

Remembering

My 93 year old aunt passed away two months ago. She was the last of my father's siblings. Therefore, the last direct connection to my Polish ancestors who came to America is gone.

Aunt Irene was in a nursing home in Brackenridge during the last few years. She always had her wits even though her legs failed her. When Marysia and I visited her in the summer, she insisted on us bringing ice cream sundaes. In the winter months, pierogi, kielbasa and krysiki were on the menu.

On Aunt Irene's 92nd birthday, my sisters were at the assisted living home preparing her party, when I got the phone call that Aunt Irene wanted to have a strawberry daiquiri for her birthday. Not being a mixologist, I was at a loss about the ingredients of a daiquiri.

As it turns out, they are daiquiri mix and rum. A quick trip to the state store yielded both. We arrived with the prized drink and the party began.

Next year, as we celebrated Aunt Irene's 93rd birthday, she forgot to order the daiquiris, but we all sang Sto Lot, and she joined in. Although she was raised in a Polish speaking household, with aunts and uncles next door who didn't speak

English, in a Polish neighborhood in Creighton as well as Canonsburg, you would think she should be fluent in Polish, right?

sto lat, net zero zero sum, , , zero sum, zero sum, net zero zero sum, net zero sum!

My sister luckily recorded this for posterity; however, the lesson for all of us is that in time, memories fade.

And when we are gone, they are gone forever. In Aunt Irene's case she had a foggy recollection of her first language, but it simply faded away over the years. And with her passing, so did her memories.

PCC board member Mary Lou Ellena is working on "Polish Hill Revisited", the second in a series of first-hand, personal reminiscences which tell the stories of the "greatest generation". Her first book, "Polish Hill Remembered", which sold over 3,000 copies, was a series of interviews with Polish Americans who grew up in

Polish Hill during the mid-1900s, and their reminiscences about the place. Look for Mary Lou's most recent article in this issue of The Polish Journey, outlining her concept for her new book, another book of personal remembrances. For those of you who are part of that generation, or those who have relatives who lived during those times, now is the time to record your story. Mary Lou is waiting to hear from you. Sto Lat! Net zero zero sum!

— Rick Pierchalski

Message from the President

Irene had been away from speaking Polish for well over 30 years since her mother's passing. She forgot her first language. She still had knowledge of the food names, like pierogi, kielbasa and chrusci-ki, but her Polish language just left her. Marysia would speak to her in Polish, but she just didn't get it. But she remembered Sto Lat on her birthday. When we sang Sto Lat, she joined in, but she created a new verse to the song that went like this: "Sto lat, sto lat, net zero zero sum, sto lat,



LIBERATION OF POLAND AND EASTERN EUROPE ALL STARTED WITH A WORD



"It all started with a word," said Polish president Bronislaw Komorowski at the opening of a memorial to freedom of speech, "and the word was 'freedom'".

The event completed three days of commemorations in Warsaw of the 25th anniversary of the end of communist rule in Poland. Coincidentally, the elections that came to symbolize freedom for both Poland and the whole former Soviet bloc took place on the same day as the Tiananmen massacre: June 4, 1989.

While the end of communism in Europe is commonly associated with the fall of the

Berlin Wall months later, those elections — the first free elections in the Soviet bloc — sealed its fate.

The elections were, arguably, only "semi-free". The result of negotiations finalized on April 5, 1989, reserved 65% of lower house seats for politicians representing the old order and left only 35% open for newly legalized political parties and independent candidates. Once the election results were announced, Polish society's desire to change the system was clear: the opposition won all the available lower house seats, and 99 of 100 seats in the newly created senate.

Poland became the first Soviet bloc nation in which opponents of the communist system gained political power in a legal and democratic way. Within Poland, the elections accelerated the transformation to full democracy. More broadly, the vote paved the way for similar events across the Soviet bloc, including the iconic fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989, and ultimately the dissolution of the Soviet Union on December 26, 1991.

In Poland last week this was emphasized by both Komorowski — "we broke the Iron Curtain" — and US president Barack Obama, who said: "We must never forget

that the spark for so much of this revolutionary change, this blossoming of hope, was lit by you, the people of Poland."

Until a few months ago, the 25th anniversary was mostly to commemorate a historical milestone, with possible reflections on the future of Poland. Then, just a few days before the event, General Wojciech Jaruzelski died. He was infamous for implementing martial law in 1981 and jailing Solidarity activists. Later, as a result of the round-table agreement, he became the first president of the post-communist Polish state.

The coincidence of these events revived the many controversies about not only communist rule and the martial law of 1981, but also the political and ideological compromises needed to make the transition to a full democracy without open conflict, blame and punishment. Some old wounds were re-opened, only to be sidelined by the contemporary significance of the 1989 elections.

A legendary figure of Polish anti-communist opposition, Adam Michnik, said: "The presence in Warsaw of the US President ... reminds us of the meaning of our Ukrainian neighbors fight for identity and freedom, for sovereignty and rule of law."

Michnik was editor-in-chief of Poland's first free and largest newspaper, *Gazeta Wyborcza* (Electoral Gazette), which was founded to provide a voice to the opposition during the electoral campaign of 1989. The free press and freedom of expression were central to commemorations of the anniversary. Among the many symbols, comparisons and reflections on this anniversary, the notion of freedom was paramount.

—Aleksandra Hadzelek

Reprinted in part from The Conversation, June 12, 2014 issue, with permission of the author. Aleksandra Hadzelek, native of Poland, who lived and studied in Pittsburgh, is now a Lecturer in International Studies at University of Technology, Sydney, Australia.

Polish Journey is a publication of the Polish Cultural Council, a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization. Please address your correspondence to:

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SHARE STORIES OF YOUR POLISH HERITAGE

Each day, hundreds of World War II veterans leave us, taking with them countless stories of courage, honor, and sacrifice. We know that many Polish immigrants and Americans of Polish decent from the Pittsburgh area have lived rich lives, portions of which would qualify for a made-for TV movie. PCC Board member and author of *Polish Hill Remembered*, Mary Lou Ellena is seeking to capture those unique stories for a new book.

Endorsed by the Polish Cultural Council, the book will feature legacy stories of hardship, survival and victory

in Europe, as well as stories of challenges faced in the United States. Do you have an interesting tale to share, or know someone who does? If so, please email Mary Lou Ellena at mlellena@glconcepts.net or contact Maria Staszkievicz at the PCC pccorg.ms@gmail.com (412-871-3347) to set up an interview time.

As members of Pittsburgh Polonia, we have an obligation to share our stories in order to provide a cultural link to the past with successor generations. Unless those experiences are told, they, too, will be buried with those who had

lived them. We all know of individuals who have taken a recipe for a favorite signature dish or dessert to the grave with them—quite literally! We cannot allow those events that have shaped us as individuals to die with us like a recipe for *pączki* or *zurek*. Pittsburgh Polonia has many faces. Please allow yours to be commemorated in this new book, slated for publication in late 2015. Set up your interview opportunity now. We will also consider third party accounts about parents or grandparents, pending verification of facts.



POLISH FILMS IN NOVEMBER

Come and check out Polish Films during the 33rd Three Rivers Film Festival:

November 7th to November 22nd (Regent Square Theater, Melwood Screening Room, Harris Theater, Waterworks Cinemas)

Among five films PCC plans to present:

“JACK STRONG” The most spectacular Polish spy story of the Cold War era, the film about Colonel Ryszard Kuklinski - a man who wages a battle against the Soviets from his position deep inside. He informs Americans about the communist block's top secrets in the face of the upcoming martial law. Directed by the famous Wladyslaw Pasikowski.

“LIFE FEELS GOOD” Based on a true story, it is an unbelievable testament to the endurance of the human spirit. The film was awarded Grand Prix at the 2013 Montreal World Film Festival. Directed by Maciej Pieprzyca.

See you at the movies!

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WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME:

BARBARA ZAWADZKI, M.D. was born in Warsaw, Poland and came to the United States in 1961 and settled in Pittsburgh with her parents and sister after the family escaped. Barbara received a Bachelor of Science from Chatham College and a Doctor of Medicine from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. She subsequently did a residency program in Internal Medicine at Presbyterian University Hospital in Pittsburgh (now UPMC), where she met her future husband, Jerome M. Itzkoff M.D. who is a cardiologist in private practice. After 11 years in the practice of internal medicine, Barbara retired to raise their daughter, Sarah Victoria Itzkoff, who just finished her Master's in Social Work. Barbara is currently the manager of her husband's cardiology practice. A member of the Board of Directors of the Children's Home of Pittsburgh and Mario Lemieux Family Center, she is also on the Advisory Board of the Social Work Department of Chatham College.

OUR WHOLEHEARTED THANKS to the members, who, for various reasons, had to leave our Board: **John Bartus, Kasia Bruniany, and Marie Zielanski Fallon**. Their invaluable input, expertise, their commitment to our goals and hard work made this organization so much stronger and effective. We are extremely grateful!

Speaking Polish-Piece of Cake

By Veronica Wojnarowski

with thanks to Eva Tumiel-Kozak, Elżbieta Dorkhom and Małgorzata Wojcieszynska

In this issue, our column about Polish language topics turns to the derivations of words, or etymology. While English speakers and the internet are currently busy spreading scientific and technical English terms into other languages, here we explore three English words which can be traced to a Proto-Indo-European word. We also look at two pairs of words which are quite similar in meaning and pronunciation in both Polish and English. Polish, English, Latin and Greek all belong to the family of Indo-European languages, which spread in all compass directions from the plains of Eurasia following the 4th millennium, B.C.

How a loaf of bread became a lady

The English words lady and lord trace their heritage to a Proto-Indo-European (PIC) word for loaf of bread. This surprising fact can be explained with a delightful story about the travels of a word.

Through the Slavic branch of PIC, in Polish, this word became chleb. There are also variations of it in other Slavic languages. Literally translated, the Polish expression ciężki kawalek chleba means hard piece of bread. It conveys the sense of something which is earned in a hard way. Lekki chleb is something which is easy.

The word traveled into English through the Germanic branch of Indo-European languages. In Old High German, which influenced Old English, the word is hleib. In Old English, hlaf meant loaf of bread. It combined with another word, daege, which means maid, to form a new word hlafdige, the maid who kneads the bread. Daege is also the root of the word dairy, because the kneader of the bread was usually the dairy maid.

By the ninth century, the status of the hlafdige had been elevated to mistress of servants, or the female head of household. She also had a husband, the hlafweard, the guardian of the bread. And, she had a

servant, the hlafaeta, the eater of bread. Weard also derives from Proto-German, from the word warth, which means to turn toward. It is also the source of the words ward and warden.

Through the centuries, hlafdige and hlafweard lost some of their sounds. By the 13th century, the words lafdi and lavede appeared. They convey the sense of a woman in a superior position. Through time, more sounds disappeared, and the words lady and lord emerged. In contemporary Britain, the words lord and lady maintain their meanings of people who have proprietary rights and rules of authority, and to whom obeisance is owed. In the United States, the word means a woman of good family or social position. It can also just mean woman. Paradoxically, when preceded by the word hey, as in Hey, lady!, the speaker is certainly not being respectful.

This ancient word endured, proliferated, mutated, and became associated with people to whom respect is due. One can speculate that these facts attest to the importance, respect, esteem, and even reverence which are granted to bread, to chleb.

Light Dawns

When Polish-American children begin to study Polish, one of the first words which they learn in Polish is lampa. This is probably because by adding only one letter to the English lamp, they have words which are identical in meaning and are nearly identical in spelling. Thus, lampa is an easy word to remember. The words are nearly identical because they have the same root.

The earliest known root of lampa is the earliest-recorded Indo-European language, Hittite (c. 4th millennium, B.C., in what is now Turkey). The Hittite word, lap means to glow or to be hot. However, the word traveled to Polish, not through the Proto-Slavic language, but from Greek, through Latin, and then through Old French. The Greek root for lamp is lampein. It means to give light, or to shine. The Latin word for lamp is lampas; the Old French word is lampe. The Old French word entered English, probably

after the Norman Conquest in 1066, as lampe, and was shortened to lamp.

Polish has an imperative expression using lampa: Gadaj do lampy! It means Talk to the lamp, talk to something which will not hear you. If you are dissatisfied with the reaction of the person you just were lecturing, e.g. a child, you can say, Oh, gadaj do lampy. If you want to get rid of a person who is lecturing you, you could also use this phrase. This is a seldom-used phrase and it is not exactly polite. If you think that someone is not listening to what you have to say, the phrase is benign. You can shrug your shoulders and say, Oh, gadaj do lampy.

The word lampas was in use in Poland by the 18th century. It is the stripe on the leg of a military uniform, made of a contrasting fabric which is light in color.

We gather together

The English words collation and conference, and the Polish word kolacja (supper) derive from the same Latin root. The Latin collates (past participle of conferre) conveys both the act of gathering together and the act of having a meal at the end of the day. This word is known to have been in use by Benedictine monks in the 14th century. They would gather in the evening for religious discussions or readings, which were followed by a light meal. Collatus made its way into French as collation, into Middle English as collacioun, and into Polish as kolacja.

In American English, the word collation is rarely used for a gathering of people for a meal. It is used by libraries to denote the physical description of a book. The word conference is in common use for meetings of academics or professionals. Copy machines have collators to sort and assemble copies. In Italy, prima colazione is breakfast, and seconda colazione is lunch.

In Poland, kolacja is the fourth meal of the day. Poles gather for kolacja around 7:00 pm. It is a light meal which could include kanapki, naleśniki or pierogi. Among family, kolacja is not elaborate; but if there is a celebration, or if guests have been invited, kolacja can become a dinner party.

Exciting Concert of Duo Klavitarre from Poland



Jolanta and Maciej Ziemiński perform as Duo Klavitarre.

DUO KLAVITARRE (piano and guitar), with Jolanta and Maciej Ziemiński, will be featured at a concert on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2014, at 5 PM, at the TRIMONT Building, Mt. Washington. A reception with the artists will follow.

The Ziemińskis have brought many audi-

ences to their feet. Audiences thrill to their exciting and diverse repertoire of romantic, classical and modern pieces. These two young and beautiful musicians have brilliantly performed their own arrangements in various countries including Poland, Spain, Rumania, Italy, Denmark, Belgium, Germany,

Austria, Venezuela, South Korea, Canada and the USA. Their polished and lively interpretations, combined with astounding sound and lovely costumes, make their performances unique and personal experiences.

The artists have performed together for more than 12 years. Both graduated with awards from the Music Academy in Łódź, Poland, where they found romance and their love of playing music together. Both have also performed as soloists. Jolanta's piano repertoire includes works of Chopin, Rachmaninow, Szymanowski, Bach, Scarlatti, Beethoven and Debussy, among others. Both are the winners of many world-renowned competitions.

These two strong music personalities complement one another extremely well. They offer instrumental virtuosity, coupled with spontaneity and excellent interaction.

The intimate and exciting evening of music at the Trimont promises to attract a lot of attention among our members. For more information please call: 412.871.3347 or e-mail: pccorg.ms@gmail.com

—Eva Tumiel-Kozak

Dining, Dancing and Debutantes!

Come and celebrate the 22nd annual Bal Polonaise and Presentation of Debutantes brought to you by the Polish Cultural Council!

Join us, Saturday, November 15th at The Circuit Center and Ballroom in Pittsburgh's South Side with catering by the Fluted Mushroom!

Twenty-two years and going strong, this year's Bal is certain to keep culture and pride alive and well in our community.

The evening starts off with a cocktail reception where guests can mix and mingle. Over 125 young musicians from North Allegheny High School Strolling Strings shall serenade guests as dinner is served. The Continental Dukes will dazzle and entertain for your listening and dancing pleasure. Watch as this year's Debutantes are present-

ed with their escorts, swirling gracefully throughout the intricate whirl of reels and promenades of the Polonaise, one of the national dances of Poland.

Mark your calendars for this highly anticipated evening brought to you by the PCC. Tickets for this special evening are only \$115.00 for PCC members and \$125.00 for non-members.

Our biggest attraction - young Debutantes, are always in great demand. If you know any young ladies between the ages 16-25 interested in being one, please contact us: 412- 759-5054 For more information visit: www.polishculturalcouncil.org or call 412-871-3347.

—Marie Zielmanski-Fallon



The Threshold of Hope has been Crossed*

On the last Sunday of April, 2014, the two modern popes, Johannes XXIII and John Paul II, were elevated to Sainthood. Almost one million people from around the world gathered in Rome for this most historic, somber, and solemn event. Both Popes shaped the faith of Catholicism. Both left long-lasting legacies. We, the Poles, remember the extraordinary life of personal sanctity of Saint John Paul II. We remember his legacy of love and human dignity.

One more article about “our Pope” seemed to be redundant. Instead, I asked three prominent Catholics in our community, two Poles and one Irish-American, the Pastor of my Parish of St. Bede, to share with us their personal thoughts on how the Pontificate of John Paul II influenced their lives. We are very grateful for their generous contribution! (*editor*)



BOHATER MOJ—NOW A SAINT
By Rev. Canon Joseph Sredzinski
Chaplain of the Polish Falcons of America

In September 1969, I was studying theology in preparation for the Holy Priesthood at Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary. The then Rector of the Orchard Lake Michigan schools told me that I was to represent the student bodies and the faculty members in greeting His Eminence Karol Cardinal Wojtyla. Following the official welcome in the campus main Chapel, I met the Cardinal, served his Mass the next day, and again served as Deacon at the Mass in St. Florian Church, Hamtramck, MI.

I followed him more closely, after his election in 1978. I especially listened to his public stances on family life, religious freedom, and outreach to Jews. He inspired me when he repeated the famous phrase, “Be not afraid”, encouraging authentic human freedom in Christ.

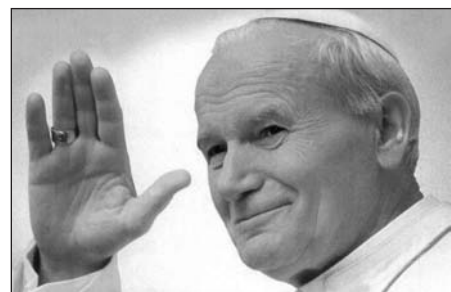
Twenty years later, in 1989, while studying advanced theology in Rome, I joined Pope John Paul II in his papal apartments for Holy Mass, and for a personal visit. I greeted him in Polish, with a reminder that we first met in Orchard Lake, Michigan. He replied: “Father, you have a good memory”. I read his encyclicals, especially *Mater Redemptoris* and *Veritatis Splendor*, and quoted from them in my homilies. I often reminded people at Mass and at gatherings of the lines from his homily in Warsaw, Poland, June 1979: “Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and renew the face of the earth—this earth”.

God was so good to me that, through the Polish Falcons of America, I was with the Holy Father in Hamtramck/Detroit, Michigan; Toronto, Canada; and Philadelphia, PA. Along with 13 youth from St. Joseph parish in Everson, PA, I traveled to Denver, CO for World Youth Day. We slept on the ground overnight, in anticipation of the arrival of Pope John Paul II. I joined in the open dialog. What an experience it was to be with young people who so openly responded to his concern for them and their spiritual future.

In 2002, I lead a pilgrimage of Polish-American youth to Poland and Rome. We had a semi-private audience with the Pope after his regular Wednesday audience. Each one of us knelt before him, spoke with him and received his Papal blessing. The young people were overwhelmed. I was deeply grateful and hardly could sleep that night.

Each day I lifted my heart and voice to pray the Angelus for his intention. Upon his passing in 2005, I prayed daily for his potential beatification and Canonization. His courage, his devotion to Holy Mary, his charitable outreach, his insistence on respect for all human life, beginning at conception, and his admiration for ethnic culture were cemented in my heart as the way to live with a focus on eternity.

On May 1, 2011, I was privileged to be at the Vatican for his beatification, which attracted 1.7 million people. I walked by his wooden casket and prayed to Blessed John II. My long-time hero, Pope John Paul II is now a saint to be admired and imitated.



THE INFLUENCE OF JOHN PAUL II ON MY LIFE.

By Dr. Jan Napoleon Saykiewicz
Professor Emeritus, Marketing & International Marketing, Palumbo-Donahue School of Business, Duquesne University, and also the Honorary Consul of Poland for Western PA

I have been asked if and to what degree the personality of John Paul II, the Polish Pope, has influenced my life. It is a very nurturing question. Answering “yes” in general, I started to think about the details. I found that the strongest influences can be noticed in both the historical dimension and the theological dimension.

The year of 1978 had been quite significant in my academic life. I was working that year as a visiting professor from Poland at the Graduate Program at Fordham University in New York. I expected my wife and two sons (6 and 10) to visit me in the U.S.A. for a vacation. Unfortunately, the authorities of the People’s Republic of Poland refused them exit visas, explaining the decision by “other important state matters”, which meant political reasons. So to be with my family during the summer, I returned to Poland. In August, I learned about the sudden death of newly elected Pope John Paul I.

The sadness caused by the death was relieved in the month of October by the totally unexpected and surprising news about the selection of Cardinal Karol Wojtyla as the new leader of the Roman Catholic Church. The personality of Karol Wojtyla was not entirely new to me. He was well known in Catholic intellectual circles in Poland as a compassionate bishop and cardinal in Krakow, and a theology professor at the Catholic University of Lublin. Also, he was known as a close collaborator of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, the Primate of Poland. Both were known as fantastic pastors and good

administrators, and also as strong but skillful critics of the Soviet-style communist rule in Poland.

I shall remember the announcement of the event in mass media in Poland. Even the very formal behavior of TV anchors suddenly changed. They were radiating with excitement. There was an outburst of joy everywhere. The people couldn't believe the news. One could see folks crying in the streets, celebrating, talking, praying, and filling up the churches to capacity. The nation considered the choice a miracle, and celebrated the event as a sign of hope.

This historical event, the first non-Italian Pope in 400 years, was considered a sign from heaven for the Polish people after years of misery caused by the events of WWII and by Soviet-style communist rule in the country. It elevated Polish pride, expectations and anticipation of changes into new levels. And above all, there was a feeling of hope -- hope that could change the life and fate of the nation for the better. My personal feelings were exactly the feelings of all the people -- hope, expectation of changes, prospect for freedom and a better life. It liberated enormous energy in everyone, and created a desire for action. I got the feeling that I could do something special.

The theological dimension of Pope John Paul II's papacy, and its influence on my life, also had extraordinary message and strength. John Paul II at his October 22, 1978 speech in St. Peter's Square in Rome said the words: "Be not afraid!" As the Vicar of Jesus Christ and a successor of St. Peter, he repeated what Christ said to the apostles (cf. Lk 24:36) and to the women (cf. Mt 28:10) after the resurrection. "Be not afraid" were his words after an assassination attempt on his life on May 13, 1981 in St. Peter's Square. He repeated these words during his pilgrimages all around the world, especially during his visits to Poland to sustain and support the striving for freedom, independence and the growth of the Polish nation. These words, the Pope's own example, and his devotion to Holy Mary, the Queen of Poland strengthened my faith and my responsibility as a member of the Holy Roman Catholic Church, as it did for millions of other faithful in the country. He showed by example that the perseverance and observance of the most fundamental principles of the faith help us to achieve a higher level of humanity, and to achieve

our earthly goals in a human and ethical way.



PERSONAL MEMORIES OF ST. JOHN PAUL II

By the Rev. Edward M. Bryce
Pastor of St. Bede Parish, Point Breeze

What a remarkable privilege to write about a Saint who has touched my hand and my heart.

On his first trip to the United States, Pope John Paul II came to Washington, D.C. I saw him on the lawn of the White House. President Jimmy Carter, a Southern Baptist, had the courage and good sense to invite the Holy Father and to receive him formally. Cardinal Terrence Cooke was the Chairman of the Bishops' Pro-Life Committee, (inter alia). He brought me, as Secretary of the Committee, to the official gathering. It was an historic moment for America. Anti-Catholic prejudice had prompted previous presidents to quail at the prospect of having a Pope in the U.S. President Carter broke the bond of prejudice.

In 1993 our Holy Father came to the United States for "World Youth Day". Our parish organized a contingent of sixteen young men and women and five adults. We traveled by mobile home and 15-passenger van to Denver, Colorado. The response of the young to the dynamic Vicar of Christ was spectacular. He inspired them for a lifetime.

In 1993, my classmate, Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran was installed as Archbishop of Oklahoma City in Oklahoma. When he received the pallium from Pope John Paul II, several of his classmates joined in the celebration with his family. A niece and nephew of the Archbishop were chosen to be part of the Gift Bearers for the Mass. When they approached the Holy Father, he learned that their family name was Polish. He began to address them in Polish. The young niece responded, "We're American!" At the reception in the

evening for the Archbishops and their entourages, the Holy Father went from person to person saying, "God Bless you" and gifting us with a rosary. When he came upon the youngsters, he burst out, "You're Americans!", to the absolute delight of everyone.

It did not hurt that Archbishop Beltran, who, while he carries a Spanish surname, grew up in his mother's Polish parish in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and became friends with the Pope's secretary, now the Cardinal Archbishop of Krakow. Through this connection, when we came to Rome in 2000 to celebrate our 40th Anniversary of Ordination, we were invited to celebrate Mass with the Holy Father in his private chapel. Words cannot come close to describing the impact of that experience. Mystical and profound come to mind, soul-shaking came to my soul. Here was a truly holy priest.

Many times during his Pontificate I came to Rome. Every visit included participation in the Wednesday audience and/or the Angelus on Sunday. After the audience when the Holy Father approached the handicapped and the newly-wed, I saw Christ. In the early years, when he was newly away from his beloved Poland, I could only imagine his suffering. I saw Christ in his patience.

He poured himself into the documents of the Second Vatican Council as a bishop-theologian. He poured himself into explaining those documents during the difficult time in the Church when novelty was trumping common-sense in the implementation of the Council's teachings. He placed his trust in the Holy Spirit and in Jesus' Mother. "Totus Tuus!" said it all when some were tempted to neglect Her in their devotional life.

He taught us in his youthful spirit as Vicar of Christ. He taught us in his boundless energy for writing, traveling and receiving the world. He taught us in his suffering of the ravages of illness and old age. He taught us to trust the promises of Jesus!

In his passing I wept seriously, as I had done as a young graduate student when Pope St. John XXIII went to God. The tears were jealous tears, lamenting my loss. The canonization of these two great Popes of my lifetime prompt a debt of gratitude to God for his never failing love for His children, for His Church.

** Crossing the Threshold of Hope is a book written by John Paul II, published by Alfred Knopf, 1994.*



Congratulations to Consul Saykiewicz

Dr. Jan Napoleon Saykiewicz, our Honorary Consul of Poland for Pennsylvania, was honored by the President of Poland, Bronislaw Komorowski, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Radosław Sikorski with the Bene Merito medal, for his long-term efforts in promoting Poland abroad. The bronze medal is 38 mm in diameter. The front has a crowned Polish eagle, surrounded by a ring inscribed "BENE MERITO: MSZ RP" (Ministerstwo Spraw Zagranicznych RP – Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Polish Republic). The back contains parts of the word "Poland" in French, Italian, Polish, Russian, German and English.

The medal was awarded at the Fifth World Congress on Polish Studies, organized by the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America in

New York (PIASA). The Congress was held at Warsaw University on June 19-23, 2014, and featured many scientists, professors and specialists in the arts from around the world. A long time member of the PIASA Board, Dr. Saykiewicz has participated in the Congress with his wife, Elzbieta. His special presentation at the Economics session on "Poland's 25 years of Transition-the Hopes and Disenchantments" met with accolades.

The final banquet, held at the National Library, gathered many luminaries, among them: Professor Leszek Balcerowicz, the main speaker at the event; the Consul General of Poland in New York, Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka; Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bogusław Winid, President of Warsaw University; and many representatives of the Polish Embassy in Washington. Our warmest congratulations!

Dr. Krzysztof Kaniasty Receives Important Honor

Dr. Kaniasty has been selected as Indiana University of Pennsylvania's 2014-2015 Distinguished University Professor. He has been a faculty member there since 1990. Kaniasty is perhaps the foremost authority on post-disaster social support, having written numerous scholarly articles, chapter and reports on the topic. Kaniasty says, "It is truly an honor to be selected for this recognition. I am proud and delighted because it is something I can share with my family, my collaborators, my departmental colleagues and many of my students. Work in academia, especially in social sciences, is a communal and collaborative enterprise. You cannot get by without a little help from your friends."

Michael Driscoll, IUP president, said that this honor is given to truly exceptional faculty members who have made

significant contributions in the classroom, in research, and in scholarship, and who have been leaders in the university community. The award is presented annually. Recipients retain the title for life.

During his tenure as IUP's Distinguished University Professor, Kaniasty will work on a project that will address the question, "When is social support actually helpful?" His research focuses on the differences and the impacts of "perceived social support", a hypothetical concept, and "received social support", a tangible concept. He hopes to prepare a set of explicit recommendation which will help



all of us help others in crisis.

Dr. Kaniasty is a member of the Institute of Psychology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw. He is President of the Stress and Anxiety Research Society. He has been the recipient of many awards internationally for his teaching, his scholarship, and his research. He serves on many national and international boards

and associations, as well as many university committees.

PCC is happy and proud to have Dr. Kaniasty, who has been involved in our projects many times. We offer our sincere congratulations.

SIXTH ANNUAL CELEBRATION HONORING OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA



THE MASS IS BEING HELD IN REMEMBRANCE OF
THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WARSAW UPRISING.
STARTING AT 6:30P.M., RADOSLAW FIZEK WILL
PERFORM POLISH PATRIOTIC SELECTIONS.

Tuesday, August 26, 2014
Mass - 7 p.m.
St. Paul's Cathedral
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Confessions-Polish/English
6-6:45 p.m.

The Most Reverend David A. Zubik, Celebrant

Sponsored by the Polish Falcons of America and
the Polish Clergy of the Diocese of Pittsburgh

For additional information,
please contact PFA National Headquarters at
1.800.535.2071 or visit polishfalcons.org

Traditional Polish Wigilia Dinner

Polish Falcons of America will sponsor a
Traditional Wigilia Dinner on Saturday, Dec.
6, 2014 at the Sokol Club in Pittsburgh, Pa.

PFA Cultural Commissioner, Lawrence
Kozlowski, will host the event, leading guests
in the sharing of Oplatki prior to dinner. For
additional information, please call PFA
Headquarters at 800-535-2071 or email April
Miller at amiller@polishfalcons.org

Saturday, December 6, 2014

Sokol Club
2912 E Carson St. Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Two Extraordinary Polish Stamps

By Veronica Wojnarowski

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL STAMP

This July, Poland was awarded the honor of "Most Beautiful Stamp", by the International Philatelic Art Awards in Asiago, Italy. This stamp, which was designed by Agnieszka Sancewicz, commemorates the 455th anniversary of the Polish Post, Poczta Polska. It also celebrates World Post Day, which was created to honor the establishment of the Universal Postal Union.

The stamp depicts a cross section of an oak tree. The growth rings record the more than four and one-half centuries of the existence of the Poczta Polska, with the centuries marked in Roman numerals, from the 16th through the 21st. According to *Gazeta Wyborcza*, the vote in favor of this stamp was unanimous. The Royal Post was established by King Sigismund Augustus (Zygmunt August) in 1558, and was, at that time, used chiefly for his correspondence with relatives in Italy.



COMMEMORATING MONTE CASSINO



This year, Poczta Polska issued a stamp to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the battle for the Abbey at Monte Cassino, *Rocznica Bitwy pod Monte Cassino*. This stamp was also designed by Agnieszka Sancewicz. To Poles, the red poppy, depicted in this hauntingly beautiful stamp, is a symbol of remembrance of this battle and of World War II. At the time of the battle, the terrain around the Abbey was covered with red poppies in full bloom, which were said to turn redder from the blood of Poles who died. Look closely at the base of the bloom, and you will see the ground and soldiers in silhouette, instead of the black center and

stamens of the poppy. At the top is a faint image of the Abbey.

Between January and May, 1944, the Allied troops were attempting to break through the German defenses below Rome, the so-called Gustav line, which stretched from east to west across Italy. In this mountainous terrain, the Benedictine Abbey of Monte Cassino loomed as a major defensive location for the Germans. Three assaults were fought by Allied troops, with only limited gains. Meanwhile, the Allies planned Operation Diadem, a full-on assault. The II Polish Corps of General Władysław Anders joined the Eighth Army, with the responsibility of taking the Abbey. Between May 12 and May 18, 1944, the determined Poles fought fiercely, in horrendous conditions, and captured the Abbey. They proved to themselves, and to the world, that Poland was still fighting on, in defense of Europe and in defense of their homeland.

For color photographs of both of these stamps, go to <http://www.stampnews.com/tags/poland>. For further information about General Anders army and the Battle for Monte Cassino, go to <http://www.historicaleye.com/montecass.html>.

Did you speak Polish as a child? Do you have family documents in Polish? Are you planning a trip to Poland? Do you want to learn to speak Polish? If you can say "yes" to any of these questions, please consider the Polish language classes offered by the Polish Cultural Council.

REGISTER FOR POLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

POLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES WILL RESUME ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th, 2014 AT 10 AM, AT THE CYA BUILDING IN LAWRENCEVILLE, CORNER OF FISK & GOVERNMENT LANE, BETWEEN PENN AVE. & BUTLER. CLASSES RUN FROM SEPTEMBER THROUGH MAY.

Registration Form 2014-2015

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Class Choice:

☐ Beginner ☐ Advanced

In the event of an emergency or change of schedule, list the telephone numbers where you should be contacted.

Day _____

Cell/Evening _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Classes start the first Saturday following Labor Day and run on Saturdays from 10 AM – 12 Noon until the middle of May. They are held at the CYA building in Lawrenceville, 286 Main Street (entrance from Government Lane & Fisk).

Registration and Class Fees:

Individual: \$130.00. PCC Member: \$100.00
Family: \$160.00. PCC Member: \$130.00

Please make your check payable to Polish Cultural Council and mail to:

Polish Cultural Council
P.O. Box 81054
Pittsburgh, PA 15217-0554



Kaçik Kulinarny

Polish Culinary Corner

by Dave Motak

There is nothing better than sitting out under an arbor or patio umbrella on a breezy summer day and enjoying a cold Polish soup. Cold soups have always been extremely popular in Poland and, whether in the Manor House or Peasant cottage have always been enjoyed with great relish. Here are three of my favorite summer soups for you to enjoy and perhaps to share with special guests.

Chłodnik - Cold Beet Soup

My friends call this soup the "floating Polish salad". Everything in this soup shouts summer! It is fresh, aromatic and irresistible!

3 raw, young beets
2 cups water to cover
1 cup chicken stock
2 cucumbers (small dice)
4 medium sized Polish dill pickles, diced.
1 cup of green onions, finely chopped
4 medium radishes, finely chopped
4-5 tbsp fresh dill, finely chopped
1 liter kefir
salt and pepper to taste
2-4 eggs (hard boiled)
Few drops of lemon juice (or add pickle juice to taste)

Optional:

Cooked shrimp, diced
Roasted beef, diced
Sour cream

Wash the beets and cut off above the roots; slice beets. Cut the stalks up to the leaves in small pieces (about 1/4 of inch). Cook all parts of the beet stalks in 2 cups of salted water (for few minutes only) Use the water you cooked the stalks in as a base for the soup. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Drizzle the beets with a little bit of oil, season with salt and completely cover in aluminum foil. Roast for 30 minutes to an hour (until they are soft). Roasting the beets will

intensify their flavor and sweetness. It will also leave all vitamins in them. Roasted beets are also very easy to peel. When they are cool enough to handle, the skin easily rubs off using paper towels or your hands. Grate the beets on a box grater or use a food processor. Meanwhile, hard-boil the eggs, then cool them under cold water.

Peel and cut into half lengthwise. Wash the cucumbers, cut into small dice. Take a large bowl, throw in the cucumbers, radishes, dill and green onions. Stir in the kefir, then season with salt and pepper. Add grated beet stalks (with water), grated beets and mix well.

You may also add a squeeze of lemon. Refrigerate it for a day or so (important). Serve very cold, topping each portion with a boiled egg half or two. You can also add the diced shrimp and/or roasted beef. Note: Beet juice or packaged red beet Polish barszcz can be used instead of cooking the beets and beet greens. Sour cream can also be added instead of the kefir.

Polish Strawberry Soup - Zupa Truskawkowa

This is a refreshing summer soup that actually can be eaten hot or cold. Although today it has become a "gourmet" offering, it has its roots in the countryside where field workers would eat it cold as a thirst-quenching lunch when returning from their mid-day labors.

3 cups sliced strawberries
6 cups water
2 tablespoons cornstarch
1/2 cup whole milk
Sugar to taste
Cooked kluski noodles or croutons
Sour cream for garnish

Place strawberries (this would be a good time to use the left-over strawberries from Strawberry Sorbet) and water in large pot. Bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer until strawberries are soft, about 6 to 8 minutes. Remove pot from heat. Puree with an immersion blender or in a conventional blender or food processor. Dissolve cornstarch in milk, temper and whisk into hot soup. Sweeten to taste with sugar. Return to heat, bring barely to the boil and simmer 2 minutes, stirring constantly.

This soup can be served hot or cold. If the soup is to be eaten cold, chill soup in an ice bath and refrigerate until ready to serve. Portion kluski noodles (or croutons) into bowls, ladle soup over and add a dollop of sour cream.

Rhubarb Soup - Chłodnik Rabarbarowy

Rhubarb is plentiful in Poland, so to find it in soup is not uncommon. In the heat of late spring and early summer, cold rhubarb soup is a welcome refreshment on a hot day.

1 pound rhubarb, trimmed, peeled and chopped
5 cups water
2 tablespoons cornstarch
1/2 cup whole milk
1 tablespoon seedless strawberry preserves
Sugar to taste
Cooked "kluski" egg noodles or croutons**
Sour cream for garnish

Place rhubarb and water in large pot. Bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer until rhubarb is tender, about 15 minutes. Remove pot from heat. Puree with an immersion blender or in a conventional blender or food processor.

Dissolve cornstarch in milk, temper and whisk into hot soup. Add strawberry preserves to improve the soup's color (or add a drop of red food coloring) and sweeten to taste with sugar. Return to heat, bring to a boil and simmer 3 minutes. Chill soup in an ice bath and refrigerate until ready to serve. Portion "kluski" (or croutons) into bowls, ladle soup over and add a dollop of sour cream.

—Recipe from Barbara Rolek, About.com

VISIT POLAND THIS AUTUMN!



PCC Board Member and artist Dave Motak is once again sponsoring another of his popular cultural tours to Poland:

Polish Harvest Tour September 9 - 23, 2014

Warsaw, Lublin, Lwów, Sandomierz, Kazimierz Dolny, Zakopane, Kraków, Częstochowa, the famous Sanok Folk Architecture Museum and other locations.

A Tour Exclusive will be attending the **Dożynki Prezydenckie - the Polish National Harvest Festival** in the resort town of Spała. Hosted by the President and First Lady of Poland this impressive annual event features regional folk music, traditional food and crafts and hundreds of participants from throughout Poland dressed in their specific regional folk costumes. Also featured is a "Polish Knights Feast" in Baranów Castle. The group will stay in up-scale hotels, castles, palaces and historic country manor houses.

Complete information at www.harvesttour.net including an interactive map with photos of places to be visited, hotels and tour activities.

Additional information can be obtained by calling 412-835-0539.

Interested parties are asked to register as soon as possible as there are only a limited number of openings available.

PCC ANNUAL FALL PICNIC

We would like to invite you to our annual Fall Membership Picnic
Sunday, September 7, 2014
Croatian Center, 80 Schuetzen Park Road in Millvale, PA, 15209
1 P.M. to 6 P.M.

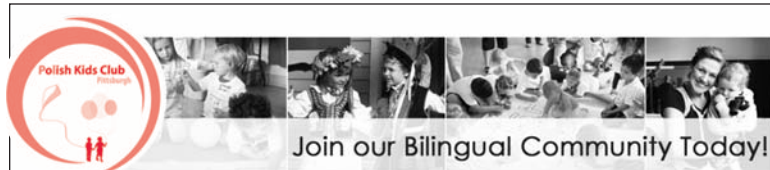
Doors open at 1 P.M. PIG ROAST starts at 1:30 P.M.

Music by Dave Dombrowski

PCC will provide the food, drinks and entertainment
The cost is \$5 per person. Children 12 and under are free.

If you wish to bring a dessert to share with others it will be appreciated.
This is an exclusive event open only to PCC members and volunteers in appreciation of your support. It is made possible through membership dues; the \$5 per person cover helps to defray the cost of the facility rental.
Information on how you can become a PCC Member will be provided at the picnic. Please confirm your participation ASAP but no later than August 29th.

RSVP by e-mail pccorg.ms@gmail.com or tel. 412-871-3347



Polish Kids Club of Pittsburgh is a new volunteer run Polish immersion program based in Pittsburgh. Over the last several years, our volunteers had the dream of opening early child development center with the hope of exposing children to the Polish language and its rich culture.

Registration is now open!

Classes start September 6th, 2014

Location: Wilkins School Community Center (Regent Square)
7604 Charleston Ave, Swissvale, PA 15218

For registration form, please email us:
polishkidsclub@gmail.com
or visit:
www.polishkidsclub.com

Polish for kids

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Just fill in this form and mail it with your dues to the address shown below. Thank You!

Keeping Polish Culture Alive!

Polish Cultural Council
P.O. BOX 81054
Pittsburgh PA 15217-0554
www.PolishCulturalCouncil.org

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

One year membership:

(January 1 to December 31)

☐ NEW ☐ RENEWAL

- ☐ Student (\$10)
- ☐ Individual (\$25)
- ☐ Family (\$35)
- ☐ Business (\$125)

Polish Speaking? ☐ Y ☐ N

I would like to get involved in one of the committees:

- ☐ Ostatki: Polish Mardi Gras
- ☐ Bal Polonaise
- ☐ Film Festival
- ☐ Performing & Visual Arts Events
- ☐ Kennywood Day
- ☐ Newsletter
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Community Outreach and Membership

I would like to support PCC in the amount of

\$ _____

Please make your check payable to the Polish Cultural Council



www.PolishCulturalCouncil.org



The Polish Cultural Council
**83RD ANNUAL POLISH DAY
AT KENNYWOOD PARK**
Tuesday, August 5, 2014

Join us for a fun time at Kennywood Park as the **Polish Cultural Council** celebrates the **83rd Annual Polish Day** with delicious Polish food, a bake sale, strolling musicians, Roman Catholic Mass, Polish religious hymns and folk melodies, Polish folk dancing, and a free polka dance to end the evening.

Discounted tickets purchased in advance from the Polish Cultural Council

Ride All Day ages 3-54	\$26.50	After 5 PM	\$18.50
Ride All Day ages 55-64 . . .	\$16.50	Ages 2 and under	FREE
Over age 65 with coupon . .	\$10.50		

11:30 A.M.

Polish Kitchen opens serving authentic Polish food, including pierogi, kielbasy, golabki (stuffed cabbage), and much, much more.

Bake Sale opens with a variety of Polish pastries, cookies, nut rolls, and more

Strolling Musicians in the Polish Kitchen Pavillion until 2:00 P.

2:00 P.M.

Living Traditions Folk Ensemble from Brecksville, OH

2:30 P.M.

Polish Program begins with Rick Pierchalski, President of the Polish Cultural Council as Master of Ceremonies.

Presentation of the Polonian of the Year award to Professor Oscar Swan for his many years of dedication toward promoting the Polish language and culture to college students at the University of Pittsburgh and nationwide to others

Crowning of Miss Polonia 2014

3:00 P.M.

Karuzela Chorus sings traditional Polish songs.

3:30 P.M.

Roman Catholic Mass celebrated by Reverend Joseph Swierczynski, Pastor Immaculate Heart of Mary Church with Polish hymns sung by the Karuzela Chorus under the direction of Dr. Neil Stahurski.

6:00 P.M.

Dancing to Henny and the Versa J's playing your favorite polkas, waltzes, and obereks until 10:00 P.

For tickets and ticket information call (412) 921-0292

For general information, call (412) 486-1605