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SOME PEOPLE LIKE HER POETRY

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KNOWLEDGE OF RECENT HISTORY LOW • KRAKOW ALTARPIECE RECEIVES EUROPEAN "OSCAR OF CULTURE"
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OCTOBER 15 • PRELIMINARY LANDMARK STATUS FOR LANDMARK CHURCH
A PAGE-TURNER FROM TRAWINSKI • TRANSLATING GENEALOGICAL RECORDS • ACPC CONVENES IN DETROIT

NEWSMARK

Poland is NATO's top defense spender, Germany is at bottom

The North Atlantic Alliance's number one defense spender is currently Poland which has earmarked 3.9% of GDP for defense this year, and the United States is in second place with 3.49%. In descending order, they are followed by: Greece (3%), Estonia (2.7%), Lithuania (2.5%), Romania, Finland, and Hungary (2.4%). Latvia has scored 2.27%, and the UK and Slovakia are just over 2%. With only 1.95%, France did not make NATO minimum 2% requirement, and not surprisingly Germany was at the bottom of the barrel with 1.57. Although it is Europe's wealthiest and most powerful country, from the start of Putin's aggression it has dragged its feet regarding aid to embattled Ukraine and displayed its reluctance at every step of the way.

Uznański Named Candidate for ISS Mission

More likely than not, Sławosz Uznański, 39, will be the second Polish citizen to take part in a space mission and travel to an International Space Station. There, different new technologies will be tested in conditions not readily available on planet Earth. He was preceded by Mirosław Hermaszewski who took part in a Soviet space mission in 1978. Twenty years later, James Pawelczyk, the first American astronaut of 100% Polish ancestry, traveled into space aboard the Space Shuttle *Columbia*. Uznański, who was selected from among more than 20,000 competitors still requires final confirmation by the European Space Agency.

Army Engineers build Pontoon Bridge in flooded Slovenia

Poles were among the first to respond to a plea for international assistance from the tiny Balkan state of Slovenia which has a population of just over two million. The devastating flooding affecting some 80% of the country's area has been called its worst-ever natural disaster. As rescuers try to reach flooded areas and clean up the damage, a 50-strong Polish contingent of army engineers has been asked to build a pontoon bridge to expedite the operation. In recent years, Polish emergency staff have battled wildfires, aided in rescue operations and provided medical assistance and supplies to disaster-stricken nations across Europe. Earlier this summer, 450 Polish firefighters had successfully protected the Greek capital Athens from raging wildfires.

Storks Leave Ahead of Schedule

POZNAŃ — Ornithologists have observed certain migratory bird species known to nest in Poland until the first signs of autumn, have commenced their migrations notably earlier than their usual schedule.

This particularly applies to Poland's ubiquitous white storks, which would typically gather in large flocks at the end of August before embarking on their journey.

This year, however, some storks have skipped the flocking custom, choosing to start their journey to Africa much ahead of schedule, according to ornithologist Piotr Tryjanowski of the University of Life Sciences in the western city of Poznań.

"With the storks arriving in Poland much later than normal I already knew we would be in for some surprises," he said. "The unusual bird arrivals are now followed by unusual departures. It appears that despite a late start to breeding, some young storks have already set off for Africa."

Storks are a national symbol in Poland, which until recently was their largest nesting ground in Europe.

Knights Help Ukrainian Refugees

RADOM, Poland — The Knights of Columbus has opened Blessed Michael McGivney House, a center to support Ukrainian refugees and help them integrate into Polish society. Dozens of Knights from Our Lady of Częstochowa Queen of Poland Council 14004 renovated a partly completed parish building to create space for language courses, art therapy classes, psychological services, and other initiatives.

The Knights have also established a fund to support training for Ukrainians to locate and deactivate tens of thousands of landmines and other potentially explosive devices, which have contaminated Ukraine since the war began. These explosives pose a serious risk to the safety of children and others seeking to return to their homes. To donate to the Ukraine Solidarity Fund, visit: www.kofc.org/secure/en/donate/ukraine.html

Russia Moving Nuclear Weapons to Belarus

from PolskieRadio.pl, PAP, AP, and Reuters reports



de Sousa, Portugal's president says border situation "is as important to Portugal as that in its own neighborhood."

WARSAW — At a joint news conference with visiting Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, Poland's president said Russia has begun shifting some short-range nuclear weapons to neighboring Belarus.

"Indeed, this process is taking place, we are seeing that," said Andrzej Duda. He gave no details, but said Moscow's move "is changing the architecture of security in our part of Europe."

Compared with much more powerful nuclear warheads fitted to long-range missiles, tactical nuclear weapons are intended for use on the battlefield. They are short range and have a low yield

Both Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Belarusian counterpart Alexander Lukashenko said in July that Moscow had already shipped some of its tactical nuclear weapons to Belarus after announcing the plan in March. Russia said it would maintain control of the arsenal.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg denounced Moscow's rhetoric as "dangerous and reckless," but said in July the alliance hadn't seen any change in Russia's nuclear posture.

In response to Belarusian military exercises near Poland's border — and an increase in the number of mainly Middle Eastern and African migrants trying to cross — Poland's Deputy Interior Minister Maciej Wąsik announced the deployment of 2,000 extra troops to the Belarusian border. He said all attempts to illegally enter Poland by migrants were being organized by Belarusian authorities.

In addition to troops, combat helicopters were

see "Nuclear Weapons ..." page 6

Stepping Things Up



Four Polish groups, all members of the Polish Folk Dance Association of the Americas, participated in a beautiful performance in the heart of D.C.

by Matthew Stefanski

Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, Reflecting Pool and Obereck. One of these things is not like the other, and yet on Saturday, June 20, 2023, they all came together as the Polish American Arts Association of Washington, D.C. (PAAA) hosted their annual Wianki Festival of Wreaths on the National Mall. This annual celebration of Polish Midsummer/ St. John's Eve has been organized in our nation's capital for nearly four decades and features performances by Polish folk dance groups, wreath weaving, and a celebration of this traditions-filled day. Attendees eagerly took in the display of Polish singing and dancing, until finally it came time for the entire audience to participate in a grand performance of the Polonaise.

"Wianki in D.C. is a fantastic opportunity to come

see "Wianki in D.C.," page 2

Refreshed Memories



Master stonecutter Dane Larsen puts final touches on a repaired thumb of the Marian statue dedicated to the Błękitna Armia at Holy Cross Cemetery in Grand Rapids.

For two communities in Michigan, the heroic deeds of brave men who left the safety of America to fight for the independence of Poland more than a century ago almost faded from memory.

by Matthew Gryczan

At Section 5 of the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield, there were rows of unmarked graves of volunteers who left family and friends in metro Detroit to fight in World War I for the Allies and later for Poland itself.

In Grand Rapids, no one could

see "Blue Army ..." page 4

ALMANAC

September 🌕 Wrzesień

Gdy wrzesień bez deszczów będzie w
zimie wiatrów pełno wszędzie.
A September without rain
will bring a windy winter.

- 1 1939. Without declaring war, Nazi Germany invades Poland, beginning World War II.
2 1833. Birth of Polish scientist Rudolf Weigl, who discovered the typhus microbe.
3 1941. Nazis make the first use of Zyklon-B gas in Auschwitz on Russian prisoners of war.
4 1809. Birth of Juliusz Słowacki, Romantic poet.
5 1936. Birth of Pittsburgh Pirate Bill Mazerowski, considered the greatest second baseman.
6 1921. Birth of American sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski, best known for tribute to Crazy Horse in South Dakota.
7 1764. Election of Stanisław II Augustus, last monarch of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.
8 NATIVITY OF MARY
In Polish custom, today's birth of the Virgin is considered the best day for Fall planting.
1264. Issuance of Statute of Kalisz, a symbol of Jews' safe living in Poland.
9 1912. Vincentian Fathers open of St. John Kanty Preparatory School and College at 3002 E 38th St. in Erie, Pa. (Closed in 1980)
10 1957. Birth of Pawel Huelle in Gdansk. Solidarity press writer and author of Weiser Dawidek, which was made into a film.
11 1382. Jadwiga (Hedwig) d'Anjou crowned queen of Poland.
12 1683. Jan Sobieski III defeats Turks besieging Vienna. Led by

Sobieski, a combined Austrian and Polish army defeated the Ottoman Turks at Kahlenberg and lifted the siege on Vienna, Austria. The Turks left behind sacks of coffee which the Christians found too bitter, so they sweetened it with honey and milk and named the drink cappuccino after the Capuchin order of monks to which d'Aviano belonged. An Austrian baker created a crescent-shaped roll, the kipfel, to celebrate the victory. Empress Maria Theresa later took it to France where it became the croissant.



- 13 1894. Birth in Łódź of poet Julian Tuwim, co-founder of a group of experimental poets, and major figure in Polish literature during the interwar period. Gdzie kucharek sześć, tam nie ma co jeść. Where there are six cooks, there is nothing to eat.
14 1951. Death of painter and illustrator Artur Szyk.
15 1777. General Casimir Pułaski appointed general in the American Army.
16 1870. Birth of Pawel Piotr Rhode, who became the first Polish bishop in the United States.
17 1939. Soviet invasion of Poland.
18 ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA
1900. After a meeting in Scranton, Pa., several Roman Catholic church leaders decided to split from Rome and form the Polish National Catholic Church.
19 1987. Pope John Paul II presides at Eucharistic celebration at De-

- troit's Silverdome Stadium, and visits the Polish American enclave of Hamtramck.
20 1874. Birth of social and civic leader Dr. Francis Fronczak in Buffalo.
21 1945. General Dwight D. Eisenhower visits Warsaw.
22 1918. Birth of Henryk Szeryng, violinist in Zelazowa Wola, Poland.
23 1947. Birth of Blessed Jerzy Popieluszko, pro-Solidarity priest murdered by Communist police in October 1984.
24 1706. Treaty of Altranstädt settles the rights of Protestants in Silesia.
26 1912. Alliance College opens in Cambridge Springs, Pa., a liberal arts college offering programs in Polish and Slavic languages.
27 1942. Zegota, an underground organization for rescuing Jews from the Nazis, formed in occupied Poland.
29 SAINT MICHAEL
Gdy noc jasna na Michała, to nastąpi zima trwała. Clear St. Michael's night, a long winter of white.
1669. Coronation of Michael Korybut Wiśniowiecki (Michael I), ruler of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth until his death in 1673.
1856. Founding of St. Mary's, the first Polish church in America in Panna Maria, Texas.
30 1288. Death of Leszek II the Black.
31 1918. Austrian Forces are removed from Krakow.

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This paper mailed on or before August 31, 2023. The October edition will be mailed on or before September 29, 2023.

EDITOR'S DESK

Poles are No Strangers to Russian "Accidents"

General Władysław Sikorski, Poland's World War II commander-in-chief of the Army and Prime Minister of the government-in-exile, died in a plane crash shortly after takeoff from Gibraltar in 1943. While officially classified as an accident, it is widely believed the crash was an assassination, ordered by Stalin.



In 2010, an aircraft operating Polish Air Force Flight 101 crashed near the Russian city of Smolensk, killing all 96 people on board. Among the victims were the president of Poland, Lech Kaczyński, and his wife, Maria, the former president of Poland in exile, Ryszard Kaczorowski, the chief of the Polish General Staff and other senior Polish military officers, the president of the National Bank of Poland, Polish Government officials, 18 members of the Polish Parliament, senior members of the Polish clergy, and relatives of victims of the Katyn massacre. The group was arriving from Warsaw to attend an event commemorating the 70th anniversary of the massacre, which took place not far from Smolensk.

members and six other passengers also died.

"The demonstrative elimination of Prigozhin and the Wagner command two months after the coup attempt is a signal from [Russian President Vladimir] Putin to Russia's elites ahead of the 2024 elections," said Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

President Joe Biden, briefed Lech Kaczynski on the plane crash, told reporters he didn't "know for a fact what happened, but I'm not surprised ... There's not much that happens in Russia that Putin's not behind."

Prigozhin allegedly struck a deal with Putin where he did not face prosecution for having his forces march toward Moscow, and was relocated to Belarus, according to the Kremlin. The Russian president and Prigozhin (who, by the way, was once Putin's chef) allegedly met face to face on June 29, less than a week after the failed coup.

Prigozhin's last known public appearance came in a video dated August 21 from an undisclosed location in Africa.

No surprises here. Putin, like Stalin, will kill anyone who gets in his way. Whether a foreign leader or one of his own, they are just "statistics" as Stalin called both victims and innocents alike.

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POLISH HERITAGE MONTH

October is Polish American Heritage Month, a time for Americans of Polish descent to reflect on the contributions our ethnic group has made to the American way of life.

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

The Polish American Journal serves as reminder of all good things about being Polish. On our pages are stories of Polish Americans who have attained top positions in all walks of life. And we keep you abreast of developments in Poland, critical today with Russia's attack on neighboring Ukraine.

We cannot do it alone. We rely on people like you help us continue publishing. The best way to do this is by becoming a patron in our special issues, such as the Polish Heritage Month edition.

To be included, please return the form below with your check or money order by September 15, 2023.



Each generation of Polish immigrants crossed the Atlantic with dreams of a better life in America. In doing so, they added to the riches we all enjoy today. (Above): A trio of women awaiting processing at Ellis Island. c. 1908. Library of Congress photo.

Wianki in D.C.



Groups participating in this year's event included Ojczyzna Polish Dancers, Wiślanie Polish Folk Song and Dance Ensemble, both from Baltimore, Mazury Folk Dance Ensemble from Atlanta, and PKM Polish Folk Dance Ensemble from Philadelphia.

continued from cover

together with fellow Polish folk dance groups from the East Coast and perform an authentic program for both local crowds and visitors to the Lincoln Memorial," said Maciej Smusz, director and choreographer of the Mazury Folk Dance Ensemble, adding, "although Atlanta is far from Washington D.C., our dancers were blown away by the host's sense of southern hospitality and enjoyed all the amenities that our nation's Capital has to offer."

Ensemble from Atlanta, and PKM Polish Folk Dance Ensemble from Philadelphia. The event was led by Stasia and Olek Skrypczuk of the Joyful Skrypczuk Duo and the Polish and American national anthems were sung by soprano Laura Kafka-Price. The event was made possible thanks to the support of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, D.C. Polish Deputy Consul Edyta Hołdyńska described the festival as a "beautiful Polish performance in the heart of D.C."

For the first time, the Wianki festival featured performances by four Polish groups, all part of the Polish Folk Dance Association of the Americas: Ojczyzna Polish Dancers, Wiślanie Polish Folk Song and Dance Ensemble, both from Baltimore, Mazury Folk Dance

Ensemble from Atlanta, and PKM Polish Folk Dance Ensemble from Philadelphia. The event was led by Stasia and Olek Skrypczuk of the Joyful Skrypczuk Duo and the Polish and American national anthems were sung by soprano Laura Kafka-Price. The event was made possible thanks to the support of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, D.C. Polish Deputy Consul Edyta Hołdyńska described the festival as a "beautiful Polish performance in the heart of D.C."

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Biggest Economic Growth in Post-Pandemic Period

WARSAW 1 Although like other countries, Poland's economy slowed down in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has nevertheless scored the European Union's highest growth rate since then, said Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki.

Poland became the first country to eliminate its reliance on Russian energy sources, so its gasoline is among Europe's cheapest. Inflation was expected to fall below 10% by year's end but it dropped into the single-digit range months earlier than expected. The National Bank of Poland is now likely to lower the interest rate which will make for more affordable credit.

Orlen to Invest

\$6.25 Billion in Plock Refinery

PLOCK, Poland — Polish multinational oil refiner and petrol retailer Orlen S.A. is executing one of the largest petrochemical projects in Europe in the last 20 years. Orlen plans to invest US\$6.25 billion expanding its Olefins complex in Plock, Poland, increasing petrochemical production capacity by 60% and at the same time, alleviating the environmental impact of petrochemical production.

The new technologies will enhance energy efficiency and bring down carbon emissions by 30% per ton of product.

"By 2050, the value of the petrochemicals and base plastics market has the potential to double," said Orlen CEO and president Daniel Obajtek. "Meanwhile, within the next decade, the refining of crude oil into traditional fuels will gradually decrease. We are carefully analyzing these changes and intensifying our actions to secure the largest possible share in the petrochemical business and quickly increase revenue generated by this segment.

"Hence, we are broadening the scope of work on the expansion of the Olefins Complex. We will modernize the entire existing infrastructure, making our complex the most advanced and eco-friendly in Europe," said Obajtek.

Economists say Orlen's approach will undoubtedly reinforce its position as a regional leader in petrochemical production, bolstering the competitiveness of the company, and ultimately the Polish economy.

Knowledge of Recent History Low

by David Jackson

As a professor of political science at a large and diverse Midwestern public university, I have the opportunity to do survey research among the student body here when I have what I think are interesting questions that need answers. Recently I was wondering how well some milestone events and important people in recent Polish history are remembered. Since I had some other questions too, I filled out the necessary forms to receive approval to send out a survey to a sample of our students. The results are in, and the news is not very good.

First, some information on the mechanics of the survey. Exactly 845 students answered at least one question. The total number of responses to most questions is lower than that though, because many students answered only a handful of questions. Fifty-five percent of the respondents identify as female, and 86% are white. Only about five percent identify as Hispanic or Latino, while seven percent identify as Polish American. We'll hear more about them later. The age distribution is as one would expect, with the majority between the ages of 19 and 21.

THE TWO EVENTS I asked the respondents about are the 1989 Polish elections and the Solidarity movement. An astonishing 90% said they were not at all familiar with the first semi-free elections in Poland. Only one percent described themselves as moderately or extremely familiar with this watershed event in not just Polish, but European history. The news is a little better with regard to the Solidarity movement. Only 77% of respondents said they were not at all familiar with the movement that helped bring democracy to Poland and contributed to bringing down the Iron Curtain. Only five percent said they were moderately or extremely familiar with Solidarity, with the remainder placing themselves in the slightly or somewhat familiar categories.

In terms of familiarity with significant individuals from Poland's recent history, the news is mixed. Only 45% of respondents reported not being at all familiar with Pope John Paul II, while 25% said they



Lech who? A stunning 92% of respondents were not at all familiar with the Nobel Prize-winning Solidarity leader and former president of Poland.

were slightly familiar with the Pope who reigned for 27 years, but most of those before these respondents were born. A 20-year-old was born in 2003, which was just two years before the end of John Paul's papacy.

The news is much worse regarding familiarity with Solidarity leader, Nobel Peace Prize winner, and former Polish President Lech Wałęsa. A stunning 92% of respondents were not at all familiar with Wałęsa, and about two percent were moderately or extremely familiar with him.

TO BE FAIR, it is not only events and people in Poland with which respondents were unfamiliar. Almost 65% of respondents were not at all familiar with the Iran-Contra scandal, which crippled President Reagan's second term. About 69% had never heard of the Peoples Temple, which started out promoting social justice, but ended up in murder/suicide in the jungle of Guyana on November 18, 1978. On the other hand, most respondents (62%) were somewhat, moderately, or extremely familiar with the Cuban Missile Crisis. Given the high significance of that event in the history of not just the Cold War, but the entire world, and how even popular culture covers the 13 days that could have ended the lives of hundreds of

millions of people, it is a decidedly good thing that young people know something about that event.

Earlier I said we would return to the Polish American respondents. Seven percent of respondents (n=48) identify as Polish Americans. This allows us to do a little extra analysis to determine if Polish American respondents know more about these significant Polish events and people. The answer appears to be yes. For example, regarding the 1989 Polish elections, 91% of non-Polish Americans had never heard of them, while only 79% of Polish Americans were completely unfamiliar with them. Still not great, but better. Regarding the Solidarity movement, 78% of non-Polish Americans were completely unfamiliar with it, whereas only 60% of Polish American respondents were not at all familiar with the movement. Regarding John Paul II, 46% of non-Polish Americans had never heard of him, but among Polish American respondents the number drops to 31%. Poor Lech Wałęsa. Whereas 92% of non-Polish Americans had never heard of him, 87% of Polish American respondents did not know who he is.

A little speculation about these numbers is in order. First, I think it is a good thing that in general Polish American young respondents know more about recent events and history makers in Poland. The numbers could be better, but clearly the Polish American community is achieving some success with teaching the younger generation about Polish people and events. On the other hand, there is less reason for optimism concerning the overall findings. Of course, the sample is not representative of the total population of young people's familiarity with these people and events. However, given that the sample is drawn from a population seeking higher education at a selective state university, it would be reasonable to expect that the sample would be MORE knowledgeable than the overall population of similar-aged Americans.

One could critique the K-12 and higher education systems for these findings, but I do not think that would be entirely fair. K-12 teachers must cover a gargantuan amount of content in often overcrowded and underfunded classrooms. At the higher education level, the subjects analyzed here are taught in multiple political science, history, and other courses. But students (appropriately) get many options to choose from when putting together their general education and elective courses, so some important stuff is going to be missed.

On that note I will close, except to say that I also asked respondents to write down whatever they know about the events and people mentioned here. Perhaps in a future installment, I will categorize and analyze the hundreds of responses to those questions to see what people think they know, and whether they are right.

David J. Jackson is professor of political science at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. He studies U.S. political behavior, the relationship between popular culture and politics, and the Polish diaspora in the U.S. He is the author of the book *Classrooms and Barrooms: An American in Poland*, as well as the host of a polka podcast and radio show.

QUOTES

Compiled from news sources

"This espionage ring reveals Russia's intentions not just to gather intelligence on Poland's operations and its routes to supply Ukraine, but also to execute propaganda campaigns and premeditated sabotage acts targeting our rail systems."

— Poland's Deputy Minister Coordinator for Special Services, Stanisław Żaryn, on a spy network linked to Russia's GRU military intelligence agency, discovered by Polish counterintelligence. The alleged spies were Russians, Belarusians, and pro-Russian Ukrainians operating in Poland.

"Poland is not in a position to agree to a 'land-for-peace' deal because this is not Polish land. In recognition of Ukraine's sovereignty, of Ukraine's right to self-defence, we leave this matter entirely up to Ukrainian authorities."

— Polish Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau when asked by broadcaster Radio Wnet if Poland would agree to a "land-for-peace" settlement in Ukraine. Rau was among world leaders attending an international peace conference in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where delegates from some 40 countries, including Poland, the United States and China, discussed ways to bring about a peaceful end to Russia's war against Ukraine.

"It is often incomprehensible why Poland's capital market accounts for more than a half of the overall turnover in the European Union's 13 eastern member countries, or why it is twice as big as the Vienna market and eight times bigger than the Prague or Budapest market."

— Marek Dieltl, CEO of the Warsaw Stock Exchange, on unprecedented growth and resilience of Poland's capital market, including the Warsaw Stock Exchange. Dieltl is co-author of a new book, *Understanding the Polish Capital Market*, published by the British publishing house Routledge.

"We should be concerned about this as Republicans. I'm having more 'rational Republicans' coming up to me and saying, 'I just don't know how long I can stay in this party.' ... Now our party is becoming known as a group of kind of extremist, populist over-the-top [people] where no one is taking us seriously anymore."

— Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska).

"Dessert first."

— Late eccentric home builder Sunray Kelley, who ate dessert before dinner. His lifelong partner Bonnie Howard paraphrased his mantra: "You never know when your bubble's going to pop, so eat dessert first." Kelley's mother was Wanda (Janicki) Kelley, the daughter of Polish immigrants.

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Blue Army: Volunteers hope other communities follow suit

continued from cover

remember who was being honored by the gray granite monument on a prominent hillside of Holy Cross Cemetery that features a life-sized statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary with her arms outstretched in a pose of “Welcome Home.”

But this story has a happy ending – both communities have made amends.

And perhaps other towns and cities in America will rediscover monuments and graves of the men who fought as members of the Blue Army under the command of Gen. Jozef Haller from 1917 to 1920.

For Henrietta Nowakowski, the work to identify and mark the graves of Blue Army soldiers in Southfield itself was a campaign worthy of a war against forgetting heroes.

A daughter of Blue Army (Błękitna Armia) soldier Sergeant First Class Ignacy Zapytowski, Nowakowski was deeply saddened when she visited the site of the Polish soldiers’ graves in Holy Sepulchre in 2007. She hadn’t been there since she was a child, when her father would take her there to attend memorial ceremonies where wreaths were laid on the graves. Now she saw them through the eyes of an adult: the graves were in a deplorable state, unkempt with 37 of 59 graves unmarked.

“They had been totally forgotten since the 1960s,” Nowakowski said. “That’s what motivated me to do something, finally, because these men gave so much. They risked their lives when they didn’t have to, and they deserve to be recognized and honored.”

That led her on a 15-year journey to research and meticulously confirm the identities and gravesites of the soldiers.

That the graves at Holy Sepulchre originally were unmarked was understandable, given the times. When the Blue Army was demobilized in 1920, returning veterans weren’t eligible for the same benefits as the “Doughboys” under Gen. John Pershing’s American Expeditionary Forces because they did not fight under the American flag.

To help the returning soldiers here and elsewhere, organizers founded the Stowarzyszenie Weteranów Armii Polskiej w Ameryce (SWAP) in 1921 to care for disabled and unemployed veterans. Even though the Ladies Auxiliary Corps No. 5 of the SWAP in Detroit purchased the gravesites in 1929 on behalf of the veterans, many families could not afford tombstones to mark the graves as the Great Depression wore on.

With the passage of decades, memories dimmed, and records were lost. Nowakowski used records kept by her mother, Aniela, who served as secretary of the Ladies Auxiliary Corps No. 5, and a host of other organizations that included the Polish Museum of America in Chicago, the Instytutem Pamięci Narodowej w Polsce (Institute of National Remembrance or INR) in Warsaw, the Polish Institute of Culture & Research (formerly the Polish Mission at Orchard Lake), Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, newspaper clippings, funeral homes and the Archdiocese of Detroit.

After a number of attempts to get assistance, Nowakowski credits Arkadiusz Gorecki, the then-director of the Polish Mission at Orchard

Lake, in making the connection with the INR “and that started the ball rolling.”

But often the ball had to be pushed uphill. Nowakowski’s aim was to mark the graves of all the veterans with their original name, and date of birth and death. The cemetery’s records only showed the date of burial. Sometimes there were several spellings of a soldier’s name, and there may be several soldiers in America with the same last name. All of the information needed to be sorted out and collaborated.

Orchard Lake made an official request to the Polish Museum of America for recruiting documents for the Blue Army,

that flew a black, tattered Missing-In-Action flag. Even today a mound of earth partially covers a concrete slab directly in front of her, as if someone were buried there.

The cemetery had no knowledge of why the art deco-style monument was erected, when and by whom. And since little was known about the monument, little was done to maintain it.

In the course of research into local men who served in the Blue Army, the Polish Heritage Society of Grand Rapids (PHS) chanced upon the monument and

made the connection into its purpose.



Polish flags and flowers flank the partially restored monument to local veterans of the Błękitna Armia rediscovered in Grand Rapids.

and the museum’s head archivist Halina Misterka set about the task of researching reams of documents to determine identities. Misterka’s team at the Polish National Department provided hundreds of digital scans to Nowakowski so she could cross reference names with other sources to determine identity and correct spellings.

After the information on each veteran was sorted out, the INR commissioned the fabrication of 60 prominent gravestones and crosses common at Polish military cemeteries as a gift in remembrance for the veterans’ service to Poland. The markers were installed in December 2022.

In June, several organizations came together for an elaborate dedication ceremony at Holy Sepulchre that included a blessing by Detroit Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron, honor guards of U.S. servicemen and individuals dressed in Polish military uniforms of the 1920s, Polish scouts and local dignitaries.

“It was very thrilling and emotional when I saw the new gravestones,” Nowakowski said. “It’s finally become reality, and my father would be thrilled.”

The story behind the headstones at the Holy Sepulchre and Nowakowski’s efforts are documented in a video: <https://youtu.be/qwjblkRYWzU>.

At Holy Cross Cemetery earlier this year, a Marian statue missing a thumb and encrusted with lichens stood atop a 14-foot-wide granite monument with only a couple of clues about its origin – the inscription of years “1914” and “1918” and two phrases in Polish.

The monument was flanked by two granite urns with faded artificial flowers and two flag poles, one

in the war. Let no one say that there is no money for this noble cause. Let all the old and young give. Let every Polish child give at least 5 cents in their classes to the teaching sisters in parish schools. Let all societies give, however small (the contribution).”

By 1929, the board that oversaw the Polish Roman Catholic Cemetery – now known as Holy Cross – chose a highly visible site for the monument as a fitting tribute to the soldiers.

Hundreds of Poles in Grand Rapids sacrificed to build the monument during the Great Depression. Schoolchildren gave their candy money, societies would contribute winnings from

“pedro” gambling parties, and priests at the city’s three predominantly Polish parishes encouraged parishioners to give during special collections. Monument Committee president Michal Buzalski gave \$100; Stanislaw Kalinoski gave 25 cents.

Research is still being conducted into exactly when the monument was dedicated, but it is clear the dedication was sometime between 1930 and 1932.

The monument bears a Polish inscription that reads translated: “Polish Heroes of World War I, from Polonia in Grand Rapids Michigan.” There do not appear to be any other identifying marks on the monument.

Research was only the first step of the project. Over the years, the monument fell on hard times. The thumb on the right hand of the Marian statue was broken off, the entire monument was encrusted with lichens and mineral stains, flowers left by visitors have become old and tattered, and a mound of earth partially covers the chipped concrete slab.

In April, the PHS made a proposal to the cemetery to restore the monument and make it a focal point of beauty for Holy Cross. Based on the PHS’ recommendations, the cemetery commissioned Green Slate Granite & Marble in Rockford to fashion a replacement thumb and cement it to the statue.

The PHS board approved funding at its June general meeting to clean the monument, purchase two Polish flags for the flagpoles, buy red and white artificial flowers for the urns and re-caulk seams. The board also offered to supply equipment and labor to remove the dirt pile in front of the monument.

In July, a contractor cleaned the

monument by hand with soft bristled brushes, then applied D/2 Biological Solution that is used by the National Cemetery Administration to restore headstones in national parks and the nation’s graveyards. A YouTube video documenting the efforts was posted. Search YouTube for “WOOD-TV 8, Grand Rapids Polish soldiers,” as the link is too lengthy to reprint here.

“We have received an outpouring of thanks and sentiment reaching as far as Poland for what we were able to accomplish for this Blue Army monument,” PHS President Teresa Bonham said. “It has been a great honor for us to restore it to its former beauty. I can honestly say that these brave men will never again be forgotten in Grand Rapids.”

One conservative estimate of media coverage by the PHS indicates that a minimum of 2,000 people have become aware of the monument due to the restoration.

“The work that the organizations in Detroit and Grand Rapids did to commemorate U.S. veterans of the Blue Army is greatly appreciated by the people of Poland, and it only underscores the deep connection between American Polonia and our nation,” said Paweł Zyzak, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago. “American Polonia always has supported Poland through its tumultuous modern history, helping to make us the strong and independent republic we are today.”

Zyzak noted that, in addition to sending volunteers to fight in the Blue Army, American Polonia donated about \$250 million to Poland after World War I through the Organization of the American Relief Effort in Poland, accepted 150,000 Poles to the United States under the Displaced Persons Program after World War II and donated \$453 million to Poland under the UNRRA organization.

To help forge stronger ties with Polish Americans, the Polish government launched its Program of Cooperation with the Polish Diaspora and Poles Abroad in 2015 to reach out to the estimated 10 million Americans of Polish descent. Zyzak, who plans to visit Grand Rapids in August to view the monument, said the Chicago consulate serves 10 states as a meeting place and platform for constructive work for various Polish communities.

For the PHS, the hours spent on the restoration effort were merely a down payment on keeping Polish heritage alive in America.

One YouTube viewer commented: ‘As a Polish American, I would like to say thank you from the bottom of my heart to everyone for restoring this beautiful monument,’ Bonham said. “And we’d like to say to the men who served in the Blue Army: ‘Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all your sacrifices.’”

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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

Krakow Altarpiece Receives European "Oscar of Culture"

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

The wooden carved altarpiece in Krakow's Mariacki Basilica was honored by the European Commission and Europa Nostra foundation with its heritage award for its outstanding conservation. The medieval carving by Veit Stoss (Wit Stwosz) has already been recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Cecelia Bartoli, world-renowned opera soprano, said the winning pieces "are inspiring examples, which truly contribute to building a more beautiful, sustainable, and inclusive Europe. Their success stories demonstrate how adversity can be overcome through pooling expertise, dedication, creativity, and innovation." The altarpiece depicting the Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary was carved by Stwosz between 1477 and 1489.

Pro-Life Advocate to Be Jailed

Fr. Fidelis Moscinski, a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal, was convicted of obstructing an abortion center during a Red Rose Rescue Initiative and was sentenced in a Nassau, N.Y. court to 90 days for the obstruction charge and 15 days for trespassing. The judge rejected the prosecution plea to impose the maximum sentence of one year behind bars. Fr. Fidelis' co-defendant, Laura Gies was sentenced to 45 days for obstruction and 15 for trespassing.

University Student Chosen for the Synod on Synodality

Julia Oseka, a junior at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, was chosen by Pope Francis to be among the members of the Synod on Synodality which will take place in Rome in October. Oseka is a physics and theology major at the university and as a student leader has participated in Synodality in Catholic Higher Education in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Rev. Orzech Keynote Speaker for OLC Feast Day

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio — Polish Youngstown and St. Columba Cathedral honored the feast day of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Eastern Europe's most beloved Marian icon, with a special mass and reception August 26 at St. Columba Cathedral. Very Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Siffrin served as celebrant with other Diocesan Slavic priests. A Polish meal was served in the Cathedral hall afterward.

The Reverend Eric Orzech, past president and board member of the Polish-American Priests Association was the keynote speaker. Rev. Orzech talked about the miracles associated with the "Black Madonna" and her role in Catholic lives today. He is the pastor of the Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus in Cleveland's Slavic Village and the miracle church of St. Casimir Church in Cleveland.

The Diocese of Youngstown Shrine to Our Lady of Czestochowa,



The Death of the Virgin. Detail of the center section of Altarpiece at St. Mary's Basilica in Krakow. It was carved between 1477 and 1489 by the German-born sculptor Veit Stoss (Wit Stwosz), who lived and worked in the city for over 20 years. St. Mary's Altar is one of the finest examples of Gothic art in Europe and a national treasure of Poland.

Poland-born Oseka is an active member of the university's campus ministry. Her selection and support came from more than 100 members of 11 Catholic colleges and universities and three campus ministries who participated in Philadelphia's Synodality in Catholic Higher Education in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Beatification of Martyred Family Unprecedented

Jozef and Wiktoria Ulma and their children **Stanislawa** (8), **Bar-**

bara (7), **Wladyslaw** (6), **Franciszek** (4), **Antoni** (3) and **Maria** (2) will be beatified on September 10. The Markowa, Poland family will take their place among other entire families beatified in the past, such as the Japanese martyrs. Unprecedented in their case, however, is the inclusion of Wiktoria's unborn child, who some villagers say was about to be born when the Nazi massacre of the family was carried out as punishment for their sheltering eight Jewish persons during the Nazi German occupation of Poland in World War II.

Attendance at Catechism Classes in Poland Declines

WARSAW — Attendance at religion classes in Poland's public schools has dropped by 3.3% to 82% in the 2021-2022 school year. Some parents complain that schools schedule catechism lessons as the first class of the day, requiring pupils to go to school an hour earlier, or as the day's last class, when students are tired and look forward to going home for dinner.

Polish school children and teens who do not attend catechism class are required to sign up for secular ethics.

The highest catechism attendance is in SE Poland's Podkarpackie region, encompassing the Dioceses of Tarnów (97%), Przemyśl (97%) and Rzeszów (96%). The lowest is in SW Poland's Wrocław Archdiocese and Warsaw (66%).

20,000 young Poles see Pope at Portugal's World Youth Day

LISBON — Some 20,000 young Polish Catholics traveled to Lisbon, Portugal to take part in World Youth Day with Pope Francis, attended by 1.5 million youths from around the globe.

During the six-day event, they took part in lit-

urgies, prayer vigils and religious retreats, sang, danced, made new like-minded friends and displayed their unrestrained youthful exuberance at embracing Christ. The Holy Father urged them to beware of "the illusions of the virtual world" where algorithms used their names for market research but could never understand a person's uniqueness.

"God is not a search engine that gives simple, straightforward answers," said Pope Francis.

He also said there was room in the Church for everyone, including those who stumble and err.

Created in 1985 by the Polish Pontiff, now St. John Paul II, the event is held in a different city every three years. The next is due to take place in Seoul, S. Korea.

New Polish Home in Jerusalem Attacked by Vandals

Two male residents of Jerusalem have been arrested on suspicion of attacking the New Polish Home in that city, the *Jerusalem Post* reported. Originally established in 1931 to look after Polish pilgrims coming to the Holy Land, it is run by the Polish Sisters of St. Elizabeth.

A decade later a New Polish Home was built to handle the growing pilgrim traffic.

meaning. The shrines are small chapels, or statues on pillars and posts, niches in houses, or crosses. They served as votive protection against epidemics, holy armor in time of war, directional markers on remote roads, or devotional images of The Blessed Mother or the Suffering Christ. The book is available in hard cover or paperback from the Polish American Journal Bookstore, and other booksellers.

Sto Lat to...

Slawomir S. Szkredka, born in Chechowice, Poland and graduate of the Orchard Lake seminary and the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome with a doctorate in scripture studies, on his selection as auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles. Bishop-elect Szkredka speaks Polish, English, and Spanish and has served the archdiocese since 2002 ... **Grzegorz Ryś**, the Archbishop of Łódź, Poland, on being elevated to the rank of Cardinal by Pope Francis.

Wieczny odpoczynek

Elaine Kubik, daughter of National Catholic Church Fr. Matthew and Mrs. Marian Kubik. A funeral Mass was celebrated at Holy Trinity National Catholic Church in Woodlawn, N.Y. with Fr. Nadeem Yaqoob presiding. Kubik was an accomplished music teacher and organist for Holy Trinity, which originally was on Pulaski St., in neighboring Lackawanna, N.Y.

Happy Anniversary to...

Assumption Church in Black Rock (see this month's back cover) N.Y. celebrating 135 years service to the Polish community on Buffalo's Westside. The current church, dedicated 25 years after the parish founding, is adorned with sgraffiti by **Joseph Slawinski** and **Michael Baranowski**. The church's original stencil designs of 1914 were restored by Buffalo's Swiatek Studies for the parish's 125th anniversary.

Priest-Painter's Work

A copy of "The Face of the Crucified" by Polish artist **Fr. Casimir Szarkiewicz** can be found at St. Casimir's Church in Buffalo, N.Y. The painting was created for St. Stanislaus B&M Church in Buffalo. Fr. Szarkiewicz studied art at the Sorbonne in Paris and assisted the Resistance Underground in World War II while he was chaplain to the Nazareth sisters, all the while evading arrest by the Nazis.

Cultural Village Featured at Festival

The Polish culture festival in Cheektowaga, N.Y., featured an expanded array of items for observation and for sale, as well as Polish folk music, dancing, and a Mass with choral music provided by the Chopin Singing Society. Among the displays was the **Cultural Village** created and staffed by parishioners of St. Casimir Church. There, visitors found Ritual Harvest Loaves by baker-farmer **Diane Woloszyn**, Living Memorials for the home by **Annie Graver** and daughters **Peg** and **Sylvia**, vintage images of saints by **Cathy Sitarek** and **Larry Schmitt** Protection prayer towels from Ukraine by **Rev. Marijan Procyk**, **Susan Szczublewski** and her son **John Paul**, and a Polish hussar knight enacted by **Tony Dubreville**.

Roadside Shrines Described

In her most recent book, *Spirit of Place*, **Sophie Hodorowicz Knab** takes the reader on a tour of Poland's and Lithuania's wayside shrines, beautifully illustrated and carefully described for their religious

Fr. Michael Orchik - 50 Years a Parish Priest



Fr. Michael Orchik delivers a sermon of his priesthood during the solemn Mass celebrating the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood. A large altar mural of St. Thérèse of Lisieux - "The Little Flower," is in the background. There also were 10 priests on the altar concelebrating the historic anniversary.

by Richard P. Poremski

BALTIMORE, Md. — An anniversary a half-century in the making is a long time to anticipate and reach. But Fr. Michael Orchik, Pastor Emeritus, Shrine of the Little Flower Church, achieved that momentous milestone here on June 27, 2023. It was the celebration of Fr.

Orchik's fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Fr. Mike's interesting journey to the priesthood included various stops and turns. After graduating high school, an U.S. Army ROTC scholarship to Duquesne University resulted in his being commissioned as an Army 2nd Lieut. He served two and a half years as a headquarters company commander at Edgewood Arsenal (Maryland). In 1966, now 1st Lieut. Orchik, on the very cusp of attaining his promotion to a captaincy, was honorably discharged from active duty due to an Army mandated reduction-in-force order. Needless to say, that reduction order effectively put the kibosh on any percolating considerations of a long-term military career.

Now a civilian, Orchik began a three-year stint at rural North Harford High School, teaching English, coaching basketball, and beginning both its track and field and cross-country programs. He was then offered an attractive position with a local pharmaceutical company, which he politely declined.

HOLY ORDERS AND PRIESTHOOD BECKONED. A friend and mentor, Fr. Alphonse Rose, at St. Margaret's Church in Bel Air, counseled Orchik in regards to his desire to join the priesthood. Fr. Rose drove him to Baltimore to meet Cardinal Lawrence Shehan in 1969. The archbishop of Baltimore approved his candidacy for the priesthood and the future Fr. Orchik

began his seminarian studies at the Theological College at The Catholic University of America.

After being ordained, Fr. Orchik spent his entire priesthood at various parishes in Baltimore City. His longest — and no doubt most endearing — parish assignment was at The Shrine of the Little Flower from 1992 to 2023. But while traveling along the road connecting the parishes there was a stop at Sacred Heart of Mary Church for a few years. The Polonia parishioners, Polish cultural events, polka dances, etc., appealed to him "as a Polish kid from Pittsburgh," as he refers to himself.

Fr. Mike was/is active in the Polonia, no matter what parish he was serving at the time. In a nod to his military service, he proudly serves as chaplain for the American Legion of Polish Veterans, Maryland Department. He also gladly officiates and participates at many Polonia events, organizations, and clubs on a regular basis.

Fr. Orchik said that, after his retirement date on July 1, 2023, at age 81, he is not ready to retire. He will remain active as chaplain to the St. Martin's Home for the Aged in Catonsville, operated by the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Its 245 miles from Pittsburgh to Baltimore, and we are all very grateful that Fr. Mike Orchik took 50 ecclesiastical years to complete his selfless journey of a lifetime ... for us.

Preliminary Landmark Status for Landmark Church

CHICAGO — After years of hard work by advocates, St. Adalbert Church in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood cleared a critical hurdle toward being named a Chicago landmark and securing critical protections for the long-closed building.

The city's Commission on Chicago Landmarks voted unanimously in favor of a preliminary landmark recommendation for St. Adalbert. The commission is run by the city's Department of Planning and Development's Historic Preservation division.

St. Adalbert's closed in 2019 as part of a consolidation of Catholic churches in the neighborhood. The Archdiocese of Chicago, which owns the building, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment about the vote.

Buildings must meet at least two of the commission's seven criteria to be considered for landmarking status. The commission said St. Adalbert meets four criteria — it's a critical part of city heritage, it has important architecture, it's connected to an important architect, and it has unique visual features, said Dan Klaiber with the planning department. It also meets the integrity criteria, he said.

The exteriors of all four primary buildings on the St. Adalbert's campus — the church, rectory, school and convent — are included in the landmark recommendation, Klaiber said.

Former parishioners and concerned neighbors fear the complex or parts of it may be sold to private developers. In a video taken over Memorial Day weekend and obtained by the National Catholic Register, Chicago Cardinal Blase Cupich confirmed that Daniel Davidson, a self-described "serial entrepreneur" who bought the Knesseth Israel synagogue in 2003 and converted it into the Temple House event center, was in the process of purchasing St. Adalbert.

The Temple House, according to its website, "one of the most recognized event venues in the nation." The "luxury party venue" uses "360-projecting mapping" for its swanky events, such as "celebrity-studded soirees" and high-profile product launches.

However, advocates for St. Adalbert's fear events like those held at the Temple House — a 2019 fashion show that featured the daughter of pop star Madonna and included what several media outlets described as a "simulated orgy," amongst other lewd acts — mock the sanctity of site.

Reached by the Register on June 20, Davidson stopped short of confirming that he was buying the church, but nonetheless said that he was "simply stepping in at this late date to try to preserve the building and prevent what could be a catastrophic outcome for a beautiful and majestic property."

POLAND

Parliamentary Elections to be held on October 15

WARSAW — Poland will hold parliamentary elections on October 15, ending months of speculation about when exactly Poles will head to the ballot box this autumn.

President Andrzej Duda announced the date on the X social media platform, formerly known as Twitter.

Poles from the age of 18 will head to the ballot box to elect 460 MPs and 100 senators for a four-year term. Candidates must be at least 21 years of age for the lower house and 30 years old for the Senate, and can be put forward by political parties or voters.

Poland's governing conservatives in March launched an effort to win a third consecutive term in power, starting a nationwide tour to rally voters ahead of the elections and promising a raft of new policies "to make Poland stronger and secure."

Meanwhile, the opposition appears to be set to enter the parliamentary election race divided into three separate blocs.

Two opposition groupings — Poland 2050 and Polish People's Party (PSL) — reaffirmed their coalition agreement ahead of the elections, aiming to offer voters an alternative to the existing political options. In February, Poland's four main opposition parties, including Poland 2050 and the PSL, agreed to join forces in the race for the Senate, the upper house.

Donald Tusk, the former prime minister who heads the largest opposition party, the Civic Platform (PO), in January called for greater public scrutiny of election rules to avoid cases of "manipulation and

fraud" in this year's vote.

The ruling conservatives in 2019 won a convincing victory over opposition parties at the ballot box, securing a second term in power.

They maintained a majority in the 460-seat lower house, but narrowly lost control of the 100-seat upper house, the Senate.

The upper house is less powerful than the lower chamber, but it can delay or amend legislation. The Sejm, the lower house, needs to muster an absolute majority to override Senate amendments.

In March, Duda approved changes to electoral law that officials say aim to bring polling stations closer to voters and increase turnout.

Under the new rules, drawn up by Poland's ruling conservatives, municipalities without a well-developed mass transit system will need to provide voters with free transport to polling stations on election day.

Voters with disabilities and those aged 60 and older will be entitled to a free door-to-door transport service, bringing them from their homes to polling stations, according to officials.

The measure will also increase the number of polling stations nationwide by about 6,000, news outlets reported.

All these new rules are expected to increase voter turnout, officials have told reporters.

"Poland's future is a matter for each of us," said Duda. "Use your rights."

The new regulations also include the creation of a Central Electoral Register, the PAP news agency reported.

Sources: PAP, prezydent.pl

Nuclear Weapons

continued from cover

moved to the border, following an incident in which two Belarusian helicopters breached Polish airspace during an air exercise in the area, according to officials.

Duda also hailed the recent approval by the U.S. State Department of the potential sale of 96 Boeing AH-64E Apache helicopters to Poland that would lead to a huge boost in Poland's and NATO's defense relations and was a sign of special relations between Washington and Warsaw.

Meanwhile, in Belarus, Lukashenko said hosting Russian nuclear weapons in his country is meant to deter aggression by NATO member Poland, even though Warsaw has made no such threats. Poland is offering neighbor Ukraine military, humanitarian, and political backing in its struggle against Russia's invasion, and is taking part in international sanctions on Russia and Belarus.

At the meeting with Duda, de Sousa pledged continuing support for Ukraine's struggle and for other countries in the region, saying the situation on Europe's eastern borders is as important to Portugal as that in its own neighborhood.

"We are united, we stand in solidarity, without any hesitations and I have duly taken note of the Polish concerns over what may be understood as the need to be closely watching any moves that may question the eastern borders of the European Union or of NATO," de Sousa said.

"We are vigilant, we stand in solidarity, and we are operational," he said.

*Bóg nie rychliwy
ale sprawiedliwy
God is not swift, but He is just.*

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In 1978, a voluntary fund-raising campaign was launched by a group of loyal readers of the Polish American Journal entitled "We Love the PAJ Press Fund" in order to help cover rising postage, material and production costs. Today, donations to the PAJ Press Fund are used to support our reader services (postage, telephone, internet, research, etc.); provide newsclippers with stamps, envelopes; cover extraordinary expenses in producing the paper; and to provide stipends to non-staff writers requesting remuneration for published works.

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE

Copernicus @ the Pickwick

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — **Dino Vlahakis** and **Dave Loomis**, long-time co-owners of the Pickwick Theater in Park Ridge, ventured into a long-term agreement with the Copernicus Foundation. The Pickwick, a 95-year-old 1,400-seat theater in an historic landmark art-deco building, has been on the United States National Register of Historic Places since 1975. Under the management of the Copernicus Foundation, it will remain a cinema but also become a venue for live entertainment.

The building will retain its classical exterior structure, which is protected by a Park Ridge landmark status. The exterior cannot be changed, altered, or demolished.



Pickwick Theater

PHOTO: BRIAN NADIG



PACC Board Members.

PHOTO: MARK DOBRZYCKI

Hubert Cioromski, chair of the Copernicus Foundation, will act as the manager for the entire Pickwick building. Although the Pickwick will still remain a movie theater, the main auditorium will be remodeled as a venue for concerts, musicals, and theatrical productions. An annual production of "The Nutcracker" could become an annual holiday event and a production of "Phantom of the Opera" and other popular musicals could become a reality.

The new partnership between the Pickwick and the Copernicus Foundation officially begins in mid-September 2023. The Copernicus Center is a non-profit Polonia foundation presently operating the 1,900-seat Gateway Theater, located in Chicago's Jefferson Park area.

Kamila Sumelka, executive director of the Copernicus Foundation, stated that performances at the Copernicus Center will not be reduced and both the Center and Pickwick will host numerous cultural events as well.

POLISH ARTS CLUB INSTALLATION LUNCHEON. On June 25, the dining area of the Lone Tree Manor Banquet Hall, Niles, Illinois, was filled with Polish Arts Club of Chicago (PACC) members and their guests for the club's annual installation luncheon. After the cocktail hour and camaraderie and, prior to the lunch, the attendees were treated to an outstanding concert performed by **Krzysztof Zimowski**, internationally known violinist and concertmaster of the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra, who, during the off-season, performs as a violinist with the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra. He performed two pieces and, for a third piece, was joined by **Jaroslav Golembowski**, a well-known Chicago pianist and composer, and president and founder of the Chicago Chopin Society.

Afterwards, the invocation was completed by **Thaddeus Makarewicz**, and the luncheon began. Each person attending the luncheon received a raffle ticket, and winners received a bottle of quality wine



Anna Dudzinski and Ewa Radwanska, M.D.

PHOTO: ANDRZEJ BARANIAK

or spirits. After the raffle, **Happy Oerke**, former PACC president, installed **Makarewicz** as the club's new president, who in turn installed the new officers and directors.

In addition to the new president, PACC installed officers included **Geraldine Balut Coleman**, vice president; **Sujata Banerjee**, treasurer; and **Ann "Happy" Oerke**, financial secretary. Directors are **Jaroslav Golembowski**, **Jessica Jagielnik**, **Camille Kapielski**, **Ed Kunzman**, and **Richard Lazarski**.

PMA SUMMER GALA. The 43rd Polish Museum of America (PMA) Summer Gala this year celebrated the 150-year anniversary of the founding of the **Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA)**, the 230th birthday of **Aleksander Fredro**, poet, playwright, and author who was active in the Polish Romanticism movement during the partitioning of Poland, and the presentation of two Polish Spirit Awards.

On June 9, almost 300 guests

gathered at the Allegra Banquets in Schiller Park, Illinois, as the PMA hosted its largest annual fundraiser with all proceeds from this event benefiting general operations of the PMA.

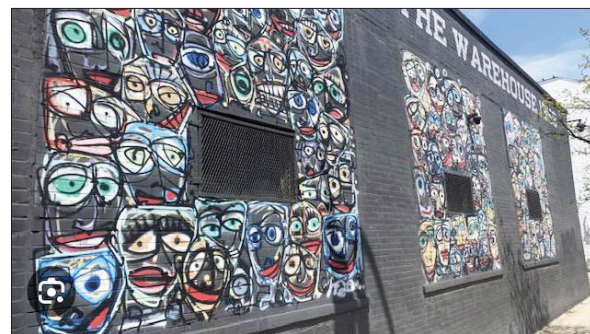
The evening began with greetings from **Malgorzata Palka** and **Sharon Orłowski**, PMA board members and co-chairs of the Gala. The National Anthems of Poland and the United States were sung by **James Robaczewski**, president of the PRCUA, followed by an invocation by **Rev. Andrzej Totzke**, S.Chr., pastor of Holy Trinity Polish Mission Church. **Malgorzata Kot**, managing director of the PMA, and **Richard Owsiany**, its president, began the evening's festivities with a toast. During the dinner, guests viewed an historic video presentation of "PRCUALife: The Road to 150."

Afterwards, the co-chairs introduced this year's mistress of ceremony, **Elżbieta Sawczuk**, who has spent many years as a reporter and journalist for Polish Radio 1030AM and TV Polvision.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of two Polish Spirit Awards, first to **Halina** and **Stanislaw Urbaniak**, owners of Montrose Deli, who for over 25 years offered a variety of donations and assistance to the PMA, and the second to the **Kościuszko Foundation** of the United States. Accepting on behalf of the Urbaniaks was **Anna Dudzinski**, general manager of Montrose Deli, and on behalf of the Kościuszko Foundation was **Ewa Radwanska, MD**, Kościuszko Foundation board member.

The evening continued with the Lajkonik Polish Song and Dance Ensemble presenting its *Mazur*, followed by music for dancing by the **Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra**.

ARTISTIC MURAL ON AUTO SHOP WALL. An interesting mural adorns the exterior wall of the Chicago Auto Recon Body Shop



Jesiolowski's Mural on Auto Shop Wall

PHOTO: ROBERT HERGUTH

in Chicago's Pilsen Neighborhood. It was painted by **Matthew Jesiolowski**, an abstract muralist who derives his inspiration from the renowned American artist, abstract expressionism artist, Jackson Pollock and from the line work style of Chicago-born and raised author and artist, Shel Silverstein.

The mural presents unusual faces with stylized eyelashes that appear to be chaotic but present Jesiolowski's vision. This contemporary mural greets students from nearby Benito Juarez and Little Village High Schools, who often stop and gaze at it.

Anthony Vula, owner of the auto body shop, sought an artist to paint the wall and after considering several artists, he connected with Jesiolowski; after considering that there is a similarity between restoring a car and creating art.

MARTWICK ANNOUNCED LOCAL STATE BUDGET. On July 5, 2023, **Robert Martwick**, 10th District Illinois State Senator, announced that a number of not-for-profit organizations on Chicago's Northwest Side will benefit from recent allocations for the 2024 state budget.

Among them, the **Polish American Association (PAA)**, a 100-year-old not-for-profit, will receive approximately \$250,000. The PAA provides bilingual and bicultural services for Polish and other refugee communities.

Additionally, \$300,000 will be used to enhance cultural attractions, such as theaters and museums within the Jefferson Park and Six Corners business districts. Venues receiving funding from this allocation include the **Copernicus Center**, the **Ed Paschke Art Center**, and also the **Filament Theater** and the **Gift Theater**. Funding will be set aside for improvements within Chicago's Northwest Side 38th Ward and 45th Ward.

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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.

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CULTURE

SAVE THE DATES

Some Like Szymborska's Poetry

by Matthew Stefanski

Poetry is not for everyone. Poland's most renowned female poet Wisława Szymborska (1923-2012) acknowledged this openly in her now-iconic poem "Some People Like Poetry," writing: "Some people – that means not everyone." But one does not have to be a voracious poetry reader to appreciate the art form, or to seek out opportunities



Renata Dayhouse performs as Wisława Szymborska.

to occasionally experience it in a communal setting. Such was the case in Washington, D.C. this summer when over one hundred guests gathered for an evening of poetry and jazz on what would have been Szymborska's 100th birthday.

Szymborska, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1996, is one of Poland's most celebrated poets. Her poetry achieved

not only critical acclaim, but her books sold around the world at rates far surpassing the norm for the genre. She published just about 350 poems during her life, and twelve of those poems were presented on July 9 at the legendary Busboys and Poets Café. The event was organized by the Polish American Arts Association of Washington, D.C., with the support of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland and featured the participation of local poet laureates from the Washington, D.C. region as well as members of the Polish Drama Club.

Entitled *Inspired by Szymborska*, the gathering was modeled after a 2009 poetry reading at the Krakow Opera featuring legendary jazz trumpet player Tomasz Stanko and Wisława Szymborska herself. In Washington, Polish American jazz saxophonist Krzysztof Medyna, who has been performing nationally and internationally for nearly 50 years, performed stunning jazz interludes, giving the audience time to absorb and process Szymborska words in between the poetry readings.

When Szymborska won the Nobel Prize, she quipped that her life was transformed as she became an "official" person, known the world over. But this fame did

not change her, or her artistic output. Her humility and down-to-earth nature defined her throughout her years. During

the 2009 poetry reading in Krakow, which was recorded and is available on YouTube, she humorously remarked that she came to the event to listen to the wonderful trumpet playing of Mr. Stanko, but that her publishing house insisted she interrupt the musical performance with her poems.

Szymborska's poetry is known for its wit, humor, irony, poignancy

Some Like Poetry

by Wisława Szymborska

Some people – that means not everyone. Not even most of them, only a few. Not counting school, where you have to, and poets themselves, you might end up with something like two per thousand.

Like – but then, you can like chicken noodle soup, or compliments, or the color blue, your old scarf, your own way, petting the dog.

Poetry – but what is poetry anyway? More than one rickety answer has tumbled since that question first was raised. But I just keep on not knowing, and I cling to that like a redemptive handrail.

Translated by Stanislaw Baranczak and Clare Cavanagh



Group photo from *Inspired by Szymborska*.

is a most fitting occasion to revisit Szymborska's writings and find your own meaning in her words.

and absurdity, and while poetry is surly not for everyone, anyone can experience its beauty, and this year

Heritage Abroad Database Launched

WARSAW — Poland's Ministry of Culture has established the National Institute of Polish Cultural Heritage Abroad, Polonika.

The institution has launched a Heritage Abroad portal (www.baza.polonika.pl), which serves as a Polish language digital encyclopedia of Polish cultural people, places, and things outside of Poland across the world.

Polonika welcomes the submission of photographs and articles for inclusion in its database. Those wishing to submit items are asked to contact institution for specifics.

The database already includes dozens of articles about Polonia in the United States. Examples include:

- Saint Mary of the Angels, Chicago — <https://baza.polonika.pl/obiekty/102091>;
- The Crazy Horse Memorial and Korczak Ziolkowski — <https://baza.polonika.pl/obiekty/102084>;
- The masks of artist Teodor Benda — <https://baza.polonika.pl/obiekty/101915>

Contact: Polonika, ul. Madalińskiego 101, 02-549 Warszawa; tel. +48 22 270 14 66; e-mail: baza@polonika.pl.

"The Pianist" Set to Open this Month

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — "The Pianist," a stage adaptation of the memoirs of Władysław Szpilman, the famous Polish pianist and composer of Jewish origin, is set to be premiered in the United States on Sept. 29. The official opening night at the George Street Playhouse in New Brunswick, N.J. will be preceded by three days of previews. The show will run until Oct. 22.

Subtitled "A Play with Music," "The Pianist" is adapted for the stage and directed by Emily Mann, whose credits include acclaimed Broadway productions such as *Murder on the "Orient Express"* and *"A Streetcar Named Desire."*

Daniel Donskoy ("The Crown," "A Small Light") plays Szpilman in the George Street Playhouse production.

Born in 1911, Szpilman studied piano performance and composition in Warsaw and Berlin. He worked at Polish Radio for four years until September 23, 1939. On that day, he played the last recital of Chopin's music in the studio of Polish Radio, which subsequently stopped functioning as a result of German bombings.

Szpilman miraculously avoided capture by the Nazis. In the final months of the war, he found shelter in the ruins of Warsaw and sur-

vived thanks to help from his Polish friends and a German army officer.

After the war, Szpilman served as the director of Polish Radio's music department for 18 years. He then founded the Warsaw Piano Quintet, which toured the world for more than two decades.

His compositional output includes some 500 songs, many of which became hits, and several symphonic works.

He died in 2000 at the age of 88. Szpilman's memoirs were made by Roman Polanski into the Oscar-winning film "The Pianist."

Source: Broadway.world

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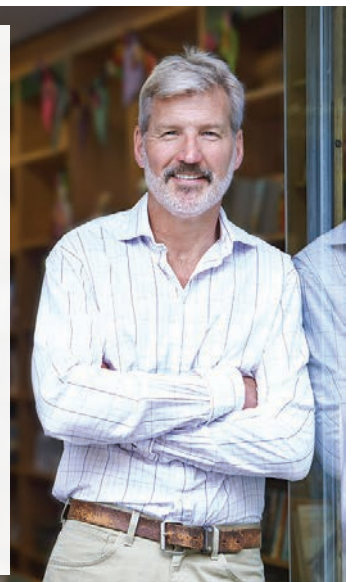


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REVIEWS

Another Page-Turner from Trawinski

THE LIFE OF MAREK ZACZEK
Volume 2
Embers of Love and War
By David Trawinski

reviewed by Barbara Betlejewska

It has already been three years since Volume 1 of this appeared, (See PAJ, Nov. 2020, p. 6 for the review of Vol 1.), and another page turner flows from David Trawinski's pen.

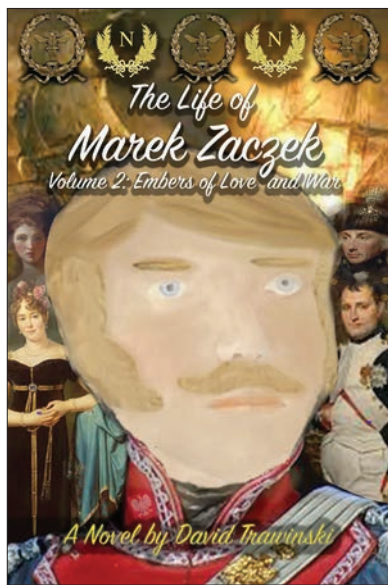
In his latest historical novel set in the Napoleonic era, Marek is now a handsome soldier of 32 years—and living the dissipated life of such in Paris in 1804, having left partitioned Poland. Poland would not become a country again until 1918.

The book is mildly R-rated due to occasional sex and violence—unfortunately, realistic. Marek's life as a soldier who leaves a string of broken hearts behind him. The back cover shows a beautiful painting of the mounted Polish lancers of Napoleon's Imperial Guard, but danger and heartache lurk beneath the handsome façade.

In this volume, Trawinski again crafts a plot with unexpected twists and turns. His literary style is poetic, although, in my opinion, it could be somewhat "tighter," more succinct. But if you have forgotten your Napoleonic history and its relation to partitioned Poland, this novel is an excellent review—and filled with juicy, lurid details your high school teacher never taught you. Who knew Horatio Nelson, the British naval commander who enabled Britain to rule the seas for a good hundred years, callously dumped his wife to take up with his mistress? And that he was a dead-beat, absentee dad with a "love" child named Horatia?

Most know that Napoleon had "short-pant" syndrome at 5'6", but who knew he was obsessed with having an heir and "tested" himself out on other women? His wife Josephine, a widow with two children when he married her, proved infertile after they wed. (Josephine, it should be noted, cheated on Napoleon several days after their wedding, when he left for a military campaign). One of the women that Napoleon used included a beautiful young Polish countess, Maria Walewska, who was served up to him as a sacrificial pawn by Polish leaders to attempt to convince Napoleon to help liberate Poland and restore it as a country.

For those interested in military



history, Trawinski has researched and intertwines many of the details of Napoleon's and Nelson's battles in the novel. If our high school history book had been written like this, we would be glued to the page and would ace the final. Again, like the first volume, family secrets are a large part of this novel's plot—and cause continued chaos, or, as Sir Walter Scott said, "Oh, what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive." Nearly every character in this novel, including the women, acts dishonorably and dishonestly at times, again unfortunately, an only too realistic portrayal.

This novel is quite relevant to our own lives, as most of our ancestors left what had been Poland to escape the oppression under the Partitions by Germany, Austria, and Russia, just as Marek did. The novel terminates abruptly and chaotically. Imperial overreach and hubris, then as now, are on the horizon, as the novel ends with Napoleon overwintering in Warsaw in 1807 prior to his failed Russian campaign. A detailed reading of "The Art of War," by Sun Tzu, (544-496 BCE) might have helped him avoid some fatal mistakes. "Every battle is won before it is ever fought." Once you finish avidly turning the pages of this novel, you must wait patiently for Trawinski's next volume to be published. With Trawinski, it will no doubt be a wild ride!

The book is available at www.davidtrawinski.com and on Amazon and Wal-Mart for about \$18.00 in paperback.

A subscription to the Polish American Journal makes a perfect gift any time of the year. Order online at polamjournal.com or call 1 (800) 422-1275

A Thoroughly Immersive Experience

LOVE, DANNY
by Daniel P. Joyce
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NFB Publishing/Amelia Press

reviewed by David Trawinski

This month's review is a recently published World War II remembrance of the Buffalo, N.Y. author's uncle whose bomber was lost in a raid over Germany on December 2, 1944. More importantly, it is the story of the love and hope that filled the hearts of a mother and her son during their wartime separation from each other, and the despair and desperation of that same family following their tail-gunner son going MIA after a B-24 sortie over enemy territory. These emotions are uniquely captured by the author leading us skillfully through the reading of a treasure trove of letters that survived the war.

I found this work to be a thoroughly immersive experience in the period of wartime America. There is no creative element of fiction woven through this story's telling, as we often see in World War II-era family histories. Every word passed between family members is documented from these letters, and thus, are the very words of the parties that experienced the loss of

war. In these communications, one sees and feels a wide range of emotions, from excitement to anguish to loneliness and even the frustration of a mother reprimanding her son for perceived slights. You certainly get a glimpse, as if through opening a time capsule, by reading the words of Daniel Kraynik and his mother, Jean (plus those of a few other ancillary family members and friends.)

Daniel Kraynik had left his Kaisertown (a Polish neighborhood in Buffalo) family to join the Army Air Force on July 4, 1943, with his heart set on becoming a fighter pilot. We follow him across the United States in his training, and his eventual heartbreak when he washes out of the program to become an artillery marksman. We see, again through his own letters back home, how he desperately wants to get up in the air, even if only as a tail-gunner. He finally gets his wish in joining a bomber crew out of Eastern England in a B-24 nicknamed by the crew as the "Flak-Magnet."

Kraynik served on seven missions over Germany. Ominously, on the seventh, the crew had to fly another B-24 other than their beloved "Flak-Magnet." The plane went missing over the Rhine River



by Daniel P. Joyce
A WWII Story of Mother and Son, Loss and Hope
As Told in Letters

and they were not heard from again until two of the doomed flight's crew showed up in German POW camps. The author does an exceptional job in holding your intrigue even after the flight is lost by documenting the efforts of Daniel's mom in doing whatever was necessary to discover the truth. Again, this is done primarily through letters, and thankfully so, because we have their trail to follow in this comprehensive effort of documentation.

Anyone who wants a glimpse into the trials and tribulations of sending their loved ones off to war will enjoy Joyce's efforts in compiling this material. So will those of us who think we have seen so much of World War II history that there can be nothing refreshingly new and different to read. Joyce teaches us that it is available, if one is only willing to read between the lines.

MISSING SERGEANT IS DECLARED DEAD

Sgt. Daniel Joseph Kraynik, 19, who had been listed as missing over Germany since Dec. 2, 1944, as reported in The News Jan. 9, 1945, has been officially declared dead, the War Department notified his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Kraynik of 45 Seminole Pkwy. formerly of 79 Texas St. Sgt. Kraynik was graduated from Barker High School, Barker, before he entered the service in July 1943. He was a gunner on a Liberator bomber. Besides his parents, Sgt. Kraynik is survived by a brother, James A. Kraynik, and two sisters, Phyllis M. and Noel C. Kraynik. A memorial mass will be celebrated at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning in St. Theresa's Church and another at 7:30 o'clock Saturday in St. Bernard's Church.

Clipping from *The Buffalo News*.

SOURCE: FINDAGRAVE.COM

NEW BOOKS

Moorhouse Recounts Polish Diplomatic Efforts to Save Jews

LONDON — British historian Roger Moorhouse's book *The Forgers: The Forgotten Story of the Holocaust's Most Audacious Rescue Operation* has made its debut in the United Kingdom.

Published by Penguin, the narrative sheds light on a previously unknown chapter of World War II history, revealing the heroic efforts of Polish diplomats and Jewish activists who collaborated to save thousands of lives during the Holocaust.

At the heart of Moorhouse's work is the tale of a daring rescue operation that unfolded between 1940 and 1943. Led by Aleksander

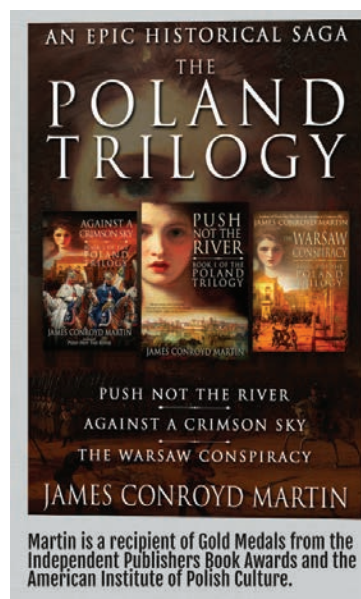
Ladoś, the head of Poland's legation in Switzerland, a group of Polish diplomats and Jewish activists embarked on a mission to forge passports and identity documents for Latin American countries, which would then be secretly transported into German-occupied Europe and offered to Jews.

Penguin has described the undertaking as "a wholly remarkable—and until now, completely unknown—humanitarian operation" and "one of the largest actions to aid Jews of the entire war."

Moorhouse, born in 1968, is an expert in modern German and Pol-

ish history, with a particular focus on World War II. His bibliography includes works such as *Berlin at War: Life and Death in Hitler's Capital 1939-1945*, *The Devils' Alliance: Hitler's Pact with Stalin, 1939-1941*, *The Third Reich in 100 Objects*, and *First to Fight: Poland 1939*. For the latter, he received the Polish Foreign Ministry History Prize in 2020.

Moorhouse's account will be published by Basic Books in the United States this coming October, followed by a Polish translation in the subsequent year.



Based on the Diary of a Countess

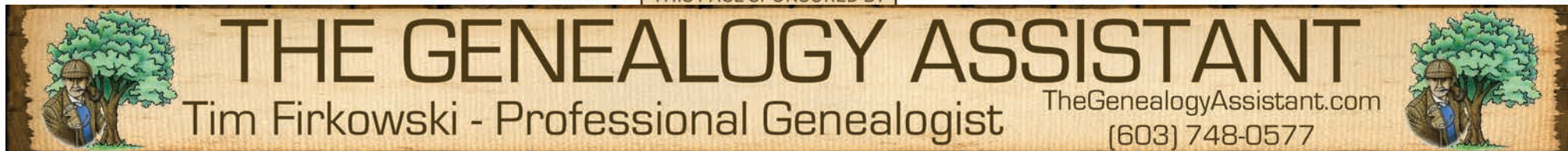
"Push Not the River" paints a vivid picture of the Third of May Constitution years and the metamorphosis of a nation—and of Anna.

"Against a Crimson Sky" continues the family saga as Napoleon comes calling and promises independence if the Polish lancers follow him into Russia.

"The Warsaw Conspiracy" depicts the November Rising, Poland's daring challenge to the Russian Empire ignited by Polish cadets.

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

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GENEALOGY

Translating the Records

by Stephen M. Szabados

Hooray! You may have some Polish records of your ancestors; however, you now face a new set of challenges:

- The records are not in English. They are written in German, Polish, Latin, or Russian.
- They are handwritten using German Script and are hard to read.
- Name variations are confusing, so you do not recognize your ancestors in the registers.
- They are in the narrative format, which magnifies the difficulty of handwriting and language.

Don't be discouraged. Be patient! Overcoming these problems is possible.

Language

My mind initially froze when I saw my first record in a foreign language. In the past, I consistently failed when trying to learn a foreign language. However, after the first document, I learned to work through my lack of language skills and find my ancestors in the records.

My translating toolbox includes the following:

- Genealogical Word Lists for keywords
- Online translator apps for words not in word lists
- People Translators for complex documents

The wordlists and online apps will not give me a complete translation but will get me close.

Genealogical Word Lists

Most modern translation tools, such as dictionaries and online apps, will not accurately translate genealogical records because languages have changed. Many terms have fallen out of use. Luckily, genealogists have compiled word lists or glossaries of genealogical terms to overcome these changes. A few online apps also include older terms and definitions. These lists help overcome some of the problems of lack of language skills.

As I browse online digital images of the records, I usually have a list of keywords such as dates, occupations, and relationships available to help me select images pertaining to my ancestors. First, I verify the name on the document and then use the word list to decipher the date and other keywords to confirm details.

I recommend the online source for word lists in FamilySearch's "Wiki" pages. Other online sources exist, but FamilySearch includes more words and is easy to access and use. Exceptions to this recommendation are the specialty lists compiled for occupations, sickness, and causes of death.

FamilySearch's word lists will include the terms in the native language (German, Polish, Latin, or Russian) arranged alphabetically, with English equivalents next to the terms. In addition, the general sec-

tion of the list includes terms commonly found in genealogical documents. These glossaries of terms list the numbers, months, and days of the week in the general list and separate sections before the general list.

You can find genealogical word lists on the FamilySearch.org Wiki pages by typing "word lists" into the wiki search box and pressing "enter." Then select the correct language from the resulting list.

More Books

Here are a few books that also give a glossary of genealogical terms and translation aids.

In Their Words: German, Polish, Latin, and Russian - A Genealogist's Translation Guide by William F. Hoffman and Jonathan D. Shea - There are four books in the series with a version for Polish, Latin, Russian, and German. The book offers another excellent resource for a word glossary of genealogical terms used in older documents. The books are available on Amazon.com and the Polish Genealogical Society of America's online bookstore PGSA.org.

A translation guide to 19th-century Polish-language civil-registration documents: including birth, marriage, and death records by Judith R. Frazin - This book is a great tool when deciphering the Polish narrative records in the Russian Partition. Each type of record has a standard format to record the information, and the author breaks down each section into phrases. As a result, her book offers translations of most of the phrases you will encounter in the narrative records.

Online apps such as *Google Translate* (<https://translate.google.com/>) and *Poltran* (<http://www.poltran.com>) do a reasonable job of getting to the meaning of the sentence or giving a quick meaning to the passage. However, it is not perfect.

Reading Old Script

The information in the Polish records will be handwritten using Old German gothic handwriting. The formation of the letters is very different from the handwriting you recognize in today's writing. An example are the letters f, h, j, s, and t, which differ only by the location of the loop or no loop. Download a chart from FamilySearch's wiki pages comparing the letters of Roman Type and Old German Type and the letters of Old German Script and become familiar with their differences. Also, exchange similar letters when trying to decipher difficult words.

It is crucial you attempt to decipher as much of the record as you can. Your efforts will improve your comfort zone with Polish records, produce better research, and reduce the number of false family records analyzed.

Using Translators

The above books and word lists can partially translate most co-

lumnar formatted documents and many words in narrative records. However, some documents, such as narratives describing complicated marriage or death records, may have important family information and should be translated by someone expert with the appropriate language. In these situations, I request translations from someone familiar with the language who can give me the complete translation.

Before committing to any translator, ask questions about their experience and use recommendations from other genealogists. You also need to discuss the method of payment with your translator. It is essential if they are in Europe because transferring funds overseas may include costly fees. I have used PayPal and Western Union in the past.

One source I recently found for translating records is the Facebook Group, *Genealogical Translations*. Once you join the group, you can post one document daily for someone to translate. You will receive a translation usually within 48 hours. This service is free and performed by group members, so be respectful.

Here are two more resources where you can find a Polish translator:

- **Polish Genealogical Society of America (PGSA)** - List of Polish Translators - <http://www.pgsa.org/Research/> (These translators are for a fee)
- **PolandGenWeb** - Translation and Research Aids: <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~polwgw/trans.html>

Final comments on translating Polish records:

- Try to decipher as much of the record as you can.
- Learn to read Old German Script and recognize how the letters differ from today's writing.
- Use genealogical word lists to translate your records partially.
- Ask for help if you find a problematic passage or phrase.
- Translate as much to the records as possible because even small comments can enrich your family history when combined with facts from other documents.

GENEALOGY EVENTS

ONLINE-ZOOM POLISH GENEALOGY CONFERENCE. October 20, 21 and 28, 2023. Sponsored by the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, Inc. and The S. A. Blejwas Endowed Chair of the Polish and Polish American Studies, Central Connecticut State University.

The conference provides an opportunity to learn strategies for tracing your Polish-American and Eastern European roots. The speakers are well known in Polish genealogy circles and their discussions will enable attendees to fill in the missing pieces of their family history. Speakers have extensive experience in their respective fields and have been featured at numerous regional, national and international conferences.

Topics genealogists will be speaking on are:

- Introduction to Polish and Eastern European Family History
- Finding your Family's Ancestral Village in Eastern Europe Using Maps, Gazetteers and Other Sources
- Researching Catholic Church Dispensation Records as a Genealogical Resource
- Researching Registers of Per-

manent Population (Księgi ludności stałej) as a Genealogical Resource

- Galician Records and How to Read Them
- Diseases, Disasters, Distress: Bad for Your Ancestors, Good for Genealogy!
- Canadian Censor Records
- Television and Film: Hollywood Invents the Pole
- How to Read Arrival Ship Manifests and the Information/Notations Added After the Immigrant Arrived in the United States

For more conference information and registration form, please go to <https://pgsctne.org/2023-polish-genealogy-conference/>

Cost: Members - \$25.00; Non-Members - \$40.00.

After signing up, you will be sent a link, for each day of the conference, prior to the event. All lectures will be given in English. If you are not a member of the PGSCTNE and would like to pay the discounted members price, please join the society, which will give you many advantages including our webinars, bulletins and society newsletters.

For further information, please email Diane Szepanski, Conference Chair, at conferencepgsctne@yahoo.com.

Di Bella Looks at his Dabrowski Side

NEW YORK — As a companion piece to his *My DiBella and Garufi Families: Sicilian Roots to American Branches*, John S. Di Bella now offers *My Dabrowski Family: Galician Roots to American Branches*.

This biographical narrative begins in 19th century Poland's farming communities and carries through his maternal grandparents' assimilation into American middle-class society. Along the way, Di Bella weaves personal stories within the social, cultural, political, economic, and military history of his people. The result is a com-

pendium of family documents and interviews, church archives and online research, public records from both Poland and the United States, and the minutia of which history is made, and the future is shaped.

Di Bella hopes the book's organization might be a model for others to write their family's stories.

My Dabrowski Family: Galician Roots to American Branches is available from Amazon.com.

*We wrześniu tłuste ptaki,
mróz w zimie nie byle jaki.
Fat birds in September,
more than frost to remember.*

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ACADEMIA

Widzinski Visiting Fellowship Fund Established

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — The Copernicus Center for Polish Studies (CCPS) at the University of Michigan announces the establishment of the Dianne Widzinski Visiting Fellowship Fund, which will extend knowledge of contemporary Polish society and politics and provide Polish scholars with opportunities to conduct and share their research at the University of Michigan.

Widzinski grew up in Hamtramck—the longtime center of Polish culture in metro Detroit—in a family that was deeply integrated in the local Polish community.

The new residential fellowship at the UM / Ann Arbor offers two opportunities: The first is a three- to nine-month visit for scholars, artists, journalists, or public figures from Poland to pursue their research, art, or mission while engag-

ing with U-M students, faculty, and the Michigan community. Engagement may consist of public lectures, participation in CCPS events, and/or teaching on topics related to Poland.

The second is a one- to three-month fellowship for Polish doctoral students conducting research in Polish studies. Areas of focus and research could include but are not limited to: rule of law or topics of vital importance in contemporary Poland, freedom of speech, women's rights, issues of equity, and social issues in Poland.

Visit the CCPS website at ii.umich.edu/polish for more information.

Derek Kaczorowski Scholarship Set Up

BUFFALO, N.Y. — A scholarship to perpetuate the memory of Derek Kaczorowski has been established to aid students in attaining their dreams of higher education. The Cheektowaga, N.Y. native

graduated from Maryvale High School in 2014 as a scholar athlete and the class Valedictorian. During these years, Derek gained a great interest in his Polish heritage. He became a member of Polish Cadets and Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble, where his talent for performing soon revealed itself.

Kaczorowski continued his education at SUNY Geneseo. During his time there, he wrote several papers pertaining to Buffalo and the Polonia of Western New York. He graduated *Suma Cum Laude* in 2018 and was ready to rejoin his dad, president of The Rodzina Polish Dancers.

Kaczorowski passed away unexpectedly and tragically on July 5, 2018. He was 22 years old and was making plans to attend law school.

In recognition of Kaczorowski's passions for his heritage and higher education, and to honor the truly extraordinary young man that he was, The Polish American Congress, WNY Division, established a memorial scholarship. A fundraiser

dinner was held Aug. 19 at the Polish Cadets.

Donations to the scholarship fund may be made by contacting James Kaczorowski at (716) 864-4642 or at jejkaz@yahoo.com.

Hitting the Books

NEW YORK — This summer, The Kosciuszko Foundation (TheKF) recruited 120 students who spent the summer studying Polish language and culture at two of Poland's most respected universities.

The Jagiellonian University offered three-week and four-week programs. In addition to Polish language classes, students could enroll in up to two lectures. Topics included: Polish grammar; history; literature; contemporary life in Poland; and the History of Jews in Poland.

The John Paul II Catholic University offered courses designed for students who wished to acquire versatility in their communication skills and develop a thorough un-

derstanding of the Polish language and culture. The language courses are available from two to eight weeks.

Eighteen of the students received TheKF scholarships worth over \$30,000.

To be part of the Study Abroad program next year, contact TheKF at: 15 East 65th St., New York, NY 10065; thekf.org; tel. (212) 734 2130.

The next application cycle begins in March 2024.

Awarded Doctorate Honoris Causa

CHICAGO — Prof. Maria Siemionow was awarded a Doctorate *Honoris Causa* by the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland.

Siemionow was given the the honorary doctorate "for her significant contribution to the development of Polish and global science in the fields of reconstructive surgery, regenerative medicine, and transplantation; outstanding scientific, educational, organizational, and medical activities, as well as exceptional kindness and constant readiness to help others."

Prof. Dawid Larysz, who served as the promoter for conferring the honorary doctorate, said Siemionow has permanently etched herself into the history of world science as the scientist who performed the first nearly complete face transplant in the United States in 2008. The patient had been a victim of gunshot wounds.

Siemionow has over 400 scientific publications and 120 books to her credit. Under her scientific supervision, four collective publications were created, and she is also the author of eight patents.

Siemionow completed her medical studies in Poznan. In 1985, she was awarded the degree of Doctor of Medical Sciences by Poznan University. She was awarded the title of Professor of Medical Sciences in Poznan in 2011 and honed her skills in the United States and Finland. For nearly 20 years, Siemionow led the Department of Plastic and Microsurgery at the College of Medicine in Cleveland. Currently, she is a professor and the director of Microsurgery Research at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago. She is also a Board of Directors Member of the Polish American Medical Society, headquartered in Chicago.

Sulecki Earns Briggs Award

BOSTON — Erie, Pa. native Bethany Sulecki, now a Boston-based music and theatre educator, has been selected by Arlington Center for the Arts (ACA) as the recipient of the 2023 Anne Briggs Artist Award for her exceptional work teaching at the Center's Vacation Arts Camp and after-school programs for children.

This award honors the memory of Anne Briggs, a longtime member of ACA and prize-winning artist who worked in watercolor, pen & ink, and mixed media and whose pieces were exhibited in galleries across the state.

Through the generosity of the Briggs family, the award is presented annually. It comes with a stipend to help address the challenges artists face in realizing their own personal artistic goals.

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American Council for Polish Culture Convenes in Detroit

DETROIT — During July 27-29, 2023, the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) 75th or Diamond Anniversary Convention took place in Troy, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit, where the organization came into being in 1948. Later this year, a book will be published documenting the past quarter century of ACPC activities, similar to the two that were compiled for the 25th and 50th anniversaries. The convention motto was “Celebrating our rich past - looking to a bright future.”

Convention proceedings opened with a welcome by Richard Z. Tarnicki, president of the of the host organization the American Polish Cultural Society of Troy, followed by a flag presentation ceremony by the Knights of Columbus. Also participating were the Wawel Folk Ensemble, featuring Michael Ostrowski in full hussar regalia, which included the characteristic wings. The opening invocation delivered by Father Gary Michalik of St. Co-

Nashville, Tenn., on December 1-3 of this year.

There were two interesting presentations given during the lunchtime sessions on Thursday and Friday: *The Great Return of the Brotherhood of St. Luke paintings to Poland* by Peter Obst and *Honoring the Soldiers of Gen. Haller's Blue Army* by Henrietta Nowakowski.

Convention participants later visited the Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Southfield, Michigan, a site where a



At the monument at the Holy Sepulcher Cemetery (l. to r.): Henrietta Nowakowski, Ray Glembocki, Cecilia Larkin, and Cecilia Glembocki.

ed a campus tour with a visit to its beautiful chapel. Following a dinner in the school dining room, participants departed by bus for the Steinway Piano Gallery, where the Marcella Kočańska Sembrich Award Concert was held in its Concert Hall. This year's Sembrich Award winner Dorothy Gal rendered a beautiful, often emotional and at times humorous singing performance, accompanied by Dr. Jarosław Gołembowski on the piano.

Jarosław Gołembowski
2nd Vice President - Lilia Kieltyka

Treasurer - Tom Payne
It should be noted that Cecilia Larkin is a past president of the Polish American Arts Association in Washington, D.C. Her activities on behalf of Solidarity and Polish independence are listed in a recent book: *A Covert Action: Reagan, the CIA, and the Cold War Struggle in Poland* by Seth G. Jones.

The convention ended with an Awards Banquet and dancing at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, which is also home to the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame. The ACPC Legal Counsel Mark Szpak was master of ceremonies for the event. Honored this year by the ACPC were:

Henrietta Nowakowski – Lifetime Achievement Award
Drs. Barbara and Waldemar Niklinski – Distinguished Service Award
Krzysztof Zimowski – Cultural



John Cebrowski poses with Gen. Haller's bust at Orchard Lake Schools.

number of veteran soldiers from the Blue Army are interred. Henrietta Nowakowski worked with Poland's Institute of National Remembrance to sponsor the installation of proper grave markers and a monument on the site. For this work she received the *Republicae Memoriae Meritum* medal.

A third presentation was by John Cebrowski on a newly published book *Surviving Genocide: Personal Recollections* written by Donna Chmara, a member of the PAC of Trenton, an ACPC affiliate.

Late Friday afternoon, Dr. John Radziłowski, director of the Polish Institute of Culture and Research in Orchard Lake Schools, conduct-



(l. to r.) Jarosław Gołembowski, singer Dorothy Gal, Cecilia and Richard Larkin, and Ray Glembocki.

lette Church in Livonia, Michigan, was followed by the keynote address by the Polish Consul General in Chicago Dr. Pawel Zyzak. Most of the business sessions were filled with reports given by various committees. Among them was Cecilia Glembocki's presentation on the ACPC's participation in the annual National Conference for Social Studies, where the Council sponsors and operates a booth with educational material promoting Polish culture, history, and information about the lives of Poles in America. The next conference is scheduled to take place in



(l. to r.) Mark Szpak, Ray Glembocki at podium, Poland's Consul General in Chicago Dr. Pawel Zyzak with Honorary RP Consuls Richard Walawender, Debbie Majka, and Richard Poremski.

Among the numbers performed was a sung prayer *Zdowaś Mario* by a young composer Andrew Schneider, who flew in especially from Texas to be present at the premiere of his work.

As it was an election year for the ACPC, a new Executive Committee, Credentials and Nominating Committees, as well as six new board members were elected by the delegates. The executive committee includes:

President - Cecilia Larkin
1st Vice President -

Achievement Award
Brian Malski – Founders Award
Carol J. Surma – Founders Award

The new officers were sworn in by the Honorable Steve Bieda, Judge of the City of Warren, Mich.

There was also ample opportunity to thank the outgoing president Ray Glembocki and his wife Cecilia for their four years of dedicated service to the ACPC. All participants were appreciative of the care and attention given to arranging the convention by co-chairs Barbara Lemecha and Jackie Kolowski.

All attendees at this convention received a (simulated) diamond as a souvenir to mark this important 75th Anniversary and went back home inspired for another year of activity in their local Polish American organizations.

PHILATELICS

Polonus to Participate in 2024 Great American Stamp Show in Hartford

by Barbara Szyłowski

The Polonus Polish Philatelic Society has discussed with the organizers of the APS World Series of Philately show their intent to participate in a convening or featured society. In August 2024 there will be the Great American Stamp Show (GASS) in Hartford, Connecticut, details will follow.

Doctor Edwin Andrews, past president of Polonus, has published a 128-page philatelic book on the exhibit “Jozef Pilsudski: Father of Poland's Independence.” This exhibit was the recipient of a Large Gold Medal. The book is available

on Amazon.com; or search by author or book title.

Being a stamp collector is a fascinating hobby. Each stamp issued relates to a person or event in Poland's history. For those interested in postcards, Poland issued cards in 2021 recognizing the December 1970 strikes that occurred at the shipyards. These were designed by Jan Konarzewski, who also designed the 3.30 zł stamp issued on the 100th anniversary of the Treaty of Riga.

Another postal card honors the Independence Soldiers of the Polish Army 12th Territorial Defense Brigade, Stanislaw Taczak, and the

Poles who fought in the Uprising in December 1918. This card was designed by Jaroslaw Ochendzan, who also designed a stamp honoring the Polish football (soccer) player Kazimierz Gorski.

In March of last year, Poczta Polska issued a special postage stamp with the blue and yellow colors of the Ukrainian flag and the red and white colors of the Polish flag. Printed on it is the inscription *Jestemy z Wami* (We Are with You).

The membership of the Polonus Society is worldwide. For additional information visit <http://www.polonus.org>



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DID YOU KNOW? A research team at the Medical University and the University of Technology in Białystok, Poland has identified a fungus species that kills cancer cells. Tests showed cells exposed to the fungus died faster than those which were not.

SPORTS

Football Legend Johnny Lujack Passes

by Tom Tarapacki

Johnny Lujack, the legendary 1947 Heisman Trophy winner at Notre Dame who became an All-Pro quarterback with the Chicago Bears, died in Florida. He was 98.

John Christopher Lujack, Jr. was born to Alice and John Luczak on Jan. 4, 1925, in Connellsville, Pa. He was the youngest boy and fifth in a family of six children, and his father worked for the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad for thirty years as a boilermaker. Lujack's family was so poor that they never took vacations. "In our family," Lujack said, "sports was our only form of recreation."

Lujack was a star athlete at Connellsville High School, lettering in football, basketball and track. He was also his class valedictorian and president. Afterwards he joined Notre Dame as a six-foot, 180-lb. quarterback/defensive back. In 1943, his second full year there, he lettered in football, basketball, baseball and track, the only time that ever happened at the school.

His college career was interrupted by World War II, and he spent two years as an ensign in the Navy chasing German submarines in the English Channel.

Widely considered the best T-formation quarterback ever, his single most memorable play was probably as a defensive back, known in football lore as "the tackle." It happened in the famous 1946 Irish vs. Army game at Yankee Stadium in front of 76,000 fans. In the second half with the game scoreless, Army's Doc Blanchard broke loose around the end and appeared headed for the end zone. Lujack seemed to come out of nowhere and made an ankle tackle that stopped what had appeared to be a certain touchdown. "The Game of the Century" ended 0-0.

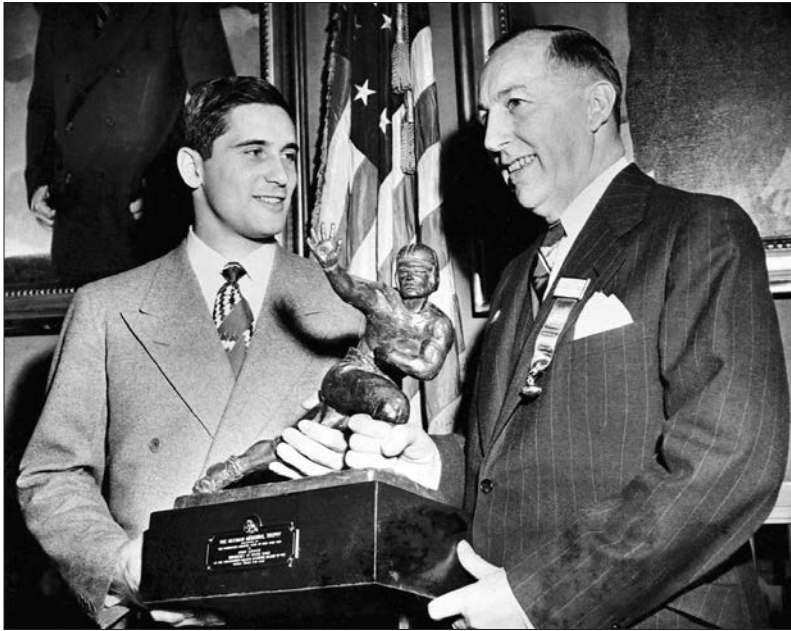
Over his college career Lujack led the Irish to a 20-1-1 record and won three national championships. He was a two-time first team All-American and was awarded the coveted Heisman Trophy in 1947.

Lujack was drafted by Chicago with the fourth pick in the NFL draft and had four great seasons with the Bears. He led the team in scoring each year and threw for a record 468 yards in one game. He played in the NFL Pro Bowl his last two seasons. He also played defensive back and tied a record with eight interceptions as a rookie.

In 1951 Lujack stunned the football world by retiring after just four NFL seasons at age 26. Of course, back then playing pro football didn't play a lot. He later said that he never made more than \$20,000 a year in the league.

Lujack returned to Notre Dame as an assistant coach in 1952 under his former coach Frank Leahy. He was widely expected to succeed Leahy as the Irish head coach. However, when Leahy retired after the 1953 season, his job went to Terry Brennan, who had been one of Lujack's Notre Dame teammates. Lujack decided not to stay on Brennan's staff but opened a car dealership with his father-in-law in Davenport, Iowa. He retired from that business in 1986.

Lujack also worked as a TV commentator, and in 1956 he became the first former professional football player to do color commentary



Johnny Lujack, left, receives the Heisman Trophy from Wilbur Jurden, president of the Downtown Athletic Club in New York, on Dec. 10, 1947. Lujack, the Heisman Trophy winner who led Notre Dame to three national championships in the 1940s, died in Florida on July 25.

PHOTO: JACOB HARRIS (AP)

on national football broadcasts. He covered New York Giants games for CBS, and he later called college games on CBS and ABC in the late 1960s.

Lujack was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1960 and into the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame in 1978. At the time of his death, he was the oldest living Heisman Trophy winner and collegiate Hall of Famer.

KLECKO ENSHRINED IN CANTON. After a 35-year wait, New York Jets great **Joe Klecko** was finally inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Known for his strength, toughness and versatility, the 69-year-old Klecko was raised in Chester, Pa. "I grew up in the streets of a tough town and I used to get my butt kicked when I was a kid," said old Klecko. "Fighting was part of life. And I didn't feel like there was anybody out there that I was going to take it from."

A sixth-round pick by the Jets out of Temple in 1977. In his induction speech, Klecko said that one reason he was drafted by Jets coach Walt Michaels because Michaels had seen him play with the Owls. "The other was that we were both Polacks, so it fit real well."

Klecko quickly became a force on New York's defensive line as the anchor of the "Sack Exchange." He was twice selected an All-Pro and led the NFL with 20 1/2 sacks in 1981, the year before the statistic was officially recognized by the league. Klecko is the only player in NFL history to be selected to the Pro Bowl at three positions on the defensive line: end, tackle and nose tackle.

Klecko is the son of Helen (Kolecki) and Joseph Edward Klecko. He was inducted into the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame in 1999.

CAMP SURVIVOR AND OLYMPIC WEIGHTLIFTER DIES AT 93. Polish native **Sir Ben Helfgott** recently passed away at the age of 93. After surviving the Holocaust, he went on to become an Olympic weightlifter, successful weightlifter, and a power advocate for peace and reconciliation.

Helfgott was born in Piotrkow, central Poland, in 1929. He was ten

when Germany invaded, and he and his family were forced into a ghetto. He managed to survive brutal conditions in two concentration camps and a work camp, he lost almost all his relatives during the war.

At 15, Helfgott went to England, and tried weightlifting after regaining his health. In 1956 he captained the British weightlifting team at the Melbourne Olympics, and also competed in the 1960 Rome Games. He won bronze at the 1958 Commonwealth Games. He also was a successful businessman in England, eventually becoming a partner in a business manufacturing dresses. Helfgott married in 1966, and he and his wife Azra had three sons.

In August 2005, he was awarded Poland's highest civilian award, the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit, for his work to advance Holocaust education. Helfgott was knighted in his adopted country in 2018.

RISING STAR DIES IN ACCIDENT. Ski jumper **Patrick Gasienica**, who represented the United States in last year's Olympics, died at the age of 24 in a motorcycle accident.

Gasienica was born in Chicago to Polish immigrants. His father, Wojciech, who came from Zakopane, was a competitive skier who coached his son.

Gasienica finished 49th and 53rd in individual events at the Beijing Olympics and was 10th in a team competition.

HOMECOMING FOR ŚWIĄTEK. Top-ranked **Iga Świątek** won her fourth title of the year and her first at home, beating Germany's Laura Siegemund 6-0, 6-1 in the final of the Warsaw Open.

Earlier, Świątek defeated Karolína Muchová of the Czech Republic to win the French Open, claiming her fourth Grand Slam title and defending the Paris championship she won in 2022.

The 22-year-old, coached by fellow Pole Tomasz Wiktorowski, has topped the world rankings since April 4, 2022.

POLES IN THE TOUR DE FRANCE. Polish riders **Rafał Majka** and **Michał Kwiatkowski** are two of the road bicycle racing's top "domestiques," or riders who work for their team and leader rather than trying to win the race. Again, they

performed well in that capacity in the 2023 Tour de France. They also finished 14th and 49th, respectively, in the General Classification. Denmark's Jonas Vingegaard of Jumbo Visma was the overall winner for the second straight year.

In this year's Tour de France, Kwiatkowski, the 33-year-old former world champion, captured a win in the 13th stage. It was his second career stage win in the Tour, having triumphed in stage 18 in 2020. For his part, in 2014 Majka won two stages.

WELCOME TO THE NBA, MR. PODZIEMSKI. The Golden State Warriors selected **Brandin Podziemski** (inset) 19th overall in the 2023 NBA Draft, and he showed promise in the NBA Summer League. He struggled with his shot, but led the Warriors in assists (37 assists, 5.28 APG) and steals (9 steals, 1.28 SPG).

As a high school senior guard for St. John's Northwestern Academies, "Podz" was named the 2021 Wisconsin "Mr. Basketball" after averaging 35.1 points, 10.0 rebounds, 5.6 assists and 4.0 steals. Over his career there he scored 2,154 points.

The Wisconsin native opted to go to Illinois but spent most of his freshman year on the bench. He then transferred to Santa Clara, where he became co-West Coast Conference player of the year. He was one of just three NCAA Division I players to average over 19 points, eight rebounds and three assists per game, attracting the attention of the NBA.

The 6-5 guard was known for his shooting — at Santa Clara he went 80 for 179 (44.7%) on three pointers. However, Podziemski also impressed at the NBA Combine with his athletic ability and playmaking skills, and he began climbing the draft board.

Podziemski talked about his Polish ancestry in interviews with the media and acknowledged that he has spoken with fellow NBAer Jeremy Sochan about playing for the Polish National Team.

THE MYSTERY OF ADAM KOWNACKI. A couple of years ago heavyweight **Adam Kownacki** seemed destined for boxing greatness. After losing his last four fights, boxing observers are wondering why the former title contender has suffered such a precipitous decline.

"Before the COVID-19 worldwide health crisis, Kownacki was 20-0 with 15 KOs and one of the top contenders in the sport," wrote worldboxingnews.net. "A 2020 clash with Robert Helenius proved to be the catalyst for a career implosion never seen before at the highest level."

It suggested that COVID might be the reason behind the puzzling string of losses suffered by "Baby-face."

The Brooklyn-based Polish boxer lost again to Helenius and Ali Eren Demirezen before facing Joe Cusumano this past June. Kownacki's loud fan base turned out to Madison Square Garden's Hulu Theater in New York City, but it turned out to be an 8th round TKO for Kownacki.

The 34-year-old Kownacki has been working hard in the gym, but his career has obviously taken a downturn. Now, it's not known if Kownacki even had COVID, but some think that long COVID might be the explanation.

KOEPKA BATTLES BACK. Golfer **Brooks Koepka**, a four-time major champion, is rebounding from a series of injuries that hampered his play over the last couple of years: a torn patella tendon in his left knee in 2019, a labrum injury in his left hip in 2020, a wrist injury in 2021, and a dislocated kneecap. Now he's coming back into form, including winning the 2023 PGA Championship in May, his fifth career major victory and third PGA Championship.

Because of his name, many assume that the 32-year-old Florida native is Polish on his father's side. However, the name is actually German, originally Koepke. According to ethnicelebs.com he is also English, Irish, and Northern Irish/Scots-Irish on his paternal side.

It's Koepka's mother, Denise Jakows, who is Polish. Her father was William J. Jakows, the son of Boleslaw Jakows/Jakaus and the former Adolfa Kolenda. Denise's mother was Nancy Budzik, the daughter of John Budzik and Helen Demski. They were born in Pennsylvania to Polish immigrants.

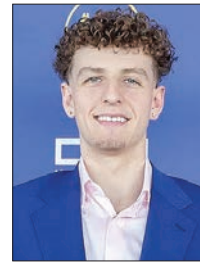
WOZNIACKI RETURNS. **Caroline Wozniacki** is returning to tennis after retiring three years ago. Born in Denmark to Polish parents, Wozniacki is a former world No. 1.

Wozniacki, 32, announced her retirement in 2020 saying that she wanted to start a family and raise awareness about the medical condition that hampered her play, rheumatoid arthritis. She is married to former NBA basketball player David Lee and has a daughter and a son.

In an article in *Vogue* announcing her comeback, Wozniacki talked about growing up in a sports-obsessed family: "I never beat my dad — he's so competitive that any time I got close, he'd find a way to stop the match."

Wozniacki doesn't know how it will work out, but she's going to give it her best shot. "I'm too competitive to just show up and not feel like I'm going to be one of the best players out there."

PERKOSKI'S NOTEBOOK. Two sons of Polish immigrants, 27-year-old **Matthew Miazga** and 19-year-old **Gabriel "Gaga" Slonina**, were members of the US men's national Gold Cup soccer team ... **Conrad Luczynski**, a 7' 2" Chicago area native will play for Eastern New Mexico this season after competing for LINK Prep in Missouri during the 2022-23 season. He played prep basketball at Bartlett High School in Illinois, and in 2022 represented Poland at the FIBA U18 European Championships ... **Gregg Berhalter**, the first person in U.S. history to participate in a FIFA World Cup as both a player and head coach, has been returned as head of the U.S. soccer team. Berhalter's great-aunt is Carl Yastrzemski's mother. This makes him Carl Yastrzemski's first cousin once removed and Mike Yastrzemski's second cousin once removed.



POLSKA KUCHNIA

Natural Recipe for Red Velvet Cake, a true PolAm Creation

by Barbara Betlejewska

My Red Velvet Cake (*ciasto czernone aksamitne*) is a light chocolate, vanilla, buttermilk or vinegar cake, using only common kitchen ingredients.

Red velvet cake is a classic Southern U.S. creation, which became popular during the Great Depression. Since buttermilk is expensive and



less available, I've substituted vinegar. The "velvet" refers to the buttermilk/vinegar chemical reaction, which helps ensure a soft, moist, velvety crumb. Red was added when color extracts became popular. Visually stunning and with a unique flavor, it's easy to see why this cake is a favorite. The only downside is that most recipes require a whole entire bottle (2 Tablespoons!) of possibly carcinogenic red food coloring. Some natural recipes use beet powder, which isn't a common kitchen ingredient. But, by using beets, one of the quintessentially favorite Polish vegetables, it's possible to bake an all-natural, reasonably red cake. The key to a reddish cake using beets is acidity. Without the proper acidic pH, the beets will turn brown. This means vinegar or buttermilk is needed.

Although cake flour gives a better crumb, to substitute all-purpose flour for cake flour, measure out 1 cup all-purpose flour, remove 2 T flour, and then add 2 T corn starch and sift together. Whipping the egg whites ensures a lighter cake and more uniform crumb. Half butter is used for flavor and half oil for moistness. Since an acidic cake requires more sugar in the batter, I prefer to use a light glaze to dress the cake and prevent drying, rather than the traditional, much sweeter cream cheese frosting. Smacznego!

FOR AN 8" SQUARE PAN. 1½ cups cake flour, 2 1/3 T cocoa, 1¼ tsp baking powder, ¼ tsp salt, 5 T butter, softened, 5 T oil, 1¼ cups sugar, 2 eggs, separated, 1 T vanilla, 2-3 drops optional red food color, generous 1/3 cup beet puree (2 medium beets), 2½ T vinegar, 1½ T milk (or 4 T buttermilk), additional vinegar to cook beets.

FOR TWO 9" LAYERS. 2½ cups cake flour, 4 scant T cocoa, 3 tsp baking powder, ½ tsp salt, ½ cup butter, softened, 7-8 T oil, 2½ cups sugar, 4 eggs, separated, 5 tsp vanilla, 4-6 drops optional red food color, 1 cup beet puree (4 beets),

4 T vinegar, 3 T milk (or 7 T buttermilk), additional vinegar to cook beets.

PREPARE. Have all ingredients at room temperature to ensure uniform texture. Wash beets well. Cut into quarters. Place in small saucepan with small amount additional vinegar, and steam/simmer until very soft, about 30-40 minutes. Add vinegar as needed if liquid boils out. Drain, let cool, peel off skin with fingers (use gloves to prevent red staining of skin), replace in saucepan and mash extremely well with potato masher. Measure out amount needed and set aside.

Cut parchment paper to cover bottom of pan. Grease pan well. Place parchment in bottom and grease that also. Then flour pan. Preheat oven

to 350 degrees.

Sift together the flour, cocoa, baking powder and salt. Set aside. Separate the eggs. Whip the egg whites until stiff. Set aside in another bowl. Cream together the butter and sugar on medium high for 1 minute, scraping down sides and bottom. Add the oil, egg yolks, and vanilla and beat on medium high for about two minutes. Add the beet puree alternately with the dry ingredients and mix only until combined for finer crumb.

You may add a few drops red food color for a deeper red if desired.

Carefully fold in the egg whites. Pause and consider if batter needs any adjustment for changes in humidity or flour. Then pour into prepared pan(s) and bake for about 38-40 minutes, or until a toothpick comes out nearly clean and the tops look firm but before the cake shrinks from the sides of the pan. Let cool in the pan on rack for 5 min, then bounce pan gently to separate cake and remove from pan after another 5 min. Carefully peel off parchment and let cool completely on a wire rack before frosting (see frosting recipes below). To dress the cake, consider sifting confectioner's sugar over a lacy paper doily or paper cutout snowflake for a decorative pattern.

SIMPLE GLAZE ICING. ¾-1 T butter, melted, ½-¾ cup sifted powdered sugar, ¾ to 1 T milk. To avoid the brownish tinge with vanilla extract, try using a few drops of *Delecta Waniliowy aromat do ciast*, which is clear and is found in Polish stores or on-line. Mix until smooth. Double recipe for full two-layer cake.

CREAM CHEESE FROSTING. 8 oz softened cream cheese, ¼ cup softened, unsalted butter, 2 cups sifted confectioner's sugar, 1½-2 T milk. Whip the cream cheese and butter until soft. Slowly add in the sugar and milk. Frosts two 9" layers.

Buttermilk Cookery

by Robert Strybel

BUTTERMILK POT CHEESE (twaróg maślankowy). Gradually heat 2 qts cultured buttermilk with 1 t salt to no more than 160°F stirring constantly. Curds should float up from whey. If they don't, increase temp slightly. After curds separate, switch off heat and let stand 15 min. Transfer mixture to cheesecloth-lined colander or large sieve and allow to drip-dry into bowl. Save the whey. For a soft cheese, when dripping stops, transfer to bowl and refrigerate overnight. For firmer, sliceable cheese, roll curds in cheesecloth into tight ball and weigh down with water-filled qt jar to remove added moisture. When dripping stops, twist ball some more to remove as much moisture as possible and refrigerate in cheesecloth ball overnight.

You can serve your buttermilk pot cheese with chopped chives, radishes & chopped hard-cooked eggs, laced with a little sour cream and salted and peppered to taste, as a breakfast or light-supper dish, use it to fill pierogi or naleśniki, bake a Polish cheesecake (*sernik*) or wherever you would use store-bought farmer cheese or ricotta.

POLISH BUTTERMILK PANCAKES (racuchy na maślanec). Combine 2-1/2 c all-purpose flour with 2 t sugar, 1 level t salt and 1 unheated t baking soda with 2 c room-temp buttermilk and 1 room-temp egg and mix into a batter. Let stand at room temp 20 min. In skillet heat 3/4 c canola oil and ladle batter into hot oil. Cook to a nice golden-brown on both sides and drain on paper towel covering tops with another sheet of towel. Dust hot pancakes with confectioner's sugar and serve. Instead of sugar-dusting, serve with honey, jam, or fruit syrup of choice.

ENHANCED BUTTERMILK PANCAKES (racuchy na maślanec wzobogacone). (right) Prepare batter as above, but into hot oil ladle only half the amount of batter.

After a min or so, add a slice of your home-made pot cheese or a thin apple slice at center and cover with a bit more batter. When top batter no longer looks wet, flip over and fry until golden brown.



POTATOES & BUTTERMILK (kartofle z maślanek). In my family it was common to serve a bowl of cold buttermilk with hot boiled potatoes on the side. Others combined the two. Allow a bowl containing 1 to 1-1/2 c room-temp buttermilk per person and add chunked-up, hot boiled potatoes. The hot potatoes may be first dotted with cold bits of butter or *skwarki* (golden-brown, fried fatback or bacon nuggets). Optional: Garnish with fine-chopped fresh dill.

BUCKWHEAT GROATS & BUTTERMILK (kasza gryczana z maślanek). Cook buckwheat groats until grains are loose and fluffy (*na sypko*) and garnish with *skwarki* (golden-brown, fried fatback or bacon nuggets). Serve a bowl of buttermilk on the side or combine the two as with potatoes (above). If combining, buttermilk should be at room-temp.

BUTTERMILK SALAD DRESSING (sos maślankowy do salatek). Combine ½ c buttermilk with ½ c sour cream of plain yogurt. Add ½ - 1 t salt, 2 t lemon juice or vinegar and 1-2 t sugar and fork-blend until smooth and creamy. Great over

sliced cucumbers (*mizeria*), lettuce, sliced tomatoes and thin-sliced onions or other mixed salads of choice. Feel free to add fine-chopped chives

and/or dill, grated radishes or fine-chopped green onion or other greens or herbs. Variation: Stir in a good-sized dollop of mayo to make a great sauce for hard-cooked eggs or potato salad.

FRUITED BUTTERMILK COFFEE CAKE (placek na maślanec z owocami).

Preheat oven to 350° and grease loaf pan. Beat 2 large room-temp eggs, 1 c sugar, 1 teaspoon vanilla or almond extract, 1 c room-temp buttermilk and 1/2 c canola oil until combined. In separate bowl, whisk together 3 c cake flour, 1 t baking powder and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Stir into egg mixture and combine thoroughly. Transfer to loaf pan and top with ripe fruit: pitted, halved plums, pitted cherries, halved strawberries, thin apple, pear or peach slices, etc. For crumb topping, separately mix 1-1/4 c all-purpose flour and 1/2 c sugar and cut in 1 stick cold, unsalted butter in small pieces (like for pie dough) until crumbs form. Spread crumb topping over fruit and bake about 40 min or until wooden skewer comes out clean.

EMERGENCY "BUTTERMILK" ("maślanek" awaryjna). If a recipe calls for buttermilk and you are fresh out, try this emergency substitute. Into glass measuring cup add 1 T freshly squeezed lemon juice or white vinegar. Pour in enough room-temp whole milk to make 1 c and let stand 10-15 min. Result: instant buttermilk substitute.

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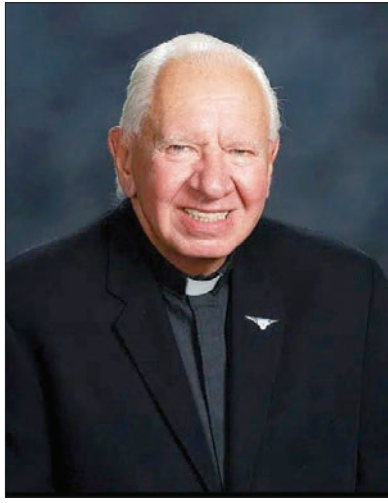
Fr. Philip Majka, Chaplain at Dulles International Airport; Hosted Cardinal Karol Wojtyła

ARLINGTON, Virg. — The Rev. Canon Philip S. Majka, a retired priest, died June 24 in Virginia, aged 85.

Fr. Majka was born in New Britain, Connecticut, the son of Stanley and Helen Kulas Majka. He attended St. Thomas Seminary in Connecticut, Queen of Apostles Seminary in Madison, Wisconsin, and Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, Michigan.

Fr. Majka was ordained May 1, 1965 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Richmond, Virg., and celebrated his first Mass in Holy Cross Church, a Polish parish in New Britain, Conn. He had been a priest 58 years when he died.

His parish assignments included: Blessed Sacrament, Alexandria (1965-67); St. Mark, Vienna (1967-70); Good Shepherd, Mt. Vernon (1970-72); St. Michael, Annandale (1972-75); and St. Mary, Alexandria (1975-76). He became founding pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton



in Lake Ridge in October 1976 and, later, pastors at St. John the Evangelist, Warrenton, and St. Patrick, Fredericksburg. His last assignment was as parochial vicar at St. James, Falls Church.

He also served as chaplain to various Knights of Columbus chapters across northern Virginia, and the Fairfax County Fire Depart-

ment. Since 2006, he was also Catholic chaplain at Dulles International Airport and was elected vice president of the National Conference of Catholic Airport Chaplains in 2010. He was chaplain for the Diocese of Arlington on the board of directors of the Friends of the John Paul II Foundation.

Active in Polish American affairs, he was chaplain of the Polish American Congress, Metropolitan Washington D.C. Division, and served as host to the 1969 and 1976 visits of then-Cardinal Karol Wojtyła to Washington. He received an award from the John Paul II Foundation in 1996 in Washington, and was honored with a national award from the Polish American Priests Association. The Polish Government conferred the Order of Merit Cavaliers Cross on him. In 2015, he met Pope Francis.

In recent years, Fr. Majka lived in retirement in Annandale.

Source: Arlington Catholic Herald

Kaya Mirecka Ploss, Leader in Culture and Style

BETHESDA, Md. — Kaya Mirecka Ploss, considered one of the best-known women of Polish descent in America, and one of the best-known American women in Poland, died at her home in Bethesda, 13, 2023.

Born September 12, 1924 to a Polish Silesian father and a German Silesian mother, she attended school sporadically because she had to care for her sick mother who was dying from cancer. Soon after her mother's death, the Nazi army occupied Poland, and Kaya's Jewish grandmother, a committed convert to Catholicism, was taken to Auschwitz where she died of pneumonia. Her father was taken to a different camp, and Kaya and her brother, left without family to care for them, were taken to camps for children of mixed blood, called Mischlings. She was detained for almost four years in the camp at Landsberg am Lech in Germany. There she was subjected to many terrors, including abuse and rape, but finally, when the Americans came, she was released.

After her release, she joined the Polish 2nd Army's Drama Theatre in Italy before going to England, where she studied fashion design at St. Martin's College of Art and worked in Paris with Dior and Saint Laurent. After returning to Poland, she helped found *Moda Polska* and became a writer, but following several arrests for refusing to cooperate with communist authorities, she emigrated to the United States in 1966.

It was in the United States where she met and married Dr. Sidney Ploss, a Sovietologist and professor at Princeton and later Harvard. When he joined the Department of State, he and Kaya moved to Washington, D.C., where she resided until her passing.

After her marriage, Kaya became the buyer of designer apparel at Saks Fifth Avenue, where she offered fashion advice to socialites and the wives of politicians. She was sent to Paris to purchase designer apparel, and there reunited with Yves Saint Laurent. After some years with Saks, Kaya felt financially secure, and left her employment with Saks to engage with the Polish American community in efforts to promote the cultural and historical knowledge of Poland in America.

Ploss was a national leader in Polish American cultural affairs and was elected national president of the American Council of Polish



Culture. Co-founder of the American Center of Polish Culture, she was its director from 1991-2005. She worked with Poland's former first lady, Jolanta Kwasniewska, to bring more than 200 disadvantaged Polish children to visit the United States over the course of several years.

Ploss received many honors for her indefatigable efforts to promote

A Key Witness to a Murder Mystery

By sheer happenstance, Kaya Ploss became involved in solving a murder that truly was stranger than fiction.

In the spring of 1977, Ploss and her then husband were attempting to sell their Alexandria, Virg. house, and Kaya met a realtor named Richard Lee Earman. Based on intuition, she questioned him and extracted information that he had been with a young couple, Alan Foreman, 26, and his fiancée, Donna Shoemaker, 25, the night the two were shot after returning home from a nightclub in Washington. After Ploss earned Earman's trust, the young man confessed to her that one Joseph N. Martin had promised him \$15,000 if he would kill the couple. Martin's motivation was to collect a \$56,000 life insurance policy on Foreman's life.

Ploss reported this information to the police and Earman was later prosecuted for the crime and acquitted. Ploss, back in her writing mode, decided to write a book about Earman's life, and while working on it, she met Martin and interviewed him in November 1977. During her first interview with him, she accused him of lying to her about his role in the murders, which angered him. He told Ploss that in fact Earman had called him and told him about the deaths of Foreman and Shoemaker before the bodies were discovered by the police, and that Earman later had "blackmailed" him into not telling that information to the prosecutor, leading to the acquittal of Earman.

Martin threatened Kaya's life if she disclosed what he had told her to the authorities, but Kaya, true to form, again approached the police and the prosecutors, and the information she provided led to the reopening of the murder investigation and eventually to the conviction of Martin and Earman.

Kaya has since written *Who Will Do the Crying*, a book about the murders and her role in the convictions, which became a best-seller in Poland under the title *The Woman Who Knew Too Much (Kobieta, ktora wiedziala za duzo)*.

Polish culture in the United States, including The Medal for Distinguished Service to Polish Culture (President Walesa), the Commander's Cross for Poland Reborn (President Kwasniewski), U.S. Polonia's Woman of the Year, and Kosciuszko Foundation's Award for Dissemination of Polish Culture.

Ploss was an author and playwright, with works including *The Road Across the Bridge*; *The Emperor of Madagascar* and other Polish Profiles; *The Woman Who Saw Too Much*; and her memoirs, *Jan Karski—The Man to Whom I Told the Truth*. Ploss, a dear friend of the late Dr. Karski, was his close companion during his final years.

Eccentric Builder SunRay Kelley



SunRay Kelley, the barefoot maverick builder of fantastical handmade castles, yurts, temples, spirit lodges, tree houses, pavilions, and structures so fanciful that they defied conventional building typologies, died on July 16 in Sedro-Woolley, Wash. He was 71.

Bonnie Howard, Kelley's longtime partner, said that he had been suffering from cancer but that the cause of his death, in a hospital, was a blood clot from a recent operation.

Kelley was a hero in the world of unarchitected, alternative and vernacular building — a building movement distinguished by its

handmade ethos, sustainable features and natural materials, which flourished in the counterculture years of the late 1960s and early '70s but flagged a bit during the Reagan era.

For the last few decades, however, it has enjoyed a steady, if slightly fringe, resurgence as the costs, both environmental and financial, of traditional housing continue to escalate; new generations of back-to-the-landers and anti-consumerists of all stripes now cleave to its tenets.

Born Raymond Elbert Kelley on Dec. 1, 1951 in Sedro-Woolley, a logging and mill town, he was one of five children. His father, Cecil, was a mechanic in a mill. His mother, Wanda (Janicki) Kelley, was a homemaker who baked her own bread and churned butter; her parents, Polish immigrants, had homesteaded the land Ray grew up on. The family raised beef and dairy cows.

His buildings had undulating peaked roofs, or roofs shaped like wings or the prow of a ship. They were often planted with sedum, moss and trailing nasturtiums. He loved cupolas and turrets. His preferred shape was the circle, which

he felt was nature's most resilient form. He was a master of cob, a sturdy, thermally efficient sculptural material made from mud, sand and straw that has been used around the world for millennia.

Other favored building materials were scavenged and used as they were — unmilled windfall trees, gnarled branches, rocks, and boulders. "God's hardware store," Kelley called the woods of the Pacific Northwest, where many of his buildings were made.

"I'm going shopping," he would say in the middle of construction, striding off into the wilderness.

"There was no one like him," said Lloyd Kahn, who has been chronicling handmade habitats in a series of books for his company Shelter Publications since the early 1970s, starting with "Shelter," an engaging encyclopedia of vernacular architecture — and an early counterculture primer — which was first published in 1973 and is still in print. "There's no other natural materials builder in the world who's combined such ecology, design and craftsmanship in so many buildings on the American landscape."

Source: The New York Times

Bruno Mikos, Band Leader, Recording Artist

MacDONALD, Ohio — Bruno E. Mikos, 76, passed away peacefully at his home July 8, 2023.

Born October 5, 1946, in Chicago, he was a son of the late Bruno and Mary Radon Mikos. He was a 1964 graduate of Eisenhower High School in Chicago and served in the United States Army. After moving to Ohio, Mikos attended Youngstown State University and

graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting.

Mikos worked for United States Steel while in college and after graduation, he worked as a fiscal officer for the State of Ohio for over 20 years before he retired.

A skilled musician, Mikos played in Polish American polka bands throughout his lifetime. He played with various local bands

before joining Li'l Wally Jagiello's group. Mikos traveled the country playing many shows before starting his own band, Bruno Mikos & the Harmony Stars in 1974.

Mikos had his own record label, BEM Star Records, which featured his band as well as bands from across the country. Mikos recorded nearly a dozen records with his band throughout the years and won numerous awards. Inducted into the International Polka Association Hall of Fame, in 1986, he continued playing with his band until 1992.

In addition to performing, Mikos also hosted various radio shows during his active years in music.

He is survived by two daughters, a son, four grandchildren, and nieces and nephews. His wife of 53 years, Suzanne K. Kovalick Mikos, passed away June 4, 2020. Two sisters also preceded Mikos in death.

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THE PONDERING POLE

From calculating machines to AI

by Ed Poniewaz

It is September. Summer is over. Even though I am struggling more with the heat, I just love summertime. Another one passed. Sad.

AI, or Artificial Intelligence is the talk of the town, primarily the town of Washington, D.C., but also all over the world. In simple terms, AI is “the ability of a computer program or machine to think and learn.” We have created logic in computers to mimic human brains. This new development can be wonderful, but it can also be frightening. Is this the new Frankenstein?

So how did we get here? Thirty-six years ago, I started my career in Information Technology (IT) using punchcards. Shortly after that, however, the cards were phased out and work was done on Personal Computers, the PC. In a sense, that was the beginning of the modern computer age.

In Poland the foundation for “computing” goes back to the mid-nineteen century. In an article entitled, “Did Poland Invent the PC?” written by Liel Leibovitz for *Tablet Magazine*, he praises and lays out a timeline for Polish mathematicians who created initial or parallel steps on the road to where we are now with IT and AI.

Abraham Izrael Stern. Born 1769 in Hrubieszow, he became a student at Poland’s Royal Science Society, and created calculating machines impressive enough to get employment from Tsar Alexander I of Russia.

Izrael Abraham Staffel. In 1842, Staffel invented a calculating machine, “a beautiful device, the size of a toilet, encased in lacquered wood and consisting of rotating pinwheels and capable of division, subtraction, multiplication, and addition. The machine easily won the silver medal in the Warsaw 1845 Industrial Exhibit.” The next version of this machine was entered into London’s Great Exposition, in 1851, and it was reported, “... This solitary tribute of mind to minds comes not from Petersburg, nor Moscow, nor from Siberia, nor from the Ural Mountains, but from Poland ...” Poland was then a part of the Russian Empire.

Marian Rejewski. Part of the team of Polish mathematicians that cracked the German Enigma cipher machine prior to World War II, he was “A mathematical wunderkind ... His discoveries were as complex as they were seminal; many historians agree that they contributed to considerably shortening the war, saving the world anywhere between two and four additional years of carnage.” Rejewski’s work eventually found its way to Bletchley Park and to Alan Turing, of “Turing Machine” fame, “which can be considered a model of a general-purpose computer.”

Jacek Karpinski and Leon Lukaszewicz. Resistance fighters who after the war founded “GAM, short for Group Apparatus Mathematics, the latter two words being the agreed-upon term for the calculating machine that would only later be called ‘computer.’” Both men constructed differential analyzers, a “mechanical analogue computer designed to solve differential equations,” work that was significant and laudable considering continuing Iron Curtain restrictions on

money and resources.

By the early 1960s, according to Leibovitz, research and development in computer technology ground to a halt in Poland, even “when machines like the Odra 1002 were still competitive with the best stuff produced in the West.” Now Poland has resumed where Karpinski and Lukaszewicz left off and is very capable to deal with the brave new era in computer technology, including everything that will come with AI. I am confident they will figure it out.

DNA Diary

Are you in the mood for more Kulisiewicz? The last issue of the Pondering Pole featured the life and work of **Aleksander Kulisiewicz**, the man who saved the “music of the camps.” When I mentioned this, someone asked, “Are you familiar with Tadeusz Kulisiewicz?” Tadeusz, noted artist and professor, was born in Kalisz, Poland, in 1899, and died in 1988, in Warsaw.

He studied at the School of Decorative Arts in Poznan and the School of Fine Arts in Warsaw, and his career began to take off in the late 1920s “with printmaking, becoming the domain of his work.” Hard to find anything about his life in English but his work online is worth a look for sure.

Polish or Not?

Here is an interesting one: The Pondering Pole, also known as The Traveling Pole, visited the Northwest city of Portland, Ore. this past June. It is a beautiful city and the coast of Oregon is spectacular. One bonus on this journey was spotting Zupan’s Market, a specialty grocery store on West Burnside Street.

Zupan was a popular military coat of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, but that word in Portland signifies “Markets That Inspire, The Premier Destination for Food and Wine Lovers Since 1975.” The Zupan name attached to the grocery stores belongs to John J. (James) Zupan, the son of John M. Zupan and Anna Vukelich Zupan. From his obituary, John J. was born May 16, 1945, in Austria, and the “family immigrated to the States from Croatia.” Logic states that the Croatian connection is from Anna Vukelich but a Mass of Christian burial for her was at St. Stanislaus Church. There is nothing about the father John M.’s birthplace or ethnicity that I can find.

John James Zupan, son of John M. Zupan, Polish or not?

Smoother and Creamier

The Pondering/Traveling Pole also visited the boardwalk in Ocean City, New Jersey, where he discovered the “Polish Water Ice” stand. Seems like there always was a line of people and now I know why.

According to its website, the creator of the Polish Water Ice served in Ocean City is Tom Curyto, originally from West Chester, Pa., who has a background in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering (another Polish engineer!).

“Polish Water Ice is described as being smoother and creamier than the Italian version, almost like ice



Portrait of King John II Casimir, c. 1649. Daniel Schultz the Younger (1615–1683). John II Casimir in a crimson *żupan* and *delia*, a garment worn over the *żupan* by male nobility of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth from the 16th until the early 18th century.

cream – but without the fat and cholesterol.”

It was smoother and creamier for sure, and has a different, unique taste. When in Ocean City, or in any of the other 20 or more locations you can find it, try the Polish Water Ice.

Joyous Sounds

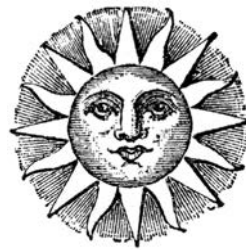
We have a hero among us in St. Louis for the last 27 years by the name of Michael Parkinson, former professor of music and department chair at Webster University in St. Louis. He has been involved either as an instructor or Artistic Director for the International Summer Jazz Academy (ISJA) held in Krakow, Poland, since 1994.

I attended a fundraiser sponsored by St. Louis Polonia, for ISJA, called “A Street of Dreams, Krakow to Hollywood,” presenting jazz works by Polish composers used in American and Polish movies. It was very enjoyable for the music and enlightening for the composers highlighted.

While most of the composers had first or last names that were readily identifiable as Polish such as Jan A.P. Kaczmarek, Tomasz Stanko, and Krzysztof Komeda, one composer that did not was Victor Young. Though born in Chicago, August 8, 1899, he was “sent to Poland when he was ten to stay with his grandfather and study at the Warsaw Imperial Conservatory. His teacher was Polish composer Roman Statkowski.

Victor Young returned to the United States in 1922 and began a monumental career in the American music industry that garnered 22 Academy Award nominations. His song, “Stella by Starlight,” featured in the 1944 Paramount Pictures film, *The Uninvited*, was performed by the “Street of Dreams” ensemble. Part of a magical experience that felt as if we were on the red (and white) carpet.

If you have a thought about this month’s topic, have a question, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 3765 Autumn View Drive, Arnold, MO 63010; email alinabrig@yahoo.com.



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DANCE TIME

Ken Olwin's Red Hot Polkas Celebrates 39th in Style

by Jennifer Pijanowski

This summer I took a few trips to Erie, Pa., to enjoy polka music for the very first time at Polish Falcons Nest 610. The first event I attended was the Kenny Olwin's *Hot American Polkas* 39th Anniversary Dance featuring music by **Dynabross**. The admission was just a mere \$15.00 and included a dinner and free draft beer.

Dynabross rocked the crowd with upbeat hits even inviting polka newbies in front of the stage to move along with their intoxicating sound. While I ended up driving down that evening on a last-minute whim, I was pleasantly surprised to see Bernie Gorak III absolutely tearing it up on concertina. Dynabross is a band that plays to the crowd, always inviting audience participation, sending out requests and acknowledging everyone in the crowd who comes to support them. The band sounded phenomenal as always, performing catchy tunes that you wake up singing at 3:00 in the morning.

Olwin has been hosting *Hot American Polkas* for 39 years and calls on his favorite band Dynabross to celebrate his anniversary at an event each year. You can listen to his show on Polka Jammer and in Erie on 90.5FM WERG every Sunday from 5:00-7:00 p.m. You can also catch the show on 247polkaheaven Sundays from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Take a listen to the show if you haven't already, Ken highlights polkas featuring mostly English lyrics including many younger bands.

RETURN TRIP. I had such a great time attending the Dynabross event that I made it a priority to return as **Seven** played later in the summer. That evening had a light crowd but what they lacked in size; they made up for in energy. Fans from Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and many fellow Buffalonians made the trip to enjoy an evening of music. The band members make it clear they are having a great time, playing off of one another's humor and highlighting each member of the band during their sets. Each member adds something special to the band that gives them a unique personality and sound.

The beautiful dance floor stayed busy throughout the evening as fans were quick to make requests for their favorite songs. The Polish Falcons in Erie is one of the best-kept secrets for polka venues. The hall is impeccably kept even though it still sports a vibe reminiscent of the 1970s. The staff goes above and beyond to be welcoming and accommodating to guests and they do a great job of making sure you know of upcoming events to invite you back.

After attending these dances, Rick and I made a few trips down on Friday evenings for a fish fry and a few drinks. If you hear about an upcoming event, it is worth the drive to support this organization.

THE POLISH AMERICAN ARTS FESTIVAL was held at Cheektowaga Park once again in July. **Box On, Band of Brothers** (featuring Krew and Piatkowski brothers), **Dynatonnes Reunion**, and **Dave Gawronski** provided the polka music over the course of the weekend.

The highlight of this event is



Dynabross at Polish Falcons in Erie, Pa.

always the entertainment as the community crowds on the lawn and bleachers in front of the stage to enjoy three days of free music.

While polka fans were excited about the talent performing on the stage over the weekend, there was most definitely some frustration from polka fans that none of our local bands played this event. The effects were felt as many of our local musicians were not in attendance during this long-standing event. Their dismissal of the Polish Arts Festival showed their dissatisfaction with local talent being excluded.

With that being said, it was exhilarating to hear polka music belting through town park and seeing so much Polish pride on display over the three days. Food stands cooking up Polish favorites served up the hundreds who feasted on mouthwatering delights. Potts, Polish Villa, Redlinski Meats, Polish Cadets, Polska Chata, and Babcia's Perogies were among the tradition Polish vendors that exceeded culinary expectations.

The Band of Brothers kicked off Friday night with a bang, bringing decades of experience to the crowd. Both families of brothers are personable, talented, and truly enjoy playing polka music so their music was a highlight to captivate the crowd and entice them into coming back for some more weekend merriment.

While rain was in the forecast on Saturday, there were still fans braving the raindrops to savor the music of **Box On**. But as the day progressed, the sun peeked out in time for the highlight of the weekend: the Dynatonnes Reunion! Tommy Picciano, Matt Rosinski, Bryan Urbanczyk, Rick Piotrowski, Rob Piatkowski, Al Piatkowski, Larry Trojak, and emcee/vocalist Mark Trzepacz surpassed expectations, bringing everyone back to the wonderful days of the Dynatonnes. Many polka friends made their way from Canada to take advantage of this rare performance.

While I was not around during the Dynatonnes era, I enjoyed hearing the stories and watching the smiles of my fellow polka fans as they listened intently. Trzepacz did a phenomenal job as the emcee using his sarcastic sense of humor to keep the lighthearted aura of the performances. Hearing all of those wonderful Dynatone tunes brought the weekend such joy, rekindling treasured memories for those who grew up listening to them.

Box On added youthful stamina to the weekend, beckoning fans to the stage to dance all night long. It

has been a few years since I have seen this band and it was impressive to see the growth of this family of musicians. Each has sharpened their skills and knows how to captivate a crowd. I loved the interaction of the siblings letting one another shine while working together to perfect their performance. This was a great addition to the festival and an innovative way to introduce non-polka attendants to the genre.

YOUNGSTOWN POLISH NIGHT will be held on September 9 at St. Nicks Great Hall, 764 5th St., Struthers, Ohio from 7:00-11:00 p.m. The doors will open at 5:00 and admission is \$15.00 per person with under 18 admitted free. There will be authentic Polish food, Polish beer, vodka, and nalewka available



Dynatonnes reunion band at Cheektowaga Polish American Arts Festival.

for purchase. You can contact (330) 256-2462 or visit www.krakusysociety.org for additional information.

THE 40TH ANNUAL POLKAMOTION by the Ocean at Rehoboth Beach, Del., Convention Center. Enjoy one of the best beaches on the East Coast, the festive boardwalk, gourmet dining from September 14-16. Besides the beautiful beach and welcoming atmosphere of Rehoboth, you can enjoy live polka music by some of the nation's top bands including host band, **The Boys, Polka Country Musicians, Dennis Polisky and the Maestro's Men, Top Shelf, The Beat, Seven, Eddie Forman Orchestra** and **The NuTones**. Come down early to play in the annual fun "best ball" golf tournament on Tuesday and

catch the Welcome Polka Party on Wednesday night at a local bar and grill. Visit www.Polkamotion.com for more details.

RONCESVALLES POLISH FESTIVAL will take place September 16-17 in the eclectic Toronto suburb. **Captain Tom & the Hooligans, Phocus, John Gora & Gorale, and Box On** are currently booked to perform during the festival.

The event hosts a variety of bands, ethnic demonstrations, dance groups, phenomenal food, all within a sensational neighborhood. It is an opportunity to attend a polka event and experience so much more. I encourage anyone who has not made the trip to Toronto for this yearly festival, to add it to their bucket list.



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Bonus Event:

Thursday August 31, 2023 – Pre-Festival IPA Welcome Party at the Cranberry Elks Lodge #2449 with music by 2022 IPA Hall of Fame Inductee Alex Meixner and his band

All proceeds to benefit the Elks Lodge





POLONIA PLACES

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary — Buffalo, New York

435 Amherst Street
Buffalo, New York
Status: Open

by Gregory L. Witul

August was an important month for the Poles of Buffalo, N.Y., as the community celebrated the 135th Anniversary of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish in the city's Black Rock neighborhood. While the parish and its Romanesque Revival church have been the center of north Buffalo for over a century, its road to this celebration has not always been an easy one and has only been possible by the generations of Polish parishioners who have beat the path with their dedication to their faith.

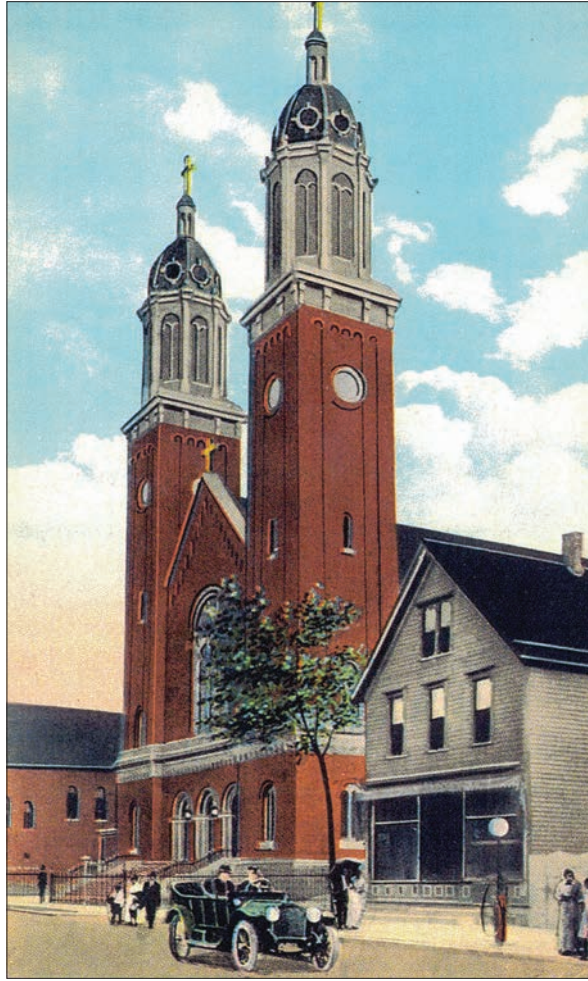
The kernel that would grow into Assumption Church can be traced to the epicenter of Buffalo's Polish community, the East Side. While a number of Poles settled in Black Rock in late 1870s, it was the opening of the city's "Belt Line," a railroad path that wrapped around the city that really brought the influx of Slavs. Hopping a train to head five miles north of the East Side for work, many soon found the trip to be time consuming and expensive. Wanting the save both time and money, entire families moved out of the heart of Polonia and into Black

Rock. With their old parishes of St. Stanislaus and St. Adalbert now too far away, the Poles began attending German parishes in downtown Buffalo and Black Rock. As the nascent community grew, 30 Polish families met at St. Francis Xavier Church in Black Rock to organize an appeal to the bishop for their own church in the North Side.

Seeing that the church parish would instantly have over 100 parishioners Bishop Ryan approved the formation of the new parish. With Father Theophil Kozlowski in charge of its formation the new parish purchased a plot in the heart of Black Rock. On September 8, 1888, the cornerstone was laid and soon a two-story, red brick, combination church and school building would rise. As the new year of 1889 was dawning, Bishop Ryan traveled north from downtown and dedicated the newest Polish parish in his growing diocese.

As Buffalo grew in the early years of the 20th century, so too, did Assumption. Finding both his church and school overflowing, Father Louis Chodacki began the challenge of building a larger, more impressive church for his congregation. In preparation for the larger building, Father Chodacki purchased a large parcel of land in 1908 on the corner of Amherst and

Germain Streets that came with a spectacular view of Scajaquada Creek. To bring his vision to life, Carl Schmill was hired to design the church that would in time become the defining feature of the Black Rock skyline. Soon the ground was cleared, the foundation dug, the walls raised, and the roof placed. While Assumption breathed new life, Father Chodacki's health began to decline. When a parish of over 9,000 young and exuberant souls, Father Chodacki knew he couldn't keep up with them and choose to resign. His replacement, Father Ladislaus Hordych, picked up where the old priest left off and on August 16 the cornerstone of the new church was formally placed.



With the new building, the parish continued to thrive. Through the First World War it maintained a healthy congregation and in 1924

a school was added to the campus. But, like the rest of the nation, Buffalo and Black Rock suffered greatly, first through the Great Depression and then the Second World War.

As preparations for the Second Vatican Council were underway Monsignor Maximilian T. Bogacki was placed in charge of the struggling parish. He would revitalize not just the congregation but the church as well. In short order, he had the outside of the building cleaned and repaired while in the interior he had master sgraffito artists Michael Baranowski and Joseph Slawinski craft the life of Mary in five panels behind the altar. These works were greatly admired by a young cardinal from Poland who visited the church in September of 1969, Karol Wojtyla.

The energy of Bogacki carried the parish through his tenure ending in the early 1970s and after it into the '80s and '90s. The church and school stabilized under the leadership of Assumption native, Father Richard Jdrzejewski. As North Buffalo changed with new immigrants in the second millennium, both Assumption and her school adapted, expanding on its Polish flavor but still holding true to the faith of the immigrants who started it 135 years ago.

"Keep up the good work, if only for a while, if only for the twinkling of a tiny galaxy."
— Wistawa Szymborska

Polished Polish Playground

A DRONE PHOTOGRAPH taken by Sebastian Piórek of a playground in Chorzów, Poland was among the winners from this year's Drone Photo Award winners. The outdoor play area in the south Poland region known for mines and urban architecture is lit by the first flash of sun from above. The photographer calls the playground "a kind of pearl from the ground and also from the air."

The photography competition, now in its sixth year, received nearly 14,000 images from amateur and professional photographers from 104 countries for the nine categories of the competition. All photos were taken from above using a drone.

Drone photography offers "the possibility to see things differently," says Emanuela Ascoli, head of photography for National Geographic-France and one of this year's judges. It allows you "to have a global perception of a landscape or scene."



Ascoli says the caliber of submissions was more impressive than ever this year, making it tough for the judges. To earn an award, the photo must "transmit some emotion," says Ascoli. "It must teach you something that you might not have known before." And all of this "should be done in a beautiful, elegant way."

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October 1
PARADE MASS
St. Patrick's
Cathedral
10:15 a.m.