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ZARZYŃSKI, MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGIST-TURNED-AUTHOR — PAGE 12

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

WHO WILL EARN THE “POLISH AMERICAN VOTE”? • POLAND FIRST TO HELP BELARUSIAN NEIGHBORS
 FELICIANS MOURN VIRUS VICTIMS • GO BEYOND THE DOCUMENTS • POLISH AUTUMN SALAD FAVORITES
 WERE POLES THE FIRST TO PLAY BASEBALL? • OUR BELOVED HALF-NA-PÓŁ POLISH • JAN KARSKI REMEMBERED

NEWSMARK

Active COVID Cases Rise in Poland

(POLANDIN.COM) On August 19, 2020, Poland’s Health Ministry announced 735 new confirmed COVID-19 infections in the country, increasing the total number of cases recorded in Poland to 58,611 including 16,599 still active.

The ministry also announced that 17 more people died because of the COVID-19 disease caused by the coronavirus. The death toll in Poland went up to 1,913.

According to the ministry, a total of 103,621 people are quarantined and 8,813 are placed under epidemiological surveillance, while 40,099 people have recovered from COVID-19 in the country so far, which means that there are still 16,599 active cases of the coronavirus in Poland.

At PAJ press time, as many as 22,322,205 coronavirus cases, 784,653 deaths and 15,062,975 recoveries have been confirmed worldwide.

The United States remains the country with the largest number of confirmed coronavirus cases, amounting to 5,656,204. Brazil has the second most with 3,411,872 cases and India third with 2,768,670.

Triangle to Protect Against Aggression

The foreign ministers of Poland, Lithuania, and Ukraine met recently in the eastern Polish city of Lublin to create a trilateral political grouping to help defend and safeguard their national interests, mainly against threats posed by their mutual foe, Russia. The formation intends to participate in international peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts under international auspices and will work to promote Ukraine’s inclusion in NATO.

Lublin was chosen for the announcement because it is the headquarters of a 4,500-strong Polish-Lithuanian-Ukrainian military brigade first set up in 2009 and fully operational by 2016. It was in that city in 1569 that the Union of Lublin was signed, leading to the rise of the sprawling Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, once Europe’s largest land empire.

New Foreign, Health Ministers

Poland’s prime minister announced new heads for the foreign and health ministries, key appointments amid a crisis in neighboring Belarus and a second wave of the coronavirus on the horizon.

The chairman of the foreign affairs committee in the lower house of parliament, Zbigniew Rau, will take over as the country’s top diplomat, succeeding Jacek Czaputowicz, who has been foreign minister since January 2018. In an interview, Rau indicated no major change should be expected in Polish foreign policy.

Meanwhile, the head of Poland’s National Health Fund, Adam Niedzielski, will take over as health minister, replacing Łukasz Szumowski, who has been at the centre of Poland’s battle against the COVID-19 epidemic. Szumowski intended to resign in February, but decided to stay on for another six months when the coronavirus epidemic broke out.

More Relics Unearthed

Archaeologists excavating the fortified settlement of Biala Góra, in northern Poland have discovered several hundred arrowheads and crossbow bolts dating from around the invasion of Casimir the Great in 1340.

The settlement, known locally as the “Castle,” is located on the forested peaks of the Słonne Mountains in the district of Wójtostwo. The site was first studied almost half a century ago, but recent illegal metal detecting by treasure hunters had prompted a further ongoing study before the underlying archaeology was further destroyed.

“The results of the research exceeded our wildest expectations,” said Dr Piotr Kotowicz from the Historical Museum in Sanok.

The Amazing Story of Solidarity - Forty Years Ago



Lech Wałęsa, the union electrician from Gdańsk who became the face of the Solidarity Movement.

by Don Pienkos

On August 14, 1980 the Solidarity trade union — *Solidarność* — was conceived in the Lenin Shipyards in Gdańsk, Poland. Founded by working men and women, it quickly mushroomed into a nationwide movement of nearly 10 million members committed to workers rights, freedom, and social justice in the midst of a great and continued economic crisis.

Solidarity’s amazing story is rooted in the Polish people’s frustration with the failed policies of the communist regime imposed on their country by Soviet Russia after World War II and in their response to the visit to his beloved homeland by Pope John Paul II in June 1979. There he told the millions who saw and heard him, “Be not afraid.” Be true to yourselves and

See “Solidarity ...” page 6

“I am just one of 7 million”

The story of Flight Officer Ely Berenson

by Matthew Stefanski

It was the middle of September 1944 and the Polish Capital was being reduced to rubble. The Warsaw Uprising, the largest insurgent battle in all of Nazi German occupied Europe, was nearing its 50th day. Unspeakable horrors were being inflicted on the Polish civilian populace, and the situation grew worse with each passing hour, as the territory held by the under-equipped Polish forces continued to shrink. Ammunition, supplies, and hope were running low.

20-year-old Flight Officer Ely Berenson of the U.S. Army Air Force had arrived just a few weeks earlier in Europe. He was one of millions of Americans servicemembers who joined the Allied war effort. In a letter dated September 16, 1944 to his sister Laura back home he wrote, “Today we are having one of the most beautiful days we have been able to enjoy here in England.” Little did he know that the letter would be his last, and soon he would be airlifting vital supplies destined for Warsaw.

Hailing from Garfield, New Jersey, Ely had recently completed 18 months of military training and instruction to

become a B-17 Flying Fortress navigator. Bright-eyed and studious, he was the youngest of four siblings. His eldest brother, Morris, was already a war hero by the time Ely arrived in Europe. Morris had enlisted in the U.S. Armed Forces in early 1941 and flew some of the first U.S. bombing missions over occupied Europe in 1942. He returned to the States upon completing his tour of duty and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Meanwhile his other brother, Harry, was serving with the Army in Egypt. His parents, Dora and Samuel, Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe, ran a dry goods store on the ground floor of their home. Although Ely’s arrival in the European Theatre coincided with the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising, it was fate which determined that the two would be forever intertwined. Ely would be one of 12 American airmen, and 147 Allied

airmen, who were killed bringing aid to fighting Warsaw.

Throughout his training and deployment, Ely wrote vigorously — at times daily — to his family. His sister, Laura, as the only sibling to remain at home,



Portrait of Flight Officer Ely Berenson prior to his deployment to Europe, Spring 1944.

served as a crucial link in the family chain, passing on information, running errands, and handling anything else that the brothers needed to be done in their absence. Laura lived just down the road from their parents in Passaic, where she was raising two young boys all while keeping her brothers’ spirits high through countless correspondences.

The letters and postcards Laura received from her brother Ely during the war, numbering nearly one hundred, have until now been stored away with other family documents in a box. However, thanks to the

See “Berenson ...,” page 3

The Wartime Courage of Witold Pilecki

An Interview with Jack Fairweather, Author of *The Volunteer*

by Leonard Kniffel

During World War II, Witold Pilecki volunteered to be imprisoned in Auschwitz. In *The Volunteer: One Man, an Underground Army, and the Secret Mission to Destroy Auschwitz* author Jack Fairweather details the extraordinary efforts of this Polish hero to make the world aware of the atrocities being committed by the Nazis in Poland. Meticulously researched and superbly written, *The Volunteer* has been translated into Polish and is scheduled for release in September in Poland.

What inspired you to write *The Volunteer*?

I came across Pilecki’s story by chance. I was a war reporter in Iraq and Afghanistan, and I bumped into an old friend who had been on a trip to Auschwitz and had learned about a resistance cell in the camp. I recall being stunned by the idea that



Polish cavalry officer, intelligence agent, and resistance leader Witold Pilecki volunteered to be imprisoned in Auschwitz to make the world aware of the atrocities being committed by the Nazis in Poland.

resistance was possible in a place like Auschwitz, and that planted the seed of an idea. I also felt personally compelled because I was the same age as Pilecki had been at the start of his mission when I started to dig into his story. I also had a wife and kids and a home, so I felt inspired by Pilecki’s story and what would make him risk

See “Pilecki ...” page 4

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EDITOR'S DESK

Remembering Karski

by Mark Kohan

On the 20th anniversary of his death, **Jan Karski** is remembered in the United States and Europe by all those who have been impacted, inspired or touched by his moral stance, mission, and legacy.

Events included laying flowers at places commemorating Jan Karski; a Catholic Mass in his intention, and prayers at a Jewish synagogue; a moving remembrance by his former Georgetown University student; an exhibition at the Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow; and a tribute by the young musicians who named their ensemble after their hero.

In today's strife-ridden world, we need leaders like Karski, who — for the sake of humanity — placed the needs of others above his own.

To learn more about the man who tried to warn the West about the Nazis' reign of terror in German Nazi-occupied Poland, visit the Jan Karski Educational Foundation at www.jankarski.net/en.

Sound Familiar?

A Russian court sentenced a well-known blogger who has covered ongoing daily protests in the Far Eastern city of Khabarovsk to seven days in jail after finding him guilty of violating the law on public gatherings.

Aleksei Romanov's lawyer, Vitaly Tykhta, told RFE/RL that his client was detained in the morning of July 31 while leaving his apartment and tried in the afternoon.

Romanov fled Russia with his family in 2016, saying that he feared for his safety amid a campaign of harassment by the local authorities. He returned to Khabarovsk last year.

For three weeks in July, protesters took to the streets of Khabarovsk and other towns and cities in Khabarovsk Krai in support of the arrested former governor of the region, Sergei Furgal.

Furgal, who was arrested in Khabarovsk on July 9 and transferred to Moscow, was charged with attempted murder and ordering two murders in 2004-2005.

He denies the allegations and his supporters say the charges are politically motivated.

Police in Khabarovsk and elsewhere have detained several protesters. Some of them have been fined or sentenced to detention for several days.

Putin is not to be trusted.

Worth a Look

Historians and Polish military buffs should visit **Casemate Publishers** web site (www.casemate-publishers.com). In addition to a remarkably wide selection (I counted over 200 Poland-related books) on topics ranging from Napoleon and Poland to modern Polish warships, Casemate also offers scale decals for model builders of British planes used in service to Poland. Mark Bielski's "Sons of the White Eagle in the American Civil War" — a work about nine transplanted Poles who participated in the Civil War — is also available from Casemate.

Work Continues Through Pandemic

The **Polish Heritage Center USA** in Panna Maria is progressing beautifully, reports the Polish American Council of Texas.



Karski

Despite the pandemic, the facility still hopes to have the center completed in late November or early December.

The center recently received a PLN 316,500 (USD \$83,000) grant from the Wspólnota Polska Association (WPA) for finishing the interior of the Main Exhibition Hall. This WPA grant was funded by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs as PHC became a winner of the annual international competition "Cooperation with Polonia and Poles Abroad 2020 - Polonia Infrastructure."

We join the PACT in congratulating the PHC on this tremendous achievement for American Polonia, especially the Most Rev. Bishop John Yanta, John Cebrowski, Al Notzon and the PHC board of directors. Thank you everyone who helped the PHC to be in contact with WPA and who furnished the documentation for this grant to be achieved, especially Consul General Robert Rusiecki, PACT Directors: Dr. Piotr Przybylski, Krzysztof Gajda and Dr. Waldemar Priebe, as well as Małgorzata Moore and others.

By the way, the Polish Heritage Center USA is seeking to hire an executive director and a librarian/archivist. For information, call (210) 287-7472 or visit www.polish-heritagecenterusa.org/.

Right Where He Should Be

Hats off to **Andy Gołębiowski**, host of a new radio show called *The Polish American Program*, which debuted on Buffalo, N.Y.'s WEBR 1440 AM July 11 at 11:00 a.m. The show features a wide variety of music from Poland, introduced in English, from 11:00 a.m.-noon every Saturday.

Gołębiowski, a decades-long activist and leader in the city's Polish community, was born in Buffalo to immigrant parents. He has worked in television and radio for many years. He prepared and presented the news in Polish for radio legend Stan Jasinski and has worked as a photojournalist for WGRZ-TV, editor for Daybreak TV Productions, and producer for WNED-TV.

Gołębiowski presents a full range of Polish music, from folk to classical, from something as unique as pre-war Polish jazz, to patriotic, and religious music, to modern pop, in Polish, and in English.

You can listen to Gołębiowski at WEBR1440.com through a cell-phone, computer, tablet, or on an Alexa.

Incidentally, the famed *Fr. Justin Rosary Hour* airs in Polish before Gołębiowski's program at 10:30 a.m. every Saturday. A replay of the *Polish American Program*

will be broadcast every Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

Complete Your Census

Despite the importance of achieving an accurate response rate for the 10-year survey which determines federal funding and political representation in both urban and rural communities, the Trump administration recently decided to end the count one month earlier making Sept. 30 the revised deadline.

The shortened campaign for responses has many Census experts and advocates highly concerned, particularly in light of low response rates in a plethora of hard-to-count Census tracts already negatively impacted due to the coronavirus pandemic.

If you have not yet done so, complete and return your Census forms and remember to mark "Polish" in the ancestry question.

Remember to Vote

Though the election is more than two months away, we urge our readers to practice their right to vote. This transcends your opinion of either presidential candidate. If you are not registered, do so as soon as possible. On the average, most states require registration about 30 days before the election. There are exceptions, of course, but do not let any technicality interfere with your participation in the precept of democracy.

October Paper will be Late

Due to the way the calendar falls, the October edition of the Polish American Journal will be printed a few days later than normal, and therefore, will be mailed a few days later than normal. If you have not received your edition by the 12th of the month, please leave a message on our office voicemail.

Be Safe

COVID-19 Vaccines are on the horizon, but may take a little longer than expected. In the meantime, wear a mask, wash your hands, practice safe social distancing, and pray for all who are on the front lines.

Clarification

The Kholmynsky Uprising (PAJ, July-August 2020) also known as the Cossack-Polish War, was a Cossack rebellion that took place between 1648 and 1657 in the eastern territories of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, which led to the creation of a Cossack Hetmanate in Ukraine. Under the command of Hetman Bohdan Kholmynsky, Zaporozhian Cossacks (allied with the Crimean Tatars and local Ukrainian peasantry) fought against Polish domination and against the Commonwealth forces. The uprising has a symbolic meaning in the history of Ukraine's relationship with Poland and Russia. It ended Polish Catholic control over the Orthodox Christian population; at the same time, it led to the eventual incorporation of eastern Ukraine into the Tsardom of Russia. The insurgency was accompanied by mass atrocities committed by Cossacks against the civilian population, especially against the Roman Catholic clergy and Jews.

ALMANAC

September Wrzesień

- 1939. World War II begins** when — without declaring war — Nazi Germany attacks Poland.
- 1833.** Birth of Polish scientist **Rudolf Weigl**, who discovered the typhus microbe.
- 1939. Torzeniec Massacre.** Germans arrived during the night to Torzeniec in southwest Poland, and set fire to barns and houses.
- 1809.** Birth of **Juliusz Stowacki** Romantic poet. He is considered one of the "Three Bards" of Polish literature — a major figure in the Polish Romantic period, and the father of modern Polish drama.
- 1981.** Through Sept. 10. **First Solidarity Congress** with 865 representatives of the nearly ten million strong union meets in Oliwia Hall in Gdańsk.
- 1921.** Birth of **Korczak Ziolkowski**, American sculptor best known for monumental tribute to Crazy Horse in South Dakota.
- 1764.** Election of **Stanisław II Augustus**, King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania from 1764 to 1795, and the last monarch of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.
- NATIVITY OF MARY**
In Polish custom, today's birth of the Virgin is considered the best day for Fall planting.
- 1881.** Birth of **Blessed Aniela Salawa**, who served in hospitals in World War I.
- 1897. Lattimer Massacre.** Seeking collective bargaining and civil liberty, immigrant miners on strike were met by armed deputy sheriffs in Lattimer, Pa., killing 19 and wounding many others. Among the dead were Poles.
- 1897.** Birth of **Irene Curie**, daughter of Marie Skłodowska Curie, in Paris.
- 1683. Jan Sobieski III** defeats Turks besieging Vienna.
- 1894.** Birth of poet **Julian Tuwin**.
- 1951.** Death of painter and illustrator **Artur Szyk**.
- 1777. General Casimir Pułaski** appointed general in the American Army as result of his role in the Battle of Brandywine.
- 1668. King John Casimir II** of Poland abdicates the throne.
- 1939. Soviet invasion** of Poland.
- ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA**
- 1987. Pope John Paul II** presides at Eucharistic celebration at Detroit's Silverdome Stadium.
- 1874.** Birth of social and civic leader **Dr. Francis Eustace Fronczak** in Buffalo's Polish East-Side.
- 1945. General Dwight D. Eisenhower** visits Warsaw.
- 1980.** Workers approve the charter of the **Solidarity Labor Union**.
- 1947.** Birth of **Fr. Jerzy Popieluszko**, pro-Solidarity priest murdered by Communist police in October 1984.
- 1706. Treaty of Altranstädt** settles the rights of Protestants in Silesia.
- 1956.** Birth of basketball superstar **Carol Blazejowski**.
- 1942. Zegota**, an underground organization for rescuing Jews from the Nazis, formed in occupied Poland.
- 1939. Warsaw falls** to Nazis. This marked the beginning of the Polish underground resistance, active throughout the war.
- 1856.** Founding of **St. Mary's**, the first Polish church in America in Panna Maria, Texas.
- 1288.** Death of **Leszek II the Black**.
- 1918. Austrian Forces** are removed from Krakow.



Ziolkowski

This paper mailed on or before **September 28**. The October 2020 edition will be mailed on or before **September 30, 2020**.

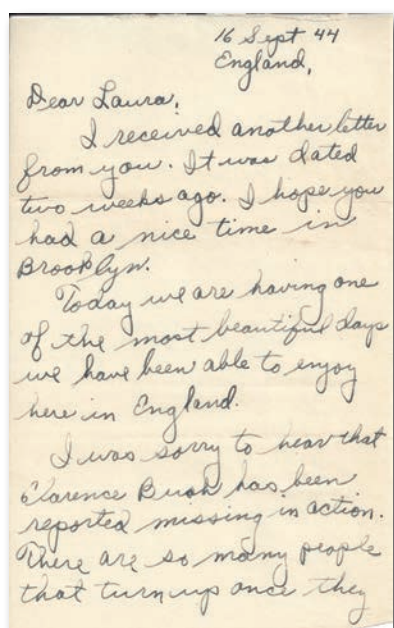
Berenson. Lost his life on U.S. mission to help Warsaw

continued from cover

generosity of Laura's grandson Marc Leibowitz and his family, I have been able to read these timeless correspondences and, through his own writing, learn a bit more about Ely Berenson, the eager aviator from Garfield.

"June 9, 1943. Dear Laura and Lou. I just tried to get the folks on the wire. Just a few hours ago I found out I had been classified as a navigator. You might imagine how excited I was when the results finally climaxed something that I have tried to achieve for this long a time... There have been such a great many fellows that apply and so few have gotten it... I guess I may be getting a little boastful, probably more than I should but you wouldn't hold it against me if you knew what I had to go through to get this far."

Ely graduated Garfield High School in June 1941, and registered in the Casey Jones School of Aeronautics, Newark, to prepare for a career in aviation. The next summer he enrolled for a summer series of war training courses at the Newark College of Engineering sponsored by the U.S. Office of Education under the Defense Training Program. At 18 he volunteered for the military in October 1942 and was sent to the Army Air Forces training center in Atlantic City, N.J. For the next nearly two years he would write regular letters to his sister, describing his day-to-day activities as a cadet and later officer, sharing his many joys and occasional frustrations. He would write from the University of Vermont, where he spent five months attending geography and math classes in the Spring of 1943, and from the Nashville Army Air Center where he found out about his placement as a navigator, the same position that his older brother had before him. He wrote from Selman Field, Louisiana where he broke his elbow on an obstacle course, and from Gunnery School in Fort Myers, Florida where he received his aerial gunners' wings and first flew in a B-17.



Fragment of the last letter Ely sent to his sister, Laura. September 1944.

"November 20, 1943. Dear Laura. Today we flew in a larger plane and for a longer length of time... We were up about four or five thousand feet and for a time we flew above the clouds. It's strange to look down and see clouds when you are so accustomed to look up to see them. I liked the trip very much. When one isn't used to flying it is very tiresome. Our short trip took us half-way to Tampa. It gave me an opportunity to view the scenery from a

good position. You know one phase of navigation known as pilotage is a means of finding your position by landmarks. I think I will enjoy that very much."

All of Ely's letters have an unmistakable kind and sincere touch. He expresses an insatiable interest in his two little nephews, Joel and Elliot, the latter of whom was born while he was away at training. The private correspondence, which never intended to be publicly read, showcases the family's strong ties, as well as Ely's deep care for his mother, Dora. He repeatedly asks his sister to either refrain from sharing with her any news that could cause her concern, or alternatively asks her to buy their mother gifts for upcoming occasions.

"October 24, 1943. Dear Laura... get mom a very nice gift. Don't put any limit as to how much to spend for it. Include a card signed Harry and I."

His mother in return sent him cookies to share with his fellow cadets or visited him when he had a day pass at training. A local paper ran a photo in 1943 captioned "Mom and her flying boys" Dora was seated on a lounge chair, flanked by her two aviator sons, with smiles all around. As any mother would, she worried about her boys in uniform, especially when they were deployed to combat. Ely knew this and strove to do what he could to keep his mother at ease. As the youngest, Ely was probably the apple of his mother's eye. He was slim built, with a boyish face, and weighed only 145 pounds. He played basketball and football, but during his military training he dedicated himself to his studies, taking pride in his accomplishments.

"December 31, 1943. Dear Lou. Yesterday I went on my first mission. The trip in all covered about five hundred miles and we were up for about four hours. The trip took us over three states, Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana. My marks are very good so far and I have built up a lot of confidence"

He did not drink and was not boastful. In one letter to his sister, he wrote, "When I graduate as an officer, I may deserve mention but until then I am just one of 7 million."

AFTER ARRIVING IN ENGLAND, Ely wrote of his observations and his first contact with true wartime conditions:

"August 11, 1944. Dear Laura. Things that we consider necessities are rare luxuries over here... Salaries here compare with those at home in the worst of the depression and prices of everyday things are extremely high even higher in some cases than they have been at home."

He described the British as friendly, albeit difficult to understand due to their accents. After visiting London on a pass, he said it was "a far cry from New York" and of the infamous English weather he wrote, "The climate seems to be continually chilly... continuous overcast hangs overhead from morning through the evening."

His unit, the 568th Bombardment Squadron, 390th Bombardment Group, was based out of Framlingham Airbase in England. They were part of the larger 3rd Air Division in the U.S. Eighth Air Force. During this time Great Britain was facing a new German menace, the V-1 flying bomb, which fell

from the sky with terrifying fright, but fortunately poor accuracy.

"August 24, 1944. Dear Laura. The closest a flying bomb had come to us was enough to give us a scare even though it did not fall very close by. It sounded like a whole squadron of planes and in those few seconds I tried to convince myself that the R.A.F. were going out on a night mission. The explosion that soon followed in the distance disproved my hopes. I was so tense in my chair that it seemed my trousers were stuck to my chair and I therefore did not get up to look at it go by."

By the end of August 1944 Ely had received the Air Medal, following the completion of six air missions. At about the same time his crew received a brand-new plane, "right out of the factory without a hole in it." In early September, Ely wrote home enthusiastically, noting that he had completed one-third of his tour and that he was going strong, "If things keep going as they are ... you can expect me to be home by Christmas." But it was not hard to notice that combat was taking a toll on him as well. "I am glad things are going as fast as they are because I'd like to finish my tour as soon as possible" Ely wrote.

"I am glad things are going as fast as they are because I'd like to finish my tour as soon as possible" Ely wrote.

In one of his last letters, Ely recounts to his sister a story he read in the Readers Digest, about, "a colored fellow who was quite a hero and as he lay on a stretcher the doctor walked up to him and said, 'Where are all your ribbons?' The colored fellow looked up and said 'Doc, I don't even want to have a slight recollection of the war.' That's exactly how I feel now. When this is all over I'll be very satisfied to forget it ever existed. They can have all the souvenirs. I don't want to remember it ever existed."

THE SEPTEMBER 18TH SUPPLY mission to Warsaw was six weeks in the making. As soon as the Uprising began on August 1st, efforts were initiated in the West to organize supply drops to the Polish insurgents. However, Poland's cursed geography did not make things easy. Warsaw's distance from Allied frontlines in Western Europe meant it was beyond the range of fighter escorts unless they could refuel before the return flight. However, the Soviets, ostensibly an allied power, refused to allow British or American aircraft from landing on Soviet territory after dropping supplies to Warsaw. Not even damaged Allied aircraft were permitted to land behind Soviet frontlines. Both Churchill and Roosevelt pressed Stalin to allow Western aircraft carrying aid to Warsaw to land on Soviet controlled territory to refuel before returning to the West. In fact, a program had been established prior to the Warsaw Uprising to facilitate just this sort of aerial logistics.

"Operation Frantic" was the code name given to planned missions whereby U.S. bombers and fighter escorts would take off from Great Britain to bomb an Axis war target, and then refuel and rearm at Soviet airfields before hitting another target on their return trip to the West. The first such mission took place on June 2, and throughout the sum-

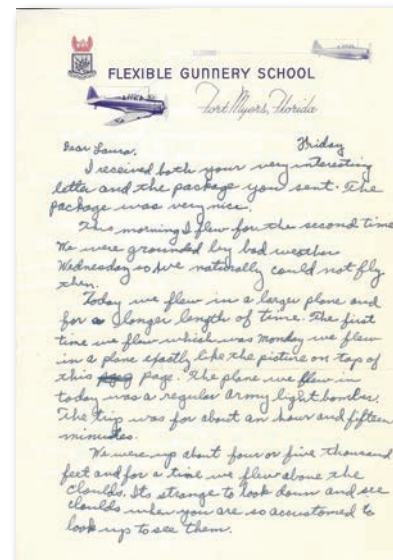
mer of 1944 a total of six "Frantic" missions were conducted. When the Warsaw Uprising broke out on August 1, Washington immediately tasked General Dwight D. Eisenhower to begin organizing a supply drop to Warsaw but American plans for a Frantic Mission to resupply the beleaguered Polish capital were stonewalled by the Soviets. It was not until several weeks later, on September 11, that the Soviets did an about face and expressed a grudging willingness to cooperate with American resupply efforts of Warsaw.

76 years ago, on the morning of September 18, 1944, 110 B-17 Flying Fortresses from the U.S. Eighth Air Force 95th 100th and 390th bomber groups took off from their bases in England and headed towards Warsaw, escorted by 73 P-51 Mustang fighters of the 355th fighter group. With each bomber carrying a crew of ten, the flying armada numbered some 1,200 U.S. airmen.

One of those in the air was Flight Officer Ely Berenson, navigator on the B-17 nicknamed "I'll Be Seeing You" the title of a song popularized by Bing Crosby at the time. The bomber, piloted by Lt. Francis Akins, was part of Operation Frantic 7, as the U.S. mission to resupply the Polish capital was labeled.

BELOW, ON THE STREETS OF WARSAW, all eyes were turned to the picture-perfect blue sky. It was in the sky that the Polish people placed their hope, and the sky that brought a tangible expression of support from their Western allies, a sign that they were not fighting alone. When the sun began to glisten off the dozens of U.S. aircraft above, shouts of joy emanated throughout the war-torn streets. The Polish Home Army Commander Gen. Bór-Komorowski wrote, "Warsaw lived through moments of indescribable enthusiasm. Everyone except the ill and the injured poured out of the cellars. They deserted their basements and teemed into streets and courtyards." Many hoped that this was not just a supply drop, but that the Polish Independent Parachute Brigade was being dropped to help liberate the city. Alas, General Sosabowski and his men would parachute a few days later into the Netherlands as part of General Montgomery's ill-fated Operation Market Garden. Nevertheless, the staggering number of airplanes and parachutes filled the sky, and the hearts of the Polish people. The U.S. bombers dropped 1,284 containers which held arms, ammunition, food and medical supplies. Unfortunately, the joy was short lived. At this stage of the Uprising, the Polish Home Army controlled but small pockets of the city. The supplies were dropped from between 14-17,000 feet and scattered over a wide area. In the end, only some 10% of the containers were retrieved by Polish forces.

Back in the air, five miles northwest of Warsaw, some 40 German fighter planes attempted to attack the last group of American aircraft. According to reports, a German fighter machine gunned the cockpit of "I'll Be Seeing You" killing pilot Lt. Akins and causing the plane to lose height and fall out of formation. Sensing the imminent danger, the crew began to bail out of the struggling aircraft. However, soon after the plane was hit by flak and lost its wing, eventually crashing near Łomianki, to the north of



Fragment of a letter Ely sent from Gunnery School in Fort Myers, Florida.

Warsaw. Two crew members managed to bail out of the plane and survive to become prisoners of war. Ely Berenson was not one of them. He was killed, together with the rest of the crew of "I'll Be Seeing You." He was one of 12 Americans to die that day over Warsaw, bringing aid to a faraway place. Their selfless action and sacrifice echoed the Polish battle cry of "For Your Freedom and Ours."

Ely's Bomber was the Only ONE to be lost as part of Operation Frantic 7. Two of the escort Mustangs were also shot down and 18 other B-17s were damaged by enemy fire. It would be the first and last American resupply of Warsaw, as the Uprising collapsed on October 3, 1944.

The U.S. supply drop to Warsaw is not only a symbolic chapter in the history of the Warsaw Uprising, but it has ingrained itself into the collective memory of the Polish people, and especially the people of Warsaw. It displayed for all the intransigence of the Soviets, the unflinching resolve, even in dire hopelessness, of the Polish people, and the incredible military might of the Americans.

Ely Berenson and his seven crewmates were buried by the people of Łomianki. After the war, they were reinterned at a cemetery in Warsaw, before being moved under the custody of the American Battlefield Monuments Commission. Today Flight Officer Ely Berenson, 1st Lieutenant Francis E. Akins and 2nd Lieutenant Myron S. Merrill, the bombardier, are all buried at the Ardennes American Cemetery in Belgium, the final resting place of thousands of American airmen lost during World War II.

THE PEOPLE OF ŁOMIANKI continue to cultivate the memory of the men of "I'll Be Seeing You." A memorial to the crew, unveiled at the local cemetery in 1986, was visited over the years by Vice President George H.W. Bush, Vice President Al Gore, and countless Poles who pay their respects to the fallen airmen annually on September 18th and throughout the year.

As Ely wrote in one of his last letters, "The news is very good but if the war is almost over, they would have a hard time convincing the boys over here. It may be over in Washington but it's very much alive here."

Let us always remember those who served, and continue to serve, in the defense of our freedoms and values. Long live the memory of Ely Berenson, his crew mates, and all those who made the ultimate sacrifice, "For Your Freedom, and Ours."

Pilecki: Author was surprised by the number alive who fought alongside hero

continued from cover

everything on such a mission. His active reporting spoke to powerfully to me.

Why was knowledge about the destruction of Poland during World War II suppressed during communist rule?

Pilecki's story perfectly encapsulates the tragedy of Poland both during the war and after. Despite all of his heroics in Auschwitz and the subsequent role he played in the Warsaw Uprising, Pilecki was not lionized at the end of the war because the country was taken

over by Soviet forces. In the United States and in the West we think of the end of World War II as victory parades and marches and pat ourselves on the back for a job well done, but that was not the experience for men like Pilecki, for all of central and eastern Europe, which had been cruelly betrayed by the Allies and handed over to Stalin.

That meant for Poland a brutal communist take-over. Thousands of men and women who had belonged to the underground were arrested and hundreds executed. The story of so much of the Polish underground was then hidden away, and it became extremely dangerous to

talk about Pilecki. The communists did not want his inspiring story of resistance to totalitarian regimes spreading among his countrymen.

What changed all that?

It was really only with the collapse of the Iron Curtain and the opening up of the communist archives in Warsaw

that history began to be discovered by his family and by brilliant Polish historians like Adam Cyra, who wrote one of the first biographies of Pilecki and really helped set the scene for my own investigations. It is worth dwelling on that remarkable attempt by the communists to

erase Poland's history. Just imagine for a moment had we been told that the heroes of D-Day or the pilots of the Battle of Britain were enemies of the state, traitors. It would be utterly inconceivable, and yet that is what happened in Poland. Men like Pilecki, great war heroes, were labeled as traitors and were never commemorated.

Pilecki himself viewed his efforts as a failure. Why?

One of the things I really wanted to do with the research was to track down what happened to the reports he smuggled out of the camp. Pilecki as a prisoner, beaten and

abused, starving and under constant watch by the SS, was not in a position to write down actual reports. Instead he would compose them in his mind and then have his messengers memorize them word for word, and those messengers brought these oral messages to Warsaw, and from there they were transferred across Europe to London. I remember the moment when my researcher Marta found Pilecki's first report he had sent by a released prisoner 1940. They were the words Pilecki himself composed in the camp and we were hearing his voice. He pleaded with the Allies to destroy the camp even if it meant killing all the prisoners in it because of what was happening in Auschwitz. Even before 1940, before it became a death factory, it was so brutal a concentration camp that it needed to come to an end. That request was the first of many that we tracked down. By my count almost a dozen messages were sent from the camp, and they all contained requests for the Allies to take action, but no action was taken.

Why did the Allies do so little to destroy the death camps during the war?

That is such a big part of Pilecki's story, and in some ways it's a story he never knew, could never know, because the answer was contained deep in the archives in Britain. I found the exchange between the RAF command for the first report in which they debated whether or not to bomb Auschwitz. The head of the British RAF, Charles Portal, wrote to the head of bomber command words to the effect that this would surely be a political gesture and no more and they should just drop the idea. I came to feel that as a political gesture it would have been all important because yes it may well have been the case that British bombers could not have reached Auschwitz in early 1941, but had they tried they would have established a precedent of further attempts and so when word of Pilecki's reports came and compelling evidence built for attacking the camps, the Allies would already have established the logic of intervening militarily to stop Nazi war crimes. What's so historically important about Pilecki's story is that he really set back the clock on that decision-making among the Allies. A lot of focus has been on 1944 when there was a debate among Churchill and FDR and their military planners about whether to attack Auschwitz, but Pilecki's story shows us that that debate was happening within months of the camp opening. It's really a great historical what-might-have-happened, and a political gesture was not something

to be dismissed.

What was your biggest surprise during the researching and writing of the book?

I was surprised to discover how many people were still alive in 2016 when I began research, people who had direct testimony of Pilecki in action. I met men and women who had fought with him in the camp, in Warsaw in the uprising, and had known him in the communist era. That for me was deeply moving and inspiring and powerful. There was a second aspect to my surprise which was that beyond Pilecki's immediate family who obviously knew his story, so many of the families we

met had no idea of what their parents or grandparents had gotten up to. This was really brought home to me with one story which concerned a remarkable courier who, prompted by Pilecki's reports, came to Auschwitz in the summer of 1942 to investigate them and then travel on to London. He used the alias of a Polish national who had joined the Wehrmacht against his will, which is why he gave his papers to the underground to use in their courier missions. At the end of the war this former Wehrmacht soldier was seen as a collaborator and spent many years in prison. His son was raised knowing that he should never talk about the past, and we knew that his dad had played this crucial role in Pilecki and his courier getting knowledge of the "final solution" to the West. He was nervous about speaking to us. He didn't want to open the door at first. And bit by bit we showed him the documents; we showed him his dad's passport and how it was used to protect the couriers. It was really emotional, and I saw the weight lift from him. One of the horrors of the communist system was this attempt to stop people remembering the past.



Jack Fairweather (left) with Bohdan Walasek, 89, who fought alongside Witold Pilecki in the Warsaw Uprising.

politics in what has come down to us, but there was one act that really resonates with me profoundly because it was also seminal in his mission of going into Auschwitz. After the German invasion in 1939, Pilecki was setting up a resistance cell in Warsaw with his friend Jan Włodarkiewicz. The two men came to loggerheads over Jan's ideology that was based on Christian values but quite narrowly called for a strong nationalistic future in which Poland should only be for Polish Christians. Pilecki disagreed with this manifesto, this ideology. He felt that to publish it would divide Poles, Poland being a truly multi-ethnic Jewish population, Ukrainian and Russian and other minorities. Pilecki strongly felt they all needed to come together to fight the evil of Nazism, anyone who called themselves Polish were on his side. His friend Jan reluctantly agreed to drop this ideology. Pilecki had made a stand against a narrow definition of who we are as people. That is a

message for us today with our own fractured communities, a lot of division, rising nationalism in Europe and indeed America. Pilecki saw the dangers of that and he reached out and risked his life to tell the world what was happening. That's a powerful message for us to reach out to those around us and try to understand the suffering of others.

In what way did the fact that you are neither Jewish nor ethnically Polish help or hinder your writing of the book?

Well I came to the story not knowing Polish history and not knowing Jewish history. I came to the story as a journalist, trained to be objective and to seek the truth. Over the course of research and writing I clearly could see the ways in which there were different perspectives and a lot of passion built up around what happened in Poland, and I felt strongly that I shouldn't take sides and should try and do what Pilecki told us to do which is to tell the truth as much as possible and detail evil as objectively as you possibly can try, and that became my mission in honor of Pilecki's own mission in the camp.

This interview with Jack Fairweather was conducted by Leonard Kniffel on June 15, 2020.

What does Pilecki's story tell us about collaboration and anti-Semitism in Poland?

Pilecki doesn't write much about

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Poland among first to act on behalf of Belarusians

MINSK, Belarus — A rigged election that supposedly gave Belarusian dictator Alexandr Lukashenko an 80% landslide victory triggered widespread protests in that country of ten million. The protesters called for a new, honest election and demanded the resignation of Lukashenko, who had dictatorially ruled Belarus for 26 years.

The brutal attack on the peaceful protest by Lukashenko's security troops and the detention of thousands of demonstrators prompted Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki to appeal to the European Union to come to

the Belarusian people's defense. It was not until the 11th consecutive day of protests that the European Council held an emergency summit that rejected the election results, called for a fresh, internationally monitored election and pledged \$63 million for the Belarusian people. European leaders clearly indicated they intended to increase pressure on those linked to the violent crackdown on protests, Warsaw, which has worked to pave the way of ex-Soviet republics to European structures, plans to facilitate travel to Poland for citizens of Belarus, a country just east of its border. (R.S.)

RELIGION

Felicians Mourn Virus Victims



Coronavirus spread so quickly through a convent in Michigan that it claimed the lives of 13 nuns. They were all members of the Felician Sisters convent in Livonia, outside of Detroit, ranging in ages from 69 to 99. PHOTO: COURTESY OF FELICIAN SISTERS OF NORTH AMERICA

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Thirteen Felician sisters at their convent in Livonia, Mich. died of the Covid-19 virus, and 13 other sisters in two other convents in Michigan and Ossining, N.Y. also died. Elderly and frail, the sisters were vulnerable to the disease.

The deceased sisters are: Sr. Mary Luiza Wawrzyniak, 99, Sr. Celine Marie Lesinski, 92, Sr. Mary Estelle Printz, 95, Sr. Thomas Marie Wadowski, 73, Sr. Mary Patricia Pyszynski, 93, Sr. Mary Clarence (Adeline) Borkoski, 83, Sr. Rose Mary Wolak, 86, Sr. Mary Janice (Margaret) Zolkowski, 86, Sr. Mary Alice Ann (Fernanda) Gradowski, 73, Sr. Victoria Marie Indyk, 69, Sr. Mary Martinez (Virginia) Rozek, 87, Sr. Mary Madeleine (Frances) Dolan, 82, and Sr. Mary Danatha (Lottie) Suchyta, 98.

In the Felician convent in Lodi, N.J., Sr. Mary Ramona (Florence) Borkowski, 93, died. The convent grappled with how they were able to care for each other and only 10 people could attend each funeral, according to Global Sisters Report. "The faith we share with sisters as they are dying, the prayers we share with sisters as they are dying: We missed all that. It kind of shattered our faith life a little bit." Sister Joyce Marie Van de Vyver told the publication.

Mass in Memory of St. Maximilian Kolbe and Polish Victims of World War II

On Sunday, August 16, near the feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe August 14, a Mass was celebrated in Buffalo's St. Stanislaus BM Church and broadcast on The Station of the Cross Radio WLOF-FM 101.7. Participants in the Mass were asked to bring photographs of

their loved ones who suffered and died as a result of the Second World War. The Polish American Congress of Western NY and the Polish Legacy Project sponsored the Mass.

Miracle on the Vistula Commemorated

One hundred years ago, Poland, newly re-established as a country and recovering from the devastation of World War I, was all but written off by U.S. and Western powers as a huge Bolshevik Russian army advanced into the country to enslave it to Soviet communism. Marshal Pilsudski's surprise attack on August 16 and the protective intercession of Our Lady of Częstochowa, who appeared in the clouds above Warszawa, routed the invaders and saved both Poland and the rest of war-wary Europe from Lenin's communist advance.

A painting depicting the battle by C. Mazur at Buffalo's Corpus Christi Parish has just been restored by Stephen Rovner under the supervision of Henry Swiatek, with support from Lucia Ederer and David Franczyk. The original Polish painting was by Jerzy Kossak. Pope Pius XI had Jan Henryk de Rosen paint a mural of the battle in his private chapel at Castel Gandolfo. A similar mural was restored some years ago at St. Stanislaus BM church in Buffalo during the church's extensive renovation. Under the direction of the Polish Pauline Fathers, Corpus Christi is in the midst of ongoing renovation work on its listed historical landmark church.

Another restored painting depicts the "wedding to the Sea" when General Józef Haller threw a ring into the Baltic sea at the mouth of the Vistula river to celebrate the restoration of Poland's access to the sea after the restoration of Poland in 1918. The event took place on Feb. 10, 1920 and is depicted

in a painting at Corpus Christi Church. Gen. Haller remarked at the event, "Here is the day of reverence and glory. The White Eagle has spread its wings not only over the Polish lands but also over the Polish sea ... Now free worlds and free nations stand open before us."

Visit Buffalo's St. Casimir

A new website created by Julia Niedzialek Mason enables visitors to enter into the tradition and faith of one of Buffalo's most beautiful churches. Go to www.stcasimir.com.

Archbishop Hebda Removes Church Musician

Archbishop Bernard Hebda of the Archdiocese of Minneapolis-St. Paul has decided that David Haas, a prominent liturgical musician and composer whose songs are widely sung throughout the United States, may no longer give presentations at workshops, concerts or similar events hosted by the archdiocese, parishes, Catholic schools, or other Catholic institutions. Haas has more than 40 allegations of unwanted sexual advances from women dating back to the 1970s. The diocese of Pittsburgh under bishop Zubik issued a similar prohibition.

"The Haas matter illustrates the challenges of responding to allegations of inappropriate behavior by lay persons who work with Catholic groups, especially then they are self-employed," said Archbishop Hebda. He went on to express commitment to maintaining a safe environment for all, to support for all who have been harmed, and to a fair and appropriate forum with due process for the accused.

Sto Lat to ...

Andrew Milewski, n.S.J. who pronounced perpetual vows in the Society of Jesus along with Trevor Kelly, n.S.J., Michael Petro, n.S.J., and David Said, n.S.J. ... Bishop Edward C. Malesic of Greensburg on being appointed Bishop of Cleveland by Pope Francis.

From Poland to Alaska

Fr. Stan Jaszek arrived in Fairbanks, Alaska, from Africa in 2002 for what he thought would be about a 10-year stay. Eighteen years later he is still ministering to the remote villages of the diocese which is shepherded by Bishop Zielinski. Fr. Jaszek is one of three Polish priests in the diocese, along with two from India and three from Africa (Nigeria and Zimbabwe).

New Home for the Lourdes Grotto

The cloistered Dominican sisters on Doat Street in Buffalo closed the community and left the area. The statues of the Lourdes Grotto did not make the transfer and the sisters offered them to the Pauline Fathers at Corpus Christi Church. Now the parish plans to erect a suitable grotto for the statues in the garden of their monastery.

Persons wishing to have prayer intentions placed in a time capsule at the grotto are able to send them along with a donation to Fr. Michal Czyzewski at Corpus Christi Church, 199 Clark St. Buffalo, NY 14212. For a \$30 donation or more the fathers will send a decade of the rosary made from beads given by the sisters in the hope of keeping the spirit of St. Dominic alive. St. Dominic worked to spread the rosary devotion in the 12th to 13th centuries.

MODLITWY

PUBLICATION OF PRAYERS. The Polish American Journal gladly accepts prayers ads for publication. They must be received by the 10th of each month, prior to the month of publication, and must be pre-paid at the cost of \$15.00 each, which can be paid by check or charge. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please call 1 (800) 422-1275 or (716) 312-8088. Send to: Polish American Journal, P.O. Box 271, N. Boston, NY 14110.

POPE FRANCIS'S PRAYER TO MARY DURING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC. O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of Your People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen. Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen. I.C.F.

PRAYER TO SAINT DYMPHNA. Good Saint Dymphna, great wonder-worker in every affliction of mind and body, I humbly implore your powerful intercession with Jesus through Mary, the Health of the Sick, in my present need. (Mention it.) Saint Dymphna, martyr of purity, patroness of those who suffer with nervous and mental afflictions, beloved child of Jesus and Mary, pray to Them for me and obtain my request. (Pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary and one Glory Be.) Saint Dymphna, Virgin and Martyr, pray for us. P.W.D.

FOR THE INTERCESSION OF SAINT FAUSTINA. Saint Faustina, you told us that your mission would continue after your death and that you would not forget us (Diary, 281, 1582). Our Lord also granted you a great privilege, telling you to "distribute graces as you will, to whom you will, and when you will" (31). Relying on this, I ask your intercession for the graces I need. Help me, above all, to trust Jesus as you did and thus to glorify His mercy every moment of my life. T.M.

Kwasnicki Shares Optimism for Future of Polish Home

HARTFORD, Conn. — A recent for-sale listing for the Polish National Home surfaced on social media, raising alarms that the historic, Hartford social club may be the coronavirus pandemic's latest victim.

Not the case, says board member Rob Kwasnicki, though the 90-year-old home's tax-exempt status means its operations are limited by law and it can't deliver food, an especially potent handicap during the state's restaurant shutdown. The building temporarily closed its doors in late March, but the membership thinks it will live to serve pierogi and vodka again.

That's because the long-struggling organization is considering for the first time a switch to private ownership and a traditional business model, if new benefactors don't emerge to support its continued existence as a nonprofit social club, says Kwasnicki, who was president of the board when the home was listed for \$790,000 a few months ago.

"This is just a way forward for another 100 years," said Kwasnicki, who was succeeded as president by John Majdan.

Mark Bruks, the board's long-time treasurer, hopes seeing the home for sale lights a fire in the bellies of local Poles, so they band together to maintain Polish owner-



The Hartford Polish Home, located at 60 Charter Oak Ave., was built in 1930 and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. It's known for its distinctive Art Deco style. The 19,374-square-foot, three-story building includes a first-floor bar and restaurant, a formal ballroom with a stage on the second floor with balcony seating and a lower level with a game room and event space.

ship.

"The bottom line is, it's a volunteer-run organization and the effort that takes and even the amount of money the volunteers have put in, it's just a large mountain to climb in 2020," Bruks said.

Kwasnicki had spent the past five years working to modernize the home, adding craft beers to the menu, opening "social member-

ship" up to non-Poles, and even striking a deal with the Capewell Lofts apartments to offer a one-year membership with every lease.

But that still left the organization in the red with 15 years of accumulated debt to the city, vendors and private lenders. The home owed nearly \$300,000 when it was listed for sale in mid-March, including about \$130,000 to the city, accord-

ing to Bruks.

Selling would be the nuclear option to solve the home's "chronic case of cash flow crisis," he acknowledges, but it's the one he's preparing for by drawing up a business plan to present to the board. By his accounting, the business would see another couple of years of losses and then start to support itself, even with the costs of cosmetic improvements, hiring for the restaurant and bar, catering and events and municipal taxes.

Now his plans must also account for the shutdown caused by the pandemic, and the crippled economy and skittish customers that will outlast the coronavirus.

That hasn't stopped him from dreaming of new names for the future ownership of the home.

"I think we share a strong heritage of resilience and toughness and agility with the American culture overall, and that's ultimately why I'm still working on this plan," Kwasnicki said. "For me, the optimism far outweighs the pessimism and we are going to bounce back, all of us."

ZOSIA'S BLOG. If you are interested in Polish customs, traditions, and food, visit Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab's blog at <http://www.sophieknab.com/>.

Solidarity: strike led to formation of self-governing labor union

continued from cover

your time-honored values.

Nonetheless following his frustration with the failed policies of the communist regime imposed on their country by Soviet Russia after World War II and in their response to the visit to his beloved homeland by Pope John Paul II in June 1979. There he told the millions who saw and heard him, "Be not afraid." Be true to yourselves and your time-honored values.

Nonetheless following his departure to the Vatican, Poland's downward economic spiral only worsened. In response, the regime ordered steep increases in food prices in July 1980 – a move that led to workers' sit down strikes across the country. Faced with their legitimate demands for wage increases to cushion the price hikes, demands in response to a crisis they had nothing to do with causing, the regime caved in everywhere.

At the Gdańsk Shipyards, where 15,000 men and women were employed, workers went beyond wage demands to protest the firing of a respected co-worker, Anna Walentynowicz – just months before she was to retire. Another individual, Lech Wałęsa, a former worker blacklisted for his independent labor union organizing activities, joined them and was immediately made a leader of its strike committee. Two days later the committee won its wage demands and Walentynowicz and Wałęsa were reinstated. At this point, the committee received appeals to give its support to strikers in other Baltic seacoast enterprises. An inter-factory strike committee headed by Wałęsa was set up, with new demands calling for the creation of an independent union and a union newspaper free of government censorship. Solidarność was born.

The Communist party sent a high-ranking government emissary to Gdańsk to meet with the Strike committee. But he found himself facing not only a determined shipyards committee but one bolstered by advisors from Warsaw who



The firing of Anna Walentynowicz (above, left) – just months before she was to retire – sparked the workers' strike. Wałęsa, a former worker blacklisted for his independent labor union organizing activities, joined them, and was immediately made a leader of its strike committee.



had courageously backed workers' rights in the past. On August 31, 1980, after days of tense talks, during which 640,000 workers had gone on strike around the country, an agreement was at last reached. All of Solidarity's demands were accepted – including its right to be an independent, self-governing, labor union.

THIS UNIMAGINED AGREEMENT sparked Solidarity's amazing expansion into a massive national force that grew in just a few weeks to nearly ten million members. By then a new Party leadership that included Defense Minister Wojciech Jaruzelski was also in place. But months of frustrating tension-filled delays followed, with anti-Solidarity party and government leaders backed by the Soviet Union doing all they could to oppose the Union. And as Poland's economic conditions worsened, they fixed the blame on Solidarity. Moreover, behind the scenes, General Jaruzelski had put together a martial law plan to suppress the movement.

On December 12, 1981, after 16 months of crisis, Jaruzelski imposed martial law, claiming he acted to prevent a civil war. His perfectly executed plan resulted in the jailing of 9,700 Solidarity leaders and the union's suppression. In response, the United States imposed

severe economic sanctions on Poland and began covertly supporting those Solidarity activists who had escaped arrest. This effort, along with those of John Paul II, helped keep the Solidarity cause alive. For its part, Jaruzelski's military-dominated regime failed to destroy the Solidarity idea, to build support for its rule, and to revive Poland's distressed economy. At last, faced with renewed worker unrest, the general, with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's blessings, began "Roundtable talks" with Solidarity representatives to try to find a way out of the crisis which by then had gone on for more than a decade. These talks opened in Warsaw on February 6, 1989.

THE ROUNDTABLE, while controversial to this day, brought Solidarity's restoration on April 5, 1989 and a special election to the Polish parliament on June 4. This election, while only partly free, saw Solidarity win an incredibly overwhelming victory. Of the 261 freely elected candidates, not a single one was won by a regime nominee. Moreover, even communist party nominees running unopposed lost when over half of the voters crossed their names off the ballots! The Party's humiliation was so complete that it was obliged, with Gorbachev's approval, to reluctantly accept a Soli-

darity-led government.

Headed by Tadeusz Mazowiecki, this new government was approved in September 1989. In December, the Parliament ended the "People's Poland" system and proclaimed a new, democratic Polish Republic. In January 1990, the Polish communist party dissolved. By then Soviet rule over Hungary, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany and Romania was over and the infamous Berlin Wall had fallen. What began in Gdańsk in August 1980 would culminate with the disintegration of the Soviet Union itself in 1991 and the end of the Cold War.

Polish Americans backed Solidarity. Indeed, the Polish American Congress, American Polonia's civic action voice, had called its demands "fully justified" – only days after its creation. In December 1981, PAC leaders were in the White House

and Polish American community leaders were in Poland to give their support to Prime Minister Mazowiecki's new Solidarity government. In October 1989 the PAC and Polonia welcomed Wałęsa to Chicago just days after his stirring speech to the Congress of the United States. And in the years after, American Polonia both strongly backed U.S. aid to Poland and Poland's entry into the NATO Alliance.

Solidarity, an inspired and inspiring movement of "ordinary" people who were anything but ordinary, helped usher in a new post-Cold War world – a world we have been blessed with for more than thirty years.*

◆ ◆ ◆
Donald Pienkos is Professor Emeritus University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

*The contribution of scores

Key Dates in the Solidarity's History

- **August 14, 1980.** The Solidarity movement is born in the Lenin Shipyards of Gdańsk
- **August 31, 1980.** The Union's 21 Point program, including Solidarity's independence, is accepted
- **September 1980.** The Solidarity Union's charter receives official state recognition
- **March 1981.** A Regime-sponsored effort occurs in Bydgoszcz aimed at breaking the Union
- **September 1981.** First Solidarity national convention – Wałęsa is elected chair; the delegates call for Solidarity-like unions in the Soviet Union and East Europe
- **November 4 1981.** Party leader Jaruzelski, Wałęsa, and Cardinal Glemp meet to end the crisis but fail when Jaruzelski rejects any genuine power sharing proposals
- **December 12, 1981.** Martial law is proclaimed; the United States imposes sanctions on Poland and the USSR
- **October 1982.** The Parliament dissolves Solidarity; Martial Law
- **June 1983.** Pope John Paul II's second visit to Poland; Martial Law is lifted in July
- **July 1984.** A first major regime amnesty of political prisoners is declared
- **February 1987.** U.S. lifts sanctions but Jaruzelski still refuses to recognize Solidarity
- **April-August 1988.** Virulent strikes break out in Nowa Huta (Krakow), Gdańsk, and the coal mines
- **February 6, 1989.** Roundtable talks begin in Warsaw
- **April 5, 1989.** Solidarity is restored to full legal status
- **June 4, 1989.** Semi-free Parliament elections result in an overwhelming Solidarity victory
- **September 1989.** A Solidarity-led government is approved by Parliament
- **December 1989.** The Republic of Poland is proclaimed, ending the Polish People's Republic

to join with President Reagan in condemning martial law. In 1985, the PAC led the protest in New York City objecting to Jaruzelski when he headed a delegation to the United Nations to mark its 40th anniversary. In September 1989 PAC

upon scores of Solidarity activists are included in works by Andrzej Paczkowski, *Revolution and Counterrevolution in Poland, 1980-1989*, and Antoni Dudek, *The Road to independence: Solidarność*. Both are in English translation.

POLAND

Pompeo signs Enhanced-Defense Deal

WARSAW — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo traveled to Poland recently to sign an Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement. The agreement was co-signed by Polish Defense Minister Mariusz Błaszczak.

"Today we took another step in our robust military cooperation for our collective security," said Pompeo. "The new U.S.-Poland Enhanced agreement is building on

our existing security cooperation and cementing our long-standing defense partnership."

The deal will increase American troop strength in Poland to 5,500 and lay the groundwork for the necessary infrastructure whose cost will be covered by Poland. According to Błaszczak, the facilities will make it possible to accommodate in future up to 20,000 American servicemen. Pompeo also held talks with top Polish officials on defense matters, energy security, the Covid-19 pandemic, and the situation in neighboring Belarus as well as taking part in centennial celebrations of Poland's historic victory over the Red Army in the 1920 Battle of Warsaw.

A Polish break-through in the war on Covid-19?

A Polish biotech company may be close to marketing a drug combating the dread Covid-19 disease. Biomed Lublin has developed a new drug to fight the infection in new patients, significantly boosting the body's chances of combating the Coronavirus. "It will be produced from the plasma taken from blood donors who have recov-

ered from Covid-19 and have the proper level of antibodies. It can be produced within months after any new virus arises," Biomed Lublin CEO Marcin Piróg explained. Unlike a vaccine which stimulates an immune-system response, the new Polish drug, which still has to undergo clinical trials, increases the patient's level of antibodies which protect the body for a long period of time. According to Piróg, the problem with vaccines, as the world is now discovering, is that they can take years to develop.

Piłsudski Museum opens in Sulejówek near Warsaw

A museum dedicated to Marshal Józef Piłsudski was opened in the town of Sulejówek near Warsaw to mark the centennial of his historic 1920 defeat of the Bolshevik invaders. Known as "the father of reborn Poland," Piłsudski and his family lived in the Milusin manorhouse until his death in 1935. At the dedication ceremony, President Andrzej Duda said Piłsudski, who served as chief of state from 1918-22, was one of the most significant figures in 20th-century Polish history.

— Robert Strybel

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GENEALOGY

Go Beyond the Documents

by Stephen M. Szabados

Help your ancestors come alive.

Go beyond the names and dates when writing your family history. Add meat to the bones of your ancestors by placing them in the social history of the area where they lived. Look in county histories, published stories, and newspaper accounts about where they lived. They did not live in a vacuum. Social life, economic activities, and political history occurred around them.

Local history affected their daily lives and was a significant part of your family history. We may think of our ancestors as unique individuals, but they were usually part of groups that reacted to the economic and political pressures that surrounded them. Researching the historical context in which our ancestors lived will add a historical background that may help answer questions and explain behaviors. Common elements in the daily lives that we can research include their residence, occupation, religion, local politics, local economy, family migration, military experiences, and social status. Including this information and events could add essential insights into our ancestors' lives and help portray them as

real people and not just names on a chart.

When adding social history as a background for your ancestors, be sure to mention your sources and draw your conclusions after presenting evidence that leads to those conclusions. Be careful not to fictionalize their lives by forcing their lives into events that they did not attend. Avoid inserting famous historical events that are not relevant to your family history.

MOST FAMILIES DO NOT have oral history or documentation that explains the actions of their ancestors. I have added to my accounts by using many sources, such as general history books and many other books that I found at my local library. I also used the internet to find various articles and books about various topics, such as their journey to America. Such a narrative gave me an insight into what they endured. Other sources that may provide historical references are letters and diaries, favorite recipes and notes in cookbooks, biographies, histories of urban ethnic neighborhoods, and county histories.

Even if your family passed down some oral history, studying history

can help verify the accuracy of the family stories. Reviewing the history of the country gives some general insight, but finding a history of the specific county or village where they left offers insights that should apply to our ancestors more closely. County websites typically have a page for their history, and they may also have a gallery of vintage pictures of the village and area. Googling for the history of the county, town, or village may also yield useful information and photographs.

ADDING SOCIAL HISTORY to my narratives has brought more life to my ancestors. However, as a general rule, these events must affect the lives of my ancestors. As an example, a brief history of the railroad shops in Bloomington, Illinois, will help explain why my family was in Bloomington seeking jobs. Including a description of the work in my grandfather's department brings him to life. However, explaining the workings of all of the various departments in the shops is overkill.

Newspapers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries can yield an abundance of personal news and social items ancestors. You may think that your ancestors were not impor-

tant enough to be included in news articles, but many stories of interest existed about ordinary people. To expand your family history, go beyond announcements for births, weddings, and deaths. Many editors of early newspapers felt free to express their opinions on any given subject and to describe local events in detail. Local newspapers can show more insights of our ancestors through announcements of anniversaries, legal notices, letters to the editor, and social columns filled with local news of a more personal nature. My grandparents' wedding announcement described the party afterward. These sources can provide a gold mine of information for your family history. No matter what size the newspaper is or where its location, newspapers can open a new window into the lives of your ancestors.

As I stated earlier, our genealogy research should be more than collecting documents and building family trees. Your genealogy research can generate a family history that will be a wonderful treasure for many future generations of your family.

Write your family history and honor your ancestors.

Lira's Super Summer CD Sale

CHICAGO — The Lira Ensemble, which specializes in Polish music, song and dance, wants to brighten your summer (and early fall)



with Polish music in your home during this time of COVID-19.

Lira is offering eight of its popular CDs of Polish folk, patriotic, "classical," and religious music at the low price of \$12.00 each, with no shipping charges.

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Visit www.liraensemble.org or call (773) 505-8731 to order.

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Polish American Journal Foundation

The PAJF is a non-profit 501c3 organization established to promote Polish and Polish American culture and traditions among members of the public and other Polish and Polish American groups. It does this by organizing and supporting special events, networking, and providing consultation to individuals and groups, which seek to learn more about the Polish community in the United States.

As a national newspaper serving Polish immigrants and their descendants since 1911, the Polish American Journal has a unique perspective on the shortfalls — primarily funding — that have prevented many great projects from getting off the ground. We also have grown increasingly frustrated to see students — future leaders, who are passionate about Polonia — seek other areas of study because they could not secure something as simple as airfare to study in Poland or abroad. Likewise, we see so many talented academicians, scholars, artists, folk groups — the list goes on — whose special projects or areas of study have been dropped for lack of funds. In many cases, state or federal arts or cultural funding is available, but these groups cannot afford processing fees to meet application requirements. It is time to start helping our own.

MEMBERSHIP. Donations are accepted in any amount. All donations will be acknowledged and may be used as charitable contributions on your tax return. As a member, you can suggest any worthwhile cause: a donation to a local Polish American museum; veteran's group; scholarship fund; dance group, etc. Our board reviews these suggestions and creates a ballot of the most-requested causes/recipients, which will then be voted on by current members. (Membership is yearly, starting with the date of your most recent donation). All members reserve the right to abstain from being a voting member. Membership levels start at "Friend of the PAJF" (Any amount up to \$49.99); "Individual" (\$50.00); "Family" (\$100.00); "Sustaining" (\$250.00); "Patron" (\$500.00);



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Included is a helpful genealogical contact sheet to help check your family records in Poland, track down ancestral homesteads and possibly even turn up long-lost relatives. For more information, please contact: strybel@interia.pl.

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

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

HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE

Podhalanka Struggling to Survive Through Pandemic



Helena Madej

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — *Podhalanka Polska Restauracja*, the hidden treasure in the now-gentrified area of Chicago, once the Polish Downtown and now officially called the Polish Triangle (Milwaukee/Division/Ashland Avenues), may not survive because of the pandemic. Even such well-known, long-established restaurants are permanently closing their doors.

Helena Madej, owner of Podhalanka, has been at this location for over 30 years as it became a mainstay in the Wicker Park community. But if neighborhood residents and Polish cuisine enthusiasts don't patronize her restaurant, she will have to close permanently. Even with carryout options available, her business has drastically slowed down. Customers now have the dine-in option, but all Chicago restaurants are limited to a 25% capacity.

For years, Podhalanka has served Polish specialties and provided a retro experience. Entering the restaurant is like stepping back in time: linoleum-tiled floor, vinyl tablecloths, a counter with revolving stools, tables and chairs from the 1950s, along with *rozmaity tchotchke*, an array of Polish memorabilia along one of its walls with a television at one end. Among them, memorabilia of the late Congressman Dan Rostenkowski and St. John Paul II, whose images reign supreme at Podhalanka, are everywhere. Nothing has really changed since Pani Helena bought this eatery back in 1981. Jamie Katz, a writer for *Smithsonian Magazine*, once said that here he "found the Holy Grail - the tastiest food on his (Chicago) trip." Her *biały barszcz*, (white beet) aka *żurek*, and *zupa fasolowa* (navy bean) are a soup lover's dream come true. Soup served with slices of rye bread with butter will do the trick for hungry customers. If you have a larger appetite, *zrazy wieprzowe zawijane*, rolled pork stuffed with carrots and celery, is an absolute must.

As **Daniel Pogorzelski**, an author and Chicago historian, said, if Podhalanka closes, Chicago's "Polish Downtown will lose the last of the Polish restaurants which were plentiful here." He added that Madej is the "Polish grandma we all wish she had. She's a tough cookie."

Podhalanka's dining hours are 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mon.-Sat., and 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sunday.

You can place a carry out order by calling (773) 486-6655. The restaurant is located at 1549 W. Division Street.

RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS.

On one cold afternoon, **Zdzisław "Zak" Lenczowski** drove his daughter, Magdalene to her visiting nurse's appointment in the Streeterville area of Chicago. She was a bit early for that appointment, so together they sat in the car, just waiting and talking. They noticed that a Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) bus driver was having a difficult time trying to turn his bus around on this narrow dead-end street. He



Lenczowski and CTA bus driver.

struggled, attempting to navigate out of this situation by driving the bus back and forth. These attempts only made the situation worse. Zak, a professional engineer, who immigrated to the United States some 33 years ago, watched as the scenario unfolded. He is by nature one of the kindest and friendliest men you would ever want to meet. So, without hesitation, he decided that he had to help the CTA bus driver. Once he introduced himself and stated that he could help the driver, Zak proceeded to give the bus driver clear and precise instructions on how to get out of that tight corner. With mission accomplished, off went the bus driver while Zak went back to his car and daughter.

SERVING HER COMMUNITY TO THE UTMOST. **Mitchelle Kmiec** has been a resident of the Jefferson Park area of Chicago for 38 years. Her recent volunteer project was making, at her own expense, almost 500 COVID-19 masks which were distributed to the Chicago Police

Department, Chicago Fire Department, sanitation workers in Chicago's 45th Ward, and other first responders on the Northwest Side of Chicago.

During her professional career, Mitchell spent 28 years as a legal administrative assistant at the Chicago law firm, Wildman, Harrold, Allen & Dixon. She served several years as treasurer and volunteer at The Polish Museum of America. Presently, she serves as recording secretary of the Polish Arts Club of Chicago.

Mitchelle has also been active in her community in other ways. For example, as chair of the 45th Ward Participatory Budget Committee, she alone was instrumental in raising \$1M to upgrade the Jefferson Park Public Library. She continues to volunteer as a court advocate for the Chicago Police Department 16th District, at the annual Jeff Fest, and as a Eucharistic Minister at St. John Bellarmine Parish

She spends additional time knit-



Kmiec



Wycinanki murals

ing and crocheting custom afghans for charity and sewing a variety of dog beds which she donates to various Chicago-area dog shelters. She still finds time to can fruits, vegetables, relishes, salsas, and jams which she gives to friends or donates to charity.

Also, at the Rockwell station of the CTA's Brown Line, artist Thomas Skomski created glass enclosed images of water framed in charred wood to represent the Chicago River and the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

Located at the Addison/Avondale underpass of the Kennedy Expressway (I-90/94), one can view another stunning mural — a series of wycinanki Polish designs. Chicago artist, Tony Passero, and wycinanki artist Grace Baczykowski, originally presented this idea to the Old Irving Park/Addison Avondale Garden and Mural Committee, and it was approved. There, commuters will find 11 murals under the expressway viaduct, each with a different design. It should be noted that numerous Polish American artists helped to paint these Polish-style murals.

REV. JAKUBIK BECOMES PASTOR. Since 2016, St. Mary of the Woods Parish in the Wildwood area of Chicago's Northwest Side has not had a pastor. Effective July 1, **Rev. Richard Jakubik** became its pastor. Several priests had served as parish administrators, since its last pastor, Rev. Patrick Cecil, passed away Nov. 14, 2016. The parish will be gaining a priest with notable credentials. The religious staff and parishioners enthusiastically welcomed Father Richard to his new home.

Father Richard attended James

Giles Grammar School and Ridge-wood High School in Norridge, Illinois. From there he went to Niles College of Loyola University Chicago (LUC), where he received



Rev. Jakubik

his bachelor's degree in social work in 1989. He was ordained on May 22, 1993. While serving as a resident at Five Holy Martyrs on Chicago's South Side, he completed his studies at the University of St. Mary of the Lake Seminary receiving two degrees in Sacred Theology in 1994. From 1994 to 1998, he served as an associate pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Glenview. In 1998 he became a resident at St. Francis Xavier in Wilmette, while also serving on the faculty at the former Archbishop Quigley Preparatory Seminary from 1998 to 2003. During his teaching career at Quigley, he also received his master's degree in social work from LUC. During the next 12 years, he served the Archdiocese of Chicago as a psychotherapist at the Holbrook Counseling Center of Catholic Charities, providing counseling to individuals, families, and married couples. In 2011 he received a Doctoral Degree in clinical psychology from the Illinois School of Professional Psychology. From 2017 to 2020, he served as associate pastor at Holy Family Parish in Inverness.



Lenczowski

CTA MURAL ART AND ITS POLISH INFLUENCE. The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) has been installing works of art at dozens of its train and bus stations. Some of these murals are located at "L" (elevated) and subway stops. There are now 72 murals and sculptures located in 61 locations throughout the City of Chicago.

At the new Jefferson Park Blue Line Transit Center's bus terminal, artist Jamie Pawlus created a massive center panel using glass to depict the sun centered in the universe in honor of Polish Astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus and Jefferson Park's strong Polish heritage. The transit station is located around the corner from the Copernicus Center



Become a member today

Polish American Historical Association

The Polish American Historical Association was established in December 1942 as a special commission of the The Polish

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

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

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napisane przez Eugenię Kosteczkę / Biografia światowej sławy odkrywcy Jerzego Majcherczyka, jego osiągnięcia podróżnicze i jego życie. Jest członkiem The Explorers Club w Nowym Jorku, a także wielu innych prestiżowych organizacji. Został nazwany przez wydawców prestiżowego magazynu PADDLER „Legend of Paddling,” a American Canoe Association uznało go - za jedynego Polaka - za jednego ze „100 wioślarzy XX wieku.”

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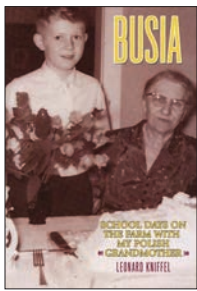
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BOOKS IN BRIEF

“School Days with my Polish Grandmother” is a Wonderful Connection to a Generation Past

Reviewed by Mary E. Lanham

BUSIA
School Days on the Farm with my Polish Grandmother
By Leonard Kniffel
PolishSon.com, 2019, 49 pgs.



Books that you can borrow, what a great idea! Another great idea pops into my head. We have some books upstairs—Uncle Hank's college books about agriculture, something by someone named Ivan Turgenev, some Golden Books.

School Days beautifully covers that rare age in youth where one is still a child, but old enough to start appreciating your elders. That time where you not only go through the motions of traditions, but start understanding them, and how they connect you to generations past. And ever present in the text is the mutual love between grandmother and grandson. If there is a single drawback to the book, it is that the pages stop when there is still so much more of the story I want to read. Hopefully there will be a third volume in the arc of *Busia*. Kniffel vividly paints a picture of his childhood that is suitable for both younger and older readers alike.

Busia: School Days on the Farm with my Polish Grandmother is highly recommended. It is available for purchase from the Polish American Journal, and the gift shop of the Polish Museum of America.

Leonard Kniffel, a librarian, was the editor and publisher of the magazine of the American Library Association, *American Libraries*. He has also written *A Polish Son in the Motherland: An American's Journey* and *Musicals on the Silver Screen: A Guide to the Must-See Movie Musicals*, and *Reading with the Stars: A Celebration of Books and Libraries*. Kniffel is the president of the Polish American Librarians Association and a member of the board of directors of the Polish Museum of America in Chicago.

A few years ago, I had the pleasure of reading and reviewing *Busia: Seasons on the Farm with my Polish Grandmother* by Leonard Kniffel. In the slim memoir Kniffel recounts a life growing up on his grandmother's farm in rural Michigan in the 1950s. There was no television and no telephone. Instead, he and his grandmother spent their days gardening and running the house. The next chapter in his life is described in *Busia: School Days on the Farm with my Polish Grandmother*, Kniffel's companion memoir. This continuation in his story is just as well-written as his previous volume. *School Days* takes place when Leonard — or Lenuś, as his *Busia* called him — just turns seven and ends when he is ten.

Below is a delightful excerpt of when the future librarian finds out about public libraries.

“Along with reading, I discover the library because we children are marched down to the public library and up the grand steps to the main door, which I had never seen even though I spent a year of kindergarten in the basement. We ascend the stairs as if to a palace and are guided to the children's area. I discover that every book has a pocket with a date card in it.

NEW BOOKS

“Children of the Borderlands” examines Genocide of Eastern Poles

WARSAW — A collection of eyewitness accounts of World War II-era genocide committed by Ukrainians on Polish population of Volhynia, and eastern parts of Lesser Poland has been translated into English.

Originally written in Polish as “Dzieci Kresow” by Dr. Lucya Kulinska, “Children of the Borderlands” is richly illustrated with numerous footnotes that explain historical background of these tragic events during which over 250,000 Poles were brutally murdered, and over 500,000 were deported to Germany and Soviet Russia as slave laborers.

Kulinska, a Polish historian who is specializing in genocide of the Polish population during World War II, collected these accounts over years of research and interviews. She documents the mass murders that took place on the Eastern territories of Poland occupied by Germany. Victims included mainly Polish citizens, but also Jews, Armenians, Czechs,

Gypsies, and Russians. The perpetrators were Ukrainian peasants, who at the time had Polish citizenship. They were led into murders by separatists from the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and hit squads of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army. In the name of the barbarian ideology, whose primary principle was to create post-war, mono-ethnic, and “as clean as a glass of water” Ukraine, they committed inhumane crimes. Victims died as sophisticated tortures were applied even on children and pregnant women, and Ukrainians of mixed marriages. Hundreds of thousands of Poles, who had been living in voivodships of the Second Republic of Poland for ages, were either murdered or expelled from their homes and homesteads by force.

Kulinska has authored several books, collections of documents, publications and articles on the subject of Polish-Ukrainian relations, globalization, and international relations. She is chairwoman of Społeczna Fundacja Pamięci Nar-

odu Polskiego (Social Foundation for the Remembrance of the Polish Nation).

The book has 575 pages and is available from ebay at www.ebay.com/itm/Children-of-the-Borderlands/153956568695. It is shipped USPS book rate in the United States. Please ask for international shipping rate.

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SCHOLARSHIPS

PACT Awards Four Scholarships to Toledo-Area Students

by Margaret
Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

TOLEDO, Ohio — COVID-19 may have stopped the Polish American Community of Toledo from holding its spring Northwest Ohio Polish Festival, but it didn't stop it from delivering good news to several Toledo-area students.

Stan Machosky, past PACT president and current Scholarship Committee chairman announced that four winners will receive \$1,000 each as part of PACT's Tenth Annual Scholarship Competition.

This year's winners are **Clare J. Krzykala**, **Taylor Dulinski**, **Brooke Seelenbinder**, and **Jillian Pruss**.

Krzykala, of Deerfield, Ill. has a double major in law and social thought and neuropsychology at the University of Toledo. She is in the Jesup Scott Honors College. Krzykala has been heavily involved in a children's group at a woman's shelter, volunteers at Feed My Starving Children, and trained students who have special needs for track and field and cross-country season. She is fluent in English and Polish.

“Earlier this year, Krzykala approached the PACT board about establishing Polish club at the University of Toledo. She wants to know more about local Polish organizations and what they do. PACT hopes to work with her on her goal of creating a UT Polish club,” said Machosky.



Dulinski, of Curtice, Ohio graduated from Notre Dame Academy's International Baccalaureate School and will be a freshman at Miami University this fall. She plans to pursue a degree in medicine. Dulinski has over 100 hours of community involvement that includes cooking meals at the Ronald McDonald House, volunteering at the Bethany House and the Aurora Project (victims of domestic abuse), as well as helping at her church and nursing homes. She also finds time

to help young athletes develop soccer skills.



Seelenbinder, of Maumee, Ohio is a junior at Notre Dame Academy. She is an NDA Merit Scholarship winner and has maintained First

Honors status (three years - 4.6 cumulative GPA). Brooke is on the speech and debate team, a varsity cheerleader, and has participated in the school's musicals. She is the executive treasurer of NDA's student council and volunteers at Sunshine Children's Home.

Pruss of Toledo, graduated from Sylvania Southview High School and will be attending Purdue in the fall where she will pursue a career in computer science. Pruss was class vice president for three years, played JV and varsity volleyball, and participated in the mock trial team which won the state championship and finished in top-10 nationally). She was a delegate to Buckeye Girls State where she was appointed Skerness County Public Defender.

“It is estimated that northwest Ohio is home to 300,000 people of Polish descent,” said Machosky. “The scholarship competition is not just a way to financially help young Polish Americans with their education, but also instill the value of their heritage. This year PACT had to cancel several events due to the COVID-19 virus. We hope to develop other ways to continue to fund our scholarship competition.”

Since 2011 the Scholarship Competition has given away \$32,250 to over 30 students of Polish American ancestry. Students complete an application process that includes their academic background, community service, and an essay on what their Polish heritage means to them. Typically, the applications are reviewed by members of PACT and the Toledo Poznan Alliance, however, this year TPA was not involved due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

To learn more about PACT and the scholarship winners, visit www.PolishCommunity.org.

Scholarship Memorializes Grandparents

UPPER DARBY, Pa. — The **Joseph P. Batory Scholarship** was presented for the 36th time at Upper Darby High School's “virtual” Senior Awards Night.

The scholarship is named after Joseph P. Batory, who created it to memorialize the legacy of his grandparents, who were Polish immigrants. Both of his grandfathers “worked long and hard hours” in the coal mines and eventually suffered lung disease. These Batory immigrant grandparents sacrificed and gave greatly of themselves so future generations of their families would succeed.

Joseph Batory, who was the superintendent of the Upper Darby School District from 1984 to 1999, has presented a scholarship to a UDHS graduate in each year for more than three decades.

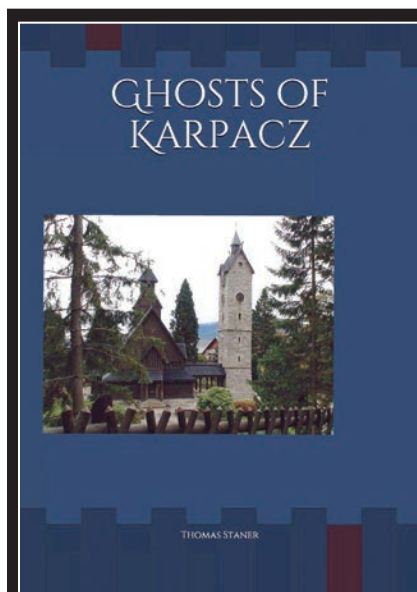
This year's recipient is Aisha

Omer, an academic achiever and outstanding member of Upper Darby High's Class of 2020.

Upon her arrival from Pakistan, Omer entered the school district in the 6th grade, where she excelled at Beverly Hills Middle School, and subsequently became a top student at Upper Darby High School. Accepted by six prestigious universities, Omer will attend Philadelphia's Temple University in the fall of 2020, where she will major in health services.

Batory said he is proud the recipients are “remarkably diverse.”

“In a world with too much cynicism and nihilism these days, take heart,” said Batory. “There are still good young people among us ... who have the potential and just need a helping hand. And each of them will make a difference for the better in the future.”



Interested in the possibility of multiverse and a good story?

GHOSTS OF KARPACZ

by Thomas Staner, MD

Cindy Kowal is looking for answers ... answers from science. A transplant from Central Europe few Americans know, she has brought to Alabama a hereditary curse. Far from the nidus of terror, she hopes an education in psychology might cast some light on the infliction, searching for a rational explanation to the Ghosts of Karpacz, that has permeated her family for countless generations. When spells begun, they provide the local medical community, the patient of a lifetime. Dr. Thad Stevens, neurologist, understands the singularity of her case and joins Cindy in her efforts to find a reasonable explanation. He and consulting specialists, perform an in depth analysis of their patient, including a Cat scan, EEGs, and MRI, even an attempt at psychoanalysis, eventually concluding brain surgery the best option. Each step only deepens the mystery of her condition. Soon her events will become part of an “Old World story.” But the answer from science, appears as unreasonable, as the myth itself.

Thomas Staner, MD, is a Board Certified Neurologist and Board Certified Neurosurgeon.

Available from

amazon.com

MINNESOTA VOICE

A Polish architect rethinks library and office design for the COVID era

by Mark Dillon

For Dagmara Larsen, coming to Minnesota from Gdańsk, Poland in 1999 was supposed to be a two-year commitment related to her husband Steven's IT job assignment. Two decades later, she's still in Minneapolis, a principal at MSR Design, a nationally renowned firm on the forefront of architecture.

With a wide range of pre-coronavirus crisis projects such as municipal libraries, the U.S. Senate Library in Washington and corporate headquarters designs in Minnesota for the 3M Co. and Philadelphia for Urban Outfitters, MSR Design built a strong stable of business going into the pandemic.

Now, the nearly 40-year-old firm's historic focus on creating healthy, sustainable public places may give Larsen an edge as compa-

ers capitalized a new freedom to build.

"I have vivid memories from the summers spent working with my Dad on the construction of our summer house that he, a history professor, was building with limited available materials and largely without access to power tools," Larsen says. "The smell of curing cement and freshly-cut wood reminds me of that time and always makes me smile. I had my heart set on becoming an ar-



Polish American Dagmara Larsen joined MSR Design in 2005 and has built a reputation as one of America's foremost library architects.

tend to be given more weight.

Another difference is that most project plans in Europe happen as a result of public design competitions while in the U.S. new work is often the product of government or private RFP/RFQ (request for proposals/qualifications) or the fruit of networking relationships.

"The environment here asks for different skill types," Larsen adds. "Here you need better soft skills while in Europe you can just draw something and not talk to anybody."

CEO Lesnecki says "Dagmara's focus on how a building performs from energy, day lighting and other sustainable metrics," has been a key contributor to MSR's success.

One place where MSR's and Larsen's work mingles with that of other approaches is Madison, Wis. where the MSR-designed Madison Central Public Library stands across the street from the \$200 million Overture Center performing arts complex, designed by world-renowned architect Cezar Pelli.

A Madison architectural historian says the 2013 city library is much more people-friendly and inviting than the arts center.

"The most notable feature of the design is the staircase and its location. The staircase is the most used feature of the building, occupying the finest location, inside the large window wall. Not many architects would have thought to do that," says Geoffrey Gyrisco.

"The staircase is beautifully designed, with slip resistant rubberized treads, and the landings are set so it is not fatiguing to walk up it," he said. "The green roof is nice and so Madison. Overall, the space is light, airy, pleasant, very large, and busy with people of all ages, all walks of life. Overall, my impression is that the building simply works well."

Larsen says she puts users' health and wellbeing and how people engage with space at the forefront of projects, adding that "great design does not have to be expensive."

What colleges and libraries now do to modify classrooms and gathering spaces as the pandemic enters a second phase takes on a personal dimension for Larsen, as her daughter Kalina is an undergraduate and a board member of the Polish Student Association at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

Honored in Poland, too

Larsen's work has also been recognized back in Poland, where the Association of Polish Architects has also honored her with a Young Architects Award. Two years ago,

she gave a presentation at the Polish Librarians Association Forum in Lublin, focusing on how to transform even small village libraries into barrier-free, user-centric destinations.

To combat spread of the coronavirus, Larsen and Lesnecki see the importance of managing airflow and people traffic within any size public space on par with wearing facemasks, cleaning surfaces and creating physical barriers between workspaces.

A key element of interior safety within libraries is fresh air exchange, they say. To ensure that, Minnesota and other states' building codes call for an air flow rate within libraries that is twice the rate of office buildings and retail store space.

"Adjustments to HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems) are critical" to curtailing the spread of COVID, Lesnecki wrote in a recent industry trade journal. She chairs the American Library Association's Architecture for Public Libraries Committee.

Like all architectural firms, MSR's business has been negatively impacted as the economic effects of

the virus have deepened. However, Larsen and Lesnecki say many clients are pressing ahead with projects that were both slated to open earlier this year and/or are still on the drawing boards – among them headquarters work at SEI, a large investment management firm in the Philadelphia suburbs, and libraries in Missoula, Mont.; Eau Claire, Wisc.; Edina, Minn.; and Idaho.

In Minnesota, one high profile MSR-designed project under construction since 2019 and slated to open this autumn is a \$150 million new City of Minneapolis government office. The project includes spending \$2 million on public art



Traci Engel Lesnecki is CEO of MSR Design and married into a Polish American family.

within the building that includes five murals and work by 15 mostly local artists.



Amid the coronavirus crisis, the City of Minneapolis is building a new \$150 million office downtown this fall designed by MSR. The new building consolidates government offices spread out among several rented buildings.

nies, governments and non-profits, including Polish cultural organizations, try to modify indoor environments to keep employees, board meetings, library patrons and the public safe.

"What links projects in our portfolio as a cohort is that they all are transformative in some way. They transform either the built environment very directly and/or the client and their organization" says Traci Engel Lesnecki, named MSR's CEO in March.

With the 2003 creation of Minneapolis' popular, interactive Mill City Museum (an 1874 Washburn Crosby flour mill partially destroyed in a 1991 fire) MSR co-founders Thomas Meyer, Jeffrey Scherer, and Garth Rockcastle, built a reputation for innovative solutions to public and corporate design challenges.

Building a future in reborn Poland

A generation later, Lesnecki and Larsen have expanded on that vision with a portfolio of work on dozens of city and university libraries and higher education buildings, including award-winning projects in Tulsa, OK and Haverford College in Pennsylvania. On July 1, Larsen's life work was recognized by the Minnesota chapter of the American Institute of Architects for a Young Architects Award, given to licensed architects in practice for 10 years or less.

Larsen's passion for architecture began as a young girl in the Gdańsk area as Poland transitioned from the post-Communist era and homeown-

er architect before middle school, and I never changed my mind."

On its website, the Minnesota AIA describes Larsen as "a dedicated architect recognized for her commitment to designing equitable, sustainable, and human-centric, award-winning projects for a wide range of organizations and individual clients. The jury celebrated her excellence in design and strong voice in library and higher education design, which has a significant impact on communities, and her role as a firm leader in honoring her work."

Performance, people come before pride on paper

What may make Larsen stand out compared to some U.S.-trained architects and interior designers is that her Polish education at Politechnika Gdańska includes both engineering and architecture, which has translated into a keen focus on building performance and functionality.

"It gave me an experience that is unique in the American market," Larsen said. "I innately understood that buildings are not just about design. That's one of the things that I think has helped propel me in my career."

As an adjunct architecture professor at the University of Minnesota, Larsen says she saw that architecture education in the U.S. emphasized design theory and "the first phase of creating a building." In Europe, success in technical implementation, the construction process and choice of the right materials for environmental excellence



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HISTORY

Maritime Archaeologist Joseph W. Zarzynski, an Author of Underwater Mysteries

Inspired by the recovery of Wellington bomber in Loch Ness, Zarzynski decided to become an underwater archaeologist.

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. — Area resident Joseph W. Zarzynski spends much of his free time nowadays writing books and articles about underwater mysteries. Born in Johnson City, N.Y. and a resident of Endicott, N.Y. for the first 24 years of his life, the Union Endicott High School graduate now resides with his wife in Saratoga County in the foothills of the Adirondacks in upstate New York.

After completing his undergraduate degree at Ithaca College in 1973, and his Master of Arts in teaching degree at Binghamton University, Zarzynski became a social studies teacher in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. He taught there from 1974 to 2005. Years later, Zarzynski returned to graduate school and in 2001, he received a second master's degree, that in archaeology and heritage. He then became a certified professional archaeologist specializing in shipwreck archaeology.

However, from 1975 to 1985, Joseph W. Zarzynski made eight trips to Loch Ness, Scotland to research the waterway's reputed mystery animals commonly called "Nessie." In 1985, as a correspondent for an American aviation publication, he covered the raising of a twin-engine British Wellington bomber that had ditched at Loch Ness in December 1940 during a training mission. The plane was one of only two Wellington bombers from over 11,000 built to have survived. Zarzynski was so inspired by the rare war planes' recovery, he decided to become an

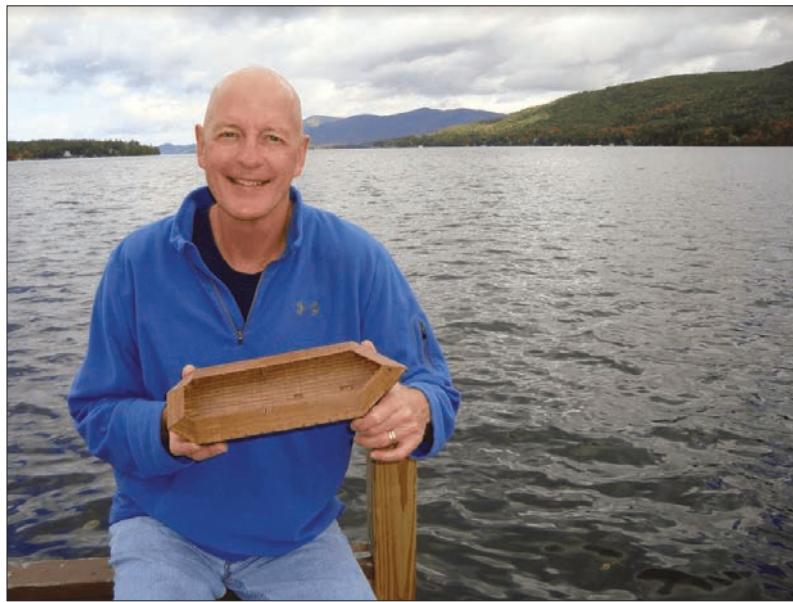
underwater archaeologist.

In 1987, he co-founded a group of scuba divers that became Bateaux Below, Inc. The archaeology team primarily studied Lake George, N.Y.'s "sunken bateaux of 1758," British warships from the French & Indian War (1755-1763).

IN THE AUTUMN OF 1758, the British military deliberately sank 260 bateaux (wooden warships 25 to 35 feet long), an unknown number of whaleboats, some row galleys, three radeaux (floating gun batteries), and a sloop. This tactical decision was to protect the British fleet from French marauders over of the winter of 1758-1759. Many of those sunken crafts were salvaged by the British in 1759, repaired, and then used in the 1759 British General Amherst campaign against the French in the Champlain Valley. However, dozens of sunken British warships, mostly bateaux, were not recovered in 1759. They remained shipwrecks to be examined by curious modern-day explorers.

FROM 1987-2011, Zarzynski's not-for-profit entity, Bateaux Below, mapped these submerged warships lying in 25-40 feet of water. In 1992, the team succeeded in getting a cluster of seven 1758 British bateau-class shipwrecks, known as the "Wiawaka Bateaux," listed onto the National Register of Historic Places. These were the first shipwrecks in Lake George with that historical designation.

In 1990, Zarzynski and his team employed a Klein side scan sonar to discover Lake George's 1758 *Land Tortoise* radeau shipwreck, a seven-sided British floating gun battery pierced for seven cannons, that became known as "North America's



Zarzynski holds a model of the 1758 *Land Tortoise* radeau.

oldest intact warship." With Dr. D.K. Abbass as the lead archaeologist and Zarzynski as the project manager, the volunteer team of experienced scuba divers mapped the radeau shipwreck, that rested in 107 feet of water. In 1998, the 1758 *Land Tortoise* radeau was designated a National Historic Landmark, only the sixth shipwreck in American waters with that recognition.

During his scuba career, the 6 foot 5 inches tall Zarzynski made over 2,750 dives including projects studying French & Indian War, American Revolution (1775-1783), and other sunken ships in inland waterways and in the ocean off New England and Florida.

LATEST WORK. *Ghost Fleet Awakened: Lake George's Sunken Bateaux of 1758* (SUNY Press, 2019, 284 pages) is the author's sixth book. Zarzynski's other books are: *Champ — Beyond the Legend* (1984), *Monster Wrecks*

of Loch Ness and Lake Champlain (1986), *The Radeau Land Tortoise — North America's Oldest Intact Warship* (1993, a young adult book co-written by Dr. D.K. Abbass), *Lake George Shipwrecks and Sunken History* (2011, co-written by Bob Benway), and *Documentary Filmmaking for Archaeologists* (2012, co-written by Peter Pepe).

For the last decade, Zarzynski has written a regular column on Lake George history and archaeology for the *Lake George Mirror* newspaper. The maritime archaeologist is also editor of *The French & Indian War Society at Lake George Newsletter*, based at Fort William Henry Museum in the village of Lake George. Moreover, he has written

or co-written four documentary film scripts about shipwrecks and underwater archaeology for Pepe Productions (Glens Falls, N.Y.).

In 2018, Zarzynski and his wife Mary Pat Meaney, while volunteer archaeologists for the state museum in Albany, N.Y., completed the computer cataloguing of 8,000 artifacts found inside a 1770s-built wooden shipwreck discovered in 2010 during reconstruction of NYC's World Trade Center. The vessel, built in Philadelphia in the early 1770s, was used in the American Revolution. After the war it was relegated to a "wharfing" project along the Hudson River in Manhattan. During this abandonment, the coastal watercraft was tied to a pier. The hull then received garbage, was covered with dirt to form a bulkhead, and this type of land reclamation increased the size of lower Manhattan.

LOCH NESS, TOO. Zarzynski recently completed his seventh book. It is an unconventional examination of the Loch Ness monster mystery during "The Golden Age of Monster Hunting at Loch Ness," the period of the 1960s into the mid-1980s. The author just began the process of looking for a book publisher and hopes his book will be published in mid-to-late 2021.

Zarzynski is a frequent lecturer on shipwrecks and other underwater mysteries. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has put a pause to his lectures/book signings, especially for his latest book *Ghost Fleet Awakened — Lake George's Sunken Bateaux of 1758*. The book is available at Amazon.com and also from SUNY Press at www.sunypress.edu/p-6788-ghost-fleet-awakened.aspx.

ACROSS POLONIA

Pandemic Strains Philly's Polish Home

PHILADELPHIA — Since 1900, the Associated Polish Home (Dom Polski) has served as the cultural, educational, artistic and social heart of the Polish American community.

For the first time in its 120-year history, the Home is experiencing challenges. Due to the pandemic and the related social restrictions, it is deprived of any sort of income, which is primarily based on renting its rooms and kitchen for both private events and in-house activities. The board of directors has cut expenditures due to the current situation, but the cost of maintaining an unused building remains significant. Despite the lack of fa-

cility use, certain expenses cannot be avoided, such as insurance, utilities and maintenance fees to ensure the continued functionality of the building and organization.

The Home has small financial reserves that are dwindling. Despite the vigorous efforts of the board to obtain grants, and contact Pandemic Relief Funding Entities. As it is a non-profit organization and does not hire full-time employees, it is not entitled to any government money.

Some of the organizations that operate within Philadelphia's Polish Home: The Adam Mickiewicz Polish Language School, the PKM Polish Folk Dance Ensemble, The Adam Mularczyk Theater Company, the Marcella Kochanska-Sembrich Female Chorus, Piwnica

u Dziadka - Polish Musicians' Club, Polish People's University, Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia, The Kosciuszko Foundation-Philadelphia Chapter, and the Polish Police Association.

As such, the Home is asking for help. Every donation helps, no matter the amount. Donations may be mailed to: Associated Polish Home, 9150 Academy Rd., Philadelphia, Pa. 19114.

The Associated Polish Home of Philadelphia is a registered 501c3 charitable organization.

To learn more, visit www.PolishHome.com.

Landmark Status Sought for Janta-Polczynska Home

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

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

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

at this residence until she passed away on April 2, 2020 at 107 years old.

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

The home of Walentyna and her husband Aleksander — a foreign

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

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

Dolina Folk Dancers 70th Jubilee Now on DVD

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

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

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

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POLISH CHEF

Polish Autumn Salad Favorites



SAUERKRAUT SALAD (surówka z kwaszonej kapusty): Drain and rinse 2 c sauerkraut, press out moisture and chop. Place in salad bowl and tear apart so it doesn't stick together. Add 1 chopped onion, 1 finely grated carrot and 1 finely diced, peeled apple. Season with pepper and sugar, drizzle with salad oil and toss. Garnish with chopped chives for a nicer presentation. Optional: Salad may also be seasoned with caraway and/or laced with a little mayonnaise. Excellent with fried fish and pork dishes. *Variation:* Prepare sauerkraut salad as above, but stir in 1/2 c fresh, washed, rinsed, briefly processed cranberries to make surówka z kwaszonej kapusty i żurawin).

by Robert Strybel

Polish cookery has traditionally been quite seasonal. Even now, when fresh salad greens are available all year round, many Polish cooks enjoy preparing the traditional autumn and winter favorites. Here are some of them.:

RED CABBAGE SALAD (surówka z czerwonej/modrej kapusty): Trim 1 small head red cabbage of withered outer leaves and grate coarsely. Place in pot, scald with boiling water to cover, bring to boil and cook about 2 min. Drain well. Place in salad bowl. and sprinkle with juice of 1 lemon. Add 2 peeled, cored diced apples and 1 finely chopped onion. Sprinkle with 3 T salad oil, toss ingredients and season to taste with salt, pepper and sugar. Optional: add 1/2 c plumped raisins.

WHITE CABBAGE SALAD/POLISH COLESLAW (surówka z białej kapusty): Remove and discard wilted outer leaves of a small head of cabbage or half a larger one. Grate cabbage on coarse side of grater. Add 2 carrots grated on fine side of grater, 1 finely chopped onion and 1 peeled, coarsely grated apple. Toss and season to taste with salt, pepper, sugar and lemon juice. Optional: lace with a little mayonnaise – plain or mixed 50-50 with sour cream.

CARROT-APPLE-HORSERADISH SALAD (surówka z marchwi, jablek i chrzanu): Combine 4 washed, peeled finely grated carrots with 2-3 peeled, cored, coarsely grated apples. Sprinkle with lemon juice, toss and stir in 1-2 heaping

T prepared horseradish. Season to taste with salt (sparingly), sugar and lemon juice. Optional: Stir in 1 heaping T sour cream and/or mayonnaise.

CELERIAC & APPLE SALAD (surówka z selerów i jablek): Peel and grate fine 1 med celeriac (celery root) and sprinkle with lemon juice. Combine with 3 peeled, cored, finely diced or coarsely grated cooking apples and toss. Season to taste with salt, pepper, a little sugar and a little more lemon juice as required. Lace with 2/3 - 3/4 c mayonnaise. Garnish with chopped parsley or chives.

CELERIAC & PEAR SALAD (surówka z selerów i gruszek): Peel and grate 1 med celeriac and sprinkle with lemon juice. (Note: Celeriac may be grated finely or coarsely as preferred.) Combine with 3 firm, peeled, cored, finely diced pears and toss. Season to taste with salt, pepper, a little sugar and a little more lemon juice as required. Lace with fork-blended mixture of 1/3 c sour cream and 1/3 c mayonnaise.

CREAMY CUCUMBER SALAD (mizeria): This is a classic Polish salad that many PolAms remembers from their Polonian childhood. Peel 2 nice-sized cucumbers and slice into thin rounds. Sprinkle with salt and let stand 30 min. Pour off liquid. Sprinkle with freshly ground pepper, 2- 3 pinches sugar and 1 T lemon juice or cider vinegar. Lace with 1/2 - 2/3 c fork-blended sour cream Optional: Add a small onion sliced wafer thin and/or garnish with finely chopped fresh dill.

Cleveland's St. Stanislaus

Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus in Cleveland, Ohio
3649 East 65th Street
Cleveland, Ohio
Status: Open

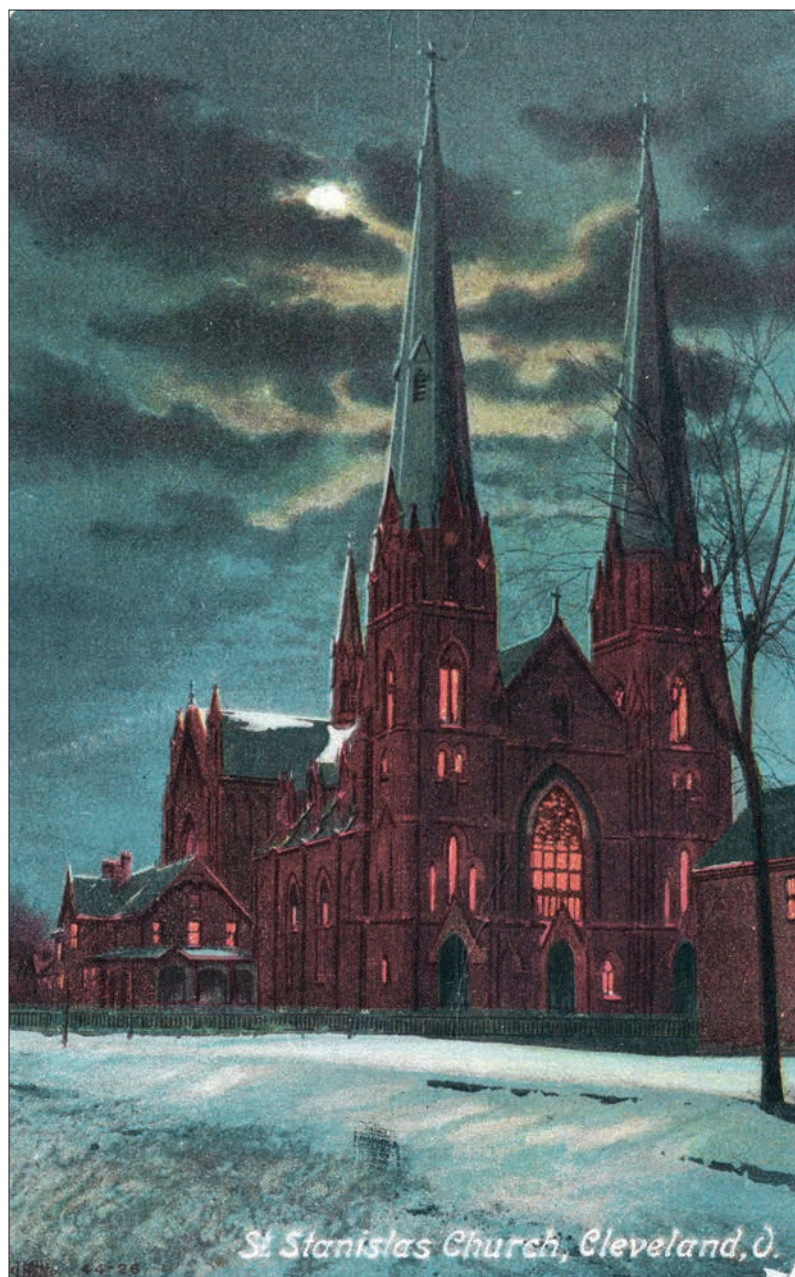
by Gregory L. Witul

The first Poles began arriving in the City of Cleveland shortly after the end of the American Civil War. Soon these early pioneers began to organize and by 1873, Bishop Richard Gilmour found their number to be sufficient enough to start a parish of their own. Having no Polish priests in the city, Bishop Gilmour sent for Father Victor Zareczny of St. Adalbert's in Berea, Ohio to shepherd the new parish.

Using the old St. Mary of the Flats church, Father Zareczny led the mission parish of St. Stanislaus for four years, traveling back and forth from Berea about once a month. On December 16, 1877, Father Marshall became the first resident priest of the parish and soon the center of Cleveland's Polonia shifted to the Newburgh area of Cleveland as Amasa Stone's Rolling Mills began targeting the Poles as potential employees.

Around 1879, some of the responsibilities of the parish were taken over by the Franciscan Fathers, who had become friendly with many of the parishioners since some of the members spoke Polish. As the congregation grew, a number of locations housed the parish until 1886 when the cornerstone for the large, red brick gothic church was laid. For the next five years, the structure went up and on Sunday, November 15, 1891 the building was dedicated.

In 1969, St. Stanislaus would witness history when Cardinal Archbishop Karol Wojtyla celebrated



Mass at the parish as part of his 12-day, 12-city tour of the United States. Nine years later, Wojtyla became Pope John Paul II.

At the dawn of the new century, the church underwent a \$1.4 million renovation and upon its completion was rededicated as the Shrine

Church of St. Stanislaus. Sadly, a decade later the Franciscans had to leave the church due lack of available priests.

In July of 2011 the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland took the parish back and has continued to oversee the parish to this day.

INTERNATIONAL

Court Convicts Former Nazi Guard, 93

BERLIN (NY Times)— A German court convicted a 93-year-old man for helping the Nazis murder thousands of people while he served as a concentration camp guard more than 75 years ago, in what might be one of the last verdicts to be handed down to a living participant in the Holocaust.

The Hamburg state court found Bruno Dey guilty of 5,230 counts of accessory to murder — one for each person believed to have been killed in the Stutthof concentration camp, located in Sztutowo, east of Gdańsk in Nazi-occupied Poland, during the time he served as a guard there, from August 1944 to April 1945.

Dey, who was tried in juvenile court because he was only 17 years old at the time, was given a two-year suspended sentence, reflecting the prosecutors' acknowledgment of his contrition and willingness to cooperate with authorities.

Survivors and those representing them criticized the sentence as too lenient.

"Grannies" Take on Far Right

(MONITOR DAILY) The Polish Grannies may sound innocuous from their name, but they are a disparate crew of retired professionals, all impassioned, that has been confronting authorities and nationalist demonstrators for more than a year. The group — most of

them grandmothers — have handed out leaflets and hoisted placards to protest against what they consider a poisonous kind of patriotism afflicting their country.

Until the onset of COVID-19, they had been meeting on the streets of Warsaw every week under the gaze of police officers. The women believe that consistency is key to getting their message out.

Unlike some other activists, they say their passion is rooted in the hard history that they've witnessed — notably the toll that German occupation in World War II and later Soviet rule took on their nation.

"I lived most of my adult life under communism," Krystyna Piotrowska, a great-grandmother, says. "In 1989, I started to breathe like a human being. I could travel freely ... And now I feel like someone wants to take this away from me."

New Report Finds Even More Polish Diplomats Tried to Save Jews during Holocaust

(RADIO POLAND) New research has revealed Polish diplomats based in Switzerland during World War II attempted to save 8,000 to 10,000 Jews from the Holocaust by providing them with fake Latin American documents, according to the World Jewish Congress.

An English-language book listing the names of Jews helped by Polish diplomats during the war

was to be presented last month at the Hebrew Union College — Jewish Institute of Religion in New York.

The Ładoś List gives details of people of Jewish origin who received fake passports from a group of Polish diplomats who aimed to save them from the German Nazis.

The book is named after Aleksander Ładoś, a Polish diplomat who during the war led an informal group based in Bern, Switzerland, which fabricated passports for Jews.

The Ładoś List was published in Polish in December by Poland's Pilecki Institute.

The English version of the book is a comprehensive publication presenting previously unrevealed details about the so-called Ładoś Group, as well as a full index of the names of the 3,253 Jews who received or were meant to receive the fake documents, the World Jewish Congress said on its web site.

Up to 46 percent of the 3,253 Jews who received the Polish-forged documents are confirmed to have survived the Holocaust, and several dozens of them are still alive, according to the Congress.

But the real number of the survivors is much larger, the World Jewish Congress cited Jakub Kumoch, the Polish ambassador to Switzerland and the editor of the study, as saying. Kumoch said thousands more Jews are believed to have benefited from these efforts, though their names remain undocumented.



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SPORTS

What's in a Name?

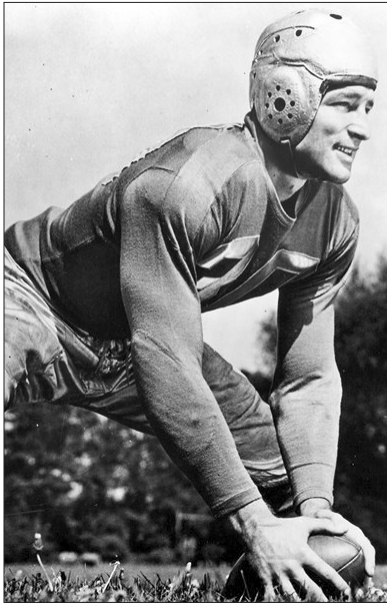
by Tom Tarapacki

In the early 20th century Polish immigrants to America felt pressure to conform and “become Americans,” and one of the ways of doing that was by changing their names — especially if they were hard for English speakers to pronounce.

Polish American athletes felt that pressure as well, perhaps even more so because they were in the public eye. When they started to emerge in sports in the early 1900s many felt the need to change their names. Whitey Witt was an outfielder for the 1923 World Champion New York Yankees, considered one of the best and fastest leadoff hitters of his era — and one of Babe Ruth's best friends. His real name was **Ladislaw Wittkowski**. Baseball Hall of Famer **Al Simmons** led the Philadelphia Athletics to world titles in 1929 and 1930. He was born **Aloysius Szymanski**. The story goes that he was convinced to shorten his name “so it could fit in a box score.” In those days reading box scores in newspapers was the primary way that baseball fans followed the sport, finding a name that wouldn't be abbreviated.

A Wojciechowicz Wouldn't Get Lost in the Crowd

By the 1930s and 1940s Polish names were becoming more accepted. That was especially true in football, where Polish names became closely identified with football excellence. That's not surprising when you consider that some of the All-Americans of that era in-



Alex “The Great” Wojciechowicz wouldn't change his name.

when ethnic identity became something that was widely accepted and even encouraged. Some Polish Americans, like Yankee pitcher **Eddie Lopat** decided to shorten their names — his was originally Lopatynski. Middleweight boxing champion **Tony Zale** was born Antoni Zaleski. Golf Hall of Famer **Billy Burke's** name had been William Burkowski.

Future golf great **Robert Alguoski** did it a little differently, cutting off the front part of his name to become Bob Toski. 1970s figure skater **Janet Lynn Nowicki** cut off her entire last name and went by Janet Lynn. Her skating coach argued that since skating was a very political sport during the Cold War era, a Polish name on an American skater could be “a distraction” and impact Janet's scores.

MAJKA BECAME MICHAELS. Some athletes chose to “Americanize” their Polish names: tennis great **Frank Parker** was born Franciszek Andrzej Pajkowski, Football greats **Lou** and **Walt Michaels** were originally the Majka Brothers. Polish born track star **Stanisława Walasiewicz** changed her name to Stella Walsh.

When it came to names, pro wrestling was a little different, because it often encouraged ethnic rivalries. In fact, promoters would

sometimes change names for that purpose. Interestingly, two of wrestling's most famous figures had their Polish names changed — to other Polish names. The legendary **Walter “Killer” Kowalski**, was actually born Edward Władysław Spulnik to Polish immigrants in Canada. Another all-time great, **Ivan “Polish Power” Putski** was born Josef Bednarski in Poland. Apparently, promoters thought that Putski was a better wrestling name than Bednarski — oblivious to the fact that Ivan isn't even a Polish name.

Keeping your Polish surname was one thing, getting people to

spell it right was another. **Ted Kluszewski**, the big Cincinnati Reds slugger, was the first major leaguer to play in a game with his name misspelled on his jersey. Getting people to say Polish names was another challenge. Some Polish athletes, like **Tony Kubek** or **Phil Niekro**, had names that were just two syllables, not too many consonants, and were pronounced pretty similarly in Polish and English. Other names, like basketball's **Mike Krzyzewski** and baseball's **Doug Mientkiewicz** were more difficult.

TRANSLATING POLISH NAMES.

Of course, a Polish name doesn't have to be long to be hard to say. Free agent MLB outfielder **Matt Szczur** has a six-letter name with five consonants and one vowel. His official media guide pronunciation is “SEE-zur” (like “Caesar”), but the Polish way to say it is more like “ShChur.”

In the past, one way of dealing with hard-to-pronounce names was simply translating them to their meaning in English. One college football standout of the 1950s was born Benjamin Bernard Kwiatkowski. Since “kwiat” (in Polish that kw is more like a k-f sound) means flower in Polish, he changed his name to **Bernie Flowers**. **Pete Appleton**, a right-hander who played professional baseball from 1926 to 1951, changed his surname from Jabłonowski. The Polish word “jabłoni” translates to apple tree in English.

Matt Szczur or his Polish ancestors might have considered changing their surname to its English equivalent, except that “szczur” means “rat.”

Were Poles The First To Play Baseball?

Were Poles really the first people to play a form of baseball in America. The short but honest answer is: We're not sure.

Many Polish Americans — me included — have written about the Polish settlers who came to Jamestown in 1608 as being the first to play “The Great American Pastime” in America. Books like *God's Playground* by Norman Davies and *Baseball Before We Knew It* by David Block referenced the story that the first bat-and-ball game ever played on this continent was done so by Poles who came to the Jamestown, Virginia colony in the early 17th century. However, many historians contend that there isn't enough verifiable evidence to confirm that the Jamestown Poles ever played the game in America.

POLES HELPED A STRUGGLING COLONY.

We do know that Poles settled here in the early 17th century. It has been historically documented that Poles came to Jamestown as early as 1608, recruited by the Virginia Company of London to work in establishing some early manufacturing at the colony. Known for their expertise in lumber and other manufacturing industries, they were brought here to help the struggling settlement that was led by Captain John Smith. Smith had become acquainted with the Polish people while fighting the Ottoman Turks in Europe and had high regard for them. By all accounts the

Poles were not only skilled but also hard-working and resourceful. In fact, two Poles were credited with aiding Captain Smith as he fought off an attack by a chief of a Native American tribe.

However, when it comes to some other details about those early Poles in America — particularly the story of them playing a form of baseball — many professional historians question the authenticity of the memoir that contained that account.

The account of the Jamestown Poles playing an early version of baseball in America came from the writings of Polish American author and lecturer Arthur Waldo, who based it on the purported memoir of one of the Poles.

Back in the 1940s historian Karol Wachtl claimed to have found a historical memoir written by one of the Jamestown Poles, Zbigniew Stefanski. Entitled *Pamiętnik Handlow*, it was said to have been published in 1625 in Amsterdam and contained a first-hand account of life in the colony. It was said to have been discovered in war-torn France and was offered for sale in 1947 to Mieczysław Haiman, who was director of the Polish Museum in Chicago. Haiman and Waldo examined the book and copied text from it. However, Haiman was apparently unable to come up with the sale price of \$5000, and the book was returned to the owner and then never seen again. No copies of the book have ever been located.

In a pamphlet published on the occasion of Jamestown's 350th anniversary in 1957, and in his 1977 book, “True Heroes of Jamestown,” Waldo used the memoir as the basis for writing about the Poles in some detail, including their names, origins, and experiences — and that they played palant.

PALANT PLAYED BY POLES IN THE MIDDLE AGES.

Palant, or pilka palantowa (“bat ball”) is a Polish folk game that had its origins back in the Middle Ages, and it's similar to baseball. The Stefanski memoir was the source of the story that the Jamestown Poles played it, but many professional historians question whether the book was authentic. Dr. James Pula, a professor at Purdue University North Central and a long-time board member of the Polish American Historical Association, wrote: “Despite efforts by other researchers, no one has ever seen the memoir and no bibliographic or other reference to it has come to light; consequently, historians do not accept it as legitimate.”

Though we don't have historical documentation, it's certainly possible that the Jamestown Poles played palant. Writing for culture.pl, Marek Kępa pointed out that palant was very popular in both city and country for a number of reasons. It was very inexpensive sport, requiring just a ball and some kind of bat or stick, along with some stones to serve as bases. Palant's popularity faded around the 1930s when football (or as Americans call it, soccer) started to take over. Interestingly, as baseball has gained a foothold in Poland in recent years, palant has also enjoyed a revival.

Even if it could be established definitively that the Jamestown Poles did play palant during their free time, it would be hard to argue that baseball developed from that

Polish game. Historians have tried to determine the origin of baseball for many years and haven't had much success. Keep in mind that, besides palant, there were comparable games that were played by immigrants from England and other European countries, including schlagball from Germany and lapta from Russia. Today many historians believe that baseball did not evolve from a single game, but from many games brought to America by European immigrants. For all we know, palant might well have been one of the bat-and-ball games that evolved into the sport we now know as baseball.

There is credible historical documentation that that Polish artisans were in Jamestown in 1608, and that they were a valuable part of that settlement. Whether palant was played in Jamestown is something that we're not as certain about.

Krzyzewski Speaks Out



Krzyzewski

Mike Krzyzewski is known for his passion and honesty, and the long-time Duke Men's Basketball coach let everyone know what he thinks about Black Lives Matter.

Coach K released a powerful video on YouTube that said in part: “Black lives matter. Say it. Can you say it? Black lives matter. We should be saying it every day. It's not political. This is not a political statement. It's a human rights statement. It's a fairness statement.”

Krzyzewski had previously released statements about the protests and the Black Lives Matter movement, but this was much more emotional. “The problem will not be solved, and no problem is solved unless you acknowledge the problem. Acknowledge it. If you acknowledge it, you have the duty to solve it. We as a country have the duty to solve this problem.”

Perkoski's Notebook

Offensive tackle **Bryan Bulaga**, a 2010 first-round pick of Green Bay, signed a free agent deal with the Los Angeles Chargers ... Offensive lineman **Stefen Wisniewski**, who played on Super Bowl-winning teams in Philadelphia and Kansas City, signed a two-year deal with his hometown Pittsburgh Steelers ... All America Girls Pro Baseball standout **Dorothy Kamenshek** was not Polish, but of Hungarian and Romanian heritage.

TAX DEDUCTION. Consider a donation to the Polish American Journal Foundation. It is a 503c non-profit organization, the funds of which are used for the promotion of Polish American culture.

TIME OUT! —By Chet Smith



Pziewjzewowich, go in and replace Smith—I'm mad at that fresh radio announcer!

A 1941 *Cincinnati Post* cartoon makes light of hard-to-pronounce Polish names. The caption reads: “Pziewjzewowich, go in and replace Smith — I'm mad at that fresh radio announcer.”

cluded **Ray Frankowski**, **Casimir Myslinski**, **Ed Molinski**, **Johnny Lujack**, **Bill Swiacki**, and **Emil Sitko**. **Alex Wojciechowicz**, was one of the biggest names (literally and figuratively) in football. While he was one of the famed “Seven Blocks of Granite” at Fordam, he supposedly considered changing his name to the Polish-sounding but much shorter Wojack. The story goes that Coach Jim Crowley talked him out of it, saying that a man named Wojack could get lost in the crowd, but “no one could ever overlook a name like Wojciechowicz or the man who wears it.”

Still, the changing of Polish names continued into the 1970s,

THE PONDERING POLE

“Just another day on the job”

by Ed Poniewaz

A doctor told me one time “stay away from doctors.” I have the utmost respect and admiration for doctors, but I really do prefer to avoid them. I feel the same about cops. We respect and need them, but on balance, I do want to stay away from them if possible. In truth, they want to avoid me too.

The news these days is replete with stories about what the police are doing, what they are not doing, what they should be doing, how we should fix them, redirect them, defund them, and so on. On and on with the police and most of it is negative. It is a shame.

So, when I saw a spot-on Fox News report with Sandra Smith about the actions of a police officer in Sterling Heights, Michigan, I was pleased — and warning, this story will pull strongly at your heart strings. Even Sandra warned, “What you are about to see will make it hard for you to keep it together.” Officer **Cameron Maciejewski** saved the life of a three-week-old baby.

“I was about a mile away from the house. I was right around the corner on the call when the call came out. And the only information I got from our dispatch was there’s an infant not breathing, and everyone is screaming in the background,” said Officer Cameron Maciejewski.

There are a host of YouTube videos showing what happened from the dashcam of the squad car showing how Maciejewski kept the mother and family calm, how he as-



Officer Maciejewski

sessed the status of the child, and finally how he dislodged what was in the baby’s throat. It is hard to keep it together when you see it.

“Very powerful,” said Chief **Dale Dwojakowski**. “I’ve been a police officer for 25 years. The last couple months have been brutal, not just for me, but every cop in the United States. What a lot of people don’t see is what we do every single day. Our guys do great police work including saving lives!”

Amen, chief, and what a credit Cameron is to your department and to all the consistent and worthy cops protecting and serving us. Although as Officer Maciejewski said in the Smith interview, it was “just another day on the job.” We know that but thank you for your service.

For the record, on top of everything else, Sandra Smith, Chicago girl, pronounced Maciejewski’s name perfectly. Thank you for that!

Polish or not?

I am a big fan and always have a bag of baby carrots (also known as Baby Whole Carrots) in the fridge to munch on as an occasional snack, but also like them with a sandwich or soup at lunch. Come to find out, the “inventor” of the baby carrot is **Michael Anthony Yurosek** who passed away June 22, 2005. He was the son of Polish immigrants from Javoshinka, Poland, and according to his obit, he and “his twin brother began school not speaking a word of English.”

Mike excelled in athletics and started and ran businesses with his older brother John (Yurosek Brothers Farms in Newhall, California) and in 1969 formed a company called Yurosek & Son, Inc., with his son David. In 1974, this corporation later moved to Lamont, California, and it “became one of the largest carrot operations in the nation.” This is where the Baby Whole Carrots were “discovered.” Yurosek in Lamont was sold to Grimmway Farms of Arvin, California in 1995.

Quite a guy and life well lived. And everyone who ever chomps on a baby carrot has him to thank.

Another Yurosek is famous and it has nothing to do with carrots. I am watching the Turner Classic Movie channel and it is Gary Lockwood night. Lockwood, an actor in film and television from 1958 to 1998, was born **John Gary Yurosek** in 1937. Besides acting, his other claim to fame is that he is the nephew of aforementioned Michael Yurosek of Whole Baby Carrots fame.

Gary was a sharp looking dude

in the day and had a credible body of work appearing in movies such as *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Star Trek “Where No Man Has Gone Before,”* and *The Lieutenant*. Oh, and maybe just one more claim to fame, at least to me, is that he was married to Stephanie Powers from 1966 to 1972. Gary Lockwood, Polish and husband of Stephanie Powers.

The name **Leonard Soloway** popped up on an Amazon Prime list of documentary films. The movie is called *Leonard Soloway’s Broadway*. I’m a musicals guy (season ticket holder to The MUNY – St. Louis Municipal Opera Theatre for over 20 years) and was curious to watch the movie and was more curious about the man. The Leonard Soloway story is about the “legendary” impact he has had on the greatest theatre district in the United States, Broadway, in Midtown Manhattan, New York City.

From his website:

Leonard Soloway is a Broadway Producer whose career spans 70 years and over 100 productions. A native of Cleveland his personal life story and professional accomplishments take one on a journey from the very beginning of the Off-Broadway scene to the world of smash hits that made Broadway history. His work has been honored with Tony Awards and Pulitzer Prizes and he has worked with many of the brightest creative talents on the Great White Way including Jerome Robbins, Colleen Dewhurst, Jason Robards and Paul Newman.

In the movie it says that Leonard’s father emigrated from Russia but in an email from Jeffrey Lesser,

his nephew, Soloway maintains the family was from Poland. He is the son of Mayer Judd Solowejagh who was born in the Russian occupied part of Poland in 1903. After World War I, the family left Poland and moved to South America. They later emigrated to the United States and the rest is history for Leonard.

From Leonard Soloway’s Broadway, he is called a “gentleman,” “at 90, a familiar face on the Broadway scene,” and “a Broadway legend.” An honorable and successful man, a legend, and we thank him for all that he has contributed to American culture. See the movie. Better yet, see a Soloway musical on Broadway.

◆ ◆ ◆

I owe a bunch of “dziękuję bardzo” (thank you very much) for this month’s Pondering Pole. Thank you, Mark Kohan for telling me about Mike Yurosek and his idea for Whole Baby Carrots. Thank you to Jeffrey Lesser for the nice email and information on his uncle Leonard “the legend” Soloway. Thank you again, Officer Cameron Maciejewski for saving that baby’s life.

◆ ◆ ◆

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.

POLAND NEWS BRIEFS

by Robert Strybel

Millions of Polish children and teenagers have enjoyed summer fun around the country thanks to a system of tourist vouchers launched by Polish President Andrzej Duda. Each child under 18 received a 500-złoty (\$134) voucher, and disabled kids got double that amount. The money was used to pay for summer camps, guest houses, recreation, and other vacation activities but only in Poland.

Police have detained seven people on charges of illegally building a huge medieval-style castle in an ecologically protected area near the west-central city of Poznań. The structure was erected as a residential building in Notecka Virgin Forest, an area protected under the European Union’s Natura 2000 network.

A baby girl named Maja was born recently in the southern Polish town of Piekary Śląskie weighing 14.96 pounds. It was the largest birth ever recorded at the local Piekary Medical Center. Initially, doctors believed that twins would be born.

Researchers at the Chemistry Department of Warsaw University have developed a revolutionary new painkiller which is said to be more effective and produces fewer side effects than those used to date. According to the researchers, the drug causes the body to simultaneously inhibit the perception of pain and extinguish its source.

A man, identified only as Marek W. under Polish privacy laws, has been sentenced by the Warsaw Regional court in Warsaw to three years in prison for spying on behalf of Russia. Employed at Poland’s Energy Ministry, he was originally detained by Poland’s domestic counterintelligence agency ABW in March last year following an investigation.

The Polish victory over the invading Bolshevik hordes in August 1920 is widely believed to have saved Europe from a communist takeover. Poland marked that occasion in grand style despite certain pandemic limitations. Those included the cancellation of the impressive military parade held annually on August 15, celebrated since the collapse of communism as Polish Army Day, but many other events went ahead. A military ceremony was held at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Piłsudski Square with U.S. Vice-resident Mike Pompeo in attendance, and wreaths were laid at monuments to the architects of reborn Poland.

Except for yachting enthusiasts and boat-show fans, not too many people know that Poland is fast becoming a leader in the watercraft industry. Polish yachts are known worldwide for their modern construction, design, technical quality and overall, craftsmanship, the, Radio Poland new site reported recently. They range from small, basic sailboats to motorized sailing yachts and cabin cruisers, some approaching the size of excursion boats.

LANGUAGE

Our Beloved Half-na-pół Polish

by Robert Strybel

Language purists in Québec and France itself lash out against *Franglais* (français + anglais = heavily English-influenced French). Similar linguistic hybrids are likely to appear whenever two different languages clash. Polish is no exception, and what emerged when our immigrant ancestors’ peasant dialects came into contact with American English has sometimes been humorously called ‘half-na-pół’ Polish or Polglish.

Having grown up among speakers of ‘half-na-pół’ Polish in the once predominantly Polish Detroit enclave-suburb of Hamtramck, I can rattle it off with the best of them: *Na którym kornierze sztrytkara sztapuje?* (On which corner does the streetcar stop?) *Nasza nejberka klinuje flory w ofisie za dwa boki i kwodra.* (Our neighbor cleans floors in an office building for \$2.25). That must go way back, considering the low hourly rate!

Activities unknown in the Old Country simply got the Polish ending -ować as in *drąjwować* (to drive), *kolować* (to call on the phone), *pajntować* /or *pejntować* (to paint), *gredźulejtować* (to graduate).

Polglish emerged because the first wave of poor, peasant immigrants encountered things in America they had never seen before. That accounts for such words as *sajdlök*, *kara* and even *stryta* (sidewalk, car, and street). Apparently the dusty, potholed lanes running

through their Old Country villages bore little resemblance to modern, American-style streets. Some said *flor* rather than *podłoga* (the proper word for floor) because their peasant huts had only a *klepisko* (beaten-dirt floor) and *hauza* (because even the most modest American frame houses hardly reminded them of their former thatched-roof huts).

Nasza nejberka klinuje flory w ofisie za dwa boki i kwodra ... the poor woman!

Some even said *szusy* (shoes) instead of *buty*, a luxury poor peasants wore only in the coldest months. The were also regional differences. Those from Wielkopolska (Poznań region) used to say *sklep* (in standard Polish a retail shop) for cellar rather than the standard *piwnica*. The problem got solved when the terms *bejzment* and *sztor* took over.

Back in the 20th century, the US-born children of immigrants often peppered their working-class English with Polish words and phrases. “We gonna go by busia’s tomorrow” and “Youse was only on the wedding but we was on the poprawiny the next day.” In Polonian jargon some family members were called “busia, dziadzia and cioci” – in proper Polish “babcia, dziadzio and ciocia” respectively.

Half-na-pół Polish has also generated a number of jokes. Have you heard about the new Japanese car?. It’s called Yakatokara!” Or the Po-

lonian Busia who visited Poland and told Polish relatives that American food products are “pełne prezerwatyw.” She wanted to say they are full of preservatives but actually said “they’re full of condoms.”

There are many more. If a person thinks they know Polish, you can ask them “what is a graczek?”

The answer, of course, is “what you need to open the garage door!”

Old-time western movie fans surely remember Gene Autry, but not many remember his Polish counterparts, Gene Kujie and Gene Dobry.

We invite you to join the **American Council for Polish Culture** and help preserve an environment that contributes to the development of our Polish culture.

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IN MEMORIAM

Zbigniew W. Sobol, Practiced Medicine in Indiana for More than 60 Years

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Zbigniew W. Sobol, M.D., passed away peacefully at home on July 17, 2020 after a prolonged illness. Although the ongoing pandemic kept all but a few family members from his side, he was in the thoughts and prayers of many around the world.

Dr. Sobol was born February 25, 1926 in Chelmino, Poland, the son of Major Wladyslaw and Wanda (Perkowska) Sobol. At the age of 13 he was forced to flee his homeland with his mother at the outbreak of World War II. Eventually reaching safety in Scotland, he completed

his primary education and went on to study at the Polish School of Medicine at The University of Edinburgh, graduating in 1948. Upon graduation, he practiced in hospitals in the UK, Summit, N.J. and the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City as a medical resident and fellow. After immigrating to the United States in 1950, he married Eve Harvey, of Victoria, Canada, in 1956, the same year he moved to Elkhart, Indiana, moving to South Bend in 1964. He practiced medicine in Northern Indiana for more than 60 years.

In addition to his local practice, Dr. Sobol participated in over 24 overseas medical mission trips to Poland, Jamaica, and Kenya. These missions produced the happiest moments in his years of medical practice, as he felt that the care he could provide for those in desperate need of medical attention served as partial repayment for the generosity he received as a refugee.

Dr. Sobol remained a devoted son of his native Poland, honoring its traditions, especially at Christmas and through countless hours of service with South Bend's Polish

community's organizations. He was committed to many charitable efforts, including organizing a scholarship fund for his alma mater. After the fall of communism allowed his return to Poland, he traveled there annually for as long as he was able. In 2008, he was honored with the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland in recognition for his medical and charitable work.

Dr. Sobol was a Diplomat of the National Board of Medical Examiners, a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and an honorary

member of the Polish Orthopedic Society. He is survived by Eve, his wife of 64 years; three sons; a daughter; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Dr. Sobol was grateful to the end for his many medical colleagues, doctors, nurses, and staff, especially in their assistance with his medical mission work.

Memorial contributions in his name can be made to the United Way of St. Joseph County COVID-19 Response Fund, 3517 E. Jefferson Blvd. South Bend, IN 46615/

Zofia Zakrzewski - Siberian Survivor and Chicago Entrepreneur

Chicagoan Zofia Lewandowicz Zakrzewski, 98, born in Łódź, Poland, on May 16, 1922, passed away peacefully on June 14, 2020. By 1929, her family, which included her four siblings, moved to Wilejka near Wilno, Poland. In the path of Stalin's army, they eventually lost their home, her father was arrested and disappeared, and the family was deported to Siberia, where they faced illness, privation, and her mother's death.

Zofia journeyed through Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Iran (Tehran). Eventually, in Nazareth, which at that time was part of Palestine, she earned what was equivalent to a Bachelor of Arts degree in education at the Polish Military School (Junaczki) for Girls. She then arrived at Camp Witley in Surrey, England, the headquarters of the Polish Resettlement Corps. She soon met Polish Army Lieutenant Klemens Zakrzewski, and they were married in June 1948 in Edinburg, Scotland. The final leg

of their refugee voyage was their arrival at Ellis Island on April 12, 1951. She soon became a United States citizen and joined numerous Polish and Polish American social and charitable organizations in Chicago. Her most lasting relationships were with her former schoolmates from Nazareth and England.

Zofia was a devout Catholic and a patriot of Poland. In the early 1980s, she organized an international effort to fund and create an iconic mosaic of the Virgin Mary within the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth. In 1983 she organized a pilgrimage to Nazareth to dedicate and have the completed mural blessed.

In 1989 Zofia travelled to the Monte Cassino cemetery to honor many of her former Middle East



PHOTO: POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA

classmates who were among the Polish fighters who died liberating Monte Cassino from Axis forces. She and her companions then travelled to Rome where they were honored with a private audience with Pope John Paul II.

Not only was she a devoted wife and mother, Zofia pursued a variety of entrepreneurial ventures and exercised her creative skills by designing and fashioning clothing for family and friends. She even crafted home décor and doll clothing that she sold on consignment. To support herself after the passing of her husband in 1975, she purchased and managed an apartment building.

She is survived by her children, Eva Nelson and Adam Zakrzewski; grandsons, David and Michael Zakrzewski, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and their families in Poland, England, and throughout the United States.

— Geraldine Balut Coleman

Elenora Dugosh Goodley, Texas Polonia Activist

BANDERA, Texas — Elenora Dugosh Goodley, 83, was among the first descendants of the original immigrants that established St. Stanislaus Catholic Parish in Bandera. She also made it official that Bandera become "The Cowboy Capital of the World."

Known to her friends as "Casey," she was born in Bandera Feb. 13, 1937 to Hubert Dugosh and Catherine Laskowski.

Goodley was a founding Director of the Polish American Council of Texas; the first Poland/USA International Ambassador for the city and county of Bandera; a member of the Father Leopold Moczygemba Foundation; the Polish Heritage Center USA; founder of the Bandera County Sister Partnership with Strzelce Opolskie, Poland; and co-chair of the Bandera County Historical Commission.

Goodley was interred with her husband at the Air Force Academy Cemetery in Colorado Springs.

Rev. Joseph J. Zingaro, 67, Pastor of St. John Cantius

PHILADELPHIA — Father Joseph J. Zingaro, 67, pastor of St. John Cantius Parish, died May 20, which was the 42nd anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. His death was caused by complications from COVID-19.

In the last parish bulletin published prior to his death he exhorted his flock to continue to pray "for young men to hear God's call to be a priest, especially from our parish."

The son of the late Joseph Zingaro and the late Mary (Barnak) Zingaro, he attended St. Josaphat School in the Manayunk section of Philadelphia and Roman Catholic High School before entering St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.

After his May 20, 1978 ordination by Cardinal John Krol at the Cathedral Basilica of Ss. Peter & Paul, Father Zingaro's first assignment was as parochial vicar at St. Edmond Parish, Philadelphia. This was followed by parochial vicar at Assumption B.V.M. Feasterville, then St. John Cantius, Philadelphia, and St. Adalbert, Philadelphia.

In 1993 he was appointed pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Swedesburg, followed by pastor of St. John Cantius Parish in 2000, and Holy Name of Jesus, Philadelphia in 2013.

He returned to St. John Cantius in 2014 where he remained until his sudden death. Other secondary assignments he had over the years included associate director of the

Office for Youth and Young Adults and vocations coordinator.

Rev. Zingaro served as the National Chaplain of the Polish Beneficial Association in Bridesburg, Philadelphia. He officiated and consulted several administrations and participated PBA board, business, and social meetings.

"He was loved," said Dave Zagorski, the director of Parish Services at St. John Cantius. "The parish was his main focus. I've known him since he was at St. Adalbert's where Msgr. (Anthony) Jaworowski was his mentor. He had the same type of personality."

"We loved him. He couldn't do enough for his people," said Joe Slabinski, who is not only the funeral director for much of St. John Cantius Parish but also a long-time friend of Father Zingaro. "We loved the guy and couldn't do enough for him."

— CatholicPhilly.com

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Bishop Edward Kmieć, former head of Diocese of Buffalo

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Bishop Edward U. Kmieć, the 13th bishop of the Diocese of Buffalo, died peacefully just before midnight July 11, 2020, following a brief illness. He had been in declining health during the past several months.

Born June 4, 1936 in Trenton, New Jersey, Edward U. Kmieć was the fifth of five children, all born in the United States, to Thecla Czupta Kmieć and John Kmieć, who immigrated to the United States from Poland before World War I.

In 1954, Edward Kmieć left the Trenton area to attend St. Charles' College in Catonsville, Md., and later St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, where he received his B.A. degree in 1958. He was then sent to Rome for his theological studies, residing at the North American College and attending the Gregorian University. He was ordained to the priesthood on Dec. 20, 1961 at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, and his first Mass was celebrated at St. Peter's in the Chapel of Our Lady of Czestochowa. He continued his studies and received his S.T.L. degree in 1962 from the Gregorian University.

Upon returning to the United States in the summer of 1962, Bishop Kmieć served as associate pastor of St. Rose Parish in Belmar, N.J.. In 1965, he was appointed Secretary and Master of Ceremonies to His Excellency, Bishop George W. Ahr, whom he served in that capacity through 1980.

Bishop Kmieć was named Prelate of Honor (Monsignor) by His Holiness Pope Paul VI in 1977. On Nov. 3, 1982, he was ordained to the



Episcopacy. He served as auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Trenton from 1982 until he was named tenth bishop of Nashville by Pope John Paul II and was installed to that office on Dec. 3, 1992.

On Aug. 12, 2004, Pope John Paul II named Bishop Kmieć the 13th Bishop of Buffalo. He was installed as the 13th bishop of Buffalo on Oct. 28, 2004.

Bishop Kmieć was heavily criticized for downsizing the diocese from 274 parishes and missions in 2005 to 170 in 2011. He also oversaw the closures of 25 elementary schools. Under Bishop Kmieć, the Diocese ordained only 18 priests from 2004-11.

On May 29, 2012, Pope Benedict XVI accepted Bishop Kmieć's resignation. Upon Bishop Richard J. Malone's installation as the 14th bishop of Buffalo on August 10, 2012, Bishop Kmieć became Bishop Emeritus of Buffalo. Since his retirement, Bishop Kmieć has resided at the St. Joseph's Cathedral rectory in Buffalo.

Anna A. Pawlowski, Commercial Artist, Traveler

CHICAGO — Anna A. (Różycka) Pawlowski, 85, of Northbrook, Ill., passed away peacefully at home May 10, surrounded by her children and grandchildren.

Born in Brześć (Poland) in 1934, she escaped the Communist regime in 1947, coming to the United States in 1949, and finally settling in Chicago. She graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1961; and worked as a

commercial artist for the Stanley Stawski Distributing Company; and then at several interior design firms.

She met her husband of 37 years, Joseph Pawlowski, on a trip back to Poland in 1960, on the *MS Batory*. They were married in 1963.

A lover of travel, art, literature, opera, theatre and music; in later years she became a prolific sculptor and traveled around the world, visiting six continents.

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DANCE TIME

With Extra Caution, Fans Support Events

by Jennifer Pijanowski

While dozens of polka festivals and a vast number of local polka dances have been cancelled, polka music is alive and well thanks to the commitment of polka fans. Some venues and clubs are finding new ways to hold live music events in person while adhering to the rigid social distancing guidelines. Each state has its own lists of laws and guidance, so it can become quite precarious to organize a very social event with these enormous obstacles. However, where there is a will, there is a way and several polka promoters are successfully navigating their way through this pandemic.



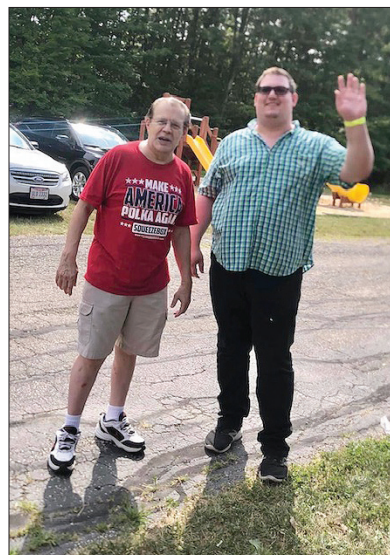
Bonnie Potoniec at the CPA Summer Picnic at St. Sava's Grove in Parma, Ohio

The Cleveland Polka Association recently hosted **Randy Krajewski & Badinov** featuring **Eddie Biegaj**. This Hawaiian style picnic was held at St. Sava's Grove in Parma, Ohio. The outdoor area left plenty of room for the 200 attendees to socially distance and sit where they felt comfortable. Polka fans enjoyed a chance to hear live polka music and the powerful vocals that Eddie Biegaj always delivers. I enjoyed watching the band on the internet

as a few people were videoing and streaming the day's event. The band sounded fantastic showcasing the robust, energetic sound that is associated with Badinov.

CPA's next event will be held on Monday Sept. 7th at St. Sava's Grove 2300 W. Ridgewood Drive, Parma, Ohio with music by **Re-wind**. The ticket price is \$12.00 and music begins at 3:00 p.m. You can contact Elaine at (216) 496-0223 for more information.

RIVER RETURN. Buffalo Touch made its summer monthly return to River Grill in July, bringing polka music to this WNY music mecca. Polka fans had a hard time remaining seated, following the New York



Fred Ziwich and Anthony Culkar welcoming folks to the CPA Summer Picnic St. Sava's Grove.

state requirements, so a few dancers took to the parking lot for a long overdue quarantine dance. Patrons welcomed the return of live polka music to the venue as they cheered on the band from the sold-out tables in the restaurant that evening.

The Touch will be returning on the second Tuesday of every month to the River Grill for polka night. All state guidelines must be followed, but you are guaranteed to enjoy your favorite tunes at this

treasured WNY summer establishment. Join Kenny, Tadj, Ray, Steve, and Ricky on September 8 for happy polkas, delicious food, cold beverages, and breathtaking scenery.

CD RELEASED PARTY. Polkas also returned to Flying Bison Brewery in Buffalo as **Special Delivery** released their new album "Lock, Stock, and Barrel," and performed on the outdoor stage. Guests could sit under the large tent featuring a beer garden or bring their own chairs to social distance on the large property of Flying Bison. From any vantage point, you could listen to the band perform songs from their new recording, as well as treasured favorites. Table service allowed polka fans to remain seated and relax during the afternoon event.

The CD has been getting rave reviews and much air play if you listen to the Polka Jammer. The CD is a wonderful mix of polkas, ober-eks, and waltzes that are traditional yet updated. My personal favorites include "I'd Love You to Want Me" and "Yesterday's Gone," which I have found myself humming daily since hearing the songs.

To order your copy, you can visit the band's website thespecialdeliveryband.com, or send \$15.00 plus \$4.00 shipping and handling to: Special Delivery, c/o Tom Goldyn, 38 Croydon, Depew, NY 14043.

The recording is also available on iTunes, Spotify, and other popular music downloading sites.

APICNIC IN SPIRIT. Buffalo Polka Boosters had been organizing and planning their 50th anniversary picnic for over a year and it all came to a screeching halt when plans had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. That was until **Robin Pegg** and **Geri Chadwick** reached out and offered to host a virtual event to celebrate the club's golden anniversary. Hundreds of polka fans attended the virtual picnic celebration that spotlighted the club's home bands, **Phocus**, **Concertina All-Stars**, **Special Delivery**, **New Direction**, **Buffalo Touch**, **The Knewz**, **Rare Vintage**, and **John Gora & Gorale**. Photos spanning the five decades, articles, well wishes from past board members and presidents were a few of the highlight of the day's event. A tribute was also shared to many of the Buffalo polka bands from years ago. Vintage video footage and live recording music from bands such as **Big Steve & The Bellaires**, **The Dynatoners**, **Sunshine**, **Skylarks**, **Steel City Brass**, **Honky Hoppers**, **Modernaires** and more brought back memories to so many who have supported polka music. During the broadcast, portions of an anniversary DVD were shown and that DVD is available for a minimum donation of \$7.00. All of the proceeds of the DVD will be donated to Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in Buffalo.



Adeline and Bobby Wroblewski at Special Delivery's CD Release Party at the Flying Bison Brewery in Buffalo

You can contact club President Chris Tanski for more information at (716) 771-1076. Please be certain to mark your calendars for July 25, 2021 when we will celebrate 50+1 years of Buffalo Polka Boosters.

SHRINERS BENEFIT. A sunny Wednesday evening gave way for a perfect night to enjoy polkas by **Concertina All-Stars** outside at the Ismailia Shriners Fundraiser. Polka music was the heart of this event as Ismailia Shrine Temple



Concertina All Stars accordion player Art Gayler, doing his thing at the Shriner's fund-raiser.

hosted food vendors Babcia's Pierogi, WNY Food Carts & KO's Kettle Corn. Vendors Debs-Delights & Babcia's Pierogi were on hand selling their goods and donated 20% of their sales to the Ismailia Shriners. This money directly benefits the Shriners Hospital.

Shriners Hospitals for Children is a health care system of 22 hospitals dedicated to improving the lives of children by providing pediatric specialty care, innovative research, and outstanding teaching programs for medical profession-



Sisters Natalie and Anna Szymanski came out to hear their dad play with Special Delivery's at the band's CD Release Party.

als. Attendees sprawled out on the vast property while a few couldn't help but get up and enjoy a dance to the music. It was evident that the bandmates were enjoying their first performance since recording their upcoming CD in March while in Arizona. I know that I am looking forward to that CD release sometime later this year.

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR. Unfortunately, the yearly IPA convention to be held on Labor Day weekend in Buffalo had to be canceled. The great news however is that **The International Polka Association** has just announced its virtual festival. It will be three days of guaranteed virtual fun. The dates and times for the event are: Fri., Sept. 4, 5:00-10:00 p.m.; Sat., Sept. 5, 4:00-10:00 p.m.; and Sun., Sept. 6, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Times are Central Standard Time, and are subject to change.

The event will showcase live performances by **Steve Meisner**, **Dynabrass**, **Gary's Ridgeland Dutchmen**, **Tony Blazonczyk's New Phase**, and **IPA Tribute Band**. There will also be a Polka Mass featuring **The Kosmix** and celebrated by IPA Chaplain, **Father Dennis Bogusz**. This event will include: live music, interviews with IPA Hall of Fame Inductees and polka personalities, polka game shows, Polka Mass, live Polka Jammer broadcasts, young songwriter's competition, and much more. The three-day event can be seen live on both Facebook and YouTube.

You are not going to want to miss this event so make sure you follow IPA on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ipapolkas or visit their website www.ipapolkas.com. For more information you can email info@ipapolkas.com.

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Buffalo Concertina All Stars Dale Wojdyla (left) and Ray Barsukiewicz play a duet at the Ismailia Shriners Fundraiser, which featured Polish food and live music.

FROM THE BACK OF THE RACK

An Interview with Mike Sztaba

Leader of the Massachusetts' Jolly Nutmeggers

by Mark Kohan

In almost everyone's polka recording collection are recordings by bands who are strangers to us. These are often regional groups that never travelled to our area, but were on labels that did.

One such LP was "Polka-motion" by the Jolly Nutmeggers. In all honesty, I never gave it much thought until a reader – Zocia Barr – brought up the band in conversation. This led to Zocia's quest to find the bandleader and learn more about him, the band, and the recording.



Mike Sztaba & the Jolly Nutmeggers of Western Massachusetts released one LP, "Polka-Motion" on the Rola Record label. The band also recorded a single, "Village Girl," on the Red Engine label.

Tell us about The Jolly Nutmeggers. When was the band founded?

I started the band when I returned from Vietnam in 1968. We made one LP called *Polka-motion*, which was recorded on Rola Records.

Who was in the band at that time?

I played accordion. My dad, Wallace Sztaba played banjo. On sax and clarinet was John Pytel. Our trumpet players were Richard Baba and Frank Musialak, and Joe Milardo was our bass player. My sister, Janet Oblon played piano, and my brother Tom was our drummer.

Were there any other members over the years?

Joe Gadomski played drums with me for quite some time, and Marty Swiatek played trumpet and drums in the band.

What was your first memory of polka music?

It would have to be from the Polish picnic grounds on Farmington

Avenue in New Britain, Connecticut. My dad, Wallace Sztaba, had a three-piece polka band.

When did you begin playing?

I started accordion lessons at six years old. I started playing with my dad when I was 13 years old.

As a young musician, who inspired you?

First off, my dad. I also had a high school music teacher, Anthony Santoro, who really influenced me. I played sax, clarinet, flute, and sousaphone in the school band. In 1972, I went to Central Connecticut State College for sax and flute.

When I was in high school, I attended the Hart School of Music for ear training.

Was music your full-time career?

You would think so. Besides playing at a local venue five nights a week, and playing weddings and other private parties — plus regular dances at the Polish Home in Hartford Connecticut and the Bristol Polish Home in Bristol Connecticut — I was a mail carrier. The band got very busy. We started travelling, playing jobs across the state, in neighboring states, and into Pennsylvania. As a matter of fact, I worked at the Post Office and then left.

Once, the band was playing on a float in a parade, and the postmaster was the parade announcer. Over the microphone, he asked why don't I come back to the post office. After that, my wife and I thought about it and decided it was a good decision to return to a job where I could get insurance and a pension. I did that, but still continued to play at Polish dances and weddings.

How long have you been married?

Karen and I have been married for 38 years. She would help me pack up all the band equipment at our home into the van when I would play a job, and she would help me unpack back into the basement after we played a job. We loved to go to polka dances, and I taught her all the dance steps.

We have a 33-year-old daughter,

Nicole Hall, who lives in Scottsdale, Arizona with her husband, Chris, where they train and show Arabian show horses at the national level. I taught her saxophone from the time she was five years old. She was first seat in band throughout her school years. She made Nationals and also played jobs with me.

Nicole taught saxophone when she was in high school and also was selected to sing in the Connecticut Children's Choir, which was based out of the University of Hartford in Connecticut. I hope that someday she will start her own band and continue our Polish music tradition. I still have all my equipment and music to pass on to her.

Quite the musical family!

Yes, and if not playing, it was dancing. My sister Gloria and I belonged to the Gwiazda dance group, which was a polka dance group. Gloria and I were excellent dancers, if I have to say so myself. She was very talented with crafts and used to decorate the floats we played on. My mom loved to come to the polka dances and was an avid dancer.

My father played in our band and played jobs ever since I can remember. He taught me perfect Polish dialect.

Are any members of the Nutmeggers still playing?

My sister, Janet Oblon, plays organ every Sunday at a church. She had her own band for years. It was called Janet's We Three. She also played in a band called Moon Dance. These were not polka bands. She played at many lounges and weddings and private affairs.

My brother, Tom, played in the band with me, and he also played with Rich Bobinski and Eddie Foreman.

Were the Nutmeggers strictly a polka band?

We were known as one, but we played every kind of music. I would write harmony and arrangements for all the instruments. I would get calls to sit in with other bands. I even played two-piece jobs for dinner music at restaurants. I also played with Vick Meyers, Walt Solek, Eddie Savotsky, Joe Piazak, and Rich Bobinski.

Some impressive people there.

Yes. The great band-leader Ray Henry, who was president of the United States Polka Association at the time of album release, wrote a note on the album commending me for the song I wrote called the "USPA Polka."

If you could travel back in time, who would you love to see play again, and where?

Eddie Blazonczyk at Pulaski Park in Massachusetts.

Favorite bands?

From today's groups, it is Lenny Gomulka and Dennis Polisky. I still love to hear the New Brass, Marion Lush, Wanda and Stephanie, and Li'l Wally. I had a 70th birthday party three years ago, and Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men played. When my wife and I married, we had the New Brass.

Thank you for agreeing to this interview.

Thank you for asking me.

The One Anne Murray Missed

Kapuscinski's Original Composition Finally Recorded



(l. to r.): Songwriter Les Kapuscinski, and recording artists Lenny Gomulka, and John Gora.

MISSISSAUGA, Ontario, Canada — 15-plus years ago, Les Kapuscinski, who is now known more for his photography than his music or song-writing skills, used to be a musician, and always enjoyed the craft of song writing.

He wrote a song called "Forever I Promise You Love." It was a bit faster and a little more "country" than the current version. Kapuscinski originally pitched the song to Canadian Superstar Anne Murray. Her manager at the time loved the song, and said he was certain she would record it, but there was one problem: he said that she was considering not recording again — ever. And she did not.

Disappointed, Kapuscinski left the song sitting on a shelf for many years until one day when he reached over and played the original demo tape. He thought it might make a good song for a polka album.

OTHER THAN MURRAY, the only two people to receive the song were John Gora and Lenny Gomulka. Both of them, upon hearing it liked it, but they already had slow waltzes for their next recordings and again, the song sat on their shelves for well over 10 years.

Last year, Gora, a good and long-time friend of Kapuscinski, called and asked "do you remember that waltz you sent me? I would like to do it on my next CD." Kapuscinski, of course, was thrilled that the song would see the light of day. He knew Gora and his talented musicians and producers would do a great job with it on their upcoming CD, "My Polish Roots and Beyond."

As unbelievable as this may sound, after so many years, the very next evening, Kapuscinski received a call from Gomulka, who also said that he would like to do the song on his next CD. He told Gomulka he had just promised it to Gora.

Gora, along with his musicians and recording engineer Ted Lange, did a wonderful job with the song, slowing it down a bit and making it suit the big voice and vocal talents of Gora. It has been very well received as part of the multi-award-winning CD.

In March, just after the start of the pandemic and our world shutting down, Kapuscinski received a call once again from Gomulka with a new proposal. He told him he wanted to put out a song to deal with this pandemic and to address all of the feelings all of us were going through. He asked if Kapuscinski would allow him to use his music, and permit him to re-write the lyrics and title to suit the moment. He also asked Kapuscinski to supply some of the photos his wife Estelle and son Teddy wanted to use in a YouTube version of the song. Gomulka would call Gora and Lange to use the music tracks of the song since going into a studio was just not possible at that time. Kapuscinski was thrilled and, with that, the song went full circle. It was finally recorded, albeit in different ways, and with different lyrics by both Gora and Gomulka to the delight and appreciation of many.

Now, if only Anne Murray would come out of retirement ...

◆ ◆ ◆

"Forever I Promise You Love," can be heard on the CD *My Polish Roots and Beyond* by John Gora and Gorale.

"Lord Bless Our World" can be accessed on all of the usual music downloading sites, from the Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push web site and seen on YouTube as well at www.youtube.com/watch?v=6KH3yiprNHM.

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Walter (Dana) Daniłowski, the Godfather of Polonia's Polkas

by Barbara Szydłowski

Perhaps one of the greatest producers of Polish and polka music was Walter (Dana) Daniłowski, and his Dana Records label — a significant player in the United States recorded music industry for many years.

Dana founded his label in New York City in 1945. This label was about Polish music and focused on the polka genre. Dana capitalized on the growing polka market, which was being fueled by a change in the nation's mood following World War II. Although a classically-trained artist, he had a simple philosophy about polkas: "The Polka to me, has a very powerful dance rhythm. It makes people feel happy, and I like to see people happy."

Legacy of Hits

Dana transformed the Eastern European polka by increasing the tempo and adding brass instrumentation. This was the label's way of appealing to traditional ethnic audience and broadening its appeal to new listeners.

1948 proved to be a banner year with Dana's success with the "Helen Polka," the song that gave the label financial stability in the growing American music market. That fall, Dana expanded its catalog when it acquired Syrena Records from Włodzisław Falencki, who shipped large number of Syrena masters from Poland, fearing Polish culture would be obliterated under Poland's new masters, the Soviet Union.

All Dana releases had been in the 78 rpm format until 1949, when the first 33 rpm LP recording was issued. At that time, major labels such as RCA Victor and Columbia started losing interest in ethnic music. Dana took advantage of this and was able to attract several top bands. One such artist was Walt Solek, who was signed to Columbia and Victor. His hit, "Who Stole the Kishka?" appealed not only to Polish Americans, but the general pub-



Dana transformed the Eastern European polka by increasing the tempo and adding brass instrumentation. This was the label's way of appealing to traditional ethnic audience and broadening its appeal to new listeners.

lic as well.

Dana's biggest year was 1952, when *Billboard Magazine* ranked it third for income among all other record labels, including Capitol and Decca. To help with expansion, Coral Records took up distributing the label in the Chicago area. In 1954, Dana sold Dana Records Jerry Blaine. However, Dana remained president of the label for a time after the sale.

Dana and Coral soon learned the fast tempo of the East Coast polka style did not connect with the mid-western audience. To help the label encourage Chicago talent, Dana enlisted the help of Alvin Sajewski. All recording sessions in Chicago studio were supervised by Dana, who often re-arranged the music to fit the abilities and talents of the musicians. It proved successful, as Dana's sales percentage of 78 rpm records was stronger than the industry's average. It was not until 1957 that sales of 45 rpm discs equaled that of the 78s. Dana started pressing the 78 rpm disc in vinyl, which is what was being used to produce 45s. Dealers, however, wanted no part of it, and Dana switched back to selling 78s on shellac, its tradi-

tional medium.

In July 1959 Jerry Blaine's company moved to a new building on West 47 Street, New York along with its other companies. Dana Records was operated as a division of Fiesta Records.

Two years later Dana artist Frank Wojnarowski recorded "Matka" waltz. The song generated over a million dollars in sales. With "Matka," Wojnarowski — who had been with the label for many years and helped popularize

the East Coast polka sound — was able to reach the Polish American market that normally did not listen to polka recordings, making its Gold Record certification something out of the ordinary.

Life in Poland

While Dana will be remembered as a polka promoter, he was a versed pianist, composer, and singer. A native of Warsaw, Poland, he joined the Polish Army at age 17 and served with distinction during the Polish-Bolshevik War. Following his discharge, he started his studies at the Warsaw Conservatory, where he studied piano and music theory.

In late 1920s Daniłowski spent two years working for the Polish embassy in Paris, where he fell in love with jazz and tango, two styles of music gaining increasing popularity in Europe at that time. Upon his return to Poland he started composing for the Quid Pro Quo cabaret. Numerous songs written for the star of the cabaret, Hanka Ordonówna, gained him much fame in Warsaw and then in the entire country. Also, in 1928 he founded a Chór Dana (Dan's Choir), mod-

elled after The Revelers. In 1929 he also formed an Argentinian Choir V. Dana which helped popularize tango in Poland, to the extent that already by the start of the 1930s it started to be considered a part of Warsaw's folklore.

His music gained him much fame in 1930s Poland, and he became one of the most popular composers of the time. His songs were sung by many of the most notable vocalists of the epoch, including Adam Aston, Mieczysław Fogg, Zofia Terné and Mira Zimińska-Sygietyńska, to name but a few. In 1930 he also wrote the score for the first Polish sound film, the "Moralność Pani Dulskiej." He later wrote scores for numerous other films. The lyrics for his songs were written by some of the most renowned Polish authors of the time, including Julian Tuwim, Marian Hemar, Konrad Tom,

and Jerzy Jurandot. Until 1939 he was also the head of the Popular Music Department of the Polish Radio, at the same time he continued a successful diplomatic career for the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Following the outbreak of World War II, Daniłowski moved to Italy, and then in 1940 to the United States. There he re-activated his Dana Choir under a new name (Dana Ensemble) and adopted his Walter Dana pseudonym. He worked as a speaker for numerous Polish-language radio stations and signed contracts with Harmonia and RCA Victor record companies. In the 1940s he founded Dana Records.

Dana moved to Miami Beach in 1958. Later in his life he transitioned to a composer of classical music.

In 1971 the International Polka Association inducted him into its Hall of Fame.

Dana died March 4, 2000 at the age of 97 and is buried in Miami's Southern Memorial Park.

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1	Gil Ziemski	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 Guzevich			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	1948		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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ELECTION 2020

Who Will Earn the “Polish American Vote”?

by David J. Jackson

Will Polish Americans decide the 2020 presidential election? Considering the history of the Polish American vote, the results of the 2016 election, and President Trump’s policies toward Poland, it is possible Polish American voters will again be of particular importance in 2020.

According to Census estimates, there are approximately 9 million Americans who claim Polish ancestry, but they are not evenly distributed across the country. States with the highest concentration of Polish Americans include Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania. Donald Trump won the Electoral College in 2016 by winning these states by a total of fewer than 80,000 votes. These states are expected to be crucial in 2020 as well.

For many decades Democrats enjoyed the support of Polish Americans through their mutual commitments to labor rights and freeing Poland from Soviet domination. The domestic and international conflicts of the 1960s, the rise of conservative Democrats who supported President Reagan in the 1980s, and the social conservatism of some Catholic Polish Americans have made the Polish American presidential vote available. Combined with the demise of the Soviet Union, the decline of organized labor, and the assimilation of later generations of Polish Americans, capturing the support of Polish Americans has become more com-

plicated.

In their study *Polonia: Today’s Profile, Tomorrow’s Promise* the Piast Institute of Hamtramck, Michigan surveyed Polish Americans and found that 38.5% of them defined themselves as conservative,



while 36.9% defined themselves as liberal. About 36% defined themselves as Democrats, while just 23% were Republicans. Moreover, about 50% reported having voted to re-elect President Obama in 2012, while only 38% voted for Mitt Romney, despite Romney having visited Poland during the summer of that year.¹

In terms of the most important issue to them personally, fully 43% of Polish Americans surveyed said it was balancing the federal budget; significantly, only 8% mentioned the Visa Waiver program, which excluded visitors from Poland. That was the only Poland-specific issue to make the top six issues of greatest concern.

Somewhat surprisingly, given these statistics, evidence suggests significant Polish American support for Donald Trump in 2016. According to Dominik Stecula, “many of the pivotal counties in Michigan and Pennsylvania that flipped from Obama to Trump — such as Macomb County in Michigan (12 percent Polish) and Luzerne County in Pennsylvania (15 percent Polish) — include some of the most highly concentrated numbers of Polish Americans in the United States.”²

Stecula cautions against assuming that the county data proves that Polish American individuals voted in large numbers for Trump. While I would not suggest that the Trump Administration would pursue a policy specifically for domestic political gain, the administration and campaign are no doubt aware of these figures. In October, 2019 President Trump added Poland to the Visa Waiver program. Then in June of this year, Trump met with Polish President Andrzej Duda at the White House.

Will the addition of Poland to the Visa Waiver program and President Duda’s visit with President Trump result in an electoral benefit for President Trump in 2020? It’s entirely possible, but we must be careful not to think of Polish Americans as a monolithic group.

As the 2014 Piast Institute study showed, only a small minority of Polish Americans put the visa waiver issue at the top of their personal list of the most important problems. Certainly, President Trump’s ac-

tion on this issue will be viewed favorably by Polish Americans who have Polish relatives and friends who want to visit the United States. However, Polish Americans of the fourth, fifth and later generations likely are unmoved by this issue,



unless they view the improvement in Poland’s status as symbolically important.

Moreover, in 2018, Dr. Lori Liggett and I published the results of a survey of Polish American students enrolled at Ohio colleges and universities. The results showed that in terms of partisanship, ideology and stands on particular issues, Polish American students were generally politically indistinguishable from other young Americans.

What does this all mean?

For Polish Americans with family and friends in Poland, Trump’s occasional focus on Polish issues may be perceived as a benefit worthy of reward in the voting booth. Polish Americans of later generations, whose ethnicity is more symbolic than part of their daily lived experience, may choose to vote for the President because of his stances toward Poland, but are likely to be

more influenced by their perceptions of the quality of the President’s handling of the economy and Coronavirus pandemic.

The 2016 Presidential election was decided by fewer than 80,000 voters in three states with large Polish American populations. These states and others with large Polish American populations are likely to be key swing states in 2020 as well. Winning the Polish American vote could be key to winning the presidency in 2020, but winning that vote will be just as complicated as gaining the support of any other group of voters.



David J. Jackson is professor of political science at Bowling Green State University. His research interests include U.S. political behavior and the interactive relationship between politics and culture, with a current focus on the Polish American community. He is the author of *Entertainment and Politics: The Influence of Pop Culture on Young Adult Political Socialization*, a second and revised edition of which was published in 2009. He has published articles in such journals as *Political Research Quarterly*, *American Politics Research*, *Polish American Studies*, *American Review of Canadian Studies*, and the *International Journal of Press/Politics*. In 2007-2008 he was a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Łódź. His book *Classrooms and Barrooms: An American in Poland*, was published in 2008.

- 1 https://issuu.com/piastinstitute/docs/dekaban_2013_report
- 2 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/10/11/trump-is-moving-secure-polish-american-vote-heres-how/>

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