have not made it there yet. It is reminiscent of days and lawn fetes that are disappearing from our local churches. The energetic, youthful spirit of St. Stan's gives me hope that the importance of our local churches will blossom once again.

Another quick recommendation: if you are visiting the Rochester area is to stop at **Polska Chata** at 32 Vinedale Ave., Rochester. It ahs



Scooby, Jim Rozen, Jared George, Andy Bohn, Joe Gould, and Mike and Kristin Edwards at Blessed Mary Angela Polish Festival.

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"Polka and Oberek Time with Basia" Begins 33rd Year on WRHU

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — "Polka and Oberek Time with Basia" is one of the most popular radio programs on WRHU 88.7 FM. Hosted by Barbara "Basia" Szydlowski for the past 32 years, it airs Sunday mornings at 11:00. A favorite part of the show is "Casey's Vintage Vinyl Corner," which features long-lost music from decades past.

The station's yearly fundraising marathon will be held Sun., Sept. 29 at its new state-of-the-art studio. Listeners and polka fans are welcome to visit the Lawrence Herbert School of Communications, located on the South campus of Hofstra University, to meet the staff, students, tour the station, enjoy the music, and pledge your support for this lively program.

Basia is also a community volunteer, who hosts the award-winning community affairs program "Long Island Community Spotlight." This program features interviews with local organizations and prominent Long Islanders. It can be heard Monday through Friday at 4:00 p.m. over WRHU.

Listeners can tune in to Long Island's oldest non-commercial university station 88.7FM WRHU on their cell phone, tablet, and now on the web at WRHU.org. This community-minded station features a variety of programs from jazz, rock, classical, country, news, sports, community affairs and Polish, Irish, Latin, and Italian ethnic music

Since the 2010-2011 NHL season, WRHU has also been broad-

casting the games of the New York Islanders. Students produce, engineer, and perform on-air duties with veteran New York Islanders play-by-play announcer Chris King. Long Island Nets games can also be heard on WRHU.

WRHU has a long history of community service. The 2008, 2012, and 2016 presidential debates were held at Hofstra with staff and students of WRHU participating. In 2014, the station was named National Association of Broadcasters' "Non-Commercial Station of the Year." In 2018 WRHU was named the "Nation's Best College Radio Station."

To make a donation to WRHU and support "Polka and Oberek Time with Basia," call (516) 463-WRHU.

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1	Gil Ziemiński	1939	5-9-15	Polka Promoter	Md.
1	Bobby Calvert	1951		Musician (Original TBC)	Pa.
1	Dave Miesowicz	1956		Musician (Special Delivery, Bedrock Boys)	Buffalo, N.Y.
1	Don Ptak	1937		Musician / Vocalist (Casinos)	Chicago
2	Ed (Whitey) Pawola	1931	6-29-81	Musician / Vocalist (Naturals)	Chicago
3	Jimmy Weber	1956		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist (Sounds)	N.J.
3	Polka Patrick			Polka I.J.	
4	Joe Fedorchak	1935	8-28-12	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Ohio
5	Eddie Skinger	1926	3-17-15	Musician / Vocalist	Conn.
6	Rich Zebrowski	1960		Musician / Vocalist / Emcee / Composer	Pa.
7	Andy Bozzarelli	1956	5-29-13	Musician (Accordion) Sounds	Pa.
8	Brad Turk			Musician (Drums)	Fla.
9	Joe Swiderski	1928		Musician (Accordion) Naturals	Chicago
9	Johnny Mikos	1971		Musician / Vocalist (Concertina)	Ohio
12	Rich (Sudsy) Cerajewski	1947		Bel-Aire Studio Musician / Bandleader	Chicago
12	Jimmy Mieszala	1952	11-7-11	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
12	Greg Guzewich			Musician (Drummer) / Vocalist	Calif.
13	Ania Piwowarczyk			Musician / Vocalist / Composer	Canada
14	Joe (Zip) Lubovinski	1950	12-10-00	Polka Promoter (Fiedor's Grove)	Mt. Pleasant, Pa.
14	Butch Jasiewicz	1971		Musician / Vocalist / Versa Js	Pa.
15	Robbie Piatkowski	1961		Musician / Vocalist	N.Y.
16	Lenny Gomulka	1950		Bandleader / Musician / Composer / Vocalist	Mass.
18	Danny Mateja	1963		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
19	Rich Kois	1963		Musician / Vocalist	Pa.
19	Jack Beachly, Jr.	1946		Musician / Vocalist (Dynasonics)	Pa.
19	Matt Rosinski			Musician	Mass.
21	Steve Drzewich	1956		Musician	Wisc.
22	Jerry Darlak	1946	9-8-10	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
23	Gary Wawrzyniak	1951	1-25-09	Musician / D.J.	Erie, Pa.
24	Denny Dominick			Musician (Polish-All-Stars)	Pa.
24	Eddie Sienkowski	1948		Musician (E-Z Tones)	Indiana
25	Jimmy Sturr	1941		Bandleader / Musician / DJ / Promoter	Florida N.Y.
27	Roger Lichwala	1945	6-19-13	Musician (Drums) (Golden & New Brass)	Mass.
27	Rich Kurdziel	1946		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	N.Y., Fla.
27	Vince Aleandri	1941		Musician (Accordionist)	Ga.
28	Walt Solek	1911	4-1-05	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / D.J.	Conn.

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POLKA CALENDAR

Compiled by John Ziobrowski

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

SEPTEMBER 1

- John Stevens / Heros. Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, Pa. 12-8 (215) 345-0600
- Eddie Forman Pulaski Park, Three Rivers, Mass. 2:30-6:30 (413) 592-0367
- Jimmy Sturr PLAV Pine Island, N.Y. 2-4 (845) 258-4168
- Lenny Gomulka St. John Cantius Cleveland. 7-11 (312) 243-7373
- Ray Jay / The Beat / Freeze Dried / Polka Country Musicians Millennium Buffalo, N.Y. 2-1 (716) 681-2400
- Cynor Classics Festival Jim Falls, Wisc.
- June Ingram RBO American Legion Woonsocket, R.I. 2-6 (508) 294-1512

SEPTEMBER 2

- Polka Family / Robbie Lawrence. Our Lady of Czestochowa. Doylestown, Pa. 12-8 (215) 345-0600
- Eddie Forman Pulaski, Park, Three Rivers, Mass. 2:30-6:30 (413) 592-0367
- Ray Jay St. Savas Broadview Heights, Ohio. 3-7 (216) 496-0223

SEPTEMBER 6

- Eddie Forman Town Green Westbrook, Conn. 5:30-7:30
- Live Wire. Farmer Gene's Campground Marion, Wisc. 6-10:30 (715) 754-5900
- Steve Drzewicki / Tony Blazonczyk Posen Potato Fest. Posen, Mich. (989) 766-8128

SEPTEMBER 7

- Lenny Gomulka / TKO / John Gora. Our Lady of Czestochowa Doylestown, Pa. 12-06008 (215) 345-0600
- Special Delivery. Oktoberfest. Buffalo Distilling Co., Buffalo, N.Y. (716) 254-3610. 3-6.
- Tony Blazonczyk Potato Fest. Posen, Mich. (989) 766-8128
- Tonys Polka Band Concordia Club Gloversville, N.Y. 12-2
- Doctor Kielbasa Klockow Brewing Grand Rapids, Mich. (218) 999-7229

SEPTEMBER 8

- Eddie Forman Holy Redeemer Hadley, Mass. 1-5 (413) 584-1326
- Eastern Sound German Club, Pawtucket, R.I. 2-6 (401) 726-8873
- Polish American String Band / Lenny Gomulka / John Gora Our Lady of Czestochowa Doylestown, Pa. 12-8 (215) 345-0600
- Dynatones Pulaski, Park Three Rivers, Mass. 2:30-6:30 (413) 592-0367

- Cynor Classics, Pacelli Panacea. Stevens Point, Wisc. (715) 252-1149
- Tony's Polka Band Six Flags Queensbury, N.Y. 1-5 (518) 824-6060
- John Stevens. Epiphany of Our Lord Annandale, Virg. 12-4 (703) 573-3986

SEPTEMBER 10

- Buffalo Touch. River Grill Tonawanda, N.Y. 6:30.

SEPTEMBER 11

- The Boyz. Conch Island Key West Rehoboth, Del. 7-11 (410) 729-9697

SEPTEMBER 12

- The Boys / The Beat Convention Ctr. Rehoboth, Del. 7-12 (410) 729-9697

SEPTEMBER 13

- Eddie Forman / Jimmy Webber / Polka Country Musicians Convention Ctr. Rehoboth, Del. 8-12:30 (410) 729-9697
- Lenny Gomulka / New Brass Express. Kinde Palace Kinde, Mich. (989) 874-4070
- John Gora St. Casimir's. Toronto, Ont. Canada (416) 532-2822

SEPTEMBER 14

- Special Delivery. Corpus Christi Buffalo, N.Y. (716) 896-1050
- Lenny Gomulka / Steve Drzewicki / Kielbasa Kings / New Brass Express. Kinde Palace Kinde, Mich. (989) 874-4070
- Tony's Polka Band Six Flags Queensbury, N.Y. 1-5 (518) 824-6060
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- Live Wire Pigeon River Brewery Marion, Wisc. 12-4 (715) 256-7721
- John Gora / Box On Roncesvalles Polish Fest. Toronto, Ontario. (416) 537-2701
- Tony Blazonczyk Misiuda Hall Toledo, Ohio. 7-11 (419) 691-5684

SEPTEMBER 15

- Dennis Polisky PNA Wallingford, Conn. 1-6 (203) 269-9405
- Tony's Polka Band Six Flags Queensbury, N.Y. 1-5 (518) 824-6060
- Stephanie / Natural Tones / Lenny Gomulka. Kinde Palace Kinde, Mich. (989) 874-4070
- John Stevens Polish Falcons. Mt. Pleasant, Pa. 3 p.m. (724) 547-8962
- John Gora / Box On Roncesvalles Polish Fest Toronto, Ontario. (416) 537-2701

SEPTEMBER 17

- Special Delivery. The Filling Station at Larkinville. Buffalo, N.Y. 5:15-8 (716) 346-8053
- Lenny Gomulka. Lelanau Sands Casino Peshawbestown, Mich. 12-6 (800) 922-2946

SEPTEMBER 18

- Buffalo Touch. Polka Boosters. Pol-

- ish Falcons Depew, N.Y. 8 p.m. (716) 684-2373

SEPTEMBER 20

- John Stevens. Liederkrantz. Reading, Pa. (610) 373-3982

SEPTEMBER 21

- Special Delivery / Phocus. Holy Trinity N. Falls, N.Y. 2-9 (716) 299-0799
- Eddie Forman. Moose Lodge Greenfield, Mass. 1-5 (413) 584-1326
- Tony's Polka Band. Six Flags Queensbury, N.Y. 1-5 (518) 824-6060
- John Stevens. Mt. Creek Resort Vernon N.J. 11 a.m. (973) 827-2000

SEPTEMBER 22

- Eddie Forman Warsaw Park. Ansonia, Conn. 3-7 (203) 435-3124
- John Gora. Cascade Park. New Castle, Pa. (724) 656-3510
- Tony's Polka Band. Six Flags Queensbury, N.Y. 1-5 (518) 824-6060
- Lenny Gomulka. Polish Club Uniontown, Pa. 3-7 (724) 438-0292
- John Stevens. Mr. Creek Resort Vernon, N.J. 11 a.m. (973) 827-2000

SEPTEMBER 23

- John Stevens. Bloomsburg, Pa. Fair. Pa. 11 a.m. (570) 784-494

SEPTEMBER 25

- Dennis Polisky. Mohegan Sun Casino Uncasville, Conn. 12&1:15 (888) 226-7711

SEPTEMBER 28

- Special Delivery. Polish Home Fulton, N.Y. 3-7 (315) 593-2875
- Eastern Sound. Masonic Hall Ipswich, Mass. (978) 356-9716
- John Stevens. Kings Point Park, Sleepy Hollow, N.Y. 1 p.m. (914) -631-1068

- The Boys / The Beat. Independence Fire Hall Great Meadow, N.J. 5-12 (908) 209-9843
- Tony Blazonczyk American Legion South Bend, Ind. 5-9 (574) 234-5073

SEPTEMBER 29

- Eddie Forman St. Mary's. Longmeadow, Mass. 3-7 (413) 567-3124
- Rich Bobinski Orch. St. Stanislaus Meriden, Conn. 1-5 (203) 235-6341
- Tony's Polka Band. PACC Ludlow, Mass. 2:30-6:30 (413) 592-0367
- John Stevens. Blue Mtn. Resort, Palmerton, Pa. (610) 826-7700
- The Boys. Evergreen CC. Fleetwood, Pa. 2-6 (610) 781-9219

OCTOBER 4

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

OCTOBER 5

- Special Delivery. Polish Cadets Buffalo, N.Y. 7-12 (716) 875-3211
- Jimmy Sturr. Village Pavillion. Montgomery, N.Y. 4-6
- Dennis Polisky. Assumption of The Holy Virgin. Clifton, N.J. 6-10:30 (973) 777-2906
- Tony's Polka Band. Pumpnickels. Bolton Landing, N.Y. 8-12 (518) 644-2106
- Lenny Gomulka. St. Stans Cleveland, Ohio. 6:30-11 (216) 341-9091
- Polka Country Musicians. PACC Lud-



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(Bands subject to change)

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Saturday August 31st

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For more information visit our website: www.ipapolkas.com

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Chicago WPNA 1490 AM or radiowpna.com - Sunday's from 11 am to Noon (CT)

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In Step with Their Faith

PHOTO: JASNA GORA NEWS



ON THE EVE OF THE ASSUMPTION, August 15, one of Poland's oldest pilgrimages — the **308th Warsaw Walking Pilgrimage** (pictured above) organized by Paulines — reached the Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa in Jasna Gora. During their nine-day hike, over 5,000 participants prayed for the beatification of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, the late Primate of Poland, who is credited for the survival of Polish Christianity in the face of its repression and persecution during the 1945–1989 reign of the Communist regime. He himself was imprisoned for three years, and is considered by many to be a Polish national hero.

In all, tens of thousands of pilgrims walked to Jasna Gora in pilgrimages from all over Poland, reported the Polish Bishops' Conference. These included soldiers taking part in the **28th International Military Walking Pilgrimage**, the **39th Warsaw Academic Metropolitan Pilgrimage**, and one with 200 firemen with their families. All were greeted by Cardinal Kazimierz Nycz, Metropolitan of Warsaw.

Lay and religious walk side-by-side. Pilgrims taking part in the **36th Walking Family Pilgrimage of the Diocese of Warszawa-Praga** were accompanied by Bishop Marek Solarczyk, the delegate of the Polish Bishops' Conference for Vocations.

In the morning of the solemnity, the pilgrims participated in the evening in the Holy Mass celebrated by Cardinal Nycz.

Trzewieczynski Praised for Bravery



Fremont, California police officer **Jason Trzewieczynski** pulls a man from a trapped, burning car. His heroics were caught on camera by passerbby Beth Koenig. Trzewieczynski is former professional MMA fighter.

SAN FRANCISCO (KTVU) — Witness cell phone video captured a daring rescue by a Fremont police officer of a man trapped inside a burning car after he crashed into a tree. The former professional MMA fighter-turned-officer is being hailed as a hero for saving the man's life, July 20.

When Fremont police officer Jason Trzewieczynski arrived on the scene of the car crash, he had no time to think. Cell phone video from a witness captured what he was up against, a Lexus on its side, its engine and hood heavily involved in flames and the large tree the car hit was halfway inside.

"When I got out of my car, people started yelling me there was someone trapped in there, so I grabbed a fire extinguisher which didn't do much at first," said Officer Trzewieczynski. "I thought I could control the fire."

The fire was out of control. He sprayed the gas tank hoping it wouldn't explode.

"It became pretty clear that I was going to have to go inside the car and drag the man out," said Officer Trzewieczynski.

Officer Trzewieczynski opened the back hatch, removed the man's belongings, and then pulled him out. "All I could see was his hand sticking out so I was able to grab his hand," said Officer Trzewieczynski. "I got him from there. I got his arm and was able to get his shoulders and pull him out."

The officer told the man to stand

up as they both walked backward to safety.

"Because of that officer, that driver not only survived, he basically walked away from it," said Beth Koenig of Fremont. "It was crazy."

Koenig witnessed the rescue and took the cell phone video, stunned at how quickly it escalated.

"It became pretty clear that I was going to have to go inside the car and drag the man out."

"Humble or not, amazing or not, trained for or not, this was absolutely a heroic act," said Koenig.

"There's nothing special about what I did," said Officer Trzewieczynski. "On or off duty, any of my partners would have done the exact same thing."

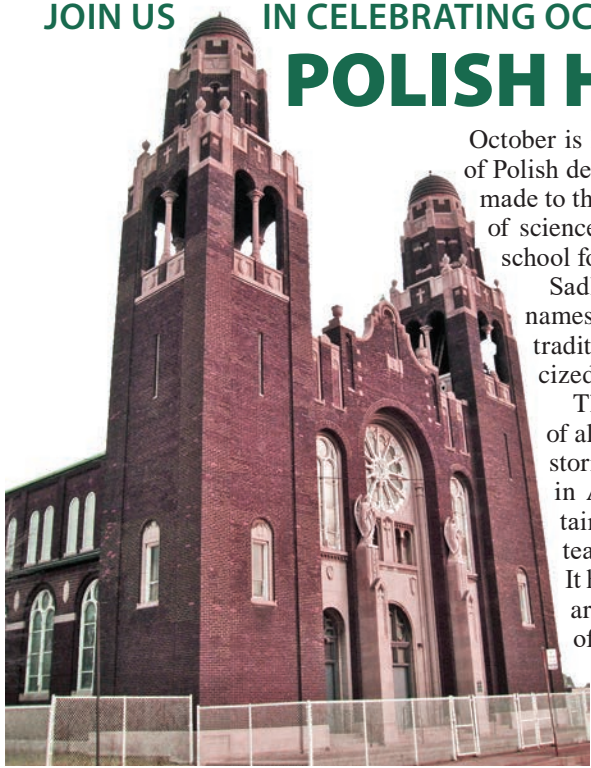
Officer Trzewieczynski, previously a professional mixed martial arts fighter for 10 years, doesn't care for the praise. The 32-year-old from Buffalo, N.Y. has been with Fremont Police for two years.

Police said the man he saved may have been under the influence. The 28-year-old Fremont resident was taken to the hospital with minor injuries.

What the man said to Trzewieczynski at the hospital made the rescue worth it for officer.

"He's not a big fan of law enforcement, he doesn't like cops," said Officer Trzewieczynski. "But he thanked me for what I did and respects me for doing that."

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OCTOBER AS POLISH HERITAGE MONTH



The culture and traditions brought to America by our ancestors are disappearing. Your support enables us record and maintain this rich heritage for generations to come. Above: St. John Cantius R.C. Church, Detroit (closed in 2007).

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 loses 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.

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