"COLD WAR" EARRNS THREE OSCAR NOMINATIONS. Paweł Pawlikowski's "Cold War" is the center of an international furor when a New Jersey City council voted in December to keep the statue of a soldier blindfolded and stabbed in the heart, a diaphragm injury and multiple abdominal wounds. The vote ended a nine-month saga that featured protests, a federal lawsuit, and heated words between Mayor Steven Fulop and Poland's Senate Speaker. The resolution also said Wilson "consolidated friendship between the Polish and American nations, by referring to the common values of the nations’ unquestionable right to self-determination, freedom and equality."

In November 1922, President Wilson received the Order of the White Eagle, the highest Polish state distinction, for his services to Poland.
On the Virgin’s Purification Day, after him. Mathematician. The Poczobuttuanian Jesuit astronomer and graduate of West Point Academy and Civil War veteran. Fr. Józef Dąbrowski addresses questions following a press conference in the Sejm. It is outlined the history of relations between the United States and Poland, and asked for President Trump’s support for joint space research, and the inclusion of a Polish astronaut as part of the flight program organized by NASA.

Stars in Their Eyes

WARSZAWA

A letter requesting a joint U.S.-Poland aerospace space flight has been given to the American embassy in Warsaw. It was signed by former Polish President Lech Wałęsa, who said such a journey “would be an emblematic highlight of friendship between nations.”

The appeal — a citizens’ initiative was represented by PO Senator Jan Rufeński (above, right) and former president of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Professor Michal Kleiber (above, second from right) — was read at a press conference in the Sejm. It is outlined the history of relations between the United States and Poland, and asked for President Trump’s support for joint space research, and the inclusion of a Polish astronaut as part of the flight program organized by NASA.

The only Pole who flew into space, General Miroslaw Hermaszewski, went into orbit with the Soviet Union’s Soyuz-7 spacecraft on 20 March 1987. He was the first Polish astronaut and a member of the Space Station Freedom. The project involved the cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union. The flight was considered Soviet propaganda event. The Polish space program had little success, and Hermaszewski’s flight was considered a failure. Hermaszewski became a hero in Poland and was awarded the Order of the White Lion. He also became a member of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Senator Jan Rufeński (above, right) and former president of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Professor Michal Kleiber (above, second from right) address questions following a press conference in Washington for the United States-Poland joint space research, and the inclusion of a Polish astronaut as part of the flight program organized by NASA.

Polish space program had little success, and Hermaszewski’s flight was considered Soviet propaganda event. In recent years, Poland’s space program has grown. The country’s flag settled on the surface of Mars, thanks Poland’s participation in the Mars mission. The first Polish photograph of Earth was made by a Polish satellite, built by the crew of the PolSat-2 satellite. The Polish space program is growing, and Poland is a member of the European Space Agency (ESA).

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Iran Summons Diplomat

The fourth annual University of Izdorczyk (left) and wife, Marta, at the University of Manitoba Polish Author Ewa Stachniak (right) signs one of her books for Dr. Zbigniew St. John Cantius Fraternal Aid Society Donates land's of State Mike Pompeo. An Iranian foreign ministry has summoned a Polish diplomat after Iran saw the decision to host the meeting as a “hostile act against Iran” and warned that Tehran could reciprocate, the Reuters news agency reported, citing Iran’s state news agency IRNA.

“The international community has the right to discuss various regional and global issues, and Poland has the right to co-organize a conference whose goal is to develop a platform for actions promoting stability and prosperity in the Middle East region,” said the Polish foreign ministry.

Nationalism Aid for Refugees in Greece

WARSAW — Some 188 tons of Polish humanitarian aid is expected to reach refugee camps in Greece by the end of this year. It includes foodstuffs, school supplies, clothing, and is destined for refugee camps in cities such as Salomaki, Alexandroupolis Katerini, public broadcaster Polish Radio’s IAR news agency reported.

According to Poland’s Humanitarian Aid Minister Beata Kemps, the project may benefit some 4,000 families, or around 26,000 people in total, in refugee camps in Greece, both on the islands and the country’s mainland.

Huawei Equipment May be Restricted in Poland

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Consul General Robert Rusiecki (3rd from left) from the new Polish Consulate in Brooklyn, N.Y.; Massachusetts, St. Leonard, QC; New Jersey, Lawrence, Mass.; and four other volunteers.

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New Netflix Docuseries profiles Polish-American Medal of Honor Recipient

by Matthew Stefanski

The online movie streaming platform, Netflix, has released a documentary series which presents the heroic accounts of Medal of Honor recipients. Though the stories of American soldiers are the most well known, there are also stories of incredible gallantry from World War II, Korea, and Afghanistan.

The very first hero to be portrayed was Army Sergeant Sylvester Konopinski from Eastern Ohio who served with the U.S. Army in Italy during World War II.

As a member of the 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, he was wounded near Anzio. On May 24, 1944, Sgt. Antolak’s name would go down in history for actions which would be posthumously recognized as above and beyond the call of duty. “During the second day of the offensive which broke through the German cordon of steel around the Anzio bridgehead” reads Sgt. Antolak’s Medal of Honor citation, “he charged 200 yards over flat, covered ground to destroy an enemy machine gun nest.”

The citation continues: “Three times he was knocked to the ground, but each time he struggled to his feet to continue his relentless advance.”

WHAT IS A HERITAGE CENTER?

Though the Polish Historic Center is a museum where historical objects of lasting interest are collected and displayed, it is also a heritage center. The Polish Historic Center dedicates itself to informing and educating visitors about a particular group of people, their customs, beliefs, traditions, material traits, and religious and social forms, “noted primarily through the lens of military histo-

ery and tradition.”

The Center also has Facebook and Twitter pages. It is moving to see that during a recent commemorative ceremony dedicated to Sgt. Antolak, which took place at Fort Hayes near Columbus, Ohio, the United States and Poland are positioned side by side, capturing the essence of what one of the Antolak family members declared, “I’m very proud of the Polish heritage we are from and I’m sure Sylvester was as well.”
Winter's Balance Hangs on Concord Casimir's Call

CONCORD, Ohio — Punxsutawney who? There's a new cat on the weather scene, and his name is Concord Casimir.

Attendance is expected to be in the hundreds, as Concord's favor- ite progno- nator will make his prediction on February 2, 2019, at Ellision Creek Knob.

In any case, why would anyone listen to a groundhog? asked Casimir.

Casimir, a weather enthusi- ast retired from the U.S. Depart- ment of Agriculture, is an Assis- tant Professor at Lakeland College teaching Physical Geography, a Resource Protection Specialist at the Lake Soil & Water Conserva- tion District, and the former Great- er Cleveland Amateur Golf Champion. He also enjoys volunteering at St. Casimir Church and as the volunteer Coordinator of the West- ern Reserve Resource Conserva- tion & Development Council.

Casimir has unofficially suggested you-know-who should retire from the weather business. The sun's shadow on a burrowing animal in Punxsutawney is not a very accurate predictor of weather, he said.

“They have had it all back- wards over there in Pennsylvania, and their record shows it,” Niedzie- lak said. “There's more to weather- ing than just checking your shadow. Casimir has been right on the money every year.”

An American in Warsaw

An American in Warsaw: Selected Writings of Hugh B. Biskupski, Jochen Böhler, and Jan-Roman Potocki

An American in Warsaw was reviewed by Mary E. Lanham

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Miami: The American In- stitute of Polish Culture, Inc. will host a presentation of the International Polonia Ball this year celebrating the all- iance between Poland and Hungary. The annual event has become one of Polonia's most elegant so- cial events. VIP for this year's Ball includes ambassador of Poland to Poland, Piotr Wilczek; ambassador of Hungary László Szabó; Polish Senator Maria Anna Andersen; Min- ister Marek Grochowski, Maritime Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Economy, and Captain Rafael Smyczynski, Dar Mlodziezy tall ship.

The AIPC will present awards to the following: Alcida Bachleda- Curs, actor and singer from Po- land and Hollywood; Beata Draz- zoga, healthcare entrepreneur; Kevin Kenner, internationally renowned pianist and recording artist; Mari- usz Kotowski, director, choreogra- pher, and artist; Bozena Kaminski, community leader and mentor, and Colean Paderewski, promoting Ig- nacy Paderewski's legacy.

The International Polonia Ball will be held February 9-10, 2019, at the Eden Roc in Mi- ami. For tickets and more informa- tion, visit the website at www.poloniafoundationofohio.org.

Additional special events include the 60 Million Congress, Fri., Feb., 8, 8-11 p.m., at 108 W. Peachtree St., 12th Floor.

Polonia Foundation Scholarship Awards

GARFIELD HEIGHTS, Ohio—The Polonia Foundation of Ohio President Joseph M. Dar and Polonia Foundation of Ohio board of directors recently pre- sented awards at the Fifty-Fifth Polaski Scholarship and Recogni- tion Gala held at the Renaissance in Garfield Hts. There were 16 scholarships awarded to college students of Polish descent.

Recipients were: Noah Ap- pel; Caroline Cynarnek; Emily Day; Adam Holtz; Patrick Holtz; Sa- mantha Illius; Cassidy Leinweber; Dr. Amar Atwal; Legislator Edward C. Atwal; Nina Gelfond; ophthalmologist and Dr. Daniel P. Schaefer, ophthalmologist and conciliator at the Atwal Eye Care Administra- tion & Development Council.

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One of the first acts passed by the newly elected congress was a bill to allocate $1.5 billion to promote the archdiocese’s executive order that prohibits the use of U.S. funds to expand abortion in countries overseas. Supporters of the bill were also seven Republicans including John Katko (New York) and Scott Perry (Pennsylvania) and two Democrats including James Clyburn (South Carolina) and Debbie Dingell (Michigan). In one of the most-requested causes/recipients, which will then be shared, or rent this information to others. It will be your support of the Polish American Journal Foundation underlines — see other areas of study because they could not share, or rent this information to others. It will be

The Rush to Expand Abortion Worldwide

by Benigni Fiore, S.J.

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PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Georgia, her alma mater, to prepare swimming equipment. With Finis, through the 2020 Olympics, Swim announced that Olivia had signed a long-term commitment.

Swim announced that Olivia had signed a long-term commitment with Finis, through the 2020 Olympics. Olivia again won gold participating in the 100m backstroke, as well as swimming on six winning relays for Team USA. Her accomplishments broke the previous records of Caeleb Dressel and Michael Phelps, who each won seven gold medals at previous FINA meets. Olivia even set an American record in the 50m backstroke.

On day one, Smoliga led the women’s 4 x 100m freestyle relay to win a gold medal. On day two, she, along with her relay team, went on to win the mixed (women and men) 4 x 50m freestyle relay. That evening, Olivia led the women’s 4 x 50m medley relay with her backstroke leg, breaking a world record. To make it an even more exciting day, she went on to win the 100m backstroke, beating out Katinka Hosszu, Hungary’s “Iron Lady,” who was the gold medal winner in the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. At the end of Day Two, Smoliga had secured three medals.

On day three, Olivia led the women’s 4 x 100m medley relay with her backstroke leg, which enabled the USA to win the gold medal and set a world record. On day five, she continued her gold medal streak by setting an American record with the 50m backstroke. On the last day of the FINA competitions, Olivia again won gold, participating in both the women’s 4 x 50m freestyle relay and the women’s 4 x 100m medley relay.

She concluded the 2018 FINA World Championships, capturing more gold medals than any American woman ever. In fact, she struck gold in every event she entered.

In the autumn of 2017, Finis Swim announced that Olivia had signed a long-term commitment with Finis, through the 2020 Olympics. Finis Swim is an American manufacturer of swimwear and swimming equipment.

Olivia is currently training 24 hours a week at the University of Georgia, her alma mater, to prepare for the 2019 FINA World Swimming Championships on Dec. 15, 2018 in Hangzhou, China.

By Geraldine Balut Coleman

Chicago's Polish children's heartline: a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey)

Polish Children's heartline begins its 34th year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made to Polish Children's Heartline, 1054-49-25-55, P.O. Box 271, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

For information call (720) 680-0680 or write POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE, INC., 177 BROADWAY, CLARK, NJ 07606 e-mail: childheart@aol.com website: PolishChildrensHeartline.org

POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE

Happenings: Chicago Style

Glenview’s Smoliga Thrills Swimming World With Record Gold

Olivia Smoliga poses with her medal at the FINA World Swimming Championships on Dec. 15, 2018 in Hangzhou, China.

by Doreen Patras Cramer

CHICAGO — The 2018 FINA (Fédération Internationale De Natation) World Swimming Championships was held in Hangzhou, China, from December 11-16. At the age of 11-16, it was here that 24-year-old Glenbrook South High School graduate, Olivia Smoliga, one of the top-ranked athletes in the world, accomplished record status. She returned to the United States with eight gold medals, including the 50m backstroke and the 100m backstroke, as well as swimming on six winning relays for Team USA. Her accomplishments broke the previous records of Caeleb Dressel and Michael Phelps, who each won seven gold medals at previous FINA meets.

Olivia even set an American record in the 50m backstroke.

On day one, Smoliga led the women’s 4 x 100m freestyle relay to win a gold medal. On day two, she, along with her relay team, went on to win the mixed (women and men) 4 x 50m freestyle relay. That evening, Olivia led the women’s 4 x 50m medley relay with her backstroke leg, breaking a world record. To make it an even more exciting day, she went on to win the 100m backstroke, beating out Katinka Hosszu, Hungary’s “Iron Lady,” who was the gold medal winner in the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. At the end of Day Two, Smoliga had secured three medals.

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Olivia is currently training 24 hours a week at the University of Georgia, her alma mater, to prepare for the 2019 FINA World Swimming Championships in South Korea. She said, “It took some time to adjust to swimming professionally,” and hopes that “the experience in China is a springboard to more success in the future.”

As a teenager, Olivia swam with the Glenview Titan Aquatic Club and, in her senior year at Glenbrook South High School, set a high school record in the 100m backstroke and the 50m backstroke. Olivia, along with her older brother, Matthew, plays hockey.

Consul General of the Republic of Poland, Piotr Janicki. An additional presentation was given by Filip Trzuginski, director of the General Ryszard Kuklinski Museum, Warsaw, Poland.

Lira Singers and Migala LIRA ENSEMBLE PERFORMS AT PMA. The afternoon of December 16 was a very busy day for family and friends to visit the Polish Museum of America (PMA) to hear the Lira Singers and actress and dancer, the Lira Chamber Players in a concert of various Polish and American carols, followed by singing ever-popular Polish patriotic music celebrating the rebirth of Poland after World War I.

The colorful Ensemble presented its program wearing costumes from Lowicz, Poland. Mina Zikri, Lira’s resident conductor, led the Chamber Players with piano accompaniment by Marek Rachelski, music director of St. John Breebe Parish, Niles, Illinois. English language narration was provided by Lucyna Migala, artistic director and general manager of the Lira Ensemble, the only professional performing arts company in the United States that is devoted to Polish music, song, and dance.

The Lira is based at Loyola University Chicago as its first artist-in-residence. This appearance was partially funded by a grant from the Illinois Art Council. Concertgoers were invited to arrive early and/or stay late to view the PMA’s exhibit, “Polonia Goes to War,” which includes historic artifacts related to the Polish American efforts to help Poland regain its independence. The exhibit concludes on March 10, 2019.

CHICAGO SOCIETY CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS. On December 19, members of the Chicago Polish Society (CS) of the Polish National Alliance combined their December meeting with their annual Christmas dinner party. Held at White Eagle Banquets in Niles, Illinois, the members along with accompanying guests enjoyed an evening of caromeder, the sharing of opłatek, and a wonderful festive. The invitation also included the beautiful voice of 12-year-old Martanka Mosz, a member of the Polonia Song and Dance Ensemble, as she performed a selection of Polish and English language carols. Mieczysław Dziś, well-known Chicago area accordionist and accompanist for the Polonia Ensemble, joined in the entertainment. The evening ended with a raffle of assorted prize winnings.

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Reflections on Four Decades with Minnesota’s foremost Polish Painter

by Mark Dillon

Art is life, says Minnesota impressionist painter, Antoni Beltowski.

Four decades in America creating a portfolio of work that has earned him a reputation as a Polish Monet, life is just getting started.

From a small apartment in St. Louis Park, the 71-year-old artist from Newy Tar ponders how best to create a lasting legacy for dozens of his paintings. His repertoire includes landscapes of Minneapolis parks, the California coast and village scenes of 19th century Poland.

Beltowski’s artistic career began as a student at the Akademia Sztuk Pięknych in Krakow from 1970 to 1976. He focused on pigments and techniques used by old Masters of the Renaissance, selling his first paintings in Krakow’s Stare Miasto while earning a masters’ degree in art. Claude Monet’s use of color was his biggest artistic inspiration, Beltowski says.

“How color is used affects everything about visual perception,” he explains.

The young artist’s first big break came when he sold a landscape painting of an old wooden mill for the equivalent of $4,000 at a show in Dusseldorf, Germany in 1978. Life was still tough in then-Communist Poland. After marital law was imposed from late 1980 to 1983, Beltowski decided that America would be a better place to develop his skills and express himself more freely in oil and later, acrylics.

The youngest of 11 children, Beltowski comes from a family where hardship was the norm. One of his older brothers was murdered by the Gestapo in 1941 after he failed to show up for work one day.

Lake Harriet, Minneapolis, on a mid-summer’s day.

put those years of being an illegal behind me. And I was so happy to see that some of the people that knew my art came to see me take the oath,”

With the help of the late Czeslaw Rog, editor of the then-independent, Minnesota-based Polish-American newsletter PolAm, Beltowski held his first U.S. art show at a gallery in the Saint Paul’s Polish Festival in 1987. It featured a 24-painting collection of rural landscapes of the Carpathian foothills called Memo-
ries of My Countryside.

The financial results were mixed, as the audience didn’t seem to fully appreciate the subject matter, the depth of his talent, or his work’s pastoral and historical dimensions.

“People at the thought Polish meant kiebash more than art,” Beltowski says.

GOD’S BRUSHSTROKES.

In his landscapes, Beltowski draws from his Catholic faith, seeing the spiritual dimension of nature and the environment, then expressing it with humility and grace. Historically, he has worked in high-quality oil outdoors, usually with a large umbrella positioned over the canvas to adjust light. Beltowski does not like reworking paintings in a studio, preferring to visit a location on multiple occasions, on different days and atmospheric conditions, trying to finish a work outdoors.

“I value the presence of God in my life, and my art. I open myself to his presence,” he says. “Art saved my life.”

As Poland was reborn as a democracy in June 1989, Beltowski’s career blossomed, taking him to the coast of La Jolla, California in 1991 with the help of wealthy patron John Wilkie, who allowed him to set-up a studio. For his initial rejection is something that came discrimination in Krakow by the German, accepting a life of pov-
erty in the process. At the time, the work is currently displayed in the National Museum in Krakow.

Three views of downtown Minneapolis created by Beltowski were on display this summer at an art booth at the Twin Cities Polish Festival. The taller buildings are the S7-story IDS Center, the city’s tallest building, and the Wells Fargo Center.

FROM SUCCESS TO SEARS.

The painting Beltowski considers his best work is a landscape featuring Claude Monet’s first wife Camille Doncieux and their son Jean, who were the subject of a number of paintings by Monet, as well as Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Edouard Manet.

Beltowski’s roadside landscape recalls Camille’s time in Gloton, a small scenic village near Ben-
neckoc, France. At the time Monet’s family was hounded by creditors and evicted for non-payment of rent. Camille and Jean found someone to take them in the countryside, as sticker shock. Beltowski is now looking for higher-end, informed audiences, and considering charity events.

In Minnesota, the Beltowski family was originally part of the late 19th century migration to Northeast Minneapolis from Southern Po-
land. In fact, his grandfather’s rela-
tive, sculptor George F. Beltowski, was noted Krakow-bomn Polish church architecctor Victor Cordella’s roommate and business associ-
ate for two years at 222 University Ave., when Cordella first came to America in the 1890s (Source: Min-
nesota 1985 census). Cordella was also a struggling painter before he set up shop as an architect.

A struggle for recognition and initial rejection is something that now famous 19th century Polish impressionist also faced in their careers, notably Olga Boznańska, Józef Pankiewicz, and Władysław Podkowiński.

In the 1880s, Boznańska over-
came discrimination in Krakow by advancing her art career in Paris and Berlin, accepting a life of pov-
erty in the process. At the time, the National Academy of Fine Arts did not admit women. In 1893, Podko-winski came under much criticism for his painting, Flemish Exhau-
tion. As a nude redhead woman riding a black, moribund horse. The work, while overtly sexual, is also said to be symbolic of the exploitation of Poland by Russia, Germany and Austro-Hungary while Poland was partitioned. The work is currently displayed on the National Museum in Krakow.

FIN FEATHER FUR OUTFIT-
TERS of Ashland, Ohio, located at the 1-71 interchange, held its third annual Eat Wild event, free and open to the public, Jan. 12, 2019. Demonstrations of har-
esting, processing and prepa-
ring your own wild game were ongoing. Venison steaks, jerky, and sausage, pheasant, elk and rabbit were all served up as sam-
ples.

The Fin Feather exhibit was brought to you by Mike Goschinski, currently the president of the company, which is now employee-owned.
Piast Board Names New Members

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. — The Piast Institute is pleased to welcome three new members to its board of directors: Judge Alexis Grace Krost; Levi F. Smith, J.D.; and Dominik A. Stecula, Ph.D.

Judge Krost is the current presiding judge at the 31st District Court in Hamtramck. She attended Tu- lANE University in New Orleans, La., where she served as a B.S. in business administration and acquired a M.A. in business administration from the University of Detroit Mercy. She has obtained her Juris Doctorate from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. La. Judge Krost is a supportive and involved member of HDFCC and the Hamtramck community.

Levi Smith has served as a com- mercial real estate broker and has been involved in corporate real es- tate and real estate development for most of his career. He was responsi- ble for developing 100K sq. ft. of of- fice / medical buildings, as well as over 200 residential condominiums. He received a B.A. in American his- tory from the American University in Washington, D.C. He furthered his education by attending Wayne State University in Detroit where he obtained his Juris Doctorate. Smith is a seasoned real estate developer and business person with the abil- ity to forge solid relationships with partners and customers.

Dominik Stecula, Ph.D currently is a Martin Fishbein Postdoctoral Fellow in the Annenberg Center for Advanced Study in Communication, Annenberg Public Policy Center, University of Pennsylvania, as well as a SSIRIC Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for Public Opinion and Po- litical Representation, Simon Fraser University. He received a B.A. in political science and history from the University of Michigan-Big Ten-Dom- born and continued his education with an M.A. in political science from McGill University, Montreal. He obtained his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Brit- ish Columbia. Dr. Stecula, who has been associated with the Institute for over 15 years, is currently the Piast Institute’s Educational Director and has been a key member in its development.

The Piast Institute is a non-profit 501(c)(3) research and education organization devoted to Polish and Polish Ameri- can affairs. It is also one of fifty-two member institutions of the Polish and Ameri- can Cultural Centers. The Institute develops conferences, seminars, publications, public programs, lec- tures, and exhibits that provide in- sight into the history, culture, and social resource organization of Polish Americans. A key element of its community service is the Ham- tramck Polish Cultural Center (HDFCC) which the Institute founded in 2007 to serve the immi- grant, racial, and ethnic groups of the community and its youth.

For information about the Insti- tute, call (513) 731-4535 or visit www.piastinstitute.org.
Gortat Keeps Polish Heritage Day Going

by Tom Tarapacki

Just because Marcin Gortat got traded from the Washington Wizards to the Los Angeles Clippers, that didn’t mean the end of his annual Polish heritage day celebration — it just moved over to the West Coast.

The 34-year-old Gortat is the fourth NBA player born in Poland and the only now one in the league. Back home he runs the MG13 Foundation that employs nearly a dozen people and supports four schools that develop young athletes. In the U.S., he promotes Poland with the Polish heritage celebration and various other activities.

“It’s a huge responsibility,” he says. “I’m like an ambassador of my country showing the culture and the history of my country to the American people.”

Earlier he arranged for a catered lunch of traditional Polish food at the team’s Playa Vista facility and explained the dishes to teammates, and held a reception in Beverly Hills. When he was traded on Sept. 10, he docked near Long Beach before Christmas, Gortat visited the boat and bought fish to give the students sailing the vessel to attend the Dec. 26 game.

“We have an incredibly diverse team and our Clipper heritage nights are even better when our players get involved,” said Edyta Górniak, the Clippers’ president of business operations, in a statement. “But I have never seen anything like it. Marcin has gone above and beyond with helping the stratégie and planning.”

“Everybody has pride in their country,” Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. “I think our culture brings us more pride than [Marcin], and I’m very serious.”

Ignacy Zarski, the vice consul for public affairs at the Polish Consulate in Los Angeles, praised Gortat’s “public diplomacy.”

“From our point of view, he’s a great star,” Zarski said. “He’s kind of a mouthpiece for our country.”

Gortat was heavily involved in the event’s planning, just as he was with our celebration during previous stops in Phoenix and Washington during his 12-year career. Both guests included music artist Edyta Górniak, actress Iza Miko, and boxer Andrzej Fonfara. A video address from Polish President Andrzej Duda was aired before the game.

“The Polish folk group Tolia performed the American national anthem and their latest song “Pali się” (It’s On Fire). Before tipoff, Gortat: “I’m like an ambassador of my country showing the culture and the history of my country to the American people.”

Gortat awarded jerseys to three Polish World War II veterans. After that he tallied eight points, six assists and 10 rebounds in a win over Orlando.

“Baseball’s Loss was HOL- LWOOD’s Gain. If you watch Turner Classic Movies you might see some memorable films from the 1940s and 50s that featured John Hodika. The Polish native passed up a shot at baseball stardom to make his mark on Hollywood, but suffered an untimely death that ended his promising movie career at age 41.

Born on April 16, 1914, Hodik was eight when his family moved to Hamtramck, Michigan. His father, Walter, was born in the Ukraine and his mother, the former Anna Pogorzelec, was Polish. Hodik appeared in amateur shows, often in Ukrainian, Hungarian, or Polish, but was a talented football and baseball player as well. He was such an outstanding high school third baseman that the St. Louis Cardinals organization tried to sign him, but Hodik wanted to pursue an acting career.

He broke into radio in Detroit and later Chicago before going to Hollywood. He worked on getting rid of his accent but refused to change his name. Known for his sensitive eyes, powerful voice and athletic build, he sometimes wore a thin mustache. When World War II broke out, he was unable to serve because of high blood pressure. However, as many movie stars went to war, Hodik got his chance for movie stardom.

His big breakthrough came when Alfred Hitchcock cast him as Kovac in the classic war drama Lifeboat (1944). That led to roles in hit movies like The Harvey Girls (1946) and The Harvey Girls. Harvey Girls and Somewhere in the Night.

Hodik married and divorced actress Ann Baxter, with whom he had a daughter. He later built a home in California and moved his family there. However, his career declined when the war ended and the movie stars returned. Hodik then went to Europe to try Hollywood but enjoyed great success, which led to a big screen comeback. However, on the morning of October 19, 1955, the 41-year-old suffered a coronary thrombosis and died instantly while shaving in his bathroom. He was preparing to complete final work on his final film, On the Threshold of Space. He had never been diagnosed with heart disease, but it was likely due to his high blood pressure.

 FITTING IN WELL. Aron Struminski, a rugby coach and player with a community team in Great Britain, got a major boost when he was offered a scholarship to a U.S. college, giving him a chance to become an international rugby player. “When I was offered it, I thought ‘this can’t be real’. I thought it was a bit of a hoax,” Struminski said.

He was approached by Davina Lindsay, head coach of the Polish national women’s rugby team. She invited him to try on for size. However, on the morning of October 19, 1955, the 41-year-old suffered a coronary thrombosis and died instantly while shaving in his bathroom. He was preparing to complete final work on his final film, On the Threshold of Space. He had never been diagnosed with heart disease, but it was likely due to his high blood pressure.

JUSZCZYK — THREE IN A ROW. Today’s NFL fullbacks don’t run the football as much as they used to, but they still can play a vital role in their team’s offense primarily by blocking and catching passes. One of the best and most used fullbacks today is Kyle Juszczyk. He recently earned his third-consecutive trip to the NFL Pro Bowl, and second straight as a member of the 49ers. A six-year veteran who signed with San Francisco as a free agent in 2017, this season he had six carries for 21 yards (3.5 average) and 29 receptions for 309 yards (10.7 average) and one touchdown. He finished ahead of all fullbacks in catches for the second straight year, even though late in the season the team mostly kept him in the backfield to block.

The Medina, Ohio native was a two-time All-American at tight end and full back who caught 125 passes for 1,576 yards and 22 touchdowns at Harvard, and was drafted by Baltimore in the fourth round in 2013. Of course, most people struggle with the pronunciation of his name (basically YO02-check). In fact, when he was drafted Kyle said that he only encountered one person at Harvard who could say his name. “We had a Polish card-winner at our dining hall,” he said, “and he actually nailed it on the first try. But he’s the only one.”

Of course, he quickly got a nick-name. “My freshman year,” Juszczyk recalled. “The senior tight end there, he looked at my name and he was like: ‘No, I’m not even gonna try. I’m just gonna call you Juice.’ And it stuck.”

TOP POLISH ATHLETES HONORED. At the annual Polish Radio sports awards, Olympic ski-jumping champion Kamul Stoch was named athlete of the year 2018. Ste- fan Hornagacher, the Austrian coach of the Polish national ski-jumping team, was named coach of the year.

The Polish men’s national volleyball team was named team of the year, and volleyball player Bartosz Kurek was named athlete of the year in a poll by listeners.

Tennis player Iga Swiatek was hailed as rookie of the year, while retired tennis star Agnieszka Radwankwa won a career achievement award.

To mark the centennial of national independence, the public broadcaster named its Polish athletes of the year: Discus thrower Hanna Konopacka, distance runner Janusz Kusociński, and track star Irena Szewinska. Boxing coach Feliks “Papa” Stamm was honored as coach of the century.

PERKOSKI’S NOTEBOOK. Trev- or Byczkowski, a quarterback from Berea-Midpark High School in sub- urban Cleveland, committed to the University of Buffalo (Mariusz Czerkowski was the highest-scoring Polish player in NHL history, with 215 goals, 220 assists and 435 points in 745 NHL games — San Jose’s Joe Pavelski was named an All Star for the third time ... for- mer West Virginia forward Maciej Bender has transferred to Mercer University in Georgia, and will be eligible to play in the 2019-2020 season. Mercer added assistant Paul Mrozik, who coached Bender for two seasons at Mountain School in Grundy, Va. ... Mets’ catcher Kevin Plawecki was traded to Cleveland for two players.

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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 1946, 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 is incorporated as a non-profit 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.

Polish American Historical Association

Central Connecticut State University

161 Arsenal Street
New Britain, CT 06050

www.polishamericanstudies.org
Welcome Florek!

"FLOREK" was officially introduced to the Polish Heritage Festival crowd as a promotional endeavor for last year’s festival. More than 300 content entries were reviewed, some as far away as Texas and Delaware. The stork’s winning name was "Florek" by Richard Poremski, of Chesterfield, Ind., who said "florek" (meaning "blooming") was a good name for stork at the Gardens. An estimated 50,000 white storks migrate through Poland every year. They are considered a sign of good luck, and predict the arrival of newborns, according to Polish folklore.

The Festival Committee conducted a “Name the Stork” contest as a promotional endeavor for last year’s festival. More than 300 contest entries were received, same as far away as Texas and Delaware. The stork’s winning name was "Florek" by Richard Poremski, of Chesterfield, Ind., who said "florek" (meaning "blooming") was a good name for stork at the Gardens. An estimated 50,000 white storks migrate through Poland every year. They are considered a sign of good luck, and predict the arrival of newborns, according to Polish folklore.

Poland’s “100 for 100” Project Benefits PNA Library

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Republic of Poland celebrated the 100th anniversary of its regained independence on November 11, 2018. The year 2018 was declared the centenary year of “100 for 100” — a giant ka- leidoscope of celebrations, events and programs. On November 12, 2018 Vice President Rich- ard Poremski and Secretary Malgorzata Bondyra, both of Polish National Alliance Council 21 in Baltimore, and Michael Carnahan, a member of PNA Lodge 339 were summoned to the Consul- ate of the Embassy of Republic of Poland. Upon arriving they were generously presented with a gift of various books, games, DVDs, music CDs and other such related materials from Poland’s Foreign Ministry, Poland’s Consul General in Matynia. All the items were especially selected for the children’s section of the PNA Council 21. The Northwest Polish Consulates in the United States also conducted their own library projects.

The September 28, 2018 letter from Huber Czerniuk, director of the Foreign Minis- ter’s office of Cooperation with Polonia and the Department of Cooperation with Polonia and Poles Living Abroad (translated by Malgorzata Bondyra) reads as follows:

“On the one hundredth anniversary of Pol- and regaining its independence, to celebrate this milestone together with you, the Depart- ment of Cooperation with Polonia and Poles Living Abroad prepared a jubilee project called “100 Lib- raries on the 100th.”

The collection includes contemporary litera- ture, legends, required school readings and poetic works of classical poets like Adam Mickiewicz, Maria Konopnicka, Alexander Fredro and Ignya- kraiski, which accompanied many genera- tions of Poles through their lives. Well-known touching poems, logopedic nursery rhymes and excerpts of the mythical erudite will help the youngest go with ease through the learn- ing the correct Polish language. Encyclopaedia- cians, lexicons and dictionaries will help you learn about Polish history, culture, culinary tra- ditions and old customs. Educational games and quizzes will familiarize you with nature and the natural resources of Poland, the geography and history of Poland, and above all, what we would like to see is encouragement for you to come visit beautiful Poland.

“Knowledge of the Polish language is the foundation that keeps the national consciousness. The mother tongue is not only a tradition to pass on to future generations but also a tool to help ac- cess resources and expand knowledge of modern Poland. The books and didactic aids handed over to You will contribute to broadening the horizons for Polish youngsters, and will highlight the beauty of Polish literature and the history of Poland.

Polish Chef

Part II

The long Polish Karnawał sea- son stretching from Three Kings to Shrove Tuesday is a period of high- powered socializing and revelry: banquets, dinnertime balls, balls and parties galore. Taste Polish dishes ranging from gourmet to rustic peasant fare are an absolute “must.” Here are some more dishes to con- sider in your menu planning.

**Polish Kiełbasa & Sauerkraut**

Kiełbasa (kiełbasa z kapustą). Preheat oven to 325°. Peel and dice 1 1/2 lbs fresh kiełbasa in one layer in baking pan greased with 1 T lard or butter. Cut 4 onions into quarters thin, spreading onions on and around the kiełbasa. Bake 15 min, then reduce heat to 350°, add 1 c hot water and bake another 40 min. Meanwhile, drain 2-3 qts sauerkraut in 350° oven 60 min or so. Leave in oven then reduce heat to 350° after switching off heat. Taste improves with reheating.

**HUNTER’S BIGOS**

(kaszubskie z myśliwski). Soak 1 or 3 dried bolete mushrooms in 1-1/2 water several hours, then cook in same water until tender, chop, return to liquid and set aside. Drain 3 qts sauerkraut, reserved liquid, rinse in cold wa- ter, drain again, squeeze dry and set aside. Place in pot with bay leaf, cover with cold water and cook un- covered about 60 min, stir- ring occasionally. Add 3 c cooked cubed meat (beef, venison, pork, veal, turkey, duck), 3 c smoked Polish sausage, the mush- rooms, 1 c diced onions, tomatoes, chopped, 1 c pitted prunes, chopped, 1/2 c dry red wine, 2 buds crushed garlic, 2 diced large cooking apples. Toss in ingredients to blend and bake uncovered in 350° oven 1-1/2 hr Mix again, cover pan and bake another 2 hrs at 325°. When slightly cooled, float free- ly. When slightly cooled, float free- ly. When slightly cooled, float free- ly. When slightly cooled, float free- ly. When slightly cooled, float free- ly. When slightly cooled, float free- ly.
The Personal Account of a Polish Slave Laborer

Katherine Graczyk was captured by the SS and shipped to Germany. She shared her story with author Catherine Hamilton by Catherine Hamilton

Part V

When I left the Nazi officer’s suite, I hurried down the hall toward the second floor’s female guard. I promised myself I would never go back to that suite. I could tell by the way he looked at me what his intentions were. Women were being sent there for another God that I wouldn’t be one of them. The guard was taking a group of women to their classroom to refill their buckets with clean water and I joined them. I filled my empty stomach with water from the faucet.

We were returning to the lobby on the lower level to clean the entrance floors again, but before we got half way downstairs, the building shook and stirs blared. The Allied air strikes were hitting Germany with more frequency, several times a day now. We all prayed the war would end before we died under a pile of rubble.

“Line up!” the guard called. Military personnel hurried toward the door, running for the bomb shelters in a stampede.

I pushed my way through the crowded atrium and joined the tail of the prisoner’s line. Suddenly, the building shook again. Everyone in the building was scrambling. The bomb hit close by, exploding into window and door, more than brick just outside the entrance. The prison guard blew her whistle and movements were urged against the prisoners. You leave this building until everyone else is outside, do you understand? You’ll be shot by the guards outside. I promise you!”

She would not let us go outside, but she went on. She watched from the guard with her pistol pointed, watching us. You can’t imagine the fear of being trapped in a crumbling building, not being able to save yourself, while everyone else ran to safety.

While people were running down the street near the guard, I scurried frantically over the rubble and into street to find a house. We pulled bricks and cement a bomb shelter. I was four steps down—half above ground and half below—when another bomb hit. I crouched down right on the stairs, not a foot from the entrance. Dirt sifted down the stairway. The air was thick with dust and fear. The ground shook, again. And again. Everything was covered in ashes and dust. The shelter was packed tight with people. Huddled against the wall, I tried to push down the steps and into the shelter.

“No room!” someone called. “There’s room!” protested a German woman. “Let her in!” An elderly woman who could hardly make it down the stairs entered and stood next to the woman who had spoken up for me.

I saw for myself that there were good people among the German people more than once. It was a grim reminder.

A MONTH LATER at morning roll call I was told that my room was to come up to me and said, “Let’s go.”

“Go where?” I asked. “Back to the farm.”

“ar farm number one?” he nodded.

“I am going back to that farm! He beats me!” I told him.

The Grazcaki wedding party prepares to give a toast. Somehow the farmer and his wife found out I was in prison and he’d come after me. “You’re going! Now, move!” the guard ordered.

“If you take me there—I’ll run away.”

“You can run away. You’ll end up back in the prison—or worse,” he laughed.

I couldn’t believe it, but I ended up back on that farm. The farmer took out his anger on me. In some ways worse than ever because I had run away. But I didn’t run away again. I thought to myself that maybe this was God’s way of saving me from the officer’s suite and the bombing of Berlin. It was the winter of 1944 by then and the Americans were defeating the Nazis. I believed the war would be over soon.

In early April, 1945, when we were working close to the neighbor’s farm, we heard shouting. I looked up to see four American soldiers walking out of the brush. The other farmer had a gun on him. He can’t shoot them, I thought to myself, it’s against the Geneva Convention to shoot men in uniform. They were prisoners of war. I watched the Americans walk in front of the farmer’s gun. Then he just shot them down in the field. He threw them on a wagon and dumped them in the woods. I was too angry. I wanted to report him. But there was no one to tell. I promised myself that I would tell someone someday. Now I have.

On April 13, 1945, the United States Infantry arrived and fought the Germans in the Battle of Magdeburg. I was rescued from the German farm April 18, 1945 by Americans. But before we rode off in those Army jeeps, the officer in charge ordered the farmer and his wife to fix us all a big supper. It was the first time I’d had meat and cheese in five years!

In May 1945, when the victory parades began, I still was not free to go home. I had no country to go to. The Communists occu-
PAHA Presents its 2018 Awards at the 76th Annual Meeting

CHICAGO — At its 76th Annual Meeting at the Hilton Chicago, Jan. 3-6, 2019, the Polish American Historical Association announced the recipients of its Annual Awards for 2018.

The meeting also included many scholarly presentations in nine sessions, focusing on various aspects of Polonia’s culture, presented from historical, sociological, critical, and literary perspectives, with a focus on immigration issues and the theme of “loyalties and communities.” The meeting was held in conjunction with the 313th Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association.

The following awards were presented:

**Joseph A. Drobot Jr.’s Devotion to the cause of sustaining Polish American history, culture, and heritage (in this volume);**

- By Prof. Neal Pease (right)

**Patron of the American Historical Association Dr. Anna Mieczysław B. B. Biskupski (left)**

- By Prof. Edward Skalny

**Cooperating Institution Award**

- To the Polish Institute of America

**The James S. Pula Distinguished Service Award**

- To a member of PAHA who has rendered valuable and sustained service to the organization. The 2018 Award was presented to Prof. Dorota Praszak of Jagiellonian University in Poland, who has been contributing to the success of PAHA for a long time, including her continuous efforts in securing Polish grants for PAHA’s 75th Anniversary Conference. The series of creating awards and showcasing Polish Ethnography: “that she organizes every two years offers an outstanding opportunity for PAHA members to present their work, advance their expertise and knowledge, and connect with distinguished Polish scholars.

The Creative Arts Prize recognizes contributions in the field of creative arts by individuals or groups who have promoted an awareness of the Polish experience or culture. The 2018 Prize was awarded to Jan Stanisław Cyganiewicz (left) for his work on the history and culture of the Polish American community. In his essay, “A Hundred Years of Polish Culture in America,” he explores the development and growth of the Polish American community.

**The Skaly Civic Achievement Award**

- To a volunteer who serves on the board of directors of the Polish American Historical Association and has made significant contributions to the organization. The 2018 Award was presented to a member of the organization.

**The Zbyszko Award**

- To an individual or organization that has made significant contributions to the Polish American community and culture. The 2018 Zbyszko Award recognizes five outstanding individuals.

**NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

The 76th Annual Meeting also included the presentation of the new board of directors of the Polish American Historical Association to serve in 2019-2020, under the newly elected President Dr. Anna Mieczysław B. B. Biskupski of the University of Michigan at Dearborn. The faculty and students of the University of Michigan at Dearborn hosted a welcome dinner for the new board of directors, which included the presentation of the new board of directors and the election of the new officers.

**Travelling Multi-Media Exposition**

- The Polish American Historical Association is planning several dozen traveling exhibitions on diverse aspects of Polonia’s culture and history, including a virtual exhibition on the history of the Polish American community and culture.

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**Tribute to the “Father of Polish Opera”**

- The Kraków-based Polish Music Publishers (PWM Edition) is planning several dozen publications on the 100th anniversary of the birth of Stanisław Moniuszko (1819), the father of Polish opera. They include orchestral materials for the composer’s major works, including:

- **Haunted Manor and Countess Countess (Casts)**

- **Treasure Sons and Daughters (Chelmsford)**

- **Phantoms (Meteor)**

The PWM Edition is also going to bring out Moniuszko’s songs, string quartets, and other chamber works, as well as books on the composer’s life and work.

- **Materials for children and a video guide to Moniuszko’s legacy are also planned.**

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miming, bowling, auto racing, soccer and more. Included are some of the greatest figures in American sports such as Stan Kasten, Stella Walsh, and Stan Musial. From Tragedy in Poland to Her Rose: Rise of Polish Americans and Their Heritage, Sandor Szabados
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Kratz, which has been called “Poland’s
The Man” Musial.-born in Europe, and then find the re-
ields from the Shrovetide period
nary stories and accomplishments of 170 Polish musicians whose presence in
Lublin: 2016: pb. 396 pp., 6”x9”
When did your Polish an-eristic organized lexicon — 97 ill.
ments, organizers, and the athletes, coaches, and
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M. I. 2019, p.b., 106 pp., 5x7 in.
seasons to the rhythms and practices in her own cultural tradi-
ning these seasons to the rhythms and practices in her own cultural tradi-

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This is a “must have” book for the family historian who wants to identify their European heritage. The author updates his research experiences to describe how to find the resources available; first to find out where your family was born in Europe, and then find the re-
cards, genealogical research for most European countries and includes detailed steps on how to find the records that you need. The author uses his experi-
ince that they were born in other countries on
n and without the help of genealogy
n of Poland and gives some discus-
sible analyses of the presentation of Polish Americans and their heritage as viewed on movie theaters and on television screens in America since 1894. Prominent author, educator and Polish American activist Joseph W. Zurawski identifies and analyzes more than 1300 films shown in the United States that feature or identify a Polish American character or reference. Soft cover. Published by the Polish Museum of America in Chicago.

BUJA: SEASONS ON THE FARM with My Polish Grandmother Busia: Seasons on the Farm by Tom Tarapacki


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the KGB deported her family from Posen from Siberia to her entrance into years there, and faced starvation, typhus, and child separation — all while Nazi German rule illustrate that hard- life without offering any comment — successive generations. “Guzlowski’s ship didn’t end with German surren- ders to the Nazis, but continued on to Israel in the 1940s. His accounts. Written by the daughter of Pol- 7 years old and subjected to slave exploitation, and forced abortions. Taken from their homes as young as 12 years old and subjected to srand of Auschwitz atrocities. Pilecki’s accounts are among the first eyewitness ac- counts asked by descendants of Polish immig- rants.た登らぬ御者等とし、100 years of other in- teresting Polish foods. It contains brief stories of Polish fes- tivities and customs such as Christmas Eve (Wigilia), Harvest Festival (Dzieny) and others.

First published in United States in 1948, this book was the first complete book of Polish cooking in the English language. Chapters on Appetizers, Soups, Meat, Poutry and Game, Fish, Vegetables, Mushrooms, Diary Dishes, Pastries and Desserts. Recipes are included for famous Polish dishes like bigos, czarnina, pierogi, nalesniki, parczewki... and hundreds of other in- teresting Polish foods.

The For- gotten Ho- locaust is a powerful con- tentive”.

The third edition includes a new preface by the author, a new foreword by Norman Davies, a link to a page of ZEGOTA, the underground govern- ment organization working to save the Jews, and an annotated listing of many Poles executed by the Germans for trying to shelter and save Jews.

An unfailing, detailed portrait of a forgotten group of Nazi survi- vers. Written by the daughter of Pol- 2000 at New York to California

The clearly-written recipes facilitate a best-selling book that combines the century, the meaning behind the Pascal butter lamb, and many other insightful answers to common ques- tions asked by descendants of Polish immi- grants. The over 100 easy-to-follow recipes are all adapted for the modern North American kitchen. Illustrations and pearls of practical wisdom (“House- hold Hints”) complement this book.

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

Gail Engebretson is a native of Wisconsin and the granddaughter of Polish farmers. She has been work- ing in Early Childhood Development, teaching music for over 40 years.
Talk to Your Family and Save the Stories

by Stephen M. Szabados

I write family histories to save the stories, pictures, and family history for my children, grandchildren, and all of my future generations. A great deal of family history is passed down through the generations at family gatherings and ancestor. I hated writing in high school anecdotes, and family traditions. Collect what opportunities to capture the memories of several cousins. Even former neighbors may have time. Talk to your grandparents, great-grandparents, granduncles, grandaunts, and older cousins. Even former neighbors may have information to add. Talk to them as soon as possible.

Family gatherings may provide unique opportunities to capture the memories of several people at one time. In this sort of situation introduce a discussion topic to the group, such as asking them to identify when in a photo and where the photo was taken. Also contact older relatives to set up individual meetings. When you approach them explain the purpose of your request. Meet ing them at their home will help them feel comfortable, and there are more opportunities. Their home will also give you access to any pictures and documents that your relative may have. Remember your discussions should be an equal exchange of information. The questions should not be too personal or an interrogation. Avoid questions that seek a “Yes” or “No” answer. Open-ended questions are better because they will yield more detailed answers and will offer the best chance to have your relative tell their stories. A question such as “What is your fondest memory of your grandfather?” can begin a string of stories about their interaction with their grand parent. Showing them pictures can also open their memories to tell more stories. Be sensitive about the questions you ask. Avoid topics that may be upsetting. Your goal should be to have your relative do most of the talking. TRY TO BE A GOOD LISTENER Do not interrupt while the person is speaking. Don’t put words in their mouths and don’t finish their sentences for them either. Let them speak until they have completed their thought before you go on to the next question. Include pictures in your research and ask your relatives to help identify the people in the photos.

Also remember that memories often fade, and people may get confused with other points. However, the information you obtain may exist nowhere else, and you must take the in formation at face value. Treat the oral history that you hear as treasures. However, if some of the facts do not seem to be accurate, try to get confirmation from other relatives. Their conversation will make them feel comfortable. Try to check the information from oral history with other relatives. Re-visit your relative after you have new and exciting information to show them. Seeing your material may turn on their memory for another story. Get started and your passion will grow!


A Medley of Inspiration

by Edward Poniewaz

If you think the accomplishment of following a genealogical quest is challenging then you are right but as Alina’s great uncle, George Root, opened Ramco Products, also auto motive related, and was in business in St. Clair for 48 years. It was an arduous assignment, I definitely would agree with that assessment.

The name Victor Skrebski popped up on the Yahoo ticker last year for a reason I have since forgotten. I remembered him as a big deal and in a 2016 article he was called “Chicago’s best-known advertising photographer.” He also campaigned for Estates Lauder, Chanel, and Givenchy among others. He is known for his black-and white portraits of celebrities including Dennis Hopper, Betty Davis, and John Travolta.

In this same article, a then-small time and not-very-well-known Cin dy Crawford credits “Skrebski with teaching her how to hold her body, show off the clothes, work the camera, and act like a star.”

If you have a thought about this month’s topic, have a question, or have any interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Havelock St., St. Louis, MO 63139; email alinabrig@yahoo.com. If you send email, reference “The Medley of Inspiration” in the subject line. Winter will not be here for long. 
Author Wesley Adamczyk

by Leonard Kniffel

Published in 2004 by the University of Chicago Press, Adamczyk’s book When God Looked the Other Way: An Odyssey of War, Exile, and Redemption received universal praise from reviewers as a “finely published about Poland and World War II, died peacefully on January 6, 2013, at a retirement home in DeForest, Illinois, in the presence of family. He was 85.”

In the course of writing the book, Adamczyk amassed asizeable collection of documents, photographs, and other memorabilia, most notably a series of what he called “memory books,” pocket-size diaries kept by the children of the deportation and gathered from survivors. He mounted an exhibition in 2011 at the New York Historical Society and through his multimedia collection.

In 2010 Adamczyk was scheduled to appear in Smolensk near Katyn with Polish President Lech Kaczyński to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the massacre. Having visited the site of his father’s murder in 1998, Adamczyk decided that once was enough and made a last-minute decision to decline the invitation to return for another memorial service. The plane crashed before reaching its destination, killing all 96 people on board.

One of Adamczyk’s colleagues has been a defense of freedom of speech. “One of the beauties of America,” he said, “is that if you say something people don’t like, no one ever gets sent to Siberia for what the Soviets called ‘reeducation.’”

Donations in his memory be made to his favored organization for blind children in Laski. To donate


Polish Heritage Society of Pennsylvania, an institution that he helped to start.

Philadelphia — Joseph Batery was the guest speaker at the General Membership meeting of The Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia, Jan. 27, 2019.

Batory has had an outstanding educational leadership career with the Upper Darby School District and has written several books on his leadership. He is also founder of the Upper Darby Arts & Education Foundation. The Philadelphia Inquirer has described Batory as “a champion of children and education,” and the The News of Delaware County has called him “a legend.”

Batory has been recognized by the president of the United States, the United States House of Representatives, and the United States Senate of Pennsylvania.

The son of the late Clement and Florence Langridge, Membership Chair, 78 Meadow Lane, West Hartford, CT 06107. Wesley Adamczyk was born in Poland on January 14, 1933, author Wesley Adamczyk, a career chemist and tax consultant, and in his writings on one of the most highly acclaimed books ever published about Poland and World War II, died peacefully on January 6, 2013, at a retirement home in DeForest, Illinois, in the presence of family. He was 85.

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Polka Musicians, Clubs, Unite to Help Burn Victim

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Buffalo Polka Boosters, and the Polka Variety Club Social, in coordination with several Buffalo-area polka musicians, hosted a fundraiser for a woman who was tragically burned in an act of violence last December in Tonawanda, N.Y.

On December 17, 2018, police said Jessica Cameron’s ex-boyfriend texted her while she was working at Tim Hortons coffee shop in Tonawanda, asking her to come outside near the dumpsters “to talk.” The police allege Jonathan White, 28, of the City of Tonawanda, hid near the dumpsters. When Cameron arrived, he doused her with a flammable liquid and lit a fire, which also spread to him.

Both were taken to the Erie County Medical Center Burn Unit. Cameron, 25, was placed in a medically induced coma as part of her treatment. She has received skin grafts, and has surgery on her hands. Cameron and White have three children between the ages of 2 and 4. The children are currently staying with a relative.

Police charged White with one count of attempted murder in the second degree and one count of assault in the first degree. Both are class B felonies.

Cameron, 25, was placed in a medically induced coma as part of her treatment. She has received skin grafts, and has surgery on her hands. Cameron and White have three children between the ages of 2 and 4. The children are currently staying with a relative.

The generous crowd filled Potts Banquet Hall. Polish dancers from the Concertina All Stars danced to a sold out crowd at the Millennium Banquets, in Cheektowaga. Krup Music and sing dearly loved koledy night singalong at Potts Banquet Hall. Polish dancers from the Concertina All Stars danced to a sold out crowd at the Millennium Banquets, in Cheektowaga. Krup Music and sing dearly loved koledy night singalong at Potts Banquet Hall. Polish dancers from the Concertina All Stars danced to a sold out crowd at the Millennium Banquets, in Cheektowaga. Krup Music and sing dearly loved koledy night singalong at Potts Banquet Hall. Polish dancers from the Concertina All Stars danced to a sold out crowd at the Millennium Banquets, in Cheektowaga. Krup Music and sing dearly loved koledy night singalong at Potts Banquet Hall. Polish dancers from the Concertina All Stars danced to a sold out crowd at the Millennium Banquets, in Cheektowaga. Krup Music and sing dearly loved koledy night singalong at Potts Banquet Hall. Polish dancers from the Concertina All Stars danced to a sold out crowd at the Millennium Banquets, in Cheektowaga. Krup Music and sing dearly loved koledy night singalong at Potts Banquet Hall. Polish dancers from the Concertina All Stars danced to a sold out crowd at the Millennium Banquets, in Cheektowaga. Krup Music and sing dearly loved koledy night singalong at Potts Banquet Hall. Polish dancers from the Concertina All Stars danced to a sold out crowd at the Millennium Banquets, in Cheektowaga. Krup Music and sing dearly loved koledy night singalong at Potts Banquet Hall. Polish dancers from the Concertina All Stars danced to a sold out crowd at the Millennium Banquets, in Cheektowaga. Krup Music and sing dearly loved koledy night singalong at Potts Banquet Hall. Polish dancers from the Concertina All Stars danced to a sold out crowd at the Millennium Banquets, in Cheektowaga. Krup Music and sing dearly loved koledy night singalong at Potts Banquet Hall. Polish dancers from the Concertina All Stars danced to a sold out crowd at the Millennium Banquets, in Cheektowaga. Krup Music and
Compiled by John Ziobrowski

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

FEBRUARY 2
- John Gora. Polish Alliance. Hamilton Ont. (416) 532-2876
- Europa. German Club. Cassleberry Fla. 7-11 (407) 834-0574
- Alex Meineker. West Palm Brewery. West Palm Beach, Fla. 12-6 (561) 69-8013
- Stephanie. Pulaski Club. Holiday. Fla. 2-6 (727) 848-7826

FEBRUARY 3
- Sounds of the South. Pulaski Club. Dayton Beach, Fla. 2-5 (386) 258-7865
- Nu Soundz. Polish Club. St. Petersburg, Fla. 3-6 (727) 894-9908

FEBRUARY 8
- Ed & Dorothy. Elks Lodge. Englewood, Fla. 5-9 (941) 474-1404

FEBRUARY 9
- Eddie Forman. Pulaski Club. Holiday. Fla. 5-9 (727) 848-7826

FEBRUARY 10
- Eddie Forman. Moose Lodge. Vero Beach, Fla. 2-5 (772) 643-5823
- Melkotones. Polish Club. Belizeville, Fla. 2-5 (352) 873-2966
- Polka Classics. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. (386) 258-7959
- Florida Honky Band. Polish Club. St. Petersburg, Fla. 3-6 (727) 894-9908

FEBRUARY 14

FEBRUARY 15
- Phocus. Polish Villa II. Cheektowaga, N.Y. Polka Buzz Recording. (716) 675-6586

FEBRUARY 17
- DynaBrass. Lyskawa Hall. Dearborn Heights, Mich. 2-6 (313) 274-4666

FEBRUARY 20

FEBRUARY 26
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February Polka Birthdays

Birthdays courtesy of John Nalevanko, host of L’il John’s Polka Show, WAVL Radio 910 AM and 98.7 FM, Saturday 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Live streaming at www.PA.Talk.com. For information, write to: 121 Seminole Dr., Greensburg, PA 15601; (724) 834-7871; johnnalevanko@aol.com.
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One size fits most with adjustable Velcro strap. **#4358091 - $24.95**

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