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**MAKING PĄCZKI AND
CHRUŚCIKI AT HOME**
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PAHA HONORS SCHOLARS, WRITERS, AND PHILADELPHIA GROUPS • HERITAGE MONTH'S VIRTUAL PRESENCE
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STANLEY P. SPISIAK'S INCREDIBLE STORY • **ORGANIZING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY** • **NFL GREAT JJ WATT RETIRES**

NEWSMARK

DELEGATION PAYS LAST RESPECTS TO POPE EMERITUS. A top-level Polish delegation was among the national leaders and royalty that traveled to the Vatican to take part in the funeral of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who died Dec. 31, 2022, at 95. Headed by President Andrzej Duda, it included Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, as well as a group of officials and lawmakers.

Before becoming pope, Cardinal Josef Ratzinger had faithfully served Polish Pontiff John Paul II as one of his closest aides. The German-born former pope, a staunch conservative, "loved Poland and regarded the Poles as a people of deep faith," senior Polish churchman Archbishop Stanisław Gądecki was quoted as saying.

The ex-pope's large, heavy, wooden coffin, like that in which John Paul II was buried, required 12 pallbearers to carry. More than 100,000 mourners from around the world gathered in St Peter's square for the late pontiff's Requiem Mass.

VP'S HUSBAND VISITS POLAND. U.S. Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff, the husband of Vice President Kamala Harris, visited Kraków and Berlin "to advance the Biden-Harris Administration's efforts to combat antisemitism around the world and support Holocaust remembrance."

Emhoff was in Kraków Jan. 26-29. On Jan. 27, he visited the Memorial and Museum at Auschwitz-Birkenau. He participated in a wreath-laying ceremony and attended the annual commemoration of International Holocaust Remembrance Day. He was joined by U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt.

Emhoff and Lipstadt were in Berlin Jan. 30-31, where they participated in a series of engagements with local Jewish communities and civil society representatives and visit historical and cultural sites.

January 27 marked the 78th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi German death camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

NO TO THE EURO. Most Poles are against the adoption of the Euro to replace the złoty, with only 14.7% of respondents in a survey for Radio ZET supporting the adoption of the Euro. The ruling coalition's United Right voters are the largest group of opponents of the Euro in Poland, with 97% against. Opposition voters are almost evenly divided, with 44% of respondents favoring replacing the złoty, with the European currency and 43% against.

With parliamentary election ahead, the ruling Law and Justice party has made its platform against Poland's joining the Eurozone. The adoption of the Euro would require the approval of a minimum, two-thirds of the lower house of parliament to pass a constitutional amendment. Poland's prime minister has argued against the new currency, citing the chaos and considerable cost of living Croatia experienced when it switched.

ANNIVERSARY STRAINS POLISH-UKRAINIAN TIES. Although Poland and Ukraine have forged a special relationship amid Putin's aggression, it gets periodically strained by re-emerging ghosts of the past. The Ukrainian parliament's recent commemoration of the birth anniversary of war-time Ukrainian nationalist leader Stepan Bandera triggered a negative reaction in Warsaw. Many Ukrainians view Bandera, the leader of the Ukrainian Nationalist Organization (OUN), as a hero who fought for his country's independence, whereas Poles hold his group responsible for the massacre of up to 100,000 Polish civilians.

"Our attitude to the crimes committed by the OUN remains unchanged. We hope the rapprochement of the Polish and Ukrainian nations will lead to a better understanding of our common history," said Polish Foreign Ministry spokesman Łukasz Jasina.

GERMANY SNUBS REQUEST FOR REPARATION TALKS. In an official diplomatic note, Germany rejected Poland's request for negotiations over the war reparations to which Warsaw says it is entitled. Last September, Poland handed Germany a meticulously itemized bill for the devastation it suffered during the German occupation, which it assessed at \$1.3 trillion. The German note said that the reparation issue had been settled and was not negotiable.

Berlin rarely mentions that the "settlement" of the 1950s was between two Soviet-installed puppet states — East Germany and Communist Poland — with Warsaw agreeing under duress to relinquish reparations.

Family Trees and Honey Bees



In addition to traditional genealogy topics, this year's Zoom Genealogy Lecture series sponsored by the Polish American Foundation of Connecticut's will include some uncommon topics, from beekeeping to 17th century hygiene. Picture above are (l. to r.): Speaker Aleksandra Kacprzak, who will explain how to determine and record proper citations; beekeeper Janusz Marzewski; session organizer Dorena Wasik; and the mayor of Kadzidło, Poland, Dariusz Lukaszewski, who has helped the genealogical conferences. *Story on page 11.*

Copernicus: Renaissance Man Revelations



This February 19 marks the 550th anniversary of Kopernik's birth.

by Marek Kępa

Part I

(Culture.pl) The picturesque town of Toruń is an historical city on the River Vistula, about 93 miles north-west of Warsaw. Today it is in the middle of Poland's Kuyavian-Pomeranian voivodship, but it wasn't always that way.

The area in Central Poland where it lies used to be called Prussia, after the Baltic people that inhabited

see "Copernicus ...," page 3

Hartford Landmark Polish National Home sold to Protestant Church

by Mark Dillon

HARTFORD, Conn. — For His Glory Church Ministries Inc., a 22-year-old evangelical Protestant church led by a group of African Americans, has paid \$650,000 to purchase the 92-year-old Polish National Home building in the city's downtown.

The sale closed Dec. 30, followed a vote by the Polish National Home's Board of Directors and a two-to-one approval vote at a membership meeting earlier in the month that finalized the sale of the 1930 Art Deco style landmark on Charter Oak Avenue.

In a late December

letter to members published on the PNH's website, Board President Lauren Siembab said, "no one came forward or suggested sources of the approximate \$1 million plus necessary to truly save the PNH building, let alone additional funding necessary to rebuild a business that was significantly impacted by current conditions and the pandemic."

Siembab described the members' review meeting as full of "passion."

"It took two hours of commentary by me, (PNH treasurer) Mark Bruks and many of the Corporate Members before we were able to call for a vote," she said.

See "PNH ...," page 4



Polish National Home of Hartford, a 1930 Art Deco building on the National Register of Historic Places, has been sold for \$650,000.00.

ALMANAC

VIEWPOINTS

February ☾ Luty

Jeśli ci jeszcze nie dokuczył luty,
to pal dobrze w kominie
i miej kozuch suty.
If February hasn't bothered you yet,
then keep a good fire in the chimney
and have a good sheepskin coat.

- 1 **1717. Silent Sejm** (Sejm Niemy), a session of the parliament of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth held in Warsaw, which marked the end of Augustus II of Poland's attempts to create an absolute monarchy in Poland, and the beginning of the Russian Empire's increasing influence and control over the Commonwealth.
- 2 **1676.** Coronation of **Jan Sobieski**, king and military leader who defeated the Turks in Vienna in 1683, and thus honored for centuries as the "Defender of Christendom."
- 3 **1899.** Death of painter **Juliusz Kossak** (b. 1824).
- 4 **1746.** Birth of Polish and American patriot, freedom fighter and military engineer **Thaddeus Kościuszko**.
- 5 **1909.** Birth of **Grazyna Bacewicz**, Polish composer and violinist.
- 6 **ST. DOROTHY**
*Na dzień świętej Doroty
bywa śniegu nad płoty.
On Saint Dorothy's Day
there is snow over the fences.*
- 7 **1810.** Birth of Marcin Odlanicki Poczobutt, Polish-Lithuanian Jesuit astronomer and mathematician.
- 8 **1296.** **Przemysł II** assassinated.
- 9 **1940.** Birth of **Bohdan Paczynski** (†2007), Polish-born American astrophysicist.
- 10 **1925.** In an accord with the Vatican, the archdiocese of Vilnius was revived as one of five Polish dioceses.
- 11 **1945. Yalta Conference.** Soviets receive Poland's Eastern lands.
- 12 **1867.** Death of **George Sokoloski**, first Polish American graduate of West Point Academy and Civil War veteran.
- 14 **ST. VALENTINE**
Dzień Świętego Walentego
- 15 **1903.** Death of **Fr. Józef Dabrowski**, founder of the Orchard Lake Schools. (b. 1842).
- 16 **Tłusty czwartek**, (Fat Thursday) festivities mark the end of celebrations before Lent, which strictly forbids loud parties and meat dishes.
- 17 **1772. First Partition** of Poland between Prussia, Russia and Austria.
- 18 **1914.** Birth of **Pee Wee King** (nee Julius Kuczynski).
- 19 **1473.** Birth of **Mikolaj Kopernik**, Polish astronomer known by his Latin name Nicholas Copernicus, in the city of Torun, Poland. Copernicus is the Father of Modern Astronomy, known as the man who "moved the earth and stopped the sun."
- 20 **PRESIDENT'S DAY (U.S.)**
- 21 **PĄCZKI DAY**
1574. Coronation of **Henry Valois**, King of France from 1574 until his death as well as King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania from 1573 to 1575.
- 22 **ASH WEDNESDAY**
This day was once called *Wstępna Środa* (Introductory or Preliminary Wednesday), Poles would celebrate and enjoy themselves all day. Then at night they would go to church where ashes would be sprinkled on their heads and the 40-day fast would begin.
- 23 **1891.** Death in Detroit of **Fr. Leopold Moczygemba**, patriarch of American Polonia.
- 25 **1926.** Poland, an original member of the League of Nations, is given a semi-permanent seat.
- 26 **1832.** Poland's Constitution abolished by Russian Czar Nicholas I.
- 28 **1750.** Birth of **Ignacy Potocki**, Polish minister and nobleman.

MAILING DATES

This paper mailed on or before **February 4, 2023**. The March 2023 edition will be mailed on or before **March 3, 2023**.

As Anniversary Looms, Polonia Continues to Stand With Ukraine

by Matthew Stefanski

In the early morning hours of February 24, 2022, Russian cruise missiles filled the skies above Ukraine and air raid sirens rang out across the country. It was the start of near daily aerial bombardment, artillery barrages, drone strikes and other acts of aggression against the people of Ukraine, the latest country to fall victim to Russian hostility.

In the immediate aftermath of Russia's attack, Polish American support reached a zenith as individuals and organizations across the United States rallied to support Ukraine. You can read my coverage of that early support in the April 2022 edition of the PAJ. Today, the largely grassroots, citizen-led initiatives of the early days have morphed into streamlined government-supported operations. Thanks to President Biden's leadership and continued bipartisan support in the U.S. Congress, the United States has provided over 60 billion dollars in military and humanitarian support to Ukraine, aid that has proven invaluable as Ukraine continues to fight for its territorial sovereignty. But local efforts are continuing, including in the Polish American community, to continue to show support for Ukraine.

As the one-year anniversary of Putin's full-scale invasion of Ukraine nears, I followed up with a profile of two organizations who have been unrelenting in their efforts to support Ukraine and its people.

The Kosciuszko Foundation (KF), one of the Polonia's most renowned institutions, was also one of the first to support Ukraine last year. In the early days, the KF supported humanitarian assistance on the Polish-Ukrainian border, providing medical care and assistance to desperate Ukrainian refugees as they streamed into Poland. Since then, the Foundation has been supporting more educational efforts. Working with the SOK Foundation in Poland, they have sponsored courses for Polish teachers so that they are better equipped to teach Polish as a second language

to Ukrainian refugees. The KF has organized integrative language immersion summer camps for Ukrainian children and expanded their long running "Teaching English in Poland" program. The Foundation also launched a program named "Freedom Starts With Your Mind" which provides grants for Ukrainian artists and scholars whose academic work was interrupted by the war.

In collaboration with the Smithsonian Institute, in the coming weeks the KF will provide cultural heritage protection for Ukrainian cultural institutions. This collaboration aims to prevent further damage to identified structures and collections. The first Ukrainian institution to be helped is the Andrey Sheptytsky National Museum in Lviv. The Foundation is purchasing equipment to protect the museum's wooden sculpture collections, such as dehumidifiers and air purifiers.



The Kosciuszko Foundation continues to fundraise to support Ukraine. Their most recent effort is to supply much-needed generators to Ukrainian schools.

In recent weeks, in continued partnership with the Polish Folkowisko Foundation, the Kosciuszko Foundation has delivered Christmas gifts to children in Ukraine and launched a \$50,000 dollar fundraising drive to fund the purchase of 50 generators for children in Ukraine. Given Russia's ongoing attacks on Ukraine's power infrastructure, these generators will prove invaluable for Ukrainian children, allowing them to continue their education and stay warm during the winter months.

"Our primary mission will always be education and culture, but we must help those in suffering in times of despair," said Kosciuszko Foundation President Marek Sku-



The *Sami Swoi* Choir performs during a fundraising concert in Las Vegas, Nevada. The local Polonia have been actively supporting Ukraine throughout the year.

limowski. Over the last year, the Foundation raised and donated 1.5 million dollars for Ukraine. When asked how long the KF will continue to support Ukraine, the response from Skulimowski was immediate: "As long as needed – simply. We cannot stop in the middle of this ongoing tragedy. We are focusing on the immediate needs, and the long-term educational needs, which is part of the mission of the Kosciuszko Foundation. We strongly believe that by helping Ukrainian refugees in Poland and elsewhere, we are working on reconciliation between Poles and Ukrainians and building a safe and prosperous future for both nations."

ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN NEVADA, over 150 people including the Honorary Consul of Lithuania turned out for a Christmas concert fundraiser at the Our Lady of Las Vegas R.C. parish. Featuring the Polish *Sami Swoi* Choir and Ukrainian Choir *Kalyna Vegas*, the concert and accompanying bake sale raised over \$2,500 for generators for Ukraine. This was just the latest in a string of undertakings organized by the small but determined Polonia in Las Vegas who have been punching above their weight to support the heroic people of Ukraine.

"It may not seem like a lot of people compared to Chicago, but every penny counts" explained Jolanta Pawlowski, a leader in the Las Vegas Polonia. Since last February, the Polish community in Las Vegas, mainly centered around the *Piast* Polish Dance Group, the *Sami Swoi* Choir, the Polish American Social

Club, and the Polish Apostolate, have continued to work together for Ukraine. Their very successful pierogi fundraisers initiated in the immediate aftermath of the February attack have continued, raising an additional \$8,000 for medical supplies, and the group recently invested in a professional pierogi machine imported from Poland. They are already planning another sale, probably in February, as their American friends and supporters are constantly inquiring about them.

When asked if there is any "Ukraine fatigue" in their community, Jolanta Pawlowski said, "Absolutely not. We feel fortunate, coming to this country, we feel fortunate, living a peaceful life. My husband's family were deported to Siberia, they went through the journey of Soviet incarceration; lots of people have ancestors from that time, so for us it's different. We know what the Ukrainians are fighting for, so I do not think we will ever get tired. So long as Americans don't get tired, we will continue. It might not be much, in the whole scheme, but it makes a difference."

Today, it can confidently be said that Ukrainian resolve has proven stronger than Russian thuggery, and that, thanks to the support of the free world, Ukraine is a free, democratic, and brave European nation. As Polish Americans, we should be proud of our community's response, for standing on the right side of history, and let us continue to do what we can to help the Ukrainian people achieve victory and live in peace in their homes.

QUOTES

Even the Chinese Know It

"Putin is crazy. The invasion decision was made by a very small group of people. China shouldn't simply follow Russia."

— *A Chinese official speaking under the condition of anonymity to the Financial Times.*

Although Presidents Xi and Putin have made public statements as recently as the end of December about "deepening ties" between the two countries, Chinese officials spoke skeptically to newspaper, one of the world's leading business, political, world-affairs news, and information sources.

"Ukraine as a country, and the armed forces of Ukraine, became a member of NATO, *de facto*, not *de jure* [by law]. I'm sure that in the near future we'll become a member of NATO, *de jure*."

— *Ukraine's Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov, in an interview with the BBC. He said in a sense, Ukraine was already a "member" of the Western military alliance because it had NATO weaponry and "the understanding of how to use it."*

"Our joint declaration says that our three nations had stood up to

aggression from the east in the past, that we had stood up to the evil that came at us from the east, intent on crushing us. Such was the stance of our three nations during the January Uprising against Russia in 1863."

— *Polish President Andrzej Duda on his visit to the western Ukrainian city of Lviv, where he signed a joint declaration with his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky and Lithuania's Gitanas Nausėda for trilateral talks in the so-called Lublin Triangle format. In the document, Duda, Zelensky, and Nausėda reaffirmed Ukraine's inalienable right to defend its sov-*

ereignty and territorial integrity, and stressed their willingness to work together on the postwar reconstruction of Ukraine.

"Germany's response is astonishing to us in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as for the Polish state. The German government cannot answer a question that was never posed. Neither negotiations nor conciliatory discussions took place."

— *Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Arkadiusz Mularczyk, on Germany's latest refusal to pay Poland reparations for World War II.*

Copernicus: Renaissance Man Revelations

continued from cover

it in the Middle Ages: the Old Prussians. In the early 13th century, Polish prince Konrad I Mazowiecki asked the Teutonic Order in Germany to come to Prussia and fight the Old Prussians who were causing troubles on his northern borders. Things didn’t turn out the way he wanted though. Eventually, after many bloody years of fighting, the Teutonic Knights conquered Prussia for themselves which led to the creation of a new local identity – an amalgam of Old Prussian, Polish and German influences. In 1233, the knights founded Toruń in this new Prussia. It wasn’t long before Poland and the Teutonic Order became enemies.

Kopernik’s education was most probably financed by the bishop of Warmia, his uncle Łukasz Watzenrode.

In 1454, a representation of local notables called the Prussian Confederation opted to abandon the rule of the Teutonic Order in view of excessive taxation. They wanted to become subjects of the Polish King Kazimierz IV Jagiellończyk and asked him to incorporate Prussia into Poland. The Polish monarch was kind enough to oblige the request, but the Teutonic knights weren’t going to let Prussia go without a fight.

“The Thirteen Years War” ensued. In the end, the western part of the region, along with Gdańsk and Toruń, became part of Poland, whereas the eastern part remained under the rule of the order. Also, Warmia, an area almost surrounded by the order’s territory became part of Jagiellończyk’s reign. Historian Karol Górski writes in his 1973 book “Mikołaj Kopernik” that in the years that followed:

The memory of the Teutonic oppression was strong and the shape of the eastern part of the region (..) clearly reminded all about the advantages gained through the Thirteen Years War.

Polish Prussia enjoyed far greater autonomy (including lower taxes) than the Teutonic part.

Born unto a divided land

Mikołaj Kopernik (or Nicolaus Copernicus) was born in Toruń on February 19, 1473, as a subject of the King of Poland, seven years after the war had ended. His father, a wealthy merchant also named Mikołaj, had financially supported Prussia’s operation to join Poland. Barbara, the prospective astronomer’s mother, came from the influential Toruń family of Watzenrode – her father had been on the same side as Mikołaj Sr. The young Mikołaj was one of four siblings – he had two older sisters and an older brother. The well-connected family owned two houses, one in the Market Square (non-existent today) the other in what is now known as ul. Kopernika 17 (17 Copernicus Street). The latter still stands and is where the creator of the heliocentric theory was born.

Of course, the question of the nationality of such an important figure, has been raised both by Germans and Poles claiming that Kopernik was theirs (the Old Prussians blended with these two ethnicities before making their own claim). Each side has its arguments. Germans will bring forth that Ko-

pernik knew German but there’s no clear evidence – like letters or other writings – proving he knew Polish. Poles will say that in a 1520 letter to the Polish king Zygmunt I he writes – in Latin – that he’s “utterly devoted to Your Majesty” and that he has been a loyal subject throughout his life. It seems there is no clear line



Perhaps the most famous image of Copernicus is Jan Matejko’s *Astronomer Copernicus, or Conversations with God*. Completed in 1873, it is in the collection of the Jagiellonian University, Kraków. It depicts Copernicus observing the heavens from a balcony in a tower with the cathedral in Frombork in the background. The canvas was purchased from a private owner by public subscription in Poland and hangs in the aula (Great Hall) of the Collegium Novum of the University. Matejko produced this 1872 artwork as part of a series of paintings intended to capture and represent key moments in the history of Poland to inspire the public.

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA / PUBLIC DOMAIN

here and that Kopernik was a bit of this and a bit of that, a person fusing Polish and German influences, much like many people from this time and place in history.

The most uncharted part of Kopernik’s life

The youth of Mikołaj Kopernik is a mystery. Most of what you hear about it is more or less grounded in speculation. In his 2015 book, *Mikołaj Kopernik: Szkice do Portretu (Mikołaj Kopernik: Sketches for a Portrait)*, historian Janusz Małek writes:

“Due to the lack of sources, the years 1473-1491 are an uncharted

part of Kopernik’s life (...). All of the astronomer’s biographers agree that he attended the parish school in Toruń at St. John’s Church, a hundred or maybe two hundred meters away from his home.”

The supposition about the church school is based, apart from the temple’s proximity to Koper-

nik has paid for everything.” While you’d expect more from a note about admitting one of the greatest minds of the era to university, remember that, at the time, Kopernik’s genius hadn’t been proven yet. Kopernik’s education was financed, most probably, by his uncle on his mother’s side, Łukasz Watzenrode, who was the Bishop of Warmia at the time. It’s believed this influential man wanted to educate the bright young Kopernik so that one day he’d become a valuable associate of his.

Thriving in academia

In his 1493 *World Chronicle*, the German historian Hartmann Schedel writes that, at the Kraków Academy, “astronomy flourishes the most, and in this aspect, as I’ve heard from many a person, in the whole of Germany there isn’t a school more famous.” Indeed, the university, that had its ups and downs in its long history, was at a very good moment – Kopernik gained a thorough education there. The lectures and classes were all in Latin, the era’s language of the learned, so he need not have learned Polish there, though its commonly thought he knew it being exposed to it in everyday life both in Toruń and Kraków.

At the academy especially, professors like Marcin z Żurawicy and Marcin Bylica, creators of the so-called Kraków school of astronomy, might’ve been influential on Kopernik, who already exhibited an interest in astronomy at the time, as evidenced by him purchasing books pertinent to the science. Karol Górski writes that, “In Kraków’s scholarly atmosphere there was a clear tendency to doubt Ptolemy’s theory,” the geocentric model held by most people. Kopernik himself is said to have repeated that, “Toruń gave birth to me, Kraków shaped my thinking.” In Kraków, apart from pursuing astronomy and mathematics, he also studied philosophy and natural sciences.

Next month: Kopernik leaves Kraków

Celebrating Kopernik



The Nicolaus Copernicus Monument in Warsaw is one of the Polish capital’s notable landmarks. It stands before the Staszic Palace, the seat of the Polish Academy of Sciences on Krakowskie Przedmieście. Designed by Bertel Thorvaldsen in 1822, it was completed in 1830.

Grosvenor Room on the Main Floor of the Downtown Library, One Lafayette Square in downtown Buffalo. This masterwork is part of the Library’s *Milestones of Science Collection*. An opening program and reception will be held in the Ring of Knowledge just outside the Grosvenor Room on **Sun., Feb. 5, 2023**, at 2:30 p.m

The program, which will also discuss some lesser-known history of Copernicus and how his book came to be in the Library’s collection, is free and open to

In celebration of the 550th anniversary of the birth of Kopernik, The Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y. will host a number of events celebrating “the father of modern astronomy.”

The kick-off event is in cooperation with the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library. The extremely rare first edition of Copernicus’s book, *De Revolutionibus orbium coelestium (On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres)*, published in 1543, will be on display beginning **Feb. 1, 2023** and through the month of February in the

the public. In order to properly plan, please email the number of attendees in your party to wyrobekm@gmail.com by February 1. Library hours to view the book are Mon-Thurs. 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Fri. and Sat. 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; and Sun. noon-5:00 p.m. Buffalo City parking meters are free on Saturdays and Sundays and after 5:00 p.m. on weekdays. For information: www.BuffaloLib.org or (716) 858-8900.

ADDITIONAL EVENTS surrounding this momentous anniversary coordinated by the Permanent Chair will be a Mass and Reception at St. Michael Church, 651 Washington St., Buffalo, on **Sun., Feb. 19** at noon celebrating Copernicus’ actual date of birth in 1473.

On **Sun., Feb. 26**, the Polish Chair will be joined by the Chopin Singing Society and the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo in presenting Chopin & Copernicus: The Art of the Heavens, a multi-media presentation celebrating Copernicus’s 550th birthday and the 213th birthday of Frederick Chopin to be held at 2:30 p.m. at the Canisius College Montante Cultural Center, 2021 Main Street, Buffalo. The program will feature a presentation by the Chopin Singing Society, including the Buffalo premier of a piece about Copernicus with narration, followed by a program of Chopin piano music presented by Maria Chomicka and Melanie Bebak with images from the Webb Telescope by Paul Krupinski of the Strassenburgh Planetarium at the Rochester Museum & Science Center. A reception will follow. The program is free and open to the public.

The final program will be a presentation by Br. Guy Consolmagno, director of the Vatican Observatory at a date to be determined.

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Lent: Rituals in the home seem incomprehensible to many of us today

continued from cover

homes. Our great-grandparents fasted very strictly on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and it was an authentic fast on bread and water.

Rituals incomprehensible to us today were performed in the houses: paintings and mirrors were covered because they were associated with unnecessary luxury; fancy clothes and ball gowns were hidden in chests and chests; jokes were also avoided; and children's toys were hidden.

Until the 15th Century, ashes were not smudged on one's forehead on Ash Wednesday. Documents show Krakow pontificals sprinkling ashes on one's head, as documented in preserved 8th Century copies of the *Gregorian Sacramentarium* (the original was written around 595 for the needs of the papal station liturgy).

Holding Fast

We learn from records that King Władysław Jagiełło, Sigismund the Old, as well as Anna and Izabela Jagiellonka began the period of Lent by abstaining from food on Ash Wednesday. Saint Queen Hedwig of Anjou fasted on bread and water every Friday and Wednesday during the Lenten season. At that time, the monarchs supported the poor materially, and generous baskets with food were donated from the royal tables to the poorhouses in Krakow. In the young Piast state, Bolesław Chrobry ordered to knock out the teeth of all those who broke church fasts, which shows how seriously this period was treated only a few dozen years after the adoption of Christianity by Poland.

In the first centuries of Christianity, Lent lasted surprisingly short, only 40 hours (on Good Friday and Holy Saturday). In the fourth century, the evangelical examples of the forty-day fast of Christ in the desert and the forty-year journey of the Israelites to the Promised Land after escaping from Egyptian slavery probably gave an impulse to introduce the period of forty-day fasting as a separate time in the Church, which is mentioned in the so-called "Easter Letter" of the Alexandrian Bishop Athanasius from 334. This is confirmed in the same century by a certain Egeria, a pilgrim to the Holy Land, in her diary found relatively recently, in the 19th century, and also by St. Cyril of Jerusalem, writing about forty days of penance. A missionary from Pomerania, St. Otto of Bamberg, in the 12th century also required the faithful to fast forty days.

Ashes to Ashes

On Ash Wednesday, the faithful came to church before the Holy Mass, where they were met by the bishop at the altar. While marking their foreheads, he would repeat the well-known prompt "Memento homo, quia pulvis es et in pulverem reverteris," the Latin phrase we hear today as "Remember, man, that you are dust. And unto dust you shall return."

The ashes used for this ceremony came from burnt palms blessed on Palm Sunday, not from "dead bones" as Rev. Jędrzej Kitowicz recalled in his chronicles documenting folk beliefs. A parish priest in central Poland with a military and worldly past, Kitowicz — after putting the affairs of his parish in order — composed a colorful chronicle of

all aspects and walks of life under King August III. His works — two unfinished treatises, "Description of Customs during the reign of August III," published in 1840, and "Memoires, or History of Poland," published partially in 1840 — are considered the most complete record that exists of society in eighteenth-century Poland.

In the young Piast state, Bolesław Chrobry ordered to knock out the teeth of all those who broke church fasts, which shows how seriously this period was treated only a few dozen years after the adoption of Christianity by Poland.

The first testimonies about the blessing of ashes come from the 10th century, when Pope Urban II recommended this practice in 1091 at the Synod of Benevento. People who could not come to church on that day asked that ashes be brought to their homes, especially to the sick; in the villages there was also a custom that the ceremony of "sprinkling the heads" was repeated on the first Sunday of Lent. The imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday in Poland was initially applied to persons doing public penance; only from the turn of the 11th and 12th centuries towards all those gathered in the church.

Rites and Rituals

The service of the Way of the Cross (Latin: *Via Crucis*) and Bitter Lamentations (Polish: *Gorzkie Żale*) are inseparably connected with the Lenten period. The Via Crucis has its origins in Jerusalem. A more formal scheme, initially with twelve stations, was given to this service by the Dutch monk Andrychomius in the 16th century, which was later supplemented in the next century with two more stations: "The Descent from the Cross" and "The Entombment."

It was common in old Poland for people of all classes to observe a "private Way of the Cross." The richer ones, of noble status, funded wonderful Calvaries, including the Paławska Calvary in the 17th century, as noted by Andrzej Maksymilian Fredro.

A specifically Polish service from around 1698 is *Gorzkie Żale*. They grew out of the piety of the brotherhood of St. Roch and his guardian Fr. Wawrzyniec Benik. Already on March 13, 1707, Bitter Lamentations were officially celebrated in the Holy Cross church according to printed prayer books.

An equally popular Lenten service is the Devotion to the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady, which we hear about as early as 1520 in Antwerp.

Ritual and sacrifice seem to be forgotten concepts for today's generations. In a "history repeats itself" way, one of the trendy diet fads today is fasting. Could Lent be part of a new "miracle diet?" An interesting question, at least for me.



Arkadiusz Bednarczyk is a journalist who covers religion news and history. His works are published in popular Polish Catholic newspapers and websites.

Hartford PNH: Second in State to be Sold in 2022

continued from cover

Siembab also said, "two members appealed to the Board and Corporate Members with ideas to potentially save the PNH," but added that the time for ideas had passed. "The condition of our beloved building, years of a dwindling Polish community, and the ongoing city tax burden and other debts have become insurmountable. The accepted offer will allow us to settle all of our debts and walk away knowing that we have fulfilled our obligations."

Reaction to the sale in the Polish community has been one of sorrow. A Dec. 20 PNH Facebook page posting, concurrent with a Hartford Courant news story about a pending sale and the building's financial woes prompted more than 200 "sad" reactions and 30 "likes."

The PNH building is the second Polish hall in New England to be sold in 2022. In Grafton, Mass. near Worcester, the 8,000 sq ft. Polish National Home Association Banquet Hall sold for \$635,000 in August to a glass contractor. The 1934 facility had closed in 2020 amid covid restrictions and never re-opened.

Restaurant operations at the Hartford PNH re-started this year at the 24,570 sq. ft. facility following the lifting of pandemic-related mandates. However, it appears the center's cash flow was not enough to service the facility's debts or pay for long-deferred repairs. A search of online City of Hartford records showed unpaid property taxes of \$42,654.42 and additional personal property taxes just prior to the sale.

Paul Peshka, PBH's vice president, had sent a letter to members last February warning that \$1.5 million was needed to avoid a property sale. However, a concurrent GoFundMe campaign yielded only a few thousand dollars.

Lilia Kieltyka, president of the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, said her organization "has been lucky to have had operated several of our annual club events at the Polish Home over the last several years."

"The personnel running the club have always been very accommodating and kind to our Club, and for that we are very thankful. Several of our club members are members of the PNH board and I know they are all so very upset that the end had to come under their watch."

"Everyone feels bad, especially the working group that worked so hard to keep the restaurant going in the last several months," Kieltyka added. "Our hope is that the other Polish homes throughout Connecticut continue the traditions."

The idea of the PNH facility as a regional center for Polish religious, social and civic groups was conceived in November 1917 by Rev. Stanislaus Misiel and parishioners of nearby St. Cyril & Methodius church.

A subscription offering through Polish community led by parishioners in the late 1920s raised enough to erect the building a year into the Great Depression, opening on Pulaski Day, Oct. 12, 1930. It was reported at the time that "more than 90%" of the Polish community had contributed to the building's original construction.

FIRST GENERATION IMMIGRANT LEADS TAKEOVER. The new PNH building owner's church is led by



MEET THE NEW OWNERS. Rev. Dr. Suzette Myles (far left) and her leadership team pose on For His Glory Church Ministries website. The church bought the Polish National Home building in Hartford on Dec. 30.

SOURCE: FHGCM WEBSITE

Rev. Dr. Suzette M. Myles, 55, who is originally from Reading, Berkshire, England and who traces her ancestry to Barbados in the West Indies.

At age 15, she emigrated to the United States (Bloomfield, Conn.) to be closer to her family, according to the church's website. She is a 1984 graduate of Bloomfield High School in Connecticut and holds a doctorate in theology from North Carolina College of Theology.

Myles says on the church website that she sees "her God-given mission" to "go out and reach the lost at any cost, to snatch back brothers and sisters out of the hands of the enemy, and to teach the pure, unadulterated word of God, that the lives of people would be transformed."

The church describes itself as "a Sabbath-keeping" church and a "not for profit, non-denominational church based on the canonized Old Testament and New Testament Scriptures. We believe it is not about religion, but rather a right relationship with (God)."

A website biography of Myles says her mentor was Idel Williams, Founder of Maranatha Pentecostal Church, Inc. in Connecticut. In 1994 Myles said she became an in-house minister and in 1996 a licensed and ordained minister in Maranatha Pentecostal Church.

While working in that ministry, Myles said she became a youth pastor, and started a prayer group called Shackle Breakers which began at the Salvation Army operations on Barbour Street in Hartford. This led to the incorporation of For His Glory Church Ministries on July 10, 2001, under Myles prior surname of Campbell.

Myles did not return telephone

calls requesting comment on her plans. As church property, the PNH building would likely be exempt from property taxes.

PNH's distress sale followed long-standing operational and tax issues and multiple changes in PNH leadership over the years. A few months prior to the coronavirus pandemic then board president Rob Kwasnicki had listed the property for \$790,000 and attempted to revamp its business model.

2023 IS 40TH ANNIVERSARY ON NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTER.

In April 2020, Kwasnicki was quoted in the *Hartford Courant* as saying that reconfiguring PNH as a for-profit business rather than a social club was "extremely viable" and that sale would be the last resort "nuclear option."

Kwasinski adds: "In my analysis presented at the Corporate Members Meeting a year ago, I estimated that, if 2.5% of the Polish American community in Connecticut contributed \$100, either as a donation or by signing up as Corporate Members, the organization could have repaid its debt obligations and continued operations. If 5% of Connecticut's Polish American population joined, the organization would have had enough capital to undertake major updates, upgrades, restorations and repairs."

Siembab's December letter also said that "although the PNH building will be sold, our intention is that the Polish National Home of Hartford organization will continue," but did not provide any program or event specifics. 2023 marks the 40th anniversary of the building being listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Asset Disposition

One problem faced by the board of the PNH is what to do with 90-plus years of history. At press time, it approved donations of much of the contents of its kitchen and pantries to the Church of Saints Cyril & Methodius, which is located across the street.

Board President Lauren Siembab said the new owners appreciate the history of the building "and have reassured us that they do not intend to make any drastic changes. In addition to worship services, they intend to offer some programs for youth and the community at large and hope to also rent the first floor for private events."

They also plan to maintain the custom bar, intact, for use as a "café" and are considering a purchase of the facility's dining room and bar area tables and chairs.

The PNH board met with a professional archivist to understand which records should be preserved and where they might be stored. "That process will be ongoing and lengthy," said Siembab. "I believe some of the artwork is quite valuable and will be retained and stored by the Board."

Other pieces will be offered for purchase.

Andrzej Wisniewski, president of the Associated Polish Home of Philadelphia, was among the many who offered both condolences for the closure and offering a new home for the PNH's collections.

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 38th year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to seven hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok, Grajewo, and Ostroleka. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

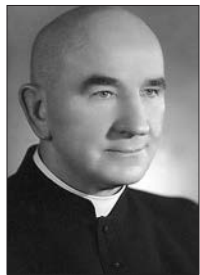
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RELIGION

Pope Recognizes Heroic Virtues of Fr. Posadzy and Fr. Woźny

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Fr. Jan Michalski, a priest of the order of the Society of Christ met **Fr. Ignacy Posadzy** while he was a seminarian in Poznan, Poland. Currently pastor of Our Lady of Częstochowa parish in Sterling Heights, Mich., he recalled that Fr. Posadzy was recognized as a kind and faithful and intensely interested in the new vocations to the order



Fr. Posadzy

which he helped form at the urging and with the help of Cardinal Hlond.

Born in 1898 in Szadłowice near Inowrocław, Poland, Posadzy was ordained in 1921 and eventually given the charge to be the general superior of a new congregation, founded in 1932 and dedicated to the spiritual needs of Polish communities around the world. Blacklisted by the German Nazi invaders of Poland as being "too Polish," he disbursed the congregation to avoid arrest. The members studied underground and worked under Fr. Posadzy to help interned Poles. Some were imprisoned themselves.

After the war the communist government did not allow the members of the order to leave Poland to help Poles abroad, so they concentrated on those Poles from the former Polish lands in the East and settled in the former German territory in the West of Poland. Eventually allowed to leave Poland, they started in Alberta, Canada, and then settled in Chicago and Detroit. With his elevation to the status of Venerable, Fr. Posadzy, as Fr. Michalski hopes, will become more widely known among Polish Catholics across the world for his contributions to the Church and for his and his congregation's help to Polish Catholics to recognize and offer the unique treasures of their Catholicism to the Church where they settled.

December 17, 2022, Pope Francis also issued a decree on the heroic nature of **Fr. Aleksander Woźny**. Like Fr. Posadzy, he is now entitled to the title of Venerable Servant of God.

Fr. Woźny was a prisoner of the

Nazi Buchenwald and Dachau concentration camps, and in the post-war Stalinist period, a parish priest of St. Jan Kanty in Poznań. Born on June 25, 1910 in Uzarzewo near Poznań, he was ordained in 1933. In 1940 he was arrested by the German military police and imprisoned for five years.



Fr. Woźny

In 1950, after summarizing a pastoral letter from the Polish episcopate from the pulpit, which the then authorities refused to read, he was arrested and imprisoned for ten months. His beatification process began in 2004.

Sto Lat to...

Fr. James Ciupek, pastor of Nativity of Our Lord parish in Orchard Park, N.Y., on receiving the "Distinguished Pastor" award at the Buffalo Diocese Luncheon honoring Champions of Catholic Education for 2023. Honored at the same event was **Sarah Romanowski**, a pupil at St. Gregory the Great School who received the Tim Russert Creative Scholarship for Writing.

Center for Catholic Spiritual & Intellectual formation Opens

Bishop Thomas Paprocki, of the Springfield, Ill. diocese, established the Evermode Institute which focuses on Catholic and spiritual formation under the direction of a new community of Norbertine Fathers. Members of the order will come from St. Michael's Abbey in Orange, California and reside at the center which is located on the grounds of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis in Springfield.

Programming at the center will be for both ordained and lay teachers of the faith such as catechists, parish school religious education teachers, Catholic school teachers, and others who teach the faith.

Bishop Paprocki noted the growing relationship between the diocese and the Norbertines and said, "The Norbertine Fathers of St. Michael's Abbey are a vibrant community of holy men and their presence and apostolic work will be a great blessing to the people of our diocese

and to this region." The order, also called the Premonstratensians, was founded by St. Norbert in 1121, 900 years ago. They came to California from Hungary. The center is named after St. Evermode, a collaborator of St. Norbert who died in 1178 and is credited with great and effective work of evangelization and formation in the Catholic faith.

Knights on Bikes

While the Knights of Columbus are known as a venerable charitable organization, founded to give financial security to poor Catholics as well as a refuge against anti-Catholic discrimination, times have changed. Knights with a passion for riding motorcycles in Texas founded the Knights on Bikes group in 2015 and by 2023 multiple Knights on Bikes councils with the motto "In God We Trust and Ride."

James Kubinski, Michigan State Knights on Bikes vice-president, said, "A lot of the stuff we do is the same as what we do as Knights of Columbus members — we will just show up on motorcycles, which gets some heads to turn. It's a different format that is highly visible and cool." They do charity work together with members of a variety of councils. Some 20 Michigan councils participate in Knights on Bikes, including clergy and even one bishop, **Robert D. Gruss**.

Kubinski, 32, is a father of three and a band teacher in St. Clair Shores middle and high schools. Knights on Bikes evangelize by supporting charities and contributing to their parish communities. "We are always trying to find a way to help," says Kubinski. They have been called on to provide motorcycle escort for fellow Knights of Columbus funerals and processions. They have even worked on charitable projects with non-Knight biker groups who, Kubinski notes, are some of the nicest people."

Knights for Life

Msgr. John Cihak, pastor and council chaplain of Christ the King Council 9257 in Milwaukee, Oregon, blessed a new ultrasound machine at First Image Pregnancy Resource Center in Portland. The council raised more than \$125,000 to purchase three ultrasound machine for the center's three local offices. Members of St. Brother Al-

bert Council 15416 in Chmielnik, Poland, led a march for Life and Family through the city's streets. This is the first such march for the council. In southern Poland.

Bishop and Priest Clash over Latin Mass

Bishop William Callahan of the RC Diocese of LaCrosse, Wisc. raised controversy with his appointment of a disgraced homosexual priest to a parish in his diocese in 2020 and for removing outspoken critic of Church and political affairs priest Fr. James Altman. More recently, he restricted the celebration of Latin Mass, following Pope Francis' policy or *motu proprio*.

Fr. Michael Klos who regularly

offered the Latin Mass at his Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish on St. Mary's Ridge has had to cease the practice. The bishop, in keeping to the pope's regulations, has restricted the Latin Mass to three non-parish locations: a shrine and two oratories.

Fr. Klos noted that bishops elsewhere have interpreted and applied the pope's policy differently and with greater lenience toward the Latin Mass. Fr. Klos holds out hope that the bishop will extend permission for the Latin Mass but only if the pope loosens his restrictions. In the meantime, Fr. Klos plans to offer Mass in Latin facing East on his previous Latin Mass schedule, but following the contemporary, post Vatican II rite.

MODLITWY

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The Foundation is again offering the Richard C. Gorecki Scholarships and the Majer & Lakowski Families Memorial Scholarships.

Please go to the PACCF website at www.paccf.org under the

"Scholarship" tab for the requirements, application, and deadlines.

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PAHA honors scholars, writers, and Philadelphia Polish groups

by Mark Dillon

PHILADELPHIA – At its 79th Annual Meeting dinner on Jan. 7, the Polish American Historical Association (PAHA) presented eight awards to individual authors and scholars and three awards to Philadelphia area Polish groups.



Karen Majewski (l.), former mayor of Hamtramck, Michigan, receives the Polish American Historical Association's *Swastek Prize* from **Ewa Barczyk**, PAHA's 2nd Vice President, for her *Polish American Studies* article entitled *Abortion and Infanticide in Polish American Detroit and Hamtramck, 1900-1960: A Preliminary Look*.

The event followed a three-day academic and cultural conference, part of the American Historical Association's annual gathering, and attracted more than 40 speakers, including historians, researchers and writers from Warsaw, Crakow, Gdansk, Lublin, Wroclaw and Prague in Europe, Canada, and Chicago, Minnesota, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Virginia and Wisconsin in the U.S.

The group plans to meet in San Francisco in January next year.

At the Associated Polish Home, outgoing PAHA President Dr. Neal Pease of Wisconsin led a ceremony that included the following awards to the following persons.

Grazyna Kozaczka, professor of English and All-College Honors Program Director, Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, N.Y., received the *Mieczyslaw Haiman Award*, offered annually to a scholar for sustained contribution to the study of Polish Americans.

William Hal Gorby, author of *Reconstructing Polish Community in a West Virginia Steel Town*, received the *Oskar Halecki Prize*, which recognizes an important book or monograph on the Polish experience in the United States. PAHA judges said the book "is very insightful with attention given to a smaller Polonia community which is usually not the topic of research."

PAHA awarded four *Skalny Civic Achievement Awards* to honor individuals and groups who advance PAHA's goals of promoting research and awareness of the Polish American experience.

Peter and Beverly (Flynn) Glofcheskie of Barry's Bay, Ontario, Canada for their dedication to preserving and promoting Polish and Kashubian culture in the regional and international diaspora. Peter has been president of the Wilno Heritage Society (WHS) for the last 10 years. His wife, Beverly, has been instrumental in her role as membership director and heritage store manager. WHS membership has increased and the "Kashub Day" festival has grown in size and variety under their guidance.

Polish People's University, Philadelphia, accepted by Janusz Romanski, president. This 105-year-old civic education group is associated with the Polish American Congress and aims to introduce and cultivate Polish culture and tradition, and educate Americans about today's Poland. Lectures and readings are in Polish and encompass a diversified spectrum of topics from arts, literature and science.

Polish American Cultural Center and Museum, Philadelphia (PACCM) accepted by Michael Blichasz, president. The Cultural Center and Exhibit Hall are outgrowths of

Polish American Social Services (PASS), a 115-year-old social service agency. At its current home, the museum holds portraits and biographies of famous Poles, coats of arms of Polish families, displays and descriptions of Polish customs. The Center publishes a monthly newsletter, supports a local Polish American radio program, hosts activities during Polish Heritage month, Pulaski Day parade and other cultural events.

Polish Heritage Society Philadelphia (PHSP) accepted by Peter Obst, president. This membership group fosters interest in Polish heritage and culture and building awareness of the accomplishments of Poles and Polish Americans. The society dates to the 1964 PAHA convention in 1964 where members discussed the formation of a new Polish cultural society in the Delaware Valley. PHSP activities include the awarding of scholarships, book and author promotions, an annual Chopin Concert, and Polonaise Ball and sponsoring historical markers. Through PHSP member efforts, the Independence National Park was refurbished and the Kosciuszko House was opened.

ADDITIONAL PAHA AWARDEES INCLUDED: **David Strathairn**, actor, **Clark Young**, script writer, and **Derek Golden**, writers and producers of the play *Remember this: The lesson of Jan Karski* received PAHA's *Amicus Poloniae Award*, which recognizes significant contributions enhancing knowledge of Polish and Polish American heritage by individuals not belonging to the Polish American community. The play will travel to Spain and is potentially an off-Broadway run.

Karolina Wacławiak, Polish author and filmmaker, received the *Creative Arts Prize*, which recognizes the contributions in the field of creative arts by individuals or groups who have promoted an awareness of the Polish experience in the Americas. She has written three critically acclaimed novels: *How to Get into the Twin Palms*, *The Invaders*, and *Life Events*. Her novel, *How to Get into the Twin Palms*, develops the themes of displacement and alienation in an immigration story.

Karen Majewski, mayor of Hamtramck, Michigan, was awarded the *Swastek Prize*

for the best article in PAHA's *Polish American Studies* journal. In Vol. 78, issue 1 in 2021, she wrote *Abortion and Infanticide in Polish American Detroit and Hamtramck, 1900-1960: A Preliminary Look*. PAHA's editorial board commended Majewski's ar-



Marta Cielak, visiting assistant history professor at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock, is the new president of the Polish American Historical Association.

ticle as "pathbreaking and courageous" for "its unique use of data, new primary sources, and most importantly for addressing an important, timely and hitherto unaddressed and taboo topics in Polonia and Polonia studies.

TRAVEL GRANTS. PAHA also awarded two graduate student/young scholar travel grants to **Dorota Choinska**, a doctoral candidate at the University of Wroclaw, and **Natalie Cornett** of Montreal, a postdoctoral fellow researcher at McGill University. Both gave conference presentations, with Choinska focusing on police interrogations of Polish refugees in Spain.

POLAND

Conservatives want more polling stations

Poland's ruling conservative Law and Justice (L&J) party has submitted a proposal to create some 6,000 additional polling stations in time for this autumn's general election, which will most likely be held in October or November. "The essence of a democratic state and the rule of law is above all a clear and transparent electoral process, including easy access to polling stations," L&J spokesman Rafał Bochenek told reporters.

In small-town and rural Poland, the party's main base of support, car ownership is less widespread than in cities and polling stations are often some distance away, accounting for lower voter turnout.

Poland to expand armed forces, aid Ukraine

"The year 2023 will bring new equipment deliveries, new contracts, intensive training of army units, and the creation of new military structures," Polish Defense Minister Mariusz Błaszczak told defense magazine *Polska Zbrojna* (*Armed Poland*). "We will also be making every possible effort to help Ukraine defend itself against invading Russian forces," he added.

Many Western experts, observers and media predict that Poland is now on track to becoming Europe's new military superpower. It is in

fourth place after the United States, Britain, and Germany as the biggest provider of security assistance to embattled Ukraine.

"We are at your service"

Polish Health Minister Adam Niedzielski said his country was prepared for an influx of patients from war-torn Ukraine and told Ukrainians: "We are at your service." He made the statement at a joint news conference with his Ukrainian counterpart Viktor Liashko at the Jasionka Medevac Hub near Rzeszów. It is a stopover facility for Ukrainian patients before they are taken to hospitals in Poland and around the world.

"This infrastructure and the whole patient-transport system is prepared for a bigger influx of patients from Ukraine," Niedzielski said.

"Tough guy" actor plugs medi-choppers for Ukraine

Popular Polish actor Bogumił Linda called on his countrymen to support his "Helicopters for Ukraine" campaign. "I would like to invite everyone to participate in this fundraiser," Linda appealed. "What's important is that these are not combat helicopters but evacuation helicopters that rescue the injured and the ill. It's a totally human, peaceful, humanitarian mission." Linda is best known for his tough-guy image in crime-action

movies.

Lewandowski beats Messi for Golden Foot award

Polish star striker Robert Lewandowski beat Argentina's Lionel Messi in Monte Carlo to win football's (soccer's) coveted Golden Foot award in Monte Carlo. Both footballers are ranked among the world's top goal-scorers. The award is given to the best player in the calendar year voted by journalists. It can be won only once, and candidates have to be over the age of 28 to compete.

Poznań zoo helps evacuate 200 Ukrainian animals

The zoo in the west-central Polish city of Poznań has helped evacuate some 200 animals, including lions, tigers, and wolves, from war-torn Ukraine. Among them were also caracals (Afro-Asian wildcats), polar foxes, a leopard, an African wild dog, and a monkey.

"Most of these animals have already been admitted to animal shelters and zoos in other countries, while some of them will remain with us," said Poznań Zoo spokesperson Malgorzata Chodyta.

Tennis star Iga Świątek made \$15.4 million in 2022

Poland's international tennis star Iga Świątek scored an exceptionally good year in 2022, collecting

\$9.9 million in prize money. The 21-year-old captured two Grand Slam titles as well as the French Open and US Open and has stayed atop the global Women's Tennis Association ranking since moving to No.1 in April last year.

Apart from her prowess on the tennis court, she also has a head for business and made another \$5.5 million in off-court contracts. She signed with IMG Tennis, a global management company, endorsing sportswear producer Asics and Polish insurance giant PZU.

Mossakowski, NFM among Classical Music Awardees

Polish organist Karol Mossakowski and the National Forum of Music in Wrocław, southwestern Poland, have been named among the winners of this year's International Classical Music Awards (ICMA).

Mossakowski, who was designated by the NFM Wrocław Philharmonic, won the 2023 International Classical Music Award in the orchestra category.

ICMA jurors described Mossakowski as "one of the most promising artists among the rising figures of the young organ school," adding "his performances have been hailed in the most laudatory terms not only for their great virtuosity but also for the finesse and the rich colours of his deeply musical playing."

Meanwhile, the National Forum

of Music (NFM) in Wrocław won a Special Achievement Award. The Forum is four virtually independent venues in one building, 11 ensembles, including a string trio, three quartets, two chamber orchestras, three different choirs, two period instruments ensembles, and a symphony orchestra. It's also eight festivals, starting with the unique Wratistavia Cantans festival.

"Thanks to the NFM, Wrocław is now a model for other places," said the jury.

The winners are set to receive the ICMA trophies during a ceremony at the National Forum of Music in Wrocław on April 21.

Court exonerates Doda, orders damages

In 2012, Polish songstress Doda Rabczewska was fined by a Polish court for offending religious sentiments, under Polish law a punishable misdemeanor. The bleached-blond, publicity-seeking sex bomb said she couldn't believe in the Bible because it doesn't mention dinosaurs and claimed, "it was written by someone drunk on wine and smoking some kind of weed."

The European Human Rights Court, based in Strasbourg, France, ruled that the fine violated her right to freedom of speech and ordered Poland to pay her €10,000 (more than \$10,600) in damages. That is more than nine times the fine she had to pay.

Polish American Arts Association Resumes Tradition of Wigilia

by Matthew Stefanski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In the pantheon of Polish traditions, Christmas Eve reigns supreme in the hearts of many. Filled with religious symbolism and steeped in customs handed down from generation to generation, *Wigilia* is more than just an annual gathering of friends and family, it is a manifestation of our faith, values, customs and more. On Sunday, December 18, Polonia from Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. gathered for a traditional *Wigilia* dinner and to celebrate Polish culture and togetherness. The Polish American Arts Association of Washington, D.C., (PAAA) an affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture, has been hosting this annual Christmas gathering for many years, and members and friends were eager to resume this festive gathering that had been paused for the past three years by the pandemic.

The president of the Arts Club of Washington, Henry Sienkiewicz, a namesake of Poland's famed Nobel laureate, welcomed all to the stately Cleveland Abbe House as guests



Guests participate in a lively singalong led by the Skrypczuk Duo as part of the PAAA's annual Wigilia celebration.

took their seats. Once the residence of President James Monroe and now home to the Arts Club, this historic building dates back to 1805 and served as a wonderful venue for this intimate and jovial evening. Matthew Stefanski, president of the Polish American Arts Association, delivered welcoming remarks and introduced special guests including Col. Romuald Lipinski, a veteran of the Polish II Corps who fought

at the Battle of Monte Cassino during World War II. *Wigilia*, whether taking place around one's familial dining table or at an organized function, always begins with the sharing of the *opłatek*. Here it was no different, as Father Philip Majka blessed and distributed the Polish Christmas wafer and attendees exchanged well wishes for the coming year. Following dinner, which featured *Wigilia* staples such as *barszcz*,

herring, fish, *pierogi*, *kapusta*, and *makowiec*, attendees were treated to a beautiful artistic program organized by PAAA artistic advisor and board member Dr. Laura Kafka-Price.

Dr. Kafka-Price, a soprano and instructor at The Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University, performed a beautiful rendition of the Polish carol *Gdy Śliczna Panna*, followed by Dr. Wanda O'Brien-Trefil's recital of Chopin's *Mazurka Op. 7 No. 1* in B flat Major. Berklee College of Music student Rosalinda Sherman captivated the audience with *O Holy Night*. Accompanying on piano was Alvin Smithson, who later performed what is today commonly referred to as *Carol of the Bells*, but is based on the Ukrainian folk song *Shchedryk*, composed by Mykola Leontovych. Stasia and Olek Skrypczuk of the Skrypczuk Duo performed another Ukrainian piece *Chervona Ruta*.

The music from Ukraine in this year's program served as a symbol of our ongoing solidarity with the Ukrainian people. "To the Ukrainians now living in Poland, and other welcoming countries and to those

huddling in their bombed-out cities and villages or facing the enemy in battle, we send most fervent wishes that Shchedryk, the bountiful evening, be soon celebrated in their free homeland" said PAAA President Stefanski.

The artistic program concluded with a group singalong of Polish and American carols including *Oj maluśki, maluśki*; *Dzisiaj w Betlejem*, and *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*. The masterful Skrzypuk Duo led attendees in singing and even some dancing as guests were encouraged to embrace the joy of the season. Many guests left the evening carrying gift baskets with Polish treats won during the raffle donated by PAAA board members, but all guests left with their bellies full and their spirits filled with Polish Christmas charm.

The Polish American Arts Association of Washington, D.C. was founded in 1966 and is dedicated to promoting Polish culture and the arts in our nation's capital. Consider becoming a member today and supporting our 100% volunteer-run non-profit. Visit www.paaa.us to learn more.

POLISH CHEF

Making Pączki and Chruściki at Home

by Robert Strybel

The Polish *Karnawał* season runs from New Year's Eve to Shrove Tuesday, but *pączki* and *faworki* really come into their own during the final six days before Lent, which this year starts Feb. 22. In recent years they have become increasingly popular with non-Polish Americans. Besides Polonian bakeries and groceries, they may now be found in many mainline big-city supermarkets. If you would like to try your hand at making your own this year, here are a few recipes.

PĄCZKI. Mash 1¼ oz fresh yeast with 2 T sugar and dissolve in 5 T room-temp milk. Set aside to rise. Cream 4 egg yolks and 2 whole eggs with 6 T sugar and grated zest of half a small lemon, add yeast mixture, 7 c flour, ½ t vanilla sugar or extract, 1½ c milk, 1 t salt and knead ingredients to combine. Add 2 T rum and knead again. Gradually add 9 T melted butter and continue kneading until fully blended, then set aside in warm place to rise. When dough doubles in bulk, divide into 4 parts. Roll out one part at a time on floured board to a thickness of ⅓". Cut dough into rounds with glass or biscuit-cutter and place some well-drained fruit filling at center of half the rounds. Gourmet *pączki* often contain a dollop of rose-hip preservers or rose-petal jam. Polish plum butter (*powidla*) is also good as are other non-running fillings such as cherries from preserves that have been drained in sieve. Cover with the plan dough rounds and pinch edges together to seal. You can use a biscuit cutter to trim of the crimped rough edges. Set aside in warm, draftless place to rise. After they rise, turn them over. Heat lard, shortening or oil in a fairly wide pan to 360°. There should be enough (at least 5" deep) so frying *pączki* can float freely without touching bottom. Brush excess flour off *pączki* and fry in batches without crowding. When one side is nicely browned, turn them over with kitchen fork and brown the other side. Transfer fried *pączki* to absorbent paper and dust with confectioner's sugar or glaze with plain icing. Before the icing sets, for a gourmet touch they may be sprinkled with finely chopped candied orange rind.

SMALLER PĄCZKI. Proceed as above, place a dollop of filling at center of all the dough rounds, fold each round in half and pinch edges



The last week of *karnawał*, just before Lent, is the time to enjoy *chruściki*, *chrusty*, and *faworki*.

together. Shape snowball fashion into balls and let them rise on floured surface in a warm, draftless place to rise. Fry and finish as above.

PĄCZKI FILLED AFTER FRYING. If fruit fillings placed on the raw *pączki* dough are too wet, the dough around it may not cook properly during frying. One way to prevent this is to fill the *pączki* after they have been fried and cooled to room temp, but before they are sugar-dusted or glazed. A thin pastry-filling syringe is inserted into the center of each *pączek* and a dose of fruit filling is inserted. Rose-petal, cherry, strawberry and redcurrant jellies as well as apricot jam and *powidla* are all very good. Genuine Polish *pączki* are never filled with custard!

MINI-PĄCZKI. Prepare dough as above. After it has risen, tear off plum-sized pieces of dough, roll snowball-style into balls and fry in hot fat. After draining on paper and cooling, serve as is or glazed, garnished with chopped, candied orange peel or dusted with confectioner's sugar. *Note:* One drawback of these cute little *pączki* is that they tend to absorb proportionately more of the fat in which they were fried than the larger variety.

FAWORKI or CHRUŚCIKI. Sift 2 c flour onto board. Make well at center and deposit therein 5 egg yolks, 1 T butter, 2 T sour cream, a pinch of salt and 1 T 6% distilled vinegar or 190-proof grain alcohol. (Optional: ½ t vanilla or rum extract may be added if desired.) Work into a dough and knead well (about 15 min) until dough is glossy and full of small holes (air bubbles) when cut in half. Beat dough with rolling-pin on all sides—the more air forced

into the dough, the lighter the *faworki* will be. Roll out as thinly as possible on lightly floured board, sprinkling top of dough sheet with a little flour. With pastry-wheel or knife cut dough sheet into 1 - 1½" strips, then cut strips at an angle into 5" pieces. Cut a 1½" vertical strip down center of each piece and gently pull one of the ends through the slot to form a bow. Heat at least 1-1/2 lard, shortening or oil in deep pan or electric skillet to 350°. Deep-fry to a light golden-brown on both sides and remove to absorbent paper. Fry in batches so they are not crowded and can float freely. When slightly cooled, dust with confectioner's sugar.

FAWORKI (raised type). Four-blend ¼ sour cream, combine with 2-1/3 c flour and heap on board. Make a well at center and drop into it 6 raw egg yolks, 2 pinches salt 2 t baking powder and 2 T grain alcohol or 100 proof vodka. Combine ingredients and work into a uniform dough. Knead well until dough is smooth and air blisters appear. Roll out thin on lightly floured board and cut with pastry wheel or knife into 2" x 5" strips (for larger *faworki*) or 1-1/2" x 4" (for daintier ones). Make a vertical slit in each strip and pull one of the ends through it to form a bow. Gently brush any excess flour from *faworki* and deep-fry in hot lard, shortening (or oil) to a light golden-brown, turning once. Transfer to absorbent paper and dust with confectioner' sugar when slightly cooled.

CHRUSTY (country-style faworki). This more rustic, less fancy and less expensive version of *faworki* would have been more typical of the old-time Polish peasantry. Combine 2 c flour with 2 T soft butter, 2 T sugar, 1 egg, 1 T vinegar and ½ - ½ c sour cream. Work ingredients into a uniform dough and knead well. Roll out on floured board slightly thinner than ¼" thick. Either cut into 2" x 5" strips, make a vertical slit in each strip and pull one of the ends through it to form a bow. Or cut into irregular strips and pieces without making a slit at center. Twist into whatever shape you want (or leave as is) and deep-fry in hot lard to a light golden-brown on both sides. *Note:* If you want to recreate the authentic atmosphere at old-time, peasant-style pre-Lenten festivities, do not dust with powdered sugar. But they probably won't taste too good, so go ahead and sweeten them with a sifting or two.

Film About Karski Premiers

NEW YORK — The award-winning feature film *Remember This*, starring Academy Award nominee David Strathairn in a virtuoso performance as Jan Karski, opened at Landmark's Quad Cinema in New York on January 27, 2023, International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The release will be followed by select theatrical bookings across North America, including Feb. 3 at Laemmle's Monica Film Center in Santa Monica, Calif. (a week-long run with four screenings a day), as well as film festivals, and a PBS broadcast on March 13. Premiers to follow also include:

- **Feb. 3.** Columbus, Ohio The Gateway Film Center, a week-long run
- **Feb. 8.** Atlanta, Ga: The Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, two screenings
- **Mar. 3.** Chicago: The Gene Siskel Film Center, three screenings
- **Mar. 13.** PBS Broadcast

Please see more information about the movie, including all credits and an official trailer at: <https://www.jankarski.net/en/rt/about-the-remember-this-project-2.html>.

About the film: In a virtuoso solo performance, Academy Award nominee David Strathairn portrays Karski, a World War II hero and Holocaust witness. After surviving the Blitzkrieg, Karski swears allegiance to the Polish Underground and risks his life to carry the first eyewitness reports of the Holocaust to the Western world, and ultimately, the White House.

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EMIGRANTS, EXILES, AND WANDERS – THE POLISH AMERICAN DREAM

Polish Pride

Part IX – conclusion

by Staś Kmiec

The election of **Pope John Paul II** in 1978 was a source of great pride and inspiration for the Polish people. Not only was he the first non-Italian pope in 450 years, but he was also the first Polish pope in history. Coming on the heels of years of Soviet domination and oppression, for many Poles, his election was a symbol of the strength and resilience of the Polish nation.

Poles in the United States were elevated. There was a sense of pride and a renewed connection to their cultural heritage, history, and religion. The Pope brought Polish culture and traditions to the forefront of the world stage and became a symbol of strength and determination for people of Polish descent all over the world.

As a result of his papacy, Polish identity and ethnic pride in the United States grew – reaching a height unseen for generations. Now, it was “cool” to be Polish and Polish Americans “in hiding” emerged from the shadows. Public figures began to express their Polish origins openly and some Poles who had changed their surnames for career advancement, returned them to their origin. Events and festivals honoring Polish heritage became more common, and many families started celebrating traditional customs during the holidays.

John Paul II used his influence with the Polish American faithful to reconnect with the Polish National Catholic Church. Some supporters came back to the Catholic Church. John Paul II reversed the nearly 100-year excommunication of Bishop Francis Hodur and declared the validity of sacraments received at the National Church.

Heritage on Display

In 1981, Congress deemed August as *Polish American Heritage Month*. Later, it moved to October to commemorate the first Polish settlers, as well as the deaths of the military leaders who fought in the American Revolution – General Kazimierz Pułaski and Tadeusz Kościuszko. The switch also enabled schools to participate in celebrations.

Polish celebrations and parades have been an important aspect in preserving and promoting heritage. These events bring together mem-



The Dożynki Onion Harvest Festival held in Orange County, N.Y. began in 1939 and continued every two to four years until 1999. It began as an authentically staged presentation, became a polka dance show, and returned to its cultural roots in 1995 - incorporating over 250 performers (dancers, singers, and orchestra) in an outdoor extravaganza.

PHOTO: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

bers of the community and provide a platform to showcase the rich traditions and customs of Poland.

One of the most well-known is the annual Pulaski Day Parades, which draw thousands of people each year. The parades feature colorful floats, traditionally costumed folk dancers, and live music. Heritage Festivals and social functions celebrate the community and feature Polish food, music, and dance, and *dożynki* festivals celebrate the end of the harvest season in style.

These events serve as a reminder of the community's shared inheritance and provide a sense of belonging and connection to one's cultural roots. As children dressed in costume and folk dance groups composed of young people are involved, it also serves as an introduction to “Polishness” and has an important

role in passing on traditions to the next generation

with their Polish roots in a different way that matched the cultural boldness and “Americana” vibe of the times. Pins and T-shirts reading “Kiss me I’m Polish” and “Polish Power” were sold. That trend continues with sales of *Polska* soccer scarves, hoodies and other stylish paraphernalia at online stores and shops.



Many communities continue to have Polish American clubs and organizations that strive to preserve and promote Polish culture. Pride is also displayed through the many landmarks and statues dedicated to figures and events in Polish American history and through the prevalence of Polish flags.

Polish folk dance groups in the United States preserve and promote Polish culture and heritage. These groups, which can be found in cities and towns across the country, are often affiliated with Polish American organizations or cultural centers and typically consist of dancers of all ages who come together to learn and perform traditional Polish folk dances and songs.

These groups provide opportunities for members of the community to experience the traditional folklore and music of Poland and offer classes and workshops to those who want to learn more about the rich culture. They create a connection and bond between participants and with others within the United States and abroad who share this common interest. The groups often appear in local Polish festivals and cultural events. Some troupes also participate in folk festivals, competitions, and other events outside of their local communities and in Poland.

The Polish Folk Dance Associa-

The Polonaise Ball in Miami Beach, Florida, the Kosciuszko Foundation Ball in New York and Bal Maskowy in Milwaukee, Wisconsin offer an alternative look at Polonia with an Old-World elegance and a refined remembrance of our aristocratic legacy.

The Many Forms of Pride

During the 1970s, The Polish American *polka* experienced a growing popularity and an almost cult following. Polish Americans began to take pride in their ethnicity and identified



Pulaski Day parades, like those held in New York City (above) and Philadelphia (below), serve as reminders of the community's shared inheritance and provide a sense of belonging and connection to one's roots.



tion of the Americas (PFDA), was organized in 1983 to strengthen the network of Polish dance companies in the Western world.

Today, there are many Polish Americans who are largely assimilated to American society and their personal contacts to Poland and Polish culture are scarce. Countless public figures who carry Polish lineage identify as “American” and any connection to their heritage is in name only. Where many in our community acknowledge and praise their background, their acceptance of their heritage can be disappointing.

Polish Americans have historically linked their identity to the Catholic Church. According to historian John Radzilowski, “Secular Polish Americanness has proved ephemeral and unsustainable over the generations.”

As Pope John Paul II met with evidence, President Bill Clinton four times. The two leaders had decline of a long-running and sharp dispute over abortion rights.

Now, in the early 21st century, there has been growth in Polonia institutions, but in a different way.

The *Piast Institute* remains the only Polish “think-tank” in America. It has been recognized by the United States Census Bureau as an official Census Information Center, providing its historical information and policy information to interested Polish Americans.

In politics and public affairs, Poles now have greater visibility and an avenue to address issues in the Polonia community through the *American Polish Advisory Council*. Both are secular institutions.

Polish pride in the United States is a testament to the hard work and

contributions of Polish immigrants and their descendants. Throughout history, Poles have come to America in search of a better life, and their contributions have helped shape the country and its growth in countless ways.

As Poles living in the United States, we should proudly emphasize our origin and contribution to American society. We are proud of our roots and willing to share our culture with others. Whether we are the first generation of Poles in America or come from a long line of immigrants, we are proud to be Polonia.

For our ancestors it was a difficult journey. Every generation has a reason to have fear, but every generation has a reason to have hope, and through their perseverance they realized the Polish American dream.



Sources for the series include books, papers, and

articles by Joseph A. Wytrwal, along with Stanislaus Blejwas, John J. Bukowczyk, Anna D. Jaroszynska-Kirchmann, Wacław Kruska Stefan Nesterowicz, Jacek Nowakowski, Karen Majewski, Frank Mocha, James S. Pula, Thaddeus C. Radziłowski, John Radzilowski, Stanley S. Seidner, Felix T. Seroczynski, Deborah Anders Silverman, Michael T. Urbanski, Joseph W. Zurawski, among others.



U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II were crucial players in ending the communist occupation of Poland.

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The Prawdzic coat of arms was shared by the szlachta (gentry) lines of over 500 variously surnamed Polish families

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NEW BOOKS

Paul Kontny: A Modern Artist in Europe and America

**PAUL KONTNY:
A MODERN ARTIST IN
EUROPE AND AMERICA**
by Stan Cuba

University Press of Colorado in association with the Kirkland Museum of Fine and Decorative Art
Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-64642-345-3
March 2023
316 pp.; Illustrations:
316 color, 77 b&w
Hardcover Price \$49.95

The strength and vitality of Denver artist Paul Kontny's work reflected his passion for life and the inspiration he found in his environment. A native of Poland's Upper Silesia region happy to have escaped death during World War II, he relished the opportunity to paint and sculpt those subjects that fascinated him. He took images from the visual world and recast them in works ranging from the representational to the abstract and never ceased to evolve in a career that spanned more than fifty years.

Kontny's creative output—works on paper, sculptures, and oils done in his signature marble dust technique—derived from his keen observation of people and the world around him, whether in Europe or on his trips to North Africa, Central and South America, and the Pacific or later in the United States and

Mexico.

Paul Kontny: A Modern Artist in Europe and America is rich in the history of early twentieth-century Poland and the plight of soldiers conscripted into the German army—and the life of an architect dedicated to helping rebuild and then embarking on a transcontinental life as an artist. The book includes photographs and images of Kontny's life and travels, input from friends, collectors, and family, and more than 100 color reproductions of his striking and varied works.

About the author: Stan Cuba, a graduate of Columbia University in New York, is associate consulting curator (and former associate curator) of the Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art in Denver. In addition to curating and writing catalogs for many exhibits of regional art, he has written *John F. Carlson and Artists of the Broadmoor Academy*, *Sandzén in Colorado*, *The Denver Artists Guild—Its Founding Members: An Illustrated History*, and coauthored *The Art of Charles Partridge Adams*, *The Colorado Book*, *Pikes Peak Vision: The Broadmoor Art Academy, 1919–1945*, and *Celebrating the Broadmoor Art Academy and Its Legacy 1919–1970*.

Found in Translation Award Nominations Open

The Polish Book Institute, Polish Cultural Institute London (PCI London) and Polish Cultural Institute New York (PCI New York) are now accepting nominations for this year's edition of the "Found in Translation" award, honoring the best translation of Polish literature into English in 2022. Nomination deadline is Feb. 15, 2023.

The "Found in Translation" award includes a one-month residency in Kraków, an honorarium of 2,000 zł., travel to and from Kraków funded by the Polish Book Institute, and a cash prize of 16,000 złotych funded in equal parts by the Polish Book Institute, the PCI London and the PCI New York.

Translations published in book form in 2022 qualify for nomination. Individuals or organizations in Poland and abroad may nominate candidates to the Book Institute by writing to biuro@instytutkiaszki.pl. The nomination should include a justification for choosing the candidate, the candidate's address, and the address of the nominator.

Among the previously awarded winners are: 2017 – Piotr Florczyk

for his translation of *Building the Barricade* by Anna Swirszczynska; 2018 – Jennifer Croft for her translation of *Flights* by Olga Tokarczuk; 2019 – Madeline G. Levine for her translation of *Collected Stories* by Brunon Schulz; 2020 – Anna Zaranko for her translation of *The Memoir of an Anti-hero* by Kornel Filipowicz; 2021 – Ewa Malachowska-Pasek and Megan Thomas for their translation of *The Career of Nicodemus Dyzma* by Tadeusz Dołęga-Mostowicz; and last-year's winner, Jennifer Croft for her translation of *The Books of Jacob* by Olga Tokarczuk.



works of long-time PAJ contributor Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab. Visit her blog, <http://www.sophieknab.com/>.

If you are interested in Polish customs, traditions, and food, you will love the words and

**THE DAY THE
BUFFALO RIVER BURNED**
*The Incredible Story of
Stanley P. Spisiak*
By John Zach
Published by Archangel
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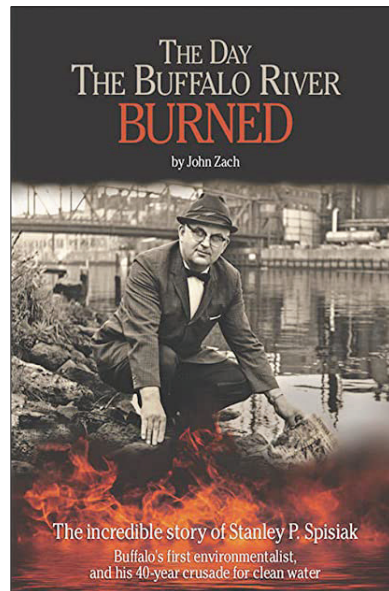
I understand that John Zach is somewhat of a radio icon in the Buffalo N.Y. area, but he can also add biographer to his long list of achievements. This month we'll review his treatment of the life of Stanley P. Spisiak, an advocate for clean water in some of that movement's darkest hours, the late 1960s and '70s. The book is brief at 71 pages, but within its covers is a most interesting tale of the life of a self-educated jeweler from the area who raised the issue of industrial dumping and elevated it to the levels of governors, U.S. senators, and even the president of the United States himself.



Stanley Spisiak (center), Sen. Robert Kennedy (top) and Rep. Richard (Max) McCarthy touring the polluted Buffalo River, 1965

PHOTO: SPISIAK FAMILY COLLECTION

Stanley P. Spisiak was a first-generation Polish American whose parents had immigrated in 1907 to Buffalo, N.Y.'s Kaisertown (St. Casimir) neighborhood from Wadowice, Poland about a dozen years before the future pope, Saint John Paul II, would be born there. Stanley was born in 1916, and seven years later, his father, Peter, died unexpectedly



at the age of fifty-four, leaving his mother, Rosalia, a widow, but one who would quickly remarry out of necessity. Perhaps this life-altering hardship for the young Stanley prepared him for a series of David and Goliath confrontations that would await him in his adult life.

Stanley displayed a remarkable reserve of determination that would get him through those trials with the area's industrialists and even the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. But first, Stanley himself would marry, and he and his wife, Emily, would establish and make profitable a small jewelry shop in East Buffalo. However, Stanley quickly became obsessed by what he found along the shores of the Buffalo River and all the waterways of the area draining into Lake Erie. Steel plants, chemical plants, and even the Army Corps of Engineers dredgings, dumped directly into the waters, had coalesced into a floating slurry that choked off life and made the waters unsuitable for all activities, especially consumption.

Stanley began his mission for clean water with an expected ally: the sportsmen clubs of the area,

who had a highly-vested interest in the subject. But one must remember the times, the late '50s and turbulent '60s, before the consciousness-awakening alarm of Love Canal in the '70s had sounded or the Hudson River cleanup on the other side of the state had begun much later.

Stanley found himself up against entire industries, with their paid staffs, whose defense seemed to consist of the mantra "jobs, jobs, jobs." The author tells in a very impressive manner the narrative of how Stanley slowly built up his advocacy until he became a name well-known to Albany. And then he found an unusual ally in the newly-elected U.S. Senator for New York, Bobby Kennedy. Stanley was impressive enough to convince Kennedy, and later President Lyndon Baines Johnson, to visit the polluted waters of Buffalo. This advocacy not only persuaded President Johnson to cancel by Executive Order, the Corps of Engineers' practice of sludge dumping, but led also to legislation that was the precursor to the Clean Water Act.

Yet, even as he pursued all this, in the seven degree above zero weather of January 1968, the spark of a welder's torch working on a bridge repair was enough to ignite the chemical laden layer atop the Buffalo River and set the waterway ablaze. The bridge crossing it was damaged and rendered unusable. Sadly, the river was added to the list of ignitable waterways that infamously included the Cuyahoga in Cleveland, the Rouge River in Detroit, and the Chicago River. The local press would later reveal that this was actually the second time the Buffalo River had been set ablaze.

In all, Zach has done a totally absorbing retelling of Spisiak's dedicated life. In no small way, his subject's tireless efforts have touched all of our lives by opening our collective consciousness to the necessity for clean water, and not subjugating it to the laziness of industry.

♦ ♦ ♦

For those of you who contacted the *Polish American Journal* about the availability of our December title, "The Forest Soldier" by John Nurt, I am happy to say it is now available on Amazon.

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trzymać język za zębami"

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all virtues is to keep one's
tongue behind one's teeth.

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Available in hardcover, paperback, or e-book online at Barnes & Noble or Amazon. For information about ordering signed copies, contact the author at JConMartin@gmail.com

Martin is a recipient of Gold Medals from the Independent Publishers Book Awards and the American Institute of Polish Culture.


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GENEALOGY

Organizing your Family History

by Steve Szabados

Researching family history generates a mountain of paper as you find records. However, these records are treasures because they are critical sources of data about your family. Furthermore, organizing these records and their information is crucial to the success of your work because your future research depends on retrieving their details quickly.

The first step in organizing your work is setting up a system to label your folders. Your method should be logical, easy to file a document, quick to retrieve, and easy to remember.

Most genealogists use factors such as surname, given name, record type, date, place, and other details to sort their information. Which factors they use as their primary and secondary information depends on personal choice, but surname and record type seem to be the most popular choices. For example:

Using “*surname*” as your primary factor and the given name as the secondary will show “Smith, Joseph” on the folder tab. So all documents are sorted by a person’s name, and the folders are stored in name order.

Using the “*record type*” as the primary factor will show “Census, 1930” or “Census, Smith” on a folder tab.

Some documents, such as census and passenger records, pertain to multiple people. Instead of filing a copy for each individual, many researchers use a combination of the two systems. For example, they save census and passenger records by record type and surname to eliminate the need for multiple copies. Then, they file the other documents by surname and given name.

adding ring binders and shelving space easier than finding room for another file cabinet.

Go Digital

Eliminating paper and digitally saving your documents may be the system of the future. Digital files eliminate the mountain of paper and significantly reduce the physical space needed. For example, my 20 years of genealogy files use 132 GB of digital storage. I use my laptop as my primary storage unit and a 1 TB external hard drive to back up my files. These two devices are significantly smaller than a file cabinet or the twenty ring binders needed to store the paper equivalent of my digital files.

I label my digital files using the same factors as a paper system, using surnames and record type as my primary factors and adding 3-4 secondary factors to the file name.

Using “*surname*” as my primary factor, my label will be “smith-joseph-census-1930.”

Using the “*record type*” as the primary factor will show “census-1930-smith-joseph” as the record label.

Once I type my file name, select my folder, and hit “save,” my computer will automatically place my new file in the order my naming system dictates. So, remember, once you decide on your system, be consistent, so your files appear in the folders where you expect them.

Visiting libraries and archives will become easier when you use digital files. You can copy your pertinent files to a thumb drive, so you can reference them using a computer at the facility. You can use the same thumb drive to save digital copies of what you find and transfer them to your computer after your trip. Going digital minimizes your

physical space, and transporting your files becomes less challenging.

The main drawback of going digital is a computer crash where you lose the information on your hard drive. Therefore, making a backup copy is critical, and experts recommend backing up your files monthly as a minimum.

I add an essential step to my digital system. As I find my documents, I save a copy to my computer but then compile the information I see in the record into a summary for the individual mentioned in the document. I carefully enter the information into the summary in chronological order, which helps to reveal their story. I also include a document copy at the end of the summary. Adding the copy may seem like overkill, but I use this step to add the source citation in the label above the document. I need to add that data immediately to ensure I do not forget it. I usually do not review the copy on my computer again unless I suspect a problem with what I entered in the summary.

Benefits of my digital summary:

- It’s a quick reference of the facts by putting all the information for the individual in one place to speed up future research
- It’s flexible when adding facts, stories, and pictures
- It is a narrative, and all family members can understand it
- It can be easily shared with family members or other researchers through email.
- It saves paper but more importantly, it saves the information in the records

The critical step in being organized is to develop a system that fits your needs and skills, then consistently use it. Also, do not be afraid to change your system as your skills increase and technology changes.

ZOOM Genealogical Session to Look into Daily Life of Ancestors

What do bees, kitchens, and soap have in common? They are all topics in the Polish American Foundation of Connecticut’s 2023 ZOOM genealogy lecture series. The series will also include some more traditional genealogy topics, such as proper citation of records and the importance of administrative subdivisions of Poland.

Dorena Wasik, from the Polish American Foundation of Connecticut, explained why these uncommon topics were included in this year’s lecture series.

“Genealogy is about more than just collecting births, marriages and deaths dates. It is also about understanding the world our ancestors lived in before they made their journey to America. It is about understanding the many changes they encountered in their first years here, the changes in language and customs. Often, they had to make a change from the agricultural life in a village to the urban life in a city and working in a factory or coal mine.”

The beekeeping lecture is sure to be of interest to many people since beekeeping is becoming more popular in the United States. Janusz Marzewski, the speaker for the beekeeping lecture, comes from a long family history of beekeepers in the Kurpie region of Poland. He is referred to as the “mayor” of the beekeepers in the Kurpie region.

The Kurpie region will also be represented in another lecture on “The Kurpie Project” with Dorian Olszewski. He will speak about who are the Kurpie people. Olszewski will also explain how Kurpie people both in and out of Poland are working to collect and index non-vital records to fill in for the missing vital records from the area.

Agnieszka Dawicka will give a presentation on the kitchens of our ancestors. A kitchen is the heart of every home and the center of daily life, giving us the opportunity to see a detailed picture of our ancestors’ lives “in the old country.”

One of Poland’s newest museums, the Museum of Soap and Dirt, really gets down to the details of daily life for both our Polish ancestors and for us in current time. The museum manager, Piotr Jasiek will take us on a journey of human hygiene though the ages.

Of course, the series also in-

cludes several more traditional genealogy lectures. Aleksandra Kacprzak will explain how to determine and record proper citations for genealogical records located on the many websites used by genealogists.



Piotr Jasiek, manager of Poland’s newest museum — the Museum of Soap and Dirt — will discuss human hygiene though the ages.

Tadeusz Pilat will discuss the importance of the administrative subdivisions of Poland. They are the key to determine if the vital records you are using are actually the correct vital records.

Lucjan Cichocki will discuss an overlooked fact found on many genealogical documents: occupations. He will focus on the occupations of the Galicia section of Poland, including how they fit into the social hierarchy of the time.

Piotr Nojszewski will speak about an unusual view of genealogy: the future. He will discuss how social values and technology are changing how we do genealogical research today and in the future.

The series takes place over on ZOOM on two days, Saturday, February 25, 2023 and Saturday, March 4, 2023. The lectures start at noon ET both days. The cost of the series is \$25.00.

To register, visit the PAF website at: www.paf-welcomehome.org. If you have questions, Wasik can be reached at: dorenaw@paf-ct.org.

GENEALOGISTS USE TWO SYSTEMS

to store paper documents: file folders and ring binders. They need a filing cabinet or storage crates in which to place the folders. Color coding the folders will help them file new documents and retrieve them when needed. However, it is difficult to add more cabinets when the cabinet is full. Storage crates are easier to add, but if multiple crates are stacked to save space, moving the containers to find a file is cumbersome. Folders are also challenging to carry and use on trips away from your work area.

Ring binders are another method of storing paper documents. They are easy to retrieve from shelves, especially if the spine labels are color-coded. Start with small (1”) or medium (2”) binders and expand to the larger (3”) size as needed. The binder pages are easy to flip through to find information, especially if you place the documents behind the tabs in chronological order. The small and medium binders are easy to transport to libraries and archives in backpacks, but they can become heavy as you add records. Nevertheless, most researchers find

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SPORTS

NFL Great JJ Watt Retires

by Tom Tarapacki

Arizona Cardinals defensive end **JJ Watt**, one of the greatest defensive players in NFL history, has announced his retirement. The three-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year was also a seven-time All Pro and five-time Pro Bowl selection.

The 33-year-old Wisconsin native was the 11th overall pick in the 2011 NFL Draft, taken by the Houston Texans. He played there his first 10 seasons before signing with the Cardinals as a free agent in 2021.

Watt is well-known for his work off the field. After Hurricane Harvey devastated areas around Houston in August 2017, Watt raised more than \$37 million for victims of the floods and damage Harvey left behind. He was named the 2017 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year recipient in recognition of his charity and volunteer efforts.

Watt has two brothers, **T.J.** and **Derek**, who play in the NFL with the Pittsburgh Steelers. The three Watt brothers played college football at the University of Wisconsin.

J. J. is the son of **John** and **Connie (Walczak) Watt**. According to ethnicebs.com John's background is mostly Swedish and Finnish with smaller amounts of Scottish, Slavic, German. Connie has Polish roots. Her father was Donald Ralph Walczak, the son of Jozef Walczak and Anna Kaczorowski. Joseph was the son of Franciszek Walczak and Anna Nikodem. Connie's mother was Christine Musial, the daughter of Larry and Sophie (Kolacinski)



JJ Watt and his mother, Connie (Walczak) Watt

Musial. JJ's great-grandmother Sophie passed away in 2019 at the age of 101.

GRONOWSKI LEADS JACKRABBITS TO TITLE. Mark Gronowski threw three touchdowns passes and ran 51 yards for another score as South Dakota State won its first national championship with a 45-21 win over North Dakota State.

As a true freshman two seasons ago Gronowski, was the Missouri Valley Football Conference Offensive Player of the Year, Newcomer of the Year and Freshman of the Year. That season the Chicago area native led the Jackrabbits to the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) title game, but tore his left ACL on the first series. The Jackrabbits lost, and Gronowski missed the entire 2021 season rehabbing his knee.

This season, the 6-3, 220-lb. Gronowski improved on his freshman year, throwing for 2,744 yards with 23 touchdowns and just five interceptions, while rushing for



Mark Gronowski with his parents and brother Ryan.

351 yards and 11 touchdowns. The Jackrabbits beat North Dakota State, which had won nine FCS championships.

Growing up in Naperville, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, Mark played a variety of sports. Eventually, he became a quarterback like his father Ray, who played at Drake University in the mid '80s. Also, sister Sarah played college softball at Butler University and older brother Ryan has been a Special Olympics standout in basketball, swimming, and other sports. Ryan played flag football for Team Illinois at the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games and was one of four Special Olympians chosen to be part of a national Disney commercial.

But brother Mark got a pretty big honor too: Most Outstanding Player in the 2022 FCS Champi-

onship game. "It means the world to me," Gronowski said of the title run. "There's no better feeling in the world."

SEVEN STRAIGHT FOR JUSZCZYK. San Francisco 49ers fullback **Kyle Juszczyk** has been voted into the 2023 Pro Bowl Game.

Juszczyk has now earned his seventh-consecutive selection to the Pro Bowl (2017-23) and sixth as a member of the 49ers free agent in 2017.

The NFL's highest paid fullback graduated with an economics degree from Harvard before being drafted by the Ravens in the fourth round. The Medina, Ohio native is 6'1", 248-lb., has good hands and speed, as well as a great understanding of the game. "He just has zero hesitation and he fixes plays for us before they get broken," said

49ers tight end George Kittle. "It's because of who he is as a person and how he prepares."

Juszczyk attended Cloverleaf H.S. in Lodi, Ohio, and played high school football for the Cloverleaf Colts. He was the second highest selection in school history, only behind Isaiah Kacyvenski, who was selected in the fourth round (119th overall) in the 2000 NFL Draft.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! The date is September 14, 2023. That's when the **National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame** will be celebrating its 50th anniversary with a gala celebration in Troy, Mich.

Also keep in mind that the deadline to apply for the Hall's annual Stan Musial Scholarship awards is coming up. Candidates must apply in the spring of their senior year by March 15th.

Eligible recipients must be of Polish American descent; have a GPA of 3.2 or better; compete in varsity sports; be nominated by their coach and principal; and write an essay on the importance of academics and athletics as it relates to leadership and being a positive role model. Scholarship grants range from \$500 to \$1000.

Get more information about the Hall or to download a scholarship application by going to: www.polishsportshof.com.

*Mądry Polak po szkodzie.
Wise is the Pole after the
harm's been done.*

Remembering an Athlete and True Hero

A photograph taken at the 1936 Berlin Olympics helped medalist Maria Kwaśniewska-Maleszewska save many fellow Poles during World War II.

by Tom Tarapacki

Maria Kwaśniewska was born on August 15, 1913 in Łódź. The only daughter of Jan and Wiktoria Kozłowski developed into an outstanding athlete at a young age.

At the Berlin Games Maria competed in the javelin. The 23-year-old won bronze, while the gold and silver medals were won by German athletes. On the podium the other athletes and officials greeted Hitler with the raised hand Nazi salute, but Maria remained motionless.



The medalists were then invited to Hitler's box to receive his congratulations. According to historical accounts, Hitler addressed the Pole with the words: "I congratulate the little Polish woman," to which Kwaśniewska responded, "I don't

feel any smaller than you."

"Because he was 1.60m tall in a hat, and I was 1.66m. So there was general laughter," she said later recalled. "The German press later said that Hitler congratulated not as little Pole, but little Poland. They didn't know how to get out of the situation."

At a later meeting Hitler was photographed with the three javelin throwers, and Maria was given a copy of the photo as a souvenir. Not too many years afterwards that photo would help her save many lives.

HITLER PHOTO SAVED LIVES.

Kwaśniewska was considered a gold medal favorite for the 1940 Olympics, and was training the Games in Italy when Germany invaded Poland in September 1939. Against the advice of everyone around her, she decided to return home. "At the border in Zebrzydowice they looked at me a bit like a madman," she recalled. "Crowds of people were leaving the country, and I was returning to Warsaw." She joined the resistance and, since she had com-

pleted an anti-aircraft and sanitary course before the war, she became an ambulance driver. Her primary responsibility was transporting injured Polish soldiers to hospitals.

In the autumn of 1944, Maria went to a German transit camp in



On the podium, Poland's Maria Kwaśniewska stood motionless, while officials and the other javelin victors Othilie "Tilly" Fleischer and Luise Krüger greeted Hitler with the raised hand Nazi salute.

Pruszków, near Warsaw, which housed civilian evacuees after the fall of the Warsaw Uprising.

The Germans used the camp to separate men from women, and those going to Auschwitz or to the labor camps. There was also a section for the sick and injured, and Maria escorted prisoners from there.

She soon started taking large numbers of prisoners out of the camp to safety. So how did she get the prisoners past the Nazi guards? "I just showed my photograph with Hitler at the gate," she said, referring to the photo taken at the 1936 Olympics. "They (the soldiers) would salute and let me travel. I took people out to Pruszków, then took them home to Podkowa. In my house I had a transit camp."

Not wanting to question some-

one who seemed to have a personal relationship with the Führer, they let her move freely. She was able to rescue numerous people, probably in the hundreds, including famous Polish writers Ewa Szelburg-Zarembina and Stanisław Dygat.

RETURN TO ATHLETICS AFTER THE WAR.

When World War II ended, Maria returned to sports, and finished sixth in javelin throw and seventh in shot put at the 1946 European Championships. Kwaśniewska-Maleszewska was also proficient in the long jump and pentathlon and was also a member of Poland's national team in basketball, volleyball and handball.

Maria was married three times. Her first marriage, to a swimmer in 1937, ended in divorce and her ex-husband died at the beginning of World War II. Her second husband, engineer Julian Koźmiński, was killed by the Germans. Her final marriage to Polish national basketball team coach Władysław Maleszewski lasted 37 years, until his death in 1983. They had two children.

Later she was very involved in the Olympic movement and re-

ceived many honors for both her athletic and humanitarian efforts. Maria died in Warsaw on October 17, 2007, at the age of 94.

A few years before her death Maria expressed her philosophy in an interview: "Are we supposed to live only our own affairs, make a mess, make careers and not care about others, human poverty, human misfortunes? Never ever! Man has a mind to think and a heart to love. Only then is he a complete man."



A new play about this unique hero who refused to salute Hitler recently debuted at the Powszechny Theatre in Łódź, Poland, titled simply "Maria."

MINNESOTA VOICE

Pioneer basketball players provide perspective on Poland's progress

by Mark Dillon

PHILADELPHIA — Dr. Sheldon Anderson of Minnesota, Kent Washington of New York and Dr. Christopher Elzey of Virginia witnessed important moments in Poland's history, and each shared a unique story at the Polish American Historical Association (PAHA) conference here on January 6.

For Anderson, being rejected for a Fulbright scholarship in 1987 by reviewers who were skeptical of his ability to access Communist archives became the catalyst for a basketball career in Poland. Anderson's research would galvanize a career as a history professor at Miami University in Ohio. He now lives in South Minneapolis.

Washington was the first American basketball player in Poland, initially during the 1978-1979 season through 1982-1983. As such, he attracted curiosity, celebrity stardom and the help of an older Polish lady whom Washington said would hand wash his uniforms, and provide support and encouragement.

"I was alone much of the time, but I never felt lonely. I always felt welcome. I was embraced by the Polish people," the African-American author, 67, who now lives in New Rochelle in Westchester County. He is the author of *Kentomania: A Black Basketball Virtuoso in Communist Poland* (published in 2021 and reviewed in last month's *Journal*).

The oppressive environment of martial law in Poland at the time of Washington's arrival on the basketball circuit made a lasting impression. Washington told assembled historians at a hotel a few blocks from Philadelphia City Hall after seeing a heavy security presence in the streets for the first time: "I said to myself, Wow! So, this is what communism can do."

Elzey's basketball experience was in Belarus and Poland, playing for ENKA Minsk in 1992-1993 and Mazowszanka Pruszkow in 1993-1994. Elzey also leveraged his playing experience into an academic career at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

Nowadays Elzey teaches courses on Western civilization, the history of sport and the U.S. Olympics. He also wonders how people he met in Belarus, people who also treated him with kindness and respect, are faring in a country still under Moscow's heel.

In addition to locals, Elzey also briefly met a flamboyant American author in Minsk about a year after the author had published a 1991 novel about the Central Intelligence



(l. to r.): Sheldon Anderson, Kent Washington, and Christopher Elzey recount time on and off the basketball court in Poland in the 1980s.

Agency, *Harlot's Ghost*. Elzey entitled his PAHA talk: *I Met Norman Mailer Hoopin' In Belarus and Poland After the Fall of the Wall*.

That same year Elzey said he was invited to the American Embassy in Minsk for Thanksgiving Dinner. Operations were suspended at the same embassy this past Feb. 28 following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Three different timelines

At the PAHA conference, the three men formed a squad panel called "Bloc Shots" and offered insight and details into their personal experience of how Poland evolved from the Cold War period, the Solidarity-breakdown of communism period, and the immediate post-1989 years of cultural and economic transition.

Anderson, who also played basketball in West Germany, contrasted the relative non-enforcement of communist dogma and people's day-to-day work arounds of restrictions and shortages in Poland with the militant approach taken by the Stasi police in East Germany.

"I kept in close contact with my friends in East Germany throughout my stay in West Germany in the late 1970s, and while I was doing my PhD work at Minnesota in the 1980s," Anderson said. "When I went to Poland in 1987, I usually took the train from West Germany to Warsaw, and often stopped in East Berlin to see my friends there."

Anderson studied history at three universities — first Osnabrück University, then the University of Münster and Ludwig-Maximilians University Munich.

In the U.S., Anderson played college basketball for four years, was a

team captain, MIAC Most Valuable Player and NAIA All-American in 1972-73. After graduating from Augsburg College in Minnesota, he received his master's degree from University of Minnesota in 1985 and his PhD in 1989.

In addition to specialty food, among the most appreciated gifts each player brought to teammates and friends in Central Europe were high quality sports shoes, as basketball players behind the Iron Curtain generally had only Converse knock-offs to play in. A regulation basketball Elzey said he brought from the U.S. got passed around for league games in Poland.

Each man had to adapt to a style of basketball play that each learned was somewhat different than how the game was played in North America — more passing and a more collective effort without any three-point plays.

Anderson's basketball tenure and research success in Poland partially coincided with Vladimir Putin's time as a KGB operative in Dresden, Germany (1985-1990), where Putin reportedly led regional anti-Western terrorist activities, formed relationships with right-wing extremists and purged German-KGB archives amid the fall of the Berlin Wall.

"(Putin) witnessed the East German government fall apart and communism go into the dustbin of history," Anderson noted. "It was a defining moment in his life...He is angry that NATO came into what was the Soviet sphere in Europe."

For Washington, his time in Europe was not only professionally fulfilling but a stepping stone for personal happiness. After earning an MVP award in a West German

tournament Russia, West Germany and Sweden, Washington moved to Sweden where he met his wife, Susanne. There they had a daughter, Kehli, who grew up to be a softball player on the Swedish national team.

An invite at a tournament

Washington's entry into Poland came during his junior year at Southampton College at a tournament in Poland that included teams from St. John's University in Minnesota, State University of New York at Albany and the Polish pro team Start Lublin.

Washington was named tournament MVP and, through a translator, Lublin's coach invited him to play for the Polish team.

Such was Washington's celebrity status in Poland in the early 1980s (he was a league MVP one season,

and twice runner-up) that soldiers assigned to patrol at public gatherings would leave their posts to get his autograph. Washington also played in Romania, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia.

Asked at the PAHA conference about his compensation in communist Poland in an era when the Zloty was not convertible and there were severe limits of moving currency, Washington said he was able to repatriate earnings by purchasing jewelry.

"I would get through (customs) with two arms full of 18-karat gold bracelets," he said.

In Belarus, Elzey said he frequently traded ration cards for materials he didn't want for meat and food, and how important it was to learn the ins and out of alternate commerce amid barren state-run store shelves and long lines.

Elzey played four years at the University of Pennsylvania and professionally in Australia as well Europe. He has also been editor of *DC Sports: The Nation's Capital at Play* (2015). He oversees the Sport and American Culture minor program at George Mason.

Asked to comment on the impact of basketball player Brittney Griner's ordeal on the future of basketball in Russia, Anderson indicated that the risks have become too great.

"Some Americans are still playing in Russia. I think they are nuts," he said "It was completely different during the communist era; (Poland and others) were not terrorist states."

Anderson chronicles his career in Europe in his work *Jump Shooting to a Higher Degree: My Basketball Odyssey* (University of Nebraska Press).

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Physicians and Residents Urged to Participate in Krakow Conference

CHICAGO — The Polish American Medical Society (PAMS) has become a partner of MIRCIM (McMaster International Review Course in Internal Medicine). MIRCIM Conferences are an annual event taking place in Krakow, Poland. They gather thousands of physicians, residents, and students from around the world. The Conferences are not only meetings of specialists sharing their up-to-date medical knowledge, ongoing symposiums serve as occasions to meet new friends, exchange experiences, and establish relationships.

MIRCIM has been developed by

the McMaster University Department of Medicine (Hamilton, Ontario, Canada) and the Polish Institute for Evidence-Based Medicine. It is organized in collaboration with the European Federation of Internal Medicine, the International Society of Internal Medicine, and the Jagiellonian University Medical College, under the umbrella of the American College of Physicians.

One of the most important events during MIRCIM is the Best Case Report Contest (BCRC). It has been developed to encourage young medical professionals to share their most interesting and intriguing

cases and patient encounters. The PAMS strongly encourages all eligible residents and physicians to take advantage of this amazing resume-building opportunity. MIRCIM is presented in English.

All required specifics can be found at: <https://empendium.com/mircim/edition2023/313191/best-case-report-contest-bcrc-2023>

The Conference will take place May 11-13, 2023. Submissions must be made before February 28, 2023.

For information, contact Piotr Brukasz, MD, president of the Polish American Medical Society at pams@zlpchicago.org.

HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE

Ziemska's Sculptures will Arrive at Morton Arboretum

by Geraldine
Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — This spring, the **Morton Arboretum**, located in Lisle, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, will feature a new exhibit that is scheduled to have its opening date during Memorial Day weekend. **Olga Ziemska**, a Polish American sculptor, will provide an outdoor sculpture series entitled “Of the Earth.” The exhibit will consist of five large works built entirely of wood and other natural materials that will be gathered at the grounds of the Arboretum; each will be roughly 20 feet in height. These works of art will be built by the artist, her crew, and selected volunteers. All five of the art works will be original. Ziemska did mention that one of the sculptures will be similar to her “Stillness in Motion,” a work of art that she has displayed elsewhere. This new exhibit will be the largest of all the exhibits she has



“Stillness in Motion”

PHOTO: OLGA ZIEMSKA

created.

“Stillness in Motion” consists of tree branches cut and bound in such a way as to create a female form and is considered Olga’s signature work. During the exhibit a version of it will greet visitors at the entrance of the Arboretum.

The current three-piece exhibit



Lira Singers

PHOTO COURTESY OF GERALDINE BALUT COLEMAN

on the Arboretum grounds entitled “Human+Nature,” created by **Daniel Popper**, a South African sculptor, has been at the Arboretum since 2021 and will close this month.

Preston Bautista, the Arboretum’s vice president of learning and engagement, said that Olga’s works were first noticed at the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Columbus, Ohio. Her family is from Poland and she is based in Cleveland. The new exhibit is intended to have a special connection with the Chicago area’s Polish-speaking community, and a few special events for Polish-speaking art enthusiasts will feature Polish

language presentations by Ziemba. Interestingly, Lisle’s largest ethnic population identifies as Polish.

LIRA ENSEMBLE CONCERT AT ST. JOHN’S. On Jan. 8, an audience of over 200 heard the **Lira Ensemble**, singers (**Bridget Ascenzo Labozetta**, **Kate Sikora**, **Kasia Baranek**, **Sarah Thompson Johansen**, **Ewa Sikora**, **Ola Rafalo**, **Jacqueline Whittle**, and **Reba Bagasinski**) and the Lira Chamber Players present a melodious Polish and American Christmas Carol Concert at St. John Brebeuf Church in Niles, Ill. This concert was presented by the Chicago Chapter of the Kościuszko Foundation. Welcoming remarks were given by **Rev. Jason Torba**, pastor of St. John Brebeuf, followed by **Professor Lidia Filus**, president of the Chicago Chapter of the Kościuszko Foundation. **Lucyna Migala**, artistic director and general manager of the Lira Ensemble, presented an English language narrative of each of the songs in the program. These included 10 Polish language carols and five traditional carols in English. The concert featured an interesting experience: listening to *Lulajże Jezuniu* (Sleep, Little Jesus) being sung in Polish, then hearing an excerpt from *FredERIC Chopin’s Scherzo #1 in B Minor, Opus 20*, performed by **Daniel Szefer**, pianist. When the audience listened carefully, it could hear a portion of *Lulajże Jezuniu* within Chopin’s work. The concert ended with the Lira and the audience joining to sing *Cicha Noc* (Silent Night) and *Mazur Wesolych Świąt* (We Wish You a Merry Christmas), both in Polish and English.

The Lira Christmas Concert had previously been held Dec. 11 at St. Ferdinand Church, and Dec. 18 at St. Francis Borgia Church. Both churches are located on the Northwest Side of Chicago.

SHELTER RECEIVES NEEDED SUPPLIES FROM CONSULATE. On Dec. 22, the staff, directors, and residents of the **Anawim Shelter** were delighted and honored when **Paweł Zyzak**, Consul General of the Republic of Poland, along with **Michał Arciszewski**, the Consul’s head of legal affairs, and also **Jacek Bryniak**, vice-consul of the Legal Department, arrived with special Christmas gifts. The badly-needed cleaning supplies were on the Shelter’s wish list.

The visit began with a short prayer service in the Anawim’s chapel headed by **Rev. Andrzej Totzke, SChr.**, director of the Holy Trinity Polish Mission Church, and his colleague, **Rev. Wiesław Wójcik, SChr.**, along with **Sr. Aleksandra Antonik, MChr.**, **Antoinette Tre-**

la, the Shelter’s president, and **John Schoen**, its treasurer. This was followed by a tour of the facility and an overview of the Shelter’s operations by **Tomasz Glen**, Manager of Anawim. The guests then joined the Anawim staff for a traditional Polish dinner prepared by the Shelter’s cooking staff.

The shelter, located at Chicago’s historic Noble Square, has served Polish immigrants in Chicago for over 30 years. It serves those who are not only homeless, but also suffer from alcohol and substance addictions and seek treatment. The men’s shelter has been in operation since 1989; the shelter for homeless women was established in 2019. The Anawim Shelter team consists of volunteers.

CHICAGO SOCIETY WELCOMES WOMEN MEMBERS. For several years, the Chicago Society (CS) of the Polish National Alliance (PNA) has considered opening membership to women.

The Society was formally organized on April 19, 1912. That was the date that its name “Chicago Society” was adopted and it became affiliated with the PNA as Lodge 1450, and was designated as a men-only organization. It should be noted, however, that in 1924, the Society did create a ladies auxiliary known as the Polish Women’s Civic Club, which officially dissolved in December 2018. Subsequently, the Chicago Society also created the Polish Welfare Association, known today as the Polish American Association, an important charitable non-profit organization in the Polish American community.

Then, at the October 2022 monthly meeting, the CS Board of Directors received a petition from some members requesting that the CS constitution remove all references of “male” or “he” and be replaced with the neutral word “person.” This would render the constitution gender neutral, thereby allowing women to become members. In accordance with the CS constitution, the members present at that October meeting voted by secret ballot to adopt the new wording. A two-thirds majority voted for the passage of this amendment. Thus, women are now invited to join in accordance with membership requirements.

The Society announced it will hold its 2023 Evening of Elegance and will honor the Legion of Young Polish Women for its 83 years of support for worthy causes and the preservation of Polish heritage, culture, and traditions. It will also present its first ever **Romuald Matuszczak** Member of the Year Award at this event.

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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 Poland — 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/

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THE PONDERING POLE

And the winner is ...

by Ed Poniewaz

The Turner Classic Movies (TCM) channel is one of my favorites. The “classics” are part of every era and time-period but what makes them so great varies by who is determining it and by what criteria. There is a documentary film on TCM entitled *Women Make Film: A New Road Movie Through Cinema* with the sub-title “A guided tour of the art of movie creation as told by female filmmakers” that “explores 40 different aspects of filmmaking, drawing from a wide range of films as examples, all of which are made by women.” Some of the movies can be considered classic as a whole and some have one or a number of classic elements that are remarkable.

The documentary was created by filmmaker and critic Mark Cousins and features the contributions and innovations of 183 directors from all over the world since movie making began. That there are 183 women directors recognized in the documentary is a revelation to me. Not the work but the sheer number! Impressive. What I saw on TCM was a one-hour summary of the original which is 14 hours long. The film is divided into “chapters,” or as mentioned, “aspects” of filmmaking such as Introduction, Openings, Tone, Believability, and Conversation.



Jakubowska spent time as an inmate at Auschwitz and Ravensbrück.

Many of the director names are familiar: Kathryn Bigelow, Jane Campion, Sofia Coppola, Leni Riefenstahl, Angelina Jolie, and Penny Marshall. I had no idea that Ida Lupino was a director and no idea that, despite the name, her ethnicity is actually British and Irish. Surprisingly, two greats of world cinema, Agnieszka Holland of Poland and Lina Wertmüller of Italy were not featured. Four Polish gals were, however, and here are their names, the films which were special to this project, and for what category or aspect that made their work notable.

Dorota Kedzierzawska, *Time to Die*, (2007; Openings, Memory, Death). Kedzierzawska was born June 1, 1957, in Łódź and graduated from the prestigious National Film School in Łódź. *Time to Die* is a “black-and-white portrait of the day-to-day of a nonagenarian woman as she experiences the final act of her life,” especially in her interactions with neighbors, her son, and her dog, Fila.

Wanda Jakubowska, *The Last Stage*, (1948; Openings, Framing, Bodies). Jakubowska was born

November 10, 1907 and died February 1998. She directed 15 films over her career and was the first female director to be nominated for an Academy Award in 1933 for her short film *The Sea*. A member of the Polish underground army during World War II, she was captured, imprisoned, and spent time as an inmate at Auschwitz and Ravensbrück. Her work, *The Last Stage* “was an early and influential depiction of concentration camps.”

Malgorzata Szumowska, *Body*, (2015; Comedy). A native of Kraków, she was born February 26, 1973. Like Kiedzierzawska, she is an alum of the National Film School in Łódź. Szumowska has won numerous awards for her films and won the Berlin International Film Festival *Silver Bear for Best Director* award for *Body*. It is a story about a woman, the daughter of an attorney, with a psychiatric condition who is treated by a therapist who is dealing with issues herself and thinks she can communicate with ghosts.

Hanna Polak, *Something Better to Come*, (2014; Time). Written, produced, and directed by Polak, *Something* is a documentary film about children who live in a Moscow garbage dump. The story follows the struggles and challenges of the main character Yula for 14



Director, cinematographer and producer Polak is an Academy and Emmy award nominee.

years as her life is juxtaposed with the rule of Vladimir Putin. Hanna Polak has been nominated for an Academy Award and an Emmy Award and has received several other awards for her documentary films. She was born in Katowice in 1967.

You can learn more about these fine directors, Kiedzierzawska, Jakubowska, Szumowska, and Polak, and the films acknowledged in the *Women Make Film* documentary in Wikipedia, the IMDB website, and they are featured online at Culture.pl. Besides these four movies, each has a body of work and a story you might want to experience and enjoy.

They are a credit to their craft as are all of the 183 female directors, but more so, to all of us that appreciate the power and magic of the movies.

DNA Diary

As this is written, NCAA college football is winding down and the Michigan Wolverines are 13-1, led by coach Jim Harbaugh. Besides being an outstanding college player, Harbaugh was also a National Foot-



Koscina was born in Yugoslavia, to a Greek father and a Polish mother.

ball League quarterback and joins the 25-percenter Polish “quarterback” club along with Tom Brady and Tony Romo who also have one parent with half-Polish ancestry. According to *Wikipedia*, Jim’s mom is half-Sicilian and half-Polish.

Presented on Turner Classic Movies was a series of films by the great Italian director Federico Fellini. The showing of Fellini’s *Juliet of the Spirits* is an interesting movie and a joy to watch and was part of his “dreams” period. One thing that caught my attention was the name of **Sylva Koscina** during the paging of the introductory cast. According to *Wikipedia*, Sylva was born in Yugoslavia, August 22, 1933, but to a Greek father and a Polish mother. She moved to Italy during World War II to live with her sister who was married to an Italian national. In Italy she won beauty contests, did modeling work, studied physics at the University of Naples, and began her acting career in 1954 after being noticed by director Eduardo De Filippo.

The beautiful, intelligent, and talented Koscina appeared in over one hundred films in and outside of Italy with her final performance in *Kim Novak Is on the Phone* in 1994. Fantastic!

Remember “The Rat Pack?”

Super attractive, entertaining,

U.S. Movie starring Polish Actress to open Berlin film fest

BERLIN — “She Came To Me,” an American romantic comedy featuring Polish actress Joanna Kulig, will open the 73rd Berlin International Film Festival this month.

Directed by Rebecca Miller, “She Came To Me” stars Peter Dinklage, Marisa Tomei, Brian d’Arcy James, and Anne Hathaway, as well as Poland’s Kulig, who shot to fame for her role in Paweł Pawlikowski’s Oscar-nominated “Cold War” (2018).

Described as an exploration of “love in all its forms,” the film is set in New York City, centering on composer Steven Lauddem (Dinklage), who is “creatively blocked and unable to finish the score for his big comeback opera,” according to the deadline.com website.

At the instigation of his wife Patricia (Hathaway), formerly his therapist, Lauddem “sets out in search of inspiration.” What he discovers “is much more than he bargained for or imagined,” according to the synopsis, deadline.com



Kornacki used his political math to predict which teams would make it to the Super Bowl.

likable, lovable guys, tough guys like Sinatra, Martin, Davis, Lawford, and ... Joey Bishop, nee Joseph Abraham Gottlieb, “the son of Polish-Jewish immigrants Anna (nee Siegel) and Jacob Gottlieb.”

Says Wikipedia: “Bishop was among the stars of the original Ocean’s 11 ... During filming, the five entertainers performed together onstage in Vegas at the Sands Hotel. Bishop did only a little singing and dancing, but he told jokes and wrote most of the act’s material.”

I think of Joey Bishop as the other guy in the Rat Pack and maybe that is because he is one of our guys.

I saw political journalist for NBC News **Steve Kornacki** on one of the sports channels giving his “line” on which NFL teams would make the playoffs. He did some nifty calculations on what each team’s percentages were for the balance of the season. A gregarious personality, Stephan Joseph Kornacki is a journalist, writer, and television presenter, born in Groton, Massachusetts. According to marriedbio.com, Kornacki is Polish.

May you have a loving and sweet Valentine’s Day by telling your favorite female (wife, mother, sister, friend, film director), *ja cie kocham*.

ARTS

Yang to Perform Chopin Works

PHILADELPHIA — The Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia will present a concert in honor of Fryderyk Chopin on the anniversary of his 213th birthday. The event, featuring pianist William Yang, will be held Sun., Feb 26, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. at the Settlement Music School, 6128 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia. A light reception will follow the performance. Free parking is available in the music school’s parking lot. Tickets: \$30 per person; \$20 for students. No tickets will be mailed; no refunds issued. Reservations may be made through concert chairperson Debbie Majka, (215) 627-1391; dziecko2@comcast.net, or mailed to Majka at 812 Lombard St. #12; Philadelphia, PA, 19147. Checks must be made out to Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia. PayPal payments may be sent to Debbie Majka.

Yang, of Eden Prairie, Minn., entered the Curtis Institute of Music in 2019 and studies piano with Robert McDonald. All students at Curtis receive merit-based, full-tuition scholarships, and Yang is the William A. Horn, M.D. Fellow.

As a soloist, Yang has appeared with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, and Southeast Iowa Symphony Orchestra.

PMS Sponsors Han-Gorski Concert, Exhibit

SAINT PAUL, Minn. — Virtuoso violinist Adam Han-Gorski will perform at The Landmark Center on Sunday, March 5th. The free 2:00 p.m. concert is being held in tandem with the opening of a new photography exhibit, *An Interrupted Childhood: Polish World War II Survivors in Minnesota*, which will be at the center through April 30.

Han-Gorski is one of seven World War II survivors depicted in the exhibit, part two of the Kalejdoskop Polski MN project initiated in 2020 by the Minnesota Polish Medical Society. The state-funded project documents the stories of contemporary Polish immigrants and refugees who settled in Minnesota.

A survivor of two Nazi Ghettos (Yavoriv and Cracow), Han-Gorski was forced with his parents, who survived the Holocaust in Russia, to leave Lviv, and he started his violin lessons at age six in Poland. After the war, he became a concertmaster of several major orchestras in the U.S. and around the world, including Vienna for 30 years, Mexico, and Italy, and also appeared as a soloist and conductor.

The concert also marks the 75th anniversary of Han-Gorski’s solo artistic debut in Warsaw. The exhibit is the work of Katowice photographer Grzegorz Litynski and Dr. Katarzyna Litak, the medical society’s president.



Joanna Kulig

reported.

This year’s jury is chaired by “Twilight” star Kirsten Stewart. Meanwhile, Steven Spielberg, whose latest feature, “The Fabelmans,” will screen in Berlin, is set to collect a lifetime achievement award, Polish state news agency PAP reported.

ANALYSIS

Polish American Heritage Month's Virtual Presence

by David Jackson

Since 1986, the United States has celebrated Polish American Heritage Month every October. The presidential proclamation creating the event mentions the military contributions of Tadeusz Kościuszko and Kazimierz Pułaski, as well as, “the vital contributions people of Polish descent have made to our Nation in the arts, the sciences, religion, scholarship, and every area of endeavor.”

Polish American organizations celebrate the month in many ways, including parades, feasts, polka dances, and many others. These organizations also use their social media to promote, or allow their members to promote, Polish American pride during the month by advertising their events and spreading the word that October is Polish American Heritage month. October 2022 was no exception.

In October 2022, I collected 35 images about Polish American Heritage Month from the Facebook pages and groups of various organizations so that I could interpret what model of U.S. Polonia these organizations and their members were promoting. Some of the results will not be terribly surprising, but a few may be unexpected.

One of the most common images included the U.S. and Polish flags together. Most often these were images of the actual flags of the nations, or stylized words made to reflect

the flags. An example of the latter was put forward by the *Polish American Community of Toledo* where their message was, “October is Polish American Heritage Month,” and the word “Polish” was printed in the pattern of the flag of Poland, while “American” was colored with the stars and stripes.

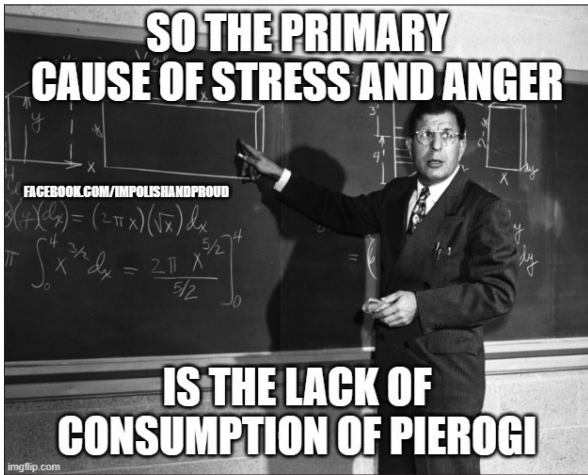
I believe these images are meant to highlight the dual identities of



Banners and photos are commonplace during Heritage Month.

Polish Americans. While showing patriotic love for the country their ancestors adopted generations ago, they also show love and attachment for the motherland. Some images were specific about the hyphenated identity. Over a red and white background with a map of Poland and a Polish eagle in the middle, the *Polish American Community of Toledo* explained in red and white text, “We are POLISH not because we were born in POLAND/Because POLAND was born in us.”

Some organizations used the flag to highlight additional aspects of their group. For example, the *Ja-*



Polish American Heritage Month evokes memes on cultural icons. Case in point: pierogi

goda Polish Folk Dance Ensemble superimposed an image of dancers dressed in folk garb over a stylized flag that combined both the US and Polish banners into one.

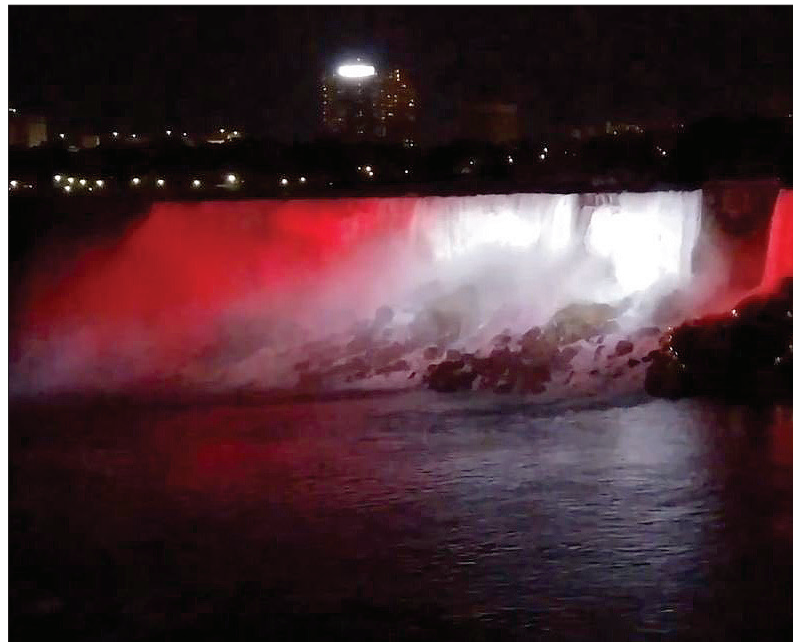
The Polka Beat explained the meaning of the Polish flag by presenting an image of it with a color-coded explanation below indicating that the white part symbolizes,

“The Hope for Peace,” while the red section, “Recalls the Many Struggles for Freedom Over the Centuries.” The *Polish American Cultural Center Museum of Philadelphia* used the flags to promote the Pulaski Day Parade scheduled for October 2nd. Meanwhile, the *Embassy of the Republic of Poland* showed an image of the two flags, and shared that it was in October of 1608 that the first Polish settlers arrived in Jamestown, Virginia, and that both Kościuszko and Pułaski died in October.

A number of organizations used images along with historical text or news of contemporary affairs to teach viewers about Polonia. For example, *poloniahsv* (the Facebook community for the Polish American community of Huntsville, Alabama) presented only text to explain the arrival of the first Polish settlers in what became the U.S. *Polish Interests for Marylanders* posted two photos of the Polish Catholic Church in Panna Maria, Texas on the anniversary of its founding in 1856. *Polish Traces Around the World* presented an image of the Jamestown colony, and text explaining that the Polish settlers there were the first workers ever to go on strike in North America. *The Polka Beat* and *poloniahsv* presented images of the Pulaski Day parade in New York City. Clearly these groups and others believe that it is crucial for Polish Americans and others to know Polish American history and to continue to celebrate it publicly.

A number of groups presented glorious images of natural and human-made landmarks lighted in the colors of the Polish flag in celebration of Heritage Month. These included Niagara Falls, the Kościuszko Bridge in New York City, Beehive Bridge in New Haven, Connecticut, and the Willis Tower (formerly the Sears Tower) in Chicago. These images reinforce the durability and influence of the Polish American community.

Humor found its way among the images as well. For example, *Polish and Proud* shared a black and white picture of a math teacher in front of a chalk board filled with complicated equations and the text, “So the primary cause of stress and anger is



Images of Niagara Falls bathed in white and red light flood the internet every October.

the lack of consumption of pierogi.” *The Polka Beat* informed its viewers that “You Bet Your Dupa I’m Polish,” superimposed over the Polish eagle. Having experienced the hatred of Polish jokes for generations, one Polish American response to this cruel comedy has been to highlight our own senses of humor.



While showing patriotic love for the country their ancestors adopted generations ago, Polish-Americans also show love and attachment for the motherland.

Finally, a few organizations included recommendations for activities to celebrate Polish American Heritage Month. These ranged from joining a Polonian organization, to cooking and eating Polish food, as well as learning the language, passing down recipes, and traveling to

Poland. I believe these recommendations are meant to reinforce that Polish American heritage is not just something to celebrate at specified periods, but something that must be lived on a daily basis and passed down to future generations.

The images presented by Polish American organizations and their members during Polish American Heritage Month 2022 remind us of the creativity, energy, knowledge, and humor of the Polish American community. May this spirit inspire current and future generations to keep Polish American culture alive!

David J. Jackson is Professor of Political Science at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. His major research interest is the interactive relationship between politics and culture. He is the author of the book *Entertainment and Politics: The Influence of Pop Culture on Young Adult Political Socialization, 2nd Revised Edition* (Peter Lang Publishing, 2009), as well as scholarly articles in such journals as *Political Research Quarterly*, *Polish American Studies*, *International Journal of Press/Politics*, and *Journal of Political Marketing*. 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 2009.

PHILATELICS

Haste Makes ... Printing Errors

by Barbara Szydłowski

During World War II, the U.S. Bureau of Engraving & Printing was overwhelmed with tasks related to the war effort. For assistance, it contracted with the American Bank Note Company in 1943 to print the “Overrun Country” series. This was the first time since the Columbian issue of 1893 that United States stamps were not printed by the Bureau of Engraving & Printing.

The American Bank Note company had a relatively short time to prepare for the Overrun Country stamps. Production was scheduled for one month from design approval of the first stamp in the series, the Poland Flag stamp. In spite of this, there were very few errors in any of the flags of the Overrun Country series. In fact, what are called “errors” should be better described as “printing flaws” or “printing

varieties.” There are known reverse prints, double prints, and stamps without the “POLAND” inscription. These are all discussed in detail in an article by Dr. James Mazepa in the *Polonus Philatelic Society* newsletter.

Mazepa also noted that the Poland stamp was the only one in the Overrun Country series that had two first day cities: Washington, D.C. and Chicago. The *Polonus Philatelic Society* was instrumental in having Chicago selected as a first day city.

IN MAY 2020, Poland issued a 3.30zł stamp recognizing the one-hundredth anniversary of the Jagiellonia Białystok football (soccer) team. This 3.30zł stamp designed by



Jaroslav Ochendzan recognizes the team founded by the Reserve Battalion of the 42nd Infantry Regiment in 1920 in Białystok. Nicknamed Jaga, the team plays in the Ekstraklasa League, the top level of Polish football. Its best season was 2009-2010 when the club won the Polish Cup and Super Cup, and qualified to play in the third round qualification of the UEFA Europa League. In 2018-2019, the club finished fifth (out of 16) in the Ekstraklasa League. The club's logo is shown on this colorful stamp: yellow and red, the colors of Białystok's coat of arms and flag. Also shown is the historic Silver medal of the 42nd Infantry Regiment; the background of the stamp shows a team photo from 1951 and is issued in sheet format-

single in pane of five with label.

ALSO IN MAY OF THAT YEAR, three attractive postal cards, each A-denominated 3.30zł, celebrated the centennial founding of the Polish Army Museum (Muzeum Wojska Polskiego). This museum occupies a wing of the Polish National Museum in Warsaw, and has several other locations in Poland. It chronicles a millennium of Polish military history from the 10th century through World War II and includes an estimated 250,000 exhibits, as well as a large outdoor display of tanks and military aircraft. The first card's imprinted stamp depicts Marshal Józef Piłsudski, who founded the museum by decree in April, 1920. The left side of the card shows a symbolic mural in the museum, which depicts Poles fighting.

The second card's imprinted stamp shows the first director of

the museum, Colonel Bronisław Gembarzewski, who commanded sapper (combat engineer) troops in the army, and who oversaw the protection of state historical buildings and monuments. The museum art shown on the left side of the card portrays cavalry troops in uniforms from the 16th-18th century.

The third card's imprinted stamp shows the front of the museum at ul. Jerozlimskie 3 in Warsaw. The left side of the card shows an exhibit of medieval knight's armor in the museum. These three postal cards were designed by Jaroslav Ochend

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE to have a hobby and enjoy the history of a country, its persons, historical sites, and battles — stamp collecting is one way to learn more.

Consider membership in the *Polonus Polish Philatelic Society*. Visit www.polonus.org for information.

Attention Concertina Players

Chemnitzer concertina musicians and those who enjoy the music from this musical instrument are all invited to help the World Concertina Congress achieve its purpose and goal by being a member of the organization.

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The World Concertina Congress is a non-profit organization of chemnitzer concertina enthusiasts

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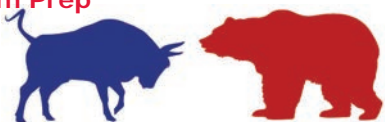
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was established in December 1942 as a special commission of the The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America to collect, compile and publish information about Polish Americans. In October 1944, it was reorganized as a national American society 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.

Polish American Historical Association
Central Connecticut State University
1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06050
www.polishamericanstudies.org

IN MEMORIAM

Living and Loving Polkas: The legacy of Freddie Bulinski

by Anthony R. Murawski

BALTIMORE — International Polka Association Hall of Famer Freddie Bulinski died on December 21, 2022 and, since then, tributes and memories of the bandleader, promoter, and internet DJ have been forthcoming.

"Fred was a great dreamer," IPA Hall of Famer and original bassist with Bulinski's band, the Brass Works, Mike Matousek said in praise of the late trumpeter who originally hailed from Niagara Falls. "Having a signature sound is the ticket, and he had it."

Matousek along with brother Steve (drums) and cousin Dave Jankiewicz (accordion) had already started a small polka band in East Baltimore when they met Bulinski in the mid-1970s. Conversations to build up led to the four adding another versatile trumpet as Dave Korch from the Reading, Pa. area joined them next. What followed was nearly two decades of prominence, getting the opportunity to perform at big-ticket dances and events in Maryland and throughout the northeast.



"The planets lined up," said Matousek. "That's how things go."

With Bulinski leading the way, The Brass Works recorded at Bernie Goydich's LeMans Records in New Jersey and WAM Records in Pennsylvania. In 1980, with the momentum carrying them, the Bulinski and Ziemiński families presented a new dream venue for the polka faithful — "Polkamotion by the Ocean" in Ocean City, Maryland.

"Gil Ziemiński was always at the dances and loved the band," remembered Fred's wife of 53 years, the former Marsha Sumera. "(Ziemiński) was such a nice guy and a hard worker. He did the decorations at Polkamotion, the grunt work. There was a nice division of duties; the music was what bound us together."

Marsha and Fred met at Canisius College in Buffalo in the late 1960s. "We were talking, and he was acting like a big shot," said Mrs. Bulinski. It was not long after that Fred told a friend he wanted to marry the girl from Blasdel, a village in the town of Hamburg, just south of Buffalo.

Bulinski left college and joined the United States Army. His pathway to a career in the defense / intelligence sector included a year of training in the Russian language during a time when Cold War tensions between the eastern bloc and the west dominated global concerns. Fred's duties as Russian linguist took him to Fort Meade, Md.,



Bulinski was inducted into the IPA Hall of Fame in 1992, and served on the IPA Board for several years as a director, being named a trustee in 2013. In 2014, he was appointed Chair of the Hall, and held that title until October of 2020.

a valued post within the National Security Agency.

At the same time, Fred and Marsha had established a polka base at their home in Severn, Md., The Brass Works became a requested attraction at many popular dances and festivals, taking the band on the road for hundreds of miles at a time. "It was the heyday of polkas," recalls Korch.

They had fun along the way. Jankiewicz recalls a Sunday afternoon dance from the band's early years at Baltimore's Polish Home Club where Bulinski brought a black-and-white television and tucked it behind the music stand — his favorite Buffalo Bills were playing an important football game and he did not want to miss it.

The demands of being at the front of the class in Polish polkas brought changes to the band over the years of touring, recording, and coordinating Polkamotion. Still the group's bright, energetic tempo and formation met the expectations of their patrons as Bulinski consistently secured top talent for his ensemble.

"Freddie was a very good man; I looked up to him," said fellow IPA Hall of Fame musician Al Piatkowski, who had a short stint with The

Brass Works in the mid-1980. He brought his accordion and concertina to Maryland and recording the album "It Takes People Like You."

Drummer Ken Yash, with The Brass Works from 1985-89, has fond memories of working alongside Bulinski and playing in the polka band he idolized as a youngster in Connecticut. "Fred had great rapport with people," he said. "He was first rate, all the time and he gave me my first big break, my first real shot."

The Brass Works consistently offered a solid lineup with two trumpets, one or two accordions, and the customary rhythm package of string bass and drums. That formula, plus Freddie's presence at the microphone with a strong voice projecting enchanting lyrics became the hallmark of that band.

"He sang from the heart. He had a great feel for the music," says Yash.

"Fred did a great job handling the crowd with his vocals and everything," remembers accordionist Tony Perlowski, who played with the band from 1978-82. "Fred ran a tight ship. But the great part was the fans, the people."

"We (The Brass Works) were never gifted musicians," Mike Matousek, current promoter of Polkamotion by the Ocean, said in retrospect. "But we gave a great deal of effort for the good of polka music. Fred was not afraid to dream big for polkas — that was his legacy. And, he had the ability to inspire people to follow him."

A funeral Mass was offered at St. Polycarp R.C. Church in Smyrna, Del., Jan. 4. In addition to his wife Marsha, he is survived by daughter Karen Bulinski Mathison; two grandsons, Zachary and Jacob; brother Daniel, and sister Suzanne. He is predeceased by his son-in-law Scott Mathison. Bulinski will be interred in Holy Trinity Cemetery in Niagara County, N.Y. at a later date.

Anthony R. Murawski writes from Towson, Maryland. He can be reached by email: pagodapolkas@gmail.com

Polish Carolers to Observe Anniversary

CHICAGO — Tony Blazonczyk and Chet Kowalkowski will host an event to honor the 50th anniversary of Chicago's Polish Carolers.

For five decades, the Carolers have donated their time to play at nursing homes, senior centers, parties, lounges, and Polish American events, not only in Chicago, but across the United States, Canada, and Poland.

The anniversary will be marked by a semi-formal dance, Sun., Feb. 26, at Royal West Banquets, 8675

S. Archer Ave., Willow Springs, Ill. Food and drinks will be available. Doors open at 1:00 p.m., and music by the The Music Company, along with award presentations, will happen between 2:00-7:00 p.m.

To offset costs of the event, organizers are soliciting patron ads for a souvenir program book.

For information, tickets, or to place congratulatory greeting in the program book, call Tony Blazonczyk at (815) 530-5917, or email: PolishCarolersofChicago@gmail.com.

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DANCE TIME

Dancing in the New Year

by Jennifer Pijanowski

New Year's 2023 made its debut with hundreds of polka fans kicking up their heels in Cleveland, Ohio. Polka promoting duo Puco Yashu presented over-the-top festivities with several hundred taking advantage of the well-thought out extravaganza. Events kicked off on Friday with a live broadcasting of *Polkas After Dark* with Robin and Geri. Many guests took the opportunity to arrive early and enjoy a long weekend with polka friends and family.

New Year's Eve was off to an early start, as there were events for guests to enjoy each day including a brisk walk with PucoYashu (the duo of Mike Pucowski and Jeff Yash), then a visit to Top Golf. The party started much before dinner with a pregame party and music provided once again by Robin and Geri. Dinner, drinks, and fun were flowing as **The Beat and Polka Country Musicians** rang in the New Year with the jam-packed crowd. New Year's Day the fun continued with opportunities to take another walk, enjoy Mass, participate in yoga with Sandy Earl, indulge in a few Bloody Marys with some polka music from DJ Bruce Z from 24/7 Polka Heaven, and even join in a bingo game with Dawn Rosinski and Debbie Bizon. Of course, the highlight of New Year's Day was the music enjoyed by **The Beat and Polka Family**. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend this anticipated event, but I was grateful to get a glimpse into the action via *Polkas After Dark* and social media. I especially enjoyed the jam bands that played later into the evening on Sunday.

Congratulations and a huge thank you to Mike and Jeff for their constant support of polka music and for starting off 2023 right for so many polka supporters.

POTTS BANQUET HALL hosted a New Year's Eve celebration with entertainment by **Phocus**. Dinner, dancing, and ringing in the New Year filled the hall with merriment. It was a smaller than usual crowd, but the low attendance was overshadowed by energy and enthusiasm. I chatted with several couples who attended the event, and they raved about the food, décor, and great time they had getting back to celebrating the welcoming of a New



Hannah Yash, Emily Bizon, Kayla Urbanczyk at Puco Yashu's NYE Extravaganza Cleveland, Ohio.

Year with friends.

The party didn't stop there, as the annual hangover dance with Phocus returned on New Year's Day. It was a great opportunity for those who chose to spend their New Year's Eve at home to get their dose of polka dancing to start off 2023. The band has had a few changes as of late, adding Larry Easter on trumpet and John Rogola on accordion. We had an enjoyable time connecting with friends and listening to an afternoon of fantastic music.

ON PAR. Diamond Hawk Golf Course and Pub has been hosting a monthly polka dance over the past several months at the golf course's clubhouse. **Seven** has been their house band and although I have been hearing rave reviews about this newest polka venue, I had not been able to attend any of the events in 2022. I got the opportunity to stop by for their January event and it was a terrific evening. Every table and the bar were taken when I arrived just about 30 minutes after the band had started. A packed dance floor, and of course the fabulous sound of Seven echoed throughout the venue. The crowd was an eclectic mix of polka fans, regular pub customers, families, and local music aficionados. Seven, which fea-

tures Ricky and Dennis "Krew" Krupski, Tommy Picciano, Andy Bojczuk, Bryan Urbanczyk, Michael Papuga, and Jeff Osika, boasts a unique sound that makes listening and dancing to them effortless. Diamond Hawk has the perfect acoustic sound and layout for polka music. You can easily view and hear the music from any spot but also enjoy a conversation at the table. A Polish menu was featured for the evening but the regular food menu is available at all times. Food was making its

way to just about every table in the pub and the reviews were outstanding. I am looking forward to making this a monthly stop for polka night.

IT'S OFFICIAL. Two of Buffalo's long-standing polka events will return this year. Western New York has missed these events that have always taken for granted over the years. It will be such an exciting time to be back to enjoying and relive all of the great memories we have from years of these beloved dances.

Fan-favorite **Hard Times Dance** hosted by **Concertina All Stars** makes its debut after a few years' hiatus on Sat., Feb. 11, starting at 7:00 p.m. Admission is just \$8.00 and Potts Banquet Hall will be serving up some "hard times" specials including baloney and onion sandwiches for just \$1.99. There will also be drink specials and some fun surprises. This has historically been a very well-attended event, so plan to make this a must on your polka calendar. You can contact (716) 826-6575 for table reservations and further information.

The Polish Heritage Dance's **Pączki Day** celebration will resume on Feb. 19 at Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral, 6298 Broadway Lancaster, N.Y. Music will be provided by **Special Delivery**. The event is from 1:00-7:00 p.m. featuring a folk-dance show, homemade Polish food, theme-basket raffle, and the annual crowning of the Pączki King, Queen, Prince, and



Seven at the Diamond Hawk Pub.

Princess. Pre-sale tickets are available for just \$10.00 by contacting Michelle (716) 983-5084 before Feb. 17. After that date, tickets will be \$12.00 at the door. This is always an enjoyable day to make those indulgences before heading into the Lenten Season. I know I have been attending this event since I moved to Buffalo several decades ago, so the announcement that it was returning was cause to rejoice.

NOW IS THE TIME to organize your calendar so you can join the International Polka Association for the 17th annual IPA Hall of Fame Benefit Dance in Ludlow, Mass., which is being held on March 4-5, 2023. This event will honor **"Freddy K" Kendzierski** of Bonita Springs, Fla., and a musical tribute to the **New Brass**. Bands performing for the star-studded weekend are: **The Boys, Lenny Gomulka, Eddie Forman Orchestra, and Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men**.

Weekend performances will take place at The Polish American Citizens Center, 355 East St., Ludlow, Mass. Discounted rooms are available at Holiday Inn Express 321 Center St., Ludlow, Mass., by calling (413) 589-9300 and using the code IPA. This event is typically sold out so make your arrangements ahead of time and secure your tickets for this sensational event. If you would like information or to reserve tickets/table reservations, please contact Ernie Daigle - (413) 519-7014 or Peter Danielczuk (203) 231-1819 for more information.

THE 10TH ANNUAL Wheeling Polka Festival will take place once again at Oglebay's Wilson Lodge from March 24-26, 2023. Tickets



Carolyn Smith and Danny Roy at Puco Yashu's NYE Extravaganza in Cleveland.

and hotel reservations can be made by contacting Deb Jones (740) 310-7023. It is a polka-packed weekend featuring **Polka Family, NuTones, The Beat, The Boys, John Gora i jego Orkiestra, and Dynabass**. Oglebay Resorts boasts beautiful accommodations amongst the breathtaking scenery of northern West Virginia in the spring. A three-day pass is available for \$49.00 or tickets can be purchased separately for each day. John Gora will be providing the music for a polka Mass to begin the festivities on Sunday morning. You do not want to miss this festival and the opportunity to spoil yourself at Oglebay Resorts. Contact Deb to get weekend package rates and if you are only able to attend for a day, there are also nightly rates for the resort's hotel. I look forward to seeing lots of polka fans convene in my hometown for the weekend.



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2	Tommy Reder	1939	Musician / Bandleader / Vocalist	Michigan
2	Jody Maddie	1959	Musician / Bandleader / Vocalist	Ohio
3	Joe Grenda	1953	Musician / Vocalist / Arranger	Pennsylvania
3	Joey James	1942	Musician / Bandleader / Vocalist	Illinois
5	Freddie Bulinski	1947 12/21/23	Musician / Bandleader / Vocalist / IJ	Maryland
6	Richie Gomulka	1942	Musician / Vocalist / IJ	Illinois
6	Bobby Szelc	1948	Musician / Vocalist (Dynamics)	Pennsylvania
6	Ryan Lucotch	1980	Musician (Drummer)	Pennsylvania
7	Mike Turek	1955	Musician / Bandleader / Vocalist	Ohio
7	Eddie Biegaj	1962	Musician / Vocalist / IJ	New Jersey
12	Patty Jakubiak	1940 1/27/11	Musician / Vocalist / DJ	Connecticut
12	Walt Grollier	1931	Musician / Bandleader / Vocalist	Ohio
12	Eddie (Cuban) Kusiolek		Musician (Drummer, Polish All-Stars)	Pennsylvania
12	Mike Magdon III	1957	Musician (Drummer)	Pennsylvania
13	Eddie Grzyb	1935 4/4/22	Musician / Promoter / DJ	Massachusetts
13	Gerry Kaminski	1959	Musician / Bandleader / Vocalist	Michigan
14	Fran Sopkovich	1934	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Pennsylvania
14	Freddy K. Kendzierski	1950	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / IJ	New Jersey
15	Paul Deardorff	1920 3/18/07	D.J. / Promoter	Pennsylvania
15	Happy Steffan	1942	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Pennsylvania
15	Frank Stetar	1976	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Pennsylvania
15	Li'l Lenny Klamet	1949	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Ohio
16	Jolly Joe Timmer	1930 7/27/16	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / DJ	Pennsylvania
16	Rich Tokarz	1949 4/22/14	Musician / Vocalist / Arranger	Indiana
16	Lori Ebel		Musician / Vocalist	Minnesota
17	Bernie Goydish	1940 6/28/15	Bandleader / Musician / Promoter	New Jersey
18	Leo Stanek	1930 2/10/12	Polka D. J.	Pennsylvania
18	Al Volek Sr.	1949	Musician / Vocalist (Invictas)	Pennsylvania
18	Vinny Bozzarelli	1958	Musician / Vocalist (Sounds)	Pennsylvania
20	Eddie Zima	1923 7/28/66	Bandleader / Musician	Chicago
20	Barefoot Becky		Bandleader / Vocalist / Bandleader	Iowa
22	Ray Malach	1941	Musician / Arranger (Malac Bros.)	New Jersey
23	Jo Jo Visniewski		Polka D. J.	Irvona, Pa.
23	Jerry Halkowski		Musician / DJ	Wisconsin
24	T.K. Frank Proszowski		Promoter / Distributor	Pennsylvania
24	Li'l Jas Lesniewski		DJ	New York
24	Eddie Zavaski, Jr.	1954	Musician / Vocalist	Connecticut
24	Matt Lewandowski		Musician / Vocalist	New York
25	Casey Siewierski	1921 1995	Musician / Bandleader	Chicago
26	Ted Szymanski	1948	Musician / Bandleader (Special Delivery)	Buffalo
26	Joe Fiedor	1931 11/12/77	Musician / DJ / Promoter	Pennsylvania
26	Tom Andrasick	1961	Bandleader / Vocalist (PA Express)	Pennsylvania
27	Teresa Zapolska	5/8/12	Musician / Vocalist / DJ	New York
28	John Salov	1944	Musician (Polka Quads)	Pennsylvania
28	Joe Godina		Polka D. J. / I.J.	Pennsylvania
29	Joe Dipiatic	1952	Musician (Sounds)	Pennsylvania

POLKA CALENDAR

Compiled by John Ziobrowski

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

FEBRUARY 5

- Charm City Sound — St. Luke's, Dundalk, Md., 2-7, (410) 477-5200
- Polka Boys — VFW, Dupont, Pa., 2-6, (570) 650-0436
- Kryk's All Stars — Polish Society, St. Petersburg, Fla., 3-6, (727) 844-9908

FEBRUARY 11

- Eddie Forman — Elks, Englewood, Fla., 5-9, (941) 474-1404

FEBRUARY 12

- Eddie Forman — Polish Club, Vero Beach, Fla., 2-6, (772) 538-1703
- John Stanky — VFW, Dupont, Pa., 2-6, (570) 650-0436
- Northern Sounds — Polish Society, St. Petersburg, Fla., 3-6, (727) 844-9908

FEBRUARY 13

- Eddie Forman — Eisenhower Rec. Ctr., The Villages, Fla., 6-9, (352) 633-9324

FEBRUARY 18

- DynaVersaStickToneAires — St. Andrews, Calumet City, Ind., (708) 862-4165
- Old School — Holy Spirit Party Ctr., Parma, Ohio, 6-10, (216) 496-0223

FEBRUARY 19

- Special Delivery — PNC Hall, Lan-

caster, N.Y., 2-6. (716) 983-5084

- DynaVersaStickToneAires — American Legion, South Bend, Ind., (574) 234-5073
- George Tarosek — VFW, Dupont, Pa., 2-6, (570) 650-0436
- Florida Generations — Polish Society, St. Petersburg, Fla., 3-6, (727) 844-9908
- Edde Biegaj — Polish Cultural Ctr., Clark, N.J., 2-6, (201) 694-2330

FEBRUARY 25

- Lenny Gomulka — Pulaski Club, Phoenix, Ariz., 5-9, (602) 275-9329

FEBRUARY 26

- Lenny Gomulka. Pulaski Club, Phoenix, Ariz., 2-6, (602) 275-9329
- John Stevens — VFW, Dupont, Pa., 2-6, (570) 650-0436
- Nu Soundz — Polish Society, St. Petersburg, Fla., 3-6, (727) 844-9908

MARCH 2

- Jimmy Sturr — Strawberry Fest, Plant City, Fla., 10:30 a.m.-12:30, (813) 752-9194

MARCH 3

- Friday Night Special — Holy Spirit Party Ctr. Parma, Ohio, 7-11, (216) 496-0223

MARCH 4

- Jimmy Sturr — Polish Club, Port St. Lucie, Fla., 12-3, (727) 879-9616
- The Boys — PACC, Ludlow, Mass., 7-11, (203) 231-1819

MARCH 5

- Dennis Polisky / Lenny Gomulka

/ Eddie Forman — PACC, Ludlow, Mass., 2-7, (203) 231-1819

- Joe Stanky — VFW, Dupont, Pa., 2-6, (570) 650-0436
- Buffalo Touch — Polish Society, St. Petersburg, Fla., 3-6, (727) 844-9908

MARCH 11

- Crusade — Holy Spirit Party Ctr. Parma, Ohio, 6-10, (216) 496-0223

MARCH 12

- New Direction — Potts Banquets, Cheektowaga, N.Y., (716) 826-6575
- Golden Tones — VFW, Dupont, Pa., 2-6, (570) 650-0436
- Jasiu's All Stars — Polish Society, St. Petersburg, Fla., 3-6, (727) 844-9908

MARCH 18

- Lenny Gomulka — Holy Spirit Party Ctr., Parma, Ohio, 6-10, (216) 496-0223

MARCH 19

- IPA Tribute Band — Royalty West Banquets, Willow Springs, Ill., 1-5, (708) 839-5200
- Lenny Gomulka — Falcon Hall, Mt. Pleasant, Pa., 2-6, (724) 547-8962
- SwingMasters — VFW, Dupont, Pa., 2-6, (570) 650-0436
- IPA All Stars — Polish Society, St. Petersburg, Fla., 3-6, (727) 844-9908

MARCH 24

- Polka Family/NuTones — Oglebay Resort, Wheeling, W.V., 7-12, (304) 243-4064

MARCH 25

- John Gora / The Boys / The Beat — Oglebay Resort, Wheeling, W.V., 3-12, (304) 243-4064

MARCH 26

- DynaBrass / Polka Family — Oglebay Resort, Wheeling, W.V., 12-6, (304) 243-4064
- Frank Moravcik — Polish Society, St. Petersburg, Fla., 3-6, (727) 844-9908

APRIL 2

- Northern Sounds — Polish Society, St. Petersburg, Fla., 3-6, (727) 844-9908
- PA Villagers — VFW, Dupont, Pa., 2-6, (570) 650-0436

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The Polish American Journal is asking you to support its mission to preserve and promote our culture for future generations. We do this by producing special holiday editions of the newspaper, which focus on beautiful and treasured customs of that season. The income generated by these editions offset year-long production and mailing costs.

Like us, you have witnessed these traditions fade with the passing of each generation. We must not let this happen! Our customs define who we are, and serve as reminders of the inseparable relationship between our heritage and our faith.

The Easter 2023 edition will contain greetings from subscribers, friends, businesses, and organizations who are proud to proclaim their solidarity to their Polish roots. We ask you to help strengthen these ties during this season rich in Polish tradition.

If you have any questions, please call 1 (800) 422-1275. Don't be left out!

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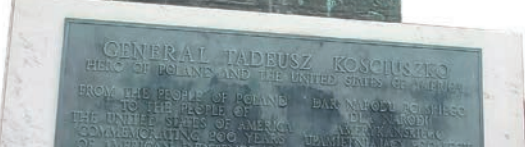
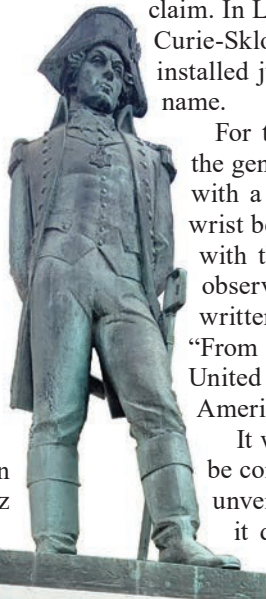
Gen. Kosciuszko Statue, Philadelphia

by Gregory L. Witul

18th Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Status: Open

February 4th is Thaddeus Kosciuszko's 277th birthday. Across the U.S. there are numerous places and memorials named in honor of the great general. There is a county in Indiana, a town in Mississippi and streets in Buffalo, Brooklyn, and Manchester. Of the near one-dozen statues dedicated to the military engineer, only one was a gift from the people of Poland to America, Marian Konieczny's bronze statue General Tadeusz Kosciuszko in the City of Brotherly Love, Philadelphia.

In 1976, the United States celebrated its bicentennial. In recognition of the Polish contribution to America's freedom, the government of Poland gifted the nation two statues. The first one, that of Thaddeus Kosciuszko was given to Philadelphia, being the cradle of American democracy. The second, a statue of Pulaski would be given to the city of Buffalo, N.Y., due to its robust Polish American population. For the statue of Kosciuszko the Communist government of Poland engaged a sculptor that was both celebrated and trustworthy, Marian Konieczny. By the time he began working on the rendition of Kosciuszko, Konieczny had completed a number of grand works for local and national governments. His Monument to the Heroes of Warsaw, aka the Warsaw Nike, depicting a woman holding a sword over her head and her left hand raised and was dedicated to those who lived and died in the capitol city from 1939 to 1945, had already won international ac-



claim. In Lublin he created a 13-foot bronze of Maria Curie-Skłodowska in full academic regalia that was installed just yards from the University bearing her name.


For the Kosciuszko statue, Konieczny crafted the general at twice life-size, standing attentively with a sword at his side, his hand clutching his wrist behind him, and looking slightly downward with the Polish statesman's gaze observing the observer observing him. On the plaque below, written in both Polish and English are the words "From the people of Poland to the people of the United States in commemoration 200 years of American independence."

It would take two years for the monument to be completed and on July 3, 1979 the statue was unveiled with all the pomp and circumstance it deserved. Presenting the statue on behalf of the Polish people was the Honorable Romuald Spasowski, Ambassador from Poland to the United States, with Director of Commerce Joseph. A. LaSala accepting it as a representative of the city. To add some to music to the occasion, the Chopin Singing Society from Buffalo was invited to perform. The Polish government would commemorate the occasion by issuing a postal stamp of the statue at the end of the year.


Today the bronze statue still stands in downtown Philadelphia just off Logan Square and about a half mile north west of city hall. If you want to take in Polish Philadelphia, the Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial, the home he stayed at during his 1797 respite in the U.S, the Haym Salomon Historic Site, the Polish American Cultural Center, Kosciuszko's monument, St. Valentine's PNCC, and St. John Cantius RC Church can all be visited in a weekend, with plenty of time for lunch at Mom Mom's Kitchen and Polish Food Cart, Pierogi Factory, or The Dinner House.

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